The Secret Hacking War

Noticed your email service seems slow? Maybe you can't send email at all. What about you favorite sites, do they seem to load oddly from time to time? The Internet Backbones have been under attack since going global in the 1990's. Worldwide IT Departments and eMail Service Providers have been scrambling daily to provide services and maintain a service status quo.

Why? There is an undeclared war that has been raging for almost 20years now.

Friday, May 30, 2008 - Hackers targeted Internet service provider Comcast and shut the site down for nearly five hours preventing the company's 14 million subscribers from accessing e-mail, news, and technical support though the ISP's Web site. Comcast restored access to its site early Thursday.

28th May 2008 - Hackers managed once again to terrify an entire nation after they shut down websites belonging to Russian nuclear power plants and spread information of a nuclear accident on the Internet. The worst thing is that people actually use the hacked websites to check radiations and radioactive emissions in a certain region, RIA Novosti reported a few days ago.

Monday, 28 April 2008 - HACKERS HAVE MANAGED to shut down the Bank of Israel for two whole days, taking advantage of the Jewish festival of Passover, when senior staff members were out of the office.

Gao Yongan, an executive at the Beijing-based network security firm NSFocus, said many web sites would be vulnerable to hacker attacks until network administrators tightened up the security of their servers. "Because of this incident, network security in China will see great improvement. At least people will become serious about building up network security," his statement said.

Most hacker attacks, including web site defacements, are made through a chain of passive

servers that act as springboards. Mr. Yongan, who claims to be a reformed hacker, said: "The only way to solve this problem is to improve the global network safety level, and to make sure that no computers are available for attackers to use."

End of Summer SALE

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Did you know?

Recent occurrences in our Service Department have been seen as a trend and warrant a warning to unsuspecting users.

Antivirus 2009 is a new rogue anti-spyware program. Antivirus 2009 is a fake antivirus application. It is software that presents itself as a security program but the sole purpose is to scam your money by selling a fake security product. It is also a clone of Antivirus 2008 which is also a rogue and one that's produced more clones than any other recently. The list of these clones is long: System Antivirus 2008, Ultimate Antivirus 2008, Vista Antivirus 2008, XP Antivirus 2008, etc.

It comes bundled with malware and Trojans (malicious software to damage your computer or steal information).

Antivirus 2009 is a scam and should be treated as such: **do NOT download** or buy it and block its homepage!

Joe's Small Business Notes:

Has your business ever moved? Opened a second location? Closed a location? Changed the way it does business? Have YOU personally ever moved? What about your employees? If so**, it is very possible that Missouri has money looking for you**. The Missouri Secretary of State's office is charged with maintaining the 'Unclaimed Property Database'.

You may have seen on TV occasionally (usually during sweeps week) the stories about 'Free Money!'. The truth is that banks, old landlords (remember those security deposits?) bonds put up by businesses for taxes (State and local) do a terrible job at remembering to return that money to you.

A couple times a year, I cross-reference my personal contact list with the State list and more than a few of you have received a call or email from me, telling you to **go claim your money**.

You should be doing this yourself a couple times a year and tell your friends to do the same. Just of Software To Go clients, we have alerted clients to over $1500 which firms turned over to the State in YOUR name because they supposedly could not find you.

The database is available at http:\\www.showmemoney.com. Click on the State of Missouri logo.

Most importantly, what not even the State website tells you is that you can ENTER YOUR COMPANY NAME.

Time to go treasure hunting folks! Have your staff, friends and family do it too. What better incentive than to tell an employee you found money for them (that you didn't have to pay for)?

If you hit the jackpot, drop me a line, we'll mention it (without your name) in a later newsletter.