

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a two week break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have never taken a hiatus longer than a week • Need to brain storm new features • Need to get cracking on next round of interviews • Will return July 16th with a new feature • Wall-E review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stross' Atrocity Archives has closing essay that mentions, among others things, hacker as the trickster • Other reviews make this out as an eco film • It surely is • Protagonist hacks himself, goes beyond programming • Wreaks change, in this case for the good, in his wake • Very sweet story with many layers to contemplate
04:56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Alerts
05:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OS X trojan spotted in the wild <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://go.theregister.com/feed/www.theregister.co.uk/2008/06/23/mac_trojan/ • Follows on vulnerabilities in Apple Remote Desktop Agent • Truly a trojan, have to accept a file from a transfer of some kind • Authors trying to push malware via iChat file transfers and Limewire P2P network • Multiple variants already in distribution • Comes as a compiled AppleScript or an application bundle, not entirely stealthy • Does allow rooting of an affected box, so access by the attacker to all system resources • Researchers identify it accesses key strokes, iSight among other things • More on OS X trojans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://rss.slashdot.org/~r/slashdot/eqWf/~3/319514677/article.pl • The Register article seems to be identifying a new, different trojan • The one others are discussing is embedded in a poker game • All depend on exploiting a flaw that allows local privilege escalation in ARDAgent • Protecting against OS X trojans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://db.tidbits.com/article/9665 • Article has some more detail • Basically, instructions are to remove back up and remove the buggy software

Offset

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- If you do not use Apple Remote Desktop, this seems like an acceptable step
- Security recommendations for OS X inspired by recent malware
 - <http://blogs.zdnet.com/security/?p=1325>
 - Reflects that the tipping point for OS X malware may be coming
 - Still thinks it will be driven by market share
 - Thinks Snow Leopard, 10.6, is a good opportunity
 - Itemizes five improvements he'd like to see
 - Seem reasonable and agree, next release after may be too late

12:10

• News

12:25

- Last components of Java to be freed this year
 - <http://rss.slashdot.org/~r/slashdot/eqWf/~3/317973020/article.pl>
 - Good snapshot piece on the state of opening Java
 - Sun announced two years ago
 - RedHat started IcedTea a year ago
 - IcedTea just recently passed the Java Technology Compatibility Kit
 - Means it is functionally equivalent of Java 6.0 Standard Edition
 - Some critical of the JCK
 - Previously used as a very high bar to lucrative licensing of closed Java
 - Anecdotes of Sun changing JCK to match current bugs in their own code
 - Regardless, only functional proof of meeting the JLS
 - Last hold outs not surprisingly multimedia components
 - Finally got third party graphics opened
 - Sun is re-writing the last bit, audio, from scratch
 - I won't argue with Java's critics
 - Professionally, I use a small fraction of what is available
 - My huge investment in time, experience means I find it easy to use
 - I am not the best judge of its complexity
 - Have to bear in mind that these arguments are about the language and the libraries
 - Not foolish enough to suggest language without core libraries is worth considering
- Strong thoughts on whether open Java is relevant
 - <http://rss.slashdot.org/~r/slashdot/eqWf/~3/320656522/article.pl>
 - Commentary by Neil McAllister on Fatal Exception
 - Not as strong as the slashdot poster makes out
 - Generally sees opening Java as a good thing
 - Admits it has a strong following, questions whether it will be able to grow it
 - Objects to complexity

Offset

Topic

19:21

- Sees Sun's adding of new features in response to market as just making things worse
- Thinks newer tools do almost as much, more simply
- I think the opportunity is to re-tool library management
- Core language stacks up well against C/C++
- Outside of the static v. dynamic debate, also against newer languages
- Library bloat has been a huge problem
- Had "standard extensions" which were not required
- That fell away as these became incubators that got folded into core
- Has always need something like gem or CPAN
- Will be interesting to see if something like that develops, especially at RedHat
- Future of JavaScript
 - http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/06/23/eich-javascript-interview_1.html
 - Interview by InfoWorld with Brian Elch
 - Creator of JavaScript at Netscape
 - CTO of Mozilla
 - Actually spend a good amount of time discussing history on the language
 - Explains some of the reasons of why it is the way it is
 - Entertains comparisons to other scripting languages
 - Pushes point about being the same language in all browsers
 - Admits to the frustrations with some of the browser libraries, like DOM
 - Clarifies relation to ECMA-262 or ECMAScript
 - Future features include modules, some form of typing
 - More flexible typing than Java but sounds like optional static or strong types
 - Does sound like a reasonable compromise
 - Drivers are what I expect, contracts between applications, modules
 - Explains what ScreamingMonkey is, heard mentioned before
 - Uses IE's own extension point for scripting languages
 - What MS used to add VBScript and ActiveState Python, Perl
 - Contracted an ActiveState developer to write glue code for Adobe ECMAScript engine, Tamarin, bundled with Flash
 - Could allow existing IE versions to support JavaScript2 without an update from MS
 - Could also help if Apple doesn't adopt for future versions of Safari
 - Also mentions a 2 to 1 translator, similar to HotRuby that I've discussed

