Like me you may have just returned from your holidays, after two, three, or more weeks away. Or you may be returning from looking after your Grandchildren, Elderly relative, or just someone's pets; but before starting up your computer to see what e-mails have been sent whilst away, STOP….. and think before you do; think ahead and first of all download an update to your Virus Checker.

Viruses these days are multiplying so fast, those we think we know about are mutating into something slightly different, which means if you have not updated your virus checker by a fortnight or so, you will leave yourself open to causing a great deal of hassle in removing some newer form of Worm, Trojan Horse etc.

You may well think I’m being just a bit paranoid about this but I speak from experience, having just returned myself a few days ago. I switched on and opened up Outlook Express to view my e-mails, only to have a virus alert activated whilst right clicking on an e-mail, which on the face of it looked fairly innocent. Although the senders name and the subject matter sounded a little odd, (which had caused the caution of right clicking), fortunately my virus package update had only taken place a fortnight before and though the offending worm was of a fairly new type, it was eradicated by a click of a button.

Here follows an explanation of right clicking for those not familiar with the procedure. An alternative way of viewing the contents of a message (not the attachment) without opening the mail in Outlook Express 6 is to right click a message, then choose Properties/Details, and click the message source button. This will reveal the header information as well as all the spots your message has travelled en-route to your Inbox and you will be able to read the text content without executing anything inside of it. You see, the preview pane may not stop messages from auto launching attachments. To turn it off, go to View, choose Layout, and remove the checkmark from “show preview pane”.

I read the next day that the W32/Klez H had mutated into W32/Klez.h@MM, which only the latest versions of anti virus packages were picking up. This will mean that it will be getting through to many home computers to which it is being aimed, rather than business systems. It arrives as an email, describing itself as a tool which will provide immunity against a very new virus (which is just what it is). The hoax message is a follows:

“Klez.E is the most common worldwide spreading worm. It is very dangerous and corrupts your files, because of it’s very smart stealth and anti-anti-virus technique, most common software can’t detect or clean it. We have developed this free immunity tool to defeat the malicious virus. You only need to run this tool once, and then Klez will never come into your PC.”

The mail comes with an attachment (the virus), which has a randomly generated name. It is even possible that due to some vulnerabilities within Internet Explore 5 it can be executed without you even running it if you have not got the latest Microsoft security patches.

If you think this may be a problem on your computer visit a good Virus information site for information on how to get rid of it, such as http://vil.mcafee.com/dispVirus.asp?virus_k=99455 or www.sophos.com/virusinfo or Symantec.

Virus Alerts And Other Hoax Problems

I recently received a forwarded e-mail message, warning of a PC virus. The message identified jdbgmgr.exe as the infected file and told me to delete it. The executable file in question is actually built into Windows. If you delete it, then some Web sites that rely on Java won’t work properly.
For details about the latest hoaxes, check out McAfee, Sophos or Symantec’s websites.

Here are some tips I’ve found, on how to identify virus hoaxes:

1. **Detect the undetectable.** Beware of warnings that claim a virus is undetectable. In general, if you keep your antivirus software up-to-date, your system will nab the latest viruses.

2. **Study the subject.** If the e-mail message's subject line includes words such as “Urgent,” “Warning,” or even “Virus Alert,” it's often a good indication that you're dealing with a hoax. Read the e-mail message with great scepticism, not great urgency.

3. **Beware of tech talk.** Look out for pseudo-technical discussions on the dangers of the virus. Some hoax messages include pure gobbledygook.

4. **Check the sources.** To create an aura of credibility, a hoax often quotes a well-known company or agency, such as Microsoft, the Federal Communications Commission, or an antivirus company. Check the Web sites of the sources quoted (or see your antivirus vendor's site). Remember also that Microsoft never posts virus alerts via e-mail.

5. **Scrutinize the instructions.** Beware of messages that insist you delete a file manually. True, at times you should do so, but in the context of the other tip-offs, this instruction should raise a red flag.

6. **Don't spread the word.** False alerts always urge you to tell everyone you know. Genuine alerts never do. Ignore the instructions, delete the message, and don't alarm everyone on your mailing list.

