

## XP & 2000 Users Beware!

A couple of weeks ago Microsoft announce that they had found a major security flaw in both their Windows 2000 and XP operating systems. At that time they release a Security Update that would fix the vulnerability. Since then a Worm named *W32.Blaster.Worm* has been released that will attack a PC that hasn't been updated and disable its ability to connect to Microsoft and download the patch.

Without getting too technical, the flaw allows hackers to probe certain TCP ports on your PC via the internet. If any of these ports are open then your computer's security may become compromised. A hacker can then access any file on your computer and even open and close applications. It is important to note that Windows 95 & 98 machines are NOT affected.

One of the tell-tale signs that you computer has the worm is that the PC will shutdown while surfing the internet. Sometimes it will say that the RPC service has caused the shutdown other times it will just power off. Downloading and applying the patch will fix the vulnerability, but will NOT remove the worm - you will need a good antivirus program to do that.

If you are having problems downloading the patch from Microsoft please go to my website at [www.csdimmitt.com](http://www.csdimmitt.com) and download the patch from there. Just click on the XP and 2000 Patch link on the left margin. For a free online virus scan go to [www.housecall.antivirus.com](http://www.housecall.antivirus.com). I strongly urge you to do both of these task ASAP!