

# The BSS Advisor

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#### **Announcements**

•Our West Lafayette location has moved to our new office at 1211 Cumberland Avenue.

•Save the date: August 25th from 3:00pm-6pm we will be hosting an open house and ribbon cutting with the Greater Lafayette Commerce at our new office in West Lafayette! We look forward to celebrating with you.

#### Who We Are

**BSS** is your <u>IT Partner</u> providing Total Care support for all your technology needs with exceptional Customer **Service** and the best IT Solutions to make **your business** more productive and profitable!

Lafavette Office: 1211 Cumberland Ave. West Lafayette, IN 47906 Kokomo, IN 46902 (765) 742-3440

Kokomo Office: 700 East Firmin, Suite 105 (765) 507-9583

www.bssconsulting.com



"I'm not going to make payroll - we're going to close our doors as a result of the fraud."

Unfortunately, that statement is becoming more common among smaller businesses, according to Mitchell Thompson, head of an FBI financial cybercrimes task force in New York.

The FBI reports that since October 2013 more than 12,000 businesses worldwide have been targeted by social engineering-type cyberscams, netting criminals well over \$2 billion. And those are just the reported cases. Often, due to customer relationships, PR or other concerns, incidents go unreported.

These unfortunate events were triggered by a particularly nasty form of cyberattack known as "social engineering."

Social engineering is a method cyber con artists use to lure well-meaning individuals into breaking normal security procedures. They appeal to vanity, authority or greed to exploit their victims. Even a simple willingness to help can be used to extract sensitive data. An attacker might pose as a coworker with an urgent problem that requires otherwise off-limits network resources, for example,

# 5 Ways To **Spot A Social** Engineering **Attack**

They can be devastatingly effective, and outrageously difficult to defend against.

The key to shielding your network from this threat is a keen, ongoing awareness throughout your organization. To nip one of these scams in the bud, every member of your team must remain alert to these five telltale tactics:

- **1. Baiting** In baiting, the attacker dangles something enticing to move his victim to action. It could be a movie or music download. Or something like a USB flash drive with company logo, labeled "Executive Salary Summary 2016 Q1," left where a victim can easily find it. Once these files are downloaded, or the USB drive is plugged in, the person's or company's computer is infected, providing a point of access for the criminal.
- 2. Phishing Phishing employs a fake e-mail, chat or website that appears legit. It may convey a message from a bank or other well-known entity asking to "verify" login information. Another ploy is a hacker conveying a well-disguised message claiming you are the "winner" of some prize, along with a request for banking information. Others even appear to be a plea from some charity following a natural disaster. And, unfortunately for the naive, these schemes can be insidiously

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#### IT Security Tip #7: Never use PERSONAL devices to connect to COMPANY data

You're a hardworking team player who likes to check e-mail and get a few things done after hours – all good! But here's something you might not know: you should never access company data, file servers or applications through personal devices and home PCs that are not properly monitored by us. Why?

If you and your kids are using a home PC to play games, access Facebook and surf the web AND you're not diligently updating and monitoring the antivirus software, firewall and security patches on the machine (and who does, honestly?), then there's a high probability you're infected with spyware or malware. Since most malware is designed to operate in total stealth mode undetected, you won't know that some hacker is watching you log in to your company's file server or key cloud application containing critical, sensitive data and capturing your login with a key logger. Bottom line, ONLY use company-approved devices that are properly protected and monitored to access company data; and if you just can't help but take work home, let us know so we can set you up with a SECURE way to work remotely or from home.

effective.

- 3. Pretexting Pretexting is the human version of phishing, where someone impersonates a trusted individual or authority figure to gain access to login details. It could be a fake IT support person supposedly needing to do maintenance... or an investigator performing a company audit. Other trusted roles might include police officer, tax authority or even custodial personnel, faking an identity to break into your network.
- **4. Quid Pro Quo** A con artist may offer to swap some nifty little goody for information... It could be a t-shirt, or access to an online game or service in exchange for login credentials. Or it could be a researcher asking for your password as part of an experiment with a \$100 reward for completion. If it seems fishy, or just a little too good to be true, proceed with extreme caution, or just exit out.
- **5. Tailgating** When somebody follows you into a restricted area, physical or online, you may be dealing with a tailgater. For instance, a legit-looking person may ask you to hold open the door behind you because they forgot their company RFID card. Or someone asks to borrow your

laptop or computer to perform a simple task, when in reality they are installing malware.

The problem with social engineering attacks is you can't easily protect your network against them with a simple software or hardware fix. Your whole organization needs to be trained, alert and vigilant against this kind of incursion.

For more on social engineering as well as other similar cyberthreats you need to protect your network from, get our latest special report on this crucial topic:

#### The Top 10 Ways Hackers Get Around Your Firewall And Anti-Virus To Rob You Blind

Don't let your organization be caught like a sitting duck! You've worked way too hard to get where you are today to risk it all due to some little cyberhack you didn't know about. Call us at (765) 742-3440, or e-mail me directly at Jeff@bssconsulting.com, and get your copy of this crucial preventive guide today – before your company becomes yet another social engineering statistic.

