

In a clarification issued on February 17th, Microsoft stated that computers running Windows 98 and ME are not vulnerable to the most recent Windows exploit described in security bulletin MS04-007. Therefore, those machines will not be blocked from the Tulane network, as they do not require a patch. Further, Tulane University technical support for Windows 98 and ME will extend until June 30, 2006. We continue to recommend members of the Tulane community should take steps to upgrade their Windows 98 and ME systems to Windows 2000 or Windows XP.

While previously ambiguous in its statements, Microsoft issued a statement that clarifies its position on the status of Windows 98 and ME regarding the exploit described in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS04-007. According to a Microsoft posting in the newsgroup microsoft.public.windowsupdate: "Windows ME and 98 are supported. Update 828028 is not intended for Windows 98/ME." The Update 82028 is the patch that resolves the exploit described in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS04-007, referenced by John Lawson in his e-mail to the community on February 16.

In addition, Microsoft has clarified their position on future support for Windows 98 and ME security updates. According to a statement on

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?pr=LifeWinExtndFAQ>

issued January 14, 2004 regarding security patches for Windows 98 and ME: "Microsoft will review any critical security issues and take appropriate steps." We interpret this statement to indicate that security updates for Windows 98 and ME will continue until Microsoft's revised end of support date of June 30, 2006. See

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=fh;EN-US;LifeAn1>

for the details of Microsoft's support extension.

We continue to recommend that the members of the Tulane community should take steps to upgrade their Windows 98 and ME systems to Windows 2000 or Windows XP. Although Microsoft has extended support, many members of our community have experienced difficulties with these older operating systems. As such, we strongly recommend that anyone running Windows 98 or ME contact the Help Desk at 862-8888 (8888 on the uptown campus and 8-8888 at the Health Sciences Center) to discuss upgrade options.

Thank You

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