

# Re: PSA: Windows PCs face 'huge' virus threat: 1990 – Present

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2006–01/msg00255.html>

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- *From:* Chris L Peterson <[clp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:clp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 03 Jan 2006 16:30:21 GMT
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On Tue, 3 Jan 2006 08:09:22 –0800, "Mij Adyaw" <[mij@xxxxxxx](mailto:mij@xxxxxxx)> wrote:

>Why do these vulnerabilities continue to exist and be exploited in Windoze?  
>If I were Bill Gates, I would have a witch–hunt and find who did not plug  
>these holes and as a result, some heads would roll. Maybe there would be  
>less holes in the future.

The problem is with the languages and tools used to develop essentially all operating systems. There is no practical way to identify these sorts of problems except by gross inspection (which isn't all that practical when applied to millions of lines of code). That method has been used in recent years, and the result is that all modern operating systems are very secure. But very secure isn't the same as completely secure. Vulnerabilities like this are becoming increasingly rare, but they won't go away until we get rid of languages like C/C++, and adopt whole new approaches to software design. Such approaches exist theoretically, and are even beginning to be applied in some special cases. But I guess we are at least a decade away from seeing them applied routinely.

The situation isn't helped by the fact that all modern operating systems rely on large amounts of code going back decades. Really fixing things would mean starting over from scratch– a hugely expensive endeavor that nobody is anxious to take on.

BTW, fear has never been an effective management policy. If heads roll because bugs slip through, you can expect creativity and innovation to fail. If you were Bill Gates, you would be better off investing in new tools and technologies for software development than conducting witch hunts.

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Chris L Peterson  
Cloudbait Observatory  
<http://www.cloudbait.com>

- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: PSA: Windows PCs face 'huge' virus threat: 1990 – Present**  
◇ From: Sjouke Burry

- *References:*

- ◆ **Re: PSA: Windows PCs face 'huge' virus threat: 1990 – Present**  
◇ From: Davoud
- ◆ **Re: PSA: Windows PCs face 'huge' virus threat: 1990 – Present**  
◇ From: Dennis Woos
- ◆ **Re: PSA: Windows PCs face 'huge' virus threat: 1990 – Present**  
◇ From: Phil Wheeler
- ◆ **Re: PSA: Windows PCs face 'huge' virus threat: 1990 – Present**  
◇ From: Mij Adyaw

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