

Security feature

► from page 28 - *Protecting the vatican*



The Vatican's library and museum collections are of the highest cultural significance, while buildings such as St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel house some of the world's most famous art, including works by Bernini, Botticelli, Michelangelo and Raphael.

Protecting the Vatican

ioimage, the pioneer of intelligent video appliances designed for simplicity, has announced that it has been selected to protect sensitive areas of the Vatican.

ioimage intelligent video appliances, monitored by an ioimage Command Centre, are being used to detect intruders along a 60 km perimeter of sensitive areas, entry and exit gates and the wall surrounding the Vatican.

ioimage's first unit was installed in 2005 following a year of intensive testing of its system.

Additional ioimage units are currently being installed. These units - composed of ioimage's IP camera with built-in self-sustained video analytics, the ioicam wdc100 dn and ioibox video encoders using autonomous PTZ (Pan Tilt Zoom) tracking - will be centrally monitored and managed by the "Corpo della Gendarmeria", the Vatican's security force from its control room. ●

Credit risk insight with IBM

IBM Cognos 8 Banking Risk Performance - Credit Risk lets bank executives and risk managers confidently mitigate credit risk across their organisations

Cognos, an IBM company and business intelligence and performance management vendor, has unveiled new analytic software designed to provide retail banks with complete access to accurate, timely and transparent credit risk information across their loan portfolios.

The many challenges facing the financial services industry today can be attributed to poor credit risk decision-

making. While risk management is a key component of most banks, in many cases, critical risk information is siloed and locked up in disparate data sources, making it difficult for banks to gain a 360 degree view of enterprise risk information in order to properly forecast risk exposure and monitor the day-to-day performance of current loan portfolios.

IBM Cognos 8 Banking Risk Performance - Credit Risk is a packaged business intelligence (BI) application that gives bank executives and risk managers an immediate, up-to-date and comprehensive view of their credit portfolio across products, geographies and business units. Built on an open, services-oriented architecture platform, the new solution plugs into an organisation's existing technology environment, letting users easily tap into their credit risk data housed in financial, core lending and other administrative systems to gain an accurate, up-to-date understanding of loan performance and its current and long-term effect on profitability.

Says David McWilliam, managing director at Cognos SA, an IBM company, "Credit risk management in the banking industry has become increasingly complex due to financial deregulation, weakness in the economy, financial product complexity and the recent and unprecedented turmoil in the financial services industry.

In addition to strengthening credit risk policies and processes, it has become a business imperative for banks to invest in systems and analytic applications that can harness their disparate risk data and provide the ability to assess risk scenarios in real time to ensure ongoing alignment with policy and achieve profitability goals. Cognos' Banking Risk Performance - Credit Risk solution is ideal for financial services companies to understand, monitor and mitigate their risk."

Leveraging the IBM banking data warehouse, or the bank's existing credit risk warehouse, the new analytics application offers users a single, standardised source of enterprise-wide credit risk information from which pre-built dashboards and packaged reports can provide instant visibility into five key analytic areas:

- originations - to assess the volume and characteristics of new loan originations, such as credit scores and loan-to-value calculations across the portfolio
- front-end performance - to better gauge delinquencies, 2+ delinquencies, delinquency roll-rates, and vintage information -back-end performance - to quantify gross and net charge-offs, repossessions, foreclosures, and bankruptcies
- financial oversight and profitability - to measure risk-adjusted return on capital (RAROC), net interest margin, and forecast versus actual comparisons for metrics including receivables, delinquencies, and charge-offs ●