Social Engineering

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What is Social Engineering?

- Involves human interaction
- Nontechnical Intrusion
- Involves tricking people to break normal security procedures

(Patel, 2013)

WHAT IS SOCIAL ENGINEERING?

"A social engineering attack is a continuous process that starts with initial research, which is the starting phase, until its completion, when the social engineer ends the conversation. The conversation is a brief coverage of the four phases that the social engineer follows to perform an attack." (Patel & R.S., 2013)

Phases of attack (Patel & R.S., 2013)

- Research
    - Learn about target
- Hook
    - Initial conversation/Build Trust
- Play
    - Get Information
- Exit
    - Leave without raising suspicion

Types of Social Engineering Attacks (Patel & R.S., 2013)

Human Based

- Piggybacking
- Impersonating
- Eavesdropping
- Reverse social engineering
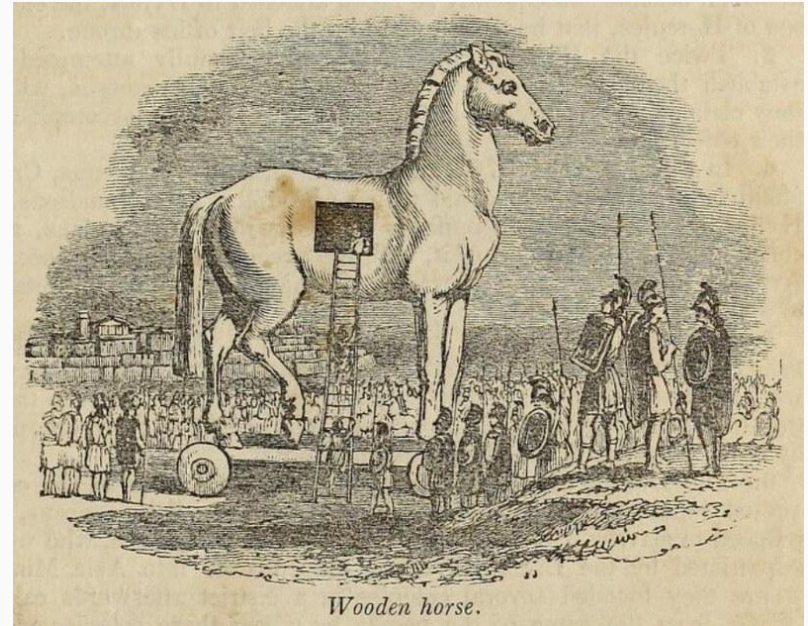- Dumpster diving
- Posing as a legitimate user

Computer based

- Pop-up windows
- Insider attack
- Phishing
- Nigerian 419 scam
- Fake SMS

History of Social Engineering

- Trojan Horse Story
- Greeks created giant wooden horse
- Early use of Social Engineering

  (Mitnick Security Consulting, n.d.)

Wooden horse.

Current Events

2019 Toyota BEC Scam

- Attacker manipulated finance/accounting departments
- Posed as a business partner
- Stole $37 million dollars

2011 RSA Phishing Scam

- Employee clicked attachment in an email
- Ran an exploit through Adobe Flash
- Attacker stole sensitive information

Current Events cont.

- 2013 Target Data Breach
- 2013 Yahoo Customer Accounts
- 2020 Twitter Bitcoin Scam

  (Mitnick Security Consulting, n.d.)

"In most cases, successful social engineers have strong people skills. They're charming, polite, and easy to like – social traits needed for establishing rapport and trust" (Mitnick & Simon, 2002).

Prevention

- Awareness
- Auditing
- Good Security Policies

References

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