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08 May 2006 MicroWorld

EMAIL ARTICLE PRINT ARTICLE

MicroWorld - For 'World Cup Virus', The Goal is Your Computer

The World Cup Football fever is on! Not just for millions of soccer fans across the globe, but also for malware writers. Security experts from MicroWorld Technologies inform that a new email in circulation carries a Trojan named 'Backdoor.Win32.Haxdoor.in', while offering potential victims a dynamic Schedule of the mega sporting event.

Written in German, the mail talks a few things about the match plan and hotel bookings to make it look believable. Then it tells you to click on a link to download the schedule carrying the Trojan. Once inside the computer, Haxdoor.in moves to lower the security level of the Windows, turns off AntiVirus software, steals information via keyloggers and opens a backdoor to connect through IRC channels.

"We had detected another variant of Haxdoor Trojan in April," says Aneesh Paliwal, Security Analyst, MicroWorld Technologies. "Named as 'Haxdoor.ie', it was found to be used by botmasters to turn user computers into Bots and Zombies that eventually create large botnets out of a cluster of infected machines." In code and modus operandi, Haxdoor.in is almost identical to its earlier variants except for the fact that this version comes with its own email engine.

Bots are computers taken over by hackers using Backdoors and Trojans. Such compromised computers are employed in a plethora of illegal activities like Denial-of-Service attacks, hijacking of SMTP Mail Servers to spread Spam and wrongfully increasing the hit count of specific websites. At some point, the hacker takes over almost every activity on an infected PC.

"There are number of legitimate websites offering many such schedules and fixtures of World Cup Soccer and other sporting events alike. Hence, you just can't blame

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someone for being lured by such a tempting mail, more so if the recipient is a football aficionado," says Govind Rammurthy CEO, MicroWorld Technologies.

"Your first line of defense in these circumstances should be a cautious approach towards unsolicited mails, even when they offer you moon. But in a world of Worms and Trojans capable of stealing your friend's address book, malware that can exploit browser vulnerabilities and viruses spreading via Scripts and ActiveX Controls, such a defense may just not be enough. For total security, one needs an intelligent, Real-Time protection that consistently safeguards computers against every possible malice in the World Wide Web," affirms Govind Rammurthy.

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