The Internet

Security & Confidentiality Assignment

Discussion Pack

Dave**Pearman**

What's the deal with email? Why do normally rational people become morons when given a copy of Outlook Express? Dave thinks he knows why...

You can't have failed to notice the terrific row that's blown up over the recent sacking and suspension of unruly staff by the insurance company, Royal & Sun Alliance. This isn't the first tale of large companies ejecting staff who 'abuse' their company's email facilities, but it's certainly grabbed the biggest headlines. Presumably the fact that said emails had amusing/pornographic (take your pick) images attached of Lisa and Bart Simpson in poses which Marge wouldn't approve of, or Homer understand, had something to do with it.

Before Christmas, a substantial proportion of the world's email users were reading – or at least chortling about – a lewd series of emails which started with a Sperm Bank joke and finished with a discussion of the recipient's tastes, almost getting both parties fired by their horrified employers. Or was it all a hoax? More discussion and chuckling.

Even here, bombarded as we are by e-mails from suppliers, PR companies and others in the industry, it's not at all unusual to get one which starts "Have you heard the one about…" or "Take a look at these…" from the very same people that are trying to convince us of the merit of their products. Don't these people have any work to do?

Call me old fashioned, but I doubt if the job descriptions of any of the people involved here, or in the many other examples of such behaviour, contained the phrase "While we're paying you, you must spend a proportion of your time larking around, offending colleagues and customers,

and generally bringing the name of the company into disrepute."

Of course, most people don't – thankfully – work in the equivalent of a Siberian labour camp. Employees and employers alike recognise that everyone will make the occasional personal phone call (Ooh!), take home the occasional company pen (Aah!), or even pilfer the occasional window envelope (Crikey!). It's generally accepted as part of the give and take of a happy, relaxed and mutually beneficial working environment. And the sending and receiving of the

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occasional personal e-mail might seem to be little different.

But abuses like SimpsonGate and YummyMail are different. For a start, chances are that each mail has "From Very Serious Corporation PLC" at the bottom, or at the very least is sent from a time_waster@veryserious corporation.com address. What message does that send about the company? I suppose the old fashioned equivalent would be faxing out photocopies of bums and boobs from the office Christmas party… on company headed paper.

The reason that companies are taking this so seriously is that they know these cases are the tip of the iceberg, and millions of people are routinely and persistently wasting huge amounts of time on personal emails, newsgroups and Web surfing. They want to fire a warning shot across the bows of the abusers – with a "you

could be next" message boldly written on the side. No wonder the workers are up in arms about the new rights their employers seem to have to intercept and read their emails. It's unclear what will come of the seemingly conflicting pieces of legislation that say your employer can read your emails, and that they can't.

Most such abuses of company time or facilities are easily dealt with under existing contracts of employment, or legislation, but many aren't up-to-date enough to recognise electronic communications. How many people's contracts mention email at all?

Even if they do, people obviously aren't taking any notice. When you send or receive a personal email at work, there's no feeling of it costing anybody anything. Someone who would be horrified if they got home and found an office calculator in their briefcase will happily spend half their working day chatting by email, or the even more insidious messenger applications.

Personally, I welcome the action that's being taken by concerned employers. Anything that will cut down on the drivel-to-useful-content ratio is A Good Thing, I reckon. Whether sacking someone for a first offence is justified is another matter, but employers and employees alike need to be clear on where the lines are drawn in their particular company. If these lines don't exist, draw them now. And do it before a line is drawn through your name on the internal phone list. **PCP**

Saddam Hussein getting to grips with PlayStation 2 – with diabolical purposes in mind.

Picture: Altered by Dermot Ahern, Irish Examiner Art Department

Saddam snatches 4000 games consoles in bid to build military supercomputer

by Cormac O'Keeffe

TOMB Raider has taken on a whole new meaning.

No, we're not talking about further enhancements to Lara Croft's incredible curves.

We're talking about the man with the moustache greedy, evil dictator Saddam Hussein.

He has raided Sony warehouses and practically emptied them of PlayStation 2.

The Iraqi despot is reported to have bought 4,000 consoles, which at retail values would have set him back almost £1.5 million.

Money, no doubt, that could have been spent on his cash-strapped health service. Adding to this sinister plot are intelligence reports that the moustache man is hoarding the high-tech entertainment system for diabolical purposes.

He plans to use its revolutionary computer technology to build a supercomputer for waging war.

Leaked US intelligence reports say Saddam has succeeded in exploiting a loophole in United Nations sanctions, which do not ban toys entering his country.

A investigation carried out by the Defence Intelligence Agency reveals that while parents in the West were battling in vain to buy a PlayStation Saddam had hatched his own evil plan.

Experts believe that by networking the PlayStations, Saddam's minions could construct a computer capable of steering rockets or simulating an attack on an airport.

