OACYS
INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

N E W S L E T T E R   J U N E   2 0 0 4

Will Virus Terrorism Ever End?

Probably not any time soon. Viruses are relatively easy to create, the culprits are difficult to trace, and the work they plant continues to spread automatically long after the original deed.

The best offense is therefore a good computer defense. The month of May was especially nasty for viruses, our shop has been busy with a daily flow of computers needing to be cleaned.

So what's up? Isn't the OCS system supposed to be taking care of this for our subscribers? Yes and no.

Our system has long protected against viruses attached to email, but we have warned that there are other vulnerabilities that bypass email. That is the nature of the BLASTER and SASSER viruses. They don't use email at all, but rather look for unprotected computers to attack directly when they are online.

This was a minimal issue in the days of dialup. Connecting and then disconnecting opens only a small period of vulnerability, especially when every session is assigned a different IP address.

But now that increasing numbers of Internet subscribers are using broadband services like DSL, cable, or fixed wireless, those computers are typically online all the time, 24x7, and often with the same IP address.

In response, computer hackers have designed automated snoops that prowl the Internet constantly, at very high speed, in search of computers that have essentially left their doors unlocked. When they find one, they let themselves in and plant their bugs.

FIREWALLS

How can this be prevented? With the use of a firewall that locks your computer's doors to all intruders other than friendly traffic.

OCS uses a sophisticated firewall to control all traffic into and out of our internal office network. For our wireless customers we offer the same option, which can be activated via UserAdmin. Wireless users who caught the recent SASSER virus recently only were those who did not activate or had disabled their OCS firewall option, while also not running a firewall on their own computers. The solution in those cases is obvious.

DIALUP CHANGES

At the same time, we're making a change for our dialup subscribers. So many were affected by SASSER that we think it is no longer enough to simply recommend running a local firewall, we need to make it easier to do so. The virus terrorists are becoming smarter, so we need to be more proactive. Otherwise, what our shop and many of our customers experienced in May is only going to become a more normal experience, which is unacceptable.

So, we have now modified our central firewall option in UserAdmin to make it available to dialup subscribers as well as those with full-time wireless service.

FIREWALL ACTIVATION

To activate central firewall protection for your computer, simply go to Subscribers > User Admin on our home page main menu, enter your master account login and password, and click OACYS Firewall under Optional Services.

On the next page, several firewall configuration options are listed, as well as a disclaimer describing limitations. Simply click a selection to set your preferred level of firewall protection.

Please note that this service is free to our subscribers, but it is optional and set to OFF by default. Why optional? Because some people would prefer to manage their own firewalls, and in some cases there can be conflicts between systems. Should you experience a problem connecting with an online program, you can try disabling your firewall temporarily. If that resolves it, don't forget to turn your firewall back on as soon as possible!

The OACYS firewall is not yet available for dialup via our nationwide roaming numbers, we expect to have that available soon.

WIRELESS SERVICE AREAS

Available now
- Porterville
- Springville
- Pleasant Valley
- River Island
- Globe Drive
- Strathmore
- Terra Bella
- Lindsay
- Exeter
- Visalia

In progress
- Success Valley
- Yokohl Valley
- Camp Nelson
- Richgrove

Want to work from home?

OCS can connect your home to your office or tie multiple offices together, at high speed and with full "VPN" security, anywhere in the Valley or beyond …

OCS dialup and wireless plans are described at www.porterville.com

Internet Plans and Pricing

Call *about* **eCommerce!**

Need qualified computer or network maintenance? Give us a call!

THE *NATIONWIDE* OCS REFERRAL PROGRAM

If you refer a friend, family, or business associate to OCS, tell them to mention your name and you'll receive up to a month of free service! Some restrictions apply, click *Referrals* on our home page for details. Your friends may simply click *Subscribe* to sign up online, now from anywhere in the country!

1982·2004
OLSON
22
22 YEARS
COMPUTER SERVICES

- **VIRUSES STOPPED BY OCS SYSTEM: 816,802** (last 30 days 49,710)
- **SPAM BLOCKED BY OCS SYSTEM: 17,018,890** (last 30 days 833,843)

Password Insecurity

Excerpted from the Wall Street Journal

OK, all of you whose passwords aren't as secure as they should be, raise your hand. Uh-huh. Thought so, almost everyone.

