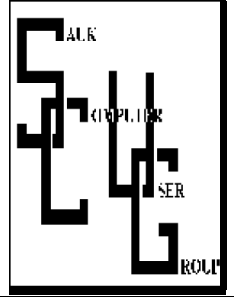


Newsletter

Volume Seventeen
Number Five
May 2007

Sauk Computer User Group

User Helping User



Minutes: SCUG Club Meeting April 14, 2007

The meeting began with a question and answer session with Neal at the computer and Art answering questions.

The business meeting began at 2:20 P.M. with President Bendick asking for any additions or corrections to the minutes published in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as written.

President Bendick called for the treasurer's report. Treasurer Marion Braun reported the income and expenses for March. Marion reported we have 2 new members.

President Bendick asked for any guest to introduce themselves, we had two guests, Gene Glock and Keith Potter. We had approximately 34 members attending the meeting.

No old business.

Art has some memory chips for sale if anyone would like to upgrade the memory in their computer.

Betty Beatty will present the program for April on how to backup the information on your computer. Betty also had information on a new com-

puter business in Dixon, Fast and Fair at 418 N. Galena. Betty will post the information on the club website.

Ken Hughs and Lydia Kenney won the raffles this week.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by John and seconded by Don.

Respectfully submitted,
Darla Stigall club secretary

Minutes: Club Board Meeting Meeting April 19, 2007

The board meeting was held at the home of Betty Beatty. Board members present were Art Bendick, Neal Shipley, Marion Braun, Don Haag, David Zimmerman and Betty Beatty.

Ken Hughes won the 1 GB flash drive at our April meeting. Lydia Kenney won the 128 MB Windows Live USB Key (it contained information about Windows Live-the new set of services that brings your online world together). It was donated to the club by Microsoft. The club decided to raffle off the SanDisk Cruzer(r) Micro-2GB USB flash drive also donated to the club by Microsoft. The board discussed future raffle ideas; these raffles have been successful in raising money for the club.

The board began planning for the July cookout.

Betty Beatty will be doing the May 12th program on making Computer Backups of your computer and data. We will look at the FREE Windows Backup utility and Acronis True

Image 10 Home (not free). The Windows Backup Utility comes with most versions of Windows and can usually be found on your Windows installation CD if it is not already installed on your computer. Acronis True Image 10 Home is an amazing program that sells for about \$50.00. Acronis True Image 10 Home can be run under the following Windows operating systems: Windows Vista, Windows XP Professional x64 Edition, Windows(r) XP SP 2 and Windows(r) 2000 Professional SP 4.

The club is considering ideas for future programs. If you wish to do a program or have an idea on something

(Continued on page 9)

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John Miller

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There will be a workshop at 1 PM immediately prior to the regular meeting. It will be conducted by: **Neal Shipley & Art Bendick**

'Storm Trojan' Spammers Set Us Up

The group behind last week's massive Storm Trojan spam blast set up Windows users with a one-two punch, researchers said.

Gregg Keizer, Computerworld

Tuesday, April 17, 2007 03:00 AM PDT

The group behind last week's massive Storm Trojan spam blast set up Windows users with a one-two punch by switching tactics in midrun, making the second stage's subject headings more believable, researchers said Monday.

"There was a very distinct transition point" between the two stages, said Adam Swidler, senior manager of solutions marketing at Postini Inc. "It was a concerted effort to trick users."

The huge wave of worm-infected spam e-mails sent out starting early Thursday had receded by about 2 a.m. Pacific Time Friday. "It petered out around then, and spam went back to its average daily and hourly rates," said Swidler. "We're still crunching the numbers, but it looks like three times that of the largest in the last 12 months, around 60 million [messages] total."

Although most of the attention was paid to the attack's second phase — when spammed messages arrived with subject headings such as "Worm Alert!" and "Virus Activity Detected!" — the assault began with less alarming mail marked "Our Love Nest," "A Token of My Love" and other romantic phrases.

The switch, speculated Swidler, was by design. "The first part was more love-related and created the illusion of a worm attack going on," he said. "They were able to control the mutation and do the switch so that there was a clear point where there were almost none of the 'love' messages. That played to the second phase."

In fact, love-labeled spam carrying variants of the Storm Trojan — which first appeared in January and got its nickname from subject heads touting news of damaging winter storms in Europe — was spotted by some security vendors last Wednesday. Trend Micro Inc.'s malware blog noted a round of love-related spam hitting Japanese in-boxes a day before the attack's second stage started.

Last week, Swidler called the two-part attack a "self-fulfilling prophecy" because of the attacker's skill at setting up recipients for the second stage, which played off fears of an actual infection to dupe users into running the attached executable file.

