

The dangers of complacency

Yahoo and McAfee's collaboration to provide an alerting service for malicious sites in search results is a positive step forward for web security by two established companies

(Industry Round-up, *SC*, June). It must not, however, be seen by the corporate market as the be all and end all for network security.

IT managers need to remember that there are a number of other internet threats to their networks, for example ill-advised downloads and the installation of software such as ActiveX controls to view sites. There is a real danger that these kinds of automated services will make IT departments complacent, when in fact it remains more important than ever for IT managers to be aware of the risks to their networks.

The threat from web browsing and malicious web content is particularly prevalent in the SME market, where 42 per cent of IT managers consider their networks to be unsecured. While secure search-engine results are important, a user can still be redirected to a malicious site via an email or a link on another website – dangers that these services are not designed to defend against.

It is therefore essential to take a comprehensive approach to web content management and make every effort to stay aware of all potential risks, not just those from search engine results.

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