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For IT By IT

10TH ANNUAL WELL-CONNECTED AWARDS



● NETWORK COMPUTING has been recognizing outstanding tech products and services with its Well-Connected Awards for a decade.

By Mike Lee

Business Applications



Well, our Well-Connected Awards issue is finally an institution—10 years and counting. These awards take the pulse of the technology industry and reflect the best of what IT has to offer.

At NETWORK COMPUTING, we spend the year testing products and services in our Real-World Labs®, analyzing vendor claims and assessing the key technology markets. We grade each product with the same criteria you use to make purchasing decisions.

Although it would be ideal to perform all tests just before the awards are decided, that simply isn't possible. With the break-neck pace of product releases, some of

our award winners will have revved by the time you read this. The awards are a snapshot in time, the best of what we evaluated over the past 12 months—and here's hoping the new versions are even better than those we tested.

● Web Services Gateway

WINNER: Forum Sentry 1504 2.0. Forum Systems. (866) 333-0210, (801) 313-4400. www.forumsys.com

Forum Systems' Forum Sentry 1504—our product of the year in the business applications market—can shield your Web services traffic from XML-based

attacks. This snazzy 1U appliance provides dual 10/100-Mbps NICs to support its proxy-based architecture and allows for out-of-band management. Its IOS-like CLI (command-line interface) and the Web-based administrative console make remote administration easy. And, by integrating cryptographic acceleration, Forum Sentry not only supports digital signature and encryption standards, it does so without impacting performance.

FINALISTS: DataPower XS40 XML Security Gateway 2.3. DataPower, (617) 864-0455. www.datapower.com
Reactivity XML Firewall 2300. Reactivity, (866) 889-3485, (650) 551-7800. www.reactivity.com

★ PRODUCT OF THE YEAR ★

Business Applications

Forum Sentry 1504 2.0. Forum Systems, (866) 333-0210, (801) 313-4400. www.forumsys.com Web services, the hype darling du jour, can fall prey to a growing number of XML-based attacks. Enter WS-Security (Web Services Security) gateways that take the capabilities found in Layer 7 firewalls and add the ability to read XML body content sent to SOAP endpoint URLs, which may link to a number of Web services. Although we found room for improvement among the products in this market, the best of the bunch is Forum Systems' Forum Sentry 1504. The Forum Sentry stands alone in offering an intuitive method of building security policies that will let businesses protect themselves even if their administrators aren't experts in XML and XPath. XML and SOAP traffic can be controlled by providing schema validation, authentication, authorization and auditing services at the network's edge. And, by integrating its product with a growing number of identity-management systems, Forum lets organizations use existing investments while protecting new avenues of business.

