



TECHNOLOGY
— BY DESIGN —

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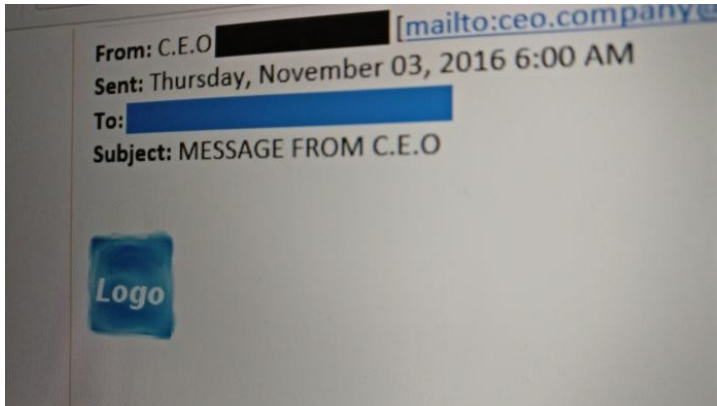
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TechTips

Technology news, information and interesting stories.
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Researchers Trick 'CEO' Email Scammer into giving up Identity

Recently researches at Dell SecureWorks documented how they identified one of the ever so popular 'CEO' scammers that send messages to people within companies asking them to transfer money to the supposed 'CEO's' bank account. The scammer started out by asking for

\$18,000 to be transferred to his account and when he figured he had a live sucker he said he made a typo and actually needed \$118,000. Secureworks then used a hacker's trick and sent the scammer a PDF-based receipt (fake) showing they had transferred the money, however the receipt was a decoy and when clicked would send Secureworks the scammers IP Address and other web browser information. When asked where the money was, Secureworks said the transfer failed and the scammer gave them another bank account, however this time the PDF receipt they sent back forced him to enter a legitimate mobile phone number to view the form. The scammer entered his phone number and SecureWorks then was able to find out the scammers identity by searching for the phone number on Facebook. Unfortunately because they never lost any money to him they weren't able to report him to the EFCC (The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in Nigeria) so instead they've publicized the email addresses he used.

acargocompany@gmail.com
ceoacconnor@zoho.com
ceo.company@mail.ru
company.ceopresident@mail.ru
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HACKERS ARE USING MORE ADVANCED METHODS THAN EVER!

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When the Internet Breaks, Grandpa's Clapper is King

Amazon's S3 storage service experienced widespread issues on Feb. 28, affecting just less than 1% of the top 1 million websites worldwide (Cloudflare's leak on the next page affected 6.2% by comparison.) The funny thing for us was that this affected a lot of 'smart devices' like the Nest thermostat, smart lightbulbs and other Internet of Things well, things. Lets face it, many of these items, although we think of them as cool because we can control them with our phones, aren't really much of an advance technologically over the clapper we all like to make so much fun of. Clapper wins in this one, cause when the internet goes down you can still put 2 hands together, and you don't need the internet for that...

You May Want to Think Twice Before Buying Your Child a Smart Doll...

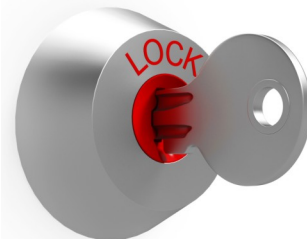
In Germany, regulators have determined that the My Friend Cayla doll could be up to no good. The doll could potentially steal information from the household it is in so they are saying you should destroy the toy. Germany considers these to be 'hidden espionage devices' although it is estimated that similar sensors were embedded in more than 6 billion devices in 2016, including thermostats, Amazon and Goodl speakers and smart TVs.



Ransomware is on the Rise

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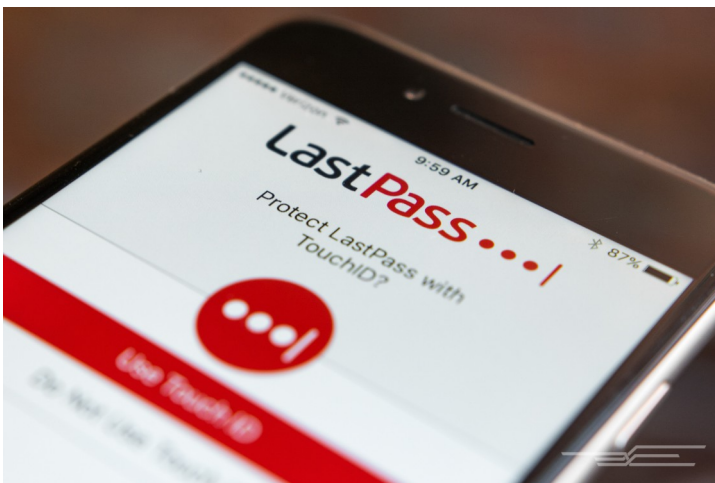
Major Cloudflare leak could leave you compromised

You may have heard about it—CloudFlare, a web performance and security company that provides online services to protect and accelerate websites had a major data leak in February, exposing everything from private messages on dating sites, Uber details, messages from chat services, hotel bookings, you name it. It is probably a good time to change any webpage related passwords you may have.



Using Complex Passwords Doesn't Have to be Intimidating Get a Password Manager!

