

MESSAGE FROM THE UK CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

Our next event will be on March 10th, entitled "Through the Barricades". We are starting with a members-only AGM and welcome Rob Carolina, Will Matthews and Ken Munro as speakers for the main session.

Rob, a director/solicitor at Origin Ltd whom I'm sure many of you know, will present legal aspects of data protection, that as security professionals we absolutely must keep up to date with. Will, from Palo Alto Networks, brings next generation, application aware firewalls to the table and Ken, an ISSA-UK member has taken the subject most literally and will show us how to get through barricades!

If you haven't already signed up, please do so - <http://issauk10march.eventbrite.com> and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

These last couple of months we have been busy planning the year ahead - 9 events have been firmed up, with focus on member interaction and education. Feedback, as always is important and we want to hear what ISSA-UK members have been up to (see member speaking opportunities below).

If you fancy taking a stab at research, or get your white paper published, then please get involved - the door is open and ISSA-UK are in a unique position to get your words out far and wide.

Tim Holman
ISSA-UK President



IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

1. UK CHAPTER MEETINGS IN 2011:

Our next Chapter Meeting will be in March and our scheduled dates for 2011 are as follows. Please do place in your diaries and look out for further information.

Chapter Meeting & AGM	10th of March, 2011
Security Training Day - Bletchley Park	12th of May, 2011
Edinburgh Regional Meeting	17th May 2011
Chapter Meeting	9th June, 2011
Security Training Day - HMS President	14th July, 2011
Chapter Meeting	8th September, 2011
Glasgow Regional Meeting	1st November, 2011
Chapter Meeting	8th December, 2011

You may register these in advance and add them to your calendar via the following link:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/org/379120395?s=3292759>

2. ISSA-UK/EMEA PROMOTED "SECURITY DAYS"

(either run by ISSA UK or in cooperation with associates & affiliates)
(6 CPEs - no admittance charge for ISSA members)

Check <http://www.issa-uk.org> for upcoming Security Days





3. NEWS

Ken Munro from Pentest Partners talks about RFID security:

Door access controls are a great way to make physical security easier. You swipe or wave your access card against a reader, and the gate opens.

All the security guard has to do is make sure that no-one is jumping over or tailgating through the barriers.

When we're out social engineering a building, it's a whole lot more challenging if gates are in place. We actually have to bluff our way through, rather than just wandering in! Wouldn't it be so much easier if we could get in through the gates without having to spend time researching the business and the people that work for it?

We've been looking at the security of RFID for a long time. We had a fair stab at it a number of years ago, but didn't get that far. There are enough academics and postgrad researchers out there, with access to electron microscopes and decent oscilloscopes, to make our efforts a bit pointless.

So imagine our pleasure when we came across the RFID cloning project (read and emulate) at <http://proxmark3.com/> All you need to clone various vendors RFID door passes, in a format little bigger than a fag packet. An aerial the size of a card is all you need, with a cable hooked up to the cloning device.

Get close to your victim, the device will excite their card and you capture the signal. A quick analysis of the signal and an extraction of a few key values and you can now replay via the reader to your aerial. The gate opens.

Sound too good to be true? We did too. So we tried it. A friendly client let us clone the facilities manager's card. We promptly took said client in to parts of the building that even he couldn't get in to.

The documentation suggests 'that the device can do almost anything involving almost any kind of low (125 kHz) or high (13.56 MHz) frequency RFID tag'. We have had much success with cloning HID based systems (fortunately the most popular!), but other systems require some tweaking and even hardcore development.

So, no longer is it enough for a security guard to simply ensure that everyone correctly authenticates to the access gates. Anyone could be wandering through them now.

Thoughts? Strong encryption is the solution, but it's very hard to upgrade these access technologies to more secure versions. Most require the systems to be completely replaced. Expensive!

I would have thought that it should be possible to monitor use though. For example, if a card is used at the same gate on the way in twice, without the same card being used to exit in the meantime, there's likely to be a problem. Hard to police though; maybe it's time to ask security guards to start checking all cards again.

By the way, the cloning gear looks like it works on ski passes too.

Ken is planning to demo this at the ISSA event at PWC on the 10th March in London. Bring along your access cards if you want to have a go!

4. PARTNER WHITE PAPERS

Next-Generation Firewalls for Dummies - Palo Alto Networks

Exclusive for ISSA members. This book provides an in-depth overview of next-generation firewalls. It examines the evolution of network security, the rise of Enterprise 2.0 applications



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and their associated threats, the shortcomings of traditional firewalls, and the advanced capabilities found in next-generation firewalls.

<http://www.paloaltonetworks.com/literature/forms/ebook/index.php>

5. LOST IN TRANSLATION - PWC

Exploring the roots of miscommunication: strategies to ensure Information Security is on your Board's agenda and embedding Information Security into business as usual.

http://www.pwc.co.uk/eng/publications/lost_in_translation.html

6. ISSA-UK & 'MEDIA PARTNER / ASSOCIATE' - CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

<http://www.issa-uk.org/events.htm>

In all cases please contact administration@issa-uk.org to obtain discount codes

MARCH:

Nominet Trust have funded Cardiff University to conduct the eCrime Reduction Partnership Mapping Study. The study has cross-party support and is championed by the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP.

As part of the study we need members of the Information Assurance community and others involved in reducing the eCrime problem, both public and private, to complete this online survey:

<https://www.surveys.cardiff.ac.uk/ecrimesurvey>

Please try and confine responses to one per organisation.

APRIL:

Infosecurity Europe is the No. 1 industry event in Europe held on 19th-21st April 2011 at Earl's Court, London. The event provides an unrivalled free education programme, exhibitors showcasing new and emerging technologies and offering practical and professional expertise.

To register to visit or for further information please visit <http://www.infosec.co.uk/issa>

7. REQUESTS FOR HELP

We are looking for a Director of Sponsorship, Director of Events and general helpers to assist with the day-to-day running of the Chapter. This is your association and your opportunity to get involved.

Member Speaking Opportunities

We are looking to get ISSA-UK Members more involved with your events. If you have a 15-20 minute presentation on a topical subject that you feel would be of educational benefit to our other members, then please get in touch.

Research

We are looking to setup further sub-committees this year to take on specific research activities. ISSA 5173 (the security standard for SMEs) has been a roaring success and we welcome ideas for new research or white papers that would be of benefit to the community.

8. ISSA CONNECT

We have a thriving discussion board on ISSA Connect, covering anything from career advice through to industry hot topics, such as Cloud Computing and PCI DSS. All event presentation content is now only available on the 'ISSA UK Chapter' forum, so please register at <http://connect.issa.org> if you are interested in seeing it.