

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Committee Positions</i>	Page 2
<i>OPEN News</i>	Pages 3-6
<i>Bugs and Lack of Apps plague 64 Bit Users</i>	Pages 7-8
<i>Newbie Club Tutorials & Tips</i>	Pages 9-11
<i>Expect Attacks via Microsoft's Latest Security Hole</i>	Pages 11-12
<i>Birth Order Of Children</i>	Pages 13-14
<i>More Newbie Club Tutorials</i>	Pages 14-15
<i>Mad Cow Disease</i>	Page 15
<i>Who Said Blondes Were Dumb????</i>	Page 16
<i>How to Give a Cat a Pill</i>	Pages 16-17

Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th November 2008

GERALD MARTIN

from the Launceston Library

At 7:30 pm

There is a lot more to the Library
than just books."

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

Editors Contacts:

Address: 8 Cadorna Street Mowbray Heights 7248 Phone 6326 5824

email address editor@lcg.org.au

Correspondence

Address all Correspondence to: Launceston Computer Group Inc PO Box 548
Launceston 7250

Membership

Single \$15, Family \$20 (Includes Email edition Newstream)

Printed & Posted Newsletter \$20 extra

Disclaimer: The articles in this newsletter may be reprinted as long as credit is given to the original author. Opinions expressed are those of the author & not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Group. Unless otherwise noted material is copyright 2004 for the Launceston Computer Group Inc.

LCG Committee 2008/9

President: Iris Meek

Vice President: Robert Tierney

Minutes Secretary: Joel Harbottle

Treasurer: Dennis Murray

Asst Treasurers: Karia Wicks and Don Cooper

MAC Librarians: Ivan Turmine and Joel Harbottle

PC Librarian: Julie Hjort

Asst PC Librarian: Judy Hall

Newstream Editor: Ron Baker

Publicity Officer: Karia Wicks

Asst Publicity Officer: - open -

OPEN Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen

Auditor: Ron Baker

VICTOR Liaison: Robert Tierney

General Committee: Glenn Gilpin, Harvey Tavener, Reinhard von Samorzewski, Judy Hall

OPEN Committee 2008/9

Chairperson OPEN: Robert Tierney.

Chair all meetings of OPEN and ensure that they run smoothly

Vice Chairperson OPEN: (to be clarified)

Chair meeting when the Chairperson is unavailable.

Secretary: .

Handles all incoming and outgoing communications Responsible for the documentation and distribution of all meeting minutes

Assistant Secretary: - open -. Help the Secretary where necessary

Treasurer: Dennis Murray.

Responsible for all monies and banking

Assistant Treasurer: Karia Wicks and Don Cooper.

Help the Treasurer where necessary.

Publicity Officer: Karia Wicks.

Responsible for all advertising

OPEN Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney.

Responsible for the smooth running of Centre on a daily basis

Membership Co-ordinator: Karia Wicks.

Keep Membership database up to date.

Beginners Project Co-ordinator: Eleanor Horder.

Tutor Co-ordinator: Jenny Napier.

Keep regular contact with Tutors to bring ideas and concerns to meetings

Newsletter Editors Assistant: Dennis Murray.

Collates and produces the OPEN Newsletter for inclusion in LCG monthly 'Newstream'

Maintenance Co-ordinators: Dennis Murray (PC's) and Joel Harbottle (Mac).

Responsible for the maintenance and repairs to all computer equipment

Co-ordinator of "VICTOR": Robert Tierney.

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen.

OPEN Committee: June Hazzlewood, Marny Poole, Iris Meek, Janet Headlam, Don Cooper, Barry Symons, Tom Olsen.

OPEN NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2008

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

Although our club was not over-run by visitors during Seniors Week at the beginning of October the exercise proved a success in that we signed up more than a dozen new members, including some for our Macintosh division. We hope that they all enjoy their time at OPEN and gain valuable knowledge to assist them in their computer activities.

Some of those members have been placed in a new late afternoon class on Thursdays (3:30 to 5:30 pm) being conducted by Rob Tierney. This will limit the time Rob has for his other activities so if any of our tutors or volunteers can offer their services to ease Rob's workload I'm sure he would really appreciate it.

In various industries there are often witty sayings that are created to warn people of impending 'disasters'. In the world of computers one such saying might be :

"There are two types of computer users—those who have had a hard-disk failure ... and those who will!"

Recently one of our members was on the receiving end of such misfortune ... luckily it wasn't a total failure but it did take a great deal of time and effort to recover several gigabytes of photos and personal information that were unavailable from any other source.

The message is clear for ALL members ...

BACK UP! ... either by burning to CD or DVD. Or by copying to an external hard drive. *(continued)*

It is also equally important to make sure that your back-up works i.e. make sure that the CD, DVD or external hard-disk actually contains the information that it is supposed to contain!

