

Essentials

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Windows Service Pack 2

Install Schedule

CSS will install Windows Service Pack 2 (SP2) on all 358 college-administered Windows computers beginning in the Hering lab early Friday, 12 November. Getting SP2 installed will take several hours because the installation should take about an hour and machines will be loaded in groups of 15-20. CSS will load lab machines first on Friday; faculty and staff machines will be loaded on Friday and Saturday. After SP2 is installed, the computer will re-boot. We expect all machines to be loaded and rebooted by 2am Sunday morning.

Lab computers that are being loaded will be in closed sections. Please report problems that arise after SP2 has been installed to the consultants, 1253 SC.

Do not turn off your college-administered Windows computer on Friday, 12 November, so that SP2 can be installed. If you are at work Saturday and want to know if your computer has been updated with SP2, right click on **My Computer**, select **Properties**, and look for Service Pack 2 listed under "System".

Changes with SP2

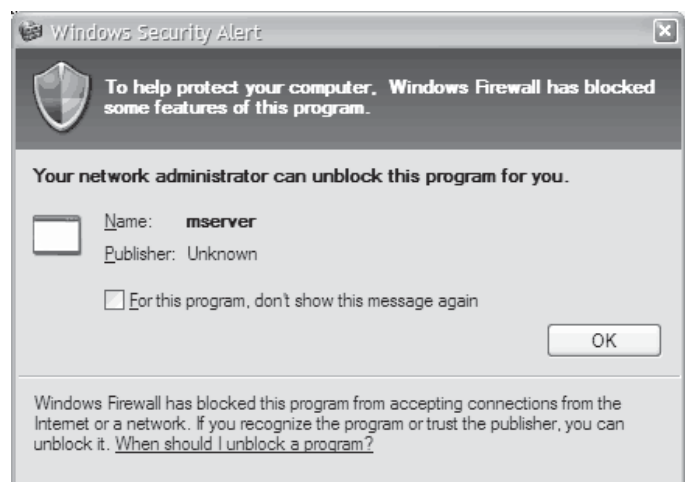
If you use Internet Explorer (IE), you will notice that **pop-up blocking** is turned on by default. When you get to a blocked site, IE provides a dialogue box to help you unblock the site. If you use OWA (Outlook Web Access), you'll see pop-ups that you must unblock. You can add sites to allow from **Tools | Pop-up Blocker**. Even though you cannot see the listing, all *.uiowa.edu and all Skillsoft training modules (at <http://skillsoft.uiowa.edu>) have been unblocked.

Second, you will see **firewall notices**. You can check "For this program, don't show this message again." That action only hides the message; it does not open the firewall. Only an administrator can change firewall settings. When you get a firewall message, please call the

consultants, 335-5055, and report the machine you are using, the program you launched, and the name, **mserver** in this illustration, noted in the "Windows Security Alert" dialogue box. CSS staff will then unblock the program.

On Monday, 15 November, if you notice problems with your college-administered Windows computer, please call CSS, 335-5055, for help.

— Dan Mentzer



Microsoft's information about SP2 is available at : <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/default.aspx>

Open House Winners

Our 30 September open house was a success. People came and met Sarah, commented on our improved office space, ate cookies, and asked and answered questions. Thanks to all who came, especially those who spent time answering the trivia quiz. No one answered all 25 questions correctly; the answers are still available. Quiz winners were:

1. Jane Dorman (SDC) 256MB USB flash drive
2. Becky Rowe (Dean's Office), optical wireless mouse
3. Helene Tokou (MIE grad. student), CDR disks

Door prizes winners were selected randomly, even though it looks like MIE stuffed the box. Congratulations Margaret Evans (MIE), 128MB flash drive; Megan Allen (MIE), CDR disks; Tim Rocheleau (MIE) tool set; Linda Alt (ITS), tool set; Karlyn Larson (Business Office), tool set.

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Survey: U.S. Computer Users Unaware of Security Risks

A survey commissioned by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) shows significant gaps of understanding among U.S. computer users about the actual threat posed by computer security problems. According to the survey, 30 percent of Americans believe they are more likely to be hit by lightning, to be audited by the IRS, or to win the lottery than be the victim of a computer security problem; among users under the age of 25, the rate of those who believe this rises to 40 percent. In truth, cybersecurity threats, including viruses, phishing scams, and hacking, affect about 70 percent of computer users, while the odds of being hit by lightning are 0.0000102 percent, according to the U.S. National Weather Service. The survey also found that 90 percent of computer users remember Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" during the Super Bowl, but only 60 percent remember when the security software on their PCs was last updated. Ken Watson, chairman of the NCSA, said that 91 percent of PCs are infected with some variant of spyware. The NCSA has declared October to be National Cyber Security Awareness month in the United States and is sponsoring educational efforts to teach users about the real risks of ignoring cybersecurity. BBC, 3 October 2004 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/3708260.stm>

Home Computer Security

Since the article next door talks about how unaware many U.S. computers users are about the computer security risks, here's a place to read about the risks and what to do to protect yourself. This series of articles comes from Tourbus, www.tourbus.com. The most recent part on the Windows security tool Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer [MBSA] is not yet in the archives at www.tourbus.com/archives.htm

Go to the Tourbus archives to read these individual parts of the Home Computer Security series:

Part 1: Exploits and Patch Management

Part 2: Firewalls

Part 2 1/2: Odds and Ends

Part 3: Testing your Firewall

Part 4: Update your Antivirus

If you prefer, read the combined version, go to <http://netsquirrel.com/classroom/> and look for Home Computer Security and Privacy parts one and two. Both presentations are available in Microsoft PowerPoint and Macromedia Flash formats.

Back issues and the current issue of this newsletter are on-line: <http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/news/essentials>