

Press Release

Infected Email Messages Dupe Computer Users

Fake messages trick thousands of users into infecting themselves

Lincoln, NE – July 27, 2006:

Computer users are being greeted with an unexpected message when they check their email. Fake messages that appear to be from valid online retailers are arriving in inboxes around the world and infecting thousands with tainted attachments.

The virus infecting users is a variant of the Download.Trojan virus. The virus allows an attacker to take complete control of a user's computer and internet connection. The virus comes attached to an email message that appears to be from a valid online retailer, such as Amazon.com. The message explains that the attachment is a copy of an invoice from a recent purchase. Confused computer users attempt to open the email and they are immediately infected.

"As computer anti-virus technology becomes more advanced, virus writers are beginning to rely more heavily on social engineering to trick humans into infecting themselves," Thor Schrock, owner of Schrock Innovations Computer Repair said.

This new trend has been labeled a level 3 security threat by Symantec, the makers of Norton Antivirus, because the fake email messages look so legitimate that they are tricking thousands of individuals into opening the infected attachment. Most reputable anti-virus programs will remove the infected attachment before it arrives in your inbox, but users of free antivirus programs and unprotected users may be infected without even knowing it.

Email Messages Trick Computer Users

“This is a new face on an old trick,” Schrock said. “The attacker is attempting to play on human curiosity to deliver the virus’ payload.”

Users can protect themselves from almost all threats that arrive in email messages by using a reliable anti-virus program such as Norton Antivirus. A free 6-month subscription to Norton Antivirus can be downloaded as a part of the Google Pack at www.schrockinnovations.com/googlepack. Users who are already infected can use the free 6-month subscription to clean their computers.

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