

Title of Session: Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity (C3) - Spyware, Malware, Trojans and Worms

Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle

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DavinaP: Hello everyone!--I was hoping to begin by having everyone do a short intro please

DavinaP: just who--where and interest in C3 topics

BJB2 nods to Davina. I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania and always interested in your topics!

CodyG: Hi, I am Cody from Houston, TX... I would like to join this session so that I may be more savvy

AngieKi: I am a business education teacher in Arkansas and this is my first time using Tapped In.

KathrynHul: Kat, NJ, and I am a technology teacher in a grade 4-6 school. We discuss online safety and I would love to learn more (I have a Mac at home and don't usually need to care about this stuff).

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer and I lead a math and technology discussion in Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

DustinF: I am Dustin a computer technician in a k-12 school and grad student from Ohio and also a newbie to Tapped in!

DavinaP: Welcome! I am Director for Ed Tech Policy, Research and Outreach w/in the College of Education at the University of Maryland and Director of the C3 Institute

BJB2 applauds wildly for Davina!

MercedesH: I am Mercedes a special education teacher in GA. I'm new at this.

DavinaP: We try to spread the topics out over the months relating to C3 Cyberethics, safety and security and this month's topic is spyware, malware, trojan horses and worms...however, if another topic is of interest please speak up

DavinaP: All Ok with the topic?

CodyG: Sure

KathrynHul: Sounds great.

DustinF: sounds good to me

AngieKi: That's fine with me.

MercedesH: fine with me

DavinaP: So what is Spyware anyway?

MercedesH: I have no idea

KathrynHul: tracking programs

AngieKi: I am not for sure what all it does.

DustinF: any program that collects information such as what sites are visited or computer information and normally sends it to someone...nasty stuff

CodyG: It is a program that is accidentally dwnld'd into a computer, that monitors all that it does.

BJB2: When Davina shares a url, make sure you hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard to override pop up blockers

DavinaP: let's take a look at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spyware>

BJB2 checks to make sure everyone got the site

DustinF: got it

AngieKi: I've got it.

MercedesH: I've got it

SusanR: Greetings

DavinaP: Spyware is a general term used to describe software that performs certain behaviors such as advertising, collecting personal information, or changing the configuration of your computer, generally without appropriately obtaining your consent first.

CodyG: It is more serious then I thought.

DavinaP: Spyware is often associated with software that displays advertisements (called adware) or software that tracks personal or sensitive information.

DavinaP: what are signs that your computer has spyware?

CodyG: It is slow??

KathrynHul: pop ups pop ups and oh did I mention pop ups?

DustinF: you may noticed a extreme slowdown in performance

DavinaP: very good! see:

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/spywaresigns.mspx>

CodyG: Thanks!

DustinF: Taking over your home page is a very popular trick

TravisTh: Unfamiliar processes running and in the startup areas of the registry.

CodyG: Yes, but they aren't always that obvious... right?

DustinF: no they can hide real good

DavinaP: when I asked our OIT security specialist if he could teach one thing to the general campus population (faculty and staff)--his response--teach them how to get rid of their spyware--

KathrynHul: easiest way.... buy a Mac

DavinaP: why do you think this is a timely topic?

DustinF frowns

AngieKi: Because people are doing online shopping for the holidays.

CodyG: Ohhhh

DavinaP: YES!!!

DustinF: It is the holiday season...what Angie said

DavinaP: I see pop-up advertisements all the time--My settings have changed and I can't change them back to the way they were.--My Web browser contains additional components that I don't remember downloading. --My computer seems sluggish.

AngieKi: What do you do to confirm it is spyware???

DavinaP: These are some of the things that might occur if infected

DavinaP: so how do you check and get rid of?

KathrynHul: spybot, superantispyware

KathrynHul: adaware by lavasoft

DustinF: I have used Spybot Search and destroy and Lavasoft's Adaware

CodyG: Are these things free?

DustinF: yes

JeffC: http://www.download.com/Spybot-Search-Destroy/3000-8022_4-10122137.html

JeffC: that's for spybot search & destroy

KathrynHul: SuperAntispyware finds stuff that spybot even doesn't. it was the only thing that cured a laptop I had to clean up last week. I'll get the url

DavinaP: How much spyware do you have? Whenever I get bogged down by spyware, I use Spybot which is free from <http://www.safer-networking.org/> (I originally downloaded it from Comcast). It is an excellent way to find out what is happening on your computer – a lot hides in your Internet cookies. If you use windows and are interested, and don't have another spyware program on your computer, you might want to give it a try.

KathrynHul: <http://www.superantispyware.com/>

CodyG: Great!

DavinaP: Microsoft also offers suggestions
<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/spywareremove.mspx>

AngieKi: Thanks for all the urls

BJB2 . o O (I wish the Internet wouldn't give cookies such a bad name...especially during the holiday season!)

