Month's Focus

Happy 20th Anniversary to Shawn McElravy

This December, Shawn will have been working with PC Works Plus for *20 years* in our Telecom Department. I am sure many of you have had the privilege of Shawn installing your phone system or cabling. We have been so fortunate to have great employees that have helped the company grow over the last 27 years.

Thanks Shawn for your years of dedication!

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Holiday Hours

Our office will be closed:
* Dec 25th for Christmas
* Jan 1st for New Years

We hope you all take time to enjoy your family, friends and co-workers during the holiday season.

'Tis the Season for Hackable Gifts

This Christmas there are many options for buying a gift for your kids, spouse or other family members that relies on the internet. In the August newsletter, we spoke about the Internet Of Things (IoT). There is always a risk of these items being hacked and becoming a mole in your home or business network.

How do you protect yourself from these devices? Because most of these devices were not created with security in mind, there is not an agent that can be installed to monitor and make sure the device has its updated security patches, like we use on your business workstations and servers. You have to think like a hacker to make sure that you gifts are safe.

Starting with the basics—good passwords, pins on your smartphones and making sure your routers and firewalls are up to date with security patches and not an EOL (end of life) piece of equipment.

Read "The Year's most hackable holiday gifts" for more insight into the holiday IoT gifts.

Free SAT Training for your employees.

One big focus for security in the workplace is SAT (Security Awareness training). Read about "The Importance of Security Awareness Training" in David Wertz's blog. http://www.pcworksplus.com/blog/

Because we feel so strongly about making sure your employees training is part of your security policy, we are offering a *FREE* 30 minute on-site training session with your employees. David Wertz will conduct a personalized training session for your industry. This training will help you determine if "You may be the biggest security risk"

To schedule your *FREE* training, please call 814-742-9750 or email compliance@pcworksplus.com.

Be sure to check out the PC Works Plus Blog!

Looking to make a Quick Buck? Try RAAS

If you ever decide that you would like to try Cyber Crime as a profession, there is a quick and easy way to get into the market. There is an area where amateur cyber criminals buy do-it-yourself kits and get support for their crimes. Ransomware as a Service, aka RaaS. Newbies without skills simply buy the code on the dark web and included with their purchase are easy how-to videos and tech support that will walk you through installing and executing the crime.

The masterminds behind the ransomware have made a pyramid scheme out of cyber crime. It does not take much for someone with a little knowledge to follow step by step instructions on how to exhort money from businesses.

Sophos says that RaaS is growing in popularity on the Dark Web, and this year's Cerber ransomware is their example of a worrisome trend. Here's some of what it says in the report that specifically pertains to RaaS:

"Ransomware is big business on the Dark Web. Its creators realized they could make more money not just by extorting currency from their victims, but by selling kits buyers could use to make and distribute their own. We've seen a number of different services and pricing models in the past year, and expect to see many more in 2018.

One of the biggest examples, as mentioned above, is Cerber. Other examples include Satan, malicious software that once opened in a Windows system, encrypts all the files and demands a ransom for the decryption tools, and Philadelphia. The latter was notable for its marketing technique, which included a slick YouTube video advertisement on the open web."

Unfortunately, this is a real industry. The best way for companies to try to stay safe is to have a good written security policy and deploy tools that will help with monthly, quarterly and yearly security checks and assessments.

If you would like to find out more info on what you can do to protect your business,

email compliance@pcworksplus.com or call 814-742-9750 for your FREE 30 Minute in-house security training for your employees and Phishing test.

Using MS Teams

You may have noticed a tile in your O365 menu called "Teams". This is a collaboration tool that lets you bring your teams together to one place to chat, save documents, communicate, schedule meetings and keep things organized.   Microsoft calls it, "A hub for teamwork in O365".

If you would like to learn more about how teams work, check out these videos:

⇒ Introduction to Teams
⇒ Step By Step Intro
⇒ Using Teams

If you think your organization can benefit from Teams and would like more information, give us a call 814-742-9750 or email sales@pcworksplus.com

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