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Investigation on Microsoft's Involvement in the Chinese Communist Party's Human Rights Abuses

August 2005

Foreword

Amnesty believes Microsoft is in violation of a new United Nations Human Rights code, which says businesses should "seek to ensure that the goods and services they provide are not used to abuse human rights." [1]

According to a Feb. 1, 2004 report on the British paper The Observer [1], "the human rights group has slated Bill Gates' company for an 'inadequate response' to escalating abuses in China. 'We don't believe this is appropriate or responsible,' said Mark Allison, an Amnesty International researcher who wrote the report. '[Microsoft] should be more concerned about human rights abuses and should be using its influence to lift restrictions on freedom of expression and get people out of prison. It is worrying that they don't seem to have raised these issues."

On the other hand, "Microsoft told The Observer: 'we are focused on delivering the best technology to people throughout the world. However, how that technology is used is with the individual and ultimately not in the company's control.' Since China was admitted to the World Trade Organization two years ago a succession of big US technology firms have been supplying the government."

Therefore, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG) has conducted further investigation on Microsoft.

I. American Technology used by the CCP to Monitor and Filter Information on the Internet

In 2000, Haitian Software Company, a China-based software company that claims to have registered abroad says, "As a world-leading firewall and proxy server, Microsoft ISA is capable of doing more in today's broadband Internet market…In order to fully utilize the tremendous potential of the ISA Server, Microsoft (China) Corporation Ltd. decided after careful planning to go for an industry security regulation software completely based on Microsoft ISA Server 2000, developed by one of the best providers "Haitian Software Company." After testing done at the Microsoft China Research & Development Center (R&D), Microsoft (China) and Haitian Software Co. jointly released the Microsoft ISA Server 2000+ Haitian Internet regulation software. [2]" According to Microsoft (China) website, the HiTeam Mail Monitor and Management System (HTMMS) is based on Microsoft platform and is used monitor and manage web-based email clients, such as Outlook Web Access and many free WebMail. The HiTeam Mail Monitor (HTMM) Professional Edition, also called MailSieve, is used by Chinese public security, safety, military and secret agencies. Installed on one computer, MailSieve is capable of monitoring multiple 1Gbps data channels. The software is installed in the proxy servers to "monitor web-based emails and automatically block certain emails." MailSieve has been installed in many telecommunications companies in large cities [3]. (webpage capture 1)

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Webpage Capture 1: HTMM, a company Internet security regulation based on Microsoft ISA Server 2000

1. Blocking "Voice of America"

In introducing the new products on its website, Haitian Software Co. says that in a few years' time, the number of Internet users in China will surpass that in America and China will become the country with the highest numbers of Internet users. However, "there is a lack of investigating, monitoring and intercepting of Falun Gong information." In the meantime, "Voice of America is broadcasting information filled with American opinions to 180,000 Chinese listeners." And "Chinese Internet users can access some banned websites via other proxy servers." Therefore, Haitian Software Co. emphasizes "…We must use powerful means including high-tech methods to build a line of defense in our country's Internet space." [4] (webpage capture 2)

http://www.zhuichaguoji.org/sites/default/files/report/20 12/08/capture.tif

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Webpage Capture 2: Haitian explaining the importance of its email monitoring and filtering software, MailSieve

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2. Haitian Software and Microsoft Joint Copyright Statement

The Haitian Internet regulation software package is a combined effort between Microsoft and Haitain. Its copyright statement says:

