



## *news release*

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### HEALTH ACCESS SOLUTIONS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS INFO SECURITY PRODUCTS GUIDE 2007 BEST DEPLOYMENT SCENARIO AWARD

--AWARD RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN A HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY--

**FOSTER CITY, CA — August 21, 2007** — Pacific Partners Management Services, Inc. (PPMSI), a leader in managed healthcare information technology, and its Health Access Solutions (HAS) division, today announced that *Info Security Products Guide*, the world's leading publication on security-related products and technologies, has named "Health Access Solutions," a Mirage Endpoint Control case study, the 2007 Best Deployment Scenario in Endpoint Security.

Health Access Solutions, the software marketing division of PPMSI, provides web-based *Access Express* physician communications and managed care software that enhances clinical care, patient satisfaction, and financial performance.

Greg Stock, president and CEO of Mirage Networks. "We are pleased to share this award with Health Access Solutions and will continue to work with them to develop and deploy innovative endpoint control solutions for enterprises across every industry."

PPMSI chief operating officer, Randall D. Frakes, says, "This prestigious award recognizes security vendors with advanced network security solutions and underscores the fact that we are deeply committed to our customers' needs for assurance that every precaution is in place to ward off the malicious, highly sophisticated and blended attack environment of enterprise-wide technology today."

Adds Frakes, "PPMSI and its clients are conducting business with the peace of mind that network security vulnerabilities will be immediately identified, quarantined, and remediated. In the world of healthcare information management, such security assurance is not a luxury; it is truly essential."

Through its Health Access Solutions division, PPMSI hosts ASP applications (application services provider) for its *Access Express* Web-based software that is sold to medical groups, health systems and health plans around the country. More than 13,000 healthcare providers, managing 1.8 million patients, use *Access Express* to link hospitals, physicians, medical personnel, and payers with a secure Web platform that streamlines user communications and productivity. With *Access Express*, healthcare providers gain instant access to patient healthcare information virtually anywhere there is an Internet connection.

To read more about this winning case study, please visit <http://www.infosecurityproductsguide.com/casestudies/2007/Mirage.html>.

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## **ABOUT INFO SECURITY PRODUCTS GUIDE AWARDS**

Info Security Products Guide, a founding member of the Technology Industry Leadership Council, sponsors leading conferences and expos worldwide and plays a vital role in keeping end-users informed of the choices they can make when it comes to protecting their digital resources. It is written expressly for those who are adamant on staying informed of security threats and the preventive measure they can take. This guide includes a wealth of information including tomorrow's technology today, best deployment scenarios, people and technologies shaping info security and independent product evaluations that facilitate most pertinent security decisions. The Info Security Products Guide Awards recognize and honor excellence in all areas of information security. To learn more, visit [www.infosecurityproductsguide.com](http://www.infosecurityproductsguide.com) and stay secured.

## **ABOUT HEALTH ACCESS SOLUTIONS**

Health Access Solutions, the software marketing division of PPMSI, provides web-based Access Express managed care software that enhances clinical care, patient satisfaction, and financial performance. It links hospitals, physicians, medical personnel, and payers to improve communications and productivity. Access Express offers secure online messaging, interoperability with third party products, HCC optimization, Pay for Performance (P4P) quality tracking, case management, concurrent review, online patient eligibility, benefits, and claims tracking and automated, customizable referral/ authorization processing to avoid costly errors. First introduced in May 2000, Access Express is licensed to manage more than 1.8 million health plan members. For more information, 800-753-9079. [www.HealthAccessSolutions.com](http://www.HealthAccessSolutions.com)

## **ABOUT PACIFIC PARTNERS MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. (PPMSI)**

Pacific Partners Management Services, Inc. is a leader in managed care information technology that provides contracting, financial, and administrative services to medical groups and IPAs. [www.ppsmi.com](http://www.ppsmi.com)

## **ABOUT MIRAGE NETWORKS**

Mirage Networks, Inc. is the leading provider of Network Access Control (NAC) solutions, including both pre- and post-admission security. The Austin, Texas-based company's patented technology gives organizations control over unknown, out-of-policy, and infected devices resulting in increased network uptime, policy compliance, and reduced operational costs. Mirage's NAC appliances work in all network environments, deploy out-of-band, and require neither signatures nor agents to enforce policies and terminate zero-day threats. Mirage Networks Endpoint Control is a consistent winner of industry awards and recognition. Learn more at <http://www.miragenetworks.com>.

