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Nyxem Virus Spreads Like Wildfire, Once Again

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The AntiVirus and Content Security firm MicroWorld Technologies informs that there's a steep rise globally in the number of mails infected with 'Worm.Win32.Nyxem.e' or the 'Kamasutra Worm', with India being the worst hit.

Experts at MicroWorld reveal that out of all mails encountered at their Servers in India, 27% were carrying Nyxem. This amounts to a staggering 87% of the total number of infected mails in the region. From the information collected through MicroWorld Servers across the world, Nyxem registers a 31% of the global Virus count.

Mails infected with Nyxem, out of total mails received.

"In March too, we have noticed hectic activity from this worm towards the end of the month. We believe that it's got to do with the 3rd of the month payload that Nyxem carries. But trust me, the last two weeks have seen this worm climbing an unprecedented level in terms of proliferation!" says Aneesh Paliwal, Security Analyst, MicroWorld.

The sleazy worm that spreads via pornographic mails was first detected by MicroWorld Technologies on Jan 16, 2006. Nyxem is a PE EXE file written in Visual Basic and wrapped with UPX. On the 3rd of every month, Nyxem is programmed to overwrite all infected files. It shrinks files with extensions .doc, .pdf, .psd, .ppt, .pps, .rar, .xls and .zip to 20 bytes and displays an error message when you try to open them.

“One needs to note that a Virus which inflicts maximum harm is not necessarily a new breed every time. On many occasions, it’s an old timer or its smarter variant or mutant,” says Govind Rammurthy, CEO, MicroWorld Technologies. “The solution lies in a Virus scanner that’s up-to-second on every Virus in the wild and has got the ability to foresee future threats at the same time. If you can top it with educating your customers about social engineering tactics used in spreading these threats, malware writers will bite dust for sure!”

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