

TechTips Newsletter

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The Hacker's Motivation

A new study says that despite many highly publicized arrests, 86% of hackers believe that they will never face repercussions for their actions.

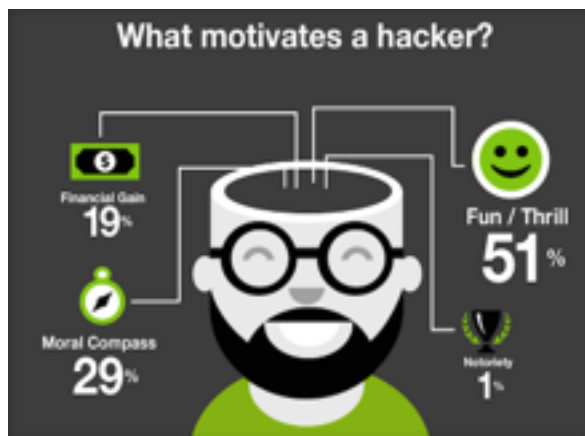
The study, done by a password protection software firm called Thycotic, consisted of an interview of 127 self-identified hackers, focused on topics such as the motivation behind the hacking and the intended targets of their attacks.

The findings of the interviews were actually quite surprising. Though we typically think of monetary gain as the top reason for hacking, only 19% reported that they hacked for monetary gain, and over

half of the people interviewed suggested they hacked for the pure thrill of it.

Of the interviewed hackers, 99% said tactics such as phishing are still effective, however 47% said users are learning to avoid these tactics. This tells us that we still need to be aware of what we are clicking on in emails and websites, as this is a tactic we will see for years to come.

The full report can be seen online on the Thycotic website.



School is in!

A new year at school means another chance to show everyone how awesomely geeky you are! You can do this with an element lunchbox, a tiki tissue holder, a R2D2 trash can, an anchorman notebook, or a Han Solo business card holder!



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Do you have experience with Technology by Design that you'd think other people would want to hear? How would you like to have lunch or dinner, on us?

Ask us how you can have your business promoted through us, and get your dinner too!

Want some more information? Call us at 204-800-3166, or email helpdesk@tbyd.ca

CAN YOU DISARM A BOMB?

The new Oculus system, the virtual reality headset which has not yet been released to the public has already started giving us the experiences we thought we could only have through movies.

Admit it, you've always wanted that movie cliché. 5 minutes to disarm the bomb, or it'll be too late. This is the whole concept behind the current demo version of a game, currently named "Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes".

Keep Talking consists of two separate: the Oculus Rift software, and a paper manual sitting on the demo table in a three-hole notebook. The bomb that players see on screen is composed of any number of different modules, each of which is a miniature puzzle: a series of coloured wires, an array of lights, or maybe just a big red button that reads "PRESS."

Each page of the manual relates to a different module. Only you don't know which ones are on the bomb. So the player disarming the bomb first starts describing what the modules look like. The twist, which immediately becomes apparent, is that the player isn't sure what information is useful and what is noise: Do you need to know the colour of the wires? The orientation? The length? This is figured out by the reader of the manual, a dense wall of text that explains how to solve each puzzle.

Once the reader wades through the blocks of text and figures out what action to take, they can tell the bomb-defuser to cut the correct wire, or press the button, or not press the button. Assuming they don't explode, they can move on to the next module.

WHAT DOES YOUR DOG DO ALL DAY?

We see a lot of videos of people snowboarding, skateboarding, and skydiving from the cool points of view that only the GoPros can offer. The kinds of harnesses available can fit on your helmet, your chest, on your board, all offering different points of views.

Now, there is a new point of view that can only be done with the new special harness that they have come out with. For only \$59.99, you can see the world through a unique point of view, the same view as your dog!



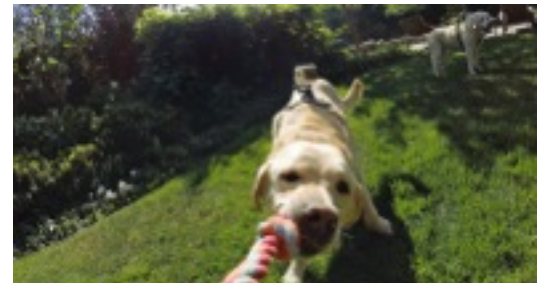
The GoPro camera is secured to the harness with a tether, in case of the dog's lack of

spatial awareness that would otherwise send it flying off into the woods, and has a quick release base for quickly removing the camera.

The harness also features two mounting locations for a variety of perspectives: the chest, for bone-chewing, digging and front-paw action, and the back, for over-the-head shots of running, jumping, fetch and more. Made of washable, water-friendly material, your dog can swim, play and get dirty without a worry. Soft, padded construction keeps your pet comfortable.

If you have ever wanted to see what your dog gets up to while you are not around, or just try it out while at the dog park, this is definitely a unique way to do so.

The white version, the least expensive version of the current GoPro hero3, which really just lacks the possibility of 4K video



quality and a remote, is needed to record video, and currently retails as \$199.99 on the GoPro website. Though this sounds steep for those just wanting to see the world from their dog's perspective, there are harnesses available for human wear as well, worn often during extreme spots.

Although the harness is not made for cats, it is said that the harness may fit some very obese cats. The cat footage would be pretty boring however, as you'd be primarily watching it nap on your couch and claw up curtains.

