



In this issue:

- 1) Welcome from the Partners
- 2) Infosecurity Europe 2009, Earls Court, 28-30 April
- 3) Peter Wood Causes A Stir...
- 4) Job applicants and social engineering - vetting is our only hope
- 5) white-hats.co.uk
- 6) Something for the weekend
- 7) Our "Bloggers"

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. Infosecurity Europe 2009, Earls Court 28-30 April

It's that time of year again and Infosecurity Europe is looming close on the horizon. First Base Technologies will be there as usual - come see us on Stand N91. Do remember not to go to Olympia though - you might end up in a completely different exhibition! Infosecurity is being held at Earls Court 1 for the first time - as a result, no doubt, of it having outgrown Olympia's Grand Hall. That means it is likely to be bigger and better than ever - and certainly we at First Base Technologies are also looking forward to the greater variety of eateries there<g>

If you want to book your (free) ticket: just click here
<http://www.infosec.co.uk/firstbaseinvitation>

If you want to choose a particular day to go - why not coincide it with Pete's session on Tuesday 28 April at 12:00-12:25 in the Technical Stream:
<http://www.infosec.co.uk/page.cfm/action=Seminars/SeminarID=19>



3. 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 an interview at the Combating Cybercrime conference on Blended Attacks which is now on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7SRLHJyXKs>

4. Job applicants and social engineering - vetting is your only hope!

As you can imagine, there are lots of people wanting to get involved in our line of work, so when we advertise a job we get quite a number of applicants. The selection process can be rather fraught, since we want to ensure that our candidates are talented but not ex-hackers or mischievous individuals - and we get a lot of the latter applying for jobs! This is where vetting is so important. Some of these people perform extremely well at interview, so the only sure way to catch them out is by thorough vetting and CV checks. We use a specialist vetting company, and we were recently reminded why they are so good - and so essential to use - in our line of work.

A recent candidate came across really well at first and second interview, so we got our vetting company on the case. In summary, not only was a lot of the information in the candidate's CV very inaccurate, but previous employers significantly disagreed with the glowing account the applicant had given! This reinforced our view that a professional vetting firm really is worth the money.

We hope this little insight into our hiring procedures will serve as a reminder to ensure your HR people using professional vetting services too. I [Didi] believe that we all need to be even more vigilant about vetting during a recession. Job applicants may be increasingly inclined to be a bit more, shall we say, "inventive" with their CVs than usual - just another form of social engineering, especially when combined with good interview skills.

5. 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 next meeting is on Friday, 15 May. Keep an eye on <http://www.white-hats.co.uk/nextmeeting.shtml> where more will be revealed in the next couple of weeks. Come along and meet some of your fellow IT Security professionals - the meeting costs only £150 and membership of white-hats.co.uk is free.



6. Something for the weekend

If, like us, you find “management speak” a barrier to communication and even a source of amusement, you may like to visit our latest project: [http:// bizspeak.co.uk](http://bizspeak.co.uk)

Please be warned that this site may be better browsed from home rather than the office, depending on your organisation’s acceptable use policy.

The site is still in its early stages, but Didi is building it up when she gets any spare time. Why not send us your ideas and experiences of this type of communication to info@bizspeak.co.uk? We’ll be happy to credit you or keep you anonymous - whichever you prefer!

7. Our Bloggers

Don't forget our bloggers - see what they have to say via:
<http://www.firstbase.co.uk/Content/NewsEvents/Blogs.shtml>