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MyDoom strikes again

July 24, 2004



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Mumbai -July 23, 2004. MyDoom, the notorious worm that had wreaked havoc in the eWorld has come back as MyDoom.N. The worm spreads through file sharing networks like Kazaa and also through infected attachments.

Govind Ramamurthy, MD of MicroWorld Software Services, Mumbai, said that these worms have a built-in SMTP engine (Small Mail Transfer Protocol). The SMTP engine allows the virus to send mails on its own. Not only that, the virus 'harvests' email Ids from your system and mails itself to them.

Mails carrying MyDoom-N appear as if they are automated mails. The worm opens a backdoor in the infected machine, allowing hackers to access the computer. Hackers and Spammers can take remote control of the machine or use it to hack other machines and launch Spam attacks. Your credit card info, banking passwords, etc. can be mailed to these hackers. You will never come to know until its too late.

Govind further pointed out that Bagle the Internet worm after running through the alphabets A to Z with new variants, has now started appearing in the double alphabets, AA and the latest variant is Bagle.AI. The worm forges sender addresses to confuse the recipient about the worm's origin. Its subject and message bodies give the impression that the attachment contains pictures, music or information about certain animals. This ploy seems to be targeted towards the younger innocent users who may open the attachment. This variant of Bagle can sometimes arrive inside a password-protected zip file and the password is given in the email itself thus fooling people into thinking that the email is genuine.

Govind recalls the battle that was fought a couple of months back between authors of Bagle and NetSky. Initially the authors were content with writing insulting and profane insults to each other in the worm code. Later they started 'killing' each other from infected machines. The war was fought with great ardor and it would have been fun but for the fact that after killing the current resident from an infected computer, the incumbent would go about its business, mentioned previously.

MicroWorld creates eScan, the best anti-virus and content security solutions. Govind advises people to be very careful when opening mails and entering chat rooms. His company offers free tools to remove the above worms. Visit www.msspl.co.in for the free tools.

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