The ABC "Computer Talkback" on October 25 told the sad story of a small business that lost two years worth of commercial data including customer information relating to future operations. In this case the business owners were conducting regular back-up operations, but did not realise that it needed to be copied to an external device, such as CD, DVD or a portable hard-disk.

So you can see that the loss of computer data is not a problem suffered just by 'amateur' users. And if you want the final word from the 'horse's mouth' I can tell you yours truly has been the victim of several hard disk failures, both in private and work situations, including one instance where a newfangled tape back-up device did not perform in the manner that it was supposed to. That resulted in me having to re-enter three weeks worth of business transactions, although I was fortunate to have a 'partial back-up' in the form of printed copies of invoices.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Try these for formatting your text :

CTRL + "E" to center your text

CTRL + "R" to align text to the right of the page

CTRL + "L" to align text to the left of the page

OPEN MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at 1:00 pm on November 5 2008.

All members, both old and new, are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. Please take this opportunity to have an input into the way the club operates into the future.



LAUNCESTON COMPUTER GROUP MEETING & MONTHLY WORKSHOP

WEDS. NOVEMBER 5TH
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Following a short committee meeting there will be a presentation by guest speaker

GERALD MARTIN
from the Launceston Library
At 7:30 pm

"There is a lot more to the Library than just books."

All members welcome.

EMBROIDERY GROUP

The Friday afternoon Embroidery Group will meet on a MONTHLY basis this year. The next meeting will be on November 7th 2008 at 1 pm.

Contact Eleanor Horder via the club for details.

OPEN NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2008

Launceston Computer Group

1st November 2008



DISK 2000 - Your Library on Disk

Disk 2000 is now available. The change from a floppy disk to a CD has enabled us to include much more in the way of games, information and utilities. Existing members can upgrade to the new CD version for just \$1.50. Ask at the club or contact Judy via the e-mail address shown below. This disk is free of charge to all new members.

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY

At present the Shareware Library is only available during the club's opening hours.

Speak to one of the tutors at the venue -
Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Road, South L'ton.

Email: opencomputing@bigpond.com

OTHER CLUB RESOURCES

In addition to the 'physical' library OPEN and VICTOR may be able to provide members with a variety of freeware programs as an alternative to downloading from the Internet. Free antivirus programs such as AVG can now be as large as 45 Megabytes and would take hours to download for someone who only had a dial-up

Internet connection.

There are also quite a few video tutorials and ASCCA teaching material on our server and these can be quite helpful in explaining how certain programs and utilities work.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2008 ALL OF JUDY'S
MORNING CLASSES WILL START AT 10
AM AND NOT 9 AM AS IN PREVIOUS
YEARS*

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

November 12— 1 pm to 3.30 pm

November 26 — 10 am to 12 noon

Judy Hall will be back to guide you through the processes required to research your ancestry.

Special thanks to Margaret Gilpin for conducting the classes while Judy was tied up with the Craft Fair.

New information is being added to our resources on an on-going basis to help you trace your family's origins. Contact the club for more information

Classes are limited to 8 people.

PRINT ARTIST CLASS

November 19

10 am to 12 noon

The return of **Print Artist** to our roster last month proved so popular that another class will be held in November.

New users can learn how to make greeting cards, signs and labels, while experienced users may like to do a refresher session.

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Don't forget that the club telephone is available during class hours.

******* 6343 4928 *******

Members and tutors can be contacted at the clubrooms **during class hours** by telephoning the number shown above.

GRAPHICS

Please check the registration sheets at the club to find out if there are places available.

The dates for the next classes are :

Extra Class November 5 - 10 am to 12 noon

Basic Graphics November 12

10 am to 12 noon

During the year additional 'catch-up' and practice classes will be held so please keep in touch with your tutor and check notices for details.

LEVEL 2 & 3 GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

Wednesday November 19 1 pm to 3.30 pm

This class is designed for people who have completed the Basic Graphics classes, and involves more advanced features of the Paint Shop Pro graphics programs.

Numbers are limited to 8 people. Please check the notice-board or contact the club for details.

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions \$5.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

OPEN NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2008

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Monday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Basics and Beyond
Tuesday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	Mac [all day]
	7 pm–9 pm	Basics (Night Class)
Wednesday		Special sessions or Meetings
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	E-Learn & Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
1st Friday of each month	1 pm – 3 pm	Embroidery Group

Date	Time	Topic	Details
November 5	10 am–12 noon	Graphics Workshop	An additional class to utilise the skills learned earlier in the Basic Graphics course.
	1 pm onwards	OPEN Monthly meeting	OPEN Monthly Meeting from 1.00 pm onward
	7.00 to 9.00 pm	LCG Meeting and Monthly Workshop	Guest presenter Gerald Martin from the Launceston Library– “So much more than
November 12	10 am–12 noon	Basic Graphics	Judy, Eleanor and Karia continue the course on all
	1 pm–3.30 pm	Family History	Judy Hall will be back to assist you in tracing your Ancestry.
November 19	10 am–12 noon	Print Artist	Make greeting cards, labels or signs with our 'old faithful' graphics program, Print Artist
	1 pm–3.30 pm	Level 2 and 3 Graphics	Advanced graphics techniques using the Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8 programs.
November 26	10 am–12 noon	Family History	Trace your Family History using the various resources available at the club.
	1 pm–3.30 pm	Paint Shop Pro 11	Graphics Class using the most recent version of the popular Paint Shop Pro program.
REMINDERS		Friday November 21	7th Birthday Celebrations at the Club from 5:30 pm Christmas Lunch at the Centennial Hotel

