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Sec-U-R-IT-y Tips | What You Need to Know About Botnets

Have you ever heard the term “bot” or “botnet” and wondered what it was? A bot, short for robot, is an automated software program that can execute certain commands. A botnet, short for robot network, is an aggregation of compromised computers that are connected to a central controller. Conficker, which threatened the university this spring, involved one such botnet. This month’s security tip, available at <http://security.arizona.edu/files/july2009securitytips.pdf>, tells you what you can do to protect yourself from bots and botnets.

Securing UA | University-Wide Risk Assessment

This summer, UA departments are being asked to conduct an information security risk assessment. Risk assessment is a process for identifying, assessing and determining cost-effective strategies for mitigating risks to information assets. While the Personal Information Sweep was directed at all UA employees, this process will be conducted by a select team of departmental personnel. For more information, go to <http://security.arizona.edu/risk>.

Tools | Identity Theft Risk Assessment Quiz

For the fifth year in a row, Arizona tops the list for identity theft. Although there is no way to guarantee that you won’t become a victim, you can take precautions to limit opportunities and learn how to spot evidence of identity theft quickly. Rutgers University has developed an online quiz to assess the risk of becoming an identity theft victim. Take this free quiz to learn your “security consciousness score”: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/identitytheft/>.

News | Apple Updates for Safari 4.0

On June 8, Apple released Safari 4.0, an updated version of its browser that fixes more than 50 known security flaws. Left unaddressed, the vulnerabilities could be exploited to steal sensitive data, execute arbitrary code or create denial-of-service conditions. In the new version of the browser, crashes caused by Flash, Shockwave or other plug-ins are sandboxed, meaning that crashes are limited to the plug-in. Safari 4.0 is available for both Windows and Mac. For more information, go to <http://www.scmagazineus.com/New-Safari-40-fixes-more-than-50-vulnerabilities/article/138229/>.

News | Current Events Used to Spread Viruses, Malware

Spammers, phishers and other online attackers are adept at using current events and pop culture as social engineering tools. A couple recent examples are spam and viruses exploiting Michael Jackson’s death and malware executed from fake Harry Potter movies. Read these articles for more information: http://www.pcworld.com/article/167479/michael_jackson_death_spurs_spam_viruses.html
http://www.pcworld.com/article/167451/fake_online_harry_potter_movies_launch_malware_attack.html

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