



HYPERLINKED CONTENTS

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Welcome to Issue 5!

This is our most image-rich issue yet, thanks to Br. Florian, Sydney (photos of the IT retreat), Br. Sanath, KL (photos of the Malaysian website launch) & Br. Stas, Russia (humourous photos). Of course, *CONNECTIONS* wouldn't even exist without the reports submitted by our brothers and sisters heading the IT projects. Thanks to all for the invaluable work you are doing!

Appreciations are also due those of you, too numerous to mention, who have supplied jokes, cartoons and other materials. Special thanks to Br. Mario Reyes for enhancing the layout.

We are also grateful to those who provide encouraging feedback and constructive suggestions. Thank you so much for your enthusiastic support! *Editor* ☞

Note: Contents, URLs and email addresses are hyperlinked. Italicised words in red are linked to page 16 (Glossary).

Greetings of love to all readers,

Today's advanced technologies keep us well-connected. The world today is truly like a Global Village. Whether it's good news or bad, it's shared throughout the world within seconds.

The most important need of the hour, however, is to be *spiritually* well-connected—with God as well as amongst souls. We receive from God and share with others. These connections help us keep moving in very positive directions.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the IT community for using their valuable time, energy and other resources for world service, and for making these resources available to the global family.

Thinking, planning and working together creates harmony. It is also

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Divine greetings to all readers and a hearty welcome to those of you attending the March IT meetings.

IT continues to grow in all areas of Baba's service. I feel Baba's IT children have major parts in establishing our divine future and will play major roles in managing the Golden Age.

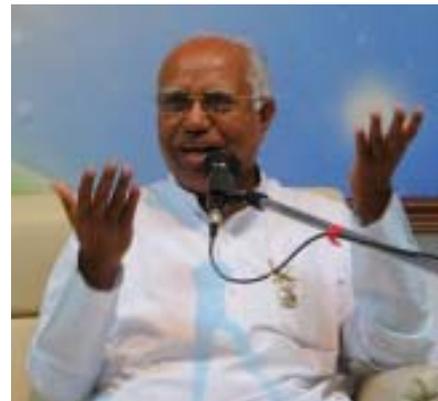
Both we yogis and those connected through IT receive 'first alerts' of everything. And when upheavals in the world prevent people from physically moving



a good way to use individual specialties for a collective purpose. A 'big heart' and generosity are the two most important qualities in making this work successful.

I wish everyone a very happy and meaningful year. With blessings, everything will move ahead free from obstacles. We must just keep serving.

With Love, Sister Mohini ☞



from place to place, IT and our pure, elevated connection through yoga will still be there as the last means of communication. Thanks to Baba, BK Karuna ☞

IT Retreat Shantivan, October 2006

The 4-day October IT Retreat was held in Hall 85 of Shantivan. It drew 80+ participants from 16 countries.

The first day consisted primarily of meetings with RTCs. Registration took place in the afternoon and there was an Iwebsite briefing session in the evening.

The next two days were devoted to project-specific sessions. A major focus was the Iwebsite country model. Various aspects of the model were presented (content, design, HTML & Plone, Editorial Interface, Registration System). Then the group subdivided country-wise and, with the help of Iwebsite team members, initiated the process of

understanding how to re-develop their country site within the international framework.

As in previous retreats, an IT Marketplace displaying many global IT projects was held during the afternoons so that centre coordinators and other interested Baba's children could get first-hand experience of how these projects will aid service efficiency and expansion.

Highlights of the retreat included visits by Sr. Mohini, Karunabhai and Dadi Janki. Everyone also appreciated Br. Yashawant's making the impossible possible by providing needed technical facilities and Br. Shantanu's attention to providing

cool and delicious refreshments. Perhaps you can catch the flavor of dedication and enthusiasm that permeated the retreat through the photos below and on the next pages, supplied by Br. Florian of Sydney. ☺



Sr. Mohini and Karunabhai provide direction and support under Baba's benevolent gaze.



