

Re: XP has no significant bugs that any significant number of users want fixed

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-04/msg02881.html>

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- *From:* "Fritz Schlunder" <[me@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:me@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 14 Apr 2005 16:56:12 -0700
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<[learning@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:learning@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:425ef3d5\\$1\\$woehfu\\$mr2ice@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:425ef3d5$1$woehfu$mr2ice@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>> Currently the biggest source of frustration comes from things like  
>>viruses,  
>>> worms, adware, spam, etc. These aren't exactly Microsoft's fault. The  
problem is caused by degenerate elements  
>>of  
>>> society that have obtained excessively high levels of technological  
>>> sophistication.  
>  
> It does not take a Harvard Graduate to create and propagate a virus. Its  
> really rather easy, so don't be giving kudos to hackers who are still in  
> high school.

Oh I wasn't giving them kudos. I called them degenerate elements of society. There is however a difference between these people and your run of the mill criminals guilty of things like armed robbery of convenience stores. Convenience store robbers typically have IQs deep in the moron category and are unable to master technology much more sophisticated to use than a gun. These hackers are potentially more dangerous in the sense that they have mastery of everyday relatively high technology products and usually have IQs noticeable above 100. Generally speaking hackers are more likely to be crafty and adaptable, unlike your ordinary thug.

> It is okay to say its not MS's fault. Their goal has never been security,  
> or virus free computers. On the other hand, if we bought cars that didn't  
> have windshields, and our faces were pockmarked from all the rocks flying  
> about at 75MPH, we may blame the rocks, but we turn to the car maker to  
> fix the obvious problem and protect our faces. The car makers don't wait  
> till a lot of people get their heads smashed before seeing and fixing the  
> problem.

There is an important difference between your analogy and the situation with MS products. Rocks aren't people, and they aren't adaptable. If auto

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makers realize the problem and try to thwart the rocks' efforts by placing windshields in vehicles, the rocks don't adapt to work around the barrier. They don't increase their density and kinetic energy to puncture the glass.

Hackers on the other hand are people, and are quite adaptable. You can fix old problems previously identified, but being adaptable people hackers can find new ways to wreak havoc. A more accurate analogy would be a patient who has become infected with an incurable disease and blames doctors for not fixing the problem. The doctor isn't to blame, nor is the pharmaceutical industry to blame. Neither of them created the problem, and both are in fact working towards finding a solution. The problem is humanity doesn't know everything there is to know about germs and they are crafty and adaptable just like humans are. In the absence of technology that fundamentally alters the dynamics of the situation, the germs will remain one step ahead of those working to combat them.

- > It is within their power to fix 90% (I made that number up) of the
- > problems by simply configuring it out of the box to close many of the
- > holes that are not design flaws, but designs on purpose.

Well I do agree that Microsoft probably could make less vulnerable products out of the box if they spent more time and effort during the design considering every possible vulnerability. Indeed they should probably do this. I wouldn't suggest going so far in this effort that it paralyzes new product development and the furtherment of human technology however. Don't get me wrong, Microsoft isn't perfect, and they do have room to improve. On the other hand, they aren't just a bunch of evil villains deliberately making products designed to frustrate people's existences.

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: XP has no significant bugs that any significant number of users want fixed**  
◇ From: Winfield Hill
- ◆ **Re: XP has no significant bugs that any significant number of users want fixed**  
◇ From: learning

• *References:*

- ◆ **XP has no significant bugs that any significant number of users want fixed**  
◇ From: Guy Macon
- ◆ **Re: XP has no significant bugs that any significant number of users want fixed**  
◇ From: Fritz Schlunder
- ◆ **Re: XP has no significant bugs that any significant number of users want fixed**  
◇ From: Fritz Schlunder
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