

## The Game of Life

### Get a "Clue" When it Comes to Security Breaches

*Clue* is a murder mystery "whodunit" game that is popular the world over for quite some time. The object of the game is to determine who murdered the game's victim, the infamous Mr. Boddy. Poor Mr. Boddy was murdered by one of the six suspects in the game. Who's your favorite suspect? In the business world, no one wants their organization to be a victim of a crime, particularly a security breach. But, unfortunately, security breaches have become all too common.

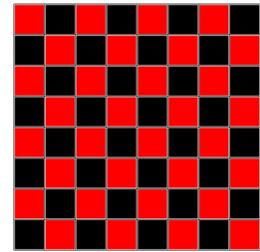
When a security breach occurs, the game of "whodunit" begins. Security breaches come both from within and outside of an organization; therefore, the list of suspects could be much longer than just six suspects as in the game *Clue*. As a result, tracking down the culprit can become very difficult.

In many of the breaches that you hear about in the news, it is often discovered that the actual breach occurred many months prior to it being identified. In one case, the breach occurred over two years prior to discovery. Imagine...having every communication in and out of your company monitored without your knowledge for two years! The investigators determined this by following the bread crumbs left behind—often these bread crumbs are in the security logs. IT Radix frequently finds small-to-medium businesses do not even have logging enabled nor retained for a sufficient length of time. In these cases, there may be limited to virtually no clues to identify the source of the breach. This can be disastrous because knowing what information was potentially exposed is difficult at best. As a result, we recommend tightening up access to information as much as possible, enabling auditing wherever reasonable, and ensuring that log files are backed up and retained for a period of time. We also recommend monitoring sources like the Dark Web for potential credential exposure. We recently discovered a client had over 50% of their employees' email addresses and passwords available for purchase on the Dark Web.

In the interest of full disclosure, audit logs can become quite voluminous and often require special tools and skills to decipher their content. So, should something occur, it still requires detective work to determine what occurred. If you accept electronic payment of any form, you are obligated to enable and retain audit logs. Sadly, most organizations do not realize this requirement. In certain industries, you may be held to an even higher standard. Even if you have outsourced the actual payment processing, we find most organizations have more responsibility in this arena than they realize.

If a breach occurred in your organization, would you know how to respond? Would you be able to deduce the culprit? Every organization should have, maintain and test a security Incident Response Plan (IRP). Similar to a disaster recovery plan, an IRP helps you determine your security risks, identify what security measures and corresponding auditing need to be put in place, and finally, guides the overall response should a breach occur. We find that at a minimum, a collaborative approach with your insurance agent/company, legal counsel,

(Continued on page 2)



### What's New

#### New Year, New Password

Kick off the new year with good IT security practices. One of the best things you can do to safeguard your privacy is to periodically change all of your passwords—a sometimes daunting task, we know. Need help managing your passwords? Call us for more info today.

#### RED Month E-Waste Results

We are excited to share that IT Radix and C3Workplace collected and properly recycled 267 articles of e-waste during our November RED Month electronic recycling event.

#### January 18

#### WEBINAR

#### 10-Min Tech Talk:

#### Build a Better Mousetrap With Office Automation

[www.it-radix.com/webinar](http://www.it-radix.com/webinar)

Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

If you would rather receive our newsletter via email, sign up on our website or send an email to [resource@it-radix.com](mailto:resource@it-radix.com)





## Introducing...Nick Scarpone

Our newest staff member, **Nick Scarpone**, enjoyed a good family game of *Trouble* and *Sorry!* growing up, but doesn't get much time to play board games these days between working at IT Radix and maintaining a full-time load of college classes at the Florham-Madison campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). Nick is majoring in *Computer Science* with an emphasis in *Cyber Security* and plans to

graduate in the Spring of 2019. Upon graduation, Nick hopes to pursue a career in cyber security.

Nick comes to IT Radix with a variety of work and leadership experiences. While attending Ocean County College, Nick was the president of the Computer Science Club, growing their membership from 0 to 30 members and organizing events designed to make computer science education fun and cool! His first job in high school was a martial arts instructor, and he more recently worked for 3+ years at a gourmet coffee establishment, The Coffee BouTEAque, in Beach Haven, NJ, where he particularly enjoyed learning the roasting side of the business.

As an IT Consultant at IT Radix, Nick monitors offsite backups, supports clients with day-to-day issues, and configures workstations. Nick prides himself on his awesome customer service skills as well as having a fair amount of programming experience in C++, Java and Visual Basic. Nick works very efficiently and enjoys seeing projects through to completion.

