Welcome to the TXDPS Cyber Security Newsletter

One big thing: Password Hygiene is Very Much Worth the Inconvenience

See my password on the back side

What to know: Hackers are well-aware of our propensity to cut corners with passwords for the sake of convenience, and they take full advantage of our underappreciation for proper password hygiene.

Consider the following tips to raise the bar on password security:

- **Steer clear of password reuse.** A critical part of password hygiene is using a unique one for every login account. Yes, *every single one*. If attackers compromise your password on a shopping site, for example, they then have your login credentials for every site where that password was reused. This is especially problematic when employees reuse passwords across personal and corporate accounts.

- **Try passphrases.** The common thought for years was that long, complex and difficult-to-remember passwords -- such as N#JlwB%"+30 -- were the best ones. Turns out, a few words strung together as a passphrase can be even stronger. These phrases are also easier to remember, so users are less likely to write them down. Consider creating passphrases with a mix of uppercase letters, lowercase letters and special characters. BlueElephant$JumpOverTheMoon

- **Use password managers.** Having a unique password or passphrase for every login means a lot of passwords. Unless you have a perfect memory, chances are you need something to help you remember those complex passwords and passphrases. But don't think of writing them down on a sticky note! Instead, a password manager can help. These secure applications store all unique passwords and generate new ones as needed.

- **Use MFA everywhere.** Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) whenever possible. This adds an extra layer of security by requiring additional verification beyond just a password, such as a fingerprint scan, one-time codes sent to your mobile device, or hardware tokens.

Source: https://www.techtarget.com/searchsecurity/tip/Top-5-password-hygiene-tips-and-best-practices

In the News

Ring customers get $5.6 million in privacy breach settlement

(Bill Toulas | April 24, 2024)

The Federal Trade Commission is sending $5.6 million in refunds to Ring users whose private video feeds were accessed without consent by Amazon employees and contractors, or had their accounts and devices hacked because of insufficient security protections.
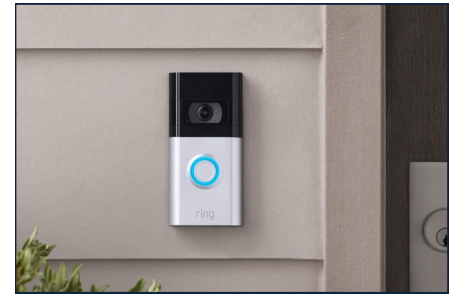
The action is part of a settlement following a complaint from May 2023 alleging that Ring failed to implement adequate security measures to protect the devices from unauthorized access.

Ring is an Amazon subsidiary known its smart home security products, including video doorbells, indoor and outdoor security cameras, central alarm hubs, smart sensors, motion-activated lights, and more.

The devices are connected to the internet and provide users remote access and control through a mobile application.

In the original complaint, FTC alleged that Ring allowed its employees unlimited access to people's Ring devices to help them increase productivity and development pace.

Additionally, Ring also gave high-level access to customer support agents, including hundreds of third-party contractors located in Ukraine and elsewhere, who operated without restrictions to protect customers against abusive access.

Apart from lax policies for internal access, FTC also alleged that Ring failed to implement basic security measures such as multi-factor authentication (MFA) until 2019, which led to easier user account hijacking and access to private video feeds through credential stuffing and brute-forcing attacks.

Full Story: https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/ring-customers-get-56-million-in-privacy-breach-settlement

A Few More Cyber News Stories:

Google ad for Facebook redirects to scam
https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/scams/2024/04/google-ad-for-facebook-redirects-to-scam

Quishing Attacks Jump Tenfold, Attachment Payloads Halve
https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/quishing-attacks-tenfold

Criminal exploits of Scattered Spider earn respect of Russian ransomware hackers
https://www.cbsnews.com/news/scattered-spider-blackcat-hackers-ransomware-team-up-60-minutes

Space Shelter

This Month's Challenge

For this month's challenge, let's see how well you can navigate the web safely.

This is created for all ages…so if it seems a bit too easy for you, see if your kiddos can complete it.

Let me know how you do by sending me a screenshot of the trophy at the end. Have fun!

https://spaceshelter.withgoogle.com