



Case Communications April Newsletter

Greetings,

Welcome to Case Communications April newsletter. This edition looks at more support for Open Source IT, security threats from adwords on the Internet and takes a look at Speed Cameras.

Could Google Ad Words compromise security?

Researchers announce that they had uncovered hard evidence that malware distributors were using advertisements placed via Google's automated AdWords system to infect unsuspecting end-users with virus code.

[More](#)

Do you know your 'Speed-cameras?'

Have you been 'flashed' by a speed camera recently or did you notice the camera? Not all 'Speed-Cameras' are the same, and here we look at some of the UK's leading speed cameras, how they work and what the penalties might be if you're caught by one.

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IBM to Support Linux on their System p Servers.

IBM has introduced an open Beta of a virtual Linux environment that enables x86 Linux applications to run without modification on Power Processor-based IBM System 'P' Servers.

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Anti-Phishing Tool pays off at Nationwide

Software deployed by Nationwide to automatically identify and shutdown phishing scams has paid for itself within 3 months by reducing on-line fraud.

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Public Sector called to Action on 'Open Source'

Shadow chancellor George Osborne recently gave a speech in which he outlined his views on government IT strategy, and stressed his goal of 'open source politics'.

'Lets get digital' was the message, and was supported by calls for self-regulation, equality of information and the democratisation of the Internet.

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Case Communications third Rugged router goes to trials

Case Communications have started Beta tests on their latest Rugged Router product, which has been code named 'Expressway'. The Expressway Router has 3 x 10/100Mbps Ethernet ports, 2 serial ports and a PCI slot for option cards such as ADSL, ISDN or additional serial cards, and will be rated to run at over 34Mbps, and still operate from -20 to Plus 70 degrees C .



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Could Google Ad Words compromise security?

Google could avoid future malware attacks carried out using advertisements posted on its Web sites if the company more thoroughly investigated customers of its AdWords system, according to security and legal experts.

On April 25, researchers with security software maker Exploit Prevention Labs announced that they had uncovered hard evidence that malware distributors were using advertisements placed via Google's automated AdWords system to infect unsuspecting end-users with virus code.

According to Roger Thompson, chief technology officer at Exploit, based in New Kingstown, Pa., the malware brokers used fraudulent advertisements for legitimate organizations such as the Better Business Bureau to trick users into clicking on the links. When someone clicked such a link, the ad would redirect their browser through URLs that attempted to automatically download virus programs onto their computers before passing them along to the actual sites that were advertised. The system works so quickly that end-users do not notice that their browsers have traveled through the intermediary sites, making it almost impossible to detect the attacks, Thompson said.

Using AdWords, any company or individual can bid on specific terms to have their ads show up next to Web search results for the specific words they have purchased. People who bid the most money for any particular term or set of words receive the highest ad placement, or so-called sponsored links, next to Google's Web search results. Thompson said that his team discovered a number of the ad-borne threats built to show up alongside results for a range of search terms, including queries for information on business conferences and auto shows. Many others involved terms related to business organizations. The company said it only found the threats after one of its customers noticed the suspicious activity using the software maker's secure Web surfing application.

When the individual entered the phrase "how to start a business" into Google, the top-ranked sponsored search listing advertised AllBusiness.com, a legitimate organization, but the hyperlink it offered led to a site that attempted to install a password-stealing keystroke logging attack on the user's PC, according to Exploit

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Do you know your 'Speed-cameras?'

Gatso Speed Cameras



There are over 4,000 fixed Gatso speed cameras currently in use by police forces and local authorities across the UK, accounting for 90% of all fixed speed cameras. The Gatso which uses radar technology, is used for fixed speed cameras, in-car mobile units, on tripods and can even be used from moving vehicles.

Fixed Gatso speed cameras are rear facing. This is so the cameras 'flash' does not blind oncoming motorists. Unfortunately, this also means the cameras are not always viewable until the last second (as pictured above). The cost of installing a Gatso speed camera is approximately £20,000, but can cost as much as £40,000 if located in a rural location, as the system requires a 240v power supply.

The fixed Gatso camera has the ability to take up to 400 pictures. Cameras in that are located in busy areas or are particularly hidden, often only last a few hours before the film runs out.

