

'Michelangelo' and MBDF Threats Loom

DOS Users: Beware—March 6. Unfortunately, computer viruses—those destructive, self-replicating programs that invade and contaminate computer files—continue to be a fact of life in the computing world. DOS users worldwide must now be alert for a new virus called "Michelangelo," which is set to go off on March 6, the 500th anniversary of the Italian artist's birth. On that date, the virus will begin overwriting all data on contaminated hard disks, including the boot sector, partition tables and system files. Once erased, none of this data is likely to be recoverable.

Michelangelo is pernicious and will continue to spread to any floppy disk inserted in the infected computer. Although the virus can only execute on PCs running DOS versions 2.xx and higher, it can infect and damage PC hard disks containing other operating systems, including UNIX, OS/2, and Novell. Possible symptoms of infection include a free/total memory reduction of approximately 2K bytes, and floppy disks that become unusable or display odd graphic characters when a DIR command is issued.

Fortunately, Michelangelo can be easily detected and removed by many versions of anti-viral software released after October 1991. The VIRUSCAN shareware programs on UOnet's Zeus file server's Public Domain volume are effective against all known DOS viruses to date, including Michelangelo, Stoned, and Jerusalem. Individuals with personally-owned computers may copy the shareware and send a nominal fee to the vendor. If have questions about installing or using VIRUSCAN, call the Microcomputer Support Center at 346-4412.

UO departments should note that a site license is required to legally use VIRUSCAN software on a University-owned computer. The Computing Center is currently arranging a site license to cover the total number of PCs on campus for two years. The cost of participating is \$15 per machine, payable by journal voucher made out to Acct. #50-163-0001, Trans. Code 2111. Mail vouchers to the Computing Center and specify the location and number of machines for which you wish coverage. Call Kathy Heerema at extension 6-1717 if you have questions.

Mac Owners: Protect Against MBDF. Both System 6 and System 7 Mac users need to upgrade their anti-viral software with Disinfectant 2.6 to guard against infection by the latest international Mac virus, MBDF. The virus is named after the normal Mac resource; it uses to infect the files, so don't become alarmed if you see MBDF resources associated with ResEdit or some other tool.

The new virus is mischievous and malicious and can cause considerable disruption. It was first discovered at various archive sites on the Internet, infecting the games "Obnoxious Tetris" and "Ten Tile Puzzle." A Trojan horse named "Tetricycle" or "tetris-rotating" installs the virus. Be careful not to download files from archive sites, especially games, until the infected files have been removed.

Although it infects both applications and the System file, MBDF can be difficult to detect because it does not necessarily exhibit any symptoms. Here are some possible warning signs:

- ☛ *infected Claris applications will indicate that they have been altered and will refuse to run*
- ☛ *the "BeHierarchic" shareware program ceases to work correctly*
- ☛ *some programs will crash if an item in the menu bar is selected with the mouse*

Another caution: MBDF can take so long to infect a System file when it first attacks that people often assume their Mac is hung up and requires a restart. Restarting a Mac while the virus is activated often results in irreparable damage to the System file.

You may copy Disinfectant 2.6 from the CC Public Domain library on UOnet. If you need help, or need to reserve copying time on the Support Center's Mac, call 346-4412. □

Micro Purchase Plan Updates for Spring

NeXT Unveils Turbo Line, Price Breaks

NeXT™ fans will be glad to note the following specials offered through the Computing Center's Microcomputer Purchase Plan:

- NeXT Computer Inc. recently upgraded its NeXTstation and NeXTstation Color workstations with 33 MHz Motorola 68040 microprocessors, resulting in an increase in speed. Coinciding with the introduction of this "Turbo" line, NeXT announced a price break on its earlier NeXTstation Color 16/105 model if ordered by March 27.
- All NeXT owners who purchased their machines after January 21 are eligible to receive Release 3.0 Upgrades on CD-ROM at no charge. These should be available by summer.
- NeXT also announced a special price on their External CD-ROM Drives through the end of July 1992. These purchases also include a free Release 3.0 Upgrade.

Apple, Too...

Apple has also announced price changes for most of its Macintosh desktop line, and there's good news for Mac owners looking enviously at the new PowerBook line! The University's contract with Apple now allows eligible faculty, staff, and students to purchase one desktop computer and portable computer every two years while at the University.

