

Larry's newsLETTER

PLEASE ROB ME!

Are social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook or Twitter helping people steal identities as well as rob you. Check out the site listed below. It has gotten attention in the news lately as it allows criminals to easily check up on you. It will list all the empty homes out there. Do you know what your children are posting?

www.pleaserobme.com

Check out the website you may think twice about being on a social networking site.

New Computer New Operating system which version should you pick 32 bit or 64 bit?

Even though 64-bit PCs have been available for seven years, the promise of 64-bit computing has been delayed by a dearth of 64-bit software.

The situation is improving — slowly — but many major PC applications remain 32-bit affairs.

Microsoft likes to boast about the extra performance delivered by the 64-bit versions of Windows. Likewise, PC vendors continue to pitch the benefits of 64-bit PCs over their 32-bit brethren.

That's all well and good — and theoretically true — but without software optimized for 64-bit machines, using those more-advanced processors for everyday tasks is like running a Formula One race car on regular gas.

The primary difference between 32-bit applications and their 64-bit counterparts is the size of memory the programs can address. Computers use only two digits (ones and zeros), so a 32-bit program can track 2^{32} (2 to the 32nd power) memory addresses — about 4GB. This is the basis of the "4GB memory limit" for 32-bit hardware and software.

A 64-bit PC can track 2^{64} addresses, yielding a theoretical memory ceiling of about 16 exabytes — 16 billion gigabytes. Of course, no PC can hold that much physical memory — but the point is, they could. Similarly, 64-bit software is capable of managing truly huge data sets.

The 64-bit flavor of Windows takes advantage of this. For example, the 64-bit version of Windows 7 Ultimate can address up to 192GB of RAM. More prosaically, 64-bit Windows can routinely allocate up to 4GB (and sometimes more) to each software process running on the PC. In contrast, 32-bit Windows XP maxes out at 2GB per process.

Gleaned from windowssecrets.com



Techie Term:

RAM—Random-access memory

A form of computer data storage. It takes the form of integrated circuits that allow stored data to be accessed in any order (random).

When the operating system is being loaded it is loaded into RAM. The operating system uses RAM and the hard drive to run your programs and store your information for later retrieval.

[Coca-Cola Happiness Machine](#)



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Why are we being infected even when we have good antivirus?

There's a window of vulnerability between the appearance of new malware and the updating of anti-malware tools against the new threat; you may fall victim in that interim.

That's what happened to one Windows Secrets Lounge member, whose well-protected system appears to have been subjected to a questionable download in his browser.

- "I noticed that I had a PDF download pending in my Firefox queue, which I dismissed instinctively. (Why is there a file in my download queue? I asked myself.) "Disclaimer: I have IE6 on a Win XP2 box, Firefox is my default browser, IE is only for banks and other dinosaurs, etc. "I then browsed around a bit as usual, using Firefox, and the same download appeared! — interestingly, just after I refreshed Boston.com for some local news. (I block Boston.com from opening pop-ups via my Firefox preferences, yet the site still manages to do so!) "Somewhat stupidly (before finishing my coffee!), I accepted the download request out of coffee-deprived curiosity. I (again, stupidly/curiously) opened the PDF, and it was blank! "The silver lining to this story is that I opened the file using an open-source PDF reader, Sumatra, which I use because Adobe Reader is so bloated. After seeing this blank PDF, I immediately Shift-deleted it, and so I now don't remember even the file name. "However, I also instinctively (even in my coffee-deprived stupor) ran a deep scan immediately. Nothing was found — likely because I sent the file to never-never land instead of the Recycle Bin. "So, maybe this tale is nothing but a blip in the universe of the brave new world. But did anyone else get pushed a PDF from some seemingly random site over the past few days?"

It's impossible to know all the threats circulating in the wild.

And of course, you also need to patch whatever hole let the malware in. For sure, replace IE 6 (even if you never surf using IE 6) with IE 7 or 8, both of which provide security features that IE 6 will never have.

How to: Using the New Windows 7 Features

How to add Computer (or any other folder) to the Windows 7 taskbar.

Icons on the desktop often get covered up by windows, so I like having the items I open often right there on the taskbar so that they're always easily accessible. That includes the Computer folder (formerly know as My Computer), which gives a quick glance at all the drives.

There are several ways to put Computer, or any other folder, on your taskbar—you can pin it to the taskbar, but it takes up a slot of taskbar space that way. You can revive the Quick Launch bar, as + we've described in a previous newsletter and add computer to that . Or you can create a new toolbar for the Computer folder. Drag it so that only the toolbar title shows. Then when you click the double down arose, the contents of the folder will display in a fly-out. Here's how you create the new toolbar.

- Right click the taskbar
- Click toolbars
- Click new toolbar
- Browse to the folder you want to add
- Click select folder.



This Months Quotes:

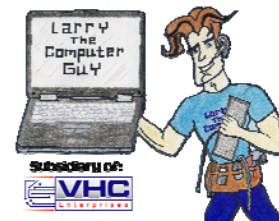
To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.

Farmers Almanac, 1978

If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside.

Robert X. Cringely, InfoWorld magazine

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Quotes of the Week

Can Your Web Cam spy on you?

PENN VALLEY, Pa. – The suburban Philadelphia teen who filed a webcam spying lawsuit against his school district says an administrator's denial of wrongdoing doesn't address his claims.

Harriton High School sophomore Blake Robbins insists an assistant vice principal did take advantage of a security program to monitor his activity at home. The administrator, Lindy Matsko, says she didn't monitor students or authorize others to do so.

But Robbins told reporters Wednesday that Matsko didn't deny confronting him about a picture the webcam took.

The lawsuit filed last week claims Matsko talked to Robbins about "improper behavior" at home, citing images from the school-issued laptop's camera.

Robbins says officials mistook candy for pills and thought he was selling drugs.

District officials have said they only remotely activated webcams to locate missing laptops.

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