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Protecting Your Company Against Deadly Online Threats is Mission Critical **Is Your Technology Provider Advising You on What to Do?**

Baton Rouge, LA — November 29, 2010 — While the US economy is still reeling from the recent financial turmoil, small to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are driving the economic recovery. In today's marketplace, the Internet is their gas pedal. Everything, ranging from website marketing to online transactions to web-based meetings to industry research is taking place online. While the Internet has presented businesses with access to an unstinted array of resources, it also brings several dangers. We're all familiar with many of the standard security threats – viruses, SPAM, malware, spyware, etc. – but as technology continues to evolve, business owners face an entirely new set of issues. What are my employees actually doing with their time? Are my employees putting my business at risk? How can I protect my business from internal risks, external risks and risks I haven't even heard of yet?

Many business owners are able to monitor employee web usage. One of the most prevalent issues facing business owners is the decrease in productivity due

to the proliferation of social networking sites, such as Facebook or Myspace. When you walk by in the hallway and see your employees working diligently at their computers, they could very well be flipping through the pictures of their friend's most recent Vegas trip, or chatting online with other friends. Web monitoring software is an easy fix to this type of problem.

Inappropriate sites, such as non-business related sites, and even adult sites pose an alternate risk in that they can be a reservoir for viruses, phishing, spyware and other malicious software. Internet filtering is a quick way to eliminate these risks, yet many businesses are unaware of the preventative steps one can take.

Phishing is the illegal capture of personal data for criminal use, and many times this can result in the accidental dissemination of sensitive information. The legal risks associated with sharing private information can be detrimental to an organization's health and can be prevented through tools such as Web Defense Plans or Network Security.

Maintaining an adequate amount of Internet bandwidth for legitimate business use is also critical because different technologies require larger amounts of data to travel through a finite space. There is a myriad of different safeguards available, yet each technology demands a different application, which is why many SMBs are partnering with Technology Advisors and leveraging their expertise.

While many businesses are looking for ways to eliminate overhead, one fix is by increasing the number of virtual workers at their organization. Oftentimes there is a substantial difference between the amount of security at the office as compared to the security of a home office network.

These threats are dynamic. As long as hackers and criminals are in existence, new threats will follow. This is why many SMBs are taking a long-term view of technology and aligning themselves with Technology Advisors through strategic partnerships. This allows business owners to alleviate their concerns with technology, delegate the management of

their technology to a trusted partner, who can protect their organization *proactively*. In today's global marketplace, leveraging outside resources are keeping SMBs on track and profitable.

ABOUT GAGE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

GAGE Telephone Systems, Inc. was established in 1980 by Gregory A. Wood, Sr. The company's original mission continues today, which is to provide the very best products and services that enable its clients to increase their profitability, obtain a competitive advantage, and improve employee productivity.

GAGE has served the Baton Rouge and South Louisiana business community for nearly 30 years through a culture of striving towards excellence and unparalleled commitment to customer service.

GAGE helps companies of all sizes simplify their technology decisions with straight answers about everything from business telephone systems and computer networking to VoIP and voicemail services. The company conducts a complete needs analysis to ensure that each customer implements the right technology to meet their needs now and into the future.

GAGE has built a strong team of highly experienced and

industry certified voice and data specialists. These individuals proactively assist customers through high level support and strive to exceed their expectations on a daily basis. The team is backed by a fleet of state-of-the-art service vehicles ready to respond to customer calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. GAGE has distinguished itself from the competition by becoming one of the region's leading telecommunications companies.

For more information on GAGE please call (225) 753-4243 or visit <http://www.GAGEtelephone.com>.