An intelligence source explained the power of PlayStation: "An integrated set of 12 or 15 PlayStations could provide enough computer power to control an Iraqi unmanned aerial vehicle or a pilotless aircraft."

Saddam is known to have been developing these aircraft as delivery platforms for chemical and biological weapons.

A network of PlayStations could also be used to calculate ballistic data for long-range missiles or the yield of nuclear devices - a key requirement in designing such weapons.

Each PlayStation 2 contains a powerful central processing unit with a graphics engine that in a single second generates up to 75million polygons, the basic units military designers use to generate the surface of 3D models. Beyond that, the graphics capabilities of a PlayStation are staggering - five times more powerful than that of a typical graphics workstation, and roughly 15 times more powerful than the graphics cards found in most PCs.

UN sanctions prohibit the sale or transfer of virtually all types of computer hardware and technology to Iraq, but video game systems are not included.

The Sony PlayStation 2 is already one of the most popular all-in-one home entertainment systems ever made, and shelves emptied weeks ago in Ireland, Europe and the US.

So next time you're sulky teenager throws a tantrum about not being able to visit The Third Place, tell him to shake his joystick at the Iraqi despot.

Thank you for an excellent magazine which manages to strike the right balance between the needs of many computer users and the passions of pensioner punters, such as myself.
Bernard Keeffe

Online fears

Having been a subscription reader for some time, I usually read the magazine from cover to cover and, although I never really considered my home PC vulnerable, I thought your recent article on personal firewalls was extremely interesting.

A work colleague commented on the number of times his PC gets maliciously probed, and this prompted me to try installing Zone Alarm myself. I have a dial-up account with an ISP and spend an average of one to two hours a day online. To my horror, I now find my PC is being probed two or three times every hour by people looking for a back door (usually through a SUB7 Trojan virus probe). The regularity of this probing is what I find alarming, and the fact that most of the source IP

host addresses are shown as **btinternet.com** services.

Btinternet.com say in its terms and conditions that this sort of activity is not allowed and perpetrators will be disconnected, although, when you email their abuse department they seem somewhat indifferent to the event.

While I realise that the probe in itself is not harmful, the fact that there are so many people looking for weaknesses in my PC's defences, is what most readers would find shocking. If they have any

↓ Put your defences to the test and put a stop to that endless probing.
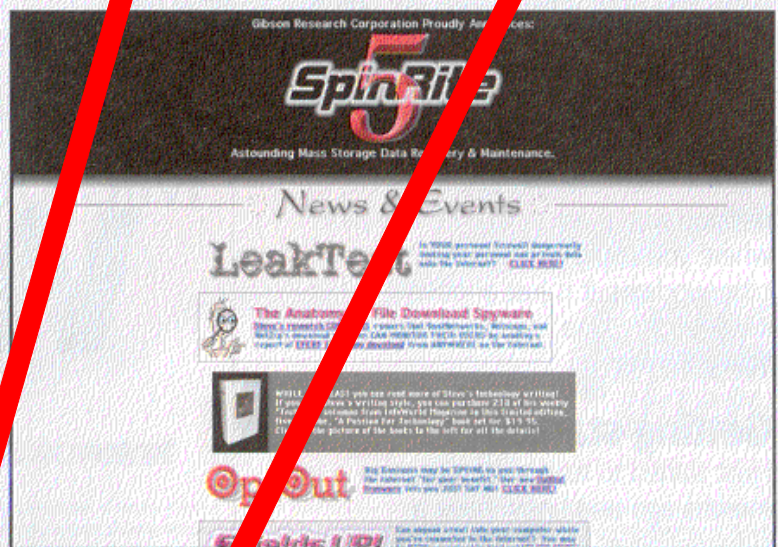
doubts as to how vulnerable their own PC's are, can I recommend a visit to the excellent **http:\\grc.com** site where there is a wealth of information and a mechanism to test one's defences.
Ray Andrews

SMS is the new love letter

→ But be careful what you say in email

Texting may have replaced hopscotch and skipping in the playground, but it seems adults can't get enough of it either. According to a survey of European 18-24 year-olds, commissioned by UK mobile phone software company m@gic4 (**www.magic4.com**), the airwaves are buzzing with sexy one-liners. 80 per cent of Germans claim to have used the Short Messaging Systems (SMS) to chat up potential lovers. Whilst 90 per cent of British men claim to have used SMS to lie about their location – no uneasy voice to give them away. m@gic4 undertook this survey because it wanted to establish how SMS messages are being used in advance of the European launch of the company's software, which will enable mobile phone users to send and receive animated text messages, with enhanced sound and graphics.

