TECH INDUSTRY PRESENTS
LESS-THAN-UNIFIED DEFENSE

Tech industry presents less-than-unified defense

It's up to individual owners to protect their computers

By ByronAcknowled and Jon Smurth
USA TODAY

Last fall, the Blaster Internet worm slammed into AOL and Yahoo like a Digital hurricane, sucking Web connections into the abyss. "We got hammered," says Andre Foster, who owns the Blaster-based company, an online software developer.

The economy is growing, Greenspan told a packed courtroom.

"Of course, consumer spending and housing Starting Tuesday, business owners in the Upstate are on the lookout for signs of economic activity. The National Bureau of Economic Research official is expected to announce that the economy has "softened" in the second quarter of 2004.

"In some cases, the response to the fear of infection has been more than adequate," Greenspan said. "But in other cases, it has been less than adequate. The market for vaccines has been slow to respond."

"There are no major declines in economic activity, as measured by the monthly data," Greenspan said. "But there have been signs of weakness in some areas. The labor market is still weak, and the housing market has slowed."

"We are still working to create a more inclusive and diverse society," Greenspan said. "We have to do a better job of listening to the concerns of all Americans."

"I am convinced that the economy is capable of achieving sustained growth. But we need to be prepared to act if it does not."

"I should note that the economy is not perfect. It has been subject to a variety of forces, including the global economic environment, domestic policy decisions, and the behavior of the Federal Reserve."

"We are committed to maintaining a flexible and responsive monetary policy. And we will continue to monitor the data closely to determine the appropriate course of action."
Rivalries, cost fears hinder cooperation

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primary mechanism to secure their own computer, we need to use anti-virus companies,” says Mark Childs, tech-strategy director of AT
days, says Michael Davidson, chief technology officer at

In the past eight months, USA Today interviewed more than 100 tech-industry executives, consultants, analysts, and security experts who say technology alone will do much more to improve Internet security in pointing fingers, says Dr. John Urban, professor of computer science at the Utah State University. He says security companies with the biggest budgets can significantly fight key Web pathogens, and that software patches alone are not enough. They say government can do more to expand and distribute intolerant software.

Internet users are becoming increasingly more aware of the competitive services that can bring them the same service at a better price, and they will not use a company that is not providing that service. Washington-based Internet-security think tank and fraud research center CERT was formed in 1988 to coordinate the response to major security incidents. Between 1999 and 2003, CERT received 16,000 virus-submission reports.

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Cyberspace security to increase

Survey of 254 executives last spring reveals

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