Silver Bullet Talks with Elinor Mills

Elinor Mills is a technology reporter who has been reporting on new technologies through the rise of the internet. During the podcast, she comment how gathering information used to be limited to calling people and fact checking at the library. However, as the internet started to grow, she has become leary of internet sources and points out that many news sites do not cover both sides of a story or fact check their work before it is published.

When asked about social media and the security issues involved, Mills comments on how so many people use facebook and that the lines between work and peoples personal lives have become blurred. Because of this, work places are at higher risk for viruses and other targeted attacks. She also comments on how much information people share online and encourages them to educate themselves on the risks of sharing this much information.

Mills explains that many foreign countries have been using text messaging instead of email and the move is turning to twitter and facebook for more and more communication. These sites are being used more for communication in foreign countries while the United States population primarily uses them for their social aspects. Mills also comments about how the types of press is changing, and more news is coming out of blogs than strict news sites. These changes are making information more readily available, but not always as reliable or credible.

Mills writes about many security tools and describes how many of the precautions are overlooked by the typical user. The biggest problem is that many of the tools to protect your computer break other websites, or limit parts of the good content. This is one of the biggest aspects of security. Trying to protect people while not interfering with daily tasks or being able to enjoy the rest of their computer is a big risk in trying to develop secure software.

One other problem is that many security issues or breaches go un-published and remain
secrets of the company attacked. Because of this, many users remain unaware of the security risks that they may encounter. These issues are hard for a typical user to think about and defend against when the user does not know about or understand what the real risks are.

Overall, this podcast focused more on the ways users put themselves at risk and the ways that they can protect themselves. It also highlights how many issues go unreported by companies, whether the attacks are defended against or not.