

Partnering with Intel on Enterprise Security

Q&A with Symantec Senior Vice President Enrique Salem

Q: Why has Symantec chosen to work with Intel?

A: Intel is a key platform partner for Symantec. We're doing something together that is unprecedented in the industry. One of Symantec's goals is to deliver robust security solutions in a way that is cost effective for IT managers and gives them an appropriate level of control. The Intel® VPro™ technology allows us to do just that. We'll continue to partner with Intel on unprecedented next-generation security solutions in the coming years.

Q: What does this partnership with Intel allow you to accomplish that you weren't able to accomplish before?

A: Four key things. First, by isolating the security technology from the operating system, we have confidence that the security technology has not been compromised, so we can trust the result that it gives. Second, we can do more intelligent scanning for threats without interfering with the operating system. Third, the security technology is always on, always protecting the end-user. Finally, we can protect against a broad range of threats allowing administrators to spend less time worrying about cleaning up the environment. The Intel VPro technology enables virtualization, creating a simplified, self-contained environment that can be dedicated to functions like security.

Q: What does Symantec see as the critical, unmet needs of enterprise security?

A: There are a number of security needs that are not being met today. Among the primary concerns that Symantec and Intel are hoping to address is the amount of control end users have over their computing environments. Currently, end users have the ability to modify the environment they work in, disable security solutions, and install new programs (authorized and unauthorized), creating additional security threats for the security administrators to worry about. We are trying to limit the amount of control the end-user has and increase the amount of control the security administrator has.

Q: Is there any one particular issue that you repeatedly hear about from IT managers that this partnership will address?

A: We consistently hear IT managers raise questions about the overall cost of managing security on the desktop and the number of devices they are required to take care of on a daily basis. Collaborating with Intel will help to decrease the cost of maintenance while making sure IT has the right level of administrative control.

Q: How does deploying security in a separate virtual partition improve endpoint security and alleviate these concerns?

A: The emerging threat landscape contains threats aimed at disabling security technology. These threats are becoming much stealthier and are difficult to detect. By having endpoint security in a separate partition, we isolate the security functionality from the operating system and any possible conflicts within the OS environment. This approach makes it much simpler for an administrator to manage the entire environment.

Q: What else do you foresee coming from this partnership with Intel?

A: Looking forward, Intel and Symantec are working on a whole range of new capabilities. Specifically, we're looking further into virtualization and how it improves the overall security of the environment and minimizes total cost of ownership. We're looking to further improve maintenance of security systems. We're also looking at ways to continue giving administrators level of control that is appropriately balanced with end user control.