Tech Talk

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Google Passkey Starting May, 2023

Starting May 3, 2023, Google reports they will integrate passkey support for Google Accounts; you'll be able to create a passkey to simplify the way you sign-in. What this means to us is that instead of two-step verification and passwords, you'd just use your fingerprint, face, or screen lock on your iOS device. It's really easy to set up too! All you do is head to Google's sign-in options page, navigate to 'passkeys' and click 'create a passkey'; you need to do this by December 1st though. Once you're done, your built-in iPhone security key is automatically removed from your account and a passkey is now used.

So what is a passkey? How is a passkey any different from a password? Well, a passkey is a new kind of login credential that makes passwords pointless. Instead of characters compromising a password, passkeys utilize biometric features, such as fingerprints or facial recognition, to authenticate the identity of the user. They are a lot more secure than passwords too. Passwords are usually not created to be strong enough, are easily guessed, and folks can have a bad habit of writing them down on a post-it note (that then gets posted under a keyboard or on the actual computer monitor). Passkeys don't require the end-user to remember anything or create crazy complex passwords, and since biometric features are inherently unique, it makes passkeys drastically more secure. If you want more in-depth information, check out TechTarget's article, 'Passkey vs password: what is the difference?'.

Top Social Engineering Tactics to Watch Out For

1. SMS 'Emergency' Text Scams
2. Fake Data Leaks
3. Spoofed-Identity Phone Calls
4. Your 'bank' asking to verify charges
5. 'Amazon' or 'eBay' order verifications
6. Deepfake Phishing

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Ask Amy:
The Dangers of IoT Devices

What is an IoT Device? Why does it matter?

IoT devices are common household items that can connect to the internet. Some examples include a smart fridge, smart speakers, smart TVs, Alexa's and Google Homes, etc. IoT devices can be used as listening devices or back doors to your network.

IoT Devices are Rarely Updated

As security holes are discovered, IoT devices are rarely patched or updated. This is because the software developer and manufacturer do not develop or release security updates once the item leaves the warehouse, leaving you at risk.

IoT Devices Silently Listen

Even when off or in silent mode, IoT devices can still listen in and send your conversations to an unauthorized party. Never have IoT devices in confidential areas, such as a nurse station at a hospital where patient data may be discussed.

IoT Devices are targeted back doors

Smart TVs are a great example of how easy an attacker can gain access to your secured network through an insecure device. The attacker gains access to the TV due to an inherent lack of security, and can then move laterally to access your router and workstations.

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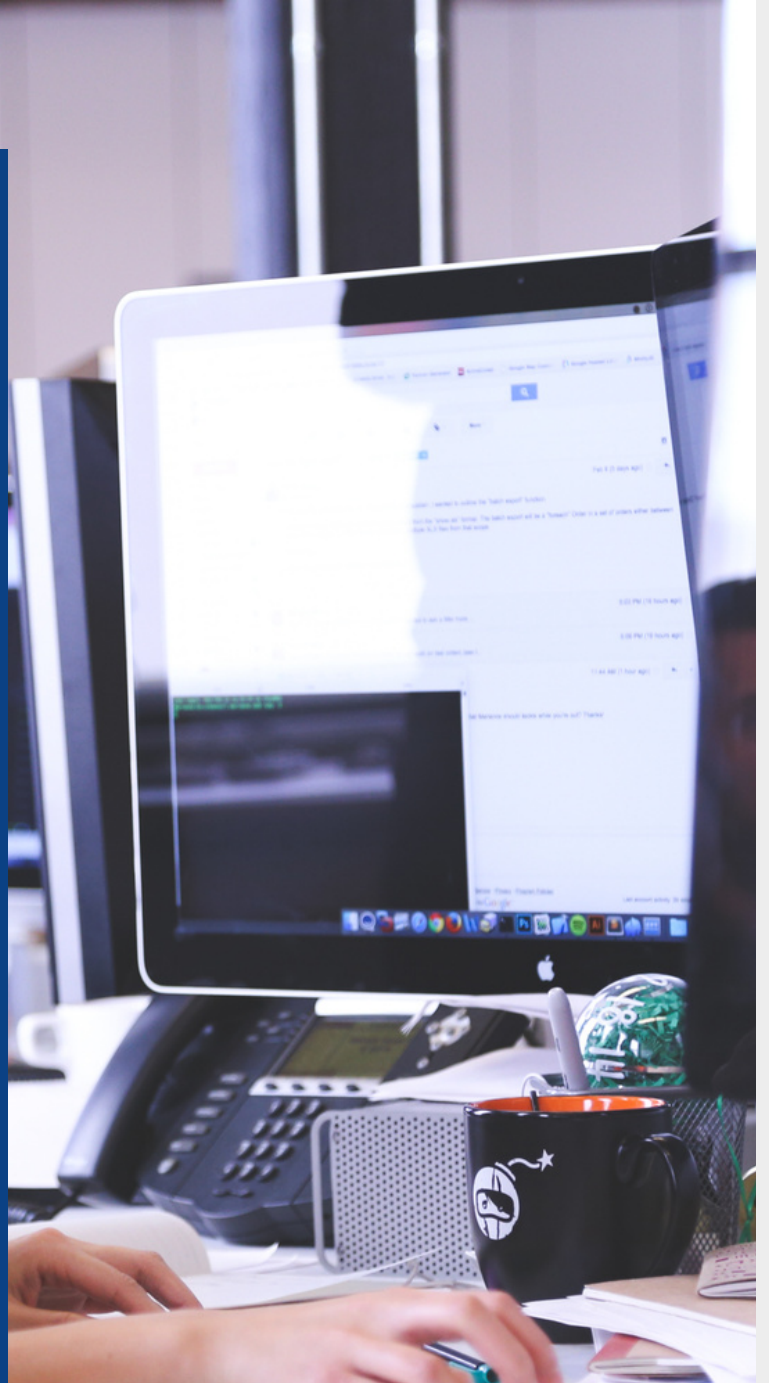
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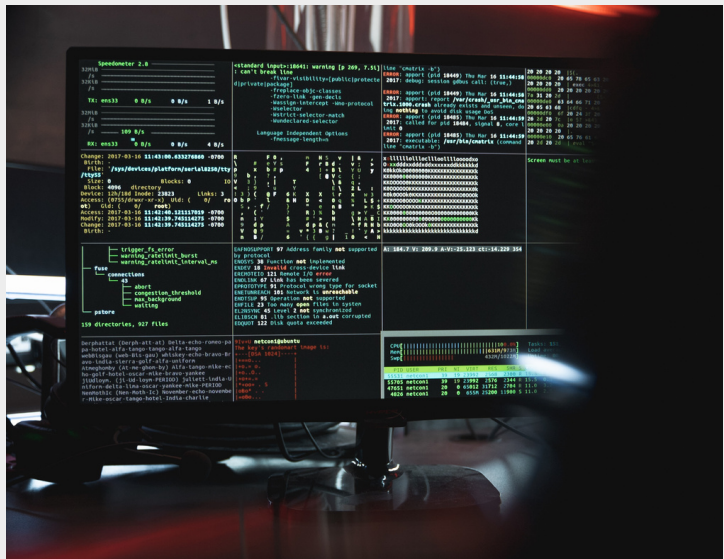
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