



## Internet Security Initiative (ISI)

John Haydon  
Executive Manager, Consumer Branch  
Australian Communications and Media Authority  
(ACMA)

GSR November 2005



## The problem

- **Around 80% of the world's spam is sent via compromised machines**
- **Most compromised machines are from 'home users'**
- **These machines are compromised because of:**
  - **Lack of firewall**
  - **Incorrectly configured**
  - **Users not caring enough !**
- **ISPs to act to strengthen or enforce their Acceptable Use Policies and act in their own interests.**
- **Encourage industry to complement legal action against spammers (SpamMATTERS)**



## The solution

### **Goal:**

**Reduce number of compromised and vulnerable computers on the Internet**

### **How?**

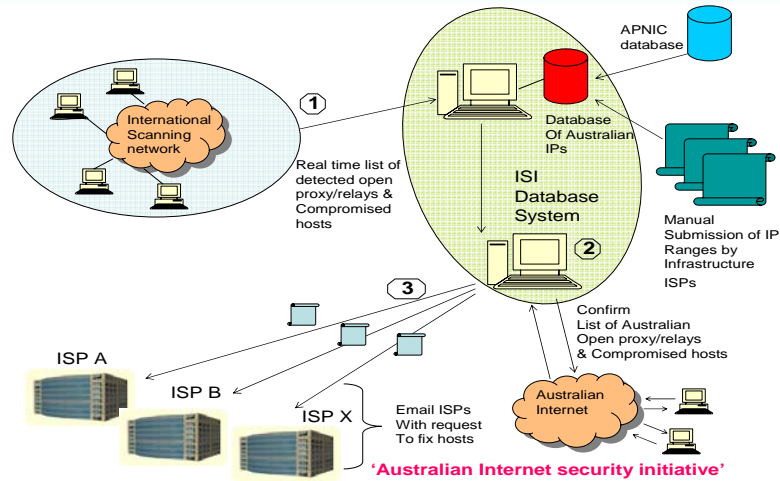
- **Work in partnership with ISPs**
- **Address security of both business and personal computers**
- **Restrict or close computers if they are compromised.**
- **Encourage security (as society reduces driver speeding)**
- **Educate the public: 'secure your computer'**



## Enter: The ISI project

- **When a compromised machine sends spam the IP address of that machine is sent with the spam message.**
- **Separately, systems exist that scan Internet for IP addresses of both compromised machines and machines that could be compromised**
- **Info sent to database which validates, sorts & sends data to ISPs**
- **ISP sends problem alert to owner**
- **ISP takes action:**
  - **advise person 'secure your computer'; or**
  - **disconnect computer (if serious)**
  - **can only reconnect when secured**

## ISI diagram



## Public Education

- **Public education vital to project**
- **Teach them about dangers of compromised ('infected') machines**
- **Create attitude change:**
  - 'Computer security is my responsibility'
  - 'I can help reduce spam'

## Benefits for ISPs

- **Less likely to be 'black-listed'**
- **Build reputation as 'responsible' ISP**
- **Improved public profile**
- **Offer customers security products + services**
- **Create greater sense of value for customers**

## Benefits: MoU partners

- **ACMA can offer output data or source code,  
if partners wish**
- **System can be expanded + adapted**
- **Chance to build cooperation with local ISPs**
- **Reduce spam in an economy**
- **Reduce spam across our region**