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Cyber Foundry

Security News of the Week

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Monday 18th January 2021

Google Titan security keys hacked by French researchers

Researchers at the French company NinjaLab have managed to clone Google's Titan security keys. The security keys offer a "something you have" factor for authentication by performing cryptographic operations on a device that should never allow the key to be exported or observed. The researchers used a side-channel attack to infer the private key through the measurement of electromagnetic emissions while the device was in use. The attack takes around 6 hours to complete and requires tampering with the device in a way that is very noticeable. While it is conceivable that an adversary could clone and return a device, there are numerous pitfalls in the attack and the general recommendation is that the use of Titan security keys is still better than not using one. Read more>

Europol confirms world's largest dark web marketplace has been taken offline

A number of law enforcements agencies working in co-operation were able to takedown the "DarkMarket" marketplace. It had been operating on the hidden Tor onion network. Europol made the announcement, describing it as the largest illegal dark web marketplace. It had 500,000 users at the time it was shutdown (while Silk Road had 150,000). The many law enforcement agencies will be combing through the data on the servers to attempt to learn more about the many buyers and vendors. Read more>

What is Signal? The private messaging app is booming after WhatsApp exodus

The Signal messaging platform is enjoying a major growth in users. This is largely in response to the changes in Terms of Service for Facebook's WhatsApp. When Facebook purchased WhatsApp, they wanted to assure users that the privacy provided by WhatsApp would not be diminished. Now that the social network will be obtaining more metadata from WhatsApp (both platforms have and still user end-to-end encryption for all actual message content), many users are feeling uncomfortable and are looking for alternatives. Read more>

Facebook sues makers of malicious Chrome extensions for scraping data

Facebook is taking the developers behind a number of Chrome extensions to court over their scraping of user data. The extensions (including Web for Instagram plus DM, Blue Messenger, Emoji keyboard, and Green Messenger) claim in their privacy policy that they collect no user data, but their actual behaviour shows otherwise. Once installed, the add-ons include code to scrape private data from Facebook's site, including name, user ID, gender, relationship status, and age. The add-ons have since been removed from the Chrome Web Store. Read more >

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