



E-Briefs

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NEWS BRIEFS

PayPal Wants to Wreck the Biz Model

In the past year, PayPal and eBay have been improving their strategy to cut down on phishing attacks and have reduced phishing targeting their sites to under 10 percent. The company's most recent approach concentrates on multiple blocking points within the fraudsters' business model. Its initial step was to reclaim email by stopping phishing messages from being sent in the first place. Senders must sign their emails, and ISPs have been ordered to stop delivering unsigned email, even if it is sent to a spam folder. PayPal teamed up with Yahoo!Mail to confirm the signing and blocking notion using DomainKeys and Sender Policy Framework. This strategy diverted at least 50 million phishing messages in the first few months after it was developed, and PayPal witnessed a noteworthy reduction in the amount of attempted spoofs of PayPal's Yahoo users. PayPal also encouraged Microsoft to add more security features to its browser and asked users to select the most recent browser technology (IE7). PayPal further encouraged users to forward phishing emails to spoofofpaypal.com. The company probes each entry, puts the fake URLs on a blacklist, and sends that list to the broader Internet community. In an effort to combat weak authentication practices, PayPal employs VeriSign's OATH-based token in the United States, Australia, and Germany, and plans to deploy it in other markets.

10 Airports Install Body Scanners

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is in the process of installing 38 body-scanning machines at 10 of the nation's busiest airports. The scanners are capable of showing images of people underneath their clothing by bouncing "millimeter waves" off passengers. The scanner portal transmits an image to a nearby room, where a TSA screener looks for objects that are shaded differently from the body. Anyone in possession of a suspicious object undergoes a more thorough search. The scanners protect privacy by blurring the passengers' faces and deleting images after the initial viewing. They are able to identify plastic and ceramic weapons that are undetectable by current airport security screening technology. A TSA spokesperson believes that the scanners could eventually replace metal detectors and pat-downs at airports, rail stations, and sports arenas. The scanners are already used at some jails, embassies, overseas border crossings, and military checkpoints.

China, United States Cooperate on Olympics Security

Multiple U.S. agencies are providing China with expertise and resources as the country gets ready for this summer's Olympics. Law enforcement and foreign affairs organizations, such as the State Department and the Energy Department, are holding talks with Chinese officials about security cooperation during the event. The Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration has lengthy experience with radiological threats and events planning, as it has helped authorities at the NFL Super Bowl, the Pan Am Games, and the 2004 Athens Olympics. It is currently supplying Beijing with radiological detection devices and training. "As host nation to the 2008 Olympic Games, Chinese authorities will have ultimate responsibility for security during the Games themselves," said Patrick Donovan, acting director of the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service. "That said, ensuring a safe and security Olympics [is] in everyone's interest, and the United States stands ready to offer our support as needed."

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Security Tightened as Fuel Protests Turn Violent

Spain and Malaysia are increasing security to end violent strikes against the rising cost of fuel across the globe. Spain pledged "zero tolerance" for violence by striking truckers following a series of confrontations, including an arson attack on a strike-breaking truck which left the driver with burns on 25 percent of his body. Riot police clad in body armor have also taken to the streets in Madrid to disperse picket lines, as truckers striking outside distribution centers were confronting non-striking truckers. According to the government, 71 strikers have been arrested since 75,000 truckers started their protest by refusing to drive. The government is now offering police escorts to working truckers. Malaysia heightened security in the capital to stop a strike expected to attract upwards of 20,000 people. According to Kuala Lumpur Police Chief, Muhammad Sabtu Osman, 1,500 to 2,000 security workers have been ordered to bring an end to the scheduled march. Strikes against growing fuel prices have become more common worldwide. In Thailand, truckers said they were prepared to obstruct roads into the capital if the government did not fulfill their demands of reducing the price of diesel and providing cheap loans to switch engines to compressed natural gas. Protestors in the Netherlands recently brought their trucks down to a speed of 30 mph for 30 minutes in an attempt to urge the government to ditch a diesel tax increase scheduled for July. Truckers in Britain and India are also planning strikes.

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