

# Addressing the Malware Problem

Sabeena Oberoi  
Director, E-security  
Department of Communications,  
IT and the Arts

# Presentation Structure

- **Part 1**
  - **Malware – a public policy issue**
- **Part 2**
  - **Government's response**



# Part 1

## What is Malware?

- Malicious software that causes harm
- Financial fraud
- ID theft
- Data theft
- Vandalism
- DoS and DDoS



# Examples - Malware Attacks

**Subject:** John Howard survived a heart attack

**Date:** 2007-02-18 20:43:03

**SYDNEY, February 18, 2007 08:56pm (AEDT)** - The Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard have survived a heart attack. Mr Howard, 67 years old, was at Kirribilli House in Sydney, his prime residence, when he was suddenly stricken. Mr Howard was taken to the Royal North Shore Hospital where the best surgeons of Australia are struggling for his life.

Click on the link below to get the latest information on the health of the Prime Minister:

[The Australian - keeping the nation informed](#)

John Howard was born on the 26th of July, 1939. Howard is Australia's second longest serving Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party in Australia.

Howard was born at, a suburb of Sydney Australia. He attended Earlwood Primary School and then Canterbury Boys' High School. Howard graduated from the University of Sydney with a bachelor of Laws and in 1961.

Prime Minister John Howard was sworn Australian PM in 1996 and has subsequently won the next 3 elections, being in 1998, 2001 and 2004. He is considered a conservative politician and has described himself as "the most conservative leader the Liberals have ever had".

Prime Minister Howard was a strong supporter of the war with Iraq and has been criticized for blindly following the lead of the United States president George W Bush. Australian troops entered Iraq with the United States and British lead force. This became an unpopular decision for Howard, particularly after no weapons of mass destruction was found in Iraq (the main reason for starting a war with Iraq and ousting the leader Saddam Husein).

John Howard and his wife Janette have three children together; Melanie, Tim and Richard Howard.

