



## Getting the best filter for e-mails

**For small firms with limited IT resources, delivering elements of security as a managed service has obvious appeal. BlackSpider is a full suite of security technologies developed in Britain and solely handled by the PFH Technology Group in Ireland.**

It is available in a number of modules with basic service available on a per-user basis. The price can be as little as €2 per month per user for content-filtering alone, with a minimum of 25 users.

Another managed service, developed and deployed by Topsec Technology in Ireland, is Blockmail, an automated e-mail monitoring service.

The solution monitors e-mail traffic, eliminating viruses and spam while quarantining illicit content such as unsolicited e-mails and undesirable content.

**“We effectively act like an internet service provider (ISP),” said Paul Moylett, operations manager of Topsec. “Everything comes through us directly. The whole filtering process takes about a third of a second.”**

Charged on a per-user basis, it costs less than €50 per annum with no minimum contract.

Once signed up, the customer supplies Topsec with a content policy. Anything that falls outside the policy is automatically consigned to a quarantined area.

The IT manager or administrator is then notified and can decide whether to release it or allow the e-mail to proceed.

The key selling point is that it requires no investment from the customer in terms of time or money. Monthly traffic reports can be accessed

online where clients can also review any quarantined e-mail.

One satisfied customer is Sigma Wireless. The company employs more than 250 people in Ireland and Britain. According to IT manager Declan Foley, e-mail communications are crucial.

The company was using an in-house solution for its e-mail monitoring which created administration headaches as it had to sit on a high-end machine. It signed up to the Blockmail service and the benefits were immediately realised.

“It was so effective from day one and reasonably priced,” Foley said.

“Topsec answers the phones as soon as you ring them. Also, being a fully managed solution, we could hand over the control of e-mail security to someone else so that we had one less fire to fight.”