Security News Digest

May 29th, 2018

May is Password Protection Month

Take our monthly quiz and test your knowledge

This week's stories:

- Privacy commissioner opens probe into Canadian data brokers' privacy practices
- GDPR advice to Canadian firms: Chill out, but get working on it
- Amazon Echo recorded, sent Oregon family's conversation without consent
- Coca-Cola Suffers Breach at the Hands of Former Employee
- BackSwap Banking Trojan Uses Never-Before-Seen Techniques
- U.S. seeks to take control of infected routers from hackers
- Canadian Banks Say 'Fraudsters' Stole Information From at Least 40,000 Customers
- Amazon is selling 'authoritarian surveillance' tech to police, civil rights groups want it to stop
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- TeenSafe Tracking App Exposes Thousands of Private Records
- BC gov't announces $125 million in tech investments at #BCTechSummit
- Google and Facebook accused of breaking GDPR laws

Privacy commissioner opens probe into Canadian data brokers' privacy practices

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/privacy-commissioner-opens-probe-into-canadian-data-brokers-privacy-practices/405619

The data management practices of six unnamed Canadian data brokers are being investigated by federal privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien, the first of his promised probes into possible privacy problems across select industries.

"Preliminary inquiries with industry practices raised a number of concerns about how databases of Canadians' detailed personal information are being compiled and subsequently disclosed to marketers," he said.

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GDPR advice to Canadian firms: Chill out, but get working on it

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/gdpr-advice-to-canadian-firms-chill-out-but-get-working-on-it/405631

The world's toughest data protection regime – the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect today, and with it the possibility of huge financial penalties for non-compliance.

Privacy experts here believe many large Canadian-based enterprises who regularly do business in Europe are prepared, while a large number are close. But many small and medium-sized businesses are way behind.

So here's two pieces of advice on what to do on this Day 1 from those who know: Don't panic, and get on with it.

"Let's not freak out," Lauren Reid, who runs her own consultancy called The Privacy Pro, told the annual Canadian convention of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) in Toronto on Thursday.

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Amazon Echo recorded, sent Oregon family's conversation without consent

https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2018/05/24/amazon-echo-recorded-sent-oregon-familys-conversation-without-consent.html

An "unlikely" string of events prompted Amazon's Echo personal assistant device to record a Portland, Oregon, family's private conversation and send it to an acquaintance in Seattle, the company said Thursday.

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Coca-Cola Suffers Breach at the Hands of Former Employee

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/coca-cola-suffers-breach-at-the-hands-of-former-employee/

The Coca-Cola company announced a data breach incident this week after a former employee was found in possession of worker data on a personal hard drive.

The company learned of the security breach last September after law enforcement officials contacted Coca-Cola.

Investigators said that a former employee at a Coca-Cola subsidiary was found in possession of an external hard drive containing information that appeared to have been misappropriated from Coca-Cola.

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BackSwap Banking Trojan Uses Never-Before-Seen Techniques

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/backswap-banking-trojan-uses-never-before-seen-techniques/

Security researchers have discovered a new banking trojan named BackSwap that uses never-before-seen techniques to facilitate the theft of online funds.

The techniques the trojan uses have not been observed with another malware family, and they can bypass antivirus software detection and security protections put in place at the browser level.

Experts believe these techniques will soon be copied by other groups and spread around to trigger a new wave of banking trojan attacks right when infections with this malware type have begun to go down.

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U.S. seeks to take control of infected routers from hackers

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyber-routers-ukraine/cyber-firms-ukraine-warn-of-planned-russian-attack-idUSKCN1IO1U9

The U.S. government said late on Wednesday that it would seek to wrestle hundreds of thousands of infected routers and storage devices from the control of hackers who security researchers warned were planning to use the “botnet” to attack Ukraine.

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Canadian Banks Say ‘Fraudsters’ Stole Information From at Least 40,000 Customers

https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/ywe3p5/simplii-financial-hack-bmo-40000-canada

Two Canadian banks warned customers on Monday morning that the personal and financial information of at least 40,000 clients was accessed by criminals.

The affected banks are Simplii Financial—a recently-created brand owned by banking giant CIBC, and which formerly operated as President’s Choice Financial, a grocery store brand—and the Bank of Montreal (BMO). Simplii Financial reportedly has over two million customers, and BMO has more than 12 million clients across its services.

In a statement, Simplii Financial said that the bank is alerting affected customers after it received a tip on Sunday that “fraudsters” may have “electronically accessed” personal and account information for around 40,000 clients. The Bank of Montreal said in a statement that the “fraudsters” themselves contacted the bank on Sunday to let them know they “were in possession of certain personal and financial information for a limited number of customers.”

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Amazon is selling ‘authoritarian surveillance’ tech to police, civil rights groups want it to stop

https://globalnews.ca/news/4224615/amazon-facial-recognition-surveillance-tech-civil-liberties/

An American Civil Liberties Union investigation recently revealed that Amazon is selling facial-recognition software to law enforcement, and civil liberties groups are up in arms about the technology's potential threats to privacy.

The service is called Rekognition, and uses artificial intelligence to identify objects, people and scenes from video and images. In emails sent between Amazon employees, which were released Tuesday by the ACLU, Amazon claims its product can search against databases holding millions of faces and can identify up to 100 people in a single image.

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FBI Admits It Inflated Number of Supposedly Unhackable Devices

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/05/fbi-admits-it-inflated-number-supposedly-unhackable-devices The FBI has been misinforming Congress and the public as part of its call for backdoor access to encrypted devices. For months, the Bureau has claimed that encryption prevented it from legally searching the contents of nearly 7,800 devices in 2017, but today the Washington Post reports that the actual number is far lower due to "programming errors" by the FBI.

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TeenSafe Tracking App Exposes Thousands of Private Records

https://threatpost.com/teensafe-tracking-app-exposes-thousands-of-private-records/132152/

Thousands of accounts for TeenSafe, which is a mobile app that parents can use to monitor what their kids are doing online, have been exposed in the latest Amazon Web Services cloud misconfiguration.

According to a report from *ZDNet*, which verified the data breach, there were at least two servers left open to the internet without a password, with information easily available in plaintext.

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BC gov't announces $125 million in tech investments at #BCTechSummit

https://betakit.com/bc-govt-announces-125-million-in-tech-investments-at-bctechsummit/

During last week's BC Tech Summit, the provincial government unveiled plans to invest in several initiatives aimed at supporting the province's tech sector.
Premier John Horgan announced that the government is investing over $102.7 million in funding for 75 post-secondary research projects in BC, which will be deployed through the BC Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF). The projects will work in fields such as advanced supercomputing and clean technology. The BC government will earmark $12 million towards graduate degree scholarships over the next three years, and will support up to 800 awards of $15,000 for students in graduate degree programs.

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Google and Facebook accused of breaking GDPR laws

http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-44252327

Complaints have been filed against Facebook, Google, Instagram and WhatsApp within hours of the new GDPR data protection law taking effect. The companies are accused of forcing users to consent to targeted advertising to use the services.

Privacy group noyb.eu led by activist Max Schrems said people were not being given a "free choice".

If the complaints are upheld, the websites may be forced to change how they operate, and they could be fined.

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