TECH TALK MONTHLY

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF TECH & BUSINESS NEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Monthly update from Mark

Have you ever heard of "password spraying"? In contrast to brute-force hacking, this sneaky cyberattack targets weak passwords across multiple accounts, putting people and businesses at risk without setting off any alarms.

But let's take a step back: Blockchain is changing businesses in ways that most people don't even know about, and it's not just for security. Imagine medical records that can't be changed, supply lines where every step can be checked right away, and digital contracts that always go as planned. That future isn't years away; it's happening now.

This isn't just tech nonsense for workers who are looking to the future. Blockchain could be the key to better efficiency, safety, and whole new ways of doing business in any field, from banking to healthcare to logistics.

Want to explore what this means for you? Drop us a line at mark@phrixus.com —we'll help you turn cutting-edge tech into real-world results.

Until then, stay cyber safe,

Mark

DID YOU KNOW

It's estimated that the dark web is about 500 times larger than the surface web that we use every day.

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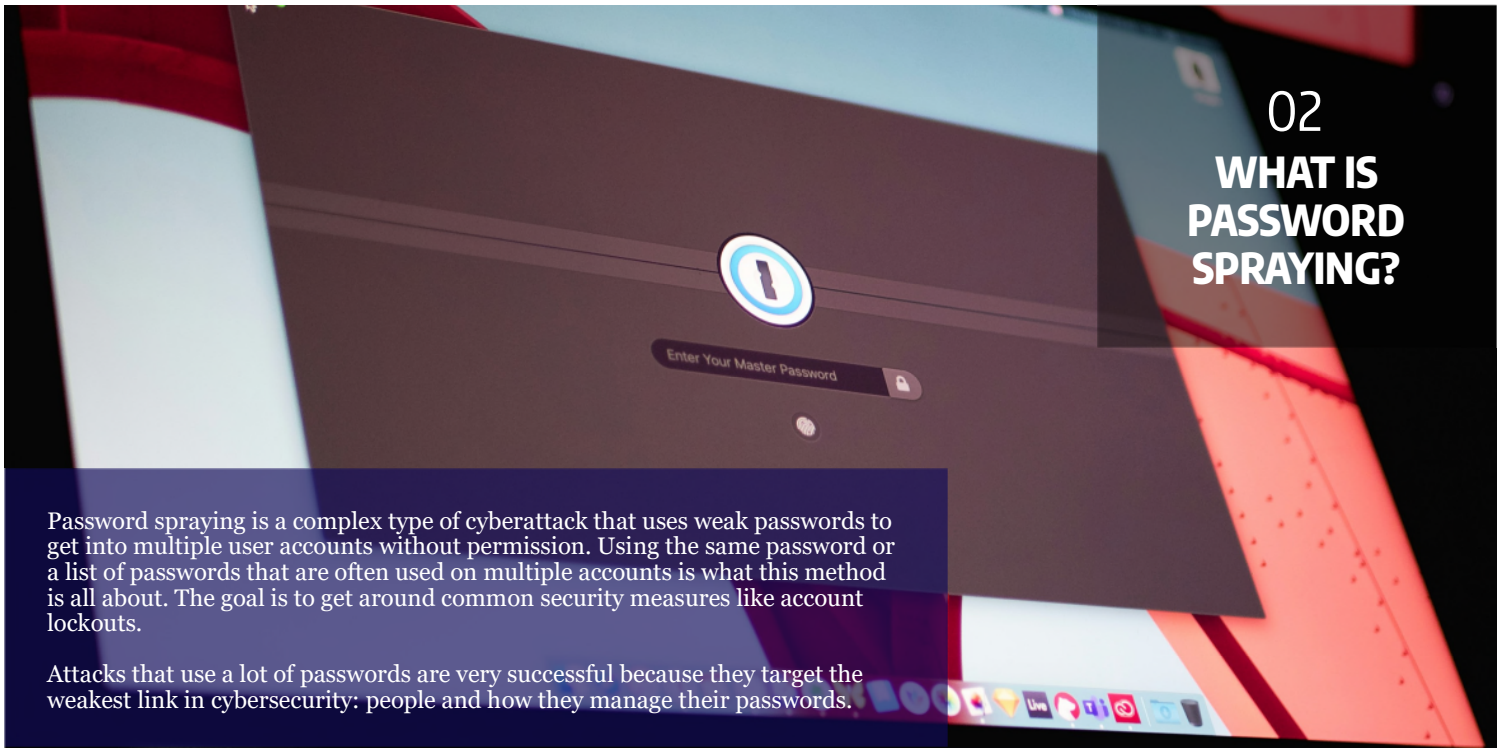

02 WHAT IS PASSWORD SPRAYING?

Password spraying is a complex type of cyberattack that uses weak passwords to get into multiple user accounts without permission. Using the same password or a list of passwords that are often used on multiple accounts is what this method is all about. The goal is to get around common security measures like account lockouts.

Attacks that use a lot of passwords are very successful because they target the weakest link in cybersecurity: people and how they manage their passwords.

What Is Password Spraying and How Does It Work?

A brute-force attack called "password spraying" tries to get into multiple accounts with the same password. Attackers can avoid account shutdown policies with this method.

