Photon: A new approach to SOC collaboration

Photon is a lightweight collaboration system that unifies the computing environments of many users into a single collaborative workspace that can be shared between all users across large distances. Rather than trying to "smartly" highlight the information it thinks you need to see, Photon trusts the expertise of your team members and removes the logistical hurdles that keep them from collaborating well. With Photon, you can:

- Broadcast a live view of any application from any workstation to unlimited displays, near or far.
- Instantly capture the video output of a foreign device and securely broadcast it across your SOC.
- Merge the contents of workstations from disparate domains onto a single display, without the hassle of a KVM switch.
- Share a terminal window with a remote user and swap keyboard control solely through verbal communication.

The problem with the modern SOC

An operation center's job is to manage information: to find it, figure out what it means, and turn it into action. The speed of this process is critical to your team's ability to maintain situational awareness and respond decisively. This is especially true in a SOC, where new threats appear without warning and circumstances evolve far more quickly than in other domains.

How quickly does your SOC move information? If you're like most, you struggle to manage the flood of data and fail to keep the whole team updated on new developments. Your facility is meant to help people work together, but space constraints force you to clumsily squeeze past neighbors so that you and several others can hover over a desk while a claustrophobic analyst tells you what he's learned. Not long after you step away, circumstances change, and you have to do it all over again.

If this problem sounds familiar, let's talk. Your work is vital to public safety. You deserve better.

Who's using Photon

Photon is the foundation of the US Air Force's Advanced Collaborative Enterprise Services (ACES) program. It has been used by the following organizations to support training sessions, national exercises, and live operations:

- Air Force Research Laboratories
- National Reconnaissance Office
- Joint Special Operations Command
- USSTRATCOM

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Security and design are in our blood.

Klee Dienes, Hadron's founder and president, is a former lead engineer at Apple. He was the initial manager of Apple's open source operating system, Darwin, and a founding member of the Debian GNU/Linux and the GDB technical steering committees. After nine years with Apple, he joined the National Guard and served a one-year tour as a MEDEVAC team leader in Iraq. He is currently a defensive cyberoperations officer in the Army National Guard.

Sam Hartman is Hadron's lead systems & security engineer. He has been building system security software for over 20 years. Prior to Hadron, Sam led his own security engineering firm for eight years. For six years, he was the technical director of the MIT Kerberos Consortium, where he managed the world's dominant authentication protocol. He has also served as the director of the Internet Engineering Task Force‘s security area.

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Acquisition

Federal customers can acquire Hadron's SOC tools and services through a sole-source process, regardless of cost.

Hadron's ops center and collaboration architectures are based on technology that extends from a SBIR Phase III-funded project (FA8650-14-D-6533, "Collaborative Virtual ISR Workplace"). Per section 4(c), parts 2-5 of the SBIR Policy Directive, any acquisition of work that is derived from or extends prior SBIR awards has SBIR Phase III status and rights, including the ability to make such an acquisition on a sole source basis without cost limits. Such acquisitions may be for research, products, production, services, or any combination thereof. The Directive provides the following guidance to procurement officials regarding such acquisitions: "(I)n conducting actions relative to a Phase III SBIR award, it is sufficient to state for purposes of a Justification and Approval pursuant to FAR 6.302-5, that the project is a SBIR Phase III award that is derived from, extends, or completes efforts made under prior SBIR funding agreements and is authorized under 10 U.S.C. 2304(b)(2) or 41 U.S.C. 3303(b)."

Further information about Hadron's Phase III contract and its technologies that extend to this acquisition is available upon request.

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