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Subject: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sat, 15 Sep 2007 23:02:27 GMT

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Microsoft has lately been updating several files on all Vista and XP systems. That much is nothing new- but they're doing it without asking users whether they actually want the updates or not. Not bothered yet? These updates are hidden; there was never any notification when they were installed. Still not bothered? Here's the best part: Microsoft can do this even if you've disabled Windows Update completely via the Control Panel.

I don't doubt that some of you are going to not care, or not understand why this would bother anybody. To those people: yes, I know Microsoft is not out to take over the world. No, I do not believe that Microsoft intends to steal all the data on my PC. Don't even bother posting; this thread is not meant for you. It's meant for the people who actually give a shit about who may or may not make changes to their systems.

The thought that anybody other than me has the ability to decide what happens on my computer does not make me happy. I don't care if MS only means to change a few files that make some small and necessary alteration; I want and expect that they should tell me about it and ask my permission before doing it. Anything less than that is not acceptable under any circumstances.

Here's the link.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [AoBfrost](#) on Sat, 15 Sep 2007 23:25:29 GMT

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If it improves my PC then "yay", then if they delete all my games, firefox, and programs, then "OMG WHY"

I havent ever seen the second option happen, so I have no problem, but since you bring this up, they do have the possibility to mess up your PC if they wanted to.....

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Renx](#) on Sat, 15 Sep 2007 23:38:37 GMT

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I don't see how anyone other than the end user can decide what is an is not an improvement.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Matix101](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 00:53:44 GMT

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Wow, this totally pisses me off. I specifically turn off my Automatic Updates due to stuff I really

don't feel comfortable installing, and wether or not that is disabled, they still get through?

We should sue, and I mean it, this is a invasion of privacy, and they have no right.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Oblivion165](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 02:29:03 GMT

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Matix101 wrote on Sat, 15 September 2007 20:53Wow, this totally pisses me off. I specifically turn off my Automatic Updates due to stuff I really don't feel comfortable installing, and wether or not that is disabled, they still get through?

We should sue, and I mean it, this is a invasion of privacy, and they have no right.

Read their license agreement...you approved their right. Of course I have no idea if thats actually in there because no one would ever read that thing.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Matix101](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 02:37:47 GMT

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When I installed windows, I never really had a license agreement? Or maybe I dont remember?

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [AoBfrost](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 02:39:16 GMT

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You did, every software does, and every operating system, your also agreeing to install the software/OS so obviously you did.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Matix101](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 02:43:59 GMT

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Can someone find it then? Send a copy of it here, and highlight the spot that shows "Microsoft put a backdoor in your OS" or "Microsoft has the right to update your OS without your permission and notice."

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [cmatt42](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 04:22:11 GMT

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OMG WHY WOULD THEY INSTALL A PRETTY SMALL UPDATE THAT COULD POTENTIALLY SAVE MY COMPUTER FROM ALL SORTS OF MALICIOUS SOFTWARE EVEN THOUGH I GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO DO THAT ANYWAY WHY

Seriously, I think the people complaining about this has their panties riding up too high in their rectums.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Jonty](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 07:33:13 GMT

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Whatever fix this is, it doesn't matter if it's good or not, it's the fact they have the potential. I've seen too many computers screwed up by Windows Update (take my mum's PC, an update made svchost crash every time it shut down) and now if I install a firewall I block any WU services from accessing the internet at all. What if Microsoft decides to install a program that buggers all pirate copies of Windows without the user knowing? Millions will be screwed. D:

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Speedy059](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 07:56:12 GMT

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I just had my computer automatically updated without my consent. I was in a middle of a couple projects and the next thing my Windows Vista machine restarts saying "Configuring Windows Updates". At first it scared me thinking that I just got a virus or something... What bothers me even more is that whatever they did isn't in my "Updates History" viewer...

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Xylaquin](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 07:58:24 GMT

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If you really don't like it, disconnect!

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Ghostshaw](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 09:01:32 GMT

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Windows update actually has to be enabled, but yes it will automatically install updates to the updater without notification even if you have select ask before installing/downloading.

