

How I Hacked My Way to the Security Sector

(And why you should always do what you love, no matter what people say!)

2005

How it all started



How it all starting
getting weird

SECOND EDITION

THE



PROGRAMMING
LANGUAGE

BRIAN W. KERNIGHAN
DENNIS M. RITCHIE

PRENTICE HALL SOFTWARE SERIES



Η. ΓΝΩΣΗ



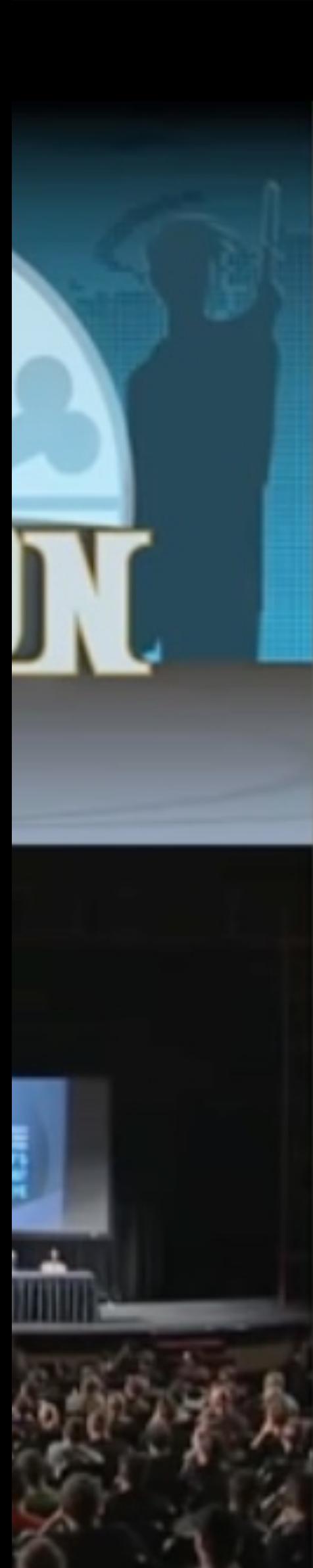


2005

2008







2008

2010

The Dark Years

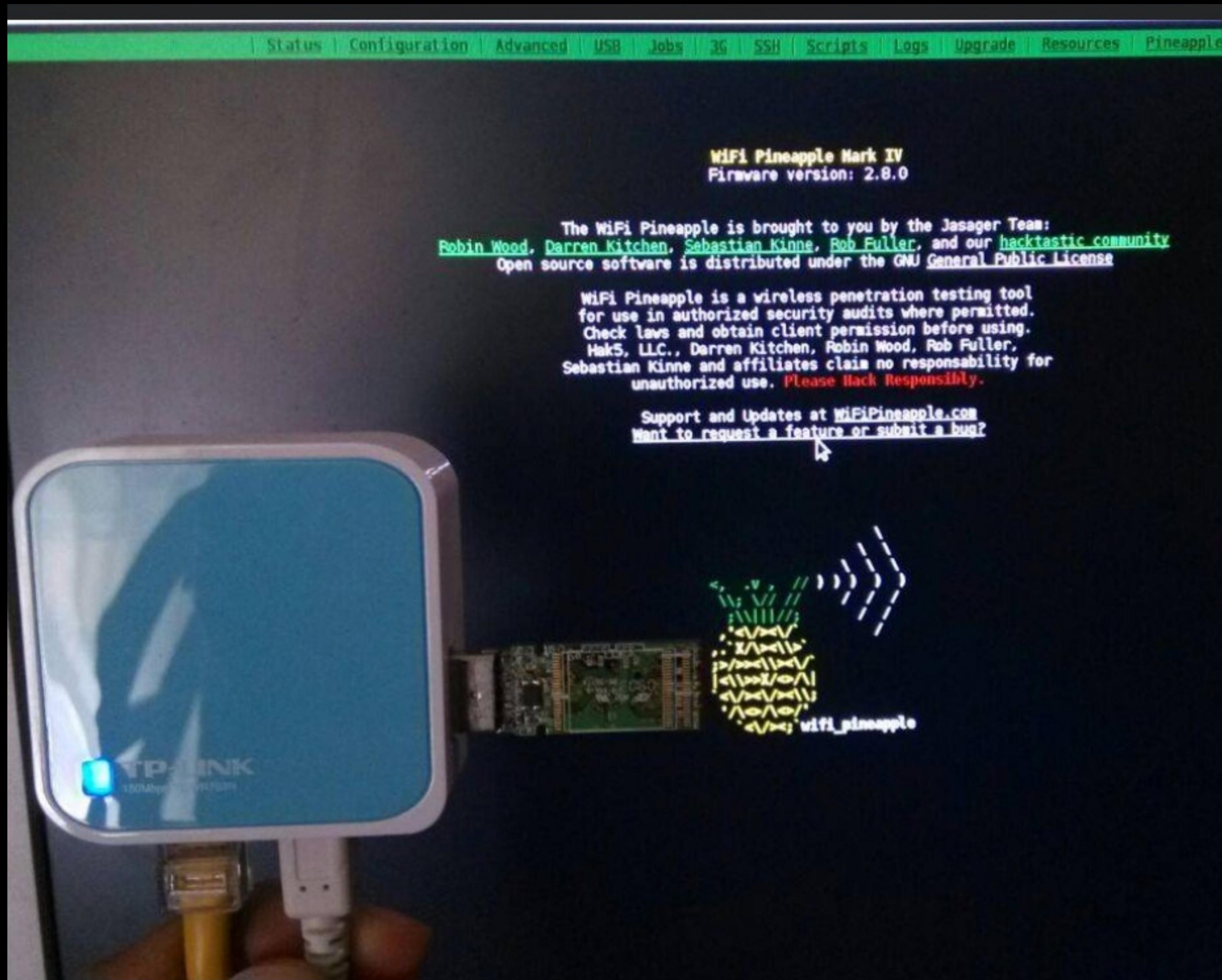


2010

2011







Uni and the {not} path to Security

- Started studying economics and management
- COMPLETELY unrelated but with future "job security"
- While I had nothing to do with this industry, I did my best

At some point this happened

 Skill: Intermediate
Tags: dSploit, wifi cracker, port scan, traceroute, brute force, dictionary attacks, MITM attacks

dSploit

by Tom Cr0w

Hacking με το Android [part 1]

To Android το χρησιμοποιούμε καθημερινά, για να επικοινωνήσουμε, για να διασκεδάσουμε κι ορισμένες φορές για να εκτονώσουμε το καλλιτεχνικό μας μεράκι. Τι θα λέγατε αν το αξιοποιούσαμε και σε ένα από τα αγαπημένα μας hobby; Αναφερόμαστε στο Penetration Testing, όπου το Android μπορεί να φανεί εξαιρετικά χρήσιμο! Σε αυτό το μέρος της σειράς θα γνωρίσουμε το πανισχυρό dSploit...

But it was clear that I had to do
something about it

Uni and the {not} path to Security

- **While I kept going with my studies:**
 - **Started applying for cybersec and IT jobs**
 - **Started studying even more in my free time**
 - **NEVER stopped sending CVs to job applications**

And this happened



Slide number

2011

2015

And what now?

- **Finished with studies**
- **Had a couple of academic talks, in students conferences**
- **Worked as magazine editor for cybersec**
- **Worked as a workshop instructor for cybersec**
- **Had a 10k YouTube channel for cybersec, created from 0**
- **Became Greek Champion with my Team at 4x400m without a lot more to gain out of it**

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something about it

AGAIN

And then this happened

Zugesagt: Invitation: Skype Call Auxilium - Thomas Sermpinis @ Wed Jan 20, 2016 5:30pm - 7:30pm [REDACTED]  

Zugesagt: Invitation: Skype Call Auxilium - Thomas Sermpinis @ Wed Jan 20, 2016 5:30pm - 7:30pm (serbiniston 20 Jan 2016, 16:30-18:30)

