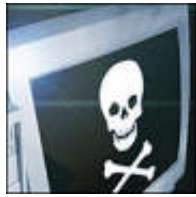


THE SASSER WORM



You have probably heard on the grapevine or through the news that the information technology world has once again been circumnavigated and assaulted by yet another virus; the dreaded SASSER WORM, just ask anyone who works for a certain, very large financial institution! (Not mentioning any names!) Imagine how the organizations' IT geeks felt! They're supposed to be on top of all of this virus stuff. I reckon there would have been a fair few sleepless nights happening with that lot! All because of a little worm.....

The Sasser Worm spreads by exploiting a vulnerable component of Microsoft Windows known as the Local Security Authority Subsystem Service (LSASS) and it has been predicted by security experts for some time now that someone would pick up on this flaw and use it to wreak havoc. Go figure!

The Sasser worm requires no user intervention whatsoever to aid in its spread; it spreads from infected computer to vulnerable computer by creating a remote connection to the system, and then it installs and downloads itself. The worm will cause the LSASS component of Windows to crash. Infected systems will then perform a 60 second countdown before restarting. If your computer keeps shutting down, then you probably have the Sasser worm.

If you suspect that your system has been infected by the Sasser worm, you will need to get the removal tool from Microsoft in order to rid it from your computer. After that, it is advisable to get both your virus and windows updates because computers that have been infected with the Sasser worm may now be vulnerable to a new scavenging program that exploits a 'back door' into a compromised system.

Viruses seem to be getting worse, much more destructive and easier to become a victim of and it makes one wonder why these virus creating geeks spend their valuable time creating destructive programs rather than attempting something positive!

The Sasser worm is not the only threat to your system, between its release on 30th April and the following 3 weeks to the 21st May, (according to Symantec security) another 58 viruses have made their way onto the internet. The only way to protect your computer is to be vigilant, keep on top of security updates and scan your computer regularly for viruses.

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