

11 November 2005

By: Adrian Stanciu, Sci-Tech News Editor



Online Porn Not as Popular as Get Rich Quick Scams

Three formulas for guaranteed success

Most of the emails we have to get rid of on a daily basis can be fitted into three main categories: Viagra or other drugs available only with prescription, get rich quick by working online and the third is obviously porn. If so far, pornography was the definite leader of these messages (we're talking quantity here), specialists have noticed a change in spammers' interests and apparently the number of get rich quick scams has doubled in October. According to a recent survey by Clearswift, in October, the number of emails that invite users to participate in a number of schemes and get rich without any risks or hard work has doubled, while pornography and phishing schemes aren't as "popular" as they used to be. Clearswift's report indicates there are three main scam types: money mules, credit card fraudsters and penny-share promotions. Money mule spam offers the recipient a cut of the final deal if he/she accepts a money transfer and then send the money on to an abroad bank account. This is most of the times the procedure to empty one's account after a successful phishing attack. The credit card fraud means searching for people who will accept delivery of goods that are usually ordered using stolen credit card information and then forward them on to the controller. The third scam involves the so called 'penny shares', which are low volume shares that cost a few pence. Since they are so cheap, having just a few other people buy shares means practically doubling the share's value. At this point the spammers sell their shares and can start this cycle all over again.