Attackers often get lists of usernames from public directories or data leaks that have already happened. They then use the same passwords to try to log in to all of these accounts. Usually, the process is automated so that it can quickly try all possible pairs of username and password.

Password spraying has become popular among hackers, even those working for the government, in recent years. Because it is so easy to do and works so well to get around security measures, it is a major threat to both personal and business data security. As cybersecurity improves, it will become more important to understand and stop password spraying threats.

How Does Password Spraying Differ from Other Cyberattacks?

Password spraying is distinct from other brute-force attacks in its approach and execution. While traditional brute-force attacks focus on trying multiple passwords against a single account, password spraying uses a single password across multiple accounts.

Understanding Brute-Force Attacks

Brute-force attacks involve systematically trying all possible combinations of passwords to gain access to an account. These attacks are often resource- intensive and can be easily detected due to the high volume of login attempts on a single account.

Comparing Credential Stuffing

Credential stuffing involves using lists of stolen username and password combinations to attempt logins.

How Can Organisations Detect and Prevent Password Spraying Attacks?

Detecting password spraying attacks requires a proactive approach to monitoring and analysis. Organisations must implement robust security measures to identify suspicious activities early on.

- **Implementing Strong Password Policies.**
Organisations should adopt guidelines that ensure passwords are complex, lengthy, and regularly updated.
- **Deploying Multi-Factor Authentication.**
Multi-factor authentication (MFA) significantly reduces the risk of unauthorised access by requiring additional verification steps beyond just a password.
- **Conducting Regular Security Audits.**
Regular audits of authentication logs and security posture assessments can help identify vulnerabilities that could facilitate password spraying attacks.
- **Enhancing Login Detection.**
Organisations should set up detection systems for login attempts to multiple accounts from a single host over a short period. Implementing stronger lockout policies that balance security with usability is also crucial.
- **Educating Users.**
Users should be informed about the risks of weak passwords and the importance of MFA.
- **Incident Response Planning.**
This plan should include procedures for alerting users, changing passwords, and conducting thorough security audits.

Taking Action Against Password Spraying

To enhance your organisation's cybersecurity and protect against password spraying attacks, contact us today to learn how we can assist you in securing your systems against evolving cyber threats.

SOLOS AIRGO VISION

Elevate your eyewear experience with AirGo Vision Smartglasses, first with ChatGPT-enabled AI and a camera.

These glasses offer real-time visual recognition and hands-free operation.

AirGo Vision prioritises user control, convenience, and personalisation with its SmartHinge technology and USB-C connectors, allowing easy switching between camera-enabled and standard frames for flexibility and peace of mind.

03 COMPLETE GUIDE TO STRONG PASSWORDS AND AUTHENTICATION

Cyber risks are smarter than ever in today's digital world. People and companies can lose money, have their data stolen, or have their identities stolen if they use weak passwords or old authentication methods.

A strong password is the first thing that will protect you from hackers, but it's not the only thing that will do the job.

Why Are Strong Passwords Essential?

Your password is like a digital key that lets you into your personal and work accounts. Hackers use methods like brute-force attacks, phishing, and credential stuffing to get into accounts with weak passwords. If someone gets your password, they might be able to get in without your permission, steal your info, or even commit fraud.

Most people make the mistake of using passwords that are easy to figure out, like "123456" or "password." Most of the time, these are the first options hackers try. Reusing passwords is another risk. If you use the same password for more than one account, one breach can let hackers into all of them.

Today's security standards say that passwords should have a mix of numbers, capital and small letters, and special characters. But complexity isn't enough on its own. Length is also important— experts say at least 12 characters is best. Password tools can help you make unique, complicated passwords and safely store them.

How Does Multi-Factor Authentication Enhance Security?

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) requires users to provide more verification methods before accessing an account. This significantly reduces the risk of unauthorised access, even if a password is compromised.

Types of Authentication Factors

- Something You Know – Passwords, PINs, or security questions.
- Something You Have – A smartphone, hardware token, or security key.
- Something You Are – Biometric verification like fingerprints or facial recognition.

Common MFA Methods

- SMS-Based Codes – A one- time code sent via text. While convenient, SIM-swapping attacks make this method less secure.
- Authenticator Apps – Apps like Google Authenticator generate time-sensitive codes without relying on SMS.
- Hardware Tokens – Physical devices like YubiKey provide phishing-resistant authentication.

Despite its effectiveness, MFA adoption remains low due to perceived inconvenience.

However, the trade-off between security and usability is minimal compared to the risks of account takeover.

Ready to Strengthen Your Digital Security?

Cybersecurity is an ongoing effort, and staying informed is your best defense. Strong passwords and multi-factor authentication are just the beginning. Whether you're an individual or a business, adopting these practices can prevent costly breaches.

04 ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SAFE CLOUD STORAGE

Since we live in a digital world, cloud storage is an important tool for both personal and business use. So long as they have an internet connection, users can store and get to their info from anywhere at any time. But while cloud storage is convenient, there is a chance that your data could be stolen or accessed by people who aren't supposed to.

To avoid losing money and keeping private data safe, it's important to make sure that your cloud data is safe.

