

▶ **NEW VIRUS THREATS**

▶ **The Coming Storm?**

The Storm worm is something to watch out for in your organization. Growing concern exists that this heavily installed Trojan is going to soon be used for malicious activity. Right now, security researchers do not know what it will be used for. But with over one million computers infected and growing every day, they are becoming increasingly concerned that it is only a matter of time before this network is activated and used in a denial of service attack or for some other malicious activity.

▶ **Phishing Attacks**

Phishing attacks are becoming more sophisticated and tricky for the unaware and even the aware. An e-mail recently crossed my desk (supposedly from the IRS) telling the user to click on the link to obtain more information about a pending refund. This particular user was fortunately aware enough to not click on the link because they had to pay this year. However, a user expecting a refund might have clicked on it, especially if they provided their e-mail address to the IRS when they filed their tax return (this is an option with some tax preparation software). It is time for us to start taking a more proactive role as advisors to our clients and warn them about being vigilant with e-mail in order to not fall victim to these scams. Many of our clients do fall victim, and maybe if we had spent some time educating them on the hazards, it might have prevented the problem. Perhaps including something on this topic with your tax organizers or other year-end correspondence might be something to think about.