March 8, 2022

Challenge yourself with our Fraud Prevention quiz!

This past week's stories:

- PressReader suffers cyber-attack
- Scam emails, donation fraud surge in Canada as Ukraine crisis continues
- Cyberattacks hit 2 Quebec factories
- ESET Canada Offering $10,000 in Scholarships to Women Exploring Careers in Cybersecurity

How the tech community has rallied to Ukraine's cyber-defence

59% of education pros lack cybersecurity training

Singapore to establish cyber military force

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How an 8-character password could be cracked in less than an hour

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PressReader suffers cyber-attack

A cyber-attack on the world's largest digital newspaper and magazine distributor left readers around the world unable to access more than 7000 publications.

PressReader, headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, and has offices in Dublin, Ireland and Manila, Philippines, began experiencing a network outage affecting its Branded Editions website and apps and its PressReader site on Thursday.

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/pressreader-suffers-cyber-attack/

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Scam emails, donation fraud surge in Canada as Ukraine crisis continues

Cyber security experts are cautioning Canadians before they donate to the crisis in Ukraine with scammers taking advantage of the crisis already on the rise.

Robert Falzon, head of engineering at Canadian cybersecurity firm Check Point, has been following the increase of cyber attacks since the beginning of the invasion.

https://www.mapleridgenews.com/news/scam-emails-donation-fraud-surge-in-canada-as-ukraine-crisis-continues/

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Cyberattacks hit 2 Quebec factories

Two Quebec factories are working to restore their computer systems after facing recent cyberattacks.

The Alouette aluminum plant in Sept-Îles and the Bridgestone tire plant in Joliette were victims of separate cyberattacks Friday and Sunday respectively.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/two-quebec-factories-cyberattack-1.6370430

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ESET Canada Offering $10,000 in Scholarships to Women Exploring Careers in Cybersecurity

ESET, a global digital security company, is doubling its encouragement for women to pursue a career in cybersecurity within the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

For the seventh annual ESET Women in Cybersecurity Scholarship — and the second year Canada has participated in the program — ESET Canada is offering $5,000 scholarships to two women students in a graduate or undergraduate program majoring in cybersecurity in a STEM discipline. In Canada, students can pursue a cybersecurity education at 47 colleges and 24 universities.

https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/eset-canada-offering-10-000-in-scholarships-to-women-exploring-careers-in-cybersecurity-849020806.html

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How the tech community has rallied to Ukraine's cyber-defence

As the conflict in Ukraine escalates, expert cyber-watchers have been speculating about the kind of cyber-attacks that Russia might conduct. Will the Kremlin turn off Ukraine's power grid, dismantle Ukraine's transport system, cut off the water supply or target the health system? Or would cybercriminals operating from Russia, who could act as proxies for the Russian regime, conduct these activities?

Over the past decade, Ukraine has experienced many major cyber-attacks, most of which have been attributed to Russia. From election interference in 2014, which compromised the central electoral system and jeopardised the integrity of the democratic process; to a hack and blackout attack in a first-of-its-kind fully remote cyber-attack on a power grid in 2015, resulting in countrywide power outages; to one of the costliest malicious software attacks, NotPetya, in 2017, which significantly disrupted access to banking and government services in Ukraine and, subsequently, spilled over to France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, the UK, the US and Australia.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/mar/07/tech-community-rallied-ukraine-cyber-defence-eu-nato

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59% of education pros lack cybersecurity training

A new study reveals gaps in cybersecurity in the workplace around educational institutions in the US

A staggering 59% of employees in the education sector haven't had cybersecurity training arranged by their current employer, according to a new survey commissioned by NordLocker, an encrypted cloud service provider. This is alarming information as the same survey reveals 61% of education professionals handle confidential data at work.

https://www.fenews.co.uk/education/study-59-of-education-pros-lack-cybersecurity-training/

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Singapore to establish cyber military force

Singapore has announced the launch of a cyber security military branch by the last quarter of this year.

