SurveyMonkey Phishing Scam

590,000 Phishing EMails In One Week Alone!

Security researchers are warning of a new phishing campaign that uses malicious emails from legitimate SurveyMonkey domains in a bid to bypass security filters.

The phishing emails in question are sent from a real SurveyMonkey domain but crucially have a different reply-to domain, according to Abnormal Security.

"Within the body of the email is a hidden redirect link appearing as the text 'Navigate to access statement' with a brief message 'Please do not forward this email as its survey link is unique to you'" it explained.

"Clicking on the link redirects to a site hosted on a Microsoft form submission page. This form asks the user to enter their Office 365 email and password. If the user is not vigilant and provides their credentials, the user account would be compromised."

The attack is effective for several reasons: its use of a legitimate SurveyMonkey email sender, the concealing of the phishing site URL and the description of the email is unique to every user.

"Users may be primed to think that the login page is there to validate that their responses are from the legitimate recipient of the email. Thus, the behavior isn't unexpected," argued Abnormal Security.

David Pickett, senior cybersecurity analyst at ZIX, explained that attacks like these are increasingly common: he claimed that the vendor blocked around 590,000 phishing emails abusing legitimate services like SurveyMonkey in the past week alone.

"Credential phishing using legitimate survey forms is a favorite attack vector by quite a few different groups over the past two years," he added.

"We track these 'living off the land' attacks and have found that the most often abused legitimate forms/ survey providers in order from greatest to least volume are Google, Microsoft, SurveyGizmo and HubSpot."

Source: Infosecurity-magazine.com

Technology Trends For The Next Decade

We may not be living on Mars or traveling to work using jet packs, but there's no doubt the coming decade will bring many exciting technological advances. Here are some exciting technology trends that will define the next decade.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. The increasing ability of machines to learn and act intelligently will absolutely transform our world. It is also the driving force behind many of the other trends on this list.

The Internet of Things (IoT). This refers to the ever-growing number of "smart" devices and objects that are connected to the internet. Such devices are constantly gathering and transmitting data, further fueling the growth in Big Data and AI.

Wearables and augmented humans. What started with fitness trackers has now exploded into a whole industry of wearable technology designed to improve human performance and help us live healthier, safer, more efficient lives. In the future, we may even see humans merge with technology to create "augmented humans" or "transhumans."

Intelligent spaces and smart places. Closely linked to the IoT, this trend is seeing physical spaces – like homes, offices, and even whole cities – becoming increasingly connected and smart.

Blockchains and distributed ledgers. This super-secure method of storing, authenticating, and protecting data could revolutionize many aspects of business – particularly when it comes to facilitating trusted transactions.

Cloud and edge computing. Cloud computing – where data is stored on other computers and accessed via the internet – has helped to open up data and analytics to the masses. Edge computing – where data is processed on smart devices (like phones) – will take this to the next level.

Digitally extended realities. Encompassing virtual reality, augmented reality, and mixed reality, this trend highlights the move towards creating more immersive digital experiences.

Computer vision and facial recognition. Machines can talk, so why shouldn't they "see" as well? This technology allows machines to visually interpret the world around them, with facial recognition being a prime example. Although we will no doubt see greater regulatory control over the use of facial recognition, this technology isn't going anywhere.

5G. The fifth generation of cellular network technology will give us faster, smarter, more stable wireless networking, thereby driving advances in many other trends (e.g., more connected devices and richer streams of data).

Genomics and gene editing. Advances in computing and analytics have driven incredible leaps in our understanding of the human genome. Now, we're progressing to altering the genetic structure of living organisms (for example, "correcting" DNA mutations that can lead to cancer).

Drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. These aircraft, which are piloted either remotely or autonomously, have changed the face of military operations. But the impact doesn't stop there – search and rescue missions, firefighting, law enforcement, and transportation will all be transformed by drone technology. Get ready for passenger drones (drone taxis), too!

Cybersecurity and resilience. As businesses face unprecedented new threats, the ability to avoid and mitigate cybersecurity threats will be critical to success over the next decade.

Source: Forbes.com

BEFORE THE BREACH

HACKERS ARE HERE!

NEW SKILLS FOR A NEW FIGHT

- 1 in 5 businesses will suffer a cyber breach
- this year
- 81% of all breaches happen to small/medium sized businesses
- 66% of companies do NOT test their backups
- 60% of companies that lose their data will go out of business within 6 months
- 92% of malware is delivered via email
- 97% of breaches could have been prevented with today's technology

Want to learn more about how to protect your business?

Stay tuned for our next lunch and learn date!

www.preferreditgroup.com/beforethebreach

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VIDEO CONFERENCING ETTIQUETTE

Video conferencing has become an essential component of the modern business world and helps improve the connectedness of remote team members. If you aren't completely familiar with the additional expectations placed upon you when you're a part of a business video conference, that's okay. We're here to help you learn the dos and don'ts of video conferencing. Take the following information into consideration so you don't find yourself committing a major faux pas at the next big meeting. Or, share this with a coworker to help them out the next time they're making one of these mistakes.

1. Mute yourself when not speaking.
2. Be on time.
3. Ensure your technology works correctly.
4. Use technology to fully engage remote participants.
5. Choose the proper software and hardware.
6. Wear work-appropriate clothing.
7. Frame the camera correctly.
8. Have the right light.
9. Look into the camera.

Source: Owllabs.com

Google resumes Chrome's more privacy-friendly SameSite cookie update

Google announced that it will bring its SameSite cookie update back starting July 14th, alongside the launch of Chrome 84. The update will roll out gradually to Chrome 80 and later versions. When Chrome 80 launched in February, Google started rolling out its SameSite update, which is intended to change how cookies are handled by the browser. In April, Google announced it would be rolling back that update in order to keep essential websites working during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chrome used to accept cookies by default, but with the introduction of its SameSite labeling policy, Chrome will block cookies from functioning in a third-party context, unless they carry specific labels. This is part of Chrome's phased approach to privacy: this is supposed to limit which cookies collect data across sites, and in turn, limit the data those websites collect on users. Blocking third-party cookies can cause some websites to break, particularly during the login process, since cookies store your login information across sites and visits. Prior to Google rolling back the update, several sites had been adjusted according to the SameSite policy. However, Google said it wanted to provide stability and continuity during the COVID-19 outbreak, especially for essential services, so it decided to temporarily halt the update with the aim to resume over the summer. In contrast to Safari and Firefox, which block third-party cookies by default, Chrome has decided to phase them out within two years. Following this incremental plan, Google announced Chrome would be blocking third-party cookies in incognito mode. The Chrome team is also working on a set of alternative technologies which are intended to preserve website revenue and allow advertisers to target audiences — but without breaking logins to sites or being too invasive for consumers.   Site: theverge.com
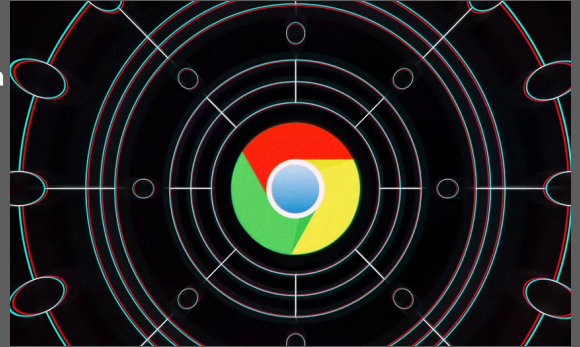
FUN FACT!

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Worldwide spending on cybersecurity is forecasted to reach $133.7 billion in 2022.

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