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NEW CTO HICKS TO LEAD IDENTRUS INTO XML WORLD

New York-based security-solutions provider **Identrus LLC** is expanding its services by migrating to extensible markup language (XML), a high-priority project that its new chief technology officer, **Mack Hicks**, has been spearheading since he joined the firm in October.

An agreement between Identrus and non-profit XML-based standards provider **Transaction Workflow Innovation Standards Team Process Innovations Ltd.** (TWIST) drove Identrus to update its public key infrastructure (PKI) technology to support XML. XML is a system used by web developers to create customized tags that organize and deliver content more efficiently over the internet.

"Identrus will be one of the first to

implement an XML-based trust structure," said Hicks, Identrus's first-ever CTO. He reports to **Karen Wendel**, the provider's chief executive.

TWIST enlisted Identrus to integrate PKI technology to secure its XML-based program, which simplifies transactions between banks and corporate customers by creating a uniform banking language worldwide.

Identrus will also apply the enhanced PKI technology to update its own e-commerce services, which are geared around protecting and facilitating online business transactions.

Along with the incorporation of XML formatting, Hicks plans to integrate more authentication products — like tokens, USB devices, and

one-time passwords — into Identrus's current security plans.

Hicks was instrumental in implementing various security controls while at **Bank of America Corp.**, where he spent the past 16 years as vice president of corporate information security.

Hicks likens today's inter-operability challenges to the early days of ATM cards, when customers could only access their accounts at one branch.

"We see the same things being applied to the identification process," Hicks said. "And I can see Identrus doing that [making the identification process interchangeable] for the world." —AARON JOHNSON