

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Legal Administrator Section

Spring 2002 Newsletter

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Mark Your Calendars - "8th Annual Golf Outing"

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2002 - Registration Deadline - June 1st
Time: 8:30 AM Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM Preventing Golf Injuries Presentation
11:00 AM 18 Hole Golf Scramble
Cost: \$42 Golf & Reception or \$20 Reception Only
Place: Fox Hills Country Club - Golden Fox Course
Plymouth, Michigan
Contact: Laura Collins for registration forms -313-393-7588

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Topic: Preventing Golf Injuries

Presenter: Tom Anderson, Professional Trainer

"How to prevent golf injuries for the weekend warriors in us all."

Tom Anderson did an outstanding job of bending and stretching the attendees into shape before we participated in last year's joint golf outing of the Michigan Chapter of the ALA and the State Bar Legal Administrators Section. We are very pleased to have Tom back with us again this year to kick off the day. Tom will incorporate his thoughts on healthy living including making proper time for fitness and flexibility training. Please bring a golf club (used for several stretching maneuvers during the presentation) and join us for this interactive session. You certainly will feel "all warmed up" for the golf outing after this lively presentation.

Tom is particularly well qualified having competed nationally in several aerobic competitions. As a health and fitness professional for the past fourteen years, he has successfully obtained a respected name in the fitness industry. Through aerobic instruction and conducting motivational workshops for instructors and clients, he has gained unique insight into individual's fitness needs. Tom comments "Helping individuals visualize and achieve their fitness goals has always been my primary focus. I look forward to motivating you in a challenging, safe, and effective workout!"

It's good sportsmanship not to pick up lost balls while they are still rolling - Mark Twain

Golf's three ugliest words: "still your shot". Dave Marr

Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle. - Anonymous

Tee your ball high....air offers less resistance than dirt. - Jack Nicklaus

The trees taunt you; the sand mocks you; the water calls your name...and they say golf is a quiet game. Anonymous

He who has the fastest golf cart never has a bad lie. - Mickey Mantle

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Upcoming State Bar of Michigan Legal Administrator Section Monthly Council Meeting Dates

**Section council meetings are open to all interested members of the section.
All members are urged to attend and participate.**

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, June 11, 2002	7:30 a.m.	Baker's Square, Birmingham
Tuesday, July 9, 2002	7:30 a.m.	Baker's Square, Birmingham

LawNet 2002 Annual Conference

The 25th Annual LawNet Educational Conference will be held August 19-22, 2002, in Boca Raton, Florida at the Boca Raton Resort & Beach Club. Questions regarding registration should be directed to Randi Mayes at 512-280-7172.

The goal of the organization is to "make technology work" for the legal profession. The conference begins with a day focused on particular special interest groups with a particular vendor focus such as Corel, E lite, Hummingbird/DOCS, Manage, Linux, Microsoft, Novell and Solution 6.

The following days of the educational conference offer several tracks such as Applications, Business Strategy, Professional Development, Collaboration, Technology etc. There are also many sessions directed towards specific peer groups such as Finance, Small Firms, Large Firms, Litigation Support, Corporate & Government, International Firms and Information Technology.

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Virus Detection: The Early Bird Catches the Worm

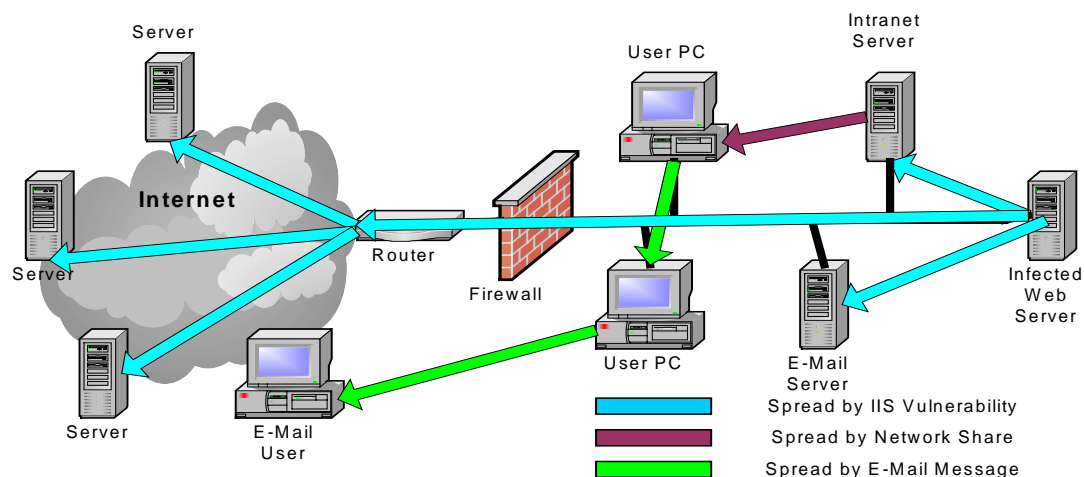
By: Karl Zager, Senior Consultant, Plante & Moran, LLP

