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**Fred Holzsager,
IT Director
Holzsager Technology Services
and
Publisher of
*The Tech Insighter***

Inside This Issue

Snapple Real Fact #735

"A full moon is nine times brighter than a half moon."

The Tech Insighter

"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably"

Why Securing Your Software Supply Chain Is Critical

In today's world, everything's connected— including the software your business relies on, whether you've installed that software locally or use it in the cloud.

Protecting the entire process which creates and delivers your software is very important. From the tools developers use to the way updates reach your computer, every step matters. A breach or vulnerability in any part of this chain can have severe consequences.

A recent example is the global IT outage that happened last July. This outage brought down airlines, banks, and many other businesses. The culprit for the outage was an update gone wrong. This update came from a software supplier called CrowdStrike. *It turns out that the company was a link in a LOT of software supply chains.*

What can you do to avoid a similar supply chain-related issue? Let's talk about why securing your software supply chain is absolutely essential.

Increasing Complexity and Interdependence

*• **Many Components**. These include open-source libraries, third-party APIs, and cloud services. Each component introduces potential vulnerabilities.*

*• **Interconnected Systems**. A vulnerability in one part of the supply chain can affect many systems. This interdependence means a single weak link may cause widespread issues.*

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**Keeping with the spirit of helping others,
if you refer a business to us and they become our customer,
we will donate $100 to your favorite charity.**

At Holzsager Technology Services, we believe that referrals are the greatest form of flattery. By recommending your partners, associates, or professional contacts, you can help them enjoy worry-free IT and support a worthy cause of your choice!

**For more information, please see our website at
www.tech4now.com/we-love-referrals, contact us by phone at 201-797-5050**

Quotations

"Keep your face always toward the sun—and the shadows will fall behind you.."

—**Walt Whitman**

"People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing, that's why we recommend it daily."

—**Zig Ziglar**

"For every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness."

—**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"If you can't do anything about it, then let it go. Don't be a prisoner to things you can't change."
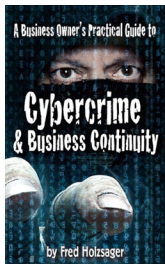
—**Tony Gaskins**

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."

—**Mark Twain**

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

—**Phil Jackson**

Read Fred's Book!

If you would like to have us speak to your organization and give away some free copies to attendees, give us a call. For more details on the contents and how to get your own copy, please visit our special web page at **www.tech4now.com/cybercrime**

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Ask us about our fixed price services HTS Insight Hassle-Free Agreements—Computer Support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for just like rent!

Why Securing Your Software Supply Chain Is Critical

• **Continuous Integration and Deployment**. Securing the CI/CD pipeline is crucial to prevent the introduction of malicious code.

Rise of Cyber Threats

• **Targeted Attacks**. Attackers infiltrate trusted software to gain access to wider networks.

• **Sophisticated Techniques**. These include advanced malware, zero-day exploits, and social engineering. A robust security posture is necessary to defend against these threats.

• **Financial and Reputational Damage**. Companies may face regulatory fines, legal costs, and loss of customer trust. Recovering from a breach can be a lengthy and expensive process.

Regulatory Requirements

• **Compliance Standards**. These include regulations like GDPR, HIPAA, the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) and the FTC Safeguards Rule.

• **Vendor Risk Management**. Companies must ensure that their suppliers adhere to security best practices. A secure supply chain involves verifying that all partners meet compliance standards.

• **Data Protection**. Securing the supply chain helps protect sensitive data from unauthorized access. This is especially important for industries like finance and healthcare.

Ensuring Business Continuity

• **Preventing Disruptions**. A secure supply chain helps prevent disruptions in business operations as cyber-attacks can quickly lead to downtime.

• **Maintaining Trust**. By securing the supply chain, companies can maintain the trust of their stakeholders.

Steps to Secure Your Software Supply Chain

• **Strong Authentication**. Use strong authentication methods for all components of the supply chain. Ensure that only authorized personnel can access critical systems and data.

• **Phased Update Rollouts**. Keep all software components up to date, but don't do all systems at once. If those systems aren't negatively affected, then roll out the update more widely.