-Ghost-

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [puddle\\_splasher](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 09:52:01 GMT

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Who is scared their porn collection will be found by Microsoft.

That's really why you don't want, someone snooping in the PC. Go on admit it. You know you want to.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [trooprm02](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 13:51:24 GMT

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Well, last year when I did do a reinstall of XP, I used a WGA crack to get all the windows update with my pirated version. I would then just use the custom option on windows update and always deselect any WGA update, but install the rest. Recently, you can't do that anymore, and it installs it whether you have it checked or not

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [sadukar09](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 13:54:05 GMT

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trooprm02 wrote on Sun, 16 September 2007 08:51 Well, last year when I did do a reinstall of XP, I used a WGA crack to get all the windows update with my pirated version. I would then just use the custom option on windows update and always deselect any WGA update, but install the rest. Recently, you can't do that anymore, and it installs it whether you have it checked or not

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 14:39:36 GMT

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trooprm02 wrote on Sun, 16 September 2007 14:51 Well, last year when I did do a reinstall of XP, I used a WGA crack to get all the windows update with my pirated version. I would then just use the custom option on windows update and always deselect any WGA update, but install the rest. Recently, you can't do that anymore, and it installs it whether you have it checked or not

Thats your problem. If you decide to install software illegally and it fucks up your computer then shame on you.

Edit: If you turn off auto update via the services (Disable the service) you won't get any updates. When I first got XP a few year ago I did what most people did and auto updated. Which totally fucked my computer. My computer would idle at 100%, the process that was using 100% was "System".

So after that, I read up about it and I was told to disable the service like many others have done.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems  
Posted by [sadukar09](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 14:48:49 GMT

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icedogWarez: This is a warez-free forum, and supports legitimate ownership of all games, software, music, movies, etc. Do not come here looking for CD/DVD images, serials, or any other form of warez.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems  
Posted by [cmatt42](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 16:10:19 GMT

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sadukar09 wrote on Sun, 16 September 2007 09:48icedogWarez: This is a warez-free forum, and supports legitimate ownership of all games, software, music, movies, etc. Do not come here looking for CD/DVD images, serials, or any other form of warez.

Right, but he's not looking for warez, so he's technically following the rules (even if his post is sketchy).

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems  
Posted by [Xylaquin](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 16:24:37 GMT

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Caveman wrote on Sun, 16 September 2007 15:39

Which totally fucked my computer. My computer would idle at 100%, the process that was using 100% was "System".

ISn't it suppose to do that? For example If I go to the Task Manager and click on the Process Tab and sort the Processess by Highest CPU usage, the system idle process will usually hover about 98 on Idle. I'd assume this is infact 98% of the current CPU load, since when I go to the

performance tab my cpu usage is around 2%.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 16:30:35 GMT

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No you're misunderstanding. I don't mean my "System Idle Process" I mean my "System" process would always be at 100%.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Viking](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 17:57:40 GMT

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Pirate windows 2000 like I did on my other computer!

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [trooprm02](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 18:20:14 GMT

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No need to fully disable it, XP is quite flexible, and I used a custom installer with shitloads of options, auto update off, but I still update ofcoure, no reason not too. No WGA stuff since 6months ago, so Ive been fine Tbh, Microsoft does a good overall job at keeping their stuff secure, Im sure people who paid for XP wouldn't agree, but with just windows update, the windows firewall, and a router, im running 100% atm

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [trooprm02](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 18:23:36 GMT

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No need to fully disable it, XP is quite flexible, and I used a custom installer with shitloads of options, auto update off, but I still update ofcoure, no reason not too. No WGA stuff since 6months ago, so Ive been fine Tbh, Microsoft does a good overall job at keeping their stuff secure, Im sure people who paid for XP wouldn't agree, but with just windows update, the windows firewall, and a router, im running 100% atm

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sun, 16 Sep 2007 23:00:44 GMT

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trooprm02 wrote on Sun, 16 September 2007 19:23No need to fully disable it, XP is quite flexible,

