



## FIRM BANS E-MAIL TO BOOST PRODUCTION

By [Jo Best](#)  
[Silicon.com](#)  
September 19, 2003, 6:09 AM PT

John Caudwell, CEO of mobile retailer Phones 4U, announced on Thursday that he'll be banning all his staff from using e-mail across the business.

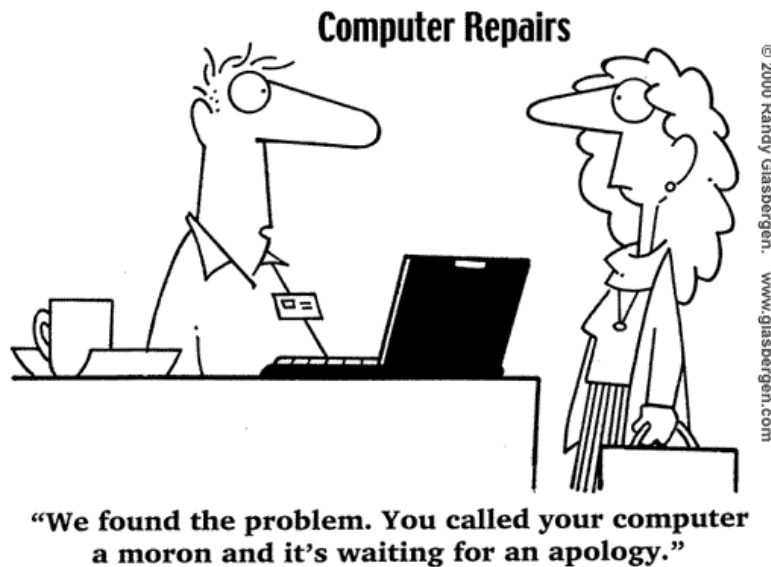
The reasoning behind the total e-mail ban at Newcastle-under-Lyme, U.K.-based Phones 4U is to improve productivity by reducing the time employees spend on e-mail--which Caudwell estimates will save the company £1 million (\$1.6 million) a month.

The ban will apply to Phones 4U's 2,500+ staff, who Caudwell believes will find them-

selves with an extra three hours a day on their hands. He said he introduced no e-mail policy after seeing staff becoming chained to their computers, rather than talking to colleagues or customers in person.

Caudwell said in a statement: "I saw that e-mail was insidiously invading Phones 4U so I banned it immediately. Management and staff at HQ and in the stores were beginning to show signs of being constrained by e-mail proliferation... Phones 4U staff have been told to get off the keyboards, get face-to-face or on to the phone to colleagues. The quality and efficiency of communication have been increased tremendously in one fell swoop; things are getting done, people aren't tied to their PCs."

*Submitted by: Greg Wilson*



*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



"In any contest between power and patience, bet on patience." - W.B. Prescott

## Attacks prompt shutdown of Anti-Spam lists

**Three Web sites that provide spam-blocking lists have been forced offline as a result of crippling Internet attacks in what experts say is an escalation in the war between spammers and opponents of unsolicited e-mails.**

Anti-spam experts say that they believe spammers are behind the attacks, although they have no way of proving it.

The technological war comes as Congress considers a federal anti-spam law and California adopts what is widely considered to be the toughest such law in the country. The California law, signed Tuesday, allows people to sue spammers for \$1,000 per unsolicited e-mail and up to \$1 million for a spam campaign.

"This definitely marks an escalation in the spam wars," Andrew Barrett, executive director of the Spamcon Foundation, a spam watchdog group, said of the recent Internet attacks on lists used to block spam. "Before, it was a guerrilla war...This is the first time we've seen (spammers) employ such brazen tactics."

Anti-spam advocates maintain hundreds of spam-block or "black hole" lists, which are Web sites with lists of the numerical Internet Protocol addresses of specific computers or e-mail servers that are unsecure or are known sources of spam. Network

administrators and Internet service providers consult the lists and block e-mails coming from those computers as part of their spam-filtering techniques.

Two of those spam-block lists have shut down after being attacked by denial-of-service attacks, in which compromised computers are used to send so much traffic to a Web site that it is temporarily taken down. The operator of another list shut down fearing a pending attack. "There seems to be a methodical, well-planned attempt to use preassembled networks of zombie machines to create sustained denial-of-service attacks on servers where these block lists run," said Barrett.

