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NEW TROJAN PART SLEAZY, PESKY

Posted on

Farmington Hills-based MicroWorld Technologies Inc. is warning Trojan named "Win32.StartPage.jo" that does a whole host of nasty things on your computer.

The Trojan is downloaded while visiting what MicroWorld charitable Web sites or downloading freebies from untrustworthy sources on the Internet.

The company describes the effects of the Trojan as "half part pesky, half part sleazy."

Win32.StartPage.jo changes Internet settings on the affected computer. The home page in Internet Explorer is changed to www.find-online.net. A range of porn sites and bogus drug sites in the favorites folder are added. The Trojan also changes the Windows registry to activate the Trojan at the system start-up.

"This Trojan can impede your Internet activity by popping up porn sites every now and then," says Vikas Vishwasrao, assistant manager of development at MicroWorld. "Some of these sites offer to download other software which potentially pave way for more malware to be downloaded on your computer. A couple of them are also seen exploiting browser vulnerabilities to slither into unprotected PCs."

MicroWorld says the Trojans can lead an infected computer to check out adult sites, the mere access of which is a criminal offense in many countries. Evidence based in browsing history. Then there's the case of Cori Julie Amero, who faced years of imprisonment after her computer was found to contain child pornography. She's been granted a new trial after security experts found evidence towards the probable presence of a Trojan in the computer.

Browser hijackers can also be used in "pharming" attacks, an advertising hijacking in which your hijacked browser takes you to a phony version of your bank or credit card company, even when you directly type in the Web address involved. All your confidential information is then harvested by the hijacker.

MicroWorld says its security software, eScan, protects computers from malware. This with advanced malware detection technologies. Using MicroWorld's eScan blocks malware on-the-fly while being downloaded from the Internet.

MicroWorld advises users to protect their computers with a comprehensive security software and keep it regularly updated.

More at www.mwti.net

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