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**Try not to confuse me!**

(by Bill Cunliffe)

When you first brought me home I was happy for I thought I’d found someone who cared: but after a while you forgot how to smile, and for weeks you just grimaced and glared.

Yet I’m only a humble computer, and I don’t have a mind of my own: there are things I can do, so much faster than you, but I still cannot do them alone.

I am programmed to carry out orders, not to question, but merely obey: I don’t even grumble when you start to fumble and send all my programs astray.

Yet I know in my heart you don’t mean it when you constantly press the wrong keys: but I have to obey, for I’m programmed that way, though I know the result will not please.

So perhaps you could try to be patient, I beg you, for both of our sakes. And if you have a book, then for God’s sake please look and you won’t make so many mistakes.

I know it is very upsetting when the window you had disappeared; and when you haven’t a clue why my screen just turns blue, I can see that you’re almost in tears.

There are several key combinations, try to bond with them, yes, I mean bond: don’t get in a tizzy for you make me quite dizzy, and I never know how to respond.

But don’t lose your faith, for I am with you, and you’ll find I can be a good friend. Don’t abandon all hope nor assume you can’t cope, and it will all work out in the end.

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Eve Cassidy

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**Google**

Do you Google? Well I do! and have done for quite a long time.

But more to the point, have you installed the toolbar to sit at the top of your browser?

If you have it might be worth checking which version you have by clicking on the Google Image, and then on About Google Bar. The reason for this is to check which version you have currently on your machine; if this is 1.1.60, this is fine.

There seems to have been a lot of security problems associated with the installation of Google Bars prior to this version, and if you use Google regularly an automatic update should have taken place from the 7th August.

There is very detailed information on this subject available at [http://sec.greymagic.com/adv/gm001-me/](http://sec.greymagic.com/adv/gm001-me/)

To add a Google toolbar to your browser go to [http://toolbar.google.com/](http://toolbar.google.com/) where you will find the latest version.

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**Teoma**

Now there is a newer search engine, which is reported to be a Google killer called Teoma!


**Why Teoma is Better**

- Teoma identifies highly authoritative web pages, not just relevant web pages.
- Teoma delivers quality not just quantity.

Teoma is intuitive and contextual.

So I have added another Search Toolbar facility to my browser and will now be able to compare my search findings. If you want more information, or to add the toolbar check it out at [www.teoma.com](http://www.teoma.com)

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Eve Cassidy
Until recently the only items I have ever bought via the Internet are programmes (including their updates) that I’ve needed. However, having heard of the bargain buys that friends had made I decided it was about time I visited the auction sites to see if there were any items on offer that might tempt me. And, when you look, it’s amazing just how many auction sites that are out there offering their wares. However, I decided rather than visiting them all I’d just concentrate on three of them, eBay, eBid and QXL.

Over a period of a week or so I surfed each site and was amazed to see just what there was on offer but unfortunately I saw nothing that I either wanted or could justify a need for, that is until….

Yes, there on the QXL site I saw something I considered a bargain. A dealer was offering Minolta Dimage7i digital cameras for £500 that were (and still are) retailing in Jessops for £900. OK, £500 is still a lot of money but for a camera of that quality and specification it truly was a bargain. A couple of days later I was contacted by the CID who said that they had now made a number of arrests, including the dealer. Also, that they, having consulted with the Criminal Prosecution Service, had made the decision to restore the camera to me. In other words the camera was mine for keeps and in the end I had lost nothing – what relief. I’d like to think that the plea I had made about believing I had made a bona fide purchase had helped them in making that decision – but I’ll never know.

The postman has now delivered the registered and insured package containing the camera and I’ve unpacked it. All I need now is the 168-page manual so I’ll call Minolta UK…

Ted Carradus

I've include a photo of the cause of all Ted's problems. We hope they enjoy many happy years together! Eve

ARP Webbers News Volume 4 Issue 4 September 2002

Ted’s Topics

Internet Auctions.

Caveat Emptor….

