

Security Snippets — February 2014

A monthly compendium of info security news



Hot Attacks

*In the spirit of Valentine's Day, ISPO must confess that we love you. The first time we exchanged messages, we fell head over heels. We never expected it and we dream you feel the same. Our heart will simply burst if we don't meet in person. Our budget's just a little tight right now, but mere money can't keep true love apart. Just wire ISPO \$4,200 and we'll be in your arms as soon as we can fly out of Sky Harbor. And to keep ISPO warm until we can be together, text us your picture too. ISPO yearns to see **all** of you.*

Yes, people really fall prey to romance scams, such as a [San Jose woman who was duped out of \\$500k](#). No matter how flowery the promises or how tragic the story, never wire money to somebody you meet online. And be careful with those pics too. Learn about [internet scams](#).

Cybercrime / Hacking

Are you getting tired of hearing about the Target hack? ISPO is. But revelations continue to trickle out. Apparently [Target's HVAC contractor was compromised through a phishing email](#) that allowed the bad guys to get account credentials that let them log into Target's network.

Home / Personal Issues

File your taxes as soon as possible. Bad guys with your social security number are using fake information, creating fake W-2 forms, and filing tax returns in your name to get your refund. The [IRS is working to prevent refund fraud](#), but recommends filing before a bad guy does.

Politics / Legislation

On February 13, the Obama administration released a cybersecurity framework for businesses to strengthen their networks against cyber attacks. The framework was developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology with input from industry. It's voluntary now, but some security folks think that in a couple of years, those who don't comply with it will be fined in the event of a breach. They compare it to the [PCI Data Security Standard](#), which was also voluntary when it first came out.

Privacy / ID Theft

Sens. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Ed Markey (D-MA) have introduced [The Data Broker Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014](#) (DATA Act) that would require data brokers to be transparent about their data collection practices and provide consumers with opt-outs. Markey said, "The data broker industry has for too long operated in the shadows, compiling dossiers on millions of Americans." [Learn more about data brokers](#) and what they know about you.

Best Practices / Risk Mgmt

If you're broadcasting a national TV segment on Super Bowl security, you shouldn't [air the Super Bowl Wi-Fi password for the security team](#). Um, and why was it written on a white board in the first place?

Quote of the Month

Love is like a virus. It can happen to anybody at any time.
— Maya Angelou

Bonus!

ISPO posted the presentation from January's Data Privacy Day Lunch & Learn on our website. (Scroll down and look in the New Content section.) We had a great turnout (thanks!!). PIO videotaped the presentation and will broadcast it on PHX11.

Questions & Feedback

Thanks to all who took last month's [privacy quiz](#). We have some great, privacy-aware employees!

Security Snippets is brought to you by Information Technology Services' Information Security & Privacy office and your department. Its purpose is to help you learn more about information security and privacy so you can better protect yourself and your family, as well as the City of Phoenix and our citizens.

Contact us at ispo@phoenix.gov with any questions and to provide feedback.

Learn more at phoenix.gov/infosec.

Want more security-related info? ISPO distributes a report every weekday of current news collected by Department of Homeland Security (and ISPO adds the occasional snarky comment). Just send an email to ispo@phoenix.gov and ask to be added to the DHS report distribution list.
