



Issued 6/21/17

An E-cig Can Hack your Computer

Hackers could use an electronic cigarette to crack into a computer and steal a victim's most sensitive information. All crooks need to do is add a small chip to an e-cig to transform it into a digital lock-pick capable of prizing open a target's systems.

This tiny modification fools the computer into thinking a mouse or keyboard is attached, making the device drop its guard. Once plugged into a computer, the booby-trapped electronic cigarette can inject a piece of "malicious code" which could order the computer to download files -letting criminals steal all the private information on their victim's system. Ross, a tech security expert, told Sky News that people should be wary of anyone who tries to put something nasty into their USB slot. "In all cases, be wary if someone wants to plug something into your machine," he said. The dangerous software could even crack into computers when they are locked.

However, the damage caused by the e-cig malware could be minimized by the fact the device can only store small files. "The WannaCry malware for instance was 4 to 5MB – hundreds of times larger than the space on an e-cigarette," Bevington added. "That being said, using something like an e-cigarette to download something larger from the internet would be possible."