

Bank of America – On Line Banking *NOT* Secure?

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/sci.crypt/2005-06/1817.html>

From: Neil – Salem, MA USA (*Neil_at_Salem.Massachusetts.USA*)

Date: 06/25/05

Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2005 12:44:05 -0400

Could someone please check out Bank of America's web site at <http://www.bankofamerica.com> and examine it for poor on non-existent security?

I have used On Line Banking for years ...up until a week ago. That's when Bank of America revised their web site. As their web site is now, any customer who wishes to use On Line Banking enters his or her account number and Passcode into form fields on a web page that is NOT secured with SSL!

They do post a comment that says, "You may notice when you are on our home page that some familiar indicators do not appear in your browser to confirm the entire page is secure. Those indicators include the small "lock" icon in the bottom right corner of the browser frame and the "s" in the Web address bar (for example, "https").

"To provide the fastest access to our home page for all of our millions of customers and other visitors, we have made signing in to Online Banking secure without making the entire page secure. Again, please be assured that your ID and passcode are secure and that only Bank of America has access to them."

In other words, they are saying, "Trust us." They are also encouraging people to use ignore the advice of security experts who all say, "Do NOT enter sensitive data into a web form if the web page does not indicate that it has been secured with SSL! With Internet Explorer, the simplest way to confirm that the page is secure is to look for the icon of the pad lock in the bottom right portion of the browser."

It is completely irresponsible on the part of Bank of America to suggest to their customers that they (the customers) use a poor security practice (putting sensitive data into a form on an unsecured web page) – justifying such a suggestion with the words, "please be assured."

I fear that millions of customers may be publicly exposing their account information on the Internet. If that is the case, this is a scandal.

sci.crypt: Bank of America – On Line Banking *NOT* Secure?

Thank you,

Neil
Salem, MA USA