

# Professional Issues in IT

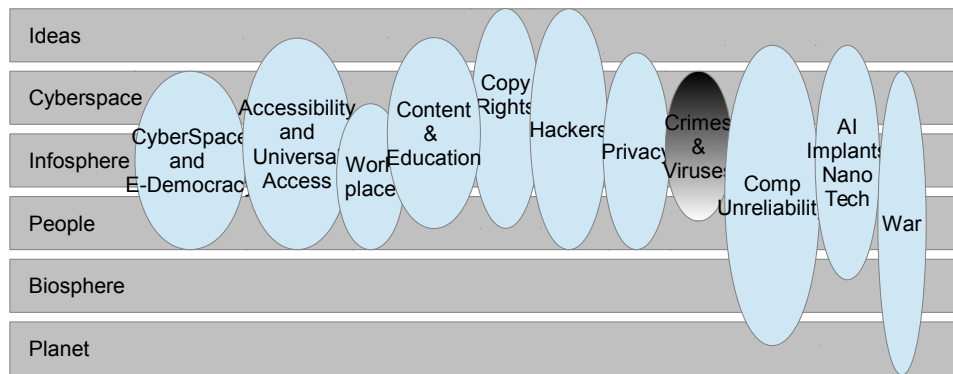
(~~Spring 2014~~, Spring 2015)

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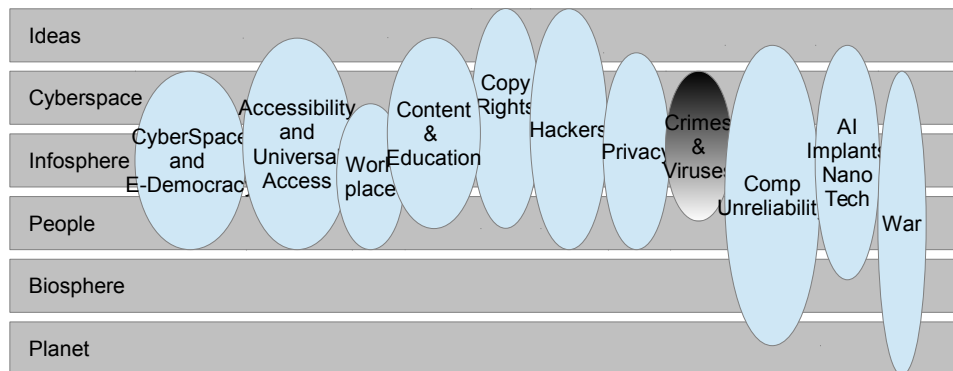
# Computer Crime & Security

- Security of ICT's is very important for all stake-holders

Protect **Confidential Data** (Banks, Governments, Your employee details, Your Customer details, Your Operating System)

**Means of Protection** against Malicious attacks, Theft of Data, Disruption of operations

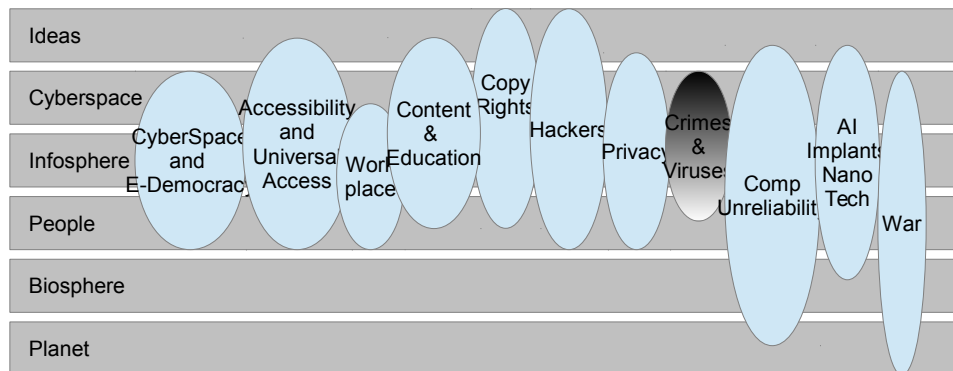
How to **balance** between security issues and normal business operations



# Computer Crime

- Ethical Issues with this thought?
  - My customer information has been hacked and sold by the hacker to a 3rd party. I have found the hacker. If I prosecute the criminal, the affair will go public. People will find out about the hack and will loose trust in my business.
  - Security is important to my company. Therefore, I have set-aside 10% of my profits in maintaining data security. If my company is facing a financial crisis, should I reduce this percentage?

