



On 1st September 2022 I travelled to Newcastle to attend a BsidEs event. BsidEs are a series of Information Security conferences that bring together professionals, experts, researchers, and InfoSec enthusiasts to learn and discuss security-related topics.

The event didn't start till Friday but on the Thursday there was a Tweet from @BsidEsNCL with a scavenger hunt. I spent the afternoon wandering round Newcastle getting pictures of the answers to the Hunt's cryptic clues. It was a great way to explore Newcastle and see what it has to offer.

Thursday - Scavenger Hunt Questions and answers

This fearful fanged furry feasts upon the blood of grave robbers = **The Vampire Rabbit of Newcastle**

Oh what a night you'll have with these boys = **Jersey Boys**

Founded by Sir Peter Scott this building is now part ruins but was once home to one of the five friaries in Newcastle. This one going on to become a guild house then a listed building in 1954. = **Black Friars**

Local hero 1933-2009 = **Bobby Robson**

Cast from Bronze and completed in 1968 this statue could be seen as the genius loci protecting Newcastle Upon Tyne = **River-God-Tyne**

The first street in the world to be lit by electricity = **Mosley Street**

Most Certainly not a monument to tea = **Grey's Monument**

Once you have your photographs come to 54.969416846076555 -1.6184617077423613 = **The Town Wall**

I didn't get the chance to take the pictures to submit but had a good time finding them.



Friday

In the main theatre, after some opening remarks from Sam and Dave, the first speaker was Raj Samani with a talk titled Everybody's at it but why aren't we? This was a presentation discussing attribution which you can watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ-2uas2l6M> (along with the rest of the talks for this day, timings at the bottom of the page).

Next up was Mike Johnson – War Games: Testing your Threat Hunting, Cyber Threat Intelligence and Incident Response process and procedures. Which pretty much covers what was presented.

After that I went up to Track 2 on the upper floor to see Simon gurneys presentation on “Subdomain takeovers). This was followed by a panel session hosted by Sam with Lisa Forte, Dan Conn and Daniel Card streamed in virtually.

At lunchtime there was tinfoil provided for people to make tin foil hats. These would be judged later in the day.

After lunch was Eliot (Cyber Coo) who had an amazing tin foil hat incorporating a succulent. Eliots talk ‘Overclocking your Sunflowers’ questioned his sanity, modern biology whilst providing questionable puns. Next up was Rick Trotter with a fascinating look at what we can learn from nuclear disasters. This was swiftly followed by the judging of the very resilient tin foil hats which just confirms how creative InfoSec people are. (View timestamp 6.44.36, or 24276 seconds, if you want to know the winner).

After all that excitement Jorden Glover discussed whether Ransomware will still be with us in the future. Following Jordan was Jenny Radcliffe with A users Guide to Physical Infiltrations which was not streamed so you had to be there, and I'm so glad I was. A captivating introduction to the Human Hackers livelihood.

This was followed by Len Noe and ‘Resistance is Futile’. Len is a Technical Evangelist and Biohacker. He is a transhuman with several devices implanted into his hands and more on the way. He talked about our Technological Dependency and what makes us human. This was the day I learned I have nomophobia.

After some closing words from Sam and Dave it's time to head out for steak and drinks.

Saturday

The morning starts with Chris Kubecka with an incredible narrative about why you need to be careful about accepting random LinkedIn requests. Watch it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puVIKlb3Xmw>

The rest of Saturdays talks can be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFPeKy1_APY and start with Rosie Anderson who went through how to approach recruitment from both sides, applying for jobs and hiring for positions. Followed by Mark Goodwin with “Zero to Appsec hero – Software Security from Scratch” where he went through what he's learned throughout his career about building a security culture.

Next up was a series of quick lightening round talks. First up was Jerry Gambin with “EPSS– Exploit Prediction Scoring System” which takes the same data points from CVE’s and gives it to the public for free to help with a risk-based vulnerability management. This helps to work out if the CVE is likely to be exploited. After that was James Duffy with an interesting talk on methods of achieving persistence on IOS, but this talk is not recorded.