Worm viruses, such as CodeRed and Nimda, are among the most dangerous threats facing all firms today. However, these viruses typically exploit known vulnerabilities that can be prevented through diligent observation and standard maintenance.

Back for the Attack

Fortunately, worm viruses don't exploit new vulnerabilities. The danger comes from their ability to spread quickly to other systems through intelligent attacks. The Nimda worm is particularly insidious because it will propagate itself over e-mail, Microsoft IIS (Internet Information Server) vulnerabilities, network shares, or through browser vulnerabilities in user systems visiting an infected server. In some cases, the damage created is simply the traffic generated or the embarrassment of attacking other systems. In others, it can cause real damage to systems or leave a back door open to allow administrative-level access.

Example of Worm Virus Spreading From Infected Server



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Servers are not the only types of systems vulnerable to worm viruses. Web servers are commonly integrated into a variety of systems for administration, making them vulnerable as well. This could include a phone system that uses Microsoft IIS for its administrative interface; network equipment such as routers, switches, and even firewalls; workstations that happen to have personal Web servers loaded; and facilities control systems that use Web servers for ease of access.

Knowing Is Half the Battle

The CodeRed series of worms exploits a well-known flaw in the IIS Web server. Microsoft and eEye posted a patch to fix this flaw a month before the first CodeRed attacks. If more systems had been patched, the worm would have been greatly limited. The impact of Nimda worm viruses can also be limited through virus scanners, intrusion detection software, already-released software patches, and good user practices.

This kind of adaptive threat requires a tight defense on multiple fronts, including:

- A clear awareness of potential vulnerabilities
- A tight perimeter that limits the possibility of initial infection
- Vigilant maintenance on all systems to limit the ability to propagate
- Consistently practiced policies for users and administrators to limit opportunities for infection
- Vigilance and good troubleshooting skills to detect and eliminate the virus if systems do get infected

Action – The Other Half of the Battle

It's important to identify potentially vulnerable systems, such as servers and user workstations, routers, firewalls, phone switches, or anything that has an e-mail or browser interface. Since worms often exploit these well-known vulnerabilities, maintenance is key. Be sure to update software, operating systems, and virus definitions on all systems. Many software vendor Web sites (including Microsoft) allow you to register for notifications of new patches. Make a regular appointment to check for updates as part of your operational procedures.

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Virus definitions should be updated weekly, or as soon as a new update is available. Most anti-virus software is capable of automating this process. The Internet browsers on user systems should also be updated. For specialized systems that use Web servers, such as network electronics, phone switches, or even firewalls, check with the vendor for updates, especially when Microsoft releases a security-related update. If vendors are using Microsoft code in their systems, they should release a patch shortly after Microsoft, although the manufacturer may need to be contacted to obtain these updates.

It's also important to create a tight perimeter around the organization. This includes setting the firewall to limit the type of traffic to the e-mail server, eliminating shares across the firewall, scanning all e-mail in and out of the network, and other general perimeter security measures.

Although we'd like to accomplish everything with equipment and software, policies are still critical. Users should be trained not to open suspicious e-mail, messages with catchy subjects from unknown sources should not be opened, and files attached to a message should not be executed unless it's an expected attachment and appropriate antivirus measures are already in place. It is possible to block or quarantine e-mail attachments. In addition, the preview pane in Microsoft Outlook should be disabled to prevent viruses from running automatically.

Finally, System Administrators' regular duties should include checking for patches, verifying virus definition updates are taking place, and reviewing log files. If something looks suspicious, such as excessive network traffic, a single user sending large amounts of e-mail, or an internal server sending packets to various Internet sites according to the firewall log, be suspicious and investigate.

Karl Zager is a Senior Consultant in Plant e & M oran's Techno logy Co nsulting & Solutions practice. His expertise is in designing, implementing and analyzing network security solutions.

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