



Market Intelligence Brief

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All About AIX®: Security for IBM AIX®

When it comes to UNIX® operating systems, not all open source database solutions have what it takes to replace established proprietary products. IBM AIX® operating system leads the industry in vision and support in building solutions that run businesses worldwide. AIX® is the only UNIX operating system that leverages the experience of IBM Internet Security Systems™ (ISS) in supporting both software and hardware platforms for servers, from blades to mainframes.

AIX® Adoption Rates

Since its introduction in 1986¹, AIX® has continually grown market share within the UNIX community. According the 2006 IDC server operating systems report, three major players accounted for nearly 90 percent of all UNIX revenue in second-quarter 2006: Sun (34 percent), IBM (28 percent) and HP (28 percent). Recent analyst reports have estimated the AIX® user base includes more than 800,000 users worldwide² including national governments and some of the world's largest companies. With its aggressive new release schedule, AIX® continues to grow its worldwide market share.

Key features in the operating system include:

- *Support for advanced virtualization through 64-bit system and software architecture with dynamic logical partitioning (LPAR).*
- *Scalability to run 32-bit or 64-bit applications simultaneously.*
- *Capacity on Demand (CoD), providing the agility to scale-up at a moment's notice.*
- *Capacity Upgrade on Demand (CUoD), allowing the installation of additional systems with more resources (processors/memory) on hand than are initially required.*

The open, standards-based operating system provides fully integrated support for 32- and 64-bit applications and is compatible with IBM eServers including System pSeries® and IBM BladeCenter®.

Security Benefits within AIX®

To complement the granular security that IBM RealSecure® Server Sensor provides, AIX® security features include:

- *Enhanced system security to help protect against unauthorized access using a variety of authentication mechanisms that you can install, configure and deploy in the base operating system.*
- *Enhanced network security to help secure intranets and extend the network over the Internet by using built-in network security features.*
- *Effective system management to help securely administer the network infrastructure, servers, clients and pervasive devices.*
- *A repertoire of useful applications and tools to help access secure programming interfaces and open-source software tools to establish operating procedures for addressing security requirements and exposures.*
- *Increased access control that can specify who receives access to protected information resources.*
- *Robust encryption capabilities to enhance data-transmission protection and help secure sensitive cryptographic keys.*

These features, in addition to the multi-layered server protection built into the RealSecure Server Sensor, help companies to not only protect their business-critical servers, but also meet regulatory compliance standards.

It is critical for organizations to employ additional security software like RealSecure Server Sensor to provide granular protection against any internal or external hacker attempts that try to take advantage of both known and new vulnerabilities. The IBM Internet Security Systems X-Force® research and development team can shield the operating system and applications from serious security vulnerabilities.

Benefits of RealSecure Server Sensor for AIX®

IBM ISS is a leader in the enterprise security industry in its commitment to AIX®, providing support in-house for the preceding releases. In addition to offering a superior protection engine fueled by the world renowned X-Force team, clients choose RealSecure Server Sensor for its robust capabilities, such as:

- *Helps protect the network and applications from security vulnerabilities*
- *Monitors network traffic to detect and mitigate inbound/outbound threats*
- *Helps secure the confidentiality, availability and integrity of business data*
- *Aids in compliance with industry regulation requirements*

RealSecure Server Sensor for AIX® is compatible with the following IBM eServers and network operating systems:

- *Blade center JS20 and JS 21 PowerPC:*
- *AIX® 5.1, AIX® 5.2-32bit, AIX® 5.2-64bit, AIX® 5.3-64bit*
- *System I models i5 520, i5 550, i5 570 and i5 595 Power5+ Processor:*
- *AIX® 5.1, AIX® 5.2-32bit, AIX® 5.2-64bit, AIX® 5.3-32bit, AIX® 5.3-64bit*
- *System p models p5 185, p5 505, p5 505Q, p5 510Q, p5 520, p5 520Q, p5 550, p5 550Q, p5 560Q, p5 570, p5 575, p5 590, p5 595 Power5+ Processor:*
- *AIX® 5.1, AIX® 5.2-32bit, AIX® 5.2-64bit, AIX® 5.3-32bit, AIX® 5.3-64bit*

Virtually all industries are subject to regulatory compliance standards that require increased documentation for server security. RealSecure Server Sensor provides reporting and data archiving that helps ease the burden of analysis and demonstration of regulatory compliance. Working with IBM Managed Security Services and IBM Professional Security Services in addition to using RealSecure Server Sensor further assists with security planning, management and compliance reporting.

RealSecure Server Sensor addresses the regulations in the chart below.

In addition to the above chart, RealSecure Server Sensor also adheres to the server security requirements found in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA),

How does the RealSecure Server Sensor address the compliance regulations?

Compliance regulation	IBM RealSecure Server Sensor and IBM services
Federal Information Management Security Act (FISMA)	Helps enforce security policy; enhance access control, information security incident management and business continuity management.
Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA)	Helps ensure proper server access and permissions; manage server security; maintain and manage group security policies; audit file system activities and changes to the server, documents, and environment.
International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC 17799)	Helps organize information security with reporting on access control rights to applications, functions, and data, as well as incident management.
National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST 800-53)	Helps identify and block threats; evaluate/monitor existing controls; reduce security risks with proper assignments; and provide file integrity monitoring and operating system log monitoring, while protecting machines from malicious code.
Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS)	Helps provide coverage for requirements 1, 5, 6, 10 and 11, including firewall, anti-virus, application security, network access and regularly testing systems and processes.

Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA).

To assist customers with meeting the rising standards of regulatory compliance, the software allows users to monitor log-ins and privilege escalations, while offering both sensor and group level configuration.

Overall, IBM ISS is committed to maintaining its position both ahead of the security threat and ahead of the enterprise security market space by supporting a broad range of network operating systems.

For More Information

To learn how RealSecure Server Sensor can provide complete, cost-effective data protection for the critical applications on your AIX® operating system, please call 1 800 776-2362 or visit www.ibm.com/services/us/iss.

About IBM ISS

IBM ISS is the trusted security expert to global enterprises and world governments, providing products and services that protect against Internet threats. An established world leader in security since 1994, IBM ISS delivers proven cost efficiencies and reduces regulatory and business risk across the enterprise. IBM ISS products and services are based on the proactive security intelligence conducted by the IBM Internet Security Systems X-Force® research and development team – a world authority in vulnerability and threat research.



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1. Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_AIX®_%20operating_system%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_AIX%20operating_system%29). June 5, 2007.

2. IDG News Service. <http://www.itworldcanada.com/Pages/Docbase/ViewArticle.aspx?id=idgml-0bdd5a41-1ee8-4c66-a0fc-cb7e33a6a8f5>. December 19, 2005.