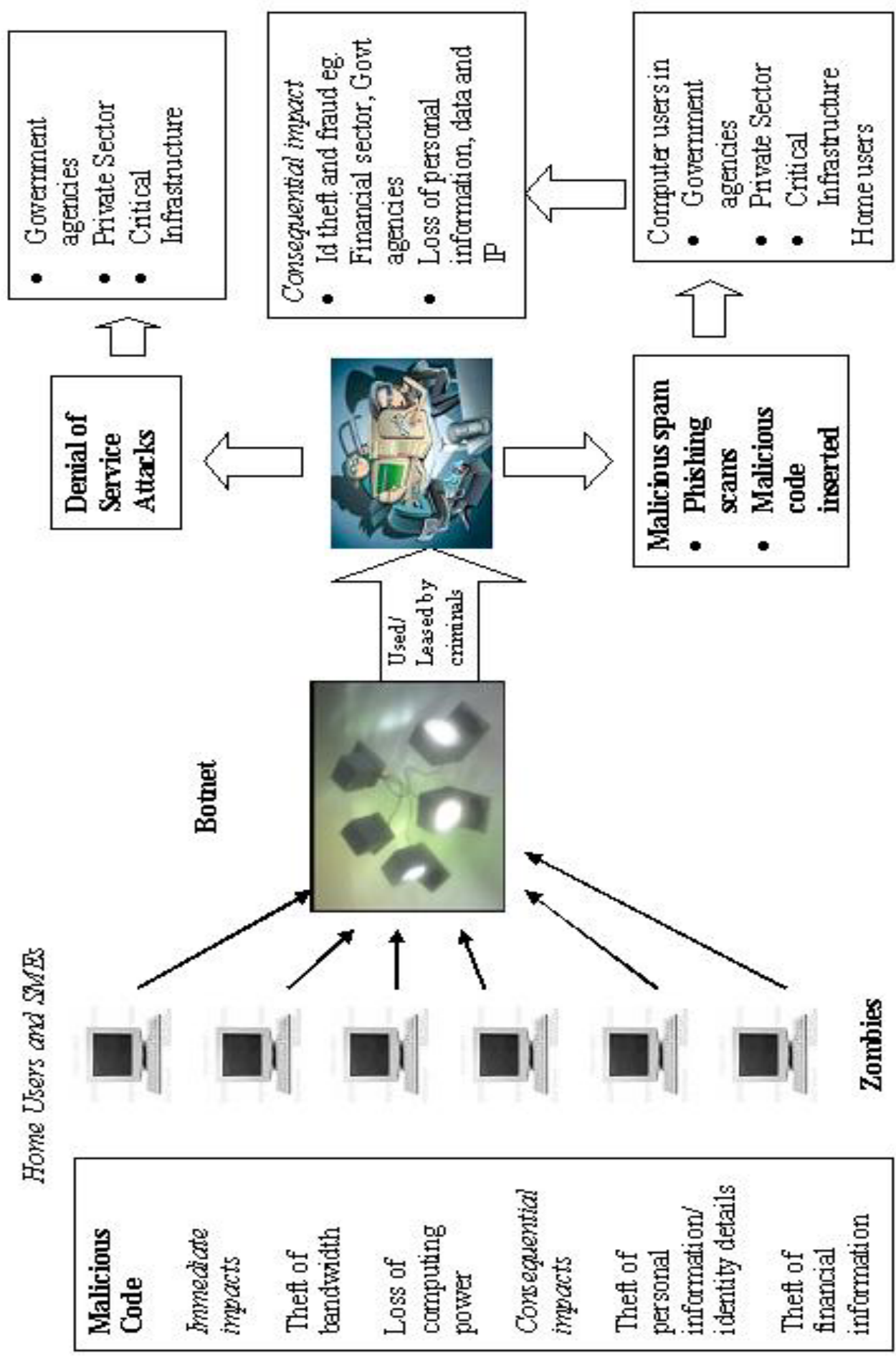
- PM hoax email
- Haxdoor trojan

# Consequences of Malware

- Consumers
- Business
- Government

**Transaction  
fraud costs  
Australians  
\$1.1bn a year**

# IMPACT of COMPROMISED COMPUTERS





# Government's Involvement

- **Protection of Critical Infrastructure**
- **Asymmetry of information**
- **Maintaining trust and confidence in the online environment**



# Part 2

## Policy Challenges

- **Evolving & easily dispersible**
- **Borderless Online Environment**
- **Increase in online transactions**
- **Access to broadband**
- **Enables existing and new crime**





# Strategies

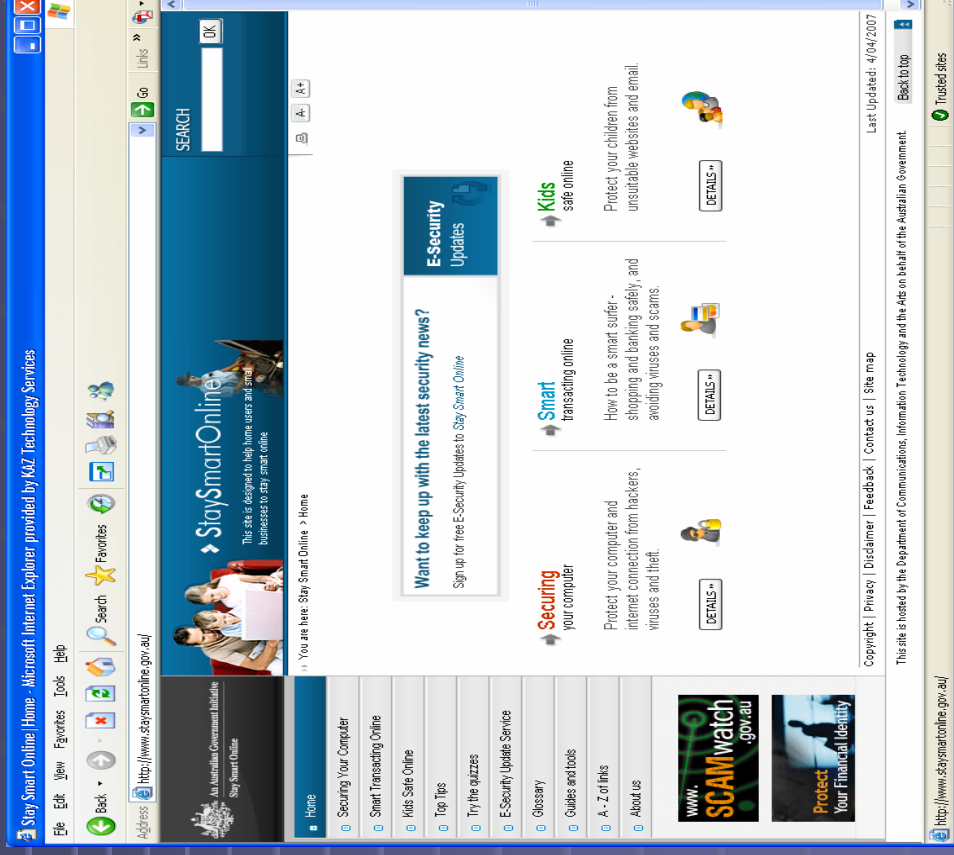
- Awareness & Education
- Working with Industry
- Legislation
- Technical
- International Collaboration



