

director of Cyber and National Security Program for **SRA International**. Previously, he was information assurance director at the **National Security Agency (NSA)**.

## Buy security when AWA man calls

SYDNEY — **AWA**, through its new franchise network, has partnered **PC Tools** to co-market PC Tools Spyware Doctor and other computer protection products.

AWA customers will be able to purchase PC Tools, Spyware Doctor and Registry Mechanic directly from their AWA service person. Franchisees will use PC Checkup diagnostic software to help them troubleshoot issues and determine the best solution.

## Mobile takeover costs \$27bn

NEW YORK — Forget **Microsoft's** US\$6 billion bid for **aQuantive**. That is so last-week. In this week's big deal, Wall Street has been rocked by a US\$27.5 billion bid made by **TPG Capital** and the private-equity arm of **Goldman Sachs** for wireless operator **Alltel**.

The price translates to more than A\$34 billion in colonial currency. It's the biggest foray yet by private-equity money into the wireless business. And the deal could signal still more ambitious gambits as investors have shown increasing interest in telecom and wireless assets.

Alltel, based in Little Rock, is the USA's fifth largest mobile phone company. The buy-out is at a premium of about 10 percent on last trades. It has about 12 million subscribers mostly in the Mid-West, West and South.

## Google, Salesforce circle wagons

NEW YORK — **Google** and **Salesforce.com** are discussing an alliance that could help them compete against **Microsoft**, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. It says the companies are still working out details of a potential partnership, expected to be announced in the next few weeks.

One outcome could be a Web offering that integrates some of Google's online services, such as e-mail and instant-messaging, with those of Salesforce.com, whose Web-based customer-relationship management tools help businesses track their accounts.

Google and Salesforce.com won't comment.

## Alcatel-Lucent knuckles down

PARIS — **Alcatel-Lucent** is launching a product that lets companies remotely clamp down on security breaches on the laptops of their mobile employees, part of its effort to expand into new markets.

The Nonstop Laptop Guardian positions the company to compete in the fast-growing market for security on mobile devices such as notebook computers. Alcatel-Lucent says it has taken a new approach by using wireless communications.

Most notebook-security products for companies require a user to be online and then to log into a virtual private network, linking the laptop to the company's servers.

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Alcatel-Lucent's product is a computer-on-a-card that slides into a notebook — with its own power source and Internet connection via the mobile-phone system. It allows HQ to back up files, as well as update software.

If a notebook goes missing, the company can encrypt or destroy the data, even if the laptop isn't powered or connected to the Internet.

## H-P refreshes its board

SAN FRANCISCO — Continuing to rebuild its board following last year's scandal, **Hewlett-Packard** has appointed two new directors: **John Joyce**, MD at private-equity firm **Silver Lake**, and **Joel Hyatt**, CEO of **Current Media**, raising the total to 10.

Joyce, 53, is a former CFO of **IBM**. Hyatt, 57, co-founded **Current TV**, a user-generated TV channel, with former US veep **Al Gore** — who is a director at H-P rival **Apple**.

## Dell flashes tablet PC

AUSTIN — Computer maker **Dell** has confirmed plans to sell a tablet PC before the end of the year. **Jeff Clarke**, senior VP and GM of Dell's business product group, revealed the plan in a short video on a Direct2Dell blog.

"I'm here to end much speculation in the industry about our plans in the tablet marketplace," said Clarke, while holding the tablet. The device will be a Latitude-branded device, designed specifically for the education, health care and corporate markets, he said.

Clarke claims it will be one of the lightest tablets on the market and will have a pen and touch-screen interface. But he didn't reveal likely prices.

## Siemens signs outside boss

BERLIN — **Siemens** for the first time has hired an outsider to run the German engineering and electrical giant as it tries to distance itself from corruption scandals. **Peter Löscher**, a senior executive at pharmaceutical giant **Merck**, will become CEO on July 1.

Löscher, a 49-year-old Austrian, will succeed **Klaus**