

## Re: Sound like busy days for anti-virus folkes ?

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2004-02/1216.html>

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And it was taken from a Linux computer.

Read into that what you like.

1/2 pint wrote:

- > *Hey Hey, looks like the Anti-Virus folks will be busy !*
- > *Regards*
- > *half\_pint*
- > *esboella@yahoo.com*
- >
- > *LONDON/AMSTERDAM – Internet users on Friday were*
- > *ferociously downloading pirate versions of Microsoft*
- > *Corp's Windows source code, stoking concerns hackers and*
- > *virus writers could use it for a new wave of cyber*
- > *attacks.*
- >
- > *The world's largest software maker alerted the public on*
- > *Thursday that parts of its valuable source code for its*
- > *Windows NT and Windows 2000 operating systems had been*
- > *leaked to various online file-sharing networks. Microsoft*
- > *said the released code amounted to a fraction of the*
- > *entire program, but that wasn't stopping the curious and*
- > *the malevolent from checking it out for themselves.*
- > *Noting the size of the files being swapped on Internet*
- > *file-sharing networks on Friday, security experts feared*
- > *there could be enough compromised code available to crack*
- > *open vital pieces of a software that run millions of*
- > *computers.*
- >
- > *"Whilst we do not know exactly what's in circulation,*
- > *every coder, every malware jockey and every hacker who*
- > *has a reasonable understanding of programming is going to*
- > *be looking to get their hands on this source code," said*
- > *Richard Starnes, an information security specialist who*
- > *works with various law enforcement agencies on cyber-*
- > *crime investigations.*
- >

- > *SOURCE CODE FOR THE TAKING* Various computer security
- > firms were reporting on Friday that two compressed files –
- > – one at 203 megabytes and another at 229 megabytes of
- > Windows NT and Windows 2000 operating systems -- were
- > being widely distributed on scores of online exchanges.
- > Security officials said the compressed files amounted to
- > a CD-Rom's worth of data and represented less than five
- > percent of Windows code. However, they warned it may
- > relate critical security functions.
- >
- > "I do not believe Microsoft would have issued a public
- > statement if the source code for solitaire had been
- > released," said Starnes. The concern is that in the wrong
- > hands, virus writers and hackers could discover
- > vulnerabilities in the software and use it to break into
- > PCs running on Windows 2000 or NT to destroy or steal
- > data. Microsoft on Thursday was quick to dismiss this as
- > unlikely, but that hasn't deterred Internet users from
- > downloading the files. "The source code leak spread
- > quickly in the underground," said Ken Dunham, Malicious
- > Code Intelligence manager for security consultancy
- > iDefense. Microsoft said it believed the leak could be a
- > software developer, but was no closer on Friday to
- > pinpointing the suspect.
- >
- > Microsoft, which has been criticized for a number of
- > software glitches that have been used by virus writers to
- > develop potent Internet contagions, said it is working
- > with the Federal Bureau of Investigations to track down
- > the culprit. The list of suspects could be a long one.
- > Microsoft last year began sharing parts of its Windows
- > source code with governments interested in tailoring it
- > to fit, primarily, their security needs.
- >
- > Microsoft also has a longer-running initiative to provide
- > universities and large corporate customers pieces of its
- > source code for research and development purposes with
- > tight restrictions on making it publicly available. The
- > initiatives were launched in part to address the
- > competitive threat Microsoft was feeling from vendors of
- > the open-source Linux software. Linux has gained valuable
- > market share in recent years as government and corporate
- > users see it as a transparent software alternative that
- > can be customized to fit their needs.
- >
- > Microsoft responded to the Linux threat by offering
- > discounts to win over budget-conscious customers and
- > vowing to give customers a closer peek at its most
- > valuable asset. "I don't think that this kind of shared
- > source usage can be scaled back. It's become an essential
- > part of our business practices. Governments want it for

microsoft.public.security: Re: Sound like busy days for anti-virus folks ?

- > *trust and transparency. Businesses want it for security,"*
- > *Wilfried Grommen, general manager for Microsoft's*
- > *business strategy for Europe, Middle East and Africa,*
- > *told Reuters on Friday.*
- >
- > *"It's a very large group of people that have access to*
- > *the source code. It includes people at 120 universities*
- > *in 27 countries. It includes large enterprises," he said,*
- > *adding Microsoft recently began distributing code to*
- > *independent software developers too. "That is another*
- > *large community," he said.*
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<http://www.sbslinks.com/really.htm>