

Hackers beware! We can track you

Shooting hate or terror mails from wi-fi zones? Get ready to be booted out

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If you think that you can get away after shooting a threat mail from a wi-fi network, think again... coz IT solution providers are coming up with new security-related softwares and devices that not only trace your IP (internet protocol) addresses, but also can track you down!

In today's world, where staying online is indispensable for any business venture, connecting networks has also proved to be a double-edged sword, as it is vulnerable to hacking. Today, wi-fi hotspots are being seen as sensitive zones from where terror mails can be sent.

Internet is fast expanding and so are internet related threats like virus, trojan, spywares, pharming, phishing, indiscriminate surfing and bandwidth abuse which affect business largely. The companies also face other problems like leaking of confidential information, sexual harassment, illegal video and music downloads, unsafe surfing and missing deadlines, if their network is not protected against unwanted intrusions. Unlike the

80s and 90s where the threat was largely physical like robbery and pilferages, today most of the problems that the companies face come from the virtual world.

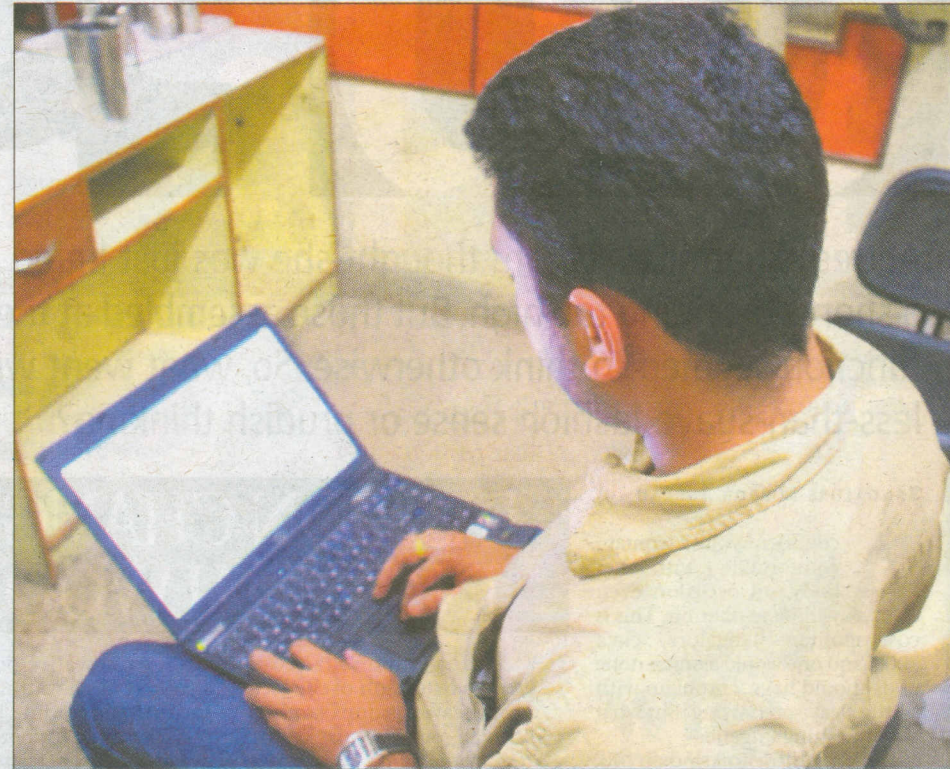
And the solution mooted is: Unified Threat Management (UTM) systems. These UTMs provide multiple security solutions that can shield computers against threats, starting from spyware to hacking of wireless networks. The cost of such UTM products range between Rs 55,000 and Rs 1.8 lakh. A simple UTM device can support a network of 50 computers and the sophisticated can support 3,000 computers.

A similar system with features like reporting system and user authentication helped the Gujarat cops to track down the IP address of Waghodia Institute, Vadodara, from where a terror mail was sent following the Ahmedabad blasts this year. Computer engineers from Ahmedabad-based **Elitecore Technologies** helped the cops to get this IP address of the Institute which had installed **Cyberome**, a UTM system developed by **Elitecore**. Like **Elitecore**, there are other com-

panies like WatchGuard Technologies and Zyxel Technology that have developed such UTM products which can track down IP address from where terror mails are sent.

"The cops could have directly identified the sender of the mail had it activated the user authentication system facility," said **P Prassana, Manager Channel Sales-Cyberome**. In a dynamic environment like wi-fi and DHCP (Dynamic host control protocol), the IP address gets changed every time a user logs in because a user keeps on moving inside the wi-fi zone. Even in a shared desktop, a computer is used by many users. In such cases IP address is instrumental in identifying the user.

The identity based UTM like **Cyberome** stores the user name and his/her password in its database which can be used later for any kind of investigation by the cops. With this product installation, the prospects of any terrorist going inside any wi-fi area and sending terror mails become impossible as the system requires the user to key in his user name and password. **Abhilash Sonwane**, Vice President of product development



PIC: VINESH VASANTH BETRABET

Wi-fi zones are now on the list of the most sensitive zones in the city

(**Cyberome**), said, "Investigators are able to trace the IP address of those gateways (the point where all the employees or students interact with outside world) and not the particular user. In such cases, all the members of a particular organ-

isation comes under cloud. By installing Identity based UTM, all the users sending threat mails can be traced. We provide blocking of unauthorized user and if it is hacked then we can also track him down."

He said that today people

take online safety very casually and awareness about its misuse should be created by the government. "Internet Service Providers (ISP) should take responsibility in educating people who take connections," he added.