TECHNOLOGY TIMES

Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably

By Computer Networks of Roanoke, Inc.

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"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"

Hank Wagner, Owner/Founder
Computer Networks of Roanoke

IT Guru, Published Author, and Trusted Advisor to Medical Practice Administrators and Business Owners

The NEXT Most Scary Thing: IOT

IOT? What the heck is IOT? It is the Internet of **Things,** where all things are connected to the Internet. You already have a Smartphone connected to the Internet.

Now your toaster, your refrigerator, your whole home, your lawnmower, your garden sprinkler, your car, your pacemaker, the hospital monitor, will all have the ability to be controlled across the Internet.

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You Have To Be Kidding Me

BY: Daniel Bassali
July 21, 2015 11:17 am

Secretary Jeh Johnson and 28 DHS senior staffers accessed their personal email accounts from work computers, despite the department prohibiting the practice more than a year ago, Bloomberg reported Monday.

The use of Web-based servers leaves computers with sensitive information vulnerable to malware. Reporters have since called it "outrageous," "befuddling," and "baffling."

After the Chinese hacked OPM and stole the personal information of 25 million people, the head of the administration's national security operations had one thing to say about his department's perilous actions:

"Whoops."

"To be perfectly honest, this is something that I had for a while," Johnson said at a Politico event Tuesday. "And when I read the story I said, 'Whoops, this is not a good practice, so I should discontinue it.'"

Johnson clarified he never used his personal email account for government business, a practice that landed Clinton into hot water. Nevertheless, the secretary did acknowledge the wrongdoing under his watch.

"DHS has to be the model for good cybersecurity in government, and as the secretary and leader of the department I should be the model for that for the rest of the department," Johnson said. "And that's what I intend to do."

Politico's Tal Kopen referred to the report as a "black eye" for the department.

DHS released a rule to end the use of email systems such as Gmail and Yahoo Mail in response to the OPM hack, but senior officials were granted a waiver to continue.

"It is simply not reasonable to assume that in seeking a waiver that the officials involved were only contemplating using a commercial network for personal (that is, non-official) communications," Jason R. Baron, formerly of the Nationals Archives and Records Administration, told Bloomberg.

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The problem is that the manufacturers of all these "Things" do not seem to be taking security seriously. In their rush to be first to market, they seem to have forgotten about your personal safety.

Want an example? In a controlled hack of a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee, done remotely across the Internet while the Jeep was on the Interstate Highway, the hackers were able to change the A/C fan, turn on the radio, change the radio station, operate the windshield wipers and washers, disable the accelerator and disable the brakes.

http://www.wired.com/2015/07/hackers-remotely-kill-jeep-highway/

If the companies turning out all these WiFi enabled devices do not move security to the forefront, then your private data and maybe even your family (as in the case of the Jeep) may be at risk. ❖

Census Bureau Hacked

Thehill.com
By Cory Bennett - 07/24/15 10:47 AM EDT

The hacking group Anonymous claims it has infiltrated the U.S. Census Bureau, pilfering and dumping troves of data, but apparently nothing from the Census itself.

Anonymous this week tweeted out links to data dumps that appear to be usernames, email addresses and phone numbers for the bureau's 4,200 staff members. The incident comes just weeks after data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) exposed more than 22 million people's sensitive data.

The bureau confirmed it had been hacked.

"The U.S. Census Bureau is investigating an IT security incident relating to unauthorized access to non-confidential information on an external system that is not part of the Census Bureau internal network," said a spokesman in a statement. "Access to the external system has been restricted while our IT forensics team investigates."

According to Anonymous, the cyberattack was a protest against the ongoing free trade deals the U.S. is trying to negotiate with its European and Asian partners.❖

Patch, Patch, Patch

One of the most important things you can do to protect you, your data and your computer is install the patches, Security Updates and bug fixes that are distributed by manufacturers.

A recent Google study seems to indicate that the typical computer user does not seem to think fixing the broken software on their computer is necessary. Just 2% of non-experts said that routinely patching software was high on their list of security priorities, compared to 35% of IT experts.

So, if I discovered that my front door lock and three of my windows were not keeping the crooks and criminals out of my house, would I fix them? You betcha…

But, the same thing is happening with servers and PCs and no one seems concerned about the problem. Some of the recent hacks would not have happened had people applied the patches and fixes that had already been released by the manufacturers!!

Management of Windows Patches (along with patches released for all of the other software installed on your PC), should be a priority for your network people and patches should be updated once a month at the bare minimum. ❖

New firmware worm goes after Apple vulnerabilities

A pair of IT security researchers have successfully designed a worm that will break into a Mac's operating system, widely considered more impenetrable than its PC counterpart. And there are huge implications for the healthcare industry.

PCs may be the preferred and most prevalent choice among health IT folks, but the lion's share of physicians -- nearly 80 percent in fact -- are tapping iOS for digital health. So the fact that IT security experts Xeno Kovah, co-founder of IT security consulting firm LegbaCore, and computer programmer Trammell Hudson, created a bug exploiting the "Thunderstrike vulnerability" that can break into a Mac, may have some big significance down the road for mHealth security and patient data.

