

IT@Diocesan House #8

INTERESTING WEBSITES:

This week's focus is on money matters for those trying to conserve their resources or just needing some good financial resources. Check out the following sites:

<http://www.bankrate.com/> has good online calculators and provides comparison information on loans of all kinds and bank rates.

<http://www.banksite.com/> also has a number of good calculators

<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/english/index.php> is a great web site for the whole family. They have games for the kids to help teach financial skills and resources for parents as well such as how to deal with allowances.

<http://www.stretcher.com/index.cfm> is devoted to stretching your dollars. The site is a bit busy but has some great tips and has some really interesting articles.

<http://www.cheapskatemonthly.com/> is the home of Debt-Free Living and has great tips for reducing your budget

And one additional one for those saving money on software for your Mac (USE AT YOUR OWN RISK)[*Thanks to Nick Knisley for letting Bill know about this one and passing it along to me*]:

<http://www.opensourcemac.org/>

FREE Apple Training:

Thursday, May 31, 2007: 06:30 PM-07:00 PM, at Double Click

[The Internet with Safari](#)

Intro to Safari

IT IN the NEWS:

From CNN.com:

Google defends data policy

Google will tell Brussels it needs to hold on to users' search data for up to two years for security and commercial reasons after being warned it could be violating European privacy laws by doing so.

[FULL STORY](#)

Sony touts tiny, film-thin TV screen that bends

In the race for ever-thinner displays for TVs, cell phones and other gadgets, Sony may have developed one to beat them all -- a razor-thin display that bends like paper while showing full-color video.

[FULL STORY](#)

Infrared burners heat up backyard grills

For a quarter century, chefs at pricey steakhouses have been searing meat on burners that cook with infrared energy. Now the high-temperature technology may be coming to a backyard barbecue near you.

[FULL STORY](#)

Web registration tool digitizes books

A few simple keystrokes may soon turn blather into books.

[FULL STORY](#)

Robots put the cool back in computer science

The lesson plan was called "Artificial Unintelligence," but it was written more like a comic book than a syllabus for a serious computer science class.

[FULL STORY](#)

Tracking terror on Web

There is an unconventional war being waged on the Internet.

[FULL STORY](#)

Swedes open embassy in Second Life

Sweden became the first country on Wednesday to open an embassy in the virtual world Second Life.

[FULL STORY](#)

From the Christian Science Monitor:

Niche groups use Web to gain ear of '08 contenders

How did the Asian Pacific Americans for Progress - no colossus in US politics - land a conference call with the wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards? By Ariel Sabar

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0529/p01s01-uspo.html?s=hns>

The virtual war family

A soldier in Iraq attends her brother's high school graduation by video - part of a new Internet intimacy in time of war. By Carmen K. Sisson

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0529/p20s01-usmi.html?s=hns>

From Macworld.com:

Create regular playlists from iTunes Smart Playlists

<http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/macoshints/2007/05/itunesplaylist/index.php?lsrc=mwhints>

Find all recently modified files

<http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/macoshints/2007/05/findrecent/index.php?lsrc=mwhints>

From PCWorld.com:

Skype Worm Jumps to ICQ, MSN

New variant of the Stration Skype worm, can also propagate using the ICQ and MSN Messenger Networks.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132230-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

EarthLink to Build out Full Philadelphia Wi-Fi Network

Approval of Earthlink's test network clears the way for the company to bring Wi-Fi to all of Philadelphia.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132233-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

GAO Slams FBI Network Security
The Government Accountability Office says the FBI's internal network lacks security controls adequate to thwart an insider attack.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132250-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

European Data Protection Officials Warn Google

Data protection officials from 27 European countries have warned Google it is storing data on people's searches for too long.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132243-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Coalition Pushes for US Broadband Plan

Group including Amazon, Google, and TiVO lobbies for a national broadband policy that would provide affordable access for all.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132227-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

'Harmless' Worm Hops Past OpenOffice Security

Cross-platform worm targeted at OpenOffice.org and StarOffice riles up open-source advocates, but does little damage.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132235-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Apple Fixes 17 Mac OS X Flaws

Apple unveiled the year's fifth major security update for Mac OS X to patch 17 vulnerabilities.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132252-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Facebook Launches Video System

Facebook is the latest entrant into the online video battle -- an effort to gain ground on social networking rivals.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132245-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Trade Group Forges E-waste Proposal

Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) agreement outlines recycling requirements for TV sets, computer monitors, desktops, and laptops.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132237-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Germany Passes Antihacking Law

Hackers may want to avoid Germany, after the approval of a law that makes their activity a punishable crime.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132246-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Antispam System Behind Massive Book Digitization Effort

The system could help companies better secure their Web sites.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132255-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Malicious Software Plays on Legal Fears

Malicious e-mails purporting to come from the Better Business Bureau assert that a customer lodged a complaint against the recipient's business.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132247-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Cash Inspires Green Tech

The combination of consumer interest and saving money prompts green incentives.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132278-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Online Ad Spending Climbs