What’s an extra £50 I ask? In my opinion it was still a bargain, so now, fully registered, I made my bid. Joy this time. My bid was successful and I was given the contact address of the dealer in order to arrange payment and delivery. I emailed directly and by return was asked to send my cheque and once cleared the camera would be sent to me by recorded and insured delivery. I sent the cheque off wondering if I had done the right thing as you hear so many tales and waited, with hope, that nothing would go amiss. And it didn’t, after three days the postman delivered the camera to me registered and insured as promised. I unpacked the camera from its sealed box and was pleased that my purchase had been completed without any difficulties. However, I soon discovered I needed a manual, as the camera really was a complex and complicated piece of equipment so I rang Minolta UK and ordered one and, after giving them my address and the serial number of the camera, they said they would send me one.

Next day though I took a call from Minolta and my whole world fell apart. Apparently the camera, identified by the serial number I had given, was in fact stolen property and I was told to report to my local police station (they being notified in advance) and surrender the camera to them. So like a good citizen I did, at the same time feeling a complete idiot for having fallen victim to an Internet scam. However, my local police were quite relaxed about it all and having recorded the details of the camera allowed me to keep it telling me that they would contact me in due course.

A couple of days later I was contacted by the CID who said that they would visit me to take a statement and also the camera. In the course of that conversation they told me that my camera was one of a consignment of 220 destined for Minolta UK that had been hijacked over the weekend of the Jubilee celebrations. Eventually they came and took my statement in the course of which I did explain to them that I had had no reason to doubt the authenticity of the dealer and I had bought in good faith – even sending an email to the dealer, thanking him for the prompt and efficient way my purchase had been handled. But it appeared to make no difference and they departed taking the camera with them. So there I was, I’d lost not only the camera but my money as well – what a fool. I only mentioned it to one or two of my friends, as I didn’t really want it known how easily I had been conned. So you may ask, why should I now be baring my soul to you all about my very embarrassing experience?

Well, despite the sorry tale that I’ve related, there is a happy ending. After a couple of weeks had lapsed I got a call from the CID and the news they gave lifted a heavy cloud. They told me that they had now made a number of arrests, including the dealer. Also, that they, having consulted with the Criminal Prosecution Service, had made the decision to restore the camera to me. In other words the camera was mine for keeps and in the end I had lost nothing – what relief.

The postman delivered the registered and insured package containing the camera and I’ve unpacked it. All I need now is the 168-page manual so I’ll call Minolta UK…

Ted Carradus

I've include a photo of the cause of all Ted's problems. We hope they enjoy many happy years together! Eve

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A tidal wave of junk mail
(or, exploiting the Message Rules in Outlook Express).

Recently I have been inundated with a tidal wave of junk e-mail; mainly advertising financial services, but some of an extremely offensive nature. I'm not sure why I have been so obviously targeted, but it seems obvious that someone has picked out my e-mail addresses (I have several) from somewhere and passed them to people seeking to advertise products and services which are of no interest to me whatsoever.

For a while I just deleted them as they arrived, but then, remembering that I am able to direct incoming mail straight to whatever folder I want, I thought that I should investigate the options available in Outlook Express to see if I could route them directly to the Deleted Items folder.

First I should explain that my implementation of Outlook Express is configured so that the Deleted Items folder is automatically emptied every time that I exit the program; so any mail directed into that folder would go without my having to take any action whatsoever. For those less familiar with the finer points of Outlook Express, the tick-box to achieve this is to be found in Tools / Options / Maintenance.

Looking in Tools / Message Rules I discovered the Blocked Senders list - perhaps this was the answer to my problem. Examinations of the options showed that I could enter the e-mail address of anyone sending me junk mail and have it directed straight to the Deleted Items folder. Unfortunately, this did not work as well as I had hoped - the senders of Junk Mail seem to change their address with each mailing and I seldom, if ever, have had a repeat message from any of the senders. There may be a reason for this; if you are getting unsolicited mail and there is a suggestion that you respond with a request to delete you from the mailing list - ignore it! All that you are doing is confirming that your address active and is receiving the junk - better not to reply and leave the senders wondering if the address that they used is active or not.

