Proprietary Software Pains and Security

By Roy Schestowitz
Created 27/02/2021 - 8:26pm
Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Saturday 27th of February 2021 08:26:57 PM Filed under Security [1]

- **Microsoft to cut perpetual Office support by 50%, raise price by 10%** [2]

  Reducing support for Office LTSC and 2021 to five years makes the software less attractive in any comparison with Office 365/Microsoft 365. Perpetual licensing's biggest advantage over subscriptions is cost, but that advantage relies on the customer upgrading relatively infrequently. By offering an upgrade every three years and limiting support to five years, Microsoft has forced customers who want or need perpetual licensing to deploy every version. There's no way to skip an upgrade because there's no overlap in support for versions n and n+2.

- **SolarWinds' Security Practices Questioned by Lawmakers** [3]

  The cyber-attack was revealed in December after FireEye Inc. discovered it while investigating a breach of its own. The [attackers] implanted malicious code into SolarWinds's popular Orion software, and as many as 18,000 customers received it while updating the software. Far fewer were actually targeted for secondary attacks -- about 100 companies and nine U.S. agencies, according to the White House.

  A persistent question has been how the [attackers] originally breached SolarWinds. At the hearing, SolarWinds CEO Sudhakar Ramakrishna said the company was still investigating but had narrowed it to three possible methods. The [attackers] may have used a technique called ?password spraying,? where the attackers ?spray? passwords at a large volume of usernames. A second possibility was that the [attackers] stole credentials, he said, while the third was a breach of a third-party application used by SolarWinds.

The diffoscope maintainers are pleased to announce the release of diffoscope version 168. This version includes the following changes:

* Don't call difflib.Differ.compare with very large inputs; it is at least \( O(n^2) \) and makes diffoscope appear to hang.
  (Closes: reproducible-builds/diffoscope#240)
* Don't use "Inheriting PATH of X" in debug log message; use "PATH is X".
* Correct the capitalisation of jQuery.

Your old home router is probably vulnerable to hackers [5] [Ed: 'New' Linux FUD from 'old' Microsoft partners] [6]

Linux is the most-used operating system on Internet routers, but a recent study from Fraunhofer FKIE has shown that these devices are running extremely old and potentially insecure versions of the Linux kernel.

While the Fraunhofer report is more than six months old, information security expert Bruce Schneier shared it recently, noting that it has not been widely reported.

According to the report, Linux powers more than 90% of broadband routers. However, these devices which act as our gateways to the Internet often run on Linux kernels that are more than ten years old.

Security

Source URL: http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/148218

Links: