

**From:** [Weber, Lon](#)  
**To:** [CNRHelpDesk](#)  
**Subject:** Security Alert: Highly Critical Vulnerability in Windows XP  
**Date:** Friday, June 11, 2010 11:16:12 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

TGIF CNRE,

Microsoft has announced an unpatched Highly Critical vulnerability in their Windows XP operating system. Windows Vista and 7 are not affected by this. All you have to do is visit a maliciously formed website from ANY browser and your computer can be taken over! Even though this is unpatched I have written a batch file which invokes a workaround that turns off the part of Windows that is vulnerable. I have also written a batch file which will turn that feature back on once Microsoft actually patches the vulnerability. **I strongly recommend that everyone perform the following steps on ALL your Windows XP based computers.** Thanks and always do not hesitate to [contact us](#) for questions or problems.  
Lon.

Steps for the workaround: (Does not require a reboot)

1. Go to <https://scholar.vt.edu/access/content/group/cc06d203-2211-4202-a71a-356012eca893/Downloads/HCPVulnerabilityWorkaround.zip>.
2. Save the file to your Desktop.
3. Right click on the downloaded file which should be named "HCPVulnerabilityWorkaround.zip" and select "Extract All..." from the menu that appears. Depending on how you have your computer configured you may not see the .zip extension of the file.
4. The "Extraction Wizard" window should appear and you can just accept all the default values as you go through the wizard.
5. When the wizard finishes the folder with the extracted files should open up.
6. Double click on the "DisableHCP.bat" batch file in that folder. As before depending on your settings you may not see the .bat extension.
7. You'll know that it worked when a new file named "HCP\_Protocol\_Backup.reg" or just "HCP\_Protocol\_Backup" appears in that folder. This file will be used to restore the HCP functionality once Microsoft patches this vulnerability.
8. You're done for now **but do not delete this folder off your Desktop.** I will be sending out another email once Microsoft patches this for you to run the batch file which

restores the HCP functionality. Note that HCP works with Windows Help so some help features may not function properly while this workaround is invoked.

=====

Lon A. Weber, Director of IT

College of Natural Resources and Environment, Virginia Tech

216C Cheatham Hall

Blacksburg, VA 24061

Phone: 540-231-3277 Fax: 540-231-7664

<http://www.it.cnre.vt.edu>