Malware: An Evolving Hold on an Uneducated Society

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Ledin, J. (2011). The growing harm of not teaching Malware. *Communications Of The ACM, 54*(2), 32-34.

In “The Growing harm of not teaching Malware” by Ledin, the author emphasizes the idea that education on malware is essential to understanding it and ultimately preventing it. Ledin describes how it has evolved from being a mischievous endeavor to a fully-fledged criminal or war like act. He states that there is little to no curriculum in the educational systems so computer science undergrads have as much knowledge on the subject as an average everyday computer user. An analogy that he describes concerning the principles of teaching malware is very interesting. It compares by describing when autopsies were once forbidden, preventing the gain of further knowledge in the medical field. He then concludes with describing how far malware has come and can continue to grow unless we do something about it. His writing I find is inspiring and I concur with his suggestions to gain the upper hand against the intensifying threat.

Benford, G. (2011). Catch me if you can. *Communications Of The ACM, 54*(3), 112-111.

Benford gives an overview since his viral creation in 1969 of how malware has progressed up to the more recent events such as Stuxnet. He also makes some suggestions as to what might be reality in the future given that we live in such a vast technological world. The code that had the potential to cause physical damage to a nuclear power plant in Iran is very real. I think in the end Benford points out to plan ahead on all avenues when faced with an issue. I have never seen the movie *Minority Report* myself, but after reading the synopsis I could see how Benford uses it to clarify a point. The film presents a technologically advanced advertising system that invasively targets each and every person. This is very much how malware targets us today.

Spafford, E. H. (2010). Privacy and security: Remembrances of things pest. *Communications Of The ACM, 53*(8), 35-37.

Spafford writes about the various factors that have contributed to the development and production of today's malware. He also outlines possible methods to remedy our present day dilemma. Law enforcement certainly require the resources to pursue the ever expanding criminal world in cyberspace. In conclusion he warns of severe issues in the future if we do not change our current processes of handling malware threats. Understanding that everything cannot be reconstructed instantly, he specifies that a starting point is the first required step. The attitude Spafford speaks about that we have adopted is very true. We have accepted and succumb to these ideals. Poor design is left in the end user's hands to deal with and that's not right.