

PATHWAY COMMUNICATIONS LAUNCHES E-MAIL VIRUS SCANNING SECURITY SERVICE

TORONTO, February 5, 2002 -- Pathway Communications (www.pathcom.com), a leading Canadian Internet Solutions Provider, has launched an inbound e-mail virus scanning security service for its current and future subscribers.

Using top quality commercial, anti-virus software to scan the body, as well as attachments of all e-mail, the scanning service is unique to the marketplace and is designed to detect and disable viruses on all inbound e-mail. The software is installed at Pathway's network operations center and continually scans all inbound e-mail, 24 hours a day for the service's subscribers. A virus cannot infect a client's computer system because the software detects and disables it before it even reaches a user's mailbox.

"If your computer system has ever been infected by a virus, you'll know how much damage it can cause," says Pathway's President Ashok Kalle. "Most viruses today are sent as e-mail attachments and hundreds of new viruses are created and distributed to unsuspecting users each month."

According to the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) at Carnegie Mellon University, 2001 was the worst ever year for hacker attacks on computer systems since it started tracking outbreaks. There were almost 52,000 reported incidents of network intrusions, viruses and attacks on Web sites -- a 200 per cent increase in incidents from the year before. CERT has compiled a list of almost 2,500 system and equipment vulnerabilities during 2001 compared to about 1,000 the year before.

Priced at \$9.99 a year per mailbox, or less than a dollar per month, Pathway's e-mail virus scanning service ensures that e-mails are kept safe from viruses, Trojan horses, worms and other malicious code. This service is offered free to all Pathway corporate clients who have full time, (dedicated) ISDN, DSL or Dual Analog services.

"The real value proposition of our new service is that subscribers to the service can concentrate on their core businesses rather than worry about their virus detection needs," adds Kalle. "Our current and future subscribers can now have peace of mind that we are looking after their virus protection needs 24 hours a day because the cost of a virus entering and playing havoc with a computer system can be incalculable. In fact, our scanning service intercepted over 1,500 instances of the MyParty virus in three days alone."

Should Pathway's scanning software discover a virus in a sent e-mail:

- The software automatically delivers an alert to the **person sending** the infected e-mail informing them that their message contained a virus;
- The virus scanning software attempts to **disinfect (disable) the virus**. If the disinfection is successful, the "cured" file is sent to the mailbox with a message advising that a virus was detected and removed from the inbound e-mail;
- In the rare event that the virus scanning software is **unable to disinfect the virus**, Pathway still delivers the original virus-embedded file to the subscriber's mailbox for record keeping purposes, but includes an alert message advising the subscriber that a virus was detected but could not be disinfected from the inbound e-mail, and that the email should be deleted immediately

"We are constantly asked by our users why their systems have become infected even though they have other anti-virus software installed on their computers," adds Kalle. "Commercially

purchased desktop software requires users to initially purchase virus protection software, configure it, pay an annual subscription fee and perform live virus signature updates regularly. For anti-virus software to be truly effective, users must update their virus signatures each time they log on to the Internet and before checking e-mail. Should they fail to do this, chances are that users are opening their system to access by viruses. Our new anti-virus service performs these tasks, for our subscribers, 24 hours a day without the need for any effort on their part, thus providing a line of defense against viruses for an unmatched price.”

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About Pathway Communications

Established in 1995, Pathway Communications currently offers residential and business customers in the Toronto-Burlington corridor a wide range of high-value Internet services including dial-up and high-speed ISDN and DSL-based business Internet access, server co-location, web hosting and network integration and management services.

It has the distinction of being showcased as a success story by Sun Microsystems and was the first ISP in the world to acquire ISO 9002 certification. The Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario features and uses Pathway as a case study in successful entrepreneurship as part of its MBA curriculum.