When the malware executes, it installs a rootkit to cloak itself, disables security software, steals confidential information from the PC and adds the infected machine to a botnet of compromised computers. Storm Trojan can also self-propagate by rooting out e-mail addresses from the PC and sending copies of itself to those people.

However, the newly-infected PCs are staying quiet — for the moment, said Swidler. "They haven't immediately launched an attack off these new bats" he said. "It looks like they're building out their inventory [of bats]." That, though, bodes ill for the future. "It's reasonable to assume that with these new bats, spam [volume] will only continue to climb," said Swidler.

Neal

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Smaida Bollman	John E. Miller
Marion Braun	Dane W. Neiderman
Ron Brooks	Larry Nelson
Tom Cartwright	Pat O'Connell
Shirley Cornwell	Arlene T. Onken
Dawn Deets	Gil Quick
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David Drane	George Schneider
Alan Eberhardt	Neal Shipley
Dian Fitzgerald	William Simane
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Evelyn Gaffey	Ernest W. Topping Jr.
Jerry Glawe	Francis & Jeanne Vargas
Bill Griswold	Dwight & Jan Varner
Adam Haag	James G. Wells
Dennis Haag	Clarence Zapf
Donald Haag	David Zimmerman
Ronald C. Haag	
Harry B. Hubbard	RADIO STATION WIXN
Ken & Judy Hughes	RADIO STATION WLLT
John Hurley	RADIO ST. WSDR/WSSQ
Millie Johnson	RADIO STATION WCCI
John & Lydia Kenney	THE DAILY GAZETTE
David Kerdrick	THE DIXON TELEGRAPH
Myron Kliment	THE AMBOY NEWS
Bonnie Kollman	FREEPORT JOURNAL STD
Ted Kontos	FOX TALES
Jori Krystek	ICON

Please respect the members names and addresses by not passing them outside the club

SCUG NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Sauk Computer User Group's newsletter is available online to SCUG members. You will find it in the Member's Only section of our website. Our web site address is:

<http://www.svonline.net/~svclub>

You will need to enter a Name and Password to access our Members Only page. We ask club members to give us the name from their email address, that portion ahead and up to the @ symbol for your login name.

You may give us whatever you want for your password, something about 4 to 6 spaces long, something that you will remember. Name and password should be lower case. If you have not yet set this up you can email this information to Betty Beatty at: bbeatty@grics.net.

Check Disk Dirty Bits and More-Oh Boy by Betty Beatty.

Friday evening before our April SCUG meeting my computer (desktop purchased in November of 2001-yes it's old) started doing some very strange and unpleasant things.

“One of your disks needs to be checked for consistency. You may cancel the disk check, but it is strongly recommended that you continue.” Then CHKDSK would start to run, but it could not get past phase 2 then a Blue Screen of Death (BSOD) appeared briefly (appearing and disappearing before I could read it). Then my computer would reboot and the whole series would start over. CHKDSK would try and run but was not able to go for more than a few seconds, then BSOD, then reboot. When CHKDSK was trying to run I was told that I could cancel it by hitting any key-since it would not complete (after many tries) I hit a key and Windows XP SP2 booted and seemed to work okay but **I was thinking all of these problems might mean something more serious is about to happen.**

By the way, in Windows XP, Check Disk or CHKDSK, replaced the ScanDisk utility we had used since Windows 95. Check Disk had been available for many years as a DOS utility. To access the Check Disk utility, click My Computer from the Start menu then right-click the drive you want to check, and select Properties. In the Disk Properties dialog box, click the Tools tab, and in Error-checking section, click Check Now. The Check Disk utility opens. Click the Automatically fix file system errors checkbox to have the utility automatically fix file system errors for you immediately. This is the same as the Standard selection in ScanDisk. **Click the Scan For And Attempt Recovery Of Bad Sectors** checkbox if you want to repair drive errors. Windows checks the file system and also detects and repairs physical errors on the drive. This is the same as the Thorough selection of ScanDisk in previous versions of Windows. If you select the latter option for the drive where WinXP is currently running, it displays a dialog box asking if you want to run the Check Disk utility the next time you restart the OS. Click OK to direct the utility to run the next time you start Windows.

I tried starting CHKDSK manually. However, in my case, it would try and run, stop after a few minutes giving me the message “Windows was unable to complete the disk check.” Then BSOD, then reboot over and over.

Since I could not get CHKDSK to run I decided I would run my V-Com Fix-It Utilities 5. It includes a Disk Check utility and much more. When I tried to start it I got the following message: “The procedure entry point **GetProcAddressFileNames** could not be located in the dynamic link library PSAPI.DLL.” Fix-It! Utilities 5 would not run.

