

Direct Ads Security Hole!!!!

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More important is what are YOU going to do about it?! As others have posted, installing, enabling and configuring a software firewall or simply enabling ICF (Internet Connection Firewall) in XP is a definite must-do! Also, if your concern gets the best of you, go to START/Administrative Tools/Services...scroll down to Messenger...doubleclick on it and set to Disable. You'll sleep much better, I'm sure! ;)

Rick www.EmbraceHisGrace.com

>-----Original Message-----

>I would like to know what Microsoft is going to do about
>this security problem.

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>As reported on CNN this week:

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>"A developer of bulk-mail software has figured out how
to

>blast computers with pop-up spam over the Internet
>through a messaging function on many Windows operating
>systems. But there's a difference: Anyone can send the
>messages, and there's no need for the user to have an
>Internet browser open."

>

>They are messages sent DIRECTLY to your computer. They
>are not email messages and do not use your browser. They
>are "completely anonymous and virtually untraceable" and
>can pop up on your computer at any time.

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>"Now somebody on the other side of the world can send
pop

>up messages direct to your screen, without email and
>without a browser !" – Chris Hopkins Security Engineer

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microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin: Direct Ads Security Hole!!!!

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- >*How do DirectAds work ?*
- >*By tapping into Messenger Service, a service originally*
- >*designed to enable system administrators to send*
messages
- >*to users on a network, a new program called Direct*
- >*Advertiser can deliver these ads straight to your*
- >*computer screen. Since DSL, Cable Modems and Dial-Up all*
- >*connect to a network, anytime you are online, your*
- >*computer is vulnerable to these pop up ads.*
- >
- >*Messenger Service uses the same system to communicate*
- >*that is used for Windows File and Printer Sharing, so*
you
- >*can't just block that system without causing other*
- >*problems. Even most Firewalls leave this system open.*
- >*This leaves a gaping hole in your computer that*
DirectAds
- >*can use to force advertising or other information to pop*
- >*up on your screen.*
- >
- >*Messenger Service is enabled by default on Windows 2000,*
- >*NT and XP systems, and optional on Windows 95, 98, and*
- >*ME. This means that millions of systems are vulnerable*
to
- >*these pop up ads. (The Windows Messenger service is not*
- >*to be confused with Microsoft's MSN Messenger chat*
client)
- >
- >.
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