

Re: xp security vulnerabilities?

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2004-02/3335.html

From: Robert Moir (*bofh_at_mvps.org*)

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joe wrote:

- > *OK – please don't flame me for a newbie dumbass question but I have*
- > *been searching the net for a while now without finding a clear answer*
- > *to the following, and I am hoping you can help.*
- > *I have recently changed from Win98SE to WinXP corp pro, running Norton*
- > *Internet Security 2003. Under Win98 I had Atguard and BlackIce*
- > *running in addition to NIS and I came up undetected at every security*
- > *test site I could find. I understand that WinXP has some (many?)*
- > *holes and was wondering:*
- > *1. How important is it to install the SP's from MS, and what*
- > *"surprises" should I expect from them?*

Vital in my opinion.

- > *2. What additional software should I have and/or what settings should*
- > *I change in WinXP to be invisible on the net?*

"Invisible on the net" is a myth. You'll want to keep some kind of firewall running sure enough but you need to balance a need to get work done with a need to stay safe. A good firewall and virus scanner is a good start but there is no substitute for good common sense.

- > *3. Does Steve Gibson know what he's talking about or not?*

Ask 10 people that question and you might get 10 different answers. My Opinion: He has one or two facts but he buries them in BS and hyperbole. His site is helpful to beginners perhaps but I don't know anyone in the security industry who takes him very seriously.

Ask yourself this question – Steve went on about how Raw Sockets in XP would cause the Internet to explode as soon as XP was released; How old is XP? And if you can read this reply, did the Internet blow up or not?

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Rob Moir, Microsoft MVP for servers & security

Website - <http://www.robertmoir.co.uk>

Virtual PC 2004 FAQ - <http://www.robertmoir.co.uk/win/VirtualPC2004FAQ.html>

microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin: Re: xp security vulnerabilities?

Kazaa - Software update services for your Viruses and Spyware.

> I have also recently changed from dial-up to DSL, hence my increased

> concern.

If you intend to be connected for long periods of time I'd suggest getting a DSL router/modem that includes a built in firewalling facility of some kind.