KathrynHul: It is free too. I don't have any spyware on my mac. I had to clean up a laptop for a teacher at school.

JeffC: adaware is also good: <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/>

DavinaP: of course prevention is also good --how can one help prevent (or at least reduce) the number of spyware entries?

DustinF: I have found few out there that these programs could not remove. Sometimes you have to search for unknown processes on your computer to find removal solutions

KathrynHul: spyware blaster (also free). But of course, being careful of sites and not clicking on ads and pop ups (use adblocking programs)

TravisTh: Stop downloading "free" programs like smileys and P2P apps.

DustinF: Stay away from unfamiliar websites

TravisTh: Use browser with better security, like Firefox or IE7.

DavinaP: Use a firewall--Update your software--Adjust Internet Explorer security settings--Download and install antispysware protection--Surf and download more safely

CodyG: I the windows firewall safe?

DavinaP: Travis brings up a key point--in that kids download the music and video files which may (I think usually) contain spyware

DustinF: It definitely is better than nothing

TravisTh: P2P programs are probably the main source for spyware among the students on our campus.

CodyG: What would you recommend?

DavinaP: recommend? for what?

TravisTh: Among the faculty and staff it seems to be free music players and Outlook addi-ins like Hotbar

CodyG: I am sorry, a firewall

KathrynHul: Stay away from illegal music sources and only use respected places like iTunes.

DavinaP: someone also mentioned adware--what's the difference between spyware and adware?

CodyG: I second that- I tunes is awesome

DustinF: I just use the windows firewall at home, but I am behind a router also so that helps a little.

TravisTh: Adware is designed to collect data about what websites you visit and give you ads based on that.

DustinF: At work we use Microsoft's ISA server for our firewall

KathrynHul: adware is unwanted ads - pop ups etc

KathrynHul: hijack homepage

TravisTh: Some types of adware don't collect data; they just serve ads like what Kathryn said.

DustinF: pop ups are the main issue

AngieKi: What do you mean by hijack homepage?

DavinaP: Cody--Microsoft seems to be OK Zonealarm Internet suite by Zone labs

KathrynHul: if your homepage suddenly changes to one you didn't choose- that is usually caused by adware.

DavinaP: so Spyware is computer software that collects personal information about users without their informed consent.

CodyG: thx

DustinF: I think Norton has and McAfee have firewalls with their latest security packages

DavinaP: Adware or advertising-supported software is any software package which automatically plays, displays, or downloads advertising material to a computer after the software is installed on it or while the application is being used.

DavinaP: Adware is software integrated into or bundled with a program. It is usually seen by the programmer as a way to recover programming development costs, and in some cases it may allow the program to be provided to the user free of charge or at a reduced price. The advertising income may allow or motivate the programmer to continue to write, maintain and upgrade the software product. Adware is software integrated into or bundled with a program. It is usually seen by the programmer as a way to recover programming development costs, and in some cases it may allow the program to be provided to the user free of charge or at a reduced price. The advertising income may allow or motivate the programmer to continue to write, maintain and upgrade the software product.

DavinaP: hit twice--interesting

DavinaP: Some adware is also shareware, and so the word may be used as term of distinction to differentiate between types of shareware software. What differentiates adware from other shareware is that it is primarily advertising-supported.

DavinaP: Of even greater concern is malware, what's malware?

MercedesH: I've never heard of malware.

KathrynHul: it is the general term for all of this and viruses, trojans, worms, yada yada

TravisTh: Any software whose purpose is to do something bad to your machine or to the user.

DavinaP: Malware or Malicious Software is software designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system without the owner's informed consent. Software is considered malware based on the perceived intent of the creator rather than any particular features. It includes computer viruses, worms, trojan horses, spyware, adware, and other malicious and unwanted software. In law, malware is sometimes known as a computer contaminant, for instance in the legal codes of several states

DustinF: malware is any program that is unknowingly installed or is very difficult to remove from your system...most the time I use it as the all encompassing term like Kathryn stated

CodyG: YUCK

DavinaP: so we have spoken about spyware-adware and malware...and the last session we spoke about viruses...

DavinaP: A computer virus is a self-replicating computer program written to alter the way a computer operates, without the permission or knowledge of the user. Though the term is commonly used to refer to a range of malware, a true virus must replicate itself, and must execute itself.

DavinaP: two more to discuss are worms and trojan horses

DavinaP: what's a worm--hint not from your garden

KathrynHul: worms attack networks

CodyG: Worms are bad

DustinF: they slowly "crawl" through systems "eating" little bits of information eventually crippling systems

CodyG: OMG

DavinaP: what a sharp group!

DavinaP: A computer worm is a self-replicating computer program. It uses a network to send copies of itself to other nodes (computer terminals on the network) and it may do so without any user intervention. Unlike a virus, it does not need to attach itself to an existing program. Worms always harm the network (if only by consuming bandwidth), whereas viruses always infect or corrupt files on a targeted computer.

