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## One good idea for security

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A free market thinker, Jim Harper, has a really good idea: How about turning over security issues to private companies that would build better security into their wares? In return, the government would pay more for those technologies.

When you think about it, this idea could save the government millions of dollars as it heads off in a myriad of directions right now to find the technology it needs to ratchet up security protections.

"As a large market participant, the federal government can have a good influence on the security ecology without resorting to intrusive regulation," said Harper, who is the director of information policy studies at The Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, in congressional testimony. "Whether it creates a gold standard for security in technologies purchased in the private sector, or whether it moves the market toward contract-based liability for technology sellers, the federal government can help the technology market mature."

Not a bad way to improve off-the-shelf technology either. And more importantly, it could save the federal government tons of money and standardize security standards across-the-board.

After surveying what has been done and what needs to be done, this is definitely an idea worth trying, don't you think?

For more on the private sector and security:

- check out this [govinfosecurity.com](#) [article](#) [1]

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