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and I used a custom installer with shitloads of options, auto update off, but I still update ofcourse, no reason not too. No WGA stuff since 6months ago, so Ive been fine Tbh, Microsoft does a good overall job at keeping their stuff secure, Im sure people who paid for XP wouldn't agree, but with just windows update, the windows firewall, and a router, im running 100% atm

Dude wtf are you talking about? If you don't disable it via the services, it will auto download and install shit you may not want. How is that flexible? Just because you used a 'custom installer' doesn't mean everyone else has. It doesn't really relate to this thread anyways. No reason not to update? Goes to show you really don't know Mircosoft that well. Let me guess you're the type of person to use MSN Live, huh?

Why would anyone want to use Windows Firewall? Thats like saying im using Norton because im cool and its has great virus/firewall protection.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 04:20:34 GMT

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No, not quite... Norton is quite a bit worse than Windows Firewall. If you disable Norton's firewall, it gives you a popup every few minutes or so reminding you that it isn't turned on- even if you shut down the software completely (or, at least, as completely as it will let you- some Norton processes can't be terminated without asking Norton first). Norton requires you to log into their service and verify your user privileges before you can uninstall their crap off of your computer- and then it might not uninstall all the way, leaving components behind until you can root out and eliminate any leftovers. Norton, these days, is (IMHO) a bit tougher than even AOL is to clean off of a system.

Windows Firewall at least buggers the hell off if you tell it to, even if it is a crappy substandard excuse for a "firewall" built into the OS which couldn't find its own ass with both hands and a searchlight, much less any threat to your system. If you believe yourself well-protected and you use anything built into a Microsoft OS for protection, you are a sadly deluded individual.

Myself, I use ZoneAlarm these days. It works, it doesn't bork up the system every time I disable it, and- best of all- it only asks for my permission to do things, not its vendor's. That's what I want software to do; I don't like to have anything less than 100% control over everything that happens on my system. Software that alters my startup options, or denies me permission to access my own files, or downloads crap from its vendor without my say-so, is simply not acceptable.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [jnz](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 17:01:09 GMT

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and since a few updates; Zone alarm == Norton.

but why do you want a firewall anyway?

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 17:06:38 GMT

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I rely on my router firewall, does ok.

Norton is very hard to remove. Repair install three times, several "Norton Removal Utilities" and still it is present. Grr. Reformat...

No, what I don't want is Microsoft installing stuff on my PC without me checking first, because previous updates from them have broken things, like my sound. I need control, or else, I lose my sound, or something like that.

(The last paragraph is aimed at Puddle, who seems to think the internet is for pron. Besides, anyone with any sense would use a Linux live CD, no record, spyware can't run on Linux (or most can't) and it's not permanant, anyway)

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [egg098](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 17:25:16 GMT

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You seriously didn't that Microsoft are able to do what they like do Windows when you run Windows Update (either automatically or via the site)? Though I'm curious no one's managed to hijack the Windows Update stuff before....publicly.

Also moaning about them forcing you to have the WGA tool installed is kind of stupid; they have a right to protect their software from being pirated. I'm hardly saying I'm goodie-twoshoes, but think of it like that. If they want to check you're not using a pirated version of Windows, then they can do it if they like. I would if it was my software.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 20:20:23 GMT

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Considering that WGA has already been cracked and the folks with pirated copies can therefore get away with it anyway... yes, there is a point to moaning about WGA, because although it is somewhat inconvenient for a pirate to find a way around it, it is possible to do so.

It is a stupid tool designed to do something which is not possible, and it serves only to inconvenience the people who bought their OS legally. I'll go right on moaning about it just as long as I damn well please to; you may feel free to take it up the ass every time MS decides it wants more DRM if that is your desire.



\*edit\* and that is my primary concern which arises from this shadow updating business- what if MS decides it wants to install more DRM measures on everyone's systems, just in case? What if, unlike WGAN, they actually do interfere with how you choose to use your computer- i.e. what programs you run, what files you modify, etc? What if you never knew they'd done it until you went and tried to do something you've done a hundred times before and some little message popped up telling you that it wasn't allowed anymore?

