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'Green' IT Security !

- Forcing 'green' needs into IT companies' strategies!
- IT manufacturers are shifting towards 'green' policies, not only in IT systems but also in the whole process of design, manufacture and disposal!



'绿化' IT安全 !

- '绿化' 趋势需要成为IT企业的战略!
- IT 制造商正在转向'绿化' 政策，不仅体现在IT系统方面而且在整个设计过程，制造和循环处理方面!

According to Wick Hill Group chairman Ian Kilpatrick the IT industry isn't considered to be exactly at the forefront of 'green' computing.

Its record can be regarded as poor across a whole range of 'green' issues, especially in the areas of power consumption, toxic substance use, need for air conditioning and a low product life cycle.

Consumer demand is, however, forcing 'green' needs into IT companies' strategies.

IT manufacturers are shifting towards 'green' policies, not only in IT systems but also in the whole process of design, manufacture and ultimate disposal of computing hardware.

Companies involved in IT networks security are now also looking at if their choice of solutions have sound 'green' principles.

They are looking at the whole process, starting with the suppliers, who are now expected to implement 'green' policies in product design and manufacturing.

Suppliers are now expected to utilise design concepts that will reduce the amount of materials used and also wastage, reduce packaging, increase the recycling possibilities, and also increase the expected life of the product, and where possible reduce energy consumption.

The suppliers' products are also expected to comply with any environmental directives and eco-legislation.

IT security personnel may consider the use of UTM's as a 'green' security component.

IDC's minimum requirements for a UTM is a firewall, VPN, antivirus and intrusion detection/prevention.

But UTM's have further evolved to now incorporate added capabilities including URL filtering, spam blocking and spyware protection, and centralised management, monitoring, and other capabilities.

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UTMs perform several mixed security functions in a single appliance and this could put them into the 'green' category.

This is because a single UTM can replace as many as six, previously separate, security appliances. Thus, UTM appliances save space and also reduce power consumption.

Power reduction comes from not only the rack but also the air conditioning required to keep multiple products cool.

For smaller organisations, it can remove the need for all day, every day, air conditioning.

A UTM may also be 'green' if it is easily upgradable for increased functionality. This would allow UTMs to adapt to new needs, instead of wastefully 'changing out' of equipment.

Another 'green' IT issue, regarding security solutions, is recycling and disposal of toxic substances present in the equipment.

Two legal stipulations cover IT waste: WEEE, the European Community directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment; and the RoHS Directive.

WEEE details collection, recycling and recovery targets for all electrical items.

The RoHS directive controls the use of restricted substances (lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE).

There are exceptions wherein companies have RoHS exempt status instead of RoHS compliant status; buyers should always seek out compliant equipment.

Conclusion

Implementing 'green' regimes is becoming more important in both IT and IT security.

Suppliers with genuine 'green' policies, for UTMs and other solutions, and who conform to the WEEE and RoHS directives are more suitable for IT security that wishes to be 'greener.'

Ian Kilpatrick. Details

Chairman of Wick Hill Group plc, who specialise in secure infrastructure solutions. Kilpatrick has been with the Group for over 30 years.

Wick Hill is an international organisation who supply most Time Top 1000 companies through accredited resellers.

Ian Kilpatrick is the author of numerous articles published in the British and overseas press, as well as a speaker at IT exhibitions.

Source: www.securitywatch.co.uk

2.

Global influences - the impact of REACH is complex, but not insurmountable !



全球影响 – REACH指令是复杂的，但并非不可克服！

- REACH exists and it is complex!
- REACH restricts the use of harmful chemicals and regulates the safe use of chemical transfers from government to industry!
- REACH 指令已经生效并且非常复杂!
- REACH 指令限制有害化学品的使用和规范从政府到工业界化学品转移的安全使用!

When the European Union (EU) introduced REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) in 2006 the San Francisco Chronicle called it "the world's toughest law on toxic chemicals." For those working in the electronics industry, this doesn't come as a surprise.

"REACH exists and it is complex," says Patrice Rollet, general manager of Avantec, performance chemical company based in France. Rollet discussed REACH during his presentation "Global Environmental Regulations - The Next Generation from Europe to China and Back" on Tuesday, April 1, during the 2008 IPC Printed Circuits Expo, APEX and the Designers Summit in Las Vegas.

REACH restricts the use of harmful chemicals and regulates the safe use of chemical transfers from government to industry. It applies to all substances manufactured or imported into the EU in quantities of one tonne or more per year - the greater the tonnage, however, the greater the information required. Hazard assessment, risk assessment, product classification and labeling information are required under REACH.

While the complexities and extensive requirements of REACH may seem insurmountable - especially to the downstream user - Rollet explained that the technical guidance offered by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) offers some relief.

"They're not law," he says. "But they are official documents."

Found at <http://reach.jrc.it/>, the technical guidance documents - of which there are 10 - are updated regularly and reflect the need of the downstream user. REACH regulates pure substances, mixes and substances in articles. Rollet points out that, according to REACH, the determination for an article is an item for which shape determines function.

