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Hacker – proof Software on Show

A New Zealand software company is promising governments worldwide its software will allow them to release documents knowing sensitive deleted or obscured sections can never be hacked.

Documents using RapidRedact software can be safely released under freedom of information and privacy legislation, says the Wellington-based developer of the product, Onstream Systems.

CEO and director David Kelly says his company's product could have saved the US military considerable embarrassment over a recent computer hacking of confidential information relating to the US killing in Iraq of an Italian intelligence agent.

A German hacker accessed a supposedly protected official US PDF document. The hacker publicised on the internet the unauthorised censored details of a Multinational Corps Iraq investigation.

The US government had censored investigators' description of the death of an Italian agent in the rescue of journalist hostage Giuliana Sgrena as a tragic accident.

Kelly will launch his product in the US next month at a LegalTech show in Los Angeles, where speakers tackle subjects such as the war on cybercrime. Kelly will be promoting his software as a boon for government organisations, legal firms and businesses forced to publicise electronic information they hold, without infringing privacy legislation and other reporting/compliance obligations.

Documents that are stored and passed on electronically can carry with them every text change and annotation from the time of first creation. RapidRedact provides a fast, simple method of blotting out information and completely removes any record of text or author's changes and cleans hidden code or data from behind the document.

Since the content is no longer in the document, snooping or hacking into the file cannot reveal it, Kelly says. The package is Microsoft-friendly and works with any Windows document or accounting system.

Several US law firms have contacted his company about the possibility of purchasing the product, Kelly says. Onstream Systems, majority-owned by David and Anne Kelly with Gibson Sheat Trustees Ltd, has been in business in Wellington since 1987.

The company began as a farm-mapping operation, but its core business is now corporate imaging work for international clients.

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