

## Media Advisory

Stephen Perkins of NetMass Inc. Offers to Serve as Expert Reference  
Re: Release of New, Mutated Computer Virus

*Virus Scanners Fail to Protect Computer Users  
Against New and Possibly Destructive Viruses*

Dallas, TX...May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2000....According to Stephen Perkins, President of NetMass Incorporated:

“The ‘I LOVE YOU’ computer virus (technically a worm) has already mutated. The new version (known by several names, including VBS.Newlove.A) is difficult to detect because it modifies the SUBJECT lines when it sends itself to new users. The Symantec AntiVirus Research Center rates this virus as having medium wildness, having high distribution and causing high damage\*. The last part of this rating is of particular concern. Until users upgrade their anti-virus software with the latest patches, they are not protected against new mutations.

“This brings up an inherent weakness in the current generation of anti-virus scanning software. Since the software must know about the virus before it can scan for it, there will always be a delay between the time new viruses are released (and begin causing damage) and the time when the virus software will be able to combat that virus. Furthermore, destructive viruses can cause damage that virus scanners are unable to fix.

“While virus scanning software is very important, it does not adequately protect systems against new and potentially destructive viruses. To fully protect their systems, computer users need a combination of:

- A virus scanner to detect and clean viruses from the system
- A backup process to protect user data from malicious viruses.

“Backup systems can protect computers against new viruses that are not yet recognized by current virus-scanning software.

“NetMass provides backup services via the SystemSafe™ Online Backup product. SystemSafe™ can protect every file on Windows 95, 98, NT or 2000 systems. It is simple to use and, in conjunction with the user’s current virus-scanning software, can provide bulletproof protection against any destructive virus. Even after a catastrophic loss (such as destruction by a new type of virus or something as mundane as a hard drive failure), a system repair will leave the system in the exact state of any previous backup date selected. This includes all applications, user preferences, data files, and settings. Restoration is a breeze. Just a few mouse clicks and the user is back in action. Other benefits include:

- Offsite storage of the user's backup data set
- No size limitations
- No up-front hardware costs
- Backups available instantly over the network
- Archives available on CD-ROM
- Files may be shared between computers

“Because of the company's extensive experience with data protection and disaster recovery, NetMass Inc. offers to serve as an expert media reference regarding system and data protection, especially with regards to the threat of new and destructive viruses.”

**About NetMass, Inc.**

NetMass Inc. was founded with one simple goal in mind: Bring the Internet to the masses. There is an enormous amount of technology available in the marketplace that can enhance the user experience. SystemSafe™ is the latest sample of applications NetMass is bringing to the customer. SystemSafe™ with SystemRestore™ technology is designed to provide an inexpensive, reliable, secure and easy-to-use, Internet-based backup and restoration service. Without adding any hardware, SystemSafe™ will use an existing Internet connection to reliably and securely backup computer systems.

NetMass Incorporated is headquartered at INFOMART in Dallas, Texas, and maintains a branch office in Houston, Texas.

\*<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/vbs.loveletter.fw.a.html>

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