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## F-Secure gets top marks for Anti-Virus by French Misc magazine

F-Secure, leader in antivirus and security software announced that its F-Secure Anti-Virus solution was selected 'as one of the best' in a comparative test of 12 antivirus solutions conducted and published in Misc magazine - a monthly magazine specialised in IT security.

Eric Filliol, of the Virology and Cryptology Laboratory of the School of Applications and Transmissions published the results of a comparative test of 12 antivirus solutions in Misc magazine entitled "Assessment of anti-virus solutions: when marketing goes against technology".

Mr Fillion took into account two types of analysis for the comparative test including a technical part and an assessment of the usability of the solutions. With the publication of this survey, Mr Filliol stated the case for F-Secure Anti-Virus 2005 accordingly: "A reference and certainly one of the best products. Available for several platforms (Windows, Linux, several models of mobile phones), this antivirus benefits from the know-how of one of the best teams in the world in the field of antiviruses," adding "The web site of this editor is without a doubt the most complete that you can find and is an invaluable help for the user. The quality of the specific cleaners of this company should be saluted. It's currently the only vendor to offer tools capable of managing certain rootkits thanks to the Blacklight application."

"This distinction, granted by an expert in the IT security sector, is for us acknowledgement of the expertise of F-Secure. Our objective is to always assure optimal protection for users, by protecting them from all threatening viruses," comments Alexandre Durante, General Manager of F-Secure France.

More information:

[http://www.f-secure.com/news/items/news\\_2006013100.shtml](http://www.f-secure.com/news/items/news_2006013100.shtml)

## Google Moves World

For more than two hundred years, since the time when John Harrison first built accurate chronometers, time and longitude have been measured from the Greenwich Meridian. Google Earth has shifted the Meridian by about 100 metres.

More information:

[http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/06/greenwich\\_meridian/](http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/06/greenwich_meridian/)

[http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/06/royal\\_observatory.kmz](http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/06/royal_observatory.kmz)

## BBC Ignorant About Viruses

Verity Stob, at The Register, reported on the poor quality of the BBC's revision website for secondary school students. However, Ms. Stob did not reveal the depths of errors in the section on viruses:

- First sentence, [first page](#): "A virus is simply a program designed to cause harm to someone else's computer." **Wrong!** A key attribute of a virus is the ability to replicate.
- [Second page](#): You can catch a virus by, "putting an infected floppy disk into your computer" – no requirement for executing a program from the floppy (e.g. by booting from the disc, or loading a document with an auto-macro)?
- Or by, "obtaining software from an unreliable source". You know it was an unreliable source when you realise you got a virus from it!
- I hope it is not meant to be a comprehensive list... is inserting CD-ROMs, or USB storage devices safe?
- [Third page](#), preventing viruses: "not allowing other users to use their own floppy disks on your system", so lending them your disks, to transfer the files, is OK? Anyway, giving advice that you know cannot be reasonably followed is pointless. We use computers to cooperate and share information; indiscriminate restrictions are not useful.
- And, "only downloading files from reputable Internet sites", and, "avoiding software from unreliable sources". Again, the difficulty is knowing whether the site was reputable, or the source reliable in advance.
- And, "backing up data regularly". No, backups do not help to prevent viruses at all; they can help in recovering from the effects of viruses. However, they can also help to reintroduce a virus that had been eliminated.
- [Fourth page](#), viruses and the law: "Writing a virus or deliberately spreading one is illegal." **Wrong!** Writing a virus is not illegal, and The Computer Misuse Act (1990) does not specifically mention or define viruses. Altering programs or data without permission is illegal, so spreading a virus is a crime.
- [Seventh page](#), the glossary: "crashing memory: A serious computer failure. The computer itself stops working or a program aborts unexpectedly." No. Crashing memory: A vague term used by people who don't know what is going on.
- Also, "virus: A virus is programming code which spreads from computer to computer causing damage to the computer and/or software." Oh, the definition has changed from the first page... and at least the word "spreads" is in there, but still not accurate.
- [The test](#): Ms. Stob points out the problem with question 2, but what is question 4 doing there at all? It has no relevance to viruses.

More information:

[http://www.regdeveloper.co.uk/2006/02/06/bitesize\\_gcse/](http://www.regdeveloper.co.uk/2006/02/06/bitesize_gcse/)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ict/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ict/legal/3virusesrev1.shtml>

## Charging for Email

AOL and Yahoo are introducing a scheme whereby businesses can pay to bypass the companies' anti-spam filters. Companies must adhere to a code of practise to send "business class" mail. Is this an effective way to control spam and phishing, or the start of a twotier Internet?

More information:

[http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/06/aol\\_yahoo\\_charge\\_emails/](http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/06/aol_yahoo_charge_emails/)

## ActiveState Resumes Independence

Almost two and a half years after acquiring ActiveState, Sophos has sold it to ActiveState Software Inc., a new company jointly owned by the employees of ActiveState and Pender Financial Group Corporation. Sophos is retaining the anti-spam technology, and ActiveState is continuing to provide tools and services for dynamic languages: the Perl Dev Kit and the Komodo integrated development environment (IDE) for PHP, Python, Ruby and Tcl, which runs on Linux, Mac OS X, Solaris and Windows. ActiveState also helped maintain the open source language pool with its ActivePerl, ActivePython and ActiveTcl..

More information:

[http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/17/activestate\\_spin\\_out/](http://www.theregister.com/2006/02/17/activestate_spin_out/)

<http://www.activestate.com/Corporate/Communications/Releases/Press1140209595.html>

[http://news.zdnet.com/2100-1009\\_22-5081493.html](http://news.zdnet.com/2100-1009_22-5081493.html)



Suite C & D, 8/F, Yally Industrial Building  
6 Yip Fat Street, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong  
Tel: 2555 0209 Fax: 28736164  
E-mail: [info@yuikce.com.hk](mailto:info@yuikce.com.hk)  
<http://www.yuikce.com.hk/computer/>

<http://www.yuikee.com.hk/>

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