The bug exploits a "significant" Apple EFI firmware vulnerability, they explained, "that allows untrusted code to be written to the boot ROM and can resist attempts to remove it."

And they said you couldn't hack the Apple iOS…❖

Windows 10

It is official, Windows 10 is out. But, if you are running a business, it is our advice to hold what you have.

While you may be anticipating the newest version of Windows, installing it on your business computers might be an invitation for some pain and suffering.

We generally recommend waiting until Microsoft releases Service Pack 1 for an Operating System before installing that O/S.

Unless you have a compelling need to be on the bleeding edge of technology (and they call it bleeding edge for a reason), then wait until the initial bugs are ironed out of the software. Once others have gone before you and blazed that trail, then it will be a safe bet for you to go down the path that others have made.

After all, the last thing you want to do is render your network inoperable or unstable just so you could be running the latest and greatest O/S from Microsoft.

P.S.
No you did not miss Windows 9. Windows 9 was renamed Windows 10, presumably to move it farther away from Windows 8, which has not fared all that well.

P.P.S.
Windows 10 shares an encrypted version of your WiFi password with any contacts you may have listed in **Outlook** and **Skype** — and, with an opt-in, your **Facebook** friends.

But, it does allow anyone in your Skype or Outlook or Hotmail contacts lists to connect onto your Wi-Fi network — should they ever wander within range of it or visit your home. ❖

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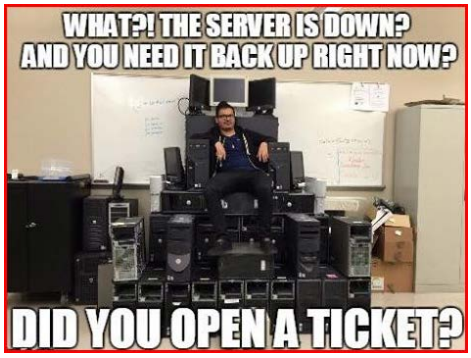

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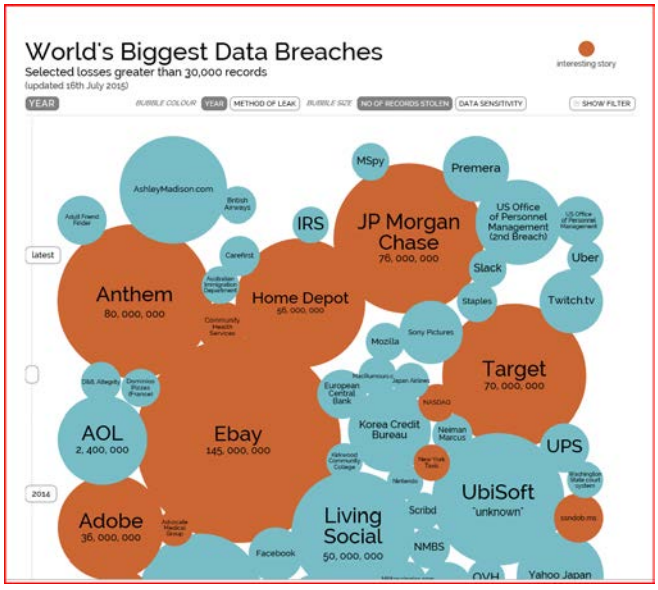
The department has since said all use has been suspended and waivers will only be granted by the chief of staff, who was previously unaware of the situation.

http://freebeacon.com/national-security/head-of-homeland-securitys-response-to-breaking-cybersecurity-rules-whoops/ ❖

And these are the idiots we have elected/appointed/hired to run the country???

Data Breaches



Identity Theft

A Vietnamese man who ran an online identity theft service that sold access to Social Security numbers and other personal information on more than 200 million Americans has been sentenced to 13 years in a U.S. prison.

Vietnamese national Hieu Minh Ngo was sentenced to 13 years in prison for running an identity theft service.

Ngo's service sold access to "fullz," the slang term for packages of consumer data that could be used to commit identity theft in victims' names.

The totality of damage caused by his more than 1,300 customers is unknown, but it is clear that Ngo's service was quite popular among ID thieves involved in filing fraudulent tax refund requests with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). According to the Justice Department, the IRS has confirmed that 13,673 U.S. citizens, whose stolen PII was sold on Ngo's websites, have been victimized through the filing of ***$65 million in fraudulent individual income tax returns.*** ❖

The Lighter Side:

Don't Mess With The Geezers

An old geezer, who had been a retired farmer for a long time, became very bored and decided to open a medical clinic.

He put a sign up outside that said: Dr. Geezer's clinic. "Get your treatment for $500, if not cured get back $1,000."

Doctor "Young," who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get $1,000.

So he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic. This is what transpired.

Dr. Young: --- "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth." can you please help me?

Dr. Geezer: --- "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: --- Aaagh !! -- "This is Gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be $500."

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Doctor Young: "Oh no you don't, -- that is Gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be $500."

Dr. Young (after having lost $1000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak --- I can hardly see!!!!

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so -- "Here's your $1000 back."

Dr. Young: "But this is only $500..."

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be $500."

Moral of story -- Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an old "Geezer"!!!! ❖

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