

ARTICLE

## Trojan horse steals passwords from World of Warcraft players

[Humphrey Cheung](#) May 5, 2006 00:10

**Westlake Village (CA) - Security analysts at MicroWorld Technologies, a computer security vendor, have discovered a new Trojan horse that steals usernames and passwords from World of Warcraft players. The PSW.Win32.WOW.x spreads mainly through malicious browser pop-ups, but has also appeared in P2P files and email attachments. In addition to stealing WoW passwords, the Trojan also tries to disable anti-virus and firewall software.**

While stealing someone's WoW account information may not be a big deal, virtual gold and gear in the account can be converted into real cash. Many sites sell virtual gold and the exchange rate is currently around \$5 to \$10 dollars for every 100 gold.

Virtual gear that is not bound to the character, known as "Bind on Equip" or BoE in WoW-speak, can also be sold. Some of the rarer items can sell for thousands of gold. Gold and gear is easily transferred either by sending it through the in-game mail system or by opening up a trade window with a conspiring character. (Can you tell this reporter plays WoW?)

This isn't the first Trojan horse targeting World of Warcraft. Last July, Symantec discovered the **pwsteal.warcraft** Trojan that did almost exactly the same thing.

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