

D-Link integrates Microsoft NAP Technology into xStack switches

D-Link xStack Switches now Include Latest Windows Security Advances

Johannesburg, 8 July 2008 – D-Link has further demonstrated its commitment to the latest in advanced security technology by announcing the integration of Microsoft Network Access Protection (NAP) technology in its family of xStack switches. Microsoft NAP is a new platform that controls access to network resources based on a client computer's identity and its adherence with a company's corporate governance policy.

Providing enterprise-level security and advanced network interoperability, Network Access Protection (NAP) is one of the most desired and highly anticipated features of Windows Server 2008. With the support of Microsoft NAP, D-Link xStack switches ensure that each host's access to the network is only possible if they comply with the IT security policies, as well as the update of anti-virus signatures and patches from the operating system. D-Link and Microsoft's main objective is that users can secure their network systems against possible infected computers and implement more effective security policies on computer networks.

Microsoft Network Access Protection is a policy enforcement technology built into the Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008 operating systems that allows customers to better protect network assets from unhealthy computers by enforcing compliance with network health policies.

Network administrators are able to define granular levels of network access based on who a client is, the groups to which the client belongs, and the degree to which that client is compliant with a corporate governance policy. This provides customers with bespoke enterprise-level security features that ultimately delivers valuable piece of mind, knowing that the network is protected by the latest security advances.

"At Microsoft we are delighted that D-Link has integrated Network Access Protection into their products, helping customers deploy NAP across their infrastructures," said Gareth Hall, Windows Server Product Manager, Microsoft.

D-Link's xStack family is a high-end switching solution that delivers the advanced speed, management and security functionality that the ever-changing business market demands. In the last two years, D-Link has achieved global recognition, with significant uptake of its xStack switch range in the telecoms and corporate sectors.

Commenting on the announcement, Tobie van Schalkwyk, country manager for D-Link in South Africa said, "The partnership between D-Link and Microsoft completes the powerful feature-set of our family of corporate xStack switches. In the future we also plan to integrate Microsoft NAP technology into our NetDefend security products, which will enable us to secure E2ES communications. Ensuring maximum security of the network is what IT professionals and CIOs are looking to

achieve today. By integrating NAP in solutions from D-Link, our customers will benefit from improved security policies for access to the network," concludes Van Schalkwyk.

The xStack technology, ranging from 10/100 and Gigabit switches up to managed Layer 2, -3 and -4 switches, offer a total solution for any corporate environment. All xStack switches are equipped with comprehensive security and control features, advanced Quality of Service (QoS), and a simple management interface which relieves the burden on network administrators.

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About D-Link

The company continues to strive for excellence as an award winning designer, developer, and manufacturer of networking, broadband, digital electronics, voice and data communications solutions for the digital home, Small to Medium Business (SMB), and Workgroup to Enterprise environments. With millions of networking and connectivity products manufactured and shipped, D-Link is a dominant market participant and price/performance leader in the networking and communications market. D-Link is on the Web at: <http://www.d-link.co.za>