## Social Engineering: Introduction

Matthew Edwards

Focus: Social Engineering

September 20, 2020

# Using Computers is Bad





2 of 11

#### Remember the CIA



Question: Can't we just set a good security policy?

Answer: No.

## A Question of Leverage



# WHAT WOULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN:

HIS LAPTOP'S ENCRYPTED.
DRUG HIM AND HIT HIM WITH
THIS \$5 WRENCH UNTIL
HE TELLS US THE PASSWORD.



#### Alternatives to the Wrench

### Protip

Not all tricky conversations are best solved with wrenches. Consider these alternatives:

- Ask politely;
- Dress for the part;
- Offer a bribe;
- Threaten to get the wrench.

## Classics: Vidocq



Eugéne François Vidocq, 1775-1857

## Classics: A Surprising Letter

"Sir, you will be doubtlessly be astonished to be receiving a letter from a person unknown to you, who is about to ask a favour from you [...]" (18<sup>th</sup> century)

"Greetings. With warm heart I offer my friendship and greetings, and I hope that this mail will meets you in good time.

However strange or surprising this contact might seem to you as we have not meet personally or had any dealings in the past. I humbly ask that you take due consideration of its importance and immense benefit [...] " (A couple of weeks ago)

# Classics: Abagnale



Frank Abagnale

## Classics: Mitnick



Kevin Mitnick

# Classics: Headley



Susan Headley

#### Kane Gamble



#### Targets compromised:

- US Secretary of Homeland Security
- Chief of the CIA
- Deputy Directory of the FBI

Method: classic social engineering.