



February 10, 2004

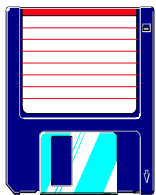
THE PREZ SEZ:



This issue of the letter is devoted to the latest virus attack on the internet with two quotes from a newsletter (Fred Langa's) and from the TV show "The Screen Savers", hosted by Leo Laport. The fir is the Langa article which contains a web address with

information about how to deal with this virus. You will also not see underlining in the piece. This is provided by your truly as emphasis on the warning we issue constantly at club meeting about **NOT OPENING ATTACHEMENTS!**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



**Lon's Freeware of
The Month
By Lon Whistler,
Lwhis@hotmail.com**

**All-in-One Secretmaker v37.8 [781k]
Win98/2K/XP FREE**

Stop all of the nasties--Most of us have multiple programs for fighting spam, stopping pop ups, clearing cookies, erasing trackers, and catching worms. All-in-One Secretmaker has seven tools built-in to accomplish all of these tasks. There is another tool you can download to stop messenger spam. See the download page for known problems. Meet the masked man who will be you crusader against all the e-meannies. I have a spam program I use and Secretmaker caught most of the same things my spam program caught. The help file is well done and steps you through the process. The spam filter works with Mozilla mail without any set up though it doesn't

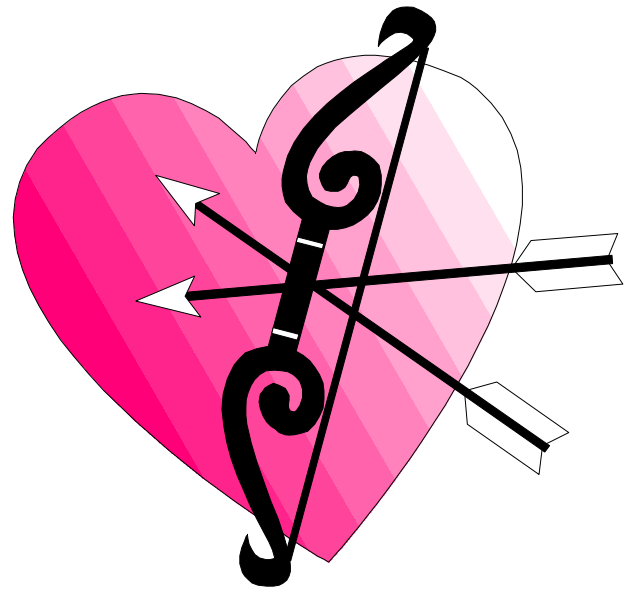
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PLEASE BEAR WITH ME!

In one of my unguarded moments, also known as senior moments, I volunteered to put the newsletter together. When I saw the smile on Joannie's face, I should have known that I might have bitten off more than I could chew. Anyway, a promise is a promise and here is my first effort. I call on all members to contribute to the next newsletter, out sometime in March.

Send you contribution to: John Van Olden

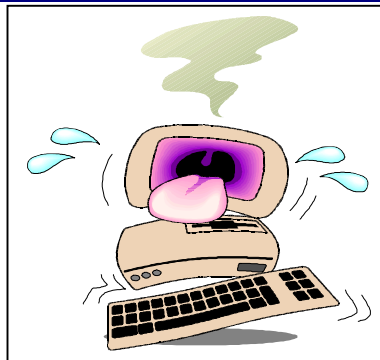
Beachdetct@aol.com



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY**

include instructions on how to specifically set up the filters, although its possible to follow the instructions for the other mail clients (Outlook, The Bat!, and Eudora)and apply them to yours, if you_re comfortable. I checked and double-checked no ads, spyware, or any of that. The masked man walks the talk.

Lon



Continued from front page:

From The Langa List of January 28, "Novarg/MyDoom/MIMAIL Worm

Unless you've been under a rock, you know about the new worm that exploded around the world Monday afternoon. Almost all AV tools that use "heuristics" were able to detect and block this worm before formal definitions were released; and almost all the major AV vendors did have definition updates available within hours of the worm's appearance, anyway.

That, plus the fact that the worm relied on human help--- people had to click on an unknown email attachment to launch the worm--- should have meant that the worm went nowhere. Instead, it probably will end up as the most-widely distributed worm of all time. (Sigh.) I've gotten literally thousands of infected emails here, all of which were harmlessly filtered and discarded.

I won't beat a dead horse--- or a live worm: You can read about the worm, and how to recover from it if you're infected, at your favorite AV vendor's site, such as this: <http://langa.com/u/3h.htm> .

But beyond stating the obvious--- use an up-to-date AV tool, and never, ever, ever open any email attachment unless you know a priori that the contents are safe--- there's one noteworthy twist to this worm: It was apparently designed to take out SCO, as some kind of retaliation for SCO's anti-Linux lawsuits.

