

Re: Spam, a security risk?

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2003-07/0764.html>

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...actually, to add to your response, there is a security risk, but the messenger spam is merely a useful warning of another larger one – that ports on the computer are open from the Internet.

.Lionel Fourquaux wrote:

> "Terance Muller" <terancem@surebondinternational.com> a écrit dans le
> message de news:01e801c3471c\$858a36f0\$a501280a@phx.gbl...

>> *Is there any truth to this*

>> *claim, or is this just their sales pitch to get you to*

>> *buy a product???*

>

> *It's true, but it doesn't mean you have to buy anything.*

>

> *Spammers are (mis)using a built-in Windows service that*

> *was designed to transmit messages from the administrator*

> *to users on a computer. It's quite easy to disable this:*

> *stop the Messenger service (not the Messenger Application:*

> *there is no connection between these two, except the name.*

> *I'm speaking of a WinNT service, a special kind of program*

> *that runs in the background). Of course, you may not want*

> *to do it if you are actually using this service normally. In this*

> *case, you should set up a firewall to block incoming connections*

> *to the Messenger service.*

>

> *It's one more annoying form of spam, but this one is really*

> *quite easy to avoid. As far as I know (and, of course, provided*

> *there is no security bug in the service), there is no real security*

> *risk in this. (Of course, if spammers can access this service on*

> *your computer, it's quite likely that one can access several other*

> *unnneeded server programs, possibly with nastier security*

> *implications in some cases. Shut them down or set up a firewall).*

>

> *Hope this helps.*

>

> -- Lionel Fourquaux