CIST100 Introduction to Information Technology

Portfolio Project Part 1

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Searching the Web

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Part I- Search-Sleuth:

Question 1: What company did Bruce Artwick form in 1977, and what game did it license to Microsoft in 1982?

In 1977 Bruce Artwick   together with Stu Moment, founded a software company named SubLOGIC. His company developed graphic software for computers and in 1979 he developed the first Flight Simulator program. In January 1980 subLOGIC's first flight simulator game- FS1- was released and by 1981 it was the bestselling game for Apple. In November of 1982, subLOGIC licensed the game to Micorsoft. The program became so popular that by the end of 1997 over 10 million copies of the game were sold! To top that off in 2000 Guinness Book of Records recognized Microsoft Flight Simulator because it reached the 21 million sold mark!

For more information about Artwick, subLOGIC and the Microsoft Flight Simulator check out the following websites: http://fshistory.simflight.com/fsh/index.htm; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Artwick. You can also watch an interview with Bruce at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUCT0MobR6E.

Question 2: In what year did the United States department of revenue first provide tax forms and booklets in Adobe PDF format on its site?

In 1996, the IRS offered American taxpayers Web access to tax return forms and publications in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), a move that yielded impressive results: the agency saves millions of dollars annually be decreasing the money it spends on printing, storing, and mailing tax materials. Now the IRS is further streamlining operations by deploying Adobe Acrobat to more than 100,000 employees. From desktop or laptop computers, staff can use the agency's extranet to instantly access tax notification letters and publications in Adobe PDF.

This information is from : http://www.adobe.com/showcase/casestudies/irs/casestudy.pdf. For more history on Adobe go to http://www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/history/timeline/ or http://www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/history/.

Question 3: What is the latest security incident listed on the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) Web Site?

Copied directly from the US-CERT web site: http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/101462

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Vulnerability Note VU#101462

DrayTek Vigor 2700 ADSL router contains a command injection vulnerability.

Overview

DrayTek Vigor 2700 ADSL router version 2.8.3 and possibly earlier versions contain a command injection vulnerability via malicious SSID (CWE-77).

Description

CWE-77: Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in a Command ('Command Injection')
DrayTek Vigor 2700 ADSL router version 2.8.3 contains a command injection vulnerability. The Vigor router stores discovered SSIDs of surrounding access points into the `sWlessSurvey` variable inside `variables.js`, which is a list of multiple variables used by the web administration console. An attacker can utilize JavaScript code in the SSID value of a malicious nearby access point which will cause the DrayTek router to execute the command when it adds the SSID into the `variables.js` list.

Impact

An attacker within range of the DrayTek Vigor ADSL router can edit the SSID on their malicious access point to corrupt the `variables.js` file. This may cause the DrayTek router to call external scripts or make unauthorized changes to the settings, which may include poisoning the DNS cache.

The attacker may continue changing the SSID value of their rogue access point, causing JavaScript alert messages to be sent to the web console, thus preventing administration to the DrayTek router.

This attack requires the victim to manually scan for SSID values from the web administration page. Conversely, the device will automatically scan for any SSIDs in range when it is first powered on.

Solution

We are currently unaware of a practical solution to this problem.

Question 4: What is the name of the sans serif font the German Bauhaus movement developed in 1928?

Paul Renner developed the sans serif font in 1928. This font showed the core of the Bauhaus ideology: strictly geometric outline, lacking any embellishments and just barely conforming to the historical shapes of letters. The resulting blend of geometric consistency and aesthetic awkwardness may be disputable, but it was at least something quite new, and therefore impressive, at that time.
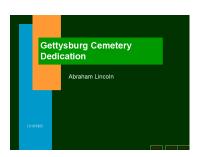
For more information on the Bauhaus font history look at one of the links below:

http://faculty.unlv.edu/pkane/ART240sec2/Typography/Typographypg4.html
http://fontsinuse.com/uses/5/typefaces-at-the-bauhaus

Question 5: What United States president's speech did Peter Norvig turn into a lighthearted PowerPoint presentation?

