

**DAMAGE CONTROL**  
NASA engineers use high-tech gear to examine Discovery. **PAGE 10**



**FRANKLY SPEAKING**  
Medicare's giveaway of an EHR app could reinvent the health records software business, says Frank Hayes. **PAGE 46**

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## Dispute Over Cisco Flaw Sparks Criticism, Debate

Vendor muzzles researcher after initial router exploit disclosure

BY JAIKUMAR VIJAYAN

Cisco Systems Inc.'s attempts last week to stop an IT security researcher from discussing a hack into its router software evoked criticism from some users and analysts, along with calls for more information from the vendor about the issues surrounding the flaw.

The dispute between Cisco and the researcher also reignited the debate on responsible practices for disclosing vulnerabilities and

how vendors should respond to security problems.

The controversy erupted after Michael Lynn, who until last week worked at Internet

Security Systems Inc., made a presentation at the Black Hat USA conference in Las Vegas. Lynn detailed a way to shut down a Cisco router by taking advantage of a known and

already patched flaw in the vendor's Internetworking Operating System software.

Both Cisco and Atlanta-based ISS tried to stop Lynn from giving the presentation and even compelled Black Hat's organizers to destroy CDs and rip out more than 30 pages containing Lynn's slides from thousands of copies of *Cisco Flaw*, page 14

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## FDIC Warns Finance Firms On Spyware

Some IT managers say they're already taking precautions

BY LUCAS MEARIAN

Spyware is being recognized as a major security threat across the financial services industry, prompting warnings from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and analysts about the risks posed by the information-seeking software.

IT managers such as Matthew Speare, chief information security officer at M&T Bank Corp. in Buffalo, N.Y., said last week that they

## Delays, Added Costs Threaten University's ERP Apps Rollout

Project management, testing cited as issues

BY MARC L. SONGINI

After having missed a go-live date in April because of problems in project management, software testing and other areas, the University of Wisconsin is reassessing an over-budget ERP rollout that has so far cost it \$25 million.

The university was working

to install human resources, payroll and benefits management applications from Lawson Software Inc. to replace a 30-year-old mainframe system, with an eye on cost savings and improved ease of use. But active work on the project was effectively put on hold in

*ERP Rollout*, page 45

# LOST, STOLEN OR STRAYED

The mundane task of transporting computer tapes to storage facilities is suddenly a hot topic, after some highly publicized mishaps. Gary H. Anthes reports on ways to beef up security - and they aren't cheap.

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