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China Netcom DNS cache poisoned

Websense Security Labs reports that its ThreatSeeker Network has detected that the DNS cache on the default DNS server used by the customers of China Netcom has been poisoned.

According to Websense, when China Netcom customers mistype and enter an invalid domain name, the poisoned DNS server directs the visitor's browser to a page that contains malicious code. China Netcom is one of China's largest ISPs

Websense notes that many ISPs routinely generate additional advertising revenue by directing common misspellings of their domain name to a web site with generic advertisements, but China Netcom's customers are being directed to a Web site under the control of an attacker. And, it says, this site contain an iframe with malicious code that attempts to exploit, among other applications and plug-ins, a Microsoft Snapshot Viewer vulnerability which had been earlier reported by Websense

In March Internet security specialist, Dan Kaminsky discovered a new way to exploit the known vulnerability of DNS to cache poisoning. He detailed the technique at the Black Hat conference in Las Vegas earlier this month but in the interim, all the main suppliers of DNS software had been alerted and fixes developed and widely distributed. Websense did not say if China Netcom had patched its DNS servers.

China's IT consulting market suffering talent shortage

According to UK based Kennedy Information, the consulting market in China is suffering from a significant talent shortage, which is limiting the profession's growth potential in the region.

Kennedy says that China's unique need for localised firms combined with limitations in its education system are leading to a scarcity of consulting talent. "The situation is, according to many consultancies in China, the sole issue limiting growth. Still the China consulting market is expected to achieve over 20 percent CAGR over the research's forecast period of 2011, and the Asia Pacific region overall maintains its status as the highest growth market in the consulting world today," Kennedy says.

"Even in 2005, interest in the APAC region was driven primarily by opportunistic servicing of growing domestic consulting demand in each market and the wish to support global clients in their endeavours in Asia Pacific," according to Kennedy analyst, Damien Blenkinsopp. "Today, a much larger group of firms has moved toward an overall strategic interest in the APAC region." He adds that, "Such interest is unsurprising for the IT consulting space, since offshore outsourcing links have already been playing an important role in that area. More surprising is how strategic interest is very quickly coming to play across the whole consulting landscape."

Kennedy has published "The Asia Pacific Consulting Marketplace 2008-2011: Key Trends, Profiles and Forecasts," which analyses the consulting markets in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

It claims to provide three year growth forecasts for each market and profiles consultancies in the region: Abeam Consulting, Accenture, AT Kearney, Atos Origin, Bain & Company, BearingPoint, Booz Allen Hamilton, The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Capgemini, Deloitte, EDS, Fujitsu, Hewitt Associates, IBM Global Services, Infosys, KPMG, LG CNS, LogicaCMG, McKinsey & Co, Mercer, Monitor Group, NTT Data, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Samsung SDS, Tata Consultancy Services, Watson Wyatt and Wipro Technologies.

Pacnet provides 20Gbps for Olympics coverage

Pacnet says it has provided over 20Gbps of dedicated bandwidth through two cable landing points in China to support broadcast coverage of the Beijing Olympics.

According to Pacnet, major broadcasters around the world committed to covering the 17-day event with over 8,700 hours of online video coverage of the 302 events at the Olympics.

"By providing the bandwidth that is enabling this vastly expanded online coverage, we expect this Olympics to set a new record in terms of the number of online viewers, surpassing that of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games," Pacnet CEO, Bill Barney said, "Add to this, the millions of user-generated video clips from the audience that are being uploaded on video-sharing web sites and it should come as no surprise that this will be the most watched Olympics ever."

As a partner of China Netcom, the exclusive fixed-line telecommunications partner of the Beijing 2008 Olympics, Pacnet has provisioned dedicated bandwidth on its pan-Asian EAC-C2C subsea cable network through a landing station in Qingdao, the key venue for the sailing events of the Olympics, as well as through another landing station in Shanghai.

"Supporting the communication needs of the Olympics was one of the key considerations for landing EAC-C2C into Qingdao," said Wilfred Kwan, CTO of Pacnet. "Our next-generation network currently supports the broadcast and communications channels across the 37 Olympic venues, carrying IP-based video streams, high definition television broadcasts, as well as provisioning high-speed Internet access. "Additionally, with EAC-C2C having dual landing points into China, we offer the diverse paths and the capacity to provision more capacity if necessary."