How to **balance** between **security issues** and **normal business operations**



# Computer Crime

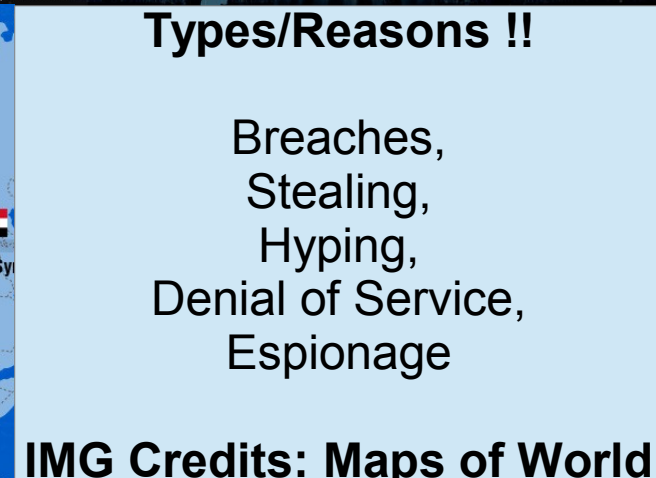
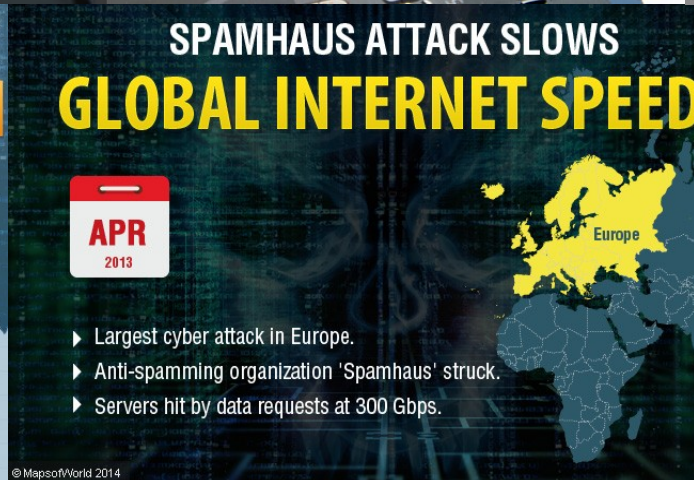
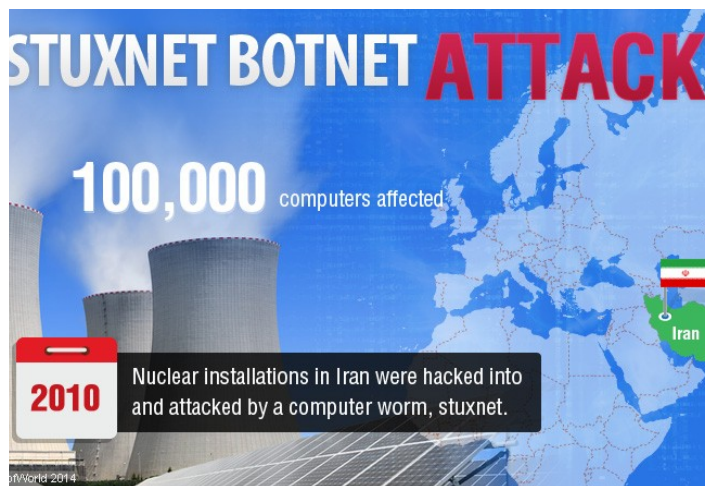
- Ethical Issues with this thought?

- To make sure there are no spy-bots visiting my site, I have programmed numerous CAPTCHA's in my code. As a result, the spy-bots are kept out. On the other hand, my genuine and regular visitors have stopped visiting due to this added security. Should I remove the CAPTCHA ??
- Many Many other examples ...

How to **balance** between **security issues** and **normal business operations**



Number of IT-related security incidents is **increasing** around the world ..

