

## LogMeIn – Remote PC Access Service Provider

Remote PC access service provider LogMeIn used Black Duck Software to check for open source and third-party components within code it obtained through a corporate acquisition. Black Duck® Protex™ enabled LogMeIn to complete an in-depth code review in less than one day, saving two man-months of effort that would have been required for a manual review. LogMeIn was able to rapidly finalize the acquisition, resolve a potential licensing issue and add the new software to the company's product portfolio soon after the acquisition.

### Customer Profile

LogMeIn, Inc. provides instant, secure Internet-based connections between PCs for remote desktop control, data backup, file sharing, system administration and on-demand customer support functions. Based in Woburn, MA with European headquarters in Budapest, Hungary, LogMeIn serves mobile professionals, help desks and system administrators worldwide. Founded in 2004, the rapidly growing 120 person company has more than 10 million users, and has been recognized with ten Editors' Choice Awards and "Best of the Year" honors.

### Business Challenge

LogMeIn was looking to expand its remote PC access product line through an

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acquisition, and Hamachi, a virtual private networking (VPN) product developed by Applied Networking, Inc. of Vancouver, British Columbia, proved an excellent fit. LogMeIn performed an initial manual code review to ensure Hamachi met expectations regarding coding standards but, for a complete legal due diligence, wanted reassurance that the product code was properly licensed as had been warranted by Applied Networking.

Marton Anka, LogMeln's Chief Technical Officer described the specifics of the situation. "The code review we did by hand could not be 100 percent exhaustive. We manually reviewed the architecture and the most important code, but that doesn't get you even two digits [10 percent] of coverage. From the coding style used in the Hamachi product and the consistency throughout, we expected good results but code sharing via the web is a real issue for software development and we just wanted to be sure."

LogMeln's Chief Financial Officer Jim Kelliher described the challenge: "We wanted to make sure that the representations regarding third-party and open source components used in Hamachi were accurate, that the components were properly licensed and that our licensing policies were followed. Black Duck Protex allowed us to do that."

## Approach

LogMeln's CTO and CFO had previously used Black Duck Protex while at other companies. Both agreed that a Black Duck code analysis would provide LogMeln with the additional information needed to confirm and document the software components in use during the Applied Networking acquisition process. They decided to use Black Duck's hosted Protex service to review the Hamachi code.

The Hamachi product contained C, C++, HTML and PHP code. LogMeln wanted to vet the code for compliance with its corporate policy to use only "commercially friendly" open source or properly licensed third-party code. For example, the company permits the use of code licensed under the BSD software license, and allows use of several individually licensed libraries such as OpenSSL for cryptography and zlib for compression, but corporate policy explicitly bans components licensed under the GPL or LGPL.

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***"In the world of technology, the protection of IP rights is critical to any software or service business. The use of Black Duck allows you to ensure that your rights are protected as the owner or the licensor of that technology..."***

— Jim Kelliher, CFO, LogMeln, Inc.

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## Outcome

The Protex analysis highlighted an IP issue that needed to be reviewed further. Marton Anka describes the outcome: "The Black Duck solution identified one source file that we wanted to review further. It was on websites claiming to be public domain, but it was in some projects claiming it to be GPL, which is against our code policy. After analyzing this specific piece of code

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we decided that it would be relatively easy to rewrite the module just to be sure, and we did not delay our completion of the acquisition. Overall, as we suspected, the Hamachi code was very clean but the use of Black Duck allowed us to confirm this.”

LogMeln’s CFO Kelliher says that as a result of the Protex analysis, the company now is confident “that the code we acquired was properly licensed and in compliance with our corporate policies. Using Protex provided objective third-party evidence to document this.”

Without Black Duck Protex, LogMeln would have had to perform a more detailed manual review of the Hamachi code. Says LogMeln’s CTO Anka: “Protex was a huge time saver. A manual review would have taken approximately two man-months, and it’s possible that we would not have detected the particular source file without the help of Black Duck.” He adds that although no solution can ever achieve 100 percent accuracy, “in our case Protex has proven very valuable.” Anka continued, “I really came to like Black Duck because they have amassed a huge

amount of source code, and have properly documented the origin and the licenses under which these projects were released. Being able to sift through such a huge amount of information within a few hours was really impressive.”

Anka contrasts using Protex to manual analysis. “If you do a manual check, you look at code and if you are familiar with it from somewhere else, you might recognize it. But that’s the only thing you have to go on because you can only be familiar with a tiny fraction of the available open source software.”

LogMeln’s Anka recommends that his fellow CTOs try Protex. He predicts that: “In acquisition situations you will be able to use Protex to easily analyze the code being acquired to determine if it is in compliance with your specific licensing requirements.”

Similarly, LogMeln’s Kelliher also recommends Protex to fellow CFOs and to legal professionals. He says that: “In the world of technology, the protection of IP rights is critical to any software or service business. The use of Black Duck allows

you to ensure that your rights are protected and properly licensed, and it allows you to document that your rights are clearly substantiated and proper with regard to the technology.”

## Business Benefits

Among the many business benefits LogMeIn experienced using Black Duck Protex were that Protex:

- Saved LogMeIn an estimated two man-months of time that would have been required to do a thorough manual code review
- Enabled LogMeIn to detect the inclusion of some potentially improperly licensed open source code in Hamachi, and to take appropriate corrective action as part of completing the acquisition
- Allowed LogMeIn to add Hamachi to its product portfolio soon after the acquisition

### About Black Duck

Offering award-winning software and consulting, Black Duck is the partner of choice for open source software adoption, governance and management. Enterprises of every size depend on Black Duck to harness the power of open source technologies and methods. As part of the greater OSS community, Black Duck connects developers to comprehensive OSS resources through Ohloh.net, and to the latest commentary from industry experts through the Open Source Delivers blog. Black Duck also hosts the Open Source Think Tank, an international event where thought leaders collaborate on the future of open source. Black Duck is headquartered near Boston and has offices in San Mateo, St. Louis, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing. For more information about how to leverage open source to deliver faster innovation, greater creativity and improved efficiency, visit [www.blackducksoftware.com](http://www.blackducksoftware.com) and follow us at [@black\\_duck\\_sw](https://twitter.com/black_duck_sw).



### Contact

To learn more, please contact:  
[sales@blackducksoftware.com](mailto:sales@blackducksoftware.com)  
or call +1 781.891.5100

Additional information is available at:  
[www.blackducksoftware.com](http://www.blackducksoftware.com)