

Re: *&#\$ AOL

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.transcription/2004-11/4169.html>

From: 14tonks (mail.2.14tonks_at_recurser.net)

Date: 11/20/04

Date: Sat, 20 Nov 2004 16:17:38 -0500

It's ridiculous that any ISP tries to load your system with code when all you need to connect to the internet is to go to Network Connections, select "Create a new connection", and enter a few pieces of information. AOL is perhaps the worst offender, but I've seen obnoxious huge chunks of software from Earthlink and others as well. I will use no ISP that does not offer the option of manually creating a connection and mail and news accounts, with no downloaded software required at all. It takes less than 5 minutes to set everything up, with no additional code whatsoever to create problems.

There was a study done a little while ago on computers belonging to AOL clients that showed a staggeringly large percentage to be infected with malware, with a large proportion of the computers functioning as zombies to spread spam and viruses, which I suppose is what is behind the new version with included security features. (Please don't post indignantly demanding the reference—it was in one of my reputable computer newsletters, but I am not going to go searching for it at this point. I didn't post it at the time, because I saw no point to doing so. And yes, I'm sure there are plenty of non-AOL users equally infected. It's just that the study was done on AOL customers, and I'm sure AOL wasn't happy with the resulting bad publicity.)

I am all in favor of default-on firewalls, antivirus, antispymware and antitrojans, but I prefer to pick my own software and configurations. McAfee does, indeed, cause problems on a certain number of computers. So does Norton. In addition, those who don't know how to configure a firewall in the first place are always going to have trouble with things not working with default settings. I don't know what the cure for that is beyond looking for an ISP that offers a little better support if you are one of those who just doesn't want to have to learn how to do the basics on your own computer. Essentially, I agree with locking it all and forcing people to find out how to unlock it to do what they want, rather than leaving it all open, knowing people won't bother to learn how to secure things if they can use their installed programs and connect to their desired sites. Computers taken over by hackers create problems for the whole internet, not just their owners.

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Sheila

To reply to me, add the prefix real. to my address.

"Jeannie Wilson" <jwilson421@comcastspamkills.net> wrote in message

sci.med.transcription: Re: *&#\$ AOL

news:Xns95A7A01CE7B90jwilson421comcastnet@216.196.97.136...

> "Ed Chait" <edchait4@earthlink.net> wrote here for all to

> seenews:309hepF2q0s8uU1@uni-berlin.de:

>

> > Now, if you get tired of paying for all this abuse and sado-masochism,

> > and decide to change to another ISP, when you uninstall AOL software

> > there is a fairly good chance your pc will get porked even further,

> > thereby giving AOL the last laugh.

>

> Ain't that the truth. My tech told me he'd have to do a clean install of

> Windows or something like that if I truly wanted to get it all out of my

> system and keep everything running like it should have. AOL integrates

> itself everywhere.