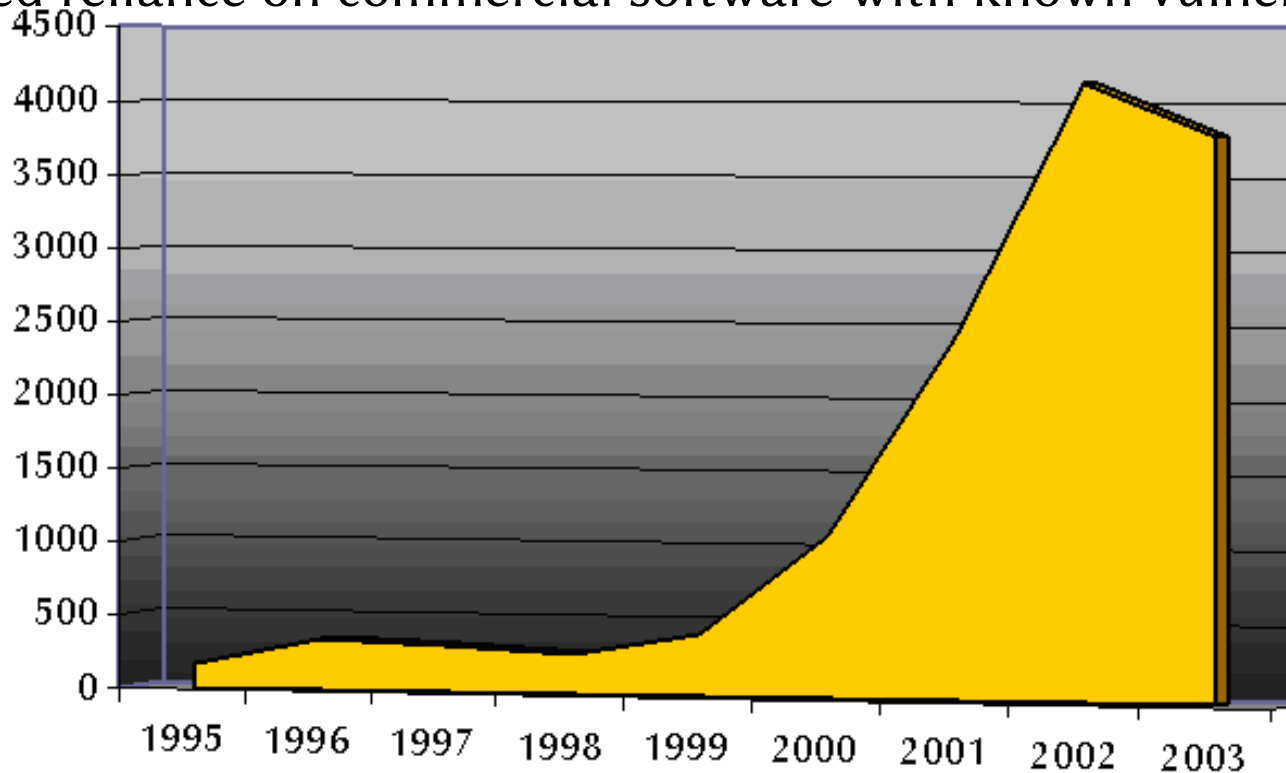




# Why/How are these happening?

- Bad Quality Software is Being Written (vulnerabilities)
- Sharing of Hardware/Data
- Users do not care (strong passwords, lax rules, etc.)
- Increased reliance on commercial software with known vulnerabilities.

