

Is Danger Lurking In You Email?

Eric Wichhart is the CEO of ConnectU, a Business Information Technology firm based in Eustis

Earlier this month my wife took me to see a Broadway show called SPAMALOT, a hilariously funny comedy by Eric Idle. Although SPAM was funny in this context, spam in your inbox is not. Spam can be annoying but can also be downright dangerous to your computers and network. Best estimates show that more than 90% of email is spam. One of my clients receives over 10,000 spam emails daily. Think of the time and resources that would be wasted if they did not have a proper spam filtering solution.

Even though large volumes of junk mail can waste a lot of valuable time, this is nothing compared to the potential of a virus outbreak caused by an email virus lurking in someone's inbox. One mouse click opens the wrong email and the next thing you know, every computer on the network is infected. A virus outbreak can cause damage to valuable data, lead to expensive repair bills, computers and equipment downtime, employee complaints and legal action against you.

Not only can spam be dangerous, but spam taxes your system resources. Spam fills up your email box, which in turn will slow down your computer. Spam also uses up your Internet connection. All of that spam being downloaded by your email program will decrease your bandwidth and slow the loading of your favorite website.

There are many ways to combat spam. For the individual there is spam filtering software which you can purchase for around \$20. This filtering software is loaded right on the computer and is an effective way to fight spam on a single computer. Another way is to switch your email address to a company, such as Gmail, who does not sell your email address and will actually filter your email before it reaches your inbox.

For the business there are three basic ways to fight spam. The best way is to use a hosted service. This solution filters your email before it is delivered to your server. Thereby, decreasing the demands on your server and decreasing the traffic on your Internet connection. The second way is to add an in-house filtering appliance. This decreases the load on your server, but does not decrease Internet traffic. The final solution is a software package placed on the server. This package will decrease the demand on the mail portion of your server, but places other demands on your server and does not decrease your Internet traffic.

No matter from which angle you look at spam, it is harmful. Combating spam is a serious issue for both the business and individual user. Forecasts state that the amount of spam is on the rise as malicious software continues to be spread. Implementing a spam filtering solution is an essential part of a security defense for your computer systems. Combined with anti-virus, anti-malware and a firewall, spam filtering software will help keep your computers protected.

For more information on spam filtering solutions, please see our website www.connectutech.com or contact me at eric@connectutech.com or (352) 702-0354. ConnectU "Making Your Net...Work!"