Participants in the October 2006 Global IT Retreat in Shantivan



Participants listen attentively as Sr. Vasanti explains the country website model



USA and Canadian participants, joined by Sr. Denise, begin to plan their country models.



Brs. Jaydev and Anand using humor to get weighty concepts across lightly.



Br. Sasha describing the template structure of our various website levels.



IT meetings are a lot of fun!



Br. Gil demonstrating LDAP



Br. Florian explaining Blogs & Podcasting



marketplace



Sr. Vasanti showing how country websites will reflect the branding of the international website.



Br. Ajay (3rd from left) answers questions about eLearning while Br. Karuna (left), also on the eLearning team, looks on.



Br. Anand explaining the service being done in India through GSM.

Retreat Treats



Sr. Denise translating Dadi Janki's words of inspiration and encouragement



Br. Gil providing a memorable moment of uplifting music.



Br. Jeff and Sr. Sandhaya enjoying refreshments provided by Madhuban & Shantivan niwassis.

Help the Yagya, Serve the World, Create Your Fortune!

The Global IT Team is recruiting volunteers: IT professionals, writers, editors and researchers interested in ways to increase Godly fortune.

It goes without saying that the benefits are unlimited, the blessings multimillionfold and return on your investment of time and energy is out of this world!

BABA WANTS YOU!

If you have deep love for the Yagya, maintain a balanced lifestyle, are reliable and a self-starter; if you can work individually or in teams, please email us at it@bkinfo.net and let us know your skills and availability.

SKILLS NEEDED

Analysis & technical design: databases and other systems including websites/web applications.

Content writing & editing: journalism background preferred.

Content Management Systems (CMS): Zope/Plone* especially.

Database development: Postgress* or other mainstream development experience (not MS Access).

Generic research: Google search & RSS.

Programming: Ruby on Rails*, Python*, Shell scripting, cross browser support (development on Firefox* that supports IE* and Safari*).

Project management and leadership: 5 to 6 years experience in the listed areas.

System administrator expertise: data centre management.

Web design: Photoshop*, stylesheets.

Web scripting: animation artists/designers (skilled in Flash*), HTML, XHTML with CSS, Java.☞

*Company and product names used in this newsletter are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Current Project Updates

IWebsite Update

The second phase in the IWebsite project has consisted of 3 major tasks: enhancing the international website, developing a model for country websites, and developing a model for retreat centre websites.

IWebsite Enhancement

A number of enhancements have been made to the International website. Of major interest to most of you is the activation of the 'News and Media' section, where various 'gyani' articles are continually being uploaded. Another main focus has been the translation of the entire site into various languages. Currently 6 languages are live and 5 other translators are in the process of uploading their translated text.

Country Websites

A major milestone occurred in early August 2006 when the UK website went live (please see screen shot opposite and <http://www.bkwsu.org/uk>). Adopting the branding and standardisation parameters of the International site while sporting its own unique design, it established the framework for development of all other country level websites. The advantages of other countries using the same framework are that overall development and maintenance time are reduced, and above all, common content is able to be

shared across the world without duplication.

The model is already facilitating rapid development of other official BKWSU country websites. The first country to rise to the challenge of re-developing their website according to the model was Malaysia (next article). The creation of the new Malaysian website was invaluable in highlighting areas of the model that needed fine tuning to make it even more portable. At this point 15 other countries are racing to adopt the model, so by the next issue of *CONNECTIONS* there will definitely be more news in this area.

Retreat Websites

Understanding and appreciating the difference in the requirements of retreat centre websites, the team worked closely with Peace Village to create their new website, which launched on 18th January, 2007 (please visit www.peacevillage.com). As with country websites, the Peace Village website is a model that defines the standards that all other retreat centres will follow. Though the designs of the various retreat sites will likely be quite different, the backend engine and interface will be the same. Global Retreat Centre, Oxford has already begun to move its website onto the new model.

Reported by Sr. Vasanti, UK 🐣

Malaysia Site Launch

At last the day for which the Malaysian BK family had been waiting for arrived. It was a moment of joy and pride. It was the launching of the Malaysian BK Website (please see opposite page and visit <http://bkwsu.org/my>).