Increased Complexity =  
Increased Vulnerability



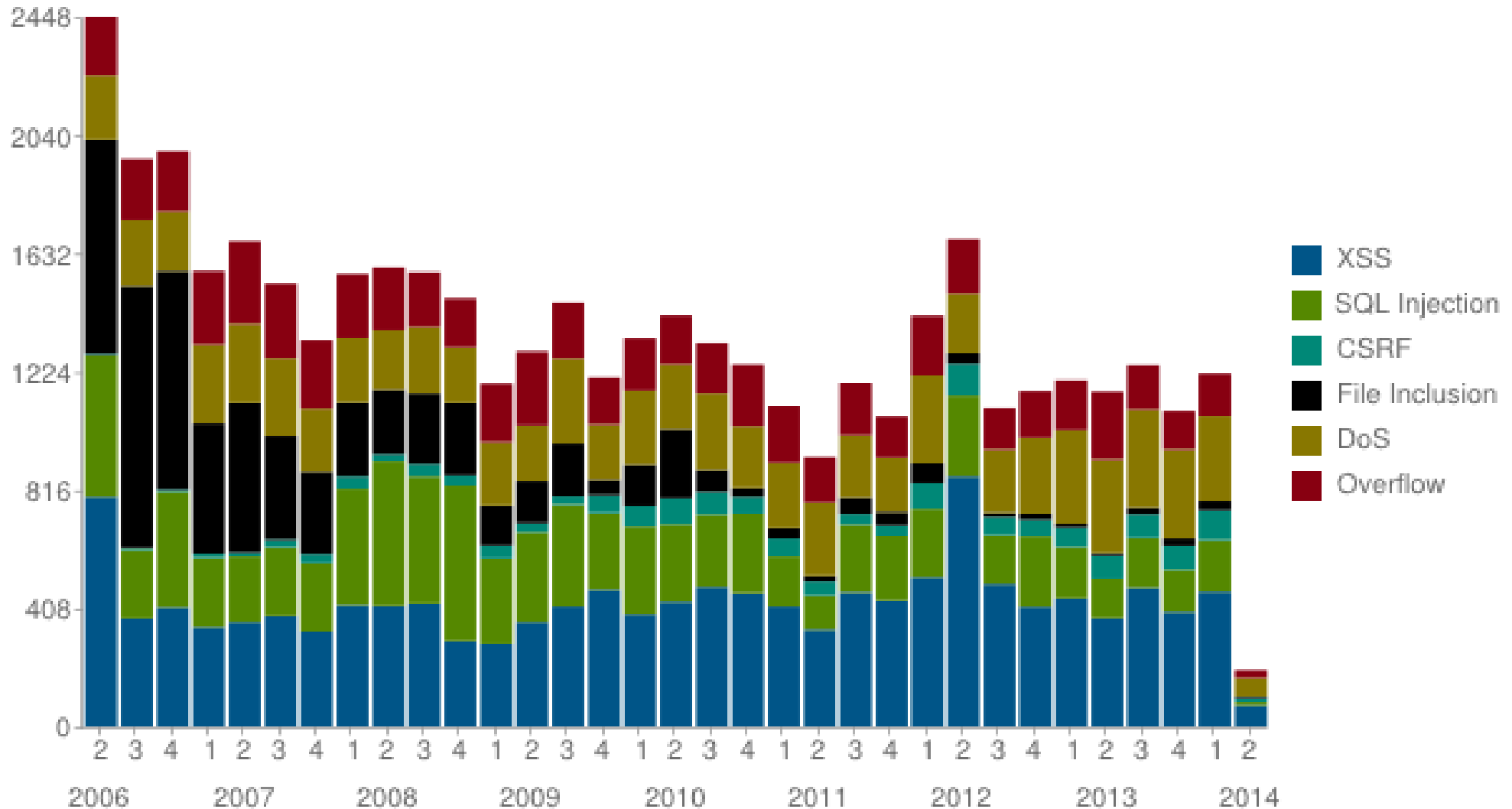
|        | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Vuln's | 171  | 345  | 311  | 262  | 417  | 1090 | 2437 | 4129 | 3784 |

Img: Open Source Vulnerability Database (<http://osvdb.org>)

# Why/How are these happening?

- But there is some small decline also ... ?? why ??

Vulnerabilities in OSVDB by Quarter by Type



Img: Open Source Vulnerability Database (<http://osvdb.org>)

# National Security Council Bill, 2014

- Some points from the bill:
  - Access **an information system without authorization** and face 6 months in jail and/or Rs 100,000 fine. Change data on the information system and get 9 months jail and/or Rs 200,000 fine.
  - If **electronic fraud** is found and proved then guilty can face an imprisonment of up to five years or a fine of up to Rs. 10 million or both.
  - If someone is found guilty of posing **another person's identity** then he/she may face imprisonment of three months of a fine of Rs. 50,000 or both
  - Unauthorized interception of private data (**for example hacking emails**) can result into imprisonment of two years or a fine up to Rs. 500,000 or both
  - **Special protection for women:** If someone is found publicly spreading any content (video/pictures/audio) that may harm the reputation of women then he/she may face imprisonment for one year or a fine up to Rs. 1 million or both