### Our Clients Say It Best

The reason we have an IT company monitor our computers is to provide the security of our clients and the information provided to our company. With backups all of our documents and information stored on a server everything is retrievable should it be lost or hacked. BSS continually monitors all of our computers for viruses, spam, etc. When something goes wrong with our computers, it is normally BSS contacting us to inform us there is or was a problem with a computer or computers. With BSS our computers meet all security and safety compliance rules and regulations demanded of us. -Patti Kidwell, Robison & Bergum

## Fun Facts Did You Know..?

- Crown shyness is a phenomenon observed in some tree species in which their fully stocked canopies do not touch each other.
- A group of meerkats is called a clan, a mob, or a gang.
- In 2015 a French court renamed a baby after the judge ruled that the parents' decision to name the child "Nutella" was not in the child's best interest.
- Many companies in the UK offer "pawternity leave" so employees can have paid time off when their pets need more attention or have health issues.
- The Russian version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" had to scrap the "ask the audience" lifeline as the audience would intentionally give the wrong answer.
- There is only one person left on Earth who was alive in the 1800s.
   Emma Morano was born just one month before the turn of the 20th century, when England's Queen Victoria was still on the throne, and she lives by herself in northern Italy.
- The word "checkmate" derives from the Persian phrase "Shah Met" which means "the King is Dead"
- Since 1961, over 80,000 people have graduated from McDonald's Hamburger University with a degree in Hamburgerology.
- A swarm of 20,000 bees chased a car for more than 24 hours because their queen was trapped inside (Google photos!)

#### **Business Briefings**

Want to know your Lyft or Uber passenger rating?

Ratings are a two-way street with both Uber and Lyft. Of course, as a passenger you can rate your driver. Yet passengers are rated too, by their drivers. To find your average Uber passenger rating, open your Uber app and tap the menu bar in the top left corner. Then follow this path: Help > Account > "I'd like to know my rating." Tap "Submit" on the explanation page and your rating should then appear. Lyft has no such system, however their support team may send your average passenger score to you if you request it. Want to improve your score? Be nice to your driver and show up at your pickup location on time. Glitterless.com



Forget apps...here comes the voice-controlled future.

Soon, we won't be fumbling around with a gazillion different apps, trying to figure out which one turns off the sprinklers in the front yard... Apple Siri, Amazon Echo and now Google Home all point to the future of digital living. When it comes to voice plus smart machines vs. finger taps on a phone, voice wins, hands down. You don't want to use a weather app, you just want the forecast. Your customers won't go to your website and download an app; they'll interact with your business in some way by voice. That future will arrive in the next five to 10 years. Will your business be ready? Inc.com

Skip the airport – just hop in your e-jet and fly! By 2018, owning your own battery-powered VTOL (Vertical Takeoff and Landing) two-seater could be one step closer to reality. That's the plan for the Lilium Jet, being developed in Germany under the auspices of the European Space Agency. This Jetsonslooking aircraft sports "fly-bywire" joystick controls, retractable landing gear and gull-wing doors. Its developers claim it will have a top speed of 250 miles per hour and could be available to the public as soon as 2018. Designed for daytime recreational flying, it's quieter – and safer than a helicopter, thanks to its battery-powered ducted fan motors and intelligent, computercontrolled takeoffs and landings. And pricing, according to its developers, will be far less than similar-sized aircraft. GizMag

Is your mobile website stressing people out?

Of course, page-load times can affect conversion and brand perception. But did you know they also affect user heart rate and stress levels? According to a 2016 study on mobility by Ericsson, page-loading delays lead to an average 38% jump in heart rate. Remember the last time you watched a horror movie? It's about that stressful... Not how you want your visitors to feel. To keep your page loads painless and your visitors happy, make sure your website is mobilefriendly. It needs to be quick and easy to navigate and engage with. You have a lot at stake in your website – and making it stress-free for visitors could make a big difference. HubSpot Blog

# Finally: An Easy Way To Control The Family Net

Got kids aged six to 16?

Circle With Disney is a new device that helps make Internet struggles at home a thing of the past. Imagine: no more negotiating with kids to get off the web and come to dinner (or get their homework done).

This 3½-inch white cube with rounded corners (it's not exactly a circle...) lets you control Internet usage around your house with a tap on your iPhone. (Android compatibility coming soon.)

With presets by age group, or custom controls, Circle helps you restrict who in your family surfs what, and when. It also tallies how much time each person spends on any site. You might even want to monitor your own Facebook or Pinterest time (or maybe not...).

Circle also lets you put your whole home network on pause, sets up in about five minutes and works with your router.

Just \$99 at MeetCircle.com may be all you need to win your family back from the web – at least for a few minutes a day.

### Client Bill of Rights

You have a right to understand every aspect of our business policies and support procedures. We pledge to make it easy for you to communicate with our staff via our website, email, or by phone and to receive answers to any questions you may have about how or why a decision, recommendation or resolution plan is reached.

## Contest Corner Who Wants To Win A Gift Card?

This month we are giving away (2) \$5 Gift Cards to McDonald's.

Leoprine relates to which animals:

a) Goats

b) Hares

c) Leopards

d)Lemurs

E-mail **Jeff@bssconsulting.com** with your answers!

Last month's question was: Amazon was not the name Jeff Bezos originally selected for his Internet startup company in 1995. What name was his frist pick? The correct answer was D) Cadabra.



**Business System Solutions** 

# Managing Technology For Your Business

BUSINESS SYSTEM SOLUTIONS 1211 Cumerbland Avenue West Lafayette, IN 47906

> Phone: (765) 742-3440 Email: bill@bssconsulting.com

We've Moved!



We are excited to be moving in to our new West Lafayette office location at **1211 Cumberland Avenue** in the Purdue Research Park this month! Our new location gives us a lot more space to better serve our clients. We are excited for what the future holds and look forward to having everyone come visit our new office on August 25th for our open house.