India

***Tata Maharashtra offers one button conferencing on CDMA net
CDMA network operator Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) (TTML) has
partnered with Kodiak Networks to launch the Instachat conferencing
service in Mumbai, the rest of Maharashtra and Goa.***

TTML claims to be the first CDMA operator in the world to offer the service which is accessible from any Tata Indicom postpaid handset. By dialing a single number, Tata Indicom subscribers will be able to simultaneously reach a group of up to nine other telephone users. According to TTML, "This unique group calling application will appeal to large corporate, small and medium enterprises, community groups and families, wherever there is a need for instant, voice based group communication."

The service is based on the Kodiak Real-Time Exchange (RTX), billed as "a flexible, standard-based, multi-generational IMS compliant platform, which easily scales from independent operators to multinational carriers utilising 2G or 3G networks. It has been deployed by carriers in North America, Europe, India, Latin America and Asia/Pacific."

Malaysia

Packet One launches first Mobile WiMAX network

Packet One Networks (Malaysia), a subsidiary of Green Packet, claims to have become the first Malaysian mobile WiMAX converged telco with the launch of its P1 WiMAX service.

P1's deployment is supported by Intel, which recently invested RM50 million (\$US15m) in Green Packet. The network has been launched with two promotional

packages until 30 September 2008. They are: P1 WiMAX 1200 offering 1.2Mbps for RM99 or RM89 per month on 12 or 24 month contracts respectively and P1 WiMAX 2400 offering speeds up to 2.4Mbps for RM229 or RM199 per month.

The service is available in KLCC, Golden Triangle, Pekeliling, Setapak, Gombak, Seri Rampai, Sentul, Pudu, selected areas in Subang Jaya, USJ 1, USJ 7 and Subang Hi-Tech area. By the end of 2008, P1 plans to extend coverage to Petaling Jaya, Damansara, Klang and Port Klang and others within the Klang Valley; Johor Bahru; Kedah; Perak; Negeri Sembilan; Melaka and all major towns and cities in the West Coast of Peninsula Malaysia.

Ryaz Patel, country manager, sales and marketing for Intel Malaysia, said, "This is a significant milestone in the growth of WiMAX globally." IDC Malaysia indicated that notebook sales in Malaysia continued to outpace desktops during 2008, with more than 1.3 million units sold – representing nearly 60 percent of the total market in Malaysia. Intel believes the increasing availability of high-speed wireless broadband, such as P1's 802.16e WiMAX network, will accelerate this trend towards adoption of mobile computing in Malaysia and beyond."

- **REDtone rolls out Motorola fixed WiMAX gear**

REDtone has launched East Malaysia's first WiMAX broadband network using Motorola equipment. Motorola is supplying and deploying WiMAX 2.3GHz equipment at base sites and installing customer premises equipment to provide broadband services in major business districts in the first phase of the plan. The first phase of the network covers the Kota Kinabalu business district.

Telecom Malaysia picks Alcatel-Lucent for broadband access

Alcatel-Lucent has been awarded a two-year frame contract worth Euro 6.5 million in collaboration with KUB Telekomunikasi (KUBTel) to supply an IP-based fixed broadband access solution for Telekom Malaysia.

According to Alcatel-Lucent, it will enable TM to quickly and cost-effectively roll out triple play services and extend its nationwide coverage. Alcatel-Lucent will supply its 7302 Intelligent Services Access Manager (ISAM) and the related 5523 AWS Element Manager and will also be responsible of the network integration and maintenance. KUBTel will install and commission the system and provide nationwide technical support.

"This project reinforces our strategic relationship with TM and KUBTel, which already has selected Alcatel-Lucent's metro ethernet and aggregation solutions...TM is now equipped with the key component of Alcatel-Lucent's triple play services delivery architecture," said Pierre Cheyron, country senior officer and managing director of Alcatel-Lucent in Malaysia.

KUBtel's core business is in providing integrated solutions for telecommunications, electronics and multimedia-related business. KUBTel's principal business includes telecommunication network service and provider, network management, consultancy services, research and also system engineering services. The major products include Wireless Local Loop (WiLL), structured cabling, telecommunication/broadcasting tower and Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Lines (ADSL).

Taiwan

Chunghwa's long serving president promoted to chairman

Chunghwa Telecom has appointed Dr Shyue-Ching Lu as chairman and Mr Shaio Tung Chang as president.

Shyue-Ching Lu has been president of Chunghwa Telecom since 1996 and before that was deputy director general of the Directorate General of Telecommunications (DGT)

and a regulator at the Department of Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC). He also led and managed Telecommunication Laboratories, the R&D branch of DGT, and was instrumental in the transformation of DGT into Chunghwa Telecom, a state-owned enterprise. He also contributed to Chunghwa's NYSE listing in 2003 and to its privatisation in August 2005.