This auspicious event took place on the 21st January, 2007 at Harmony House, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. Br. Karuna of Madhuban had been especially invited for the launch, which was witnessed by more than 200 of Baba's children.

The website team of eleven BKs, comprising smaller technical, design and editorial teams, worked against many odds to complete the project according to schedule. However, special thanks goes to the international IT team, particularly Sr. Vasanti, Br. Jaydev, Br. Sasha and Br. Shashin, who provided much needed support and assistance. The team would also like to acknowledge Brs. Letchu and Peru for their relentless commitment to the project, and Sr. Julie, who headed the design team, for her tireless and meticulous efforts. Finally, our utmost appreciation is extended to BapDada, who continues to be the key support in making the project a success.

Instead of resting on its laurels, the Malaysian Website team has already had a 'post-mortem' meeting and further improvements are definitely on the way. *Reported by Br. Sanath, KL* 🐣



Screen shot of the UK home page.

Br. Sanath demonstrating the Malaysian website at its Kuala Lumpur launch.



Screen shot of the Malaysian home page. Based on the structure of the UK site above, it has its own unique flavor and style. Even the banner images are unique to the country.



Br. Letchu presenting a gift to Br. Karuna at the Malaysian website launch.

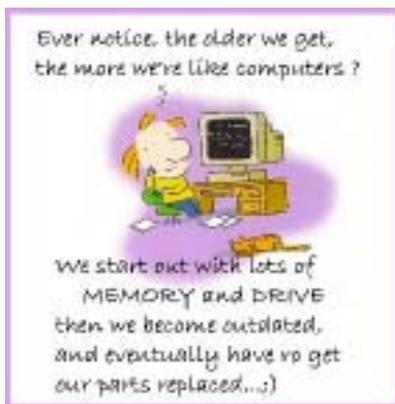


Screen shot of the Peace Village Retreat Centre home page.

Inbound Linking Campaign

In our March 2006 issue we introduced you to the concept of Inbound Linking (sometimes known as back links), and in our last issue, we described our Inbound Linking Campaign. (For those of you who missed it, an 'inbound link' consists of a word or words (such as meditation or positive thinking) that is/are hyperlinked and, when clicked on, will launch a target web page, in this case our IWebsite.)

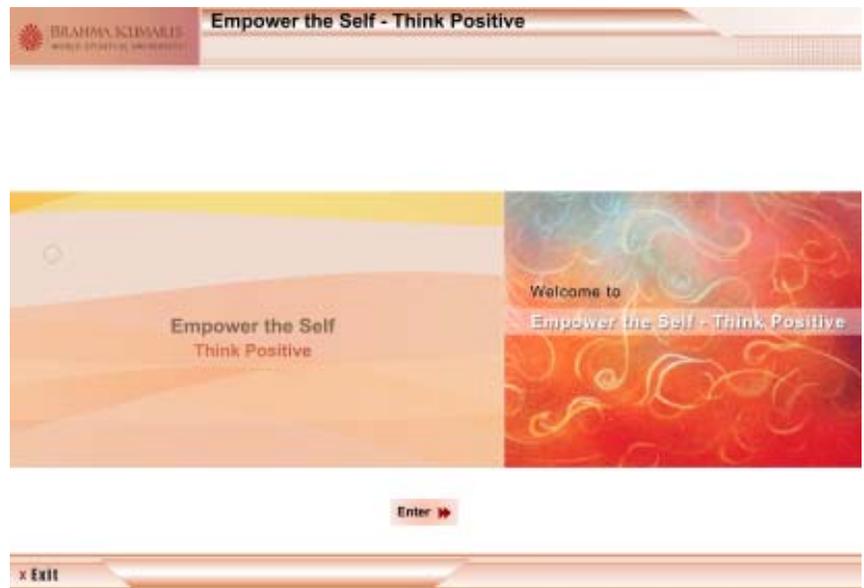
Our campaign is actively seeking your help in adding such links to your centre's website or even to your personal sites or blogs and we're making it very easy for you to do this. You or your web master just need(s) to copy and paste some already prepared code into the code of your web page(s). The code and further instructions are available on the Iwebsite http://www.bkwsu.org/link_to_us.html. With your help we will surely "bring Baba's web sites to the pinnacle of visibility in cyber space, like a lighthouse in the darkness". *Reported by Br. Jeff, Australia*



