



# Computer Security

## Computer Users Can Get Free Security Help From Microsoft



(NAPSA)—Computer viruses, worms and hackers are getting nastier and more prevalent—and anyone who uses the Internet is vulnerable to security breaches that can disrupt communications and transactions, causing inconvenience, downtime and economic losses. The problem is global, and no one is immune. That's why so many business owners and home computer users are wondering what they can do to help ensure they are operating in a secure computing environment.

Fortunately, help is available. In light of the increasing frequency of viruses and worms, Microsoft Corp. has mobilized an unprecedented number of people and resources to help its customers get—and stay—secure. Any Microsoft customer can take advantage of these resources; they're free, and the company is encouraging everyone to use them. While computer security is a global and industrywide issue, Microsoft believes its leadership position entails an obligation to proactively address contemporary security issues and protect customers.

"As a leading provider of computer solutions for individuals, families, home offices and businesses of all sizes, we have a special responsibility to help ensure that those solutions are safe and continue to meet our customers' expectations," said Brian Valentine, senior vice president of the Windows Division at Microsoft. "We have aggressively stepped up our existing security programs to help customers easily secure their computing environments today and keep them secure in the future. We won't rest or back down in our mission to make certain that every customer can securely work, com-

municate and do business over the Internet."

The company is providing a variety of free tools, technologies and resources to improve computer security. These include the following:

- Free virus-related product support for consumers and businesses, available toll-free by calling (866) PC-SAFETY (727-2338).

- An extensive, free security resource kit available at <http://www.microsoft.com/security/>. The kit includes fixes for Windows 2000 and Windows NT 4.0, a one-button Internet Information Server Lock-down tool to help customers easily and effectively secure their networks, and guidelines for installing, configuring and maintaining secure systems. Customers can order a free CD or download the kit by visiting Microsoft's Web site (connect-time charges may apply).

- A comprehensive package of cumulative security fixes that can be applied to a computer in a single step, provided via Windows Update at <http://www.v4.windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>.

Microsoft's newest products, including Windows XP and the upcoming Windows NET Server, also will benefit from the heightened focus on security. The company is continuing to improve its development processes to deliver even more secure and reliable systems and applications to its customers.

At the same time, Microsoft says it will work closely with industry and government leaders to continue addressing the broader challenges of industry-wide computer security.

To learn more about Microsoft product security, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/security/>.