The move is fueled by the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has reportedly included cyberattacks.

https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/03/04/singapore-to-establish-cyber-military-force/

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Six quick tactics to blunt a cyber attack from Russia – or any nation state

With tensions high because of war in Ukraine, infosec leaders in countries supporting sanctions against Russia are more worried than ever about the possibility of a retaliatory cyber attack.

It's too late to buy new hardware or software, install end-to-end encryption or start similar large projects. But, say two instructors at the SANS Institute, there are six quick defensive tactics any IT department can use now to lower the odds of a successful nation-state attack.

Mick Douglas and Jon Gorenflo, who both have their own cybersecurity firms, gave that advice this week at a SANS-sponsored webinar.

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/six-quick-tactics-to-blunt-a-cyber-attack-from-russia-or-any-nation-state/474953

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As companies brace for cyberattacks from Russia, specialists are in short supply

Cybersecurity watchers around the world have been on high alert as the war in Ukraine continues to escalate.

Cyberattacks from Russia have so far played only a minor role, but security experts have warned those attacks could intensify, including against targets in the U.S. Although the federal government and many companies have moved to beef up cybersecurity in recent years, there's still a big gap in this workforce.

https://www.marketplace.org/2022/03/07/as-companies-brace-for-cyber-attacks-from-russia-specialists-are-in-short-supply/

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Samsung says cyber attack caused no personal data breach

Samsung Electronics said on Monday that a recent cyber-attack by a hacking group on its system did not cause major harm to its business and customers.

In a statement posted on the company's internal forum, Samsung said no personal information of its customers and employees was stolen and there will be no impact on its business operation.

https://www.siasat.com/samsung-says-cyber-attack-caused-no-personal-data-breach-2287065/

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Why women are underrepresented in cybersecurity

One of the industries struggling with significant bias and gender stereotypes is cybersecurity. This field plays an increasingly crucial role in our digital world and, as a result, offers many fulfilling career paths

and opportunities. However, there are still significant barriers and misperceptions driving the belief that a career in cybersecurity is not for women.

While women have been disproportionately impacted by pandemic-driven unemployment (for example, one in four women reported job loss due to a lack of childcare—twice the rate of men), the technology sector was less affected. This was mainly due to their being better prepared to pivot to remote work and flexible work models. As a result, according to a report by Deloitte Global, large global technology firms still managed to achieve "nearly 33% overall female representation in their workforces in 2022, up slightly more than two percentage points from 2019."

https://www.itnewsafrica.com/2022/03/why-women-are-underrepresented-in-cybersecurity/

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Ukraine joins NATO cyber knowledge hub

NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) has unanimously approved the accession of Ukraine to the organisation as a contributing participant in a vote held at a meeting of its Steering Committee.

CCDCOE, which is based in the Estonian capital Tallinn, said Ukraine's experience from previous state-backed cyber attacks orchestrated by Moscow would provide significant value to the organisation, which is tasked with interdisciplinary applied research, consultations, training and exercises in cyber security.

https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252514241/Ukraine-joins-Nato-cyber-knowledge-hub

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How an 8-character password could be cracked in less than an hour

Security experts keep advising us to create strong and complex passwords to protect our online accounts and data from savvy cybercriminals. And "complex" typically means using lowercase and uppercase characters, numbers and even special symbols. But complexity by itself can still open your password to cracking if it doesn't contain enough characters, according to research by security firm Hive Systems.

As described in a recent report, Hive found that an 8-character complex password could be cracked in just 39 minutes if the attacker were to take advantage of the latest graphics processing technology. A seven-character complex password could be cracked in 31 seconds, while one with six or fewer characters could be cracked instantly. Shorter passwords with only one or two character types, such as only numbers or lowercase letters, or only numbers and letters, would take just minutes to crack.

https://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-an-8-character-password-could-be-cracked-in-less-than-an-hour/

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