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©2006 Terry Thomas  
Lauren and Albert Discuss Vista

## Malicious Websites

Roger Thompson of Exploit Prevention Labs will speak about “Malicious Websites: A Tour through the Seamer Side of the Internet”. The presentation investigates the techniques of groups that try to install spyware and adware on your computer when you visit one of their websites.

Unlike traditional malware such as viruses or trojans that are created by thrill-seeking programmers trying to create chaos, zero-day exploits are part of a growing category of malicious and frequently for-profit applications used by international criminal cyber-gangs.

Microsoft and other applications vendors require an average of two months, and sometimes up to six months, to develop patches to fix newly discovered vulnerabilities. During this time period, known as “the risk window,” Internet users are unprotected against exploits.

With SocketShield, Thompson and his team have developed the industry’s first zero-day exploit blocker. It does this by monitoring the browser’s communications stream and stopping known exploits from getting past the browser.

This is important information for everyone. Be at the North Fulton Annex on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. It all starts at 7:00 PM but come early to socialize and bring a friend.



Dazzling Aero Glass Interface

## Vista Insights

by Jim Pritchett, AtlPCUG



The program for the User Group August, 2006 meeting was provided by our friend from Microsoft, Lauren DiNatale, Solutions Specialist – Enterprise Group. Lauren ran a demonstration that gave the group an idea of Vista’s new graphics user interface (GUI) and some of the more dramatic new features. As previously reported in this space, Microsoft Vista is based on a completely new core kernel.

Lauren showed us the new look of Internet Explorer 7 that includes the slick desktop Aero interface, and tool bar options such as tab views and a side bar for gadgets. The new IE accurately prints an entire web page without having to use tricks or utilities. Several new security features of IE should prove beneficial to the user. One of the new security items is an anti-phishing filter that warns the user of suspect web site actions. Secure site notification is also improved. To close some of the old hijacking holes, the new browser will not have administrative privileges. The browsers search features are implemented across all applications and areas, not just internet searches.

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## Basic DVD Recording

By Bob Elgines, Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, Arizona  
Elginesz(at)rraz.net, <http://www.crccaz.com/>

DVDs are like CDs, but with greater capacity; you can record sound, video, or data. The latest CDs allow 700MB of data, or 80 minutes of sound or video (mpeg1 format) whereas the DVDs allow 4.7 GB or 120 minutes of sound or video (mpeg2 format). Then you have Double Layer DVDs which allow 9.6 GB or approximately 3.7 hours of video. As we probe into the basics you will find approximately 10% of the room on your disk is used by Titles, Menus, and Directories.

First, what do we need to accomplish the recording of data, and sound: A computer with a minimum of 1 Ghz, 512 MB of RAM, 40 GB hard drive, CDR optical drive, video with 32 MB RAM for 1024 x 768 screen mode, and recording software such as "NERO" by Ahead Software.

Second, we need all the above plus the items below for Video:

A DVDR optical drive, an input device such as ADS' InstantDVD (USB input) or equivalent for recording from VHS tape, and a VCR. A firewire input card can be used if you are recording from a digital camcorder (DV).

To record data and sound on DVDs is very similar to CDs, but video is different only because we use a different format. A CD may be used with this format and would hold approximately 30 minutes of mpeg2 (MP2) video. This CD would be called a "VCD" (Video CD) and would be played on a DVD Player.

There are several different video formats such as WMV, MPE, MPG, MP1, MP2, MP4, etc. MP1 (352x480) is fine for B&W video, but size and quality is too low for color. MP2 (720x480) is the most common format used at this time for doing video DVDs. MP2 can be recorded in low (3382Kbits per sec), medium (5073Kbits per sec), and high (9716Kbits per sec) quality.

Before you start recording video, you may want to shut down all the programs running in the background to gain the maximum amount of System Resources in order to acquire the greatest performance when recording video. You will use 4 to 20 GB of your hard

drive for recording a two hour video depending on the format you use.

