Wrap-up & Outlook

Greg Ward

Anyhere Software

2006 *Radiance* Workshop

- Leicester, England
  - Host: John Mardaljevic at de Montfort Univ.
- Preferred dates?
  - John suggested 20-25 August date range
  - Raphael requested later in Sept. after PLEA

Radiance on Windows

- Georg "schorsch" Mischler has ported most non-graphical *Radiance* tools
- Andrew Marsh has **winimage** replacement
- Volunteers for porting **rvu**?
- Someone to manage Windows binaries?
- We need to get away from DR
  - Is any application besides *Rayfront* current?

Unix Advertisement

By ROBIN POSTON, THOMAS F. STAFFORD, and AMY HENNINGTON

Spyware: A View from the (Online) Street

A recent America Online survey of its "street-level" users indicates a great tolerance of spyware, with little motivation to take any specific action to solve the problem.

There are indications of late that the use of anti-spyware software is on the rise, with more than 100 million Internet users downloading Lavasoft's free anti-spyware software [2]. Some big-name companies are also beginning to address the spyware issue, including Microsoft, which currently has a beta version of its own anti-spyware available to Microsoft Windows users for download. However, a Gartner survey finds only 10% of respondents were taking sufficiently aggressive steps to minimize spyware infestations [5] and a Forrester survey found that even though 55% of consumers knew what spyware was, only 40% were running anti-spyware programs routinely [7].

Based on the seriousness of the spyware threat and lack of Internet user awareness, several legal initiatives have been pursued. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has made the point of defining spyware, the Safeguard Against Privacy Invasion Act (SAPIA) has attempted to define what it means to provide consent to receive spyware and to specifically address what spyware is, and the Software Principles Yielding Better Levels of Consumer Knowledge (SPYBLOCK) Act creates the requirement for all software programs to demonstrate that they have been purposefully installed by the user [8, 9, 10]. Thus, anti-spyware software is more available, current media coverage is discussing spyware more, and more legal initiatives are being adopted to address it.

Given the increase in attention to spyware issues, one might expect Internet users to understand that nature of the security threat and to be motivated to counteract the effects of spyware. In order to assess user perceptions of the threat, a study was executed with America Online (AOL) to examine the perceptions of its users regarding spyware and the need for spyware protection. The survey included 1,006 AOL users whose responses offer valuable insight into their aware-

ness regarding spyware and how spyware works, their level of motivation to address the problem, and their willingness to pay for anti-spyware protection.

Awareness and understanding of spyware. The survey indicates that most users are aware of spyware as a computer security threat. Respondents were asked, "Which, if any, of the following are you aware of?" and were able to select any of 12 listed online security threats (see figure). Of the various threats presented, spyware was the third most highly recognized, following viruses and spam, with 74.9% of users saying they are aware of it. An almost identical number of respondents (74.2%) said they perceived spyware to be a personal threat. However, high awareness and perception of a threat do not equate to comprehension of the threat. When asked, "Do you know what spyware does to computers?" only 49.8% of those surveyed reported they actually understand the specific hazards posed by the security threat.

Motivation to use spyware protection. While most users appear to be aware of spyware, many do not appear to fully comprehend the problems caused by spyware and they either don't know how to respond or simply choose not to deal with these problems. The

Idea: *Radiance* Spyware

1. Detects and removes other spyware
2. Installs *Radiance* for remote rendering
3. Report to base: PC commandeered
4. Overall performance is unchanged

- Problem: Spyware is difficult to clean
  - Windows suffers a constant onslaught
    Constant updating required for new spies

Plan 9: Permanent Cleaner

- Spyware installs Linux as well as *Radiance*
  - Choose Gnome look to mimic Windows
- No more spyware problems!

- Problem: What if user wants to run Word?
  - Post alert saying copy is unauthorized or has quit unexpectedly
  - Expected behavior so only a minor annoyance