"For example a battery is an article but an ink cartridge is not," he says. "The substance in the cartridge is in a container."

Because the regulations affect everyone in the supply chain - manufacturers, importers and their customers - Rollet warns that deciphering REACH is key. Having a game plan is even more important.

"There are risk management measures to take," he says. "Including implementation of safety data sheets,

detailed transmission information and any consolidation information of total formulations."

Rollet focused his presentation on the obligations and concerns of the downstream user. In addition to examining the guidance documents, as a strategy he reminds downstream users of their obligations, which includes review safety data sheets (SDS); share any pertinent information gleaned from the SDS; give feedback to suppliers if new information should surface; and inform customers if dangerous substances which are candidates for authorization are contained (>0.1%) in the article manufactured or imported.

For more information on REACH, and to access the guidelines, visit the ECHA Web site at <http://echa.europa.eu>.

Source: www.emsnow.co

3.

Awareness of WEEE is high
but there are still misconceptions !

WEEE指令的意识程度很高，但是仍然存在着误解！

- Thousands of businesses that import, rebrand or manufacture electrical and electronic equipment have registered with a WEEE compliance scheme!
- The research revealed that there are still some concerning misconceptions around the regulations amongst producers who are obliged to join a scheme!



- 数以千计电气和电子设备的进口商，销售商或者生产商已经在WEEE相关部门进行了注册登记！
- 研究表明，目前仍有一些关于生产商应该承担履行法规义务的误解！

Just over a year since the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations came into force, thousands of businesses that import, rebrand or manufacture electrical and electronic equipment have registered with a WEEE compliance scheme.

By financing the treatment and recycling of WEEE they are demonstrating that green issues are rising up the industry agenda and are making a real difference to the environment.

New research unveiled this week by the Environment Agency revealed that 76 per cent of businesses questioned are aware of the WEEE Regulations and a clear majority also believe that disposal of electronic and electrical waste in the UK is a major problem - demonstrating a high awareness of green issues and the WEEE Regulations amongst businesses.

Of those companies interviewed who have failed to join an approved scheme, nearly half (45 per cent) mistakenly believe that the regulations do not apply to them. Joining a scheme is a fundamental requirement of the new rules, and the vast majority of these businesses are wrong in their assumption.

The research revealed that there are still some concerning misconceptions around the regulations amongst producers who are obliged to join a scheme. These misconceptions could result in those businesses putting themselves at risk of breaching the rules.

The Environment Agency is now stepping up its enforcement activity, having allowed producers a bedding in period to understand their responsibilities and register with a producer compliance scheme, to ensure everyone understands their obligations and is playing their part.

Misconception: Many of the surveyed UK businesses do not realise they are classified as electrical producers

Over a third of companies questioned mistakenly think that small companies are exempt from the WEEE Regulations. In fact all businesses that make or assemble products which require electricity for their main purpose - from TVs to medical devices - and sell them under their own brand name, or who rebrand or import products before putting them on the UK market, are likely to have to comply with the WEEE Regulations, regardless of their size.

Misconception: Some companies believe that because their offices are not in the UK they don't need to comply

Even if a business' office is based outside the UK, if it brings electrical goods into the country to place on the UK market it is still needs to join a WEEE compliance scheme in the UK. The WEEE Regulations have been introduced to put the responsibility for waste disposal back on the producers - and any company involved in the manufacture, distribution, importing or rebranding of electrical products since January 2007 falls into this category.

Misconception: The regulations affect manufacturers more than importers

WEEE Regulations apply equally to all businesses involved in the EEE supply chain from manufacturers to distributors - there is no one sector that is more affected than another. To assume the regulations do not apply without checking is to risk enforcement action. Businesses can use online resources, such as the Environment Agency website, to find out quickly and simply how they are affected and the steps they are required to take to comply.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee includes a straightforward, step by step guide to help producers comply and provides a list of compliance schemes to choose from. The advice is to shop around to get the best price and the appropriate level of support. Regardless of the scheme they sign up to, the costs of compliance are likely to be significantly less than the fines imposed for failing to meet the requirements of the WEEE Regulations.

Adrian Harding, Producer Responsibility Policy Advisor at the Environment Agency, explains: "It is encouraging to see good overall awareness of green issues across electronics manufacturing businesses. However, it is concerning that many businesses in the sector have not made full use of the guidance that's

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been put in place to help them comply with the WEEE Regulations. As we step up our enforcement of the regulations, many of these businesses are putting themselves at an increasing risk of being fined.

"Over 80 per cent of the producers we questioned know that enforcement action can be taken against them for non-compliance - but many are still failing to act. We urge any companies who could possibly fall into the 'producer' category of the WEEE Regulations to check out the scope of the requirements on the Environment Agency website, to see if their business needs to comply and what action they need to take."

Source: www.theretailbulletin.com