



BSG/PR/07

SME's warned to secure email before it is too late

Research shows security and storage are top email concerns

London, UK, 31st July – Managed services provider Business Systems Group (BSG) today warned the SME community to ensure that the security and storage capabilities of their email systems were up to scratch as research revealed they were the top two email concerns amongst UK businesses.

The research, conducted amongst 100 UK IT directors by independent research company Vanson Bourne, found that storage was the most pressing email issue for over a third (34%) of SMEs whilst security was the top concern for a further 23%.

BSG's research also shows that IT directors believe security and storage issues will cost the most to rectify. One in five identify storage as the most resource draining and one in four putting security at the top of the list.

Simon Ratcliffe, head of BSG's managed services division and an SMB specialist explains what these figures mean for smaller businesses: "The internet has enabled many SMBs to come across as larger than they actually are, with polished websites, departmental email aliases and online ordering capabilities mimicking those of larger organisations. This means that SMBs have quickly become as dependent on email as larger enterprises.

However, outside of these marketing considerations, SMBs still tend to approach their email systems with an “all or nothing” approach that means they either have no security, storage or management system in place, or they face a large capital expenditure cost to bring in the necessary equipment, and crucially, hire in the resources to deploy it.

“This means SMBs face one of two issues: either they avoid deploying the technology, exposing themselves open to security threats and compliance legislation, or they face huge investment costs that will recur just so they can ensure the best performance from their investment.”

“Security and storage are both becoming commodity technologies and do not add to the unique business value an organisation can deliver. As such, like email, outsourcing can enable hard pressed SMBs to free up time, cost and human resource to drive growth instead of simply maintaining a secure and well-managed email system.”

ENDS

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For a full breakdown of questions asked and answers please contact the above. 100 UK IT directors in companies of more than 1000 employees were interviewed by Vanson Bourne in May 2006.

Simon Ratcliffe is available for interview

About BSG

Business Systems Group (BSG): www.bsg.co.uk

Since 1987, BSG has developed its capabilities to provide managed services, which operate the infrastructure and application solutions it designs and deploys for its clients. BSG achieves this through specialist sector knowledge, which delivers quantifiable business benefit to its clients and their customers.

BSG's Managed Services have enabled companies like Morgan Sindall, The Newspaper Licensing Agency, Charles Stanley and Intertek to become more efficient, reduce costs and to deliver a more effective service to their customers and members.

BSG partnerships and accreditations include: BS7799 Certification, ISO 9001 Accreditation, HP Enterprise Business Partner, IBM Premier Partner, Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, Sun Datacentre Speciality Partner, VMware Enterprise VIP Reseller, Cisco Premier Partner, Citrix Silver CSN Partner, JBoss Authorised Service Partner, Net App Platinum Partner, Novell Silver Solution Provider Partner and Oracle Member Partner.

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