

Re: <<SBS news this week – August 20, 2004>>

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/BackOffice/microsoft.public.backoffice.smallbiz/2004-08/0377.html>

From: Susan Bradley, CPA aka Ebitz – SBS Rocks [MVP] (sbradcpa_at_pacbell.net)

Date: 08/25/04

Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2004 14:54:13 -0700

rtf

Susan Bradley, CPA aka Ebitz – SBS Rocks [MVP] wrote:

- > *Kevin's song of the week [a classic]*
- > news://msnews.microsoft.com/ukCcLj3hEHA.356@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl
- > -----
- >
- > **SHAMELESS PLUG**
- > -----
- > **TIME IS RUNNING OUT!**
- > <http://www.smbnation.com>
- > *Sept 9–13*
- > <http://www.smbnation.com/schedule.htm>
- >
- > *Choose the business track or the tech track. Also there is rumors that*
- > *there will be a audio mp3s available for purchase afterwards.*
- > *Now granted, I'm biased because I'm speaking there, but honestly, when*
- > *you have a chance to meet up with your fellow IT pros that work in the*
- > *same marketplace you do, put faces with email addresses and just ooze*
- > *geek stuff for days without anyone rolling their eyes, it's a treat.*
- > -----
- >
- > *XP sp2*
- > *Remember it's hitting the AU on August 25*
- > *I used Shavlik to push out to the fleet on Friday night and did a*
- > *"staggered" push to a few workstation at a time. So far my only issue*
- > *has been with a laptop that had two copies of AOL on there [and I think*
- > *the funky dialer toasted the tcp/ip stack. Other than that, no other*
- > *issues.*
- > -----
- > *Should I wait until my vendors approve SP2?*
- > *I've seen several articles about vendors saying "we haven't tested for*
- > *SP2" and while there were some modifications post RC2, I've found that*
- > *all of my applications work just fine*
- >
- > *My take? Don't wait for the vendors to "sign off" on this. Do your own*
- > *testing, contact your clients and arrange for time to roll out this*

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> *service pack.*

> -----

> *Quickbooks blog talks about the changes*

> http://quickbooks_online_blog.typepad.com/blogmain/2004/08/xp_sp2.html

> -----

>

> *John Eddy [at one time a SBS MVP lead and now newsgroup administrator]*

> *Asks how can Microsoft improve newsgroups?*

> <http://blogs.msdn.com/mscommunity/archive/2004/08/18/216709.aspx>

>

> -----

> *Interesting post on why Dana Epp, Security Guru is interested in SBS 2003*

> <http://silverstr.ufies.org/blog/archives/000674.html>

>

> -----

> *In other news...*

> -----

> *Possible security breach seen at AOL*

> *America Online Inc. is acknowledging an "issue"*

> *that allowed some of its members to gain access*

> *to online financial portfolios of other members.*

> *But the Internet service provider downplayed the*

> *incident, saying no personal identifying information*

> *such as usernames or credit card numbers was ever*

> *compromised.*

> <http://computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/holes/story/0,10801,95394,00.html>

>

> -----

> *New Download.Ject worm variant appears*

> *Users who have not yet installed the three out-of-*

> *cycle patches contained in Microsoft Corp.'s July*

> *30 security bulletin MS04-25 now have another reason*

> *to do so immediately. A new version of a worm called*

> *Download.Ject takes advantage of one of the flaws*

> *fixed by the patches and has begun circulating*

> *online, according to Thor Larholm, a researcher*

> *at PivX Solutions Inc. Like its predecessor,*

> *the new version of Dowload.Ject infects*

> *vulnerable systems with a Trojan horse*

> *and a keystroke logger.*

> <http://computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,95387,00.html>

>

> <http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/index.cfm?go=news.view&news=4084>