OPEN NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2008

COORDINATORS CORNER

Hello everyone,

This month I would like to bring you up to speed with what has been happening at OPEN in the last couple of months.

In October we had Seniors Week which most of you knew about. Due to an error (not on our part) we did not receive the publicity that we expected in the form of a newspaper lift-out that was published in the first week of September but we were able to get some publicity through the Examiner, City Park Radio and Way-FM. We were bracing ourselves for the influx that had happened in previous years but we didn't get as many visitors as we thought we would have. However, enough interest was generated for us to sign up 12 new members during Seniors Week and the great thing was some new students for the Mac classes.

Also most of the new sign-ups were complete beginners, so I felt two new classes were needed to cater for them, and at the time of writing we have started a new Thursday evening class using the

O-learn book developed by Eleanor. The book is going like hot cakes and is being enjoyed by the new students, and when they finish the O-learn books they will be moved into regular classes when vacancies become available.

On Friday the 21st of November at 5.30 pm we would love to see as many of you as can come to celebrate our 7th birthday - it is a belated celebration due to Seniors Week. We just ask that if you are able to come if you could bring a plate (with something on it!)

With less than 60 sleeps left till Christmas we will be closing for our holiday break on Friday the 19th of December, and this will be the date of our break-up lunch at the Centennial Hotel. A notice has been placed up on the back wall with the three options that we will be able to have. We can only have one of three: A set menu (whatever is on their menu board), a small two course meal for \$10 or a larger two course Christmas meal with tea or coffee for \$20. I have been asking people in the classes to tick which option they would like this will stay up till the 12th of November. At this point the clear favourite is the set menu board.

After the 12th of November there will be a form on the back wall to put down your name and spouse's name if they wish to attend. The cut-off date for that will be the 12th of December.

In next month's issue information about starting dates for next year will be explained.

Till our Christmas issue take care and Happy Computing

★ VICTOR PHONE NUMBER 0408 174 235 ★
★
★ Contact the Coordinator Rob Tierney for ★
★ assistance with computer problems at home ★
★
★ (Bookings are subject to availability of tutors.) ★
★

SEEING DOUBLE ???

Every now and then someone will ask me how to remove 'duplicate' files from their computer.

The comment may be something like :

"I don't need the pictures in two places—Picasa and My Pictures."

or

"Why do I have two copies of My Documents?"

In most cases the reality is that there are not two copies of your images or documents.

Picasa is in effect a cataloguing program that provides shortcuts to folders that contain images, such as your digital photos. (*Most of the time*) it does not create copies of all your images.

To check this go to Picasa's Folder Menu, click the Locate on Disk option and you will be taken to a My Computer style window. Click the Folders option on the toolbar and you will see the location of your images in the folder structure of your computer.

Similarly there aren't usually two copies of 'My Documents' on your computer. For most users of Windows 2000 and XP My Documents is a sub-sub-folder located on the C: drive within the Documents and Settings folder.

The My Documents icon you see near the top of the My Computer list of folders is actually a shortcut that makes it easier to find your files without going through the 'chain of command' .

You can prove this 'theory' by moving one of your photos to a different folder. The next time you start Picasa you should see that the program has detected the change of location and the photo will appear in a new folder.

Dennis Murrayl

Bugs and lack of apps plague 64-bit users

By Stuart J. Johnston

Vista boosters say that the 64-bit edition of the operating system runs applications faster and can address a lot more system memory than its 32-bit counterpart.

Just don't tell that to Vince Heiker, a retired IT executive in the Dallas area who has used 64-bit Vista for some time — and hates the OS.

All versions of Vista have serious compatibility glitches, including problems with Office 2007, but the 64-bit release also suffers from a lack of applications written to take advantage of that version's ability to address more than 4GB of RAM.

In fact, Heiker and several other Windows Secrets readers begged to differ with my Sept. 25 story, which discussed the transition of desktop computing to 64-bit hardware and software.

"Plain, simple, and clear: Vista-64 is junkware. It is absolutely the worst, the buggiest software Microsoft has ever released," Heiker tells Windows Secrets.

What's worse, he said, is that Microsoft has no fixes for the vast majority of Vista's problems.

Early adopters vent their Vista-64 frustration

Many potential users of the 64-bit version of Vista are reluctant to make any OS changes after getting burned previously by 32-bit Vista.

