

Monitor mobile usage to stay safe

By Dermot Corrigan

Once upon a time it was relatively easy to monitor an organisation's internet use. Staff might be sending personal e-mails on work time, or perhaps reading sports results at their desk. These are not unimportant issues, but are relatively easily manageable with a simple solution.

The explosion of social media and mobile communications technologies has made things more complex, however. Face-

book and Twitter are great ways to waste time, as well as valuable business tools. iPhones and BlackBerries allow staff to work flexibly, but represent potentially dangerous gaps in company networks.

Managing staff's use of mobile devices to access e-mail, internet and company networks was a challenge, said Michael Conway, director of Renaissance Contingency Services.

"The proliferation of the iPhone is a challenge, with people using it for e-mail and internet, and also staff synching it with their company laptop,

which can lead to data leakage issues," said Conway. "People using a company's wireless networks to go online can also lead to issues."

Foley said that the latest web-use monitoring solutions were up to this challenge, however.

"The most recent versions allow you to lock down things like the phone's camera or Bluetooth capabilities, or to remotely wipe data from the phone if needs be," he said. "Pretty soon all the policies you can apply to a desktop or laptop computer will also be applied to a mobile phone."