

Larry's newsLETTER



Techie Term: Ctrl - Alt - Del

Dr. David Bradley one of twelve engineers working on the original IBM PC invented the warm boot (activated by pressing the control, alt and delete keys simultaneously on the keyboard) to allow PC users to restart their computer without having to do a complete shut down and restart.

Top Ten ways to accidentally invite Malware In

10. Dangerously sync your iPod / mp3 player on someone else's PC only to unknowingly download an infected music file, then sync your iPod on your own PC and OPPS.
9. Let your children use your computer to download free music from really nice people who are so kind to share, who may or may not have a clue it's infected.
8. Let your children, who let their unknowing, inexperienced friends, play on your computer.
7. Forget to WARN your children to NOT click on anything that pops up. They need to show you it so you can make sure it is safe.
6. Be in a such a hurry to get that report done for your boss, that you absent-mindedly click on something you don't recognize.
5. Surf the net to find that good information for your report, click on what sounds like a good find. Then it says you need to update or download something to view their webpage properly. So you do it. Oh, NOooo!
4. Visit pornography, gambling sites and gaming sites. Clicking on anything and everything that looks interesting. Whoops.
3. Tiredly notice name on e-mail and THINK you recognize them and click on it.
2. Try multi-tasking one task too many and click on an odd looking pop-up.

And the number one and most awful way is:

1. Forget you already have good anti-virus protection, or the name of your good anti-virus, and click on that pop-up that warns you that you are infected by some crazy high number of viruses and tells you to fix it now, then (oh joy) they will sell it to you for some great price, so you sign up, give your credit card info, and maybe even download their software even deeper into your computer. Only to discover things are not better, in fact, they are worse. Every thing is messed up now. < unfortunately it is way past time to call Larry the Computer Guy. First you need to call your credit card company and go through the headache of cancelling and getting a new card number. Then call "Larry" and we'll fix your computer.

Order is based on humor and wickedness of ways. Not the frequency of occurrence. Article thanks to Technician 3 :)



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How does a LCD Display work?

As you know, LCD stands for Liquid Crystal Display. As the name suggests, it is a display that is made using liquid crystals. Liquid crystals are used to control the passage of light through the display screen. A back light shines on the back panel and where light is allowed through, the screen appears bright and where light is blocked the screen appears dark. The liquid crystals in their natural state are in a twisted but predictable form. They are positioned between a pair of polarizing filters in the display. Polarizing filters can be thought of as a grill that only allows light waves in one orientation to pass through. The two polarizing filters in an LCD display are aligned so their grills are in the same direction. Light passing through the first filter is polarized. As the polarized light passes along the liquid crystals it is directed by the crystals and emerges parallel to the second set of polarizing filters. Because the light waves are parallel to the polarizing filter, they are allowed through. When a voltage is applied to the liquid crystals, they untwist slightly, changing the orientation of the polarized light so that it no longer emerges parallel to the second polarizing filter. This causes the light to be blocked by the filter, so that the screen at that point appears dark. LCD displays consist of separately controlled sections of liquid crystals. These can number from just a few (as in a watch) to many thousands or millions (as in a computer display or television).

Why Do Errors Happen?

There's actually a number of reasons why Computer Errors might of happened, but of course the most common reason is caused when new programs are installed over all old ones that are not completely uninstalled 100%, causing registry pile ups and of course, getting error messages. Another reason, is damage that's been done by malware programs, attaching themselves to your PC and wreaking havoc, deleting crucial files from your PC. These create registry errors making it hard for end users to fix.



Read the Full Reports:
www.nsslabs.com/browser-security

Socially-Engineered Malware:
A web page link that directly leads to a download delivering a malicious payload.

Phishing:
A website that falsely impersonates another entity and attempts to trick individuals into disclosing personal information on a web form.

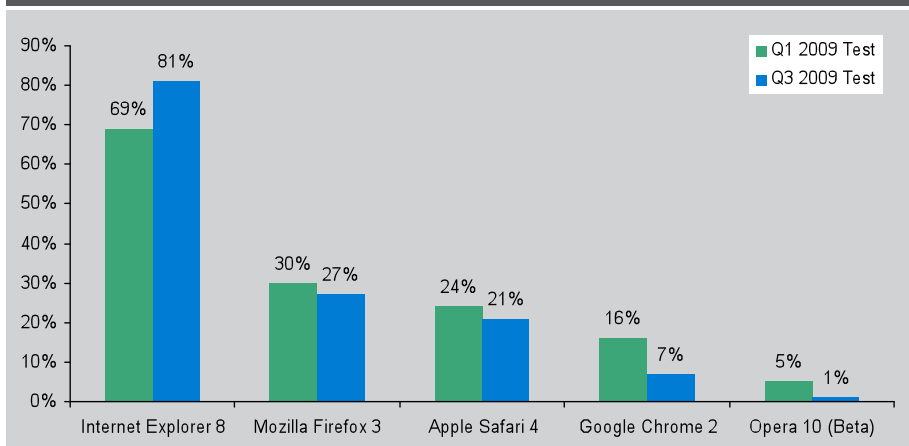
WEB BROWSER SECURITY TEST RESULTS SUMMARY – Q3 2009

In July 2009, NSS Labs performed two independent analyses to determine the effectiveness of web browser protection against two of today's most prevalent security threats—socially-engineered malware and phishing. Each test was conducted over two weeks using the NSS Labs Live Testing methodology.

SOCIALLY-ENGINEERED MALWARE PROTECTION

Windows® Internet Explorer® 8 continued to provide the best protection against socially-engineered malware, posting a block rate of 81%. While other browsers' block rates declined from previous test results, Internet Explorer 8 showed considerable improvements to its industry-leading protection.

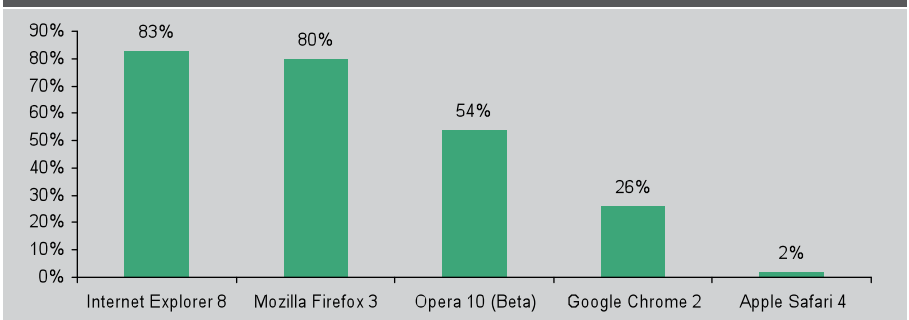
MEAN BLOCK RATE: SOCIALLY-ENGINEERED MALWARE



PHISHING PROTECTION

Internet Explorer 8 and Firefox 3 were statistically tied in providing the best coverage at an 83% and 80% block rate respectively.

MEAN BLOCK RATE: PHISHING



ABOUT NSS LABS

Founded in 1991, NSS Labs is the global leader in independent security and performance testing and certification. Its proven methodologies reflect real-world traffic and usage conditions, providing the most comprehensive validation of security products in the industry. The firm's unbiased reports offer information technology professionals the ability to make data-driven decisions about security purchases and renewals, and monitor vendor product performance.

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**The Staff of Larry The Computer Guy wishes
you a
Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year**

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