Announcements

Project 3a due Friday -- eSubmit set up ASAP

Computers & Society

Computers long ago entered our social world ... they can be used crudely or skillfully

The Problem With Email

Email is part of our lives ... but it’s not good for everything

- Poor for emotion, alternating interactions, most broadcast, sarcasm, ...

Email has (n)etiquette

- 1 topic messages; include context w/ reply
- Use ‘vacation’ auto-reply
- Answer aging email in reverse arrival order
- Get sender’s permission before forwarding

Virus And Worms

A virus embeds in SW & travels with it, worms move around net on their own

- Both can do damage like erasing your files or taking information, but they may not
- Best defense is practicing “safe” computing
- All computers should have virus protection software -- many vendors

Users are responsible for protecting your computer!

Example: Melissa

Melissa virus (Friday 3/26/99) embeds in MS Word docs attached to email

From: <name of infected user>
To: <L name from infected user’s email address book>
Subject: Important Message From <infected user>

Here is that document you asked for ... don’t show anyone else ;)

Attachment: LIST.DOC - Kill out there!

Would this make sense coming from a friend?

What Happens w/Melissa

When users open the attachment, initializing code runs (often macros)

- That code is the virus and can do harm or setup to do harm
- It also propagates itself, e.g. getting the email address book and sending copies of itself to those people

David L Smith pleaded guilty to spreading and propagating Melissa
Be Cautious

Viruses/worms are serious, be cautious
- Have virus software running on any machine connected to the Internet
- Don’t be “trigger happy” at opening attachments
- Be careful where you get your SW from!
  - Commercial SW, Shareware, Freeware
- Keep your files “backed up”
- Be alert to “phony” viruses

Expect The Unexpected

Be alert for odd behavior, weird events ...
... think about it, “What’s happenin’?”
[It’s hard to teach/learn this topic]
- In physical world, many cues alert us, but for synthetic world of it, we must use reasoning
- When something is odd, can you explain it?
- Even if you can’t, does your understanding of it suggest some action?

Copyright

Basic facts about copyright
- Since 1989 the © has not been needed
- Creating “intellectual property” automatically creates a copyright
- Most information is owned by someone, but if you get a copy legally you can use it personally-read it, play it, etc. - but no copy
- “Fair Use” allows copying for “socially valuable purposes,” like reviews, education

Hard Facts About SW

It is virtually impossible to create bug-free software
- Software engineers know this (better than anyone) and make huge efforts to write quality programs and test them carefully
- Expect quality, but be alert for bugs
- Try other products if bugs/errors numerous
- Be wary of SW in “safety critical” situations

* Uncertain... eat dessert first!