

Re: Newsgroups: MS should WARN us FIRST not to use real email addresses here!!

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- *From:* "Dan" <smooth@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 17 Dec 2006 13:25:56 -0500
-

I never asked for advice on how to solve the spam, I know I can change the address if I want. The reason for the original post was to help warn other users to the problem. If you get bored, just don't read my posts, no ones making you.

Happy shopping and Merry Christmas to you,
Dan

"Heather" <figgyd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:e0WWxWgIHHA.3952@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

What the OP should learn first is not to write *epistles* that are over 200 lines long.....I got bored after 40.

And his problem would be easily solved if he just changed his email address so that he no longer gets spam on it. Don't know about his ISP, but I get 7 or 10, plus a bunch of throwaway accounts with mine (Rogers).

Before they implemented anti-spam devices, I got 100 spam/day on average and used Mailwasher to get rid of them. ** Eureka, he could use that program to vet his email. But the last time I advocated using it, some dickbrain MVP (Corey, Carey?) on the XP groups accused me of shilling for them....lol.

Off to do some Christmassy stuff.....Heather

"Pop`" <nodoby@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23ZzfNsIHHA.1044@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sorry; every company who writes anything that has anything to do with groups should be educating their client base about this and the problem goes a lot further than just MS as you pointed out. Education is key and until it comes about, this situation won't change.

What the OP may need now is to learn how to handle spam.

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Pop`

Dudley Henriques wrote:

Sorry, but nothing in your "War and Peace" post here changes the fact that it's not Microsoft's responsibility to advise you how to set up your newsgroup account. Everything in what you have written suggests that it is your opinion that Microsoft should supply this and that is fine. It's an opinion. If that's the way you see it, you are certainly entitled to that opinion and I will be the last person to try and change it. I learned a long time ago that people who write "opinions" as long as yours seldom really want those opinions challenged or changed. The very best to you, and I sincerely hope you don't get all that much Spam from the robots. If it's any consolation, the filters are much better now than they used to be. You should be ok I think.
Take care,
Dudley Henriques

"Dan" <smooth@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:OmcOZaXIHHA.2232@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

With all due respect to you Dudley, if any is even warranted in this case: I do not believe for one minute that I am blaming the wrong people at all. I attempted to solve my problems thru my computer manufacturer and Microsoft without any success... Their answers: "I don't know"

I searched the internet, found a suggestion to try getting advice on these newsgroups. Excellent suggestion, Mr. Hagen was able to provide a solution to one main problem, and

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I was able to deduce
thru reading here, that the other problems
were not due to OE, but
rather other problems in the system 'spilling
over'

While you may know that there is no reason
a real email address
should have
to appear (and perhaps you knew this since
you were born thru divine
revelation), you'll have to excuse me if my
mind reading
capabilities were a
bit off the day I set up OE for these
newsgroups. Of course I am
being sarcastic to make a point here. I do
'understand' what you
have written, so
please take a moment to think thru what I am
about to say.

First, as a newer user 9 months ago, I was
doing everything I could
to 'research and educate' myself, in order to
use my system safely.
While setting up to receive these
newsgroups thru OE, the setup
asked me to enter
my email address. Someone who has never
used these newsgroups before
would not know in advance that entering a
false email address would
still allow interaction. Indeed, most other
sites on the internet
would deny you access
until they confirm you email address, and
these same sites do not
make your
email public, hence the use of usernames.

While setting up and using the 'help' files
and instructions, not
once did it indicate that a REAL email
address could or should be
substituted in order to thwart this KNOWN
PROBLEM!!!! As it is a
KNOWN PROBLEM, one should
expect the necessary information to be
contained in the help and
instruction

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files. And by reading the help files and instructions I believe I have, in your words, "taken the trouble before posting to take the necessary steps to insure it doesn't appear on a forum." and "to take the time to learn what has to be learned before arriving on Usenet."

As these newsgroups came as a function of the OE software, I believe it should be incumbent on the manufacturer to provide the necessary information to protect our systems and security, which they did NOT! Had they included this information about this KNOWN problem while I was "taking the time to learn what has to be learned", I could have avoided this trouble. The option to enter a false address was never presented to me. That IS NEGLIGENCE. A simple warning about this KNOWN issue during setup would be SIMPLE for MS to provide, unless of course they want this behaviour to continue, so they can of course sell us additional software to thwart the spammers! HmMMM!