Gatso speed cameras can also identify between cars/vans and HGVs separately. For example, if the speed limit was 60mph for cars/vans and 40mph for HGVs the camera will enforce the two separate limits.

It is common for fixed Gatsos to be positioned so they can be turned around to check both sides of the road - but only one direction at a time.

On the M25 in Berkshire and Surrey Gatso speed cameras have been placed in gantries across the width of the motorway with all four lanes covered simultaneously.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a Gatso speed camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. Fine amounts are currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

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Truvelo Speed Cameras



The forward facing Truvelo camera system is designed to take photographs of the front of a passing vehicle, this allows the picture taken to show the driver of the vehicle as well.

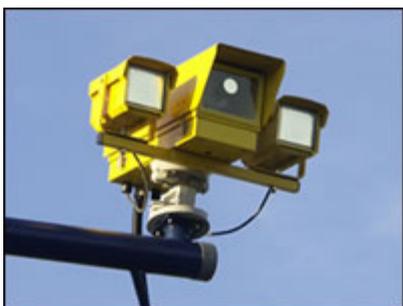
To avoid the 'flash' which is given out by a rear facing Gatso camera the Truvelo system uses an infra red flash which produces no visible 'flash' to the approaching driver. These rely on 3 white-lines in the road, painted just before the camera, and are triggered by strips in the road, used to gain the vehicles speed.

Truvelo cameras are becoming increasingly more commonplace, counties such as Northamptonshire use predominately only Truvelo cameras.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a Truvelo speed/safety camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. This fine amount is currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

SPECS Speed Cameras



SPECS average speed camera systems utilise state of the art video system with Automatic Number Plate Reading (ANPR) digital technology. Consisting of a minimum of two cameras each fitted with infra red illuminators fitted on gantries above the road, so they can work day or night. SPECS speed cameras work out the vehicles average speed, given the time it takes to drive between the two camera positions.

SPECS average speed cameras are fitted either at the roadside or in the central reservation (as pictured above) a set distance apart to create a speed controlled zone, or where appropriate, groups of cameras can be linked to create a speed controlled network.

As vehicles pass between the entry and exit camera points their number plates are digitally recorded, whether speeding or not.

Then, by ANPR recognition, the images on the video of matching number plates are paired up, and because each image carries a date and time stamp, the computer can then work out your average speed between the cameras. There is no film used for SPECS.

SPECS are commonly used to enforce speed limits on dual carriageways and motorways. This is because one SPECS gantry can monitor up to four lanes of traffic at any one time.

Nottinghamshire currently has the most SPECS speed cameras with no less than 43 pairs all located in permanent sites.

SPECS speed camera are currently in use in permanent locations in the following counties: Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Greater London, Northern Ireland, Strathclyde, Cornwall, Gloucestershire and South Yorkshire

In addition SPECS average speed cameras are being used in the following temporary locations: Hertfordshire, Kent, Wiltshire/Berkshire, Devon, Perthshire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and West Midlands.

Quote from the manufactures of SPECS system. *"The SPECS system is so efficient and user friendly that Manchester CTO processed 2,500 offences in 6 man-hours"*.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a SPECS speed/safety camera system can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. This fine amount is currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

Peek Speed Cameras



PEEK Traffic cameras within the United Kingdom are in minority in built up areas. Counties currently using Peek Traffic cameras include; Leicestershire, Greater London and Berkshire.

Peek rely on radar technology, similar to a Gatso. They are also rear-facing due to the 'flash'.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a Peek speed/safety camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. This fine

amount is currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

[Speedcurb Speed Cameras](#)

Speedcurb roadside speed cameras are often used to monitor traffic light offences as well as speeding offences. These traffic cameras are rear facing and are used in fixed permanent speed camera locations. Like both DS2 and Truvelo speed cameras, SpeedCurb use piezo sensors embedded in the road.

Speedcurb speed camera use piezo sensors in the road surface to calculate the speed of a vehicle passing through the cameras enforcement zone.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a Speedcurb speed camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. Fine amounts are currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

[Watchman Speed Cameras](#)

Watchman speed cameras are rear facing roadside cameras similar to Gatso speed cameras using radar to detect speeding vehicles. Watchman traffic cameras are currently on trial awaiting type approval prior to a national installation programme. In addition to the radar module, Watchman also features a second camera for Number Plate Recognition (NPR).

