

Advisory : Google Metacharacter SpamDexing Anomaly , Bug

Dated : 1 April , 2006

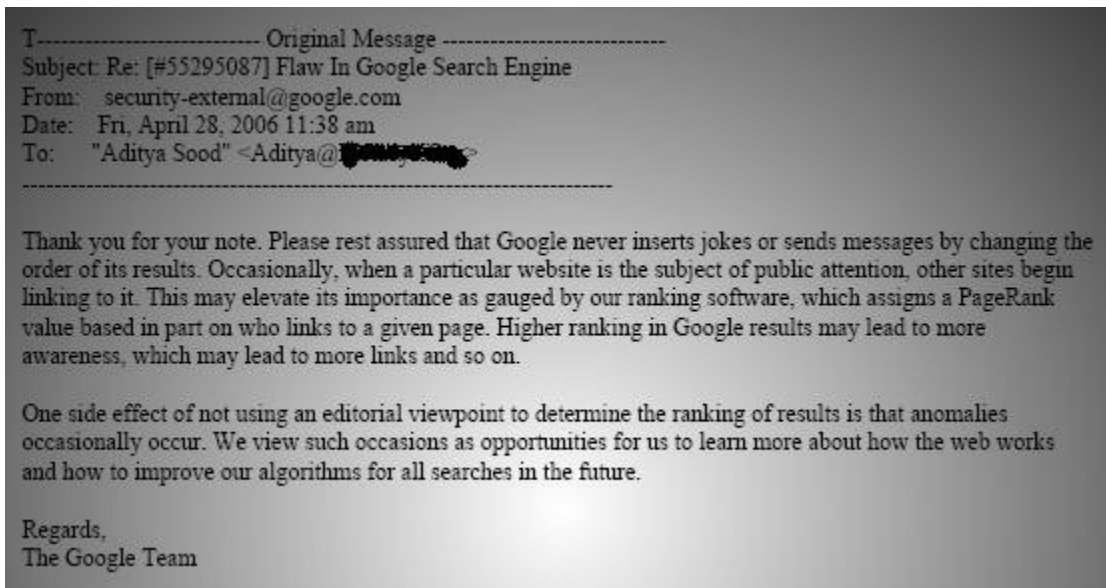
Severity : Intermediate

By: Aditya K Sood [www.secniche.org]

Explanation:

The google search engine inherited a flaw in performing search through queries. The induction of [*] character changes the query and redirect traffic to random sites. It enables the phishers to misuse the google search engine by producing malformed queries. The “I am Feeling Lucky Button” produces random results when * character is induced. The security perspective is intermediate but malformed queries can be generated.

Response From Google:



T----- Original Message -----
Subject: Re: [#55295087] Flaw In Google Search Engine
From: security-external@google.com
Date: Fri, April 28, 2006 11:38 am
To: "Aditya Sood" <Aditya@[REDACTED]>

Thank you for your note. Please rest assured that Google never inserts jokes or sends messages by changing the order of its results. Occasionally, when a particular website is the subject of public attention, other sites begin linking to it. This may elevate its importance as gauged by our ranking software, which assigns a PageRank value based in part on who links to a given page. Higher ranking in Google results may lead to more awareness, which may lead to more links and so on.

One side effect of not using an editorial viewpoint to determine the ranking of results is that anomalies occasionally occur. We view such occasions as opportunities for us to learn more about how the web works and how to improve our algorithms for all searches in the future.

Regards,
The Google Team

Vendor Status : Algorithm modified and anomaly removed.