And, do you believe for one moment that it is absolutely necessary for these newsgroups to have to show the text of the email address used during setup? As I am looking at yours as I type, I will use it as an example, "From: "Dudley Henriques" <dhenriques@xxxxxxxxxxx>" Not for one moment do I believe that is necessary for these groups to function properly. I repeat, this is a KNOWN ISSUE. A simple update to the software these groups run on could replace these email addresses with

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user names for safer computing. It really should be a simple fix. AND I bet I'm not nearly the only one who has experienced this. REALLY, what is the use of having a false email address here?? "dhenriques@xxxxxxxxxxx" goes no where, right?! So what is the purpose of it even having to be there??? Wouldn't a simple username after the 'From' be enough here?!!

Knowing this problem exists and NOT fixing it on MS's part IS negligence. They release patches for nearly every other security problem that is found, so why ignore this simple solution to thwart the badguys?! Then its not a problem anymore. I do blame MS here (I don't know of or use any other company's newsgroups, but I would expect the same of them). If they do not want to provide a warning in the setup process, instructions or help files, then there should be NO REASON to even ask for an email address during setup, since a valid address is obviously not necessary for this application to function, and therefore the necessity of having to enter an email address at all (real or false) is misleading to the user, and ONLY serves to assist the spammers in their quest!

As you felt the need to express your opinion here under this thread, I hope my response will give you pause to consider the logic of my arguments above. If I am wrong about the set up instructions in OE, please tell me where I may find the message that I may input a real or false email address when I am asked to enter this during

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set up, and I will
gladly apologize for my ignorance.
Otherwise, I will continue to
believe that the fact an email address is even
asked for during
setup instead of a username only, IS indeed
an unnecessary hole in the security of the
software that should be
patched,
especially since the address serves ZERO
useful function. And I will
still contend that despite my attempt at due
diligence, the lack of
a warning or proper instructions or
notification to this KNOWN
problem IS what has caused
this problem. I guess if I had been gifted
with ESP, I may have felt
the need to surf the net for 30 hours until I
came across something
that warned
that newsgroups ask you on setup to input an
unnecessary email
address that
may or may not be real. Shame on me for
thinking that the software
that came
with my computer from a well known
company like MS would include any
necessary instructions in its help files to
prevent me from
operating the software in an unsecure way,
let alone to be mislead
into entering an email
address that is not even necessary.

But since it seems that you do possess these
psychic abilities,
could you please provide me with the
winning numbers for this
Wednesdays Ontario Lotto
6/49 Draw?? That way I never have to
bother you again as I will just
hire someone to find the solutions I need.
Maybe I can find and
afford a psychic
for that position!!

But seriously, I do hope my explanation here
will give you cause to
rethink

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your previous position, and consider that most of the people who come here looking for answers, do so because of inexperience, and are also being misled into opening a hole in their own security. And perhaps the MS MVP's who read this may see the logic as well, and report back to MS that this really should be fixed to improve security for everyone. I've spent hours a day for the last 9 months surfing the net at a myriad of sites, signed up to many of them and provided the 'necessary' or 'requested' sign-up information, but I can confidently say that every single piece of spam I am bombarded with daily has originated from my sign up [HERE](#) as my 5 other email addresses have never received a single piece of spam over the same time. I simply believe this is a big enough problem that people should have the right to be informed directly by the software maker or network owner, or the request for and use of an email address (real or false, and both unnecessary) during setup of the newsgroups be stopped.

As I see that your email address is not real, I must assume that you do not like spam either.

It also doesn't take very long to just check any number of the posts here from people just looking for help, to see that they have also made the same mistake of using their real email address. I'm sure they were tricked into entering it the same as me, and they will learn the same lessons the hard way. All because in their search for good help, the "vehicle didn't have a seatbelt

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WARNING, so to speak". Go ahead check the posts. Do you think all these people just should have had this inherent knowledge of how this all works?! They have been tricked, same as me, and some don't even know it yet!!

A Christmas Wish for safer networks for all of us,
D.

