

Survey: Federal employees commemorate Memorial Day by watching porn

By M.D. Kittle | Watchdog.org WASHINGTON, D.C. - Nothing says honoring our nation's fallen service members like downloading some porn on Memorial Day.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nothing says honoring our nation's fallen service members like downloading some porn on Memorial Day.

But that's apparently how some federal employees will spend this holiday, according to a newly released survey by a Florida-based spyware company.

EnigmaSoftware.com found that personal computers in Washington, D.C., which, obviously, boasts the highest concentrations of federal employees in the country, experience a 51 percent spike in computer infections on federal holidays.

"A 51 percent jump is pretty dramatic," said Patrick Morganelli, EnigmaSoftware.com senior vice president of Technology. "That means there are a lot more people than normal who are home on their personal computers and are engaged in activities where infections are likely to occur."

And what is the No. 1 cause of computer infections? Pornography sites.

While the data doesn't measure precisely where the computers are located or exactly where the infections came from, Morganelli said porn's the big problem.

"Based on years and years of doing this, huge chunks of infections come from viewing adult content."

The 51 percent increase compares to an average 29.8 percent increase in computer infections in the previous month leading up to the holiday.

Federal workers certainly don't corner the market on pornography consumption. Porn-viewing has become the Great American pastime. Take that baseball, football.

A study last year found 64 percent of American men reported viewing porn at least monthly, while 18 percent of male respondents acknowledged they are either addicted or unsure whether they have an addiction to porn.

But cities with high concentrations of federal employees have higher concentrations of porn-related computer problems, according to the EnigmaSoftware survey.

Colorado Springs, which has one of the highest concentrations of federal government jobs in the country, saw a 67.9 percent spike in computer infections during federal holidays.

Enigma looked at reports of infections on its customers' computers in the nation's capital for all federal holidays over the past two years, from New Year's Day to Christmas Day

On President's Day, for instance, Washington, D.C. computers that employ Enigma software reported 1,774 cyber-based infections, a 64 percent increase from the 1,080 average infections in the month leading up to the federal holiday.

Memorial Day ranked second highest, with a 63.3 percent spike in computer infections.

No. 1 on the list, Veterans Day, which saw a 92.3 percent increase. It is true what they say, our veterans served, fought and died for federal employees' right to look at porn on their personal computers.

Christmas Day, ranked lowest, although still reporting a 23 percent increase in potential porn-related computer infections. Perhaps those preoccupied with porn on one of the holiest days of the Christian faith are not asking themselves, "What would Jesus do?"

The survey findings are interesting in light of reports that point to a porn problem in the federal government.

A Washington Times investigation last year found pornography on computers at several federal agencies.

The review of investigation records obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request uncovered employees busted watching porn at work. They often blamed a lack of work for their extracurricular activities.

"He stated he is aware it is against government rules and regulations, but he often does not have enough work to do and has free time," investigators wrote of a Treasury Department employee who viewed more than 13,000 pornographic images in a six-week span, according to the Washington Times piece.

"To ignore this issue would not only condone an abuse of taxpayers' dollars, but also embrace an unhealthy workplace," U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said in a statement in late March.

Meadows has authored the Eliminating Pornography from Agencies Act in the wake of reports that found an Environmental Protection Agency employee was watching as much as six hours of porn a day on his office computer and had downloaded some 7,000 pornographic files. As of late March, the employee remained on paid administrative leave.

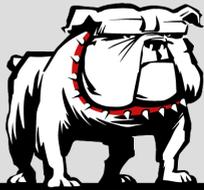
Snow Days also are a big day for porn-viewing, according to the EnigmaSoftware study. For government and non-government employees alike.

The “Snowmageddon” that socked the Eastern Seaboard on Jan. 26 saw a 40 percent spike in computer infections in Boston, and a 45 percent jump in all of Massachusetts. The state of New York saw an 86 percent increase, the survey found.



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