



# INFO-TEK

The Computer Guys

*a Kansas City Computer Consulting Firm*

## Technology Tips and News for Busy Professionals

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Greetings!

Volume 1, Number 8

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.

### → Fake Swine Flu Emails Lead to Real Malware Infection

A new malware campaign uses faked e-mails that appear to inform of H1N1 vaccination programs from the Centers for Disease Control, but actually attempts to install the Zeus Trojan.

Both McAfee and Symantec issued warnings about the toxic e-mails, which are spoofed to look like they were sent from the "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)," according to a screen shot in McAfee's post. Subject lines vary, but might be "Your personal Vaccination Profile" or "Governmental registration program on the H1N1 vaccination." See either Symantec's post or McAfee's warning for more subject line examples and the e-mail body text.

A link in the e-mail leads to a malicious but real-looking site where victims are supposed to download a tool to create a vaccination profile

## Mark Your Calendar

### **“Widdy” Dart Tournament** To benefit Toys for Tots

December 12, 2009

**One-Eyed Jacks**  
114 E. North Ave.  
Belton, MO 64012  
816.322.2793

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### **New Year’s Eve Celebration** O’Malley’s Pub In Historic Weston, MO

December 31, 2009

[www.westonirish.com](http://www.westonirish.com)

(see either post above for a screen shot). The URL for the site uses the common tactic of starting with a genuine-looking name - in this case, [online.cdc.gov](http://online.cdc.gov)... - but ending with a domain such as [...yhnbad.com.im](http://...yhnbad.com.im). The domain-name highlighting feature in IE8 can help foil this trick, as can the Locationbar2 add-on for Firefox.

The downloaded executable is of course the Trojan payload, which McAfee lists as a "very recent Zeus Trojan variant." Uploading such downloaded files to [VirusTotal.com](http://VirusTotal.com) can help identify new malware that some malware engines might miss.

## Why Privacy Concerns are Ruining Facebook

Facebook was built as a powerful social connector, allowing users to befriend others with similar interests, locations, schools, and more. But as privacy concerns mount and users demand more protection, the social networking site's philosophy has started to go down the toilet. Now that Facebook is eliminating regional networks -- or groupings of people based on where they live -- it's becoming apparent that proclivities lean towards building fences rather than crossing them.

When you're in someone's network -- like if you belonged to the same school or company -- you essentially "friend" everyone on that network, allowing others to see the entirety of your Facebook page (this can be changed in your privacy settings). Regional networks granted access to wider swaths of potential friends, but therein was the concern: how much is too much? Do we really want the entire city of Boston looking at last year's Halloween pictures? Is making friends with these strangers something I want to do?

According to the original philosophy behind Facebook, yeah, you might want to make friends with hundreds of strangers. Why else would they create a site where people electronically "meet" one another?

The underlying privacy concerns are justified. Now that Facebook has 350 million users, regional networks have expanded into the millions. Many people either aren't sure how to change their privacy settings or they do not care, because, as I mentioned earlier, limiting the network

of people able to view your profile is just a click away. So instead of schooling its users on how to protect their privacy, and maintaining its credo, Facebook deleted regional networks altogether, a symbolic gesture of closing the gates.

Facebook has had more than its share of privacy problems. There's the Beacon fiasco; the lawsuits; the federal complaints; international investigations; and schemes galore. There are also a multitude of methods to protect your privacy both on Facebook and online in general. If Facebook users became more acquainted with the power they have to protect themselves, perhaps sweeping shut-downs such as these wouldn't be necessary. But as Facebook locks doors and tosses keys, I cannot help but feel it's headed in the opposite direction from whence it started, dismantling its very purpose, and adopting an attitude of exclusivity.

### → Netbooks... Are they right for you?

Bigger than a cell phone, smaller than a laptop, about the size of a book, running a full Windows operating system; Netbooks are a rapidly emerging computer market segments. Netbooks originated as ultra-low-cost, light weight appliances with limited Linux based functionality. However, the idea of a computer that would fit into your jacket pocket took off and manufacturers have added more functionality and most now run Windows XP. Microsoft has even demonstrated and announced plans for a starter version of Windows 7 for Netbooks.

We believe this class of computers will continue to excel. Through the use of remote desktop or logmein technology, the netbook becomes a great way to connect to your desktop computer and remotely run all of your programs and access all of your data from anywhere with wireless internet access. And, with Virtual PC technology, one desktop computer at the office could host remote access for two or three or more mobile users.

All of the computer manufacturers, including Dell and HP, are now in the netbook market, with prices in the \$200 to \$500 range. Here at INFO-TEK, we believe they will be very popular in many small

businesses, particularly doctors, attorney's and sales reps.

Are Netbooks, Virtual PC and Remote Technologies part of your future business plans? If they are not yet, then we would welcome the opportunity to show how these new technologies can make you more efficient, more mobile and do much more on a budget.

### → Rule of Thumb

If you get an e-mail message from eBay or your bank or something similar, claiming that you have an account problem or a question from a buyer, it's more than likely a "phishing scam" intended to trick you into typing your password. Don't click the link in the message... go to a web browser and type it in manually. You never know what's lurking behind the link.

### → Food For Thought

Negativity is poison for the soul... Therefore, positive people will put themselves in harm's way if they choose to associate with negative people. Humans that decide to be negative by nature are only punishing themselves... Why should you become part of the punishment?

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.**

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Sincerely,

Brian Greenstreet  
INFO-TEK