Since there is a new Version 7 out I decided to buy that thinking maybe the problem was that my Version 5 was a few years old. From within Fix-It! Utilities 5 I selected to check for updates and was given a very good offer to upgrade to Fix-It! Utilities 7 Professional. The Upgrade was only \$19.95 (I believe the full version sells for \$40.00 or \$50.00 depending on where you look). I went ahead and purchased the upgrade and received a confirmation email with download instructions, serial numbers (it comes with a license to run on 3 PCs), etc. To make a long story short the download failed and none of the links on the Web site I was directed to worked. **All the links I clicked on gave me “The webpage cannot be found” error message.** I became alarmed that I might have just entered my credit card number in a Phishing site. (According to Wikipedia: **“In computing, phishing is a criminal activity using social engineering techniques. Phishers attempt to fraudulently acquire sensitive information, such as usernames, passwords and credit card details, by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.”**) I Googled V-Com and found a “real” web site with links that worked. They have a toll free number to call Monday - Friday from 8:00 to 5:00. Since it was now Saturday night there was no one I could call at this time to see if they had actually got my order. I called my credit card company, the charge had occurred. The person from the credit card company told me when she ran a check on the company that my charge was made to and it said it was some place that sold used tires!!!! We cancelled my card (I am getting a replacement with new numbers) and I was told I could appeal my “V-Com” purchase when I receive my next statement if the charge was indeed not legitimate.

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Well, I was still had my computer problems so I did a search at one of my favorite Tech sites, **Tech Support Guy** (<http://www.techguy.org/>)—free tech support from volunteers/forums (the link is on the Club's link page) and I found the answer to my Fix-It! 5 problem (“The procedure entry point **GetProcessImageFileNameW** could not be located in the dynamic link library PSAPI.DLL.”) I was given the following solution:

1. Navigate to the installation location for, in my case, Fix-It Utilities 5 via My Computer (\Program Files\V-Com)
2. Find PSAPI.DLL and rename it to something like PSAPIOLD.DLL
3. Reboot the system. The program will find the new PSAPI.DLL in the \Windows\System32 directory and function normally.

This worked. V-Com Fix-It 5 Utilities started right away after doing this. I chose the option that runs all the main Fix-It Utilities. It takes about 2 hours for this program to run on my computer. It Defrags, empties recycle bin, cleans and fixes the registry, scans my hard drive and fixes any errors it finds, etc. When it was finished I got a report telling me everything looked ok, etc.

Fine, but I was still getting the same errors: “One of your disks needs to be checked for consistency. You may cancel the disk check, but it is strongly recommended that you continue.” Then CHKDSK would start to run, but it still could not get past phase 2 then a Blue Screen of Death (BSOD).

I decided I had to read that BSOD that would just flash for a few seconds and then disappear. Again I did a **Google search**. I found that I needed to Right Click on My Computer>Properties>Advanced>under Startup and Recovery choose Settings and uncheck “Automatically restart in system failure”. This allows the system to display the BSOD because the system is not rebooting immediately after the BSOD.

The last line on this BSOD was: tbcspud.sys - Address F61E1c27 base at F61C9000, Date stamp 3b8d7887. What could this mean? **Back to Google...** I had to force a power down using the button on the tower and then restarted the computer, this time aborting the countdown to a disk check by hitting any key and then I headed to **Google**. I found other people that had had the exact same problem. The first two letters of that cryptic message stands for Turtle Beach—that is my sound card. I went to the Dell Web site to see if there was a newer driver for it. There was and I downloaded it and the BSOD went away.

But I still needed to get CHKDSK to run. I read about something at <http://www.geekstogo.com> about a “Dirty Bit”. This article said that this happens when there is a cluster on the drive with an invalid memory address and Windows doesn't like it. I needed to unset that Dirty Bit so windows can recover the cluster by running CHKDSK. This article (found at: <http://www.geekstogo.com/forum/lofiversion/index.php/t125901.html>) gave me these instruction:

Click start then run, type **cmd** then press enter

At the command prompt type **fsutil dirty query c:** (or the relevant drive letter). This queries the drive, and more than likely it will tell you that it is dirty.

Next type **CHKNTFS /X C:** The X tells Windows not to check that particular drive on the next reboot.

Reboot, it should load to the desktop

Once Windows has loaded bring up another CMD prompt and type **Chkdsk /f /r c:**

This should take you through the 5 stages of the scan and will unset the dirty bit.

(Continued on page 7)

The following is a list of sayings that came to me by way of our oldest son Dennis, a member of SCUG but unable to attend meetings because of a prior commitment which is the carrying of US mail — come rain or come shine. I think he got them off the internet and are some really neat ones that take ex service men or fliers to really appreciate.

