Chad Ballay

CYBR350-342N

Week 9

Post-Assessment

**Link to Pre-Assessment**

<https://github.com/Chad-Ballay/Cybersecurity-work-class/blob/master/classes/CYBR350/week1/writing_module1_chad-ballay.docx>

It’s a dirty, soul killing job but if you have the right lack of empathy it’s a great living... Too wordy for a book title but it accurately describes what I’m good at. Some people are great at wireless networks. Others are great at writing specific malware. Wizards of bending Active Directory to their will. All different types. I liken them to the nuclear physicist that built the bomb for WWII and through the Cold War. They can safely distance themselves from what the job does. A layer of abstraction can be put in between what they do and the impact. Interesting technical challenges. Just manipulating bits and bytes. Cold. Sterile.

For my side of things, it isn’t so. I work at layer 8 of the OCI model. The human part of the tech stack. The weak part. Building a presence in social media to get someone to think that this recruiter that contacted them is real. Working them to exchange emails until one of the mail guys gives me a specific trap to bait them into clicking. Or they name dropping voice on the phone that really needs the Replenishment Report for region G so he can get back into the planning session. The report that just so happens to give us part of the picture of what suppliers we should be aware of. Researching that the administrative assistant has kids that he has to pick up on alternating Wednesday's, so they aren’t paying attention to a last-minute push right as they are trying to leave for the day.

Yeah, that stuff. The parts where you make a connection deep enough to get what you want without them realizing it. Living and believing the lie well enough to sell is a great skill but it’s hard to not make that connection knowing that your new “friend” is going to have hell to pay for the stupid task you just got them to do.

That’s what was so satisfactory for the hook we used for XYZ company. People are developing the awareness of SMS messages with a temporary PIN code. And for the most part they know that they shouldn’t share it. But when we happened to see that the target was posting about a missing pet, we had our in. In their haste to “confirm” that the yellow lab we found was in fact their dog named Boudreaux we got them to send us their google verification code. In the time it took for us to schedule a meetup and string them along we were able to search through their personal email to get what we needed. Shame on them for sending so much work-related info to their private email address. It really was just dumb luck on this working and that they didn’t keep work/personal boundaries established.

But shame on us. I’ve read “Where the Red Fern Grows”. Jack London books were a staple of my summer reading in middle school. I even went and saw “The Art of Racing in the Rain” when it came out in theaters. I’m a dog person and I used the love of man’s best friend against somebody on a hunch that it might pay off.... That calculus leaves a mark on you but if you can manage the cost it pays handsomely.