



Microsoft Security Advisory

**Vulnerabilities of Gadgets & Sidebar
Windows Vista and Windows 7**

August 18, 2012



What are Gadgets?



CPU Meters

Stock Reports

Currency Conversions

Network Monitors

Language Translators

Facebook Explorer

Calculators

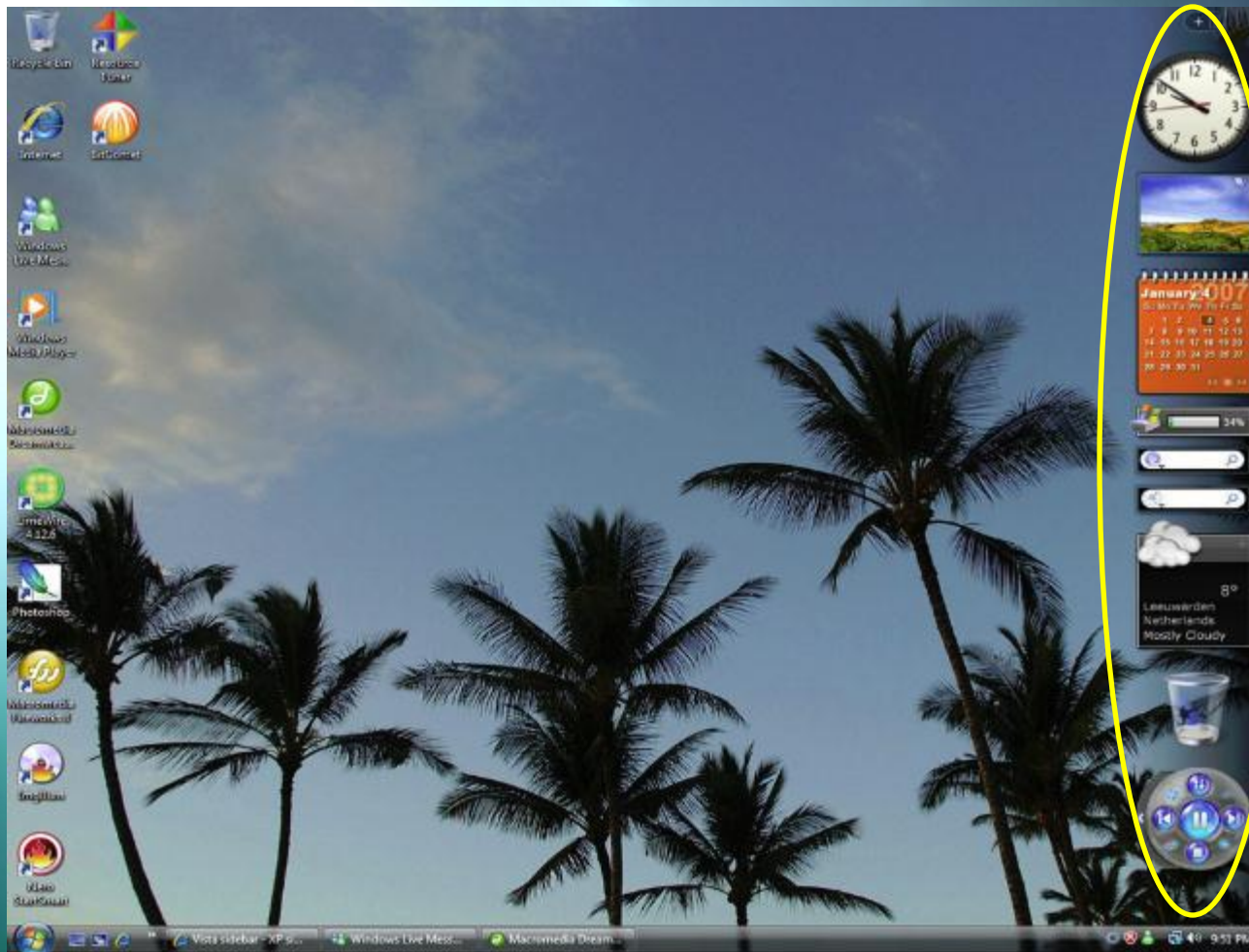
XM Radio

Pandora Radio

Games

Battery Monitor

Sticky Notes






The Threat


- Gadgets, if left enabled, may allow attackers to take complete control of a individual's computer
- Windows Vista and Windows 7 are affected
- Windows XP and Windows Server are not impacted
- Microsoft is unlikely to remedy this problem with Windows 8 being imminent (opinion)

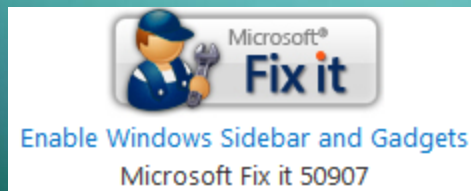


The Solution

- Microsoft has provided a “Fix it” to disable Gadgets and Sidebar  ; look for the following icon








- Microsoft has provided a “Fix it” to enable Gadgets and Sidebar  ; look for the following icon





References

- Microsoft Security Advisory 2719662 
- Get the “Fix it” to remedy the threat 
- Article from SecurityWatch 
- Article from PCWorld 
- Article by Woody Leonhard 
- For more information, ‘Google’ “Microsoft Security Advisory 2719662”



Two Essential Resources

- Microsoft Security Advisory 2719662 at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/security/advisory/2719662>
- Get the “Fix it” to remedy the threat at <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2719662>;

search for the icon



- Click on this icon and follow the directions given