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**AXIOM CYBER SOLUTIONS WARNS BUSINESSES ABOUT THREAT FROM
ABANDONED FLASH DRIVES**

“Lost” Thumb Drives Found in Office Parking Lots or Lobbies Could Pose Cyber Security Threat

Las Vegas—If you’ve ever seen a thumb drive lying on the pavement of your office’s parking lot or on the ground in the lobby, you might have thought to pick it up and see what was on it, in the hopes of identifying its owner and returning it. The owners of Las Vegas-based Axiom Cyber Solutions warn against this gesture of goodwill, as the thumb drive could be a plant by a hacker attempting to gain access to business networks.

“If you see a thumb drive on the ground outside your building, you think that it probably slipped out of someone’s bag or pocket and that it could have sensitive or important information on it. A lot of people’s instinct is to take it back into their office, put it in the USB slot of their work computer and see if there’s any way to identify the owner by the files on it,” said Shannon Wilkinson, President of Axiom Cyber Solutions. “What most people, and business owners don’t realize, is that this a favored tactic by hackers to gain access to business computer networks—the sensitive information, everything.”

Shannon, who owns Axiom Cyber Solutions with her husband Troy Wilkinson, warns that hackers will intentionally drop thumb drives—sometimes even branded with the target business’ logo—in parking lots or lobbies hoping that a well-intentioned worker will plug the USB drive into a work computer seeking to identify its rightful owner. The thumb drive is configured with malware to penetrate the business’ network and give the hacker any of the information he or she wants from the business’ stored files.

“Businesses owners should advise their employees to immediately discard any abandoned thumb drives they find on the ground,” said Troy, CEO of Axiom Cyber Solutions. “The fact is that a lot of security breaches are assisted by unwitting workers in this way and they are immensely costly to businesses.”

Shannon and Troy note that small businesses are especially at risk; the average cost of a data breach to a small business is \$36,000, and most small businesses close their doors within six months of a breach.

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“Recent data shows that 71 percent of hacks targeted small businesses,” said Shannon. “In our one year of business, Axiom’s security systems have prevented hundreds of attacks on small businesses and kept thousands of people’s sensitive information safe.”

Axiom’s security system will detect and stop an attempted breach from a thumb drive attack, but Shannon and Troy stress that educating the workforce is an important part of corporate cyber security efforts.

“All businesses store sensitive information, starting with their employees’ personal data,” said Troy. “Medical practices store patient data, school districts and universities have students’ information, banks have financial data, and the list goes on and on—there isn’t a business immune to being targeted by hackers, because every business has information a hacker can use. Because of this, business owners are responsible for doing what they can to protect the information they capture. From having quality cyber security protection to educating employees about not plugging in abandoned thumb drives, every bit helps in protecting businesses, their workers, and clients.”

Axiom Cyber Solutions

Axiom Cyber Solutions is a Las Vegas-based cyber security company responsible for some of the most unique and most capable security appliances on the market. Axiom has a proprietary Denial of Service mitigation algorithm and currently produces the world’s most powerful DDoS mitigation appliance. Axiom also has a proprietary ransomware algorithm built into every device they produce that can stop nearly 100 percent of ransomware infections. Axiom focuses mainly on providing a low cost monthly subscription to small businesses that includes a \$3,000 firewall at no upfront cost. Axiom then manages, monitors and updates that firewall for the business at a cost of under \$200 per month. For more information, visit www.axiomcyber.com.

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