

Re: Which Red Hat version?

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/linux.redhat/2004-05/0194.html>

From: Steve Schreiber (*sschreibATTmagmaDOTTca*)

Date: 05/06/04

Date: Thu, 06 May 2004 07:55:44 -0400

Jacob Heider wrote:

> *On Thu, 6 May 2004 00:38:47 -0600, a posting issued forth from Mark A...*

>

<snip>

>> *You are comparing the cost of Windows vs RH. With the new \$60 per year*

>> *service charge, the cost is similar. When someone decides to write a RH*

>> *virus, watch out because all hell will break loose and the fix may not come*

>> *in time to avoid disaster.*

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> *How do you think someone can write a "RH virus"? What are they going to*

> *exploit? We have all the source. Do you ever look at the exploits that*

> *fixed by new releases. *I'm* always seeing things like "if someone has*

> *access to the system, then there is a theoretical set of input which*

> *could give them root access". I'm intensely skeptical that there will*

> *ever be a "linux virus" in the way there are "windows virii", due to the*

> *massively different security model (bug-hunting vs. bug-hiding).*

>

<snip>

Hey,

While a 'RH virus' (Linux more specifically) is not impossible, a widespread email virus is extremely unlikely. Which email client will the person write for? Evolution? Mozilla? Pine? It is to diverse to be effective. If the exploit can no 'execute automatically' like some do for Outlook/IE, the user must DL the attachment, change the permissions, and then execute. Even that being the case, what's the worst that happens? Your home directory gets altered/deleted and chances are the system would not be root compromised (again, not impossible, but unlikely.). From what I have read about all the Windows world virus/exploits, I am in the camp that believes that it would never get that bad when (not 'if) Linux has an equal share of numbers.

As the the speed of community delivery: We have been watching this at work for some time now, and the community generally provides fixes

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within a few days. Microsoft on the other hand 'waits' to release a monster patch to make it easier for customers, in turn leaving them wide open during this period. Microsoft still has exploits that have not yet seen a fix ('shatter' comes to mind...), and we are talking from Win95 on. How is that for security? My money is on the OSS community, as individuals will/would not tolerate this, everything is fixed, fixed well, and fixed fast.

S.

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--> GNU/Linux is user friendly... it's just picky about its friends.