(Approx. 504 words)

Security Tips - November

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Flash News About Experian: What we know right now is that a hacker acquired the records of approximately 15 million people, including new applicants requiring a credit check for service or device financing from September 1, 2013, through September 16, 2015,” says T-Mobile CEO John Legere in an open letter to customers posted on his company's website. He added that while Experian was encrypting stored Social Security numbers and identity numbers, it tells T-Mobile that it thinks that the hacker cracked that encryption, thus leaving all of the data it was storing at risk.

Let’s discuss auto key fobs. It appears that your car (if you have a fairly new one) “sees” you coming by detecting the key fob as you approach. It’s designed to react only if you are close. The catch is that it has been shown that it is possible to clone YOUR key fob from a distance, then make a duplicate, and come back and drive your car away. The prevention: Keep your key in a container that blocks its signal. See <https://www.komando.com/happening-now/487034/hackers-can-steal-atesla-model-s-in-seconds-by-cloning-its-key-fob>

Passwords—do you hate them? How about changing them every three months? Am I giving you a headache? If so, my mission is accomplished! USE A PASSWORD PROGRAM. Last time I looked I had over 200 passwords. Logging in is a snap, changing them is a snap, remembering them is no big deal because that’s what a password program does. Generating a loooong, unique password that has no recognizable pattern is what they do and you only have to remember one master password. Just do it!

Google has announced a data breach so bad it is killing the entire piece of software. Google + is going away. The bad thing is that this happened months ago and was just recently made public. See <https://www.fastcompany.com/90248177/google-admits-to-potentialgoogle-data-leak-after-getting-caught> Facebook, has yet another leak. 50 million accounts compromised this time. Check this out.

Board member and workshop leader David Lerner says you should read this article on malware removal and protection information. https://www.pcmag.com/roundup/354226/thebest-malware-removal-and-protection-tools. How many times have you heard not to plug your stuff into an unknown place without “protection”? (Now that sentence reminds me of a completely different subject that uses the same vocabulary.) Anyway, there is malware that resides in your firmware and cannot be removed except by re-flashing the BIOS. Of course you know how! See <https://www.wired.com/story/fancy-bearhackers-uefi-rootkit/>

Lastly, Microsoft has suspended the rollout of the October update due to the disappearance of files, contact lists, and photos after the install. See <https://support.microsoft.com/enus/help/4464619/windows-10-update-history> So remember, ALWAYS do a complete backup of your system before doing these updates. GOES FOR MACS AS WELL!!

Are the headlines, describing one security breach on another, causing you to pay attention? As a result, this column has been added to the newsletter. Have you found a security-related link? Please send it to wpcug.d\_shulman@yahoo.com for inclusion in the