

offering the sophisticated real-time control mechanisms recommended by Jenkins, the new app does provide the functionality required to pay bills or recharge in addition to charge monitoring. It is available for free from the iTunes store.

Petroc Wilton

Telstra: Mobile market has shrugged off recession

Research conducted by Telsyte suggests that the Australian mobile market continued to grow unabated in the first half of the year, impervious to any hint of recession. According to the analyst firm, the half saw a further million new mobile users added, with other notable findings including evidence of VHA edging ahead of Optus in the 3G space for the first time.

The Telsyte report put mobile penetration at 113% of the population by the end of the half, or 24.5 million mobile devices. It placed Telstra on top in the tally of 3G users, while noting an almost 50% surge in 3G user numbers for rival Optus, and an industry-high ARPU of \$47.5 for VHA. The merged entity comprising Vodafone and 3, noted the analyst firm, had also not only surged to the number two slot in the 3G segment but had now drawn almost even with Optus on the mobile revenue front.

“Mobile broadband, the rapid migration of 2G to 3G, and the Apple iPhone were notable contributors that drive half-year service revenue to enjoy double-digit annual growth,” said research director Warren Chaisatien. “All players, including MVNOs as a group, experienced a year-on-year ARPU rise, thanks to Australians growing love affair with non-voice services, which now make up well over one-third of their mobile bills.”

Telsyte tipped the Australian mobile market for further strong growth going forwards, projecting 116% penetration at year’s end and 129% by 2013. The firm forecast service revenues to grow at an average annual rate of 6.4%, with non-voice revenues anticipated to exceed voice by 2011.

Petroc Wilton

IIA canvasses comment on new draft security code

The Internet Industry Association is marshalling the industry in the battle against botnets, calling for comments on a new draft e-security code for ISPs. The code seeks to stem a rising tide of around 200,000 million spam emails generated each day, fuelled by these networks of compromised ‘zombie’ machines – with an estimated 100,000 zombies currently active in Australia, each capable of churning out 10,000 spam emails daily.

Intended as a voluntary set of guidelines, the code provides a list of actions providers might take in order to tighten up e-security. These include detection of malicious activity via active monitoring or third party notification; actions to be taken on discovery of compromised machines, from speed throttling or temporary suspension to outbound SMTP restrictions and quarantine measures; customer education; and reporting of malicious activity to authorities including AusCERT.

“The industry can do more, especially if it’s in their interests to do more. [The Code] is being done as a voluntary process, and I don’t think it’s being done in any other country in this way, so we’re rather proud of the approach,” IIA communications director John Hilvert told CommsDay. “The government was very pleased; we ran the public view past [department of broadband, communications, and the digital economy] representatives, and we’re happy to acknowledge their support in the process.”

Although some security experts have been raising concerns over the emergence of mobile devices as security threat vectors, the code restricts itself specifically to ISPs – while noting that some of the guidance it provides may be equally applicable in the mobile arena. “If we can get some success with straight ISP account holders, we can maybe learn some lessons there... and the broader lesson of education will hopefully be picked up by mobile users,” said Hilvert.

The code follows a meeting between security vendors, consumer representatives and the IIA earlier this

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