



Original URL:

[http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2005/12/21/bittorrent\\_botnet\\_attack/](http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2005/12/21/bittorrent_botnet_attack/)

## Hackers download pirate movies onto compromised PCs

By [John Leyden](#)

Published Wednesday 21st December 2005 13:31 GMT

Hackers have developed a sneaky technique for installing pirated movie files on Windows PCs infected with the lockx.exe rootkit. Doctored copies of BitTorrent are loaded on infected machines and used to download Disney movies or the film version of [Mr. Bean](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0096657) (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0096657>).

The motive for the bizarre (and short-lived) attack, linked to a Middle East-based group in control of the network of infected machines - remains unclear. FaceTime Communications, the firm which uncovered the attack, [reckons](http://www.spywareguide.com/articles/the_bittorrent_auto_installs_98.html) ([http://www.spywareguide.com/articles/the\\_bittorrent\\_auto\\_installs\\_98.html](http://www.spywareguide.com/articles/the_bittorrent_auto_installs_98.html)) the assault is an experiment which might be applied to far more malign purposes in future. The trick creates a scenario where an infected users might be accused of sharing copyright-protected content without ever using file sharing software.

### SPONSORED LINKS

[Free whitepaper - ProCurve Networking by HP](#)

[All-in-one integrated server defence software from Trend Micro. Download a trial version today](#)

[Free whitepaper - How to Choose the Best Help Desk Software for Your Small or Midsized Business](#)

[Free whitepaper - Improved J2EE Performance and User Experience with Pre-production Testing](#)

[Free whitepaper - Leveraging ICT: The Real Opportunity for Achieving Performance in Delivering Government Services](#)

The lockx.exe rootkit file was bundled with a variant of the notorious [SDBot worm](http://www.spywareguide.com/articles/worm_propogates_via_aol_im_ins_91.html) ([http://www.spywareguide.com/articles/worm\\_propogates\\_via\\_aol\\_im\\_ins\\_91.html](http://www.spywareguide.com/articles/worm_propogates_via_aol_im_ins_91.html)) that spread across AOL's IM network in late October. ®

### Related stories

[Botnet creators AIM high](#) (21 September 2006)

[http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/09/21/pipeline\\_worm/](http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/09/21/pipeline_worm/)

[IM worm installs rogue browser](#) (22 May 2006)