

CURRENT ISSUES

ANGRY!

WHO ME?



I am so annoyed.
No really I am. Sat

at home reading email I suddenly found I was looking at one from a name in my address book list. My own name. Absent minded I may be but not to the extent of writing junk mail to myself. A quick look at the header showed it was from me but the return address was not mine. I do not have any email accounts in China. I had been spoofed. Someone had harvested my name and used it in sending Spam. Like most people I do not like spam but I can live with a little as I realise marketing people need to live. (That is not an invitation!). What annoyed me was that they had used my email address. Most people getting spam will junk it. But what about my close friends who may really think it is from me. They would be slightly peeved at getting junk mail but more worrying is if there is a malicious payload. I try to ensure those I email all use Linux (I would wouldn't I) but some do not. It is possible for them to receive a virus

easily from a script kiddie. What can be done? Well I need to start using alias on mailing lists, and change all my email addresses. Alter all my passwords and alert anyone who may be at risk. I cannot even block email from China as I contact many friends and companies there.

Then we have a US proposed law that all operating systems need to have security features. This is to help prevent terrorists. In an open source world we will be forced to comply or be illegal. I am all in favour of stopping the bad guy but I want to be honest and open not tied to some proprietary system I do not trust.

I need to lie down and think of penguins.

Code Well!

John Southern, Editor

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