



HACK LIFE

Risk Factory's Monthly Information Security Awareness Bulletin

STORY OF THE MONTH: YOU'VE GOT TO PICK A POCKET OR TWO

Those folks over at Manlo Park, California have been at it again. This time Facebook appears to have taken on the role of a kind of **digital Fagin**, paying \$20 to kids as young as 13 to allow an incredibly intrusive app to 'pick the pockets' of their digital world out of their phones. Literally, if it's on your phone this app can access it and then pass the data back to Facebook. But surely Facebook wouldn't make a financial transaction in exchange for personal data - to a child - without strict parental consent I hear you ask. **Yep, they really would.** They say that under 18's required parental consent but the reality was just a digital box that needed to be ticked, no verification whatsoever. So how did the likes of Apple allow this? **Well, they didn't.** In fact, the app had been banned from the official app store due to breaking privacy laws but FB don't worry about no petty laws, oh no, they just *side-stepped* them using a developer program issued by Apple that is intended for developers to distribute apps internally, **NOT** externally! The good news is once this all came to light Facebook were completely honest and open about it all. Well, that *would* be good news if it were true but it's **not**. Instead they said 'they had closed the project due to criticism' when in fact Apple withdrew the certificate due to their breach of privacy laws, meaning in reality they had no choice in the matter.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you hear about that massive trove of compromised pairs of emails / passwords found on the dark web by Troy Hunt last month? Well, originally the figure was **only** $\frac{3}{4}$ of a billion. At the time of writing that figure is now 2.2 billion. The first tranche being called Collection #1 was always a clue of more to come and sure enough, this latest batch is called Collection #2-5.



RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

So, you've just read the story above in horror and you're probably wondering if one or more of your email accounts has been breached. Well, you can find out; we mentioned Troy Hunt earlier, he is very well respected cyber security researcher and has created a site called haveibeenpwned.com, it's essentially an online database of compromised email accounts. Well worth a visit, although you should be aware, if your email isn't on there it's not a cast iron guarantee that it's not been hacked.

MONTHLY QUIZ

Monday 28th January had a special connotation with the world of information security. What is it? Email us your answer and our winner will be chosen randomly from correct answers and will win a HACK LIFE t-shirt! info@eriskology.com