For complete price lists and more details, visit the Microcomputer Support Center, Room 202. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

~~Know Your News...~~

USENET Newsgroups Offer World of Choices

The UO computing community has a world of information at its fingertips through USENET news, the international online bulletin board distributed on the Internet. Through USENET, the UO receives nearly 2000 different newsgroups and more than 20 megabytes of material each day—the equivalent of 10,000 typewritten pages. Newsgroup topics range from announcements of network outages to discussions of Filipino culture.

Recently, the Computing Center's Network Services staff added several hundred foreign language newsgroups (notably, German and Japanese), and are currently experimenting with a commercial news wire service.

A wide variety of news reading programs exists for all types of computers. Mac users on UOnet may prefer "NewsWatcher," which is

available for copying from the CC Public Domain library. Networked PC users can obtain a newly-installed news reader called "Trumpet" from the PC public domain software library. Those on UNIX-based systems would typically use the "rn" or "xrn" programs, while people logged in on OREGON or DONALD can access the news database with the VNEWS program.

Network Services particularly recommends the NewsWatcher and Trumpet programs for networked Mac and PC users. Both provide excellent user interfaces and easy news reading, without the overhead of logging in on a VAX system.

For help installing either of these programs, contact Network Services Consulting (extension 6-4395, e-mail NETHelp@NS.UOREGON.EDU).

AppleCare Rebate Offer Good Till Next Fall

Between now and September 30, 1992, Apple customers can take advantage of a special mail-in rebate offer through the Center's Microcomputer Purchase Plan. If you buy an AppleCare extended service agreement within 30 days of purchasing qualifying Apple equipment, you can receive a \$25 or \$50 rebate, depending on your product, for each configuration.

For one year, AppleCare covers the cost of defects in materials and workmanship, including replacement parts and labor, with no deductible and no limit on the number of repairs. It is available for virtually any Macintosh computer or peripheral product, including printers, monitors and external drives, to name a few.

For a complete list of qualifying equipment and associated rebates, as well as further details on the AppleCare plan, stop by the Microcomputer Support Center, Room 202

Borrow a Mac LC

A Macintosh LC with a sampling of software is available for loan to selected UO faculty and staff for two-to-three week evaluation periods. For details, call Kathy Heerema at 346-1717.

VAX NOTE:

VAX service will be briefly interrupted next month while VMS and ORACLE software is upgraded. The VAX will be shut down Saturday, April 11, at 8 am, through Sunday, April 12, 8 pm.

What's Happened to WHOIS?

WHOIS, the online directory service for VAX account-holders at the UO, has recently been streamlined. Its database has been reorganized to reduce the number of multiple listings for the same person, and is now revised nightly to remove deleted VAX accounts.

These changes mainly affect those who have multiple VAX accounts under the same name, and faculty/staff who are not listed in the e-mail supplement to the UO telephone directory.

If you're unsure whether or not your name might be listed more than once, please issue a WHOIS command to see what gets displayed. Type

```
$ whois lastname
```

at the VMS \$ prompt. If your surname contains a space, as in Von Dine, type the part that is most unique (e.g., *Dine*). If there are multiple matches, note the entries displayed in the Unique ID/Username column that apply to you. Issue another WHOIS query for each matching "unique id," i.e.,

```
$ whois joshua.treese
```

Examine the entries to see whether all the account information is correct. If you find that there are other individuals listed under your name whose account(s) might be confused with yours, please notify Rich Haller (extension 6-1716, e-mail RHALLER).

Also, please check to ensure that you do not have multiple VAX accounts under variants of your name (e.g., "Bob Roberts" and "Robert Roberts"). If you discover this kind of duplication, please notify the Computing Center accounting clerk (extension 6-1738, e-mail ACCOUNT) and request that your account-owner name be changed to the one listed in the faculty/staff telephone directory.

Eudora users should follow the same procedure, using the *Ph* command on the *Special* menu.

Attention, Eudora Users!

Recent problems with the Eudora mail server on OREGON have prompted Center staff to recommend that users change their Eudora POP (Post Office Protocol) configuration. To avoid future problems, you'll need to substitute a *generic* POP name for your personal mailing address when setting up your Eudora account.