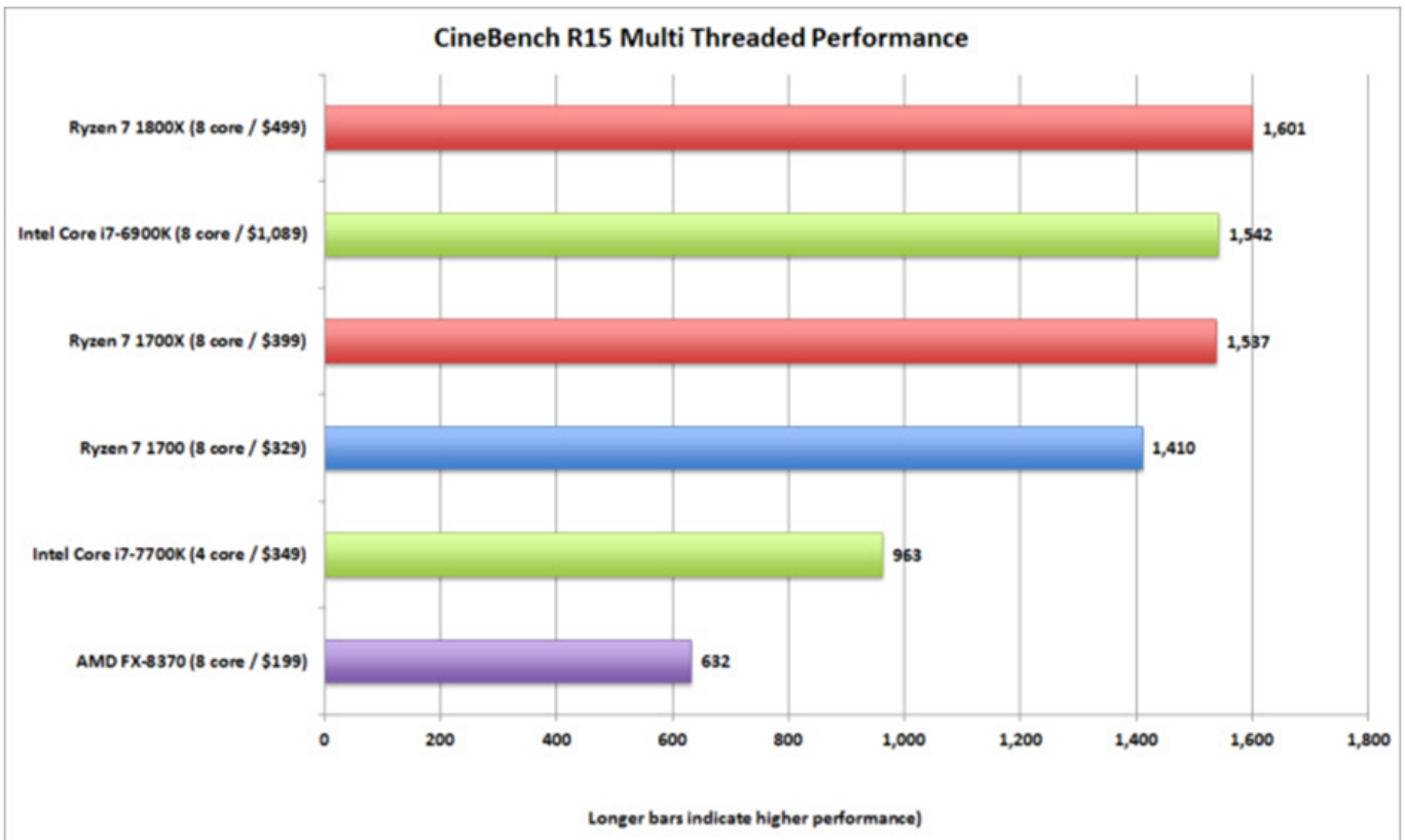
Engadget recently crowned Last Pass the best password manager available after testing a variety of such tools available. Best yet, the price starts at FREE! Having a complex, secure password for all your sites doesn't have to be an issue, you can get LastPass at www.lastpass.com.





AMD's New CPU—More Speed, Half the Price!

There's a new king in town, and for half the price! Until February 22nd Intel's I7's dominated the cpu market but at the cost of some crazy prices, some of them exceeding \$1000. But now the game has changed with AMD releasing their new Ryzen cores to the market with the 1800X topping out at \$500. "I can say today that the Ryzen 7 1800X is the fastest eight-core desktop processor in the market" AMD's CEO Lisa Su said following the latest demonstrations. The benchmarks above are significant because CineBench are considered an intel friendly test. It may be time to look at a new computer!



Boss: "How good are you at PowerPoint?"
Me: "I Excel at it."
Boss: "Was that a Microsoft Office pun?"
Me: "Word."



Mac Malware On The Rise

Mac malware is becoming increasingly more common, and the latest example is a nasty piece of malware targeted at Apple computers that's been linked to a Russian hacking outfit APT28 (also known as "fancy bear"). It's a modular backdoor with various modules capable of grabbing system information, taking screen shots, and snooping on web browsers to gather passwords and, perhaps the most worryingly, downloading entire iphone backups which are on the infected apple computer.