eLearning Update

The eLearning project was initiated last year in order to make our courses available to a wider audience. The Positive Thinking Course was selected as the first one to make available, since we already have a formalised structure for this course, originally developed by Mike George. Team members are scattered across the four continents, so course

development has had some interesting challenges. However, with dedicated efforts, and working within the confines of technology, the team has managed to complete the modules and will be ready to pilot the course shortly. A brief demonstration of this first eLearning course will be given to the NCO's during the March NCO retreat. *Reported by Sr. Pratiba, South Africa*



Screen shot for the welcome page of the Positive Thinking elearning course

Global Image

The Global Image project was conceptualized last year as a means of arriving at a consistent brand image of the Brahma Kumaris across the Yagya. As part of the first phase, some of the best practice and high quality content materials for fliers, brochures, visiting cards, letterheads etc. have been collected from different regions around the world and some templates were prepared for the same.

With some design changes and addition of new templates, it will now be possible to easily merge custom text and graphics into these templates so that most of the best practice material can be easily used anywhere in the world. The project was demo'd at the recent RCO meeting by Br. Anthony (Canada) and the inputs will be taken for further action. *Reported by Brs. Ajay, India & Sasha, Israel*

Murli Roll-out

The Murli roll-out is going well. Russia has recently rolled out and in Europe the remaining countries are now rolling out. Even though there are a few instances where people still experience problems, many problems have been solved in the last few months. In the coming months we will address the remaining few issues and tighten security. Then we will focus on improving the translation aspect and begin rolling that aspect out to the translators.

The new system has increased security and allows authorisation for Murli access to happen at a regional level, rather than through London. In addition it will provide separate downloads for such things as blessings and slogans, Murli notices, address lists etc.

A Murli notice was included in the Murli pack dated 26/02/07-04/03/07. It stated that the old Murli system will be closed down by the end of April 2007, by which time centres will need to have moved onto the new system and be fully functional. Invitations to register for access to the new system will soon be sent to centres not yet registered. They will be encouraged to register immediately and begin using the new system as soon as possible, so that the team can ensure that all minor issues are sorted out by the end of April and the transition is as smooth as possible.

If you need any further help please contact your regional IT Murli Support Team (see box to the right). *Reported by Br. Allan, UK* 🐦

Madhuban Projects

A new project was formed last year for updating the accommodation software system in Madhuban and helping it go live on all the campuses. Requirements have been gathered from all the stakeholders and design is in progress. The project will be implemented on a new platform called 'Ruby on Rails'. The proof of concept for the project has been completed and will be demo'd during the IT meeting in March.

A preliminary study was done for 10 departments as part of an effort to gather IT requirements for Madhuban. The report has been submitted to the RCOs and Madhuban senior brothers for their feedback and will be discussed during the IT meeting in March.

The network infrastructure updates and internet access allocations at the various campuses are in progress. An optic fiber network has been setup for Shantivan. *Reported by Brs. Ajay, India & Sasha, Israel* 🐦

VoIP Update

The internet-based free telephone service known as VoIP has become a popular mode of communication among the BK centers around the globe. The Yagya has saved thousands of dollars in communication costs since adopting this technology in 2005. Recently over 100 VoIP units were disbursed to every region during the October IT meeting, bringing to over 800 the number of locations that can be reached via VoIP. These include all three campuses in Madhuban, all RCOs and most NCOs. A VoIP international phone directory can be found at www.bkinfo.net/VoIP.

