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Professional Nerds

Confused about Conficker?

Here's how to protect yourself

The news media is making a big fuss about something called "Conficker" that's supposed to do something TOMORROW, April 1st (April Fool's Day!). In the media, bad news sells, but in my humble opinion, this story has been overblown considerably.

Not even the security experts know what Conficker (classified as a "worm") is supposed to do. Conficker-infected machines are waiting for the clock to turn over to April 1st, and then it has a list of 50,000 internet addresses it's supposed to "phone home" to for getting additional instructions. So, no one knows what will happen tomorrow (does this sound like the Y2K scare?). Because the Internet is global and the International Date Line is in the Pacific Ocean, it's **already** April 1 in Austrailia and New Zealand. So, if anything's going to happen, you'll hear about it *hours* before the clock strikes midnite tonight. You can check Google News (see links on right) for current news bulletins.

Net-net: Make sure you've applied all the updates from Microsoft (see link on the right), your security software is up to date, and it wouldn't hurt if you run a virus scan this evening (click to get security software updates before running a scan). If your security software has expired, uninstall it completely and restart your computer. AT&T Yahoo and Comcast subscribers can download free McAfee Internet Security which won't expire as you continue to be a subscriber (see links on the right).

The only dumb question is the one you DON'T ask, so please feel to reply or call. As always, your referrals are greatly appreciated!

Chris Novak, Owner
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Links

[Microsoft Windows Update](#)
[Google News about Conficker](#)
[International Date Line](#)
[AT&T free McAfee Internet Security](#)
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