

Apple software update protects Macs from 'Bash' bug

September 30 2014



An iMac is on display during an Apple event at the historic California Theater on October 23, 2012 in San Jose, California

Apple on Monday issued a software update to protect Macintosh computers from being bitten by a recently discovered "Bash" bug seen as a threat to Internet-linked devices.

Apple said the update released for OS X Lion, Mountain Lion, and

Mavericks versions of its computer operating software patch a Unix shell flaw billed as a dangerous weakness that could be exploited by hackers.

Even though the flaw was found in Unix-based Mac OS and Linux operating systems, most users of Apple computers were believed to have been protected due to default settings in the software running Macintosh machines, according to the California-based company.

"The vast majority of (Macintosh) OS X users are not at risk to recently reported 'Bash' vulnerabilities," an Apple spokesman said in an email to AFP last week.

"With OS X, systems are safe by default and not exposed to remote exploits of Bash unless users configure advanced Unix services."

The US government and technology experts last week warned of a vulnerability in some [computer](#) operating systems that could allow widespread and serious attacks by hackers.

Security specialists say that if hackers develop malware to exploit the weakness, millions of Internet-connected devices could be at risk—from web servers to personal computers to routers, as well as any "smart" or wearable electronic devices using the software.

Some said the security hole would be more damaging than the "Heartbleed" bug which affected millions of computers worldwide earlier this year.

Patches were being made available for the flaw, which is also called "Shellshock."

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Citation: Apple software update protects Macs from 'Bash' bug (2014, September 30) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-09-apple-software-macs-bash-bug.html>

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