



Be Wary of Valentine's Day E-mail Virus

If you are expecting, or especially if you are not, a Valentine's Day e-mail greeting, be careful opening any from unknown or "secret admirer" senders.

The FBI has issued a virus warning for Valentine's Day because of the "Storm Worm" virus.

The virus is a botnet, or a network of compromised machines controlled by a single user, that can launch a whole slew of problems on your computer, including the possibility of identity theft and the spreading of malicious software to other connected machines.

"Be wary of any e-mail received from an unknown sender," the FBI's Storm Worm warning states. "Do not open any unsolicited e-mail and do not click on the links provided."

The Storm Worm virus has been around since 2007, and is sent out on specific holidays such as Valentine's Day or Christmas, when people are expecting e-mail greeting cards.

The malicious e-mail directs a recipient to click on a link to retrieve the e-card. Once you click on the link, malicious software (malware) is downloaded, and causes your computer to become infected and part of the Storm Worm botnet, according to the FBI warning.

The FBI has a complaint link, so if you receive the Storm Worm or any other malicious e-mail attacks, you can file a complaint at www.ic3.gov, which connects you to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

For more information on this or on any other concern you have, please do not hesitate to contact me at jeff.lipshaw@aflcc.com or at 248-425-0009.