# Awareness and Education

- Focus on home users and SMEs
- Australian Initiatives
  - National Awareness Week
  - Stay Smart Online

[www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au)



# Working with Industry

- Australian Internet Security Initiative
- National Awareness Week
- Trusted Information Sharing Network



# Legislation

- Behaviours and outcomes rather than technology
- Old crimes in a new environment
  - case law and precedent is needed





# Technical

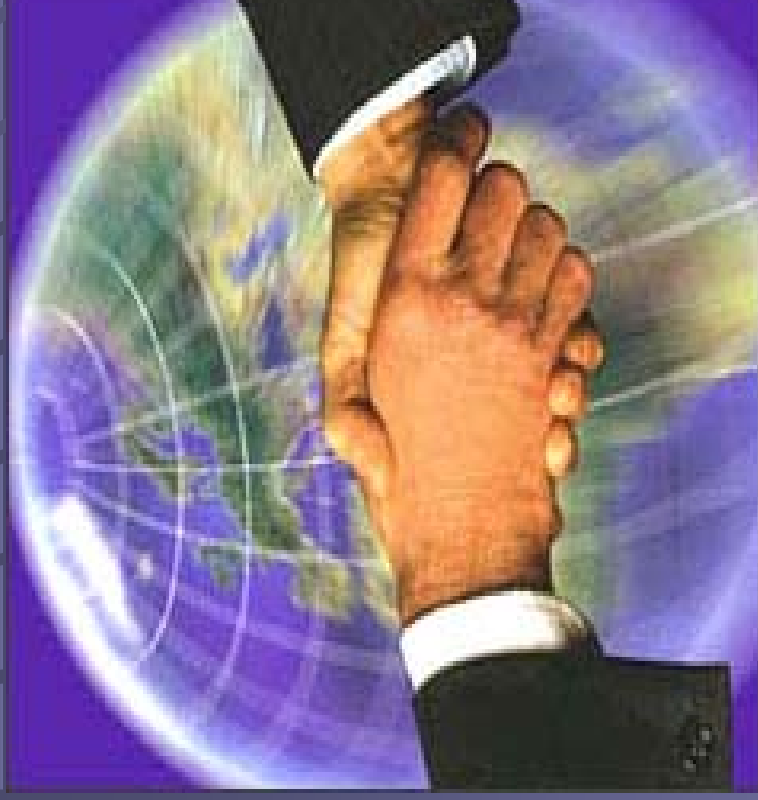
- User Level
- Network Level
- Security tools –  
“fit for purpose”  
and “fit for the  
audience”





# International Collaboration

- Shared understanding of malware
- Following the money trail – law enforcement cooperation
- Global Problem – Policy Collaboration



Questions?

[Sabeena.Oberoi@dcita.gov.au](mailto:Sabeena.Oberoi@dcita.gov.au)