When
20 Jan 2016, 16:30-18:30

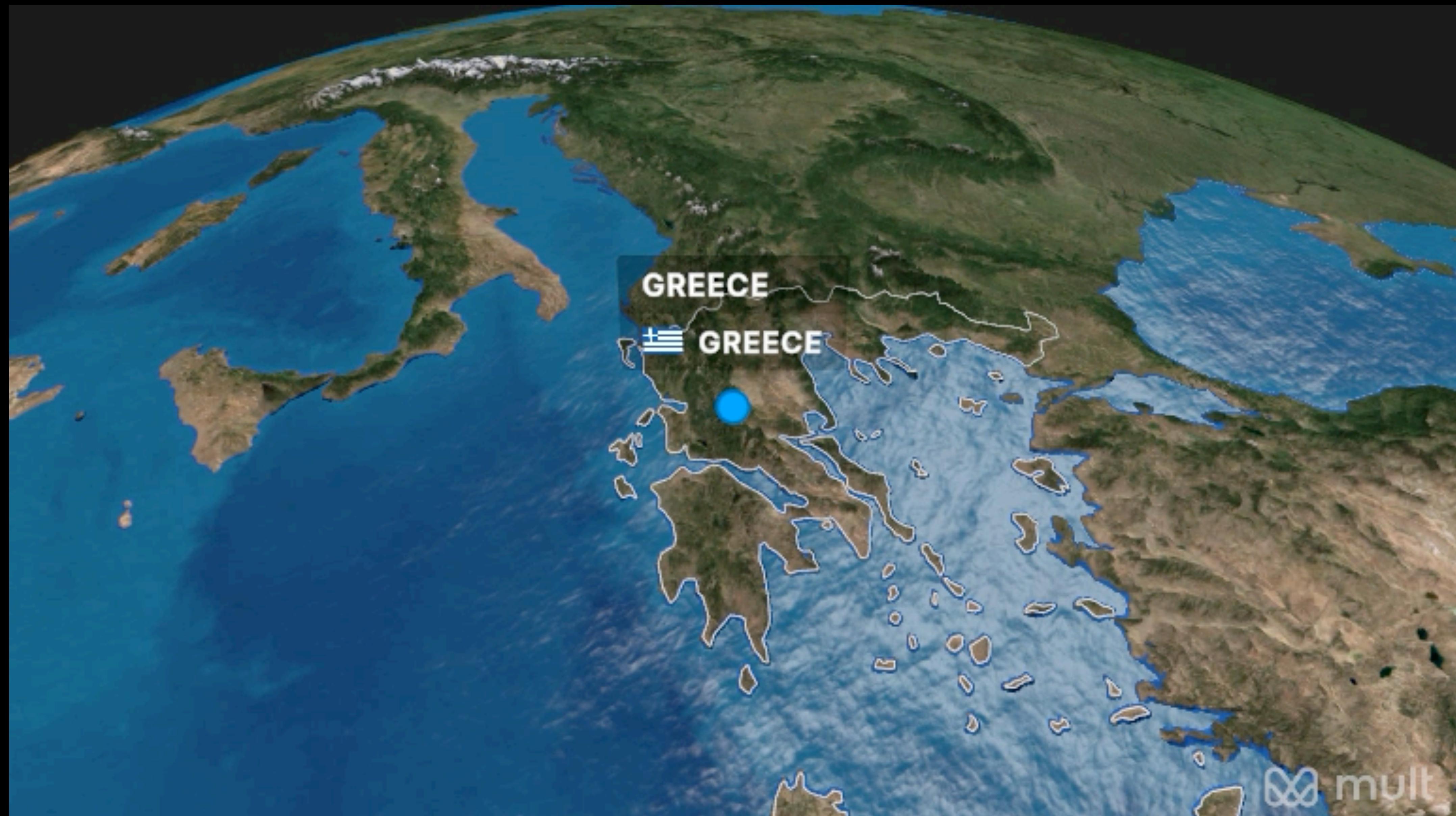
Is this correct?  

M [REDACTED] to me  Tue, 19 Jan 2016, 00:07    

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail 

 invite.ics [Download](#)





Unfortunately things didn't work out
as I was expecting

Unfortunately things didn't work out
as I was expecting

My dreams were crushed!



And what now?

- **Understandably, I was lost**
- **Didn't know how to move forward, and if it made sense to keep trying for security jobs**
- **Decided to open doors in the IT/CS field by applying for a MSc in Informatics and Management**

2015

2017

And what now?

- **Finished my masters with outstanding grades**
- **Started working in a university research lab, with target being a PHd**
- **Published my first paper in an academic journal**
- **Had several small talks in meetups and academic small conferences**

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Registration for TROOPERS17 ➤ Inbox ×



info@troopers.de

to me ▾

Tue, 14 Feb 2017, 11:54

TROOPERS17 (March 20, 2017 - March 24, 2017) - Registration

Dear Mr. Thomas Serpinis,

You are receiving this email because you have just registered for events at TROOPERS17! Congratulations!



