

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Scammers are back at it - Robin Williams death exploited via new Facebook scam](#)

Aura - August 18, 2014, 8:43 am

Hey guys, Aura here with yet another [WARNING] thread.

We learned around a week ago that the actor Robin Williams put an end to his life in his house. Robin Williams was loved by millions of fans around the world, but also his family and friends and his death is a great loss to them, but also to the world of cinema. We all know what happens when these kind of events happen, there's always people that try to abuse it for their personal gain and make profit out of it. This time, once again, scammers/spreaders are back at it on Facebook.

A new scam started trending on Facebook lately. This scam is a "shared article" that advertises the last video of Robin Williams, apparently taken from his phone moments before he killed himself. That article asks you to click on it to go on the website and view the video. However, like you should have guessed by now, there's no video at all. This is all just a setup put in place by scammers/hackers in order to make money out of it and also infect people with malware. Symantec, who discovered and reported the scam explains :

"There is no video. Users that click on the link to the supposed video are taken to a fake BBC News website. As with many social scams, users are required to perform actions before they can view the content. In this case, users are instructed to share the video on Facebook before watching," Symantec security response manager Satnam Narang said in a blog post.

Basically, once you get on the website, you're asked to share that video in order to see it. When you click on "Share" and you're not connected to Facebook, it asks you to connect via a pop-up window that might be a phishing attempt. Once done, the last step before being able to watch that video is to either fill a survey, or install a Facebook media plug-in. As you guessed once again, the survey is only here to be filled and give money to the scammer while the Facebook plug-in has good chances to be a malware. And in the end, you don't even have access to the video, which forces people to do the second solution (depending on if they answered the survey or installed the plugin) in hope to access it, when there's nothing in reality.

According to Symantec statistics, that scam started around 48 hours after the breaking news of the discovery of Robin Williams' body and it has been shared over 24 million times on Facebook so far (hence the "Share this post" step before accessing the video). What makes this scam so popular is the use of "Social Engineering", a technical term that describes the manipulation of the human brain to convince them to do what another person wants without knowing what they are really doing. Social Engineering is often abused with breaking news, mostly celebrity deaths :

"Over the years, scammers have used both real and fake celebrity deaths as a way to convince users to click on links and perform actions. From Amy Winehouse and Paul Walker to the fake deaths of Miley Cyrus and Will Smith, scammers are opportunistic and always looking for ways to capitalize," Narang said.

The same happened a few weeks ago, back when the comedian and actor Tracy Morgan got into a car accident, leaving him in a critical condition in the hospital. The scammers spread an "article" saying

that Tracy Morgan ended up dying of his wounds, when it was in reality false and only another scam.

Symantec recommends users to stay alert and vigilant when coming across such posts and to recommend their friends to get their system checked up for malware as soon as possible if they start sharing articles of this kind without them knowing about it.

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) also issued a warning about another scam using the death of Robin Williams, in which a video of him before his death can be accessed on a website, but requires a special media player in order to play, where that "special media player" is in fact a malware.

Inspired from the article : [Sick Facebook Scammers Exploit Robin Williams' Suicide](#)

Once again, it shows us how heartless and inhuman some hackers and scammers can be. Taking advantage of a shocking news that saddens tons of people, without counting the family and friends of the person involved in this incident in order to make profit and for their own personal gain. Please keep in mind that all these articles are fake and in the end there's no videos or articles, but just surveys and malwares that ends up putting you in trouble, and giving the scammer more money.

Stay safe and secure guys.

?A.J? - August 18, 2014, 9:56 am

It's a gold mine for black hackers Aura, of course they would use this opportunity to their own interests.

Bro? - August 18, 2014, 9:58 am

They do everything to try to get dumb people on facebook to click their links.

I feel bad for the people that do.

Actually i don't, it is their fault

Eternal. - August 18, 2014, 10:15 am

This does not surprise me. Facebook shit annoys me so I would never trust it to begin with but thanks for the update.

