

# Savings in Bandwidth and Storage for the Larger Organisation

Submitted by: Marylebone Media Relations

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British-Designed System Cuts Between 10p.c. and 50p.c. From Costs

Nettlebed, 06th February 2003 – Larger organisations, ASPs, and internet infrastructure companies should save on expensive bandwidth and storage costs of emails with a system demonstrated this week which does away with pst (personal storage) files increasingly blamed for reducing networks' performance and affecting productivity.

Software engineers at Archive-IT Limited, developers of MailStore, the security compliant email archiving software, have created a solution whereby a single copy of each email is kept in a central store that every recipient can access. This means that users no longer need to keep pst files on their desktops, thereby reducing the backup storage and bandwidth requirements.

Major storage and network bandwidth problems that are costing large organisations millions of pounds every year have been caused by the continued growth in the use of email and the domination of Microsoft Exchange as the market leading mail server.

The problem is the storage and backup of users' email. Microsoft Exchange users typically use Personal Folder Stores or pst files to store their email messages on their desktops. This has an immediate impact on desktop storage because if a message is sent to 20 people and every recipient stores it in his own pst file the same message is stored 20 times.

However, a much bigger problem is the backup of these files. Modern backup software can check files and only store changes since the files were last backed-up. Unfortunately it is not easy to check for changes to a pst file and the whole file is often backed up. Furthermore, pst files do not compress effectively. All this means that pst files will form a very large part of an organisation's data backup, sometimes as high as 50p.c.

The storage of the pst files represents a major cost but possibly more significant is the effect on network performance. In some organisations the backup of desktop data has consumed 50p.c. of the available bandwidth, with pst files accounting for 50p.c. of this traffic. The cost of this bandwidth utilisation for a large organisation can be several million pounds each year.

Bandwidth savings of 10-25p.c. and storage savings of up to 50p.c. are thought possible by the Archive-IT system which is regarded as a significant breakthrough in managing desk-top back-ups in an Exchange environment. The system will in time apply to other all mail platforms where local copies of emails are kept in users' personal desktop files.

Trialling involving large organisations is currently being carried out, with Archive-IT planning to roll out the system commercially when Version 2 of MailStore is launched in the next few weeks. Archive-IT's existing MailStore security storage product has already been deployed in a number of bigger organisations, including London Underground.

Media Contacts

Dean Davis

Archive-IT

01491 641641

dean@rchive-it.com

<http://www.archive-it.com>

Sara Claridge

Marylebone Media Relations

+44 1344 876558

sara@marylebone.co.uk

<http://www.marylebone.co.uk>