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SYMANTEC SURVEY

Auto updates fail to stem virus toll on Oz small business

SYDNEY — The majority of Australian small businesses have been impacted by a malicious attack — even when they have had their anti-virus software updated, a new survey by security software company **Symantec** shows. Key findings of the research show that virus protection and Internet security are the most common IT concerns small businesses face today, followed by Internet speed, spam filtering and computer upgrades.

Bread and Butter Research and Planning did the survey for Symantec. It interviewed more than 200 small businesses with a turnover from \$500,000 to \$10 million.

About 95 per cent of respondents have anti-virus software installed while 93 per cent have either firewall software or firewall appliances installed.

According to Symantec, 84 per cent of small businesses have their anti-virus software automatically updated. However 61 per cent of these businesses are still being attacked by threats such as MyDoom, Netsky and Sasser.

Priority issues, budgetary constraints and lack of time prevented some businesses from investing in Internet security technology, with 37 per cent of small business spending less than \$20,000 on IT in the last year. Some 64 per cent of these businesses spent less than 10 per cent of

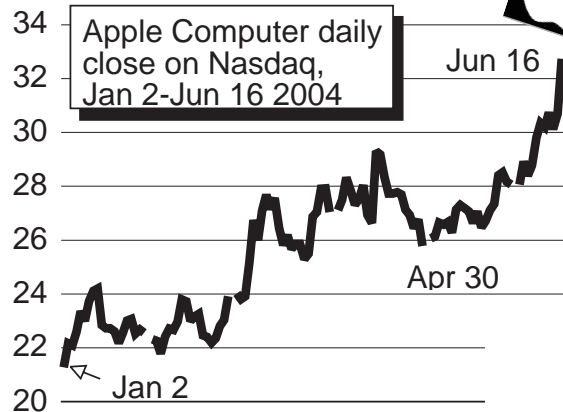
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Wall Street loves Apple — again

NEW YORK — Shares in **Apple Computer** soared to their highest level in four years yesterday, as the market digested news of the launch of Apple's market-leading **iTunes Music Store** in the UK, France and Germany, and the launch of AirPort Express, a new gadget for streaming music wirelessly throughout a house.

The shares closed at \$32.74, up \$2.05 or more than six

APPLE PRICE RIPENS



percent, after briefly selling for more than \$33. They have been rising sharply all this month (see chart).

In stark contrast to its Macintosh PC market experience, Apple controls more than 70 percent of the music downloading industry, and 50 percent of the market for portable music players with its hot-selling iPod.

Apple shares last sold at more than \$32 in September 2000; the shares then lost half their value after failure of the trendy looking Macintosh Cube. They touched bottom of around \$13 in March last year.

Yahoo! hits back in Webmail war

SYDNEY — Web portal **Yahoo!** has struck back at **Google's** attempts to take over the free Webmail market, announcing that it will give users 100 megabytes of storage and a search engine to ensure they need never again delete their e-mail messages. That's 16 times the current level of 6 megabytes.

The moves follow — but do not match — Google's experiment with Gmail, offering mail users one gigabyte of storage. The controversial Google system is paid for by ads tailored individually to keywords in the stored e-mail — much to the outrage of privacy advocacy groups.

Currently Gmail membership is available only by invitation, leading to the emergence of a new Web phenomenon:

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swap sites where would-be Gmailers offer all kinds of goods or services, many bizarre, in return for a Gmail address.

"With the new Yahoo! Mail, consumers won't have to think about mailbox size," gloated **Rachel Watt**, senior producer mail at Yahoo! Australia and NZ. She promised other benefits including superior spam, virus and privacy protection and integrated calendars and alerts.

Microsoft has yet to enter the fray with new storage limits for its Hotmail service — but this is expected daily.

Naked newsmaker goes global

MELBOURNE — In an attempt to ramp up its global presence, Australian media and communications company **GoConnect** has issued 20 million new fully paid shares in the company to international investors.

The shares, issued at six cents each, represent 5.75 per cent of the total issued capital.