The basics of password security aren't complicated. Don't share them. Don't write them down -- particularly not on a Post-It note or your desk blotter. Don't use the same password for multiple sites. Don't pick something obvious, like a family birthday or a spouse's name or some combination. Don't pick a word that you can find in a dictionary. Don't pick something that only has letters -- or even letters and numbers

Here's a tip. This is no substitute for the kind of good password practices you should employ, but at least it will take one vulnerability off the list -- make sure none of your high-value passwords are used in low-value situations. In other words, don't use the password that unlocks your PayPal account to log yourself into a message board on a general-interest site, or to register for a free newspaper.

For low-value situations, figure out some kind of scheme that will let you use a different but easily remembered password in each case -- such as a mnemonic or acronym plus the first few letters of the site.

To be clear, this isn't great security. You really should do far more than this. But if you're password-lax and fear you won't change, it's a start.

NATIONWIDE OCS SERVICE for
FRIENDS • FAMILY • BUSINESS

With over 2,500 free local access numbers across the country, you can keep quality OCS dialup service when you travel or even if you move. Or recommend it to your friends, family, and business associates across the country and earn referral credits at the same time! To check for available numbers in different areas of the country, just click "Nationwide Numbers" or "Access Numbers" on our website. New accounts may sign up using the handy "Subscribe Online" procedure on our home page. Call us for more information!

OACYS VOIP PBX Features

- Long Distance Calling at Low Flat Rates
- Personal and Automated Answering Controls
- Music and Messaging On Hold
- Conference and 3-Way Calling
- Voice Mail (with custom messaging) and Voice-to-Email
- Link Branch Locations as Extensions (no measured usage)
- Support Roaming Users with Find/Follow and Remote Access
- Usage Logs with Accounting and Authorization Codes
- Station-to-Station Intercom and Speed Dial
- Caller ID, Hold, Transfer, and Forward
- Call Notify, Return, and Do Not Disturb
- Call Plans and Hunt Groups
- Call Park and Pick-Up
- And much more!

OACYS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

| Plan Name | Average Speeds | | | B-M-W[1] | One-Time Fees | | | Monthly |
	Min	Typ	Max		Service Activation	Install/ Configure	Equipment Deposit	Service
1 Bandwidth-Mailboxes-Webspace (see notes)								
DIALUP	26K	40K	53K	1-5-5	25.00	-	-	24.95
Accelerator	Typically 2-5X faster			-	-	-	-	+5.00
**WIRELESS	STANDARD 2.4 GHz**								
24 Basic	125K	500K	750K	10-5-5	25.00	100.00	200.00	49.95[2]
24 Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	15-5-5	25.00	100.00	200.00	79.95[2]
24 Business	375K	1.5M	2M	20-10-10	25.00	100.00	200.00	129.95[2]
[2] Add $10 per month for locations beyond 5 miles from nearest tower								
**WIRELESS	SPECIAL CASES 900 MHz**								
900 Basic	125K	375K	750K	5-5-5	25.00	100.00	200.00	59.95
For special cases where obstacles prevent normal service. Please call or see our website for more information.								
**WIRELESS	MISSION CRITICAL 5.8 GHz**								
58 Business	500K	2M	3M	25-25-25	25.00	200.00	500.00	159.95
58 Corporate	750K	3M	4M	30-30-30	25.00	200.00	500.00	199.95
58 Enterprise	1M	4M	5M	40-40-40	25.00	200.00	500.00	249.95
HI-CAP	Please call to enquire about fractional and dedicated T1 circuits.							

Notes. Locations beyond 5 miles add $10 per month. All plans include automated central email virus scanning, email spam filtering, and website parental controls. All plans except Wireless 24 Basic and 900 Special include supplementary dialup account. Bandwidth caps are in GB per month, see AUP. Dialup, Wireless 24 Basic and Premium, and 900 Special plans may use webspace for non-commercial purposes only. Wireless installation and deposit package may be paid in three installments upon request. All speeds are symmetrical (same for upload and download) within the OACYS network only. All plans terminate at OACYS Porterville headquarters and transport to the Internet via dual T3s over dedicated OC12 fiber optic circuit. This is not a quote, all information is subject to change without notice. Pricing and terms are current at the date of this newsletter and supersede previous versions. Please check with our office for additional detail regarding any of our Internet service plans.

I Didn't Know That!

OCS provides "A-to-Z" computer technology services:

- Complete computer service and repair shop
- Broad variety of Internet access plans and packages
- Professional website design, development, and hosting
- Professional programming and custom application development
- eCommerce and business groupware solutions
- Computer and Internet technology consulting
- Secure branch office inter-networking
- Internet-based "VOIP" telephone services
- iSuite of online utility applications

Set Account Preferences

Make Payments Online

Click UserAdmin

on our website