Growing up with three younger siblings in Tuckerton, New Jersey, Nick currently lives in a dorm at FDU. When not working, Nick enjoys watching movies—documentaries and classic movies—as well as reading true crime and historical fiction. He enjoys nature and spending free-time hiking in the Pine Barrens of south Jersey. Nick also enjoys Italian cooking and, in fact, was one of the winners of our recent pie baking contest with his homemade apple pie.

**Nick's personal philosophy:** When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine—and shadows will fall behind you."

— Walt Whitman

## Welcome!

A warm welcome to our newest **Management and Support** clients:

*Academy of Saint Elizabeth  
Dalena & Bosch, LLC  
JNS SmithChem, LLC  
Logical Design Solutions*

Remember, **IT Radix** is here to service all of your technology needs!

## ...Security Breaches

*(Continued from page 1)*

IT, and of course, management is usually needed to develop this plan. While we can implement technical solutions within your environment, an IRP is not the responsibility of IT alone. We can assist by implementing technical solutions such as the compliance features of Office 365, for example, but much more is required.

By planning, training and testing your team about security, you can help reduce the potential of a security breach and show the potential perpetrators that you really do have a "clue!" Need help? Give us a call .



**Who dunnit?**

### OUR CLIENTS SPEAK OUT:

## THE BUZZ

*"I recently moved my law firm and elder law practice offices from Wayne to Fairfield. With IT Radix's expert assistance, our computers and network were up and running without delay. It's comforting to know that such a critical component of my law practice is in such good hands."*

Frank Campisano, Partner — Sedita, Campisano & Campisano LLC

**Client Spotlight:** Based in Fairfield, NJ, the law firm of SCC Legal has been helping NJ clients for over 30 years. Experts in Elder, Business and Environmental Law, SCC Legal is a focused, client-friendly firm that partners with clients to provide exceptional and versatile legal representation.

## Step 1 to Enhancing Your IT Security

Security. Security. Security. Security is paramount in today's world as all organizations become more and more dependent on technology to deliver products and services. As a result, security needs to be simple and automatic—like putting on your seat belt when you get in the car. Here's one of the most important tactics you can employ to enhance your organization's security: go medieval and **create many layers of defense around your organization.**

Your business is your castle; and like a medieval castle, you should design your security carefully with a series of defenses to protect it. At IT Radix, we usually recommend starting from the outside—where your computer network touches the Internet. But with the advent of cloud-based solutions, we often find additional considerations are required to protect resources that are no longer within your immediate "castle walls."

First, focus on your local network and ensure it includes technology such as firewalls, intrusion prevention systems, URL/DNS checking, advanced threat protection software on all machines as well as traditional security patching and monitoring. Our managed service clients enjoy most or all of these protections. We're constantly reviewing to ensure our clients have the best of breed. Ready for a review of your security layers? Give us a call today.



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Not All Fun and Games!

Sign up for IT Radix's Dark Web Monitoring service during the months of **January, February** and **March**, and get the 1st month of monitoring service free.

Visit **IT Radix** at [www.it-radix.com](http://www.it-radix.com) to learn more about our services!

## Ups and Downs of Network Upgrades

Have you ever tried to get something accomplished only to end up in a worse place than you were before? The old "one step forward and two steps back" scenario. Sort of like a game of *Chutes and Ladders*, you finally land on a ladder and make your way up only to land on that darn chute the very next turn.

Trying to implement network upgrades can feel that way sometimes. A common scenario these days is a simple internet speed upgrade. Ultra-high-speed internet is very popular with affordable options up to 1 Gbps (1,000 Mbps). So, when your internet provider calls to let you know there is an upgrade available that is only going to cost you \$20 more per month, of course you sign up right away. Ten times the speed for a few more dollars a month...who wouldn't want that? That's the ladder.

As a security-conscious business, you of course have a proper business-class firewall in place. Well, what I bet you didn't know is that firewalls have a speed limit. And while firewall manufacturers are constantly releasing faster units, they just don't seem to be able to keep up with today's ultra-high-speed internet. That's the chute. You order the internet speed upgrade, the provider completes the install, but your speed doesn't get any faster. This may be due to the speed limit of the firewall. Even though the speed from the provider may be superfast, you will only realize the gain up to the limit of your firewall. So, before you place the order for that superfast internet, make sure your firewall can keep up.

Another common upgrade is a faster network switch. Almost all of today's network switches support gigabit network speeds, compared to the 100 megabit speeds of switches only a few years old. With the low cost of a new network switch and the significant speed increase, this one sure looks like a no brainer. Again, that's the ladder.

