

microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs: << Small Biz Server news this week February 29, 2004>>>

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Small Business Server Usergroup News...

What is a User group? Its' a group of people that are passionate about the SBS platform

<http://www.sdsbsug.org/groups.htm>

Hi all,

FYI the Adelaide SBS Users Group has been running in Adelaide, Australia, for the last 6 months.

We meet monthly to discuss various issues including technical, business and training. Where possible we also invite presenters for "value add".

Details of future meetings, meeting notes etc are available at www.sbsusers.net. Site includes links to register interest to attend, or emailing questions.

Membership is free

We look forward to hearing from you!

Dean Calvert

All Chicago area SBS consultants and administrators are welcome to our first meeting of the Chicago SBS Users Group. Here's the link to the Microsoft Events page:

<http://tinyurl.com/25abw>

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Bill Gates opened up the RSA Security conference

<http://www.microsoft-watch.com/article2/0,4248,1537662,00.asp?kc=MWRSS02129TX1K0000535>

In his RSA Conference keynote, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates touched on lots of security promises. He talked up enhancements that Microsoft is building into Whidbey, Windows XP Service Pack 2, Exchange Server and a host of other products and services.

<http://2004.rsaconference.com/press-video.aspx>

Some documents of interest [but not SBSized]

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=6a80711f-e5c9-4aef-9a44-504db09b9065>

This book guides you through the process of hardening your Exchange 2003 environment, including configuration recommendations and strategies for combating external threats.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=f3a7fa86-6818-438c-90b6-84dc3cc9eb1b>

This guide provides instructions and templates for protecting a domain name from spoofing using the Caller ID Technical Specification.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=9a9e8a28-3e85-4d07-9d0f-6daeabd3b71b>

"Caller ID for E-Mail: The Next Step to Deterring Spam" is Microsoft's draft technical specification to address the widespread problem of domain spoofing.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=d4d43d49-8772-4601-afdc-a9b0ce6bdc81>

This is the patent license for those interested in implementing the "Caller-ID for E-Mail Technical Specification."

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=5577782e-462d-4bbe-92e5-b38c575229e4>

Microsoft's long-range, industry-focused framework for dramatically reducing junk e-mail (or spam)

<http://www.betanews.com/article.php3?sid=1077727792>

Microsoft has packed more of a punch into Windows XP Service Pack 2. Details have emerged indicating that a new "Security Center" will be incorporated into the update to further secure the three year old operating system.

Contrary to some reports, Security Center is not the PC Satisfaction code that Microsoft tested several months ago. Instead, Microsoft drew upon the feedback gained during the trial to introduce a new user interface concept.

The PC Satisfaction trial shined a spotlight on how Microsoft thought Windows could be improved to provide customers with better security and reliability. Testers reported features that are normally not included in Windows but supplied by independent software vendors including: a full-fledged antivirus scanner, a self updating firewall, and programmatic data backups.

While similar in its appearance and style, the Windows XP Security Center interface does not contain those elements. Instead, the interface display dialogs telling whether "Security Essentials" such as a firewall, automatic updating, and virus protection are turned on.

Other items in Security Center focus on tuning Windows security settings, provide helpful hints and manage ActiveX controls.

Microsoft provides recommendations in the event that no virus protection is present on a system. The company will not provide its own scanning engine despite having partnered with F-Secure for PC Satisfaction, and acquiring GeCAD in June 2003.

Commenting on the updated service pack, a Microsoft spokesperson told BetaNews, "Microsoft did utilize feedback gained during the PC Satisfaction Trial in building the Windows Security Center user interface that is planned for SP2."

Other improvements destined to be included in the service pack are a new version of Internet Explorer, safeguards for Outlook Express, improved memory protection, and a more powerful firewall – now enabled by default.

The most recent beta release of Windows XP Service Pack 2 -- build number 2082 -- has bundled support for the forthcoming "Lonestar" Tablet PC upgrade, and Microsoft's Windows XP Media Center Edition. Windows Media Player is also scheduled for an update.