Shaio Tung Chang was previously senior vice president of the company and supervised the marketing, information technology and customer service departments. Prior to that, he served as head of Chunghwa's mobile business group and international business group.

Cambodia

Ericsson extends cellular coverage with solar power and satellites ***Ericsson claims to have combined, for the first time, a GSM base station and satellite transmission in a solar-powered site for Cambodian mobile operator Star-Cell.***

According to Ericsson, "Satellite transmission provides affordable mobile-network coverage in remote areas where other transmission solutions are unavailable. This is vital for bridging the digital divide, as about 80 percent of the Cambodian population lives outside the main urban centre."

Ericsson claims that its GSM main-remote solution has a lower environmental impact than standard base stations, consuming up to 50 percent less energy, which helps lower total cost of ownership by reducing operating costs.

Denis Ryabtsev, chief marketing officer at Star-Cell, said: "Ericsson's solar-powered site with satellite transmission will make a significant difference. It enables us to expand cost-effectively into rural areas, connect people for the first time, and offer affordable services that improve quality of life."

According to Ericsson, the deployment follows a series of initiatives to optimise the energy efficiency of mobile networks by creating solutions that reduce environmental impacts and lower operator costs. These include: BTS Power Savings features that put a network in stand-by mode during off-peak hours and saves up to 15 percent of the network access energy consumption; the Ericsson Tower Tube; biofuel-powered telecom sites; a hybrid solution using diesel and batteries that cuts network operating costs by up to 50 percent; and the Solar Village Charger, co-developed with Sony Ericsson. Ericsson delivered its first solar-powered sites in 2000 to Maroc Telecom in Morocco, and has so far provided more than 200 sites in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Americas.

Japan

New president for Nortel Japan

Nortel has appointed Ray Teske as its new president, Japan.

He was formerly global accounts leader for Nortel Asia Pacific and Greater China and will replace Toshiyuki Hiramatsu, who will become the chairman of Nortel Japan.

Teske's past experience with Nortel includes sales and technology leadership across the enterprise, optical and carrier solution business units in both South East Asia and Japan, where he previously led the metro optical business as marketing leader with several major carriers. Prior to joining Nortel, Teske worked for Telematics in Thailand and as a IT consultant for government and non-government bodies including the Canadian International Development Agency, and the United Nations Development Program on IT strategies across Southeast Asia.

New Zealand

InternetNZ seeks broadband strategy options

The Internet Society of New Zealand (InternetNZ) has engaged Auckland-based Network Strategies to produce a report assessing broadband strategy options for New Zealand.

The first stage of the project will include discovery, scoping and literature review leading to recommendations for the focus of stage two, which will result in a final report later in the year. InternetNZ executive director Keith Davidson, said: "Questions remain as to the best path forward for increasing broadband penetration for both business and consumers. Network Strategies will look at all the models already proposed locally and investigate international experience. InternetNZ is aiming for a report that will both inform public debate and provide pragmatic advice for proceeding."

InternetNZ released its RFP for the research and analysis of broadband strategy options for New Zealand in June. Network Strategies was selected from 10 respondents.

Pan Asian

Gartner forecasts half a billion cellphone sales in 2008

Telecom operators expanding their networks into rural areas is driving the demand for mobile devices in Asia Pacific with mobile phone sales predicted to increase 17.9 percent over last year and reach 472.5 million units in 2008, according to Gartner.

Gartner says that mobile phone sales in the Asia Pacific region will continue to grow at a faster pace than other regions, reaching 828.7 million by 2012, despite the fact that demand in mature markets such as Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan will slow. Worldwide, the mobile phone market is poised for double-digit growth in 2008 and 2009, with sales increasing 10.3 percent. However, Western Europe is projected to experience a decline in sales in 2008, down 1.5 percent from last year.

"High growth in markets such as India and China will drive overall volumes for Asia Pacific," said Anshul Gupta, principal research analyst at Gartner. "Other emerging markets such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines will also continue to show growth. This is mainly driven by operators expanding their networks into rural areas. Indian operators are expanding aggressively into rural areas with very attractive voice plans bundled with low-cost phones to attract first time users. We expect the basic phone segment to remain competitive in emerging markets with rising volumes year-over-year, though at a decreasing growth rate."

According to Gartner smartphone sales will account for approximately 35 percent of total sales by 2012, compared to seven percent in 2007. Both entry level smartphone and enhanced smartphone devices are expected to see strong growth as the devices gain popularity in the mature and emerging markets, with users finding better value for money and increased usability.

