This Month At NOPC

Steve White
from
Franklin Covey
will demonstrate

**Tablet PC's
IO Pens
Palm Pilots**

Inside this issue:

Spam Celebrates Silver Jubilee

One of the most annoying aspects of the internet, spam, is 25 years old this weekend.

Net historians have trawled records and found that the first junk e-mail message hawking a company or its wares was sent back in 1978.

Coincidentally, the first commercial spam sent to Usenet discussion groups was sent a little over 10 years ago.

Now spam is thought to account for up to 40% of all e-mail messages sent across the net and many industry groups, companies and technologists are uniting to fight the flood.

Hawking history

Research by net alumni Brad Templeton has found that the first spam message was sent back in the days when the internet was known as Arpanet.

By 1978 Arpanet had been operating for about nine years and was letting lots of people at universities and government bodies swap e-mail.

On 3 May a marketing executive at Digital Equipment Corporation, a leading maker of minicomputers, decided to send all West Coast Arpanet users a message about an open day that would show off its new range of machines.

The message generated huge controversy within the Arpanet community, partly because it was so poorly written and because it clearly broke the nascent network's acceptable use policy.

As a research aid, e-mail messages on Arpanet were supposed to be non-commercial.

This messages pre-dated the use of the term "spam" which has subsequently become applied to junk mail thanks to a Monty Python sketch in which customers of a restaurant are offered spam with everything.

Mr. Templeton has also found the first use of the term "spam" to describe a junk e-mail message.

On 31 March 1993 Usenet administrator Richard Depew inadvertently posted the same message 200 times to a discussion group.

Adopting a term previously used in online text games, outraged Usenet users branded the excessive message posting "spam".

Another milestone in the history of spam took place in April 1994 when Arizona law firm Canter and Siegel posted a message about green card lottery services to hundreds of Usenet discussion groups.

From there spam has grown and grown and now, according to figures from spam stopper Brightmail, accounts for 40% of all e-mail traffic. In 2001, spam was only 8% of all e-mail traffic.

Not only does spam annoy people, most of the offers made in the messages are bogus.

A study for the US Federal Trade Commission found that almost 66% of the 1,000 junk mail messages scrutinized were false in some way.

The report lends credence to speculation that spammers send the messages only to entice people to respond so they can draw up a huge list of live e-mail addresses that they can then sell on to others.

Submitted by Mike Clark

Story from BBC News 2003/05/04

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/technology/2996319.stm

The Flea Market will not be held this year….

Proposed Spam Bill Would Favor Mass Mailers
By Roy Mark

Reps. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin (R.-La.) and F. James Sensenbrenner (R.-Wis.) are preparing to introduce junk e-mail legislation that provides a measure of consumer protection from spam but mostly favors businesses that want to continue to exploit the advertising potential of mass e-mails.

According to a draft copy of the bill obtained by The Washington Post, the bill would require e-mailers to provide accurate electronic and physical addresses, prohibit harvesting of e-mail addresses and allow consumers to opt-out of e-mail offerings.

However, the legislation, which may be introduced as early as this week, would supercede tougher state anti-spam state laws, bar consumers from suing mass e-mailers and allow companies to send e-mail to anyone who has done business with the companies within the previous three years.

http://dc.internet.com/news/article.php/2205491

Submitted by John Souvestre

Fizzer Worm Is on the Move
By Dennis Fisher

The Fizzer worm continued to spread rapidly late Monday afternoon as anti-virus experts raced to analyze the code of what they called one of the more complex worms in recent memory. First seen late last week, Fizzer began spreading in Asia initially but then hit Europe and North American hard Monday as office workers started to open e-mails received over the weekend.

As of 4:30 EDT Monday, MessageLabs Inc., a managed service provider in New York that tracks virus activity, had seen more than 25,000 copies of the worm, making it the fifth-most prevalent virus on the Internet this month.

"This is one of the more complicated worms we've seen", comments Mikko Hypponen, manager of anti-virus research at F-Secure Corp., based in Helsinki, Finland. "The worm is 200kB of code spaghetti, containing backdoors, code droppers, attack agents, key loggers and even a small Web server."

The new worm has several other capabilities that make it particularly troubling and dangerous. Fizzer includes an IRC bot that attempts to connect to a number of different IRC servers and, once it establishes a connection, listens passively for further instructions. This kind of activity is often the precursor to a distributed DoS (denial-of-service) attack. The worm also has the ability to create a new user account on AIM (AOL Instant Messenger), join a chat session and then listen for instructions.