Don Haag - newsletter editor

WIT AND WISDOM FROM THE MILITARY MANUALS AND FLIGHT RECORDS

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it.

That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit."

- Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

"Aim towards the Enemy."

- Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend.

- U.S. Marine Corps

"Cluster bombing from B-52s are very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed always to hit the ground."

- USAF Ammo Troop

"If the enemy is in range, so are you."

- Infantry Journal

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed."

- U.S. Air Force Manual

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

- General MacArthur

"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo."

- Infantry Journal

"You, you, and you ... Panic. The rest of you, come with me."

- U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.

"Tracers work both ways."

- U.S. Army Ordnance

"Five second fuses only last three seconds."

- Infantry Journal

"Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything."

- U.S. Navy Swabbie

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid."

- David Hackworth

"If your attack is going too well, you're walking into an ambush."

- Infantry Journal

"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection."

- Joe Gay

"Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once."

- unknown

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do."

- Unknown Marine Recruit

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you."

"If you see a bomb technician running, follow him."

- USAF Ammo Troop

"You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3."

- Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)

"The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire."

"Blue water Navy truism: There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky."

- From an old carrier sailor

"If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter — and therefore, unsafe."

"When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash."

"Without ammunition, the USAF would be just another expensive flying club."

"What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots?"

(Continued on page 9)

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If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies;
If ATC screws up, The pilot dies.”

”Never trade luck for skill.”

The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are:

”Why is it doing that?”, “Where are we?” And “Oh Shoot!”

”Weather forecasts are horoscopes with numbers.”

”Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to complete the flight successfully.”

”Mankind has a perfect record in aviation; we never left one up there!”

”Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag to store dead batteries.”

”Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground who is incapable of understanding or doing anything about it.”

”The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you.”

- Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)

”A pilot who doesn’t have any fear probably isn’t flying his plane to its maximum.”

- Jon McBride, astronaut

”If you’re faced with a forced landing, fly the thing as far into the crash as possible.”

- Bob Hoover (renowned aerobatic and test pilot)

”Never fly in the same cockpit with someone braver than you.”

”There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.”

-Sign over squadron ops desk at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1970

”If something hasn’t broken on your helicopter, it’s about to.”

Basic Flying Rules:

”Try to stay in the middle of the air. Do not go near the edges of it. The edges of the air can be recognized by the

appearance of ground, buildings, sea, trees and interstellar space. It is much more difficult to fly there.”

”You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.”

As the test pilot climbs out of the experimental aircraft, having torn off the wings and tail in the crash landing, the crash truck arrives, the rescuer sees a bloodied pilot and asks, “What happened?”

The pilot’s reply, “I don’t know, I just got here myself !”

- Attributed to Ray Crandell (Lockheed test pilot)

EMS Week May 20 - 26, 2007

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Some additions to **WIT AND WISDOM** might be::

You know what I mean?

which really means “I don’t know how to say I don’t want you to know what I mean so consider what you would mean if you said it but first you would have to have an inkling of an idea of what I am talking about so if you aren’t a mind reader just consider this to be small talk”.

-Don Haag (Junior philosopher)

He has more money than he knows what to do with.

which really means “They have more money than I ever expect to have”.

or

“Before I can finish paying my bills I don’t have any money left to even pay the minimum amount required on my credit cards”.

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(Continued from page 2)

Minutes: Club Board Meeting Meeting April 19, 2007

everyone would be interested in please contact a board member.

Don Haag reminded us that he really appreciates receiving articles for the club newsletter from our members. Please send your articles to Don.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Neal and seconded by David.

Respectfully submitted in the absence of
Secretary Darla Stigall, **Betty Betty**

The Sauk Computer User Group is now accepting advertisements in it's newsletter. The Club Newsletter has a circulation around seventy people.

Ads cost:

3 month ads: 15 dollars for quarter page
9 dollars for eighth page

1 month ads: 6 dollars for quarter page
4 dollars for eighth page

This Space Could Be Yours

Graphics can be scanned for use in ads.

For this service contact Don Haag, editor, at following location:

1302 E. 18th. St., Sterling, IL 61081 or 1-815-626-1664

**NOTICE THE
SECOND SATURDAY
THIS MONTH**

NOTICE

The next meeting of the
Sauk Computer User Group
will be **May 12, 2007**

Workshop: 1:00 P.M.

Business: 2:00 P.M.

Program circa 3:00 P.M.

Place: **Whiteside Senior Center**

1207 West 9th Street

Sterling, Illinois 61081

**This Month's Meeting Theme: Creating Computer Backup -
the use of two versions (Windows & Acronis Truelmage)**

Will be Presented by - Betty Beatty

Sauk Computer User Group

User Helping User

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