• **Security Audits**. Assess the security measures of all vendors and partners. Identify and address any weaknesses or gaps in security practices.

• **Secure Development Practices**. Ensure that security is integrated into the software development lifecycle (SDLC) from the start.

• **Threat Monitoring**. Use tools like intrusion detection systems (IDS) as well as Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems.

• **Education**. Awareness and training help ensure that everyone understands their role in maintaining security and threat awareness.

A breach or outage can have severe consequences. **Securing your software supply chain is no longer optional**; investing in this is **crucial for the resilience of any business and its longevity**.

QUICK SECURITY TIPS: If your computer starts talking to you and telling you there are viruses—call us for support at Microsoft, DO NOT CALL THEM!! This is a socially engineered scam convincing you to give bad actors access to your PC to install threats or monitor your input. Contact your trustworthy local techs for assistance. In most cases, these "alerts" are caused by a code injection from an infected website for redirecting you to a launch site for the bogus alert.

"I DIDN'T KNOW"

Unfortunately, That Excuse Doesn't Replenish Your Bank Account, Resolve A Data Breach Or Erase Any Fines And Lawsuits.

It's coming ...

• That day a hacker steals critical data, rendering your office useless

• That day when your bank account or credit card is compromised

• Or that day when your customers' private lives are uprooted

Cybercriminals and hackers are constantly inventing NEW ways to infiltrate your company, steal your assets and disrupt your life. The ONLY way to STOP THEM is this:

You Must Constantly Educate Yourself On How To Protect What's Yours!

Now, for a limited time, we have the perfect way to help reduce your risk and keep you safe! Simply sign up to receive our FREE "Cyber Security Tip of the Week." We'll send these byte-size quick-read tips to your e-mail inbox. Every tip is packed with a unique and up-to-date real-world solution that keeps you one step ahead of the bad guys. And because so few people know about these security secrets, every week you'll learn something new!

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at https://www.tech4now.com/cyber-security-tip-of-the-week/

More Cringeworthies from Dad

How many times have you heard a quick one or two liner that made you cringe? How about some more? Thanks: *Vince the Sign Guy.*

☺ *Charles Dickens orders a martini. Bartender asks Olive or Twist?*

☺ *Old MacDonald had a horrible Scrabble hand… E I E I O.*

☺ *Cop car runs into beer truck. Police crack dozens of cases.*

☺ *Sign seen over highway: Don't Drive While InTexticated.*

☺ *When I tell maternity puns, it's all about the delivery!*

☺ *Sign seen at nursery: You can't plant flowers if U haven't botany*

☺ *The guy who invented LifeSavers made a mint!*

☺ *"Take your kids to a farm so they don't think food comes from a box." — Willie Nelson*

☺ *Ban Pre-Shredded Cheese. Make America Grate Again!*

☺ *We celebrated last night with a couple of adult beverages… Metamucil and Ensure.*

☺ *Good moms let you lick the beaters; Great moms turn them off first.*

☺ *I tried to make a belt out of watches; it was a waist of time.*

☺ *All my plants are in good shape because they eat light.*

☺ *Toilet paper plays an important roll in my life.*

☺ *Sign seen at tire discounter: "Tires in all shapes & sizes. OK, not shapes."*

☺ *Still trying to get my head around the fact that 'Take Out' can mean food, dating, or murder.*

☺ *Restrooms are out of odor. Repairmen have been scent.*

☺ *A friend who has worked in Chicago his whole life says it is not that violent. He's a tail gunner on a school bus.*

☺ *An army of babies is called an infantry.*

☺ *I finally watched the documentary on clocks. It was about time.*

☺ *My wife claims I'm the cheapest person she ever met. I'm not buying it!*

☺ *It's never too late to start exercising. That's why I'm waiting until later.*

☺ *You know you are getting old when friends with benefits means knowing someone who can drive at night.*

☺ *I asked my wife what women really want. She said "a tent of lovers," or perhaps, it was "attentive lovers" — I wasn't really listening.*

☺ *Car and Driver says 95% of electric cars are still on the road. The remaining 5% made it all the way home.*

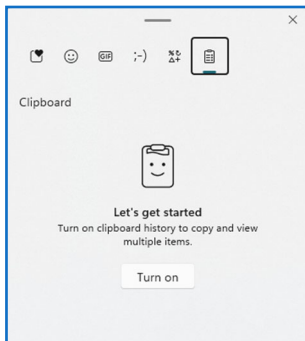Hopefully, we got you to smile.

