

UK Small Businesses Hit by Christmas Computer Virus

Submitted by: Onechocolate Communications

Thursday, 16 December 2004

UK small businesses received emailed Christmas greetings from yesterday morning, but many of these innocent looking seasonal messages disguised the latest computer virus attack.

UK managed Internet and email security specialists, intY, which protects over 2000 UK small businesses and scans over 20 million small business email monthly, reported the first instances of the Zaffi D worm within hours of other anti-virus companies warning of the worm affecting Internet users outside of the UK. Over 20,000 attacks were blocked by intY's MailDefender service from noon on 14th December 2004.

The worm appears to be a Christmas email from a customer or supplier. In fact, it is piece of software which loads itself onto the recipient's system and could be activated at a latter date to cause disruption or other forms of damage.

Mark Herbert, CEO, intY said: "It's sad that virus writers are exploiting the festive season in this way. Even if Zaffi is mischievous rather than malign, this kind of attack wastes the precious time of IT managers so it pays to not drop your guard. A combination of educating users to be wary and accurate anti-virus scanning services will mean a festive season without headaches - or at least those caused by viruses and spam."

All Internet users need to look out for messages with the title "Happy Hollydays" and the "Merry Christmas" subject line.

For further information about Zaffi D visit www.intY.com/news/zafi-d.html

For further press information, contact Claire Lynch or Nick Spencer on 0208 322 1922 or inty@gbc.co.uk