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Bank robbers used spyware

The technique used by the Sumitomo Mitusi Bank hackers, who this week attempted the biggest bank raid ever, was based around 'key-logging', one of a family of malicious programs called 'Spyware', according to Fortinet, market leader in Unified Threat Management. It says these developments confirm the trend that Internet hackers are increasingly choosing to bypass 'the front door', finding newer and more devious ways of avoiding the hardened firewall protection of big company networks.

Jonathan Mepsted, regional director at Fortinet says spyware has been plaguing home users for a long time, and is now becoming a serious matter for big business. It is seen as the new Spam, and the Internet's equivalent of a poltergeist. The most threatening impacts of Spyware, such as usage pattern tracking, invasion of privacy and information theft, typically remain unseen and are all possible without the user having to consciously open, download or execute any applications. Just visiting an infected website is enough to become a victim.

Unwittingly downloading Spyware can compromise valuable information such as credit card numbers, passwords, and even a user's identity.

18-Mar-2005

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