



UNDERSTANDING CYBER SECURITY, FOR FINANCE PROFESSIONALS

John Thomas

May 2019



SIKICH.COM

AGENDA

- Hackers and Breaches
- Monetizing Breaches
- Incident Response and Forensics
- Password Considerations
- Indicators of Infosec Program Maturity



AGENDA

- **HACKERS AND BREACHES**
- Monetizing Breaches
- Incident Response and Forensics
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- Indicators of Infosec Program Maturity



BREACHES - PAST

- Used to mainly target credit cards
 - TJ Maxx
 - Heartland Payment Systems
 - Ticketmaster
 - Target
 - Home Depot



BREACHES - TODAY

- Wider range of targets/data
 - Equifax
 - City of Atlanta
 - Sony
 - Ashley Madison
 - National Bank of Blacksburg

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TARGETS OF CHANCE

- Attacker casts a wide net
- May know how to exploit one website vulnerability in off-the-shelf website software
 - Sets up a scan to try that exploit against every website
- Generalized phishing attacks
 - Thousands or millions of recipients
- Brute-force password guessing
- Self-propagating viruses
 - Some have built-in logic to test for something of interest – banking credentials or card payment applications
 - Otherwise spread

TARGETS OF CHOICE

- Attacker has selected an organization as a target
- Automated and manual inspection of website for weaknesses
- **Spearphishing**
- Targeted password guessing
- Custom-built malware

COMMUNITY COLLEGES INCREASINGLY ARE TARGETS

- Lowest hanging fruit for attacks
 - Personal Information
 - Student Loans
 - SS Numbers used as identifiers
 - Cybersecurity “not a priority”
- Increasingly connected
 - Remote and mobile student body
 - Technology critical for education, operations, and service
 - Increasing use of cloud services
- Attackers have perfected multiple channels for monetizing community college breaches



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- **MONETIZING BREACHES**
- Incident Response and Forensics
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- Indicators of Infosec Program Maturity



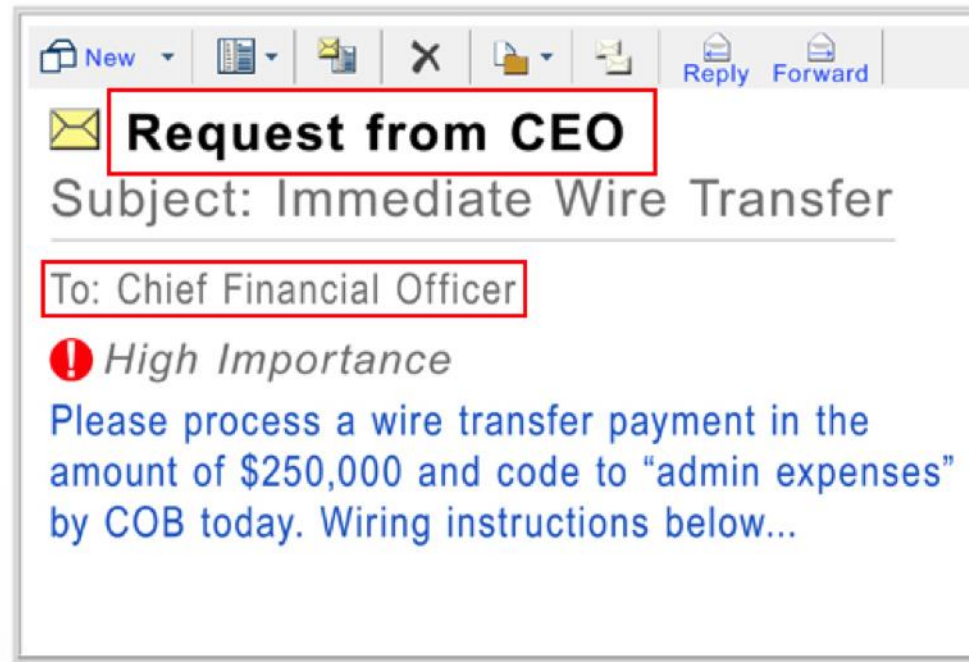
STUDENT LOAN FRAUD

- Thieves apply for loans using stolen personal information
- Federal funding goes to the school for tuition and fees, balance is remanded to the “student”
- Victim is left on the hook for the debt



