8th November 2002

Dear Garth:

Thankyou for alerting me to the situation regarding my webserver.

Analysis of my server's log files shows that the vast majority of data transfer is downloads of my photographs. These downloads originate exclusively from three hosts - *Bellville-ppp41914.sympatico.ca* (206.172.98.155), *Bellville-ppp72559.sympatico.ca* (216.208.90.66), and *ns.hpedsb.on.ca* (209.226.83.2). I have a pen-pal in Bellville, Ontario, Canada, to whom I recently sent the URL for my photographs. My hypothesis is that she has used some software to automatically download these images, for instance onto a desktop background, which (due to misconfiguration on her computer), repeatedly hits my server and downloads the data.

From my research over summer into the college download costs, I was under the impression that the University did not get charged for outgoing data (such as downloads from .unimelb.edu.au webhosts), and therefore my webserver would not incur any costs to the University. In any case, I never expected this many hits to my PC!

In response to this situation, I have blocked all external access to *bruce.ormond.unimelb.edu.au* at the Ormond College firewall, ensuring that only Ormond computers can access *bruce*, and therefore no further network load or costs will be incurred to the University. I presume that the "questionable content" referred to by InfoDiv was in reference to my links to the sites "Furniture Porn", "Ultimate Kiddy Porn" and "Brushpr0n", all of which are humorous satire sites poking fun at the Internet pornography industry. On further searching of the sites linked from my website, it appears

that "Bert is Evil" has had pornographic advertising added since I added the link to my website, and I have replaced my link to this site with a local mirror where I have removed the pornographic images. I vehemently oppose the distribution of pornographic images over the Internet and would under no circumstances knowingly link to such sites from my own, let alone host such content on my own server.

While I must say I am somewhat amused that my server has hit the top 10 .unimelb.edu.au webhosts by data transfer, I did not intend this to happen and most certainly would never want to cause the Uni financial costs or tarnish the University of Melbourne's reputation.

I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience I have inadvertently caused you, Ormond and the University, and I assure you the security measures I have undertaken will ensure it does not reoccur.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Strauss

cc: Professor Hugh Collins