

Executive Summary

From a few months back, it feels like I've been getting more and more Facebook friend requests from people I don't know. Recently there has been an increase in impostors posing as friends and sending friend requests. Some are very subtle, and you may think they are friends at first, only to realize just before you accept the request that their name is slightly different. When these requests are from malicious parties, recklessly accepting a request could lead to your account being hijacked by them. In this day and age, it is no longer prudent to casually accept all requests you receive, thinking that Facebook friend requests are perfectly innocent.

In June of this year, a former CIA officer caused controversy when he revealed that the personal information of SNS users, including those on Facebook, was being provided to U.S. intelligence agencies such as the National Security Agency. It is said that Facebook has over a billion users worldwide, so it would undoubtedly be a very useful tool for anyone who wanted to gather personal information efficiently, whether with the intent to commit a crime, or to exert control in some way.

Because the Internet is an open, highly-scalable infrastructure, it offers unprecedented convenience, while also harboring previously unimaginable dangers. There will be an increasing need for those who operate this infrastructure, as well as its users, to properly understand both these facets, and enjoy the convenience it offers while also dealing with the threats it poses.

This report discusses the results of the various ongoing surveys and analysis activities that IIJ carries out to support the Internet infrastructure and enable our customers to continue to use it safely and securely. We also regularly present summaries of technological development as well as important technical information.

In the "Infrastructure Security" section, we give a month-by-month chronological summary of major incidents observed during the three months from April 1 to June 30, 2013, and report on the results of our statistics gathering and analyses for the entire period. We also present our focused research for this period, in which we discuss ZeroAccess and its IOC (Indicators of Compromise).

In the "Messaging Technology" section, we examine fraudulent SMTP authentication carried out by third parties who have obtained accounts and authentication information by dishonest means. To this end, we analyze fraudulent SMTP authentication access for the latest survey period of 13 weeks from April to June, 2013, and report on trend shifts.

In the "Broadband Traffic Report" section, we analyze traffic data over the broadband access services operated by IIJ for the week of June 3 to June 9, 2013, and compare it to results from the last survey data for May 28 to June 3, 2012. We also take a look at trends in the average monthly traffic for the past six years, and analyze the impact on broadband traffic from two revisions to the Copyright Act, as well as the Great East Japan Earthquake, all of which took place during this period.

Under "Internet Topics," we report on "Online Charging," an advanced charging system that enabled us to provide unique pricing plans ahead of the rest of the world with the IIJmio High-Speed Mobile/D Service from February 2012.

Through activities such as these, IIJ continues to strive towards improving and developing our services on a daily basis while maintaining the stability of the Internet. We will keep providing a variety of solutions that our customers can take full advantage of as infrastructure for their corporate activities.

Author:



Toshiya Asaba

President and CEO, IIJ Innovation Institute Inc. President and CEO, Stratosphere Inc. Mr. Asaba joined IIJ in its inaugural year of 1992, becoming involved in backbone construction, route control, and interconnectivity with domestic and foreign ISPs. He was named IIJ director in 1999, and executive vice president in charge of technical development in 2004. When the IIJ Innovation Institute Inc. was founded in June 2008, Mr. Asaba became its president and CEO. When Stratosphere Inc. was founded in April 2012, he also became president and CEO of that organization.