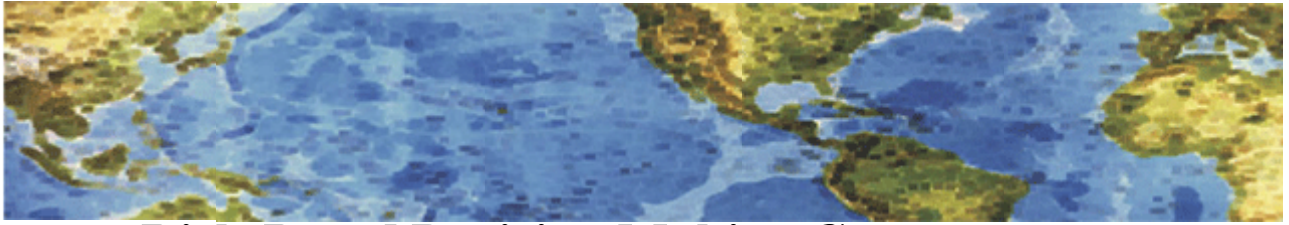




HALL ASSOCIATES



Risk-Based Decision Making Commentary

10 August 2014 Newsletter



This article shows that home Wi-Fi systems are still in pretty sad shape when it comes to security. If someone can break into a home Wi-Fi network router, they can download any and all data on your computer/system, intercept any e-mails or information going out over private networks – like signing into your work network, etc. So read this with the idea of someone doing this to your home or business network. What would they find?

How to Weaponize your Cat to Hack Neighbors' Wi-Fi Passwords

What do you expect your cat to come back with? Perhaps with a mouse or a bird – nothing you can use. But what if she came back with your neighbors' Wi-Fi details? Really Interesting! A creative security researcher has found a way to use his pet cat mapping dozens of vulnerable Wi-Fi networks in his neighborhood.

Gene Bransfield, a security researcher with Tenacity, managed to turn his wife's grandmother's pet cat Coco into a roaming detector for free Wi-Fi networks by just using a custom-built collar, which was made from a Wi-Fi card, GPS module, Spark Core chip, battery and some fetching leopard print fabric.

Bransfield dubbed his experiment "Warkitteh" – on the concept of "Wardriving", where hackers used unsecured Wi-Fi connections from a parked car. He decided to turn his cat into a hacker because he found the idea amusing, and also because cats are the ones that consume as much as 15 per cent of internet traffic, with the popularity among the internet users.

Bransfield explained his experiment "Warkitteh" at DefCon, a hacker conference that is taking place this weekend in Las Vegas, in his talk titled "How to Weaponize your Pets". The WarKitteh collar isn't meant to be a serious hacking tool, more of a joke to see what's possible. "My intent was not to show people where to get free Wi-Fi. I put some technology on a cat and let it roam around because the idea amused me". "But the result of this cat research was that there were a lot more open and WEP-encrypted hot spots out there than there should be in 2014."

During a three hour trip through the neighborhood, his pet cat Coco mapped 23 unique Wi-Fi networks, including four routers that used an old, easily-broken encryption and four routers that were left unprotected entirely and could be easily broken.

Bransfield mapped those WiFi networks in a program created by an Internet collaborator that uses Google Earth's API. The number of vulnerable access WiFi points were really surprising for Bransfield. According to him, several WEP connections were Verizon FiOS routers left with their default settings unchanged. http://thehackernews.com/2014/08/how-to-weaponize-your-cat-to-hack-your_9.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheHackersNews+%28The+Hackers+News+-+Security+Blog%29&_m=3n.009a.666.wb0ao05fi9.dzp



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Warning — Facebook Color Changer App is Just a Scam

Scammers have again targeted more than one billion active users of the popular social networking giant Facebook, to infect as many victims as possible. This time, an old Facebook scam is back in action once again! Malicious Facebook "Color Changer" app has resurfaced again on the popular social networking site Facebook, this time compromising more than 10,000 people worldwide.



The malicious app promises users to change the characteristic blue color of Facebook's header and interface to one of nine other colors including pink, purple, green, yellow, orange and black, in order to infect users' phones and computers with malicious software. Researchers at China-based Internet company Cheetah Mobile have detected the "Facebook color changer" that tricks Facebook users into downloading the app via a malicious phishing site.

The phishing website targets users in two ways:

First of all, it steals the users' Facebook Access Tokens by asking them to view a color changer tutorial video, which allows hacker to connect to the victim's Facebook friends.

Second, if the user doesn't watch the video, the site then tries to get them to directly download the malicious color changer application, in order to infect their systems with malware. PC users are lead to a bogus site to download a pornographic video player and Android device users are issued a warning saying their device has been infected and advised to download a suggested application.

According to the researchers at Cheetah Mobile, the problem stems from "a vulnerability that lives in Facebook's app page itself, allowing hackers to implant viruses and malicious code into Facebook-based applications that directs users to phishing sites." The new color changer app has affected Facebook users in several countries but this is not the first time it has happened, according to Cheetah Mobile's security researchers. ***Note that no scam/virus/malware ever goes totally out of use, they simply get used less for a period of time and then are used again when people forget how it works. This amount of this stuff adds up and up and never gets subtracted from.***

Facebook has become the Number 1 social networking website with more than one billion active users this year. Hundreds of people join the social networking website every day. On the other hand, with the increase in popularity, **Facebook also serves as a great and useful platform for scammers** and falling victim to such scams is very simple. So here's what you can do in order to protect yourself from this threat. Follow these steps:

1. Realize there's no way to customize your Facebook with an app
2. Do not click any link which suggests otherwise
3. Even if the link suggests it's heading toward an Official Facebook Page - DO NOT TRUST IT

But, for those who have already installed the app – they should uninstall it straight away and change their Facebook account password. To prevent further problems we suggest you to completely turn off Facebook's apps platform, and install a trusted security application to your devices. Remember, there is absolutely no friendly way to change the color of your Facebook. You can only customize your Facebook account or page by adding any of your other profile photos and a different header image through your normal Facebook settings - That's it!

http://thehackernews.com/2014/08/warning-facebook-color-changer-app-is_9.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheHackersNews+%28The+Hackers+News+-+Security+Blog%29&_m=3n.009a.666.wb0ao05fi9.dzu