ELECTRONIC PAYMENT FRAUD

- Sometimes called “email account takeover” since they are so intertwined
- ACH and wire fraud most common
- “Business” bank accounts don’t include the same consumer protections as personal accounts
- Victims usually take the loss



TAX RETURN FRAUD

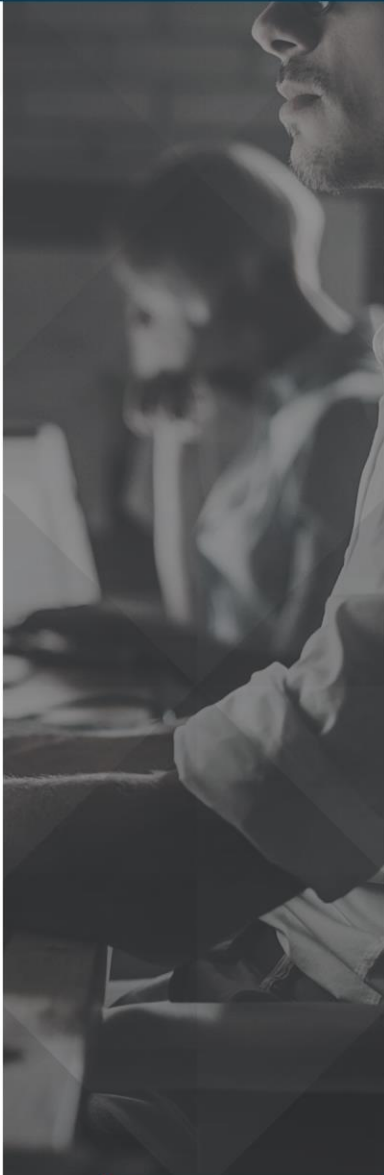
- Relatively easy and low-risk form of identity theft
- Requires knowledge of name, DOB and SSN



