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1. WELCOME

Welcome to the second issue of the First Base Technologies Newsletter.

We are proud to be one of the UK's leading independent security consultancies. We provide penetration testing, web application security testing, network security audits and related security consultancy services. Visit us at < www.fbtechies.co.uk >

We hope that the information in this newsletter will be useful to you and would love to get your feedback regarding the content. What would you like to see in future issues? Do you have anything you would like to submit for inclusion? Please feel free to send an email to: <peter.wood@firstbase.co.uk> with your comments.

Peter Wood
Chief of Operations

2. PENETRATION TESTING: "BUY ONE - GET ONE FREE"

External penetration tests are designed to provide security assurance for firewalls, routers, mail servers and web servers.

Our tests include whois enquiries for contact details and IP ranges; traceroute to identify intermediate devices; zone transfers to find other hosts in your domain; ping sweeps and port scans to find hosts and services; banner grabbing to identify operating systems and servers; SNMP queries; and detailed automated scans using ISS Internet Scanner. We test over 1,200 published security vulnerabilities, using both automated and manual exploits.

For March and April, we are offering a full re-test of your Internet connection at no additional charge. This provides a thorough test of your corrective actions following our initial report and gives you that essential double-check entirely free.

Simply place an order for any of our range of external penetration tests during March or April and we will provide a free of charge re-test at a date to suit you, within 60 days. E-mail <peter.wood@firstbase.co.uk> for more details or a quotation.

<author: Peter Wood>



3. COME AND SEE US AT INFOSECURITY 2003 - 29th APRIL - 1ST MAY

First Base Technologies are proud to be attending InfoSecurity Europe for the first time this year. Why not take some time out and come and visit Pete, Didi, Tony, Keiron and Gordon at stand 45?

You can find more information on the InfoSec 2003 website at < www.infosec.co.uk > and there is information on our web site at < www.fbttechies.co.uk >. We have been told we can offer a limited number of free tickets - please contact <ailise@firstbase.co.uk> if you are interested.

Our business partners SPI Dynamics (authors of WebInspect) will also be at the show on stand 756. In conjunction with ourselves, they are holding a free-of-charge reception event (drinks and finger buffet) in the Henley 2 room on Tuesday 29th April between 1230 and 1430 hours. Peter Wood will be helping facilitate the event. If you are interested in attending, then please contact <ailise@firstbase.co.uk> soon because there are only 40 places available - this is the first announcement and we expect them to go fast ...!

<author: Didi Barnes>

4. WHITE-HATS.CO.UK: NEW WEB SITE GOES LIVE

White-hats.co.uk - The Intelligent Response to Hackers and Insiders! Formed to help everyone involved in protecting their networks from hackers and insider attacks. There is so much to read, study and respond to ... white-hats.co.uk is a new way of exchanging information and learning about threats as they emerge. Open only to UK security and IT professionals, white-hats.co.uk is already attracting a large number of members from commercial organisations, government and the security industry.

NEW - check out our *new* web site at < www.white-hats.co.uk >

NEW - we now have an active discussion list for members.

JUNE 6 2003: meeting entitled, "Web Application Hacking - Are You Exposing your Backend?". Our guest speaker is ir. Erwin Geirnaert, CISSP from Aszure, Belgium. Details are available on < www.white-hats.co.uk >.

To apply for (free) membership of white-hats.co.uk, e-mail <ailise@firstbase.co.uk>

<Author: Didi Barnes>

5. EUROPEAN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

We are in the process of setting up agreements with Aszure < www.ascure.com > and Exaprobe < www.exaprobe.com > to allow us access to a large number of security professionals. Aszure is based in Belgium and the Netherlands, and Exaprobe is based in France. This is an exciting opportunity for us, enabling us to offer our services across the EU and giving us a broader and deeper skills base on which to draw for UK projects.

<Author: Peter Wood>

6. PDAs - WHOSE USING THEM ON YOUR NETWORK?

You've heard it all before about laptop security, but what about applying the same security considerations to the increasing number of PDAs (hand held computers) that are now on the market?

Many of us have a Compaq Ipaq or similar device already. Now Dell have launched their Axim at the amazing price of around £229 in order to break into the PDA market, so expect the ownership of



PDA's to increase accordingly! It is not easy to "sneak around" with a laptop, but PDA's are potentially much more covert. Do you know which of your employees have them? Do you know what information they are downloading to - or uploading from - their PDA's? Do you know who is wandering around with a wireless card plugged into their PDA sniffing your network to see if they can find poorly secured access points? Do you have provisions for all this and more in your security policy?

Since PDA's are so small, it is as easy to overlook the security issues surrounding them as it is to simply not be aware they are in someone's pocket!

We will be producing white papers on this and other topics within the next couple of months. If you are interested, contact <peter.wood@firstbase.co.uk> for more information.

<Author: Didi Barnes>

7. PETER WOOD ACHIEVES FELLOWSHIP OF BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY

Chief of Operations, Peter Wood, passed through the rigorous interview and submissions process with flying colours, and achieved Fellowship status with the British Computer Society (BCS) in November 2003. Fellows of the Society are entitled to use the post-nominal letters FBSC and the title Chartered Information Systems Practitioner.

Peter has been a member of the BCS and the Register of Security Specialists for a number of years now. (The purpose of the Register is to provide to users and managers a pool of qualified, professional expertise with established competence and integrity, tested by peer interviews.) This latest accolade reinforces our position as a consultancy focused on quality, integrity and expertise. It has also means that Peter is even more sought after as a speaker, and is giving the keynote speech at the BCS-ISSG 2003 annual conference, as well as addressing BCS-IRMA and ISACA audiences.

<Author: Didi Barnes>

8. NEW BUSINESS PARTNER - DIDI BARNES

I'd like to introduce my new business partner, Didi Barnes. Didi is in charge of our R&D and also oversees our marketing and design. Amongst other things, Didi is responsible for our new, hard-hitting ad campaign, "we're gonna f*** your site", which you have probably seen in the national security press by now. She is also responsible for our presence at InfoSecurity 2003 at Olympia for the first time this year.

In her R&D role, Didi is currently also writing various white papers, one of which involves a crack against the access controls of a well-known finance package. We are unable to publish details at the moment for legal reasons, but we are to be involved in the beta test of this product as a result and will then be authorised to publish. Didi has the important role of helping us keep ahead of new and emerging technologies and you will see her name appear more often in the future ...

< Author: Peter Wood >

9. SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

We hope that you have found this newsletter to be informative and useful.

This newsletter will be published six times a year. Subscription is free. Please feel free to pass this copy on to friends and colleagues. If you do not wish to receive further copies, please reply to this email with a subject line containing UNSUBSCRIBE.



If your friends or colleagues wish to receive the newsletter directly, they should send a request to:
<info@firstbase.co.uk>

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter as an HTML version, please reply to this email with a subject line containing HTML VERSION REQUEST.

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