



NOVEMBER DISK OF THE MONTH

The focus of this month's DOM is free utilities and applications. I cannot believe how much SPAM I receive everyday in my email. While it is impossible to keep all SPAM out of your inbox, there are some things you can do to help minimize exposing your email address.

The modern SPAMMER is very sophisticated. They visit sites where they can collect the email addresses of people that register with a site. In addition to having an army of bots canvassing public servers looking for email addresses, they have expensive tools to “spoof” their return addresses and keep their identities hidden.

One company is trying to “productize” their solution to eliminating the bot method of collecting addresses. Visit <http://www.spamarrest.com/> to view the methodology of their product. I encountered an instance where I was challenged to provide the correct information before my email was delivered. They used Spamarrest (the product) to verify I was not a bot before my email was allowed to arrive at the destination!

Another way to protect your email address is to Spam-Block your email address using “munging when you register on a site. For the details, the definition and the FAQs of munging, visit <http://members.aol.com/emailfaq/mungfaq.html>.

One of the best commercial filters for blocking SPAM is Norton’s AntiSpam (per a PC Magazine review). While this product costs \$39.95 with updates for a year, my wife says this product is absolutely worth the price and it is the best \$39.95 I ever spent on software! Well, I thought some of us might like a less expensive option, so a freeware version of another product is on the disk.

November Files (located in the Files folder)

Bounce Spam Mail: (BSM18.zip) Fool those spam mailers by Sending a fake bounce message back to them, making their targeted mailing list manager think your address was invalid. The program works in a lot of cases when you can't get to the real sender of the message.

Note: Although this program still works, it is no longer supported by the vendor. A note of warning is needed here. While this sounds great, lots of SPAMMERS have their real addresses hidden and you will only receive an error message stating that the Spammers’ email address is invalid. However, it doesn’t cost anything to try this free program .

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description.asp?fid=5402

Ecleaner: (clean202.zip) — Do you forward e-mail jokes or messages on to all your friends? Your wit and messages will be better appreciated if it doesn't arrive with ">>>>>" at the beginning of every line. This nifty little program removes them from e-mail messages, making them look cleaner and preventing choppy word wraps. Now if only it made the jokes funny.

Note: Although this program still works, it is no longer supported by the vendor.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0.fid.6492.00.asp

Eudora v6 (Eudora_60.exe): Qualcomm's popular e-mail client manages multiple e-mail accounts and handles just about any attachment you're likely to receive. A robust search feature lets you find messages archived a long time ago. You can use a word processor when you're composing messages, so you can check spelling, format text, and choose a font. The program features group file-sharing, support for Palm devices, and a flame detector that rates the contents of your mail on a scale of zero to three chili peppers.

There are several versions of this program. Sponsored Mode, the default setting, is free of charge and full-featured. You will be subjected to advertisements in Sponsored Mode, though you'll be able to change that option. Paid Mode (\$39.95) includes SpamWatch, technical support, and has no advertising. Light Mode is free, but lacks many of the features of the other versions. <http://www.eudora.com/>

HDD Health: (hddh.exe) — HDD Health v2.1 Build 159 — HDD Health is a full-featured failure-prediction agent for machines using Windows 95, 98, NT, Me, 2000 and XP. Sitting in the system tray, it monitors hard disks and alerts you to impending failure. The program uses Self Monitoring and Reporting Technology (S.M.A.R.T.) built into all new hard disks, and can predict failures on your hard drives. A host of alerting features include email, local pop-up messages, net messages, and event logging, while using no system resources. <http://www.panterasoft.com/>

HJSplit v2.2 (HJSplit.zip) — Do you need to split large files across multiple disks, or transferring a file that's larger than a floppy to another computer? HJSplit lets you transfer files between computers by breaking them into pieces that suit the media you're using. You can also compare the files to be sure that all the data is there, and of course you can rejoin the file. HJSplit consists only of an .exe file, so it can be run from a floppy disk or CD-ROM.

This is a very interesting web site with lots of free utilities for various operating systems. Be sure to visit... <http://www.freebyte.com/hjsplit/>

MetaPad 3.5 or MetaPadLE 3.5 (Mpad35.zip and Mpad35LE.zip) — "metapad is a great choice for those who like their text editors small, fast, and free" - ZDNet Downloads

Once upon a time, one of the most useful programs for everyday use was known as Microsoft Notepad. I realized that Notepad was quite powerful and did a lot of what I wanted in a simple text editor. Yet I found the user interface to be unlike most 32-bit Windows applications and actually quite poor...

Metapad, on the other hand, is a small, fast (and completely free) text editor for Windows 9x/NT/XP with similar features to Microsoft Notepad but with many extra (and rather useful) features. It was designed to completely replace Notepad since it includes all of Notepad's features and much, much more.

Q: What is the difference between the Full and the LE version?

A: Technically, the full version utilizes a RichEdit control whereas LE (Light Edition) uses the older but speedier Edit control. LE is somewhat quicker under NT when loading large files but it does not have the following features:

no file size limit on Win9X

multiple undo/redo

show hyperlinks option

drag & drop text editing

insert/overwrite mode

It's up to you to decide which one you like better!

www.liquidninja.com/metapad/

MyUninstaller v1.11 (myuninst.zip) — MyUninstaller is an alternative utility to the standard Add/Remove applet of Windows operating system. It displays the list of all installed application, and allows you to uninstall an application, delete an uninstall entry, and save the list of all installed applications into a text file or HTML file.

MyUninstaller also provides additional information for most installed applications that the standard Add/Remove applet doesn't display: product name, company, version, uninstall string, installation folder and more.

<http://riedersoft.ath.cx:85/~users/nirsoft/utills/myuninst.html>

PGP Freeware v8.0.2 (PGP803-PF-W.zip) — Protect your e-mail messages from being intercepted and read by someone else. This program ensures that only the intended recipient can read your message, by authenticating the origin and destination. It also lets you encrypt your message so that you're protected against anyone who tries to read the message en route. The program also lets you "sign" e-mail messages so that recipients can be sure the messages have come from you. Another feature, PGPnet, secures all Internet communications between your PC and any machines on PGPnet.

This version also includes Self-Decrypting Archives (SDAs) which allow you to exchange information securely even with those who do not have PGP, as well as a feature that allows you to use the Windows Task Scheduler to schedule periodic secure wiping of the free space on your disk.

Note: The download link is for users in the United States.

Visit the site for more information about use and restrictions <http://www.pgp.com/products/freeware.html>

WebWasher Classic v3.3 (wash33.exe) — This free program filters unwanted ads, crushes cookies, and prevents companies from profiling your surfing habits. You can eliminate pop-up windows, banner ads, and the new, larger "skyscrapers" and "rectangles" that increase the time it takes to view Web pages. You're even protected from Web bugs, invisible graphics hidden in documents that trigger the sending of messages to third parties.

With the cookie filter, you can classify cookies as good, bad, or neutral so that you can keep the ones you need (such as for home shopping), while classifying the ones that spy on you. And the included SecretMaker software sends phantom data in place of personal information and surfing habits.

Free for home/personal and educational use.

http://www.webwasher.com/client/home/index.html?lang=de_EN

September web sites:

<http://www.spamarrest.com/>

<http://members.aol.com/emailfaq/mungfaq.html>

<http://www.pgp.com/>