



## May 2008 Update

### Summary

This month has seen the SQL injection attacks from last month continuing, with the malicious domains involved changing as time goes by.

Additionally, GovCertUK observed a continued rise of PDF based attacks.

Microsoft released four patches this month that primarily address vulnerabilities in Office related applications.

### Trends and alerts

This month GovCertUK continued to see ongoing use of Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) to attack and deface sites. XSS attacks are an on-going problem that GovCertUK routinely report on to affected websites. GovCertUK have a comprehensive and in-depth [paper](#) on XSS, including how to protect against it, available on our [website](#).

Website defacements also continue to be an issue for UK Government. The underlying cause of the defacement invariably turns out to be in relation to misconfigured web servers or unpatched software. GovCertUK remind website administrators to ensure that their website's are properly secured and configured to prevent against defacement attacks.

GovCertUK are aware of the continued rise of PDF based attacks this month. GovCertUK released an [advisory](#) in March relating to vulnerabilities in PDF files including mitigation advice against PDF attacks.

Continuing from last month is the ongoing mass SQL attacks. As stated last month, these attacks use a combination of JavaScript and SQL injection to allow malicious links to be injected into legitimate sites. This then causes visitors to these sites to be potentially infected with malicious programs (Malware). GovCertUK originally issued an advisory on this matter in April. This was subsequently updated and revised twice in May to report on more information as it become available. The [advisory](#) contains an updated list of domains that GovCertUK have observed to be involved with the SQL attacks and recommend that these domains be blocked at perimeter network devices.

Patching continues to be an effective method of mitigation against a variety of attacks. Microsoft released four patches this month, three rated as critical and one rated as moderate. Every month GovCertUK release a summary of the Microsoft patches that have been released. These can be found in the 'Patch Advisory' section of the site. The May advisory can be downloaded from [here](#).

Microsoft released Windows XP SP3 to the general public this month. GovCertUK have produced a [summary](#) on the service pack, which can be downloaded from the GovCertUK website.

## Contact us

We welcome any queries about this report. Please contact us via one of the following means:

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