

German hate-spam spread by Sober virus

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Sober is usually a mass-mailing worm that sends a copy of itself to e-mail addresses stored on an infected computer's hard drive. However, in the same week that Germany and Europe celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, the latest variant's sole purpose seems to be to distribute hate mail.

Scott Chasin, chief technology officer at e-mail security specialists MX Logic, said the latest variant of Sober was being uploaded to computers infected by previous variants of Sober, which meant the virus authors may have remote control over thousands of PCs.

"Sober.Q appears to be downloaded by machines infected by Sober.P? If this is the case, the Sober.P author or authors could have remote command-and-control capabilities over a large network of infected machines. This network would provide not only a megaphone to distribute messages of hate, but a platform for future spam, worm and denial of service attacks," said Chasin.

Although spam usually tries to advertise products, Chasin said it is now also being used for spreading propaganda.

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