

AW: [Full-Disclosure] 9/11 virus

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> *Add the inevitable batch of new 9/11 viruses to the heap of*
> *avoidable-but-commonplace user-dependent vulnerabilities.*

It ain't a user-dependent vulnerability. It exploits shortcomings in the interface. It exploits the fact that what the machine does is not what the user wants or expects it to do.

User:

"I want to see this picture."

Machine:

Ok...

...oh, it isn't a picture, it's an executable...

...so, let's execute it.

The user never wanted to execute a file, he wanted to see a picture. It's a miscommunication issue, not stupidity of users. A better interface would prevent it. For example, imagine for one second that there were no implicit actions, i.e. there is no "doubleclick and the right thing will happen", but you always have to state **WHAT** you want to do.(*)

It's not a user issue. Users aren't stupid, they just have a limited need to know. You'd be shouting at your car mechanic if he told you that it's your fault that the car burst into flames because that's just what it does when you open the trunk while the headlights are on and the gear is in reverse.

But hey, it's not like we haven't known this ever since the first Outlook worm, and it could've been solved for years.

Tom Vogt

(*) And don't tell me users wouldn't accept that. Every other electronic device works that way. You don't press **POWER** on your TV and expect it to know which channel you want.

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Full-Disclosure – We believe in it.

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