System Administration and Privacy

The man behind the curtain

Overview:

1. Rise in technology
   - Why all the fuss?
2. What is at stake?
   - Types of vulnerabilities
3. Real World Examples
   - What happens behind the scenes?
4. Personal application
   - What should this persuade me to do?

The problem: Computers

- Computers can make life better.
- They should "Just Work."™
- They don't.

System administrator to the resue!

...Remember the Wizard of Oz?

What is at stake?

- Passwords
  - Email
  - Websites
  - Banks

- Files
  - Homework
  - Personal documents
  - Answer keys
  - Quizzes
  - Emails to students, co-workers, graders, friends, your mom, etc.

- Activity
  - Web browsing
  - Downloading
  - Logins
  - Correspondence

Real World Examples:

Facebook

- Shady beginning
- Shady middle
- Shady today

CEO: Mark Zuckerburg

"People have really gotten comfortable not only sharing more information and different kinds, but more openly and with more people. That social norm is just something that has evolved over time." - Zuckerburg, Jan 2010

Verizon

- Large network
- Access to many people's information
- Customer profiling
- Targeted ad systems
- Links together:
  - Google acounts (blogs, email, pictures)
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Last.fm
  - Phone contacts

My own work - PSU

- Worked for CECS for 4 years
  - Outstanding team of SAs
  - Personal accountability

Conclusion: Call to action

Whether you will be a SA, supporting coder, or manager:

- Personal application
  - Maintain accountability
  - Be above reproach

- Business practice
  - Work to ensure security of company's property
  - Work to ensure security of client's property

References:

- http://blog.tmcnet.com/blog/tom-keating/wireless/verizon-sells-confidential-customer-data-without-consent-for-targeted-.asp
- http://tech.icrontic.com/articles/all-hands-on-deck-facebooks-emergency-privacy-meeting-was-a-total-failure/
- http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2010/jan/11/facebook-privacy

Questions?