U.S. firms pushed online ad revenues to new heights for the fourth consecutive year.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132280-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Google's Data Retention Challenged

The European Union investigates whether saving search data violates privacy laws.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132281-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

China Crafts Cyberweapons

The Defense Department reports China is building cyberwarfare units and developing viruses.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132284-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Universities Look to Mobile Tech for Emergency Alerts
After Virginia Tech shootings, college CIOs evaluate wireless communications.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132279-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Blog and Wiki Etiquette: Ten Commandments
Blogs and wikis are wonderful tools, but they can devolve into the online equivalent of grunting apes.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132320-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Google Opens Up Gmail
Google has removed invitation requirement to join, and increased file attachment sizes to 20MB.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132313-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Microsoft Zune Passes 1 Million Mark
Microsoft has beaten its goal of shipping over a million Zune digital music players by June.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/132306-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

What's That Old Mac Worth?
New online service Mac2Sell estimates resale value of used Macintosh systems.
http://www.pcworld.com/article/132290-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Apple Fixes Serious QuickTime Bug
Security update to QuickTime 7.1.6 patches two issues with the way QuickTime interacts with Java.
http://www.pcworld.com/article/132350-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

Net a 'Force for Democracy' says Google's Schmidt
Search giant's CEO didn't address Google's role, but says the Net boosts government transparency.
http://www.pcworld.com/article/132357-1/article.html?tk=nl_dnxnws

From ITBusiness Edge:

[Microsoft to Create Open XML Translator](#) :: internetnews.com
[Double Dog Dare: Open Source Advocates Challenge Microsoft on Wiki](#) :: Computerworld
[Moglen: Google Has Moral Obligation to Share Code](#) :: PC Advisor
[Ubuntu Is a Worthy Windows Replacement](#) :: law.com
[IT Security a 'Mess' and 'Disaster,' Says Krstic](#) :: Computerworld
[Americans Could Care Less About Spam, Survey Says](#) :: E-Commerce Times
[U.S. Tech Spending Expected to Be in Single Digits](#) :: Scotsman.com
[Camera Phones a Threat to Employee Privacy](#) :: IT-Director.com
[Microsoft Launches Initiative to Curb Zero-Day Attacks](#) :: TG Daily
[Customer Service Disconnect](#) :: MSNBC
[Web 2.0 Changing Business, Says Chambers](#) :: internetnews.com
[Better Managing Info Is Key to Compliance, Alignment](#) :: IT-Director.com
[10 Innovators Who May Change the World](#) :: Forbes

From Techtarger.com:

Antispyware bill OK'd by House, OK with businesses
<http://go.techtarger.com/r/1508366/5300425>

Combating image-based spam
<http://go.techtarger.com/r/1508367/5300425>

WHITE PAPERS

Unwiring the enterprise: Four-point security for wireless networks
Published by: Nortel
<http://go.techtarger.com/r/1498401/5300425>

Demystifying wireless network access and 802.1x security
Published by: Fluke Networks
<http://go.techtarger.com/r/1498402/5300425>

SECURITY News:

From SANS:

--Glitch Leaves Office 2007 Users Running Vista Unprotected
(May 21, 2007)

Microsoft has "updated the detection logic for the May 8th Security and Non-Security Updates for Office 2007." The original detection logic in some cases failed to offer the updates or failed to install updates correctly on systems running Vista. Vista users who are offered the updates again should install them. The issue affects MS07-023 and MS07-025.

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9020262&source=rss_topic17
<http://blogs.technet.com/msrc/archive/2007/05/17/new-detection-logic-for-may-8th-office-2007-updates.aspx>

--New Gozi Trojan Variant Spreading
(May 19, 2007)

A new variant of the Gozi Trojan horse program has been spreading since mid-April. The malware grabs data from encrypted SSL streams and sends them back to a server in Russia. The upstream ISP cut the server off from Internet connection once it was alerted to the situation. The malware has gathered sensitive information, including bank account and credit card numbers, user names, passwords and Social Security numbers (SSNs) of more than 2,000 people. Changes apparent in the new version of Gozi include the addition of a packer utility that helps the malware evade detection by standard virus signatures and a keystroke logging capability that increases the amount of information it can steal. Gozi exploits a known flaw in Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) iFrame tags.

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9019978&source=rss_topic17

--US House Passes Spyware Bill
(May 23, 2007)

The US House of Representatives has passed legislation that would punish people who use spyware to commit fraud, but imposes no new regulations on software makers. The bill's chief sponsor, Zoe Lofgren (D-Ca.), remarked, "it targets the worst forms of spyware without unduly burdening technological innovation." The bill would provide for prison sentences of up to five years for individuals convicted of using spyware to commit federal offenses; convictions for obtaining or transmitting personal data with intent to injure or defraud a person or damage a computer would carry a maximum prison sentence of two years. The bill would also give US \$10 million annually to the Justice Department to help fight other types of computer fraud.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/Technology/US-House-of-Representatives-approves-legislation-to-combat-Internetspyware-other-scams/2007/05/23/1179601448552.html>
<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,21780504%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

[Editor's Note(Schultz): This bill appears to be significantly "watered down;" if passed, it will in all likelihood not be effective in countering spyware. At the same time, however, passing a bill punishing people who engage in spyware-related fraud is at least a step forward in the fight against spyware.]

