



COMPUTER SECURITY – PART II of X

Let us explore USERID and Password management a little further. Ps. That little tidbit on massive security password secrets from last week. Here is the tidbit ...just add the dollar sign symbol '\$' to the front of your password. Be well and enjoy that tidbit - ps. start hacking with a new rule set. Just be a whitehat when you do it.

Computer Security as a career? So you are young and with lots of free time, under the age of 18 and free from being thrown in jail for completing attacks or crimes as an adult? Think again. Do you want to be a hacker? Think again. So you want to be a security expert? Think again. Neither profession is free from flaws both in terms of a family life and a professional life. I have three rules in life that relate to being mentally healthy in the computing world: 1) never ever think you are better than anyone else - even if you are, 2) always realize, know and believe that computers are just a tool - nothing more, nothing less, 3) If in doubt, pull the power or pull the plug on your computer. You will immediately feel better knowing you don't have to respond to anything. Freedom!

Back to the task at hand. - Computer Security. So you want to protect your company and its assets. Here are a few of my suggestions and rules.

1. Physical Security - make sure your computer vendors are trusted. If in doubt, change the keys to the doors, and administrative passwords to all servers, routers, and make sure you conduct a full sweep of the premises to make sure remote software applications / modules/ bluetooth/ wireless devices - are not existing. Conduct both a physical and virtual sweep. In the event you need to terminate an employee, in advance, disable their access completely.

2. Many companies have prominent leaders who refuse to change their passwords. These so called primadonas need to be mindful that their passwords when know by support staff and others while you are on the road and doing your work, need to be changed at least once per year. Do not leave luck and chance up to your personal and professional career, life and image. The password policies might be inconvenient, but they serve a purpose.

3. So you lost your cell phone, your iPhone, your Blackberry. Report it immediately to computing security staff. Don't be embarrassed. Don't wait. If in doubt, accounts being disabled does not mean you will lose your job or your data. The cached passwords, notes, references, emails and all other things in your personal digital device has already made it to a foreign country.

BUILD TO ORDER PC - PART VII

The choice of purchasing a computer is fluxing as I type. Does one select an older computer for a cheaper price, or buy a newer computer that costs about \$200 more.

The latest in computer purchasing developments are the choices of peripherals. In the past few months, the choice to buy a laptop or PC with USB 2.0 or USB 3.0 is being questioned. Plus, the video port as we know it, DVI versus HDMI is being supplanted by Display Port.

Watch your purchase choices carefully. USB 3.0 is now being aggressively priced. HDMI within 1 year will be replaced with Display Port both on the Desktop and Laptop. For our team, we have to split hairs between purchasing and provided both at this time.



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**GO GREEN
PC-TUNE UP!**

