



January 2005 saw the introduction of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act in the UK, as is mentioned in more than one feature elsewhere in this issue. Another piece of legislation has been added to the ever-increasing list of potential pitfalls for CIOs. So now is a good time for GFI to introduce its new MailArchiver product, which can help to relieve many of the headaches caused by modern business' reliance on email as a primary form of communication.

Regular DM readers don't need to be told that the price of non-compliance with the FOI, Sarbanes-Oxley etc. can be intolerably high for corporates and individuals alike: in March 2004 Bank of America was fined US\$10 million for failing to keep all its email records relating to a recent merger, as required by the SEC.

But simply storing the information required under these laws, without offering easy access to specific emails when requested, is not much use either. In another recent US case the defendant was ordered to print out emails stored across 93 backup tapes - and to cover the estimated US\$2.6m cost of doing it!

GFI's MailArchiver for Exchange is a simple to implement and use solution which archives all internal and external mail into a single SQL database, making it easier for companies to fulfil regulatory requirements such as SOX or FOI while also providing users with easy, centralised access to emails, via a web-based search interface.

MailArchiver exploits the journaling feature of Exchange Server itself, for maximum scalability and reliability. Exchange Server 2000/2003 journals all mails to a particular mailbox, and then GFI MailArchiver retrieves them, compresses attachments and archives them within SQL Server. End-users thus have one single location in which to search all their past emails.

By moving archived mail to a SQL database, MailArchiver can actually make Exchange perform better: storing everything (including attachments) within Exchange Server will result in a gradual decline in the performance of any email system. The GFI approach keeps the user organisation's Exchange stores compact and thus its performance optimised. There is additional potential benefit in that

backup of SQL databases can be much easier than backing up Exchange Server stores.

EMAIL STORAGE REDUCED

GFI MailArchiver compresses and decompresses attachments on the fly, resulting in considerable savings in terms of storage when compared to storing attachments in the Exchange stores. Again, it is worth pointing out that there are more compression and backup features and tools available for SQL Server than for Exchange. Another useful feature is that MailArchiver archives only one copy of any attachment sent to multiple recipients, again with a potentially huge saving on storage requirements.

Costed against potential storage savings alone, GFI MailArchiver represents good value to any corporation. The entry level version (for up to 50 mailboxes) costs £245, up to 250 mailboxes costs £485, while unlimited mailboxes can be managed for £825 (pricing is per Exchange Server; for multiple Exchange Servers, multiple licenses are required). **DM**
More info: www.gfi.com

VERDICT: In an age of almost daily legislative changes, GFI MailArchiver has a clear role to play and looks to be a very effective tool. The way that it works in parallel with Exchange Server offers an efficient and non-intrusive way of storing and retrieving emails and attachments.