"Dudley Henriques"
<dhenriques@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:etb5CVVIHHA.960@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I think you might be blaming the wrong people here. I respectfully suggest that you consider doing some boning up on Usenet before blaming Microsoft for something that is not their fault. There is absolutely no reason why your real email address should have to appear on a newsgroup if you don't want it to appear and more importantly in this case, have taken the trouble before posting to take the necessary steps to insure it doesn't appear on a forum. The use of actual email addresses on Usenet is now and has always been an option of individual choice. There is absolutely no reason for Microsoft to suggest to anyone how they should set up their Usenet account. That option is up to YOU and no one

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else. It is
incumbent on YOU , NOT
Microsoft or anyone else for
that matter, to
take the time to learn what
has to be learned before
arriving on
Usenet. Microsoft is not in
the Usenet business. How
you set up OE to
handle
newsgroups is entirely your
choice and your personal
responsibility.
Don't blame Microsoft for
your own lack of
understanding. I
respectfully suggest that you
do your homework
concerning Usenet.
There are ample sources
available from which to
obtain this
knowledge. If you intend
using Usenet, by all means,
learn how to
protect yourself. When it
comes to being on line, don't
wait to get
nailed, then blame
Microsoft for your troubles.
Believe me, Microsoft gets
blamed for
enough already without you
blaming them for things
over which they
have no control.
:-))
Not meant to be a flame
here....just some "friendly"
advice
:-))))))))) Dudley
Henriques

"Dan"
<smooth@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:OokpDZUIHHA.536@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

This is not a
request for

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assistance,
but rather a
warning for
newer users
here, to
hopefully
prevent you
from the
same
frustrations
I have
experienced
as a result
of using this
forum.

Let me say
that I have
found this
forum
EXTREMELY
helpful for
solving
problems.
Bruce
Hagen, if he
is still
around, did
an
excellent
job assisting
me. He also
alerted me
to the fact
that my
real email
address was
available to
all on this
forum,
BECAUSE
MICROSOFT
FAILS TO
WARN &
INSTRUCT
USERS
WHEN
SETTING
UP
OUTLOOK
EXPRESS

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TO USE
THESE
NEWSGROUPS,
that you
should
NOT, I
repeat
NOT, NOT,
NOT enter
your real
email
address!!!!!!!!!!

When I set
this up, it
required me
to enter an
email
address in
order to
post here.
Nothing
warned me
that my
REAL
address
would
be easily
accessible
to all here,
NOR did
instruct me
that I could
enter a false
address to
thwart the
spammers
when
entering the
REQUIRED
email
address
during
sign-up!!!!

Had
Microsoft
offered this
very simple
instruction
in the

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beginning, I
am
absolutely
convinced
that I would
have
NEVER,
EVER,
received
ANY
SPAM!!!!
This is on
their
network
afterall, and
their
NEGLIGENCE
to provide
this security
information
has caused
me a great
deal of
headache,
that now
seems will
NEVER go
away,
making me
wish I had
never, ever
used this
newsgroup
in the first
place!!!
Thank you
to Bruce
Hagen for
recognizing
and
informing
me
about
this
dangerous
security
breach. It
would have
been better
if
Microsoft

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were
RESPONSIBLE
enough to
have given
this
information
in the
newsgroup
setup
instructions
and
process!!!!

The
RESULT of
this
NEGLIGENCE
on
Microsoft's
part is that
after
just a few
postings
before
Bruce's alert
to me, I am
now
bombarded
on this
email
account
daily for the
last 9
MONTHS
by
spammers,
and
ONLY on
this
account. I
have
NEVER
received
spam on
ANY
OTHER
email
account I
have. Many
of these
spams have

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been
VIRUSES
&
WORMS!!!!
And luckily
my
Anti-Virus
scanners
have been
able to
remove
them.
Although I
immediately
followed
Bruce's
instructions
to change
the email
address
displayed, it
was too
late, and I
don't think
there is
anyway for
me to
remove the
previous
postings
with the real
email
address. So
Microsoft
has left me
with breach
in security
which it
seems I can
NEVER fix,
unless I
CANCEL
this
email
account.
That is
really
SAD!!! and
worse yet, it
was
TOTALLY

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UNNECESSARY!!!

If Microsoft
were
honestly
SERIOUS
about
network
security,
they
would alert
ALL people
to this
security
breach
before
allowing
them to use
these
newsgroups!!

I don't even
want to
imagine
how much
worse this
would be if
Bruce
had not
alerted me
to this issue
at all, but I
hope this
message
will
possibly
assist others
in avoiding
the
headaches I
have had.

And Thanks
A Lot
Microsoft...
I thought
your
mission was
to provide
solutions to
the masses,
not to cause

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extra
problems...
but what
do I know
anyway.

Best of
Luck to All,
Sincerely,
D.