

# Re: How will PatchGuard change kernel programming?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Development/microsoft.public.win32.programmer.kernel/2006-10/msg00245.ht>

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- *From:* "Alexander Grigoriev" <[alegr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:alegr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 13 Oct 2006 20:59:49 -0700
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An API documentation is a contract between the API vendor (Microsoft) and the user (ISV). As such, only those functions are documented which are guaranteed to stay and won't break compatibility with previous OS versions. This is not always the case, though; there's been breaking changes in Windows API sometimes, and not always for good.

Things that's never been documented are not guaranteed to stay in OS or always continue working the same way. It's silly to rely on undocumented API, because it will cause compatibility problems in the future.

"smerf" <[smerf@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:smerf@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:FtYXg.44703\\$8s6.18853@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](news:FtYXg.44703$8s6.18853@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Thanks for your response.

IMHO, this is just another way that Microsoft is increasing its monopoly of the desktop. First, they don't release all of the OS APIs – except to thier internal applications developers and "select" Microsoft Partners. Now, they are locking people out of 3rd party methods that help to protect us (like Spysweeper and AVG). They are also blocking graphics hooks that make apps like VNC a viable alternative to the Windows-only Remote Desktop (which is not on all versions of Windows).

I think this move (until it is hacked) will force more software vendors out of business and increase Microsoft's stranglehold on the desktop.

I'm starting to think that we need to revisit the notion of breaking Microsoft into an applications company and an OS company. We probably should have done that in the original anti-trust suits.

I really don't see the problem with giving developers the ENTIRE API to work with. Will they find flaws? Sure they will, and some will even abuse them. But, Microsoft would be aware of flaws even sooner than they are now and could actually take a decent stab at making the OS secure from malicious hacking instead of from developers and users.

REALbasic + Linux is looking better and better.

Re: How will PatchGuard change kernel programming?

"Don Burn" <burn@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:uQuguay7GHA.4568@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uQuguay7GHA.4568@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

It is a good thing, since it forces people to develop properly and not use kludgy hooking, which exposes the system to threats. For any decent developer it will not impact them at all.

—  
Don Burn (MVP, Windows DDK)  
Windows 2k/XP/2k3 Filesystem and Driver Consulting  
<http://www.windrvr.com>  
Remove StopSpam from the email to reply

"smerf" <smerf@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:NiUXg.10022\\$nn6.4289@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:NiUXg.10022$nn6.4289@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

How will Vista's PatchGuard change the ability of coders to extend the OS?