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ARQ GROUP (ASX: ARQ)

Arq Group Response to Alleged Hijacking of Domain Names

Background

On 25 October 2018, the United States Department of Justice unsealed an indictment as part of proceedings against 10 Chinese nationals alleged to have undertaken state-sponsored hacking activity targeting a number of companies – primarily in the aerospace industry.

The indictment references an Australian domain name registrar (referred to as Company L), which in 2013 was allegedly used by the defendants to hijack domain names of a San Diego-based technology company.

This story is gaining extensive attention from the media, including some speculation that Arq Group is Company L.

The Facts

- Melbourne IT (now Arq Group) has no knowledge of the events described in the indictment.
- Melbourne IT has never been contacted by the Department of Justice, or any other agency, regarding the events described in the indictment.
- The indictment relates to an incident that occurred in late-2013 and Arq Group is not aware of any suggestion of ongoing activity.
- The alleged hack of Company L involved the alteration of DNS records and did not involve access to customer data of Company L.

Commenting on the reports in the press, Martin Mercer, CEO of Arq Group, noted that “we are very confident in the integrity of our systems and customer data. Following a number of acquisitions in 2014 and 2015 the Group consolidated all of its domains onto a single domain name registrar platform. This platform is managed in line with best practice in software development and security standards, including ISO27001 (data security) and PCI-DSS (credit card data and handling). In addition, the Group regularly engages third parties to undertake testing and assurance activities, to review our security posture and access controls, and follow a schedule of external audit programs”.

Anne Jordan

Company Secretary

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About Arq Group

Arq Group, previously Melbourne IT Group, is Australia's leading digital solutions partner.

Arq Group is the dynamic space for smart thinkers. Creating unforgettable experiences, solving complex challenges, and providing seamless, end-to-end solutions – from design thinking to customer solutions, leading mobile, cloud and analytical insights, digital marketing to web design - Arq Group powers the growth of businesses, big and small.

Founded in 1996, Arq Group has evolved from the leading Australian domains and hosting business to a leading digital services partner. Today, the company builds and manages innovative channels to market for many of the country's largest enterprises, whilst simultaneously supporting half a million small businesses throughout their online journey.

Arq Group currently has approximately 850 employees, and offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland.

