

# News Release



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## **1 in 4 New Zealanders Seriously Concerned About the Ability of Financial Service Providers to Protect their Personal Data**

***New Zealanders want to use more sophisticated identity verification measures including fingerprints and iris scans – Unisys Security Index***

**Auckland, 21 October 2009** - One quarter of New Zealanders say they hold heightened concerns about the ability of their financial service provider to protect their personal information.

1 in 5 said that they also hold the same level of concern about the ability of government to protect their personal data.

The results are from new research released as part of the [Unisys Security Index™](#) which shows that security concerns about the protection of personal information and credit and debit card details remain high.

“The good news is that the majority of New Zealanders are confident in the ability of their financial service provider or government to protect their personal information,” said Brett Hodgson, Managing Director, Unisys New Zealand.

“What is of concern is the fact that a significant number of New Zealanders hold high level worries about the capacity of those organisations to protect information given to them:

- 26 percent of New Zealanders say that they are extremely or very concerned about the ability of financial service providers to keep their personal information private.
- 22 percent of New Zealanders say that they are extremely or very concerned about the ability of government to keep their personal information private.

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“It is clear that the assurances given in response to fears, real or perceived, about the security of personal data are not having an impact on a sizeable number of New Zealanders.

“Yet in a clear sign that New Zealanders are willing to be part of the solution when it comes to tackling identity theft and related crime, the majority of people say they are willing to use sophisticated biometric technology to prove their identity.

Additional research undertaken in conjunction with the Unisys Security index shows New Zealanders are ready to take the next step in even more secure identity management, with the majority supporting the use of biometrics including fingerprint and iris scans:

6 out of 10 or 60 percent of New Zealanders say that they are willing to use biometrics with many choosing innovative technology such as fingerprint and iris scans:

- 81 % support fingerprint scans
- 68% support iris scans

“The public is sending an important message to governments and the private sector that they are willing and ready to use sophisticated technology in order to protect themselves against these types of threats,” said Mr Hodgson.

## **About the Unisys Security Index**

The Unisys Security Index provides a unique insight into the attitudes of New Zealanders on a wide range of security related issues. Developed in conjunction with market research firm Consumer Link the Unisys Security Index provides a regular, statistically robust measure gauging levels of concern about various aspects of security. The survey on which the latest New Zealand Unisys Security Index is based, was conducted nationally between 1-2 September 2009 and 29 September-5 October 2009 by Consumer Link using a nationally representative sample of 506 respondents aged 18 years and over. All results have been post-weighted to reflect the population using Statistics New Zealand 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings data. The study measures consumer perceptions on a scale of zero to 300, with 300 representing the highest level of perceived concern. For more information on the Unisys Security Index including additional resource material visit: [www.unisyssecurityindex.co.nz](http://www.unisyssecurityindex.co.nz)

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## **Unisys on Security**

Organisations and governments today confront potential security threats that didn't exist a decade ago. A nation's sense of security is an important indicator of political, economic and consumer forces and their interdependence. Security threats are global and their effects impact individuals on a daily basis. Unisys approach to security goes beyond 'bits and bytes' recognising that the most effective solutions are going to be those formed through collaboration across interests. For more information on Unisys security offerings visit: [www.unisys.com.au/services/security/index.htm](http://www.unisys.com.au/services/security/index.htm)

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