"We're not using 64-bit Vista due to all the problems we've had with 32-bit Vista," says J.C. Warren, a systems engineer at a Seattle-based asset-management company.

Other users' complaints include what they view as important software that doesn't run under 64-bit Vista.

"ACT, a fairly popular contact-management program, will not work in 64-bit, and currently Sage has no plans to support it," reader Frank Boecherer

said in an e-mail.

Also on the list of software that readers say is missing in action is a 64-bit version of Adobe's popular Flash player. And don't forget Office 2007, which comes only in a 32-bit edition.

To be sure, many 32-bit applications that were not written specifically to run on Vista-64 will in fact run on that OS. Microsoft maintains a listing of applications and hardware that are "compatible" with Vista, including 64-bit Vista. This listing consists primarily of 32-bit programs that Vista-64 runs in a 32-bit window.

Many 32-bit Microsoft apps, including Office 2007, are listed as working with 64-bit Windows, but some readers who run Vista-64 complain that bugs and incompatibilities abound. In addition, many popular third-party applications, such as Yahoo Music Jukebox Plus, are labelled with a big red "X," meaning they have problems with 64-bit Vista.

Heiker's list of Vista-64 bugs and application incompatibilities is a long one.

Among the problems Heiker cites is "a jerky mouse cursor" that interprets mouse clicks in one spot on the screen as an action on a different spot.

That's not OK, particularly if you're a day trader like those Heiker supports for TradeStation.com, where a click on the wrong spot can cost serious money. Heiker says he's experienced the mouse-location problem with three different mice, all relatively new purchases.

Heiker finally isolated the cause: the 64-bit version of Vista Ultimate failed to remove old device drivers. He discussed the problem with Microsoft support staff, but he says they could provide no solution. Heiker finally resorted to his time-tested standby.

"The only way to get rid of the hardware drivers was to reinstall Vista," Heiker said.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

A second problem Heiker points out involves Outlook 2007, which fails to shut down properly. Other Outlook 2007 problems include unexplained freezes and the mysterious disappearance of the preview pane.

Did you say 'millions' of Registry entries?

Another glitch Heiker continues to confront is a real doozy: with no explanation in sight, his 64-bit Vista PC has accumulated some 23 million Registry entries. No, that's not a typo — **23 million**.

"I brought this to Microsoft's attention and there's no solution to it," he said. "Apparently, a Registry entry is made each time a 32-bit application tries to update the Vista-64 Registry ... duplicating Registry entries a huge number of times."

Despite Heiker's long list of complaints and multiple contacts with Microsoft support, little has changed. "They haven't fixed a single problem that I've reported," he adds.

Complaints such as those of early Vista-64 users don't bode well for the OS in general or 64-bit editions specifically. Still, 64-bit PCs are in the cards for many current Windows users a year or two down the road. By then, the smattering of 64-bit PCs now appearing on the market will likely become a groundswell.

Today, there are 64-bit editions of both Windows XP and Vista — and there will also be 64-bit editions of Windows 7 when it ships in 2009 or 2010. The question is: When 64-bit computers become the norm for desktops, will all the software pieces be in place?

Many people are waiting for Windows 7's debut

It's looking more and more likely that 64-bit desktop computing won't go mainstream until long after Windows 7 ships.

Unfortunately, there's no information on how well 64-bit Vista is doing in the marketplace. The overall figures for Vista are less than stellar: Microsoft claims it has sold 180 million licenses for all versions of Vista,

but take that number with a grain of salt — or perhaps the whole shaker.

Many of those licenses can be deployed as either Vista or XP; analysts state that many of these "Vista" licenses are actually being used for XP.

In fact, according to a Gartner report issued last spring, fewer than 1% of PCs in the U.S. and Europe were running Vista by the end of 2007 — a full year into Vista's lifecycle. Compare that figure with the 80% that, according to the report, are running XP.

Confirming the molasses-in-January adoption rate of Vista is the Gartner study's finding that 55% of European companies and 40% of U.S. firms aren't planning to begin serious Vista deployments (whether the 32- or 64-bit edition) until the first quarter of 2009 or later.

That's awfully close to Microsoft's planned delivery date for Windows 7, which is expected to be significantly faster and more svelte than Vista. Indeed, a Sept. 12 report by Andy Patrizio of Internet News.com states that Microsoft is shooting to ship Windows 7 in time for the 2009 holiday season.

Microsoft wouldn't comment on when it will release a 64-bit version of Office, although analysts predict the next major Office release — code-named "Office 14" — will ship in late 2009 or early 2010. That puts it on a similar track to Windows 7.

Microsoft's impending delivery of Windows 7 and Office 14 could further undercut Vista's viability in the marketplace.

Newbie Club Tutorials & Tips

Tutorial ...

Here's a very neat trick you can try out. If you experiment with it, you'll find it comes in very handy.

