

## Macola ES Upgrade Utility Status & Update

As many of you know, the utility for upgrading from Progression SQL to Macola ES is in Controlled Release but has been delayed the past few months. As you can imagine, developing this utility has been a monumental task, given all of the significant program, data and processing changes associated with Macola ES and legacy Progression versions. Exact has been working feverishly to test and perfect this program.

In an effort to speed up the process for customers wanting to expedite the upgrade to Macola ES, Exact has come up with an alternative upgrade solution. They have developed and are testing a Master file conversion utility. The significant difference in this utility is that history transactions will not be converted. This utility will be used for those clients who wish to convert customers, vendors and items and don't need or want transaction history converted. To access history they would need to leave their Progression install running.

The original "full" upgrade utility is still being worked on and tested for those that want all of their Progression data (master files and history) converted.

(see *Macola ES* next page)

## Worm and Virus Threat Grows: Things to Keep in Mind

Within the past few weeks we have had calls from many of our clients who have fallen victim to the latest round of what some are calling our



next big terrorist threat, computer viruses. You were not alone, several iPro staffers were also affected. It has been a daily occurrence the last few weeks and there is no end in sight.

Worm and virus writers are exploiting holes in system security faster than ever, with potent self-propagating worms and e-mail viruses that spread as readily as spam.

Blaster, also known as the LovSan virus, started invading Web-connected PCs using the Windows XP and Windows 2000 operating systems on Aug. 11, 2003. It came through a security hole for which Microsoft had issued a patch 26 days earlier.

In the future, some worm will take "the vast majority of Internet down for a day or two," predicts Ed Skoudis, a security expert with International Network Services. "The attackers haven't even unleashed the big guns yet. The

worms we're seeing are damaging, but nothing as nasty as they could write."

Hard on Blaster's heels last week came a faster-spreading variant, dubbed Nachi or Welchia, which sought to clean out Blaster, but also overwhelmed some firms' systems worldwide.

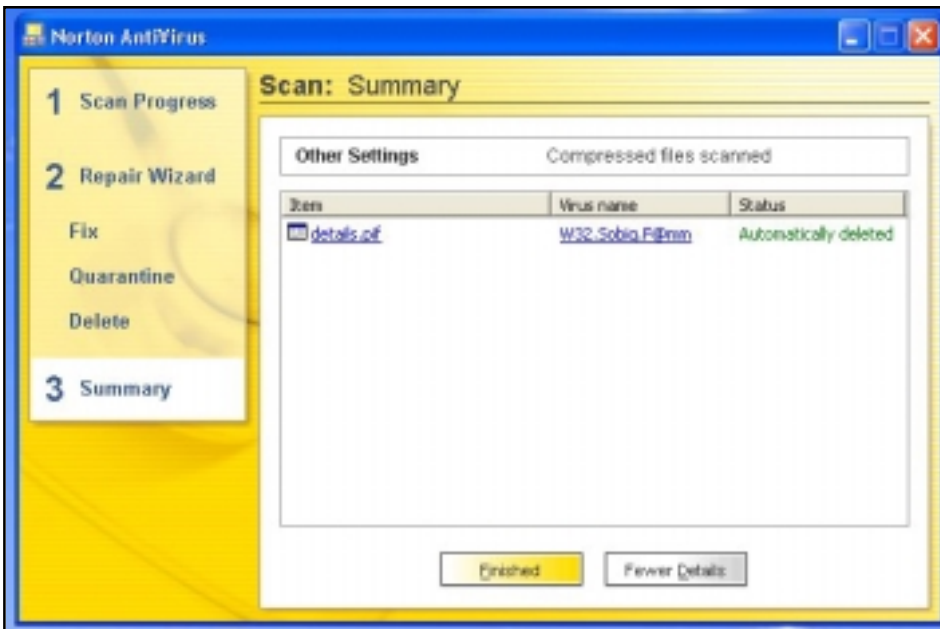
Nachi was followed by SoBig.F, the sixth variant of a recurring e-mail virus that uses infected machines to spread spam. Crafted more elegantly than its precursors, SoBig.F at its peak multiplied the normal amount of e-mail traffic by a factor of 20, deluging corporate e-mail systems.

In mid-August, security experts discovered SoBig.F contained encrypted code directing 20 infected computer servers to deliver a potentially devastating follow-up attack. The FBI, Internet service providers and security firms teamed to thwart the attack.

So what can you do?

1. Make sure your corporate or internet virus software is scanning all incoming and outgoing email files.
2. Make sure your virus software definitions and security updates are installed and up to date. *Regularly apply all Windows Updates to your operating system.*

(see *Virus* next page)



**Norton AntiVirus software locating and removing the SoBig.F virus recently on an iPro staffer's PC.**

*(Virus continued)*

3. Make sure you are performing full system and network scans on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.
4. Occasionally use alternate virus scanning options. There are viruses that have been written to disable or to be invisible to various popular and highly rated detection packages such as McAfee and Norton. A simple internet search can provide you with links to other reputable (and free) online scanning products.
5. Install corporate firewall protection. Viruses and worms are not only transmitted via email, they can be placed on your system through an open "port" of any PC or server that is connected directly to the internet.
6. Call our support desk where we can provide instruction for removal of infections or dispatch one of our consultants for removal assistance.

**(Macola ES continued)**

We are being told the Master file conversion utility should be ready for controlled release by the middle to late September and the full conversion utility should be available for controlled release in late September or early October.

## **iPro in the News, Nominated Again**



For the third straight year, iPro has been nominated as a Technology Pacesetter Organization in an industry event being sponsored by *Accounting Today* magazine. Results will be announced in an upcoming issue later in the year.

Also in the August issue of *Accounting Technology*, our own Joe Joyce was interviewed for an article regarding the use of EDI in the mid market. Here is a link to the article <http://www.webcpa.com/AccountingTechnology/index.cfm>

Click on the link to **"EDI Veers to the Mainstream"** from the main page. Or search for that title from the main page.

## **iPro Sales Promotions: Act Before September 30**

Whether you are currently running on Pervasive SQL or Progression SQL, you can take advantage e-Synergy (Business Process Manager) - at very special pricing.

e-Synergy was a finalist in PC Magazine's Best of Comdex awards last fall. And, e-Synergy's Supplier Portal was recently granted the "Best Enterprise Software Solution" award by CeBIT America, PC Magazine and eWeek magazines.

If you are not running Progression SQL? Buy e-Synergy and Exact Software will waive the \$350 per user database platform change fee (charged to all users when migrating from Pervasive (Btrieve) to MS SQL). And as an added incentive, we'll even go one step further and we'll provide free Microsoft SQL CAL's (Client Access Licenses), which represents an additional savings of \$149 per user giving you a potential total savings of \$499 per user! Deadline for this offer is September 30, 2003.

For those customers already running on Progression SQL (i.e. using MS SQL with Progression) we have a very attractive offer for you as well! Between now and September 30, 2003, current Progression SQL clients can buy eSynergy (Business Process Manager) for just \$750 per named user. That represents a 25% savings off of the retail price of \$1,000 per user. Maintenance and support will be charged based on the non-discounted retail price of the software.

**Add someone to the iPro Intelligence mail list. Contact Keith Beason at 800.736.2738 or at [keithb@ipro-inc.com](mailto:keithb@ipro-inc.com)**