Wayland
Computer Privacy Initiative
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WPS Macs missing major security patches - again

3.11.2017

To: **Wayland Board of Selectmen, School Committee & Finance Committee**
Town of Wayland
41 Cochituate Road
Wayland, MA 01778

From: **Wayland Computer Privacy Initiative**
Email: MarkAllenHays@Gmail.com

Dear Wayland Board and Committee members:

Unfortunately, the "missing security patches" problem continues to plague Wayland Public Schools. Despite breaches in the Wayland Treasurer's office and a clear 'high priority' recommendation from McGladrey / RSM, Wayland Public schools has not installed a modern patch / endpoint management system.

The result? More missing 'high priority' security patches. Two sample screen caps are included on the following page from January and March of 2017:

- **In January,** some Macs were missing the major OS X 2016-007 security update that was released by Apple in December. Other Macs were missing an important Safari security update, plus older updates for Evernote, OneNote and OneDrive.

- **In March** we found Macs that were missing a critical security update for Apple's GarageBand app.

If hundreds of student Macs are not being patched, it is likely that Macs used by Wayland teachers, staff and administrators are also unprotected.

This recurring problem creates a significant risk. As noted previously, the cost of a single breach could easily exceed $1 million. Town managers who knew, but failed to take effective action, could be named personally. These costs would be paid by Wayland taxpayers and individuals, because Wayland does not have insurance coverage for data breaches – or for employees and board/committee members.

Theft of confidential Wayland family and student identity, medical, mental and behavioral data could never be repaired with any amount of money.

Missing security patches were a proximate cause of the breaches in the Wayland Treasurer's office – hence the recommendation from McGladrey / RSM. Do we need to learn this costly lesson again, the hard way? Or will you take effective action, and *require* WPS to install the solution that McGladrey recommended?
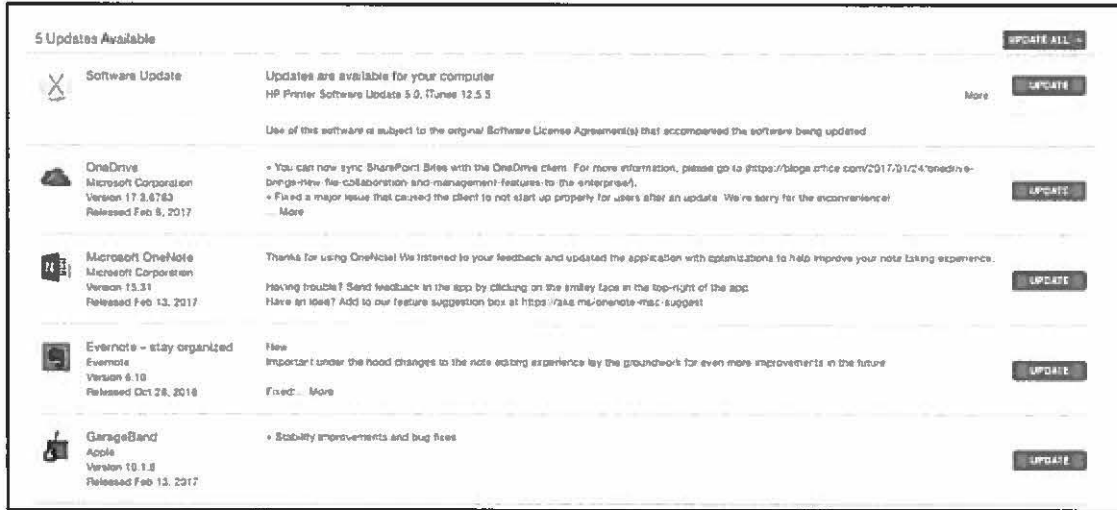
We look forward to your reply.

Mark Hays

January 2017 screen cap – listing missing patches:
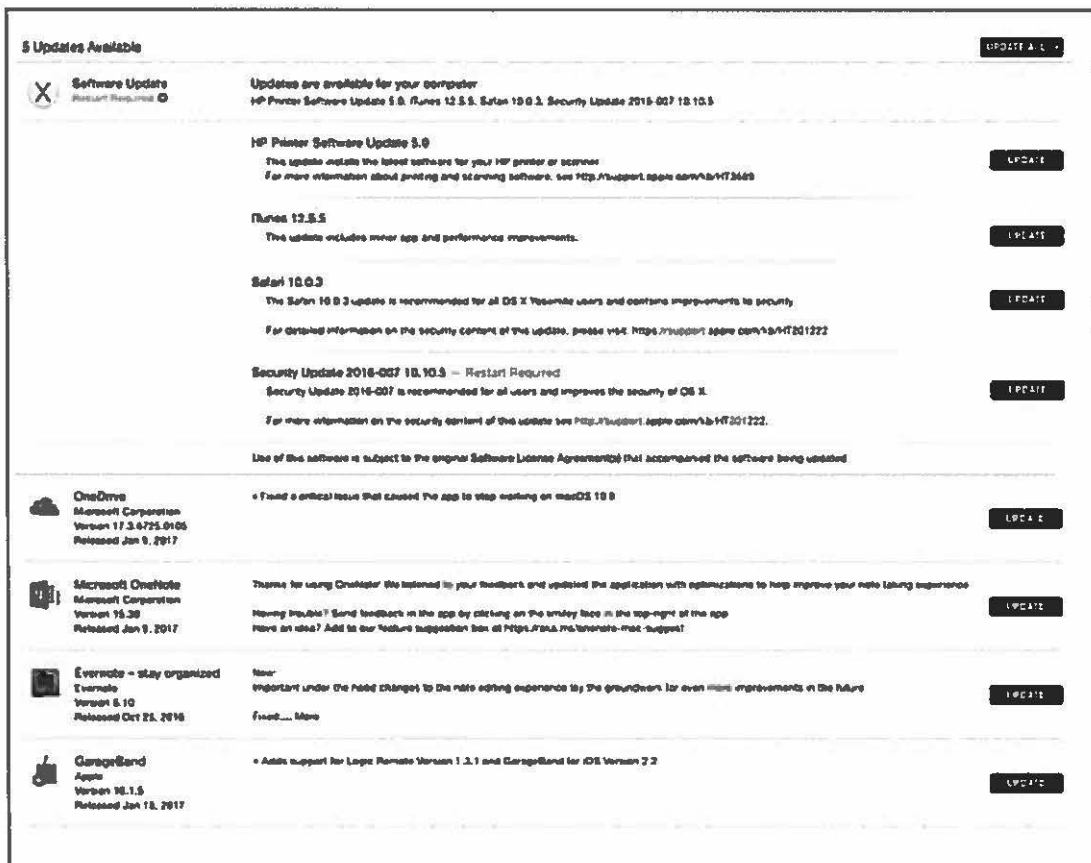
Note the major Apple security update from December of 2016 for OS X, and the security update for the frequently used Safari web browser. Both are 'high priority' to fix significant risks.

March 2017 screen cap listing missing patches:

Note the GarageBand security patch. This flaw would allow a hacker to take complete control over a Mac. The user would simply have to open a GarageBand file they receive via email or download from the Web.