

Wietse Venema Quotes

*Writing, Software, People, Window, Bugs, Challenges, Safety, Doe, Interesting,
Respect, Technology, Favors, Example, Six Months, Experience, Updates,
Computer, Want, Simple, Users*

This will surprise some of your readers, but my primary interest is not with computer security. I am primarily interested in writing software that works as intended.

~Wietse Venema

One bug in an SMTP server can open up the whole machine for intrusion.

~Wietse Venema

I don't expect an overnight change of all desktops to what the US Military used to call B3 level security. And even that would not stop users from shooting themselves into the foot.

~Wietse Venema

Lack of documentation is becoming a problem for acceptance.

~Wietse Venema

I was going to visit IBM for six months as a visiting scientist. Now, six months is a lot of time, so I came with a whole list of projects that I might want to work on.

~Wietse Venema

Defect-free software does not exist.

~Wietse Venema

Most of the effort in the software business goes into the maintenance of code that already exists.

~Wietse Venema

Windows favors multi-threading, which means that a service is implemented by one single process.

~Wietse Venema

When I write software, I know that it will fail, either due to my own

mistake, or due to some other cause.

~Wietse Venema

Sure, but competition is good for the user.

~Wietse Venema

Writing software that's safe even in the presence of bugs makes the challenge even more interesting.

~Wietse Venema

My reply is: the software has no known bugs, therefore it has not been updated.

~Wietse Venema

As of today, the Postfix mail transport agent has almost 50,000 lines of code, comments not included.

~Wietse Venema

Adding functionality is not just a matter of adding code.

~Wietse Venema

Coming back to the topic of computer security, the TCP Wrapper is an example of such a safety net. I wrote it when my systems were under attack by someone who appeared to walk through walls.

~Wietse Venema

Postfix keeps running even if one Postfix process dies; Windows requires that someone restarts the service.

~Wietse Venema

Qmail out of the box works fine, so people will want to use it regardless of licensing restrictions, even when the software does not ship with their system software.

~Wietse Venema

The Postfix security model is based on keeping software simple and stupid.

~Wietse Venema

The challenge with Postfix, or with any piece of software, is to update software without introducing problems.

~Wietse Venema

Like all software, Qmail can survive only when it keeps up with changing requirements.

~Wietse Venema

I want to avoid locking people into solutions that work only with Postfix. People should have a choice in what software they want to use with Postfix, be it anti-virus or otherwise.

~Wietse Venema

At the time the Sendmail program had a very poor reputation with respect to security, with four root vulnerabilities per year for two successive years.

~Wietse Venema

For many people my software is something that you install and forget. I like to keep it that way.

~Wietse Venema

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