

The GeeksSpeak

The Good Gals Always Wear the White Hats!

The GeeksSpeak is a periodic electronic publication of Hargraves Computer Services offering helpful tips on various computer-related issues.

<http://www.hargraves.net>

Yippee-ki-yay, pardner! Sorry it took so long to get another GeeksSpeak out, but this here dang mule wouldn't pull the wagon full of envelopes ... Oh, yeah, this is email! No envelopes. Guess I'm just caught up in the spirit of the Old West.

Anyway, this week I've been playing around with some high-end security auditing software. This is the same stuff the "white-hat hackers" use when they charge you big bucks to come find the holes in your network that let the bad guys in. I'm delighted to say that HCS's network passed with flying colors, so those of you using our mail or terminal services can rest assured your valuable data is as safe as we can make it.

This is the ideal kind of thing to be done by computer. There could be thousands of ports and services on every device, and all must be evaluated for security issues. It would take a human weeks or even months to manually look at all this stuff, but this little gem does it all automatically.

Whoa, doggies, if these computers keep gettin' smarter I'm gonna be out of a job!

We at HCS are getting into the Rodeo spirit by putting on our White Hats, ready to let our newest cow-girl toy scan your network and spot the leaks. This stuff looks at routers, firewalls, servers and workstations, scans ports and services and applications, checks user configurations, password issues, etc. looking for holes the black hats can use to steal or compromise your data. We'll bring in our notebook with the scanner pre-installed and configured to evaluate your network. Plug it in, turn it on, and come back later to a report showing your vulnerabilities, with an assessment of the risk of each and suggestions for fixing each problem.

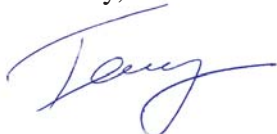
Please note that no one, HCS included, is ever going to promise you that your network is 100% secure. We will do everything we can feasibly do to make your network less attractive to the black hats than the network next door, but, just like jewel thieves, if they want what you have badly enough, they'll find a way to get it. The trick is to make it not worth their efforts.

Call us if you're ready to mend all those fences to keep the cattle rustlers out of your corral!

... and that's it for my soapbox speech of the month!

As always, we thank you for your continued business.

Sincerely,



Want to be added to or removed from the GeeksSpeak mailing list?

E-mail terry@hargraves.net.

We will never share your address with anyone.



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