Ground rules for this talk

- Don’t make any changes to a department machine without first talking with your local tech support
- I use IE 8
  - will cover IE, Firefox, and Safari
  - Talk based on latest version
  - I used Safari on the Mac
  - Firefox and IE on Windows
Some stats

- During July, 2009 NSS Labs performed the second test of web browser protection against socially engineered malware - the most common and impactful security threat facing Internet users today.
  - Internet Explorer 8 caught 81% of the live threats, an exceptional score which surpassed the next best browser (Firefox 3) by a 54% margin. Windows Internet Explorer 8 improved 12% between Q1 and Q2 tests, evidence of concerted efforts Microsoft is making in the SmartScreen technology.
  - Firefox 3 caught 27% of live threats, far fewer than Internet Explorer 8. It was, however, the best among products utilizing the Google SafeBrowsing API. (Note: Firefox 3.5 was not stable enough to be tested during the course of this test. A patch has subsequently become available to address the stability issue. We were able to manually verify that the protection was identical between versions 3.0.11 and 3.5).
  - Safari 4 caught 21% of live threats. Overall protection varied greatly, with two short periods of severe dips.
  - Chrome 2 caught just 7% of live threats an 8% drop from the previous test.
  - Opera 10 Beta caught a mere 1% of live threats, providing virtually no protection against socially engineered malware. In our test bed validation, we verified there was effectively no difference between Opera 9 and Opera 10 Beta.
Definitions

• Malware
  – Malicious software

• Scareware
  – Using intimidation to get you to install malware

• Spyware
  – Malware typically related to browsing

• Phish
  – Messages, possibly with forged links, trying to obtain information
What version is my browser?

• IE
  – Help/About Internet Explorer
    • Version 8.0.6

• Firefox
  – Help/About Mozilla Firefox
    • Version 3.5.3

• Safari
  – Safari/About Safari
    • Version 4.0.3
How do I update my browser?

- **IE**
  - Tools/Windows Update
- **Firefox**
  - Help/Check for Updates
- **Safari**
  - Apple/Software Updates
SSL

- IE
  - A padlock just to the right of the URL
- Firefox
  - A padlock in the lower right corner
- Safari
  - A padlock in the top right corner
- Click on the lock for additional info
Pop-up Blocker

- **IE**
  - Tools/Pop-up Blocker

- **Firefox**
  - Tools/Options/Content
    - Block pop-up windows
      - Consider the Adblock Plus plugin

- **Safari**
  - Preferences/Security
    - Block pop-up Windows

- **Note** – Pop-up blockers are also often in toolbars and security suites
Phishing Filter

- IE
  - Tools/SmartScreen Filter
- Firefox
  - Tools/Options/Security
    - Block reported attack sites
    - Block reported web forgeries
- Safari
  - Preferences/Security
    - Warn when visiting a fraudulent website
Private Browsing

- IE
  - Tools/Start InPrivate Browsing
- Firefox
  - Tools/Start Private Browsing
- Safari
  - Private Browsing
Clear Cache etc.

- **IE**
  - Tools/Delete Browsing History
- **Firefox**
  - Tools/Clear Recent History
- **Safari**
  - Empty Cache
  - Preferences/Security
    - Show cookies
      - Click to remove cookies
IE - Other Settings

• Tools/Internet Options
  – Content/AutoComplete/Settings
    • User names and passwords on forms
  – Security
    • Consider this scenario
      – Move internet security zone to high
      – Use trusted sites zone for needed sites
Firefox - Other Settings

• Remove the check to disable
  – Tools/Options/Content
    • Enable JavaScript
    • Enable Java
  – Tools/Options/Security
    • Remember passwords for sites
      – Clear those you have saved

• Consider using the “No Script” plugin
  – Tools/Add-ons
    • Get Add-ons
      – Place “no script” in the search box
        » 3.6 should check plugin versions
Safari - Other Settings

• Remove the check to disable
  – Preferences/Security
    • Enable plug-ins
    • Enable java
    • Enable javascript
  – Preferences/Autofill
    • User names & passwords
      – Clear those you have saved

• Preferences/Adblock
  – Click enable to turn on
Website Rating Software

- Web of Trust
  - http://www.mywot.com/
- McAfee SiteAdvisor
  - http://www.siteadvisor.com/
- Windows - IE & Firefox
- Apple – Firefox
- No support for Safari
  - If you know of a free product let me know
Suggestions

• Keep your browser up to date
  – Don’t forget about your OS and AV
• Never click on unexpected popups
• Use caution when clicking on links in messages
• Be aware of where you are on the web
• Don’t believe everything you see
• If it sounds to good to be true…
Contact Information

• Roger Safian
  – (847) 491-4058
  – security@northwestern.edu
  – r-safian@northwestern.edu

• NUIT Support Center
  – (847) 491-HELP (4357)
  – consultant@northwestern.edu

• Northwestern Network Operations Center
  – (847) 467-6662 (staffed 24 hours per day)
Questions?