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Friday, April 9, 2004 Issue

Portables sizzle at FOSE

Tablets, handhelds expand in new directions
BY Michelle Speir
April 5, 2004

Full story at: http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0405/tec-fose-04-05-04.asp

"BioStik

If you regularly use different computers in different locations, a portable flash memory device makes it easier to take your work with you. One problem with this type of device, however, is that it's relatively easy to lose due to its small size. And if the data is not protected, anyone who finds the device could access your files.

This is where the BioStik from Index Security Inc. comes in. It protects your data with a fingerprint, which, unlike passwords, can't be forgotten or hacked. The fingerprint scanner is integrated into the unit and protected with a plastic cover when not in use.

The USB 1.1 device is available with 128M of memory, but a 256M version will be released soon.
The 128M BioStik sells for $170."

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Tuesday, May 25, 2004

The finishing touch

10 low-cost product add-ons that can improve employee productivity

BY Patrick Marshall and Michelle Speir
May 24, 2004

http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0524/feat-addons-05-24-04.asp

Sometimes it's the little things in life that make a difference. The sole insert may count more than the shoe or the massaging seat cover may count more than the car. In this periodic moment of reflection, we take a look at the handful of products that have come through our labs in recent weeks that, despite having noteworthy virtues, generally haven't made it into the magazine. That's because the products don't quite fit into our normal review categories. Nevertheless, they promise to make your job easier.

BioStik: Secure portable memory that's Mac- and Linux-friendly

Index Security Inc.'s BioStik is another portable USB flash memory device with a built-in fingerprint scanner, but some functions differ from the ClipDrive Bio.

Perhaps most significantly, the BioStik is compatible with Mac OS and Linux in addition to Windows 98, ME, 2000 and XP. Downloadable

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drivers are required for use with Windows 98 and Mac OS 8.6, but all others are hot plug-and-play, requiring no software at all. Therefore, users can seamlessly transfer data among Windows, Macintosh and Linux systems.

The BioStik features one partition that appears as a removable drive, and no password option is available. The device can store up to five fingerprints.

The flash memory is protected from tampering by an epoxy that will self- destruct if the casing is damaged or removed. In addition, removing or tampering with the integrated circuit renders the data useless.

This version of BioStik comes with an administrative feature that makes the first two enrolled fingerprints permanent. The advantage is that users cannot accidentally erase administrators' fingerprints. The obvious disadvantage of this design, however, is that you can't change administrators without sending the BioStik back to the vendor.

Its extension cable does not have a docklike device on one end as the ClipDrive Bio does, so the cable is slightly more portable. Further, the BioStik comes with a built-in clear plastic protector for the fingerprint scanner that slides into place.

The 256M BioStik's $200 price tag is the same as that of the 256M USB 1.1 ClipDrive Bio.

A statement from BioStik®:
The BioStik® requires no software to be loaded on your computer like the ClipDrive Bio. If someone was making a presentation to you: would you let them load their software on your computer just to see it? BioStik is the only real "plug and play" secured USB Biometric flash drive around that is cross platformed to Windows, Mac and Linux…..
Say "NO to loading Software" and having possible spy-ware issues.