

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@MIT.EDU>
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 11:17 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ithaka.org>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mit.edu>
Subject: RE: MIT & JSTOR: Next Steps Discussion

Hi [REDACTED], we've not heard anything more about the idea discussed in our phone call of a special landing page on the JSTOR end that would redirect users who haven't come through our proxy server. We've been waiting to hear back before taking any action here. But given the passage of time, I'm wondering if we should be moving ahead with adding our layer of authorization without waiting for this page.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
MIT Libraries

P [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@mit.edu

<http://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly>

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@ithaka.org]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 11:49 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MIT & JSTOR: Next Steps Discussion

Thanks [REDACTED].

I scheduled the meeting for 2-3 pm tomorrow and invited [REDACTED], our [REDACTED], to attend. I have also copied [REDACTED] here. I am thinking that [REDACTED] and I may way to be on the call as well, but really looking to merely facilitate an open discussion between yourself and [REDACTED]. You are more than welcome to extend an invite to others at MIT that might prove helpful in the discussion as well. Looking forward to our conversation.

The dial in number is [REDACTED]

Best,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@MIT.EDU]

Sent: Friday, October 22, 2010 5:50 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: MIT & JSTOR: Next Steps Discussion

Hi [REDACTED] (and everyone),

That sounds terrific. I look forward to discussing possible scenarios and doing some information sharing. I have a project review meeting on Tuesday with my portion concluding at 1:30 -- I should be able to make a 2:00 without issue however, if I run slightly behind, I'll let all know. Enjoy the weekend.

Best,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IT Security Systems & Services

MIT

[REDACTED]

PGP Fingerprint: [REDACTED]

On Oct 22, 2010, at 4:48 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Good Afternoon [REDACTED],

>

> After speaking briefly with [REDACTED] this afternoon, we are both agreed that some technical conversation and discovery would serve both MIT & JSTOR well at this point. I am wondering if you might be available for a discussion with someone from our [REDACTED] staff next week to review your proposal and scope out what we might be able to do together to both prevent recurrence and to gain/share knowledge about configurations and the JSTOR/MIT interface going forward.

>

> If that seems agreeable, I have blocked out some time on Tuesday afternoon (2-4 pm) next week. If this time frame doesn't work for you, please feel free to suggest alternate times and we'll be happy to accommodate. It seems, at the outset, one hour will be sufficient to determine actionable next steps.

>

> Thanks,

>

> [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED]

> JSTOR | Portico

mod_rewrite you will be best served by going direct to [REDACTED]. I have also copied the [REDACTED], as [REDACTED] will be the one making the changes on our end to EZproxy. Those changes will need to precede the changes on JSTOR's end.

>

> In at least partial answer to your inquiry below, we offer guests access to the MIT network. However, once we institute our additional authorization layer for JSTOR, this route will be closed to guests. So we will have closed the pathway through which the excessive use occurred.

>

> We look forward to moving forward with an econtrol implementation with or without the apache code --

>

> Thanks very much,

> [REDACTED]

>

> _____

>

> [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED]

> MIT Libraries

> P [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED]@mit.edu

> <http://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@ithaka.org]

> Sent: Monday, October 18, 2010 10:04 AM

> To: [REDACTED]

> Cc: [REDACTED]

> Subject: RE: 10:00 am Update: JSTOR Abuse at MIT: All IPs Blocked

>

>

> Thanks [REDACTED],

>

> I appreciate your candor here. I have dealt with many cases over the years and understand the difficulties inherent with tracking down individual users. I am hopeful we can use this opportunity to work together towards building more stable, sustainable and secured access to JSTOR. We are meeting as a larger group to discuss this matter further this afternoon and I am wondering if you could provide one point of clarification for that conversation.

>

> Understanding that you may not be able to identify the individual, where you able to identify the credentials used to access MIT authorization for this activity? That is, was there a shared UN/PW used for guests or an open port on a proxy used in this case. Basically, the concern is, as we sort out the IP configurations necessary with you, could this or any user use the same authorization methodology to do this again or has the pathway been identified and locked down?

>

below. Since it sounds as if that would be welcome and workable on the JSTOR end, I hope we can pursue that next week.

>
> I would be happy to discuss any aspect of this with you further, and I'm sorry we do not have more details to report in terms of the incidents.

>
> [REDACTED]
>
> _____

>
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

> MIT Libraries
> P [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]@mit.edu
> <http://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly>

>
> Thank You [REDACTED],

>
> I appreciate your response here. It appears we still have a ways to go to reach resolution, but I am glad to assist.

>
> First, this activity is not continuing at the moment. Given that we saw it twice in two weeks, starting on a Saturday, I will hazard a guess that if this does recur, it will begin again on a Saturday. That said, if an when it does recur, we will be denying IP ranges significant enough to prevent it from continuing, while hopefully avoiding the need to block the entire range again. Internally, we are agreed on this point.

>
> Second, we typically follow each case of excessive downloading with a three step process for considering the incident resolved...

