

December is Election Month

One of the main agenda items on the schedule for the December 18 meeting will be the election of officers for next year. There was much discussion on this subject at the November meeting. The departure of Frank Hartung from KMUG, for health reasons, leaves KMUG in a position where we must take a hard look at the structure of our organization. Frank's style didn't require much in the way of active support from the membership. He did an excellent job of developing topics for the meetings and presiding over them. With

him gone we are forced to look at ways to fill the void and carry on.

A business meeting was held on November 21 (the day after last month's meeting) to discuss changes to the bylaws, the structure of the luncheon meeting and the future of the evening meetings. These will also be topics of discussion at the December meeting.

If you are member of KMUG, but not a regular attendee, this meeting will be important in the future of our User's Group. You are encouraged to come and make your expectations known. ●

So Now I Have a Mac, What do I do with It?

One of the suggestions at the business meeting on November 21st was that we conduct a "beginners" training session to help those who could use some hands on instruction with someone looking over their shoulder. The logical time for this would be after Christmas, then many of us and potential new members would have new hardware or software and questions about using them.

So, on Saturday, January 24th, we will be having

our training session at the Central Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library (1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton). We have reserved the community room from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM. At this time the agenda is open to suggestions. There is a Wireless LAN connection in the room and (if it is working) there would be internet access. We should also have the group's projector available so that everyone can see any demonstrations without looking over someones shoulder. ●



**United We
Stand**

————— **KMUG MONTHLY MEETING** —————

Luncheon	Evenings
Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M. Solarium Room, All Star Lanes, Myhre Road, Silverdale (one block East of Silverdale Way)	The time and place of the evening meetings is changing. Please be patient while these details are being worked out.

***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***



from the Wall Street Journal

If You're Getting Tired Of Fighting Viruses, Consider a New Mac

By WALTER S. MOSSBERG

For consumers and small businesses, the burden of using Microsoft Windows just keeps getting heavier. After growing easier to use for several years, Windows PCs have taken a giant step backward because they are so insecure.

Windows is riddled with security flaws, and new ones turn up regularly. It is increasingly susceptible to all kinds of viruses, malicious Trojan horse programs and spyware. As a result, Windows users have been forced to spend more of their time and money supporting their computers.

Almost every week, they are supposed to install patches to the already patchy operating system to plug these security holes. And every few months, it seems, Windows users must quake in fear as some horrible new virus is created by the international criminal class that constantly targets Windows.

But for consumers and small businesses, there's a simple way out of this endless morass: Buy an Apple Macintosh computer. There are no viruses on the Macintosh's excellent two-year-old operating system, called OS X. And the Mac is a terrific computer -- as good as, or better than, Windows for the typical computing tasks important to mainstream users.

It isn't impossible to write a virus for the Mac. The system isn't impenetrable. Mac users should still use antivirus software. But any virus or security problem that does emerge on the Mac is likely to be much less serious than the Windows security crisis. "Mac OS X hasn't had any viruses since the OS was launched," says Bill Rosenkrantz, the head of

Macintosh products at Symantec, the big antivirus firm. "It's more difficult to attack the Apple system than Windows."

Microsoft is working hard on its security problems. The software giant has declared that better security is its No. 1 priority and is mounting an effort to modify Windows XP, via an upgrade due in the spring, to make it more secure. In fact, the upgrade, called Service Pack 2, is so important to the company that it has temporarily taken priority over the next major version of Windows, code-named "Longhorn," which now isn't likely to ship before 2006.

So, if you're a Windows user, you could sit tight, apply all the patches, worry about all the viruses and hope that the spring's Service Pack will solve most of the security problems without breaking other key features of Windows or interfering with programs you use.

Or, if the security issues are important to you, you could just buy a Mac when you shop for your next computer.

Here's why the Mac is so much less susceptible to viruses:

First, the Mac OS X operating system is built on Unix, an industrial-strength operating system used in business, science and education. And OS X doesn't enable users -- or hackers who hijack user accounts -- to alter certain core files and features of its Unix

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PowerBook running Panther

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underpinnings. By contrast, Windows XP users are given "full administrator" privileges that viruses and hackers can usurp to do damage.

Also, Apple ships every Mac with all the communications "ports," or conduits that listen for commands over networks, closed. On Windows, some of these ports are left open.

In addition, Macs constitute such a tiny share of the world's computers that they just aren't an attractive target for virus writers and hackers. You can't take down many computers, so you won't get much publicity.

To do damage to a Mac, virus writers have to construct viruses that are specific to the Mac. The Windows viruses they churn out can't run on a Mac, even if they are received in e-mail by a Mac user. Neither can spyware or Trojan horse programs written for Windows.

