DA Data-Link Associates, Inc.   **September 2023**

DataGrams

WHAT'S NEW?

Angela Birchfield is now
Angela Jamerson!
Congratulations on your marriage!

THREATLOCKER
CYBERSECURITY

ThreatLocker only allows applications that are approved by an IT administrator to run on a device. Our Managed clients are loving it!

WHAT'S INSIDE:

LEAD 2.5 WORD PROCESSOR

• Manual control fine or large print
• Delete with a flick of the wrist
• Polished wooden cabinet
• Unlimited memory capacity dependant upon user aptitude

Happy Work-Anniversary to our VP, Andy Frielink, 39 years! DataGrams' first issue was published in September, 1997.

Back-To-School Cyber Tips For College-Bound Students (& parents, too!)

Oh, the thrilling experience of heading off college!

It's a highly emotional, endlessly distracting time for students and parents alike.

In the coming weeks, we realize that taking proper precautions to identify phishing emails and scam calls will take a backseat to the hectic pace of registration, securing books and lodging, orientation, etc. and scammers are counting on this. They love distracted people. Scammer and hacker groups are typically run by conniving geniuses who will stop at nothing in attempt to trick an unsuspecting or unknowledgeable student (or their parents!).

Watch For Typical Beginning-Of-The-Year Scams

• Emails containing "a problem with your registration".
• Scholarship, tuition payment processors, textbook rental/purchase.
• Calls from campus tech support, Microsoft or Apple
• Calls from the IRS demanding "federal student tax" payment
• Fake friend requests on social media
• Fake Box or Google Doc notices

How To Stay Safe

• Always think twice. Call the sender if you're unsure.
• Don't give out personal info over the phone, email or text
• Protect passwords. Don't "save" them on a device for next login
• Use MFA when possible and never give out the code

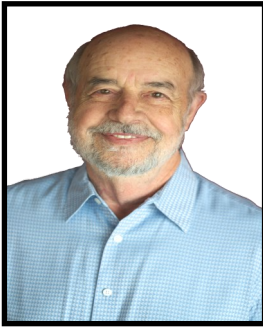Lists courtesy of the Information Security Office at the University of California, Berkeley.

This monthly publication provided courtesy of Richard Frielink, Founder & President of Data-Link Associates

Our Mission

To provide IT solutions and services that allow our clients to succeed in an ever changing and challenging business environment.

Coming up in the next issue:

◆ FBI Warns About Fake Crypto Recovery Scams
◆ Engagement: The Difference Between Pity, Sympathy, Empathy And Compassion

Are you new here?

Schedule a <u>complimentary</u>

10-Minute Discovery Call to tell us about your IT trouble!

Datalinkmsp.com/discoverycall

SMART TECH

Logitech MX Master 3S

Voted "Best Ergonomic Mouse" in a recent test of 290 mice at rtings.com.

Scored 9.0 for Work, 7.4 for Gaming, 7.8 Raw Performance.

Most comfortable for medium and larger hands.

Coolest part? The HORIZONTAL scroll wheel near the thumb rest.

Only offered right-handed.

MSRP: $99.00

Looking for a lefty option?
Check out Logitech's Lift Vertical Ergonomic Mouse

OOPS
The Typo Heard 'Round The World

The government of Mali – a Russian ally in Africa, uses the top-level domain ".ML" for email addresses. The U.S. military uses ".MIL" (What could go wrong?)

A simple, single-letter typo has caused perhaps as many as several million email messages sent by members of the US Military to be inappropriately delivered to the African country of Mali—who happens to be an ally of Russia.

There are at least three major lessons that can be learned from this incident:

◆ Don't assume that because security technology is available to address a particular danger, and an organization utilizes such technology, that the organization is actually secure from that particular danger— The technology to prevent errors of the "ML" vs "MIL" has been around for many years. In this case, it's possible the emails were sent from a device that was not properly directed via VPN to pass through the necessary Data Loss Prevention (DLP) systems to catch the error.

◆ Classified data must remain offline— Classified data cannot legally be transmitted using regular email and should NOT be stored for any duration of time on systems connected to the internet.

◆ If your security system relies on people not making mistakes, you are going to ultimately experience a cyber security nightmare.

Implications of Human Identity Chips

In 1998, Kevin Warwick, a professor in London, was the first human to have a chip implanted under his skin and a computer monitoring him. The implant communicated via radio waves with a network of antennas throughout the Department of Cybernatics at the University of Reading. Doors would 'magically' open for him, lights would turn on, and a voicebox operated by a computer at the entrance said "hello". The implant was removed 9 days later. Not only did the trial succeed, it demonstrated how the principals behind cybernetics could perform real-life applications.

In 2019, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded MIT to develop an invisible microneedle patch to store medical information under the skin with a dye.

In 2021, A Covid-19 vaccine passport in the form of a subcutaneous microchip was developed and tested.

