Security News Digest
Information Security Branch
BRITISH COLUMBIA OCIO | Office of the Chief Information Officer

November 8, 2022

Challenge yourself with our Online Shopping Security Quiz

This past week's stories:

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🍁 **Partners team up to fight cybercrime**

🍁 **Maple Leaf Foods suffers IT outage after cybersecurity incident**

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Israel water sector not ready for Iran cyberattack - ex-IDF intel official

NDUS enhances cyber security efforts

Cyber-attacks on small firms: The US economy's 'Achilles heel'?

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Cyber security provider Angoka completes £2.4m funding round to accelerate growth

Huge demand for researchers to work on cybersecurity

How cyber secure is your company?

We've all heard it on the news. A big, high-profile company suffers a breach of its network and is hacked by cybercriminals who threaten to delete, steal or release reams of data to the public unless they get payment from their victims.

In our interconnected world, this kind of malicious activity can happen to any company and it's a top concern for business and IT leaders. Unfortunately, all it takes for hackers to get access to a company's network is one small slip-up by an employee who uses a weak password or is tricked by malicious yet authentic-looking emails.

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/adv/article-how-cyber-secure-is-your-company/

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Partners team up to fight cybercrime

Cybercrooks, beware!

A new public-private partnership between the Calgary Police Service, the University of Calgary, and local cybersecurity business ENFOCOM Corporation will create the infrastructure and processes needed to pursue cybercriminals, says a UCalgary cybersecurity expert.

“We’re learning right now how you would go about setting this up to actually try and catch some of the bad guys. That’s the goal,” says Dr. Ken Barker, PhD, scientific lead for the new partnership and professor in the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science.

https://science.ucalgary.ca/news/partners-team-fight-cybercrime

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Maple Leaf Foods suffers IT outage after cybersecurity incident

One of the country’s biggest packed meat producers said late Sunday it was experiencing a system outage linked to a cybersecurity incident.

“Upon learning of the incident, Maple Leaf Foods took immediate action and engaged cybersecurity and recovery experts,” the company said in a statement. “Its team of information systems professionals and third-party experts are working diligently with all available resources to investigate the outage and resolve the situation.

https://financialpost.com/technology/maple-leaf-foods-suffers-it-outage-after-cybersecurity-incident

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British govt is scanning all Internet devices hosted in UK

The United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), the government agency that leads the country's cyber security mission, is now scanning all Internet-exposed devices hosted in the UK for vulnerabilities.

The goal is to assess UK's vulnerability to cyber-attacks and to help the owners of Internet-connected systems understand their security posture.

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/british-govt-is-scanning-all-internet-devices-hosted-in-uk/

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Medibank refuses to pay ransom after 9.7m customers’ details stolen

Australian health insurance company Medibank has said that it will not be paying a ransom to the hacker that accessed the personal details for 9.7m current and former customers.

The data breach took place after a hacker gained unauthorized access to Medibank's internal servers on October 13. Originally, Medibank believed that no customer information had been stolen during the hack, however the company was then contacted on October 16 by the supposed hacker, who threatened to sell the data if their ransom demands were not met.

https://www.cshub.com/attacks/news/medibank-refuses-pay-ransom-after-97m-customers-details-stolen

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Danish train standstill on Saturday caused by cyber attack

A major breakdown of Denmark's train network during the weekend was the result of a hacker attack on an IT subcontractor's software testing environment, Danish train operator DSB said on on Thursday.

"We were contacted by our subcontractor who told us that their testing environment had been compromised by criminal hackers," DSB's chief of security, Carsten Dam Sonderbo-Jacobsen, told public broadcaster DR.

https://www.reuters.com/technology/danish-train-standstill-saturday-caused-by-cyber-attack-2022-11-03/

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Israel water sector not ready for Iran cyberattack - ex-IDF intel official

If Iran succeeds in hacking either the US or Israel’s water sector, then the writing was on the wall, an ex-IDF intelligence official warned in an interview.

Ariel Stern, a former Israeli Air Force captain and the CEO and co-founder of Ayyeka, a global IoT solutions provider for critical infrastructure, issued his warning following a hack of England’s water sector exposing around 1.6 million people to danger in August, and as Russia continues to hack Ukraine’s infrastructure.

https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/energy-and-infrastructure/article-721617

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NDUS enhances cyber security efforts

The chancellor of the North Dakota University System says they are working with some “top notch” companies to ensure sensitive information is secure from cyber-attacks.

Mark Hagerott was responding to questions at a recent NDUS meeting regarding the October request that all employees change account passwords after a security “concern” was detected.

Hagerott says he can’t be too specific about the incident – except to say it’s part of an ongoing battle. “We are in a cyber war. It is knocking institutions out and bringing countries great harm. This is happening everyday. We had something out of an abundance of caution and had people change passwords – which is not unusual.”

https://knoxradio.com/2022/11/07/ndus-enhances-cyber-security-efforts/

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Cyber-attacks on small firms: The US economy's 'Achilles heel'?

When Elana Graham started selling cyber-security software to small companies five years ago, business was relatively slow.

Now demand is booming, driven by a rapid expansion in remote work that has left small firms vulnerable to attack.

Business at her firm has tripled since the start of the year, she says, reaching an all-time high.

https://www.bbc.com/news/business-63260648

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Cyber security attacks a wake-up call for small business

Small businesses continue to treat cybersecurity as an afterthought. A study conducted by the Bank of New Zealand found that 53% of SMEs said cybersecurity training isn't at the forefront of their minds while only 31% said it was. The pandemic has increased the dependency on technology and consumer behaviour has drastically shifted. Online and e-commerce businesses are the future and if small businesses want to succeed, they need to invest in the right technology and protection.

https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2211/S00125/cyber-security-attacks-a-wake-up-call-for-small-businesses.htm

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Cyber security provider Angoka completes £2.4m funding round to accelerate growth

Belfast-based cyber security provider Angoka has completed a £2.4 million funding round to accelerate growth plans in the aviation and road transport sectors.

The funding round introduces London-based 24Haymarket as lead investor joined by Gallos, which focuses on co-building security technology start-ups, and new institutional investment from Co-Investment Fund (NI) through Clarendon Fund Managers.

https://www.irishnews.com/business/2022/11/08/news/cyber_security_provider_angoka_completes_2_4m_funding_round_to_accelerate_growth-2886658/

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Huge demand for researchers to work on cybersecurity

As hacks of major organisations become more widespread nobody needs to be convinced of the importance of cybersecurity and the need for universities to work closely with business and government to strengthen cyber defences.

The UNSW Institute for Cyber Security is a multidisciplinary group which includes researchers from humanities, social sciences, psychology, business, law, and science. Humans and policy are not considered as an afterthought, the institute says. Its current projects include finding ways to thwart malpractice on apps, preserve privacy of data collected by internet of things devices, detect disinformation, and ensure cybersecurity for people working from home.

https://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/huge-demand-for-researchers-to-work-on-cybersecurity/news-story/5629c9db1e8fc72fd90deb87186d4517

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