

Network News

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FREE
SurfControl
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SouthGroup Insurance Discovers How To Limit Their Legal Risk And Gain Incredible Peace of Mind Thanks To SurfControl Content Filtering

Next to an attorney, no one knows legal risks better than an insurance company. That's why SouthGroup Insurance, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, made sure they were doing everything possible to limit their liability against inappropriate employee usage of the Internet and e-mail.

One Last Thing To Worry About

"Our company relies heavily on the Internet and e-mail to do our job. With multiple locations, we have a lot of employees to keep track of. That's why we decided to implement SurfControl," says Johnny Ferrell, Vice President of SouthGroup Insurance.

"Now that we have this software installed, we have incredible peace of mind knowing that our employees can't access or distribute offensive material—accidentally or intentionally."

Employees Are Not Able To Engage In Inappropriate Activities

SurfControl is a web and e-mail filtering software that prevents employees from visiting pornographic web sites, engaging in online gambling, shopping, or other productivity killing or inappropriate online activities during work hours. It also monitors employee e-mails for offensive jokes, pictures, or even confidential company information, and prevents those e-mails from being sent.

Avoid The Cost And Bad Publicity Of A Lawsuit

"As a business owner, the last thing you want is a lawsuit for sexual harassment from an employee viewing pornography, or for viewing and sending off-color jokes that would offend people. Not only will it cost you thousands in legal fees, but the bad publicity can destroy a company," says Kenny Lance, President of NetBase Technologies. "That's why we recommend business owners install SurfControl. It is a very reasonably priced software that does an excellent job of keeping your employees in line during work hours and when using company



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resources.

Inappropriate Employee Behavior Is On The Rise

According to SexTracker.com, 70% of all Internet porn traffic occurs during the 9-to-5 workday and 27% of Fortune 500 companies have been accused of sexual harassment stemming from inappropriate e-mail or Internet usage. Thirty-four percent (34%) of companies have had to reprimand or discipline employees for inappropriate web behavior. Inappropriate web sites such as hate groups, gambling sites, and sites containing pornographic content should be banned for obvious reasons. However, music download sites, chat rooms, and personal ad

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Dangers of Spyware Continue To Increase As Hackers Innovate Even More Deviant Ways To Access Your Network

Based on our field research, the damages caused by spyware are reaching crisis proportions. Spyware is Internet jargon for hidden programs advertisers install on your PC without your permission to “spy” on you, gather information, and report this information about you and your online activities to some outside person.

Although we have written to our clients previously about the dangers of spyware, we are going to continue to drive home the importance of protecting yourself due to the alarming number of companies and individuals getting stung by this ever growing threat.

Spyware is NOT harmless; it can be responsible for delivering a serious load of spam, altering your web browser, slowing down your PC, and serving up a bounty of pop up ads. In some of the more extreme cases, spyware can also steal your identity, passwords, e-mail address book, and even use your PC for illegal activities, or to access paid, pornographic web sites.

How Spyware Installs Itself On Your Network

Most spyware finds its way onto your network via employee web activities. Whenever an employee downloads a music file, screen saver, or other unauthorized program, chances are they are also downloading a series of spyware and malware programs that can infiltrate your entire network.

What makes this even worse is that the authors of these malicious programs are not only getting smarter by the minute, but they are also getting more malicious in their intent. Here are the 10 most significant emerging spyware and adware threats based on the detection as well as the potential danger they pose to your network:

CoolWebSearch (CWS): This is a particularly nasty hijacking program with dozens of iterations. Once installed on your computer, it can hijack web searches, your home page, and other Internet Explorer settings.

Recent variants of CoolWebSearch install on your network using malicious HTML applications or security flaws, such as exploits in the HTML Help format and Microsoft Java Virtual machines.



Gator (GAIN): This is an adware program that will display banner advertisements and pop ups based on the web sites you visit and surfing habits. Gator is usually bundled with numerous free software programs, including the popular file-sharing program Kazaa.

180search Assistant: This is an adware program that delivers pop-up ads. Whenever a key word is entered into a search engine or a targeted Web site is visited, 180search Assistant opens a separate browser window displaying an advertiser's Web page that is related to the key word or site.

ISTbar/AUpdate: This is a toolbar used for searching pornographic web sites that may display pornographic pop-ups and hijack user homepages and Internet searches.

Transponder (vx2): Transponder is an IE Browser Helper Object that monitors requested web pages and data entered into online forms, then delivers ads based on the content being searched or browsed.

BlazeFind: This spyware program can hijack your web searches, home page, and other Internet Explorer settings. BlazeFind may even redirect your Web searches through its own search engine and change your default home page to www.blazefind.com.

Hot as Hell: This is a malicious dialer program which dials toll numbers in order to access paid pornographic Web sites. Hot as Hell may disconnect a user's computer from a local Internet provider and reconnect the user to the Internet using an expensive toll or international phone number. It does not spy on the user, but it may accrue significant long distance phone charges. It may run in the background, hiding its presence.

Advance Keylogger: Advanced Keylogger is a program that has the ability to monitor your keystrokes and take screenshots. This is particularly dangerous if you do any type of online banking or other financial transactions online.

TIBS Dialer: This dialer has the ability to take control of your modem and dial toll numbers that access paid, pornographic Web sites.