What Is Cloud Storage and How Does It Work?

Cloud storage lets you put your data online and have a cloud storage service provider keep, manage, and back it up for you. Users can view their files from any internet- connected device with this service, which makes it very easy to work together and keep track of data.

Based on how much room is needed, cloud storage companies usually offer different plans, ranging from free to paid.

Key Features to Look for in a Secure Provider

- Encryption: Look for providers that use end-to-end encryption, which ensures that your data is encrypted both in transit and at rest.
- Data Backup: Ensure that the provider offers regular backups of your data to prevent loss in case of technical issues or cyberattacks.
- Access Controls: Opt for providers that offer strong access controls, such as two -factor authentication (2FA) and granular permissions, to limit who can access your files.
- Compliance: Check if the provider complies with major data protection regulations like GDPR or HIPAA, depending on your specific needs.
- Customer Support: Good customer support is essential in case you encounter any issues or have questions about security features.

Most importantly, read reviews and ask about their security practices directly to give you a clearer understanding of their commitment to data security.

05 BEST PRACTICES FOR DATA MANAGEMENT

1. Transparency and Consent
Websites should clearly communicate how user data is collected and used. Users should have the option to opt-in or opt-out of data collection, and they should be able to access, modify, or delete their personal information.

2.Data Minimisation
Collecting only the data that is necessary for the website's functionality.

3.Secure Data Storage
Encrypting data both at rest and in transit ensures that it remains secure even if intercepted. Regular security audits and updates are also crucial to prevent vulnerabilities.

4.User Control
Providing users with tools to manage their data preferences fosters trust and accountability. This includes options to download, edit, or delete personal information.

06 7 UNEXPECTED WAYS HACKERS CAN ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNTS

1. Cookie Hijacking
Cookies can be used to access your accounts without your password.

2. SIM Swapping
Hackers deceive your provider to transfer your number to a new SIM card they control.

3.Deepfake Technology
Hackers pose as a trusted colleague or family member through realistic audio/ video.

4. Exploiting Third-Party Apps.
Hackers exploit vulnerabilities to gain access to linked accounts.

5. Port-Out Fraud
Like in SIM swaps, your number is transferred to another provider without your consent.

6. Keylogging Malware
Keyloggers are malicious programs that record your keystrokes.

7.AI-Powered Phishing
AI is used to craft highly convincing emails.

07 CAN MY DATA BE REMOVED FROM THE DARK WEB?

Removing data from the dark web is extremely challenging due to its decentralised nature and the rapid dissemination of information.

Once data is posted on the dark web, it is quickly copied and distributed among numerous cybercriminals, making it virtually impossible to remove completely.

Proactive Measures for Protection

- Use identity and credit monitoring services to detect any suspicious activity related to your personal information.
- Enable two-factor authentication and use strong, unique passwords for all accounts.
- Regularly monitor your online presence and use privacy tools like dark web scans.
- Use a VPN to mask your IP address and protect your browsing activity from being tracked.

Protect Your Future Today

If you're concerned about your data security, we can provide expert guidance and tools to help safeguard your identity and ensure your peace of mind in the digital world.

WE LOVE REFERRALS

The greatest gift anyone can give us is a referral to your friends. Referrals help us keep costs down so we can pass the savings to our clients.

If your friend's business ends up becoming a client - we'll gift them their free first month of service (for being a friend of yours) AND we'll gift you $500 cash/gift voucher.
Simply introduce me via email to **mark@phrixus.com** and I'll take it from there. I personally promise we'll look after their business with a high level of care and attention (just like we do with all our clients).

The more you refer the more we will reward you!

Replace those old Windows 10 systems before June 30

With Microsoft ending support for Windows 10 in October this year, now is a great time to get your replacement laptops and PCs ordered before the financial year ends.

Our online store has many great offers from Australia's main IT distributors. If you have more than 5 systems to be replaced we can request volume discount deals.

The most popular sizes of laptops for portability are the 14" HP EliteBook 840 and for a more static laptop the 16" EliteBook 860
Add a dock and dual screens to these setups and you will have a great working from home solution too.

With Pcs, we have been favouring the Lenovo ThinkCentre M70Q systems with their tiny footprint, power and reliability.

Please contact sales@phrixus.com for your upgrade requirements

NEED A LAUGH?

Why was the mobile phone wearing glasses?

Because it lost its contacts.

TECHNOLOGY TRIVIA

The question this month is:

What was the first text message ever sent?

The first person to email me at **mark@phrixus.com** and give a correct answer gets a $50 Amazon Gift Card!

Each month you have a chance to win a $50 Amazon Gift Voucher by being the first person to email us with the answer to our Technology Trivia Question of the Month!

The Differences between restart and shutdown

Our technicians have requested this instruction as a reminder as to what is being requested of you when asked to carry out a restart of your laptop/ PC

Restart = Restart
Shutdown = Shutdown
Log off = Log Off
Sign out = Sign out

Log off = Does not mean shutdown
Sign out = Does not mean disconnect the remote session
Restart = Does not mean Shutdown and then turn it back on again
Remembering these easy instructions will assist for a faster resolution