The survey also found that 60 per cent of Irish men claimed to have used SMS to swap stories of their sexual exploits. SMS would seem to be a safer medium then email, if the story of Claire Swire, at city law firm Norton Rose, is anything to go by. She emailed two jokes to office colleagues, including her boyfriend.

These were followed up with a message just to her boyfriend, which contained explicit comments. He decided to forward this to six of his friends, with the note: "Now that's a nice compliment from a lass, isn't it?"

One of the six recipients forwarded the message on and it quickly found its way into other law firms. A week later, ten million people are thought to have read the message, including users as far away as Japan. As well as circulating by email, the subject became a topic of discussion in newsgroups and mailing lists. Even technology, writing and marketing lists all carried messages with the subject: "Who is Claire Swire?" It just goes to show, you never know who's going to end up reading your emails.

AOL-TIME WARNER MERGER APPROVED

Nearly a year after the deal was announced, the US Federal Trade Commission has voted unanimously to allow AOL to buy Time Warner for $109 billion. The way different technologies are converging means there have been many concerns about this deal, both from consumers and rivals. Such a large company could have a big say in how users access the Internet and gain access to content. The companies have managed to allay most of these fears, although agreement is still required from the Federal Communications Commission.

UNWELCOME CHRISTMAS CAROL

Virus writers generally rely on human nature for their wares to be passed on. And Christmas is a time when many users may let down their guard, especially with an email appearing to contain a Christmas carol. W32/Music Worm was arriving in inboxes at the time of writing, although enough security-savvy users appeared to be around to limit its spread.

NETWORK ASSOCIATES HACKED

After the embarrassment of a flaw being discovered in its McAfee VirusScan product, Network Associates suffered further humiliation when its two Brazilian Web sites were attacked by a group of hackers calling themselves Insanity ZineCorp. The front pages of the sites were corrupted and new messages were left in English and Portuguese. The company says that no source code was at risk during the attack – the sites in question are hosted by a local ISP in Brazil. McAfee is reviewing its Internet policy, with a view to bringing all Web sites in-house.

Immortality_Systems_Forum_2_

YPS

IMMORTALITY FORUM ™

Immortality Systems Forum No.1

Extra Terrestrial Migration

Gene Engineering

Eternal Life Society

Migrating to Infinite Space-Time.

"We Can Become the Engineers of Our Own Body Chemistry.

- In the Right Environment We Can Live Forever"

Once we get off the finite surface of the planet earth and are capable of living in potentially infinite orbital space, there is no reason to have a finite lifespan.

As engineers of our own body chemistry we can disable the genes that dictate the termination of our lifespan, as scientists have already demonstrated with plants and animals. There is no inherent limit to that "Lebensraum" of orbital space as there is with our planetary surface space.

The life span of each organism is determined by the environment it has adopted and the efficiency to fill it.

The new environment will be our imagination which we can only fill if we live forever. We have to be immortal. There is no inherent limit to our imagination as long as there is time and space.

The incentive to be a member of good standing in society is the pursuit of immortality. Humankind's social activity, ultimately its urge to mate, is an instinct, just like the instinct to live. If the purpose of society is to protect and enhance the wellbeing of its members, then providing its members with the means to achieve immortality should be one of its highest priorities. The "New World Order" must provide individuals with access to the experts, the education and the means to achieve immortality.

The difference between the old world order, based on the formation and protection of family, tribe, nation and the "New World Order" is that the latter must have as its goal the pursuit of individual immortality.

The purpose of this website is to bring like-minded people together by providing:

- An open Immortality Forum where we can discuss the issues

- Email, phone and addresses to keep contact with our organization so that we can share our knowledge, increase in numbers and grow stronger.

If you are a scientist and have pertinent information we would love to hear from you. Anyone interested in becoming a member of Immortality Systems please send your information to the address below.

Immortality Systems

Direct E-mail Marketing pays, and it pays BIG.
We are one of the leaders in the industry.
We know all the tricks of the trade,
and most importantly...

***We Can get you...SALES!

***We Can get you...LEADS!

We can get your business where it needs to be.

And we can do all this without you or
your company receiving even 1 complaint.

Our methods work so well,
WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK AND YOUR RESULTS.

Don't put it off any longer! In less than 48hrs
you can make more money from bulk email
than your business has made all year.

We supply over 19 seperate phone rooms
with fresh leads daily.

If you're running a tv or radio campaign...

If you're running a direct marketing campaign
in newspapers or magazines...

*** Direct E-mail WORKS BETTER ***

We charge per mailing or per lead.
We always test your ad copy for
results before we mail out millions.

Highest closing ratio's around.

To get the best results you have ever
achieved, REPLY with your Name, Address
and Phone Number. Also, please include what
type of product and your current Marketing Strategy.

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Direct E-mail Marketing is a nice word for spam.

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