

Re: IE URL obfuscation: counterpoint

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/NT-Bugtraq/2003-12/0051.html>

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Date: 12/11/03

Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2003 17:52:40 -0500
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I agree that Russ is a little cloistered when it comes to sanity checks about average users—as are we all to some extent. For instance, even entertaining the idea of requiring a license to operate a computer, or teaching everyone about personal firewalls, is pretty off the wall to me. I know plenty of users whose eyes glaze over approximately .05 seconds into any sentence that contains the phrase "ip address." (Even if you drew crayon pictures of what an IP is, glaze would ensue immediately.) Are these people supposed to be denied the advantages of having an Internet connection? But I digress...

Consider that if someone would get taken in by a bogus website, they'll probably get taken in **without** URL obfuscation.

But the bottom line is, if I made IE and I thought that even one person could be hurt by a bug, I'd have to fix it. Quickly. In fact, I'd have to implement an anti-scram feature. Because bugs are not the only irresponsible thing a developer can let loose on the world.

It might be a good idea for IE to warn users about URLs that look bogus in much the same way that spam is examined...URL too long? Have an @ sign in it? etc. etc. and always warn by default. Maybe we need a DNSBL for **scam** as for spam, and a plugin to use it.

BTW if we did have a warning feature, it should require something more than hitting OK to override. Because most of the users I deal with hit OK before they read a warning. What's worse is when the thing pops up and OK is highlighted, and the user is typing away in a document...and the first space bar they hit punches the OK button.

RF

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