# Stanford eCorner

Will Symantec Expand to Include Transaction-Based Security Products?

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Video URL: http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/361/Will-Symantec-Expand-to-Include-Transaction-Based-Security-Products

Thompson says that is possible to include transaction-based security products, but it is not probable because this would mean working in the domain of the big giants like MS .NET, Sun, Cisco etc. Part of the problem is that security has been an after-thought. In the future, they will become more a part of application design. Many web server based and platform based companies will have to integrate that more tightly into their solution set. Thompson would rather focus on infrastructure and let them focus on transaction.
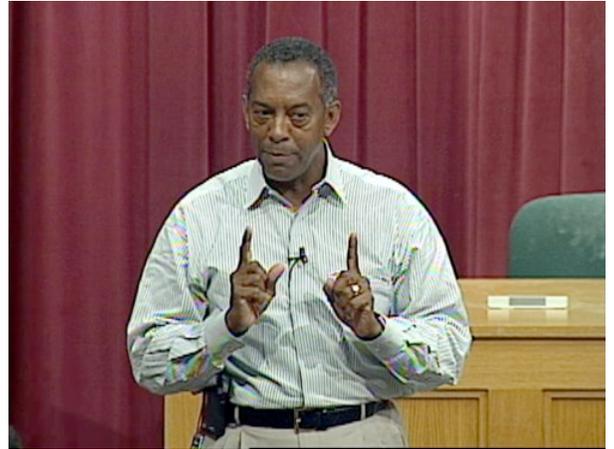
Transcript

The question is, "Is it possible for us to expand beyond what we do to transaction-based security products?" And the answer is yes. It's not probable, however. And it's for this principal reason if you think about the technologies required to authenticate and authorize a user for access to a system, the principal places where that needs to reside are on the network. And so, for those who have a subscriber-based network, or have a vision for a subscriber-based network like .NET, they will own, have to own that kind of technology in order to create ubiquitous secure access for many individual users. So why do I want to go fight Microsoft on that front? Other areas would be in large systems environments like what Sun or IBM or Oracle or BEA does when they build out server-based solutions. And they want to integrate that more tightly. Part of the problem with the security domain today is security has been an afterthought. Where I bolted on after I have built the application. And I think in the future, particularly around authentication and authorization technologies, they will become more a part of the application design. And hence, many of the Web server-based companies, many of the platform-based companies will have to integrate that more tightly into their solution set.

And so I'd rather focus on the infrastructure and let them focus on the transactions. Case in point, IBM just bought a company called "Access 360". Well, they're going to embed that into everything that they do around their WebSphere product and they are going to, in their portfolio of literally hundreds of software products. It will be a "buy this and you get that for free". Well, it's hard to compete with free unless you're just really, really good.