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Microsoft warns on IE browser bug

Microsoft has issued a warning about a serious vulnerability in all versions of its Internet Explorer (IE) browser.

If exploited by a booby-trapped webpage the bug would allow attackers to take control of an unprotected computer.

Code to exploit the bug has already been published though Microsoft said it had no evidence it was currently being used by hi-tech criminals.

A workaround for the bug has been produced while Microsoft works on a permanent fix.

Code injection

The bug revolves around the way that IE manages a computer's memory when processing Cascading Style Sheets - a widely used technology that defines the look and feel of pages on a website.

Hi-tech criminals have long known that they can exploit IE's memory management to inject their own malicious code into the stream of instructions a computer processes as a browser is being used. In this way the criminals can get their own code running and hijack a PC.

Microsoft has produced updates that improve memory management but security researchers discovered that these protection systems are not used when some older parts of Windows are called upon.

In a statement Microsoft said it was "investigating" the bug and working on a permanent fix. In the meantime it recommended those concerned use a protection system known as the Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit.

Installing and applying the toolkit may require Windows XP users to update the version of the operating system they are using. But even if they do that some of the protection it bestows on Windows 7 and Vista users will not be available.

"We're currently unaware of any attacks trying to use the claimed vulnerability or of customer impact," said Dave Forstrom, the director of Microsoft's Trustworthy Computing group, in a statement.

"As vulnerabilities go, this kind is the most serious as it allows remote execution of code," said Rik Ferguson, senior security analyst at Trend Micro, "This means the attacker can run programs, such as malware, directly on the victim's computer."

He added: "It is highly reminiscent of a vulnerability at the same time two years ago which prompted several national governments to warn against using IE and to switch to an alternative browser."



Google works to soothe users over real name controversy

Google has heard the public outcry about its name restrictions and the way it killed off many Google+ user accounts and is working fast to fix the problem.

Many Google+ users have been up in arms over the past few days since the new social networking site cranked up its efforts to delete Google + accounts that weren't using members' real names.

Some users are upset because they want to use a pseudonym as a privacy measure and don't want to be forced to use their real name. Others complained that they used their real names but had their accounts deleted anyway because they have non-traditional names or their names have foreign-language characters.

Google+ executives said they've heard the complaints and they are working to rectify the situation.

"We've noticed that many violations of the Google+ common name policy were in fact well-intentioned and inadvertent and for these users our process can be frustrating and disappointing," wrote Bradley Horowitz, a vice president of product management at Google, in a [Google+ post](#). "So we're currently making a number of improvements to this process -- specifically regarding how we notify these users that they're not in compliance with Google+ policies and how we communicate the remedies available to them."

Horowitz added that in a "matter of weeks," Google+ will warn users and give them a chance to correct their names before they're suspended from the site. The site also will give users guidance on how they can change their names to meet the site's rules.

He also said Google is working on helping users come up with appropriate account names when they first sign up for the site to avoid any trouble down the road. For users who want to use nicknames or maiden names to help friends and colleagues find them on Google+, the site will offer users a way to display that information.

"These and many more changes are coming," Horowitz said. "We're flattered and appreciative of your support and interest. I assure you, teams of passionate individuals are pouring their talents and care into making this a great experience for you."

And while many users left positive comments under Horowitz's post, others were not satisfied.

"Keep up the great work. Fake names have no place on this service," wrote one user.

However, another user wrote, "Helping people to conform with policies that don't conform to the way people actually use their names (including pseudonyms) in the real world is not solving the problem -- it's demonstrating that you haven't understood the problem."

Another frustrated user wrote, "What I find more interesting regarding the name debate is that those of us who have been around the online world for three decades and more were always told until recent years to NEVER EVER use your REAL name online.... Several police agency websites STILL offer this advice. When did the policy change?"

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Dell debuts cloud-ready system

Dell is putting OpenStack to work in a new cloud-based package of hardware, software, and services

Using OpenStack cloud software, Dell has created a package of hardware, software, and services that organizations can use to deploy their own IaaS (Infrastructure-as-a-Service) operations.

The company has also released into open source a software program, called Crowbar, that should help organizations deploy their own OpenStack configurations on Dell hardware.

The cloud package includes the full suite of OpenStack software, running on Linux Ubuntu 10.10, installed on Dell PowerEdge C servers. Crowbar is also included in the package. Dell and Rackspace Cloud Builders will provide consultation services and Dell provides a reference architecture, or blueprint, to help organizations design their clouds.

"As the customers evolve, we can add other pieces in," said Joseph George, director of cloud marketing for Dell.

