

NETWORK WORLD FUSION FOCUS: MARK GIBBS on WEB APPLICATIONS

**Web
Application
E-Mail
Newsletter
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Today's focus: Nailing down your Web content

Let's say you are, oh, perhaps the CIA. You've got this really cool Web site, or at least, you think so - and then one morning, you awake to find that your site has been hacked and defaced. Oh, the shame.

What could you do to ensure that such monstrosities do not befall your pride and joy? One answer might be WebAgain from Lockstep Systems.

Lockstep describes WebAgain as an "antidefacement utility that automatically fixes vandalized Web sites without taking your site offline."

The role of WebAgain is to detect unauthorized changes made to your Web site. These changes might include image alteration, rerouting of links, e-mail and online submission forms, and minor changes embedded in text such as details of product availability and pricing. WebAgain simply compares your Web site content with a master copy and replaces changed pages when problems are detected.

WebAgain also includes versioning so you can recreate your Web site as it was at a previous time. When WebAgain detects changes, it sends e-mail notifications to your support staff and quarantines the defaced pages. WebAgain then automatically restores the correct content.

WebAgain is a great idea that also is very simple (as good ideas often are). You might be tempted to build such a feature yourself - but at the price, why bother?

WebAgain runs under Windows NT and uses FTP or Microsoft Windows Networking to manage any accessible Web server (i.e., NT, Unix and Linux). The product also supports multiple Web servers (for load balancing) and costs \$349 until the middle of August. Lockstep also provides a free, 30-day evaluation version and site licenses.

Lockstep Systems
P.O. Box 1906,
Scottsdale, Ariz. 85252
877-WEB-FIXR / 480-596-9432
<http://www.lockstep.com/>

Mark Gibbs is a consultant, author, journalist, and columnist. He writes the weekly Backspin and Gearhead columns in Network World (<http://www.nwfusion.com/columnists/gibbs.html>). Gibbs is also president of Gibbs & Co. (<http://www.gibbs.com/>) and chief technology officer of Brand3, Inc. (<http://www.brand3.com/>). Network World Fusion is part of IDG.net, the IDG Online Network. IT All Starts Here:
<http://www.idg.com>

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