Drafting policy guidelines: Cyber security bill presented in Senate

By Our Correspondent Published: April 15, 2014

THE EXPRESS  
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Hifza Jilani | 8 minutes ago



# Some Terminologies

- Exploit != Vulnerability
  - Exploit = Attack that takes advantage of a particular system vulnerability
- Zero-day attack
  - Takes place before a vulnerability is discovered or fixed
- Patch
  - A “Fix” to eliminate a problem
  - Problem: Users responsible to install patches

# Types of Attacks

Viruses

Worm

Trojan Horse

Denial of Service

...

- A program that disguises itself as something else and which causes undesirable events.
- Usually attached to a file/folder. When infected file is opened, virus delivers payload .. includes following:
  - Transmitting strategy
    - Not automatically transmitted. Human negligence big source of transmission
    - Re-transmitted in forms of infected emails, document attachments, infected USB's.
  - Damaging strategy:
    - Damage files/folders and other programs
    - Other programs may be Targeted User Software, Operating Systems, Boot Loader, or BIOS.

# Types of Attacks

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- A text file is a file that cannot be executed. A virus is a computer program and it can be executed. How can a virus be “bound” to a text file, or even folder for that matter?
  - Macro-Virus: Many files support macro-languages, e.g. VBScript, JavaScript.
- Resident Viruses: Resident in memory. Serves as an OS service. Overwrites interrupt-handling + signal handling functions of OS. Present from Computer start to shutdown.
- Non-Resident Viruses: Scans disk for files and corrupts all of them. When done, exits from memory.
- Boot Sector Virus: Targets the BIOS and/or MBR/GPT

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- Counter-Measures

- Anti-Virus software

- Search for virus signatures in files that they are known to infect.
    - Heuristic based scanning: Identify behavior of programs. Leads to false positives. E.g., a software supporting online ads may be flagged as a virus/un-trusty software.

- Patch current software (Security Updates)

- Removal Methods

- System Restore (some resident viruses disable this + task manager + command prompt to avoid removal)
  - Anti-Virus Scan and Quarantine
  - Re-install the operating system (be careful !! If not formatted, the virus is still on the file-system)



# Types of Attacks

Viruses

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- Same as viruses but with the possibility to transmit without human intervention.
- ILOVEYOU
  - 2000: Sent to all contacts on address book (as attachment LOVE-LETTER-FOR-YOU.TXT.vbs)
  - Patch written in 2 days. Within this time, infected 10 million computers. Repair cost estimated at 8.75 Billion \$
  - Virus written by a student in Philippines after his project was rejected by his teacher.