> http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/20/im_worm/

> -----

> *Yahoo mail flaws fixed*

> *Yahoo fixed two flaws in its free mail system*

> *that could have allowed a malicious user to read*

> *a victim's browser cookies and change the appearance*

> *of some pages, Yahoo said on Thursday. A representative*

> *of the company said the flaws were fixed last month*

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- > *by making changes on the company's Yahoo Mail servers.*
- > <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0,39020375,39164139,00.htm>
- > -----
- > *Faked voice mails tout stock in latest investor scam*
- > *Investors are being told to be wary if they receive*
- > *a friendly sounding voicemail from a female stranger*
- > *offering a hot stock tip. It could be a new investor*
- > *scam that hundreds of people have complained about*
- > *recently. The Securities and Exchange Commission*
- > *issued an investor alert on Friday, warning of the*
- > *so-called "wrong-number" stock touts, which have*
- > *reached home answering machines across the country.*
- > <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/business/technology/9454065.htm>
- > <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17061-2004Aug19.html>
- > -----
- > *Researchers spot XP SP2 security weakness*
- > *Security researchers believe they have discovered*
- > *a weakness in the new security given to Windows*
- > *XP by the recently unveiled Service Pack 2 (SP2).*
- > *Since XP SP2 was released, activists have been*
- > *searching for weaknesses in the security-focused*
- > *service pack. Microsoft yesterday dismissed claims*
- > *by German researchers to already have discovered*
- > *a flaw.*
- > <http://www.vnunet.com/news/1157493>
- > http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105_2-5318358.html
- >
- > *Microsoft sends security update to home PCs*
- > *Microsoft has started to send out its latest major*
- > *security patch to home PCs — but some people won't*
- > *get it for a while. The first computer owners to*
- > *get Windows XP Service Pack 2 began receiving it*
- > *on Wednesday night, Microsoft said. The update is*
- > *being sent to people who have the automatic update*
- > *feature turned on in the operating system. But it*
- > *will take at least a few weeks to deliver the 80-*
- > *plus megabyte patch to the installed user base,*
- > *a company representative said on Thursday.*
- > <http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040820.gtpatchaug20/BNStory/Technology/>
- >
- >
- > *SP2 trickles down to home PCs*
- > <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/windows/0,39020396,39164136,00.htm>
- > *Stumbling over SP2*
- > http://news.com.com/Stumbling+over+SP2/2010-1002_3-5316980.html
- > -----
- > *Software Doesn't Break Laws...*
- > *What do file-sharing companies and the National Rifle*
- > *Association have in common? A common legal argument,*
- > *that's what. The entertainment industry's multi-year*
- > *legal war to stamp out illegal online file-sharing*

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- > was dealt a major blow yesterday when a federal court
- > said that two major peer-to-peer software firms can't
- > be held liable for the copyright-infringing activities
- > of their users.
- > <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A18302-2004Aug20.html>
- > <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/9449500.htm>
- > <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/20/technology/20digital.html>
- > <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/9374>
- > http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1104_2-5318335.html
- >
- > File-sharing firms get big court win
- > <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/business/technology/9449460.htm>
- > Hackers enable iTunes swapping
- > <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0.39020375.39164137.00.htm>
- > -----
- > Cell phones and kids: Do they mix?
- > It wasn't so long ago that parents asked their teenagers
- > to double-check that they had a quarter so they could
- > call home, if need be. Then came cell phones. In 2000,
- > just 5 percent of 13- to 17-year olds had cell phones.
- > Today, 56 percent do, according to Linda Barrabee,
- > wireless market analyst for The Yankee Group. Teens
- > aren't just using their phones to talk. From rapid-fire
- > "texting" to full-fledged Web browsing to videos and
- > video games, cell phones have become portable computers.
- > And that's opened up a whole new set of concerns.
- > <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5671445/>
- > -----
- > Cyberterrorism: concept, terms, counteraction
- > Distribution of weapons of mass destruction,
- > transnational organized crime, drug selling business
- > and international terrorism are the principal threats
- > to security of modern world taking into account
- > present-day conditions. Due to its scales and
- > abruptness nowadays terrorism turned into one
- > of the most dangerous social and moral problems
- > that humanity faced in the 21 century.
- > <http://www.crime-research.org/articles/579/>
- > -----
- > Should your provider block access to websites containing child porn?
- > Polls held in European countries show that lately,
- > so many paedophilia-related scandals have shaken
- > Europe that most citizens vote for toughening
- > penalties for juvenile molesters, However, in
- > opinion of experts, paedophiles earn on scenes
- > with violence and killings more than 3bn EUR
- > in Europe. According to the Interpol, main
- > suppliers of such materials are Taiwan,
- > Vietnam, Ukraine and Russia.
- > <http://www.crime-research.org/news/20.08.2004/573/>
- > -----

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- > *Opinion: Cryptanalysis of MD5 and SHA: Time for a new standard*
- > *At the Crypto 2004 conference in Santa Barbara,*
- > *Calif., this week, researchers announced several*
- > *weaknesses in common hash functions. These results,*
- > *while mathematically significant, aren't cause for*
- > *alarm. But even so, it's probably time for the*
- > *cryptography community to get together and create*
- > *a new hash standard.*
- > <http://computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,,95343,00.html>
- > -----
- > *What to expect from Microsoft's NGSCB plan*
- > *Microsoft Corp. said that it was retinkering with*
- > *its Next Generation Secure Computing Base (NGSCB),*
- > *originally announced in 2002 with the code name*
- > *Palladium. This step was taken in response to*
- > *demands from users and software vendors that*
- > *existing applications could take advantage*
- > *of the security functions offered by the*
- > *NGSCB platform without having to rewrite them.*
- > <http://computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,,95294,00.html>
- > -----
- > *NIST makes lists*
- > *A program that experts have said is the missing*
- > *piece in federal efforts to promote secure computing*
- > *will be ready later this year. Officials at the*
- > *National Institute of Standards and Technology*
- > *announced that a security configuration checklists*
- > *program for information technology products,*
- > *including a logo that vendors can put on their*
- > *wares, is on track for completion before the*
- > *end of 2004.*
- > <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0816/web-nist-08-19-04.asp>
- >
- > *Report urges defense to help with domestic technologies*
- > <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0804/081904tdpm1.htm>
- > -----
- > *Cisco flaw opens networks to attacks*
- > *Cisco has warned in a security advisory that some*
- > *networks with its routers could be vulnerable to*
- > *denial-of-service attacks. The problem is in the*
- > *processing of packets sent to a Cisco router that*
- > *has been configured for the Open Shortest Path*
- > *First (OSPF) protocol, the company said in a*
- > *security advisory released Wednesday. If the router*
- > *receives a malformed packet, it will take a while*
- > *to reset. Attackers could flood networks with*
- > *packets that cause routers to constantly reboot.*
- > *The flaw is limited to versions 12.0S, 12.2 and*
- > *12.3 of Cisco's Internetwork Operating System*
- > *routing software.*
- > http://news.com.com/Cisco+flaw+opens+networks+to+attacks/2100-7355_3-5316500.html

