

LANsultants Times

Your official source for LANsultants News

Vol.4 No.7

215-546-3124

July 2002

WHAT IS YOUR STAFF DOING ON THE INTERNET

The Internet is possibly the most important productivity tool since the PC itself. However, illegitimate use of the Internet has many risks including loss of productivity due to using firm equipment for personal use, allocation of your bandwidth to personal use leaving inadequate bandwidth for firm business, and exposure to liability from inappropriate personal use.

To protect your business, LANsultants recommends that you implement a written Internet and e-mail usage policy specifically stating that e-mail and Internet usage is for company business only, and that libelous, defamatory and offensive e-mails are strictly forbidden. LANsultants can provide sample policies for your review.

You may also want to install content filtering and monitoring software which can limit which web sites users can visit and/or report who is going where on the Internet.

Additionally, AOL Instant Messenger, MSN Messenger, Napster, Kazaa and Morpheus can often be specifically blocked if you have a firewall. These programs are of special interest since chat programs do not leave a record the way e-mail does. File sharing programs use up your bandwidth and provide a potential security risk to the firm.

If you would like to be removed from our fax newsletter please fax request to 215-875-7346.

HAVE YOU BEEN BLACKLISTED?

If your day begins like mine the first thing you do is clear the 20 or so unsolicited junk (SPAM) e-mails you receive each night while searching for the one or two legitimate e-mails. Often these spam e-mails clog e-mail servers.

As more and more e-mail systems are being overwhelmed with spam, internet administrators are using blacklist services such as Osirusoft, SpamCop, and ORDB as their first defense to block unsolicited e-mail. Unfortunately, these services do a poor job discriminating between true spam and legitimate e-mail.

Many times these services report legitimate e-mail as spam and block the sender from further e-mailing.

On older e-mail systems it is necessary to reconfigure the mail server and/or patch the software to minimize the risk of being blacklisted, but even on brand new installations the blacklist services often report legitimate e-mail as spam. When this happens it is necessary for LANsultants to contact the service and have your server cleared.

This problem is not limited to LANsultants' clients, but is becoming a major issue to all users of Internet e-mail. For more information visit

<http://znet.com.com/2100-1106-943348.html>

for an interesting in depth article on the problem and what you can do to stop SPAM.