Commissioned by Kaspersky Lab

Anti-Phishing Test

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Introduction

This report has been commissioned by Kaspersky Lab.

What is Phishing?

Taken from Wikipedia[1]:

"Phishing is a way of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. This is similar to Fishing, where the fisherman puts a bait at the hook, thus, pretending to be a genuine food for fish. But the hook inside it takes the complete fish out of the lake. Communications purporting to be from popular social web sites, auction sites, online payment processors or IT administrators are commonly used to lure the unsuspecting public. Phishing is typically carried out by e-mail spoofing or instant messaging and it often directs users to enter details at a fake website whose look and feel are almost identical to the legitimate one. Phishing is an example of social engineering techniques used to deceive users, and exploits the poor usability of current web security technologies."

For more information about how not to get hooked by a phishing scam, please have a look at e.g. http://www.onguardonline.gov/phishing (provided by the United States' Homeland Security).

Test procedure

In our test scenario, we simulate the common situation where users rely on the anti-phishing protection provided by their security products while browsing the web (and/or checking their webmail accounts; anti-spam features are not considered, as they are not within the scope of this test). The test was done using Windows 7 Professional 64-Bit and Internet Explorer 11 (without its built-in phishing blocker, in order to get browser-independent results). All security products were tested with default settings and in parallel, at the same time and on the same URLs.

Test set

The test took place between the 13th and 23rd October 2014. Phishing URLs were tested as soon as we discovered them. All phishing URLs had to be active/online at time of testing and attempt to get personal information. After removing all invalid, offline and duplicate (sites hosted on same server/IP) test-cases, 210 valid phishing URLs remained. The phishing campaigns targeted various types of personal data, including login credentials etc. for PayPal, online banking & credit cards, e-mail accounts, eBay, social networks, online games and other online services.

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[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phishing

Tested products

The tested product versions are the ones that were available at the time of testing (October 2014). The 14 products to test and to include in this report were choose by Kaspersky Lab:

- **Avast** Free Antivirus 9.0
- **AVIRA** Free Antivirus 14.0
- **AVG** Antivirus Free 2015
- **BullGuard** Internet Security 14.1
- **Dr.Web** Security Space 9.1
- **ESET** Smart Security 8.0
- **F-Secure** Internet Security 14.115

- **G DATA** Internet Security 2015
- **Kaspersky** Internet Security 2015
- **McAfee** Internet Security 17.6
- **Panda** Cloud Free Antivirus 15.0
- **Symantec** Norton Security 2015
- **Trend Micro** Internet Security 2015
- **Webroot** SecureAnywhere Internet Security Complete 8.0

Anti-Phishing "False Alarm" Test

For the Anti-Phishing False-Alarm Test we selected 200 popular banking sites (all of them using HTTPS and showing a login form) from all over the world, and checked if any of the various security products blocked these legitimate online banking sites. Wrongly blocking such sites is a serious mistake. Of the products tested, **BullGuard had 1 false alarm** and **Webroot had 2 false alarms** on the tested 200 legitimate online banking sites.

Test results

Below you can see the percentages of blocked phishing websites (size of test set: 210 phishing URLs).

1. ESET, Kaspersky Lab   90%
2. Symantec   87%
3. Trend Micro   80%
4. F-Secure, McAfee   66%
5. Avast, AVG   62%
6. BullGuard, G DATA   60%
7. AVIRA, Panda   40%
8. Webroot   38%
9. Dr.Web   28%

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