September 10th, 2019

Try our September quiz – Back to School

This week's stories:

- **Scheer promises to create 'Canada Cyber Safe' certification for digital products**
- **FedDev Ontario announces $4M investment in digital identity firm BioConnect**
- **A huge database of Facebook users' phone numbers found online**
- **Safe Online Surfing Challenge Launches**
- **Cybercriminals manipulate their way into company computers**
- **Hacked Instagram Account of Robert Downey Jr. Pushes iPhone Giveway**
- **Fake PayPal Site Spreads Nemty Ransomware**
- **Huawei accuses US of cyberattacks, coercing employees**

Scheer promises to create 'Canada Cyber Safe' certification for digital products

https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/scheer-promises-to-create-canada-cyber-safe-certification-for-digital-products/

MONTREAL—Conservative party Leader Andrew Scheer is trying to reassure Canadians that if elected, his government would better protect their personal information following recent high-profile security breaches at major corporations that compromised the data of millions of Canadians.

A Conservative government would also create a certification system to let consumers know whether certain digital products meet federal security standards, he announced Friday.

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FedDev Ontario announces $4M investment in digital identity firm BioConnect

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/feddev-ontario-announces-4m-investment-in-digital-identity-firm-bioconnect/421622

FedDev Ontario's recent $3.9 million investment in Toronto-based digital identity technology firm, BioConnect, will help Canada's Digital Charter achieve its goals to increase the safety and security of its citizens, according to the organization.

BioConnect, founded in 2010 and named one of Canada's 20 most innovative companies in 2017 by the Canadian Innovation Exchange, specializes in the design of biometric access control solutions that can be used by individuals to verify their identity across physical, IoT, and digital applications.

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A huge database of Facebook users' phone numbers found online

https://techcrunch.com/2019/09/04/facebook-phone-numbers-exposed/

Hundreds of millions of phone numbers linked to **Facebook** accounts have been found online.

The exposed server contained more than 419 million records over several databases on users across geographies, including 133 million records on U.S.-based Facebook users, 18 million records of users in the U.K., and another with more than 50 million records on users in Vietnam.

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Safe Online Surfing Challenge Launches

https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/safe-online-surfing-challenge-opens-090519

The FBI's Safe Online Surfing (SOS) Internet Challenge, which had record participation in 2018-2019, is reopening for the start of the new school year to help students navigate the web securely. As the FBI sees more and more crimes begin online, the growing participation numbers show that educators and caregivers also recognize the importance of teaching young people web literacy and safety.

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Cybercriminals manipulate their way into company computers

https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/cybercriminals-manipulate-their-way-into-company-computers/

NEW YORK — The cybercriminal who steals information or money from a small business is probably a master of deception and manipulation as well as a techno-expert.

When Nancy Butler got a call from someone claiming to be from her information technology service two years ago, she assumed it was a routine checkup by a legitimate staffer. So, as she had done many times during such calls, Butler asked the caller to confirm her account number and other information so "I could be sure they were who they said they were."

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Hacked Instagram Account of Robert Downey Jr. Pushes iPhone Giveway

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/hacked-instagram-account-of-robert-downey-jr-pushes-iphone-giveway/

You can add Robert Downey Jr. to the list of celebrities whose social media accounts got hacked this week. The actor's Instagram account was hijacked by unknown individuals that tried to capitalize on the move by posting fake giveaways for Apple products.

Previously this week, the Twitter accounts of Jack Dorsey, co-founder and CEO of Twitter, and actress Chloë Moretz fell to the control of a group branding themselves as the Chuckling Squad, who leveraged a vulnerability impacting the Tweet via SMS feature; this was not a bug on Twitter's side but one that mobile carriers need to address.

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Fake PayPal Site Spreads Nemty Ransomware

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/fake-paypal-site-spreads-nemty-ransomware/

A web page pretending to offer an official application from PayPal is currently spreading a new variant of Nemty ransomware to unsuspecting users.

It appears that the operators of this file-encrypting malware are trying various distribution channels as it was recently observed as a payload from the RIG exploit kit (EK).

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Huawei accuses US of cyberattacks, coercing employees

https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/huawei-accuses-us-of-cyberattacks-coercing-employees/

BEIJING — Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei accused U.S. authorities on Wednesday of attempting to break into its information systems and of trying to coerce its employees to gather information on the company.

Huawei, which faces mounting American pressure including possible loss of access to U.S. technology over accusations the company is a security risk, said in a statement that Washington has used "unscrupulous means" in recent months to disrupt its business.

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