"Microsoft ISA Server belongs to Microsoft Corporation. Haitian Internet regulation software belongs to Haitian Software Company. Microsoft (China) Ltd. reserves the final right to explain this plan. [5]" (webpage capture 3)
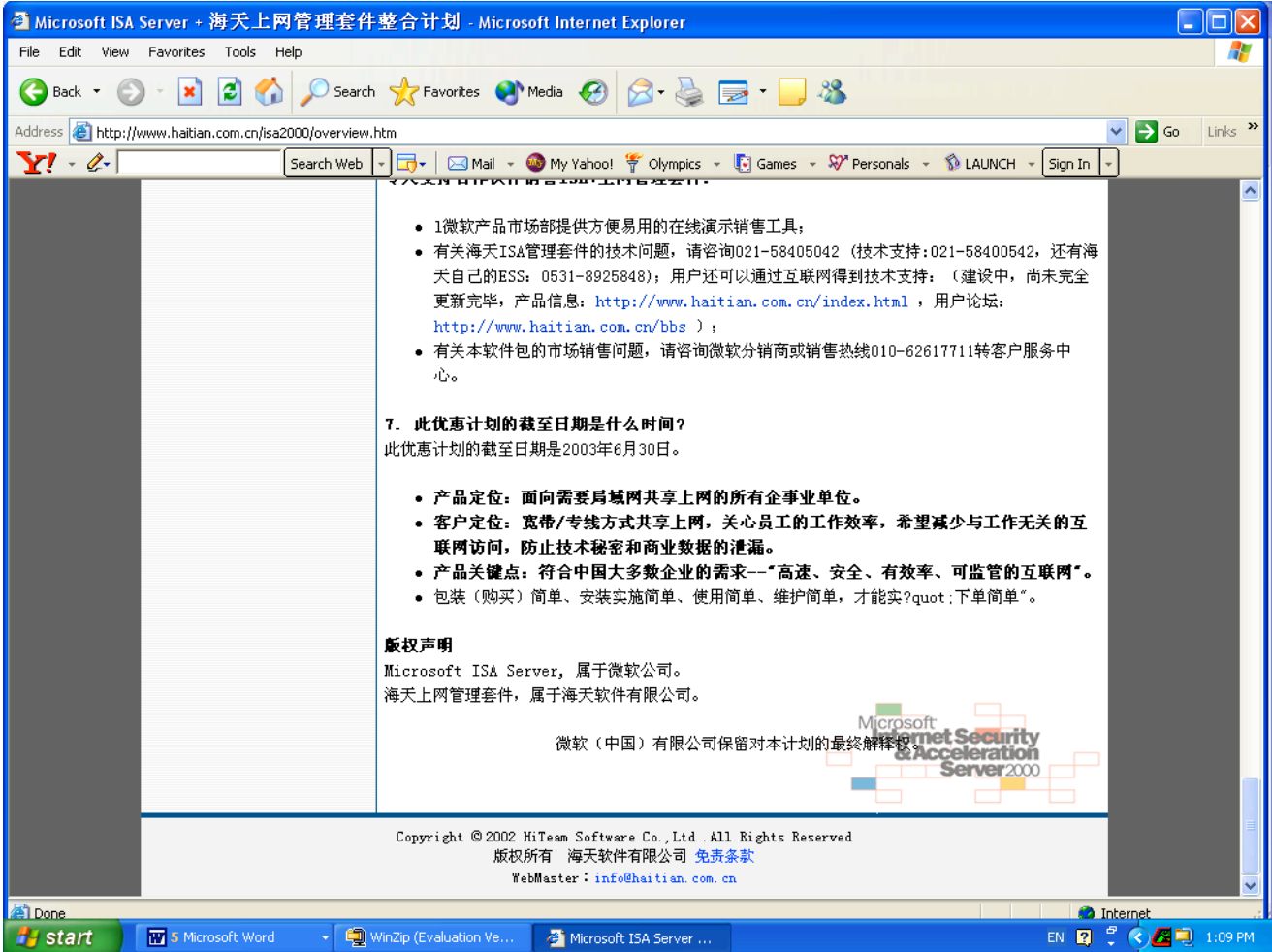
Webpage capture 3: Copyright Statement

II. Microsoft, Heguang and Haitian Collectively Releases a New Web Monitor Product "ISA+EIM"

In early August, 2003, FY04 Microsoft Retailer Training and Channel Conference was held in Xiamen City. All of the sales personnel and retailers of Heguang Software Microsoft product line attended the conference. During the conference, a press conference and a training session were held for the new product "ISA+EIM." Sui Zheng, general manager of Heguang Software introduced the joint plan for Microsoft (China), Haitian Software Co. and Heguang Software to develop new product(s). It marks another round of cooperation between Heguang and Microsoft [6]. (webpage capture 4)

According to Heguang Group, Microsoft (China) Ltd. and Haitian Software developed a software product based on Microsoft ISA Server 2000. This software is for corporations to monitor the Internet access behavior of employees. It is capable of monitoring webpage traffic, FTP and email. It is the so-called "double effect" corporate Internet safety solution by Microsoft and Haitian. Heguang is the only distributor of the software in China.

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To investigate the criminal conduct of all institutions, organizations, and individuals involved in the persecution of Falun Gong; to bring such investigations, no matter how long it takes, no matter how far and deep we have to search, to full closure; to exercise fundamental principles of humanity; and to restore and uphold justice in society.