Henceforth, individual regions will be responsible for acquiring new VoIP units. Our standard Handytone ATA-286 model is widely available via internet retailers and eBay in most regions. Each unit costs around US\$55. Once purchased, the center must send an email request to voip@bkinfo.net for a phone number and a password, which need to be programmed into the VoIP unit. Detailed instructions are available at www.bkinfo.net/VoIP. Please note the VoIP system requires high-speed internet service (such as DSL). *Reported by Br. Janardhan, USA* 🐦

Regional IT Murli Support Team Contact Details

Americas	murli-support@ame.bkwsu.org
Europe and Middle East	murli-support@eur.bkwsu.org
Africa	murli-support@afr.bkwsu.org
Asia Pacific	murli-support@aus.bkwsu.org
Russia	murli-support@rus.bkwsu.org
India	murli-support@in.bkwsu.org

Global Sync Yoga

The global synchronized yoga sessions continue to be held every Saturday at two different times (morning and evening GMT). These are held using Skype text chat conferences and contain 8-10 extracts from Avyakt Murlis and relevant practice drills. These powerful sessions are a great example of using technology for global service through yoga power. Any Global IT team member can join these sessions by sending a request to it@bkinfo.net.

Reported by Br. Ajay, India 🌀

Techwatch

The technology watch project came into being a couple of years ago with the intent of monitoring technology development around the world and using it for the benefit of the Yagya.

There has not been much activity on this project over the last few months although it had previously contributed several project proposals, some of which are currently in various stages of implementation.

Anyone who has good internet access, an eye for seeing technology development in the world and a desire to tap into that for serving the Yagya in a better way, is most welcome to volunteer. Any questions can be sent to it@bkinfo.net. Reported by Br. Ajay, India 🌀

IT SERVICE NEWS FROM INDIA

Reported by Br. Karuna, Shantivan

IPDISH-TV alias OMSHANTI-TV

The year 2007 has begun with an IT revolution for BK centres in India. More than 200 main centres have been connected to Shantivan as a "Close Users Group" via Satellite. All of Baba's programmes are being directly telecast to these centres. For more information, and to learn which centres already are enjoying this facility, please visit www.ipdishtv.com.

Baba On Line (BOL)

Centres outside India have seen an improvement in the BOL transmissions as a result of new technology in Madhuban complexes to enhance internet connectivity. Thanks to IPDISH-TV, this is the first season Baba's children in India have seen BapDada speaking to them. It has been made possible through the latest digital technology available in India. The bandwidth used to broadcast BOL is now 512Kbps. For more information on BOL, please visit www.bkcom.net.

Short Message Service (SMS)

More than 55,000 SMS messages of Baba's knowledge are being sent every day morning to mobile phones. Please visit www.bkgsm.org.

Thought for Today

More than 10,000 Thought for Today emails are sent daily through rosary groups.

India's Country Website

We are receiving nearly 5 million hits every month. This is really a miracle of Baba. www.brahmakumaris.com.

The Hyderabad Team

Brother Bala reports that since the last IT meeting, training has been the primary focus in Hyderabad. One more brother, trained in PHP & Perl as a part of the Global IT team, has been placed in the industry. The initial version of Shanti Sarovar's website will be unveiled during the March IT meeting. Design and development for Madhuban's accommodation project has begun. The majority of articles uploaded to the 'Articles' section of the international website (www.bkwsu.org/news-and-media/articles) have been digitized by several mothers and other members of the Hyderabad IT team. 🌀

*“Through your work,
everyone becomes
happy with the news
they receive from you,
because this is
a family, and there is
happiness on
receiving news
from the family.”*
—Bapdada,
10/31/06



Just be there

by Br. Bala, India

When you sit in front of Baba to meet Him,
Don't worry about the wrong doings in the past
Or have un-necessary expectations about future
“I did not / could not do my last year's home work...
Can i do it this year?”
No such questions / doubts—
Just be there.

He'll fill you with whatever you need.
He is fully there for you. Just for you.
He says “You are mine, I love you for what you are—
Not for what you should have / could have done.”
No more, no less—
Just be there.

