

IM - Anyone there? -

(http://headhuntress.typepad.com/the_headhuntress_blog/2007/07/im---anyone-the.html)

I received an Instant Message (IM) the other night - an after mid-night, "*you may not believe who this is*" - IM. Has the blind IM replaced the "drunk dial"? My curiosity died after a few days, but it did leave me thinking. IM is a tool we all use regularly, as much in business as in our personal lives. We IM clients, friends, peers who sit two feet away - it's the new whisper. Is that a good thing?

It gives immediate access; you know when someone is online, available. It *is* great for client interaction - we know when they are available and can schedule a meeting in under two minutes - in that way - it's incredibly efficient. With colleagues, we can gain immediate information - If I'm on the phone and need available times to schedule an interview - I instant message my recruiter for that information. Candidates too - they IM without the boss over hearing - my own boss IM's me all the time - "Hey JT, do you have...." It allows for smarter, more efficient work habits, and discretion where needed - Bottom-line: I love the time it saves.

So - we block our mystery friend who blind emails at midnight asking "anyone there?", and ignore (omg-ttyl!) the friend who asks you out for sushi every other day, and Mom - who just discovered IM and thinks it's hilarious - well, you patiently explain what "brb" means.

Whether for business or personal use - IM works more than it doesn't. That's enough for me.