

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

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. Following up on last month's article this month I've found some interesting predictions for 2005 for the computer world.

The editor of the Security Pipeline Newsletter has made the following six predictions for this year.

1. There will be no outstanding viruses in 2005. They're just routine now. In 2003, there was intense interest in MyDoom, Sobig and other viruses. 2004 saw a flurry of interesting viruses in the spring. But they all just kind of blur together now. They're constant, like kids knocking over mailboxes in the suburbs. None of them stand out as special or unique.
2. Spam volumes will increase, but we'll see a solution for spam. I don't know what it is, but it will combine new technology and legal weapons to go after spammers and diminish the flow of junk to a trickle. At least 7 percent of Internet users will be using this new technology by a year from now. The rest of us will see more spam than ever.
3. There will be no cyberterrorism. Ever. Cyberterrorism is a joke. The primary purpose of terrorism is to terrify. Literally terrify: to put the enemy in fear of death, disfigurement, or great pain. You can't do that with a computer, you need older technology to do that: bombs and guns, for instance.
4. On the other hand, we will see at least one significant politically motivated attack on U.S. computer and network infrastructure. The attack will be designed to cause economic and political, rather than psychological damage.
5. No progress will be made on the front of peer-to-peer networks, file-sharing, digital rights management, and copyright. Entertainment companies will continue to try to copyright every scrap of original thought that has ever existed anywhere in the universe, from the dawn of time until right this second. Pirates will continue to try to steal every new movie, song, and TV show, before it's legally released.
6. We won't see any realistic threat from viruses on cell phones or handheld devices. None. Zero. Zip. Nada. Nil. The empty set. Nothing. As empty as Paris Hilton's bookshelf, or Michael Moore's vegetable drawer, or Ashlee Simpson's musical talent. Just ain't going to happen.

It will be interesting to watch these predictions this year. I really hope he's right on all of these!

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address

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