Webpage Capture 4

III. Microsoft ISA Server is becoming the monitoring and filtering software for the Chinese education system

On January 7, 2002, Microsoft China website published a case study about Microsoft ISA Server, which indicated the Chinese education system is using Microsoft ISA Server to control students' Internet access [7]. (webpage capture 5)
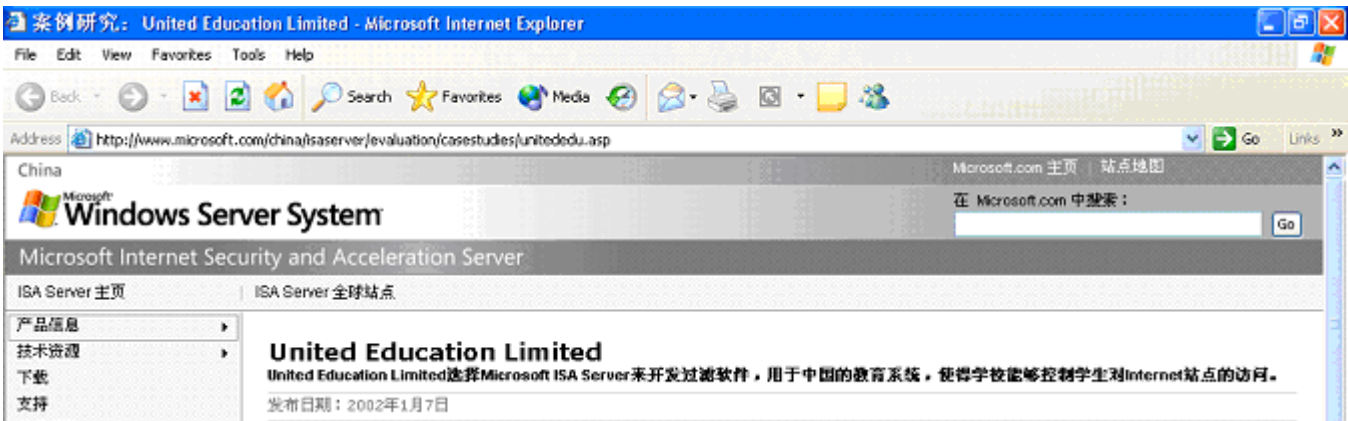
Webpage capture 5: Microsoft ISA Server case study

Translation of the webpage capture:

United Education Limited
United Education Limited chooses Microsoft ISA Server to develop filtering software to be used in the Chinese education system, so the school administration can control the Internet sites that the students are allowed to visit.
Publishing date: January 7, 2002

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Shaanxi Province Education Committee issued a Shaanxi Province Faculty and Staff Committee document (No.[2003]49). From this document, one can get an idea of how Falun Gong related information is being blocked on the Internet in the Chinese education system[8]. (Webpage Capture 6)

Excerpt from Document No. 49: "the CCP central committee and the provincial committee are very concerned with the battle on Internet. In order to continue and deepen the battle against 'Falun Gong' evil cult organization; aside from achieving the three "zero" target, the battle on Internet is the criterion by which the performance of the local work units and schools are judged…To better conduct the battle over Internet and especially blocking information from the internet is an important part of the battle against Falun Gong evil cult organization. The Party committees of schools must solidly intensify the leadership over the Internet struggle, organize forces and increase input…school leaders, especially the leaders in charge should periodically check on the situation and listen to reports, analyze the situation of the battle, make work arrangements; "610 Offices" of the schools should fully cooperate with the school Internet control units…actively organize and block information online; the school network center should strengthen their awareness of the battle on the internet,… effectively implement the work to block information from the internet." The Document No. 49 [10] requires the monitoring of online information on campus network must be "around the clock, …strictly forbid people in the schools and especially 'Falun Gong' members to visit 'Falun Gong' websites through the campus network and school's computer system, search, read, download or upload 'Falun Gong' material." The same document also states the fundamental method to ensure the information blockade online is to "pay great attention to the technology of web blockade, increase financial and technological input, and upgrade and renew with the latest technology in a timely manner."