>
> 1. Is it continuing? Not at the moment, but the jury is still out and will be for a few weeks.

>
> 2. Did the institution take the necessary steps to prevent recurrence? I see your suggestions here and have some thoughts on it as a follow on conversation. At present however, it is very important for us to understand if the users password has been changed and if the user has been contacted directly to address this issue. As a guest user, and likely the same user involved previously, using an efficient robot to grab lots of content, this is paramount to solve at the individual user level. If it is a shared account or used by multiple users, this is even more critical.

>
> 3. Was the content acquired deleted? This can be tricky, we understand, but if you can identify the user, in combination with adjusting their credentials, we must request that the best effort be made to insure that the content acquired is deleted from the storage device or web space in which they are storing it.

>
> We can give you very granular log files from our end if identifying the user is problematic, but not identifying

the user and assuring that the content is deleted, especially on a incident of this size, is a sizeable barrier to bringing this incident to a close.

>

> As for your suggestion, we would gladly adjust the IPs that have access to JSTOR at your request. Note that some of our very large institutions do authenticate in this way. Also note that most very large institutions that do use proxy servers, use 2 or 3 to meet their bandwidth and access control needs. That said, I want to make sure we are on the same page here. Adjusting your configurations to prevent future occurrences is separate from bringing resolution to this incident.

>

> If your IS&T group need additional information for activities between the time frames already provided, please do let me know what kind of information they are looking for and how much. Like, logs for at least 30 consecutive actions from an MIT IP between the times of 16:00 and 16:30 on Saturday, and we'll be happy to provide them.

>

> Thanks,

>

> [REDACTED]

>

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@ithaka.org]

> Sent: Friday, October 15, 2010 9:37 AM

> To: [REDACTED]

> Cc: [REDACTED]

> Subject: RE: 10:00 am Update: JSTOR Abuse at MIT: All IPs Blocked

>

> Dear [REDACTED],

>

> I am wanting to keep you up to date on our findings here. I am copying an incident summary below for the two occurrences. I am hopeful that you understand our urgency as not intended to be confrontational at all, but as rooted in our deep investment in our ability to be good stewards of the content in our care. Noting that, the 9/25 and 9/26 incidents yielded more than 400K PDFs from JSTOR to this user. This is both unprecedented and very concerning. Any progress you could provide on identifying the user responsible and the steps I mentioned yesterday would be very helpful.

>

> We are also mindful that the weekend is upon us and are looking for collaboration on your end and acknowledgement that MIT staff will be monitoring your systems closely for any recurrence, as we are, until we can reach resolution.

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>

> Incident on 9/25 & 9/26

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> IP = 18.55.6.215

> Start = 25-SEP-10 05:06:49.109524 PM
> End = 26-SEP-10 04:24:54.297995 AM
> Total Sessions = 1,256,249
> Total Articles Downloaded = 453,570
> Total Journals Affected = 562

> Incident on 10/9

> IP = 018.055.005.100
> Start = 2010-10-09 14:53:18 from
> End = 2010-10-09 19:08:01
> Total Sessions = 8,515
> Total Articles Downloaded = 8,422
> Total Journal Affected = 714

> Best,

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@MIT.EDU]
> Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 12:44 PM
> To: [REDACTED]
> Cc: [REDACTED]
> Subject: RE: 10:00 am Update: JSTOR Abuse at MIT: All IPs Blocked

> Hello [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

> Our investigations here point to the same guest that was involved in the 9/27 incident. We don't have enough information to follow the trail completely, but the signs suggest that the same guest user was responsible for this latest activity. To pursue this further, our IS&T group would need more information. Specifically, they are wondering if you are seeing any robotic activity from MIT currently and if so, whether you have any information about the IP addresses involved.

> Given that it appears all of this excessive use was caused by a guest visitor at MIT, we have been considering next steps, and would like to suggest that we move to a new access model that will eliminate use by guests. We have recently developed an additional authorization layer that we can apply to particular products to prevent access by guests/walkins. We've tried this approach with one or two publishers where we had seen repeated excessive use, and it has stemmed the problem in those cases.

> We would orchestrate this change by changing the proxy configuration on this end, and then we'd ask you to

change the list of acceptable MIT IPs to only our proxy server's address -- a single IP.

>
> If this sounds like an acceptable approach, let's discuss the next steps. To carry out the change, I'd have JSTOR work with [REDACTED], copied here.

>
> Best,

> [REDACTED]

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> _____

> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

> MIT Libraries
> P [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]@mit.edu
> <http://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly>

>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@ithaka.org]
> Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 10:09 AM
> To: [REDACTED]
> Cc: [REDACTED]
> Subject: 10:00 am Update: JSTOR Abuse at MIT: All IPs Blocked

> Hello Again,
>
> We have requested that the IP range be unblocked at the firewall and that process is currently underway. I will confirm when that is accomplished and report the IPs and timestamps surrounding the event shortly.

>
> [REDACTED]
>
>
>