

Hijacked!

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Hijacked!

By Laura Quarantiello

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The four airplane hijackings, which were part of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 were not typical. These sickos were not seeking escape from political persecution, nor were they interested in money. They intended to die and to take everyone else with them. Based on available information we have to conclude that there was nothing those poor passengers could have done to save themselves. They were doomed from the beginning.

In a "normal" hijacking, however, passengers at least have some chance of survival. And following can increase that a few guidelines:

First, do your best to remain calm, and encourage those around you to do the same. The hijackers are probably extremely nervous and scared, so comply with whatever they tell you to do. Do nothing to draw attention to yourself. You want to be just another face in the crowd. Do not attempt to hide your passport or your valuables.

If one of the hijackers speaks to you, reply in a calm, normal Voice. Pass the time by unobtrusively taking mental notes on the characteristics and behavior of the hijackers. Give each one a nickname. Notice their manner of dress, facial features, mannerisms and temperament (but don't be obvious about the interest you are taking in them.) If you or a nearby passenger is in need of assistance due to illness or other discomfort, ask a member of the crew for assistance first. Do not attempt to approach the hijackers unless they have already rendered

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assistance to another passenger. If you are singled out be responsive but do not volunteer information.

Resolution of a hijacking incident may come in the form of negotiation or by a rescue team. In the case of a rescue operation you need to realize that a controlled assault on the plane may come from police or military. If you hear shots fired, drop to the floor. Rescue team members may instruct you to vacate the aircraft or put your hands up. Do what you are told immediately, and don't make any sudden movements. Remember, at this point the rescue team may not know if you are friend or foe. Once outside the aircraft, follow orders

From military or other officials without any hesitation or Argument.

Laura Quarantiello is the author of "Air-Ways: The Insider's Guide to Air Travel" – a handbook for air travelers. To order or for more info visit: <http://www.tiare.com/airways.htm>

Responding to Internet Hackers

By Rosalyn Bronstein

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Internet hackers strike inadequately protected computers. Even having a firewall may not be enough. These unwelcome trespassers break into computers with the intent to disrupt, steal information, cause damage, and profit from these activities. Data mining should be illegal everywhere. Those who leave unwanted advertising in the form of pop-ups and pop-unders aren't much better.

A growing Internet security industry has resulted from the need to keep computers free of external junk. Hacking gets more prevalent and vicious with each passing day. Perhaps it's happened to someone you know. Well, it's happened to me. When my computer was invaded by a multinational ISP - on I don't use and never will use - I was horrified. Then my e-mail account was hijacked. After getting the feelings of anger and vulnerability under control, I filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, and contacted my Congressman to see what could legally be done to stop the offenders.

The long and short of it is - not much. In this case, the best offense is a strong defense. Download a strong firewall, along with effective ad ware and spy ware deterrents. Report all spam, and never ever respond to it. That only encourages the spammers to send more. After all, if it wasn't profitable, they wouldn't send it.

Since I write a lot of articles, I've found that using a service to distribute them seems to protect against excessive e-mail abuse. While I do receive some spam, it isn't much - perhaps eight or ten messages

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a day. Some writers I know receive thousands of unwanted messages daily.

I can't say that being hijacked was a good experience, but it did teach me a valuable lesson about securing my computer. I'm now much more aware of what can and will happen if I don't take the appropriate steps to block it.

Rosalyn Bronstein, for more than 20 years an author and consultant, has been an advisor to numerous multinational corporations and international organizations. She can be contacted at families@ntouch4.info



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