To save cluttering up your Desktop with too many icons, you can save a lot of hunting around for saved stuff by creating a folder and downloading related stuff to it - like all your motoring ebooks, or free marketing ebooks...

RIGHT click on an empty area of your Desktop Select 'New' then 'Folder' A new folder appears on your Desktop. While the name 'New Folder' is still active, type in the name you want - like 'Motoring'.

If your PC won't allow you to do this, then RIGHT click on the folder and select 'Rename' and type in 'Motoring' or whatever.

You can fill this folder with anything already sitting on your Desktop by left clicking on an existing object or folder and while keeping your finger depressed, drag it across into the new folder. Then release the button.

Easy Peasy, but here's the cool part ...

Click your mouse pointer over the new folder and hold the left mouse button down. Now drag the folder to the edge of the screen.

Magically it turns into a taskbar with all the individual folders, ebooks or whatever on display!

Every time you place something into that folder it will appear in your new taskbar.

When you get fed up with it, just RIGHT click anywhere on the toolbar and click the Close toolbar command, or untick the toolbar name.

Tutorial ... "How To Get A Gallon Into A Pint Pot"

Have you recently downloaded something to your Desktop, only to find that there's no Icon appearing on your screen?

Maybe there's so many icons on there, that it can't elbow its way into view.

Perhaps your desktop is filled to overflowing with icons so that many of them have disappeared off the screen?

So how do you create more space?

You can either stop downloading stuff or ...

Reduce the size of your Icons, and reduce the space between them! Like this ...

Right click on an empty space on your Desktop.

Left click 'Properties'.

Left click 'Appearance' tab.

Left click 'Item' drop down box.

Left click 'Icon'.

Reduce the size in the 'Size' box.

Click OK. Done!

If you want even more room you can reduce the amount of space between them and get more icons per inch for your money.

Go to the 'Item' drop down box again, and open it.

Left Click on 'Icon Spacing Horizontal' Reduce the space needed in the

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

'Size' box Repeat the procedure with 'Icon Spacing Vertical'.

With trial and error you'll be amazed at the amount of space you can save this way.

Now you'll have plenty of room on your desktop for your coffee and sandwiches!

Tutorial "How To Save Your Email Messages"

Each and every email message you send is saved in your 'Sent Items' folder. That's usually near the bottom of the 'Folder List' window (on the left of your Outlook Express window).

However, there may be times when you are compiling an email and wish to save it and finish it later, rather than send it immediately. Maybe the kids' feeding trough needs re-filling. Or your Pager beeps. Or your the phone rings - or sings - or jingles - or flashes - or plays the National Anthem!

Here's how to do it. Open Outlook express, or Outlook, to try it...

Start writing a new email.

Click on 'File' in your top toolbar.

Click on 'Save' in the flyout window.

Done!

Easy eh? Yeah but WHERE has it gone?

To retrieve it ...

Click to open your 'Drafts' folder (usually near the top of your 'Folder List' window).

Find and open your draft email message.

Continue writing , then send it off in the usual way.

If you wish, you can save an email to anywhere on your PC - your gardening tutorials or whatever.

In that case ...

Instead of clicking 'Save' click 'Save As'.

You'll be given the choice of exactly where you wish to save it.

Give it a name and click 'Save'.

Do the same if you want to save an incoming email to a folder of your choice. Just open the email and 'Save

Tutorial ... "Changing Font Size On Taskbar Button"

Would you like larger fonts on your taskbar buttons? Maybe you're a little short sighted, or just want to mess about a bit:-)

Here's how to do it...

1. Right click anywhere on your Desktop (not on an icon) and the context menu appears.
2. From the context menu, select Properties, and the Display Properties window appears.
3. Select the "Appearance" tab by clicking on it once.
4. Select the "Active Title Bar" from the "Item:" drop down list.
5. Adjust the font size, colour, bold, or italics using the selectors to the

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

right of the font box.

6. Click Apply to see how things will look, then OK to put the Display Properties dialog box away.

Before closing the Display Properties window, you can save your setup as a "scheme". Click the "Save As..." button, and give your new setup a name. Then you can select it from the list you'll see under "Scheme:" next time you want to fiddle around a bit.

The Save As button will give you a "Save this colour scheme as" window... you may not have a colour scheme, but any changes you make will be called such. So they should have named this box "Save scheme as" instead of "Save colour scheme as"... but whatever. You get the point?

You can fiddle with any of the options in this window to create exactly the appearance you desire. Why limit yourself to the "out of the box" appearance of Windows? Go ahead ... customize to your heart's content!

The Day I Lost Control



Expect attacks via latest Windows security hole

By Susan Bradley

Following Microsoft's release last Friday of a critical, out-of-cycle patch, only sporadic reports of attacks based on this weakness have been received — but that may not last

Apply the patch referred to in MS08-067 right away, because Trojan horses that take advantage of this security breach are sure to hit us soon

Microsoft monitors remote-access exploits As I reported in last Friday's special bulletin everyone who uses Windows XP, Vista, Server 2003 or later should download and install MS08-067> (patch 958644), which is a critical corrective for the OS.