But perhaps the most interesting aspect of Fizzer is the HTTP server it contains. The server runs on a configured TCP port and in effect acts as a command console, according to an analysis of the worm by the AVERT team at McAfee Security, part of Network Associates Inc., in Santa Clara, Calif. The console gives the attacker a wealth of information about the infected system, such as its operating system, connection information, and IRC and AIM data.

The HTTP server also gives the attacker the ability to remotely launch DoS attacks, further propagate the work via e-mail, issue commands to the IRC and AIM bots, and kill anti-virus applications.

The keystroke logger records every typed letter and saves the log in an encrypted file on the infected machine. If the infected PC has the Kazaa file-sharing program installed, Fizzer also has the ability to find the default download location for Kazaa files and copy itself to that folder. It will have a random file-name and could easily be mistaken for a media file and downloaded by another Kazaa user.

At its heart, Fizzer is a mass-mailing worm that arrives in users' mailboxes in an e-mail with a random subject line and body text. The attachment containing the worm is an executable file, but has a random name and may also have a random file extension that disguises the fact that it is an executable.

Source: eweek

http://www.eweek.com/print-article/0,3668,a=41494,00.asp

May 12, 2003

Make Web Text Larger

If you have trouble reading the text on a Web page, you can make it larger and easier to read. To do this, from the View menu, select Text Size (in IE 5 and above) or Fonts (in IE 4). Select the Larger or Largest text size from the list for easier viewing.

Source: Space Coast PC Journal, June 2003, Page 14

What is a Pirate?

Of course I am not talking about bearded men living on ships with tattoos, hooked hands and wooden legs. In the software industry, a pirate is someone (anyone) who copies a software program, whether they bought it or not. Most End User License Agreements (EULAs) allow you to make one backup and use the program on one other computer, like a laptop. Some don't even allow you to do that. Some state you can't sell or rent the program or use it on more than one computer-ever.

What if you applied such a restrictive condition to other things you buy, like a car, for instance. The car costs you 30 times what it costs to make it in Detroit. But if you buy it, you can drive it but your wife and children may not. You can't sell or rent this car, and you really don't own it. Then, there's a twenty-five cent disk, with ten dollars worth of packaging and twenty dollars worth of printing, that sells for eight hundred dollars.

In the early eighties, when DOS was on a floppy and a floppy was a floppy on the **IBM 8088 with 256k RAM,** Microsoft (a baby company which I wish I had bought stock in) could largely attribute its existence and future to a program called Lotus 1-2-3. You put your $5^1/4$-inch floppy disk in to load DOS 2.x (Windows was not yet available) and it loaded DOS into RAM. Then you took that disk out of the floppy and put in another floppy with Lotus 1-2-3 on it, and built a spreadsheet on an amber monitor (color monitors were too expensive to justify). I cut my teeth on with computers on such a system and on an IBM System 32 mainframe that used programs written in Cobol. My position as the Inventory Control Supervisor afforded me the opportunity to learn Lotus 1-2-3, the hottest thing in business software at the time. Businesses bought computers that ran DOS just to use Lotus 1-2-3.

Lotus was a little slow in developing a Graphic User Interface (GUI), and Microsoft seized the opportunity to excel with their Excel program and develop the office suite we know as MS Office, which ultimately dwarfed Lotus and the upstart Quattro Pro.

Back in those early years, I pirated (copied) the Lotus 1-2-3 DOS version that I used primarily to learn how to use it. This had benefits to me for educational purposes. The free-use clause in the copyright law excludes educational use, but it only applies to educational institutions. I think it should apply to all not-for-profit use. Most loss of revenue due to "piracy" takes place overseas by counterfeiters, not by Joe Blow in his living room. This is the reason the software companies go after the corporations that "pirate" software rather than the common man. It's all about money. Corporations have deeper pockets and prosecuting individuals would be bad public relations. But aside from that, the "software companies application of the law," which is usually the one upheld by the courts, makes most everyone in America from age 9 up a criminal.

My copying and learning Lotus had benefits for Lotus, too. I was able to master it and promote at other companies. When I began to use it in a personal business for profit, I bought a legal copy. I then felt it was no longer for education, and if I used it in any way to profit, I should purchase it. I still have the old DOS version of Lotus 1-2-3 on $5^1/4$-inch floppies, which are pretty much worthless now, but I paid what was an enormous amount of money for me at the time. I bought Lotus Smart Suite more recently; Excel's dominance of the market has made the price of Lotus and Corel Office pretty cheap. I use mostly a legally purchased copy of Excel these days. Apply the law literally, the software developer's way, and I committed a criminal act.

