

**EARTHWEB** eBook: [Securing Linux Systems for the Enterprise. Protect Your System From Online Intruders. Get It Now!](#)

 <p><b>Compare prices and save on:</b></p>	<p><b>Laptops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Toshiba Satellite</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Powerbook G4</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Sony Vaio VGN</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Dell Inspiron 6000</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">IBM ThinkPad</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Camera Prices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Canon Cameras</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Kodak Cameras</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Nikon Cameras</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Nikon d50</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Nikon d80</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Desktop Computers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Graphics Cards</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Sound Cards</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Memory Cards</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Motherboards</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Gaming Software</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Digital Cameras</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Water Proof Camera</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Pink Digital Camera</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Camera Reviews</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Canon g7</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Canon Rebel xti</a></li> </ul>	<p>Compare Prices:</p> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="GO"/>
--	--	---	--	--	---

[www.internetnews.com/bus-news/article.php/3669071](http://www.internetnews.com/bus-news/article.php/3669071)

[Back to Article](#)

**SMBs Playing The Ostrich When It Comes To Security**

By [Andy Patrizio](#)  
March 30, 2007

Small to medium-sized businesses often don't have the security policies, systems or know-how in place of their larger enterprise brethren, and that's a lurking danger.

So says a new survey by security advisor MessageLabs. In identifying the problem MessageLabs, not surprisingly, says it also has a solution. The company is launching the Small Business Security Clinic and Makeover, a kind of IT security toolkit of resources and education.

SMBs are at greater risk to various forms of malware due to a combination of less resources for dealing with the problem, but also policies are looser.

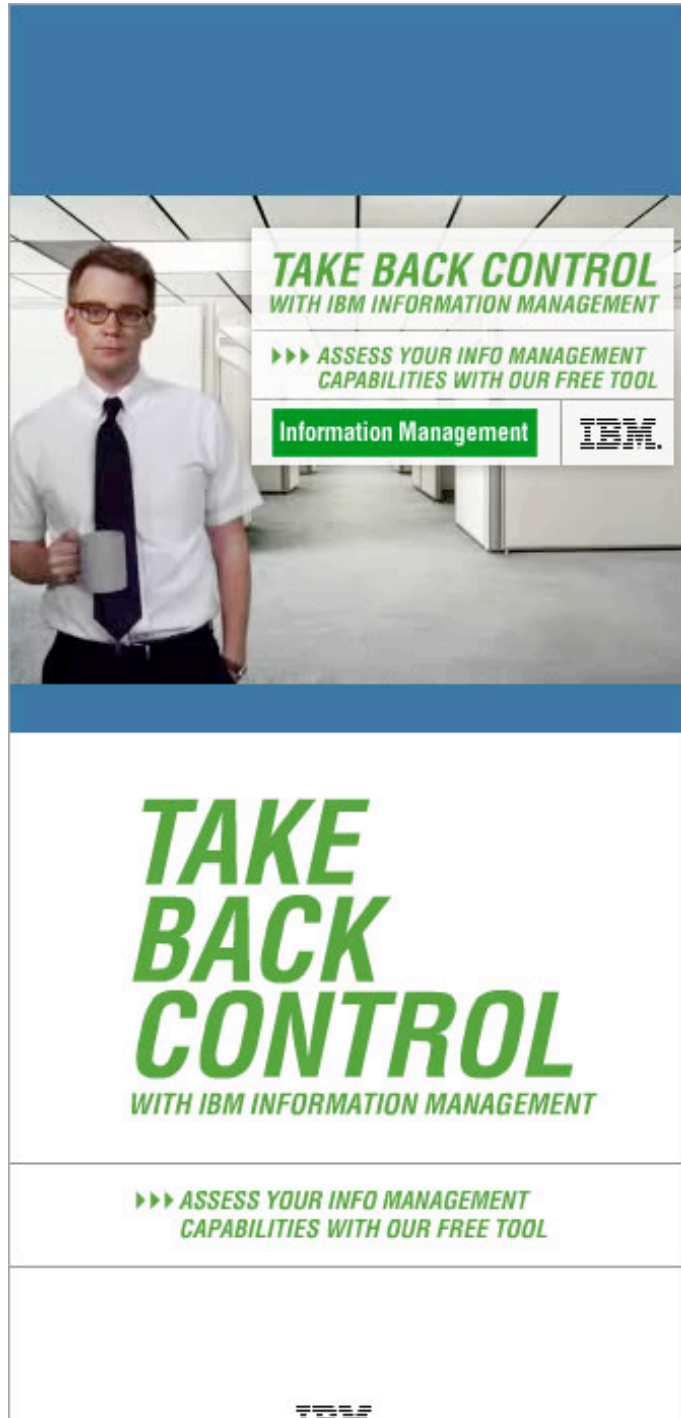
"I think that's a consequence of enterprises being under a lot more pressure to implement policies to enforce regulatory compliance. Regulatory compliance inherently makes enterprises more secure," Paul Wood, senior analyst with MessageLabs, told *internetnews.com*.

Based on surveys in the US and UK, MessageLabs concluded the biggest threat to cause a data breach comes from an unlikely source -- junior sales men and women between the ages of 26-35 years old. Not that they do anything bad, it's just that these unlikely villains are multitaskers, often using multiple applications at once.

"They are quite tech-savvy but not quite aware of the risk that using all of these protocols might introduce. They might be trying to do as much as they can at the same time and not thinking about what they are doing, and a lot of attacks are social engineering-based," said Wood.


Small businesses might also be deluding themselves into thinking they are doing enough to mitigate risk, said Wood. He also said some businesses also have the perception they are not at risk because they are a small organization.

But that's wrong. "We've seen an increase in targeted attacks on small businesses because they have less security in place," said Wood. MessageLabs found that only 53 percent of small businesses have the right IT security




**TAKE BACK CONTROL**  
WITH IBM INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

▶▶▶ ASSESS YOUR INFO MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES WITH OUR FREE TOOL

Information Management 

**TAKE BACK CONTROL**  
WITH IBM INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

▶▶▶ ASSESS YOUR INFO MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES WITH OUR FREE TOOL



procedures in place compared to 69 percent of enterprise companies.

The report also looked at the importance of e-mail and spam issues. The study found that almost one-third of businesses would be severely impacted if the Internet went away, but only 14 percent would feel any pain if just e-mail went away. Wood said it reflected the Web as being the engine of e-commerce.

But spam remains a problem. Only 13 percent felt it would stop being a problem, but most see it as more of a nuisance than a threat. Only 10 percent felt it was a threat and have anti-spam measures in place.

The problem, Wood argued, is that spam can overwhelm a company's servers, and even with spam filters on, they still have to receive it for the spam filter to process it. And often times, spam is the entry point for more insidious attacks, like Trojans. "For a small business, spam could be a silent killer," he said.



[Contact internetnews.com staff](#)

#### JupiterWeb networks:



Search JupiterWeb:

Find

[Jupitermedia Corporation](#) has two divisions: [Jupiterimages](#) and [JupiterWeb](#)

[Jupitermedia Corporate Info](#)

Copyright 2007 Jupitermedia Corporation All Rights Reserved.

[Legal Notices](#), [Licensing](#), [Reprints](#), & [Permissions](#), [Privacy Policy](#).

[Web Hosting](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Tech Jobs](#) | [Shopping](#) | [E-mail Offers](#)

