

# ZOMBIES, BOTNETS AND BCC



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Click on the blue, underlined text to go to its linked reference.

A *zombie* is a computer attached to the Internet, using a server, cable or Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) that has had its security compromised and is remotely controlled without its owner's knowledge. It now may be used as a launching point for denial of service attacks (DoS), typically against targeted Websites, or the distribution of SPAM.

According to [Wikipedia](#), "A denial-of-service attack (DoS attack) is an attempt to make a computer resource unavailable to its intended users. Although the means to, motives for and targets of a DoS attack may vary, it generally comprises the concerted, malevolent efforts of a person or persons to prevent an Internet site or service from functioning efficiently or at all, temporarily or indefinitely."

For more on zombies, visit <http://darryd.com/ExcelNet> and read "Zombies Attack Computers Too."

Once a computer becomes a zombie, the criminal installs "bots" onto it.

*Bots* are software applications that run automated tasks over the Internet. Bots perform tasks that are both simple and structurally repetitive, at a much higher rate than would be possible for a human editor alone. Bots are used in a malicious way by criminal gangs to coordinate attacks on networked computers for financial gain.

A collection of zombies with bots on them become a *Botnet*.

A *bot herder* is the name given to the criminal who controls them.

So, what does this have to do with you and your computer?

The only way to avoid having your computer become a zombie is to have and to keep updated a firewall, an anti-virus program and an anti-spyware program.


For this purpose, I recommend ZoneAlarm, AVG AntiVirus and AVG Anti-Spyware. All of these programs are free.

But it takes a lot more than that to be free of the threats to your system.

The easiest way is to tell your friends to quit including your name and email address among the legions that are listed when one forwards an email.

In a forwarded email, it takes but a moment to Left-click, hold, and drag and to select all the previous email addresses. Then, touch the Delete key and they are gone.

To create an email using Bcc (Blind Carbon Copy), simply:

1. Address the email to yourself.
2. Left-click on the Bcc line or, if it's not there, click on Address Book icon  the left of the word "Cc" on the left-side of the Cc line, and then the Address Book will open. In the latter case, you'll add the person from within the Address Book:

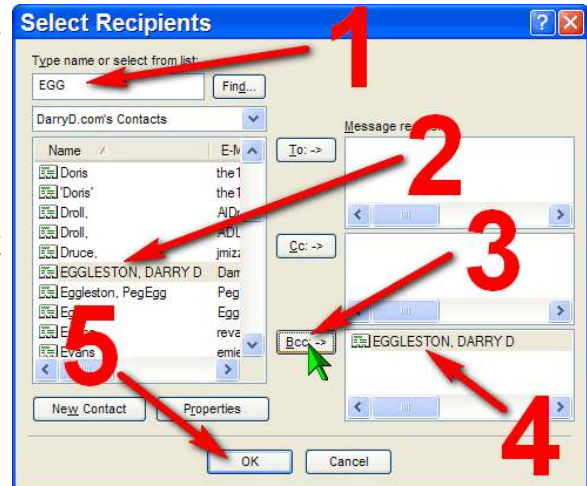


Figure 1

- ① Type a part of the name
  - ② The name becomes selected.
  - ③ Left-click on the Bcc button.
  - ④ The name appears in the Bcc pane. You can repeat Steps ① – ③ as many times as you have names to add.
  - ⑤ Touch the *Enter* key, on the keyboard, or click on the "OK" button.
3. Send the message as you normally would.

For more on how to use Bcc, go to <http://darryd.com/OE> and read the lesson, "Bcc (Blind Carbon Copy)."

I know that you don't want to hurt your friend's feelings by insisting that he/she use Bcc, but your options are limited. "If you continue to allow your friends to place your valuable email address on the Cc: line, you'll continue to get spam and possibly even more dangerous email."

If you want to reduce the amount of spam you're getting *and* reduce the threat to you and to your computer, insist upon your friends using Bcc.

If you'd rather put yourself at risk to deal with the infections and the spam, just remain silent. Remember: *Silence is consent.*