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Trojan variant points you at porn

Most vexing

By [INQUIRER newsdesk](#): Wednesday 24 May 2006, 13:05

AN INSECURITY outfit warns today of a variant of the StartPage Trojan that is "particularly vexing".

The Trojan creeps through Internet Explorer vulnerabilities and emails carrying .zip and .exe files. Advisors at MicroWorld Technologies, say the 'BAT.StartPage.b' changes Internet Explorer settings, adding porn links to your favourites and installs itself in the registry.

"Many times while trying to access Google or Yahoo, the Trojan redirects you to these [pornographic] websites and other vexing ones," said Aneesh Paliwal, an insecurity analyst at MicroWorld Technologies.

"StartPage Trojan had been one of the most annoying and hard to remove Trojans right from its first variant," he added.

He says that although the StartPage Trojans may be detected by many anti-virus programs, most of them fail to remove the malware completely. After the cleaning process the Trojan "sprouts back in action" with new names and process IDs, says Microworld.

The new variant, StartPage.b, registers itself as an Internet Explorer component and modifies browser actions. This means the Trojan can also work as browser helpers and subsequently misdirect the user to malicious websites.

MicroWorld recommends a real-time, virus buster "so these sneaky breeds never find an entry in your computer in the first place."

Preferably, of course, the one it makes. μ

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