So, what's the solution? Back in the early days, when you actually got a printed manual with everything, it seemed easy for me-make software cheap (under $50 for anything) and it would be more expensive to du-

plicate than to buy. It seems to me that the price gouging some software companies were guilty of, in my opinion, made them the real "pirates." This may be rationalizing, but there is a lot of truth to it.

I believe a company should be able to fix price, even if they have no competition, or drive the competition out of business, as long as when I pay their price, the property is mine. That means I can copy it, loan it, resell it, etc.-just like a car. If I can't do all that, then just like there are usury laws to prevent companies from exploiting the poor, there should be laws fixing software prices within everyone's income level. That's not going to happen, nor should it, but the software companies have been having their cake and eating it too, and the individual who can't afford five, six, eight hundred dollars, or more, for one program has been demonized as a "pirate." I will leave it to you to decide who is the pirate.

These days software vendors have moved away from fancy packaging and no longer provide manuals. Help and upgrades are online and vendors have distanced from the customer as much as possible. The public has rebelled against inequities in the law, and the backlash caused by the software developer's demonization of the public has driven the public to "pirate" even more. Today a large percentage of computer users use KaZaa.com and imesh.com to download anything they want. Napster made a big noise in the news a year ago, but morpheus.com makes napster.com look mild in comparison.

Why do some sites get away with it and others don't? Because they are not located in America. They are hosted in a country where America has no jurisdiction. Software prices continue to get ridiculously high, but the software industry would be quick to blame this on all the money they are losing to "pirates."

There's another factor too-what is legal or ethical? Laws change. What was legally acceptable last year may be illegal today, and vise-versa. This brings us to the question of what should be legal or what is ethical. Are the consumers getting a fair shake, and are the software developers who charge enough for some network solutions to buy a house getting a fair shake?

You decide.

Peter Coffee wrote an article in *eWeek* magazine last month where he said, "When legislators make foolish laws, or courts enforce laws foolishly, they teach people to justify doing whatever they want. In particular, when teenagers spend their formative years acquiring contempt for laws that are made by the ignorant at the behest of the selfish, I fear for the consequences when those young people become our next generation of leaders." *(eWeek* February 3, 2003, page 45)

Mr. Coffee has a good point. The music industry and the software industry have failed to understand their reason for being. I am not trying to encourage anyone to "pirate" software, but I would like you to realize that the issue is extremely complex, and the moral ramifications are vastly vague. If the laws are changed, I believe they should be relaxed rather than tightened. But that is unlikely since the software industry has all the lobbyists and the power of money is on it's side, and bribing a politician is illegal, unless you are a lobbyist or Political Action Committee.

"There are no bugs in our software! Never, I tell you!"

Disable Animated GIFs, IE 5/6

To disable animated GIFs, select Internet Options from the Tools menu and click the Advanced tab. Scroll down to the Multimedia section, un-check the Play Animations option and click OK. From now on, you'll see only the first frame of each animated GIF that loads.

Little Bits

Categorize E-mail

Outlook can help you assign categories automatically to your e-mail based on the identity of the recipient or the contents of the message. To set up a rule for assigning a category, from the Tools menu, choose Rules Wizard, then click the New button. To categorize your outgoing messages based on their recipients, choose Assign Categories To Sent Messages. To categorize messages received from others based on their content, choose Assign Categories Based On Content. Then step through the Wizard and select the types of messages to which the rule should apply.

Does a Faster Drive Mean a Faster System?

Installing a fast hard drive is great, but you'll need to follow our recommendations to make sure your system gets a speed boost

You may notice a fairly good increase in speed. Then again, you may notice no difference at all.

The faster the hard drive, the faster your operating system and its applications load, and the faster any kind of disk access executes. If your operating system is installed on the slower drive, however, some important files from many apps will also load on that drive, even if you install the applications themselves on your faster drive. In such a case, the slower drive will slow those apps.

If you do buy a new, faster drive, the best approach is to put your operating system and the applications you use most frequently on the faster drive. It's also important to keep the drive defragmented, so you don't defeat your speed advantage.

Before buying a drive, however, there are a number of things to keep in mind. First, you can put a maxi-mum of four IDE/ATA drives into your system, no matter how you mix and match. That includes hard drives, DVD drives, CD-ROM drives, and CD burners. Second, if you want your ATA-100 drive to operate at its top speed, you must have a drive controller designed for that speed (either on the motherboard or as a separate peripheral card). Furthermore, your system's BIOS must also support that speed.

