

New virus aids spammers

Submitted by: Perfectly Picked

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Judgement day for MyDoom/Novarg.A as spoof addresses encourage spam

BlackSpider Technologies, a world-leader in e-mail content filtering services, today warned users to take double care with the latest virus to hit our computers.

MyDoom/Novarg.A is an e-mail virus that is capable of opening a back door in computers which will give access to hackers. MyDoom harvests e-mail addresses from the hard disk and then uses randomly-chosen addresses in both the to and from fields, spoofing the e-mail addresses, so that if users receive this virus, they don't know where the original mail really came from. This means that when anti-virus solutions are set up to inform senders that they have forwarded a virus, they are often not the real originators and companies are themselves unintentionally but effectively becoming a source of junk e-mail.

This virus is particularly threatening as it essentially creates three types of attack said James Kay, Technical Director at BlackSpider Technologies. One, on an organisation's own internal mail system, the second by opening a back door to hackers and thirdly on the organisation's external internet pipe (by increasing bandwidth usage sending out notifications to senders)

This side effect of spoof e-mail addresses is a little-known reason for users to take extra care, according to Kay. Basically, users all over the world are receiving emails saying that they have a virus when they most likely have not, because MyDoom spoofed their email address stated Kay. The problem with this is that fear is instilled in users unnecessarily, the anti-virus vendors get the opportunity to effectively spam users warning them of the risks of a virus they might not even have, and ultimately the virus writer wins as they are using up valuable network bandwidth, which costs businesses time and money.

The solution? At BlackSpider, we actively encourage our customers not to tell their senders that there is a virus as we recognise that nowadays many viruses spoof email addresses, and we don't want our customers to end up being a source of spam, said John Cheney, CEO, BlackSpider. We urge organisations to ensure that their anti-virus tools are kept up-to-date at the very least, and would always recommend a belt and braces approach to security, which a managed service such as BlackSpiders MailControl provides.

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For more information on BlackSpider Technologies please call:

Emma Dunstone on +44 (0)118 965 3700 emma.dunstone@blackspider.com

About BlackSpider Technologies:

BlackSpider Technologies (www.blackspider.com) is a managed services provider, focused exclusively on the provision of high-performance e-mail security solutions. BlackSpider delivers e-mail content filtering services to organisations, enabling them to block the growing tide of spam and e-mail borne computer viruses before they enter company networks.

BlackSpiders MailControl service requires no software or hardware and combines leading-edge technology with a world-class infrastructure and coverage 24 x 7. Customers choosing MailControl enjoy demonstrably higher levels of protection; retaining full control of their e-mail security whilst at the same time realising significant cost savings against managing alternative solutions in-house.

BlackSpider recently received £4.6m in funding from Cazenove Private Equity to fund its European expansion.

For sales information contact +44 (0)118 965 3700