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## RFID tags may be vulnerable to a virus

10:20am EST Thu Mar 16 2006 - submitted by Brian

Researchers at Amsterdam's Free University have managed to put a virus on something as innocent as an RFID tag. The discovery shows that the low memory capacity of the RFID tags is no barrier against them being used to upset inventory systems, which are often used to scan the tags. The discovery may cool wide speculation of RFID tags until the chips' security can be locked

According to the study published by Melanie Rieback, Bruno Crispo, and Andrew Tanenbaum, an infected RFID is capable of infecting the back-end database associated with the RFID software. If RFID tags become widely used for sensitive areas of industry, such as pharmaceuticals and airport security, then even a slight chance that a tag could infect the whole RFID system is unacceptable.

It is important that we look at a technology that may become a major part of our infrastructure, affecting inventory levels of foods and goods at stores. If there is any doubt in the security of the RFID, then it is important we address it now before it is too late. We do not want to build our house on a foundation of sand.

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Different kinds of tags (11:08am EST Thu Mar 16 2006)

There are different kinds of tags. Some tags are just passive ID numbers.

My understanding is that this 'virus' requires smart tags and a really poorly written database system.

Probably not even worth making the news except for the 'sensational' factor. - by boring

Easy (11:46am EST Thu Mar 16 2006)  
replace the number the tags contains by

124563" DELETE \* from .... sql query .... used to work long time ago with pourly desinged websites ...

you can also insert a really large number to buffer overflow the reader and maybe crash it and pass by the reader at the door. - by greg

sandman (12:22pm EST Thu Mar 16 2006)  
I have a tag implant will the virus make me sick. - by Logon

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