

It is the nature of smartphones/PDAs that they are used away from the enterprise, but securing these devices is not a trivial undertaking, says **Peter Stephenson**.

This may be the toughest group review we've had in the SC Lab in a long time. We consider a PDA or smartphone to be a unique beast. Many of these products have portable versions of common OSs (Microsoft Windows, e.g.) and all can run applications that

are equal or similar to typical MS Office applications.

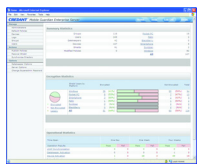
There are two areas that cause a lot of potential problems. The first is the required Microsoft infrastructure, and the second is the public carrier infrastructure.

We recommend that you begin with a solid implementation of

your infrastructure that permits your choice of PDA/smartphone to communicate without the security software.

Once you have the Microsoft infrastructure and the public carrier issues addressed, you can think about adding the security software.

Mobile Guardian Enterprise



Vendor Credant Technologies, Inc.
Price starts at \$85 per user
Contact www.credant.com

Credant Mobile Guardian Enterprise Edition uses policy-based intelligent encryption to avoid the security, management, data recovery, maintenance and productivity issues associated with file/folder and full-disk encryption technologies. Mobile Guardian offers central administration that runs from the console to the end-user. The product delivers a wide array of device platform support manageable from a single console.

The product can perform centralized deployment and policy configuration, including updates to devices in the field. To maintain control of inventory and compliance, Mobile Guardian uses a comprehensive management and reporting structure. It provides multiple levels of access

that span from the device to the end-user. This product also maximizes security with automatic device detection and communication port control.

Mobile Guardian has several pieces that must be installed during deployment. Usually this would make a complex installation task, but in this case, the installation and deployment are quite intuitive. The setup of the various pieces is guided by several easy to follow wizards and during installation the various components simply plug into the existing environment. Once the product is installed, all management is done through a web GUI, which also is intuitive to navigate.

This product integrates directly into an existing Microsoft infrastructure. By connecting directly to both Active Directory and Microsoft Exchange server with ActiveSync, this product is easily plugged into an already functioning environment.

Credant Mobile Guardian comes with all the documentation to make an installation a success. The step by step approach will walk users from start to finish during the deployment.

Credant currently offers two support packages: a standard level, consisting of Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Central; and a gold level package that is expanded to include 24/7 support for critical issues.

Credant Mobile Guardian pricing starts at \$85 per user before volume discounts. This product offers a lot at a reasonable price with easy administration. We find this product to be an excellent value for the money.

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★☆
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★
Strengths	A lot of functionality at a low cost.
Weakness	Some limitation in its feature set.
Verdict	A very strong product overall, but we wish that it was a bit more feature-rich.



A lot of functionality at a low cost.

Peter Stephenson



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