The good news is that, so far, Window Secrets readers report few problems installing the patch. The small number of glitches they have encountered can be cleared up by uninstalling and then reinstalling the update.

In the meantime, the Microsoft Security Response Center blog reports that the company has detected malware authors discussing online how to take advantage of this vulnerability. However, at this writing, Microsoft says it hasn't discovered any new threats that use this exploit to drop a Trojan on targeted systems.

There may not yet be any fast-moving worm built specifically to exploit this weakness. But the vulnerability is similar to the hole that was used by the MSBlaster worm, which surfaced on the Internet in 2003. So don't let down your guard. Patch your PC if you haven't already done so, because this exploit is sure to be the focus of malware authors before long.

Since it's only a matter of time until such attacks become widespread, I urge you to reach out to other Windows users you know to ensure that they're protected from this vulnerability — once you've patched your own systems, that is.

Reboot to complete application of the fix One question that often comes up when patching Windows is whether you need to reboot the system to ensure that it's fully patched. Some Microsoft patches are able to temporarily suspend a system, add the patch, and then restart only the service or services that are involved.

The file that's being patched by this out-of-cycle update, however — netapi32.dll — is used by so many different Windows functions that it's impossible to apply the patch without rebooting your machine.

I installed the patch on a PC that's running Small Business Server 2003 to determine the

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

number of services that need to be shut off and restarted to ensure that the system is truly protected. This post on my blog includes a screen shot listing the many different processes that use the file.

Always reboot before installing patches, so you know in advance whether your system is having any boot-up problems you should resolve. Equally important — and I cannot stress this enough — whenever you install a patch, if the system indicates afterward that you need to reboot it, do so right away. If you wait, you leave your system vulnerable. Also, whenever two versions of the same file are stored in your PC's memory, they're likely to conflict, which makes the machine unstable.

Responses to reader questions about the patch Over the past week, I've fielded some interesting questions from Windows Secrets readers regarding this rare, out-of-cycle patch from Microsoft. Here are two of the most common queries:

- **"If I'm running Microsoft software on a Mac, am I vulnerable?"**

No. The vulnerability in question affects only Windows, not Microsoft Office or other applications running on a Mac or other non-Windows system. If you use a Mac, you don't have to install this patch.

"Are Windows NT and Windows 98 machines susceptible to the security hole?"

Windows NT, 95, 98, and Me are supported by Microsoft only for customers who pay a fee. As a result, Microsoft releases patches for these operating systems only to people who have Premier support contracts with the company.

However, as was reported on the Patch Management blog by Eric Schultze of patch-management vendor Shavlik.com, Microsoft has provided a fix for this problem to customers who pay for NT patches.

I'm still investigating whether Windows 98 is vulnerable to this problem. Until I determine this, I urge users of Windows versions prior to XP to have a full complement of up-to-date security software on their machines, including both an antivirus app and a software firewall.

Vista gets two expected patches from MS Vista machines were offered two new, out-of-cycle patches beginning on Oct. 28, two weeks after this month's Patch Tuesday.

One of the patches was MS08-062

<<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms08-062.msp>> (953155). This upgrade is for the Windows Internet Printing Service and only affects you if you're using Vista as a Web server. Microsoft stated on Oct. 14 that this fix was being offered for Windows Server as part of its regular Patch Tuesday release, but that a version for Vista would be coming out later.

Vista is also now receiving its monthly dose of compatibility upgrades in patch 957200. However, at this writing, the Microsoft Knowledge Base article that would ordinarily detail what's in the patch is missing in action.

If you'd like to read up before deploying the patch, as I plan to do, feel free to look for KB article 957200 in the next few days. (It'll probably be posted on this page I don't believe you need to install this patch until Microsoft explains what it does.

Virtual computers need to be patched with TLC In a recent blog post Microsoft employee Tony Soper provides specific instructions for applying this patch on servers that use the company's HyperV virtualization platform. Soper indicates that the virtualized server platform's default setting doesn't even check for patches, let alone install them.

Follow these steps to patch a virtualized server:

Step 1. Open a command line. Type hvconfig and press Enter.

Step 2. Type 6 and press Enter to search for updates.

Step 3. Type Y and press Enter to download and install all updates.

After a few minutes, you'll be prompted to restart the system. Click Yes to initiate a restart.

Don't forget to patch any virtualized operating system that you may have as well. Personally, I patched several test operating systems last Friday that I have running in VMware to ensure that they're also protected.

AVG antivirus is causing patching headaches As if we didn't have enough patching emergencies to deal with this week, a recent update of AVG's antivirus software knocked out some people's Internet connection. AVG's support page indicates that after upgrading to AVG version 8.0.196, your network link may fail.

