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Android Needs to Gain Critical Mass: MicroWorld

By Abhinna Shreshta

Mumbai, Jan 12, 2010 1903 hrs IST



India-based security firm MicroWorld refuses to be taken in by the hype generated by Google's new mobile phone the Nexus One.

Speaking exclusively to CXOtoday, Govind Ramamurthy, CEO of MicroWorld, said using available emulations they have developed some prototype security applications for

android-based phones, but lack of a critical mass, when it comes to users, is delaying their release.



"There is a lot of alpha and beta testing that needs to go in before an application can be commercially released. As of now, there are hardly that many users of android-based phones for us to carry out any meaningful tests," said Ramamurthy.

Where many analysts feel that the release of the Nexus One was just the push the fledgling android phone market required, Ramamurthy said that it would take some time before it could be determined if the android platform is here to stay.

Speaking about some of his misgivings, Ramamurthy said, "People are comparing it (Nexus One) with the iPhone and the BlackBerry. But security-wise, these two are much safer as compared to the Nexus. Application signing is missing in the Nexus One and this could provide a potential entry point for malware. (Nexus One does not enforce any requirements that a trusted certificate authority sign the certificates for its app.)"

Meanwhile, MicroWorld is looking to secure a market for its security product eScan, in the US, and Ramamurthy admits that is a tough proposition. In a market dominated by the likes of McAfee and Symantec, MicroWorld is looking to tie-in with local ISVs and storage vendors to offer bundled solutions.

"A coup for us would be to tie up with a big service provider like AT&T or Verizon, but that looks difficult as of now. So currently we are focusing on cementing our position in the niche segments and to do this we have already tied up with a number of ISVs. Being a non-American organisation, we feel this way, our products will be more easily accepted," he said.

Tags: [android platform](#) [Govind Ramamurthy](#) [CEO](#) [MicroWorld](#)

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