Data breaches on the rise

In 2016, the number of data breaches jumped 86% compared to 2015 with almost 1.4 billion data records compromised according to the Breach Level Index². The consequences can be both devastating and costly. How is data protected when a consumer accesses confidential health records in a public place? Or when a laptop is left on the train with a million social security numbers exposed? What can a businessman do when he leaves a memory stick with sensitive legal data in a hotel room or taxi? People and businesses need innovative solutions to ensure that the data flowing across their devices – both personal and professional – is secured and protected from theft and loss.

Mitigating mobility risks with secure wireless connectivity and the cloud

To solve these growing challenges, mobile data security specialist ExactTrak, teamed up with Gemalto, the global leader in digital security and Internet of Things (IoT) technology, to develop a new kind of solution that keeps data safe no matter where devices reside or move. The ExactTrak Security Guardian solution puts a layer of wireless security defense between potential threats and sensitive data.

Comprised of both hardware and software components, the Security Guardian solution is available either as a special USB memory device or it can also be embedded in computer processors that power laptops and mobile devices.
Unlike competitive software-only solutions, embedded hardware provides a layer of physical protection against external attack and manipulation.

Security Guardian hardware integrates a Cinterion Wireless Module from Gemalto, which delivers reliable, always-available, wireless connectivity. This allows devices to connect anytime and anywhere to the ExactTrak cloud platform where devices can be managed and data stored securely. A Gemalto eSIM enables remote service provisioning, or it “turns on” the connectivity following strict industry protocols for security. It also provides strong identification and encryption technology to defend against hacking and data theft. In addition, a tamper-resistant Gemalto Cinterion Secure Element is planned to add a layer of digital security, storing sensitive data and encryption keys apart from other applications. Together, the Gemalto components support over-the-air updates that help manage the security lifecycle of devices.

**How It Works**

When a consumer device with the embedded ExactTrak solution is purchased, the Security Guardian platform is offered as a service to protect, transport, locate and manage device data. The embedded hardware is quietly at work in the background, enabling secure wireless connectivity and protecting the device against threats. Left your laptop at the airport? Now there’s a solution! Customers can log on securely to an intuitive cloud-based management portal allowing them to quickly locate the device and see what data has been accessed—even when the host device is turned off. They can also use the portal to remotely control access to data from anywhere in the world. Left your tablet in a taxi—no problem! Data can be turned off remotely, or even destroyed as a last resort, obliterating sensitive information and protecting personal privacy. ExactTrak’s proprietary GeoZone feature allows the customer to define authorized use areas providing access to sensitive data only where it’s safe, while restricting access in areas outside the approved zone.

**Coming soon to a laptop near you**

With growing concern over data security in our age of increasing mobility, Security Guardian has been very well received by the market place. After a successful proof of concept trial, it is being embedded by semiconductor giant Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) in its new generation of processors due out in Q4 2017. Through this first of its kind contract where digital security is being embedded directly into AMD processors, Security Guardian will be integrated and available in more than 100 million laptops made by the largest leading global manufacturers. Future plans include migrating the technology to more than 900 million mobile phones and 500 million tablets. ExactTrak is also working with the major device manufacturers to include mobile data solutions in other commercial products.

Gartner, has estimated that worldwide spending on information security products and services would reach $81.6 billion in 2016, and the market shows no signs of slowing. Security Guardian is a win-win proposition for all. Device makers and service providers are offering value-added services to customers and realizing new revenue streams, while end users have the ability to protect and control their data and devices with flexibility to tailor protection plans to suit specific needs. The Gemalto-enabled ExactTrack Security Guardian offers a unique and compelling solution for protecting valuable information and stopping data thieves in their tracks.