

NOVEMBER TECH NEWS

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We Hope You Find The Content Useful, Interesting and Enjoyable.

What Should You Do If YOUR Network Is Compromised?

Back in June, 6.3 million passwords were reported stolen when a hacker was able to access LinkedIn's servers. The news made headlines instantly and everyone in the office (and online) was talking about it. Clearly this is a public-relations nightmare for the company and one that will, for sure, have a ripple effect for months, possibly years, as they deal with the fallout from their clients and potential lawsuits.

What's scary about this type of attack-or any major security breach to a big company-is that if it can happen to them, it can certainly happen to YOU. Although I'm not privy to LinkedIn's security procedures, I'm sure they don't take it lightly and have most likely invested a BIG chunk of change to keep their data secure, money that the "average" small business owner could never afford to logically spend. So IF this happened to your company, what should you do? How do you avoid a massive PR mess, the loss of both sales and the trust of your clients, and even potential lawsuits?

The first step would be to identify what type of attack it is and what machine(s) were affected so you can quickly contain the damage done (or being done) as best as possible and protect your assets. Naturally, you should consult with a professional security expert (like us) to make this containment happen as quickly as possible to "stop the bleeding."

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TRIVIA

First person to submit the correct answers by email to

Next, you'll want to notify any and all parties affected as fast as possible. In the LinkedIn attack, they immediately notified the subscribers affected by forcing a password reset. The faster you can react to this, the better your chances are of limiting the damage done. We're not legal experts here but we would encourage you to talk to an attorney about the breach and about what you need to do in terms of making a public announcement as quickly as possible-particularly if a security breach exposed your employees, subscribers or clients to a cyber-criminal. In some cases where medical or financial information is involved, you may be required by law to report the incident not only to your clients, but also to authorities.

Of course, you can't saw sawdust, which simply means there's nothing you can do to un-do a security attack. Beefing up security AFTER the fact is good, but a better strategy is to avoid being complacent to the point of being negligent. After all, if a security attack happens and it's due to a simple security measure you could easily have put in place, it looks really bad.

If you're an OSG Hassle Free customer you can rest easy knowing we're monitoring your network against such attacks to limit your risks and prevent you from being low-hanging fruit for hackers. If you're not on a Hassle Free plan, call us for a FREE Networks Security Assessment to see just how secure your network REALLY is, and to find out how you can hire us to take care of this for you. 630-236-6625.

Alert: The Internet Has Run Out Of IP Addresses!

Although it sounds like a Nigerian Internet scam, it's true. With millions of people coming online, the number of IP addresses is exhausted and a new standard for identifying computers and devices has come online: IPv6. So what is an "IP" address anyway and what will this NEW addressing system mean to you?

First, let's start at the beginning: Every computer or device on a network has a unique identifier known as an IP address. This address is just like your home address; it acts as a unique

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Entries are judged by date/time received and correctness. Include your name and phone number, the question number and the answer.

- 1) In what year did the Pilgrims arrive in North America?
- 2) What ocean did the Pilgrims cross to come to North America?
- 3) What year was Thanksgiving named a national holiday?
- 4) True or False: Thanksgiving is only celebrated in the United States?

identifier so other computers can send and receive information to you. Most computer networks, including all computers connected to the Internet, use the TCP/IP protocol to communicate (think of it as the common language all computers use to talk to one another). The IP part of the "TCP/IP" is your IP address or unique identification number.

In order for all communication to work, every computer connected to the Internet or within its own private network must have a unique IP address.

Until the recent IPv6, there was only one standard for an IP address, which is made up of four groups of numbers separated by dots. For example: 216.27.61.137. This numbering convention gave us 232 possible combinations, or 4.3 billion unique addresses. Back in the early 80s when the Internet was just getting rolling, that was considered more than enough. Now with well over a billion people online and each person owning multiple devices requiring an IP address, 4.3 billion just isn't enough.

IPv6 uses a 128-bit addressing system (where IPv4 used a 32-bit addressing system) creating a massive number of possible new addresses and combinations. That massive new total is 2 to the 128 power, or 340,282,366,920,938,463,463,374,607,431,768,211,456. (How would you even say that number?)

Fortunately, most devices and PCs manufactured within the last 5 years should have no problem processing IPv6 addresses. However, older legacy systems that were engineered without IPv6 in mind will have problems. The companies most affected will be companies providing mobile devices and ISPs, particularly those in emerging markets who are bringing on thousands of new customers for cable TV, smartphones and voice over IP phone systems.

Of course, our clients won't have to worry since we're keeping up-to-date on IPv6 for you.

But if you have any questions regarding IPv6 and how it will affect you, give us a call at 630-236-6625.

Lock Access to Your Windows Desktop Quickly

Leaving your computer for a short time but don't want anyone peeking at your desktop or files? Simply lock it. When you lock your desktop, anyone who wants to use it will have to log in using their username and password.

One way to do this is to press Ctrl+Alt+Del and then click on "Lock Computer." A quicker way is to press the Windows logo key and the L key.

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