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## Info Security Products Guide

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### Mirage - Best Deployment Scenario - Endpoint Security



#### Health Access Solutions

**Background:** Health Access Solutions (HAS) is a leading application service provider located in Foster City, California. HAS is the software marketing division of Pacific Partners Management Services, Inc. (PPMSI). Our Access Express™ system distributes patient demographic and clinical information to more than 13,000 physicians affiliated with hospitals, medical groups, and health plans. Access Express software manages and automates managed care referrals, communication, and care for more than 1.8 million HMO and Medicare patients.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Health Access Solutions has the expert staff to help your organization move forward to an electronic future. Our healthcare technology team has worked together for years to develop a streamlined information technology and management strategy.

**Challenges:** As a healthcare company that deals with confidential patient information daily, many HAS policies and procedures are mandated by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations. HIPAA requires all healthcare organizations, including hospitals, physicians, health plans, and public health authorities, to protect the confidentiality and security of all individually identifiable health information.

Health Access Solutions worked to improve the corporate network environment for two years before implementing Mirage Networks Endpoint Control for network security in 2005. While they had a solid security backbone in place when they first began speaking with Mirage Networks™, Inc., they were keenly aware that endpoint control was a major security consideration that needed to be addressed.

Simply put, endpoint control ensures that the devices that access the corporate network will not introduce viruses or other malware that can risk the stability of the network. (Malware is malicious software designed to damage a computer system.) An endpoint control system assesses the devices that enter the HAS network for malware and policy compliance before they are allowed access, and the system continually monitors those devices once they enter the network. Health Access Solutions employs 120 local network users housed in two buildings, and ten remote users who access the network via virtual private networks or remote desktop connections. HAS hosts its own application, as well as several client applications, so they have thousands of individually authorized users in the state of California who log on 24/7 to access their data via the web. Each user has a unique user ID and password that gives them access to only the limited confidential information they need to know in order to do their job.

Such unmanaged, dispersed users can unwittingly introduce viruses and other malware from infected or out-of-policy computers. Malware can potentially bring down the network, compromise the security of our patient data, and affect the productivity of HAS as well as the productivity of its clients.

**"We were looking for a managed solution and wanted to leverage our existing network service account with SBC/AT&T. We were introduced to Mirage Networks by SBC/AT&T, a major channel partner of Mirage Networks. After considering other vendors, as well as an in-house solution, we ultimately determined that the Mirage network-based approach to endpoint control would be the most effective and reliable solution to meet our continuing security requirements."**

**Gary D'amato, Systems Manager, Health Access Solutions**

**Issues:** The HAS network environment is one of multiple users and unmanaged devices, which greatly increases the chances of vulnerabilities threatening the network. Such vulnerabilities can include out-of-date patches (temporary fixes for software defects), missing anti-virus updates, malware, and other threats.

**Solution provided by Mirage:** The installation of the Mirage Networks Endpoint Control technology at HAS took place in January 2006. The Information Technology department of Health Access Solutions installed two Mirage 245 Endpoint Control devices, one for each of its two buildings, and one Cisco ISP 4240 in the data center.

The precision with which the Mirage network vulnerability assessment technology identifies malware and isolates offending endpoints is critical to the HAS network environment of multiple users and unmanaged devices. Mirage Endpoint Control uses behavioral rules to assess endpoints seeking network access and to identify virtually any vulnerability that might threaten the network. The solution addresses the vulnerabilities to which HAS was prone: out-of-date patches, missing anti-virus updates, malware, and other threats. The solution can achieve this even if the threat is new and patches are unavailable or not yet installed.

Once a vulnerable endpoint is identified, Mirage Endpoint Control places it in a surgical quarantine to allow repair and remediation, circumventing potential damage to the network without impeding the productivity of "healthy" endpoints. When the vulnerable endpoint has been remediated, it must authenticate against HAS' in-place servers before being allowed to return to the network. Mirage Endpoint Control continues to check the device for vulnerabilities once it has reentered the network,

**"Mirage Endpoint Control is a solution that provides complete control over the endpoint devices on a corporate network. The solution is considered "full-cycle" network access control because it includes both pre- and post-admission security, ensuring that devices comply with network policy before they enter the network, monitoring their behavior the entire time they're on the network, and surgically quarantining any at-risk devices. These ongoing security checks and the assurance of rapid remediation of violators help us ensure that no single device will threaten the stability of the HAS network"**

**Marc Fernandez, Regional Director, Mirage Networks**

**Summary:** Health Access Solutions has long been aware of the potential dangers that lurk behind every one of the thousands of devices that attempt to connect to its network. With Mirage Endpoint Control, bolstered by AT&T/ Mirage IPS, it now has a painless, cost-effective, and essentially transparent endpoint security solution. It provides the protection needed, given the realities of mobile computing, remote connections, and zero-day malware. HAS and its clients are conducting business with the peace of mind that any network security vulnerabilities will be immediately identified, quarantined, and remediated. In the world of healthcare information management, such security assurance is not a luxury; it is truly essential.

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