Security Digest
Information Security Branch

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Office of the Chief Information Officer

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October is "**Cybersecurity awareness**" Month
Test yourself with the Cybersecurity Awareness Month Quiz: **Cybersecurity by the Numbers**

This week's stories:

Canadian businesses spent $14B on cybersecurity in 2017: StatCan

https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/canadian-businesses-spent-14b-on-cybersecurity-in-2017-statcan-1.4134535

OTTAWA -- Statistics Canada says Canadian businesses reported spending $14 billion on cybersecurity in 2017 as they confront greater risks in the digital world.

The StatCan survey finds that more than one in five companies said they were impacted by a cyberattack last year, with large businesses more than twice as likely as small ones to be apparent targets.

The most common suspected motive was an attempt to steal money or demand a ransom payment. Businesses said theft of personal or financial information was less common, involving less than one-quarter of the cyberattacks.

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Apple, Amazon deny report saying their systems contain malicious chips planted by Chinese spies

https://business.financialpost.com/technology/apple-amazon-deny-report-saying-their-systems-contain-malicious-chips-planted-by-chinese-spies

Apple Inc and Amazon denied a Bloomberg report on Thursday that their systems contained malicious computer chips inserted by Chinese intelligence, statements from the tech companies released separately by Bloomberg showed.

Bloomberg Businessweek cited 17 unnamed intelligence and company sources as saying that Chinese spies had placed computer chips inside equipment used by around 30 companies, as well as multiple U.S. government agencies, which would give Beijing secret access to internal networks.

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Four Puzzling Issues of Identity Authentication

https://www.informationsecuritybuzz.com/articles/four-puzzling-issues-of-identity-authentication/

The so-called password-less authentication, if implemented literally, would lead us to a world where we are deprived of the chances and means to get our volition confirmed in having our identity authenticated. It would be a 1984-like world. The values of democratic societies are not compatible.

Some people allege that passwords can and will be eliminated by biometrics or PIN. But logic tells that it can never happen because the former requires a password/PIN as a fallback means and the latter is no more than the weakest form of numbers-only password.

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Beware sextortionists spoofing your own email address

https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2018/10/15/beware-sextortionists-spoofing-your-own-email-address/

Oh, no! A hacker (says he) planted a Trojan, (claims he) took over your computer's camera and microphone, (purportedly) filmed you watching porn, (theoretically) has the password to your email account, and is threatening to forward the scandalous video to all your email and social media contacts unless you fork over Bitcoin!

"It must be true," many people have unfortunately thought about this new twist on an established sextortion scam. After all, he's (apparently) sending email from your very own email address!

Good news: thankfully, it's not true. The sextorting phisher has not, in fact, demonstrated that he's hacked your email. All he's done is demonstrate that anyone can send an email claiming to be from anyone else.

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Your business is not too small to experience cyber fraud

http://itincanadaonline.ca/index.php/security/2448-your-business-is-not-too-small-to-experience-cyber-fraud

Today's economy is more connected than ever before. With continued innovations in cloud-based technologies and digital transformation in businesses, there are more opportunities for connectivity and collaboration in organizations of all sizes. Adopting digital tools can have a significant impact on small business productivity, as automated solutions can free up employees from tedious and time-consuming tasks, so they can focus on helping the business grow. While these tools improve our work experience, they also increase susceptibility to cybercrime.

According to Canada's Department of Finance, Canada has more computers per capita than any other country (129 devices per 100 people) and Canadians are the heaviest internet users in the world, spending more than 40 hours online per person, per month. This leaves Canadians as prime targets for cyberattacks.

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UK seeks to secure smart home gadgets

https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-45863948

The UK has published a voluntary code of practice for manufacturers that shows how they can proof their creations against common attacks.

It aims to stop gadgets being hijacked and used to mount cyber-attacks - and stamp out designs that let cyber-thieves steal data.

Two companies, HP and Hive Centrica, have already agreed to follow the code.

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Here's how to see if you're among the 30 million compromised Facebook users

https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2018/10/facebook-hackers-stole-locations-and-other-private-data-for-millions-of-users/

The attackers who carried out the mass hack that Facebook disclosed two weeks ago obtained user account data belonging to as many as 30 million users, the social network said on Friday. Some of that data—including phone numbers, email addresses, birth dates, searches, location check-ins, and the types of devices used to access the site—came from private accounts or was supposed to be restricted only to friends.

The revelation is the latest black eye for Facebook as it tries to recover from the scandal that came to light earlier this year in which Cambridge Analytica funneled highly personal details of more than 80 million users to an organization supporting then-presidential candidate Donald Trump. When Facebook disclosed the latest breach two weeks ago, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he didn't know if it allowed attackers to steal users' private data. Friday's update made clear that it did, although the 30 million people affected was less than the 50 million estimate previously given. Readers can check this link to see what, if any, data was obtained by the attackers.

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Largest Cyber Attack Against Iceland Driven by Complex Phishing Scheme

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/largest-cyber-attack-against-iceland-driven-by-complex-phishing-scheme/

A brazen phishing campaign took Iceland by surprise the last weekend, sending out malicious emails to thousands of individuals, in an attempt to fool them into installing a powerful remote access tool.

Even if the number of potential victims may seem low, local police say this is the largest cyber attack to hit the country. One must take into consideration that the population of Iceland is around 350,000, with about half of the citizens living in the capital city Reykjavik. By comparison, in 2016 London lived over 8.5 million people.

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Pentagon Data Breach Exposes up to 30,000 Travel Records

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/pentagon-data-breach-exposes-up-to-30-000-travel-records/

The travel records for up to 30,000 U.S. military and civilian workers have reportedly been leaked through a commercial vendor used by the Pentagon.

According to a report by the AP News, an anonymous source familiar with the matter stated that this breach was discovered on October 4th, but may have happened months ago. The report also states that the 30,000 number is tentative at this point and may increase.

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Healthcare infosec leaders rank security posture, maturity just 'average'

https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/healthcare-infosec-leaders-rank-security-posture-maturity-just-average

When asked to rank the cybersecurity posture of the healthcare sector, four healthcare infosec leaders found that while the industry has improved, there's still a long way to go.

At the HIMSS Media Security Forum here on Monday, Anahi Santiago, chief information security offer of Christiana Care Health System, said that the industry is at about a four or five -- as the larger organizations are much more secure -- "but too many small to mid-size hospitals are struggling."

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