

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

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. In the next two articles, we'll take a look at the top ten security issues with your computer. I found them in an article by Neil Rubenking in the April 10th, 2007 issue of PC Magazine.

We'll cover them in the stylish reverse order. Here are the first five:

10. **Spam Mail** – While it's annoying, it's not a security threat unless it comes with a malicious payload. Your email service may filter out spam automatically. If not, Outlook's built-in "Junk E-Mail" filter is as effective as the spam protection in many suites.
9. **Phishing Mail** – Phishing messages pretend to be from eBay, PayPal, your bank, or the like. If you log in to their fake sites, they'll steal your username and password and you're sunk. However, both IE7 and Firefox 2 have phishing detection built in.
8. **Wireless Attack** – If you're not careful, anybody in range can mooch bandwidth from your wireless network and can rummage through your files, because they're inside your network. Your router's WPA/WEP encryption can stop the mooching – but you have to use it.
7. **Hacker Attack** – Hackers don't care about your puny computer enough to attack it directly. They might broadcast a network virus or release a Trojan, but a personal attack is highly unlikely. Your security suite's firewall and malware protection should keep you safe.
6. **Web Exploits** – Some Web sites include malicious code to exploit vulnerabilities in your browser or operating system. Just visiting the site can infect or damage your system if the vulnerability hasn't been patched, so keep Automatic Updates on.

Stay tuned for next month's article that will cover second five issues.

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 is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.