



MOOSE VIEWS

What's
Inside

**9 Warning
Signs Your
Computer Is
Infected With
Spyware
Don't Be A Victim!**

**How To Get A FREE
Wireless Mouse
Details On Page 3**

**Are You
Suffering From
Blackberry Ache?**
New Spa Treatments
Available!

**The Security vs.
Access Tradeoff
More on Page 3**

Moose Views

is a monthly newsletter prepared by Moose Logic to bring you information and tips on maintaining a trouble free network.

**Issue 6
April, 2006**

Warning To Parents With Kids Online: MySpace Has Become A Hunting Ground For Criminals and Pedophiles

Over the last few months there has been a lot of news coverage and controversy over a social network website called MySpace.com, and rightfully so. I decided to include a front page article about this in my newsletter to warn my clients of the dangers this website poses to their children and families.

For those not familiar with MySpace, it is a phenomenally successful online network that enables users to post and exchange gossip, messages, pictures, personal information, and pretty much anything else that comes into their minds. With 60 million members, MySpace is the biggest and fastest growing of all social network sites.

Although users are supposed to be at least 14 to register, it is easy to bypass this restriction. An estimated 10 million of those members are under the age of 17 and many more are under the age of

14. What makes this site so dangerous is that many children are posting pictures of themselves along with other confidential information such as the school they go to, where they live, personal schedules, who their parents are, and other contact information. It is this information that is placing them in danger, as online predators may use it to find and harm these children. Just look at these horror stories:

14 Year Old Girl Found Dead

In January, a 14 year old girl in New Jersey was found naked and strangled in a garbage bin. Friends said she had been in contact with an older man through one of the social network sites.

15 Year Old Sexually Assaulted

A 26 year old Houston man was charged with sexual assault, accused of luring a 15 year old girl into a relationship through MySpace.

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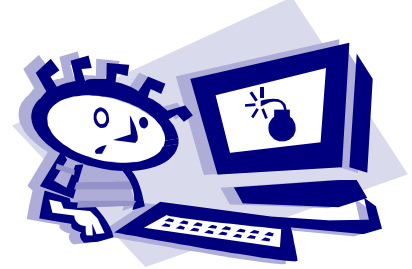
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For only \$199, we'll perform a "Spring Cleaning" of your computer network to make it run faster and with fewer problems. For only \$199, we'll come onsite and perform a 27-point Problem Prevention Audit designed to:

- ◆ Verify that critical patches and updates are installed on your servers.
- ◆ Check your privacy settings and network security
- ◆ Speed up your network
- ◆ Verify that your anti-virus software is configured properly
- ◆ Check for system errors, conflicts, or other problems
- ◆ Verify your system backups are running

9 Warning Signs Your Computer Is Infected With Spyware



Spyware is Internet jargon for hidden programs that advertisers install on your PC without your permission to spy on you, gather information, and report this information about you and your online activities to a third party.

Spyware is NOT harmless; it can be responsible for delivering a boatload of spam, altering your web browser, slowing down your PC, and serving up a bounty of pop-up ads. In some of the more extreme cases, spyware can also steal your identity, passwords, e-mail address book, and even use your PC for illegal activities.

Most spyware finds its way onto your computer via file downloads including free programs, music files, and screen savers found everywhere on the Internet. These nasty programs piggyback the download and run undetected on your computer collecting information about you and sending it out to a third party until they are removed. Although spyware has malicious components, it is not illegal, and it is not considered a virus because it doesn't replicate itself or destroy data.

In fact, you may even have *agreed* to have it installed on your computer when you accepted that click-through license agreement that you didn't read but that you had to accept before you could download the files you wanted! (Come on, we've all been guilty of this at one time or another.)

If you are experiencing one or more of these warning signs, chances are your computer is infected and you will need to seek professional help in getting the spyware removed.

#1. Your browser has been hijacked. If you open your Internet browser and a strange-looking homepage pops up and won't go away, chances are you have a spyware program installed on your computer. You may also discover that you cannot modify your browser settings and that your favorites folder has been modified.

#2. You conduct a search but another (unauthorized) browser completes it for you. For example, you type a search term into Microsoft IE but another browser pops up and lists various websites tied to your search term. This is a surefire sign of a spyware infection.

You'll also notice that if you try and remove this program, it comes right back.

#3. Your computer is unstable, sluggish, locks up, or crashes frequently. Spyware programs run in the background taking up disk space and processor speed which will cause serious performance problems.

#4. You constantly get pop-up ads displayed on your screen, even if you aren't browsing the Internet. Some of the ads may even be personalized with your name.

#5. You receive expensive phone bills for calls to 900 numbers that you didn't make. Some spyware programs can use your computer to make calls on both a broadband and dial-up line.

#6. The send and receive lights on your modem blink actively as though you are surfing the Internet or downloading files online, even though you aren't. More than likely this is due to spyware programs sending and receiving information via your computer without your permission or acknowledgement.

#7. Mysterious files suddenly start appearing on your computer, your files are moved or deleted, or the icons on your desktop and toolbars are blank or missing.

#8. Your CD drawer starts opening and closing by itself.

#9. You find e-mails in your "Sent Items" folder that you didn't send.

Because spyware is so prevalent on the Internet, it's a good idea to scan your system once a week to clear out any potential infections. Most spyware programs are designed to run undetected by the user. That means you could be infected and not even know it.

