

## Security and Your Business



Newsletter # 5 – September, 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.

In this edition of our newsletter we discuss a pending change to Federal identity theft laws and the rash of bad debt SPAM dropping into our email inbox.

### Changes in Identity Theft Law Helps Consumers – Finally

HR 5938 updates Federal identity theft laws

The Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act of 2008 is on the desk of the President for his signature. This bill, in various versions, has been presented over the last three years and never made it through the Senate. With almost nine million identity thefts a year, the existing law required this update to cover electronic extortion and provide victims the ability to seek restitution for time and money spent to restore credit.

This bill was tucked into the "Former Vice President Protection Act," HR 5938. You can find the bill here: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h110-5938&version=enr&nid>. In our opinion there are two major changes represented by this bill. 1) The ability of the victim to collect restitution for time and actual damages (money spent) in restoring credit, and 2) making Cyber-Extortion a crime. In addition the bill does strengthen jail sentences for offenders as well as define instances where Spyware, Hacking and Keyloggers are illegal under the bill. These include impairment of medical examinations, damaging computers of the United States Government, or damaging 10 or more protected computers in a 1 year period.

Although rare, we have seen cases of cyber-extortion. This takes place when someone assumes control of your PC through various exploits and encrypts your hard drive. You then receive a message asking for payment using a credit card to get your information back. The credit card is then usually sold or cloned resulting in a more time spent in protecting your credit. This usually results in the loss of your data when the PC is rebuilt.

The average cost of identity theft is depends on the method used to calculate the amount. However one area of agreement is that the amount increases every year. Gartner Group estimates the average loss due to identity theft is \$3,257.00 (2006). The Identity Theft Resource Center estimates the average out-of-pocket expense to restore credit is \$550.39. They further state that the average victim spends 116 of hours restoring their credit. Businesses are harder hit with an average loss of \$48,941.

Your best in-house protection against identity theft is up-to-date anti-virus and anti-spyware tools such as Trend Micro, a strong firewall and employee computer use rules in your business. Don't forget your protection at home. Make sure you password Quicken, QuickBooks and MS Money files. Scan your home PC at least once a week. Install a home firewall for protection.

You can't protect all of your information out there. As we stated in Newsletter #4, "Sometimes You Can't Protect Your Identity." Our newsletter note that covered major banks and identity theft. You can however make sure that the computers you do have control of protect your information.

## Got Bad debt?

SPAM follows the economy

Archimedes Technologies, LLC has been receiving alerts from the Trend Micro Customer Console we run here in the office. At any one time we have at least three clients meeting the excessive SPAM threshold. Our larger clients have an average of over 4,000 quarantined emails every 15 days. As the news moves, so does the SPAM. Our honey-trap email address was receiving Olympic news, and then it was the invasion of Georgia with phony CNN reports. Now it's bad debt. Here are some of the titles received in the last 48 hours:

An international company is interested  
Freedom4U  
\$10k than we can help  
One of our agents has been trying to contact  
by The Professional Way  
Vacancy Announcement  
2003-2008 Colonial Bank  
Dear WebBizWireBiz Customer  
Firma Sunrise Soft.Tehnologia  
GAGO  
g oing up  
stock  
completely eradicate your debts  
auto refinance  
bankruptcy loan  
boat loan  
Get your mortgage Refinanced  
carddebts  
NO more payments to creditors  
reviewing your current loan structure

The SPAM is using plain text to get through the filters. The titles listed above are just the ones that got through. These emails lead to various types of web sites that either attempt to steal your information, receive payment for credit services that will never be provided or lead to an infected web site. These web sites use infected Java or HTML code to infect your PC. This type of infected web site has been our biggest infection issue for the last two months. Although the virus loaded file is not allowed to execute, most of the time it cannot be quarantined either. We have cleaned at least 5 PC's a week due to these types of files.

Our advice is the usual -- don't open the mail. If you open the mail, don't click the links. As usual if something sounds too good to be true, it is too good to be true.

## PRODUCT NEWS

### Netgear's new Prosafe 802.11n Dual Band Wireless Access Point



Netgear has started to ship their new wireless access point, the WNDAP330. This new N band access point carries the Prosafe label which means it has a lifetime warranty. What makes this unit unique is the dual band 5Ghz and 2.4Ghz radio spectrum. 5Ghz to get above interference and 2.4Ghz to make it backward compatible for existing network cards. The unit will work with 802.11b, 802.11g or 802.11n devices. This wireless access point meets the POE specification meaning it can be powered through the Ethernet cable for easy placement. The WNDAP330 can support up to 128 users. We just purchased this unit for our office and tested it over the weekend. Using the Netgear WNDA3100 USB network adaptor we went from 56Mbps to 300MBS. Range over our old wireless G access point has been increased, meaning we can use wireless further away from the access point. Free your laptop, ask us how to go wireless in your organization.

### XP is Dead... January 2009

Dell has assured us that we will be able to purchase PCs with XP Pro until at least January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. For an additional \$50 Dell will include Vista disks and drivers with your XP Pro business PC. This provides upgrade protection while allowing your business to operate as usual. Microsoft will support XP through April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 but mainstream support, meaning bug fixes, will end April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Only Microsoft Enterprise Support clients will get XP support through 2014.

### Contact us

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