If rebooting your PC doesn't fix the problem, follow the instructions on AVG's support page to download the fixfiles.zip file to your computer. Double-click the .zip file to open it, and then double-click fixfiles.exe in the resulting folder to run the utility.

If the glitch persists, the company recommends that you run a repair installation of your AVG app. If reinstalling your antivirus software doesn't get you back online, AVG advises that you contact the company's support desk for further instructions.

I became aware of the AVG update glitch when the program began to interfere with the collection and distribution of e-mail on my Small Business Server 2003 test system.

BIRTH ORDER OF CHILDREN

1st baby: You begin wearing maternity clothes as soon as your OB/GYN confirms your pregnancy.

2nd baby: You wear your regular clothes for as long as possible.

3rd baby: Your maternity clothes ARE your regular clothes.. -love this one

Preparing for the Birth:

1st baby: You practice your breathing religiously.

2nd baby: You don't bother because you remember that last time, breathing didn't do a thing.

3rd baby: You ask for an epidural in your eighth month

The Baby clothes:

1st baby: You pre-wash newborn's clothes, colour co-ordinate them, and fold them neatly in the baby's little bureau.

2nd baby: You check to make sure that the clothes are clean and discard only the ones with the darkest stains.

3rd baby: Boys can wear pink, can't they?

Worries:

1st baby: At the first sign of distress--a whimper, a frown--you pick up the baby.

2nd baby: You pick the baby up when her wails threaten to wake your firstborn.

3rd baby: You teach your three-year-old how to rewind the mechanical swing _____

Dummies:

1st baby: If the dummy falls on the floor, you put it away until you can go home and wash and sterilise it..

2nd baby: When the dummy falls on the floor, you squirt it off with some juice from the baby's bottle.

3rd baby: You wipe it off on your shirt and pop it back in.

Nappy changing:

1st baby: You change your baby's nappies every hour, whether they need it or not.

2nd baby: You change their nappy every two to three hours, if needed.

3rd baby: You try to change their nappy before others start to complain about the smell or you see it sagging to their knees.

Activities:

1st baby: You take your infant to Baby Gymnastics, Baby Swing, and Baby Story Hour.

2nd baby: You take your infant to Baby Gymnastics.

(Continued from page 13)

3rd baby: You take your infant to the supermarket and the dry cleaner.

Going Out:

1st baby: The first time you leave your baby with a sitter, you call home five times.

2nd baby: Just before you walk out the door, you remember to leave a number where you can be reached.

3rd baby: You leave instructions for the sitter to call only if she sees blood.

At Home:

1st baby: You spend a good bit of every day just gazing at the baby.

2nd baby: You spend a bit of everyday watching to be sure your older child isn't squeezing, poking, or hitting the baby.

3rd baby: You spend a little bit of every day hiding from the children.

Swallowing Coins:

1st child: When first child swallows a coin, you rush the child to the hospital and demand x-rays.

2nd child: When second child swallows a coin, you carefully watch for the coin to pass.

3rd child: When third child swallows a coin you deduct it from his allowance!

Tutorial ... "How To Stop Your Cursor From Flying"

----- "Control the tracking speed of your mouse"

As you move the mouse across its pad, the cursor may fly across the screen, or it may crawl. This speed is easily adjusted within the Mouse Properties dialog box. Use the Pointer speed slider to make adjustments. Get there via ...

START SETTINGS CONTROL PANEL Double Click the MOUSE ICON MOTION TAB If your mouse pointer is moving too fast, drag the slider to the slower side. If it's creeping, speed it up by dragging the slider to the right, or faster side.

----- "Left Handed?"

Southpaws can use mice comfortably too. If you're left handed and the convention of right handers bugs you, change things around to suit your desires. Just visit the Mouse Properties dialog box and select the Buttons tab. Activate the Left-

handed option and apply the new setting by clicking OK.

Things are reversed now, so watch what you do.

----- "Adjust Your Double Click Speed"

Programs have to distinguish between two consecutive clicks and true double click. For example, click once and wait three seconds, then click again. That's two single clicks. A double click would be like clicking twice within one second.

This rate can be adjusted (you guessed it) in the Mouse Properties dialog box, under the Buttons tab.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

By the way. While you're in there, watch out for any mouse traps:-)

Tutorial .. "How to get Virus Free Programs "

Did you know you can get free upgrades and programs for your computer from all over the Internet.

After a re format of my hard drive, I couldn't find the CD containing my Epson printer driver. So I went to Epson.com and downloaded it for free.

But be careful - some downloads from 'non-recognized sites can carry viruses. The safest thing to do is download directly from the manufacturer or a recognized 'safe' download site. If you cannot download directly from the manufacturer or supplier, these download sites can solve the problem.

TUCOWS <<http://www.tucows.com>> DOWNLOAD.COM
<<http://www.download.com>> Programs on these sites are virus checked and certified as virus - free.

Tutorial ... "Kwik Printing Tips"

What if you only want to print out part of a Website, or document. You know - a relevant paragraph or section?