--Fine and Community Service for Wireless Piggybacking
(May 23 & 24, 2007)

Sam Peterson will perform 40 hours of community service and pay a US \$400 fine for using a wireless network without permission. Peterson parked outside a Wi-Fi caf in Sparta, Michigan and checked his email on a daily basis. If he had gone inside for a cup of coffee and used the Internet while there, there would have been no grounds for prosecution. The cafe's owner was unaware that Peterson's activity was illegal. Peterson was caught because the local police chief became suspicious of him sitting in his car using his computer outside the cafe.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/05/23/michigan_wifi_conviction/print.html
<http://www.computerworlduk.com/management/security/data-control/news/index.cfm?newsid=3160>

[Editor's Note (Northcutt): The more I read about the details of this story, the more I am tempted to write a screen play for Andy of Mayberry 2007, but good judgment was used by all except Peterson. A much better telling of the tale can be found:

<http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6546307>

(Grefer): A recent proof of concept showed that it takes mere seconds to break WEP encryption, so to make wireless network reasonably secure, WPA or WPA2 connections.]

NEWS FROM SNOPE.SCOM

- One boy named [Shane](#) suffers from cancer and wants birthday cards; the other is fictitious.
- Ever wondered which pasteboards are [unlucky](#) or what you can do to change your luck when playing cards?
- About specific menu items from certain restaurants [inducing](#) labor in pregnant women who have gone past their due dates.
- We call police officers "[cops](#)" - but why?
- Are stars [visible](#) during the day when viewed from the depths of a deep well?
- New residents in unfamiliar [housing](#) circumstances adapt in unusual ways.

WORMS, ACTIVE EXPLOITS, VULNERABILITIES & PATCHES

From SANS:

--Opera Fixes Buffer Overflow Flaw

Opera has released Opera version 9.20 for Windows to address a buffer overflow flaw. The vulnerability is the result of a boundary error that arises when version 9.x of the browser handles maliciously crafted Torrent files. For the flaw to be exploited, attackers would need to manipulate users into right-clicking on the malicious Torrent file in the transfer manager. Successful exploit of the flaw could allow attackers to execute arbitrary code. Versions of Opera for other operating systems may be vulnerable as well.

Internet Storm Center:

<http://isc.sans.org/diary.html?storyid=2823>

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/05/23/opera_torrent_bug/print.html

<http://www.opera.com/support/search/view/860/>

--Office 2003 Security Tool Designed to Protect Users from Infected Files (May 22, 2007)

Microsoft has released a free tool called Microsoft Office Isolated Conversion Environment, or MOICE, to help protect users from malware placed in Office files, a vector of attack that has recently gained popularity. MOICE converts Word, Excel and PowerPoint docs to their OpenXML counterparts and opens them in a quarantined environment to protect users' computers from embedded malicious payloads designed to exploit holes in Microsoft Office. MOICE works in tandem with the File Block, a tool that allows administrators to establish group policies regarding users' permissions to open certain file types. Both tools work out of the box with office 2007. Office 2003 users need to install the Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel and PowerPoint 2007 Office File Formats first. There is no protection offered for users running versions prior to Office 2003.

Internet Storm Center:

<http://isc.sans.org/diary.html?storyid=2838>

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/05/22/office_moice/print.html

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/935865>

Compatibility Pack:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>

CRITICAL: Apple Mac OS X Multiple Vulnerabilities (Security Update 2007-005)

Affected:

Apple Mac OS X versions 10.3.9 and prior

Apple Mac OS X versions 10.4.9 and prior

Apple Mac OS X Server versions 10.3.9 and prior

Apple Mac OS X Server versions 10.4.9 and prior

Description: Apple Mac OS X contains multiple vulnerabilities:

(1) A specially-crafted Portable Document Format (PDF) file could trigger an integer overflow in the CoreGraphics subsystem. Note that PDF

documents are opened without prompting.

(2) Vulnerabilities in the handling of Universal Plug-and-Play (UPnP) requests lead to buffer overflows in the mDNSResponder server and the iChat instant messaging client. In both cases, a specially-crafted UPnP packet sent to the vulnerable process could exploit these buffer overflows. It is currently believed that only packets sourced from the local network can exploit these vulnerabilities, but this has not been proven. Successfully exploiting these vulnerabilities would allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the current user or vulnerable process (note that the mDNSResponder component runs with root privileges).

Additional denial-of-service, local only, and information disclosure vulnerabilities were also addressed in this update.

Status: Apple confirmed, updates available.

Council Site Actions: Only one of the reporting council sites is using the affected software and they are already in the process of updating their systems.

References:

Apple Security Update

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=305530>

SecurityFocus BIDs

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/24144>

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/24159>

Kat Lehman

Information Technology Coordinator

Diocese of Bethlehem

610-691-5655 x235

klehman@diobeth.org