

RESEARCH INDICATES EMPLOYEE SECURITY AWARENESS REMAINS LOW ACROSS UK BUSINESSES

Submitted by: Maillot Jaune Communications

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Chessington, Surrey, UK – 30th June 2008 – The security division of value-added distributor, Bell Micro today released findings from an independent research report which suggests that UK businesses are still failing to implement internal security procedures despite growing awareness of the potential consequences.

The research indicated that despite an increase in mail filters and firewalls, a high proportion of respondents still receive unwanted emails from apparently reputable sources, such as banks (63%), which typically represent phishing attacks. Even more surprising was that when asked about password protocols, 56% believed colleagues passwords commonly reflected either the names of family members or favourite sports teams (41%), all of which can easily be gleaned from social networking sites - which 41% of respondents are permitted to visit by their respective companies.

“The areas of concern that become apparent from this research unfortunately seem to point to staff as the weak link in the security chain,” said Steve Browell, General Manager of Bell Micro’s Security Division. “There is still too much reliance on non-random password protection, which can easily be hacked by identifying personal information freely distributed on social networking sites - despite the readily available solutions that are on the market and already protecting against these issues.”

A staggering 73% of respondents to the survey were also willing to confirm their mother’s maiden name to researchers - a prime example of sharing personal information that is traditionally used as a password, or prompt, when accessing online accounts – or is often used as a password.

Notes for Editors

The research was carried out by Dynamic Markets (www.dynamicmarkets.co.uk) on behalf of Bell Micro at Infosecurity Europe 2008. Among the 94 interviewees, 88% were IT professionals.

Steve Browell is a veteran of the security industry, previously holding the Executive General Manager role at Vistorm for nine years, where he was responsible for the vendor portfolio, identifying services opportunities and delivering sales and marketing initiatives that drove consistent growth.

Bell Micro enjoyed growth in excess of 20% in 2007 and is seeking to make further investments in its security business in 2008 to enhance a growing reputation as a security specialist throughout Europe.

About Bell Micro

Bell Micro is a specialist IT distributor that occupies a central position in the IT supply chain between those companies who create IT products and services and those who supply end-users. We provide a complete service that is designed to enhance the capabilities and performance of our partners in this channel. The services and technologies we supply are wide-ranging, so too are the ways we assist our partners. For some, it is a case of ensuring the right IT products are available at the right time and cost, for others the service is more extensive with Bell Micro working in partnership to address opportunities at every stage of the technology lifecycle – from design to deployment. Bell Micro operates through three

channels to market – industrial, commercial and enterprise – each of which offers a wide range of services and products from major IT vendors.

Visit www.bellmicrosecurity.co.uk

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