# Types of Attacks

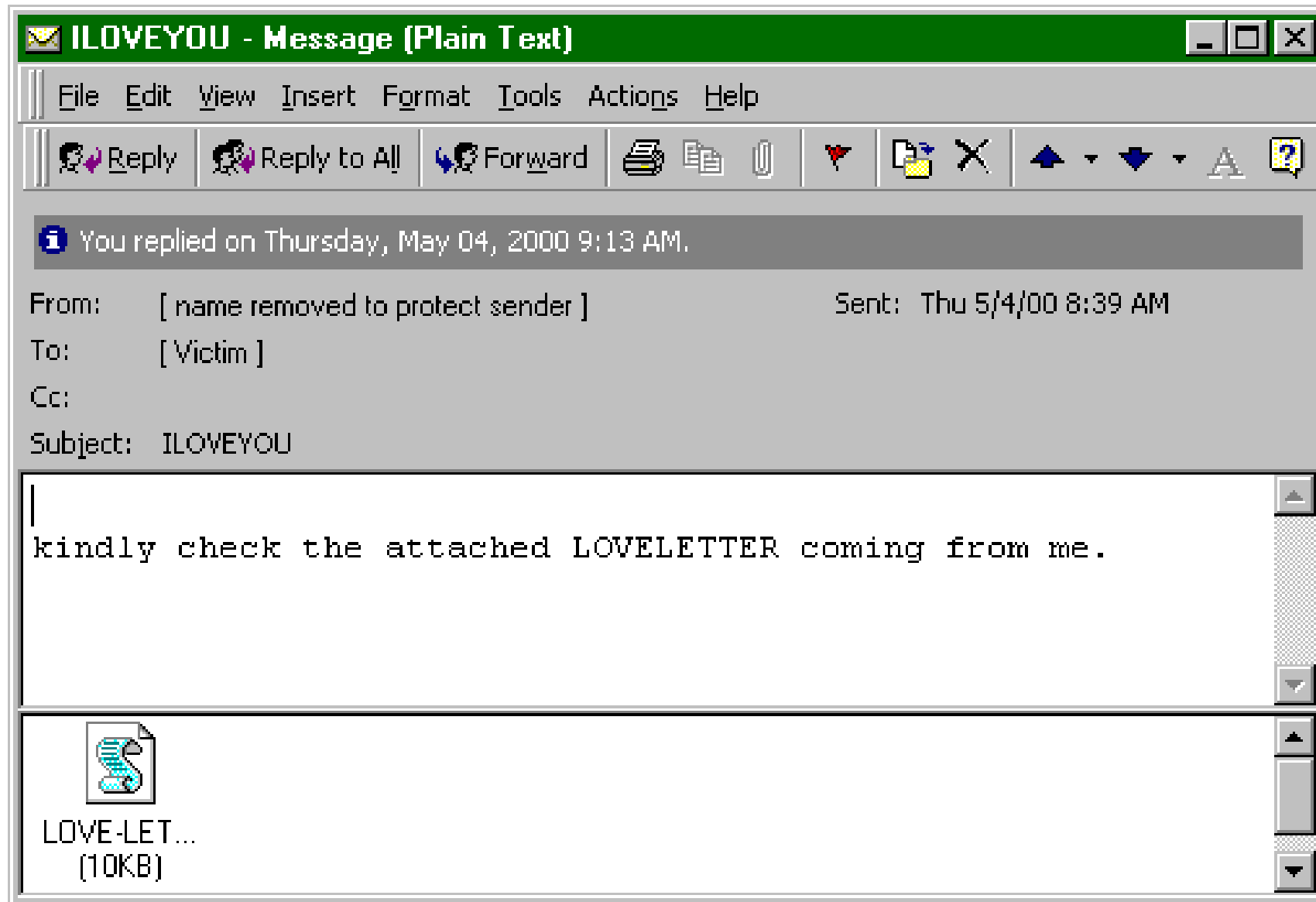
Viruses

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# Types of Attacks

Viruses

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...

- 1999: Melissa  
20% of computers world-wide affected through email retransmission
- 2000: Blaster  
“Billy Gates, why do you make this possible? Stop making money, and fix your software!”. Exploited RPC.
- 2004: SASSER  
Exploited RPC in Windows 2000/XP
- 2004: W32.MyDoom@mm  
10% reduction in global internet access. Transmission through email attachments.



# Types of Attacks

Viruses

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Denial of Service

...

- Gets secretly installed on a computer, planting a minimum payload.
- Steal passwords, listen for key-strokes and transmitting to 3rd party.
- Transmission methods can be through email (worm-like behavior), or installed by physically/remotely breaching system.
- Different from **Logic Bomb**. Logic Bomb triggered when specific condition occurs. E.g., a specific time/date.



