

the addressees' employment function' (whilst not declaring if having your e-mail address discoverable through the internet is deemed 'publicly-advertised', how does one determine 'employment function' in this day and age?).

Don't get me wrong here: I am not advocating that the Australian Bill is faulty, but it is just that in many instances this Bill actually legitimises spam, rather than the opposite. The same can be said for the American 'CAN-SPAM Act', which must surely have the most ambiguous title in legislative history, and possibly intentionally so (for the record, the bill is an acronym for 'Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography And Marketing Act of 2003', though you have to wonder at the focus on pornography here...).

Without any doubt, solutions to the spam problem world-wide will come from software and the online community, and not from legislation (and whilst the American legislation recognises this implicitly, it suggests that a regime of 'co-operative efforts with other countries' will block the rest). As an example, my non-work e-mail account uses a combination of SpamAssassin (which detects the likelihood of spam-worthiness in each message) and my laptop's mail client software, which uses a learning filter to detect spam and throw it into my 'junk mail' folder: this combination

traps practically all genuine spam. The system is not perfect, but it helps: and before long my workplace will hopefully have equally-sophisticated methods of trapping spam.

Even if the entire world legislated against spam (and this is highly unlikely), it takes little effort to disguise the origin of any given spam message. And if money is to be made from spam (surely it is, otherwise spammers would have given up years ago), then it will continue unabated. Nonetheless, the Australian *Spam Act 2003* is a small but significant step in the right direction. The great battle of our time is just begun.

Next month: what the Australian Spam Act means for Australian businesses — and what you need to know to be compliant.

Links

The Australian *Spam Act 2003*: <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/comact/11/6735/top.htm>.

Information on sending commercial messages using 'best practice' (stop laughing, this is deadly serious): <http://www.noie.gov.au/projects/confidence/Improving/spam.htm>.

CAUBE (Coalition Against Unsolicited Bulk E-mail, Australia): <http://www.caube.org.au/>.

The United States *CAN-SPAM Act of 2003*: <http://www.spamlaws.com/federal/108s877.html>. ■

Australian Interlibrary Resource Sharing Code amended

Minor changes to the recommended prices in the Australian Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) code were introduced on 1 January 2004.

Following consultation across the library sector in late 2003, these amendments proposed by the National Resource Sharing Working Group have been endorsed by the National Library of Australia (NLA), the Council of Australian State Libraries (CASL), the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and ALIA.

Simplified prices

The changes are relatively minor and are based on today's direct costs. They will make the recommended prices in the ILRS code simpler to interpret.

Summary of proposed changes

- Remove the additional price for sending STD faxes.
- Increase the page limit for copies to fifty pages before charging \$3.30

for each additional fifty pages. Additionally, define a page as the number of pages in the original item, not the number of pieces of paper or images in the copy sent.

All other recommended prices remain the same.

The recommended prices in the ILRS code were last changed in 1999. The prices in the ILRS Code are recommended only. Libraries may choose what price they set for their service.

The amended ILRS code is available online at <http://alia.org.au/interlibrary.lending/ilrs.code.html>. A brochure is also available from ALIA National Office.

For more information on the definition of a page in the ILRS code and a summary of the feedback received during the consultation please see <http://alia.org.au/interlibrary.lending/ilrs.code.2004.html>. ■

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