

# LANsultants Times

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## 'Drive-by Downloads'

When you visit a seemingly legitimate website which downloads software to your PC without your consent or approval, you've suffered a drive-by download. These uninvited programs may install annoying popup advertisements, degrade performance, report your login names and passwords or provide hackers with remote access to your PC. Many computer security experts consider this the most serious problem facing end-users and one of the most common causes of PC failure. 12% of all service calls to Dell technical support this year were due to one form of malicious software or another.

As a group these malicious software programs are referred to as malware. There are number of categories: Spyware which hides itself on your computer to harvest passwords and login names, Adaware which triggers popup advertisements, and Browser hijacks which change your browser's default home page or search engine, among other things.

To minimize the risk of malware installing itself on your PC, LANsultants' recommends that you:

- 1: Replace Internet Explorer with Netscape 7.1 whenever possible.
- 2: Don't visit non-business related sites when surfing the web.
- 3: Don't use Kazaa or other file sharing programs which are notorious for installing malware on PCs.
- 4: Have LANsultants install Ad-aware, Spybot and pop up blocker software on your PCs. If you prefer, we can show your office administrator how to run these programs in order to reduce your costs.

## Holiday Schedule

LANsultants will be closed Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> in celebration of Memorial Day!

## What if...

- ✓ There was a local training center where you could send new employees for training in the applications used in your office?
- ✓ Training could be customized to focus on the software programs and features of immediate use to your firm?
- ✓ Classroom training was provided by the same personnel who already provide onsite training and software support to your firm?
- ✓ Training was provided on a state of the art computer system with complete audiovisual support and with an student to instructor ratio no greater than 6:1?

Sound interesting? Welcome to The Training Center, a joint venture of LANsultants, Inc., Storm Evans Consulting and Information Technology Associates, Inc.. We plan to open the training facility on Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Training classes will be offered in WordPerfect, MS-Office, Time Matters, Abacus, Time Slips and GroupWise among other programs, plus custom classes tailored to your requests. Training schedule to be posted in June.

## Your heard it here first!

In our July of 2003 newsletter we informed you of impending computer recycling legislation. It is now the law of the land; at least in California. As of July 1, 2004 resellers of notebooks, LCD and CRT monitors in California must charge a \$6 to \$10/unit recycling fee which is included in the purchase price of new equipment. Since California legislation is often the model for other states, I would not be surprised to see similar legislation in PA and/or NJ in 2005 or 2006.

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