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> <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0,39020375,39164110,00.htm>

> -----

> *HP to deliver vulnerability scanning service by year's end*

> *Hewlett–Packard Co. plans to deliver a new
> security vulnerability scanning and remediation
> service by the end of the year that is designed
> to help companies identify and fix weak spots
> on their corporate networks, a senior company
> executive said this week.*

> <http://computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,95361,00.html>

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> -----

> *Is it worth it? YES!*

> -----

>

> *Is Upgrading to Windows XP SP2 Worthwhile?
> Users of Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition are
> scheduled to begin receiving Service Pack 2 via
> automatic update starting today. But delivery of
> the Professional Edition has been delayed at least
> a week while Microsoft and its users grapple with
> compatibility problems.*

>

> http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_title=Is-Upgrading-to-Windows-XP-SP--Worthwhile-&story_id=

>

>

> *Security Flaws Found in SP2*

> <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,117452,00.asp>

> *Microsoft downplays XP SP2 flaw claims*

> <http://www.vnunet.com/news/1157459>

> -----

> *Word I am hearing is that this is not the big deal they are making*

> -----

>

> -----

> *Number crunching boffins unearth crypto flaws
> Cryptographic researchers have discovered
> weaknesses in the encryption algorithms that
> underpin the security and integrity of electronic
> signatures. The issue concerns hash functions –
> one way mathematical functions that produce
> a small fixed length string from a much longer
> message. This is sometimes called a message
> digest. When two different input values produce
> the same output value this is called a collision.*

> <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/9363>

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> *Valuing Secure Access to Personal Information*

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> *Securing data is not a simple endeavor; a multi-
> discipline, defense-in-depth approach is necessary,
> as information can leak at any point in the
> communication process, from receipt, through
> storage, retrieval, transmission, and so on.
> Furthermore, each information system element
> is vulnerable to loss, including hardware,
> software, and personnel. Add to this the
> exceptional efforts made by those who want
> to acquire information through illicit means,
> whether for espionage, criminal, political,
> mischievous, or other intent...someone is always
> trying gain access to information they shouldn't
> have.*

> <http://www.securityfocus.com/infocus/1797>

> -----
> *Infected In Twenty Minutes
> What normally happens within twenty minutes?
> That's how long your average unprotected PC
> running Windows XP, fresh out of the box, will
> last once it's connected to the Internet. It's
> interesting to ponder just how much time – in
> hours, in minutes, sometimes in mere seconds –
> it takes for a disaster to occur. The space
> shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after
> liftoff in 1986.*

> <http://www.securityfocus.com/columnists/262>

> <http://www.vnunet.com/news/1157428>

> -----
> *SMS spoofing -- How long has it existed?
> This kind of high tech felony exists for
> a relatively short time. It is a "new lingo in
> cybercrime". But it might have a horrifying future.
> How is the spoofing carried out? What does an
> individual need? SMS spoofing became possible
> after many mobile/cellular operators had integrated
> their network communications with/in the Internet.
> So anybody could send SMS from the Internet using
> forms at the websites of mobile operators or even
> through e-mail. Unfortunately, I won't break you
> in telling that there's no perfect security, it
> is only defined by the level of sophisticated
> technical arms of malefactors.*

> <http://www.crime-research.org/news/19.08.2004/572/>

> -----
> *Who guards your company email?
> Unless IT and HR work together, the security gap
> will not close. Each week vnunet.com asks a
> different expert to give their views on recent
> security issues, with advice, warnings and
> information on the latest threats. This week*

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- > *Kevin Butler, technical manager at Allasso,*
- > *stresses the importance of IT and HR working*
- > *together to control the use of email at work.*
- > <http://www.vnunet.com/news/1157458>
- > -----
- > *Okay this struck me funny :-)*
- >
- > *Database snafu puts US Senator on terror watch list*
- > *US Senator Ted Kennedy (Democrat, Massachusetts)*
- > *was prohibited from flying because his name sparked*
- > *a terror alert, the Associated Press reports.*
- > *Apparently, the Senator's name came up on a terrorist*
- > *watch list, or no-fly list, while attempting to board*
- > *a US Airways shuttle out of Washington. A vigilant*
- > *airline clerk refused to allow Kennedy to board.*
- > *After numerous phone calls, the Senator did manage*
- > *to get home to Boston, but the same comedy ensued*
- > *as he attempted to return to Washington, the wire*
- > *service says.*
- > http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/19/senator_on_terror_watch/
- >
- >
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- >
- >

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<http://www.sbslinks.com/really.htm>