SOFTWARE ANNOUNCEMENT: In a proactive move to safeguard national security and citizens, the US government has banned **Kaspersky products**. Users now have just three months to find an alternative solution.
Key points: **Sales Stop Date**: Effective July 20th, Kaspersky sales will cease.
                              Full Ban Date: The complete ban takes effect on *September 29th* of this year.

Quick Productivity Tips

NOTE: It is best to read this column while at your computer for a better understanding of the content presented. *Enjoy!*

Have you ever found yourself working at the desktop and thinking… There has got to be a better way of doing this! Well, if you are aware of some keyboard shortcuts, you may have your questions answered.

If you are documenting a process for your office and need to capture an image or do a screen grab, you can use the key combination of ⊞ **+ Shift +S** to *marquee* (designate a top corner and diagonally opposing bottom corner to highlight/select a screen section on a computer) and copy it to the computer's clipboard. Once an item is selected, you can then paste it into a document, PDF, jpeg or presentation as you like.

If you frequently use your clipboard, you may start up the Clipboard History and access it by using the key combination of ⊞ **+ V**. Once you start it with this combo, you will get a prompt to have it run by clicking the "*Turn on*" button in the Clipboard history. Look at the top of the Clipboard History and you will see some icons that link you to the extensive array of options this tool delivers to the user. You may get icons, gifs, images, symbols, emojis and other fun and useful items many of us use to communicate. As you use it, you may select clipboard items to pin (for future use) or you may delete them from the history if you won't need them later. If you use emojis, some Microsoft apps, Publisher for

example, may not display or print properly when you insert them. Word, however, appears to work fine with them.

Should you fancy peppering your messages with emojis, then you may use ⊞ **+ ;** as the keyboard combination to call them up. Again, the same rules may apply if working in Publisher, since they are the same "characters" used in both situations. We have also found the ⊞ **+ .** combination delivers the same result (emojis).

If you are working in a browser, simply press the CTRL + T for a new Tab. In a similar fashion, you may also press CTRL+ SHIFT + T to reopen a closed window. Many of the CTRL keyboard shortcuts use the SHIFT to "reverse" what has been done with the <special key> + <Letter> command. Another example is the Show Desktop keyboard command of ⊞ **+ D**. If you have applications open and the desktop is not visible, simply press the ⊞+D. Once you have found or opened what you wanted on the desktop, you may restore the apps by using ⊞**+ SHIFT + D** to revisit your open applications as they were. Then, if you need to switch between the open applications, use the key combination of **ALT + TAB** to cycle through them all on one screen OR depress the same two keys **ALT+TAB** plus **SHIFT** to reverse the selection order in the same screen. *We hope this helps you to work more efficiently.*
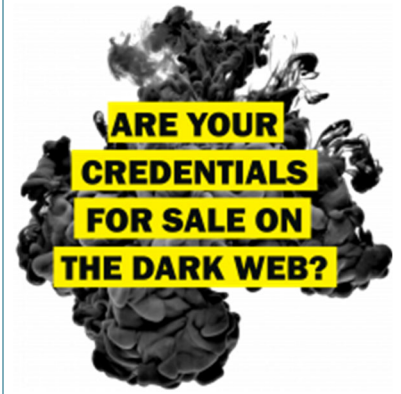
Did you know…?

• Cyber-attacks have continued to grow in cost, size, and impact—causing 60% of SMBs to go out of business within 6 months of a cyber incident.

• Over 80% of data breaches leverage stolen passwords as the principal attack vector—often acquired on the *Dark Web*.

•Far too often, companies that have had their credentials compromised and sold on the Dark Web don't know it until they have been informed by law enforcement—but then, it's too late.

