

Re: Partitioning,multibooting etc and security

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From: Robert Moir (bofh@mvps.org)

Date: 03/07/03

From: "Robert Moir" <bofh@mvps.org>

Date: Fri, 7 Mar 2003 21:26:13 -0000

David from Sydney wrote:

> *Hi Everyone,*

> *1) Does placing data or programs on their own partition reduce or
> protect against attack from viruses,worms,trojans etc.?*

Not really. A virus is a computer program and therefore has access to anything you allow computer programs on your system to access. Which generally includes all the disks ;-)

A good few virus and trojans do not go looking for different partitions if they want to trash something, they generally trash the first partition on the disk or the OS partition. So you might gain some protection but you have to be aware this is just leaving things to chance.

> *2)Does placing data or programs on their own partition reduce or
> protect against attack from hackers?*

Perhaps. Depends on the method of breaking into your system the hacker is using. It's standard operating procedure for web servers, for example, because many of the exploits that affect web servers give access to only the partition used to store the web content.

It's not, however, going to help if a hacker tricks you into installing a program on your machine that gives them full remote control of your system.

> *3)Does booting into a separate instance of XP(or other OS) for
> surfing the Web reduce or protect against attack from
> viruses,worms,trojans etc.?*

Not in my opinion. This is just a refinement of the ideas expressed in parts 1 & 2, and I've already explained why those ideas are limited.

> *4)Does booting into a separate instance
> of XP(or other OS) for surfing the Web reduce or protect against
> attack from hackers? TIA*

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Robert Moir, Microsoft Windows MVP

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