Windows XP SP 2 is expected to ship midway through 2004.

In other news.....

Hackers gain free access to MSN Premium
Programmers in China have exploited a security hole in Microsoft's MSN Explorer software to win free access to paid services. A flaw in Microsoft's MSN Explorer software has allowed some Web surfers to gain free access to features and services that normally cost \$9.95 (£5.35) a month, the software giant confirmed on Thursday.
<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0,39020375,39147418,00.htm>

Virus damage tops \$80bn in February
According to security experts mi2g, virus activity

caused as much as \$83bn in economic damage in February. With numerous variants of MyDoom, Doomjuice and NetSky causing havoc over the wires, the shortest month of the year looks set to be one of the largest in terms of virus impact.

http://www.pcpro.co.uk/?http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/news_story.php?id=54319

MyDoom and Netsky cause chaos

<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/56/35882.html>

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/2004-02-27-gory-doom_x.htm

F-inSecure mailing list spreads Netsky-B virus

<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/56/35911.html>

ISPs' virus protection under scrutiny

<http://www.itweb.co.za/sections/software/2004/0402271205.asp>

Counting the cost of cybergeddon

<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/35/35910.html>

Microsoft emphasises security for XP Service Pack 2

http://www.pcpro.co.uk/?http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/news_story.php?id=54295

International push to fight high-tech scams

With cybercriminals based all over the world, governments must cooperate to clamp down on one of technology's ugly sides – the mass-marketing scam. Representatives of more than 60 law enforcement agencies and regulators from around the world gathered in London on Friday to try and formulate international cooperation against the rising tide of marketing fraud schemes, many of which rely on computers and mobile phones.

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0,39020375,39147440,00.htm>

Spam villains: named and shamed

The US sends out more spam than the rest of the world put together according to inbox defenders at Sophos. Researchers at the anti-virus firm checked the origins of two days worth of spam, and compiled a list of the worst offenders. Although the vast majority of spam comes from computers in the US, the picture is not as simple as it appears.

<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/56/35890.html>

US tops international spammers' list

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0,39020375,39147438,00.htm>

Winning Ways to Stop Spam

<http://computerworld.com/softwaretopics/software/groupware/story/0,10801,90549,00.html>

South Korea mulls spam curfew regulations

<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/56/35912.html>

CIA slipped bugs to Soviets

In January 1982, President Ronald Reagan approved a CIA plan to sabotage the economy of the Soviet

Union through covert transfers of technology that contained hidden malfunctions, including software that later triggered a huge explosion in a Siberian natural gas pipeline, according to a new memoir by a Reagan White House official.

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4394002/>

Ferocious new Mydoom variant destroys files

A new, fast-spreading version of the Mydoom worm destroys files on computers worldwide as it increases attacks via e-mails, Finnish computer security experts warned Thursday. The "Mydoom.F" worm, discovered on Feb. 20, has so far infected about 5 percent of all Internet e-mail traffic, said Mikko Hypponen, director of research at a leading antivirus company F-Secure.

<http://www.securityfocus.com/news/8124>

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4372699/>

Netsky.C worm starts to spread

Security experts have discovered a new version of the Netsky internet worm, warning that it is spreading around the world.

<http://www.vnunet.com/News/1153066>

Netsky causing billions in damages

http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105_2-5165642.html

http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_title=New_Virus_Offspring_Surfaces&story_id=23256

<http://computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,90491,00.html>

Anti-Spam Solutions and Security

In a recent survey, 93% of respondents reported dissatisfaction with the large volume of unsolicited email (spam) they receive. [ref 1] The problem has grown to the point where nearly 50% of the world's email is spam [ref 2], yet only a few hundred groups are responsible. [ref 3] Many anti-spam solutions have been proposed and a few have been implemented. Unfortunately, these solutions do not prevent spam as much as they interfere with every-day email communications.

<http://www.securityfocus.com/infocus/1763>

New Spam Filters Cut the Noise

<http://www.wired.com/news/infostructure/0,1377,62421,00.html>

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