According to the company, Fellowes, more than 80% of read-write errors on disk drives and cartridge heads are caused by contamination. Tape drives, used regularly for backing up, work at such high speeds that the smallest contamination can lead to data loss or crashes. The company recommends that tape, CD and disk drives should be cleaned after every eight hours of use to minimize the chances of computer crashes.

For further information on cleaning computer equipment contact: Fellowes, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN3 1HT, UK; tel: +44 (0)1302 885331; fax: +44 (0)1302 890003.

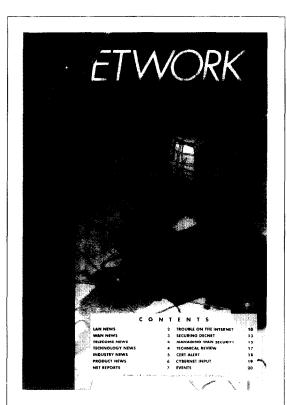
New method of fighting computer viruses announced

A new addition to the InControl suite of software has been released by Greenscreen. The new package, InControl Virus, is reported to use an innovative 'sheep dip' technology which forces incoming data disks to go through a designated PC controller which scans for known viruses. The package then assigns a unique authorization code to the data disk to indicate that it has been cleared.

Checksum codes can be configured to set up 'protection domains' such as workgroups or departments. Corresponding files on each PC within that domain ensure that only authorized disks can be accessed. This means that the data can be freely written and transported within the domain without the need to repeat the 'sheep dip' virus check.

The manufacturers claim that Incontrol Virus reduces the cost of implementing antivirus countermeasures by lowering the number of virus scanners needed and the logistical costs involved in upgrading.

For further details contact: Greenscreen, 10 Acorn Business Centre, Northarbour Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants PO6 3TH, UK; tel: +44 (0)1705 214127; fax: +44 (0)1705 214130.



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