NERO (Version 6 or 7) is the cheapest way to go for software. This program will do just about everything for you (two hours plus on DVD, some editing, excellent recording).

I also have used MyDVD v4 or v5 by Sonic (easy to use, some editing, up to 1.9 hours on a DVD), MyDVD v6 by Sonic (up to 3.5 hours on a DVD, but SONY players do not like the recording format).

Premiere Elements by Adobe (easy editing is great, but recording is only good for one hour, jumps around with movement and going more than one hour really destroys it by also getting choppy).

Movie Factory2 by Ulead (not bad, but very time consuming and hard to use, 1.9 hours on DVD).

Finally, Studio Plus 10 by Pinnacle (very demanding, needs more memory and high quality video card; very hard to use!).

I am using an INTEL P4, 3.06 Ghz, 512 MB RAM @ 800 MHz, GeForce FX5200 128 MB RAM video card, and a Digital Research model DDVD116DL (DVD Recorder with NERO software), an ADS Instant DVD VHS input device, which converts the antilog video to digital Mpeg2 format via a USB port, and an IEEE firewire port for my DV Digital Camcorder.

**Editor's Note:** two free programs are available at [www.download.com](http://www.download.com): **Burn4Free** CD & DVD is a burning solution that's compatible with more than 3,000 DVD and CD drives and **Instant CD & DVD Burner**, a simple but full featured CD/DVD burner that supports all major drives.



Lauren receiving a PCUG memento from Wayne

## Tech Corner – SP1 Abandoned in the Fall

By Chuck Thomas, member of the Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, KY. [Chuckt@insightbb.com](mailto:Chuckt@insightbb.com). <http://www.bgamug.org/>

A popup message from Windows Update has been alerting me recently to the fact that Microsoft is ending its support for Windows XP Service Pack 1 (SP1) as of October 10, 2006. It offers a free download of SP2, which will continue to be supported once installed.

If, like me, you are still running SP1, you might think that it is no big deal since you never call or write Microsoft for support anyhow! But the one big problem is that there will no longer be any security up-dates for the old version of XP. As you know, Microsoft is regularly learning of security holes in their OS and issuing updates (patches for the holes) that you should be installing to keep your computer somewhat safe from hackers. These security updates will continue to be available to XP users with SP2 installed, but they will end in October for SP1.

If you don't know whether or not SP2 is installed, simply click Start/My Computer (or the My Computer link on your desktop) and then on the left side of the My Computer window under System Tasks, click View system information. The System Properties window that pops up will show basic information about your computer, including the installed Service Pack for XP.

If you need to upgrade to SP2, go to this Microsoft web page: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/default.mspx>. You'll find a link in the Get Windows XP SP2 Now box to receive the huge file on a CD by mail for only the cost of mailing. This saves you the trouble of a long download and provides a CD for quick reinstall if it should be necessary. The page also provides "quick tips for a successful upgrade" under the How link.

Similarly, support is finally ending on the same date for Windows 98, ME, and NT. But I doubt that many of you are running these operating systems these days, and if you are you long ago ceased to worry about support from Microsoft!

Some of you may have heard that Microsoft announced (on their web site) that support for Windows XP

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### Vista from page 1

Vista security will provide administration of the included anti-spyware (Defender), auto update, and a firewall that is both inbound and outbound. Security is also extended to provide family security settings. Microsoft was planning an anti-virus application, but this feature is on hold pending litigation.

Outlook Express is being replaced with Windows Mail, and Microsoft has added a new calendar application for publishing your personal calendar electronically. The new calendar feature is compatible with Apple's icalendar format. Windows Photo Gallery is included in Vista and according to Lauren this feature is an improved version of Microsoft Picture It and includes the capability to index photos by rating.