Lunchtime meant a pause in the presentations and after the break there was a Battle Bots competition followed by some light relief with a bit of a juggling show, because why not?

The beginning of the afternoon talks I missed originally due to trying to get a train home which didn’t happen, so I caught up with them later on the above link.

First up was Anne Turner with “Oh, you ARE talking to me!” This talk was about trying to be heard and understood in Security and was accompanied by a background of cat memes (and a sneaky dog one). A fascinating delve into linguistics. The next one up I was gutted to have missed live, KSEC Biohacking. A cyborg was created live on stage! Well, someone had a device implanted in their hand. Unfortunately, the sound is missing for this one.

After failing to get on a train I was back at the venue to see Aqeeb Hussain talk about “Linux Network Defence Evasion” which provided lots on information on IPTables and Fileless Malware. Then it was Andrew Waite with “DeceptionOps – Automating Deception Tech”. I think Honeypots may have been mentioned.

The final slot before wrapping up was a panel session with Infosteph, CyberWarrior and Scott McGready who streamed in to discuss the Infosec community.

Final thoughts

All the talks I saw were very interesting and there were more that I didn’t get chance to see, but that’s ok because I’ve caught up with them online since. There was also a CTF that I didn’t get chance to play and lots of lovely swag including stickers, jam and a succulent.

Bsides Newcastle was an incredible, fun, educational, informative event. If you want to feel part of a friendly supportive infosec community then a Bsides is definitely where you need to go.



Below are the links to the full day streams including the time stamps for each talk provided courtesy of DrGeekthumb

To watch from the start of each talk I’ve added the seconds in brackets so add &t=xxxx (where x is the number of seconds) to the end of the YouTube link to go direct to the start of the talk. E.g. if you want to watch Rick Trotters presentation it would be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ-2uas2l6M&t=19605>

Day 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ-2uas2l6M>

0:07:30 Open Ramblings

0:14:42 – (882) Raj Samani - Everybody's at it but why aren't we?

1:11:45 (4305)- Mike Johnson - War Games: Testing your Threat Hunting, Cyber Threat Intelligence and Incident Response process and procedures

1:39:08 - (5948) Akolade "Kay" Adelaja - Making Security Everybody's Job.....Like a Boss

2:38:30 - (9548) Mark Goodwin - Building a Robot for (Complete) Beginners

4:28:36 - (16116) Jerry Gamblin - Understanding Vulnerability Data

4:56:25 - (17796) Cyber_Coo - Overclocking your Sunflowers

5:26:00 (19605)- Rick Trotter - Lessons security systems architecture need to learn from the Nuclear Industry

6:39:08 - (23948) Tin Foil Hat Competition

6:45:25 - (24325) Jordan Glover - Will Ransomware eventually run somewhere?

8:16:40 - (29800) Len Noe - Resistance is Futile, We are all Borg

Day 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puVIKlb3Xmw>

0:04:29 – (269) Chris Kubecka

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFPeKy1_APY

0:00:00 - Rosie Anderson - Recruitment Hacks from the Dark (Agency) Side

0:43:00 - (2620) Mark Goodwin - Zero to AppSec Hero: Software Security From Scratch

1:38:45 - (5925) Jerry Gamblin - Exploit Prediction Scoring System (SPSS)

2:22:15 - (8535) Callum Lake - A Grad Story: What you may experience in your first role

4:03:20 - (14600) Anne Turner - Oh, you ARE talking to me!

4:45:45 - (17145) Kai - KSEC Biohacking (no sound)

5:47:20 - (20840) Aqeeb Husain - Linux Network Defence Evasion Techniques

6:35:30 - (23730) Andrew Waite - DeceptionOps: Automating Deception Tech

7:22:28 - (26548) Infosteph, CyberWarrior, Scott McGready - Cyber Influencer Influenza?