

Re: Big hole??

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Date: Sun, 19 Sep 2004 10:43:37 -0400

On Sat, 18 Sep 2004 22:42:34 -0400, "David H. Lipman"
<DLipman~nospam~@Verizon.Net> wrote:

>Care to corroborate that info with a URL from a LEGITIMATE CERT or Security Organization ?
>
>So far this information remains uncorroborated !
>
>But what do you expect from an anonymous poster posting in HTML.
>
>Dave
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Yeah, and we ***ALL*** know your name really is "David H. Lipman",
because this is USENET and you say so.....

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>"User1" <user1@msn.net> wrote in message news:uwD88BfnEHA.392@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...
>"Windows XP Service Pack 2 with Advanced Security Technologies helps you protect your PC
>against viruses, hackers, and worms." – this is how Microsoft promotes its Service Pack 2 on
>its website. What the company does not say: Instead of viruses, worms, and hackers, the
>supposedly safe SP2 for Windows XP invites any Internet user to have a look around your PC.
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>As soon as you install SP2 on a Windows XP PC with a certain configuration, your file and
>printer sharing data are visible worldwide, despite an activated Firewall. This also applies
>to all other services. The PC only has to provide sharing for an internal local network and
>connect to the Internet via dial-up or ISDN. Users of DSL services are also affected, if a
>firewall is not integrated into the DSL modem or a common modem instead of a DSL router is
>used. Additionally, Internet Connection Sharing of the PC has to be disabled.
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>A number of test scans run by PC-Welt revealed that this in fact is a common configuration

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>and not a rare sight. Without great effort, we were able to discover private documents on
>easily accessible computers on the Internet. It must be assumed, that these users wrongly
>believe they are safe and that their sharing configurations are only visible in their
>network at home: Often, we did not even encounter password protection.
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>Already Windows 95 affected by a similar problem
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>Experienced Windows users may remember that there was a similar problem in the past,
>specifically with Windows 95. Back then, Microsoft forgot to separate file and printer
>sharing from the dial-up network adapter when such a connection was configured.
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>In other words, this caused the service to be released worldwide through the dial-up
>connection as soon as you were connected to the Internet. Microsoft at that time issued an
>update to patch the bug. The fact that file and printer sharing since then is not connected
>to the dial-up connection anymore, can easily be seen on your system: Right-click on the
>symbol "My Network Places" and select "Properties". Repeat the right-click and selection
>with the icon of your dial-up connection and select the tab "Settings". If there is no check
>at "File and Printer Sharing", it indicates that this service should not be made available
>through your dial-up connection.
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>This in fact is true for Windows XP without Service Pack. Since SP1, this configuration is
>hardly more than cosmetics and does not serve any purpose anymore. This means, the file and
>printer sharing service is connected in general, also to the dial-up network adapter. This
>in itself is a serious bug, since your shared data potentially could be seen on the
>Internet. However, there are no catastrophic effects, as every dial-up connection is
>configured with an activated firewall by default.
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>If you intended to deactivate this firewall, Windows displayed an easily recognizable
>dialog, that this choice would allow access to your computer. Despite the bug in SP1, the
>configuration of the firewall was worked out in a clean way: You were able to run the
>dial-up connection with a firewall and the internal network card without, because the latter
>was supposed to enable access through the Windows network.
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>SP1 + SP2 leads to a catastrophic error
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>Due to the bug carried over from SP1 as well as a new bug, the firewall configuration with
>SP2 has a catastrophic effect. The SP2 installation simply uses the previous configuration
>of the firewall: If it was active for the dial-up connection, now it also has been activated
>for the network adapter.
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>At the same time, an exception is determined for file and printer sharing: For the internal
>network card – and astonishingly also for all adapters.
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>With the first use of the dial–up connection after installing SP2, all of your shared data
>are available on the Internet. Now, other users can start guessing your passwords for
>administrator and guest and you basically are no more secure than the first Windows 95 users
>with an Internet connection – thanks to Service Pack 2.
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>How to correct the problem
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>It is not advisable to keep this defective default configuration. However, the previous
>environment cannot be restored: The configuration for the firewall was changed, which does
>not allow the setting of active or inactive conditions or exceptions for each network
>adapter anymore. Now this only works for network areas.
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>Choose "Windows Firewall" in the in the Windows Control Panel and the there the tab
>"Exceptions". Select "File and Print Services" and click on "Edit". Now you can see four
>ports which are used by the file and print sharing service.
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>To lock the service to the outside and keep it open for the internal LAN, you have to
>individually select and change its area with the respective button. Our reader Yves Jerschov
>notified us of another bug: The value for the area set by default "Only for own network
>(Subnet)" only works, if the Internet Connection Sharing is activated. If this is not the
>case, your shared data are visible worldwide. This error can be corrected by choosing "User
>defined List" and entering the IP addresses that are supposed to have access – the IP
>addresses of your LAN. A whole range of an IP area can be entered as
>"192.168.x.0/255.255.255.0", if the respective addresses start with 192.168.x.
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>After these measures, you can be sure to be as safe as you were with SP1. Great, don't you
>think?
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