

## Local companies deliver range of high-tech services

Michigan may not be Silicon Valley, but you'd be surprised by some of the high-tech solutions coming out of businesses right in your neighborhood.

Take Greenview Data, an Ann Arbor company that's helping organizations stop the onslaught of spam.

Greenview's SpamStopsHere ([www.spamstophere.com](http://www.spamstophere.com)) is what's known as a server-side solution, meaning it filters out spam before it ever reaches a company's mail servers.

The service actually employs six levels of filtering, which Greenview claims will block 99.5 percent of all spam, without interfering with legitimate e-mail.

Sounds great, right? I was all ready to sign up (especially now that America Online is cruelly shutting down my beloved Mailblocks service -- more on that in a future column) until I learned that SpamStopsHere isn't available for individual users. It's strictly a business product, one designed for companies with at least 1,000 employees.

Bummer! Founder Ted Green, who started Greenview Data back in 1980 (with a then-famous software program called VEDIT), told me that his relatively small shop simply isn't equipped to handle the support needs of a consumer version of SpamStopsHere.

Guess I'll have to find another way to banish spam from my mailbox. But for businesses, SpamStopsHere looks like a killer solution.

Another Ann Arbor company, Ilium Software ([www.iliumsoft.com](http://www.iliumsoft.com)), develops software for PDAs and smartphones.

I'm partial to NewsBreak, which feeds all manner of personalized news and information to your device, and eWallet, a secure (and really handy) database for your account numbers, passwords and other private data. Good stuff.

Of course, not everyone owns a PDA or smartphone, but just about everyone has a cell phone. That's the thinking behind PageBoy ([www.pageboy.biz](http://www.pageboy.biz)), a clever service from North Point Communications of Livonia.

Designed for medical/dental offices and other appointment-driven operations, PageBoy is an automated notification system that sends text-message appointment reminders to patients' cell phones. (E-mail and automated voice reminders are also available.)

According to North Point's Walt Kliza, PageBoy not only saves manpower by automating these important reminders, but also saves money by reducing the number of missed appointments.

Finally, no business, medical or otherwise, should operate without a reliable data-backup system. And by "reliable" I mean something off-site, where it's less likely to be affected by fire, flood, theft or a disgruntled employee.

Enter Acme Data ([www.acmedatallc.com](http://www.acmedatallc.com)), an Oxford-based service that offers remote backups for small- and home-office businesses.

Started by owner Scott Watson in 2003, the company's Remote Data Backup Service works automatically: Just leave your computer on overnight and it transmits the backup

files to Acme Data's servers.

The backup can consist of everything on your system or just the files that have changed since the last backup. Whatever options you choose, everything's encrypted for maximum security.

Prices for the service start at \$29.97 per month, and there's a free 30-day trial.

***Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including How to Do Everything with Musicmatch and 101 Killer Apps for Your Palm Handheld. He welcomes questions sent to [rick.broida@gmail.com](mailto:rick.broida@gmail.com).***

**Originally published November 3, 2005**