The Crowbar software, which Dell placed under an Apache 2.0 open source license, can automate the installation and configuration of OpenStack across multiple nodes, executing tasks such as BIOS configuration, RAID configuration, and network discovery. Crowbar allows users "to very quickly deploy a multi-node OpenStack cloud on bare-metal servers," George said. Use of the software can cut OpenStack deployment times to a few hours from one or two days, George said.

Administrators can also use Crowbar as an OpenStack management tool, executing tasks such as status monitoring, performance data gathering, and alerting. Crowbar borrows some of its code from two other open source network management programs, Nagios and Ganglia.

"Crowbar is intelligent enough to see something has changed, and it will adapt to that environment," George said. If a new server appears on the network, for instance, Crowbar can automatically load it with the required OpenStack software and fold it into the cloud.

Although the software was designed primarily to work with Dell servers, Dell built Crowbar as a modular program. So third parties can construct their own modules to extend functionality or have the software work with non-Dell servers.

Dell predicts that hosting and service providers, such as telecommunications companies, will be among the first to purchase these systems. "That seems to be the market that is gravitating to a highly flexible, massively scalable technology like open stack," George said. Customers can start

with a six node instance for testing and then add more nodes as more workloads are run on the cloud.

Launched by Rackspace and NASA, [OpenStack](#) is a set of open source software designed for setting up cloud deployments. It includes a fabric controller, and connectivity to open source messaging, virtualization, and data storage software.

Cognizant acquires CoreLogic's India services operations

The deal gives outsourcer Cognizant access to the mortgage markets that CoreLogic addresses

Cognizant Technology Solutions, a U.S. outsourcer with large Indian operations, said Tuesday it had entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the Indian services operations of CoreLogic, an information services and analytics company, in a bid to increase its services capabilities for the mortgage industry.

The purchase price will consist of a cash payment of about \$50 million, plus adjustments for working capital and other charges or credits that will be determined at closing, the companies said. Cognizant will as part of the transaction enter into a services agreement with CoreLogic for a minimum revenue commitment of \$324 million over five years to provide services to CoreLogic and its customers.

After the completion of the transaction, CoreLogic's Indian operations in three cities will provide capabilities in software product development, analytical modeling, back-office services and technology support to CoreLogic and its customers, primarily in the U.S. mortgage and real estate markets.

Cognizant will be absorbing about 4,000 of CoreLogic's 10,500 staff, a spokesman for CoreLogic said. The tie up with Cognizant will provide CoreLogic in Santa Ana, California, the platform to expand both in the U.S. and other markets, as Cognizant has a large number of skilled staff, broader capabilities, technology services, and global delivery platforms, the spokesman said.

More than 75 percent of Cognizant's 111,000 staff at the end of March were in India, according to a Cognizant spokesman.

Cognizant and other outsourcers are trying to add analytic capabilities and proprietary algorithms to their business process outsourcing businesses, said Amneet Singh, vice president for global sourcing at the research firm Everest Group. Cognizant added to its analytics capability in 2007

by its acquisition of marketRx, a provider of analytics and related software services to life sciences companies.

A number of outsourcers have bought out the Indian services operations of multinational user organizations, as most often these companies wanted to focus on their core businesses, rather than run a services subsidiary.

Citigroup, for example, sold its IT services and software development subsidiary in India to Wipro and its interest in a business process outsourcing company to Tata Consultancy Services, in return for a commitment of services business.

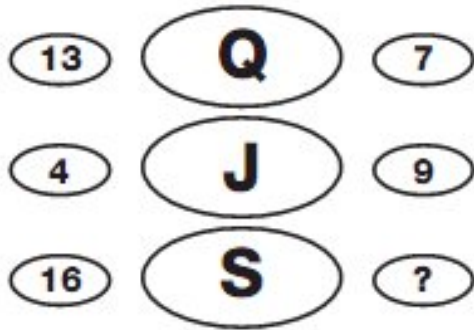
The Cognizant acquisition is different as CoreLogic is a services provider, selling its Indian operation, Singh said. CoreLogic may have decided to sell its Indian subsidiary as it may be trying to convert its fixed costs in staff in India to a variable cost, even as its revenue and profits dipped in 2010, he added. As the company plans to expand in a competitive market, this model it has with Cognizant is likely to be more flexible, Singh added.

Cognizant said it has entered into a formal joint go-to-market strategy to pursue additional opportunities to market and support the CoreLogic information management and analytics services in existing and emerging markets. Together the companies will provide end-to-end services across the mortgage value chain, from loan origination, escrow, title and closing services, through secondary markets, loan administration, loan default management, and analytics, it added.

The transaction is expected to close in August.

Puzzles:

Which number replaces the question mark?



Answer:6

Explanation: In each row of the diagram, the numerical value of the middle letter equals the sum of the left and right hand numbers, subtractin