MS has come forward and stated that they only use their little backdoor to update Windows Update itself, but if they can use it to modify one set of files then they can most certainly modify more, and I don't have much faith in the whole "oh, they'd never try it" argument. Sony has done it already- even if they were ultimately shot down, many were affected before that happened- and MS is a lot bigger with a lot more to lose from piracy. Unless I get a written statement, legally binding, guaranteeing that MS won't use this backdoor in such a way, I as a consumer have no reason whatsoever to believe that they'll keep their word on this. Their stated position is current company policy; it may not reflect their policy three years or even three months down the road.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Romaner](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 21:57:04 GMT

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what if one day some dissatisfied microsoft employee decides he is going to use that back door to send a virus to every single microsoft user? right before he puts in his 2 weeks or runs off?

i mean whos is going to stop him then?

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Nightma12](#) on Tue, 18 Sep 2007 12:01:59 GMT

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then that person would probably get put into federal jail.....

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [egg098](#) on Tue, 18 Sep 2007 17:28:28 GMT

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I am completely anti-DRM in all aspects; if people buy something, they should be able to use it as they wish, the same as Steve Jobs said in his open letter a while back. This is why I use iTunes, but only because I have enough music that needs management like that and I hate WMP and Winamp, along with the interface being nice (ignoring the resource whoring). But I never buy music from iTunes - yes I use an iPod, but I don't want that DRM shit that comes with music from the iTunes Store. Software piracy doesn't come under DRM in my view.

The target of Microsoft's WGA/OGA isn't pirates who know how to get round it - they will always

be able to get round it and that's not going to change imminently. Microsoft targets consumer education, getting them to buy products from them instead of cheap copies, and statistics say it works (for the people they are targetting).

They will always be able to do anything they like to Windows - of course they have this in there. But they won't do anything more than updating the operating system. The EU fined them upwards of £300million just for "restricting" consumers to Microsoft software. Imagine what would happen if they were found to be in breach of privacy laws - it just wouldn't happen. This is why I'm alright with it. Yes, the method is wrong, but nothing bad happens, and no personally identifiable information about what you do/have on your computer is sent.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Carrierll](#) on Tue, 18 Sep 2007 19:19:07 GMT

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And if the update breaks my PC? It's possible, it's impossible to cater for every hardware/software situation.

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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Jonty](#) on Tue, 18 Sep 2007 21:16:59 GMT

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Well, there's always one way of solving the problem.

(Fine, I admit it, I did it because I love the wallpaper...)

#### File Attachments

1) [Screenshot.png](#), downloaded 61 times

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Microsoft targets consumer education, getting them to buy products from them instead of cheap copies, targetting).

They will always be able to do anything they like to Windows - of course they have this in there. But they system. The EU fined them upwards of £300million just for "restricting" consumers to Microsoft software. breach of privacy laws - it just wouldn't happen. This is why I'm alright with it. Yes, the method is wrong, information about what you do/have on your computer is sent.

[Updated on: Tue, 18 September 2007 18:32]

profile PM

Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems [message #284985]

CarrierII General (1 Star)

Messages: 1142  
Registered: February 2006  
Location: England

And if the update breaks my PC? It's possible, it's impossible to cater for every hardware/software situation

Renguard is a wonderful initiative  
THIS MESSAGE FOR HALL OF FAME  
(The Renegade-Wiki was hacked/spammed)

Spoony wrote on Wed, 15 August 2007 20:43

CarrierII wrote on Wed, 15 August 2007 07:37

Basically any photo was replaced with pr0n. It's weird seeing "Spoony's strategy guides they don't connect...

the irony is, pornography is a key part of my usual strategy on Canyon.

profile PM

Rate Topic

Done



Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Wed, 19 Sep 2007 21:59:19 GMT

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And for those of us who use the fake RAIDs for the heck of it and can't run Linux?

Nah, the moment I get another hard drive available, it's On with Linux, I'll have to get it really easy to use before the rest of the family will use it, they're all very non-PC confident.

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