

MBTS TEKJOURNAL - 2004

Welcome to 2004 and I hope everyone had a fun, joyous, and safe holiday season. I know I needed a break and now that my jets are recharged I am ready to hit the road running. I am planning more changes to the website in the coming months, and I am trying new techniques for the TekJournal in the hope of finally formalizing the style and layout. Hopefully it will also be easier to port into the PDF format so you will have choices when it is delivered: Mailbox, On Line, or PDF download.

Keeping in the spirit of a new beginning, when most of us make resolutions we probably won't keep, I too am going out on a limb to say I am planning great changes to the website and the format, content, and delivery of the newsletter in this New Year. Currently I design and write the newsletter using Dreamweaver which I also use to maintain and add to the web site. I don't feel this is the best medium to use so I will investigate other software which may make it easier to write, distribute, and convert future newsletters.

APPLICATION UPDATES

Spyware is still rampant on computer systems via the Internet (where else) and there really only seems to be one effective method to keeping it off your system. Spybot S&D appears to be the best product, and it is free. Simply installing this product won't be enough. After installing you must make sure you update regularly and also use the Immunize section of the product to protect against future Spyware from being installed.

Another precaution is the installation of SpywareBlaster which is a companion product to Spybot S&D. SpywareBlaster also must be updated regularly and this product "catches" and stops even more Spyware from accessing your system.

Back in the Immunize section of Spybot S&D there is also the ability to secure your Hosts file and the IE Startup site so that it cannot be changed without your knowledge by say a hijacker or redirector program.

HOW DO I ...

[What is the Content Advisor in Internet Explorer and How do I use it?](#)

According to the Microsoft website about [Content Advisor](#), "As a parent you may have concerns about the content your children encounter as they surf the Web. Internet Explorer 6 helps you safeguard your family's browsing experience with Content Advisor, which can be used to control the Web sites that your family can view. With Content Advisor, you can give your children access to a specific list of Web sites that you allow and prevent them from accessing others. Find out how to use it so you can rest easier." The problem however, is that the filter RSCA –

Recreational Software Advisory Council – which ships with Internet Explorer isn't used anymore. In 1999 it was "folded into" a new standard called ICRA that is no longer free.

Using the RSCA filter that ships with Internet Explorer, and making sure the option about viewing sites without certificates is not checked, about the only web site I could get to was Microsoft. Using SafeSurf instead of RSCA, I could view no sites without supplying the Supervisors Password. With the option turned on, using either of the "free" ratings systems, I could view any site I wanted including adult sites.

Therefore, it is my opinion that this tool has no use on your system.

SURF'S UP

I have been wondering lately if the junk mail I used to get via Canada Post has been ported to the Internet. I haven't seen cards in magazines lately for Book Clubs or Record or DVD clubs so I went looking on the Internet to see if they had gone the way of the dodo bird. They haven't!

[DoubleDay Book Club](#) – it took a little longer to find, but if you can't get to a bookstore as often as you like, this may be an option.

[Randomhouse](#) – If you just want to find out what the latest books are

[Columbia House Canada](#) – no more looking for which club to join, there all under one page: Music, DVD, and Video

Just as a general note, I was wondering if some of my favourite authors had web sites. So I simply typed in the author's name with a www. in front and a .com in back and voila, I found lots of sites I didn't know existed. Try it and let me know how it turns out. Some of the authors I went looking for: [Dean Koontz](#) [John Saul](#) [Stephen King](#) [Dan Brown](#) and a whole lot more...

TIPS AND TWEAKS

Backup of the System Registry:

1. Click the Start button, select Run, type "Regedit" (without the quotes) and click OK.
2. Highlight "My Computer" at the top, and from the File menu select Export.
3. Select All in the "Export Range" area at the bottom, choose a suitable empty directory, name the file something like Registry_Backup, and click Save.

Note* If anything goes wrong with the registry, double click on this Registry_Backup.reg file and upload the old registry over your existing one.

Speed up Internet

If you feel comfortable tweaking your Internet settings, a quick way to do so is using a utility called [DR TCP](#). Click on the link to download the file to your desktop and run it by double clicking the icon. A recommended TCP Receive Window value is 32767, and an MTU value for the adapter of less than 1500. Also make sure Black Hole detection is turned OFF.

