

## Re: DON'T BELIEVE "Tracker", "Debbie", VPNSISHACKERSSECRET, "snailmail"!

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2003-02/1310.html>

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**From:** Charles Otstot ([saries@nc.rr.com](mailto:saries@nc.rr.com))

**Date:** 02/19/03

From: "Charles Otstot" <[saries@nc.rr.com](mailto:saries@nc.rr.com)>

Date: Wed, 19 Feb 2003 13:16:57 -0500

"Tracker" <"snailmail(remove)222000"@yahoo.com> wrote in message  
news:3E5084ED.4958C4AC@yahoo.com...

> *If you'd like someone to challenge your knowledge, I'll gladly do so.*

> *Just a couple of quick examples*

>

> *Your VPN "information" is all wrong...the existence of a VPN adapter does*

> *NOT imply a system has been hacked. VPN stands for Virtual Private  
Network,*

> *setting up encrypted communications between two locations (e.g. a remote*

> *user's PC and hs/her office network). The VPN adapter is a virtual network*

> *adapter that binds to a VPN client and creates the communication pathway  
to*

> *its partner location. A VPN adapter would be set up to ensure secure*

> *communications, NOT to hack into someone's system.*

>

> *I. My VPN advice is for the simple minded Windows users (excluding 2000,  
NT,*

> *XP).*

Bear in mind that many casual, novice (I wouldn't necessarily  
call them simple-minded) users run  
the "excluded" OSes you list.

> *A. Read "Que Special Edition Using Windows Me, Page 520".*

> *B. Install Windows 95, 98, ME and you will not see any VPN Adapter(s)*

> *set-up under Network Properties.*

If you install *any* Windows OS, there will be no VPN  
Adapters installed by default.

My point is that VPN installation is an active installation  
which cannot be accomplished without

user knowledge. As I noted with AOL adapters, I have never  
heard of a VPN client being installed

through hacking activity. It would be a purposeless act,  
serving only to encrypt communications between

the target machine and the attacker's system. The attacker

would gain nothing from the installation, since  
he/she would already have the ability to utilize the target  
system in any fashion he/she desired without  
the need of a VPN client.

- >
- > *You often indicate that AOL adapters are a sign of hacking. AOL adapters are*
- > *installed as part of the AOL client installation. I have yet to see or*
- > *hear*
- > *of an attacker installing the AOL client onto a target machine. If you*
- > *have*
- > *any specific, independently documented (by a recognized authoritative*
- > *source) cases, please provide such documentation.*
- >
- > *If any individual isn't using AOL as an Internet Service Provider, no AOL*
- > *client*
- > *adapter(s) will be present in Network Properties. AOL adapter(s) don't*
- > *install*
- > *themselves all by themselves. User has to invoke the client for the*
- > *adapter(s)*
- > *to appear.*
- >

If you have even one specific independently documented case of an  
AOL client being installed  
by hacking activity, please provide such documentation.

- > *I do not ascribe any improper motives on your part. However, your*
- > *knowledge*
- > *\*is\* extremely limited and virtually every bit of advice I've seen you*
- > *post*
- > *has been technically inaccurate at best, and generally has been*
- > *destructive*
- > *for anyone who would accept it. If you truly desire to help others with*
- > *security problems, please get some formal training both in the platforms*
- > *you*
- > *want to support (e.g. Windows) \*and\* in security (e.g. CISSP as a start).*
- >
- > *I'm not here to critique your skills. My advice is one part of a four*
- > *slice*
- > *pie. Tracker awaits others to share their three slices of pie with the*
- > *group.*
- >

Unfortunately, your advice carries the potential for a great deal of  
harm to those who are unfamiliar with  
computer systems on a technical level. As such, the "pie" has  
already spoiled by the time you complete  
your postings.

- > *Tracker*
- >

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