

What is this Contest all about?

If privacy is not easy, the common internet user will fail to adequately protect him or herself. Most people do not have a clue which digital threats and privacy infringements related to the Internet exist, and which tools can help to reduce them.

NLnet would like to initiate a contest for identifying a comprehensive collection of user-friendly software (if possible fitting on one CD-Rom/DVD or USB stick) allowing a non-hacker, say a normal layman computer/Internet user, to protect him-/herself from various threats and privacy infringements in a simple (one click) and pragmatic way.

This means we do not wish to go into a too comprehensive threat model, we want to keep a balance between defence possibilities and managing complexity for the layman. For instance protection against electro-magnetic eavesdropping is a step too far.

Primary target are Windows and Linux/BSD users, with MacOS users having the possibility to use both. Of course the inherent security issues with e.g. Windows cannot be solved, but a number of other issues can be covered.

What do we have in mind?

The distro should be easy to (un)install software (like choose the security level you want and press the button), that assists in protecting user's privacy, personal information and communication.

We think (*although we leave space for certain creativity*), that the distro should include, but shall not be limited to:

- Crypto-tools (not too strong) and steganography tools;
- Anonimizer (search engine scrapers, traffic obfuscation and such);
- Anti-botnet, anti-spyware, anti-rootkit, antivirus, other of that kind;
- Strong password generation;
- Secure password / certificate management;
- Secure disk / folder / file encryption tools;
- Standalone secure backup and disk wiping software;
- Secure chat;
- Secure password management;
- Intrusion detection;
- Firewall.

What else?

In addition, a number of more common useful security tools and/or information on how to use them may be identified:

- Mail and browser extensions for GPG, S/MIME, cache monitoring and protection, IDN domain names, scripting execution prevention/white listing, one time mail aliases, iframe blocking, cookie management, user agent renaming;
- Black holing lists (/etc/hosts, Windows HOSTS file) for OS level blocking of malware;
- Sand box environments for browsers and other risk factors;
- Secure serverless file sharing (direct as well as anonymous P2P/F2F);
- Secure port knocking;
- Scanning software for known (wireless) network exploits e.g. default passwords on routers;
- SSH/SCP/SFTP clients and servers;
- Secure VoIP;
- A list of public DNS-es to be able to avoid ISP DNS;
- Privacy testing suite;
- Network traffic analysis and forensics;
- Packet spoofing;
- Possibilities for free digital certificates and other identity management tools.

Awareness

One of the main goals is not only to provide tools protecting normal user, but also create awareness and let him / her be acquainted with these tools and with the necessity to protect from digital threats. It is therefore necessary that the compilation shall contain:

- Short and easy explanation of vulnerabilities, threats and privacy infringements related to utilisation of computer and the Internet.
- Explanation of the fact that the digital defence is more the matter of mind-set than that of technology.
- Maybe a couple of understandable articles from respectable journals / papers for a user willing to dig into the matter.

How the Results are going to be used?

Because being able to identify good useful free software tools involves different skills than being able to package the distro and to document what these tools are to be used for and how to use them safely, we ask Contestants only to work out the content of the distro (and will give out prizes for this), and will separately hire a professional to package the distro with the chosen content - we want to separate ideas from implementation.

For distribution of the compiled package we think about cooperation with some respectable consumer / user organisation(s) having larger database of users.

Prizes

1 st prize	- € 2.500
2 nd prize	- € 1.500
3 ^d prize	- € 500

For exceptional work additional prize may be considered at judging.

The prizes in cash will be paid to the accounts the winners. *Paying eventual national taxes is the sole responsibility of the winners of prizes.*

Contest Schedule

The deadline for Contest entries is August 15, 2008 at 12:00 CET.

Contest results and winners announcement will be made not later than 12:00 CET, September 15, 2008.

Submission

Submission of entries shall be made by sending the description of your compilation and attachments to email address usersafety@nlnet.nl with the subject "Open Contest User Safety on the Internet Highway".

Additionally your email shall contain the (nick)name of the contestant or the name of the group.

Judging

Each entry will be judged by a TBD panel of experts.

Simple Rules of the Open Contest

- Anyone can participate – the Contest is open to any individual or groups from any country.
- Contestants have read and agreed on these Contest Rules.
- All materials used shall be from or shall be put in the open source domain.
- All results of the Contest will remain in the open source domain.
- With your submission mention therefore the open source licence of your choice. There are many licenses dedicated to the open source domain. For the description of various licenses see <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-list.html>. For this Contest we recommend the GNU Free Documentation License (<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/fdl.html>).
- **Put yourself in the position of the layman user when choosing tools (ask you grandma).**
- Chosen software should be self-contained, where possible - external dependencies create risk of failure and pose other risks.
- Identify the latest version of each tool you propose.
- Shortly describe its functionalities in a plain language understandable to the layman user.
- In short compare the proposed tool with the others having similar functionalities. Why is this particular tool better for a normal layman user? (easiness, user control, etc.)
- Provide links to the relevant sites.
- Provide easy to understand awareness texts.
- Send your entry in time, late submissions will not be considered.

For suggestions and inquiries use the mail form on our website:

<http://nlnet.nl/contact/>

About NLnet Foundation

NLnet foundation (Stichting NLnet) is an independent organisation whose means come from donations, legacies, and interest on a substantial own capital formed in 1997 by the sale of the first Dutch Internet Service Provider. Its private capital ensures an absolute independent position.

The articles of association for the NLnet foundation state: "to promote the exchange of electronic information and all that is related or beneficial to that purpose".

The mission of the foundation is to stimulate network research and development in the domain of Internet technology. NLnet does not directly benefit from the undertaken projects, and all developments are published as Open Source.

At the moment, dozens of projects and organizations are supported financially. Amongst them: research laboratory NLnet Labs, the Free Software Foundation, ThinkQuest, Intelligent Interactive Distributed Systems, and the Internet Society.

For more information and announcements see our website:

<http://nlnet.nl>



ANNOUNCEMENT OPEN CONTEST

User Safety on the Internet Highway