Watchman speed cameras work using radar technology like a Gatso. A radar stream is constantly emitted and when a vehicle passes through above the speed limit a photograph is taken. But unlike a Gatso the Watchman traffic camera calculates your speed as you approach the camera location. Slowing down just as you reach the Watchman speed camera isn't enough as your speed will have already been monitored and will be recorded as you pass the camera, together with a photo of your vehicle. This provides the Watchman speed camera system with a much larger area of monitoring and enforcing the road speed limit.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a Watchman speed camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. Fine amounts are currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

[Traffic Light Speed Cameras](#)

Traffic light cameras are triggered either by using ground loops that are cut into road surface or radar technology. When using loops, as the traffic lights turn red the system becomes active, any vehicle passing over the sensor in the road after this time is then photographed. Radar based traffic light cameras work in the same manner as fixed Gatso speed cameras.

A news story that appeared in the Daily Mail newspaper reported that the Home Office plan to turn over 1,000 traffic light cameras

into speed cameras. *"More than 1,000 traffic-cameras used to catch drivers jumping red lights are to be converted so they can also trap speeders"*.

The traffic light camera was originally used to measure red light offences. Nowadays the camera can also be used in combination with speed measurement, similar to that of a Gatso speed camera. So you could end with a speeding offence as well as a traffic light offence, if you go through a red light camera!

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a traffic light camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. This fine amount is currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

[DS2 Speed Cameras](#)

DS2 speed cameras also known as SpeedMaster, Autovision or Autovision 2 are different names for a very similar system. These speed cameras are semi-permanent installations and can cover two lanes of traffic travelling in different directions. DS2 traffic cameras can be attended or left unattended whilst enforcing the speed limit.

DS2 speed camera sites work via three piezo strips either on top of the road surface or embedded within the surface of the road, the latter harder to spot. The piezo sensors are set approximately 1 metre apart and are accompanied by a short grey post on the roadside. When in use the DS2 site is connected to the safety camera partnership van or unmarked car. Autovision or Autovision 2 can then be used to provide video evidence of the speeding offence. Alternatively the Police will operate with a police car further along the road, and a message will be sent with details of the offending vehicles registration details to stop and issue the speeding offence. As vehicles drive over the three piezo sensors in the road, the DS2 camera equipment can calculate the vehicles speed. DS2 systems can be left unattended with the Autovision system recording vehicle details.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a DS2 speed camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. Fine amounts are currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.

[Mobile Speed Cameras](#)



Police Constabularies across the country use a variety of mobile and hand devices to catch speeding motorists. These systems include; Mini-Gatso, TSS system and Teletraffic (laser guns). Mini-Gatso, the technology used in a Mini-Gatso unit is very similar to that used within a fixed position Gatso speed camera, using radar. Teletraffic police camera teams use mobile vehicle installed with laser speed traps to detect speeding traffic from a distance of 1000 metres. The police laser gun is aimed at a vehicles' number plate and then recorded on video film to record the vehicle speed. This system is generally best for tackling lengths of road, and may be used outside of signed locations.

Most counties across the UK have a 'Speeding Campaign' of some form particularly during festive times when there are more motorists on the road and when people have busier schedules.

Many Police Constabularies and local authorities have routes where they regularly patrol and carry out speed checks. Wrexham for instance in North Wales has a campaign called 'Arrive Alive'. The campaign is fairly high profile, with a dark blue high top transit liveried in the logo "Arrive Alive" on the sides of the van. The van has blacked out windows in the rear apart from a small trapdoor in one window from which the camera lenses protrudes. Other counties have similar projects acting to deter speeding motorists, with some using equipment that first monitors passing vehicles speed and then on large illuminated signs flash up your current speed. Although few prosecutions result from this method, it is more to highlight 'speed' and speeding campaigns.

Recently, residents of a small village Milton of Campsie, on the northern outskirts of Glasgow have been given laser guns to allow them to work on the police-forces behalf. Though they cannot result in a prosecution the information will be passed on the police and could result in a warning letter being sent.