Lauren advised the group that release date is currently planned for the second week of January, 2006 for the consumer versions of Vista. Microsoft has settled on the eventual release of 6 versions of Vista. There will be 3 consumer versions, 2 enterprise, and 1 starter (3<sup>rd</sup> world) version. The names and brief description of the consumer and enterprise versions are as follows:

**Consumer: Basic:** minimal implementation of Vista

**Home Premium:** provides basic with enhanced browsing and entertainment features.

**Ultimate:** includes all of the home and business features of Vista

**Business:** all essential features for better business application

**Enterprise:** for large IT implementations and global operations

If you are planning to purchase a PC before Vista is available, you should consider the ratings of your prospective purchase. A PC that is rated as Vista capable meets the minimum requirements to run the Vista core features, but it may not be able to handle all the new features. A PC that is rated as Vista Premium Ready will provide the complete Vista experience, including the enhanced desktop and video capabilities.

I highly recommend that you visit the Microsoft Vista web site for an overview of Vista. The site also has several planning tools for determining if you can upgrade to the new OS or to answer questions about your current hardware compatibility. The home page for Vista is <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista>. There is an upgrade advisor located on the Get Ready page of this site. It is quick and comprehensive. I downloaded this software and ran it on my PC's. It looks like I have sufficient power to upgrade 2 machines, but the third would cost more to upgrade than it would cost to buy an new PC.

Thanks to Lauren for a very informative presentation. The copies of the Vista beta that were given away in the drawing were also nice. I happened to get one of those and I plan to load it this weekend on an AMD 64 machine. Wish me luck.

### SP1 Cont. from page 2

Home and Media Center Edition would be discontinued at the end of 2006—regardless of which service pack is installed. But that was an error, according to Microsoft. Here is the full story on that Microsoft gaffe from ZD Net news:

Until Tuesday night, a posting on Microsoft's Web site stated that support for Windows XP Home and Windows XP Media Centre Edition would end on 31 December, 2006. That would mean no more security fixes or any other support items, such as warranty claims, for users of those operating system products. But the posting was incorrect, Ines Vargas, a program manager at Microsoft, told ZDNet UK sister site CNET News.com. The software maker has now updated the online information to reflect that the consumer Windows XP editions, along with XP Professional, will be supported until two years after Vista ships, she said. Vista, the long-delayed next update of Windows, is expected to arrive by the end of the year. "This was brought to our attention late last week, and since then, we have worked diligently to make the change on the site, which was effective Tuesday night," she said. "It was not a change in support policy. It is reflective of the policy as we understand it."...so we can rest easy knowing we are safe in the hands of Microsoft!

## Atlanta PC Users Group — Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name for Badge)

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Internet e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ (used for verification only)

Occasionally the Atlanta PC Users Group releases the mailing list to selected organizations and vendors for one time mailings. Check here if you do not wish to have your name released.

### Annual Membership Types

Regular \$30   
Family (2 people) \$40

### Payment Method:

Check - Payable to:  
"Atlanta PC Users Group"

### Mail To:

Atlanta PC Users Group  
P.O. Box 28788  
Atlanta, GA 30358

## Atlanta PC Users Group Calendar

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>N. Fulton Annex</b>	info@atlpcug.org
Boot Camp	On Break 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	TBD	info@atlpcug.org
Linux SIG	On Break	-----	TBD	webmaster@atlpcug.org
AtlPCUG Board	August 6th, 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Jason's Deli S.Sprngs.	president@atlpcug.org

### Directions

**N. Fulton Annex:** 7741 Roswell Road - Take GA 400 NORTH. Exit for SANDY SPRINGS/ABERNATHY ROAD WEST. Follow over to ROSWELL ROAD, approximately 3 lights. Turn RIGHT on ROSWELL ROAD. The NORTH FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICE CENTER is on the right 2.7 miles out. Turn RIGHT at the turn lane just past the "Big Tree Forest Preserve." If you see the Suzuki sign you went too far.

Membership expiration date shown on label

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