
From: Weber, Lon on behalf of CNRHelpDesk
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 11:23 AM
To: CNRHelpDesk
Subject: Security Alert: Unpatched Highly Critical Vulnerability in Windows

Importance: High

Hello CNR,

Microsoft has announced an unpatched "Highly Critical" vulnerability in the Help subsystem of Microsoft Windows. However in order for this vulnerability to be exploited you have to press the F1 key (help) on your keyboard while viewing a malicious or compromised website. Therefore, DO NOT PRESS F1 with your browser window open. See below for Microsoft's exact recommendation from the original security advisory. Thanks and safe surfing. Lon.

*** excerpt from Microsoft's security advisory ***

Do not press the F1 key when prompted by a Web site

Successful exploitation of this vulnerability requires that users assist the exploit by pressing the F1 key on their keyboard. Our analysis shows that if users do not press the F1 key on their keyboard, the vulnerability cannot be exploited.

Consequently, malicious Web sites may attempt to persuade users into pressing the F1 key. Such a Web site could invoke an endless loop of dialog boxes that tell the user to press the F1 key to end the loop, or offer information such as pricing information or help to be revealed through the F1 key.

Users are advised to avoid pressing F1 presented by Web pages or other Internet content. If a dialog box appears repeatedly in an attempt to convince the user to press F1, users may log off the system or use Task Manager to terminate the Internet Explorer process.

*** end excerpt ***

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