TROOPERS17 ➤ Inbox ×

Tue, 14 Feb 2017, 11:54

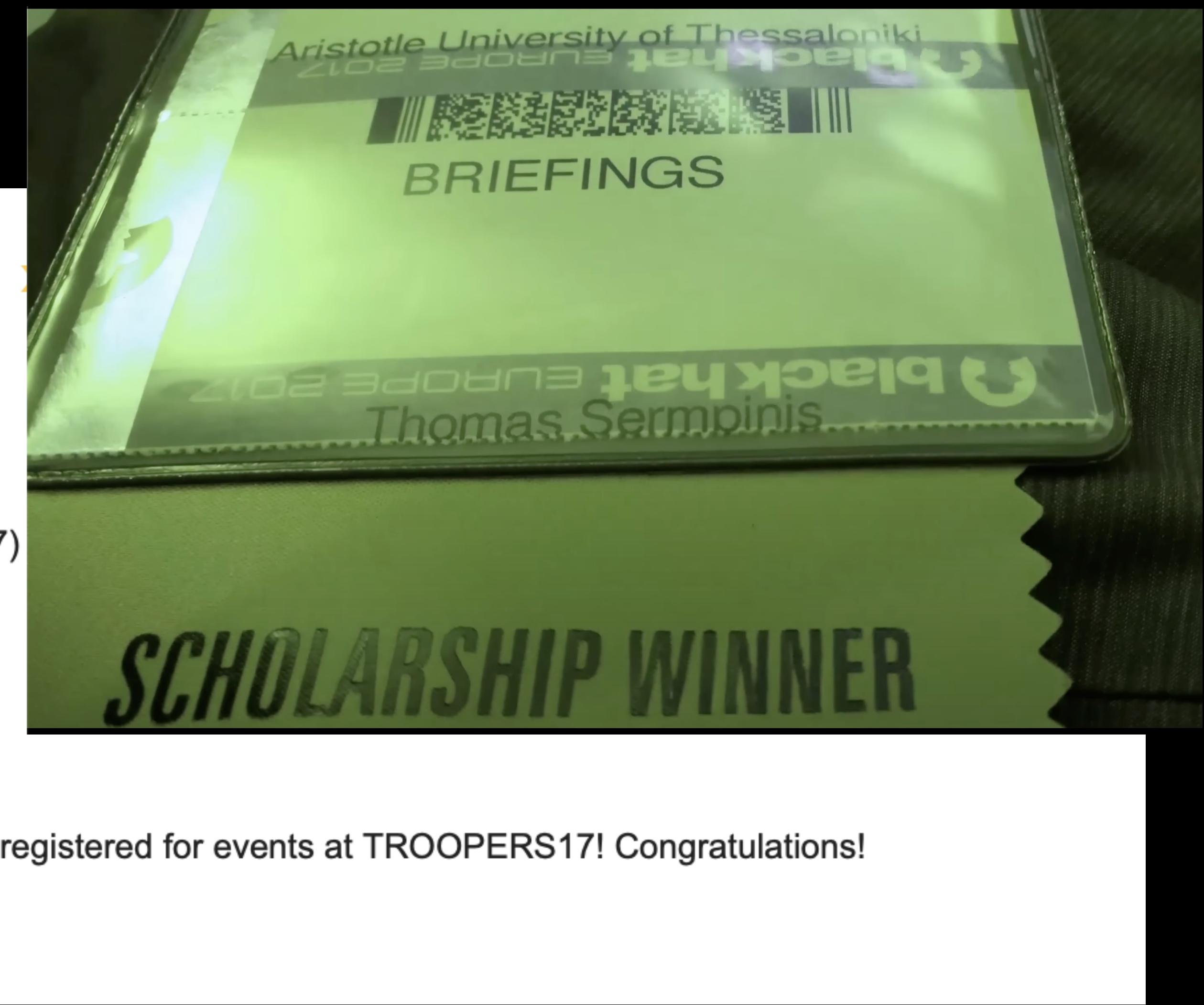
2017-02-14, 2017) - Registration

You've just registered for events at TROOPERS17! Congratulations!



