

HACKERS BRIEF

from CyberWyoming

WELLS FARGO IMPERSONATION

An email impersonating Wells Fargo with the subject line of “New Notification” from an acrevo.com email address spoofed as “Fraud Alert” was reported by a Laramie citizen. The email says that they have detected unusual activity on your ‘card card’ that may result in ‘closure of your account and card.’ Do not click on the link provided! CyberWyoming researched the link and it goes to a Russian server from the hosting provider VKontakte Ltd.

RANDOM TEXT SAYING “HI”

A Laramie citizen reported a random text from a 972 number that just said “hi”. CyberWyoming Note: Scammers often use texts like this to see if your number is active and if you will engage with them. So, just delete and block the number.

BE AWARE OF CURRENT EVENTS SCAMS REGARDING FTX

With the current event of the cryptocurrency exchange FTX collapsing, be vigilant. Scammers often take advantage of current events. FTX customers could be doubly victimized with scammers saying they can get the victim’s money back. Do not believe unsolicited communicators. Always check with the Federal Trade Commission or the AARP Fraud Watch Network before giving out any personal information or money. Reminder brought to you by the University of Wyoming’s Center for Blockchain and Digital Innovation.

ONLINE NEWS WARNING

The Proofpoint Threat Research Team uncovered intermittent programming code injections for a media company that serves more than 250 major news outlets. If you are reading a news website and your browser asks you to update using a zipped file like Chrome.Update.zip, Chrome.Updater.zip, Firefox.Update.zip, etc. do not open the zipped file. It installs malicious files.

TYP0 SQUATTING WARNING

Typo squatting is when bad actors impersonate another company’s website address by changing one character. For instance, Google may be impersonated by using a capital ‘I’ (eye) in place of the small ‘l’ (ell). In many fonts, this looks exactly the same. Popular Android app stores like Google Play, APKCombo, and APKPure as well as download portals for PayPal, VidMate, Snapchat, and TikTok were among the victims. For the full list, check out: <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/typosquat-campaign-mimics-27-brands-to-push-windows-android-malware/>

VENUS RANSOMWARE – WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Venus ransomware is currently targeting publically exposed remote desktop services to encrypt Windows computers. If you have a Windows computer, make sure your Remote Desktop Protocol is turned off. CyberWyoming has a video that walks you through how: <https://youtu.be/BXRm1WcrQaQ>

INSTAGRAM VERIFICATION

Users of social media app Instagram are being targeted with a phishing email saying they’ve been approved for the site’s blue badge verification program. Victims are supposed to click a link to complete the process by filling out a form. This requires all sorts of information including sign-on details. Instagram does not send out unsolicited messages like this, so don’t click! Brought to you by scambusters.org.

CENTER FOR INTERNET SECURITY SHOP SMART AND STAY SAFE

Cyber threat actors are aware of the fact that online shopping increases for the holidays. Remember not to use public Wi-Fi, make sure that payment sites start with HTTPS (not HTTP), don’t click on ads or email ads (especially if they look too good to be true), and pay with credit cards, not debit cards.

MS-ISAC AND CISA PATCH NOW ALERT

The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) or the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has published a patch now (update your software) alert for Google’s Android operating system, Google’s Chrome browser, VMware Workspace One (Assist 21 and 22), Citrix ADC, Citrix Gateway, Apple’s macOS Ventura, Apple’s iOS, Apple’s iPadOS, Cisco’s firewall products, and Microsoft products. If you use these products, make sure the software (or firmware) is updated.

DATA BREACHES IN THE NEWS

Potential breach of Apprentice Information Systems affecting county offices across Arkansas, Continental Automotive Group, Kearney & Company (CPA firm), Somnia (an administrative services firm for anesthesiology practices in New York), AstraZeneca, an Amazon Prime Video Server (viewing data, subscription information), Experian’s identity verification tool, WakeMed Health & Hospitals (North Carolina), US Bank (California), Multi-Color Corporation, Thomson Reuters, See Tickets (payment card details), Microsoft Azure Blob Storage, Meta Pixel (used by hospitals in the US), iDealwine, and Keystone Health (Pennsylvania).

If you have an account with one of these companies, be sure to change your password and consider placing a credit freeze on your accounts through the three credit reporting agencies: TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax.

Other ways to report a scam:

- Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker: www.bbb.org/scamtracker/us/reportscam
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint
- Report your scam to the FBI at <https://www.ic3.gov/complaint>
- Reported unwanted calls to the Federal Trade Commission’s Do Not Call Registration. Online at <https://complaints.donotcall.gov/complaint/complaintcheck.aspx> or call 1-888-382-1222, option 3
- Office of the Inspector General: <https://oig.ssa.gov/>
- AARP Fraud Watch Network (any age welcome) Helpline 877-908-3360
- IRS: report email scams impersonating the IRS to phishing@irs.gov
- Call the Wyoming Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for assistance with potential Medicare fraud, abuse, or errors at 800-856-4398

GUEST COLUMN

Growing up in the ‘60s

Growing up in the ‘60s was sweet for many reasons. One of the best parts about growing up when we did was the holidays — starting with Thanksgiving. (I could start with Halloween, but as a child I was restricted to a five-block radius whereas my brothers were allowed free access to the entire town — guess at 63 years young I’m still bitter).

