



MEDIA ALERT

15th July 2008

US and Canada get tough on e-mail preservation

Following months of uproar over missing e-mails at the White House, the US House of Representatives last week* passed “The Electronic Message Preservation Act” – a bill which sets out new rules for the preservation of government agency e-mails, voicemails and other electronic records. This, coupled with the Canadian Securities Administrator’s (CSA) proposal earlier this year** for new e-mail storage and retrieval rules for financial organisations, suggest the start of a movement towards tighter regulation of electronic information.

Juergen Obermann, CEO of unified archiving specialist, GFT inboxx, has said the following of the news:

“As a global economy we are compounded by rules governing matters such as the storage of electronic information – but to date we have never seen regulations as specific as this. Take the CSA’s proposals for example, by explicitly stating that financial organisations need to “promptly” provide messages to regulators if required, they automatically have upped the ante in terms of what is expected of organisations when storing information.

Rather unsurprisingly, organisations remain both confused over what constitutes compliance with these regulations and, particularly in the case of the new White House e-mail bill, concerned with the implications for staffs’ privacy. Practically speaking, it is clear that much education is needed if these regulations are ever to take flight – with organisations defining policies and educating users on what information needs to be archived etc. Indeed, if the UK is anything to go by, organisations clearly have a long way to achieve this, with a recent survey*** by GFT inboxx finding that 40% of financial services organisations do not define set retention times for storing information.

Ultimately, tighter governance of electronic information can only be a good thing – but if it is to be truly successful, organisations need to understand clearly what needs to be done, and how technologies, such as archiving, can ultimately help.”

* <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5impWoLK7nZr1FDMrGtILMJZRyFzwD91QJGGO1>

** http://www.osc.gov.on.ca/HotTopics/RegReq/ht_regreq_index.jsp

*** ‘Corporate perspectives on e-mail’ research conducted in May 2008 by Omniboss, a division of Vanson Bourne, on behalf of GFT inboxx surveying 100 CIOs and senior IT directors in private sector UK organisations.

About GFT inboxx

As a leading European provider of solutions for email archiving, GFT inboxx GmbH combines extensive experience in the archiving sector with in-depth know-how of the regulatory requirements and compliance. GFT inboxx has more than 20 years experience in the archiving sector and can already look back on more than 1500 successful installations worldwide.

The company offers its customers a best-in-class service from the European development and service centre in Hamburg. The company, with its headquarters in Hamburg, was founded in 1980 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GFT Technologies AG, an internationally leading IT service provider with sales of more than 247 million euro (2007). Via the parent company, GFT inboxx GmbH has access to a worldwide network of locations and around 1200 IT experts.

You can find more information on GFT inboxx GmbH at www.gftinboxx.com. The GFT Group share (WKN 580 050) is listed in the Prime Standard on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and is a member of the GEX (German Entrepreneurial Index). You can find more on the GFT Group at www.gft.com

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