

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

OPENNETWORK

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OpenNetwork

URL: www.opennetwork.com	Headquarters : Clearwater, FL
Founded: 1995	Funding: J.P. Morgan Partners, GE Capital, SI Ventures, MedEquity, and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

Product summary

OpenNetwork is an international developer of Web access management software. Their flagship product is *DirectorySmart*, a Web identity and access security management tool. DirectorySmart takes a directory-centric approach to eBusiness security, utilizing an LDAP directory as the centralized repository for both user identity and security policies. OpenNetwork supports all leading LDAP directories, including iPlanet, eDirectory, SecureWay and Active Directory. However, OpenNetwork favors Microsoft's Active Directory. DirectorySmart leverages Active Directory as the central data repository, storing both identity and policy information within the directory. DirectorySmart allows organizations to integrate Microsoft .NET products with other technologies, and expand Microsoft .NET to the extranet.

By using DirectorySmart's single sign-on capability, companies can securely extend the power of the following Microsoft .NET products to heterogeneous extranet environments:

- Microsoft BizTalk Server
- Microsoft Commerce Server
- Microsoft Content Management Server
- Microsoft Exchange 2000

ZapThink take

OpenNetwork's strategy is to leverage its position as a key Microsoft partner to offer Microsoft's recommended single sign-on product for taking .Net to heterogeneous environments. They use SOAP to bridge to the J2EE environment, but have chosen to stay on the sidelines with respect to SAML and XKMS, instead placing their bets on .Net. Traditionally, betting on a Microsoft partnership is generally a positive move, as long as Microsoft is unlikely to compete with the company directly. In OpenNetwork's case, they are on reasonably sound footing, because their solution bridges .Net to J2EE, which is unlikely to be a solution Microsoft will want to offer themselves.

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Related Research

- *XML and Web Services Security Report (ZTR-WS104)*

About ZapThink, LLC

ZapThink is an IT market intelligence firm that provides trusted advice and critical insight into XML, Web Services, and Service Orientation. We provide our target audience of IT vendors, service providers and end-users a clear roadmap for standards-based, loosely coupled distributed computing – a vision of IT meeting the needs of the agile business.

ZapThink's role is to help companies understand these IT products and services in the context of SOAs and the vision of Service Orientation. ZapThink provides market intelligence to IT vendors who offer XML and Web Services-based products to help them understand their competitive landscape and how to communicate their value proposition to their customers within the context of Service Orientation, and lay out their product roadmaps for the coming wave of Service Orientation. ZapThink also provides implementation intelligence to IT users who are seeking guidance and clarity into how to assemble the available products and services into a coherent roadmap to Service Orientation. Finally, ZapThink provides demand intelligence to IT vendors and service providers who must understand the needs of IT users as they follow the roadmap to Service Orientation.

ZapThink's senior analysts are widely regarded as the "go to analysts" for XML, Web Services, and SOAs by vendors, end-users, and the press. They are in great demand as speakers, and have presented at conferences and industry events around the world. They are among the most quoted industry analysts in the IT industry.

ZapThink was founded in October 2000 and is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Its customers include Global 1000 firms, public sector organizations around the world, and many emerging businesses. ZapThink Analysts have years of experience in IT as well as research and analysis. Its analysts have previously been with such firms as IDC and ChannelWave, and have sat on the working group committees for standards bodies such as RosettaNet, UDDI, CPExchange, ebXML, EIDX, and CompTIA.

Call, email, or visit the ZapThink Web site to learn more about how ZapThink can help you to better understand how XML and Web Services impact your business or organization.

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