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Beware! Love Could Be Dangerous



A new wave of attack has begun from the Storm Worm. This time, the theme is love.

EFY News Network

Saturday, January 19, 2008: The new love-themed wave of attack has begun from the Storm Worm. E-mails with links to a bait website hosting the malware are sent out in bulk numbers for the last three days, says MicroWorld Technologies. 'Eternity of Your Love', 'I Love You Soo Much', 'falling in love with you', 'For You My Love', 'our journey', 'our love nest', 'Memories of You' and 'A Kiss So Gentle' are some of the subject lines of this worm spreading mail.

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The mail shows a pink heart and a message that reads as, "Your download should begin shortly. If your download does not start in 10-20 seconds, you can click here to launch the download and then press run. Enjoy!." And once you click on this message, a file named withlove.exe or with_love.exe is downloaded, which carries a malware named 'Zhelatin.sg'.

"This is a new rollout from the ill-famed storm factory with some changes in code and a new spreading theme. And if one has to go by the initial volumes, the attack seems fairly large," said Govind Rammurthy, CEO, MicroWorld Technologies.

The activities of Zhelatin.sg inside the compromised computer are pretty much the same as its predecessors. The Worm drops a file named 'burito.ini', stops antivirus running on the computer and activates a range of ports to connect to peer-to-peer networks before making the computer a part of the mammoth sized storm botnet. From that point on, the computer would send out spam or do many other things that the remote attacker would want it to do.

"I believe it's high time law enforcement agencies work with security companies to initiate a global crackdown on this criminal gang," added Rammurthy.

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The BUZZ

MicroWorld's antiVirus and antiSpam solution at mail server -- MailScan -- tackles all sorts of spam and threat laden mails by employing 'Non Intrusive Learning Patterns'. Also, the enterprise security solution, eScan, combines updating signature based detection with proactive technologies to keep the worm at bay all time.

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