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MyDoom Virus & How YOU can help!

By Val Burnett

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We have been monitoring stories and technical information that is available on this Virus that is Spreading like Wildfire! We believe that starting Feb 1st, we may see things slow down on the net, email problems, sites not available etc. We saw it before with last years big virus, but sources say this new virus is the worst one yet.

Based on their code, the Mydoom worms are scheduled to launch denial of service attacks against the SCO Group Inc. and Microsoft Corp., starting Feb. 1. A DOS attack means the infected computers are set to overload both companies' web servers with bogus information, in an attempt to prevent access by legitimate users.

Mydoom.B also prevents infected computers from accessing the web sites of Microsoft and many anti-virus software makers, making it difficult for the owner of an infected machine to get help.

With hundreds of thousands of infected computers as of Friday and at the estimated rate of 12,000 per hour systems becoming infected, this virus is taking over. It has been estimated that now 20% of all email that is being sent/received is the Mydoom virus and its variants! With this many systems infected and once Feb 1st hits, these infected systems will start the DoS attacks from all over the world. How will this affect you?

Email Service could be slowed down, pop3 errors, websites slow to bring up or not available. Yes, this could very well affect even our sites and

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your access to them when the DoS attacks start and there is NOTHING we can do to prevent this from occurring except educate our members and provide information on how to protect your system. This virus will cause so much information to be passed through the nets backbones that it will cause congestion, packet loss, instability of the major backbones and services being temporarily denied while major ISPs attempt to block and prevent further problems due to the DoS attacks and this virus.

This could turn into a nightmare for many companies that do business and depend on email, website reliability etc. **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

DO NOT OPEN ATTACHMENTS – CHECK YOUR COMPUTER FOR THE VIRUS

UPDATE YOUR VIRUS PROTECTION DAILY if NECESSARY – If you do not have an anti-virus software installed... DO SO NOW!!

There is NO reason that anyone on the internet should not have an anti-virus software installed on their computer. The fact that many do not and many that do not update their software regularly plus opening of

attachments when you do not know who they are from or where not expecting it – This is what is causing the spread of these viruses like wildfire.

MyDoom Details –

Avoid opening attachments from suspicious email messages
Emails sent out by Mydoom.B are generated randomly. The From address may also be spoofed to appear as though the message is from a different address.

The subject of the message will include one of the following:

Delivery Error
hello
Error
Mail Delivery System
Mail Transaction Failed
Returned mail
Server Report
Status
Unable to deliver the message

Not all email messages with these subject lines carry the MyDoom.B virus,

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some may be legitimate status messages.

The message body will include one of the following:

RANDOMIZED CHARACTERS

test

The message cannot be represented in 7-bit ASCII encoding and has been sent as a binary attachment.

sendmail daemon reported: Error #804 occurred during SMTP session. Partial message has been received.

The message contains Unicode characters and has been sent as a binary attachment.

The message contains MIME-encoded graphics and has been sent as a binary attachment.

Mail transaction failed. Partial message is available.

The attachment will have one of the following filenames:

body

doc

text

document

data

file

readme

message

Attachment:

The attachment may have either one or two file extensions. If it does have two, the first extension will be one of the following:

.htm

.txt

.doc

The second extension, or the only extension if there is only one, will be one of the following: .pif .scr .exe .cmd .bat .zip (This is an actual .zip file that contains a copy of the worm, sharing the same file name as the .zip. For example, readme.zip can contain readme.exe.)

We have gathered information for you that will help you get an anti-virus software Program, how to check for the virus on your computer and information sites on what a virus is and how to prevent infection. Please make sure you protect YOUR system and prevent further spread through computer systems worldwide!

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Removal Tool for MyDoom

<http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/w32.mydoom.b@mm.html>

How Computer Viruses Work <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/virus.htm>

Tips on Avoiding Computer Worms

<http://www.datafellows.com/virus-info ips.shtml>

All users should go to the following site. They provide a GREAT and FREE Online Virus Scanner. Scan your computer And make sure you are not infected with a virus!

Trend Micro's free online virus Scanner

http://housecall.antivirus.com/housecall/start_corp.asp

Anti-Virus Software – Get YOURS TODAY!

