

## RE: [Full-Disclosure] Symantec wants to criminalize security info sharing

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Full-Disclosure/2003-09/1266.html>

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**From:** Richard M. Smith (*rms\_at\_computerbytesman.com*)

**Date:** 09/21/03

To: "'Bruce Ediger'" <eballen1@qwest.net>, <full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com>

Date: Sat, 20 Sep 2003 19:55:11 -0400

My understanding is that most of the spammers are selling pirated versions of Norton. Symantec has every incentive to shut these spammers down.

Richard

-----Original Message-----

From: full-disclosure-admin@lists.netsys.com

[mailto:full-disclosure-admin@lists.netsys.com] On Behalf Of Bruce Ediger

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2003 5:52 PM

To: full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com

Subject: RE: [Full-Disclosure] Symantec wants to criminalize security info sharing

On Sat, 20 Sep 2003, Jonathan A. Zdziarski wrote:

> *Has anyone called a boycott of Symantec lately?*

No, but we should, for two specific reasons:

1. They support spammers. How many years have you been getting the spams for "Really Cheap Norton Systemworks" packages? And how many complaints have you made to spamwatch@symantec.com? And how much in the way of results have you seen?

I think I've gotten regularly scheduled spams from at least 3 spam operations over the last 3 years, all advertising cheap Systemworks.

Clearly, Symantec is funding this spamming. And don't tell me that they won a suit against a spammer – why did I get two copies of the spam today alone?

2. They're an anti-virus firm, but the best they can offer is "update your virus signature files regularly", even though that's about as

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effective  
as shouting "U SUKK!!!!" at the viruses, based on how many copies of  
Sobig.f  
and Swen I've gotten.

At least they could admit that trying to protect Windows/MSFT products  
is  
pretty hopeless, and encourage people to switch to more functional, yet  
free products like Pine, or mailx or whatever Mac OS X uses to read  
email.  
None of them have ever had a macro virus, despite many, many buffer  
overflows  
and other disgusting security problems.

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