

Security and Your Business



Newsletter # 3 – January 30th, 2008

Welcome to the Archimedes Technologies, LLC security newsletter. As a Trend Micro Partner, Archimedes Technologies has access to analysis of the latest threats to your business. From time-to-time we will send a newsletter on security threats of concern. The purpose of our newsletter is to inform and educate you of the threats to your business.

Protecting your Customer Data

Make sure your data doesn't walk out the door

Most companies are concerned about hackers and spyware but your biggest information leak may be your employees. Technology is used to help prevent outside attacks; firewalls, anti-virus software, and strong passwords. But what can you do to protect yourself from the inside?

Employee Policies

These are the questions you must ask yourself: How many employees email customer contact information to their home email accounts? What is the policy on plugging in a USB flash drive to the office computer? Most employers have computer use policies in an employee handbook. The computer section is normally generic (i.e. "Don't surf the internet for personal use.") and doesn't cover timely issues such as social networks, iPods (iTunes), mp3 players, software downloads or toolbars. As an employer, you don't want to incur support charges for what is essentially personal use. A perfect example of this is iTunes. Employees use the faster network at work to download music for their library. We have seen 100's of dollars of songs stored on company PCs. If something goes wrong, who pays for the support charge? You do as the employer. These problems are normally reported as I can't access "my files". This is a "lose-lose" situation. You want a happy employee but do you want to spend precious support dollars fixing a music library that you probably didn't know existed.

Social networks are another hidden issue for employers. Not only is the employee using a company resource and bandwidth to surf these sites, they are also exposing the PC to potentially harmful software. Hackers may not be able to get into your network but they have made some great inroads into hacking social networks. Go onto Google and enter "known spyware on social network toolbars" and you'll find over 90,000 entries. They have nice titles like "find your friends easier with xxxxx

toolbar.” If you download, Internet Explorer becomes infected. If this is done through Active-X controls you may be looking at hours of downtime.

A written computer use policy protects your business. It may sound “too corporate” for small business but small businesses can afford the down-time even less than their large corporate brethren. An unwritten rule can’t be enforced, however a specific computer policy can.

Technology is your friend

There are many areas where technology can protect the employer. You can turn off USB ports for removable media in a group policy that is controlled from your server. You can set up a more restrictive data structure with individual user rights. You can turn off CD/DVD burners from recording data. You can put in a proxy server to limit web surfing.

What should you do immediately to protect your data?

Start with a well thought-out written computer use policy. Put your employees on notice by having them sign the policy -- not just when it is written, but when you conduct annual reviews as well. Use technology to support the policy by shutting down USB ports. Install software that performs content and web surfing filtering. Your data is your most important asset; put a technology safe around it. If you are not sure what to do next, contact us. We will work through a comprehensive plan to protect your data.

Cell Phones

The next generation Microsoft based phones make giant leaps

Microsoft released Windows Mobile 6. These phones, from all of the major cell phone providers offer a very strong email and productivity enhancements. Most of our clients are using Microsoft Exchange for their corporate email. Exchange has now been enhanced after Service Pack 2 to use “Push” technology to support these advanced cell phones. Made primarily as a competitor to the Blackberry, these phones offer something that Blackberry doesn’t: direct compatibility with Exchange without additional software. Blackberry Enterprise Software (BES) works very well. Employees are happy with the phones and BES is fairly seamless after the initial installation. The majority of our clients run Microsoft Small Business Server 2003 with Exchange 2003. Although there is no published limitation to running BES on a small business server, most forums claim that technologists start to see performance fall off after 7 to 10 phones are installed. What if you can have all the benefits of mobile mail without paying for additional software or yearly maintenance? That is exactly what Mobile 6 does. The phones use the same access to the Exchange server as Outlook Web Access (OWA). The only issue we have seen to date in making these work is adding the web certificate to the phone since most small business servers do not pay for a root certificate. This is a 15-minute or less process on the phone. Mobile 6 also comes with HTML mail support, Word, Excel and Powerpoint, allowing users to open attachments. The phones sync through Exchange with their Outlook calendar. Contacts updated on the phone or Outlook are synchronized live as long as there is a data connection to the phone. Keep in mind that an unlimited data plan on the cell phone is advised. More information can be found here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile/6/default.aspx>.

In The NEWS

It's Not Just Computers

According to SecurityFocus, Best Buy has recalled Insignia-branded 10.4-inch picture frames model NS-DPF10A. The frames are infected with a virus. It seems to be an older virus affecting a limited number of the frames. The article can be found here: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/670>

Chubb Provides Discount on Cyber Security Insurance

According to Ziff Davis Enterprise, Chubb has teamed with Core Security (<http://www.coresecurity.com/>) to perform automated testing of web sites. Pass the test, receive a discount, although Chubb isn't saying how much of a discount. The whole Blog can be found here: http://blog.baselinemag.com/security/content001/risk_management/the_real_value_of_cybersecurity_insurance.html.

Trend Micro for your Home

Don't forget to protect your home PCs from malware. Many sites popular with teenagers are used to transmit spyware and other malicious programs. Once your machine is infected it can be very difficult to clean up, putting your personal information at risk. Trend Micro has powerful anti-spyware programs which Archimedes Technologies, LLC can purchase for you at discount.

Archimedes is now a Netgear Gold Partner

We choose our partnerships very carefully. After working with Netgear we decided their Gold partner program was for us. We now have direct access to Level 2 support in the U.S. and an additional discount we can pass along to our customers. This can benefit you in the office and at home -- particularly if you are thinking of putting in a wireless router, new firewall or switch. Call our office for a quote.

Contact us

Please contact us to discuss your security requirements. We can be reached on the web at Info@archimedestech.com or at 973-845-6027.