Heartbleed Vulnerability

A major security vulnerability named Heartbleed was disclosed Monday night. The vulnerability affects a large portion of websites on the Internet that use OpenSSL to encrypt webpages (pages that start with https). SSL, or secure socket layer, is a cryptographic protocol which is designed to provide communication security over the Internet.

The Heartbleed Bug, affects OpenSSL by allowing attackers to read information that is expected to be encrypted. Critical information such as passwords or secret keys could be leaked if the problem is exploited. If secret keys are retrieved and utilized by an attacker, all traffic over the wire can be decrypted.

Since Monday evening, Information Technology Services has been scanning public-facing servers for the vulnerability and evaluating critical servers for vulnerable OpenSSL installations.

All of the main servers at UNK including the UNK Web site, Blackboard, Talisma, StarRez and EASI were not vulnerable to this issue at any point in time. Other campus services that do utilize OpenSSL are being updated as quickly as possible to mitigate the risk associated with the vulnerability.

Although we have no evidence that any University of Nebraska at Kearney sites have been compromised through this exploit, we do know that this bug has existed for 2 years before there was any knowledge of this specific vulnerability. We suggest you pay close attention to all your sensitive user accounts across the Internet and contact the owners of those related services if you have any questions.

Also, watch for fraudulent email claiming to be from companies with which you do business, as criminals will undoubtedly use this issue to create targeted phishing email messages to trick people into divulging their passwords.

Some addition information on this issue can be found here:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/04/09/heartbleed-what-you-should-know/>;

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, please feel free to contact the ITS Helpdesk <unkhelpdesk@unk.edu> or at (308)865-8363.