Delete Data, Microsoft Excel

There are several ways to delete data from worksheet cells. To clear information but not formatting, select the data, then press either the Delete or Backspace key. To remove formatting, select the cells, choose Clear from the Edit menu, then select Formats. To remove both information and formatting, select the cells, choose Clear from the Edit menu, then select All.

Erratic Behavior May Mean Virus, Win98SE

A vicious worm can cause several nasty symptoms, including shuffling icons and a malfunctioning WordPad.

- When Windows 98 SE starts, a message box pops up, saying that it cannot find the file Iexplore.exe (or one of its components).
- Every time I start Internet Explorer, it alters the file Riched20.dll, which prevents Word-Pad from working. I found this line in System.ini file: SHELL=EXPLORER.EXE IEXPLORE.EXE.
- When I put my mouse pointer near my Desktop icons, they shuffle and move around. I haven't changed anything recently, but now an error message appears reading Failed to create empty document when I open WordPad.
- What do all these problems have in common? They all have the same answer. The problem is caused by a virus (or Trojan horse). The Nimda worm meddles with Riched20.dll and prevents WordPad from working properly.

A number of viruses make Desktop icons move around, including the rather nasty Magistr e-mail virus. Some Trojans install themselves using the SHELL= line in System.ini, using a safe-looking filename like IEXPLORE.EXE.

If your computer starts acting strangely, that doesn't automatically prove it has a virus, but after noticing odd behavior, your first step should be to update your antivirus software and run a full system scan. If you're not running an antivirus program, your computer is wide open to a vast range of malicious software.

Reprinted from "The Space Coast PC Journal", June 2003

June Speaker

At our June meeting, Steve White will be showing us some new technology products, specifically the IO Pen from Logitech, the most recent Palmpilots and the new Tablet PC's. Steve and his team will demonstrate these products and answer questions. This will be a great opportunity to see these gadgets up close and personal and learn how they can help you at work and home.

Steve has been with FranklinCovey for nearly eight years in various roles as Assistant Manager, Store Manager and for the past year Business Outreach Coordinator.

Another "Virus" Report

It seems that a virus is out there called the C-nile Virus that even the most advanced Antivirus programs cannot take care of, so be warned.
Symptoms of C-nile Virus (Pronounced SENILE)
Note: It appears to mainly affect those of us who were born before 1958!
1. Causes you to send same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send back to person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to wonder who all the people in your address book are.
7. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished the…

Submittted by Jeanne Okamoto

Suggestion for Prospective Computer Buyers

KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE COMPUTER CONTAINS: A recent example involved the purchase of a new notebook (formerly referred to as a laptop) computer. The manufacturer's literature includes the following information:

Media Drives

Allows information to be stored on discs and transported from PC to PC.
Floppy Drive
Integrated 6 In 1 memory card reader

Expecting to receive a computer with a drive that would handle six different storage media, including as one of them, the ability to handle 1.44-megabyte floppy disks, the buyer was surprised that the unit did not include a slot that would even fit a standard 3.5" disk. With the new User's Guide in hand, the buyer finds the `small print'. It turns out that the six card types the unit supports are CompactFlash®, IBM Microdrive, Memory Stick®, MultiMediaCard, Secure Digital, and SmartMedia. Also in the User's Guide, the new owner is advised that, "...if you need to use a diskette drive, the manufacturer recommends purchasing a USB diskette drive, followed with the manufacturer's many easy to use contact addresses. An additional consideration may involve the need for a USB hub, depending on the total requirements for this type of connection.
Ah yes, another satisfied customer.

Submitted by Carl Henderson

Fed Up With Doubleclick cookies?

I don't remember where I saw this, but some of you may have noticed that if you use AdAware or another spyware sniffer, it usually finds a cookie by Doubleclick on your machine. Take it off and it will be right back. They actually provide a way to opt out of that situation. Point your browser to [http://www.doublcclick.com/us/corporate/privacy/privacy/ad-cookie/].One click at the bottom will do it, but be sure to read the caveat on their Web site. After opting out, it tells you which cookie NOT to delete; otherwise you have just defeated your objective.

