

of 'point counterpoint' columns that predicted mass hysteria over Y2K viruses might cause more damage than the viruses themselves. After January 1st, he published a column that blamed US government officials for promoting the Y2K virus hysteria.

Mr. Rosenberger is regarded by antivirus experts as a watchdog who believes an antivirus "cartel" has been allowed to operate without ethical oversight. He is a master of the 'Socratic irony' debate style who fakes ignorance so that he can 'innocently' dismantle an expert's claims or beliefs. He is at his most dangerous when he uses his trademark line, "This forces us to ask a philosophical question."

Outside of the antivirus experts, Mr. Rosenberger is a popular figure for using humor to defuse hysteria. His blog entries rely on, "sarcasm, burlesque, irony, and satire", to highlight what he perceives as character flaws and vanities in the computer security field. He hosted a popular MP3 podcast on security topics from 2001 until the death of his wife in 2005.

'Flagrant Introspect'

It is believed that Mr. Rosenberger's skill sets earned him a position on the US Central Intelligence Agency FLAGRANT INTROSPECT team. Created in 1995 to counterbalance a 'remote viewing' research project, the team is made up of 20-40 member who are picked for their skeptical perspectives, extraordinary insights, insular attitudes, strong personalities, exceptional writing and debate skills, unquestionable ethics and high security clearances: All traits that can be ascribed to Mr. Rosenberger.

A rumor that Vmyths.com was established as a cover for Mr. Rosenberger's CIA position is considered to be unfounded. He was blogging on the Compuserve network for years before FLAGRANT INTROSPECT was created.

For administrative purposes, FLAGRANT INTROSPECT is run through the MITRE Corporation, a non-profit firm in McLean, Virginia, that contracts with the Defense Department. MITRE also runs the secretive JASON team that advises top US leaders on matters of science and technology. FLAGRANT INTROSPECT, by contrast, advises top US leaders on flaws in the government's collective thinking process.

FLAGRANT INTROSPECT is a radical departure from any normal government agency or think tank. Its existence is classified 'top secret, sensitive compartmented information,' so its members can pursue civil

servant careers without being perceived as 'whistle blowers' or 'boat rockers.'

The FLAGRANT INTROSPECT team is chartered to identify flaws in the government's collective thought process that can be exploited by a hostile force. In this light, it should be noted that Mr. Rosenberger is very critical of his government's "blind addiction" to antivirus software and "myopic reliance" on antivirus technologies controlled by companies that he claims have ties with foreign intelligence agencies.

Mr. Rosenberger is critical of the US government's "inability" to recognize antivirus programs as a "soft underbelly" that he claims can be "turned against its masters." He wrote the 'ADVEIS' antivirus rootkit to prove this point. He has insisted that his rootkit was a "pet project," although this may be a lie. It is assumed that he created it for FLAGRANT INTROSPECT as a proof of concept.

Members of FLAGRANT INTROSPECT are rumored to have been called upon by ranking officials to serve as a 'Muse' or 'No Man,' the opposite of a 'Yes Man.' It has been speculated that the retired Air Force CIO, Mr. John Gilligan, invited Mr. Rosenberger to be his 'No Man' during software negotiations with antivirus vendors. It has also been speculated that US Senator Barack Obama consulted with Mr. Rosenberger in his capacity as a 'Muse.'

FLAGRANT INTROSPECT members are insular critics with strong personalities who want to change government thinking. The team is rumored to suffer from high turnover due to frustration. This could explain an incident when Wired magazine exposed Mr. Rosenberger's link to the CIA. It has been postulated that Mr. Rosenberger exposed himself in an effort to end his affiliation with the group. It is a striking coincidence that Mr. Rosenberger's blogs began to focus on the US government "mindset" after Wired magazine revealed his CIA status.

Mr. Rosenberger has stated in his blogs that he never worked for the CIA. He often makes jokes about his alleged CIA status when he writes about government experts that he perceives to be vain.

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In a spirit of openness, Mr. Rosenberger alerted his readers that his site's advertisers had withdrawn after the September 2001 terror attacks. He and Mr. Robichaud gave up their salaries so the site could continue operating while they searched for