

Defender: George Baldonado at Oasis Technology in Camarillo.



Collaborative: Baldonado talks with Project Manager Mike Meyers.

PHOTOS BY MIKE BAKER

from natural disasters in a year, and will be more profitable than the global trade of all major illegal drugs combined,” wrote **Steve Morgan**, founder of Cybersecurity Ventures and editor-in-chief of Cybercrime magazine, in a story published in November edition of the publication.



Yuri Aberfeld

Biggest threats

Ask a cybersecurity professional what the biggest threats are and the answers will be various.

Aberfeld said it was ransomware, a program that threatens to publish a user’s personal data on the internet or else block

access to it unless as ransom is paid. He also named phishing campaigns. In these attacks,

an email is sent out in hopes that a recipient will click on it and download the ransomware software.

“It is like casting a net in the ocean. Whatever you catch, you catch,” Aberfeld said.

A variation of that attack is spear phishing – or an attempt that is focused on a specific user because he or she had clicked on a phishing email in the past or his or her login and password information was exposed on the dark web, he added.

“They find out who are the key employees of a company and pretend to be those employees,” Aberfeld said.

Baldonado thinks the biggest threats come from just the explosion of technology.

Companies are not concerned with security and just focus on getting a new product out to market and gaining market share, he said.

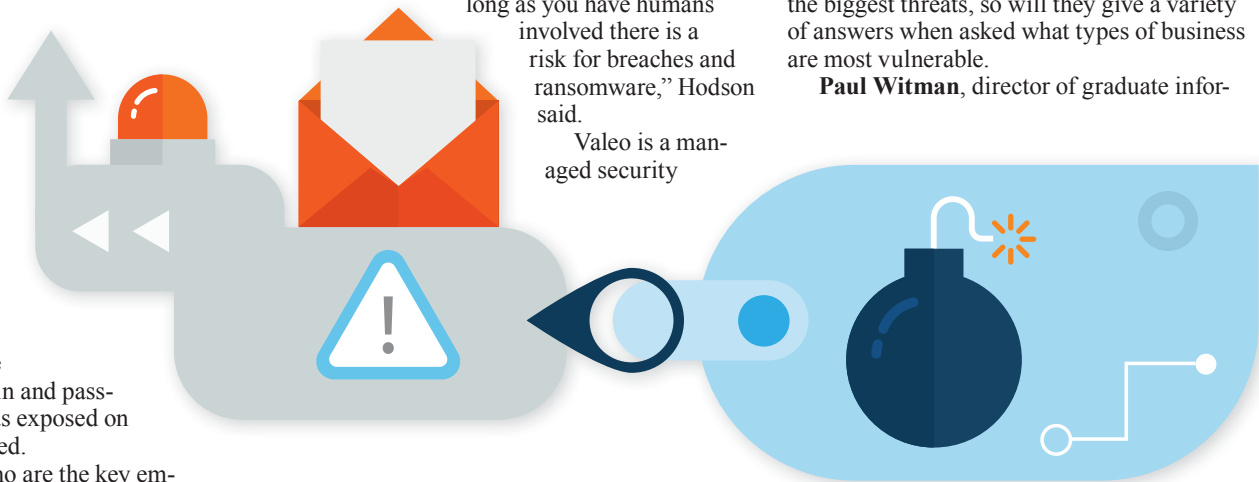
“People aren’t concerned when they release their product about the actual security part,” Baldonado added.

Matthew Hodson, chief information officer at **Valeo Networks**, the Florida-based IT division of **Saalex Corp.** in Camarillo, said that the biggest threat to a company’s computer network comes from its employees.

“You can throw as much money as you

want at your infrastructure, your software packages, your configuration, your firewalls, (but) at the end of the day as long as you have humans involved there is a risk for breaches and ransomware,” Hodson said.

Valeo is a managed security



Vulnerable sectors

Just as cybersecurity professionals give a variety of responses when asked to identify the biggest threats, so will they give a variety of answers when asked what types of business are most vulnerable.

Paul Witman, director of graduate infor-

service provider serving municipal, state and county governments, small-to-medium sized businesses, and nonprofits. It has offices nationwide, including in Camarillo.

Other threats mentioned by Hodson are from companies not being ready to have employees working from home due to the coronavirus pandemic. These firms leave themselves open to cyber-attacks because they have employees using computers and networks that are home-based and not well protected.

“We have seen with companies where that is where a hack presents itself – from the home piece of the network and spreads to the business,” Hodson said.

mation technology programs at **California Lutheran University** in Thousand Oaks, said the businesses most at risk are those with light capability for managing attacks. That would include smaller companies and companies that don’t spend a lot of energy on cybersecurity-related functions.

“They don’t train their staff enough and don’t have updated virus protection on their computers,” Witman said. “All of those are risk factors that would make it more likely that an organization would be victimized.”

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ITSupportLA

HEADQUARTERS: Tarzana

CEO: Yuri Aberfeld

BUSINESS: Managed IT, cybersecurity, backup and website design services

NUMBER OF LOCATIONS: 1

EMPLOYEES: 15

NOTABLE: Aberfeld was recently named to serve on the board of the Valley Community Legal Foundation.