

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This is a follow up to last month's question.

I hope that none of you were stung by the Blaster Worm that sent around the week of Aug. 11. Hopefully, you took my advice from last month and updated Windows. This virus attack shows how important it is to keep the operating system up-to-date and to have a good anti-virus program. It also shows that having a good firewall can also stop some of these attacks. Microsoft is trying hard to patch security holes in their software. In fact, they have decided to change Windows XP so that it installs with its Internet Connection Firewall enabled. While this will make the computer safer, it will be a frustration to some internet users.

When you go to download and install updates from Microsoft you should read and understand what each update does. Since some of these updates are security related, you may find that Windows or some of Microsoft's applications will operate differently. The most noticeable changes are that you won't be able to do something that you use to do. Most of these security updates have workarounds or settings that can be changed with the user acknowledging the lowering of security if made. Should you have any questions about any of Microsoft's updates, please feel free to contact me.

I would like to offer all members a notification service for Microsoft Security Updates. I am emailed these notices from Microsoft and I would be happy to setup an email distribution list of members who would like to be notified of these updates. If you would like to be on the list, please email at meggert@wi.rr.com and let me know you'd like to be on the list.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer to, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.