PIZZA VENDING MACHINES

Best Buy now has vending machines in airports and malls, so what's next?

Pizza is now available through a vending machine in Sydney, Australia. The machine vends two varieties, margarita or hot salami, of 11-inch artisan pizzas, cooked on demand in under three minutes.

Pizza Gio can hold 84 pizzas at one time: 42 margherita and 42 hot salami. Pizzas are prepared as normal in Pompei's Bondi pizzeria. The dough rests for 48 hours, the ingredients are added and then they are cooked about 50 percent of the way. Then, they're then blast chilled and held until they are ready to be installed at -20 degrees Celcius.

Next comes the heating process, which gets up to 300 degrees Celcius.

The owner and brainchild of the machine, George Pompei, is also the owner of Pompei pizzeria and

Italian restaurant, which is nearby. In the case of something such as a temperature variance or power failure, the machine sends an update to Pompei's phone and computer, as well as it stops dispensing product until it is given the okay. This feature has already been put to the test.

"We have a sign standing next to the machine, and one of the night cleaners put the sign behind the machine where the air intake is," said Pompei. "All of a sudden I started getting these alarms that the compressor was under duress, so I raced out and luckily it wasn't a machine malfunction, but what had happened was that it wasn't cooling properly."

Unfortunately, we have no such machine here in Canada, but it should be on it's way in the next few years. There are already pizza vending machines in France, the US, and Italy, as well as this new machine in Australia.

RCMP'S USE OF DRONES

We hear a lot about the fact that RCMP have issues with drones. There are privacy issues that need to be solved, as well as some safety issues, both in the air and on the ground. With this in mind, did you know that Winnipeg RCMP have 8 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or "UAVs" that they have used for the past two years?

From crime scene assistance to traffic collision reconstruction, the UAVs have been used in 66 separate instances, including one rural arson which was solved thanks to the visuals the UAV provided. With all the assistance they have given to RCMP, Cpl. Byron Charbonneau, who coordinates the province's UAV program, said the units have proven their worth.

"When it comes to UAV, we're doing aerial photography and aerial video of crime scenes," he said. "Particularly when you have an outdoor crime scene, timeliness



is of importance. The problem we run into when we're using conventional air craft, is you can't always get an aircraft there in a timely fashion. It could be days. With a UAV, we can deploy the UAV almost immediately to get the aerial photographs while the

evidence is still present, while it's unaltered.

Charbonneau also mentioned that RCMP are guided by the Canadian Privacy Act for what can and can't be done with a UAV. He said the RCMP adheres to strict regulations for deploying the units.

"We have internal policy that says 'You shall not deploy the UAV for the purpose of surveillance,'" he said. "We're deploying the aircraft at a scene that is already controlled. We can't go on a fishing expedition."

Ontario-based Aeryon Labs has outfitted a number of law enforcement agencies in Canada with their product retailing for \$60,000 "at the low end." Charbonneau said Manitoba RCMP units range from \$2,500 to \$70,000.

TechTip Postcard

Insider Tips and Secrets to Get The MOST Out of Your Computer SEPT 2014

5 Easy Things You Should Do To Protect Your Business Now

Let's face it: no one likes to think about bad things happening to them, much less plan for them. But since September is National Disaster Preparedness Month, we want to give you a quick "brush-up" on some simple things you can (and should!) be doing to protect your business.

- 1. Review Your Business Insurance Carefully.** Most businesses carry some type of general liability insurance that would pay them if their building and the things in it were damaged. However, many businesses do not have enough coverage to replace all the computer equipment and devices, desks, art, supplies and other things they've accumulated over the years that are housed in their office. Make sure you review your policy every year and keep in mind new additions and assets you've accumulated during that year.
- 2. Consider Cloud Computing.** One of the biggest advantages of cloud computing is that your data and assets are stored off-site in a highly secure, high-availability data center, with failover and redundancy built in. That means that if your building were destroyed and you had to evacuate, or if your server melted down due to an unexpected hardware failure, everything you've worked so hard to create over the years is safe and not a sitting duck in your unsecured closet or server room.
- 3. Secure Your Data.** Making sure that your data is protected from theft is a never-ending battle you don't want to lose. Companies that get hacked and expose sensitive client and employee data can face severe penalties, lawsuits and massive loss of credibility in the marketplace. Make sure you never have to send an e-mail to your customers explaining the bad news that a hacker accessed their info through you. Further, if you keep any sensitive information (even passwords to portals containing sensitive information) on portable-laptops, phones and other devices, make sure you have a way of controlling and safeguarding that information.
- 4. Write A Simple Disaster Recovery Plan.** The key word here is "simple." If your plan gets too complicated or difficult, you won't do it. But at a minimum, think of the disaster that is most likely to happen and that would have a severe and negative impact on your company's survival.
- 5. Review Your Employee Internet Policy.** With so many people "addicted" to Facebook and Twitter, it's important that your employees know where the line is in what they can and can't post online. We also recommend content-filtering software to block content and web sites you don't want employees visiting during work hours.

Call us during the month of September and we'll give you a Disaster Recovery Business Assessment for FREE

*Call Technology by Design at (204) 800-3166, email helpdesk@tbyd.ca, or see our website at www.tbyd.ca for more information and get your Disaster Recovery Business Assessment **FREE.***