# Types of Attacks

Viruses

Worm

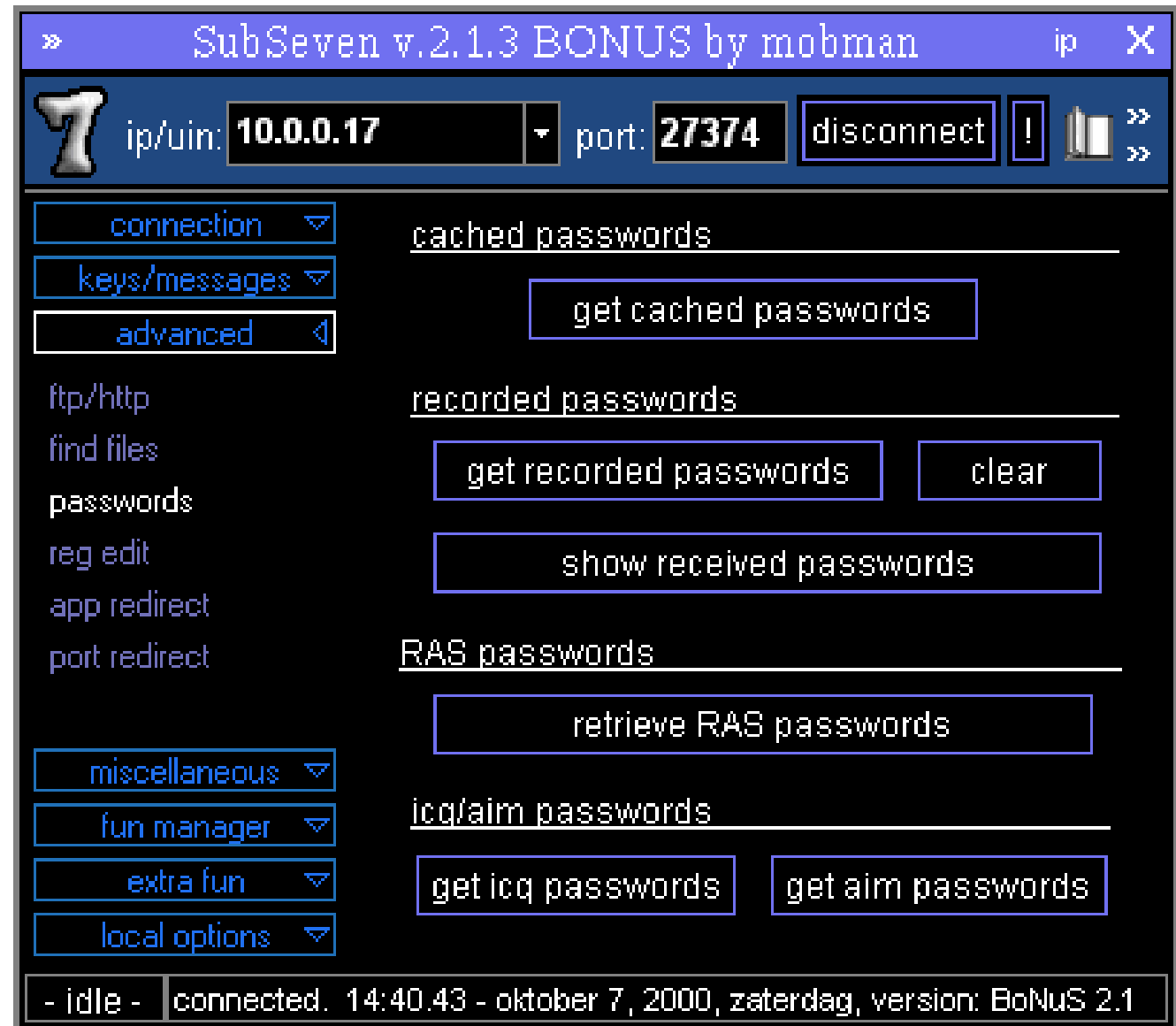
Trojan Horse

Denial of Service

...

## Sub7

Owner claimed his software is simply a remote administration tool with added support e.g., recover lost passwords, etc.



# Types of Attacks

Viruses

Worm

Trojan Horse

Denial of Service

...

**Back Orifice** <http://sourceforge.net/projects/boxp/>

Remote administration tool ... also controversial



Sir Dystic  
Cult of Dead Cow  
Regular speaker  
at DefCON  
Conferences

**DefCON**  
**Documentary !!!!!**

# Types of Attacks

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...

- ... Distributed Denial of Service
- Break-in to source computers (thousands of them), ideally through worm. Flood a target site with data packets from compromised computers. Idea is not to breach the target, but keep it busy so legitimate traffic can not go through.
- Avoid self-denial attack by **spoofing** return addresses on packets sent out.

# Types of Attacks

Viruses

Worm

Trojan Horse

Denial of Service

...

- ISP's can identify false IP addresses. Incoming false addresses are processed through ingress filtering, while outgoing false addresses are processed to egress filtering.
- Filtering is expensive (w.r.t processing time)
- Solution: Invest in more powerful router with built-in filtering.