CREDIT CARD FRAUD - INFECTED COMPUTERS



CREDIT CARD FRAUD - CARD SKIMMERS

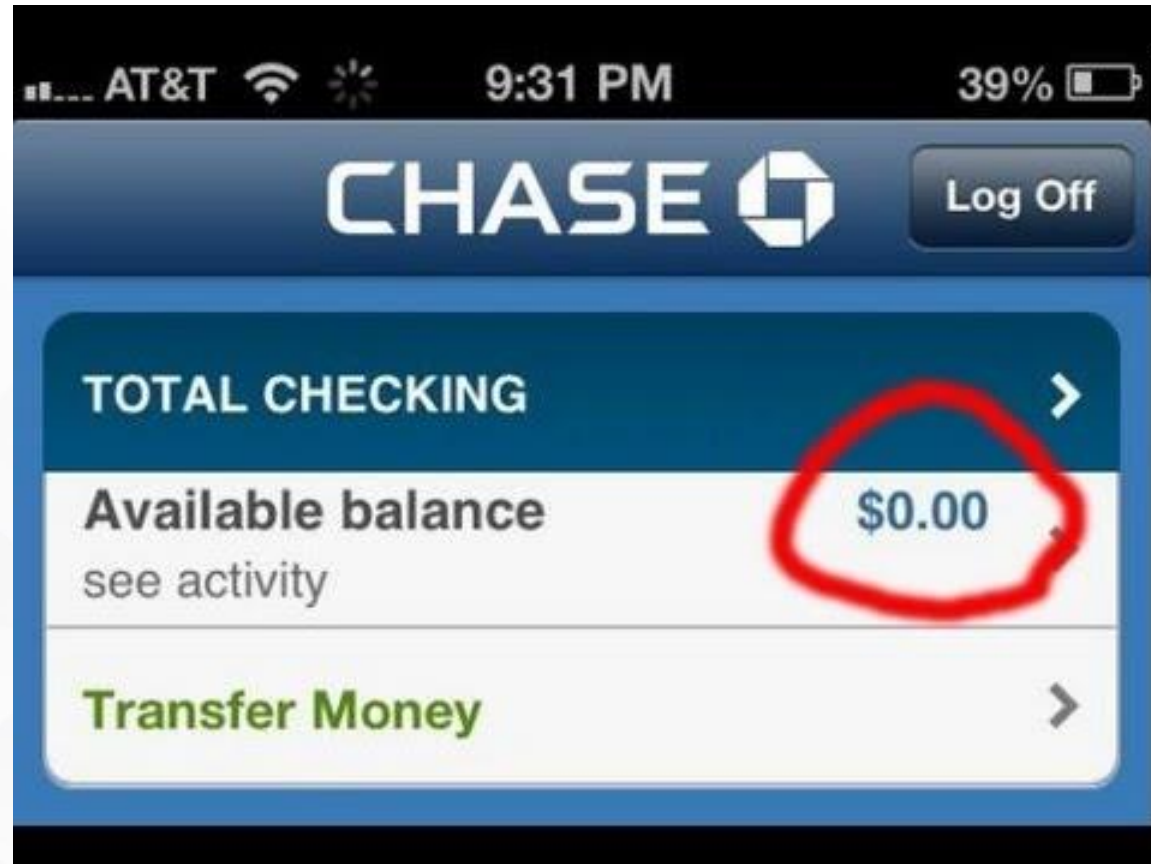


DON'T CHIP-ENABLED CARDS STOP FRAUD?

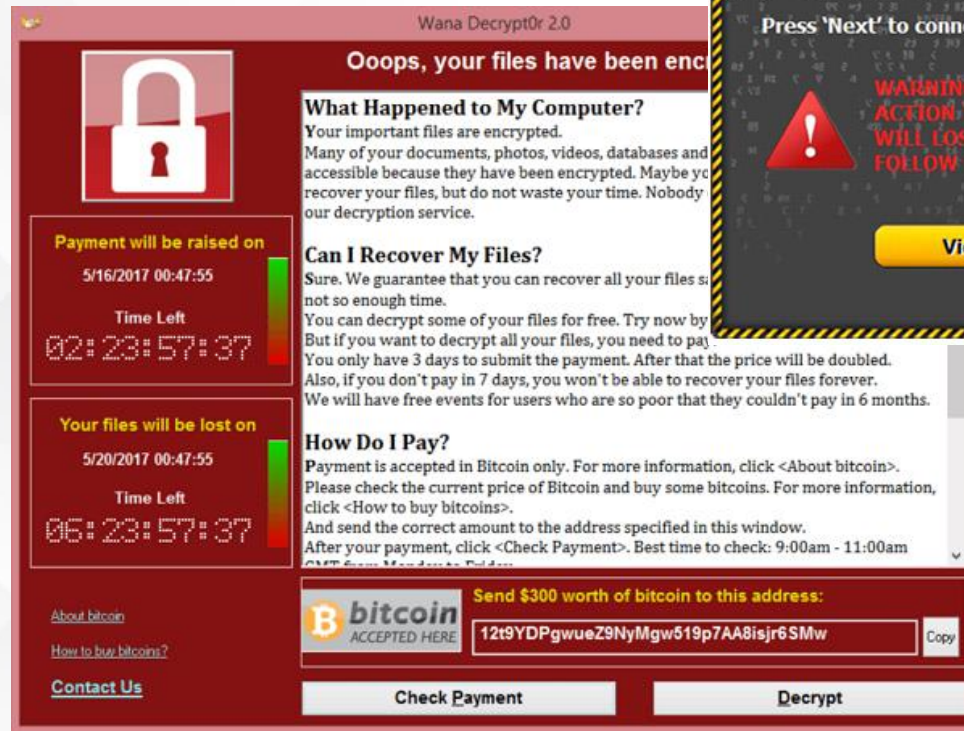
- EMV-only cards make it harder to create a forged physical card
- Does not impact online/phone sales
- Does not prevent use of stolen cards
- Does not increase the security of networks or backend systems
- Why switch?
 - Otherwise your college can take the loss if someone pays with a forged card in hand



A BAD MONDAY MORNING



RANSOMWARE



BAD RABBIT

If you access this page your computer has been encrypted.