RFID microchip implants may be the wave of the future. Popular uses for microchips have been:

- Address book
- Cryptocurrency wallet
- Keycard
- Medical history/records
- Medical ID tag
- Payment cards
- Travel cards

The potential misuse of these devices is paramount.

Privacy advocates raised some warning that adoption by governments as a compulsory identification program could lead to the erosion of civil liberties.

Identity theft and fraud is possible if these devices are hacked.

Currently known uses are at Epicenter in Stockholm, Sweden for employees to operate security doors, copiers and pay for lunch. The Baja Beach Club in the Netherlands once used VeriChip implants to ID VIP guests.

The Pencil Eraser
A Back-To-School Cocktail for PARENTS

- 1 lemon cut into 8 wedges
- 3 strawberries, hulled and quartered lengthwise
- 4 ounces simple syrup
- 6 ounces vodka
- 1 ounce cranberry juice
- 3 chilled martini glasses
- Shaker
- Ice

In the shaker, muddle lemon, strawberries, and simple syrup. Add ice, vodka and cranberry juice. Shake well and strain into chilled martini glasses. Garnish with strawberry and serve.

Video Gaming As a Solution For World Problems

Problem #1: Unmanaged stress is an epidemic. Positive gaming can relieve stress and improve mental health.

Problem #2: Mental health requires regularly scheduled time to immerse into an activity. Therapists have successfully integrated gaming into appropriate therapies.

Problem #3: Persistence has eluded some from our upcoming generations. Going for a 30th try on Level 19 is an exercise in perseverance.

Maybe it time to let the kids earn some extra screen time when positive gaming is involved.
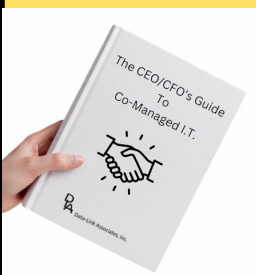
Ransomware climbed a staggering 101.84% from August 2022 to May 2023. A steady uptick began in late 2022 and became much more prominent in Q1 with a 36% increase YoY and a 65% increase compared to Q1 2021. The trend didn't stop there, Q2 2023 had the highest number of recorded victims on record.
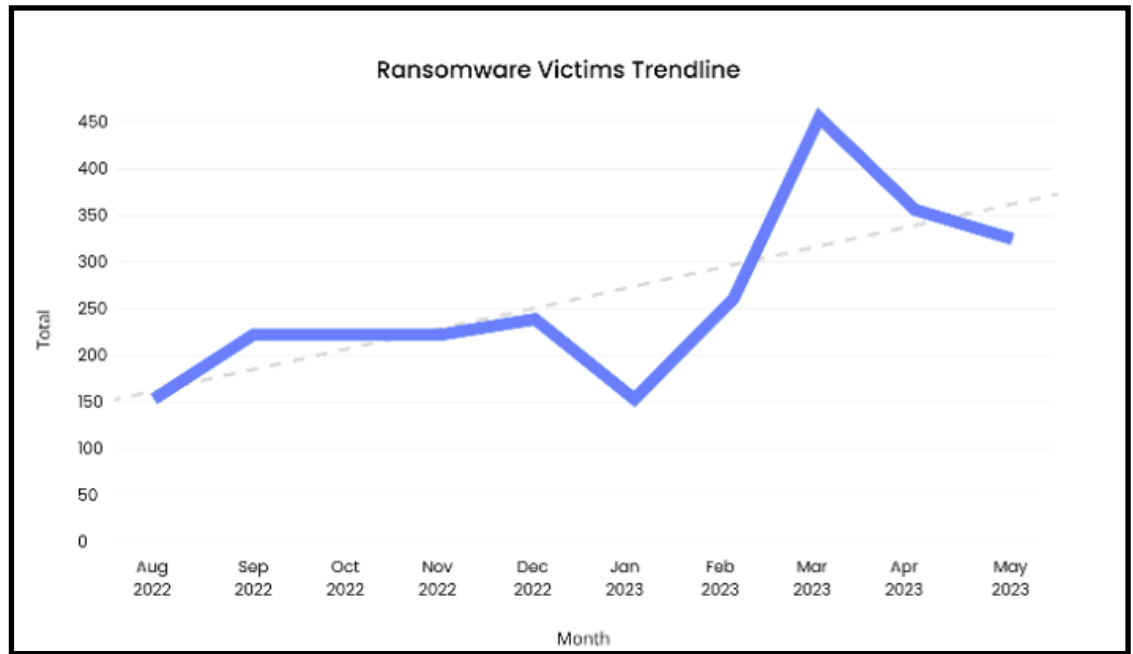
Ransomware Victims Trendline

SOLVE FOR '?'

🍔 + 🍔 + 🥧 = 26

🥧 − 🍇 − 🍔 = 12

🥧 − 🍔 + 🍇 = 22

🍇 + 🥧 + 🍔 = ?

Scan for answer

Hints: An icon's value can be greater than 10. There are no negative values.

Meet Us On Socials!

for trusted daily cyber news and happenings in your feed