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Skimming Alert



Credit Unions in the Portland Metro Area are Reporting Black Box Attacks

Credit unions and banks in the Portland metro area are reporting a surge in black box attacks.

Black box attacks occur when a criminal gains access to the hood of an ATM, which houses the computer. The criminal is then able to disconnect the ATM from the computer and hook up his or her own electronic device. Once this is complete, the criminal executes a program that forces the cash dispenser to dispense cash, even though no transaction is being conducted.

The black box attacks are now targeting Diebold machines. However, in the past, NCR machines have also been subject to these types of attacks.

Credit unions should reinforce their ATM hoods to ensure they cannot be opened easily. Some industry suggestions include reinforcing the hood portion of the ATM, monitoring hood activity with an alarm, and changing the locks on the hood of the ATM, if a generic lock-and-key set is being used.

Credit unions are advised to work with their security providers and ATM service providers to determine what steps should be taken to mitigate this risk. Credit unions should also consider reaching out to their insurance companies to determine their level of coverage for such attacks.

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