Borrowed from the "Space Coast PC Journal: June, 2003 Edition
Editor: Check out this Club's newsletter which is published online: http://scpcug.com

NOPCC Directory

Elected Officers

President	Ray Paternostro	president@nopc.org	737-9099
Vice President	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	vp@nopc.org	246-7759
Secretary	Carl Henderson	secretary@nopc.org	466-3954
Treasurer	Don Herrmann	treasurer@nopc.org	831-1284
Director At Large	Louis G. Dutel, Jr.	director1@nopc.org	831-0055
Director At Large	Clarke Kissel	director2@nopc.org	828-5678
Director At Large	Albert Fox	director3@nopc.org	269-5786

Standing Committees

BBS SysOp	Lanny Goldfinch	sysop@nopc.org	482-5066
Newsletter Editor	Edward Jahncke	editor@nopc.org	897-1205
Public Relations	Jeannie Okamoto	pr@nopc.org	455-0977
Publicity	Jackie Elliott	publicity@nopc.org	455-6203
Webmaster	Manuel Dennis III	webmaster@nopc.org	835-7656

Special Interest Groups

Digital Media	Ray Paternostro	dm@nopc.org	737-9099
Genealogy	Bob Gordon	gene-m@nopc.org	469-4686
Internet	Ray Paternostro	internet-m@nopc.org	737-9099
New Users	Don Herrmann	new-user-m@nopc.org	831-1284
VBLG	Manuel Dennis III	vblg-owner@listbot.com	835-7656
Web Development	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	web@nopc.org	246-7759
WADSIG	Manuel Dennis III	wadsig-owner@listbot.com	835-7656
Web Lab	Sherrie K. Henne		913-5638

Other Important Numbers / Addresses
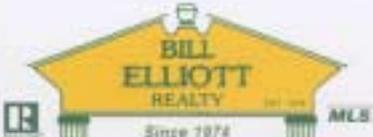
Club Hotline	Recorded messages. Meeting Information. Open 24 Hours	887-5746
NOPCC BBS	Bulletin Board System for members. The original way to PC communicate.	486-7249
NOPCC Web Site	On the World Wide Web. Our own home page and club information.	*www.nopc.org*

June 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Computer Solutions WSMB Radio 1350AM 11:00a-12:00p	**2** *VBLG McCann's 6:30p-8:30p*	**3**	**4 NOPC** *Monthly Meeting* **J.D. Meisler School 6:30P-9:00P**	**5** *WEB SIG McCann's 6:00p-9:00p*	**6**	**7** *Living with Home Electronics WTIX Radio 690AM 10:00a-11:00a*
8 Computer Solutions WSMB Radio 1350AM 11:00a-12:00p	**9** *VBLG McCann's 6:30p-8:30p*	**10** *Genealogy SIG McCann's 7:00p-8:30p*	**11** *NOPC Board of Directors Meeting McCann 's 6:30p-8:30p*	**12** *NOPC Web Lab McCann's 6:30p-8:30p*	**13**	**14** *Living with Home Electronics WTIX Radio 690AM 10:00a-11:00a*
15 Computer Solutions WSMB Radio 1350AM 11:00a-12:00p	**16** *VBLG McCann's 6:30p-8:30p*	**17**	**18**	**19** *New User's SIG McCann's 6:30P-8:30p*	**20**	**21** *Living with Home Electronics WTIX Radio 690AM 10:00a-11:00a*
22 Computer Solutions WSMB Radio 1350AM 11:00a-12:00p	**23** *VBLG McCann's 6:30p-8:30p*	**24**	**25** *Digital Media SIG—McCann's 7:00p-9:00p*	**26** *Internet SIG McCann's 7:00p-9:00p*	**27**	**28** *Living with Home Electronics WTIX Radio 690AM 10:00a-11:00a*
29 Computer Solutions WSMB Radio 1350AM 11:00a-12:00p	**30** *VBLG McCann's 6:30p-8:30p*					

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club (NOPCC) is a private non-profit organization chartered under the State of Louisiana. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for discussion and education of the membership in the use and application of PCs, peripheral equipment and software. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the NOPCC , its members or its officers. The club does not verify for accuracy the articles in this newsletter and leaves verification of accuracy to its readers. Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated as long as credit is given to the author (s) and the NOPCC. Annual Dues Schedule: Regular Member, $40/yr.; Family Membership, $60/yr.; and Students (under 21) , $20/yr. Meetings are held at 6:30 on the 1st Wednesday of each month at J.D. Meisler Jr. High School on Cleary Avenue in Metairie, Louisiana.

New Orleans Personal Computer Club
P. O. Box 8364
Metairie, Louisiana 70011