



VeriSign Breaks the English Language Hold On Internet Navigation With Internationalized Domain Names

27 million Internet users in Korea Can Now Navigate the Web and Send Email with Domain Names using Hangul Script

SEOUL, KOREA, JANUARY 14, 2003 – VeriSign, Inc. (Nasdaq: VRSN), the leading provider of digital trust services, today announced two new services, Web-based Navigation and i-Nav™ plug-in software that allow Korea's Internet users to navigate the Web and send email in the Korean language. VeriSign's new Internet navigation services will promote more global usage and adoption of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) – domains using non English characters – and give Internet users a choice of Korean and 350 other languages for domain names ending in .com and .net. VeriSign also announced today that it has signed distribution agreements with Korea's KRNIC (Korea Internet Network Information Center) and LGIBM PC Co., Ltd., making the i-Nav software available immediately to Korea's 27 million Internet users.

With VeriSign's Web-based Navigation and i-Nav plug-in services, the burgeoning online population in Korea can now type a domain name in Korean and effortlessly navigate the Internet in the local language. Upon resolution, users will continue to see the domain name in Korean, so they can recognize it and bookmark the site for future use.

Web-based Navigation has been installed on VeriSign's 13 DNS server locations around the world, making Internet navigation in any language available globally to every Internet user for .com and .net domains, anywhere in the world. The i-Nav plug-in software companion provides a complete multilingual experience for popular browser programs like Internet Explorer and email programs like Outlook and Outlook Express. i-Nav today supports not only .com, .net, and other international domain extensions, but also supports top-level domains like .kr, .jp, and is looking to support any ccTLDs and gTLDs in 2003.

“We have improved the Internet experience for non-English users so they have the choice to navigate the Internet in their own language,” said Rusty Lewis, executive vice president, VeriSign Global Registry Services (VGRS). “Language should no longer be a barrier to the accessibility and utility of the global Internet. And VeriSign is pleased to back up our technology announcements with strong partnerships with Korean companies.”

Internet use is growing rapidly around the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. According to KRNIC research from Autumn 2002, currently 58 percent of the Korean population is online, but the rate of growth has begun to level off. According to an Ipsos-Reid Study, “The Face of the Web,” (May 21, 2001), in every region where English is not the main language spoken, nine in 10 Internet users prefer to get local information in their own language. The

2/2/2 -- VeriSign Breaks the English Language Hold On Internet Navigation With Internationalized Domain Names

demand for IDNs is expected to be strong as more non-English speakers embrace the Internet in Korea.

Poised to address the growing Internet market in Korea, LGIBM will be distributing the i-Nav software by the 1st quarter of 2003. "We are excited about the impact that i-Nav will have on the market," said Hong-Gyu Lee, Manger of Merchandising Team, LGIBM. "i-Nav provides a complete multilingual experience for our valuable customers, while enabling them to reap the full benefit and value of the Internet."

KRNIC, the country code registry for .KR, will also be distributing the i-Nav plug-in when they launch their Korean language domain name service for .kr in 2003, and will be working with VeriSign closely through technology exchanges in connection with the IDN initiative. KRNIC also may develop and distribute other software supporting .kr, .com and .net Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). "IDNs provide Internet identities in the Internet user's own language," said Dr. Kwan-Ho Song, President, KRNIC. "Offering this localized navigation service will accelerate the Internet's popularization and development in Korea."

The free i-Nav software can be easily installed with the click of a mouse. Upon installation all IDNs are resolved locally on the user machine. Users can install the i-Nav plug-in for free by visiting www.idnnow.com. VeriSign created the user-friendly site to educate users and support the adoption of IDNs. The site is translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, and Russian to showcase the software and to help answer questions about IDNs. VeriSign is also working to translate the Web site into Brazilian Portuguese, French, Danish, German and Spanish by February 2003.

To date, more than one million IDNs have been registered, with Chinese, Japanese, and Korean IDNs among the most popular. There are 40 IDN certified registrars that also are promoting new registrations of IDNs.

About Korea LGIBM PC Co., Ltd.

LGIBM PC, Inc. was founded on November 22, 1996 by IBM and LG Electronics owning 51 percent and 49 percent respectively with a goal to be the best PC company in Korea. LGIBM has been providing ever-improved IT environment to domestic customers through revolutionary products by combining the technologies of IBM and LG Electronics, and differentiated services. Through these products and services, LGIBM has been leading the effort to strengthen the nation's fundamental formativeness. <http://www.lgibm.co.kr>

About Korea Network Information Center (KRNIC)

KRNIC was founded on June 1999 to manage .KR top-level domain, to allocate IP addresses to local ISPs, to publish Internet-related statistics, and etc. Since its foundation, the number of domain names under KRNIC's management has increased rapidly because of the extremely high penetration of the broadband Internet access and the large number of Internet users in Korea.

3/3/3 -- VeriSign Breaks the English Language Hold On Internet Navigation With Internationalized Domain Names

About VeriSign

VeriSign, Inc. is the leading provider of digital trust services that enable everyone, everywhere to engage in commerce and communications with confidence. VeriSign's digital trust services create a trusted environment through four core offerings—Web presence services, security services, payment services, and telecommunications services—powered by a global infrastructure that manages more than seven billion network connections and transactions a day. Additional news and information is available at www.verisign.com.

Statements in this announcement other than historical data and information constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause VeriSign's actual results to differ materially from those stated or implied by such forward-looking statements. The potential risks and uncertainties include, among others: VeriSign's limited operating history under its current business structure; the risk that VeriSign and its acquired businesses will not be integrated successfully and unanticipated costs of such integration; uncertainty of future revenue and profitability and potential fluctuations in quarterly operating results; failure of the combined company to retain and hire key executives, technical personnel and other employees; failure of the combined company to manage its growth and the difficulty of successfully managing a larger, more geographically dispersed organization; failure of the combined company to successfully manage relationships with customers, suppliers and strategic customers; network outages, network capacity constraints or security breaches; failure of the combined company's customers to accept new services or to continue using the products and services of the combined company; and competition in the various markets serviced by the combined company. More information about potential factors that could affect the company's business and financial results is included in VeriSign's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, especially in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001. VeriSign undertakes no obligation to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this press release.

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