A Cheap And Easy Way To Protect Yourself Now

After researching a number of spyware programs, we came across one that we feel is far superior to the others being offered. Best of all, it costs only \$31.96 per user for an ANNUAL subscription for networks with 10 to 24 workstations. This program is called Spy Sweeper offered by WebRoot.

We like this program for one simple reason: it PROACTIVELY protects and removes spyware BEFORE it gets installed onto your computer or network, where other spyware programs are REACTIVE and only remove spyware after it is already installed and running on your system.

Spy Sweeper actively monitors against spyware and adware installations by using multiple Active Shields. Active Shields detect changes to system memory, registry entries, host files, start-up processes, browser-hijackings and other security settings (tell-tale signs of spyware programs).

If you want to know more about Spy Sweeper, or if you want to purchase it for your network, give us a call. We will be happy to answer your questions and protect you from spyware!

Call: Kenny Lance at 601-264-1606 ext. 601 or e-mail him at Kenny@ntbol.com

9 Big Benefits Of Bringing Your E-mail In House That Your ISP Doesn't Want You To Know About

Want to stop paying your ISP for multiple e-mail accounts? Want to stop spammers from sending you unwanted solicitations and viruses? Want to be able to have your own company name in your e-mail address?

If so, we can help. Bringing your e-mail in house doesn't have to be an expensive decision. Thanks to our own hosted e-mail services, you can get all of the benefits of in-

house e-mail without the expensive hardware, software, or maintenance.

As a matter of fact, here are **9 big reasons** why so many of our clients are firing their ISPs and switching over to our hosted e-mail services:

1. You'll get your own company name on your e-mail: email@your-domain-name.com
2. Eliminate file size limitations on your in-box which force you to

delete important e-mails. You'll also be able to receive large e-mail files that your ISP would bounce.

3. Save hundreds of dollars on ISP fees while getting advanced calendaring, collaboration, and messaging features your ISP doesn't provide.

4. Prevent your ISP's spam filter from blocking important, non-spam e-mails you need to receive.

5. Set up new e-mail accounts instantly without paying extra.

6. Bullet-proof your network from viruses, Trojans, spam, and other malicious programs.

7. Receive your e-mail through digital cell phones, pagers, or wireless PDAs.

8. Have greater control over your employees' e-mail and prevent them from accidentally (or intentionally!) sending illegal, inappropriate, or confidential information.

9. Gain better tracking, communication, and message storage that your ISP does not offer.

Want to learn if our hosted e-mail services can help you? Give Kenny Lance a call at: 601-264-1606 ext. 601

"Without spending a dime more on software, NetBase gave us **our own in-house e-mail system which has saved us \$300 per month (\$3,600 per year)**, eliminated a number of on-going technical problems, and provided a much better protection against viruses. Now we can download documents at lightning speed and access web pages 10 times faster. Plus our administrators don't have to constantly spend time fixing e-mail and internet related problems." - *Clay Johnston, Assistant Administrator, Covington County Hospital*

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**South Mississippi's Most Trusted
Provider of Network Service and
Support**



Services We Offer:

- Small business network support
- Network Design & Implementation
- Thin Client Networks
- Disaster Recovery
- Virus Protection & Removal
- Network Security
- E-mail & Internet solutions
- Document Imaging
- Wireless Networking
- Thin Client Computing
- VPNs
- Spam Filtering
- Storage Solutions
- Voice over IP Phone Systems

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web sites should also be banned to prevent employees from spending hours on personal, non-work related activities.

Increase Employee Productivity Instantly

"The SurfControl software is also a great productivity enhancement tool," says Johnny, "We don't have to worry that our employees are taking company time to plan their next vacation, download music, or shop for a new job. SurfControl monitors it all for us with no manual labor or uncomfortable confrontations."

Why SouthGroup Trusts NetBase

"We've been using Kenny since 1988 and highly recommend his services. Kenny and his staff are prompt, knowledgeable, and he has never misled us or given us bad advice," continues Johnny. "The SurfControl product is a perfect example of that. It works great and we are very glad we took Kenny's advice."

Want To Know If SurfControl Can Help Your Company?

At no cost or obligation, we can install a SurfControl demo server on your network to monitor your employees' web surfing and e-mail habits for one week.

At the end of that week, we will give you a report that will expose any inappropriate employee usage of the Internet or company e-mail, and how much time your employees are spending on non-work related activities.

To do this type of audit yourself would cost over \$4,000 in hardware and software. By letting us install a demo server, you get a risk free way of assessing your current

situation to determine whether or not you have a problem, and what action you need to take.

Regardless of what we discover during our audit, you will be under no obligation to purchase the SurfControl product or any of our services. The ONLY catch is that we are limited in the number of audits we can perform each month.

If you want to make sure you get in on this offer, contact Kenny Lance immediately at 601-264-1606 ext. 601 or e-mail him at kenny@ntbol.com

SouthGroup Insurance Services has 17 agency locations throughout the state's major regions. To learn more about their services go to www.southgroup.net.

Meet Steve Singleton, Our Newest Edition To The NetBase Family!



Steve has recently joined us as our new Vice President of Sales. For the past 15 years, Steve has been a Financial Advisor with Legg Mason and Smith Barney until he decided to try something new and join us here at NetBase.

Married with 3 children, Steve has lived in Hattiesburg for 23 years. He is currently President of Oak Grove Warrior Club and serves on the Lamar County Board of Recreation. He is also an active member of Temple Baptist Church and a Sunday School Teacher.