Email accounts of staff, faculty hacked

By BONNIE HORGOS

APTOS — Almost two dozen email accounts of Cabrillo College staff and faculty were externally hacked starting April 26.

Cabrillo’s director of technology, Dan Borges, sent an email to more than 1,000 employees on Tuesday advising them to make their passwords more complex. Borges then sent out another email Wednesday announcing additional external attempts to crack Cabrillo’s email system.

“Cabrillo is still the target of a brute-force password-cracking operation that started last week,” Borges wrote to the campus.

About 4,000 messages were sent out from each hacked account to various internal and external email addresses, according to Borges. The attacks were conducted from locations nationwide.

A round of emails sent from the hacked accounts appears to come from a Cabrillo address with a subject line simply reading “Fwd,” according to Borges. The bodies of the emails have no text except for a link that opens viruses on computers. Only two employees opened the link, according to Borges.

The college’s information technology department fixed the two computers that were affected by the link, according to Borges.

There were also emails sent from the address “mail.chapman.edu,” according to an email from Borges on Wednesday, which he noted was also an external hacking incident.

“I just wanted to remind everyone that it is never a good idea to click a link that you receive from an unknown source,” Borges wrote.

Borges advised staff and faculty to contact Cabrillo’s help desk at 831-479-6992 if they received any suspicious emails.

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