The next step was to try to set up some message rules that would redirect the mail to the Deleted Items box. Go to Tools / Message Rules / Mail / Mail Rules to achieve this. Clicking of New lets you set the conditions and actions and also lets you give the rule a convenient name. So, what condition to set?

The rules section allows the following conditions - Where the From line contains people, where the Subject line contains specific words, where the message body contains specific words, where the To line contains people. Obviously the first and last do not help, and the second may prove to be a little too limited, but the third option "where the message body contains specific words" surely must be the place to start. So I have created a rule called Junk Mail which I hope will remedy the situation. It has been necessary to look at some of the mail to isolate phrases and copy them into the rules, and at present it reads as follows -

Apply this rule after the message arrives:
Where the message body contains 'earn $' or 'XXX' or 'hidden cam' or 'mortgage'
Delete it

The final line comes from the Action options in the message rules and best fits what I want to do with this type of mail!

Edward Webb

Something for Nothing!

Games to play for free

Fed up with playing Microsoft Solitaire or Minesweeper? If so check out some of these games that are available for downloading and they are free!

For a good collection of different card games: www.123freesolitaire.com

Tiny Billiards - Nine Ball Pool: www.computeractive.co.uk/download/1133705

Bowling v 2.0 - Ten Pin Bowling for two players: www.computeractive.co.uk/download/101517

The Ball Game v 3.2 - Control your ball and avoid those of the enemy!: www.computeractive.co.uk/download/1132257

Fancy a good read?
Discover ebooks.

The following sites all offer ebooks that you can download for free. Some also give you the option of buying the latest books at a much reduced price.

www.ebookdirectory.com
www.ebooks3.com
www.free-ebooks.net
www.fictionwise.com
Old ‘erbaceous and his Digitall Garden

Some pictures and thoughts of his you might like to share

Virus attack.....black spot

Pixel.....a juvenile garden gnome

CD.....over-ripe soft fruit

Local network.....the fruit cage

Help-line ..... what you use to get straight rows

Microsoft ..... end result of composting

Drag -'n - Drop.....medieval manure

Central processor.....the wormery

Hacker.....amateur pruner

FAMOUS QUOTES

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody." - Bill Gates, 1981

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." -
Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.
Death of Ronnie Sandford.
(Veronica Sandford)

Ronnie died at the beginning of July. I had been aware for some months that she was suffering from cancer. Nevertheless throughout this period she contributed her help and comments to both of our ARP Computer / Internet groups.

Also we will remember her recent contribution to our Newsletter with the article on digital photography, and the two photos especially the lovely squirrel.

Thanks to those of you that have remembered her with kind thoughts and words. She must have been a very brave and determined lady.

Eve Cassidy

Grannies Groceries
This is a true story of how the Internet can be put to good use.

On making our regular supermarket grocery delivery - a four-mile drive from the store to one of our Internet customers, my colleague and I were welcomed into her home with her goods as usual, by the delightful elderly and somewhat frail-looking owner.

I had often puzzled as to how she made her fortnightly order as she had told us some time ago that she lived alone, there was no sign of a computer in her home and she didn’t appear fit enough to be making use of some cyber café. This day I plucked up courage to ask her how she placed her order with us. "Oh it's simple my dear," She replied. "My son living in New York phones me and I give him my order which he e-mails to the supermarket along with my payment details and my chosen day and time of delivery, and then I get to see you two to have a nice chat once a fortnight."

(from the Saga Magazine)

INTERNET INTEREST GROUP COMMITTEE

Tony Cassidy - Chairman   ch.arp@bigfoot.com
Don W Steele - Director ARP  d.steele@tiscali.co.uk
Eve Cassidy - Editor      eve@evecass.demon.co.uk
Bob Hendley - Printing    BobHendley@aol.com
Betty Davison             bdavison@vossnet.co.uk
Edward Webb - ARPQuery    edwebb@q-serve.com
Ted Carradus -Web Master  TedCarradus@compuserve.com

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"Every care has been taken in compiling the contents of this newsletter, but we assume no responsibility from the effect arising there from."

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED AND PERSONS OVER 50

Edited by Eve Cassidy and printed by Bob Hendley for the Internet Interest Group
E-mail Despatcher Ted Carradus