Tidewater Area Macintosh User Group
May 2012
All the news that's fit to download!
Since 1984

The TarMac Vaporware Gazette

everything apple!

FBI: We need wiretap-ready Web sites - *now*

May 4, 2012, Declan McCullagh, CNET.com

CNET learns the FBI is quietly pushing its plan to force surveillance backdoors on social networks, VoIP, and Web e-mail providers, and that the bureau is asking Internet companies not to oppose a law making those backdoors mandatory.

The FBI is asking Internet companies not to oppose a controversial proposal that would require firms, including Microsoft, Facebook, Yahoo, and Google, to build in backdoors for government surveillance.

In meetings with industry representatives, the White House, and U.S. senators, senior FBI officials argue the dramatic shift in communication from the telephone system to the Internet has made it far more difficult for agents to wiretap Americans suspected of illegal activities, CNET has learned.

The FBI general counsel's office has drafted a proposed law that the bureau claims is the best solution: requiring that social-networking Web sites and providers of VoIP, instant messaging, and Web e-mail alter their code to ensure their products are wiretap-friendly.

"If you create a service, product, or app that allows a user to communicate, you get the privilege of adding that extra coding," an industry representative who has reviewed the FBI's draft legislation told CNET. The requirements apply only if a threshold of a certain number of users is exceeded, according to a second industry representative briefed on it.

The FBI's proposal would amend a 1994 law, called the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, or CALEA, that currently applies only to telecommunications providers, not Web companies. The Federal Communications Commission extended CALEA in 2004 to apply to broadband networks.

Continued on page 2

Two free Mac antivirus apps compared

April 26, 2012 by Dennis O'Reilly, CNET.com

Recent malware attacks targeting Macs haven't tarnished the machine's reputation as the safer alternative to a Windows PC. But for many Mac users, the Flashback Trojan has dispelled the myth of Mac invulnerability.

The most recent Java-based iteration of Flashback appears to be easy to catch: just visit the wrong Web page and your machine's infected, as Josh Lowensohn describes in his Flashback FAQ.

The FAQ explains that Flashback's creators may have exploited Apple's go-it-alone strategy. Apple refuses to preinstall Adobe's Flash player, so Mac users are prompted to download and install the plug-in when they encounter a Web site that uses Flash. The initial release of Flashback mimicked Adobe's Flash installer.

Likewise, the company's decision to release its own Java patches rather than rely on Oracle's public release may have helped spread the later Java-based version of Flashback: by last February Oracle had patched the Java vulnerability leveraged by Flashback, but Apple didn't get around to plugging the hole until this month.

For complete article and demonstrations:

http://howto.cnet.com/8301-11310_39-57422099-285/two-free-mac-antivirus-apps-compared/

Related articles at site:

*One in five Macs infected with malware is inaccurate
*Kaspersky: 'Mac security is 10 years behind Microsoft'
*Flashback malware removal tool roundup

Continued on page 2

Apple Q2 2012 Sees More Stellar Sales

April 24, 2012, HuffingtonPost.com

Apple is still red hot. The company has announced its earnings for the fiscal quarter ending on March 31. (Apple records this as its second quarter of the year, while many companies refer to it as the first.)

According to a press release, Apple saw $39.2 billion in revenue and a net profit of $11.6 billion, or $12.30 per diluted share. One year ago, the company posted $24.7 billion in revenue and a net profit of $6.0 billion.

Customers bought 35.1 million iPhones this quarter (an 88 percent increase from the same quarter last year) and 11.8 million iPads (a 151 percent increase). Four million Mac units were sold and 7.7 million iPods.

The company now has over $110 billion in cash and reserves, reports TechCrunch.

"Our record March quarter results drove $14 billion in cash flow from operations," said Peter Oppenheimer, Apple's CFO, per the release. "Looking ahead to the third fiscal quarter, we expect revenue of about $34 billion and diluted earnings per share of about $8.68."

Analysts had predicted that Apple would sell 30 million iPhones, 12 million iPads and between 4.1 million and 4.4 million Macs during the quarter.

Last quarter's results, which included earnings and sales from the holiday shopping season, were slightly stronger, with Apple reporting $46.33 billion in revenue and a net profit of $13.06 billion ($13.87 per diluted share). Customers snapped up a total of 37.04 million iPhones, 15.43 million iPads, 5.2 million Macs and 15.4 million iPods in the previous quarter.

The Tarmac Vaporware Gazette, named in honor of past president Jerry Rowe, is published monthly.

Tarmac By-laws
If you show up you're a member
If you speak up you're an officer
If you stand up you're the president

website: **homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug**
e-mail: **tidewatermug@mac.com**

Meetings: 2nd & 3rd Thursday each month except Dec. (first meeting only). 6-8:30 pm.
Pops Diner
1432 Greenbrier Pkwy., Chesapeake

WHY THE IPAD HAS TO BE MADE IN CHINA

April 19, 2012, by Elizabeth Chamberlain, motherboard.vice.com

The iPad's light, sleek, simple construction belies its complex origins. There's a lot of stuff in the iPad: aluminum and glass, of course, but also other heavy metals and toxic chemicals. And manufacturing each 1.44-pound iPad results in over 285 times its own weight in greenhouse gas emissions. The manufacturing of and material used in the iPad are two reasons why the iPad must be made in China—and not just in the ways you'd expect.

Yes, labor is dirt cheap in China. Minimum wage was just $138/month at Hongkai Electronics in October 2010, compared to $1160/month in the US (based on a $7.25/hour federal minimum wage and a 40-hour work week).

And yes, environmental regulations in China are pretty minimal (though improving). China ranks 116th out of 132 countries on Yale's 2012 Environmental Performance Index rankings. Even with all their illegally run coltan mines, the Democratic Republic of Congo is ranked many points higher than China.

But there's another important reason why Apple and other manufacturers have their heels stuck in Chinese mud. iPad manufacturing, like the manufacturing of other electronics, requires a significant amount of rare earth elements, the 17 difficult-to-mine elements used in all kinds of green technology. It's hard to say exactly what rare earths are in an iPad, since Apple is really tight-lipped about their materials—no one can even get them to confirm what manufacturer makes their impact-resistant glass, though I suspect Asahi.

Cambridge engineering professor Dr. Tim Coombs guesses that there may be lanthanum in the iPad's lithium-ion polymer battery, as well as "a range of rare earths to produce the different colours" in the display. The magnets along the side of the iPad and in its cover (pictured above) are possibly a neodymium alloy. Electronics glass is often polished with cerium oxide. According to a Congressional Research Service report, worldwide demand for rare earths was 136,100 tons in 2010, 45-percent of which was for magnets, glass, and polishing

Full article:

http://ifixit.org

in-china/