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**SECURITY
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Almost every business today relies on computers for something. Whether an organization simply uses word processing and spreadsheets, or has a network, integrated accounting and inventory systems, and connects to the internet, computers have become a fact of life. Unfortunately, so has computer crime and computer assisted fraud. Fortunately, there are a number of simple steps that any organization may take to make sure their computer systems are more secure.

The System Administration, Network and Security Institute (SANS) teamed with the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) in 2000 to develop the Ten Most Critical Internet Security Vulnerabilities list. This list was expanded to the twenty during 2001. While many of the vulnerabili-

Hackers, viruses, fraud - why is computer security important to me?

ties identified on this list are very technical and may only apply to some companies, a number of them apply to every company. I will summarize

1) Default installation of operating systems*

Change default passwords. I can't emphasize this enough. * Next, use a password, but not one that is easy to guess. Easy to guess passwords include anything related to your name, the

2) No passwords or easy to use passwords*

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ter. B4IGO4IT (before I go for it) is better than JASON2002.

3) Lack of backups (non-existent or incomplete)*

Back up your system regularly and take the back-ups off-site - home if you have to. Some companies need to back up daily, your organization may be able to get by with a weekly backup. * Make sure the backup works. Try to recover a file from the backup tape.

4) Improperly configured internet connection*

This area can get pretty technical, but I will summarize it in two statements:* Implement a firewall, change the password, and only allow traffic that you need to run your business.* If your business has computer systems that are critical to the day-to-day operations and is connected to the internet, consider having a professional security expert help you assess your risks, install, and configure a firewall. This can be done for as little as \$1,000.

5) Incomplete logging*

Turn systems logs on to track changes to critical network and operating system files.

Year	Virus Code Name	Worldwide Economic Impact (\$ U.S.)
2001	Nimda	\$ 625 Million
2001	Code Red(s)	\$ 2.62 Billion
2001	Sir Cam	\$ 1.15 Billion
2000	Love Bug	\$ 8.75 Billion
1999	Melissa	\$ 1.1 Billion
1999	Explorer	\$ 1.02 Billion

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name of your business, your pets, car, favorite sports team, etc. Make it harder on the intruder. Use a made up word or add a number in place of a let-

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INARMA SECURITY

INFORMATION ARMOR FOR CRITICAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS

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Resources used in this article:

SANS www.sans.org
NIPC www.nipc.gov
InarmaSecurity
www.inarma.com.



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