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Categories

- CE
- Channel
- Distribution
- economy
- Linux
- Mac Dealers
- Managed Services
- Marketing
- Microprocessors
- Networking
- Security
- Smart Phones
- Social Networking
- storage
- System Builders
- Uncategorized
- Virtualization

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- Stage set for 'suspicionless' searches of laptops, PDAs at U.S. borders
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- Business travelers ready to change reservations to get WiFi in the plane
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- Swine Flu expected to cause huge disruptions in U.S. workplaces

Archives

- September 2009
- August 2009
- July 2009
- June 2009
- May 2009
- April 2009
- March 2009
- February 2009
- January 2009
- November 2008
- October 2008
- September 2008
- August 2008
- July 2008
- June 2008
- May 2008
- April 2008
- March 2008
- February 2008
- January 2008

Highest Rated Posts

- IBM layoffs hit Toronto software lab: reports(10)
- Top 100: Watch the video, see the pictures(10)
- Microsoft should hook up with The Source by Circuit City(10)
- Solution providers will be looking for the Tax man(10)

Exposing the black side of security

I am always impressed when people host or put on an event. Those who have never done it on a large scale have no idea how tremendously hard it is.

For **Brian Bourne**, long-time friend of *CDN* and founder of **CMS Consulting**, the **SecTor Conference** is a labour of love.

The show is entering its third year and will be once again housed at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. SecTor stands for security education conference Toronto and it brings together some of the brightest and, yes, darkest minds in the industry.

That is what makes this show special. The kind of insight you may get from a hacker does not come by your desk on a daily basis. SecTor delivers this kind of information, but with punch. These keynote speakers are not usually media trained or have high priced speech writers coming up with dumb jokes to warm up the crowd.

The people and sessions SecTor delivers has heart. The show is about education around defending an organization's turf or prized assets such as its data.

The line up this year will have North America's most trusted security experts such as **Michael Barrett**, the Chief Information Security Officer of **PayPal**.

I can't think of a better person to listen to about security issues than the online payment processor's security chief.

Paypal is the most used site for phishing scams. If I had a penny for every email I got warning me about my Paypal account I would be a multi-millionaire.

Paypal has long held the inauspicious title of the Web's most frequently spoofed phishing target. But this is serious business. The channel uses PayPal as a method to process credit card payments from customers. However, it has never gained tremendous traction outside of the major e-tailers in the channel. **Joe Ussia**, director of sales for **Digica Solutions** of Toronto has the PayPal service but does not like to use it because it's cumbersome.

"We tried using it a couple of times and our customers couldn't get it to work. As we looked deeper into it, there were some technology bugs that PayPal claims they fixed since last month," Ussia said.

That is the defensive side of the conference. Like I said earlier, SecTor does a great job of telling the other side of security.

"Today's organizations are at risk from increasingly sophisticated attacks; SecTor provides a stage where the best and brightest can share their knowledge of both offensive and defensive technologies, allowing organizations to defend themselves and plan for the next assault," says **HD Moore**, founder of the **Metasploit Project**, who will also speak at the conference.

SecTor 2009 will also present an elite selection of vendors, a special "Lockpick Village", an Enterprise Demo Lab, **Microsoft** ForeFront Hands on labs, and a Hardware Hacking Village.

Bourne says that through illuminating the black art of security, proper corporate defences can be mounted.

The conference will be taking place on Oct. 6 and the 7th and will also feature Canadian IT Security Awards.

Three quick hit before I go. As most of you already know **John Swainson** is retiring from CA. The Canadian, in my opinion, saved the company from impending doom five years ago. I can go into that but I wont. What I appreciated about Swainson is that he took time for everyone. I saw him countless times shaking hands and talking with everyone on the show floor. That must have taken hours. He has his pilot's license and could zip to any destination which saved him lots of time, he once told me. But as more company leaders begin to lock themselves away in the corner office it was nice to see that someone still appreciated customer business, channel support, and yes even the press and let you know about. *CDN* wishes him the best of luck in retirement.

Calgary's Acceleware has hired **Steve Reed** to be its new business development manager for the energy sector. Reed comes from HP.

D-Link Canada has revamped its Web site with the channel in mind. The new site www.dlink.ca will have enhanced navigation tools along with an interactive graphical interface and network builder tools.

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