

# Bruce Schneier

## Schneier on Security

A blog covering security and security technology.

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July 3, 2008

### Browser Insecurity

This [excellent paper](#) measures insecurity in the global population of browsers, using Google's web server logs. Why is this important? Because browsers are an increasingly popular attack vector.

The results aren't good.

...at least 45.2%, or 637 million users, were not using the most secure Web browser version on any working day from January 2007 to June 2008. These browsers are an easy target for drive-by download attacks as they are potentially vulnerable to known exploits.

That number breaks down as 577 million users of Internet Explorer, 38 million of Firefox, 17 million of Safari, and 5 million of Opera. Lots more detail in the paper, including some ideas for technical solutions.

Posted on July 3, 2008 at 7:02 AM • [3 Comments](#) • [View Blog Reactions](#)

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### Comments

"...including some ideas for technical solutions."

Thats nice. Many papers don't seem to get as far as suggesting solutions.

Posted by: greg at [July 3, 2008 7:55 AM](#)

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Helpful site: "This paper will help you configure your web browser for safer internet surfing. It is written for home computer users, students, small business workers, and any other person who works with limited Information Technology (IT) support and broadband (cable modem, DSL) or dial-up connectivity. Although the information in this document may be applicable to users with formal IT support as well, organizational IT policies should supersede these recommendations. If you are responsible for IT policies for your organization, please consider implementing these recommendations as part of your policy."

[http://www.cert.org/tech\\_tips/securing\\_browser/](http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/securing_browser/)

Posted by: off at [July 3, 2008 8:10 AM](#)

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In most of these cases (the iframe exploit) it's javascript that's the problem. So, by running an older version of FF with the NoScript plug-in surely I'm going to be safer than a more recent version that allows javascript (and other plug-ins) by default?

Posted by: Colossal Squid at [July 3, 2008 8:11 AM](#)

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