

# Security Now! #554 - 04-05-16

## Q&A #231

### This week on Security Now!

- A quiet week gives us a chance to catch up on some listener feedback.
- A few words of caution about jumping into the IoT gadget world too soon.
- Bruce Schneier on the FBI/Apple outcome.
- A bit of miscellany (some of it is amazing)
- Ten great observations, comments and questions from our listeners.

### How the FBI cracked Farook's iPhone...



A Cartoon by Bruce Plante (<http://www.planteink.com/cartoons.cfm>)

## Security News

### IoT: Whose "Lifetime" is a "lifetime subscription"?

Rob Price reporting for Business Insider:

- <http://www.businessinsider.com/googles-nest-closing-smart-home-company-revolv-bricking-devices-2016-4>
- <http://www.businessinsider.com/revolv-smart-home-hubs-lifetime-subscription-bricked-nest-google-alphabet-internet-of-things-2016-4>
- Caveat emptor is a Latin term that means "let the buyer beware." Similar to the phrase "sold as is," this term means that the buyer assumes the risk that a product may fail to meet expectations or have defects.
- "Revolv" sold \$300 smart home hubs with a "lifetime subscription."
- Revolv's website, prior to the acquisition, defined that as providing updates and other features "for the lifetime of the product."
- In October of 2014, Nest purchased Revolv.
- Nine months later Nest was purchased by Google.
- Now, Revolv founders Tim Enwall and Mike Soucie write:
  - "We're pouring all our energy into Works with Nest and are incredibly excited about what we're making. Unfortunately, that means we can't allocate resources to Revolv anymore and we have to shut down the service."
- Revolv's website now makes no mention of the "lifetime subscription," instead telling users that their products are no longer under warranty because its "one-year warranty against defects in materials or workmanship has expired for all Revolv products."
- Q&A:
  - What happens to my Revolv device?  
As of May 15th, 2016, Revolv service will no longer be available. The Revolv app won't open and the hub won't work.
- ZEO users went through something similar in 2013 when Zeo shut their doors.
- Loss of function is one (bad) thing. Patching security flaws in IoT devices is another concern.
- Unsupported smartphones and older routers.

### Bruce Schneier

- [https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2016/03/lawful\\_hacking\\_.html](https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2016/03/lawful_hacking_.html)
- Bruce:
- Whatever method the FBI used to get into the San Bernardino shooter's iPhone is one such vulnerability. The FBI did the right thing by using an existing vulnerability rather than forcing Apple to create a new one, but it should be disclosed to Apple and patched immediately.

- EDITED TO ADD: To be fair, the FBI probably doesn't know what the vulnerability is. And I wonder how easy it would be for Apple to figure it out. Given that the FBI has to exhaust all avenues of access before demanding help from Apple, we can learn which models are vulnerable by watching which legal suits are abandoned now that the FBI knows about this method.

## Miscellany

### Moving my domains away from Network Solutions...

- Warning: NOT a quick procedure.
- 3 days to receive a permission-to-move link.
- 4 days to respond to a confirmed request.

### Printable Magnets

- <http://bit.ly/sn-554>

### From: "Ben Pulido" in Greenville, South Carolina

Subject: Sleep Formula

Date: Mon, 04 Apr 2016 22:08:39 -0000

Steve,

I've been a listener to Security Now for several years. Thank you and great show blah blah blah (but sincerely, thank you.)

My wife has had lifelong issues with sleep apnea, nightmares, shallow sleeping, always being tired regardless of how long she slept or how many naps she takes, etc. 830 bedtime was her standard schedule, just so she could make it through the next day without crashing. Sleeping 14+ hours and then napping later only to be exhausted was a way of life in our household. When I heard you talk about your sleep formula, I had a little spark of hope that maybe, just maybe, things could change.

Steve, after 2 nights of taking the formula, my wife is a different person. She's not completely sure what to do with the all of the energy she has now! To be honest, I'm a little puzzled too because for the first time in years, my wife was awake and had energy at midnight.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for taking the time to research this sleep formula. It has made a drastic difference in our health and lifestyle.

Best Regards, Ben

## **MANY THANKS to EVERYONE who wrote about "My Last PC"**

- Great thoughts and feedback from many other PC builders!

## **SpinRite**

From: "Alan Farough" in Kanata Ontario Canada

I was listening to Leo's "The Tech Guy" show. He was talking about SSD's and spinning hard drives and the fusion drive compromise.

I was curious, how does SpinRite see a fusion drive? Leo mentioned the drive has special firmware to marry the two technologies. I can see that would have to be the case.

Does SpinRite bypass the firmware? If so, how could it do this? Would you only want to run a fusion drive on SpinRite level 1 or 2 so as not to burn out the SSD cells?

I do not have one of these drives, just curious about it.

Cheers.

Alan