# Cost of Attacks

Viruses

Worm

Trojan Horse

Denial of Service

...

- Lost Data and Software
- Lost productivity
  - (employees can't work on damaged systems)
  - (employees work on fixing their computers instead of doing company work)

| Name     | Year released | Worldwide economic impact |
|----------|---------------|---------------------------|
| ILOVEYOU | 2000          | \$8.75 billion            |
| Code Red | 2001          | \$2.62 billion            |
| SirCam   | 2001          | \$1.15 billion            |
| Melissa  | 1999          | \$1.10 billion            |

# Who are the Perpetrators ?

Hacker

Cracker

Insider

Industrial Spy

Cyber-Criminal

Cyber-Terrorist

- Test Limits of Computer System out of “intellectual curiosity” ... to see how far they can go.
- Desire to learn more about the system internals.
- Common profile is a male, 20-25, avid gamers, plenty of spare time, little/no money
- Lamers/Script Kiddies ← Hackers whose knowledge only limited to available tools
- Prefer to be part of community instead of working alone. Get a lot of information from chat-groups (mIRC). Have a Pseudonym.

# Who are the Perpetrators ?

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- Hackers argue that they break-in to check the vulnerabilities of a computer/computer network.
- Crackers engage in clear criminal activity.
  - Deface websites, crash computers, spread harmful programs, spread offensive messages, forge program software installation keys, and write scripts/programs that allow other crackers to do the same type of activities.

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- The biggest threat to companies. More than 70% of network intruders are found to be company insiders.
- Who is an insider: Employee, contractor, consultant.
- Not necessary to be hired as an IT professional. Numerous Non-IT Professionals are equally good at hacking/cracking.
- Difficult to catch. So companies introduce access control levels. Each employee only allowed, designed to access information that is relevant to his level.
- Collusion: Cooperation between an insider and outsider



# Who are the Perpetrators ?

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- Professionally hired to get inside secrets (e.g., trade secret or new product information) of an organization or spy on another government



IMG: Maps of the World

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- Hack into computer networks to steal money related assets.
  - Steal credit card numbers (for fraud)
  - Steal personal identity (for fraud)
  - Steal cell-phone information (for fraud)
- Checks & measures
  - Keep strong passwords and change them often.
  - Credit Cards: Website encryption, Match card-holder name, card expiry, CCV code, address of card, added password check, added finger-print verification.

# Who are the Perpetrators ?

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Cyber-Terrorist

- Intimidates governments/organizations to advance political/social objectives. For this purpose, attempt to
  - Breach computer systems and steal sensitive information
  - Perform Denial of Service Attacks
- Engage in propaganda through online forums, social groups, video sharing sites.
- Interact/pass messages discretely to other cyber-terrorists.
  - Encrypted Messages
  - Code words/symbols
  - Correspond through Email without sending Emails

# Perpetrator Summary

| Type            | Objective                                       | Resources Available               | Level of Risk acceptable to perpetrator | Frequency of Attack |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Hacker          | Test limits of system<br>Gain Publicity         | Limited                           | Minimal                                 | High                |
| Cracker         | Cause problems<br>Steal data<br>Corrupt systems | Limited                           | Moderate                                | Medium              |
| Insider         | Make money<br>Disrupt company information sys   | Knowledge of systems & passwords  | Moderate                                | Low                 |
| Industrial Spy  | Capture trade secretes<br>Gain advantage        | Well funded<br>Well trained       | Minimal                                 | Low                 |
| Cyber-Criminal  | Make money                                      | Well funded<br>Well trained       | Moderate                                | Low                 |
| Cyber-Terrorist | Destroy key infrastructures                     | Not necessarily funded or trained | Very high                               | Low                 |

# What can be done to prevent this ?

- Should USB's be allowed in the office?
- Should IM/P2P/Social networking sites be allowed in the office?
- Encryption methods and their enforcement
- VPN Systems
- Educate employees about good measures (for e.g., how to choose a good password)
- Installation of firewalls, anti-virus software
- Defining role of employees (e.g., access levels)
- Keep track of well known vulnerabilities (install patches)
- Regular system backups
- ... many many more examples