



## Homeland Secure IT, LLC NewsBytes for 2010-02-10

### Microsoft Office 2010 Release on the Horizon!

Microsoft Office 2010 has reached the RC (Release Candidate) milestone, bringing the development process one step closer to the product's planned June release.

Office 2010 will be available in four main flavors: Office Home & Student @ \$149, Office Home & Business @ \$279, Office Professional @ \$499 and Office Professional Academic for \$99.

The general public currently has access to Office 2010 as a beta release to allow them to kick the tires on this outstanding offering from Microsoft. Those who do not wish to wait can buy Office 2007 with Software Assurance and upgrade to Office 2010 when it is released with no additional software charges.

Homeland Secure IT, LLC is a Microsoft Small Business Specialist and can assist businesses and individuals in the purchase of the Business/Professional products. If your business requires multiple copies, we offer Volume Licensing!



### PCI-DSS and PA-DSS Compliance (Digital Security Standards) Deadline Fast Approaching:

Businesses that rely upon credit card transactions need to be aware that the PCI (Pay Card Industry) has a mandatory compliance deadline of July 1, 2010.

What can you do to be PCI compliant, even if you are a small company? Rick Wilson of Miva Merchant writes this:

**So what do you have to do to be PCI Compliant even if I'm a small company?** I'm not a QSA (Qualified Security Assessor, essentially an approved PCI auditor) so this advice should all be gone over with your QSA, but I've been going through this process long enough to know a little bit and here's what I know are must haves thus far:

1. From a hosting perspective your network needs to have a minimum of three separate machines.
  - Your web server which needs to (obviously) sit behind a secure firewall
  - Your transaction database server which needs to be a different machine and it must be on the other side of another firewall from the web server

- Your encryption keys database server which needs to be on a different machine than your transactions and also through a different firewall.
2. Your machines need to have their security patches kept up to date

There's a whole lot more to PCI compliance than just those two items, but these two items when it comes to hosting are must haves, what probably goes without saying is you really can't get all the moving parts you need to be PCI compliant and pay only \$10 a month for it.

It's time to really reset the market's perspective on what it costs to securely host a website as ecommerce becomes completely intertwined into our daily lives. **From everything I can tell, the low end of pricing on PCI capable hosting is going to be in the \$50 a month range and easily goes up from there.** This may seem like a lot but it's really very low cost when it comes to properly protecting credit card data and offering a more secure online shopping experience.

## **Hackers Target Valentine's Day, from [www.spamfighter.com](http://www.spamfighter.com) 2010-02-10:**

Maria Alarcon, Anti-spam Research Engineer, Trend Micro, wrote in a blog post that two spam samples targeting one of the most distinguished days when people visit websites advertising gifts to give them to their lovers have been detected, as per the news by Trend Micro on February 1, 2010.

These spammed messages contained links that took users to a bogus gift promotion website. They also linked to another website that advertized replica watches.

Commenting on the modus operandi of hackers exploiting Valentine's Day, Alarcon said that every special occasion or holiday in today's Web milieu was not only a chance for people to celebrate, but also gave hackers opportunity to hit innocent users with their malicious scams. Alarcon further added that in more dangerous cases, forged e-mails contained links or attachments to viruses, as per the reports by SC MAGAZINE on February 1, 2010.

Other security experts said that Black Hat Search Engine Optimization (SEO) was also used by hacker to poison search results of Valentine's Day. Cyber crooks used this method so that their malicious links came near the top of search results and users could be deceived into believing that results were authentic.

Apart from Trend Micro, Internet security software distributor 'AVG' has also expressed concerns over the spam campaigns.

Lloyd Borrett, Marketing Manager of AVG (AU/NZ), claimed that while getting a secret card from a Valentine could be fascinating, opening an unknown e-mail with the subject line (I LOVE YOU) could prove destructive. Borrett also warned against any nasty piece of malware paving its way into the system, as reported by newsmaker on February 2, 2010.

The security experts have cautioned users against these harmful scams. For this, they have listed some precautionary steps. These are - be careful while opening mails specially when they belong to an

unidentified sender; use of an updated antivirus solution that gives protection against spam but enables authentic mails through; and never reply to spam mails.



**TREND  
MICRO**

Homeland Secure IT recommends and offers Trend Micro products for businesses and individuals with 1 computer or 1000.

Time to upgrade your operating system to Microsoft Windows 7!



Check out the Homeland Secure IT  
Business Computer Special...  
Quantity discounts & leasing  
available!

Homeland Secure IT, LLC values your privacy. We will never disclose your email address.  
If you would like to be removed from future mailings of NewsBytes, please email or call.

[www.HomelandSecureIT.com](http://www.HomelandSecureIT.com)  
864-990-4748

