

## Security experts: Remotes hackable on many vehicles

By DAVID MCHUGH  
Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — A group of computer security experts say they figured out how to hack the keyless entry systems used on millions of cars, meaning that thieves could in theory break and steal items without leaving a broken window.

The experts say that remote entry systems on millions of cars made by Volkswagen since 1995 can be cloned to permit unauthorized access to the car's interior.

The same experts say another system used by other brands including Ford, General Motor's Opel and Chevrolet and Renault can also be defeated.

In a paper to be delivered Friday at the Usenix security conference in Austin, Texas, the authors say a thief could use commonly available equipment to intercept entry codes as they are transmitted by radio frequency, and then use that information to clone another remote so the car could be opened.

Volkswagen said its latest models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Touran and Passat were not affected. It said it was having a "constructive exchange" with the experts aimed at improving security technology.

"The bar for theft prevention is constantly being raised, but ultimately there is no comprehensive guarantee for security," the company said in a statement.

The paper leaves out key

details on how to perform the hack but says the codes can be intercepted with commercially available equipment.

"It is unclear whether such attacks... are currently carried out in the wild by criminals," the report says. "However, there have been various media reports about unexplained theft from locked vehicles in the last years."

The report did not establish the exact number of cars that use the vulnerable systems.

General Motors said that it "does not consider this item to be a significant risk to customers due to the technical sophistication of the demonstration and the very limited circumstances under which the demonstration can be carried out."

The company added that "the issue in question does not impact the operation of the vehicle or the safety of its occupants."

The report authors said that insurance companies might have to accept that car theft scenarios that would otherwise be considered insurance fraud have a higher probability of being genuine. The only surefire countermeasure, they said, would be to stop using the remote and fall back on the mechanical lock using the conventional metal key.

The authors are Flavio Garcia, David Oswald, and Pierre Pavlides from the University of Birmingham School of Computer Science and Timo Kasper from German security firm Kasper & Oswald GmbH.

## J.C. Penney reports smaller quarterly loss as sales improve

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO  
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — After a tough start to the year, J.C. Penney's business enjoyed a bounce in the second quarter, fueled by efforts to bring back appliances and spruce up other sections of the store.

The Plano, Texas-based department store chain reported a smaller loss for the second quarter compared to a year earlier as sales improved. CEO Marvin Ellison believes the company can maintain the momentum with a slew of new brands and other enticements coming in the next few months.

The Pendleton J.C. Penney on Main Street opened in 1911 and is the oldest store in the company still in its original location.

In addition to its own efforts, Penney is benefiting from store closings by Macy's and Sears Holdings Inc. Ellison told analysts Friday the company has seen sales improve in malls where its rivals shuttered their stores.

Macy's just announced plans to close another 100 stores early next year, on top of 40 this past spring. Ailing Sears, which remains a key appliance seller, said in April it would shutter 68 Kmart units and 10 Sears stores by early September. Penney closed 40 stores last year and plans to shut seven this year.

"We're going to continue to scrutinize the number of stores, but if we believe a store can be a strategic initiative to help us to get products to customers faster, it will stay within our portfolio," Ellison said. "If we believe that a store is insignificant... then those stores are no longer going to be around."

One key strategy: appliances, which Penney has put in 500 stores so far and is also selling online. Penney had quit that category more than 30 years ago. But Ellison said the appliance business is exceeding expectations and that one-third of its appliance customers are new to Penney. He believes Penney will increase its market share in that category as Sears closes more stores.

The news is encouraging,

but Penney is still trying to recover from a catastrophic reinvention plan under former CEO Ron Johnson that sent sales and profits into free-fall in 2012 and 2013. Business stabilized under Mike Ullman, who came back to the helm in 2013 after Johnson was pushed out. Under Ellison, who has been CEO since 2015, Penney is looking for new ways to increase sales while playing catch up in e-commerce.

Like other department stores, J.C. Penney is trying to adjust to changing shopping patterns. Consumers are shifting their spending away from clothing and toward experiences like beauty treatments or toward furnishing their homes. When they do buy clothes, it's more often at off-price stores or online as Amazon moves more into apparel.

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EAST OREGONIAN

## HERMISTON Steakhouse changes names to avoid conflict with hat company

By GARY L. WEST  
East Oregonian

Frank Perkins, owner of the steakhouse formerly known as Stetson's, has endured some significant changes with his restaurant, including a move from one city to another. And now comes a name change.

"Stetson's hat company has decided they have an issue with our name after 18 years," Perkins said. So Perkins, his staff and local sign company Sign Men were busy putting the finishing touches on the name change, including signage for the Hermiston restaurant formerly known as Stetson's Steak House in Hermiston this week.

The restaurant is now known as Stet's Steak House.

Perkins opened Stetson's Steak House in Pendleton in April 1999. He relocated the business to 1619 N. First St. in Hermiston in October of 2014.

Perkins said the biggest problem with changing the name is all the time it takes to get things like menus, Facebook and website pages updated and notifying other



Staff photo by Gary L. West

Ed Miltenberger, owner of Sign Men, takes the face off a sign at a Hermiston restaurant while sign technician Dave Schmidtgall assists. The men were updating the sign as Stetson's Steak House has changed its name to Stet's Steak House.

**"This place probably does Stetson's, the hat company, more good than anybody. They've got good food."**

— Ed Miltenberger, owner of Sign Men

social media sites like Trip Advisor and Urban Spoon about the name change.

"I've been working on it for a couple of months," he said.

"I get a certified letter from New York telling me what I haven't done every couple of weeks," Perkins said.

This week, workers from Sign Men of Pendleton were updating the signs on the restaurant and along the roadway leading to it.

Ed Miltenberger, owner of Sign Men, said he was surprised that the hat company would have a problem with the name Stetson's Steak House on the

Hermiston restaurant.

"This place probably does Stetson's, the hat company, more good than anybody," Miltenberger said. "They've got good food."

Miltenberger said Perkins comes from a ranching background and knows his beef.

"With his reputation a lot of his customers came with him" when the business moved to Hermiston two years ago, Miltenberger said of Perkins. "He's a hands-on operator. He has a passion for (the restaurant business)."

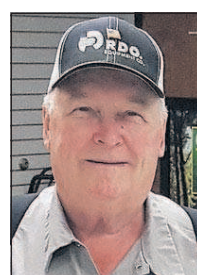
## HERMISTON Reinie Fischer celebrates 40 years with RDO

East Oregonian

Reinie Fischer, a customer service representative at RDO Equipment Co. in Hermiston, recently celebrated his 40-year anniversary with the company.

Employees from throughout the region's stores, along with customers and family members, gathered recently to honor Fischer and acknowledge his years of dedication to

the community. Fischer joined RDO Equipment in 1976 as a baler/tractor technician. After two years, he was promoted to service manager, a position he held for 28 years. He then moved into the customer service representative role, where he has taken care of RDO customers for the



Fischer

past 10 years. Fischer said he's met a lot of great people during his career and that RDO Equipment has been a great company to be a part of.

"Reinie is a pleasure to work with and extremely committed to the success of our customers," said Ian Carey, vice pres-

ident of the company's northwest region. "He is a dependable asset to our company and the Hermiston community."

Founded in 1968, RDO Equipment Co. sells and supports agriculture, construction, environmental, positioning, surveying and irrigation equipment. It has 77 locations across the United States, including partnerships in Russia, Ukraine and Australia.



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