#1233012: Security: 'Sticky note' vulnerability still bringing organisations undone

Call it the sticky-note hole: As information security vulnerabilities go, it is low tech but profoundly dangerous nonetheless.

And in the case of organisations that are suppliers to some of Australia's highest-profile enterprises, including major financial institutions, the consequences of employees scribbling down passwords on a piece of paper are potentially devastating.

The chief executive of Security in Depth, Michael Connory, said that while Australian businesses have been focused on protecting data "they tend to leave their front door open — they tend to forget about their staff".

Earlier this year Security in Depth launched what the CEO described as a "cyber credit score": The Cyber Assurance Risk Rating (CARR) is audit service that helps organisations asses the risk represented by a particular supplier.

The service provides the company's clients with an indication of the relative security maturity of a supplier, allowing an organisation to take steps to mitigate any associated cyber risks.

Since its launch, about 130 supplier organisations have been assessed as part of CARR, Connory said, with the process effectively functioning as an in-depth survey of where Australian businesses are making security missteps.

"We sat down, for example, with one financial organisation that is managing hundreds of millions of dollars of people's finances," the CEO told Computerworld.

"They'd encrypted the files, they had two-factor authentication. It was really quite good to

see that they're utilising technology. [But] when we had a simple walk around their office, we found passwords located on desks. We discovered that when people were trying to phish them there was no real process for managing an attack — the best practice, they thought, was just delete it and not tell anybody."

More info: https://www.computerworld.com.au/article/648211/security-sticky-note-vulnerability-still-bringing-organisations-undone/?fp=4&fpid=16 (https://www.computerworld.com.au/article/648211/security-sticky-note-vulnerability-still-bringing-organisations-undone/?fp=4&fpid=16)

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