

microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs: <<SBS news this week – August 20, 2004>>

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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 service pack.

Quickbooks blog talks about the changes

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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
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

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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 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/>

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 rethinking 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

<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>

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=2

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>

Valuing Secure Access to Personal Information

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