Increased adoption of the mobile office (e-mail, Intranet and applications on mobile device) by corporates and having the first experience of Internet browsing on mobile devices is likely to drive the sales of such devices. Growth in the smartphone segment is expected to be influenced positively by the launch of Apple's iPhone in the region.

Not even Nokia safe as mobile device market fragments

ABI research is predicting several years of uncertainty in the mobile device market as rapid technology changes threaten to unseat even the most successful players from their market-leading positions.

"Three or four years from now, no mobile device vendor - no matter what their market position today - will be in a 'comfort zone'," says ABI Research vice president and research director, Stuart Carlaw. "The advent of wider mobile broadband access, the drive to maximise data revenue, the desire to push smartphone operating systems down into mid-tier handsets, and rapid innovations in user interfaces will all make the mobile devices of 2010 radically unlike those of today."

He predicts that, "As the technologies evolve and market trends emerge, we will see the user interface advances pioneered by Apple's iPhone continue, with wider use of accelerometers and the addition of haptic feedback to touch screens. Mobile Internet devices (MIDs) will become an important market segment, and vendors will increasingly look to diversify their product and service offerings. The mobile device market is expanding, not consolidating, and shows increasing micro-segmentation. Disruptive influences abound."

Verizon Business offers network access control services

Verizon Business claims to be using its "unique blend of worldwide professional and managed service capabilities" to help customers deploy network access control (NAC).

According to Verizon Business, NEC is "one of the most promising yet complex security technologies in years." IT aims to ensure that only authorised users and compliant devices are able to access a company's network. "Because of its complexity, network access control technology is under-utilised, even though it offers organisations a stronger, better way of protecting their data," said Kerry Bailey, vice president of Verizon Business Security Solutions.

According to Verizon Business, "By linking network-based security with identity and access management and endpoint security technologies (including anti-virus, host intrusion prevention and patch management), NAC can greatly limit potential damage to the critical resources from known and unknown security threats that expose vulnerabilities."

Verizon Business claims to support all aspects of the technology, from design to strategy to implementation, and to management and maintenance. It is offering this service to enterprise customers throughout the US, Europe and Asia-Pacific working with NAC vendors, Cisco, Juniper Networks, ForeScout Technologies and TippingPoint.

Ovum sees service growth but revenue falls in broadband

According to Ovum, enterprise demand for broadband access will continue to grow driven by migration from legacy services.

This migration will be particularly significant in verticals such as financial and government, where quality of service is critical - and in the implementation of VoIP and network-based applications. "Companies are recognising services convergence and supporting their multiple locations as a competitive advantage," Ovum says.

"Ovum forecasts a total of 59.8 billion broadband connections globally in 2007, rising to 87.6 billion in 2012, representing a CAGR of eight percent," said Ovum analyst Lucy Hipperson. However Ovum forecasts an overall decline in broadband access revenues over the next five years with global revenues of \$US59.4b in 2007 rising to \$US62.4b in 2009 before declining to \$US55.6b in 2012.

"In the long term continued price decline in developing markets will have a greater effect on the overall market and lead to a decline in revenues," Hipperson said. "Ethernet access revenues are increasing and act as a counterbalance to the decline in DSL revenues. However, they fail to prevent revenue decline over our five-year forecast period."

Technology

Ericsson / STMicro JV to shake up wireless chipset market ***STMicroelectronics and Ericsson are to merge their respective cellphone chip and cellphone software (platform) businesses into a 50/50 joint venture that they say will have the industry's strongest product offering in semiconductors and platforms for mobile applications.***

The businesses being combined are major suppliers to four of the industry's top five handset manufacturers, who together represent almost 80 percent of handset shipments. The new business will comprise Ericsson Mobile Platforms and STM's ST-NXP Wireless business. It will be a major supplier to Nokia, Samsung, Sony Ericsson, LG and Sharp and have revenues of around \$US3.6 billion. It will employ almost 8,000 people - 5000 from STM-NXP and 3000 from Ericsson.

In a statement the two companies said: "In the joint venture, ST contributes its industry-leading multimedia and connectivity solutions as well as a complete world-class 2G/EDGE platform and strong 3G offering, including customer relationships with Nokia, Samsung, and Sony Ericsson. Ericsson contributes its industry-leading 3G and LTE platform technology as well as customer relationships with Sony Ericsson, LG and Sharp."