Computers infected with the "MyDoom" virus will begin to attempt to connect to the main page of the SCO company's website on Feb. 1. The connection requests will come roughly every second from each of the estimated thousands of machines that are now infected, in an attempt to overload SCO's Web server and knock the company's site off the Internet....

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,62058,00.html>

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The following is an article from "The Screen Savers" Show notes for February 2 with 10 tips of how to avoid the virus/worm problem.

Top 10 Ways to Fight Malicious Code

Author Ed Skoudis gives 10 easy tips for keeping your system safe from attacks.

By [Ed Skoudis](#)

On tonight's episode of "The Screen Savers" Ed Skoudis, author of "Malware: Fighting Malicious Code," shows you how to keep viruses, trojan horses, and spyware at bay.

Here's Skoudis' list of actions you can take to prevent attacks on your computer. Visit Skoudis' [Counter Hack Web Site](#) to learn more about thwarting computer attacks and to participate in monthly hacker challenges to test your skills.

Top 10 tips for fighting malware

1. Get an antivirus tool. No, really get one. Don't just say you will. Antivirus tools remain one of the easiest and most comprehensive defenses against malicious code. You can purchase a commercial antivirus tool such as [Norton AntiVirus](#), [Trend Micro PC-cillin](#), or [McAfee VirusScan](#). There are also free tools such as [AntiVir Personal Edition](#).

When you first install an antivirus tool, run a complete sweep of your hard drive. Remember to keep your antivirus software current by running its update feature at least once a week. Don't hesitate to update more frequently if you're prompted by the tool!

2. Get a personal firewall. Again, really do it -- don't just pretend. Personal firewall software blocks incoming attacks. It also stops malicious code installed on your system from communicating across the network and revealing your secrets.
3. Keep your systems patched. Believe it or not, [Windows Update](#) is your friend (if you run Windows). New Windows vulnerabilities are discovered almost every day. By visiting Windows Update once a week and making sure you've got all the critical updates, you'll be far safer from attack. It's remarkably easy to do.

Keep your browser security settings at Medium or even High. The Medium security setting contains dozens of tweaks that block common malware-propagation techniques. The High setting goes even further, but it may keep legitimate applets and active scripts from running on your machine.

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Never click 'Yes' when your browser asks if you want to install/run content from an organization you don't trust.

Watch out for organizations with tweaked names such as "Micro\$oft" and "Paypa1" -- they're just imposters. If your browser pops up a "Do you want to install and run..." message, be afraid. Be very afraid. If you click "Yes," you may be inviting someone to have the same control over your computer that you have. The stakes are high, so don't be duped. Just say "No."

- 5. Install an anti-spyware tool to augment your antivirus protection.**
To seek out and delete adware and spyware, it's a good idea to run software such as Lavasoft's free [Ad-aware](#). Be very careful, however. There are Ad-aware imposters that are spyware-installing trojan horses. Download Ad-aware from Lavasoft's site and nowhere else!
- 6. Don't install a search-help bar in your browser unless it's from someone you trust.**
Google and Yahoo! search-help bars are fine. Many of the other search helpers are just plain evil.
- 7. Check to see which companies' software certificates you're configured to trust.**
Your browser will run code from sites in your trusted list without warning you, so make sure you trust every company on your list. In Internet Explorer, go to Tools > Internet Options > Content > Publishers to see which companies are on your good list. Delete the companies you don't trust.
- 8. Get a credit card to use solely for Internet purchases.**
That way you can carefully watch all charges on that card. Also, if by chance someone nabs that card number from a vulnerable e-commerce site, your physical life won't be impacted. By law your maximum liability for a stolen credit card is \$50. Never, ever, ever use a debit card for purchases on the Internet. The maximum liability you could suffer for a stolen debit card is the entire balance of your account. Ouch!
- 9. Don't run executable email attachments, even if sent by a friend.**
Most worms today spread by infecting a machine and launching a mass email attack. You can stop that attack vector and protect your friends by not running attachments. If you get an attachment you really want to open, don't double-click it. Instead, download it (save the file to your hard drive) and then open it from within the appropriate application, such as Word for .doc files or Acrobat for .pdf files. Be especially careful not to execute .exe, .pif, or .scr files!

Originally posted February 5, 2004 , Until next month, Ed Freeman

**Accessories for that New Digital Camera,
Ira Wilsker.**

The national media

predicted that digital cameras sales will soar this holiday season and Ira lets us know about some items we should buy to enhance our digital camera experience: cases (don't practice the fine art of "buying cheap" and trusting a several-hundred dollar camera to a five dollar case), additional memory, photo editing software, printers and more.

Essentials for that New Computer, Ira Wilsker. Didn't get a digital camera? Well, according to preliminary sales figures, computers were among the most popular items purchased this holiday season. Almost all of the new computers straight from the box were most likely manufactured prior to the release of the latest security patches and will require the downloading and installation of all critical updates. Ira has a lot of tips & tricks for people who bought those new computers.

