

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

So many things – so little time

Here's the list of things I think are important to discuss right now:

- The exploding pager attack and supply chain / interdependencies
- The fake videos of Harris and election lies growing
- Global political upheaval with computers as means
- Attacker advantage and defenders on their own

And that's just from the 9 days I was on vacation.

Exploding pagers (and walkie talkies)

Supply chain attacks are not new. Exploding (self-destruct) devices with remote triggers are not new. Israel using technology Trojan horses to physically destroy Iranian war mechanisms is not new. Why did it take so long?

So now that you know, you can no longer say you weren't warned. Supply chain vulnerabilities, inspection at reception, proper purchasing procedures for operations security, the list goes on and on, and it is already listed... standards – good practices – paying attention. But... not likely to happen ... even now.

Fake videos of Harris

Note that we don't really see any fake videos of Trump. Some you might think are fake, if it were 10 years ago. But now that we know Trump, we know that this is the real him. The problem is, not enough people know Harris all that well. She is "new" on the political scene, only having been on the stage for ... about 25 years... Oh... wait... longer in politics than Trump!

As a people, the people of the US do not pay attention to anything older than their shoes. Now I have to go and buy a new pair, which means I will likely forget everything I am writing today as soon as they arrive. Fortunately, the supply chain won't deliver them till after I am done writing this. And hopefully they will not be the exploding shoes now being manufactured in bulk and sent by terrorist groups to all people with last names they don't like.

Global political upheaval by computer

What you sow you shall reap. The US has been using information technology to sow division around the world for decades. Radio Free Europe. It was a high enough priority for Putin to get Trump to deprecate it. Sadly for Putin, the Internet...

But sadly for the US, we didn't prepare our people for deception, except of course for politicians being deceptive forever. But that's the exception that proves the rule... Really? No. Exceptions do not prove rules. They demonstrate the limitations of the rules.

I have now managed to get through my shoe order – but it won't be here for a few days. Just enough time to finish the article before I forget what I wanted to say.

Attacker advantage and defenders on their own

Attackers have a huge advantage today in the cyber arena for several reasons:

- They have lots of money and can steal more if they want to.
- They have lots of support from governments and private sources – many billions.
- They don't have to follow (our) laws, regulations, ethical practices, etc.
- Executive management doesn't care – until they do – and then it is often too late.
- Many so-called defenders are incompetent, thoughtless, or dogmatic.

We live in a highly flexible world that is rapidly changing. In the information arena, the landscape is moving predictably down a path toward technology being increasingly used against most people and in favor of the rich and powerful. The rich get richer - the poor get babies... and through exploitation of technology, the poor are misled to elect the rich!

None of this is new...

Which is the problem.

There's an old saying:

If it ain't broke, don't fix it

I have some bad news for you:

It's broken and you are not fixing it!

In fact, these problems have persisted for decades, and they are not being fixed by the vast majority of mechanisms in use. None of these attack methodologies are new. None of these circumstances are new.

What to do about it

I think a good approach would be for all cyber security workers to go on a general strike... make that vacation. We should all take 10 days off – don't call the office, don't bring a computer, make sure you have plenty of cash in your pocket before you leave. Let's say that we always take off – all of us – Sep 15-25 – every year. All at the same time...

Come back in 10 days and see how things are going.

Two things could happen

- The world goes to hell in a hand-basket.
- Everything is fine when we get back.

Then we would all know for sure whether its paranoia or justified fear.

Conclusions

Thing 1: Vacations are great – till you get back. Which means... don't come back!

Thing 2: The threats are growing but the defenders are only us; the overwhelmed.

Thing 3: It's broken but nobody seems to want to fix it.

Thing 4: Don't worry – be happy :)