

## People traveling to the USA to face customs inspections of their electronic devices and all of their databases

- **Data security experts at Utimaco advise people to secure their confidential data against third-party inspection before arrival in the USA**

**Oberursel, October 27, 2006.** Debate concerning the security of laptops and electronic data carriers upon arrival in the USA: According to reports by the New York Times, more than 1,000 regular business travelers and travel industry representatives met up last week at the Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) conference in Barcelona to discuss the current tightening of customs controls. The main issue was the fact that US customs officers can inspect and even confiscate private or business devices of travelers at any time and without naming any specific reason. Also, no information was provided on what was to happen to the devices. The ACTE, made up of a good 2,500 members, is therefore concerned about what happens to people's private and business-critical information – concrete reasons for suspicion are not required to warrant confiscation. The ACTE reports on cases in which the laptop of a business traveler and a whole year's worth of data was confiscated by the authorities.

"A business traveler's greatest concern used to be that mobile devices, in particular ones containing critical and confidential information, went astray or were stolen. Now this is added to by the fact that third parties can inspect data during airport checks when traveling to the USA. We still don't know what happens to the data when seized by the US authorities," says. "A traveler's privacy is significantly compromised when arriving in the US. Business secrets are also threatened by such actions. According to current legislation, such random device checks may be carried out without specifying a reason. The person subject to the search can only hope that his or her data is handled in confidence as there are no fixed guidelines. In terms of the current ongoing passenger data debate in the European Union, this represents yet another limitation for European passengers."

The ACTE is therefore demanding clear guidelines from the government regarding what passengers have to take into consideration when arriving with electronic data carriers and what inspection processes are to be expected. To this end, the ACTE Traveller Security Advisory Committee has summarized the current status of increased customs controls at US borders in a 35-page white paper:

[http://www.acte.org/events/Barcelona/PDF/EMEA\\_WhitePaper.pdf](http://www.acte.org/events/Barcelona/PDF/EMEA_WhitePaper.pdf)

"We particularly recommend business people traveling to the USA to encrypt confidential data on their laptops, PDAs and smartphones so that third parties do not have access to the data and cannot pass it on or use it for other purposes," adds Rieke Bönisch of the Data Security Company Utimaco. "We expect that this somewhat arbitrary US control process will have a large impact on how business travelers handle their sensitive data and how much of it they will take with them when traveling."

The Data Security Company Utimaco has compiled a number of useful tips to secure mobile end devices, which can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.utimaco.com/toptips>

**Utimaco Safeware AG – The Data Security Company.**

Utimaco is a world leading producer of professional solutions that secure data within companies and government agencies. The solutions, which have won multiple awards, protect data against unauthorized access and manipulation no matter where it's stored – on mobile personal devices, PCs or on networks or is being transferred to business partners or processed in business applications. SafeGuard Easy, with more than three million installations, is the best selling worldwide solution for protecting data on notebooks and PCs. Utimaco is also a leader in electronic transaction protections. In Germany, for example, Utimaco solutions secure over 90 percent of all card-based payment systems. Utimaco offers its customers comprehensive on site support via a worldwide network of partners and subsidiaries in Europe, the USA and Asia. Utimaco Safeware AG, with headquarters in Oberursel, near Frankfurt, Germany, is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (ISIN DE0007572406). For more information, visit our website at [www.utimaco.com](http://www.utimaco.com)

**Additional Information:**

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