

FEBRUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER

Sapphire, SQL slammer causes Internet havoc: If you didn't already know, outages and difficulties with your Internet Account Jan. 24 – 27th were the result of a worldwide outbreak of "Sapphire Virus". You do not have to worry about this one, it targets only servers running Microsoft SQL 2000. Unfortunately, there are a lot of those around. As the servers were down for upgrades, parts of the Internet shut off. For our customers, the link between here and the servers shut down several times for a few hours. That meant e-mail went off and dialups wouldn't log on. Customers of other ISPs could log on but not surf. On the following Monday, many government services were off-line as no one works weekends, and repairs waited. We wish we could tell you it will not happen again, but sources warn to expect more of this type of attack. Experts warn that should war with Iraq break out, there will most likely be a severe round of attacks from Middle East hackers to disrupt banking and government services.

MAX to enter ADSL market: we begin offering ADSL this month. We remind you that this type of service is not available in all areas of Fort St. James.

KaZaa should be considered a VIRUS: If you are experiencing problems with your computer, look for KaZaa Media Desktop. If it is installed, your computer is compromised and open to attack. The program is so obtrusive and hated by programmers that hackers are making viruses that target KaZaa. If you uninstall it (add-remove programs), it leaves dozens of spy files on your computer. Avoid this one, no matter what your kids say.

Internet School Year Specials: sale on accounts that expire June 30, 2003

STUDENT PKG (30 hr/mo)	\$59.00	-less than \$12 a month
FAMILY PKG (50 hr/mo)	\$79.00	-less than \$16 a month
UNLIMITED:	\$124.00	-less than \$25 a month

JUNK MAIL: Junk e-mail is becoming a real problem all over the Internet. Max does not filter e-mail because what is junk to you is treasure for another. We advise you to use a program like Mailwasher that allows you to filter and bounce mail to your individual preferences. There are a couple of other measures you can take as well.

1. Make sure you're not broadcasting your surfing with an anti-spyware program like Ad Aware. Run it every few weeks.
2. Clean out your cookies and change your return address in Outlook – Tools – Accounts – Mail – Preferences – General to usernameNOSPAM@fsjames.com. This will mean that only people who take the effort to remove the words 'NOSPAM' will get through. Any mail sent with REPLY will bounce. It will also make it a little more difficult to access some sites and retrieve stored passwords for some others.

BUDGET COMPUTER: We now carry a line of computers so cheap it's obscene. Even the best grade systems made are very inexpensive at Max.