Past is gone, future is yet to come,
So why worry about ‘your worthiness’ or ‘unworthiness’?
He is willing to give to you.
Don't obstruct the flow with your own doubts.
He never, never, never doubts your worthiness.
He is always there to give to you—
Just be there.

You'll get it all and in full.
You are worthy in his eyes at all times and in all states,
So don't worry.
He is always there for you. Just for you.
Just be there.
He'll fill your apron with what all you'll ever need
Just be there.

Guilt, fear, doubt, worthless feelings, inferiority...
Have no place in front of Him.
You are all His and He is all yours—
Just be there.
He came all the way just for you,
So just be there.
That's all He expects from you—
Just be there.
He doesn't want anything from you,
So don't worry about having to give Him something.
Remember He has come to give you,
Not just something,
But everything you'll ever need.
So to receive all that fully
Just be there.
You'll get everything fully and successfully—
Just be there.

Don't worry about last year's homework
Or this year's work to come—
Just be there.
He is not a whip-wielding teacher.
He is your sweet father...
So just be there.
He does not ask your progress report
Because He doesn't need it.
Just be there.
FOR GOD'S SAKE JUST BE THERE!

New Project

The Human Greatness Project

“Celebrating Human Greatness” is an initiative to commemorate the Brahma Kumaris’ 30th anniversary in the USA. The intention of this initiative is to introduce the 50 largest USA cities to the BKs. The approach being taken is to gather groups of community leaders in selected cities and engage them in reflecting on the intrinsic qualities that make up human greatness and in conversing about moments of greatness in their lives.

The initiative was launched on January 25th in New Orleans, the city devastated in August 2005 by hurricane Katrina. The storm reduced the population of the city (nearly half a million) by 50%. The countless stories of individuals who emerged their greatness to help restore the community made New Orleans a fitting place for the project’s first two events. Both were wonderful successes, generating great appreciation and interest on the part of New Orleans residents, and enthusiasm in the BK family to continue service there.

Members of the USA IT team are playing a big part in the project. Webcasts of the launch events drew 90 connections over two days. The team plans webcasts for all the events as they occur over the next year, and are also looking to implement some of the latest *social software* technology on the website.

For more information about Celebrating Human Greatness visit (www.humangreatness.org) and/or email: info@humangreatness.org. Reported by Br. Janardhan, USA 🐞



Screenshot of the Human Greatness Website

Bro. Paritosh Pandya from Houma, Louisiana USA, webcasting the Human Greatness Project



Sr. Mohini addressing attendees during the launch of the Human Greatness project at La Boucherie Coffee House in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Sr. Rita Cleary (left), MC for the event, enjoys listening.



*First they ignore you,
then they laugh at you, then
they fight you,
then you win.
—Mohandas Gandhi*

Mathematical Certainty

What equals 100%?

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about achieving 101%?

What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

If: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then: H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$

and K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$

But, A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$

AND, look how far the love of God will take you

L-O-V-E- O-F- G-O-D

$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101\%$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While **hard work** and **knowledge** will get you close, and **attitude** will get you there,
it's the **Love of God** that will put you over the top!

SAFE COMPUTING

Spyware: Be Aware & Beware — Part II

Submitted by Br. Amrinder, Mauritius

In CONNECTIONS 4, Br. Amrinder educated us about the nature of spyware, how it can infect our personal computers and what it does. In the following article written in July 2004 by Jack M. Germain of TechNewsWorld (<http://www.macnewsworld.com/story/35125.html>), you will become aware of the chilling implications for networks and organisations. Although 'Spy Sweeper Enterprise', the solution touted by the article, is still available, Br. Amrinder recommends the enterprise version of Ad-Aware (see note at article end).

IT Issues Worsen

Spyware has proliferated across consumers' computers to the point that it is the number one cause of complaints at technical support centres for computer manufacturers. The spyware problem is spreading quickly to the enterprise level, consuming hundreds of hours of work by IT staff members to find and remove it.

At this level, spyware intrusion has the ability to cause damage that is exponentially greater. *Identity theft* at a personal level is bad. But theft of corporate data and IP bandwidth can devastate a company.