Like Microsoft, Apple issues periodic security patches, but they are less frequent than the Windows patches -- and some of them are needed to repair flaws in the software programs Microsoft writes for the Mac.

Mac owners are still affected by two other scourges of today's computing: spam mail and pop-up ads. But even here, the Mac does a better job of protecting you. The Mac's free, built-in e-mail program, called Mail, has a spam filter, while the Windows free e-mail program, Outlook Express, doesn't. And the Mac's built-in Web browser, Safari, has a built-in pop-up blocker, something that Microsoft's browser, Internet Explorer, lacks.

Apple Updates Hot Deals Site

By MacCentral Staff

Apple's Hot Deals site has been updated with new deals available from retailers associated with the program.

[MacConnection](#) has posted deals on the Kensington Universal Auto/Air Power Adapter, Logitech Cordless Notebook Mouse with \$10 mail-in rebate, Kensington Wi-Fi Finder with \$5 mail-in rebate,

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This big gap in security and virus susceptibility has altered the balance in the age-old debate between Windows and the Mac, and made the Mac a more attractive contender than it was when I last compared the two platforms in 2002. But it's not the only thing going for the Mac.

Apple will introduce tomorrow an impressive new version of OS X, called Panther, that can network easily with Windows computers and is packed with lots of other cool features, some of which Windows can't match. And the company has recently introduced faster PowerBook and iBook laptops suitable for consumers and small businesses. Consumer models of the Mac start at \$799 for desktops and \$1,099 for laptops.

Not everybody can, or should, jump to Apple. But if you're tired of the virus wars, the Mac can be an island of serenity. ●

Mac Lab Meetings

Mac Lab is a Special Interest Group (SIG) associated with the Kitsap Computing Seniors. The Lab offers an opportunity for persons interested in the Macintosh computer to gain some hands-on experience and get answers to questions in an informal setting. The Lab is conducted by members of KMUG.

Mac Lab meets every Tuesday afternoon that school is in session.

The meeting is at Poulsbo Jr High in Room A2 from 2:45pm until 4:30pm. If you have any questions contact Gwen Kauffroath (360)377-1715; gwenk17@comcast.net

from Technology MacCentral

No Relief Expected from Spam

*By Laura Rohde,
IDG News Service, MacCentral*

It's a no-brainer: People hate spam and politicians in the U.S. and Europe were shrewd enough this year to respond to their constituents' growing frustration over the increasing barrage of unwanted e-mail with antispam legislation. But will the new laws really be able to thwart junk e-mail?

"No legislation alone will solve the spam problem," said Brian Huseman, a staff attorney for the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the federal agency charged with enforcing the antispam regulations. "One of the reasons is because it's very difficult to apprehend spammers and it's very resource-intensive for law enforcement officials to not only pinpoint spammers but to also build the case needed for punishing them."

Along with the systemic difficulties in apprehending and punishing those who send spam, the differing approaches that the laws in the U.S. and Europe take to combat spam also make fashioning an international approach to the borderless nature of spam problematic.

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Micronet 160GB external FireWire hard drive with \$20 mail-in rebate, M-Audio LX-4 surround sound expandable monitor speaker system, Coda Music Finale Guitar Notation and TAB software, Adobe Creative Suite Standard Upgrade for Photoshop and more.

[ClubMac](#) has deals on products including Logitech MX700 cordless optical mouse, Nikon D100 digital SLR camera body, Sennheiser PMX60 headphones with \$10 mail-in rebate, Aspyr Law and Order: Dead on the Money, 3G Technology Gem GL-822A/B 17-inch LCD monitor with \$40 mail-in rebate, HP ScanJet 4670 flatbed scanner, Aladdin Systems Game On! Family Pack Volume and more. ●

An "opt-in" directive was added to the statute books of the 15 European Union (EU) member states in October, and laws complying with the EU directive are starting to come into effect. For example, beginning Thursday, the U.K.'s updated Telecoms Data Protection Directive will impose fines of up to £5,000 (US\$8,700) on companies and individuals caught sending unsolicited commercial e-mail and SMS (short messaging service) text messages to mobile phones without prior agreement.

But despite the efforts of European politicians to get their Washington D.C. counterparts on the opt-in bandwagon, U.S. lawmakers this week passed the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing (CAN-SPAM) Act of 2003, an "opt-out" piece of legislation that puts the onus on individual users to let companies know that they do not wish to receive spam. The bill will become law on Jan. 1.

