

# You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out&hellip;



Peter Silva, 2012-28-11

...is probably one of the [most memorable lines](#) of any Holiday Classic. Of course I’m referring to [A Christmas Story](#), where a young Ralphie tries to convince his parents, teachers and Santa that the Red Ryder BB Gun is the perfect present. I don’t know if there was a warning label on the 1940’s edition box but it is a good reminder from a security perspective that often we, meaning humans, are our own worst enemy when it comes to protecting ourselves. Every year about 100 or so homes burn down due to fried turkeys. A frozen one with ice crystals straight in or the ever famous too much oil that overflows and toasts everything it touches. Even with the warnings and precautions, humans still take the risk. Warning: You can get burned badly.

As if the [RSA breach](#) wasn’t warning enough about the perils of falling for a phishing scam, we now learn that the [South Carolina Department of Revenue breach](#) was also due to an employee, and it only takes one, clicking a malicious email link. That curiosity led to over 3.8 million Social Security numbers, 3.3 million bank accounts, thousands of credit cards along with 1.9 million dependant’s information being exposed. While the single click started it all, 2-factor authentication was not required and the stored info was not encrypted, so there is a lot of human error to go around. Plus a lot of blame being tossed back and forth – another well used human trait – deflection. Warning: Someone else may not protect your information.

While working the [SharePoint Conference 2012](#) in Vegas a couple weeks ago, I came across a interesting kiosk where it allows you to take a picture and post online for free to any number of social media sites. It says ‘*Post a picture online for free.*’ but there didn’t seem to be a Warning: ‘*You are also about to potentially share your sensitive social media credentials or email, which might also be tied to your bank account, into this freestanding machine that you know nothing about.*’ I’m sure if that was printed somewhere, betters would think twice about that risk. If you prefer not to enter social media info, you can always have the image emailed to you (to then share) but that also (obviously) requires you to enter that information. While logon info might not be stored, email is. Yet another reason to get a throw away email address. I’m always amazed at all the ways various companies try to make it so easy for us to offer up our information...and many of us do without considering the risks. In 2010, there were a number of [photo kiosks that were spreading malware](#). Warning: They are computers after all and connected to the internet.

Insider threats are also getting a lot of attention these days with some statistics indicating that [33% of malicious or criminal attacks are from insiders](#). In August, [an insider at Saudi Aramco released a virus](#) that infected about 75% of the employee desktops. It is considered one of the most destructive computer sabotages inflicted upon a private company. And within the last 2 days, we’ve learned that the [White House issued an Executive Order](#) to all government agencies informing them of new standards and best practices around gathering, analyzing and responding to insider threats. This could be actual malicious, disgruntled employees, those influenced by a get rich quick scheme from an outsider or just ‘compromised’ employees, like getting a USB from a friend and inserting it into your work computer. It could even be simple misuse by accident. In any event, intellectual property or personally identifiable information is typically the target. Warning: Not everyone is a saint.

The Holidays are still Happy but wear your safety glasses, don’t click questionable links even from friends, don’t enter your logon credentials into a stray kiosk and a third of your staff is a potential threat. And if you are in NYC for the holidays, a limited run of “[Ralphie to the Rescue!](#)” [A Christmas Story, The Musical](#) is playing at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre until Dec 30th.

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## References

- [How One Turkey Fryer Turned Into A 40-foot Inferno That Destroyed Two Cars And A Barn](#)
- [S.C. tax breach began when employee fell for spear phish](#)
- [5 Stages of a Data Breach](#)
- [Thinking about Security from the Inside Out](#)
- [Obama issues insider threat guidance for gov’t agencies](#)
- [National Insider Threat Policy and Minimum Standards for Executive Branch Insider Threat Programs](#)

- [Insiders Big Threat to Intellectual Property, Says Verizon DBIR](#)
- [Negligent Insiders and Malicious Attacks Continue to Pose Security Threat](#)
- [Infographic: Protect Yourself Against Cybercrime](#)
- [The Exec-Disconnect on IT Security](#)
- ["Ralphie to the Rescue!" A Christmas Story, The Musical Opens On Broadway Nov. 19](#)

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