(Approx. 690 words)

Security – June 2019

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June 2019 issue, Westchester PC News

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Malwarebytes, the protection software you can run alongside your antivirus, has reported that personal attacks are down this year. Cause for celebration? NO! “The Malwarebytes Labs Cybercrime Tactics and Techniques Q1 2019” report found businesses at the butt end of a bad joke. In just one year, threats aimed at corporate targets have increased with Trojans, such as Emotet, and ransomware in particular revving up in the first quarter.

Included in the report is analysis of sharp declines in consumer cryptomining and other threats, further cementing the shift away from individual targets and toward businesses, with SMBs suffering because of lack of resources.

“Consumers might breathe a sigh of relief seeing that malware targeting them has dropped by nearly 40 percent, but that would be short-sighted,” said Adam Kujawa, director of Malwarebytes Labs. “Consumer data is more easily available in bulk from business targets, who saw a staggering 235 percent increase in detections year-over-year.

Cybercriminals are using increasingly clever means of attack to get even more value from targets through the use of sophisticated Trojans, adware, and ransomware.” Read more here: <https://press.malwarebytes.com/2019/04/25/malwarebytes-q1-cybercrime-report-emotet-and-ransomware-attacks-renew-focus-on-enterprise-trojan-detections-grow-200-percent/> <http://bit.ly/2wprohB>

Delivery scam—revived from a decade ago and more clever now.

Watch out for this one! A delivery service calls you to verify that your address is correct because they have a delivery for you. Then a delivery truck pulls up and the uniformed driver carries a basket of goodies to your door. He says that he knows you got a verifying call and has your package. As you are reaching for this, he says that he must verify that it’s you because it contains alcohol (or some such) and asks that you produce a credit card that can be scanned so he is protected from an accusation that he delivered to a friend of his—“but don’t worry, it’s only for verification.” If you scan your card, hundreds of dollars will be charged to your card before you can blink.

Order confirmations in your inbox—Have you received an email confirming a purchase you didn’t make? Is there a link at the bottom labeled “Report a Problem!” or “Payment Resolution”? Don’t click anywhere in this email. Just delete it.

Affinity offers--These are offerings that pander to an interest of yours: knitting, car racing, airplanes, travel, food, diet, boating, whatever. How do they know so much about you? Over the last few years, so many companies, so many credit companies, so many special interest venues, etc., have been penetrated that a surprising amount of detail is known about you. As time goes on, and your life becomes more connected, and more data is aggregated, and less restriction is placed on this collection, your life is literally becoming an open book.

HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOURSELF (ASIDE FROM MOVING TO MARS)?—My suggestion is this: everything you get by email has a sender’s email address. Examine it by either hovering over it with your cursor or clicking on it to reveal it. If it has no relation to the content, it is spam. Now what happens if the address might be legit? Contact the company directly. Don’t use a link in the email, but get a good link online, or a telephone number.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO? Protect your privacy! Use a private window for browsing, use a VPN, use a disposable credit card number (yes, they exist from some credit card issuers), use an email address that is disposable (Yahoo and Gmail have them) for a particular purchase that forwards to your main email. Don’t freely supply your email to every site you visit. Use a junk email account for that. Yes, YOU can have a junk email address for your own use.

PLEASE—CHANGE YOUR PASSWORDS AND MAKE THEM LONG AND UNIQUE. Remember that all your precious online and electronically stored “stuff”—your pictures, important papers, memories—all of it—can disappear FOREVER if you do not have a good, verifiable, disconnected BACKUP.