

### McAfee Detects Email Virus

The Good Times email virus may have been a hoax, but McAfee Associates Inc. this week uncovered the first real Word macro virus to spread via Microsoft Mail.

The virus, ShareFun.A, infects documents in versions 6 & 7 of Microsoft Word. The latest version, Word 97, which is in the Office 97 suite, can automatically block the virus from activating.

Once activated, there is a 1-in-4 chance the virus will launch MS Mail and attach infected documents to messages sent to three people. The virus selects the three recipients randomly from the user's address book.

The subject line of the infected email will read, "You have GOT to read this!" echoing previous hoax viruses such as Good Times.

The Good Times virus hoax, however, suggested that a user could be infected with the virus simply by reading the email. ShareFun.A requires a user to actually open an infected document.

If a user opens the infected mail attachment with Word, his or her Word template will become infected and the macro virus will continue to replicate.

"It replicates as a Word macro virus like any other, but it adds in that [Microsoft] Mail component to help make distributing the virus easier," said Jimmy Kuo, senior virus researcher for McAfee.

A free beta version of VirusScan that detects ShareFun.A is available from McAfee at <http://www.mcafee.com/> or by calling 408.988.3832.

### 56Kbps Modems Ship

U.S. Robotics has begun shipping modems using its proprietary X2 technology which allows Internet connections at 56 kilobits per second over standard telephone lines (about twice as fast as current modems).

U.S. Robotics said the X2 technology is a competitive advantage because USR modems shipped since August 1996 can be converted to X2 technology by a simple software upgrade.

U.S. Robotics said the software upgrade feature of X2 technology gives the company a distinct advantage over its competition's hardware-based 56Kbps technology because hardware-based technology must be installed at the time the modem is built.

### Free Internet Seminars

DGL has posted a series of *free* Internet training modules that each require less than 15 minutes to complete.

Topics include:

- Internet History
- Internet Basics
- Electronic Mail
- Technology
- World Wide Web
- Internet Organizations

These and dozens of other topics are included in the series. The modules are available from a hypertext link on DGL's website: <http://www.dgl.com/>.

### Spring Classes

DGL's spring schedule of classes is now available, call Kanda at 410.290.7000 for your copy.

### Internet Survey Results

We posted a web browser preference survey on our website. After receiving 500 responses, we learned something interesting.

We noted that in general, users are willing to wait slightly longer for a page to display before clicking to another page or site.

What is significant is that 46% of the respondents will wait at least 30 seconds for a page to load. This is great news for advertisers who depend on graphic images to promote their products and services.

Here are the results:

Q1) What is your operating system?

1. Windows 95 (80%)
2. Windows 3.x (14%)
3. Windows NT (2%)

Q2) What web browser do you use?

1. Netscape Navigator 3.x (70%)
2. MS Internet Explorer 3.x (22%)
3. Netscape Navigator 2.x (7%)

Q3) What is your Internet access speed?

1. Modem 28.8 Kbps (45%)
2. Modem 33.6 Kbps (20%)
3. Modem 14.4 Kbps (14%)
4. T1 1.4 Mbps (14%)
5. >T1 1.4 Mbps (2%)
6. Modem 9,600 bps (2%)

Q4) How long are you willing to wait for a page to load before clicking on a new URL?

1. >30 seconds (23%)
2. 30 seconds (23%)
3. 15 seconds (20%)
4. 10 seconds (14%)
5. 5 seconds (9%)

Q5) Do you surf with graphics on or off?

1. On (91%)
2. Off (9%)

### DGL Email Addresses

[books@dgl.com](mailto:books@dgl.com) (learning guides)  
[registrar@dgl.com](mailto:registrar@dgl.com) (academic registrar)  
[sales@dgl.com](mailto:sales@dgl.com) (corporate training & product sales)  
[info@dgl.com](mailto:info@dgl.com) (WebPhone & email technical assistance)

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