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续深入开展好与"法轮功"邪教组织的斗争，继提出确保三项"零"指标之后，又把网上斗争情况作为衡量各地、各单位工作质量的重要指标。因此，各校一定深刻认识与"法轮功"邪教组织斗争的长期性、艰巨性和复杂性，树立政治意识，保持高度的使命感和责任感，高度重视网上斗争，把开展网上斗争特别是做好网上封堵工作作为与"法轮功"邪教组织斗争的重要内容。各校党委要切实加强对网上斗争工作的领导，组织力量，加大投入，坚持不懈地开展网上斗争。学校领导尤其是主管领导要定期进行检查，听取汇报，通报情况，分析斗争形势，进行工作部署；各校610办公室要与学校网管部门通力配合，明确各自的职责、任务和工作目标，积极组织开展封堵工作；学校网络中心要强化网上斗争意识，健全工作制度，加强对工作人员的管理和考核，明确任务，落实责任，有效实施网上封堵工作，为尽快遏制"法轮功"邪教组织的网上攻势做出自己的贡献。

二、加强校园网及计算机设备的管理和监控

各校要严格按照国家有关法律法规和各自职责，加强对校园网和公用计算机设备的管理，一是要强化责任意识，加强对校内公用计算机设备的管理，做到责任到人，对部门的办公用计算机设备，做到"谁管理，谁负责"，把责任落实到管理者。二是要按照实名登记的要求坚持上网人员登记制度，认真做好上网人员有关情况的登记工作。三是要按照网络安全管理的有关规定保存上网纪录，记录保存时间不得少于60天。四是要加强对校园网上信息的监控工作，坚持24小时监控，及时发现并删除有害信息，严防校内人员尤其是"法轮功"人员通过校园网和学校的计算机设备访问"法轮功"网站，查阅、下载、上传反宣品及有关资料。

同时，各校还要注意收集和及时上报网上斗争的有关情况，提供破案线索，并积极配合公安、安全部门追查访问"法轮功"网站。特别是下载、上传反宣品等有关材料的"法轮功"人员。

三、加强宣传教育，形成网上斗争的良好社会氛围

各校要在继续办好学校反邪教网站，充会利用反邪教网站积极开展"弘扬科学，反对邪教"宣传的同时，加强对师生员工的网络安全教育，提高他们网上斗争的意识，教育他们不登陆、访问"法轮功"网站，号召他们积极参与网上斗争，主动检举揭发查看、下载、上传"法轮功"反协信息的行为，在校园内形成群防群治的良好氛围，在师生员工中筑起一道抵御"法轮功"网上攻势的防线。

四、加大投入，不断提高网上封堵能力

随着网络技术的不断发展、普及和完善，高校使用互联网的人员将会越来越多，网上封堵工作将会显得越来越力不从心。解决这一问题的根本出路在于采用高技术封堵手段。因此，各校在开展网络封堵工作中，要高度重视网络封堵技术的使用，加大资金和技术投入，及时采用高技术手段或进行技术升级和更新，开展有效的网上封堵工作。

同时，有条件的高校还要加强对网络封堵技术的研究开发工作，积极组织力量开发新的互联封堵软硬件技术，为全省开展网上斗争提供技术支持。

陕西省教育工作委员会
二〇〇三年十月九日

Webpage capture 6: Shaanxi Province Faculty and Staff Committee [2003] Document No. 49 [10]

IV. The Chinese Regime Utilizes Microsoft to provide the so-called "Security" Services

1. Microsoft (China) and the Third Research Institute of the Ministry of Public Security of China join hands in building the "united laboratory" that serves to abuse human rights

The Third Research Institute of the Ministry of Public Security of China provides technical support for the public security units in monitoring and controlling public web access. In the construction of "Golden Shield Project," it was responsible for the "Golden Shield Project Security Platform Plan" that monitors the information on the World Wide Web [9,10].

On July 7, 2003, the "Third Research Institute of the Ministry of Public Security of China-Microsoft China Limited Information Security Technology United Laboratory" was formed [11]. Zhang Xinfeng, an assistant to Minister of Public Security, deputy head of National Golden Shield Project Leadership Group and the group office head; Li Runsen, the head for the Golden Shield Project Leadership Group and Head of the Commission of Science and Technology of the Ministry of Public Security; officials from Bureau 11 and Science and Technology Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security; and Huang Cunyi, President of Microsoft Greater China attended the opening ceremony. Yan Ming, the head of the Third Research Institute said, "The founding of the information Security United Laboratory marks the Third Research Institute has taken another step forward in the cooperation of information security."

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Caption: Third Research Institute of the Ministry of Public Security and Microsoft China Limited "Information Security Technology United Laboratory"

Tang Jun, the president of Microsoft China said information security requires, under the government's guidance, the efforts from the whole IT field, research institutes and the users. Through this cooperation with the Third Research Institute, we hope to ensure the security of online information and together promote the development of information security in China [13].