There are other Quite a Few Anti-Virus programs out there, some are free, some offer free trials and some are paid. You need to find one that works for you, the main thing is GET one if you do not already have one. Then Once you have it, make sure to keep it UPDATED regularly.

Here are a couple of Anti-Virus Programs that many of our members and Subscribers already use:

Norton AntiVirus 2004 – FREE TRIAL

<http://nct.digitalriver.com/0001/>

AVG 6.0 Anti-Virus System – AVG 6.0 Free Edition

http://www.grisoft.com/html/us_downl.htm

Mcafee – FREE TRIAL

<http://download.mcafee.com/eval/evaluate2.asp>

Please make sure you keep your system protected which then will help protect any one in your address book from receiving a virus from you. In the end, if we all do our part, we can slow down and possibly even stop further spread of viruses across computer systems worldwide.

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Computer Viruses, Worms and Hoaxes

By Lady Camelot

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In recent days, I was one of the unfortunate persons to receive the "Mydoom" worm emails. Not just one, but at least forty appeared in my popserver mailbox. As frustrating as it was deleting all of these nasty little boogers, I realized that some of these "worm" emails even came from persons I knew – or so I thought I knew.

The problem with the "Mydoom" email worm is that it specifically targets email addresses with the following extensions:

- * .htm
- * .sht
- * .php
- * .asp
- * .dbx
- * .tbb
- * .adb
- * .pl
- * .wab
- * .txt

Furthermore, it sends "get" requests to target domains and uses direct connections to port 80. It will also attempt to send email messages using its own SMTP engine. The worm is successful by using a mail server that a recipient uses or local server as well. Some strings to these target domain names are:

- * gate.
- * ns.
- * relay.
- * mail1.
- * mxs.
- * smtp.
- * mail.

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* mx.

The "Mydoom" worm will have subject headings such as:

* "Returned Mail"

* "Delivery Error"

* "Status"

* "Server Report"

* "Mail Transaction Failed"

* "Mail Delivery System"

* "Hello/hello"

* "Hi/hi"

What persons need to realize is that even if you "know" the sender, you must make absolutely sure that any attachments are specifically clarified from the sender before you attempt to open these suspect emails. Most worms and viruses are spread directly through attachments. Unless you are expecting an attachment from a person you know, be cautious. Do NOT open attachments unless you are absolutely positive that your known correspondent has actually sent it to you. Another thing to remember is that the "Mydoom" worm ranges from 6,144 bytes to 29,184 bytes in size and can affect Windows 2000, Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT, Windows Server 2003, and Windows XP. Luckily, if you have DOS, Linux, Macintosh, OS/2 or UNIX, your systems will not be affected by the MyDoom worm.

For those of you who share files through Kazaa, there is a new worm with aliases such as Worm.P2P.Apsiv (Kaspersky) and W32/Apsiv.worm!p2p (McAfee) and seemingly affects Windows systems 2000, 95, 98, Me, NT, Server 2003 and Windows XP. The damage profile has not yet been assessed, but it would be a good idea to steer clear of this one as well.

"Keylogger.Stawin" is probably one of the nastiest viruses as it attempts to steal a user's online banking information. A Trojan is distributed through email messages with the subject line, "I still love you," and has a "message.zip" attachment. Affecting the same vulnerable systems as mentioned above, Keylogger records keystrokes and has the ability to steal personal, financial information. A few systems that Keylogger monitors are window titles such as "PayPal," "Logon," and numerous other window titles associated with banking logins.

Common Hoaxes

A popular hoax circulating the Internet is an email titled, "FREE M &M's." Sorry guys – no M & M's here. More recently, you may have received the "Life is Beautiful" virus ... er, hoax. The "Life is Beautiful" virus is not real and should be ignored. This is only a scare tactic that causes unwarranted fears and concerns.

In closing, the Internet is a massive electronical world filled with infinite bits of information. When using your "key" to this magnificent but vast window of versatile knowledge, it pays to use logic when

distinguishing hoaxes from real threats such as viruses and worms. To learn more about current viruses and worms, go to: <http://search.symantec.com/custom/us/query.html>

For an updated listing of current email hoaxes, go to:

<http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

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