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Sec-U-R-IT-y Tips | Security of Credit Card Transactions

The use of credit cards to pay for goods and services is a common practice around the world. It enables business to be transacted in a convenient and cost-effective manner. However, more than 100 million personally-identifiable, customer records have been breached in the US over the past two years. For more information on how the credit card industry has responded to security issues and steps you can take to protect your information, go to <http://www.security.arizona.edu/files/may2009securitytip.pdf>.

Alert #1 | Adobe Reader Plagued With Critical Vulnerability

A critical vulnerability in several versions of Adobe Reader and Acrobat, common applications used to view PDFs, could allow remote hackers to execute malicious code, the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) warned Tuesday. If exploited, the flaw could allow remote attackers to launch a denial of service attack, crash an application, or take control of a system in order to view accounts and steal information. Additional details are available at <http://www.crn.com/security/217200547;jsessionid=A3IZ5TXNN15OSQSNLDLOSKHSCJUNN2JVN>.

There is currently no update to mitigate this vulnerability. However, there is a “work-around” that will disable Javascript, thus decreasing the risk of an attack. For information on how to disable Javascript, go to http://blogs.adobe.com/psirt/2009/04/update_on_adobe_reader_issue.html.

Alert #2 | Spammers Take Advantage of Swine Flu Fear

Predictably enough, security analysts have started to see spam taking advantage of concerns around the current Swine Flu outbreak. Just another day in the office for spammers. Crawling news sites for suitable stories to use in campaigns is commonplace and very easy to automate. To read more, go to <http://www.sophos.com/blogs/sophoslabs/v/post/4245>.

Resources | Stay Current on the Latest Security Alerts

The UA InfoSec website links two news feeds provided by US-CERT. The first, for end users, is on the Security Basics page, <http://security.arizona.edu/basics>. The news feed for technical cyber security alerts is available on our main page, <http://security.arizona.edu>.

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