Security

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Agenda

- What are the threats
- How does this affect me
- How can I protect myself
- I am still using XP
    - Should I be worried

What are the threats

- Identity Theft
  - Data stolen from sites you register with
  - Data stolen from rubbish
  - Phishing and Spear Phishing
- Malware – what it can do
  - Encrypt your data and demand a ransom
  - Steal your bank/credit card details
  - Use your computer to attack others
  - Break your computer

What can I do – Identity theft

- Be wary of how much information you provide on social sites
  - you can use fake identities
- Limit exposure by using different login names and passwords on each site
  - Be careful about security questions
- Shred all documents that contain personal information

Identity Theft – Email/Contacts

- Think of email as a postcard
  - Anyone can read it
  - Anyone can see your addressees
- It might pass through many computers on its way to the destination
- If you use Gmail then Google read every email and target adverts based on the content
  - This could be exploited

Web Sites

- Some site content can use vulnerabilities in code that is triggered to run
    - Acrobat – PDF
    - Acrobat – Flash (etc)
    - Java
- Downloads may not be what they purport to be
    - Embedded malware

Email

- Beware of links – they may not go to where you think they do

- Do not download ANYTHING via links unless you are CERTAIN you know they are genuine

- Look out for Phishing emails inviting you to give information

- Look out particularly for Spear Phishing

What can I do to protect myself

- First line of defence is YOU
- Make sure your AV is from a reputable vendor
- Make sure it updates regularly
- Use the Windows Firewall
  - XP firewall is better than nothing
  - Vista onwards is good enough

Protection continued

- Apply all security patches to the OS regularly
- Apply all security updates and especially to
  - Adobe Acrobat
  - Adobe Flash
  - Oracle Java – check version!
    - Note that all of these have improved dramatically in the past 12 months
- If you are still on XP be especially careful

I am using XP – should I panic?

- Microsoft are not producing any further patches after April
  - But are continuing their Defender updates for another 12 months (but other AV vendors are)
- Other vendors will continue to support their products for the time being
- XP will continue to work but will become increasingly vulnerable over time

XP Options

- Ignore lack of support and continue to use it
  - Small but increasing risk of attack
  - Ensure good AV installed and it is up to date
  - Be vigilant
- Do not use the Internet
- Replace computer with a new one
  - Windows 9 is rumoured to be on the horizon
    - (but after April)
    - This version might actually work as we want it to
- Replace Windows with Linux