

Technology risk news

8 January 2010
Issue No: 382



Security: Identity thief comes clean

Albert Gonzalez, the Miami cyber thief who admitted to carrying out the largest identity theft in the nation's history, has pleaded guilty in a US court to a second computer hacking case this year. The *Miami Herald* reports that **Gonzalez admitted stealing data on 130m credit and debit cards** from Heartland Payment Systems Inc, 7-Eleven Inc, Delhaize Group's Hannaford Brothers Company and two unidentified national retailers. In September last year, Gonzalez pleaded guilty to leading a worldwide ring that stole credit and debit card records from US retailers, including TJX Cos, OfficeMax Inc and BJ's Wholesale Club Inc.

[Full Miami Herald report](#)

Security: Y2K-style bug cripples Oz bank

A Y2K-style bug affecting Bank of Queensland Eftpos terminals **has left merchants across Australia unable to process card transactions over the New Year**. *Finextra* reports that on New Year's Day, BoQ's Eftpos card processing system jumped from 2009 to 2016. This led to payments being rejected at the point of sale because customers' cards were due to expire before the incorrect date on the bank's computer systems.

[Full Finextra report](#)



Security: US man sues company for data breach

An Indiana man, Alan Claridge, has filed a lawsuit against RockYou, alleging that the provider of social-networking apps failed to secure its network and protect customer data, enabling a hacker to grab passwords of 32m users in early December, notes a *CNET News* report. Security firm Imperva notified RockYou on 4 December **that it had learned of a breach of RockYou's network from underground hacker forums**. RockYou had been hit with a common type of exploit known as a SQL injection flaw that targets information stored in databases and hackers were regularly discussing the fact that the hole at RockYou was being exploited, the lawsuit said.

[Full CNET News report](#)



Copyright: Chinese author takes on Google

A Chinese author plans to sue Google for scanning one of her books into the Google Books database without her permission. *CNET News* reports that Mian Mian intends to file suit against Google, claiming copyright infringement after discovering that her third book, *Acid Lovers*, was scanned by Google as part of its book digitisation project. **The suit would be the first filed against Google in China over the Google Books project**, which itself is no stranger to the courtroom.

[Full CNET News report](#)

This Newsletter has been compiled in association with EBrief News: delivering a world of information in a 10-minute read.

Security: Company pays out for data breach

Heartland Payment Systems has agreed to pay up to \$2.4m to settle a consumer cardholder class action suit **for losses suffered following the criminal breach of its processing systems last year**, reports *Finextra*. Under the terms of the settlement, Heartland says it will pay a minimum of \$1m and up to a maximum of \$2.4m to class members who submit valid claims for losses as a result of the intrusion. The payment processor says it will also shell out \$1.5m for the cost of notice to the settling class, and \$0.76m to cover legal fees.

[Full Finextra report](#)

Cybercrime: Online thugs targeting Adobe

With Adobe scheduled to patch a critical vulnerability in its Reader and Acrobat applications within days, online thugs are targeting it with an unusually sophisticated attack, notes a report in *The Register*. The report says the PDF file uses what is known as egg-hunting shell-code to compress the first phase of the malicious payload into 38 bytes, **a tiny size that is designed to thwart anti-virus detection**.

[Full report in The Register](#)

While APR Insurance & CFC Underwriting Limited has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of this Newsletter, the information contained herein is provided "as is" and APR Insurance & CFC Underwriting Limited makes no express or implied representations or warranties with regard thereto. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing:

APR Insurance & CFC Underwriting Limited does not warrant that this Newsletter or information contained herein will be errorfree or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. APR Insurance & CFC Underwriting Limited expressly disclaims all implied warranties, including, without limitation, warranties of compatibility, security and accuracy; and

Whilst APR Insurance & CFC Underwriting Limited has taken reasonable measures to ensure the integrity of this Newsletter and its contents, no warranty, whether express or implied is given that any files, downloads or applications available via this Newsletter are free of viruses, Trojans, bombs, timelocks or any other data or code which has the ability to corrupt, damage or affect the operation of the user's system.