Inhuman Computers, Elizabeth R. Wright, Oklahoma City PCUG. Cars often take on the personality of the owner, much like pets do. Computers, on the other hand, have no soul, no compassion, and certainly no desire to please and cannot be humiliated by ridicule or strengthened by praise and most certainly don't respond to human reasoning. But your computer can be tricked ---- find out how in Elizabeth's article.

New Year's Computing Resolutions, Ira Wilsker. Important resolutions to make & keep regarding your computer --- whether you have a new one, an older model, or are getting ready to upgrade.

Online Information for the Elderly & the Disabled, Steve Rosenthal, Space Coast PC Users Group, Cocoa, Florida. Steve gives seniors, or those approaching senior-hood, a wealth of information that will enable them to find out important information about their benefits.

Take Rest Breaks, Exercise to Prevent Computer Ailments, Ken Fermoye. First published in 2000, Ken's article is full of suggestions on how to stay healthy while using your computer.

To Upgrade or Not to Upgrade!, Timothy Everingham, TUGNET. OK, you didn't get that new computer as a holiday present. Timothy asks whether it is nobler to upgrade the computer you have or to put aside the invested fortune of your current computer and get a new one. Happy Computing Judy, APCUG PUSH Editorial Committee

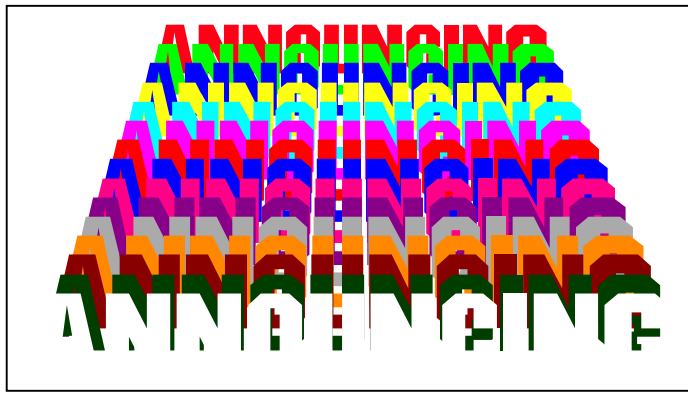
How to sell on E-Bay by John Van Olden

My wife and I love garage sales. I have one of those cars that automatically stop at garage sales signs. We also love to browse at flea markets and are unable to pass up bargains. Consequently we end up with a garage filled with "stuff". We use to sell at flea markets and hopefully for more than we paid. We lived in Alameda, there was a giant flea market and we made a nice profit. Then we moved to Honolulu and again we had two enormous flea markets or swap meets to sell our "treasures". Next, we moved to Kona, and to our chagrin, no flea markets. This where Ebay came entered the picture. We discovered the largest flea market right in our computer room. We have sold on Ebay for 6 years and have been extremely successful. I now consider myself an expert and I am more than willing to share my expertise with anybody who is interested. There is not enough room to explain all the details of how to sell on Ebay. Questions on how much it cost to list your item, how you get paid, etc., all of them important. I will just say that two of the most important things are very detailed and clear photos and an accurate description. If your item has a scratch or a nick, say so. With digital photography it is a snap to showcase your merchandise. Ebay has made it a lot easier to put your items on their auctions. It helps however to use some HTML code and this is very simple. You can write your description with msword for example, use colored text, bold face, etc., save it in HTML format and copy and paste it in your auction page description. I use frontpage, a web design program, but that is sort of advanced. There are dozens of tips I could tell you and if you are serious and interested, email John Van Olden beachdetct@aol.com I am always willing to help you make your fortune.

At the last meeting Ed briefly discussed the Electronic Publishing and the many books that are available on-line. I wrote a book, "Polynesian Dreams", that was published by an electronic publisher in the fall of 2000, (RFI WEST). As promised, I will make the book available to all members of the club. This will be in the form of a download. If you want a CD, email me and include a check for \$4.00 and your address, I will deliver it to your mailbox the same day I receive the order. You can also order the download from my publisher, but that is not free. (\$4.95) Anyway, email me if you want the free download, if you want a CD, my address is: John Van Olden, 27328 Prominence Road, Sun City, 92586-4108. The book's web site is: <http://www.amazingbook.com>

It contains read a sample chapter, see photos that are self-explanatory and go to the web site of my publisher. The book is rated for adult readers. No problem in Sun City. John Van Olden, email: beachdetct@aol.com

I also like to receive feedback re: the newsletter. Comment to Joannie, this is darn hard work.



Important Notice Re: February 24 meeting:

February 24 meeting will feature Lee Otsubo, "The Digital Camera Guy" and his program is "Digital Camera Knobs, Dials 7 Switches. What do they all do?" Lee is an accomplished speaker with a great sense of humor and has always presented interesting and useful information. We are lucky to get him again.

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