Hello I'm Roger safety in today's Thursday, April 18 and you're listening to the information security news podcast brought to you by Northwestern University information technology bonus start the podcast by talking a little bit about the situation that happened in Boston obviously is no words and I can come up with describes some sort of tragic incident like this here but what I would like to say is just a reminder that people take advantage of this they will be stairs already lots of phishing messages out there and scams helping the victims of Boston and viewed videos of the tragedy in all lot of stuff going around that's passing around malware or otherwise just doing nasty stuff and affect us today that was this explosion in Texas and a Marty seeing some of the very same stuff that takes place because that's a situation in Texas now and you notice reminder that whenever some big event happens it really doesn't matter what the big event this could be good to be bad it's just it's a big event the bad guys will use that event to try to get you to open something up so remember try to keep you news from reputable sources you know when you just do link out of the blue though click on those links there very often dangerous violence talk about the updates here real fast the Microsoft released a patch last week was patch Tuesday they had pulled that one of their patches it looks like one of the updates that they put out there is causing problems if you're running some third-party software know what I read out one site was is it is causing proms if you're running as Persky my guess is it's probably causing problems of other stuff too but who knows anyway they've pulled back one of the updates and they're asking you to uninstall update 282-3324 you've already installed that the hopefully there didn't have a fix for this so that because that update actually fixing problems but at the moment there's nothing on this I will put a link in the show notes to the Microsoft bulletin about this it's pretty rare that they pull these hot fixes back but every now and then they do and the hopefully it hasn't caused any of my listeners problems and have only got to select keep me happy then that is a story that came out here about the bitnet from target client who sorry when my thickened bitnet format flashback to my old age here that client and this is a report from four to guard labs about dual Internet threats stuff like this here what did two things that really good track to meet to this report was one dimension of zero access which were seeing a fair amount of zero axis on campus not that huge numbers but something that you would see it more and more of zero access and then bit cloying which is gotten so much publicity over the last month or so it's it's been a become a craze on the internets although the craze on the Internet really reminds me of trading tulips you know a few hundred years ago trading tulip bulbs in all its people are going crazy for bit coin and bill at the moment there's people making and losing fortunes and it's so the fact that both of these things are involved in malware and it's stuff that believed could see little bit here and campus makes it pretty interesting to read and so again you'll find a link in the show notes for the this episode there's also a story about. I find this really pretty interesting it's about hackers could start abusing the electrical card chargers to cripple the grid don't necessarily know if this is true or not I to be honest with you I don't even care but why think this there's really interesting about this story is and where I agree with the person who's kind of sounding the alarm is you know this technology is it really it's in its infancy right now and if there's been a be problems let's find him and solve them and fix them and make everything work right now let's not wait until electric cars are are very popular you know right now the number of these charging stations that I see around very small in oh so that means the problem is relatively easy to deal with where is you let it go
a few years electric cars become more more popular these charging stations are to be everywhere so if it is good be able to cause problems to be a much bigger problem to deal with years from now that it will be now you know I you know how if you listen before to this podcast you know I always get a little concerned that people talk about you know really is kind of inflammatory language I think it's partially still a way that you get your story out there but the same time you know wish that people would just feel private calm down a little bit in the of is a cigar really totally agree with Dave the author of the article assigned now's the time to address this problem and the than I want to have a story here about WordPress action to couple stories about WordPress WordPress is really popular popular campuses popular routes into turns out that there's been widespread hacking of WordPress accounts specifically those accounts that are using the username admin apparently word presses with advice and t hey've been telling people for years don't use the admin account rename it to something else and people just well they just rename it to admin or they rename it to route or administrator of your something else it's really common in adolescents are like the idea of hiding the the username of the administrator account but on the other hand I recognize it's sometimes it's an important thing to do so if you got WordPress situation in Europe use it for your blog then make sure that you've got good strong password and spry good idea to have a unique account for is well along those lines a fun article here about eight steps to secure your WordPress blog and you know I've I'd love these sort of little little checklist that you go through and try this trend in Trinidad and it's nice to have all this material in one location it's for a handy I I I enjoyed quite a bit so hopefully you'll find a stuff about WordPress interesting fellow talk about updates to much but there is a update for Java out there that fixes 39 bugs it's good change a little bit About the Way, Java works as units notice jobless can become more more noisy when stuff is going on in my think it's because they're trying to you know there is a lot of issues with job and I think Oracle is starting to get upset with Java always having the finger pointed as for being a problem in and that's a good thing on the other hand I don't necessarily think having Java come up and ask you all the time do you want to do this is a good idea because most people don't really understand what it is, it's asking and it will just click yes because they want to do whatever it is they think they're doing right now you know I want to see that video I want to go to this website I want to order this item yes yes yes people just click and that's just not not a good solution so I hope Oracle works harder to address the root causes of these problems which is the fact that Java has so much so much power on your system that needs to be limited maybe it may and it's not just that Java has an immediate most people run as an administrator anyway so by default they've got a lot of a lot of power that needs to be limited couple of kind of political bent stories and I will be finished here one is the ACLU is it's asking the feds to go after the wireless carriers and they want to do it over android security updates and what it turns out it sounds like you're going after them for a couple of different things here one is it takes android you know Google puts out a new version of the android OS or fixes a hole in android and the carriers Sprint AT&T whoever they are not releasing these updates right away not have an android phone and this is the one we've heard me complain about this before this is the one area where the IOS Apple really has it hands down over android is the updates you know if you doesn't matter where you get that that iPhone from when Apple releases an update relatively quickly or can have it on your phone that's the way should be that's not the way it is with android that's real problem the
other thing that they're upset about is all the software that's put on the mission on the different phones and that's not updated either in the again this is furry different in iPhone you know pretty much the iPhones the iPhone the iPhone with android you know if you buy this one android phone from Sprint to nuke turnaround by the exact same android phone from AT&T you can have different software both of those phones you also have the fact that the phone manufacturer will put some of their own software on it and then you've got the distributor in oh AT&T or Sprint in this case they put their own software on it as well as we've got all of this these prompt. All of this is solved with the iPhone with the iPhone Apple was really really smart about the way that they released it and quite frankly what little disappointed about this suit here is that the ACLU is not going after Google and telling Google look you can't let people just write all over your code the way this way you got a handle it more like the iPhone because having the iPhone really does it really does it well so I hope that I hope some good comes of this suit but I think there's a possibility for more stuff and then there's a story here about the thesis but Bill this is the computer security act it's been mulling its way through Congress now for a data couple years anyway looks like again it might be getting close to come for a vote and once again there is the ability in this act which would allow without a warrant of companies to go take your personal data and provide it to government agencies and I don't understand what the problem is here with a government agency I don't object to giving information to you know the FBI or whoever but if the FBI want some information about something it's very easy for the FBI to get a court order when you go to a judge and say you know this is an issue of being old national security here charges are pretty pretty very very very working with the government or not you say no know that's just not the happen I mean are certainly not happen very often I just don't understand what the problem is with not asking for quarter to first answer really hope that this bill does get vetoed if they put it through with this here and it again and you know I know everybody is trying to do the right thing but this kind of funeral 24 Jack Bauer think you'd that's not the way the real world works in 03 in the real world there is time for you to get a judge and ask the judge you can get a court order in order to say yes you can look at this person's information or no you can't and that's just the way that it is anyway thanks for listening if you have a comments or suggestions please feel free to send them to our data safe unit northwestern.edu is always you find additional security information as Wilson notes that contain the links for today's podcast at her website www.IT.northwestern.edu/security