PRIME MERIDIAN BANK™

April 24, 2014

SECURITY ALERT

INTERNET EXPLORER AND 0-DAY VULNERABILITY

Microsoft released a security advisory about a recently disclosed vulnerability affecting all versions of the company's web browser Internet Explorer (versions 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11). Microsoft is working diligently to fix this "bug."

Microsoft is aware of limited attacks targeting Internet Explorer (IE), and that a successful exploit of it allows cyber criminals to remotely take control of (including, but not limited to, accessing, monitoring, changing, and deleting information and settings on) your computer. The exploit exists if you have Internet Explorer (v6-11) and use Adobe Flash.

According to Microsoft, users need to visit a malicious website for the exploit to happen, usually the result of clicking on links in emails, but also other websites that link to exploit pages directly.
While Internet Explorer (v6 – v11) are affected, attacks currently seem to concentrate on IE9 to IE11. Though Internet Explorer is the main target right now, the situation looks dire for Windows XP users as a patch will not be released for the operating system.

This means, in effect, Internet Explorer should no longer be used on Windows XP.

Does the Prime Meridian Bank website use Flash?

No. Animations on our website are handled without the use of Flash.

Does Prime Meridian Bank's Online Banking or Bill Pay use or require Flash?

No. You may use our Online Banking products and Bill Pay confidently as they do not require Flash.

What you should do.

It is possible to mitigate the attack, and you have several options to do so.

>> USE A DIFFERENT BROWSER

Don't use Internet Explorer until it is patched. This is the most obvious choice but it may not always be possible depending on your work environment. But if you can run other browsers on your system, use them instead for the time being. Firefox is a good choice. So is Google Chrome.

>> DISABLE ADOBE FLASH

According to security company Fireeye, disabling Flash in Internet Explorer will prevent the exploit from functioning as well as it appears to require Flash for its proper execution.

To disable Adobe Flash in Internet Explorer, do the following (this is demoed below using IE11; other versions may vary)

1. Open Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser.
2. Tap on the Alt-key and select Tools > Manage Add-ons.
3. Locate Shockwave Flash Object under Toolbars and Extensions and click on the item.
4. Click on the disable button to block it from running in Internet Explorer.

Alternatively, uninstall the Internet Explorer Flash plugin using the Control Panel.

>> ENHANCED PROTECTED MODE

If you are using Internet Explorer 10 or 11 with Enhanced Protected Mode enabled, you are safe as

it breaks the exploit. To check if it is enabled on your system do the following:
1. Open Internet Explorer on your system.
2. Tap on the Alt-key on your keyboard and select Tools > Internet Options.
3. Switch to the Advanced tab here and make sure Enhanced Protected Mode is enabled under Security here. You find it near the bottom of the listing.

Still have questions?

If you have questions, please feel free to contact your Prime Meridian Bank representative directly or call 850-907-2300. Read more at HeartBleed.com.