We will be adding a new tweak section to the MicroByte TekSolutions web site soon where you can download scripts to incorporate the tweaks into your system. As always, you are guided to make backups of your registry before using the tweaks, only install one at a time, and use the tweaks at your own risk.

VIRUS UPDATES

If you don't have anti virus software on your system yet, you will want to fix that problem after reading the following article.

While 2003 was the worst year for computer viruses, it also marked the year that virus makers changed why they do business. In the past it was to make a name for themselves with other hackers, but now they are writing viruses to gather information from infected systems. This information can include bank account numbers, social insurance numbers, credit card numbers, etc. From all the articles I have read on this subject this trend is going to continue in the future.

What would a new year be like without a new virus to make us aware of how vulnerable our systems may be and how devilish hackers have become. A new worm targeting users of Microsoft's MSN Messenger network is making the rounds and anti-virus vendors are warning that the threat level and distribution remains high. The Jitux.A (W32/Jitux.A.worm) was detected squirming through the text chat application and trying to get users to download malicious code. The worm comes in the form of a URL which downloads the "jituxramon.exe" file. The worm has no destructive effects, nor does it cause changes to the system configuration.

Other worms and viruses to be on the lookout for include:

Backdoor.IRC.Aladinz.F is a Backdoor Trojan that uses mIRC client software with malicious mIRC scripts, allowing unauthorized remote access, including launching denial of service attacks and attempting to compromise additional computers. This was discovered on January 1st, 2004 and updated by Symantec on January 2nd.

W32.Tupeg is a simple virus which spreads by copying itself to floppy disks as "mpeg_player.exe." This was discovered on January 1st, 2004 and updated by Symantec on January 2nd.

Download.Berbew.dam is a corrupted executable which was spammed to a large number of recipients. The email may have an attachment named antikeylog2004.exe. However, due to corruption, the program does not execute as intended. It was discovered on December 31st, 2003, and updated on January 2nd, 2004.

Trojan.Narat was discovered on December 30, 2003 and upgraded to an expanded threat on January 2nd, 2004 at 3:00PM. It has been reclassified as **Adware.Mpgcom** and is a Browser Helper Object that sends data to and receives data from a remote Web site. Your system has been infected if there is existence of the files name %Windir%\mpgcom.dll or %Windir%\msnarrator.exe. (**Note:** %Windir% is a variable. The adware locates the Windows installation folder (by default, this is C:\Windows or C:\Winnt) and copies itself to that location.) This adware may be installed when browsing certain websites. If your system is infected, make sure your anti virus definitions have been fully updated, restart your system in Safe Mode, and check your entire system for viruses.

TEKSPECIALS

Windows XP Professional Installed \$ 325.00 plus PST & GST. Compare this with Future Shop offering Windows XP Home for \$ 299.99 plus PST & GST.

Symantec's Norton AntiVirus™ 2004 - the world's most trusted antivirus solution. It protects email, instant messages, and other files by automatically removing viruses, worms, and Trojan horses. New built-in features also detect certain non-virus threats such as spyware and keystroke loggers. Protect your PC 24 hours a day with award-winning Norton AntiVirus. January blowout special price: \$ 45.00 plus PST & GST.

Seagate 120GB 7200 rpm ATA100 Hard Drive - \$ 151.25 plus GST & PST (installation extra)



A slim look with all the features you need. In addition to a sleek profile, the FLATRON L2010P TFT-LCD has both digital (DVI-I) and standard analog VGA input. Plus a powered USB hub with 1 upstream and 2 downstream, up to 1600x1200 resolution, 350:1 contrast, fine pixel pitch for a remarkable viewing experience. The FLATRON L2010P from LG. Simply the best!

January Special \$ 1,999.00 plus GST & PST

And that's it for this issue of the revised MBTS TekJournal for 2004.

Safe Computing

See you again soon

Ric Jackson
Owner
MicroByte TekSolutions

You are receiving this publication because you are either a client of MicroByte TekSolutions or requested addition to the mailing list. To be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please follow this link: [Remove Me](#)