



SPAM?!#8#!

A few months ago the Federal Government introduced the SPAM Act, which was in short making the practice of sending unsolicited emails illegal and for authorities to be able to prosecute offenders. Most people would probably agree that not only has SPAM increased but also it is getting more difficult to filter and is becoming more explicit in nature. It seems that once again people in Government have created a law for its own sake to show the public they are doing something when in fact they created a proverbial bandaid solution for a broken leg. Most experts predict SPAM will continue to increase and maybe not peak in quantity till 2006. For some this equates to 95% of the email they receive. There are software programs in the marketplace as well as filters within current email clients like Outlook that aim to limit SPAM but generally they are not foolproof because serial SPAMmers are always looking to get around these measure

One reasonable suggestion put forward by Bill Gates to combat SPAM is that get charged a nominal fee like 0.01cents for each email we send. Each user will get an allowance of say \$10 each month, (which equates to 100,000 emails), so it is only SPAMmers, who send millions of emails who will actually pay fees.

Research conducted in Northern Ireland suggests that computers are having more "sick" days than their human masters. While the average worker has 7 sick days, the computer has 9 broken down into 6 just for delating junk mail and 3 due to viruses. The cost to the UK economy is estimated at £6.7B per year (\$17B) and about 2% of the average worker's wage is spent fighting spam. Some have named the stress from spam "e-mad", with common symptoms being sleeplessness and twitching.

The word SPAM is not actually an acronym as many think but just a slang term for unsolicited email. The word is thought to have come from a Monty Python skit where SPAM is mentioned over and over again.

FINANCE

Now to continue our series of improving areas of your business via I.T., we will look at Finance. Every business must keep financial records for legal and taxation reasons but instead of this process being a time consuming chore, I.T. can make this an efficient operation that can enhance your knowledge about your business. Utilising easy to understand software for the non-financially inclined, you can produce instant reports about your profitability, overall financial position, cashflow, inventory levels, tax liabilities, etc. for any length of timeframe. This can assist with comparisons with budgetary expectations, planning for future purchases or advertising and just giving you a general feel of how business is travelling instead of waiting till it is too late. This can be protected by easy to implement security with can limit users to differing degrees of access. For example you may want staff to be able enter in data but not be able to access overall reports.

Product of the Month

REAP – A lot of us in today's society dream about being wealthy through property but don't know where to begin or whom to listen too or how to analyse a potential investment. REAP is a simple and very user friendly piece of software that can dissect any potential real estate investment and spit out figures you can both understand and present to financial advisers and mortgage lenders. While knowing a percentage return is good, some people want to know how much cash will be my pocket every week? or If contribute that little bit extra, will I be better off? Or Is this house a better buy than that unit? REAP can be researched and purchased at www.powwowevents.com.au.

Computer Cleaning Tip

If you are having general computing problems, think you have a virus or just want a bit of peace of mind click on the Toorak Metro News link on the media page at www.ctsbayside.com.au and download then run the various cleaning tools available like Adaware, Spybot and Stinger.

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