School got out and we began looking forward to days ahead of fun in the snow, feasting and family time. Food tasted better (probably because I wasn’t in charge of preparing) and seemed special but there was a lot more involved in our celebrations.

1. No cellphones. We connected with people differently. Even if we were watching a football game on TV we managed to look and converse with each other more. Or, we were engrossed in a card or board game. We simply talked more. We weren’t busy updating our social media but instead opted for a walk before enjoying desert or a second round of leftovers.

2. Remembering our parents and grandparents preparing the holiday feast. Dinners were a labor of love.



SANDY SARE

whipped cream. When my mom was growing up this was especially a treat for her and her siblings. Thank goodness scalloped oysters were finally fazed out.

3. Stores were closed and Black Friday was a thing of the future. The day wasn’t scheduled around shopping. If you had a job in retail, you were guaranteed the day off to be with family and friends.

4. Make your memories your gifts. We’re thrilled to have our daughter and her family here from Australia for the holidays. While we have cur-

tailed the gift giving considerably, we are still brainstorming, and heart-storming (just made that word up), on how to make the time spent together special. How to create those memories that bring back joyful laughter in the years to come. We want everyone to remember the great time we spent together versus what gift they received under the tree.

With the holiday season we are all being gifted an opportunity to slow down and make deliberate choices on how we spend our time together. Give yourself permission to release those things that seem stressful.

We could all use a little of the ‘60s holidays in our lives. Even if you didn’t like scalloped oysters or watching football, chances are you still miss those days and the way you felt around this time of year. Tuck your memories away in your heart to bring out and share over and over again in the years to come. And be thankful you don’t have to take “one small spoonful” of scalloped oysters.

SANDY SARE is membership director at the Sheridan County YMCA.



MATTHEW GASTON | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

Chatting with customers

Jennifer Lemay chats with customers at the Wyo Knits booth during the Sheridan Sharks Swim Team’s annual Arts and Crafts Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022.

Audits reveal millions in Medicare Advantage overcharges

FRED SCHULTE AND HOLLY HACKER
KAISER HEALTH NEWS VIA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newly released federal audits reveal widespread

overcharges and other errors in payments to Medicare Advantage health plans for seniors, with some plans overbilling the government more than

\$1,000 per patient a year on average. Summaries of the 90 audits, which examined billings from 2011 through 2013 and are the most recent reviews completed, were obtained exclusively by KHN through a three-year Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, which was settled in late September.

The government’s audits uncovered about \$12 million in net overpayments for the care of 18,090 patients sampled, though the actual losses to taxpayers are likely much higher. Medicare Advantage, a fast-growing alternative to original Medicare, is run primarily by major insurance companies. Officials at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said they intend to extrapolate the payment error rates from those samples across the total membership of each plan — and recoup an estimated \$650 million as a result.

But after nearly a decade, that has yet to happen. CMS was set to unveil a final extrapolation rule Nov. 1 but put that decision off until February.

Ted Doolittle, a former deputy director of CMS’ Center for Program Integrity, which oversees

Medicare’s efforts to fight fraud and billing abuse, said the agency has failed to hold Medicare Advantage plans accountable. “I think CMS fell down on the job on this,” said Doolittle, now the health care advocate for the state of Connecticut.

Doolittle said CMS appears to be “carrying water” for the insurance industry, which is “making money hand over fist” off Medicare Advantage. “From the outside, it seems pretty smelly,” he said.

In an email response to written questions posed by KHN, Dara Corrigan, a CMS deputy administrator, said the agency hasn’t told health plans how much they owe because the calculations “have not been finalized.”

Corrigan declined to say when the agency would finish its work. “We have a fiduciary and statutory duty to address improper payments in all of our programs,” she said.

The 90 audits are the only ones CMS has completed over the past decade, a time when Medicare Advantage has grown explosively. Enrollment in the plans more than doubled during that period at a cost to the government of \$427 billion.

DINING ROOM HOURS:
Monday-Friday • 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



BREAKFAST
7:00-9:00 a.m.
LUNCH
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Entrée choice or soup/salad. Entrée only offered for home delivered meals.

TUESDAY, NOV. 22	WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23	THURSDAY, NOV. 24
Teriyaki Chicken Steamed Rice Stir Fry Blend Vegetables Almond Cookies	Pork Tenderloins Baked Potato Broccoli Brownies	Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes W/ Gravy Stuffing Green Bean Casserole Pumpkin Bars
FRIDAY, NOV. 25	MONDAY, NOV. 28	Renew your registration now! Updates are subject to change.
Beef & Barley Soup French Bread Garden Salad Ambrosia	Shrimp Scampi Spaghetti Veg. Medley Garlic Bread Chocolate Zucchini Cake	

Find us on the internet at www.thehubsheridan.org or on Facebook: The Hub on Smith, a Center for All Generations.

Front desk: 307-672-2240

Home delivered meals: 307-672-6079

Loan closet: 307-672-1769

Support center: 307-675-4954

Housing: 307-675-4957

Fun and wellness: 307-675-4952

Help at Home services: 307-675-1978

Day Break adult care services: 307-674-496

Hackers Brief from Cyber Wyoming brought to you by



FIRST FEDERAL
BANK & TRUST

307.674.0464 | www.efirstfederal.bank