

2 First Epistle Concerning the Bountiful Seeds of 0Day

by Manul Laphroaig, Merchant of Dead Trees

Dearly Beloved,

Are the last days of 0day upon us? Is 0day becoming so sparse as to grace the very few, no matter how many of the faithful strive for its glory? Not so.

For what is the seed of 0day? Is it not a nugget of understanding what those of little faith ignore as humdrum? Is it not liberating the computing power of mechanisms unnoticed by those who use them daily? Is it not programming of machines presumed to be set in stone or silicon?

Verily, when the developer herds understand the tools that drive them to their cubicked pastures every day, then shall the 0day be depleted—but not before. Verily, when every tender of academic pigeonholes reads the papers he reviews and demands to see their source, then might the 0day begin to deplete—but not before.

For how can the sum of programs grow faster than St. Moore foresaw without increasing the sum of 0day? Have we prophets and holy ones who can cure the evil of using tools without understanding? Have layers of abstractions stopped breeding blind reliance? Verily, on such sand new castles are being erected even now.

So, beloved brethren, seek after 0day wherever and whenever the idolaters say “this just works” or “you don’t need to understand this to write great code” or yet “write once, run anywhere.” Most of all, look for it where the holy PEEK and POKE are withheld from those who crave them—for no righteousness can survive there, and the blind there are leading the blind to the pits of eternal pwnage.

Similarly, pay no attention to the target of an exploit. The *mechanism*, not target, is where an exploit’s cleverness lies. Verily, the target, the pwnage, and the press release are all just a side show. When the neighbors ask you about BYOD, rebuke them like this: “It is not my job to sell you a damned iPad!”

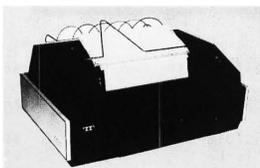
So preach this good news to all your neighbors, and to their neighbors:

If the 0day in your familiar pastures dwindles, despair not! Rather, bestir yourself to where programmers are led astray from the sacred Assembly, neither understanding what their programming languages compile to, not asking to see how their data is stored or transmitted in the true bits of the wire. For those who follow their computation through the layers shall gain 0day and pwn, and those who say “we trust in our APIs, in our proofs, and in our memory models and need not burden ourselves with confusing engineering detail that has no scientific value anyhow” shall surely provide an abundance of 0day and pwnage sufficient for all of us.

Go now in peace and pwnage,
—PML

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