ASX-listed GoConnect last month became the first Internet media company to sell nude news globally to mobile phone users (*CDN, May 28*). Its Naked News features newsreaders who begin reading their reports fully clothed, but disrobe as the story unfolds.

The company has pioneered two media delivery platforms, which it claims can deliver broadcast quality, interactive audio/video content to fixed line and **Microsoft Windows Mobile** powered smartphones and Pocket PCs.

"It is the only company in the world currently able to offer this technology," GoConnect executive chairman **Richard Li** told AAP. "GoConnect's business is going global rapidly. We already have viewers on our GoTrek and m-Vision platforms from over 180 countries.

"The placement will add to working capital and will finance and help accelerate our international business development."

ACCC tables comms reports

CANBERRA — The Federal Government says introduction of competition into the telecommunications market continues to deliver benefits to consumers and businesses, citing three **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)** reports tabled in Parliament.

According to Communications and IT minister **Daryl Williams**, the first report, *Changes In The Prices Paid For Telecommunications Services In Australia*, indicates that overall phone call costs in 2002-03 remained 20 percent below 1997-98 levels.

"The report shows that fixed to mobile call costs have fallen on average by 22 per cent, mobile calls are down 24 per cent, long distance calls have dropped nearly 31 per cent, local call costs have decreased by 37 per cent and international call costs have fallen by 61 per cent," Williams says.

The second ACCC report, the *Competitive Safeguards Report*, shows evidence of consolidation in the industry in 2002-03, Williams said. However, since that time, there have been a number of signs that competition is again improving, with competing service providers enjoying greater levels of revenue growth, he Minister said.

The third ACCC report, on **Telstra's** compliance with

price control arrangements, found that Telstra complied with the retail price control arrangements — in 2002-03.

Domain names still rising

CANBERRA — The rapidly increasing demand for Web addresses is pushing down the price of registering ".au" domain names, according to **Daryl Williams**.

Over the last year, the total number of .au domains grew to more than 433,000 and more than 110,000 new ".com.au" names were registered, he said.

This growth has enabled **au Domain Administration (auDA)**, the not-for-profit organisation responsible for administering the ".au" domain, to reduce its fee from \$10 to \$7.50 from August.

AusRegistry operates the registry system in Australia and effectively manages the second level domains such as ".com.au", ".net.au" and ".org.au".

The total fee for a ".au" domain name is made up of fees from auDA, AusRegistry and registrars who sell domain names to the public.

For ".com.au" names, the retail price currently varies between \$60 and \$140 for up to three years, depending on the registrar and the services it offers.

Taiwan orders more Oz cards

SYDNEY — ASX-listed electronic transaction systems vendor **Keycorp** says it has extended its relationship with **Cosmos Bank**, Taiwan's professional banking institution, for the supply of Multos smartcards.

A further 500,000 Multos Keycorp smartcards have been ordered for Cosmos Bank's MasterCard International (MCI) smartcard rollout, taking the total past one million.

Cosmos has implemented 800,000 Keycorp Multos smartcards since 2001; it's the first bank to issue Multos-based EMV cards in Taiwan.

The smartcards act like normal credit cards but allow a variety of functions to be performed using the one card. The cards are being issued with one application initially, but can download more to suit a customer's needs.

Updates fail to stem virus toll

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this budget on IT security. However, says Symantec, while the survey revealed monetary commitment to IT security from small businesses was minimal, more than 63 per cent have policies guiding staff on Internet practices, revealing their commitment to IT security.

"The results reveal a high level of technology adoption and sophistication among Australian small businesses," says **John Donovan**, Symantec ANZ MD.

"Although a high percentage of small businesses have anti-virus software and firewall appliances installed, the proliferation of blended threats containing a mix of different types of cyber threats, continues to make the majority of small businesses vulnerable."

Red Hat opens channel doors

SYDNEY — Open source vendor **Red Hat** has launched its Business Partner program in Australia and New Zealand. The program is designed for systems integrators and value-added resellers, allowing partners to offer customers an open-source alternative.