Downplaying previous predictions of dire consequences should the U.S. adopt opt-out policies, European politicians welcomed the Can-Spam legislation -- after three years of effort on the part of Congress -- as an important first step.

"Though I would have preferred an opt-in law, the most important message is that the U.S. does something against spam, even if it is different from the EU's approach," said Erika Mann, a German member of the European Parliament and chairwoman of the European Internet Foundation. "There was a time when just the idea creating a law to deal with spam was quite controversial in Congress, as I understand it, so to actually have a law is real progress."

Having the two different philosophies of opt-in and opt-out makes it more difficult for the international

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community to deal with spammers, Mann said, "but at least with the new U.S. law there is an understanding that something must be done."

Brian White, a U.K. Member of Parliament (MP) and Treasurer of the All-Party Parliamentary Internet Group (APIG), a group that traveled to Washington, D.C., in October on a "fact finding mission" to work on solutions to unwanted e-mail, echoed that sentiment.

"We got a very positive response from the people we met on Capitol Hill. Yes, the approaches are different (between the U.K. and the U.S.); they think they're right (to embrace opt-out solutions to spam), and we know we're right," White said. "We had a very interesting debate and could continue to do so for quite a long time."

In some cases, opt-out laws in the U.S. will protect U.S.-based spammers from the more stringent European opt-in rules, according to Marten Nelson, director of business analysis and strategy for e-mail security company CipherTrust Inc., in Alpharetta, Georgia.

"The U.S. has a tremendous surplus in spam, but E.U. laws don't mean a lot to U.S. spammers and visa-versa," Nelson said. "Any legislation will have a limited effect as it's so hard to track spammers to prosecute them."

Even with its limitations, antispam legislation is "an important piece in the puzzle to resolve the problem," Nelson said.

White stressed that despite the differing approaches, it was important to focus on other aspects of prosecuting spammers, namely punishing the activities that are defined as illegal under all versions of the spam laws.

"Let's get most of the spammers under antipornography laws, under deceptive-trade laws, under the (13-year-old U.K.) Computer Misuse Act, and the like. That way we can deal with the majority of spam and with this approach, the U.S. opt-out laws actually don't, in my view, make it more difficult to enforce U.K. and EU laws," White said.

The U.K. has had some success working with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and according to White, when APIG representatives spoke with FBI officials in October about extraditing Americans who violate U.K. antispam laws, the FBI had no problem with the idea.

But stopping the flood of messages at the source is unlikely, no matter which antispam laws are used, said Gartner Inc. U.K. analyst Anthony Allan.

"The laws in the U.K. and EU will not have the effect of reducing spam in the EU, just as the Can-Spam Act will not have the effect of reducing spam in the U.S. For one thing, there is the issue of China, where more and more spam is originating from," Allan said.

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Con't from page 5, Spam

"Our latest estimates is that 30 percent of spam is now coming from Asia."

While there have been efforts in Asia, notably by the Internet Society of China to block e-mail sent from servers that have been identified as sources of spam, and a revised law in South Korea designed to regulate unsolicited commercial e-mail, the reduction in spam has been limited. Most corporations and businesses, including Gartner's corporate clients, have taken a technical response to the problem of spam, Allan said.

"In the next two or three years at least, only the technical solutions will have any real effect on slowing down the flow of spam," Allan said.

In addition to new offerings from smaller security-technology vendors, major companies such as Microsoft Corp. are becoming more aggressive in providing technical solutions to spam. For example, at the Comdex trade show in Las Vegas last month, Microsoft Chairman and Chief Software Architect Bill Gates announced that the Redmond, Washington, company will add heuristics-based antispam capabilities to future releases of Exchange Server 2003 in an effort to keep spam e-mail messages from reaching users' inboxes.

But individuals may not be able to afford the technical antispam measures that enterprises are increasingly relying upon, so in the longer term, technology will be only one part of a multipronged approach required for containing the levels of spam.

"There must be a combination of technology, such as antispam filters; education; working with ISPs (Internet service providers); as well as legislation," according to Helen Roberts, chief operating officer at Responsys Inc., a provider of outsourced e-mail marketing services, in Palo Alto, California. "There is no single solution or approach to dealing with spam."

Responsys advises its customers, including Continental Airlines Inc. and the clothing catalogue provider Lands' End Inc., to follow permission-

based, opt-in guidelines, so as to avoid the "tremendous consumer backlash to the spam problem."

"We tell our customers to get permission (from end users to send e-mail advertisements) and to also insure that your message is meaningful and timely. But uncontrolled spam will hurt legitimate marketers. Though the Can Spam Act is opt-out, we look at the federal solution as a positive first step," Roberts said.

