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Technology Times September 2022 Issue

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Dan Foote
Owner/President

What’s Inside:

Page 2

Hosting guide: how to pick the right host for your site

Threats and Issues in Data Cloud Storage

Page 3

“Protecting yourself from the spoofing calls”
- Continued from Page 1

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:
TUF Gaming VG32VQR Curved Monitor (32-inch)

Page 4

Productivity Tools

A screen recording tool like **Loom**

Got IT Problem? - [Click Here!](#)



How to stop someone from spoofing my phone number

By Dwight Pavlovic

Spoof calls are more than just a major annoyance, they can often lead to dangerous situations. When spoofers have access to your number, it may put your friends, family, and colleagues at risk. While following personal security best practices are a great way to reduce that risk, there are several specific tactics you can use to shut down phone spoofing. In this article, we’ll cover those tactics to help you put an end to spoof calls. But first, let’s take a look at what exactly a spoof call is.

What is caller ID spoofing?

Often shortened to spoof calling or call spoofing, caller ID spoofing occurs through a variety of methods to mask the true origin of a call. The problem is that the practice itself isn’t illegal in the United States. However, according to the [Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009](#), a spoofed call becomes unlawful when it’s made “with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value.” Spoofers are eager to gather active telephone numbers that will appear more trustworthy than 1-800 numbers, because it increases the likelihood a victim will answer the call. That’s why answering unwanted calls can often make the problem worse.

Spoofers collect numbers in different ways, and it’s usually up to you to act when you believe your number was compromised. Unfortunately, since the definition of spoofing and U.S. legal protections give spoofers some wiggle room, it may be challenging to find help until things get serious.

- Continued on page 3



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Threats and Issues in Data Cloud Storage

It can be argued that data storage is the most important component of cloud computing, and that is why the security of data over distributed computing is always a big issue. There are a lot of security issues regarding cloud storage; some of the most prevalent and serious ones are listed below:

Anonymity: In cloud data storages, anonymity is a technique to obscure the published data and key information preventing the associated identity of the owner of data. However, data anonymity has different vulnerabilities like the hidden identity of adversary threats, loopholes in the procedure of re-identification or de-anonymity.

Account or Service Traffic Hijacking: It is usually performed with stolen credentials and remains a top threat. With stolen credentials, attackers can often access critical areas of deployed cloud computing services, allowing them to compromise the confidentiality, integrity and availability of those services. Various malpractices like exploitation of vulnerabilities in software, such as theft of passwords/credentials and buffer overflow attacks as well as phishing attacks can lead to the loss of control over user accounts. This can result in the hacker gaining control over the user account and eavesdropping on transactions, manipulation of data and/or redirecting customers to a competitor's web page or inappropriate sites.

Availability: The main goal of cloud service is also to provide high availability to the client. Its focus is to ensure that a user can get information anywhere anytime. Availability not only refers to the software, but it also provides hardware as demand from authorized users. In a multi-tier architecture, which is supported by load balancing and running on many servers, network-based attacks such as DoS or DDoS attack can come easily. The cloud storage lacks in availability attribute because of flooding attack in the network. A malicious insider in the storage system may also be a big issue for it.

Hosting guide: how to pick the right host for your site

Web hosting 101

Let's start with the basics! Web hosting is a service that makes sure your website is accessible through the internet. Without web hosting, your website simply can't exist. So, where do you start? By looking at web hosts or hosting companies. These companies provide space on a server, and internet connectivity in a data center. In other words: they provide space for your website's data, so it can exist and other people can find it.



Fully-hosted versus self-hosted

The first choice you have to make when picking the right host for site is whether you want to create a fully-hosted or self-hosted website. The difference is pretty self-explanatory. **Fully-hosted means that every site on the platform is hosted on their own servers.** These companies take care of all the hosting stuff for you, such as Shopify and WordPress.com.

Self-hosted, on the other hand, means you'll have to arrange hosting yourself. A good example is WordPress.org. Now, you might be thinking: why would I want to do everything myself? And while it's true that self-hosting is extra work, it also means you own all the data yourself. Plus, you get access to the full code base and you can choose a hosting company yourself.

How to choose a great hosting company

These days, there are thousands of companies to choose from. They all have their own benefits and hosting plans. So, how do you pick the right host for your site? What should you focus on? First, it's important to take a couple of things into account.

Server location

As those house-buying TV shows always say: location is everything! With web hosting, it's not necessarily everything, but it is important. Where your host's servers are located can be a very important factor. Especially when it comes to the speed of your site. Why? Because the smaller the distance between your audience and the location of your server, the faster your website is! For example, if your audience is located in the US but your host is based in Singapore, that could slow down your site for your visitors. Which is something you generally want to avoid.

- Continued on page 4

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



TUF Gaming VG32VQR Curved Monitor (32-inch)

The [ASUS TUF Gaming VG32VQR](#) curved gaming monitor has it all: a cool design with slim bezels, a large display with fantastic picture quality, and superb gaming performance. The latter comes courtesy of onboard AMD FreeSync and NVIDIA G-SYNC tech.

Thanks to a sharp VA display panel with excellent contrast capabilities, the monitor can give you an edge over your gaming opponents. It also features built-in tech for reducing blue light emission and flicker.

- 31.5-inch WQHD (2560x1440) 1800R curved gaming monitor with ultrafast 165Hz refresh rate designed for professional gamers and immersive gameplay
- Aspect Ratio is 16:9; Viewing Angle (CR10) is 178°/ 178°; Brightness (Typ) is 400cd/m²
- FreeSync Premium technology to eliminate screen tearing and choppy frame rates
- High Dynamic Range (HDR) technology with professional color gamut delivers contrast and color performance that meets the Display HDR 400 certification.