Monkeys.com shut down on Monday following a three-day denial-of-service attack over the weekend and an attack last month that lasted 10 days, list operator Ronald Guilmette said in a posting to an anti-spam news group. By Friday, the site was back online. "The handwriting is now on the wall," he wrote. "I will simply not be allowed to continue fighting spam."

Spam-block list operator Osirusoft.com also recently shut down its list after a denial-of-service attack. And on Tuesday the list maintained at Tennessee Internet service provider Compu-Net Enterprises was taken down.

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**"One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important." - Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)**

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Bill Larson, network administrator at Compu-Net, said in an interview Thursday that he shut the list down because he was afraid it would be targeted with a denial-of-service attack. The company was already being harassed, receiving complaints after attackers sent spam that looked like it was coming from the company's network and legitimate e-mails were getting bounced, he said.

Experts have speculated that spammers are behind computer worm Sobig, which surfaced earlier this year and can turn infected computers into spam-relay machines. "The black hole lists were incredibly effective until the Sobig worm started going out," Larson said.

While Guilmette complained that ISPs could do more to stop the attacks by taking the attacking computers offline, Larson said anti-spam advocates were considering other options to keep the lists going.

They are talking about having lists that are distributed across numerous computers like in a peer-to-peer network, he said. "That will make it hard, if not impossible, to take them down."

However, the best solution to the problem is for people to just "not buy the products mentioned in spam" advertisements, Larson added.

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*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*

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## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST DANGEROUS MIDI FILES

*Posted 25.09.03*  
[www.pcsecuritynews.com](http://www.pcsecuritynews.com)

One of the most annoying features a web site can include is an embedded MIDI music file that suddenly starts playing when the web page loads. This was annoying but harmless, we thought, until the recent discovery of some rather large security holes in the music playback technology that Windows uses.

These flaws, rated by Microsoft as "critical," could allow malicious code to run on your computer through a tainted music file. This could result in a hacker taking over your PC.

To protect yourself, go to [windowsupdate.microsoft.com](http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com) and download DirectX 9.0b. This fixes the security holes.

*Submitted by Y. Bulger*



**"There are two ways of constructing a software design; one way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult."**

## TIPS & TRICKS

### Skip the Recycle Bin Confirmation Message

When you delete items by moving them to the Recycle Bin, Windows displays a message confirming the deletion: "Are you sure you want to send *FILE-NAME* to the Recycle Bin?" If you're tired of clicking an answer to that question, you can configure Windows XP to skip the confirmation message whether or not you're using the Recycle Bin.

Right-click the **Recycle Bin**, and then click **Properties**.

In the **Recycle Bin Properties** dialog box, clear the **Display delete confirmation dialog** check box, and then click **OK**.

If you don't want to use the Recycle Bin at all, in the Recycle Bin Properties dialog box, select the **Do not move files to the Recycle Bin. Remove files immediately when deleted** check box.

### Caps Lock Trick - *From Worldstart.com*

Don't you hate it when you accidentally hit the Caps Lock key? Sometimes I have a whole sentence typed in before I realize my mistake! (I know, GASP!)

What if you could set your computer up so it alerts you when your pinkie finger wanders off and taps the Caps Lock key? With this tip, I'll show you how to make your computer beep & flash the next time it happens.

The first thing you'll need to do is get the computer to beep when you hit the Caps Lock key. Here's how:

1. Click the **Start button, Settings, Control Panel** (XP Users, hit the **Start button, Control Panel**). Open the **Accessibility Options** icon.

2. On the **Keyboard tab**, click the **"Use Toggle Keys"** checkbox  
That's it for the beeping part.

Next, we need to get your screen to flash you, err, flash at you. Here's how:

1. From the Accessibility Options screen, click the **Sound tab** and check the **"Use Sound-Sentry"** checkbox.

2. Next click the Settings button and select **"Flash active window"** from the **"Warning for windowed programs"** drop down box.

That's it. **Hit OK until you're clear of property and settings screens**. Open your favorite word processor and hit your **Caps Lock** key.

Cool huh?

**P.S.** If you don't have an Accessibility Options icon in your Control Panel, you may not have it installed.

To install, hit your **Start button, Settings, Control Panel**. Open the **Add / Remove** programs icon and click the Windows Setup tab. You'll be able to add components from there. Keep in mind you'll need your Windows CD!

*Submitted by: Greg Wilson*



"Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do."

- Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980)

## \$\$\$The Computer Age and it's Amazing Success Stories\$\$\$



**Name: Pierre Omidyar—Founder and Chairman of the Board Age: 36 Current Net Worth (\$): 7.06 billion**

eBay's largest shareholder splits his year between France and Nevada, but spends his time (and money) as a full-time philanthropist. A recent gift: \$10 million to alma mater Tufts to create a school for public service.

Pierre Omidyar changed the face of Internet commerce in 1995 when he created eBay, the world's online marketplace, with a passionate community of individuals and businesses. Looking for a way to create an efficient market, he pioneered the auction format for online person-to-person trading, creating a simple, easy-to-understand mechanism that lets buyers and sellers decide the true value of items and connect with others.

When Pierre launched eBay as a hobby, his day

job was conducting developer relations for General Magic. Prior to General Magic, he co-founded Ink Development Corp., which was renamed eShop and acquired by Microsoft. His career began in the software engineering business, working as a developer for Claris, a subsidiary of Apple Computer, where he worked on consumer applications.

Today, Pierre is a full-time philanthropist investing in and providing leadership that cultivates community effectiveness. Recently, Pierre worked closely with Tufts University to create the University College of Citizenship and Public Service (UCCPS), an initiative preparing all Tufts students for an active role in building stronger communities and societies. Pierre is also founder and chairman of the Omidyar Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Tufts University and Santa Fe Institute.

Pierre graduated from Tufts University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

Founded in September 1995, eBay ([Nasdaq: EBAY; http://www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)) is The World's Online Marketplace™ for the sale of goods and services by a diverse community of individuals and businesses. Today, the eBay community includes tens of millions of registered members from around the world. People spend more time on eBay than any other online site, making it the most popular shopping destination on the Internet.

### **eBay Mission**

eBay's mission is to provide a global trading platform where practically anyone can trade practically anything.

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**"Well-timed silence hath more eloquence than speech." - Martin Fraquhar Tupper**



## Club Contact List

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### eBay Marketplace

On any given day, there are more than 16 million items listed on eBay across 27,000 categories. In 2002, eBay members transacted \$14.87 billion in annualized gross merchandise sales (GMS, the value of goods sold on eBay).

People come to the eBay marketplace to buy and sell items across multiple categories, including antiques and art, books, business & industrial, cars & other vehicles, clothing & accessories, coins, collectibles, crafts, dolls & bears, electronics & computers, home furnishings, jewelry & watches, movies & DVDs, music, musical instruments, pottery & glass, real estate, sporting goods & memorabilia, stamps, tickets, toys & hobbies and travel.

Members from all over the world buy and sell on

eBay. Currently, eBay has local sites that serve Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. In addition, eBay has a presence in Latin America and China through its investments in MercadoLibre.com and EachNet, respectively.

eBay offers a wide variety of features and services that enable members to buy and sell on the site quickly and conveniently. Buyers have the option to purchase items in auction-style format or items can be purchased at fixed price through a feature called Buy-It-Now. In addition, items at fixed price are also available Half.com, an eBay company.

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



"Few things are harder to put up with than a good example." - Mark Twain (1835-1910)

## Interesting Web Sites

I just came across this little program that I thought was worth a mention in the newsletter. It's called "CD Check". It will check a CD for **damaged** files and attempt to repair them. It will recover data from a damaged CD. It seems to do it's job very well and is very easy to use. It's available at <http://www.elpros.si/CDCheck/> and will be on the

newest version of the club CD.

*Submitted by: Wes Jackson*

FAQ's about Updates—The Answers!

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/update.asp>

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



### SPECIAL THANKS

The Nanaimo Computer Club wishes to thank Bob Goerzen, Microsoft specialist and a member of our club, for a terrific presentation on Microsoft Front-Page September 10th. Bob is a great asset to our club. Thanks for letting us count on you Bob.

The Nanaimo Computer Club wishes to thank Brian

Oltman for his presentation on LINUX, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Brian operates the store known as Nanaimo Computers on the Island Highway. Brian did a great job in his presentation and I know that everyone enjoyed knowing more about an alternative operating system such as LINUX. We hope that Brian will come back at a later date and address our club again.

*Submitted by: B. Poudrier*



## What's coming up in October 2003

**October 8th** - Signature Services - Presenter: Richard Benoit (subject to be announced)

**October 21st** - Microsoft Office Sneak Peek presentation - Starting time: 7:15pm



The End.