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UK Businesses Threatened By Email Melt-Down

Thousands of small businesses are in danger of their email systems collapsing as employees heading off on summer breaks send and receive holiday photographs and even videos as huge email attachments.

British messaging and collaboration software company Softalk says that small and medium sized businesses are particularly vulnerable as they don't have large IT departments to manage and monitor their email systems.

Softalk says that businesses can take some simple steps to ensure the integrity of their email systems:

- * Use the email server to set limits for maximum size of attachments that can be sent and received
- * Set quotas for individual users mailboxes to prevent employees using the email server for storing hundreds of megabytes of personal photographs and videos
- * Use the email server to prevent users from sending or receiving certain types of attachment
- * Install up to date anti-virus filters to prevent viruses slipping through disguised as holiday pictures
- * Install anti-spam filters to cut down on the amount of unproductive email clogging up users in-boxes
- * Implement anti-virus and anti-spam security at the email server level so that you can always ensure that filters are up to date without the need to update every individual user's PC
- * Have clear policies in place so that employees understand how they are allowed the company email system for personal use
- * Ensure that policies include rules to ensure that employees don't send or receive inappropriate images
- * Check that your email server is robust enough and has the capacity to cope with the demands of today's email traffic which has increased from an average of 15 billion emails a day in 2001 to an average of 132 billion a day in 2005.
- * Ensure that you are backing up and

archiving your email database on a frequent and regular basis
www.softalk.com