

<cyclops>

Security information for users of Vet Anti-Virus software

summer⁰⁴

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Introduction

Welcome to the summer edition of Cyclops. Packed with security tips, this issue looks at spyware, the Top 10 viruses and introduces you to Dr Eugene Dozortsev, a former rocket scientist, who now leads CA's anti-virus R&D team in Melbourne.

Did you know that spyware programs may be sitting hidden on your PC, logging every word and number that you type? Have you heard about the latest version of the Lovgate virus

which can destroy the computer programs that run your PC. Read on to learn more. I hope you find the summer edition of Cyclops entertaining and informative.

Happy reading and safe computing,

Michelle Micallef
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Computer Associates™

Security bytes

Spyware is a growing threat for all computer users.

Spyware audit uncovers 83 million pests

American ISP Webroot recently audited three-million US internet users and found 83 million pieces of illicit spyware on home computers. That's an average of 26 spyware programs per computer! The audit also found spyware downloads doubled in the second quarter of 2004.



Editor's Choice Awards

If you're looking for protection from viruses or malicious software, *Australian Personal*

Computer (APC) recommends you use CA's Vet Net Surfer and PestPatrol software. Winning the Editor's Choice Award for anti-virus in 2004, Vet Net Surfer updates itself daily and continually cleans viruses from your computer.

PestPatrol was 'Editor's Choice' for protection against spyware and other non-viral malware and is described as, "one product you can't afford to be without".



Who names computer viruses?

Discover a new comet and you get to name it. Naming online threats works in the same way, although many researchers often rush to claim each new virus. This can result in a confusing number of descriptions. Complicating matters further, new strains of the virus may also appear, creating even more names around the original threat.

Virus healthcheck: Win32.Lovgate.AB

The Lovgate worm's had many forms since first hitting computer systems back in February 2003. Spread by email and file sharing networks like Kazaa, the latest version, Win32.Lovgate.AB, damages the executable or .EXE files that run your computer programs.

Lovgate.AB sends itself as a ZIP attachment file and personalises each attack. Quoting directly from emails stored on the host computer, it mimics an email reply from a friend, colleague or other source you're familiar with, so avoid opening attachment

files unless you've checked them for the virus.

Once activated the worm copies itself to your hard drive and searches for network shares, which are storage spaces on the server, copying itself to each folder on the share. That's when the damage occurs. Lovgate.AB will infect your .EXE files, overwriting file names with computer code.

Visit www.vet.com.au for more information on handling Win32.Lovgate.AB



Regularly update Vet Anti-Virus software for protection against the latest online threats.

Meet Dr Eugene Dozortsev

Dr Eugene Dozortsev is head of R&D at CA's anti-virus laboratory in Melbourne. He sees many similarities between computer viruses and biological viruses.

Former rocket scientist, Dr Eugene Dozortsev, immigrated to Australia from Russia in 1991. He now manages Research & Development (R&D) at CA's anti-virus research laboratory in Richmond and enjoys juggling a mix of technical tasks.

"Today, we have 80 virus experts working on eight different anti-virus projects. Helping people is very satisfying. It's my biggest motivation for doing the job." After spending many years outwitting virus writers, he says the same rules for handling biological viruses also apply to the IT security arena.



Dr Eugene Dozortsev manages one quarter of all CA's anti-virus research worldwide.

Dr Dozortsev proudly calls Australia home. "In my spare time, I go four-wheel driving in the mountains and fly kites with my daughters on the beach. In summer, we drive to the Dandenong ranges to pick blueberries or cherries," he adds.

Vet website gets makeover



We've given the Vet website a complete makeover to make using your Vet Anti-Virus software even easier. Its sleek new design includes fast access to our support staff, the latest news and frequently-asked-questions. Check out the website's new-look at vet.com.au.

Top 10 viruses

(As reported to CA's Anti-Virus Research Team)

These are the 10 most frequently reported viruses for December 2004.
You can find the latest list of the most critical and active viruses by [clicking here](#).

1. Win32.Netsky.P – worm spread via email and file sharing
2. Win32.Lovgate.AB – worm spread via e-mail, network shares and Kazaa
3. Win32.Bagz.F - worm spread via email
4. Win32.Netsky.D - worm spread via email
5. Win32.Netsky.C - worm spread via email and peer-to-peer networks
6. Win32.Netsky.Z - worm spread via email
7. Win32.Sober.I - worm spread via email
8. Win32.Mydoom.O - worm spread via email with backdoor functionality
9. Win32.Bagle.AQ - worm spread via email and peer-to-peer networks
10. Win32.Bagle.AR - worm spread via email and peer-to-peer networks

A brief look at what motivates a virus writer

Each day, CA's researchers check numerous virus scripts as they counter the latest online threats. To better understand what they're up against, they also study the profiles of the malicious people who write viruses and have found virus writers have a new type of motivation. The need to be acknowledged is being replaced by the desire to make money.

A typical virus writer:

- has high-level technical skills
- uses ideas and code developed by other virus authors
- uses the latest technologies for attacks
- teams up with like-minded people on the internet to share code and work on different projects
- has in-depth knowledge of computer operating systems and software applications

Studies show 9 out of 10 internet-connected PCs infected by spyware

As a Vet customer, we want to tell you about a new opportunity to protect your PC against spyware. CA's eTrust Pest Patrol provides leading-edge defence against spyware and adware. Spyware protection complements your Vet Anti-Virus to provide you with a more complete security solution.

Spyware are electronic pests that sneak quietly onto your PC without you knowing, when you receive email, visit websites or download files.

Once on your PC, spyware can:

- Steal your passwords and credit card numbers
- slow down or crash your PC

- overload your computer with pop-up ads
- hack into your computer files
- record your every keystroke - which can lead to stolen passwords and access to accounts.

For a limited time, CA's offering Vet customers a unique opportunity to purchase eTrust PestPatrol at a discount price. You'll have to hurry because the offer's only valid until December 31, 2004.

Thank you for being a valued customer.
The Computer Associates Team

To find out more or to purchase your copy of PestPatrol, please [click here](#).



PestPatrol complements VET Anti-Virus software.

Technology magazine says spyware's next big threat

According to *Technology and Business* magazine, spyware programs are the next big security threat. And merely going online without the right software is enough for them to install themselves on your computer.

Technology & Business says special anti-spyware software offers the only real way to protect your system properly and reviewed six anti-spyware products awarding Computer Associate's eTrust PestPatrol v5 first prize as the Editor's Choice.

The review says administration for PestPatrol, like the configuration, is a breeze.

"For the administrator who likes apps that are set-and-forget, PestPatrol is marvelous. One great advantage is the software's ability to scan multiple systems on a network from a single centralised system. This is particularly useful if one has a large multi-node network to administer and clean up."

The review says PestPatrol is mature enough to satisfy most corporate network administrators' needs. "It would be very difficult to go past this application for networked scanning of systems for spyware."



"For the administrator who likes apps that are set-and-forget, PestPatrol is marvelous."

Reader feedback

Does Cyclops provide relevant information for your security needs? Are there other topics you'd like to see covered in future editions? Please [click here](#) to email us your feedback on Cyclops.