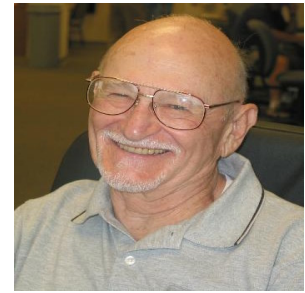


# NOBODY ASKED ME BUT.....



In the halcyon days of yore ( that's about 5 years ago in computer time), many of the advances made in computing were the products of fertile minds interested in advancing the progress of this revolutionary medium for the general public. Freeware and shareware were in abundance, some of it unintendently wreaking havoc on computers, intellectual curiosity led to wonderful advances and much of these was created by men and women who were far more interested in benefiting the public rather than striking it rich. This is not to say that those who capitalized on their efforts for profit were wrong. They deserved to reap the rewards they earned by marketing their ideas.

Slowly though, an increasing number of individuals began, out of sheer meanness, to use their skills to make life miserable for computer enthusiasts. Another group realized that there could be a profit to be made by stealing and using and/or reselling personal and private information collected from unsuspecting computer users. So today we are plagued by viruses, worms, Trojan horses and identity thieves who can make our lives hell. Despite efforts to minimize their numbers they are growing steadily. And the main reason for this is the sheer laziness or lack of interest of average computer users to take what are by now very simple and inexpensive ways to protect themselves.

Whether you understand the importance of insuring yourself against potential financial or mechanical disaster and want to know the level of protection you have or you are one of those who think you are immune to attack and have done little or nothing to protect yourself against these vermin, there is a free, simple way to determine the level of protection you have, if any. Bring up your home page - Yahoo, Microsoft or whichever Web site comes up when you turn on your computer. Place your pointer in the address box at the top and click the mouse to highlight the address already in there. Then type in **www.sygate.com**, click on "**Go**". A clean, free diagnostic program that will check your computer at no cost to you for your vulnerability to attacks from the evil doers will commence. If you are in any ways open to attack and do nothing about it, you deserve what you may get.

Matt