

UD Computational Science Day 2006

February 14, 2006

An Analysis of Network Security Practices of Restaurants in the United States

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Abstract

A survey of 116 restaurant information technology (IT) managers was conducted to find out security practices for restaurant networks and prevention techniques. A random sample of one-thousand restaurant IT managers were selected from the *Hospitality Technology* Magazine subscribers. Twenty-four percent of the restaurant networks had a computer network attack within the last 12 months. On average, the restaurants received one to five network attacks within the last 12 months. The revenue of the restaurant seems to be positively correlated with the number of attacks observed within the last 12 months. Regarding attack types, "Virus Attack" (71.4%) was reported most frequently, followed by "Insider Abuse of Net Access" (57.1%) and "Spoofing" (39.2%). In terms of protection from these attacks, restaurant IT managers reported that the most used protection tool is hardware firewall (69.2%) and anti-virus software (69.2%). However, there are several important network security tools/techniques such as vulnerability assessment scan or biometrics that are not heavily used by restaurants.