Time left before the price goes up

41:18:14

Price for decryption:

₿ - 0.05

Enter your personal key or your bitcoin address

CYBER EXTORTION

- Harvest your data
- Demand Bitcoin payment or they will publicly disclose the breach or leak the data



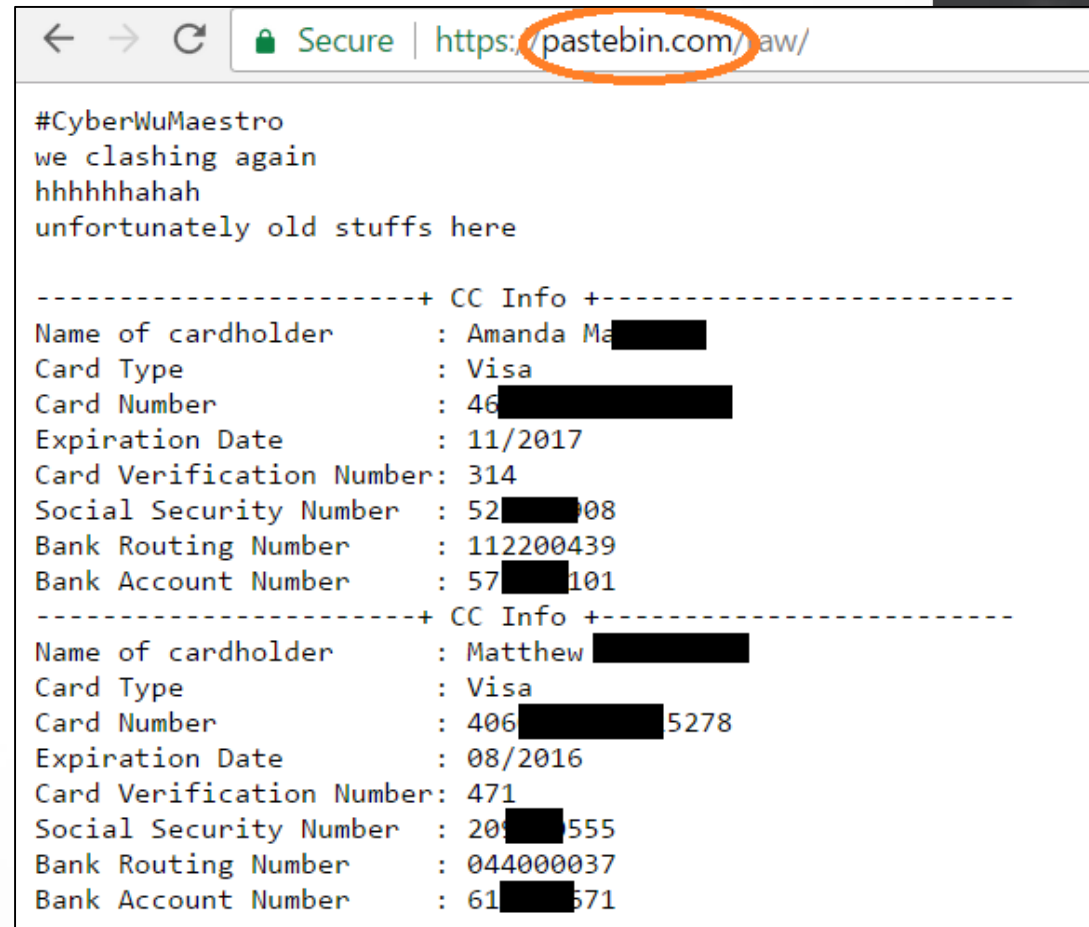
CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING

- Increasingly sophisticated to avoid getting flagged
 - Slow down the speed of CPU fans
 - Switching off mining software during a users' active hours
 - Artificially showing low computing power usage



SELLING DATA ON THE “DARK WEB”

- Credentials to sell
 - Student, professor, etc. usernames and passwords
 - Personal accounts
 - School accounts



```
← → ↻ Secure | https://pastebin.com/aw/  
#CyberWuMaestro  
we clashing again  
hhhhhahah  
unfortunately old stuffs here  
  
-----+ CC Info +-----  
Name of cardholder      : Amanda Ma [REDACTED]  
Card Type               : Visa  
Card Number            : 46 [REDACTED]  
Expiration Date        : 11/2017  
Card Verification Number: 314  
Social Security Number : 52 [REDACTED] 08  
Bank Routing Number    : 112200439  
Bank Account Number    : 57 [REDACTED] 101  
-----+ CC Info +-----  
Name of cardholder      : Matthew [REDACTED]  
Card Type               : Visa  
Card Number            : 406 [REDACTED] 5278  
Expiration Date        : 08/2016  
Card Verification Number: 471  
Social Security Number : 20 [REDACTED] 555  
Bank Routing Number    : 044000037  
Bank Account Number    : 61 [REDACTED] 571
```

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- Password Considerations
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RECENT TRENDS FROM FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS

- Drastic changes in attacks in the past year
 - Method
 - Willingness to persist
- Attackers fighting to hold ground even after detection
- The professional criminals are handpicking their victims
 - (No more just outrunning the bear)



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BREACH OCCURS

- Response activities may be driven by your bank or regulatory bodies
- Forensic investigations typically cost \$20,000 and up
 - Collection and analysis of data
 - Attempt to determine how they got in and what they took
 - Seldom able to gather a complete record of the event
- Determine breach notification requirements
- Community college and media communications management

INCIDENT RESPONSE

- Identification
 - Is this a real incident
- Containment
 - Stop the bleeding
- Eradication
 - Remove the cause
 - Create indicators of compromise
- Recovery
 - Best route back to a trusted environment
- All the time balance these activities against facilitating day to day processes and maintaining evidence

FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

- Formal review/inspection of the event
- Disk and memory imaging of impacted systems
- Collection of log files
- Offline analysis of images
 - Timeline analysis
 - File integrity analysis
- Often the “smoking gun” and the whole picture cannot be identified