TROOPERS17

24, 2017)

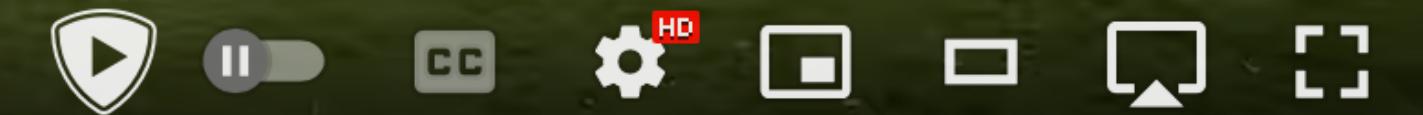


We've just registered for events at TROOPERS17! Congratulations!





▶ ▶ 🔍 0:00 / 4:05



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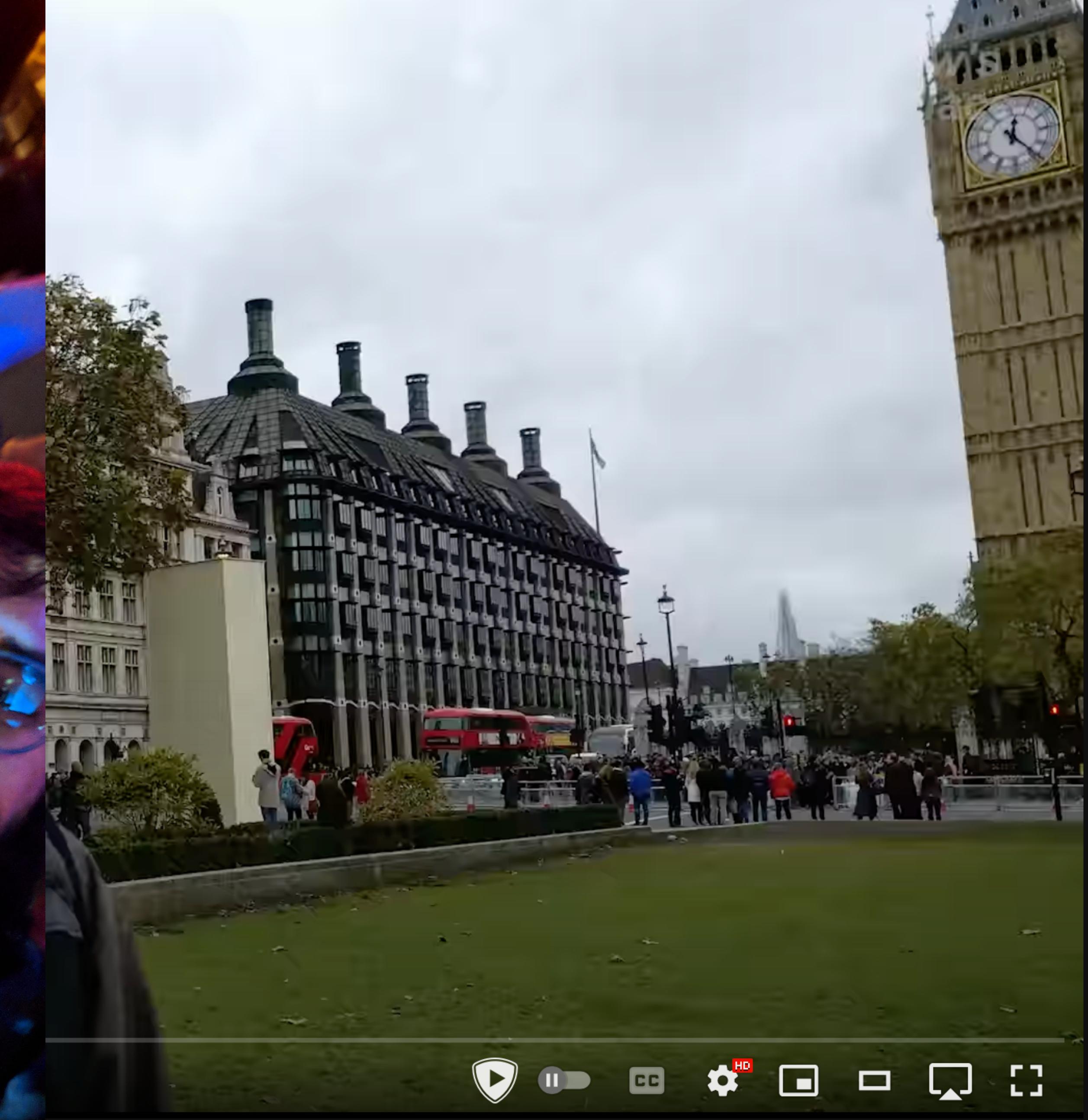
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All

