

Re: A question for the group

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"Michael A. Covington" <look@ai.uga.edu.for.address> wrote in message news:413faed2\$1@mustang.speedfactory.net...

> *It is fashionable to insult Windows, but can you tell me what's wrong with it?*

A couple of things:

1) That the security system relies on the desktop: Once through the desktop, the system is Owned – like when userlevel app. hooking the WM_TIMER callback which just happens to run at system priority. Same with Users – the separation of users is really on the Desktop level; fine for keeping the kids off the smutt collection for a while, but ...

2) It does not distinguish cleanly between OS and Applications; Many applications will – and are permitted to – dump private DLL's and other crud directly into the System Directories – often overwriting existing files in the process – the VSCRTxx.DLL (visual C++ runtime) seems to get replaced a lot ;-); And *everybody* and his dog fiddles with the same, global – no less, Registry.

3) It does not have a built-in Install procedure and a corresponding Uninstall, instead relying on the application to provide this; well, if the application is crap and you want to uninstall guess what – the uninstall will be crap too!

4) It does not distinguish between Microsoft Applications and Microsoft OS – every bit of code that subsumes itself into the "kernel" make the target that much bigger.

The deficiencies in Windows comes from two sources:

The demand for ease-of-use and the requirement that Windows must be the something-for-everyone computing platform. If Windows was made to be really secure, it is likely that one would loose the properties that make it popular, mainly that it is easy to use for everyone and it runs most stuff adequately.

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SO –

If you want a secure games box, you should *really* buy a PS2!