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Fixed lines vulnerable to attack 0

By Contributor, Monday, 1st February, 2010

For just \$1000 a spy can buy equipment to hack into a DSL connection and access – even change – highly confidential information.

That's according to Carl Purvis from Security-Assessment.com, who claims the scale of network vulnerability is "enormous", with 1.1 million DSL connections in New Zealand potentially at risk.

In the course of his research Purvis used a DSLAM and "home-built kit, a mini server platform" to hack into six different home and business connections. He claims this attack can be carried out by a malicious users parked outside a premise. Although Purvis didn't try this, he believes it could be done by breaking into a juncture box.

Purvis describes the security risk as a "man in the middle" attack, where the spy physically attaches his or her own network infrastructure to a company's DSL line. The attack then mimics the user's ISP, forcing the user's personal DSL modem to pass all traffic through an inspection tool running on a portable server platform.

Purvis says that at this stage there are no effective security controls which can be implemented en masse to reduce the risk from this attack.



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