1013 Reading

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1 Topic

"Why wouldn't someone think of democracy as a target?": Security practices & challenges of people involved with U.S. political campaigns

2 Summary

This essay talk about the specific digital security threats individuals in political campaigns faced. Because of their identity, they are more vulnerable to attack then normal people. But there are some challenges encountered : work culture such as win first, transience of campaign, busy worker and tight budget which lead to chaotic envinronment, and amorphous boundaries, result in security is not prioritized; ad hoc security practices across many technology platforms including communication, data storage account and authentication, whose variety and inconsistency will compound the attack. This essay also describe threat model focus on main threat, such as considerign nation-state attackers as main attacker, phishing as the top concerned and so on. Finally, it gives some recommendation, including education and consistent guidance, usable account security such as 2FA, password manager.

3 Findings of Rearch Sutitable for NPO

1. **Account management**
   People in NPO usually also may use serveral accounts or service, but they usually don't have enough technical knowledge to tackle this complexity. They may also share account for the need of their business such communicating with their donator. Beside, high turnover of volunteers and interns masy also cause transient account ownership.

2. **Amorphous boundaries**
   People in NPO also has amorphous boundaries in terms of life cycle, people, and data access. Many preparatory tasks begin before the organization is established; Volunteers and interns also makes information access and security management more complicated.

4 Findings of Rearch Unsutitable for NPO

1. **Transience**
   Unlike political campigns which has the short-term goal and need to fully ramp up on a short timeline, thus usually have no time to focus on security. NPOs' goal are often more long-term and continuous, and people may can seek for help of security expert when they are not so busy.

2. **Reputation**
   Also NPO also need to have good reputation. Their reputation are usually damaged by lossing fund or dontation. People in the political campaigns, on the other hand, need to be very cautious since every word and action will be the attackers' target.

5 Thoughts

We often only focus on achieving main goals and overlook that security is equally important, as it is a crucial factor in reaching those goals. I think this is because security is often considered as unproductive and not so necessary due to its preventive nature. It is important to foster awareness and understanding of security. Besides, although each target has different detail in security, I think it's important to have a genreal security guideline.