

RE: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as safe as FireFox

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Full-Disclosure/2004-11/0581.html>

Colin.Scott_at_csplc.com

Date: 11/15/04

To: <full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com>

Date: Mon, 15 Nov 2004 08:42:09 +0000

Yes perhaps I'm being a little close minded.

I know that WFP can be switched off and all that, but this is real life. We don't have the luxury of 1 single domain controlling all our clients, we are talking multiple NT/2000/2003 domains, multiple OS's, multiple Admins.

I am complaining (more the point I am trying to make as others are on the list) directly about the situation we are in with the patching of Windows products. We feel like we are held to ransom by MS's security team while they drink their coffee testing new patches on Dells with no doubt MS-only apps installed. Meanwhile we have to go out and spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on products that we shouldn't have to purchase. Or engineer tricky methods to make changes to the whole estate just so we can feel a little happier running windows (will we ever feel happy?).

We use SUS and currently its switched off. Why? Because one of MS's helpful little patches has been eating machines, or more accurately WFP has been helpfully putting DLLs back to the old version without warning, result non-booting machine. An open call with MS PSS has given us no fix (c'mon pull the finger out guys)

So currently we are damned if we do patch and damned if we don't.

Maybe you'll understand why I'm a little tetchy on the subject now (as I'm sure others are too), and why I responded to Rafel's comments so aggressively. His comments weren't helpfull, anyone can put forward a suggestion that costs way over 200k GBP.

Back on topic though, IE is no where near Firefox for security, however, does Firefox come with a roll out method? Does it work for our critical apps? Can the Firefox settings be controlled centrally? I'm sure I could spend weeks figuring out methods to get Firefox to do these things, maybe by that time MS will have patched IE (im not holding my breath). The MS guy that said the original comment should have known when he said it he was dropping a clanger.

Full-Disclosure: RE: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as safe as FireFox

Cheers,

Colin.

"Michael
Evanchik"
<mevanchik@relati To
onship1.com> <Colin.Scott@cspc.com>,
Sent by: <full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com>
full-disclosure-a cc
dmin@lists.netsys
.com Subject
RE: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as
safe as FireFox
12/11/2004 16:15

I disagree Colin,

A good administrator knows there is more than one way to skin a cat.
Rafel,
I believe was just briefly stating some solutions to the problem. I can
tell
you windows protection can be defeated with a few registry changes.
Combine
that with an active directory login script and I believe that is one way to
solve the issue. It is wrong to complain and give up if you administrator.
Talk to your developer, I'm sure he will have a solution =)

Mike

www.michaelevanchik.com

-----Original Message-----

From: full-disclosure-admin@lists.netsys.com
[mailto:full-disclosure-admin@lists.netsys.com] On Behalf Of
Colin.Scott@cspc.com
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2004 9:46 AM
To: full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com
Subject: Re: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as safe as FireFox

More infinite wisdom there Rafel.

Price per license for "Finjan's Vital Security for Web" = 9.50GBP per user
+ 20% support per annum, roughly equates to 160,000GBP (plus any hardware,
software and network requirements) to cover us with your no doubt

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class-leading product. I'm sure that the Directors will love to cough up another 160 grand when we are already paying MS for Premier support.

Use SUS to install XP SP2 to 14,000 Windows 2000 machines? Somehow I think that will be problematic.

Replace the SHDOCVW.DLL with the XP SP2 version? On Windows 2000 machines? And what about the practical problems getting round Windows File Protection? On 14,000 machines? Do you want to come in here and try what you suggest?

I think Rafel you need a lesson in being a Windows Administrator before posting your very helpfull posts to this list.

So thanks but no thanks.

Colin.

"Rafel Ivgi,
The-Insider"
<theinsider@012.n To
et.il> <full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com>,
<Colin.Scott@csplc.com>
12/11/2004 14:08 cc

Subject

Re: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as
safe as FireFox

If you do have 14000 machines why don't you buy "Finjan's Vital Security For Web"?

It will filter all malicious I.E exploits for all its surfers(its a proxy, quite fast...)

Or just use SUS(system update server (microsoft)) just like any other administrator... to install sp2 or to just replace the c:\windows\system32\shdocvw.dll with the patched one or with sp2 one...

Rafel Ivgi, The-Insider
Security Consultant
Malicious Code Research Center (MCRC)
Finjan Software LTD
E-mail: rivgi@Finjan.com

Prevention is the best cure!

----- Original Message -----

From: <Colin.Scott@csplc.com>

To: <full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com>

RE: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as safe as FireFox

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Sent: Friday, November 12, 2004 12:46 PM

Subject: Re: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as safe as FireFox

Oh yeah, I've got 14,000 Windows 2000 machines to update to windows XP SP2, hang on wheres that CD?

So thanks for your infinite wisdom there Rafel.

Colin.

"Rafel Ivgi,
The-Insider"
<theinsider@012.n To
et.il> <full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com>
Sent by: cc
full-disclosure-a
dmin@lists.netsys Subject
.com Re: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as
safe as FireFox
12/11/2004 06:44

That is incorrect, there is a fix --> SP2.
Users should use the latest updated system, meaning if there is an SP2,
they
should install it.

Rafel Ivgi, The-Insider
Security Consultant
Malicious Code Research Center (MCRC)
Finjan Software LTD
E-mail: rivgi@Finjan.com

Prevention is the best cure!

----- Original Message -----

From: "Martin Mkrtchian" <dotsecure@gmail.com>

To: "Todd Towles" <toddtowles@brookshires.com>

Cc: "Mailing List - Full-Disclosure" <full-disclosure@lists.netsys.com>;
<ring-of-fire@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2004 3:03 AM

Subject: Re: [Full-Disclosure] IE is just as safe as FireFox

> *They should've at least released that statement after they fixed the*
> *IE FRAME vulnerability. 0 day exploit is in the wild and no fix for*
> *it, yet they claim its secure enough.*
>
> *If the programmers are as smart as the company press releasers, I can*
> *see why I.E. still sux.*
>
>
> *Martin*
>

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>
> On Thu, 11 Nov 2004 15:59:20 -0600, Todd Towles
> <toddtowles@brookshires.com> wrote:
>> Microsoft's security and mangement product manager (Ben English)
says...
>>
>> At a security roundtable discussion in Sydney on Thursday, Ben English,
>> Microsoft's security and management product manager, told attendees
that
>> IE undergoes "rigorous code reviews" and is no less secure than any
>> other browser.
>>
>> "Because IE is ubiquitous, you hear a lot more about it, but I don't
>> think that Internet Explorer is any less secure than any other browser
>> out there," English said.
>>
>> http://news.com.com/Microsoft+says+Firefox+not+a+threat+to+IE/2100-1032_3-5448719.html?part=dht&tag=ntop&tag=nl.e433
>>
>> Can anyone say IFRAME? Lol
>>
>> -Todd
>>
>> _____
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