Hello I'm Roger safety in today's Thursday, May 30 in your listing to the information security news podcast brought to you by Northwestern University information technology or start with a story that we had done here up few months ago and it was the story from Ars Technica basically one of their reporters decided to download some password cracking software and see how long it would take him to crack some passwords how difficult it was to run the software and stuff like that was pretty interesting story and the utility dearly made a couple mistakes he highlighted him and stuff and basically the skinny is a person who really didn't have a lot of experience was able to take some hashed passwords and crack them in a relatively short period of time I want to say a member the exact honesty was like six or eight hour something like that and the news able to get it printed percentage of lay decided they wanted to follow-up on this particular story and so they had some security experts in "' do their own test unit runs cracking sufferance of the pricing password file and the these guys were able to crack the passwords much quicker and at a much higher rate of success that you think the guy that won the you know want us to move the right word here personal came and did the best job lease percentagewise I think got 90% of the passwords in a relatively short period of time so pretty pretty impressive in and everybody got more than half I think the original person the guy from Ars Technica who was who started this year he got just under half of it was 47% is what he got and everybody you know the three experts that they had got it the other is living this up as again I just want you to remember that it's your password if password file gets out there you might want us to assume that your password is going to be cracked and it's important that you keep your password complex but not too complex me you don't want to be to the point where you're not to be able to remember it hurts difficulty got write it down you know you're always making mistakes you don't it's frustrating you know but you want your password be complex enough where it's not to be good not to be the person who falls out on the very first white you know in most of these sets are licensing some of these cracking programs what happens is they tried of the very most, things first and you want to make sure that you don't fall under that you want to make sure that your password is is somewhere you know in the middle of this big Bob and the reason that I say that is in less you are the person that's being specifically targeted you know if you're just there in the middle somewhere at least it buys you a little bit of time it also mean that this gets you know the the attack gets known if if it doesn't you know well the denier denier in trouble but the tactics known you little bit of time to go change password make sure that you not use the same password on other sites things of that nature if your password is too easy in all units it's just going to be had in fact it might not even need to be cracked maybe they can just guess and figure out what it is so good passwords and the I do think treasury this article just because it really highlights that password you know what it's good for him what's not good for and I die finest this stuff to be particularly interesting and I hope you do as well that I read an article I think this is actually put together by Chris Persky but that it was in an article in the an Australian newspaper and basically it was the how to keep your Apple computer free from malicious programs and I thought one that you know there's there's something I'll be reading and telling people about and the person who wrote the article was can very frank terms I would say you know so for example they said Apple users need to quits living in fantasyland and let go the myth that their products are safe from malicious programs and viruses you know their number one recommendation is for goodness sake purchase and
install an antivirus security program and like it is it's you know Frank Stratas appointed vice and the AAI purse I found a good rating to so you know all family to in the show notes please take a look at and if you got an Apple I guess is that feeblest of this podcast to realize that the Apple computers are no more no less secure than any other device there up out there especially with the you know the changes that have been happening over the last few years and and I think property but realize that you know what I talked Apple uses on the phone it's not unusual for me to hear this sort of it all but I have an Apple I can have a virus in a will that you know I never get it from a PC user I think people just assume I got a PC I could have I could have a virus that's that's a given but the Apple users there still some of the mountain to feel that way so please take a look at this articles colada great information that I got a few stories here about you know ATMs and a bank fraud things of that nature and basically. The first story is about point-of-sale terminals and malware that's built into them or malware that's installed on the the device it turns out a lot of these devices are running you know like an old version of Windows XP for example in other just not they themselves are not furry secure you know and I really think it's the the credit card industry the whole banking industry is good have to do something about this when you read about the amounts of money that are being stolen and through these areas holes in them credit card processing and fraud it's just it's just unbelievable that's it you know I don't see how the banks can continue to write off the staggering amounts of money and the thing is if you allow this to continue this money is going to be used for all sorts of other things in my guess is some of those other things are not to be very good so I think it's really important that this stuff gets stopped and I really come on banks get the track together in a you got PC out PCI out there for the credit cards let's crack down on all the rest of this stuff make the whole chain so that's nice and secure now they arrested a man right here locally just you know not far been effective for ATM skimming and effect I was Jedi just ate a restaurant across the street that ATM over the weekend and the you know guy walks and installs a skimmer on the ATM the bank actually found out about it and the cops take the place out and when the person came back to remove the skimmer they arrested him as I applaud everybody that's involved in the seer except of course the skimmer and the you know I really do encourage you though he got a be very very careful when you use and that ATM because you can see how bold this person is Susan ATM that's it's in a busy area you know it's an walks right up installs Adobe says anything I mean it's just it just unbelievable then there's this online current see liberty reserve and the they arrested the owners of this in "company for $6 billion in money laundering 6 billion billion with a B I mean it's unbelievable to me that when people are stealing millions of dollars here somebody who's laundering $6 billion I mean that's a time of money right I mean that's the it's unbelievable and the guy even you know he charged a 1% fee for transactions right is pretty low in him but then he had he had for $.75 that's right $.75 he would offer to hide the user's account number and transactions to stuff like this externality for $.75. It's just unbelievable how bold this stuff is online at least it is unbelievable to me so I'm either really and how How can this have happened glad that they they got the source of but here's the thing this is like a hydra it cut off one head I'm sure that right now there's you know pipe people that are putting together they don't already have it up a brand-new site you know the the Internet in it was designed to be very resilient and I think that you know that's the way it is with these programs and the services that are out there if people want something boy subways go find a place to do it
so this is probably can happen again and this can require a lot of vigilance on the part of law-enforcement to actually put a dent in this kind of stuff but you know it is $6 billion I'm just amazed by that just unbelievable make anyway thanks for listing if you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to send them to our – safe in a northwestern.edu as always you find additional security information was well supposed to contain the links for today's podcast at her website www.IT.northwestern.edu/security