What you may not be thinking about is what kind of network cabling is hidden within the walls of your office space. You see modern network cabling, typically rated as Category 6 or Category 5e, is fully capable of handling the enhanced performance of a gigabit network switch. However, offices with older cabling, typically rated as Category 5 (not "e") or worse Category 3, are not rated for gigabit speeds. What make this chute a real doozy is the switch is usually not smart enough to detect the type of cabling you have. Therefore, all your devices will connect at the higher speed. But since the cabling cannot support it, the connection will be error-prone and unreliable. Not only will you not see any speed gain, you will have actually made your situation far worse by installing this upgrade.

So, what's the moral of our little "Chutes and Ladders" saga? It's best to consider all your network systems when considering any type of upgrade. You never know what the overall impact of your upgrade might be. If you're not sure how you will be impacted by climbing the ladder of a network upgrade, why not give IT Radix a call. We will help you avoid the chutes and keep you network moving in the right direction.

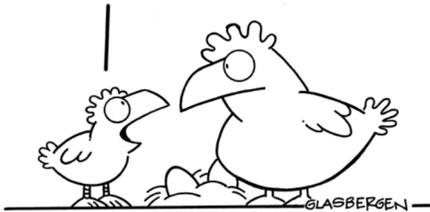


Proudly folded & stuffed by Park Lake School

“The way a man plays a game shows some of his character. The way he loses shows all of it.”

— Author Unknown

“Want to play Monopoly?  
How about chess or checkers?  
In the mood for some Mortal Kombat?  
Maybe we could just play cards!”



CORNISH GAME HEN.

**From the desk of:** Cathy Coloff  
**Subject:** Game on!



It's amazing how things have changed. During the winter months as a youth, I was likely inside playing board games with my friends. We played all the classics plus some newcomers such as *Pictionary* and *Trivial Pursuit*. The games were great at teaching you how to be a good winner, avoid being a sore loser and, in some cases, how to work together as a team. Great life lessons in a simple but fun way.

My son, on the other hand, is more likely to play *Minecraft* or *Madden Mobile* on the iPad with his friends. Is his generation learning the same life lessons? I hope so. I like it when they work together in *Minecraft* to build something or accomplish a goal but worry when the consumerization of things rears its head in the form of purchasing power packs or something similar to improve your score, performance or some other attribute. So many new and different challenges facing our youth today.

As we come out of the holiday season and start a new year, I reflect back on last year and take pleasure in the strides not only my family has made but also all of us at IT Radix. We did a number of technology upgrades internally, completely remodeled our office space, and launched a number of new initiatives throughout the company—all the while continuing to help our clients succeed through the use of technology. Sometimes things got a little crazy, but everyone really stepped up and pitched in where it was needed.

I think we've all earned a brief time-out to play some of our favorite board games which you can check out at [www.it-radix.com/board-games](http://www.it-radix.com/board-games). I'm looking forward to taking on someone in a rousing game of Backgammon...are you ready? Game on!



### Enter and Win Trivia Contest

The first person to send an email to [resource@it-radix.com](mailto:resource@it-radix.com) with the correct answer to our trivia question will win a basket of board games.

Q: What childhood game's origins emphasized the role of karma?

#### October Trivia Challenge

Q: What was the stage name of Erik Weisz.

(Answer: Harry Houdini)

Congratulations to Lori Gordon of US Gate, recipient of an AMC gift card!

## Board Games: In the Beginning...



Board games have been played in most cultures and societies throughout history. For thousands of years, they have been a source of entertainment for people; and in many cultures, they have even come to have a religious significance.

The oldest board game known to man, *Senet*, was played in Predynastic Egypt around 3100 BC. Game boards were three squares wide and ten squares long, and sets typically had five to seven pieces for each player. Though the original rules have been lost, there is consensus that the goal is to race one's pieces across the board, using thrown sticks. Though it began as a secular form of entertainment, *Senet* soon took on a religious significance for the Egyptians. The squares were marked with symbols representing the gods and other aspects of the afterlife—players “ritually joined with the sun god while still alive and thus assured their survival of the ordeals of the netherworld even before dying.” Four of these games were discovered in King Tutankhamen's tomb, so it looks like he was making extra sure he was well prepared for the afterlife!

*Backgammon* and *Chess* are also among the list of first-known games in existence. *Backgammon*, also known as *Tables* early in its history, originated in what today is Iraq and is a descendant of the games of *Senet* and *Ur*. Chess originated in India sometime before the 7<sup>th</sup> century and is derived from an ancient game called *Chaturanga*. *Chess* is sometimes used as an analogy for life itself and is a symbol of genius.

Both *Backgammon* and *Chess* have been studied with great interest by computer scientists. In both cases, software has been developed that is capable of beating world-class human players. Now that's taking board games to a new level!