

MAC LESSON #40

PROTECT YOURSELF - USE ALTERNATIVE BROWSERS

It was only a question of time before someone, somewhere found a way to attack Mac computers that used the Safari Web browser to surf the net. For the most part, Macs have been safe from viruses, worms and Trojan horses as the hackers and crackers of the world focused relentlessly on the huge number of flaws in the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser that allowed them to do terrible things to and with your computer.

Now, as Apple Computer fights hard for more of the computer marketplace, at least three flaws have been described that could let the bad guys get to your Mac. The problem for Apple is its Safari browser. So the best way to protect one self is to use a different browser. But which browser should you use? Here are some hints.

Firefox looks good on the Mac using OS X. Available at www.mozilla.org, a free download, Firefox does most things very well, yet there are some websites that Firefox has trouble opening.

Camino, also a free download at www.caminobrowser.org, handles almost any Web site you ask it do. It can be prone to crashes from time to time, but the good news is it's simple to use and looks really good.

Opera is another Web browser you can get free on the Net, at www.opera.com. Opera is small, light and really fast. I like Opera and I use it most of the time.

Of course, Internet Explorer and Netscape are available but I would avoid them at this point.

The bottom line here is that you can download and try these alternative browsers for yourself, and then use the one that works best for you. It's a great way to keep one self-safe on the Internet...for now.