• To help keep your critical business assets safe from the compromises that lead to breach and theft, we are offering a complimentary, one-time scan with *Dark Web ID*™ **Credential Monitoring**.

If you are interested in learning more about the risks involved in ignoring your password security, give us a call at (201) 797-5050 or visit our website at

https://www.tech4now.com/dwid or www.tech4now.com/bullphish

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Feedback & Suggestions...

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- ✓ Virus Protection & Removal and Dark Web Monitoring
- ✓ Network Security and Online Employee Security Training
- ✓ E-mail & Internet Solutions
- ✓ Wireless Networking
- ✓ Spam Filtering and E-mail Archiving & Encryption Solutions
- ✓ Storage Solutions and File Sharing
- ✓ System Audits, Network Documentation, and Dark Web Scans
- ✓ Voice over IP phone systems

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"Fred Holzsager has been an invaluable asset to our company. His extensive knowledge and expertise in solving a wide range of technical issues have saved us on numerous occasions. Whether it's a minor glitch, complex computer problem, or installing completely new computers for our office, Fred always has the solution, and he's incredibly responsive. His dedication to ensuring our systems run smoothly is truly appreciated, and we feel secure knowing that Fred is just a call away. We couldn't ask for a more reliable and skilled IT professional!"—**David Kessler**, *Kessler Properties,* Clifton, NJ

October 2024

The Lighter Side...

For Entertainment Purposes ONLY!

Terms of Endearment
There was a couple that moved into the senior living facility. Every time the husband spoke to his wife, he would call her, "Sweetie," "Honey," "Darling" and "Baby." The staff manager saw this and was so impressed, he asked the man, "How long have you been married to her? You speak with such tenderness and affection. I am so impressed."
The man replied, "We've been married together for already for 70 years."
"Wow! That's incredible... And, you still express such compassion and warmth...What do you attribute it to?"
"Can I be honest with you? After all these years, I can't remember her name."

Punctuation is Powerful
An English professor wrote the words:
"A woman without her man is nothing" on the chalkboard and asked the students to punctuate it correctly.
All of the males in the class wrote:
"A woman, without her man, is nothing."
All the females in the class wrote:
"A woman: without her, man is nothing."
...Punctuation also shows perspective.

On Call
A doctor answers his phone and hears the familiar voice of a colleague on the other end.
"We need a fourth for poker," said the friend.
"I'll be right over," whispers the doctor.
As he was putting on his coat, his wife asked, "Is it serious?"
"Oh, yes, very much so," said the doctor, "In fact, there are three doctors there already."

Magic in the Hotel Lobby
A man, his wife and their son have travelled from way out in the boon docks to the 'Big City.' They are in the lobby of a high end hotel. As the wife goes to the reception desk, the Dad and the boy sit down and take in the novelties of the hotel. The man is marveling at the shiny walls and the twinkling lights when he notices there is this silver wall with a line going down the center. He is focusing on it as an elderly woman presses a button to the side. The button lights up, then a bell is heard. As the silver walls pull apart, she enters into the little room. The walls then close and she is gone.
He points out to his son what he just saw and as he is explaining it to him, the same silver walls separate again, but this time a young and slender attractive woman emerges. He turns to his son in amazement and says, "Boy, I saw this old woman walk into the room, the doors closed, then, when they opened again, out popped a lady that was young and attractive. Do me a favor, go get yer mother!"

Husband Tries Childbirth Simulator
A woman's in labor and the doctor comes into the room. He sees the husband standing next to her and asks if he'd like to know the sensation of his wife's labor pains with this new device they have. It redirects her pain onto the father. The wife encourages him, so he complies.
He puts on the device and the doctor sets it to 20% power, he waits. Nothing. "Okay," he says, "put it up to 50%, let's see how it feels." The doctor turns it up to 50%, after waiting, he's still fine. "I don't know what the big deal is, it's a walk in the park. Put it up to 110%." The doctor turns it up. "Nothing!" Impressed with himself for being so tough, he takes it off.
The wife has the baby and they all return home. As they exited the car, there, on the front step, slumped over dead was the mailman.