Globally, Red Hat has alliances and strategic partnerships with key industry organisations, including **Dell, IBM, Intel, H-P** and **Oracle**. With Red Hat's Business Partner program the company has nine partners already in Australia but is looking to double that number in the next six to 12 months.

"We would like to keep our partner network reasonably small, with one significant partner per State in Australia, then supplemented by specialists in vertical sectors or service specialisation," said **Sandeep Chandiramani**, partner and alliances director.

To become a Red Hat Business Partner, organisations need to have in-house Unix skills and sales experience, experience with Linux, and an alignment to one of Red Hat's global partners.

Austrade plans global VPN

SYDNEY — Austrade has selected **Asia Netcom** to deliver multi-protocol label switching (MPLS)-based IP VPN services with enhanced quality, security and scalability to the commission's key locations around the world.

Asia Netcom will provide Austrade with a fully meshed MPLS-based Internet Protocol virtual private network (IP VPN) supporting multiple classes of service to carry the organisation's data, video conferencing, IP and voice applications in Australia and to 44 posts around the world.

Search engine courses backed

SYDNEY — **Overture Services**, a provider of online marketing services, is supporting the Australian launch of **Search Engine College**, an online training outfit which teaches search engine optimisation and marketing.

Beginning July 5 and running over the following six weeks, SEC's self-study curriculum will include two courses sponsored by Overture: an ePay-Per-Click Starter Course and an advanced course.

Overture says it will provide all students with \$100 to "begin learning the art of search marketing in a real-life situation".

Server spending set to rise

SAN FRANCISCO — Worldwide spending on servers during 2004 is likely to grow by five percent, rising to US\$53 billion, according to IT researcher **IDC**.

Demand for servers rose late last year, and that momentum is likely to continue, the research company said in a new report. As prices fell, the number of servers sold in the past three quarters grew by 20 percent compared with the same period last year, IDC said.

IDC predicts that the server market will grow at a compound annual rate of 3.8 percent to be worth \$60.8 billion

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Phone: (02) 9402 7569
Fax: (02) 9449 1361
E-Mail: dfrith@ozemail.com.au

Managing editor: David Frith
Co-editors: John Stackhouse
Dorothy Kennedy

Special reporters: Merri Mack
Gareth Powell

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in 2008. In particular, the market for blade servers will grow quickly, generating \$9 billion in annual revenue by 2008 and representing 29 percent of server units shipped.

Linux-based servers will account for 29 percent of unit shipments and about \$9.7 billion in revenue. Windows-based servers are projected to lead, though. They'll account for 60 percent of all server shipments and revenue of \$22.7 billion.

The US will continue to lead in terms of market share, followed by Western Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, excluding Japan, the company predicts.

IDC said strong growth is likely in Central and Eastern Europe. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to produce compound annual growth rates of over 6.5 percent.

Tablets take their time

SAN FRANCISCO — After more than 18 months on the market, tablet PCs based on **Microsoft's** Windows XP Tablet Edition operating system are yet to catch on, a new survey says.

According to a report by **In-Stat/MDR**, while tablet PCs have been adopted by companies in the health care, real estate and insurance industries, businesses have not yet deployed the pen-driven computers to executives or other workers in large numbers.

Consumer sales also have been slow. Both markets are likely to continue that way until prices come down, In-Stat analyst **Brian O'Rourke** told CNet News.

"IT managers are not going to go out on a limb and order a bunch of new form factor PCs. I'm not sure ... those guys are convinced that the pen capability is enough of a value-add to justify the higher price of the tablet PC," he said.

NAI ex-CFO charged with fraud

WASHINGTON — US federal regulators have filed criminal and civil fraud charges against a former **Network Associates** vice president and chief financial officer, accusing him of insider trading and overstating the company's earnings.

According to the **Securities and Exchange Commission**, from the second quarter of fiscal 1998 through fiscal 2000, **Prabhat Goyal** used a Network Associates subsidiary to manipulate inventory levels and product returns

