

# Security Now! #492 - 01-27-15

## Q&A #205

### This week on Security Now!

- The new Firefox Marketplace
- Google takes a bite out of Apple, too
- Anticipating MAC OS X 10.10.2 (and iOS v8.1.3 just released!)
- Apple agrees to a Chinese Audit of their product security.
- Another 3rd-party browser on the horizon
- Lets have Security Now! nail the podcast awards this year!

### Security News:

#### The Firefox Marketplace:

- Firefox v35.0.1 --> Main Menu: Tools / Apps
- <https://marketplace.firefox.com/>
- A store that features apps designed for any device that runs Firefox OS, Firefox for Android or Firefox desktop.
- Makes finding favorite or new apps easy.
- Apps downloaded or purchased can be used on multiple devices and platforms.

#### Google's Project Zero: Google drops three OS X 0-days on Apple

- <http://arstechnica.com/security/2015/01/google-drops-three-os-x-0days-on-apple/>
- Apple was informed on Oct. 20, 21, & 23.
- 90-days later... the vulnerabilities and exploit code made public.
- But... these are NOT critical bugs. Code must be executed on the host machine for exploitation... in which case you're already in bigger trouble.
- Glass houses? Old abandoned versions of Android...

#### Apple reportedly readying OS X v10.10.2:

- Fixes the "Thunderstrike" Thunderbolt "Evil Maid" access vulnerability.
- "Evil Maid" == Local access... like your maid would have.
- Believed to also fix Project Zero's #130, #135 & #136 0-day (low-problem) vulnerabilities.

## Apple's Chinese Audit:

- Apple will allow China's State Internet Information Office to run security audits on products the company sells in China in an effort to counter concerns that other governments are using its devices for surveillance, according to news reports.
- During a meeting in December, Tim Cook reportedly told China's Information Office Director, that Apple products do not give data to third parties. "We did not, and will not provide a back door."
- The director replied: "The Chinese government needs to draw its own conclusions so that consumers must be assured."
- Apple will cooperate with spot network security audits of its products by Chinese officials, according to reports of the story.

## "Vivaldi"... from one of the guys who brought us "Opera".

- <https://vivaldi.com/>
- Windows, Mac & Linux
- Uses the Chromium "Blink" rendering engine.
- Wrapped by the latest technologies and is intended to appeal to power users.
- Powerful tab-combining features.
- Lots of keyboard shortcut control.
- Currently in Technical Preview.
- Sync, Mail & extensions coming soon.

## Miscellany:

### The 10th Annual Podcast Awards

- <http://podcastawards.com/>
- Everyone: I would \*love\* Security Now to win the 10th annual podcast awards for Technology and Science categories: [podcastawards.com](http://podcastawards.com)

### Sci-Fi

- "Automata" -- many positive responses.
- "Predestination":
  - IMDB: 7.5/10, Rotten Tomatoes: 80%, Metacritic: 68%
  - 1:37min, Based upon a short story by Robert A. Heinlein
  - A VERY COMPLEX and contrived -- but interesting -- piece of story telling.

## SpinRite:

From: Bruce Young, Department Adjutant at DAV Department of Oregon (Disabled American Veterans)

Date: Mon, 26 Jan 2015 07:58:16 -0800

Subject: SpinRite is a great product

I'm a computer professional, and I've owned the current version of SpinRite since version 2.0 for my home PCs (yeah, I'm that old!). I've restored several dozen "dead" systems with this invaluable tool, most recently a 4-year-old HP laptop that would hardly boot! And any time a CHKDSK of my PC supposedly "fixes" a drive, I run SpinRite on it and the problem goes away! Sure, it takes a while to run, but if I kick it off before bed, even the biggest, troubled hard drive is finished by the time I get home from work! And lest anyone think this tool is for techies only, the interface is easy enough to use that any computer owner can run it!

Any time you need a beta tester for a new version look me up! I'm ready!

Thanks!