

# Larry's newsLETTER

## Is Google the biggest threat to your privacy?

One of the biggest online repositories of personal information today is Google. Think about it. The massive search engine crawls the web and collects information that appears on all web sites. Did your company post a blurb about you winning Employee of the Year on their site? Google knows. Is your name on your college's alumni web page? Google can find it. Did the local gun club publish your name as the winner of last year's target pistol competition? Google will tell anyone who does a search on your name. The engines also store information about the searches you conduct, so someone has access to those databases could find out where you shop online and what places you might have traveled to by the maps you've looked up. And if you live in a major city, anyone who knows your address (which is probably also somewhere in Google's logs) can use the map software to see what your home looks like, and maybe even read the license plate of your car parked in the driveway.

From the most mundane to the most sensitive, all sorts of information about you is somewhere in the Google databases. Those databases could tell someone what kind of dog you have by the breed pages you went to, the approximate ages of your children by the toys you searched for, and much more. If you have a Gmail account, the Google servers also contain copies of the email messages you've sent and received.

[http://news.cnet.com/Google-balances-privacy,-reach/2100-1032\\_3-5787483.html](http://news.cnet.com/Google-balances-privacy,-reach/2100-1032_3-5787483.html)

Google has also gone a step further than other search companies. Just last week, it was revealed that Google has mapped every wi-fi network in Britain. No, we're not just talking about public wireless



## Techie Term: BotNet

A botnet is a group of computers that are controlled from a single source and run related software programs and scripts. While botnets can be used for distributed computing purposes, such as a scientific processing, the term usually refers to multiple computers that have been infected with malicious software.


In order to create a malicious botnet, a hacker must first compromise several computers. This might be done by exploiting a security hole through a Web browser, IRC chat program, or a computer's operating system. For example, if a user has turned off the default firewall settings, his or her computer may be susceptible to such a botnet attack. Once the hacker has gained access to several computers, he can run automated programs or "bots" on all the systems at the same time.

# Larry's newsLETTER

hotspots - this includes wireless access points in people's homes. They collected the information using the radio signal interceptors on the Street View cars, while photographing homes and businesses for their mapping system. This was all a secret until a few weeks ago when they "accidentally" downloaded data packets from some of those wireless networks that weren't password protected, prompting an inquiry. Google says the existence and location of those wi-fi networks is public information, but it's caused quite a stir among privacy advocates and the company has suspended the Street View project.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/google/7786255/Google-has-mapped-every-WiFi-network-in-Britain.html>

Gleened from Winxpnews 6-8-10



**This Months Quotes:**

"One half of life is luck; the other half is discipline - and that's the important half, for without discipline you wouldn't know what to do with luck." - Carl Zuckmayer

## 12 Tips to speed up Windows 7

[Click here for tips.](#)

### MALWARE, MALWARE, MALWARE AND MORE MALWARE

#### Some steps you can take to prevent infection.

The writers of malware look to infect as many computers as possible. They pick sites where a lot of people go on a daily basis. The following are some of the sites to be careful of when you are surfing the internet.

Game sites - both children's and adult sites.

Gambling sites

Pornography sites

Social networking sites like facebook, myspace.

Drug sites

Can't afford a laptop?



# Larry's newsLETTER

Most malware is written with the intent to do one of a couple of things. First the main reason is to make money. They do this a couple of ways. First on the illegal sales of hoax antivirus / malware that you pay for with a credit card. They then sell your credit card information. Another way is to turn your computer into a zombie (botnet) computer. This is done with software and allows the writers to use thousands of computers processing power to send fraudulent email, spoofing messages etc. They then sell the bad guys time on your computer to do their evil work.

Because malware can come into your machine in so many different ways it is hard for the antivirus / malware software writers to keep up. You can be infected by opening an email, going to an infected website or simply using a search engine to search for something.

If you think that you are infected or you see a strange message on your screen, the first thing to do is pull the power plug or push in on the power button until the computer turns off. Then restart. If the computer comes back up with no messages or hoaxes keep a close eye on it for a few days. Sometimes infections are like time bombs and don't go off immediately. If you find you are infected call us immediately. The sooner the cleaning process begins the easier and cheaper it is to remove the infections.

When in doubt call us and we will help you. **248-360-8967**

**Microsoft Office 2010 is now available**

For more information

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/products/office-products-FX101825692.aspx>



**Larry The Computer Guy**

**5307 Carroll Lake Rd**

**Commerce MI 48382**

**248-360-8967**

## Things You Don't Want To Hear From Technical Support

"Do you have a sledgehammer or a brick handy?"

\* "That's right, not even Mcgyver could fix it."

