

We had 11 members at the meeting on 12th August 2015 at Bacton Village Hall . There were 3 apologies.

Agony Corner:

After a quick review of the last meeting's notes we moved onto today's new items.

1. 'What is Zorpia? I had a 'Private Message' allegedly from a person I know, who lives in France, looking a bit like a French Facebook. It seemed suspicious to me so I deleted it...?'

- You did the correct thing. Zorpia is a social networking service, popular in India and China, which is a privately funded company based in Hong Kong.
- It is renowned for sending phishing/spam messages on behalf of people to their address books without their consent or knowledge, as a way of acquiring email addresses.
- If you get persistent Zorpia messages, a Google search will reveal forums where this is discussed and which suggest ways to reduce it.

2. 'I bought my phone from Carphone Warehouse and have been told that there has been a massive data breach. Would my regular scans with the likes of Malware Bytes help protect me against any attempts to capture my data?'

- In these circumstances, not necessarily. The personal details of up to 2.4 million Carphone Warehouse customers have been accessed by hackers. It confessed that the personal information of millions of customers – including bank details, addresses, names and dates of birth – may have been access by hackers.
- The firm has sent an email to anyone who may be affected by the hack, alerting them that they should notify their bank and check for any suspicious activity on their account. This hack reportedly operates websites OneStopPhoneShop.com, e2save.com and Mobiles.co.uk, as well as providing services to TalkTalk Mobile, Talk Mobile and to the newly launched iD mobile network - all of which may have been affected.
- The immediate advice from within the group was that all sensitive passwords be changed and regular checks made on bank account activity to look out for any irregularities. You could also consider using the 'Trusteer Endpoint Protection' software recommended by some of the banks.

3. This lead onto further advice from other group members (*Dave, Marian*) on minimising the chances of hacking...

- When signing up to new web sites you don't always need to tell the truth, e.g. you can make up a birthday and mother's maiden name, different each time and this can thwart the data trawlers who are trying to build up a profile on you.
- Having made up long, 12+ letter/symbols, pass words, you need to make sure that these are safe from prying eyes. Excel is very good for this as spread sheets can easily be encrypted, saved, say to a memory stick and secured safely away from the computer. All originals then deleted from the hard drive.

- I commented that in the past I had been able to open encrypted xlsx files in Libre Office without entering any passwords. I can report that I've checked again and this loop hole appears to have been closed.
- It's reported that some Facebook users have been advised to change their passwords as may have been hacked. You should always check back to a known genuine web page before ever responding to such a request.

4. *Philip* reported that he had had difficulty logging onto free Wifi in an hotel. He discovered that it was possible to get an improved signal by using a plug-in Wifi booster.

- You will need the co-operation of the hotel manager. If you plug in a Wifi extender, the WPS button on the main router will have to be pressed to establish contact with the extender.
- WPS stands for Wi-Fi Protected Setup and it is a wireless networking standard that tries to make connections between a router and wireless devices faster and easier. It works only for wireless networks that have WPA Personal or WPA2 Personal security.
- Some hotels do still offer a wall Ethernet plug-in point in the rooms.

5. If your browser is hijacked by a scam virus warning (see attached jpeg)....

- Working in Chrome when this appeared and locked up everything. Could not close the browser or use escape.
- Resorting to Ctrl+Alt+Del (or Ctrl+Shift+Esc) to bring up the task manager did work. Went to processes and stopped Chrome.
- Was then able to run Anti Malware bytes and ADW Cleaner to clear out dross.
- Warning did appear again but was able to open Chrome > settings > advanced > reset settings at bottom of page. This stopped the warning message completely (you will have to re install any apps).
- Do not under any circumstances respond to a message like this. A Google search shows that this telephone number has been associated with a variety of scams and phishing events over the last two years.

6. 'What is Android 'Stagefright' and should I be concerned?'

- 'Stagefright' is the nickname given to a potential exploit that lives fairly deep inside the Android operating system itself. The gist is that a video sent via MMS (text message) could be theoretically used as an avenue of attack the mechanism which helps Android process video files. Many text messaging apps — Google's Hangouts app was specifically mentioned — automatically process that video so it's ready for viewing as soon as you open the message, and so the attack theoretically could happen without you even knowing it.
- Google have already issued some fixes and there's may be more to come. Apparently, there have been no confirmed cases of users having been damaged by this exploit and Google claim that all recent Android versions have built-in protection.

- Overall, however, the jury's still out. Read some details here <http://www.androidcentral.com/stagefright>

Topic for the Day:

Windows 10 – a review of information so far; who has installed it yet? What were your experiences? Should I install now or wait?

Three of our members have taken the plunge and installed Windows 10, the majority, however, are waiting for more information and until teething problems have been sorted out. It's fair to say that you don't have to upgrade; if you're happy with Win 7 or 8.1, then so be it – they're not going to disappear in a hurry.

- *Rick* – upgraded easily from Windows 8.1 lap top, but to date, impossible on Windows 7 Pro desktop. Installation stopped at 32% with 8 error messages. Would not go any further. Re booting reinstated Windows 7.
- *Dave* – easy (although protracted) upgrade from Win 7 Pro on desktop but proving impossible, so far, on Win 7 Home lap top. Gets continued message about 'system reserved drive partition' problems. This is a complicated issue and at the time of the meeting, not yet resolved. Some help can be found here 'Managing the System Reserved Partition in Windows 7 and Windows 8' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zikvlksi4Q>
- *John* – prior to upgrade was using a Wifi connection but after Window 10 has had to resort to wired Ethernet connection. Appears to be a driver update issue.
- To see some of the supposed advantages of Windows 7 we watched a short demonstration culled from the BBC Click programme. I've put it in Dropbox so you can see it here <https://db.tt/l2fGloD1> (on the black screen, right click and select 'Save As')
- We also looked at a Microsoft Windows FAQ web page <http://tinyurl.com/p4py8pp> and a Windows 10 promotional video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwc5jKc-EgE>
- All the above prompted a lot of discussion about Face Recognition systems, Cortana voice search, the new Edge browser and other functions. All seem to have various complications attached and, perhaps, need time for them to be fully understood.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 9th Sept – 1.30 pm at Bacton Village Hall

Topics for the Day:

- 1) By request, we will continue our appraisal of **Windows 10**, and assess progress from the last meeting.
- 2) Various questions have been asked about free **Wifi for tablets, phones and lap tops** so we will share our experiences and advice.