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- With the popularity of dynamic web applications, having a more flexible upgrade path would be good
- Flash is not a bad choice, given it is as ubiquitous as browsers themselves
- Worried about efficiency of implementation, see old piece about Flash not being very green
- Could pressure Microsoft, Apple to adopt JS2, though, just be wide spread use
- Kind of nice to see Mozilla add features despite MS, but backed with real standards
- ICANN considering de-regulating top level domains
 - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7468855.stm>
 - Instead of country codes plus com, net, org would be open
 - Vague criteria, though
 - Individuals or businesses as long as they have a business plan, technical capacity
 - Does that mean it would still be restricted to registrars?
 - That would be a business plan to resell names in a TLD
 - ICANN would reserve right to reject domains, still, based on morality or public order
 - Would still arbitrate in case of conflict
 - Article mentions an auction to the highest bidder if arbitration fails
 - Agree it is past time to expand TLDs
 - Throwing it wide open seems unwise
 - Cannot easily reverse it if it does fail
 - Would you grandfather in open ended names or shut them down?
 - Will make trademark and name recognition a nightmare
 - Already difficult enough, with domain squatters and trademark disputes
 - Auction after arbitration favors businesses with deep pockets
 - Small players will have hard time protecting name
 - Big players can wait and see then outbid anyone stealing their domain
 - Comment mentions increased risk of fraud
 - Beyond just name recognition, a field day for phishers, fraudsters
 - When TLD could be off by one letter, and rest of domain matches, makes spotting much more difficult
 - With internationalization of domains, could be even worse with similar but distinct characters
 - Otherwise, internationalization on its own is well overdue
- Problems with building kill switches into everything
 - http://feeds.wired.com/~r/wired/topheadlines/~3/320251669/securitymatters_0626
 - Explains it as an extension of DRM

30:58

Offset

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- Setting up a hierarchy of authority amongst devices
- Most extreme theoretical example is Microsoft's Digital Manners Policies
- Despite challenges of effective implementation, substantial risks
- Potential for abuse and how to resolve the core right a user should have to override
- Hacking such devices so a burglar can effect an electronic invisibility cloak
- Introducing serious inequities, such as law enforcement having super-privileged devices
- Hope lies in how poorly DRM has worked to date
- However, incentive is huge
- Not about loud talkers at cinemas or preventing medial device interference
- At first seems to overlap with my panel with Vernor Vinge
- External security risks are a stalking horse, though
- Location aware being used to foil camcorder pirates
- Device to device control like HDCP writ large
- Keeps open ended innovation from outrunning established businesses
- Want to squeeze every last bit of value by making you pay for privileges you'd have otherwise
- How do you fight this?
- Buy devices that use open source
- Support companies like Neuros, dedicated to open media stacks

35:38

• `tail -f`

35:57

- Several senators step up to oppose FISA Amendments Act
 - <http://feeds.arstechnica.com/~r/arstechnica/BAaf/~3/319802453/20080625-dodd-feingold-plan-hail-mary-anti-telco-immunity-filibuster.html>
 - Dems Dodd, Feingold step up willing to filibuster
 - Dodd's filibuster killed an earlier version of the bill
 - A couple of others have come out to oppose, Wyden and Boxer
 - Feingold is not optimistic
 - Earlier bill passed giving the executive more power
 - Dems who voted for house bill received almost 2X money from telco lobbyists as those that opposed
 - Maplight reveals quite a bit more industry money going to key actors supporting
 - Article cites grass roots opposition as key, take action
 - Senate delays vote on immunity
 - <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2008/06/senate-delays-vote-immunity>
 - Delayed until after the July 4th recess

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- Key opportunity to keep the pressure on afterwards and kill the bill
- If you have not already, call your senators, express your opposition
- Support amendments to FISA act during the recess
 - <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2008/06/bingaman-amendment>
 - Senate will consider three possible amendments upon July 8th return
 - One would strip immunity
 - Another would courts to deny immunity
 - Third would delay the issue until court cases have finished
 - EFF supports the third amendment
 - Would allow issue to be considered fully
 - May be passable as it is simply a delay, not an outright reversal
 - Seem optimistic that consideration of Inspector General's findings could sway opinion
 - May be mild enough to catch Obama's support, so clearly EFF, other civil liberties' groups stance here is political
 - Should still press senators for no vote but suggest they consider the Bingaman amendment

39:40

• Outro

- Contact me
 - Email to feedback@thecommandline.net
 - Web site at <http://thecommandline.net/>
 - IM to command.line@skype
 - Listener comment line is 240-949-2638
 - del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"
 - <http://twitter.com/cmdln>
- I'd like to thank libsyn.com for AAC hosting and Wouter de Bie for MP3 hosting
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