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Microworld's answer to PDF spams

by [Marketflash Bureau Pune](#)

Jul 20, 2007

As per the antivirus software vendor, MicroWorld, PDF spams are increasingly causing troubles to the customers since the beginning of July this year.

Leading the pack are two 'Pump and Dump' Scams touting about some stocks in their bid to make customers buy them. The first one is about the stock of a German company called 'Talktech Telemedia'. The well created PDF file looks like a leaf from a trade magazine with its neat design and business language. Like all Pump and Dump scams this one tells customers that, thanks to many positive factors happening in the next few weeks, the price of the stock in question will jump 300%. The second one is also stock related, but the PDF is in a much basic and simpler form in this case.

In Pump and Dump scandals, scamsters buy worthless shares of companies and send out spam mails across the world to drive up their prices. The total number of Talktech spam floating around is estimated to have crossed two billion so far.

A few customers buy such stock going by the 'confidential and profit making' opportunity. Once the stock price picks up, the people behind the scandal just sell their shares off to make huge profits while those who are trapped into the plot lose their hard earned money.

"Earlier, spammers used embedded images in mails to circumvent spam filters that work by checking for specific words and phrases in message content," says Govind Rammurthy, CEO, MicroWorld Technologies. He added, "Many spam filters have now smartened up and they can identify and block such commercial mails. That's why the conmen behind these mass mails are trying out PDF file format to dwindle unsuspecting computer users."

Rammurthy further stated that PDFs are traditionally used for drafting official documents and whitepapers. This has created an air of authenticity and authority about them which would make many drop their guard in downloading the attachment. The faulty perception that PDFs are immune to malware infections helps in spreading such spams.



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To combat such situation, MicroWorld has created AntiVirus, AntiSpam and Content Security software solutions branded as eScan, MailScan, X-Spam. These software employ an array of technologies in fighting spam while they also use advanced methods to block image and PDF varieties.

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