



INFO-TEK

The Computer Guys

a Kansas City Computer Consulting Firm

Technology Tips and News for Busy Professionals

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Harp & Shamrock

Greetings!

Volume 1, Number 7

We hope you enjoy and benefit from these technology tips and news for busy professionals.

INFO-TEK employs a full time staff of trained and certified computer experts who are quick to respond, easy to talk with and people you can trust.

We specialize in small business and home office clients and we have helped thousands of people in the greater Kansas City area with their computer service needs at very competitive and affordable rates.

[FBI Warns of \\$100M Cyber-threat to Small Businesses](#)

Cyber thieves are hacking into small- and medium-sized organizations every week and stealing millions of dollars in an ongoing scam that has moved about US\$100 million out of U.S. bank accounts, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation warned Tuesday.

It's now one of the top problems being addressed by the National Cyber Forensics and Training Alliance (NCFTA), which works with the FBI and industry to share information about cyber attacks, according to NCFTA Executive Director Ron Plesco. "Every year there seems to be a trend and this has been the trend this year," he said.

Celtic Benefit Concert
A Benefit for Children's
Mercy Hospital

November 6, 2009

www.harpanshamrockclub.org

There has been a "significant increase" in what's known as ACH (automated clearinghouse) fraud over the past few months, much of it targeting small businesses, municipal governments and schools, the FBI said in an alert posted to its Web site.

The criminals can move thousands or even millions of dollars out of their victims' accounts very quickly, using online banking to add new payees to the organization's bank account and then moving the money overnight. Usually the first step is an e-mail to the company's bookkeeper or financial officer that can include malicious attachments designed to look like Microsoft software patches, or simply links to malicious Web sites. The idea is to get the criminal's keylogging software onto a computer with online banking access and then steal login credentials.

Once they have access to the bank account, the hackers set up ACH transfers to money mules -- typically innocent victims who think they're doing payroll processing for international companies -- who then transfer the money overseas via services such as Western Union and Moneygram.

In one case, the criminals even launched a distributed denial-of-service attack against an ACH processor to prevent the bank from recalling transfers before the money mules could move them overseas.

Once the money is out of the country, it is gone for good.

Click [here](#) to view the entire article.

Call us today to see how we can protect you and your business from Cyber-thieves.

 **Microsoft Removes Windows 7 Hurdle with Windows XP Mode**

In the wake of making Windows 7 official with the release to manufacturing (RTM) version last week, Microsoft announced the RC (release candidate) version of Windows XP Mode for Windows

7. The virtualized edition of Windows XP SP3 removes a major hurdle facing enterprises that rely on legacy applications built to run on Windows XP.

It is no secret that Windows Vista was not as widely adopted as Microsoft would have liked. Many enterprises chose to ride their existing investment in Windows XP rather than investing in an upgrade to Windows Vista with all of its perceived issues and negative publicity. For some enterprises the fact that business critical applications designed for Windows XP might not run in Windows Vista was also a major consideration making the business case for upgrading that much harder to sell.

Windows 7 is not Windows Vista though. Windows 7 has received kudos and acclaim since early Beta and the official release of the operating system is anxiously anticipated. That doesn't change the issue around custom or proprietary Windows XP applications though.

Upgrading an enterprise environment to a new operating system is a mammoth undertaking and admins do not look forward to also trying to update or upgrade individual applications, or worse, replacing business critical applications in order to find something that works with the new operating system. Microsoft understands that issue and developed the Windows XP Mode virtualization to ease that pain and offer customers a way to upgrade to the latest flagship operating system while retaining backward compatibility with tried and true Windows XP applications.

To be clear though, Microsoft does not intend for enterprises to simply plug everything into virtualized Windows XP. Ideally, enterprise customers will make use of other tools from Microsoft such as Application Compatibility Toolkit 5.5 to identify applications with compatibility issues and upgrade or address as many of those issues as possible prior to upgrading the desktop infrastructure to Windows 7.

For enterprises that do use Windows XP Mode for running legacy Windows XP applications in Windows 7 Microsoft offers a warning as well. The virtualized Windows XP environment will not be protected by the same security controls and protections available in Windows 7. The virtualized environment is a computer unto itself and Windows XP lacks features such as ASLR and Internet

Explorer Protected Mode that make Windows 7 more secure. It is important to realize that the virtualized Windows XP system needs to be secured.

→ How Can I Help Prevent The Spread of Viruses Through My Email Client?

There's a tip floating through the Internet that offers a easy and fast method for preventing the spread of viruses in Microsoft Outlook. Here's how the tip works: In Microsoft Outlook, create a new contact. In the Name field, enter !0000 (or something similar). You want to use a name that guarantees that this record will always be listed first. This record should not have an email address. When you get a virus that tries to spread itself, the virus will read the first record in your Outlook contact list. This record is the !0000 contact that you just created. Since the first record has an invalid email address, Outlook will generate the following error message when the virus tries to send itself: The Message could not be sent. One or more recipients do not have an e-mail address. Please check your Address Book and make sure all the recipients have a valid e-mail address. Click OK at the message box. Congratulations! You have stopped a virus from spreading to your friends and family in your contact list.

→ Rule of Thumb

If you receive email from someone that you don't recognize, don't open it or any of the attachments. Immediately delete the email and add the sender to your 'Blacklist'. There are a lot of emails floating out that are disguised with reputable senders and with legitimate content. When in fact, they are designed to steal your identity and/or your livelihood. – *It's better to be safe than sorry!*

When you need help with your computers or computer network, I'm hopeful that you will consider calling INFO-TEK at: 816-914-8826.

Go to the “Specials” section of our [website](#) to receive a 20% Off Coupon for your next On-Site Service Call.

If you have found this Newsletter helpful, please pass it along.

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Sincerely,

Brian Greenstreet
INFO-TEK