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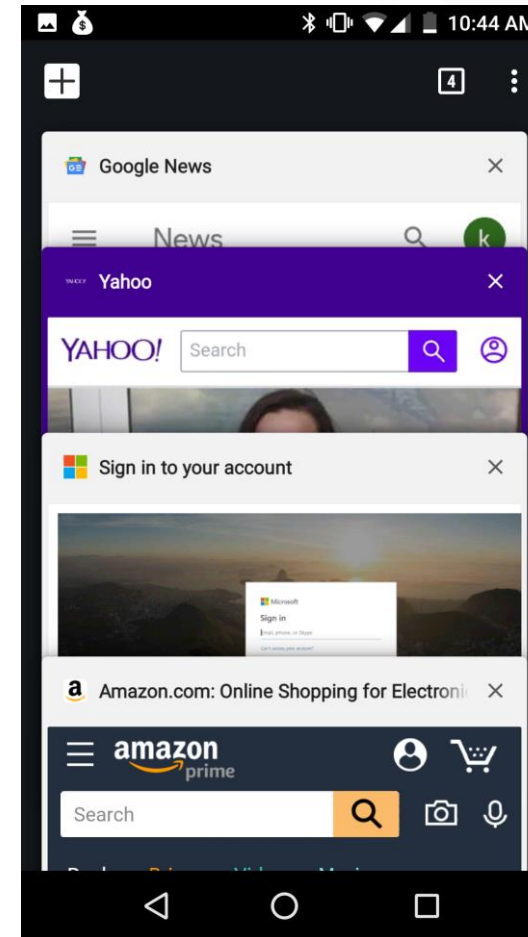
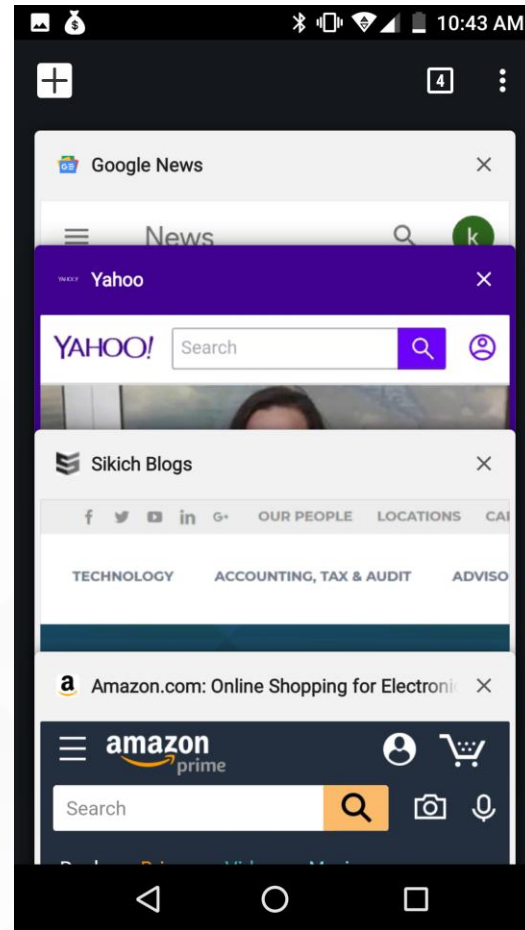


JUST ONE PASSWORD

- From Outside
 - Email
 - Cloud file services
 - Registration, Payroll and Benefits sites
- From Inside
 - Query network for username list, who is admin
 - Unprotected/open network shares
 - Login to a workstation and run a keylogger

INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED PHISHING ATTACKS

- Spearphishing
- Tab nabbing



WEBSITE BREACH LISTS

- Many breaches result in theft of email/password pairings
- These lists are often leaked to the Internet
- Used in “credential stuffing” attacks

```
[*] Analyzing passwords in [passwords]
[+] Analyzing 100% (1404530810/1404530810) of passwords
[*] Statistics below is relative to the number of analyzed passwords, not total number of passwords

[*] Length:
[+]           8: 26% (378319953)
[+]           6: 16% (232674405)
[+]           7: 14% (201921980)
[+]          10: 13% (190751987)
[+]           9: 12% (180643883)
[+]          11: 03% (48831923)
[+]          12: 02% (35458680)
[+]           5: 01% (22396450)
[+]          13: 01% (18441457)
[+]          15: 01% (17102051)
```

PASSWORD SPRAYING

- Guessing 500 passwords against one account → Lockout
- Guessing one password against 500 accounts → Often success
- Common password examples
 - Packers1
 - July2018
 - Summer18
 - Username as password
 - Welcome123



PASSWORD CRACKING

- Offline brute-force guessing of passwords using a dictionary or character patterns
- Used to recover plaintext passwords from encrypted files and network traffic

```
[s]tatus [p]ause [r]esume [b]ypass [c]heckpoint [q]uit =>
Session.....: hashcat
Status.....: Running
Hash.Type.....: MD5
Hash.Target.....: 0301hashes.txt
Time.Started....: Wed Aug 01 07:10:48 2018 (12 secs)
Time.Estimated...: Wed Aug 01 07:12:02 2018 (1 min, 2 secs)
Guess.Base.....: File (rockyou.txt)
Guess.Mod.....: Rules (best64.rule)
Guess.Queue.....: 1/1 (100.00%)
Speed.Dev.#2....: 14849.2 kH/s (6.88ms)
Recovered.....: 3/7 (42.86%) Digests, 0/1 (0.00%) Salts
Progress.....: 179463438/1104427170 (16.25%)
Rejected.....: 5390/179463438 (0.00%)
Restore.Point....: 2330694/14343210 (16.25%)
Candidates.#2....: 2010mt -> 1p1123
HWMon.Dev.#2....: N/A
```

