

How to Hack A Facebook Profile

Attack Content Distribution Networks

As the clouds continues to roll in, (Sorry, I had to...), we are learning of more attacks being successful against organizations such as Google, Facebook, and others. The latest is from a security researcher, Christian Heinrich, located in Australia. He reverse engineered the algorithm Facebook uses to access your personal photos. Since Facebook is a massively distributed application, items such as photos and larger files are placed into a content distribution network (CDN) such as that provided by Amazon, Akamai, and others in order to reduce the load on Facebook's servers. The thing is, the CDNs don't integrate into Facebook's authentication framework since the CDN just stores files and serves them to anyone that requests the proper filename. Guess the filename of he private photos for a person on Facebook, send the request to the CDN, and you get the photo in return.

And that is what led to an arrest and charges for a privacy breach. During his presentation, Heinrich demonstrated this vulnerability at Flickr, Facebook, and MySpace. He demonstrated how we could access the private photos of his fellow researcher, Chris Gatford's, wife. One example showed a picture of Chris Gatford's wife and child. The Queensland Police responded to a complaint, although we don't know who filed the complaint about Heinrich's breach of Chris Gatford's wife's privacy caused by the demonstration. The Police responded by arresting a reporter for the Sidney Morning Herald, who had interviewed Heinrich about his presentation, and seized the reporter's iPad.

Is this really Facebook's or Flickr's problem or the CDN's? It most definitely is the content producer's problem. The CDN networks can provide authentication and more advanced security controls but that lowers performance by 30% or more.

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IPv6 – New Protocol, less security?



Is your password protected?

Did you know that most of the mobile phones in Asia do not use IPv4 to communicate with the Internet? They use IPv6 to IPv4 tunneling because they have run out of IP address space in most parts of Asia. The quick move to IPv6 by other countries has promoted a global growth in IPv6 as many Asian manufacturers require their US counterparts to integrate with their supply chain using IPv6.

The problem is when we talked to enterprises they are not ready for IPv6 even though IPv6 has been supported by vendors like Cisco for over 8 years. Many organizations do not understand the fundamental differences in IPv6 and that is cause of some security concerns.

First, Network Address Translation (NAT) is no longer available in IPv6 because it is impossible to use up the entire IPv6 address space. The length of an IPv6 address is 128 bits, compared to 32 bits in IPv4 which means you can have a total of 3.4×10^{38} addresses which is a lot more than IPv4. However, many SMB rely upon NAT to hide their servers from the Internet. While this is simply security through obscurity the fact is NAT works! Without NAT, you may need to rethink or purchase additional equipment to protect IPv6 servers.

Next, many IT professional have read that IPv6 is inherently more secure than IPv4 because authentication and encryption is baked into the IPv6 protocol. While it is part of the specification, the technology still needs to be configured and deployed and has the similar performance problems with its IPv4 counterpart which means if you couldn't get management to buy into IPv4 encryption good luck with IPv6.

Back to that huge address space we talked about earlier. We regularly hear that IPv6's huge address space makes it immune to port scanning.

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Ah, the old security versus performance argument. That age old argument is why this little and perhaps unknown arrest in Australia affects your organization whether you using a CDN or not. When the age old performance versus security argument comes up, the focus must be on the data type. Many pieces of data are not considered private or confidential, but if they are you must stick to the security guns and only allow authenticated and authorized access to that data. Your argument back to IT or development about the performance gains is to analyze the increase in performance from only allowing the non-confidential data to be accessed without security controls. Meeting them halfway means they may have to accept a 15% or 20% increase in performance that is less than perhaps the increase they were looking for but it is better than no increase at all.



IPv6 – New Protocol, less security? Is your password protected?
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By far the most common IPv6 subnet prefix is 64 bits, which supports up to 1.8 x 10¹⁹ individual addresses. Assuming a port scanner could “hit” one address per second; a scan of the entire address space of a 64-bit subnet would take over 584 billion years! The problem is that most port scanners use predictive algorithms to greatly optimize their scanning capabilities and don’t just hit one port per host at a time so while it will slow port scanning down; it definitely won’t take 584 billion years for one scan. Also don’t forget, security professionals have legitimate uses for port scanning too so this IPv6 “feature” can cause administrative problems too.

