

SHAREWARE PICK OF THE WEEK:

(Try before you buy--smart software of all sorts...)

WINDOWS: Spybot – Search and Destroy

Spybot removes spyware and adware. It also removes keyloggers and other programs that track usage of a computer. And it removes lists of visited Web sites, opened files, cookies and other information.

MAC: MacScan

Remove spyware, keystroke loggers and Trojan horses. MacScan creates a log file. You can read each item and discover how the spyware or Trojan horse may have gotten there and the best way to remove it.

Find this week's Shareware Picks here:

<http://www.komando.com/showpicks.asp>

--> NEW WORM WOULD LIKE TO INFECT YOUR COMPUTER

A new mass-mailing worm has been detected by anti-virus companies. Symantec is calling it W32.Lirva.A, while McAfee has dubbed it W32/Lirva.b@MM. Its subject line may reference singer Avril Lavigne. It's the usual nasty thing, propagating itself by sending e-mails from the victim's Outlook address book. It attempts to disable anti-virus software, and sends the victim's passwords to the virus writer over the Internet. Keep your anti-virus software updated. Also keep Outlook updated. <http://office.microsoft.com/ProductUpdates/default.aspx>

--> BACKZAT HAS ALSO JOINED THE WORM COLONY

This worm, whose real name is W32.HLLW.Backzat.B, also uses the Address book in Outlook and Outlook Express. In addition, it uses file-sharing programs like KaZaA, where it purports to be screen savers featuring Britney Spears and Eminem.

While you're on heightened alert, watch for Killboot. It spreads through Microsoft Word macros. Killboot destroys the boot-up data needed to start a computer. Hence the name.

None of these ghouls can hurt you if you keep your system up to date and avoid opening attachments that you weren't expecting.

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