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Volume 3, Issue 63: 27 September 2011

Apple Tightens Security Measures

Spy Snaps: **More in the News**



Apple Tightens Security Measures

Shortly after a recent report surfaced that one of Apple's employees had lost a prototype of the new but yet unreleased iPhone, two product security manager job listings appeared on Apple's website.

The successful candidates would join a specialist team at the US\$350 billion company, which has included ex-FBI agents and other highly trained professionals with backgrounds in intelligence and law enforcement. Apple and other companies in its league clearly need the best protection they can buy, as their list of anxieties is long. The main concern for the tech giant is the plan to thwart Chinese counterfeiters and to protect secret blueprints from spies, although the company has declined to discuss its security operations in detail.

This is a second case of iPhone's lost prototype following the similar story with iPhone4 prototype lost in a Northern Californian bar in April 2010 (WhiteSparks, Issue No 61) that has provoked a lot of media coverage. However, the specialists say the cases were more of marketing headaches than serious security breaches. Apple is known for creating many test versions of its new devices before these are released to see how the devices work. Once a new device has reached the point where employees are field-testing it, a competitor who obtained one wouldn't have enough time to examine it and do anything to take advantage of the insider knowledge.

The security threats to tech companies are far more serious in China, where thousands of workers labour to manufacture Apple's products. Whilst until March 2008 the company had only a modest security presence in the People's Republic, it has now taken steps to tackle the country's production of counterfeit iPhones, iPods and MacBooks. In addition to securing computer networks, the information security professionals ensure that companies remember to secure not only their "virtual" but also their physical doors. One of the key threats that most companies need to counter is "social engineering" as human weaknesses are easier to exploit and harder to protect against than digital vulnerabilities.

At the end of the day, even the best-trained security team in the world can only do so much to protect their employer against someone who decides to show off the most sought-after and secret product in the world whilst having a drink in their local bar.

Raili Maripuu, WhiteRock Managing Director: We applaud Apple's extremely tight security measures, which include spreading false information about their new products among their employees, as these contribute to the success and growth of the company. Corporate espionage is provoked by success-stories such as Apple's and the counter measures that the company takes make logical sense as everybody wants to know what Apple will come up with next.

[Read Full Story from Original Source...](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Employees emailing sensitive data is the main cause of data leaks, claim the IT security and compliance managers who participated in a recent survey.

Source: [eWeek](#)



Spy Snaps: **More in the News**

The Nebraska-based marketing company Infogroup in the US has sued its founder and former CEO Vinod Gupta for stealing confidential information and using it to develop a client base for his competitive startup Database101.

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The founder of Fountain Powerboats, Reggie Fountain has sued the company that bears his name, and indirectly its new owner, Liberty Associates, for trade secret and intellectual property theft.

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UPDATE: Former Dow AgroSciences researcher Kexue Huang has agreed to plead guilty to two counts of trade secrets theft that may avoid trial scheduled for next month. Huang faces up to 15 years in prison for sending the DNA sequence of a secret enzyme to China.

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