

Re: Apple Computer sides with Satan

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005-06/msg00320.html>

- *From:* "David Nakamoto" <res07oeg@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 04 Jun 2005 21:10:29 GMT
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"Brian Tung" <brian@xxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:d7t34h\\$260\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:d7t34h$260$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> David Nakamoto wrote:

>> I thought OS X was based on Unix, which is pretty stable, but also is

>> not that secure.

>

> Where on earth did you hear that it's not that secure? Compared to what?

My experience with early Unix was that the computer was not that secure. It might have changed in the 10 years I've last worked on a Unix system, but that's what I remembered.

> You speak of Unix as though it were one OS. It isn't; it's many OS's.

> OS X is built on FreeBSD. That's distinct from, say, Linux or all of

> the other different Unices.

But they share some common design principles as well as some programs. Otherwise what's the point of calling them Unix or Unix-like? Yes, there are differences, but to paraphrase Dale Berra, "The similarities are different."

> Granted, FreeBSD isn't a hardened OS, but it's reasonably secure. It

> has an open development community. That doesn't inherently guarantee

> greater security, but it does mean that you've got more eyes looking

> at it that are not as homogeneous as they are at, say, Microsoft.

>

>> I believe the "resistance to security breaches" is due mainly to the

>> fact that most hackers are targeting Windows system because 90% of

>> the computers out there are running them.

>

> That is certainly a factor, but it is hardly *mainly* due to that. I

> think another significant factor is that many attackers out there equate

> Microsoft with The Man. Even if FreeBSD were to gain an equal market

> share with XP (without resorting to what are seen as Microsoft's unfair

> business practices), there would still be fewer attempts to compromise

> FreeBSD systems, because they aren't seen as the bad guys.

>

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> XP security is reasonably good, though. A great improvement over Win2k
> and earlier.

As soon as "the Man" endorses OS X in a significant way, we're going to see more attention paid to it, according to both your reasoning and the way the world works. But them it just means that whatever security issues are uncovered in OS X will be handled and solved. After all Microsoft is obviously keeping a lot of its engineers employed trying to plug all the security holes in their operating systems. ^_^

--- Dave

Pinprick holes in a colorless sky
Let inspired figures of light pass by
The Mighty Light of ten thousand suns
Challenges infinity, and is soon gone

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: Apple Computer sides with Satan**
◇ From: Jim Shaffer
- ◆ **Re: Apple Computer sides with Satan**
◇ From: Brian Tung

• *References:*

- ◆ **Apple Computer sides with Satan**
◇ From: RichA
- ◆ **Re: Apple Computer sides with Satan**
◇ From: David Nakamoto
- ◆ **Re: Apple Computer sides with Satan**
◇ From: Sean Golden
- ◆ **Re: Apple Computer sides with Satan**
◇ From: David Nakamoto
- ◆ **Re: Apple Computer sides with Satan**
◇ From: Brian Tung

- Prev by Date: **Re: Canon's new astrophoto DSLR announced [4x5" FILM option?]**
- Next by Date: **Pentax PCF-WP – the newer model II**
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