

IT Industry Groups, MSP Partners and ASCII Group, Announce Membership Agreement

Ottawa, Ontario - Bethesda Maryland – December 4, 2008; MSP Partners, an alliance founded by Cisco, Ingram Micro, Intel, Level Platforms and Microsoft, and supported by Autotask Corporation, EMC, HP, Kaseya and Xerox, with the active participation of over 15 other leading IT vendors, and thousands of solution providers offering managed services today announced a cooperative agreement with The ASCII Group, Inc. (ASCII), North America's oldest and most established community of independent computer integrators, solution providers and resellers. The agreement allows members of MSP Partner and ASCII to expanded access to the many benefits offered by these two major IT industry groups.

MSP Partners, with a membership base of over 3000 solution providers, provides independent vendor-supported education for solution providers delivering managed services. Their comprehensive program includes the latest market research and education, valuable insight by means of solution provider success stories, and collaborative vendor solutions, all demonstrating a path to success in managed services.

"This membership agreement brings the longstanding relationship between MSP Partners and The ASCII Group to the next level, offering a wide range of new resources to our combined membership." said Jim Hamilton, Executive Director of MSP Partners.

The agreement offers a discount for MSP Partners' members to join the ASCII Group while new ASCII Group members will receive a complimentary membership to MSP Partners. The reciprocal membership agreement includes full access to the benefits offered within each program. The agreement also outlines special member privileges to mutually sponsored events.

Jerry Koutavas, Vice President of Business Development for The ASCII Group, stated, "The additional resources and benefits both parties will gain through this important alliance will only strengthen each of our efforts in helping resellers proactively move towards a profitable MSP model."

Alan Weinberger, Chairman and CEO of ASCII, stated: "Since 1984, we have helped many thousands of solution providers increase their profitability with new programs and services, leveraging the buying and selling power of the independent computer solution provider. Our new alliance with MSP Partners extends that mission with new synergies developed for the 21st century between our two organizations, for the exclusive benefit of the independent solution provider."

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About MSP Partners

MSP Partners is an alliance of over 20 leading vendors that provides proven research and education to help solution providers stay ahead of the curve in the rapidly changing market for managed services. In its first two years MSP Partners has attracted over 3,000 members, who benefit from cohesive new market research, solution provider success stories, and collaborative vendor solutions, all demonstrating a path to success in managed services. MSP Partners sponsors include:

- Founders: Cisco, Intel, Ingram Micro, Level Platforms, and Microsoft
- Platinum: Autotask Corporation, EMC, HP, Kaseya and Xerox
- Gold: ConnectWise, Do IT Smarter, Expedite, Geminare, Intermedia, and Untangle
- Silver: Check Point, iWatch, SMB Nation, Tigerpaw and Vembu Storegrid

For more information, visit www.msppartners.com

About The ASCII Group, Inc. (ASCII)

The ASCII Group, Inc., was established in 1984, and is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. Additional offices are located in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada; London, UK, and Delhi, India. ASCII is the largest paying community of independent computer resellers in the world with more than 3,000 members and system wide end-user sales of approximately \$10.5 billion. ASCII provides technology tools, products and services to assist independent information technology resellers to increase profits, reduce costs, and grow their respective businesses. ASCII offers resellers the leverage of the group's collective position in the industry to positively influence hardware manufacturers, software developers, IT service suppliers, distributors, the media, the government and the customer community. The Company can be reached at www.ascii.com.

www.ascii.com

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