

Secure transmission of sensitive data from notebooks

PCMCIA card: data thieves have no chance

■ SYSTEMS 2001, Munich — A new PCMCIA card has been developed for reliable protection of data transmitted from and to notebooks. The TopSec701 card developed by Rohde & Schwarz SIT encrypts the total data transfer from and to a TopSec station connected to a PC, ISDN network or analog telephone access. An efficient hybrid method is used for encryption, which prevents unauthorized use of data and optimally protects even mobile data transfer.

With increasing mobility, more and more sensitive data, such as orders, queries or personal customer data, is being transmitted from notebooks via mobile phones or third-party fixed exchange lines. Experience shows that the weakness is not the hardware (notebook, modem or mobile phone), but the path which the data has to take – analog, ISDN or GSM – and which is vulnerable to attacks by data thieves and unauthorized access. The TopSec701 encryption card now protects mobile data transfer reliably against misuse.

The TopSec701 PCMCIA card is inserted into the laptop or notebook and connected to a modem-compatible mobile phone or any other modem by means of a data cable; the data transfer to or from another TopSec station can then be encrypted, if desired. For encrypted data transmission, a prefix code has to be dialled before the call number proper. The card switches to crypto mode and automatically encrypts the data transferred. A combination of an asymmetrical 1024-bit algorithm and a symmetrical 128-bit block code algorithm is used. The crypto key – randomly selected from 10^{38} (10 to the power of 38) possibilities – is erased as soon as the transmission is terminated. The card can also be integrated into any corporate network, provided that the remote access server is equipped with a TopSec device.

The TopSec701 PCMCIA card is available now from Rohde & Schwarz.

Rohde & Schwarz

The Rohde & Schwarz group of companies with headquarters in Munich develops, produces and markets communications and T&M instruments and systems with the emphasis on mobile radio, broadcasting, EMC measurements, general-purpose and RF test equipment, radiomonitoring and radiolocation, radiocommunications as well as communication security. Rohde & Schwarz has subsidiaries and representatives in over 70 countries. The group with its 5.000 employees achieves an annual turnover in excess of 800 million Euro worldwide.

Rohde & Schwarz SIT GmbH

Rohde & Schwarz SIT GmbH, a subsidiary of Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG, offers solutions to security problems in information technology. Key activities are the development of crypto products for the protection of data in modern information and communication systems as well as consulting and IT security analyses for industry and government authorities.

All press releases are available on Internet at <http://www.press.rohde-schwarz.com>.