

Evening lectures

Mini Medical School is a six-week series of evening lectures by the University of Alberta's leading physicians and researchers to educate the public about the world of medicine. Lectures are at Bernard Snell Hall in the University Hospital in Edmonton, every Monday until Dec. 1 from 7-9 p.m. Visit cplregistrations.med.ualberta.ca/eventinfo_1981.html for more info. **METRO NEWS**

Alberta Works

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Breaking new ground

DataGardens named one of Canada's Top 10 tech firms

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada



Geoff Hayward, president and CEO of DataGardens, could barely contain his excitement after finding out his company was Edmonton's first to be chosen as one of this year's Canada's Top Ten Technology Competition winners.

The competition, organized by the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation (OCRI), offers Canadian companies in the technology, life sciences and clean-tech industries a chance to attain venture capital and exposure to investors.

This type of recognition is allowing DataGardens to showcase its dynamic tech-

nology at conferences around North America — putting Alberta's developing IT industry on the international map.

"We're selling something that doesn't normally get invented in western Canada," Hayward said. "For us to be recognized like this is very important."

DataGardens' Syn-tropy hardware allows IT administrators to create a centralized data storage system that serves as a "branch-in-a-box." Combined with DataGardens' patent-pending Wide Area Virtualization Enterprise (WAVE) technology, offices can move their computers virtually from branch to



Hayward

branch at a moment's notice. That means multi-office companies no longer have to store dozens of clunky servers on-site.

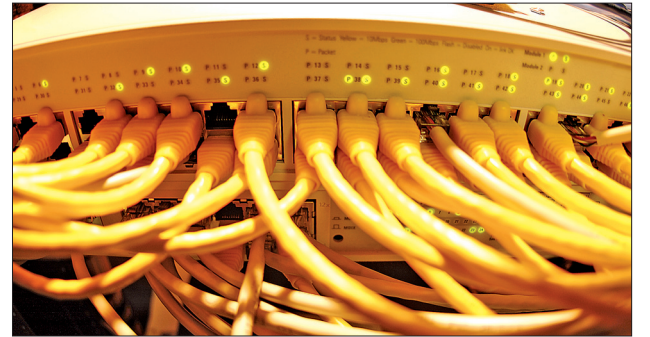
"A single IT administrator can build a flexible and secure and cost-effective virtual data centre spanning many offices around the world," said Hayward.

"We've taken it to another level where your servers, your desktop computers, your software applications and data volumes can be virtualized and sent across the network."

Since its creation in September 2007, DataGardens

has secured \$3 million in financing from various sources. Though the WAVE technology is still in the pilot stage, with a formal product launch expected early next year, Hayward said being a Canada's Top Ten Competition winner will only increase their visibility in the marketplace. "We're hoping that through participating in the program, like past winners, we'll be relatively successful in gaining venture capital," Hayward said.

Michelle Scarborough, vice-president of investment and commercialization for OCRI, said jury members judged 40 technology application packages using investment-based criteria and were im-



With DataGardens' new technology, companies can create a centralized data storage system that serves as a "branch-in-a-box."

pressed with DataGardens. "They found that DataGardens were providing an application to serve a particular need that hasn't been met yet," she said.

Scarborough said DataGardens is in the perfect position to expand its business globally through long-lasting relationships with venture capitalists.

"The winners are the best potential companies that are going to be leading and turning into global businesses," she said. "I

think DataGardens is a great company."

In April, DataGardens also took home TEC Edmonton's \$150,000 VenturePrize Fast Growth Award.

"[DataGardens] has a quality business plan with a quality technological approach and quality management," said David Cox, CEO of TEC Edmonton. "It signals to the rest of the country that Alberta's here in technological business and we're not just about oil and gas."



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