Lastly, we believe the biggest security issue with IPv6 is the ease of configuration. Give this a try. Install 2 Windows machines. Next, disable IPv4. You will be amazed that communication between the two devices still works. By default IPv6 is enabled and functioning and most admins do not disable IPv6 which means an attacker could start using IPv6 to communicate between machines and evade any IPv4 or host based IPv4 firewalls that are installed. Add to this scenario the ability to tunnel IPv6 into IPv4 and they could use one IPv4 server to proxy all their malicious traffic through to your unknown and unmanaged IPv6 network.



What are the key security considerations with IPV6 you need to be in front of?

- Security means more than firewalls and ACLs. Ensure all your IP systems are ready for IPv6 such as your IDS/IPS, SIEM, etc.
- Networking devices may process IPv6 in software. This is an opportunity for CPU depletion attacks.
- Many modern operating systems enable IPv6 by default. Do you know everywhere these OSes reside and how to secure them?
- IPv6 code is new. There have been security holes, and there will be more, so make sure you monitor. Remember, black hats are studying IPv6 closely.
- There are three legs to the security stool: tools, people and processes/policies. Budget sufficient time and money to update procedures and train your people.

There are other deployment and security concerns for IPv6 and we will continue to discuss them as IPv6 continues to be deployed. If you are not ensuring new security technology you purchase is IPv6 capable, stop what you are doing and go do an audit right now and update any RFP or RFQ documents IT uses when purchasing security technologies otherwise the security issues within IPv6 could come up and bite you.

CEO Corner



As IT looks to outsource more functions to the cloud most businesses find out that cloud services are pay as you go based on some metrics such as transactions, gigabytes of storage, or CPU cycles. This finite measurement of utility can be difficult to estimate for many IT organizations but the process may be worth the pain because of a hidden benefit.

I am starting to see IT organizations use the same metrics cloud providers are using to charge them in order to charge the business for IT services. This seems like a simple and elegant idea and it might take off. Example: Want to purchase a mobile device security product? Simple, charge an extra \$1 per phone per month to the business. Want to purchase a new backup system? Charge users per gigabyte backed-up. Outsourced vendors are helping shape the “IT as a service” strategy into a reality and the use of such simple payment schemes enables IT to more easily estimate Return on Investment and cost.

With all the things IT does to help create business value, don’t be surprised when you get a bill from IT.

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Know the Value of your business becoming a Social Media butterfly.

For most of us Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn have become part of our daily lives which is why your marketing or sales team may be coming to you asking about having the company join these social media networks. You may still be skeptical on how this could benefit your business so we decided to give you the top reasons why social media is here to stay.

Once thought of as a fad, social media is now a fundamental way we communicate and conduct business. According to comScore, 22% of Fortune 500 companies now have public-facing blogs which created additional web presence. In 2010, Twitter gained 100 million users, while more than 250 million people connect to Facebook every month. Chicago was the fastest growing city on Facebook in terms of usage in 2010 (AllFacebook.com); how many of these users are your company's target market? By intergrading social media into your companies marketing plan, your target market is more accessible than you think.

The Benefits that Social Media Can Provide:

Branding and Awareness:

By using social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn your company will gain new exposure and be known in the industry which increases brand awareness and improves brand reputation.

Building Community:

Build your number of business contacts and enhance your reputation as an expert in your industry. Connect with other professionals in your field to share information with like-minded people. Leverage these online communities for your business by being a valued member of the community yourself.

Research and Development:

Social Media allows for better tracking through clicks and other metrics captured online versus in traditional media (like TV, newsprint, magazines, radio). Instant surveys can be conducted for enhanced product decision making.

