It's 2020 and the Cybercriminals Still Don't Have To Try That Hard

One legacy weakness with modern operations is the seemingly indissoluble practice of "N-x" security patch updating (N-1,2,... being x patch releases behind the current).

When Microsoft, et. al., release security updates, in very specific detail, they are done globally both to the good and the bad actors. At that point the starting pistol has fired. You take a month or more "curing" --while at the same time cybercriminals are actually acting on the roadmap they have been provided.

N-1 is like running a race and allowing your competitors a half distance head start. No matter how fast you run, you will never catch up, as the next race starts while you are trying to finish the first, pushing you into a chaotic defensive pace. In a short time, you have no idea what N-x race you are even running, and luck becomes part of your cyber defense.

Want to know how big of a head start the bad guys have on you? Run a SAINT vulnerability scan and see what vulnerabilities you have with unapplied, existing, patches. Your next step will be removing all "N-x" curing periods, followed by an update sprint, punctuated by a new SAINT scan.

A great line from "The Croods": "Never not be afraid." Patch. Patch as soon as possible. My nonnegotiable rule is that all patches are applied the same week the patch is released. Microsoft updates will do far more for you than to you. Then use SAINT to verify. To twist a phrase: "Don't trust, and always verify."

If, as I have so many times, you hear apocalyptic stories about Microsoft updates being destructive, ask for empirical proof and simply compare that proof against the number of breaches occurring daily with preventative patches available.

Use SAINT monthly for a comprehensive view of what is, and is not, patched or configured correctly – and most important, exactly where you are in the pack. It's always best to be the wisest and fastest wildebeest on the digital savanna.

Contact Carson & SAINT today to learn more about how we can help you develop a powerful and effective vulnerability management program.
Visit us at https://www.carson-saint.com or follow-us on social media on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.