



DTI eSecurity News - Web Browser Attacks

What is a Web Browser?

A web browser is a software application that allows you to view and interact with an Internet web page.

Popular Web Browsers:



How Can Your Browser Put You At Risk?

Without the appropriate security patches applied, web browsers are vulnerable to attack or exploit. A fully patched web browser can still be vulnerable to attack or exploit if the browser plug-ins are not fully patched. It is important to remember that plug-ins are not automatically patched when the browser is patched.

- Traditionally, browser-based attacks originate from “bad” websites due to poor security coding of web applications or vulnerabilities in the software supporting the websites.
- Hackers add scripts that do not change the website’s appearance. These scripts may “silently” redirect you to another website without you even knowing about it. This redirect to another website may cause malicious programs to be downloaded to your computer.

What about Cell Phone Browsers?



It is not just desktop or laptop computers that are vulnerable. Smart phones, such as Blackberries and iPhones, may become targets of browser-based attacks because of the built in browsers’ technology and Internet access.

How Can You Protect Your Browser?

1. Update and patch your browsers regularly.
2. Update and patch your operating system regularly.
3. Install anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and keep them up to date.
4. Update and patch your applications (programs), especially if they work with the browser (e.g. Adobe Reader, Windows Media Player, Real Player, etc.).
5. Use a firewall, if possible, and keep it up to date.
6. Block pop-up windows to help keep malicious software from being downloaded to the computer.
7. Make sure your browser security setting is not below the default value.
8. Ensure your cell phone software is up to date. Your cell phone provider can assist you with this.

Please note:

A number of these tips may impede your use of the Internet or limit what content you can access.

If you find that you need to lower your security settings, to be able to access what you need, lower them temporarily, and then reset them.

To learn more about browser attacks go to:

US-CERT Security:
<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST05-001.html>

SANS Cyber Security Institute:
<http://www.sans.org/2008menaces/>

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Questions or comments?
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