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Fix Now Available for "Freiburg" Text-Viewing Issue

This Page Last Updated on October 17, 1997

Microsoft is now providing a fix to protect users' computers against a potential problem with Internet Explorer 4.0 known as the Freiburg text-viewing issue, which could allow a malicious Web site to obtain the contents from a text, HTML, or a graphic image (no other file types) from a user's hard disk. That information could not be damaged or manipulated on the user's computer, but it could be viewed.

How to protect your computer: Below you can find out more about this potential problem. But first, here are two ways to protect your computer from it:

- Download the patch we just posted, which provides an easy and complete fix for the problem. *(Many thanks to Ralf Hueskes from Jabadoo Communications in Freiburg, Germany, for reporting the problem to Microsoft and helping us test this fix.)*

- **Internet Explorer 4.0's Security Zones** feature can be configured to offer protection against this bug by allowing users to disable scripting for unfamiliar sites. (From the View menu, choose Options. Then click the Security tab and select the "Restricted web sites" zone. Choose Custom, then under the "Active Scripting" option, choose to disable Active Scripting. Users can add any unfamiliar sites to this zone and will be protected.) Administrators can also use Security Zones to prevent this problem from occurring on their intranet.

Details of the potential problem: The issue could allow a malicious person to create a Web page that is intentionally designed to exploit this problem to view the contents of a text file, HTML file, or graphic image from a user's hard disk. The Web page must be specifically designed to obtain certain files—to the level of knowing and including the exact filename and location—and that file must be an HTML, text, or image file. Even if those conditions are met, the site cannot destroy or tamper with any data. Again, data cannot be obtained from any files other than text, image, or HTML.

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Last Updated: Thursday, October 17, 1997
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