But the options to fight it are few. "There is a very limited number of anti-spyware products aimed



exclusively at enterprise needs," Webroot's CEO David Moll told TechNewsWorld.

Given the number of workstations in an enterprise setting, dealing with the side effects of spyware poses monumental problems. The number one cause of system crashes is spyware, Moss said. The computing habits of employees result in the continual introduction of spyware to corporate networks.

Finding all the places on a hard drive where spyware hides is time-consuming. Virus infections are much more focused. Like virus scanners, spyware detection relies on cross-checking signature patterns against a database. But unlike viruses, spyware scatters its components much more extensively throughout a hard drive.

"The key element is the quantity of research required to update signature databases," Moll told TechNewsWorld, adding that some spyware programs change signatures on a daily basis. "Spyware components can separate into 25,000 parts of files."

Latest Solution

As Webroot's Moll sees it, spyware is to the Internet as spam is to e-mail. "Spyware is not about to go away soon. The financial market is backing it," Moll said. "It is getting out of control."

The spyware problem is gaining on enterprise users because the corporate workplace is slow to respond, Moll concluded. "It will take us a while to see the spread of spyware in the wild start to slow down," he said.

The release in June of an enterprise version of Webroot's Spy Sweeper offers IT departments a way to fight back. The new product's client-server architecture provides centralized IT control with desktop agents that sweep for devious and malicious digital spies and eradicate them.

According to Moll, Spy Sweeper Enterprise enables corporations to detect and manage all forms of spyware. Spy Sweeper Enterprise helps companies mitigate spyware-related security risks, reduce mounting support requests and reestablish computing and network performance.

"It is no longer time- or cost-efficient to install anti-spyware products on individual computers in a corporate environment," Lee Kennedy, vice president of enterprise operations at Webroot, said in a prepared statement. "It is increasingly important to provide centralized protection from spyware before it has a chance to harm corporate environments and compromise network security."

How It Works

Spy Sweeper Enterprise detects and removes all forms of spyware, including adware, malware, Trojans, keyloggers, system monitors and more. Created to protect corporations and large institutions from spyware intrusions and their subsequent effects on productivity, integrity and confidentiality of data systems and networks, Spy Sweeper Enterprise is armed with a comprehensive spyware threat database to sniff out and eradicate more than 25,000 spyware traces.

Spy Sweeper Enterprise's centralized administration console allows IT users to efficiently and proactively protect their corporate networks from spy infestations. Through the console, IT managers schedule scans for spyware and seamlessly deploy updates, policies and sweep settings to specified groups.

For instance, the program can focus on laptop users outside the network. Using the unique auto-install feature deploys spy definition and program updates directly to the workstations without administrator intervention. Spy Sweeper Enterprise's customizable reporting function allows administrators to run detailed reports on malicious threats found in the network.

Moll said the program is not complicated to configure. The heart of the detection system is a very sophisticated rules engine. He said the product is especially suited for anybody using servers for e-mail administration or client server functions.

"The hammer method doesn't work any more. This product helps fit the need for individualized methods of spyware removal," Moll said.

Note: Ad-Aware SE Enterprise received the Gold Products of the Year Award for 2006 from Information Security/SearchSecurity.com. It can be downloaded from <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/products/ad-aware-se-enterprise.php>

Zero-Day Protection

The latest threat to your computer (and data) is from attacks which can by-pass your anti-virus and anti-spyware detectors by using methods like *rootKits* and *phishing*. These attacks are able to infect your PC and worse, remain **hidden** from you. There are various tools and techniques available to detect and prevent or protect you from these but the threats are constantly evolving (just as viruses keep evolving). The reason this type of threat is so deadly is that the attack can capture and send your confidential details without you being aware of it!!! I would go as far as stating that users **should not store any confidential data** on their computer **if** they are not sure it is secure.

At this time, there are no non-technical tools which can offer complete protection. The best users can do is to use Blacklight from F-Secure (<http://www.f-secure.com/blacklight>), which is available as a free trial only until April 1st, 2007. A more technical

and basic utility is RootKit Revealer from SysInernals (<http://tinyurl.com/y3hgq9>).

