



For Immediate Release

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**BITS AWARDS BITS TESTED MARK TO ARCHER TECHNOLOGIES'
ARCHER SMARTSUITE FRAMEWORK VERSION 3.0**

Washington, DC – October 7, 2003 – BITS, a nonprofit consortium of the largest 100 financial institutions in the US, and Archer Technologies, a global leader in providing comprehensive enterprise security management solutions to financial services, government and commercial organizations, announced today that the Archer SmartSuite Framework Version 3.0 has earned the *BITS Tested Mark*. Created by BITS to improve the security of software products used in the financial services industry, the *BITS Tested Mark* indicates to financial services companies that a product has passed BITS Product Certification Program (BPCP) testing.

“We are delighted to recognize Archer Technologies for its leadership and support in the critical area of information security,” said Catherine A. Allen, CEO of BITS. “The BPCP illustrates BITS members’ commitment to providing private, secure, safe and sound financial services, and the award of this BITS Certification to Archer demonstrates Archer’s commitment to meeting the financial services industry’s security needs.”

The Archer SmartSuite Framework Version 3.0 is a multi-tiered application design and delivery platform that allows users to build or modify database intensive applications without any database knowledge. Each of Archer’s solutions have been developed upon the Archer SmartSuite Framework Version 3.0, which received the BITS Certification after testing demonstrated its compliance with BITS’ security criteria in the areas of data and system integrity, security administration, guidance documentation, and security functionality and scalability.

Archer offers an Enterprise Security Management solution that provides a highly customizable, vendor-neutral and content-independent infrastructure for helping organizations manage the key processes required to secure and protect their enterprises in the areas of:

Policy Management – Create security policies, standards and procedures; distribute them online; educate and train employees; and track compliance, exceptions and violations.

Threat Management – Use a comprehensive and customizable early-warning system to provide notification of threats, vulnerabilities and malicious code to help prevent attacks before they affect the enterprise.

Asset Management – Manage enterprise assets such as servers, applications or data centers and their relationships to ensure critical assets are protected according to management expectations.

Risk Management – Perform online risk assessments to determine the proper controls to be implemented on specific assets based on their use and risk to the enterprise.

Incident Management – Report incidents, manage their escalation, track investigations and analyze resolutions.

“Archer Technologies’ main focus is to help clients in highly regulated industries, such as financial services, manage information-security processes across the enterprise,” said Jon Darbyshire, CEO of Archer Technologies. “Completing the BITS testing demonstrates to our financial services clients that we are committed to meeting industry-specific security and privacy requirements and providing an application that they can trust to support their critical security processes.”

Assuring the safety and soundness of the financial services infrastructure is paramount to BITS’ members, who represent the nation’s leading financial institutions. “Security is critical in maintaining the safety and soundness of our customers’ transactions and assets in today’s complex electronic environment,” said James E. Rohr, Chairman and CEO of The PNC Financial Services Group and Chairman of the BITS Board of Directors. “We are committed to building our infrastructure on the foundation of highly secure products. The *BITS Tested Mark* provides assurance that a product meets the baseline security features established by the financial services community.”

BITS plays a leading role in addressing critical financial services issues. Among its many accomplishments, BITS has set industry-wide technology standards and business requirements for enhancing security, managing vendors and reducing fraud—including best practices for preventing and reducing Internet fraud and managing cross-border outsourcing. BITS has also been instrumental in improving industry disaster preparedness. The BPCP’s goal is to help ensure the security of application products and the supporting infrastructure used by financial institutions. Predictive Systems provides testing and analysis for the BPCP through its Reston, Va., facility.

About BITS

BITS (www.bitsinfo.org) was created in 1996 to foster the growth and development of electronic financial services and e-commerce for the benefit of financial institutions and their customers. A nonprofit industry consortium that shares membership with The Financial Services Roundtable, BITS seeks to sustain consumer confidence and trust by ensuring the security, privacy and integrity of financial transactions. BITS works as a strategic brain trust to provide intellectual capital and address emerging issues where financial services, technology

and commerce intersect. BITS' Board of Directors is made up of the Chairmen and CEOs of twenty of the largest U.S. financial services companies, as well as representatives of the American Bankers Association and the Independent Community Bankers of America.

About Archer Technologies

Archer Technologies is a leader in providing out-of-the-box enterprise management solutions that stand-alone or integrate seamlessly. The Archer Enterprise Security Management solution, built using the Archer SmartSuite Framework, assists organizations in managing the processes required for the critical areas of enterprise security — Policy, Threat, Asset, Risk and Incident Management — according to management expectations and industry standards. Based in Overland Park, KS, Archer's clients consist primarily of Fortune 500 enterprises, consulting firms and highly regulated Financial and Government organizations that face strict security requirements. With over 700,000 users, all of Archer's solutions are highly customizable, vendor neutral and content independent. For more information, please visit <http://www.archer-tech.com>.

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