Increases Customer Loyalty & Trust:

Providing knowledge and insight through thought leadership to your readers will help build their trust in the company, which will make them do business with you rather than your competition. It will also improve the chances of customer recommendations.

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Lead Generation:

With millions of users logging in daily don't underestimate the power of social media. These platforms connect you to qualified leads and when used right in will bring in more traffic than the search engines. There are over 700,000 local businesses on Facebook and those businesses have created more than 5.3 billion fans for their sites.

In the end, social media is a privilege and a tool — one more opportunity to run a more productive and successful business. Now that you know the reason why Social Media can benefit your company here's how you can help your marketing and sales team the right way with technology by making sure that these components are in check before becoming a Social Media butterfly.

First, remember that your employees are users of social media too. They follow other brands and companies they want to buy from. This can be a problem for your company because of the dreaded password sloth problem. Password sloth refers to using the same passwords for more than one account or website and if that password your employees use on Facebook is the same as their VPN password it could cause a breach.

Second, watch out for the negative impact of social media. While social media can help your company acquire new customers, it can also quickly lead to reputational impacts if the company responds improperly to social media questions or concerns. Social media is a double edged sword.

Lastly, most organizations that start embracing social media end up opening up social media sites to employees so they can use them while at work. If employees have the capability to interact on social networks it is likely they may talk about your company in a negative way, discuss internal projects, or accidentally leak confidential data so you must be prepared with proper social media policies.



So marketing and sales have good intention but if you are still skeptical you have every right to be. According to InformationWeek's 2011 Strategic Security Survey of over 1,000 business and security professionals, more than 70% think that social media sites present a threat to their organization and 58% believe data loss is possible from employees having access to social media sites. If you have social media policies but are not enforcing them, start enforcing them immediately as more social media attacks are being launched every day but realize that enforcement does not mean disabling access. Now that you know why sales and marketing are asking for these changes, work with sales and marketing and properly educate your organization on social media risks.

Since employees have children or spouses at home using the same social networks, we have seen much better security awareness retention rates when the organization opens up social media sites but uses their awareness training to educate the employee about company and personal social media security risks. Helping employees protect themselves at work and at home while helping sales and marketing attract new customers is a win-win for all.

Monthly Events

June 9th @ 9:00am -5:00pm, CAMP IT-Enterprise Risk/Security Management

If attending this event stop by our table to win fun gadgets, and big prizes. Join us at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center Rosemont, IL (O'Hare)

Happy Hour, Cocktails and Conversation @ 5:30pm-7:30pm, VIP Lounge

Attended CAMP IT or in the area? Join us for a complimentary Happy Hour at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Rosemont, IL (across from the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center Rosemont, IL (O'Hare)

Complimentary Executive Briefing, by appointment only.

Michael Davis will review his 2011 Security Report discussing the results of a year long study of over 1,300 security professionals in the US. demonstrating how organizations approach security strategically, and how you can learn from the mistakes of others.

June 23rd @2:00pm CST. How to Properly Perform a Risk Assessment, Webinar Learn cutting edge information on how to perform a risk assessment with this free webinar! Register here today:

http://www.savidtech.com/landing/proper_risk_assessment_webinar.php



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"The boss is worried about information security, so he sends his messages one alphabet letter at a time in random sequence."

Monthly Trivia

Be the first to email us the correct answer and win a \$20 Starbucks Gift Card!

Given these words, think of a famous person whose first and last names conceal the words. The given word extends to both the first and last names and is not concealed entirely in the first or last name alone.

Example: Heap
Answer: Rhea Perlman

Words: Shop, Case Lined, Idle, Lore

Email your answer to: info@savidtech.com and look for the winner listed in next months newsletter

Congratulations to last months trivia winner Greg Bee.

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Joke of the Month

"How can you get four suits for a dollar? Buy a deck of cards."

Got a funny joke? Send it to us at info@savidtech.com and we may include it in an upcoming issue.



FREE
37 Point
Assessment
of your IT
Environment

Valid through the month of June.
Contact 877-307-0444 to schedule your appointment or for more details.