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ATM Security – Update

As with most technology, it is certain that any device that communicates in a "Live" environment does run the risk of security attacks. At CashTrans, we invest a great deal of time and resources making ourselves aware of such threats. To that point, the industry has had some very significant developments over the past few months (mostly due to the Black-Hat Hacker conference earlier this summer in Las Vegas - (Checkout this Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwMuMSPW3bU).

Currently we understand that an ATM operating with a Windows CE Platform are most at risk of being infected with malicious code/virus. Today, we hear a lot about Triton and Tranax retail ATM machines being affected while others like Nautilus Hyosung and Wincor Nixdorf have not had a successful attack. For the record, the ATM manufacturing industry, by and large, is issuing immediate software updates as a proactive measure to combat penetration.

It is critically important for financial institutions to know which of their machines are running at risk software and instituting plans to upgrade that software in a timely fashion. Any ATM machines that are Firmware based are hackable; however, the "Black Hat" - aka Hacker - would need very specific ATM level information including but not limited to: ATM Phone Number, ATM Passcode, ATM Serial Number H/W & S/W, and would need very specific management software to emulate the communications handshake. In fact, so much security information would be needed that the likely "Black Hat" would need to have inside or in-house information about the target configuration to be ultimately successful.

At CashTrans, our current strategy on ATM Security has 4 key elements, namely;

- 1) Create internal systems and controls that safeguard every location's unique ID/Config and test against those controls,
- 2) Service and Support all machines with latest software (client/server),
- 3) Actively monitor our ATM network and initiate immediate tickets on flagged or troubled ATMs, and
- 4) Continually educate and train the industry influencers, advocates and manufacturers.



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