**FREE Report:
How To Keep Your Computer Safe From
Crippling Pop-ups, Viruses, Spyware, &
Spam, While Avoiding Expensive
Computer Repair Bills**

To get your free copy, visit us online at:
www.mooselogic.com/forms/whitepaper.html

Refer A New Client And Receive a FREE Wireless Keyboard & Mouse!

Refer a new client to us during the month of April and we'll send you a FREE wireless keyboard and mouse *AND* give your referral a FREE Problem Prevention Network Audit! Remember, our best clients are businesses with 5 or more PCs.

To submit a referral, call: 206-774-0619 *or*
e-mail: sid.herron@mooselogic.com



Spas Now Offering Relief From Blackberry Ache?!?!

It's a sign of the times: resorts and spas have found that guests getting massages are asking for more work on their hands, wrists, and arms. Resorts are responding with "Blackberry treatments" to relieve aches caused by overuse of the device. The Hyatt Grand Champions Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, Calif., offers a treatment using balm with camphor oil, cloves, peppermint, and blackberry powder. It costs \$80. The treatment works, but doctors say aches will return when the device is used heavily again.



How To Transfer Old Vinyl Records To Your iPod

If you want to transfer music from your vinyl records onto an iPod, there are several ways to do it. The easiest way is to send your old LPs to an Internet company such as Cassettes2CDs or Ferris Mastering. They will burn CDs of the records, which can then be downloaded to an MP3 player. They charge \$12 or more per album, but they can often improve the sound by eliminating the crackles on the record. You could also do it yourself with a turntable, a sound-card-enabled computer with a line-in jack, a receiver with pre-amp photo inputs, and connecting cables. See Microsoft's Recording Audio site.

The Lighter Side: The Smartest Man In The World?

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy, and a priest were in a small private plane when it developed engine trouble and started to go down. The pilot grabbed a parachute and told the passengers they had better jump too, but there were only three parachutes remaining.

The doctor said "I save lives, so I must live," grabbed a parachute and bailed out.

The lawyer said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He grabbed a parachute and jumped. The priest said, "My son, I've lived a long, full life. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The boy gave the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just jumped out of the plane with my back pack."

The Security vs. Access Tradeoff

Most organizations see the value in granting remote access to information and applications so employees can be productive when they are away from the office. But the security implications of allowing external access to critical data can keep you awake at night! As a result, many organizations either restrict remote access to only a few key executives for the sake of security, or sacrifice security for the sake of the strategic advantage that's gained by allowing employees to work remotely and just hope and pray nothing bad happens!

But what if you didn't have to do that? What if you had an access infrastructure that could automatically sense the remote access scenario—not only who is trying to access the data, but where they're connecting from, whether they're using a company-owned computer, whether they're running anti-virus software with current definition files, and many other factors—and *automatically* respond by granting the level of access that is appropriate to that scenario: the ability to preview applications and documents but not edit them, or edit but not save locally, or edit but not print, and so on?

You can have this functionality today with Citrix *SmartAccess™* technology. For more information, call us at 206-774-0619. Citrix—it's not just MetaFrame anymore!



MOOSE LOGIC

1415 Western Ave.

Suite 205

Seattle, WA 98101

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37 Year Old Man Attacks 16 Year Old Girl

A 37 year old man solicited a 16 year old girl by visiting MySpace.com. The man misrepresented himself as being younger, then tracked her down. Lafayette Sheriff Lt. Craig Stansbury said the man showed up at the victim's after-school job and followed her to the parking lot, where he forced her into his car and attacked her. The assailant knew where she worked because she posted it on her MySpace profile.

Firefighter Solicits 16 Year Old Boy

A Hughson firefighter was sentenced Thursday to a year in jail for engaging in sexual activity with a 16 year old Lodi-area boy he met online. He was arrested, and investigators soon learned that the two had met on MySpace.com.

How To Protect Your Kids Online

Many of us have sophisticated Web filtering systems at our offices. We at Moose Logic are particularly fond of Watchguard firewalls with the WebBlocker option. But these solutions are typically too expensive for home use. So what can you do? Here are some ideas:

- ♦ Keep the computer in the family room so you can monitor what happens online.
- ♦ Review the websites your children visit. If they have a webpage on MySpace, make sure they are not posting pictures or other confidential information such as phone numbers and addresses.
- ♦ Educate your children about the dangers online and provide them with clear instructions about what they can and can't post or share online.
- ♦ Set time limits on surfing and restrict most computer use to specific purposes, such as school homework.
- ♦ Consider subscription filtering services such as Bsafe Online (www.bsafehome.com).

Security Lunch & Learn May 9:

You're invited to join Moose Logic, Microsoft, and Watchguard for a Lunch & Learn at the Microsoft Pacwest Office, 205 108th Ave. NE, Suite 400, Bellevue, WA, 98004.

During this seminar, you'll find out what Security Assessments are and what you can do with the results to improve the security, stability, efficiency, and productivity of your business.

Because it is based on industry standards and best practices around security, we use the new Microsoft Security Assessment Tool to help you better understand the overall security status of your organization and deliver clear, prioritized suggestions on how to improve security.

To reserve a seat, call us at 206-774-0619, or register online at www.clicktoattend.com, event code 108443.

We'd Love To Hear From YOU!

Is there an article you would like to comment on? Is there a topic you want us to research? Have a funny story or a resource you want to share with the other subscribers? Send it to us! We are always looking for new and useful content to add to Moose Views.

Call us at: 206-774-0619

Or send email to: feedback@mooselogic.com