Companies such as Responsys and CipherTrust, as well as politicians like White and Mann, see the need for international guidelines for handling Internet issues on a global basis.

"A legal framework would help among states worldwide," Mann said. "I'm not sure that an international body would be so good, but a framework would be useful. As part of that framework, we could use minimal standards and principles that could then be incorporated into national laws."

Mann had hoped that the World Summit on the Information Society, meeting this week in Geneva, could have been the forum for developing a framework within the United Nations. But rather than coming up with specific activity to be taken against the spread of spam, the group was only able to agree to a brief statement in its Declaration of Principles saying: "Spam is a significant and growing problem, for users, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cyber-security should be dealt with at the appropriate national and international levels."

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is often named as the group that may be most suitable for drawing the various states together to tackle the spam issues.

"There is no real 'body' that can enact international legislation on spam. However, I believe the ITU is well positioned to draft guidelines and recommendations for a baseline for national legislation," said CipherTrust's Nelson.

Nelson believes that the global nature of the spam problem should motivate the ITU to establish an

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international forum for how ISPs and telcos can effectively cooperate in tracking and shutting down spammers.

"There is wide recognition in the international community that international initiatives to address spam are needed sooner rather than later," said Robert Shaw, the ITU's Internet strategy and policy advisor, in an e-mail response to questions. "The ITU is exploring exactly what can and should be done to fight this growing threat to the viability of Internet communications."

He added that the ITU is planning an international conference on spam in 2004, potentially in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation .

Shaw, as well as the FTC's Huseman, expressed enthusiasm for a conference being co-hosted in Paris on Feb. 2-3 by the OECD and the European Commission , as a good starting point, as did the MP White.

"At the OECD meeting, the various states will be able to establish guidelines and the meeting will also make sure that we keep talking," White said.

Gartner's Allan warned that the effectiveness of the OECD meeting will depend on how responsive the various parties are willing to be.

"With opt-in verses opt-out, the U.S. and the E.U. are already at odds," Allan said. "Will the meeting change policy? I am dubious about that." ●

Mac Tips from MacWorld

Secondary Infection

I've been slammed with returned messages generated by PCs reacting to a Windows virus. Is there anything I can do to protect myself?

-- Duane Harris, Camden, Ohio

Although Macs aren't directly affected (or infected) by Windows-specific computer cooties such as the Sobig.F worm, they nonetheless suffer two kinds of collateral damage.

The first is a flood of spam messages from infected PCs. The second is the deluge of bounced messages you receive because the worm pulls an address at random from an infected PC's address book and places it in the message's From field (this technique is called spoofing). That address may be yours, and you suffer the consequences when a message bounces back because the recipient doesn't exist or an ISP "helpfully" alerts you to the presence of a virus.

Antivirus utilities can't help because your Mac isn't infected. What will help is your e-mail client's filtering capabilities. You can filter a worm such as

Sobig.F in a couple of ways. You can ask your e-mail client to move any messages whose subject heading ends with a particular phrase -- "That movie," "Wicked screensaver," or "My details," for example -- to a Suspected Crud folder you've created. Choosing the end-with option is also useful for filtering out messages that an ISP has bounced back -- "Re: That movie," for instance. If the infected message carries a particular line of text -- Sobig.F messages included "See the attached file for details" -- add a condition to the filter that moves any messages containing that text into your Suspected Crud folder.

To filter spoofed messages, create another filter that looks for messages whose subject headings include the phrase "Returned mail" or messages sent by MAILER-DAEMON (the address of an automated system that many ISPs use). Note that such messages are sometimes legitimate -- notifying you that a message you've sent can't be delivered -- so unless you're experiencing an onslaught of bounces, scan these messages before deleting them. ●

***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

----- **ABOUT MEMBERSHIP** -----

To join Kitsap Macintosh User's Group, send name, address (e-mail and snail mail) and dues (see renewal below for membership fee to:

KMUG

P.O. Box 1271, Silverdale, WA 98383

or come to one of our meetings and sign up!

----- **ABOUT KMUG** -----

Officers/Board of Directors

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Mac Lab Coordinator	Gwen Kauffroath (gwenk17@comcast.net)		

----- **RENEWING MEMBERSHIP** -----

If you received a paper newsletter please check the membership expiration date on the address label.

To renew with the newsletter e-mailed to your computer, dues are \$20.

To renew with a paper newsletter, dues are \$30.

----- **ABOUT MEETINGS** -----

Luncheons:

Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M.

Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,

Myhre Road, Silverdale

(one block East of Silverdale Way)

This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams



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