Aceman - August 18, 2014, 10:27 am

Can't say I'm surprised in the slightest. There will always be people trying to profit off of a famous person's death.

edwardj7337 - August 18, 2014, 3:12 pm

I think the people that wouldn't know about this, would be the ones that don't know of sites like this. I'm sure there are still people on here that don't know of these type of scam methods though. I think it really should be a highly recommended practice to learn about stuff like this before one goes on the internet for the first time. There are many people that click on anything they say and don't know of how serious an infection or theft could to them.

Aura - August 18, 2014, 3:13 pm

(Aug 18, 2014 03:12 PM)edwardj7337 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think the people that wouldn't know about this, would be the ones that don't know of sites like this. I'm sure there are still people on here that don't know of these type of scam methods though. I think it really should be a highly recommended practice to learn about stuff like this before one goes on the internet for the first time. There are many people that click on anything they say and don't know of how serious an infection or theft could to them.

You would be really surprised to see how many people here falls for scams like this and ones even

easier to spot.

edwardj7337 - August 18, 2014, 3:37 pm

(Aug 18, 2014 03:13 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You would be really surprised to see how many people here falls for scams like this and ones even easier to spot.

You're right, I forgot that about the little brats that come on here under disguise as Anonymous hackers. And the ones that just don't think twice.

Regulus - August 18, 2014, 3:41 pm

I see friends on my Facebook list clicking on these scam links everyday, i have never done it and will never ever do it. Told all my friends to never ever click on a suspicious link when they're browsing at my computer so hopefully they listen to me.

Thanks for the warning though bud, take care!

Programming - August 18, 2014, 3:42 pm

Some kid did this on my FB timeline and I called him a dumbass.

These scams are so common, why do people still fall for them?

Ginsum - August 18, 2014, 3:42 pm

"video has been shared over 24 million times on Facebook".

Holy shit imagine how much money they have made.

Cyrus - August 19, 2014, 6:28 am

These people are quite smart and creative when doing what they do.

Stealth V2 - August 19, 2014, 6:29 am

The reason I don't use facebook anymore, this is sad. However people do anything for some money.

x2SiKJaYzZ - August 19, 2014, 6:34 am

I see my friends/people in school always sharing and clicking this stuff. For example:See what dove shampoo done to her skin. (Then shows a horrible picture...(And loads more) And now this robin williams death.. TBH i laugh at them for clicking them links.

Aura - August 19, 2014, 6:53 am

(Aug 18, 2014 03:42 PM)Wheaters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) "video has been shared over 24 million times on Facebook".

Holy shit imagine how much money they have made.

You have to share the video before anything else. Doesn't mean that 24 millions people actually filled out the survey.

Recola - August 19, 2014, 12:44 pm

This is one of the reasons I don't use FaceBook, there are so many kids clicking on dumb things like this. They really need to learn it sooner or later. And such things as "post (****) and see the magic happen in the picture" and such bullshit. Thanks for the alert, Aura.

Ginsum - August 19, 2014, 7:40 pm

(Aug 19, 2014 06:53 AM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You have to share the video before anything else. Doesn't mean that 24 millions people actually filled out the survey.

But still imagine with over 24 million shares how many people filled out the survey.

Machiavellian101 - August 21, 2014, 2:35 pm

It's quite sick that this happens but yeah it does happen. You can also find a detailed list of these kind of scams at [Hoax Slayer](#) too.

iDuL - September 1, 2014, 2:53 am

I've seen two people's FB accounts hacked recently, maybe it's in connection to this?
They just keep sending "hey" and "hi" on messenger though, nothing else.

Bat Man - September 1, 2014, 4:44 am

Its is internet cant trust anyone so easily..just beware and try to play always in a safe side to save your ASS !!!

Can trust never anyone blindly

Aura - October 4, 2014, 5:43 pm

(Sep 1, 2014 02:53 AM)iDuL Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've seen two people's FB accounts hacked recently, maybe it's in connection to this?

They just keep sending "hey" and "hi" on messenger though, nothing else.

Sorry for the late reply, I was banned.

We cannot associate this scam/hack to this event right now, as many malware that spreads and take over Facebook accounts sends the same kind of messages.