"Protecting yourself from the spoofing calls"
- Continued from Page 1

Here's how to tell if a phone number is spoofed – and what you can do to fight back.

Encourage callbacks to block your number. It may sound counterintuitive, but the best thing to do when your number is spoofed is to make it less accessible. If someone receives a spoofed call from your number, they may call back to follow up. If this happens, encourage the caller to block your number immediately. The blocking makes your number less attractive to spoofers, and more likely to fall naturally out of use.

Install an anti-spoofing app on your smartphone. You can protect your phone calls and text messages with an anti-spoofing app. These services typically focus on reducing access to your actual phone number by masking it with a secondary number (that you can often specify).

While this may sound similar to spoofers, these legitimate apps can hide numbers because of federal caller ID regulations. Unless you mask the number for the purpose of theft or harassment, you're protected. It's similar to the exemption for law enforcement, because they may use spoofing to help investigate criminal activity.

One popular option is [SpooferCard](#), which is available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#). You will pay a fee following the free trial period, but it provides a variety of features in addition to call masking.

See if your phone service provider offers protection. While the options vary depending on your mobile provider, some phone companies offer spoofing protection as a paid service. You may also find that it's more affordable than subscribing to a professional anti-spoofing service.

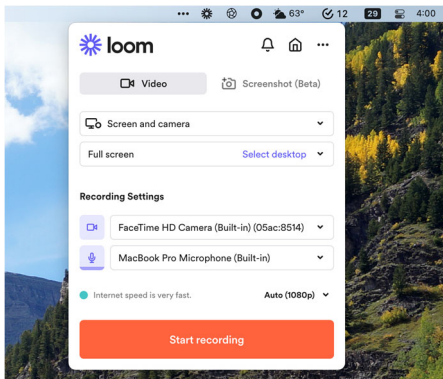
Use caller ID blocking when possible. Want to know how to block your phone number? If you're eager to hide your information from caller IDs, all you have to do is dial *67 before entering the outgoing number. This is a great, and very easy, way to effectively use a private number at no extra cost.

Best ways to guard against fraud

Spoofing is just as annoying when you're on the receiving end of calls. In addition to the measures we discussed, there are other steps you can take to avoid phone scams and related fraudulent activity.

- **Don't answer unfamiliar calls, even from local numbers:** If your voicemail is set up, there are few drawbacks to call screening.
- **If you're suspicious about a call, hang up:** Did someone call you with claims about your car warranty or insurance? Hang up the call and check your own paperwork and documentation to verify the claim. Or get in touch with your provider if you're not sure
- **Ignore suspicious prompts:** If you're unsure about a call, don't provide any information to whoever is on the other end. Also, if they ask you to punch in any information with your phone's touchpad, don't do it.
- **Ignore giveaways or prizes that demand a fee:** Legitimate organizations won't ask for compensation in order to qualify for or receive winnings.
- **Move slowly if you're suspicious:** Always exercise caution. so it's wise to hang up if someone is pushing you to provide information more quickly than normal.

Productivity Tools



A screen recording tool like [Loom](#)

Whether it's for a quick presentation or troubleshooting a problem, sometimes recording what's on your screen and sharing it just makes life easier. Screen recording tools are perfect for this, allowing you to quickly record your screen, your voice, and even your face if you have a webcam.

[Loom](#) is a great first tool to check out in this category. It's easy to set up, works on all major platforms, and makes it really simple to share recordings. You can even add your face, via a webcam, to the recording. You can use [Zappy](#), which was originally an internal tool used by Zapier. It's honestly the best screenshot tool I've ever used, and it's free—if you use a Mac, it's worth a try.

Check out our list of the [best screen recording tools](#) for more options, and keep in mind you can actually [record your screen without any software](#), if you don't mind managing the file yourself.



Storage space

Second, take into account what kind of website you want to create. This impacts how much storage space you need to acquire. For example, a small blog needs far fewer resources than a big online shop with thousands of products. So consider how many pages your site will have and how much content will be on the pages. And if you already know that you want to build a large website with a lot of large images and videos, then you'll need to look at hosting plans with more storage space.

How big is your audience?

We know this is a hard one to answer. But you probably already have an idea of the number of page views you want to reach. Take this number into account when deciding on a hosting company and plan. Because every time someone views a page on your site, it adds to the amount of bandwidth you use. In other words, all the texts and images on that page need to be downloaded onto each visitor's computer before it can be displayed in their web browser.

Different types of hosting

Finally, let's look at the different types of hosting. In this guide, we'll focus on the three most common ones: shared hosting, dedicated hosting, and VPS hosting. But there are lots of other options out there.

Shared hosting

Shared hosting means you share the same server resources with multiple customers. These server resources determine how much space, bandwidth, mailboxes, etc. you have available. It also means there will be resource limits on each hosting package. And don't worry! Sharing resources doesn't mean other customers can see or edit your data. Shared hosting is probably the cheapest option. But it might not be the best choice if you expect to need a lot of server space and bandwidth.

Dedicated hosting

Dedicated hosting does exactly what it says on the tin. You'll get a dedicated, fully allocated hardware server for your use only. This means you're not sharing the server with other customers. Instead, you'll have your own personal server with its own processors, hard disks, and memory. This makes dedicated hosting an interesting choice for bigger sites, such as large online shops or corporate sites.

VPS hosting

VPS hosting stands for Virtual Private Server. A VPS is part of a physical server that is divided into different sections. You get your own space on this server, with access to a certain amount of resources, like memory and processors. Unlike with shared hosting, these resources are for your use only.

Now you know all the basics about hosting companies, hosting plans, and the different types of hosting. Still, it's good to take into account what factors are important for you before you choose a hosting company and plan.

Need to host your website? Call 907-885-0501