Peter Norvig created a lighthearted PowerPoint presentation of the Gettysburg Address by President Abraham Lincoln. Why did he do this? How many times have you sat in a presentation and thought what a waste of time, or could he just get to the point? Norvig was frustrated with the many bad PowerPoint presentations that he had listened too and decided to make a joke out of them. So he took the Gettysburg Address, a very powerful speech and made it into a boring PowerPoint presentation. As a PowerPoint it lost all of its pizzazz. His whole point was that we have lost the art of public speaking.

For more information on Peter Norvig or to read of his viewpoints go to: http://www.norvig.com/, or http://www.norvig.com/Gettysburg/making.html.

Part II-Social Networking:

Linked in.

LinkedIn.com is the world's largest professional network with over 225 million members.   It has three main goals for its members: build a professional identity online and stay in touch with colleagues and classmates; discover professional opportunities, business deals, and new ventures; and to get the latest news, inspiration, and insights you need to be great at what you do.

In the job section I searched the key words 'air traffic controller'. There were 11 results with only one of them being a position for an air traffic controller, and the position was in the Netherlands with in formation written in a different language. Unfortunately when I clicked 'view job' it would not allow me to view the job, it said I needed to join. I did not join. I would think that this site is great for people to post their resumes and make professional connections.

For more information on how to use LinkedIn- go to :http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQs1P547vlU.
And Linkedin keeps members update on facebook and twitter: https://twitter.com/LinkedIn, https://www.facebook.com/LinkedIn.

Part III – Ethics in Action:

Professional ethical hackers help companies remain safe from unethical hackers. They must be completely trustworthy since while testing the client's systems security they may discover information about their clients that should remain secrets. The publication of such information could lead to real intruders to break into the clients' systems and in most cases lead to financial losses. Ethical hackers must be trusted to exercise tight control over any information that might be a target of misused by intruders. Due to the sensitivity of the information gathered during the evaluation of the vulnerable systems, strong measures are required to be taken into considerations to ensure that the security of the systems being employed by the ethical hackers are intact.

During the evaluation of a system's security, the ethical hackers seek the answers to some of the following questions:

- What can an intruder see on the target systems?
- What can an intruder do with the information captured?
- What is organization trying to protect?
- How much effort, time, and money are an organization is willing to expend to obtain adequate protection?

Once these questions have been answered, a security plan is put in place.

Ralph Echimendia sponsors a website called "The Ethical Hacker". Ralph is a world-renowned instructor, ethical hacker and security expert. He has been involved in the development of internationally recognized computer security courseware. Mr. Echimendia offers 2 day courses to anyone who needs to test security controls or need to perform audits or risk assessments. The workshops allow students to try out security software, and describe various techniques that hackers use to break into systems and networks. By learning these techniques, students can find vulnerable areas in their company's network.

For more information of this up and coming field take a look at these websites:

http://theethicalhacker.net/
http://theethicalhacker.net/
http://bryansoliman.wordpress.com/2011/10/02/the-benefits-of-ethical-hacking/

Part IV- My Technology Purchase with $1,000:

If given $1000 to spend on the latest technology devices I would purchase an iPad Air(128 GB) Wifi plus cellular for $929 and a 5GB per month Data plan with AT&T at $50 a month. The features of the iPad Air include 9.7 inch Retinal display, The powerful and power-efficient A7 chip with 64-bit architecture makes everything remarkably responsive — while still delivering up to 10 hours of battery life, and ultra fast Wifi. The iPad is the only 4g device that is approved by the FAA to use as a flight GPS. I would use this device to plan my flights, document flights with pictures and videos, and the 'find my iPad' feature would help my family locate me if I have engine problems, as well as make my mother feel better that she can call me! (I fly a Piper Cub- with no radio).

For more information on the iPad Air go to: http://www.apple.com/ipad-air/ or http://gizmodo.com/apples-hot-fifth-generation-ipad-everything-you-need-1450001533 or http://techcrunch.com/2013/10/22/apple-introduces-the-ipad-air/