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Technology news, information and interesting stories.
Published monthly for Geeks and non-Geeks.

Hackers are emptying ATMS with a drill and \$15 in gear...

It wasn't long ago that the only way to get into the contents of an ATM machine was to drag it away and/or blow it up. Now, hacker/thieves have discovered a way to empty out a machine with a 3 inch hole and some malicious code. The hacker thieves drill a 3 inch hole into the front panel and then use a \$15 device to feed the malicious code into the ATM causing it to trigger it's cash dispenser. The whole process takes minutes and has been performed in Russia and Europe. The type of ATM that is vulnerable has been in wide use since the 1990s

Hack the new Nintendo Switch, earn a cool \$20,000

This isn't really anything new, but Nintendo has offered \$20k if you can find a way to pirate or cheat on the console. Companies often do this to test their code and some people (young hackers) can make a great career doing so...if they have the skills.

Want to Make a System Image of your Computer? How to Geek has a Great Article here



If you don't have a good backup strategy, a good system image is a good idea. It will at least get you back your data to the time it was taken in case disaster strikes.

Check out the article here;

<https://www.howtogeek.com/howto/4241/how-to-create-a-system-image-in-windows-7/>

If your data is important enough to not want to lose anything, check into a solid backup plan.



"He uses my name as his password.
I told you I'm his favorite."

HACKERS ARE USING MORE ADVANCED METHODS THAN EVER!

RDP BRUTE FORCE
PHISHING SCAMS
MICROSOFT TECH SUPPORT

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Prison Inmates Build Custom PCs and Commit More Crime

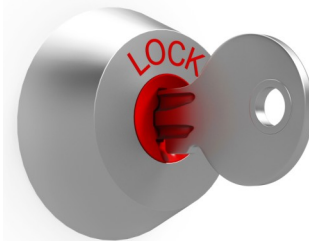
This story is pretty funny, bewildering and what?? all at the same time... Two inmates in Ohio were tasked with dismantling computers, however in the meantime, they pieced together two computers of their own, somehow managed to bring them 1100 feet into the administration section of the prison past various checkpoints, hid them in the ceiling and then patched them into the network. As if that isn't a huge enough task in itself, they managed to steal some credentials off of one of the guards and then login to the systems to commit cybercrimes including credit card fraud and identity theft. Had this not been caught they would have filed false tax forms and have the funds wired to debit cards. I've known techs who literally cannot install a video card.

Instagrammer makhorov specializes in taking pictures like this from some of the highest places in the world. The catch (no pun intended) is that him and his friends climb to these heights without safety gear. Please don't try this at home!



Ransomware is on the Rise

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Hackers to Remotely Wipe iPhones if Apple Doesn't Pay Ransom by April 7.

Hackers are threatening to wipe user data from iPhones, iPads, Macs and other devices belonging to hundreds of millions of Apple users if Apple doesn't pay a ransom by April 7. The Group claims it is in possession of iCloud and Apple ID credentials of more than 300 million users. ZDNet proved that at least some of the stolen data is real, and although there haven't been any reported breaches in Apple's infrastructure, it is believed that some of the data was obtained through a LinkedIn breach, although that hasn't been confirmed.

Most of the users affected are believed to be UK based, but it is still a wise decision to change your password and make a local backup of your data.

Ironically the hackers were asking for either \$75000 in bitcoin or \$100000 in iTunes gift cards. Really hackers? iTunes gift cards? Apparently they need 10000 copies of Beyonce's new album.



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New Ransomware Demands You Play Extremely Hard Game

Recently a new joke ransomware came back to bite it's creator. An undergraduate student in Korea created a ransomware called Rensenware as a joke. The catch in this version of Ransomware is that it requires you to play a bullet shooter game—Touhou Seirensen—and score .2 billion in Lunatic Mode.

When the creator was finished making the Ransomware he uploaded it to GitHub and then fell asleep. Upon waking he realized his ransomware had spread and not only were many others infected, but he had accidentally infected himself and then found it impossible to score the required 200,000 to unlock his own machine. He has since apologized and released another piece of software that neutralizes Rensenware on any infected machines.





“I remember when a guy's browsing history was magazines under your bed.”

Is Your Computer Clicking? Part 1—Hard Drives

PCs make noise, a lot of it is normal like that chugging working away noise they make when you first start them up, however there are some noises you should pay closer attention to. One of the most important is the hard drive. Low volume clicking is expected from most hard drives, but if your hard drive is making a clicking, grinding or tapping noise, you may have a problem that needs to be addressed quickly. If you hear something resembling a repeating click whir or tapping, make sure you make a backup of your data as quick as possible and have the drive replaced. Questions? We can help—204-800-3166.

RANSOMWARE ASSESSMENTS AND TRAINING

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Ransomware Tops the list of the & Security Threats that Scare Experts the Most

Ransomware surfaced more than 20 years ago but has since evolved into a seriously scary form of malware. Basically it will encrypt your files and ask for a ransom to decrypt them. Because it has become so prevalent it tops the list this year of the threats the experts fear the most. The best Prevention? Backup, backup, backup. And make sure you have good backups.

Should You Keep Your Tech Boxes?

It Depends. Believe it or not some boxes actually help resale value. Cell phones off contract are a good example, as are laptops, the boxes make them more appealing to buyers. Keeping boxes in case you plan to move also makes good sense.

Don't keep the boxes on older tech that isn't trendy (keep the boxes if you have an old Macintosh), like regular headphones. TV boxes are a bit of a pain and you can probably discard them once the warranty runs out.

