



THE TEK REPORT



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Latest Breaking Security, Hacking and Virus News from the SecurityNewsPortal

On the Evil Maid USB Attack: Time Warner and the Cybersecurity Czar

Report Cyberterror Not a Credible Threat

FAKEAV Goes Open Source Or Not?

Vivo CMS files.php file Parameter Traversal Arbitrary File Access

EMC RepIIStor rap srv.exe Crafted TCP Packet Remote DoS

Simplenews Statistics Module for Drupal Unspecified XSS

Simplenews Statistics Module for Drupal Unspecified CSRF

Simplenews Statistics Module for Drupal Unspecified Arbitrary Site Redirect

Abuse Module for Drupal Unspecified XSS

vCard Module for Drupal theme vcard Function XSS

SoftStronghold

Flash Cookies Present Persistent Privacy Risk

Most cautious Internet users are aware of the privacy risks associated with allowing websites to store cookies on users' computers. In most cases, users will assume that disabling cookies in their browser prevents websites from storing data on the local PC. However, even with cookies disabled, websites are increasingly utilizing Flash applications to store Flash cookies on the user's computer using Adobe / Macromedia Flash Player.

More precisely, these Flash cookies are Local Shared Objects (LSOs) that are found in all operating systems that have Flash Player installed: Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS X, as well as Linux distributions. The Flash cookies, or supercookies, are currently used by 58 of the top 100 web sites, according to a new study by the University of California, Berkeley. Even when no visible Flash application is present on the web page, the websites silently use these supercookies to store potentially personally-identifiable information on the user's PC, including browsing history and user-submitted information. The aforementioned study also found that these Flash cookies are able to undelete cookies that the user has previously deleted.

According to the Berkeley report, entitled Flash Cookies and Privacy, "even the 'Private Browsing' mode recently added to most browsers such as Internet Explorer 8 and Firefox 3 still allows Flash cookies to operate fully and track the user." This occurs surreptitiously while the user assumes that no tracking information is stored.

Users have several options to resolve this potential breach of privacy.

(1) Delete the Flash cookies and directories manually. Windows XP/2000: C:\Documents and Settings\USER\Application Data\Macromedia\Flash Player\#SharedObjects

Windows 7 or Vista: C:\Users\USER\AppData\Roaming\Macromedia\Flash Player\#SharedObjects\

Mac OS X: /Users/USER/Library/Preferences/Macromedia/Flash\ Player/#SharedObjects/*
/Users/USER/Library/Preferences/Macromedia/FlashPlayer/macromedia.com/support/flashplayer/sys/*

(2) Change the settings in Adobe / Macromedia Flash Player. Unlike most Windows applications where an icon is placed in the Start Menu or Control Panel, users are forced to visit Macromedia's website to change their Flash Player settings. However in several environments, the settings reverted back to their default settings. Users may be shocked to learn that Flash Player also allows these websites to access the computer's webcam and microphone. To change these settings, visit:

http://www.macromedia.com/support/documentation/en/flashplayer/help/settings_manager07.html

Make sure to click on all 6 tabs when changing the desired settings.

Featured Release

Microsoft Windows 7

With the release of Windows 7 on October 22nd, Microsoft aims to reclaim its dominance in the PC operating system market.

Windows 7 boasts several new features, including the impressive Windows Media Center. Libraries, another new feature, integrates with Windows Explorer to organize the user's photos, video and audio files for easy access.

In most testing environments, Windows 7 has been found to use less CPU power and RAM to perform the same functions that used greater resources on Windows Vista.

Initial reviews for Windows 7 have been generally positive. Although there are reports of hardware driver incompatibilities, most of these issues can be resolved by selecting Compatibility Mode when installing buggy drivers.

Vista users will find the Windows 7 environment to be quite similar to

(3) For users running Mozilla Firefox, a free add-on named [BetterPrivacy](https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/6623) can automatically delete these Flash cookies as often as every minute. This add-on is recommended by the Berkeley study. For more information, visit: <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/6623>

(4) Windows users can download a free application named [CCleaner](http://www.ccleaner.com) to delete their flash cookies, as well as history, temporary files and more. CCleaner is compatible with Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, and Safari. For more information on CCleaner, visit: <http://www.ccleaner.com>

By taking these precautions, users browse the Internet while simultaneously preventing websites and third-party advertisers from tracking every click.

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Windows Vista. Users upgrading from Windows XP may initially be unaccustomed to the new interface; however, the XP Mode feature eases the transition to the Windows 7 experience.

Website:
Microsoft.com/Windows

[Call-a-Tek's Windows 7 Links](#)