A simple and secure way of protecting passwords is to use pass-phrases or encrypted passwords and never write down the actual password. A simple way of encrypting **all** your personal details (Bank Account details, passwords, etc.) is as follows:

1. Choose a 10 letter **code word** like 'trikaldarshi'. Each letter represents a number, starting with 0 up to 9. So 0 = t, 1 = r, 2 = i, 3 = k, 4 = a, 5 = l, 6 = d, 7 = r (Dropping the second a), 8 = s, 9 = h (Ignore the last i)
2. Substitute a letter for your bank pin-code and save that as the written reminder. In other words, if your code = 2438, the substitution, based on the code word above would be 'iaks'.
3. Then only write down 'iaks'. **Never** write down your **code work** 'trikaldarshi' anywhere. Should you need to work out your code substitution, only do that on paper and destroy the paper afterwards. *Reported by Br. Rajesh, UK*



*Remind
you of
anyone
you know?
Hope it's
not you!*

PMO Postscript

By Br. Shashin

The main focus of the PMO team has been to set up Alfresco as the tool of choice for the Global IT Team's Portal. We are waiting final RCO confirmation as to who can have access, and once this is received, we will launch this facility. The Portal will greatly help us improve our collaboration. It will provide all of our documentation online. It will have a dashboard where registered users can check the status of projects and be kept informed of areas where help is needed. The intention is to make similar portals available to other global teams of the Yagya. In parallel we are setting up specific mailing lists to aid better and more accurate communication. *Reported by Br. Shashin, UK* 🐞

Feedback from Our Readers

Many thanks for sending out your newsletter. I was very inspired by all that you have done and are doing. I look forward to hearing more news and hope I can contribute with some captions or other bits and pieces. *BK Linda, Sunshine Coast*

Feedback from Our Readers, continued

Let me thank you for your tremendous effort and success in every aspect. It was an enjoyable read too. Well done!!! *BK Marianne, Watford*

I was extremely pleased with your newsletter. I know a few things about IT, so I was able to understand the complexity and the diversity of projects that you are overtaking. Congratulations for a very good job. I love the glossary and also the information that you give about new emerging technology and how that could be applied into the Yagya.

Also, the message from Sister Mohini is very good and it presents a balance between IT info and Baba's knowledge. It could be nice to have interviews with other seniors as well. Great job! *BK Luis, Peru*

The newsletter is very useful, and is very good to have the news of the different projects. I'm sending some jokes that one friend sent to me, and may be some of them are useful for you. May this year be free from problems and reasons, and full of solutions, *BK Marianne, Santa Cruz, Costa Rica* 🐞

Glossary of Terms

[Note: Please refer to previous issue of CONNECTIONS for definitions of other terms in this newsletter which may be unfamiliar to you.]

Identity theft occurs when a criminal uses someone's personal information to pose as that person.

Malware is harmful software.

Phishing (pronounced 'fishing') refers to emails imitating legitimate company correspondence. The emails deceive people into submitting personal, financial, or password data.

Rootkits are collections of small programmes that enable administrator-level access to a computer or network and hide *malware*.

Social software is a term referring to tools that enable people to use a computer network to connect or collaborate. 🐞

Feedback Welcome!

We hope you've found this newsletter informative and easy to understand. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

Please submit your comments to, or request for previous issues from, connections@bkinfo.net.

You are also warmly invited to submit IT-related articles, jokes, cartoons or other relevant information of timely interest for our next issue.

RTC Contact Details

The PMO Team works with the RCOs via Regional Technical Coordinators (RTCs). The RTCs who have been appointed for each region are:

- Africa: Br. Vinai (vinai.shah@bkinfo.net), Sr. Divya (divya.shah@bkinfo.net)
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- Asia Pacific: Br. Vinu (vinu.chhima@bkinfo.net), Br. Sanath (sanath.sukumaran@bkinfo.net)
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