The joint venture will be able to supply "all appropriate hardware, software and support to enable handset manufacturers to develop mass-market products." Ericsson Mobile Platforms claims to have state-of-the-art mobile modem design and mobile terminal architecture expertise and ST-NXP Wireless "experience in wireless semiconductor development, including an industry-leading ASIC, ASSP, application processor and connectivity portfolio and hardware assembly and testing."

According to US reports it is the biggest consolidation in the chipset market to date and will present a significant challenge to the present market leaders in the mobile devices chipset industry; Qualcomm, Freescale and Texas Instruments. TI is presently a major chip supplier to Ericsson Mobile Platforms and to Nokia and likely to be hit hard by the move. Associated Press reported in April that "the quarter began on a worrying note for TI as the company reported fourth-quarter results below Wall Street expectations. Furthermore, two of its biggest customers Nokia and Ericsson both said that they will seek additional chip suppliers."

The joint venture will be able to exploit Ericsson's position as a major mobile infrastructure supplier. Kursten Leins, Strategic Marketing Manager - Multimedia, Ericsson Australia, told iWire, "One of the main drivers for the agreement is the continuous need to integrate additional technology into the core chipsets of wireless technology, such as by adding cameras, TV receivers, Bluetooth, Wireless LAN, GPS and so on. This joint venture will have a strong position in each of these technologies, as well as future platforms such as LTE. By aligning chipset capabilities with network capabilities, Ericsson is able to ensure operators can launch new end-to-end services and features."

He added: "Another key driver is to have the scale to lead and develop next-generation technologies. To be successful in this market requires very substantial R&D investment, and few semiconductor players can make this scale of R&D investment."

Ericsson formed Ericsson Mobile Platforms in 2001 to offer 2.5G and 3G platforms to manufacturers of mobile phones and other wireless devices giving as its rationale the transformation of the handset industry where few companies would be able to deliver chip-sets, but many to deliver handsets. The unit is presently headquartered in Lund, Sweden and is a part of Business Unit Multimedia within the Ericsson Group.

The joint venture will comprise two separate businesses: a development and marketing company with approximately 7,000 people employed; and a platform design company, with approximately 1,000 people employed that will provide platform designs to the development and marketing company. The joint venture will be headquartered in Geneva and each parent will appoint four directors to the board

STM-NXP was formed in April 2008 when STMicroelectronics and NXP, an independent semiconductor company founded by Philips, announced plans to combine their respective wireless chip making operations to form a joint venture. They claimed that the JV would have the scale to better meet customer needs in 2G, 2.5G, 3G, multimedia, connectivity and all future wireless technologies and would own "thousands of important communication and multimedia patents." They said that the new company would be "a solid top-three industry player and among the few companies with the scale and expertise to pursue the R&D investments necessary to establish itself as a leading player in the wireless and mobile-multimedia market."

STM-NXP was billed as combining design, sales and marketing and back-end manufacturing assets from both companies relying on its parent companies and foundries for wafer fabrication services. It claimed to be "well positioned with all of the vital technologies for UMTS; for the emerging 3G Chinese standard; as well as other cellular, multimedia and connectivity capabilities, including WiFi, Bluetooth, GPS, FM Radio, USB, and UWB (Ultra-wideband)," and able to serve its global customers with complete wireless and mobile solutions across the spectrum of applications. It also included the Silicon Laboratories' wireless and GloNav's GPS operations recently acquired by NXP.

NXP presently holds 20 percent of STM-NXP and this will be acquired by STM prior to the new JV with Ericsson being formed. Frans van Houten, CEO of NXP, said: "We understand the desire of ST to call our 20 percent stake in order to expand the ST-NXP Wireless joint venture with Ericsson. We support this...[and] to help ensure the success of the joint venture going forward all NXP's supply and support agreements will continue as planned. The additional proceeds of the 20 percent stake will enable NXP to further build leadership positions through innovation and investment in NXP's core businesses."

Nokia licenses Intertrust DRM technologies

Nokia has entered into a patent licensing agreement with Intertrust Technologies giving it access to Intertrust's broad portfolio of inventions in digital rights management (DRM) and trusted computing.

Technologies covered under the agreement include those relating to the Open Mobile Alliance (OMA), Marlin DRM specifications and various trusted distributed mobile computing standards. According to Matti Kauppi, Nokia vice president of intellectual property rights, the agreement will give Nokia "the design freedom to deliver many advanced features in mobile computing."

Intertrust holds over 100 patents and has over 300 patent applications pending worldwide covering DRM. It claims that its inventions "enable a broad range of products that use DRM and trusted computing technologies, including operating systems, digital media platforms, consumer electronics and mobile computing devices, web services, and secure enterprise automation."