In order to obtain more technical support from the West, on October 16, 2003, the Information Weekly of Guangming Daily, the China Information Technology Security Products Test and Certification Center and the Third Research Institute of the Ministry of Public Security together held a conference to "promote international cooperation to increase national information security."

Gong Dingyu, the General Manager of the Strategic Development Dept. of Microsoft Greater China said, "Why do we have those two cooperation? The most important reason is that we want our customers to feel at ease…disclose the windows source codes and allow work units trusted by the government to have access to our source codes. We hope to erase people's worries with such actions."

Something else that was heard from the conference was: in order to receive orders from the (Chinese) government and government agencies involved in the secrecy bureau, large international companies must provide its technological sources to the Chinese government and sometimes even open its entire production line [12].

2. Information Security Strategic Partnership between Microsoft and ChinaSoft

In order to achieve overall information blockade, establish nationwide public security information database and monitoring system, the Chinese regime started the "Golden Shield Project."

On July 6, 2001, "main participant of the Golden Shield Project" [13] ChinaSoft and Microsoft started their cooperation, which is supported by Microsoft executives, including CEO Steve Ballmer. It is also endorsed by the CCP State Planning Committee, Ministry of Information Industry, Ministry of Public Security and State Cryptography Administration [16]. The Goals of "Golden Shield Project"

In his presentation at the Fourth Plenary Conference of the Science and Technology Committee of Ministry of Public Security, Li Runsen, the Director of Science and Technology Committee said, "The goals of the 'Golden Shield Project' include six major aspects. They are the construction of the information network, the construction of applied system, the construction of Internet standards and regulations, the security enforcement system construction, the construction of operation administration system and the construction of public network monitoring system. In addition, the 'Golden Shield Project' has one more major task, which is, to construct the 'Nationwide Internet Security Monitor Center.' Once built, the Center will be independently managed by the 11th Bureau [15]. From the documents we have obtained so far, it is obvious

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that CCP authorities consider the construction of "Nationwide Internet Security Monitor Center" as a key undertaking in the "Golden Shield Project." At the same time, the CCP's public security organs being equipped with information technology is the core of the "Golden Shield Project." That is to say, the regime wanted to equip its security forces with information technology [16].

3. "Golden Shield Project" - Playing a role in the persecution through Internet

On Dec. 19, 2001, on the Conference of the Public Security Bureau chiefs, Jia Chunwang stated, "under the guidance of the CCP Central Committee, the State Council, and all local Party committees and government branches, the state police system has firmly carried out the series of important instructions from CCP Central Committee, and is striking hard on those international or domestic hostile forces and Falun Gong organization, to prevent them from making troubles and destruction. … We should strengthen the police force with technology and implement 'Golden Shield Project' thoroughly to actively improve police power through science and technology." [17]

On June 23, 2002, Southern City Daily reported, "The director of the State Information Security Test and Evaluation Center, Professor Qu Yanwen mentioned that, the "Golden Shield Project" of the Ministry of Public Security, was going to set up a state-wide public information network security monitor system… According to Qu Yanwen, the system will monitor information on the Internet and timely find the oversea information websites that need to be filtered, and timely deter disseminating information that is not proper to the domestic readers." [18]

Anhui Province is among the provinces that implemented the most severe persecution against Falun Gong. Anhui Provincial Party Committee Secretary Wang Taihua, along with the "610 Office" system, is the main culprit of the countless ransack of homes, illegal fine, threatening, kidnapping, detention, illegal arrests, brainwashing, torture against Falun Gong practitioners. According to minghui.org, as of May 19, 2004, fourteen practitioners have been confirmed dead as the result of the persecution.

The severe persecution in Anhui Province is directly connected to the "Golden Shield Project," which was promoted by the head of Anhui Provincial Police Department, Cui Yadong. "All 17 cities in Anhui Province have established the China Criminal Information Center database system. The population database system is set up to collect the information of more than 40 million residents in Anhui Province. The information of Falun Gong practitioners is being collected. [18]"

Under Jiang Zemin's regime, Falun Gong practitioners' emails are considered threatening to the CCP's ideology supremacy. If one is caught downloading Falun Gong information from the Internet, one will face harsh punishment.
According to WOIPFG investigation report, from July 1999 to April 2004, there are roughly 108 Falun Gong practitioners detained and sentenced to forced labor due to accessing the Internet; three of them died [19].

On the fourth plenary session of the Science and Technology Committee that is under the Ministry of Public Security, the committee director Li Runsen claimed, "The 'Golden Shield Project' had played an important role in fighting against Falun Gong and other hostile forces." [15]

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