

Webroot Urges Internet Users to Practise Safe Online Habits Whilst 'Betting' During this Year's Grand National

Submitted by: Hothouse Communications

Thursday, 2 April 2009

Press Release

Webroot Urges Internet Users to Practise Safe Online Habits Whilst 'Betting' During this Year's Grand National

- cyber criminals improve their chances of stealing personal data by regularly updating malware
- free computer scan for virus and spyware offered

BRACKNELL U.K., 2nd April 2009 — Webroot, a leading provider of security solutions for the consumer, enterprise and SME markets, urges Internet users to use caution when visiting horse-racing websites and placing online bets in the run up to this year's Grand National taking place on Saturday 4th April, as cyber criminals improve their chances of stealing users' personal information.

Webroot's Threat Research team has reported an increase in the number of keyloggers being rapidly updated by the malware authors who created them. Classified as some of the most dangerous computer security threats, keyloggers can sit quietly on a PC, tracking and recording a user's individual keystrokes, making it easy for spyware criminals to steal personal and financial information such as credit card numbers and passwords.

Nick Banks, Managing Director EMEA of Webroot's Consumer Business Unit explains, "At Webroot, we're seeing a trend that shows cyber criminals are becoming more sophisticated and dedicated to challenging anti-malware vendors. Since January 2008, 44 percent of the keyloggers identified by our automated threat research method have been updated, while 28 percent of new keyloggers identified so far this year have already been updated. Hackers churn out updates or new variants to get past detection at the desktop, so that they can continue to harvest personal information unchallenged. Our advice to all PC users is to make sure you are running the latest version of a reputable antivirus program or an Internet security suite and practise safe online habits when providing any personal data over the Internet. That includes financial information when betting online."

The Grand National is one of the country's most prestigious horse-racing events and one of the world's greatest sporting spectacles. Each year 40 horses line-up to tackle the four and a half mile, 30-fence, course at Aintree. With such an event comes an increase in online activity due to both watching the horse race and placing bets. Every year, people are directed to the internet to place their bets, and this year many bookmakers are offering new customers free bets worth between £10 and £100 if they bet online.

To help Internet users ensure the safety of their PC and private information, Webroot is offering a free computer scan to check for spyware, viruses and other threatening forms of malware.

For tips from Webroot about protection against Internet security threats, please visit the Webroot Security Center. For additional insights into current threats and trends, visit the Webroot Threat Blog at <http://blog.webroot.com>.

About Webroot

Webroot, a Boulder, Colorado-based company provides industry-leading security solutions to consumers, enterprises and small to medium-sized businesses worldwide. To learn more, visit www.webroot.co.uk or call 0870 3516 788.

© 2009 Webroot Software, Inc. All rights reserved. Webroot is a trademark or registered trademark of Webroot Software, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries. Webroot Limited registered office: 17 Westminster Court, Woking, Surrey GU22 9LG, England

For further information, or for a photograph of Nick Banks, Managing Director EMEA Webroot Consumer Business Unit, please contact:

Paula Averley, hothouse, t.020 8224 9933, m.07766 257776