THE FIX: LONG PASSWORDS (PASSPHRASES)

<p>UNCOMMON (NON-GIBBERISH) BASE WORD</p> <p>ORDER UNKNOWN</p> <p>Tr0ub4dor & 3</p> <p>CAPS? COMMON SUBSTITUTIONS NUMERAL PUNCTUATION</p> <p>(YOU CAN ADD A FEW MORE BITS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE FACT THAT THIS IS ONLY ONE OF A FEW COMMON FORMATS.)</p>	<p>~28 BITS OF ENTROPY</p> <p>$2^{28} = 3 \text{ DAYS AT } 1000 \text{ GUESSES/SEC}$</p> <p>(PLAUSIBLE ATTACK ON A WEAK REMOTE WEB SERVICE. YES, CRACKING A STOLEN HASH IS FASTER, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT THE AVERAGE USER SHOULD WORRY ABOUT.)</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: EASY</p>	<p>WAS IT TROMBONE? NO, TROUBADOR. AND ONE OF THE 0s WAS A ZERO?</p> <p>AND THERE WAS SOME SYMBOL...</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: HARD</p>
<p>correct horse battery staple</p> <p>FOUR RANDOM COMMON WORDS</p>	<p>~44 BITS OF ENTROPY</p> <p>$2^{44} = 550 \text{ YEARS AT } 1000 \text{ GUESSES/SEC}$</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: HARD</p>	<p>THAT'S A BATTERY STAPLE.</p> <p>CORRECT!</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: YOU'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED IT</p>

THROUGH 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED EVERYONE TO USE PASSWORDS THAT ARE HARD FOR HUMANS TO REMEMBER, BUT EASY FOR COMPUTERS TO GUESS.

MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

- There are many cost-effective, non-invasive solutions available today

CIO DIVE Home Events Library Opinion Topics ▾

How does Google prevent phishing attacks on its 85K employees? It gives workers a key

AUTHOR
Naomi Eide
@NaomiEide

Dive Brief:

- For the last year-and-a-half Google has prevented the successful execution of phishing attacks against its employees by simply introducing a key, a [Google spokesperson told KrebsOnSecurity](#).



AGENDA

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- **INDICATORS OF INFOSEC PROGRAM MATURITY**



AUTOMATED PATCHING

- Does your college have a centralized system for deploying and monitoring security patches?
- Does your college automate patching for third-party applications (such as Adobe Reader, Java, Firefox and Chrome?)
- This can be difficult with so many different systems!



CENTRALIZED ANTI-VIRUS

- Is there a central console to monitor anti-virus coverage and alerts?
- Does the College enable advanced anti-virus features?
 - Behavioral detection
 - Software firewall
 - Host-based intrusion detection
 - Device control/lockdown
- It is possible to provide free AV for students.

PASSWORD PRACTICES

- Are long or complex passwords enforced?
- Does the college train employees and students about the risks of weak password practices?
 - Guessable patterns
 - Password re-use on different systems
 - Formal training for faculty and staff
 - A simple newsletter for students.



BACKUPS AND DATA MANAGEMENT

- Does the college allow important data on laptops without backups?
 - Should not be done at all. Use a secure Cloud.
- Does the college's IT department conduct periodic disaster recovery testing?
- Does the college have a network share that is a "dumping ground" to which all faculty and staff have rights?
- Are faculty and staff using cloud services (such as Google Docs) for work without IT oversight?

WEB FILTERING

- Does the college have web filtering in place?
- Effective web filtering provides numerous benefits
 - Can block phishing sites/drive-by malware downloads
 - Keeps employees on task
 - Helps reduce complaints of harassment or inappropriate use
 - Can block malware C&C channels
 - Freedom of speech vs safety



MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION FOR REMOTE ACCESS

- Does the college require multi-factor authentication for VPN and remote desktop access?
- Colleges are increasingly deploying multi-factor authentication for email, external application and cloud storage access as well
- Focus here on faculty and staff.
 - Can get bombarded with support calls if rolled out to students.



