

March 3, 2011



# Equifax and Interthinx Join Forces, Enable Seamless Access to Leading Undisclosed Debt Monitoring Solution

## Equifax Undisclosed Debt Monitoring Integrated With Interthinx FraudGUARD

ATLANTA, March 3, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- In response to emerging industry guidelines and the growing problem of undisclosed debt, Equifax (NYSE: EFX) has formed a relationship with [Interthinx](#), a Verisk Analytics company (Nasdaq: VRSK), to give financial institutions unprecedented visibility into the underwriting process. Now, Interthinx clients can seamlessly access [Equifax's Undisclosed Debt Monitoring™](#) solution through [FraudGUARD®](#) to address investor and lending requirements and uncover undisclosed debt – a multi-billion dollar challenge in the mortgage market. Through this relationship, mortgage originators, investors and insurers benefit from enhanced risk mitigation, reduced fraud and fewer loan buybacks.

(Logo: <https://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20060224/CLF037LOGO> )

"As we begin to emerge from the economic downturn, the mortgage industry must look for solutions to key factors that led to the mortgage crisis, including borrower misrepresentation," said Chris Mayer, a professor of real estate at Columbia University. "While lenders have addressed many of the risks of originating new mortgage loans, such as stated income mortgages, they must also consider a borrower's changing circumstances prior to closing. In the future, lenders should be keenly aware of new innovations and solutions that can help them close loans with better credit controls in place."

This relationship represents Equifax's latest effort to equip the mortgage market with a best-in-class solution. [Undisclosed Debt Monitoring](#) is the mortgage industry's first platform to monitor for and notify financial institutions of new accounts and borrower activity initiated during the "quiet period," which spans from the application date to the mortgage closing. A solution that is "always on," [Undisclosed Debt Monitoring](#) alerts lenders of borrower activity that may represent risk associated with mortgage loans in their pipelines. By integrating [Undisclosed Debt Monitoring](#) into [Interthinx's FraudGUARD technology](#), lenders can increase their ability to address compliance requirements with a single platform.

"Our research shows that \$43M in auto loan payments were potentially overlooked during mortgage underwriting in the first three quarters of 2010. Through our relationship with Interthinx, we have made it easier than ever before for mortgage lenders to access unique industry solutions that help them identify this type of hidden debt," said Steve Meirink, Equifax Mortgage Growth Initiatives Leader. "Teaming with Interthinx, a proven leader in mortgage fraud detection, has created another way for financial institutions to make better underwriting decisions."

[FraudGUARD](#) is considered the industry's most comprehensive evaluation tool to help lenders and investors mitigate mortgage fraud, reduce repurchase risk, satisfy regulatory demands and improve loan quality. Its proven, pattern-matching analytics measure and score fraud risk against public, private and proprietary data sources. Leveraging a network of data and state-of-the-art technology, [FraudGUARD](#) validates borrower information and interprets loan application data to uncover potential fraud and buy-back exposure.

"The [Interthinx](#) mission has always been to mitigate risk, eradicate fraud and support lender compliance, and we've worked diligently to develop award-winning solutions to accomplish that," said Kevin Coop, president of Interthinx. "Working together, our technologies will be profoundly more effective based on access to more data and a shared desire to innovate around operational efficiencies for the residential mortgage lending community. Through the collective teamwork of Interthinx and Equifax, we will be better positioned to proactively provide lenders the compliance and risk support they need while streamlining their internal processes."

As part of current investor and lending requirements such as Fannie Mae Loan Quality Initiative (LQI) guidelines, mortgage lenders may be accountable for any new debts that a borrower has incurred prior to closing that may impact their ability to fulfill a mortgage payment obligation. Under these guidelines, a loan may be subject to repurchase if any debts or liabilities incurred during the underwriting period are not reflected on a credit report or disclosed in the final loan application. According to Fannie Mae loan reviews completed through the end of January 2011, undisclosed liabilities continue to represent the leading type of significant misrepresentation – comprising 24% of all 2009 – 2010 originations.

To address these guidelines and mitigate loan buy-back risk, the integration of [Equifax Undisclosed Debt Monitoring](#) into [FraudGUARD](#) enables financial institutions to:

- Quickly identify potential borrower misrepresentation or undisclosed debt early in the loan origination process.
- Streamline the underwriting process, resulting in significant time and cost savings for the lender and fewer last-minute document requests for the borrower.
- Easily customize a compliance program to fit within existing production workflow and address specific credit policy and guideline procedures.
- Leverage a single, user-friendly report that includes Undisclosed Debt Monitoring analysis.

Interested parties should contact their Interthinx or Equifax representative for more information and to schedule a presentation of the Undisclosed Debt Monitoring module within FraudGUARD. To learn more about Equifax Undisclosed Debt Monitoring, visit [www.equifax.com/mortgage/UDM](http://www.equifax.com/mortgage/UDM). For additional information about Interthinx FraudGUARD, visit [www.interthinx.com/solutions/fraudguard.php](http://www.interthinx.com/solutions/fraudguard.php).

#### **About Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com))**

Equifax is a global leader in information solutions, leveraging one of the largest sources of consumer and commercial data, along with advanced analytics and proprietary technology, to create customized insights that enrich both the performance of businesses and the lives of

consumers.

Customers have trusted Equifax for more than 100 years to deliver innovative solutions with the highest integrity and reliability. Businesses - large and small - rely on them for consumer and business credit intelligence, portfolio management, fraud detection, decision technology, marketing tools and much more. Equifax empowers individual consumers to manage their personal credit information, protect their identity and maximize their financial well-being.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., Equifax, Inc. operates in the U.S. and 15 other countries throughout North America, Latin America, Europe and Asia. Equifax is a member of Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500® Index. Its common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EFX. Undisclosed Debt Monitoring is part of the Equifax Decision 360™ suite of solutions, which delivers a comprehensive consumer view that enables lenders to make confident risk management decisions. For more information about Equifax, visit [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com).

### **About Interthinx**

Interthinx, a Verisk Analytics subsidiary, is a leading national provider of comprehensive risk mitigation solutions focusing on mortgage fraud, collateral risk and valuation, regulatory compliance, forensic loan audit services, loss mitigation, and loss forecasting. With more than 20 years of experience in customizable risk evaluation technology, Interthinx offers proven and effective predictive analytics to the residential mortgage industry through its experience with millions of loan applications and fraud incident data from thousands of monthly loan reviews. Throughout the mortgage life cycle, the Interthinx suite of services can increase the value of client portfolios with its comprehensive and holistic approach to loan quality and compliance. Winner of multiple awards for technology, Interthinx helps clients reduce risk, increase operational efficiencies, satisfy regulator demands, manage data verification, remain compliant, and mitigate loan buybacks. The Interthinx quarterly *Mortgage Fraud Risk Report* is a standard for the financial services industry. For more information, visit [www.interthinx.com](http://www.interthinx.com) or call 1-800-333-4510.

SOURCE Equifax