Protecting Your Network
In this issue…
• The Recent Internet Explorer Security Flaw Exposed
• Ways to Protect Yourself from the IE Security Threat
• Spam Is The Most Effective Way To Transmit A Computer Virus – Yikes!

Client Spotlight:

Wythe Sheet Metal, Inc

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Wythe Sheet Metal, Inc.

Wythe Sheet Metal, Inc. was established in 1947 and purchased in 1983 from John O. Allen by William David (Dave) Turner, Jr.

All of Wythe Sheet Metal Inc.'s employees are considered family. They are honest, devoted, licensed professionals, who are highly trained and expertly skilled.

With the energy crisis in our country, having a knowledgeable, dependable HVAC contractor is crucial. It is imperative that your system is sized and installed properly, so they use the Wrightsoft right-suite Universal Load Calculation software for that assurance. They help homeowners & businesses make informed decisions, knowing that they will be completely taken care.

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Jeez, What is this IE Thing?

The term 'zero-day' threat means hackers have found a vulnerability and have been using it, and we basically don't know for how long. This recently happened to Microsoft with their Internet Explorer browser. All of the versions (6-11) have a flaw, or vulnerability, that allows a user to eventually take over the host machine.

- Microsoft says Internet Explorer bug is present in versions 6 to 11 - which dominate 55 percent of PC browser market
- Department of Homeland Security advised computer users to consider using alternatives
- Windows XP will not receive any updates - though between 15 and 25 percent of world's PCs use it
- Attacks are currently against U.S.-based defense and financial sector firms
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2615209

How did we find out about it? A cyber security software maker FireEye Inc., noticed a group they are calling 'Operation Clandestine Fox', taking advantage of this vulnerability and targeting U.S. Military and financial institutions. They reported this to Microsoft, and Microsoft issued the following statement, "an attacker who successfully exploited this vulnerability could take complete control of an affected system. An attacker could then install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights."

Although the bug attacks versions 6-11, Microsoft is rushing to fix versions 9 through 11. 'We are currently unaware of a practical solution to this problem,' Carnegie Mellon's Software Engineering Institute stated. FireEye and Microsoft have not provided much information about the security flaw or the approach that hackers could use to figure out how to exploit it, said Aviv Raff, chief technology officer of cybersecurity firm Seculert. Yet other groups of hackers are now racing to learn more about it so they can launch similar attacks before Microsoft prepares a security update, Raff said.

> **Microsoft explains:**
> *The vulnerability exists in the way that Internet Explorer accesses an object in memory that has been deleted or has not been properly allocated. The vulnerability may corrupt memory in a way that could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code in the context of the current user within Internet Explorer. An attacker could host a specially crafted website that is designed to exploit this vulnerability through Internet Explorer and then convince a user to view the website.*

Bad news for the XP users – this is your first taste of being on an unsupported platform, you will not get a fix for this, ever.

We don't know much about it, but we do know it's dangerous. Please read the "Did you know…" section of this newsletter for what you can do to protect yourself from these security flaws.

Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others. - Plato

Did you know…

… you can still protect yourself from the security flaw in Internet Explorer with these 8 tips from Entrepreneur Magazine (**http://tinyurl.com/onrtmjz**)?

1. **Don't use Internet Explorer at all.** When the US Department of Homeland Security says not to use Internet Explorer until Microsoft can patch it in Mid-May, 2014, then we should pay attention. Use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox instead.
2. **Disable Adobe Flash.** If you MUST use IE, disable the Adobe Flash plugin. (Hint, Tools, Manage Add-Ons, Disable the Shockwave Flash Object add-on.)
3. **Get behind a firewall.** *Note: we recommend this in instances of mobile computing; most of our PC users will already be on a firewall on their office Local Area Network. This is definitely a good idea for personal devices.*
4. **Install Antivirus and antispyware software.** *Note – most of our clients already use antivirus software of some sort – you should notice that you're using either AVDefender, Endpoint Security, Trend Micro, or Microsoft Security Essentials. The trick is to let them update and run on a regular basis.*
5. **Apply all software updates.** Let those windows updates install! Leave your computer on at night to make sure you get scanned and updated regularly.
6. **Use Internet Explorer in "Enhanced Protected Mode."** This feature came out with Windows 8 and needs to be enabled – to turn it on, go to Internet Options, Advanced, go to the security section and choose "Enable Enhanced Protection Mode. Select OK and restart IE.
7. **Download the EMET toolkit.** This is for the more advanced user.
8. **Don't click on suspicious links.** This should be self-explanatory – if you're not expecting a link or a zip file or the sender's domain, email address, or the file name look flaky – **don't open it!**

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Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential. – Winston Churchill

Don't Let Spam Cripple Your Business

Think Spam is just a nuisance? It's also the most effective way to transmit a virus!

The volume of spam being sent today is astounding. In the tens of trillions of emails per year. Junk filters do a good job, but by then it could already be too late. PRONETS believes it's better to stop that email from ever reaching your network, because the best way to fix a problem is to stop the problem from ever happening. Once the unwanted email gets to your network, all it takes is one careless click and your business could be compromised.

For less than a cup of coffee, PRONETS Managed Anti-spam service prevents all unwanted email, spam and viruses from ever reaching your network. Giving your business the continual protection needed to stay on top of this ever present and evolving threat.

Benefits of PRONETS Managed Anti-Spam Solution

- **Increase Productivity and Reduce Operating Costs at the Same Time!**
  If every employee used only 5 minutes a day deleting unwanted e-mails, how much time would your organization waste in a month? Think about the total cost associated to that wasted time. Take your time back and save your company money!

- **Fully Managed Solution for Less Than Any Competitive Offering**
  We understand the overhead and threat spam creates for your business and users. Let someone who knows what they are doing setup and manage your email perimeter for you. You will not find a more cost effective per mailbox solution.

- **Protect Your Company's Critical Assets and Information**
  Stop email threats before they ever get to your network.

- **A Flexible Solution**
  We can set up your various email filters, or if you prefer, you can have control over what gets through and what is spam. We offer the appropriate security for any size of company and network. And setting it up takes minutes.

VERY ECONOMICAL! With the cost at ONLY $1.50 per mailbox per month + a one-time setup fee of $199, How Can You Afford Not To Have Spam Filtering?
Give us a call today at 276-236-8226.

PRONETS, Inc. Charitable Causes

HoustonFest 2014 – *Monetary Donation & Tent Usage*
HoustonFest is a festival held each May in Galax, VA in memory of Houston Caldwell, a young man who had a passion for music & a spirit of community service. The festival proceeds provide support for the Galax Volunteer Fire Department & local youth music education programs.

Enhancing Quality of Life Golf Tournament – *Golf Hole Sponsorship*
Mount Rogers Community Services Board & Blue Ridge Gatorade EnAble Team organized golfing event where all funds raised are used to enhance quality of life for individuals receiving MRSCB services.