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Multitone FireCoder - Statement of Compliance

Multitone have been designing and building systems for the UK's Emergency Services for over 50 years. Based on this knowledge and experience, Multitone FireCoders are designed for resilience and longevity in situations that require little maintenance or support, with very high mean time between failures (MTBF). The hardware is built using high quality, industrial grade components for reliability. Likewise our software and operating systems configurations are designed and tested with the same care and attention, making them the number one choice for the UK Fire and Rescue Services.

The recent global cyber-attacks have seen many organisations review their networks and security policies. This statement is designed to reassure partners and customers of the robust design and security of the Multitone Firecoder.

Multitone FireCoders use an embedded custom built image, based on Windows XP (i.e. WES2009 or WES7). They have been stripped of much of the unnecessary components that in themselves could leave the system open to vulnerabilities. This hardened operating system runs with a partitioned hard drive, where the main partition is locked using a product called Solidcore. This prevents any executables to be run, no files to be written, nor any configuration changes be written to this partition. The secondary partition is utilised to run the Multitone specific programs that are written to comply with the latest Home Office GD92 specifications.

Similarly, the Multitone FireCoder OS, that is based on WES 7, uses a custom built hardened image with a similar disk partition, employing the enhanced write filter (EWF) and AppLocker to deliver the same levels of security. Multitone FireCoders are usually located within a locked cabinet, within a locked communications room, within a secure Fire Station. Therefore, providing a high degree of physical security. The Firecoder also sits within a secure network environment behind the FRS Firewall with no access to the internet or beyond the GD92 Firewall.

In the unlikely event that a rogue software component does manage to be placed on the Firecoder, a reboot will flush or purge the system to restore it to the exact same state as when it was first installed, eradicating all traces of the infection. This has been tested under extreme conditions within our rigorous testing processes for the purpose of ensuring that Multitone systems remain secure and operable 24/7.

Ron Wray
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