



SolarWinds Breach Issue - WCA Expert's Take

WCA's TAM Specialist & Senior Consultant, Bill Suarez, gives his expert point of view on Wired's article, *How to Understand Russia's Hack Fallout* by Lily Hay Newman and how it relates to the work WCA can help your organization with.

To reference or read the entire article, visit: https://www.wired.com/story/russia-solarwinds-hack-targets-fallout/?utm_medium=email&hsmi=103703999&hsenc=p2ANqtz--w1wZwG6dpnzlk4FlobJ7-SBcFX-qV_4H5sJ-qMMjWZkv1tXMktfbT6c3f5BOgeKREvit3EMpSX39OV_uol98zJu0JPQ&utm_content=103703999&utm_source=hs_email.

What WCA's Expert Has to Say:

This SolarWinds breach issue relates to the Russia Hack and the VMware stories and what is called a “Supply Chain” attack.

A flaw in some VMware software, widely used by software developers, contributed to malicious actors gaining access to the SolarWinds development environment which resulted in code being added to one of the core SolarWinds modules. Specifically, this is called the Orion engine that powers many SolarWinds products. The versions impacted were 2019.4 HotFix 5 up through 2020.2 (no HotFix). Versions prior to 2019.4 HotFix 5 and versions starting at 2020.2 HotFix 1 are not impacted by this issue as the impacted code modules were replaced as a result of normal code development.

WCA can work with our customers that run SolarWinds products to help them evaluate what version(s) of SolarWinds products are running in their environment. If they are running impacted versions, we can work with them to upgrade those versions to newer, non-impacted, version(s). If they are concerned about data exfiltration, we can engage one of our partners to specifically investigate if there is any evidence of that taking place.

I have checked with some security firms and the consensus is that this breach had very specific targets and was not a generic attack on all SolarWinds customers.

For the Chrome and Edge Extension issue the article contains a list of the impacted Extensions for both browser platforms. The impact of these extensions range from modifying search results with links to sites that contain additional compromises or adware to installing malware into the browsers.

If customers are unsure about how they can determine if these extensions are in use and then if they are how to remove them, WCA can help them evaluate and develop a plan to remove the impacted extensions.

WCA's Technical Account Management (TAM) Specialist Profile - *Bill Suarez*

One of Bill's primary roles at WCA is to further develop the Technical Account Management Team. By utilizing the wide array of resources inside WCA and our partner portfolios the Technical Account Management team will provide guidance to customers on how best to take advantage of new and emerging technologies, professional\managed services and applications to meet their business objectives.

As vendor/partner liaison the TAM team will ensure customers are up to date on critical information regarding product updates, security, new capabilities.

About WCA

Whalley Computer Associates (WCA) is an exceptional technology sales and service organization that partners with customers to reduce their costs and increase efficiency through technology. We accomplish this by providing unbiased presales consultation, exceptional pricing, outstanding deployment, and engineering services throughout North America.

The OEM Division supports customers globally from its headquarters in Southwick, MA and its European Integration and Distribution Center in Nijmegen, Netherlands. WCAOEM supports customer with appliances and services across a variety of industries, including healthcare, retail, cloud storage, network security, digital signage, and manufacturing.

WCA has been a leader in the IT industry for over 40 years, is ranked in the largest one percent of all solution Providers in North America and has been recognized for providing World Class service by all the leading computer manufacturers.

To learn more about WCA click this link <https://www.wca.com/about/the-whalley-difference> to view a short video, visit www.wca.com, www.wcaoem.com, or email our team at wcabiz@wca.com.