DavinaP: where do you pick up worms?

CodyG: ??

AngieKi: Are they usually sent through emails????

DustinF: any computer connection..

KathrynHul: attachments

KathrynHul: .exe files

TravisTh: If a computer's security settings aren't high enough, the worm can get on the computer just by it being attached to the network.

TravisTh: Say, for instance, if the guest account login isn't disabled or if the admin account isn't password protected.

DavinaP: there are Email Worms--Instant messaging worms --IRC worms--File-sharing networks worms --and Internet worms

DavinaP: where do you think the biggest problem would be in the educational setting

DavinaP: teachers and students I mean

TravisTh: On our campus students are the bigger problem because of the file sharing networks.

CodyG: Flash drives... Kids bringing the bad stuff from home?

KathrynHul: our kids are so tied down on the computers, but our teachers have full access. so teachers in our district

DustinF: In our district, teachers since they have more permissions on the internet and email

AngieKi: we have more problems with teachers because the lack security safety knowledge

DustinF: Angie..same here I'm ready to kill the hotbar Outlook add-in

DavinaP: but with either the teachers or students what causes the biggest problem--where or how do they pick up the most

AngieKi: We use to have more problems with worms through email but our security is better at school then it use to be

DustinF: With our teachers they are good about not opening email they aren't familiar with so I would lean towards internet...but we do have a decent filter that blocks quite a bit

DavinaP: here (in MD) --download via the P2P network and spreading of the infected file

DavinaP: The P2P sharing has gotten out of control--same other places?

KathrynHul: Our teachers are pretty timid online. They won't download without asking first. our threat would be spyware from using inefficient browsers like IE6 instead of firefox.

AngieKi: Our school has a good filter that usually blocks things I need

CodyG: Same as mine Angie

KathrynHul: No teachers in my building use any P2P networks - they wouldn't even know what it is

TravisTh: Here in MO we actually throttled down the bandwidth on the main P2P ports so that the students' access to that type of stuff is severely slowed.

DustinF: I've have overheard students and it sounds rampant in our area also...it is blocked on our district network though

DavinaP: another type is trojan horses --what are these?

KathrynHul: they pretend to be something else

DavinaP: a malicious program that is disguised as or embedded within legitimate software.

DustinF: they can be embedded in another file and then executed at a certain time or when certain conditions are met....they can sit dormant and then activate at a certain time also!

DavinaP: There are two common types of Trojan horses. One, is otherwise useful software that has been corrupted by a cracker inserting malicious code that executes while the program is used. Examples include various implementations of weather alerting programs, computer clock setting software, and peer to peer file sharing utilities. The other type is a standalone program that masquerades as something else, like a game or image file, in order to trick the user into some misdirected complicity that is needed to carry out the program's objectives.

DavinaP: Trojan horse programs depend on actions by the intended victims. As such, if trojans replicate and even distribute themselves, each new victim must run the program/trojan. I guess some good news????

DavinaP: so with all these "infections" how can we best educate educators and students (or perhaps this is not a problem)--no need to educate?

CodyG: Hmmm

DustinF: is using commons sense putting it to simple?

KathrynHul: I do classroom lessons with the students and also review precautions with the teachers usually in email or my blog

AngieKi: Our district is now relying more on protection than education of "infections"

DustinF: Our district is also Angie

KathrynHul: I give out preventive program information and directions too. the more specific the better.

DavinaP: Kat this is excellent--what again do you teach?

TravisTh: In my experience most users don't learn their lesson until after their systems have been trashed. So, as part of my educating students we demonstrate what happens to their computers with P2P programs.

KathrynHul: we don't tend to worry about the school situation, our education is mainly to make home situation safe

CodyG: My district prevents these things with a strict safety filter.

KathrynHul: I am a technology teacher for grades 4-6

KathrynHul: I use the iSafe program - it covers predators, privacy, security etc

DavinaP: So what do folks think about "protection rather than education"? seems like filtering vs. educating argument

BJB2: Davina, our hour is almost up. Did you have a topic for January?

DustinF: Our technology Teacher is ISafe certified also! cool

DavinaP: Next time we will discuss Backing up, Virus Protection, Passwords And if time Hacking, Downloading

CodyG: Awesome, thanks for the tips!

CodyG: Have a wonderful evening,

DavinaP: I think we should make it the 8th rather than Jan 1st however

KathrynHul: Thank you for the information and discussion.

BJB2 . o O (January 8)

AngieKi: I've found this to be very interesting and informative. Thanks!!!

DustinF: Great discussion for this newbie! Thank you all

SusanR: Thank you Davina.

BJB2: thanks, Davina. I enjoyed the discussion also.

TravisTh: Thanks for your time, Davina!

DavinaP: thank you for all attending and see you next month--share the resources and educate others