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Monday, 15 May, 2006

Silent trojan targets dial-up users

by [Cleona Godinho](#)

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MicroWorld Technologies has issued a warning to users around the world regarding a new trojan called 'Trojan.Win32.Dialer.ay', which connects a user's PC to foreign service numbers and so can lead to telephone running into thousands of dollars.

According to the firm's warning on its website at www.mwti.net, Dialer.ay hijacks a user's existing dial-up line and connects it to an expensive paid-for service number such as a '900' number in the US. MicroWorld also refer to cases where victims of the trojan are forced to pay a percentage of the charges in order to settle the bill.

"There are two major ways a 'Dialer Trojan' can infect computers," observed Govind Rammurthy, CEO of MicroWorld Technologies. "One is through injecting an ActiveX control to the PC via the web browser while user accesses the internet. This component then downloads the dialer from a predefined website. Two, the Trojan comes bundled with a plethora of freeware available on the net. Even some of the small free utilities like schedulers and calculators you find on the web are found to be carrying Dialer.ay."

MicroWorld is advising all users who have a DSL connection and don't use their dial-up connection to unplug their standard modems from the telephone line to prevent becoming a victim of this trojan.

The firm has also revealed that dialer trojans can migrate to smartphones and highlighted the case of the 'mosquito' trojan that was found last year. This infected a game by the same name played on Symbian operating systems and sent hundreds of text messages to foreign numbers.

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