

Press release

German Postbank expands cooperation with TC TrustCenter

**~ Team certificates from TC TrustCenter used to combat phishing in online
banking ~**

Hamburg, 04 July 2006 – As the bank with the most online customers in Germany, Postbank is a target of choice for phishing attacks. The company long ago intensified its efforts to combat the problem, and has recently launched a comprehensive package of measures. One aspect of the programme is secure e-mail communication: Starting immediately, the financial institute is digitally signing all e-mail messages to its customers using team certificates from TC TrustCenter. With this move, Postbank aims to make its online banking even more secure and to protect its customers against fraudulent activity on the Internet.

The signatures enable the company to guarantee the authenticity and integrity of its electronic messages. The signature and accompanying certificate allow the customer to verify the sender of the message and thus to certify beyond doubt that it was sent by Postbank. In future, whenever a Postbank customer receives e-mail that was not signed with a Postbank certificate, he or she can safely assume that such messages are for phishing purposes.

Team Certificates from TC TrustCenter are set up on the Postbank e-mail gateway for specific groups of employees, for example, all employees who can be reached via direkt@postbank.de, and automatically sign outgoing e-mail messages. In opting for TC TrustCenter, Postbank chose a provider whose root certificates are preinstalled in common e-mail applications.

“With TC TrustCenter, we have the right partner for securing our customer communication,” explained Georg Szabó, head of Security Management at Postbank Systems AG. “It’s important to us that our customers are able to verify whether e-mails truly originate from Postbank, or if the message content was altered along the transmission route. Thus, customers can discern authentic customer communication from fraudulent phishing e-mails. The team certificate offers us a cost-effective and simple way to do that.”

Phishing is a special type of Internet fraud that has been showing up on the Net increasingly frequently over the past months and years. The e-mail sender pretends to be the recipient’s credit institute and in this way tries to entice the recipient to click on a link in the message. The link opens a web site that looks remarkably similar to that of the bank but which was set up by the hacker. The customer is then prompted to enter their PIN and one or more TANs to verify their identity. Using this data, the hacker may later be able to access the customer’s account and transact business in their name.

About TC TrustCenter

As a leading international solution provider in the field of IT security, TC TrustCenter serves multinationals and small and mid-sized companies, public-sector institutions and private customers.

The holistic approach of TC TrustCenter covers the entire IT security project value chain. The core competencies of TC TrustCenter comprise comprehensive consulting services – from analysis, to project design, all the way to solution implementation and integration of the IT security solutions into corporate business processes. The company’s customers benefit from an established modular security infrastructure, scalable and always available systems as well as a network of expert partners. More information is available at www.trustcenter.de.

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