

In our sophisticated society it is now a dictum that laws are meant to punish the good people with no effect on the bad people.

So for the anti-spam regulations the authority must first think it through whether the laws will stop the bad netsters. This must be the first item in the agenda. Can the authority catch the really twisted-minded people. We know by now that banks have sufficient regulations, the construction industry has sufficient regulations. Do they do anyone any good. People are still getting away with millions of dollars and people are still getting killed.

Second, the world is turning into a global village and Singaporeans with hotmail, yahoo ... addresses can use the Net. I wonder whether these organisation will review the person behind the address. If it can be tracked when he uses the address in Singapore can he/she be tracked if the address is used in some cyber cafe in Singapore or Malaysia?

Maybe it will be more appropriate to set regulations for the proper use of the Internet. I for one will support users who wants to use the Net for marketing purposes. There are unsolicited mails informing me of seminars and trade fairs and coming events. I might not be interested in most of them but I do not mind. So the regulations should rule that the mail should bear a subject. For example it is to market viagra it should bear the word viagra properly spelt for the subject. If it is insurance, it should bear the word insurance, etc.... The sender should in no way conceal the agenda of its mail.

I hope it can start with this small step and see where we go from here. Until the authority can enforce this we should not be carried away and have regulations for lawyers to find loop holes so that the bad people can get out and the cash-stripped entrepreneurs crippled,

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