\* "So -- what are you wearing?"

\* "Duuuuuude! Bummer!"

\* "Looks like you're gonna need some new dilithium crystals, Cap'n."

\* "Press 1 for Support. Press 2 if you're with 60 Minutes. Press 3 if you're with the FTC."

\* "We can fix this, but you're gonna need a butter knife, a roll of duct tape, and a car battery."

\* "In layman's terms, we call that the Hindenburg Effect."

\* "Hold on a second... Mom! Timmy's hitting me!"

\* "Okay, turn to page 523 in your copy of Dianetics."

\* "Please hold for Mr. Gates' attorney."

# Larry's newsLETTER



**Larry The Computer Guy**

**5307 Carroll Lake Rd  
Commerce MI 48382  
248-360-8967**

**Why is it drug addicts  
and computer aficionados  
are both called users?**

**Clifford Stoll**



**Microsoft Office 2007 free upgrade to Office 2010 requirements.**

- Purchase Office 2007 with or without a new pc between March 5 and September 30, 2010.
- Install and activate your copy of the Office 2007 by September 30, 2010.
- Go to [www.office.com/techg](http://www.office.com/techg) by October 31, 2010 to download it at no additional cost or purchase a DVD for a minimum fee. Follow the online steps to verify eligibility. You will need an activated Office 2010 Product Key.

For complete details visit [www.office.com/techg](http://www.office.com/techg).

**We have partnered with several different  
companies to provide a wider range of services.**

**We now offer low cost check printing, printer ink and toner, as well as  
several software packages to make your lives easier.**

## Compare our check Prices!

Voucher	250	500	1000	2000	5000
Peachtree	\$81.95	\$106.95	\$147.95	\$239.95	\$599.87
Nebbs	\$82.50	\$113.50	\$154.50	\$259.95	\$649.87
McBee	\$82.50	\$113.50	\$154.50	\$259.95	\$649.87
Deluxe	\$82.50	\$113.50	\$154.50	\$259.50	\$649.87
Intuit	\$79.99	\$109.99	\$149.99	\$239.99	\$599.87
Nelco	\$103.45	\$137.85	\$188.00	\$343.40	\$637.00
Greatland	\$103.45	\$137.85	\$188.00	\$343.40	\$637.00
LTCG	\$63.75	\$79.90	\$101.15	\$154.70	\$280.50

**Larry The Computer Guy**

**248-360-8967**



# Larry's newsLETTER



**Larry The Computer Guy**

**5307 Carroll Lake Rd**

**Commerce MI 48382**

**248-360-8967**

The most overlooked advantage to owning a computer is that if they foul up there's no law against whacking them around a little.

Joe Martin



**Are you a Verizon customer  
and not satisfied with your current level of support?**

**Call Jeff at Cellular Source  
and mention that we referred you. 248-360-9400**

**Are you tired of all that spam in your mailbox?**

We have partnered with Spam Bully and offer a 10% discount on the product.

Call us for more information or to sign up.

**Tired of remembering all those passwords  
for all your different websites?**

We have also partnered with Roboform and offer a 10% discount on the product. Call us for more information or to sign up.

These documents are provided for informational purposes only. The information contained in this document represents the current view of VHC Enterprises DBA Larry The Computer Guy on the issues discussed as of the date of publication. Because VHC Enterprises must respond to changes in market conditions, it should not be interpreted to be a commitment on the part of VHC Enterprises and cannot guarantee the accuracy of any information presented after the date of publication.

INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND FREEDOM FROM INFRINGEMENT.

This newsletter and website may contain links to other websites with whom we may or may not have a business relationship. VHC Enterprises DBA Larry The Computer Guy does not review or screen these sites, and we are not responsible or liable for their privacy or data security practices, or the content of these sites. Additionally, if you register with any of these sites, any information that you provide in the process of registration, such as your email address, credit card number or other personally identifiable information, will be transferred to these sites. For these reasons, you should be careful to review any privacy and data security policies posted on any of these sites before providing information to them.

The user assumes the entire risk as to the accuracy and the use of this document. This document may be copied and distributed subject to the following conditions: 1) All text must be copied without modification and all pages must be included; 2) All copies must contain VHC Enterprises' copyright notice and any other notices provided therein; and 3) This document may not be distributed for profit. All trademarks acknowledged. Copyright VHC Enterprises, Inc. 1991-2008.

To Subscribe or unsubscribe go to [www.larrycomputerguy.com](http://www.larrycomputerguy.com) and click on the mailing list link or cut and past the following link into your browser: <http://www.larrycomputerguy.com/subscribe.htm>