You can make this change by following a few simple steps:

1. Open Eudora
2. Select *Special* from the top bar of the Eudora menu, depress your mouse button and select *Configuration*
3. When the dialog box appears, change the contents of the *POP account:* box to read `username@oregon-mailhost.oregon.edu`

(*Username* is your unique e-mail identification.)

This change will enable mail service to switch between both OREGON and DONALD VAX machines. It will only affect Eudora's internal workings; your correspondents will continue to address you at your personalized, unique e-mail address.

STAT CORNER

MAPLE V Installed on Oregon

Version 5 of the symbolic mathematics package MAPLE is now the default on OREGON. The old version of MAPLE is slated to be removed in April. New features in this release include:

- an X Windows Interface
- 3-D Graphics (similar to Mathematica's)
- enhancements to output routines
- numerous new functions and packages

You'll find a complete listing of new features in the pamphlet, Maple V Release Notes. You may order it by writing Waterloo Maple Software, 160 Columbia Street West, Waterloo Ontario Canada N2L 3E3—or call them at 519-747-2373.

Three other useful handbooks are available for checkout in the Documents Room: Maple V Language Reference Manual, Maple V Library Reference Manual, and the write-up, "Maple V for VAX/VMS Installation and Interface Guide." Despite its misleading title, the "Installation and Interface Guide" gives a good description of how to run Maple under VMS, particularly on an X Windows display.

'New S' Installed on DECOY

"New S," Bell Labs' statistics package, is now installed on DECOY. To start the program, type S at the UNIX prompt.

Full documentation is available online within 'S' itself, and in the book, "The New S Language: A Programming Environment for Data Analysis and Graphics" by Richard A. Becker, et al. The Becker book is on order and will soon be available for checkout from the Documents Room.

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SPRING 1992 ACADEMIC VAX USER SURVEY

1. How Often Do You Use the OREGON VAX? How often do you use the Computing Center's primary large academic computer (the VAX, or "OREGON") for teaching, research, e-mail, or for any other sort of *academic* (non-administrative) computing? (Please circle only one answer.)

NEVER FEW TIMES A TERM FEW TIMES A WEEK DAILY DON'T KNOW

2. What Do You Think? Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Computing Center and the OREGON VAX? (Please circle only one answer for each question.)

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NOT APPLICABLE
(a) It is easy to get a username and password for the OREGON VAX	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(b) The default QUACs allocations for the VAX are reasonable and do not interfere with the work I do or would like to do on the VAX	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(c) If my account needs more QUACs or more disk space, or if I need my password reset, I can readily get those adjustments made	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(d) I have enough VAX permanent disk space to do my work	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(e) The VAX is fast enough for me (enough CPU "horsepower")	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(f) It is easy to use magnetic tapes on the VAX	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(g) I seldom encounter problems dialing into the VAX via a modem	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(h) It is easy to get an office wired for a direct connection to the VAX	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(i) The Computing Center's short training classes are a good way to learn to use the OREGON VAX	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(j) Computing Center consultants are helpful when I have problems	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(k) I can find all the information I need to use the VAX in the locally-produced documentation available for my use	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(l) The software I need (or want) to use is available on the VAX	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(m) Printouts and tape mounts are available soon after being requested	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(n) The Computing Center Document's Room has resources which are interesting and useful to me	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(o) The VAX information that appears in <i>Computing News</i> , the Computing Center's newsletter, is helpful/interesting to me	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(p) There are enough publicly accessible VAX terminals, or public micros connected to the VAX, to meet my needs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(q) The graphic output options available at the Computing Center are sufficient for my plotting and graphing requirements	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(r) If I have a problem with something the Computer Center is doing (or isn't doing), I know how to get that problem resolved	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
(s) All in all, I'm happy with how the Computing Center is running the VAX	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

3. What *one* change would you most like to see made to the VAX or in how it is run?

4. Are you faculty, staff, GTF, or student? Faculty Staff GTF Student Other

5. What department are you with? _____

6. What kind of VAX account do you have? restricted _____ non-restricted _____

Thank You! Please put your completed survey in an envelope and return it to:
VAX Survey, Computing Center, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.