SYSTEM HARDENING

- Does your college run end-of-life systems, such as Windows XP and Windows 2003?
 - Sometimes needed for research BUT they should be on their own network and have no access to file shares, etc.
- Does the college have a standard/automated build process for workstations?
 - Does it reset when a student logs off a public computer?



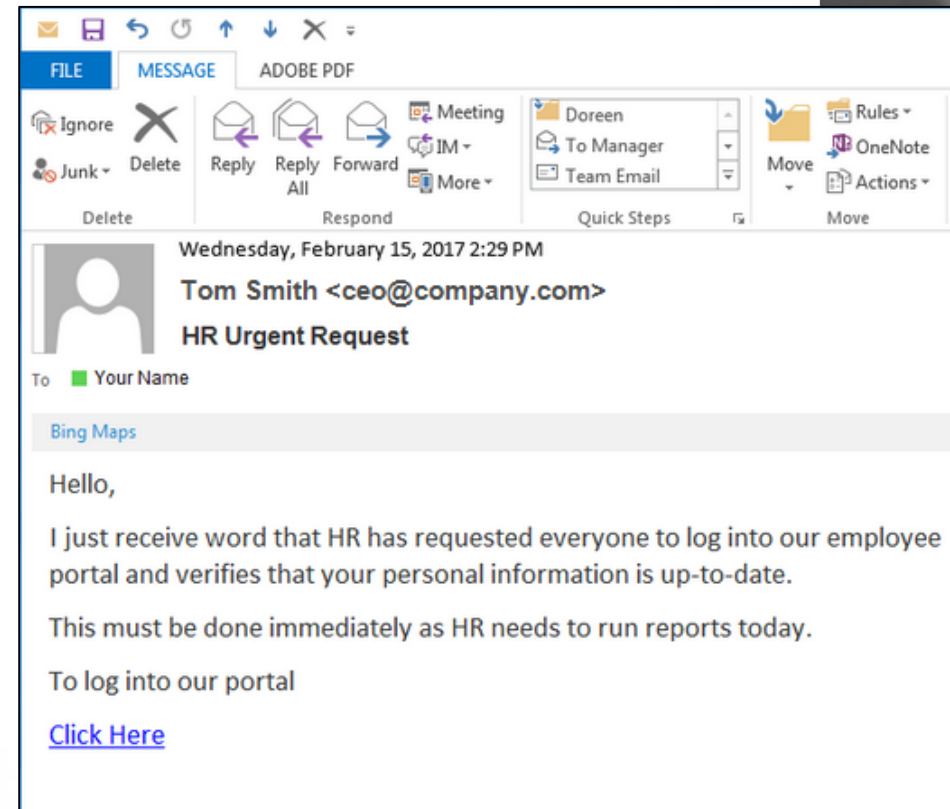
SOCIAL ENGINEERING AND PHISHING

- Mistakes often lead to incidents
 - Phishing or pretext calling may lead to electronic payment fraud
 - Physical intrusions or “tailgating” can lead to keyloggers and rogue network devices
- Best defense is policies/procedures, education and enforcement



PHISHING EXERCISES

- There are a number of cloud service providers for periodic phishing exercises
- These activities have been shown effective at reducing risky “click through” rates of employees



THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY POSTURE

- IT Controls Audit
 - List the organization’s control objectives and controls
 - Evaluate the appropriateness and execution of the controls
- Framework Audit
 - Assess the organizations controls against an industry or regulatory checklist
- Risk Assessment
 - “Thought exercise” type assessment considering threats, controls and control effectiveness
- Network Security Assessment
 - Automated and manual collection of vulnerability and configuration data to assess the organization’s posture
- Penetration Test
 - Simulation of a real-world attack



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Are there any questions?

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