Points and Penalties

Being prosecuted in the UK by a mobile speed/safety camera can result in a minimum of 3 penalty points and a £60 fine. This fine amount is currently under review by the government and may increase in near future.





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IBM to Support Linux on their System p Servers.

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Once released the technology, called IBM System p Application Virtual Environment (System p Ave) – is designed to open up thousands of extra x86 Linux applications to the system platform.

The beta follows IBM's recent launch of three System p based web-tier servers aimed at consolidating x86 workloads.

With nearly 2,800 applications that already run natively on Linux on system p servers, System p AVE, will allow most x86 Linux binaries to run unmodified, according to IBM.

Customers and independent software suppliers can download and test System p AVE on their system p and BladeCentre JS20 and JS21 Servers. The solution is expected to be commercially available in the second half of 2007.

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Anti-Phishing Tool pays off at Nationwide

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Software deployed by Nationwide to automatically identify and shutdown phishing scams has paid for itself within 3 months by reducing on-line fraud.

The anti-phishing software took 10 days to implement, has shut down hundreds of phishing scams during its first three months. Prior to implementing the software, Nationwide staff had to manually track phishing scams carried out against the company.

According to the Peter Corrie, head of Nationwides strategic fraud initiative, it was becoming extremely difficult to shut down phishing sites quickly enough and to cope with the number of incoming e-mails from customers reporting phishing attacks or suspicious web sites.

Peter went on to say 'With online fraud increasing exponentially each year, it is paramount for companies like ours to tackle the problem head-on in order to minimise revenue losses and protect our members'.

Case Communications partner with global specialists S21 Sec, who provide high level security audits and offer an alternative anti-phishing service which requires no installation of hardware or software on a customer site, for more details of these products please contact Case Communications.

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Public Sector called to Action on 'Open Source'

Shadow chancellor George Osborne recently gave a speech in which he outlined his views on government IT strategy, and stressed his goal of 'open source' politics.

'Lets get digital' was the message, and was supported by calls for self-regulation, equality of information and the democratisation of the Internet.

Osborne's strongest argument was reserved for 'open source' software, and its rightful place at the heart of government IT. He urged people to embrace the guilt free advantages, and the immense financial savings. He was unequivocal in his delivery; open source is a positive thing for government

Since the OGC piece, trials in open source software have been undertaken by the e-government Unit, Ofwat, Powys Council, the MOD Academy and West Sussex County Council among others. So it its already happening, what is Osborne calling for exactly? It seems he could simply be saying to the public sector 'get on with it', and that advice could be appropriate.

However, such ringing endorsement of open source software, even with a dossier of positive success stories to benchmark against, should come with some cautionary notes.

To start with, it must be understood that open source software is not licence free.

The general public licence contains strict stipulations and the open source initiative goes onto list 50 or so further licences, each with usage terms to obey.

Limited by law

Further, there are laws governing how governments procure, and procurement of technology, open source or otherwise will be likely to be subject to procurement law, if the relevant criteria are met.

In this speech Osborne seemed to suggest that the OGC should change procurement law to help promote the uptake of open source software. But as EU members we are governed by the Europe-wide public sector procurement directive, which would not allow a political bias away from licensed software.

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Finally, there are important human implications in moving to new technologies. There could be a steep learning curve for users, and even back office software needs to be understood, integrated and serviced. Introducing unfamiliar software could be a disruptive process.

Osbornes speech was welcome despite its simplifications. It Is not a new argument, but its repetition was well timed. Open source procurement was a debate opened by the current administration, but not capitalised upon-or even processed on significantly.





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Case Communications third Rugged router goes to trials

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The Case Communications Expressway router has been designed as an extended temperature Ruggedised System router for use beside railway tracks, the roadside and in locations where conditions are harsh.

Using an AMD LX800 processor on an ETX module the Expressway has 256MB of FLASH, 256MB of RAM and will be capable of routing at rates as high as 34 Mbps while providing full routing functionality and security.

A number of plug in modules are available for the router, including an ADSL, ISDN and modem cards, and a wide range of serial cards.

For more information on the Case Communications 'Expressway' router please contact Case marketing

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