I was recently asked to speak at the George J. Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security about Ransomware. If you had never heard of Ransomware before, you probably have heard about it by now. I ended my presentation by describing a worst-case scenario where the Ransomware would replicate itself like a worm; the exact variant that we saw with the WannaCry Ransomware virus.

Over the past month, we've seen the true nature of how severe a cyber-attack can be and how real the impact can have on a business. If you've yet to hear about WannaCry, you may want to read about it **here** and **here**. If you are a client of ours, no need to worry, your systems are patched but if not, please ensure that your systems are up to date.

WannaCry is the largest Ransomware outbreak in our history. It was made possible due to the vast number of companies world-wide who were not proactively managing their network and systems. Microsoft released the patch for the exploit back in March of this year. Had the infected systems been patched with this update, it would have prevented this exploit from running rampant throughout the Internet.

Aside from WannaCry we also saw Intel announcing a critical vulnerability within their AMT chip sets and Google with a Sophisticated Phishing Scam. I set about acquiring my CISSP back in early January so that we could be at the forefront of combating cyber-security events like these. Remember, if you are a current client of Machado Consulting, we have you covered. If not, please don't hesitate to reach out to **myself or anyone on our team** if there's any guidance we can provide you with to ensure that your systems are healthy and secure.

Defend Yourself from Largest Ransomware Outbreak in History

A new ransomware called "WannaCry" is spreading rapidly around the world, with reports that on May 12, 2017, people in 74 countries were hit with more than 45,000 reported attacks. The outbreak was focused in Russia and Europe, but has spread rapidly to all parts of the globe.

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Intel Announces Critical Vulnerability Within AMT Chipsets, What Should You Do?
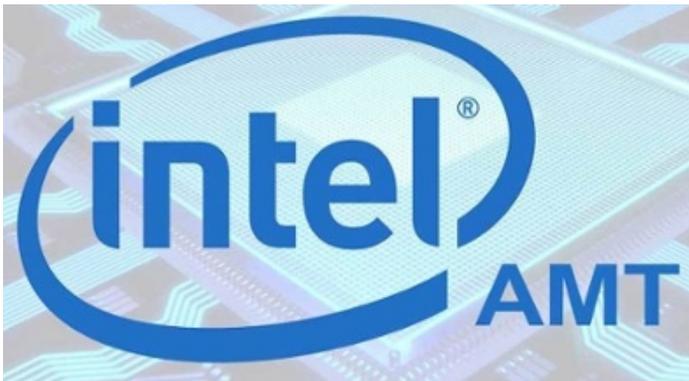
Intel recently announced a critical vulnerability that affects its remote management features built into business-class Intel chipsets. If exploited, this bug could allow a remote attacker to take control of an affected machine by using Intel AMT features.

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Employee Spotlight

Christian Muhler

Christian is our Lead Systems Engineer who oversees all of our networking and security projects. Find out more about Christian by clicking below!

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Sophisticated Phishing Attack Hits Google Docs

Getting Greedy: Ransomware Hackers are Asking for Way More Money

If fiscal reasons have stopped you from securing your network against ransomware thus far, you may want to reconsider your strategy. Not only are attacks still becoming more and more prevalent, but the developers of ransomware have lowered the price of admission for aspiring cyber criminals.

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News You Can Use

A Look at How Cloud Computing Professionals Can Help Your Business

When you hear us speak the world "cloud," it's not the fluffy white forms soaring overhead. The cloud that we refer to are computing systems that are delivered to you through an Internet connection. The popularity and demand for cloud services has led both ordinary consumers and businesses alike to seek them out.

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Here's Why Solid State Drives Are Way Better Than Traditional Hard Disk Drives

Your business has plenty of choices for data storage, but there are few options better suited for business environments than the solid state drive. Even though the hard disk drive is more common, the solid state drive offers many benefits that your organization cannot dismiss--certainly not if you want to seize all possible opportunities.

What you need to know about the malware that hits your data, and then your wallet.

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Tech Tips

Use this Free PC Tool to Find Out Which Files You Should Delete Next

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Quotes

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Benjamin Franklin

"Smell the sea, and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly."

Van Morrison

Brain Game

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You Need More Than a Power Strip to Protect Your Company's Equipment

What would happen if you were in the middle of typing a report or performing some task, and the office suddenly lost power? Too many would find themselves staring blankly at an equally blank screen as their infrastructure suddenly ceased operations. However, there is a device that can help save you from the worst effects of sudden power loss.

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Q: Mike is a butcher. He is 5'10" tall. What does he weigh?

A: Reach out with your answer [here!](#)

First one with the correct answer will get a 10$ Dunkin Donuts gift card!

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