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In this Security Newsletter, under **Highlights**, we shall continue to explore the new features available in the new version of Windows - Windows Vista - released in January 2007.

- [Windows Vista: Parental Controls!](#)
- [Hoaxes](#)

In **Basic Security Principles** we print a SIBS (Interbanking Network Services) clarification regarding a hoax email.

Yet another example of how malicious users exploit the Internet for their own purposes, a reality we must wary of.

Enjoy your reading.



Highlights

Windows Vista: Parental Controls!

Following up on last month's edition, we will continue to look at Vista's key new Computer Security features.

Parental Controls Panel

Windows has finally released a single easy-access panel that allows parents to monitor and control the kind of use their children make of their respective computer. Built into Parental Controls, and part of the Start menu, the Parental Controls Panel allows parents to easily set limits on computer use, ranging from TV to music, game playing to web browsing.

Time Limits for Computer Use

With Windows Vista, parents can now establish when their children are allowed to use the computer. Parents are presented with a grid showing the days of the week and the hours of the day. In order to restrict the children's computer use, parents need only click on the specific times and days they intend to block.

Activity Reports

From the Parental Controls Panel, parents can view easy-to-read activity reports that show how

their children use the computer. Monitoring the children's computer behaviour helps the parent track what they are seeing, hearing, and doing, as well as fine-tune and alter the parental controls based on the actual situation.



Basic Security Principles

Hoaxes

Below you can read a copy of an email that has been in circulation and that describes how you should proceed in case you are forced to withdraw money from your ATM. The information contained in it is false, as acknowledged by an official SIBS statement, fully reproduced below:

"INVERTED BANK CARD CODE

If you are ever forced by a thief to withdraw money from a cash dispenser, you can immediately notify the police by keying your PIN backwards. For example, if your code is 1234, you should key 4321. The machine will recognise your code was keyed in reverse by checking it against your card. It will then release your cash, but little does the thief know that the police will be deployed immediately. This information has been recently broadcasted on TV; nonetheless it is seldom put to use, for it seems people are not aware of this defence mechanism. Please forward this to all your contacts. It is an extremely useful and essential piece of information."

SIBS Clarification

"SIBS (Interbanking Network Services) - on account of emails currently in circulation claiming that keying your PIN backwards in case of theft constitutes an alert mechanism for the Police - hereby states that:

1. This information is false.
2. This technique - of keying your PIN backwards - is not valid on ATMs.
3. SIBS has no information regarding the implementation of this technique within or outside Europe.

SIBS would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the rules of conduct governing the management of your PIN:

- Your secret code is personal and non-transferable and must be memorised.
- Never, under any circumstance, should you make your secret code public As soon as you receive your secret code, memorise it and destroy the slip you received it on; if you choose to keep it, store it somewhere safe and out of sight.
- Neither should you write your secret code on the card itself, nor on any other document you keep next to your card;
- If you intend to alter your personal code, do not use 4-digit associations that can be easily acquired (e.g. year, or date and month of birth)

The information currently in circulation via email on the inverted use of the PIN number is false."



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