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1. Welcome

We are proud to be one of the UK's leading independent ethical hacking firms. We provide penetration testing, web application security testing, network security audits and related security consultancy services. Visit us at www.firstbase.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: webmaven@firstbase.co.uk with your comments.

Didi Barnes - Partner (Chief of Business Operations)
Keiron Northmore - Partner (Head of Technical Services)
Peter Wood - Partner (Chief of Operations)

2. PCI DSS Update - Get Rid of That WEP!

Version 1.2 of the PCI DSS is now out there. The revised standard in general relates to tighter controls for wireless networks - no more WEP! Check out the Register article below if you have not seen this already...

www.theregister.co.uk/2008/10/02/pci_dss_update/

3. Computer Misuse Act Gets A Shake Up

The Register reported on 30 September that updates to the Computer Misuse Act came into force in England and Wales on 1 October. The changes mean that anyone involved in any aspect of computer security need to be extremely careful:

The article is here: www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/30/uk_cybercrime_overhaul/

A very useful paper documenting the changes can be found here: www.davros.org/legal/cma.html

4. **NEW SERVICE** - Apple Mac Security Testing

Apple recently marked its best quarter in its 31-year history, selling 2.5 million computers in that period. This rise is thought to be influenced by users' dissatisfaction with Windows [*Secure Computing Magazine, July 24 2008, "Macs under hack attack as popularity rises", Joy Persaud*]



However, the increasing popularity and use of Apple systems in the workplace doesn't only merit the attention of the press - it is beginning to seriously merit the attention of attackers as well. No longer does the popular belief that Apple products are immune from the efforts of cybercriminals hold true - the recent discovery of the "OSX/Hovdy-A Trojan" to gain root access is a case in point, along with MacGuard – read more about that here:

<http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2228488/early-alarms-mac-malware>

Over the last couple of years, we have been asked to conduct Mac testing for a number of our clients. This emerging requirement has lead us to develop a robust testing methodology aimed specifically at Apple environments. If you have Macs on your network, let us check your exposure and advise on security configuration.

For further information on this offering, just click here:

www.firstbase.co.uk/Content/Services/macsecurity.shtml

5. First Base Technologies visited by BBC Radio 4

A couple of guys brandishing microphones recently turned up to our offices to interview us about what it is like to work as ethical hackers. Unfortunately the recording is no longer available via the Beeb's "Listen Again" feature, but we can send you a CD of it if you'd like one!

6. Peter Wood Causes A Stir...

We take our role as security evangelists very seriously. Our Chief of Operations, Peter Wood, in particular undertakes a lot of interviews and work with the media on raising corporate and public awareness of security issues. Pete recently did a podcast that ended up being reported in SC Magazine:

The podcast is here: www.infosecurityadviser.com/podcasts

The article is here: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/3jixks>

There are also various podcasts, video interview and articles accessible via the link below:

www.firstbase.co.uk/Content/NewsEvents/Press/FBTechiesInThePress.shtml

7. The Team Cymru Malware Hash Registry (MHR)

A friend who work for Team Cymru tells us that they have this new service which allows you to query their database of many millions of unique malware samples for a computed MD5 or SHA-1 hash of a file. If it is malware and Team Cymru know about it, they return the last time they've seen it along with an approximate anti-virus detection percentage. The MHR compliments an anti-virus (AV) strategy by helping to identify unknown or suspicious files that we have already identified as malicious. This enables you to take action earlier than you would otherwise be able to.

There is no cost for non-commercial use of this tool. Access is publicly available to anyone. Full details including command syntax and procedures can be found at: <https://www.team-cymru.org/Services/MHR/>

This is one of several new (free) data sets and services we are currently providing to the community, others are here: <https://www.team-cymru.org/Services>



8. white-hats.co.uk

Are you one of the over 200 members of white-hats.co.uk? Sponsored by First Base Technologies, this vendor-neutral user group provides a knowledge base and a friendly support group for IT security professionals working for UK business and government.

Our web site has had a re-design - take a look at <http://www.white-hats.co.uk/>

Our next quarterly meeting is in London on Friday 5 December 2008. <http://www.white-hats.co.uk/nextmeeting.shtml> will tell you more... Why not come along and meet some of your fellow IT Security professionals? The meeting only costs 150 and membership is free.

Take a look at <http://www.white-hats.co.uk/> or phone Andy on +44 1273 45 45 25

9. Our Bloggers

There are various new articles on our bloggers sites. See what they have to say via: <http://www.firstbase.co.uk/Content/NewsEvents/Blogs.shtml>

10. Subscription Information

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

This newsletter is intended to be published four 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 NEWSLETTER.

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

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