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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (UG)

IT NEWS WORLD

DATE: 16.6.2015

Google researchers find remote execution bug in FireEye appliances

Google researchers found a software flaw in several models of FireEye's security appliances that they say could give a cyberattacker full access to a company's network. It's not unheard of to find security flaws in security software, but the latest discovery highlights once again how no technology is immune to such problems.

FireEye issued a statement on Tuesday saying it had issued a patch for the flaw, which affects its NX, EX, FX and AX Series appliances. The appliances passively monitor network traffic and pluck out suspicious files for study away from the live network. The products have full access to a network, which means if attackers got a foothold in one, they could monitor and tamper with traffic or insert spying code.

The vulnerability is within a module that analyzes Java archive (JAR) files, FireEye said. A successful attack could be triggered merely by sending someone an email or getting the person to click a link, wrote Tavis Ormandy of Google's Project Zero, who found the issue with Natalie Silvanovich. It's a "nightmare scenario," he wrote.

"This would mean an attacker would only have to send an email to a user to gain access to a persistent network tap -- the recipient wouldn't even have to read the email, just receiving it would be enough," Ormandy wrote. Once access has been gained to the FireEye appliance, it would be possible to load a rootkit, move around to other networks or install a self-propagating worm, Ormandy wrote. Project Zero nicknamed the vulnerability "666." FireEye was notified on Friday and issued a temporary fix over the weekend and then a permanent one on Monday, according to its statement.
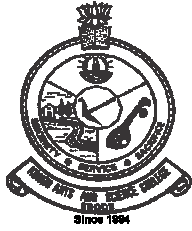
STAFF INCHARGE

Mr. D. Gopinath

SUBMITTED BY

B.Anusuyadevi
II- B.Sc (CS)"C"

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IT NEWS WORLD

DATE:28.07.15

Digital revolution in India opportunity for US firms: Ravi Shankar Prasad

Asserting that India is sitting on the cusp of a digital revolution, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has exhorted senior executives of leading American IT firms to take advantage of the 'Digital India' initiative and tap the growth opportunities in the country.

"India is sitting on the cusp of a digital revolution," Union Minister for Communications and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday told executives of top American IT firms in a round table in Boston.

"Whether it is big metropolitan cities or small towns, a well-connected India has the potential to not only usher in economic and welfare opportunities for its citizens, but also the global economic order," Prasad, who is here to attend the annual India Conference at the prestigious Harvard University, said.

"Our government is taking every policy decision in a transparent, predictable and reasonable manner. Therefore, I encourage American businesses to take advantage of the Digital India program, and the growth opportunities in India," Prasad said.

Organized by US India Business Council, the round table was attended by senior executives of American and Indian companies that included Google, AT&T, MasterCard, Facebook, American Tower Corporation, UST Global and iTech.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directive to connect Indian diaspora across the country is a tremendous opportunity for both Indian and US companies alike, said USIBC president Mukesh Aghi.

"We encourage the development of policies that clear bureaucratic hurdles which may delay the implementation of achieving last-mile connectivity," he said.
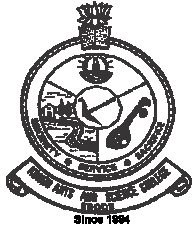
STAFF INCHARGE

Mr. D. Gopinath

SUBMITTED BY

V.SINDHU
II BSC CS-"C"

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IT NEWS WORLD

DATE: 15.12.15

EU to devise action plan to develop 5G networks

BARCELONA: The European Union has said that it will launch an action plan to develop 5G mobile networks which will massively speed up internet connections, in an effort to avoid falling behind other regions."The Commission will work together with the industry to prepare a coordinated 5G action plan for the Europe," EU digital commissioner Gunther Oettinger said at the Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest mobile fair, in Barcelona. This action plan should be adopted by the end of this year and it aims to involve telecom firms as well as major players from the automotive, energy, media and energy sectors, he added. Europe had led the competition in GSM technology -- the original standard for mobile networks -- in the 1990s, but fell behind the United States and Asia in the rollout of faster 4G connections. The putative 5G mobile network promises better connections to cope with the ever-increasing number of mobile internet users. The EU estimates a high-definition movie could be downloaded in six seconds with the new technology, up from six minutes with 4G. The new 5G networks could open up a range of services by delivering data at faster speeds, enabling services such as remote surgery or driverless cars and allowing customers to experience video and virtual reality with ease. The International Telecommunication Union, a UN agency which works on interconnection among global carriers, said its member countries had approved a plan detailing how to harmonise standards for 5G, with the rollout expected for 2020.

