

Email boxes full of junk

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John Masanauskas

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AN explosion in email messaging is driving workers and managers to despair as computer systems struggle to cope with the onslaught.

About 250 billion emails are sent globally each day, including some 10 billion in Australia.

Worldwide email traffic is expected to almost double by 2013, with more than 80 per cent of it spam, according to a study by the Radicati Group.

Victorian public school principals are complaining they have insufficient space in their inboxes, and they want the Education Department to increase capacity.

Victorian Principals Association president Gabrielle Leigh said it was an increasing problem.

"A number of people are missing out on some important emails and information because the mailboxes are full," she said. "They're a reasonable size, but the amount of traffic the principal gets every day now is extraordinary."

RMIT University executive director of IT services Allan Morris said there was growing frustration about inbox size.

"What people don't do as well as we should is manage our inboxes - we leave too much in there," he said.

RMIT handled about 73 million emails a month, with 70 million of those spam or junk mail.

"We are generating four times the amount of emails than we did two years ago - it's a bureaucratic, financial and technological burden." "It's probably a social burden too."

Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry head of workplace relations Alexandra Marriott said firms spent a lot of money on IT services and expected employees to use the email system only for business.

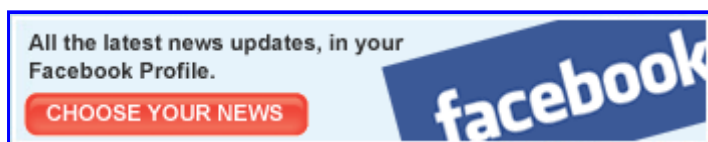
Liberal education spokesman Martin Dixon said school principals were inundated with directives from the department.

"Education Minister Bronwyn Pike and her department need to get off the backs of principals and only email them when it's absolutely urgent," he said.

A department spokeswoman said the EduMail system gave principals and teachers 100 megabyte mailboxes and facilities to archive email at other sites.

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