

Data Security & Law

'Botnet' hacker pleads guilty

(23 Jan 06)

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AP) -- A 20-year-old hacker admitted Monday to surreptitiously seizing control of thousands of Internet-connected computers, using the zombie network to serve pop-up ads and renting it to people who mounted attacks on Web sites and sent out spam.

Hacker 'illwill' gets 2 year prison term

(27 Jan 06)

A federal judge Friday sentenced a convicted hacker known as "illwill" to two years in prison for selling the code, or software blueprint, for Microsoft Corp.'s closely guarded Windows programs.

GLOBAL SECURITY CONSULTANTS

704 Rock Elm Court
Odenton MD 21113
888.354.0079

www.GlobalSecurityConsultants.net



The Federal and many State governments have passed sweeping laws requiring private companies ensure the integrity and privacy of their information. The legal penalties for non-compliance are severe, but pale in comparison to loss of customer confidence and subsequent loss of business. The newly approved Senate Judiciary Committee "Personal Data Privacy and Security Act" bill proposed by Senators Spector and Leahy requires companies experiencing data breaches to notify their customers. Also, the bill requires businesses holding the personal data of more than 10,000 U.S. residents to conduct risk assessments and implement data-protection policies. Computer crime headlines are numerous and varied in reporting security violations, and the list of binding laws is ever growing. The effects of current legislation are widespread as well. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act, HIPAA and the Gramm-Leach Bliley Act touch virtually all possible business interests. The bottom line is that business must not only have a plan to protect critical information, but they must also periodically assess the implementation of that plan. Legal counsel must include advice on continued security of information. Law firms will be faced with representing their clients security concerns while protecting their own private information.

Law Firm Services

Law firms are not exempt from data privacy and protection issues. In fact, law firms are held to a higher standard by the general public since they are defending those who are in violation of or who have been violated by data privacy infringements. Although computer security is normally seen as a technical matter better left to computer specialists and support staff, today's ever emerging cyber world has brought information security to the forefront in the legal world in many areas.

Pro-active protection

An array of recent regulations have placed heavy burdens on organizations to maintain the security of their data and to have an audit trail of any activity that touches their databases. Any organization that fails to exercise due-care in protecting client's personal data may very easily be in violation of international, federal, or state statutes. From a legal firm's perspective, loss of control or theft of internal data can have consequences ranging from blemished reputation to mis-trial to law suit against the firm itself. In addition, failure to afford proper protection to client data could result in violation of a lawyer's responsibilities under the Model Rules of Professional Conduct ("Model Rules") or the Model Code ("Model Code") of Professional Responsibility. A formally implemented security policy is the first step in information security responsibilities, but is often missing. Once new policy is implemented or existing policy reviewed, periodic security assessments and remote penetration testing is necessary to validate compliance.

Reactive Pursuit

When a cyber-crime has occurred, your client will be faced with the burden of determining how and why the attack happened while still preserving continuity of business operations. They will require competent computer forensics services, such as those offered by Global Security Consultants. Forensically collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions on electronically stored data is a crucial skill set your client will require.

Education

In today's world of technology, law firms are becoming more and more involved in cases dealing with cybercrime. Understanding the types of cyber crime, their effects, and mitigation strategies is paramount. Global Security Consultants provides tailored training and seminar series from one hour to one week.

Summary

The time to embrace your information security responsibilities is now! Contact us today for a free, no obligation initial consultation at your business site.

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