STAFF INCHARGE		SUBMITTED BY
Mr. D. Gopinath		C.PRASANAVENGATESH
		II-B.Sc (CS)"C"

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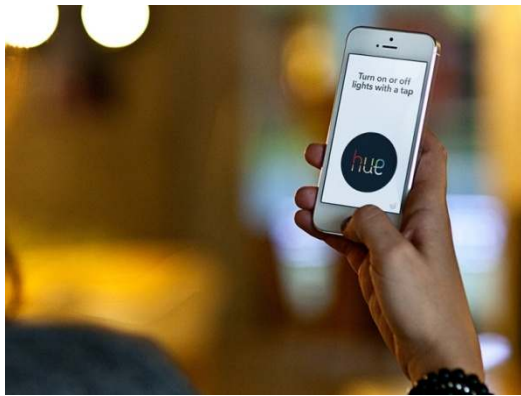(An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Institution)

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (UG)

<u>IT NEWS WORLD</u>   **DATE: 12.01.16**

Six Apps That Give You Shortcuts for Everyday Tasks

Everyone likes to be lazy. When someone else can handle a bit of our work for us, it makes our life that much easier. Fortunately, the Internet provides ample services that help you do just that.

Awesome developers have been making tools help you automate mundane tasks, automating parts of your life and making it easier to send mails or write code. A lot of tools would help you make your work faster and simpler. Let's look at some of those tools that I use in everyday life.

IFTTT

IFTTT stands for If This Then That. And as its tagline suggests, it really puts the Internet at work for you. Automated tasks on IFTTT are called recipes; and with the right recipes, you can get a lot of work done automatically. Creating recipes is simple; you pick an IF service and action, and a then-that service and action combo. There are plenty of services available from social networks like Facebook, Twitter Integra, to services like SMS, notification, and location. For example, you could use a recipe that sends you an email whenever a top rated app goes free on the App Store. I have a habit of turning my phone into vibration mode when I walk into the office. So I use a recipe that triggers from my location data, to do this automatically (possible only on Android). I also receive a lot a lot of email attachments every day. Searching for them after a couple days is a real headache. So another recipe I use saves all the attachments from my email, into Drop box folders sorted by the sender's name Since IFTTT is powered mostly by the Web, you can set it up using just about any device; there are also apps for Android and ions that you can use to make recipes.

STAFF INCHARGE   **SUBMITTED BY**

Mr. D. Gopinath   K.KAVIN

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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (UG)

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Microsoft releases Office 2016

Launches with standalone and subscription options.

Microsoft's latest version of its flagship Office productivity suite has released to the public, as both a standalone one-time purchase and through software subscription service Office 365.Enterprise customers get several new features in Office 2016.Multi-factor authentication for user document access outside corporate networks, guaranteed macro and add-on compatibility with earlier Office versions, as well as improved deployment and management tools are also key features of the release.

However, the enterprise data protection (EDP) feature that can be used to restrict sharing of content to within corporate boundaries is not yet available. Microsoft said EDP will appear early next year in Office running on Windows 10.Microsoft is pushing Windows 10 as the ideal companion operating system for Office 2016, touting features such as the Windows Hello facial recognition login and authentication, upcoming Cortina personal digital assistant integration, and the Continuum task handover feature with Office Mobile apps. Collaboration is a continued emphasis for Microsoft, and Word gets real-time co-authoring for the first time in the standalone version.Skype for Business is integrated into the Office 2016 apps, allowing users to send instant messages, share screens, and make voice and video calls. Email, calendaring and contacts management received makeovers in Outlook 2016. Microsoft said the Inbox has been improved with speedy searching and better attachment handling using the OneDrive cloud storage. The Excel 2016 spreadsheet program can now publish to Microsoft's Power Business Intelligence, and also gets new chart types for data visualisation. Microsoft is also adding data analytics and content creation apps like Delve and Sway into Office 2016.

STAFF INCHARGE   **SUBMITTED BY**

Mr.D. GOPINATH   K.PRASANTH B.SC.,(C.S) I-C

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Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
& Re-accredited by NAAC
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IT NEWS WORLD

DATE: 9.3.16

Attackers can turn Microsoft's exploit defense tool EMET against itself

Hackers can easily disable the Microsoft Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit (EMET), a free tool used by companies to strengthen their Windows computers and applications against publicly known and unknown software exploits.

Featured Resource

First released in 2009, EMET can enforce modern exploit mitigation mechanisms like Data Execution Prevention (DEP), Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR) or Export Address Table Access Filtering (EAF) to applications, especially legacy ones, that were built without them. This makes it much harder for attackers to exploit vulnerabilities in those applications in order to compromise computers.

Security researchers have found various ways to bypass particular EMET-enforced mitigations over the years, but they were primarily the result of design and implementation errors, like some modules or APIs being left unprotected. Methods to disable EMET protections completely have also been reported in the past, but they were not always straight-forward and required significant effort.

The FireEye researchers believe that their new technique, which essentially uses EMET against itself, is more reliable and easier to use than any previously published bypasses. Furthermore, it works against all supported versions of EMET -- 5.0, 5.1 and 5.2 -- with the exception of EMET 5.5, and also on versions that are no longer supported, like 4.1.

EMET injects some DLLs (Dynamic Link Libraries) into third-party application processes that it's configured to protect. This allows it to monitor calls from those processes to critical system APIs and to determine if they are legitimate or the result of an exploit.

STAFF INCHARGE

Mr. D. Gopinath

SUBMITTED BY

BALAJI.J
I-BSC(CS)"C"