



Credit Samuelson for raising awareness of internet dangers

Posted: Tuesday, August 14, 2018

“Hardly a day goes by without news reports of the internet being used to undermine our democracy, steal people’s personal information, hijack corporate secrets and attack ‘critical infrastructure’ – the power grid, financial and communication networks, water and transportation systems,” Robert Samuelson lamented in his Sunday op-ed.

“Many Americans remain in a state of confused denial. We simply cannot bring ourselves to acknowledge that such promising technologies can be turned against us in such destructive ways.”

The reality is that most of us have either been the victim of a security breach or we know someone who has suffered from having their personal data compromised. In many instances, these incidents can be far-reaching in scope, inflict considerable damage to individuals and organizations and even rattle the foundation of society itself.

At the heart of the problem is the increasingly important role of network security. As Samuelson astutely observes, we urgently need to be allocating significantly more resources to keeping our digital infrastructure as impervious as possible to those who do not have our best interests at heart.

“Today, a majority of IT security attacks still originate over the network,” Raymond Pompon cautions in “IT Security Risk Control Management: An Audit Preparation Plan,” his 2016 primer on keeping us safe in an increasingly uncertain world. “The attacks that don’t originate from a network still usually involve a network in some manner. It seems that every device and application is now internet aware, where even our household appliances are supporting social media accounts.”

In contrast to those who espouse a decidedly more utopian yet inherently more naive perspective when it comes to the unprecedented potential for political enlightenment and economic growth the internet certainly provides, I applaud Samuelson for trying to make us more cognizant of the potential dangers that accompany the benefits.

Aaron W. Hughey
Bowling Green

www.bgdailynews.com