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Cyber Roundup – September 2017

By Thomas J. DeMayo, Principal, Cyber Risk Management

Another busy month for cyber criminals: from hacking to spamming to leaking. Even a vital medical device needed a cyber patch to protect its users. We can never underestimate the cyber criminal mind — it is patient, wily and adaptable. So, we need to be ever vigilant, knowledgeable and proactive to minimize threats.

Key Cyber Events

The following is a rundown of what happened during the month of August. We welcome your comments, insights and questions. Please contact Tom DeMayo, Principal, Cyber Risk Management, to explore how we may help you safeguard the security of your organization, business, clients and constituency.

- **Equifax, one of the largest credit reporting agencies in the nation, announced recently that it suffered a major cyber breach.** The breach is estimated to affect approximately 143 million personal records, nearly half of the population of the United States. You can identify if you are part of the breach via Breach Check.

- **A Presidential Order elevated the U.S. Cyber Command to a full combatant command.** The elevation was authorized in the annual defense policy bill last November and will give the commander the necessary authority to conduct offensive and defensive cyber operations.

- **711 million e-mail addresses were exposed in breach of spamming operation.** A security researcher identified an unsecured webserver hosted in the Netherlands that contained a treasure trove of e-mail addresses and e-mail credentials used by the spamming operation. This type of disclosure is the biggest to date. If you would like to identify if you are part of this breach, you can use this website. Further, on the website you can subscribe to be actively alerted if your e-mail address is a part of any future identified breaches.

- **HBO hackers stole 1.5 terabytes of data.** The stolen data included scripts and unreleased upcoming series videos for "Game of Thrones," "Ballers," "Barry," "The Deuce." and "Insecure." The hackers have demanded $7.5 million to stop leaking the data. To date, there have been no confirmations of HBO paying the cyber criminals any sum of money.

- **Mac Malware is on the rise.** According to data collected by MalwareBytes, identified malware for Macs in Q2 of 2017 exceeded all of 2016. Further, more malware families were identified to date than any other year. The notion that Macs do not require anti-virus software should be abandoned and anti-virus for Macs be adopted as part of the overall security program.

- **Half a million pacemakers are in need of a patch to address cyber threat.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a recall of pacemakers manufactured by St. Jude Medical after the devices were identified as being susceptible to a hack that could allow the device to be remotely controlled. The manufacturer has released an update to address the vulnerability.

- **Cybersecurity firm FireEye is taunted by hackers with stolen company data.** Leading incident response firm FireEye had documents stolen from an employee of the company. FireEye initially claimed that breach was the result of unauthorized access to an employee's personal social media and e-mail accounts that contained company data and not the result of a breach to

the company's systems. The hackers released additional documents in mid-August disputing FireEye's claim they did not breach their network. FireEye is investigating the new claims.

- **Six million Instagram accounts were exposed in hack**. Facebook, the parent company of Instagram, announced that hackers exploited a software vulnerability in the application that allowed for personal details such as e-mail addresses and phone numbers to be stolen. Cybercriminals established a dark web database that can be used to obtain the information for $10 per search. Instagram immediately fixed the bug and is working with law enforcement.

- **23 Million Ransomware e-mails were released.** In the course of a day, cyber criminals released an endless amount of e-mails in an attempt to spread the infamous Locky ransomware. The e-mails were not very targeted and contained a minimal amount of text in the subject and body of the e-mail. If infected, the cybercriminals would charge approximately $2,300 to unlock the files. While the e-mails were not sophisticated, given the number of e-mails sent, if only a small percentage of people are infected and pay, the hackers stand to make millions.

- **Sweden experienced county wide data breach.** In a poorly handled data transfer with IBM, the Swedish Transportation Authority inadvertently compromised sensitive information about citizens, police, military and public infrastructure. Unauthorized personnel at IBM subsidiaries in Eastern Europe had access to the information. Two cabinet members have since left their positions as a result of the breach. While this breach was not a result of a hack, it clearly demonstrates that if you have personal or sensitive information in any capacity it has to be effectively managed and monitored throughout its lifecycle inclusive of its movement to and from third parties.

- **Creditseva, a credit management company, exposed sensitive personal information of 48,000 citizens of India.** The exposure is the result of an insecure Amazon S3 bucket. While there is no conclusive evidence that the data was accessed by unauthorized individuals, this again underscores the risk associated with the use of cloud providers and the need to ensure that effective controls have been implemented to manage that risk.

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