

Re: Dialup Security: Is this a known problem?

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sponge wrote:

> On 27 Dec 2003 20:20:49 GMT, *jbwtsn03@aol.com (Jbwtsn03)* wrote:

>

>

> *Bad news. NIS is crap.*

1) I think that all windows and/or personal firewalls pale in comparison to IPTables, so I think you should re-think your response.

2) Even if this is so, then why do all the security magazines keep rating Norton high and McAfee low? Come on, I doubt they'd have reason to lie. Even PC Magazine rated NIS and ZA at the top, with NIS taking the award.

3) Symantec has been in the security industry much longer also. Don't kid yourself.

> *McAfee's is better in many respects but you*

> *might be better served by using discreet tools: A firewall (use*

> *McAfee's, ZoneAlarm, or Kerio 2.1.5.*

(Uh, and even then, a firewall is only as good as its admin.) "Discrete tools"? Uh, what's discrete about a firewall and antivirus?

> *Use a HOSTS file*

> (<http://mvps.org/winhelp2002/hosts.txt>, and unZIP it into your

> *Windows folder for Windows 95, 98, Me, or to your*

> *Windows\System32\Driver\etc folder for Windows NT, 2000, and XP).*

I do not recommend screwing around with that file, since it wasn't really meant for that.

> *The*

> *third thing to do is use ANY browser and email program other than*

> *Internet Explorer and Outlook.*

Uh, no, don't bail out on them just because you don't know how to use them.

However, I will admit that there are better web clients and/or email clients out there. I use Konqueror and Kmail.

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- > *If you want more details visit my site*
- > *in my sig, below, which covers all this. A fourth to do is download*
- > *and run Ad-Aware and SpyBot (both, make sure to run their built-in*
- > *Update features after downloading, and scan your system. Make sure*
- > *you've allowed them to remove any flagged parasites.)*

Sad that one must do so to keep the windows OS safe. However, once someone learns where to look for such things, both in the registry and on the hard drive, those programs aren't necessary.

- >
- >
- > *Nothing. Thst's common with AOL. You local AOL node is probably*
- > *throttling connections to a certain speed so divide bandwidth equally*
- > *among customers. Consider, also, that at this time of year, you have a*
- > *lot of people shopping online, a lot of kids home from college who*
- > *have to use mom or dad's AOL instead of their campus network*
- > *connection, etc.*

That, and AOL just sucks, both my opinion and that of most user-based surveys. Also, AOL claims to be "unhackable", but last time I heard they train their parrots to say this, then put them on the phone support lines.

- >
- >
- > *Ok, so stick with that. AOL software is, well, pretty crappy.*

That, and some firewalls don't know how to work with AOL, since it's not over a standard adapter (i.e. not using the dialup adapter, but the custom aol adapter, which further makes AOL suck).

- > *Frankly,*
- > *I think you'd be vastly better off with another ISP (besides*
- > *Earthlink).*

I agree.

- > *Just make sure if you do use another ISP, not to install*
- > *any software they provide.*

Why not, if it's free? Also, why not, if they support it? I don't know if earthlink supports the software they provide, but I still suggest installing it (i.e. if it's firewall or antivirus, not the stupid "connect me" software).

- > *If you go with a dial-up ISP, you can use*
- > *your operating systems "New Connection Wizard" to set everything up,*
- > *and you then start your browser or email program and do what you want.*
- > *If you get cable or DSL, you normally do not have to do anything to*
- > *connect – just make sure your firewall always runs at startup.*
- >

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>>I'm sure that there's a program on my drive that allows him to see
> the desktop
>>and do whatever he wants, and nothing I've used so far can find
> anything wrong!

Previous poster: are you smoking crack? I know that trojans can allow this,
but until you know for sure, don't get all dramatic about stuff.

>> When I discovered that the registry has new entries, ie in the "Run
>> Services"
>>key, he started hiding them elsewhere. Now I can't find a thing on
> my own, and
>>I certainly can't afford an expert to look at it. I think the
> install will
>>just get ruined again and I'll have wasted the money.
>
> Don't jump the gun here. A lot of weirdness is actually normal stuff
> (unfortunately).

Yep: windows isn't the most stable of the operating systems...

> Look, download and run HiJackThis!
> (<http://tomcoyote.org/hjt>) and post the results here or email them to
> me and I'll analyze them, if you want. Although it's possible you've
> been owned, what I'm seeing here actually seems pretty normal for AOL.
> HiJackThis may find other potential threats as well.
>
> Sponge
> Sponge's Secure Solutions
> www.geocities.com/yosponge
> My new email: yosponge2 att yahoo dott com

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Death is only a state of mind.
Only it doesn't leave you much time to think about anything else.