



## Sorted your spam? Now say hello to SPIM

IT SOLUTIONS PROVIDER RAMSAC is advising companies to protect themselves from SPIM. Yes, that's right, SPIM – unsolicited emssages sent via Instant Messaging. .

As with e-mail, spammers and fraudsters have realised IM's potential as an extremely cheap mass communication media. Already, 5% of all IM traffic is SPIM and this figure is expected to rise significantly.

“Despite being created by well respected internet soft-

ware companies including Microsoft, AOL and Yahoo, IM software is a perfect gateway for SPIM,” says Robert May, MD at RAMSAC. “Used properly, IM software can be a cost-saving business tool, left unchecked however, it can cause substantial IT and HR headaches.”

According to May, an estimated 350 million people will be using IM at work by 2005. In the UK alone, IM software is being used in 85% of all

businesses yet is only officially sanctioned by 10% of them.

“Most companies don't even realise that employees are using IM software. Unless appropriate IM tools are introduced and kept up to date, it's almost impossible to control and monitor the amount of SPIM being received and the impact it has on systems security and operating efficiency.”

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