This easy method will save you a lot of time, ink, and paper!

Here's the secret ...

Just highlight the text that you want to print. Then, on your program's menu line, click "File, Print."

When the "print" dialog box appears, you'll see a live radio button with "Selection" under the Print Range area. This will only appear if you've highlighted part of the page.

Now click OK and only the selected text will be printed.

That is, only the HIGHLIGHTED text that you've selected.

----- How to Kwik Print a Web page...

To print a web page when using Internet Explorer...

Right click on the Web page and select Print.

Then follow your printer directions as normal.

I never cease to be amazed at some of this techie stuff!

Mad Cow Disease

There was this news woman in New Zealand that was interviewing a farmer about mad cow disease...

so she says..."Sir what can you tell me about this terrible epidemic of "mad cow disease"?

the farmer says..."Did you know that a bull only mounts a cow once a year?"..

she says..."well that is an interesting fact, but back to the point...what about mad cow?"

he says..."and did you know that cows are milked twice daily?"

and she says..."hat's all very interesting but what does that have to do with mad cow disease?"

...he says..."if someone played with your tits twice a day and only humped you once a year...wouldn't you be mad too?"

Who said Blondes were Dumb???

Blonde was sent on her way to Heaven. Upon arrival, a concerned St Peter met her at the Pearly Gates.

'I'm sorry,' St Peter said; 'But Heaven is suffering from an overload of goodly souls and we have been forced to put up an Entrance Exam for new arrivals to ease the burden of Heavenly Arrivals.' 'That's cool' said the blonde, 'What does the Entrance Exam consist of?' 'Just three questions' said St Peter.

'Which are?' asked the blonde.

'The first,' said St Peter, 'is, which two days of the week start with the letter 'T' '?

The second is 'How many seconds are there in a year?' The third is 'What was the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?' 'Now,' said St Peter, 'Go away and think about those questions and when I call upon you, I shall expect you to have those answers for me.' So the blonde went away and gave those three questions some considerable thought (I expect you to do the same).

The following morning, St Peter called upon the blonde and asked if she had considered the questions, to which she replied, 'I have.' 'Well then,' said St Peter, 'Which two days of the week start with the letter T?' The blonde said, 'Today and Tomorrow.' St Peter pondered this answer for some time, and decided that indeed the answer can be applied to the question.

'Well then, could I have your answer to the second of the three questions?' St Peter went on, 'how many seconds in a year?' The Blonde replied, 'Twelve!' 'Only twelve?' exclaimed St Peter, 'How did you arrive at that figure?' 'Easy,' said the blonde, 'there's the second of January, the second of February, right through to the second of December, giving a total of twelve seconds.' St Peter looked at the blonde and said, 'I need some time to consider your answer before I can give you a decision.' And he walked away shaking his head.

A short time later, St Peter returned to the Blonde. 'I'll allow the answer to stand, but you need to get the third and final question absolutely correct to be allowed into Heaven. Now, can you tell me the answer to the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?' The blonde replied: 'Of the three questions, I found this the easiest to answer.' 'Really!' exclaimed St Peter, 'And what is the answer?' 'It's Andy.' 'Andy??' 'Yes, Andy,' said the blonde.

This totally floored St Peter, and he paced this way and that, deliberating the answer. Finally, he could not stand the suspense any longer, and turning to the blonde, asked 'How in God's name did you arrive at THAT answer?' 'Easy' said the blonde, 'Andy sat, Andy watched, Andy waited till his billy boiled.'

And the blonde entered Heaven...

How to Give a Cat A Pill

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left Arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger And thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently Apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right Hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth.

Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa.

Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, Holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws Open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger.

Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of Wardrobe. Call spouse from garden..

6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, Hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted By cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand While forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down Ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7.. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill From foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and Repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered Figurines and vases from hearth and set to one Side for gluing later.

8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie On cat with head just visible from below armpit.

Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open With pencil and blow

down drinking straw.

9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to Humans, drink 1 beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood From carpet with cold water and soap.

10 Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another Pill. Open another beer.. Place cat in cupboard, And close door onto neck, to leave head showing.

Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill Down throat with elastic band.

11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard Door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of Scotch. Pour shot, drink. Apply cold compress to Cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot.

Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back Another shot. Throw Tee shirt away and fetch new One from bedroom.

12. Call fire department to retrieve the damn cat from Across the road. Apologize to neighbour who crashed Into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill From foil wrap.

13. Tie the front paws to rear paws with Garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, Find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill Into mouth followed by large piece of filet steak. Be Rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints Of water down throat to wash pill down.

14. Consume remainder of scotch. Get spouse to Drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while Doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill Remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way Home to order new table.

15. Arrange for RSPCA to collect mutant cat from hell And call local pet shop to see if they have any Hamsters.

How To Give A Dog A Pill

1. Wrap it in bacon.
2. Toss it in the air.

