

## Websites try to infect your computers and users help them do it!

By Ryan McMillen

The number one way that hackers attempt to infect your computers to extort money or cause harm is by embedding invisible scripts on websites. Many times, these scripts can be found on legitimate websites. They are embedded within those flashing ads and the website does remove them, but only after they hear complaints from users. In the meantime, the users could be accidentally infecting themselves (and possibly other network computers) by clicking on popups that say "Yes" or "No" or anything else on the screen. You see, the entire screen can turn into one giant "YES" button when the user hits the wrong site. The malicious script is simply trying to get the user to click on something so it can install a small program that then injects a piece of malware onto the system BEHIND your antivirus. In fact, I can show you how easy it is. Go to this site: [internetbadguys.com](http://internetbadguys.com) on your computer (don't worry, it won't hurt you.) Did it come up with some information from a company called OpenDNS? If so, that's not good! You are not protected.

It means that if this was a real virus site, you could be infected right now. It also means that your antivirus did NOT protect you. And that is not a surprise since no antivirus program is more than 50% effective on average. We deal with these infections on a daily basis. What you need for your business is a **Content Filter**. They are not expensive and we offer two varieties. The first version we use is OpenDNS, which is a Cisco product. This service costs as little as \$1.99 per month per user! You could protect an entire network of 20 computers for as little as \$39.80!

We also offer our ProVent solution which has a Content Filter option to protect your PC's from web attack, but also has built in auditing tools, reporting tools and built in antivirus for as little as \$10 per user per month. It's almost like having an IT department, antivirus protection and web protection all wrapped into one. For more information, contact CCS and we'll explain how these small changes can result in long term savings and protection from these increasingly dangerous threats.



## Intel security vulnerabilities that could potentially impact certain PCs and Servers

by Jeff Verry

80% of the world's computers run on Intel processors. In the last week of November Intel confirmed that some of the firmware that controls many computer processors has a vulnerability that needs to be patched. If this vulnerability were exploited, an attacker could run programs without the user seeing it or knowing it. At the very least it could cause a system crash or instability. **This has been identified as high risk.**

What should be done? Intel has a detection tool which will identify whether your particular computer(s) are vulnerable. After running this tool, a technician can advise you on how to patch your system's firmware and/or software. We can usually identify and apply the appropriate patch remotely.

Please contact *CCS Technologies* today and we can walk you or your staff through the process to make sure you are as safe as you can be.



## Tax Saving Tips

by Greg Slater

The U.S. Senate just passed their version of tax cuts. These cuts will soon be reconciled with the U.S. House version and we will officially have tax cuts that start in 2018 or 2019, depending on what is decided during the reconciliation.

Now may be the time for you to make some decisions about spending some money before the end of this year. Please consult your tax professional to make sure you are purchasing items that you will be able to write off in 2017. If the final bill does end up starting in 2019, you will have a year to plan, but you may want to start looking at options right now. That way you will be prepared for either year.

If you need help in determining where you would get your best bang for your IT buck, give CCS a call. We can review your network, hardware and overall IT infrastructure to find out where your IT spending would be most beneficial to your business that will allow you to grow! I know it is a busy season right now, but it may be the best time to save on your federal tax bill.

"Relax...we're on IT"

### Contact Information

Information	Info@ccstech.net
Tech Support	Support@ccstech.net
Sales	Sales@ccstech.net
Greg Slater	Gslater@ccstech.net
Ellen Slater	El Slater@ccstech.net
Drew Rowe	Drowe@ccstech.net
Jeff Verry	Jverry@ccstech.net
Joe Halstead	Jhalstead@ccstech.net
Jorge Arias	Jarias@ccstech.net
Karen Strickland	Kstrickland@ccstech.net
Mark Kowitz	Mkowitz@ccstech.net
Ryan McMillen	Rmcmillen@ccstech.net
Eric Ruzek	Eruzek@ccstech.net
Seth Johnson	Sjohnson@ccstech.net

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