VULNERABILITY IN MICROCHIPS

Are we ahead of the curve?

Globally, financial institutions particularly banks spends a lot of their time, and money to protect information. One of the easiest ways the hackers get access to people's information is via their card. For years, their safeguard protocol consisted of imprinted digits and a signature field, but now you will find most of the debit and credit cards are issued with smart chips and PIN/password verification to stand guard.

The new chip and PIN cards (an EMV standard) promised greater security than simple magnetic stripe cards, but no sooner were they deployed than criminals tried to break their protection. The banking industry spends a lot of effort, time, and money to protect bank cards. For years, their protection consisted of printed digits and a signature field, but now smart chips and one-time passwords stand guard between your money and the criminals who want it.

In 2010, their secure chip product family by the name of SLE66 series security was compromised and the security vulnerability was demonstrated by an independent researcher C Tarnovsky. The vulnerability exists in products shipped by Gemalto based on Infineon SLE66/SLE78 since October 2014 into Estonia and Spain Identity card project.

Recently in Nov'17, Estonia and Spain citizen ID cards which were being shipped by Gemalto using Infineon's secure chip platform were security compromised. A team of researchers discovered vulnerability (Return of Coppersmith's Attack / ROCA) in a generation of RSA keys used by a software library adopted in cryptographic smart-cards, security tokens and other secure hardware chips manufactured by Infineon Technologies AG.

This weakness has far-reaching security consequences in electronic government documents like electronic passports, driving license, national id card…to name a few. A recent case of a German semiconductor company by the name of Infineon, whose security of the chips used in various government documents and banking products have been compromised.

Bangladesh government should give due attention to such developments. Several of the national Identity documents like National ID Card, Electronic Passport, and Driving License are already in pipeline. These will be based on secure smart card chips.

But what are the easy ways to stay safe? Researchers have two simple tips for cardholders who want to stay safe.

Firstly, never ever enter PIN twice in a transaction. If you see an error and get a request to enter your PIN again, cancel the transaction, take out the card, insert it again, and enter your PIN once more (and only once).

The second tip is not applicable in all countries, but it's interesting. NCR experts have a high opinion of mobile payment systems security (like Apple Pay), so paying with your watch or phone can be more secure than using the credit card. We don't have those in Bangladesh yet, but still we thought you should know. After all, at the end being safe is all that matters/.

Ride sharing app Chalo plans introducing blockchain to strengthen data protection

In a press release issued last week, ridesharing app Chalo declared to incorporate blockchain, an online ledger to track information securely and anonymously, with the technical support of USA-based firm Aphaea Capital. Chalo Chief Executive Officer DewanShuvo announced their initiative on block chain at a seminar at Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) in Dhaka recently. USA-based technology expert Paul Bryzek and Aphaea Capital founder Mir Haque, members of the press, members of BASIS were, among others, present on the occasion.

EPSON announces Excel Technologies as new distributor in Bangladesh

EPSON last week announced its partnership with Excel Technologies as its newest distributor in Bangladesh at a press conference. Under the terms of the agreement, Excel technologies ltd will distribute EPSON's products, including printers and projectors. In addition to that, Excel will also become the provider of service and support in Bangladesh. On the partnership launching program, Mr, Toshiyuki Kasai the President & CEO and Mr. N.Sambamoorthy, Vice President, EPSON India Pvt.Ltd ;Mr. GoutamSaha Managing Director from Excel Technologies were also present.

Two NRBs on the mission to digitise the healthcare system of Bangladesh

Bangladesh's healthcare sector isn't as digitised as its western counterparts. Realising the problem, two NRB youths Jobayer Ahmed and Syed Takshed Karim came up with a unique solution: Easypres.com. Easypres.com is a prescription writing and patient management software. It is intended for doctors who would personally use to prescribe digital prescriptions to patients and keep the patient history and medical records of patients for better service and quicker patient management.

More than 98% of doctors in Bangladesh do not keep digital records of their patients. When we say digital records, it refers to prescriptions, test records, treatment plan/protocol and even personal details.

Solving a problem of this magnitude, with effective tools and applications, along with the implementation of the software to solve it is no easy task. Patients also face a huge problem when they lose the only paper-based prescription or treatment plan/test results to show to the doctors. Problems like bad handwriting on prescriptions are just added layer of hassle to the entire process. Patients are often handed out wrong medicines and the effects of this catastrophe are creating humongous consequences even in death tolls. The responsibility is taken by none and the victims end up being the victim.

Jobayer Ahmed, founder, and CEO of Easypres.com said "by far we have spoke with over than 15000 doctors across the country. According to a survey we did, 84% of the doctors are willing to use software in their desktop/laptop in their personal practice. Our software easypres can be used in both online and offline setups. The less availability of uninterrupted internet is the main reason for both options."

The other co-founder Syed Takshed Karim said, "Currently 900 doctors all over the country are using the software and we are targeting to digitally empower 11000 doctors across the nation in 2018".

One million Samsung Galaxy J2 sold in two years

According to a press release issued last week by Samsung Bangladesh, Samsung Galaxy J2, launched in October 2015, has set an unbelievable record of selling nearly 1 million units till December, 2017, making it the highest selling smartphone of the country.

Doctorola brings specialised e-health card

Doctoral.com is offering specialised health services through e-health vard for all now. People can easily get a variety of services including doctor's advice over phone, cash discount / cash back facility to take service, doctor's appointment, health tips etc. using this health card.

This E-health card holder will get the opportunity to talk with doctor (general practitioner) from 9am to 10pm for 7 days a week. Doctors Advice/ Medicine (OTC) / test list will also be available via SMS or email if necessary. Besides, they well get 20 percent discount and cash-back facility from various medical services. The value of the card is taka 200, which can be renewed again after 6 months.

Linnex brings new smartphone LX-50

Linnex has launched LX-50, a new smartphone with Double Facebook, Double WhatsApp. The LX-50 comes with a 5.5 Inch HD IPS Display and 2.5 D curve Glass Screen and Metal Body. It is powered by a MTK 1.3 GHz Quad Core Processor coupled with a 2GB RAM. It also sports a 16GB ROM, dual back camera (8+2MP) with flashlight, 5MP -front camera, 3500mAh LI-Polymer, fingerprint sensor, acceleration sensor, light sensor, proximity Sensor etc.
PRICE: Tk. 7,500/-