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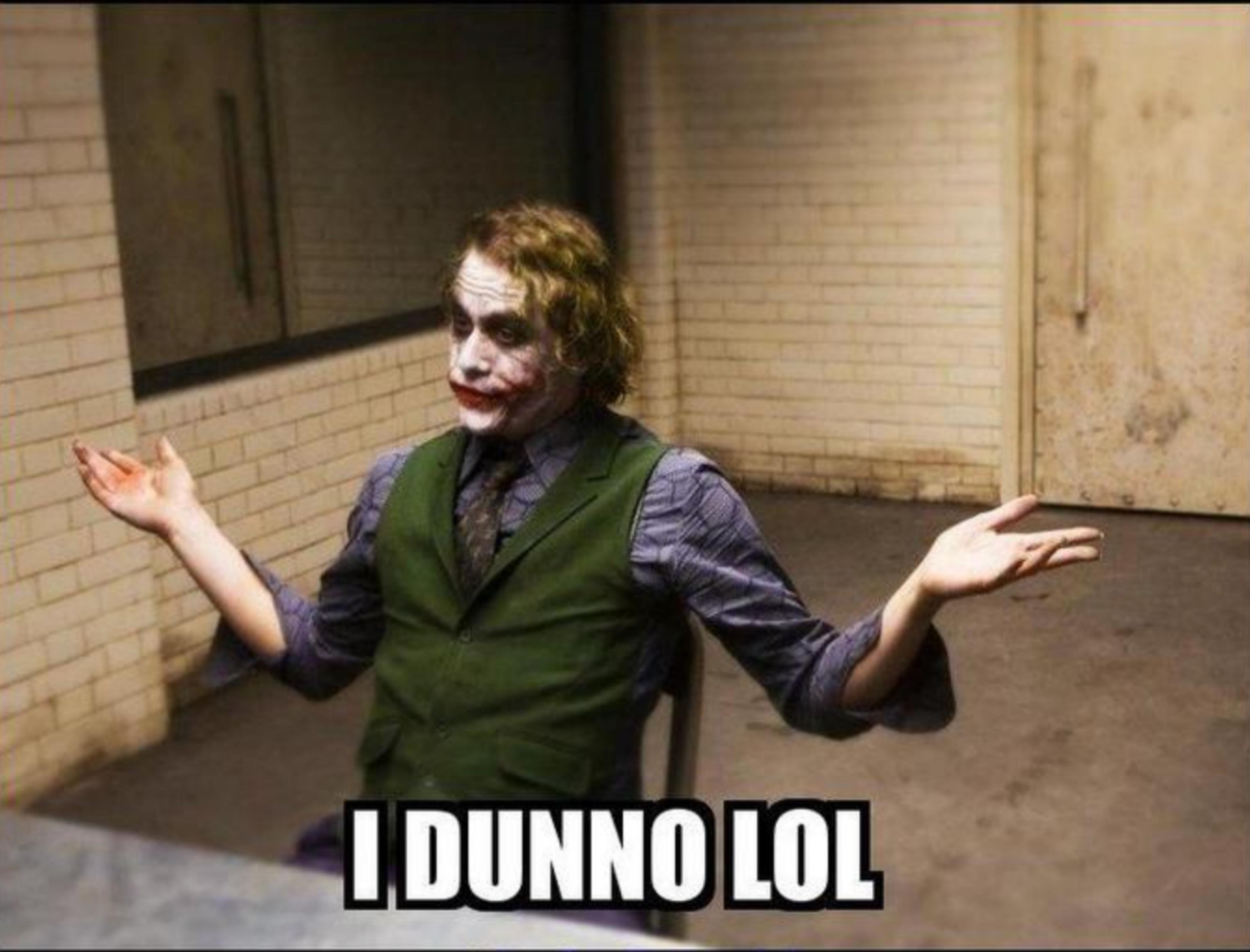
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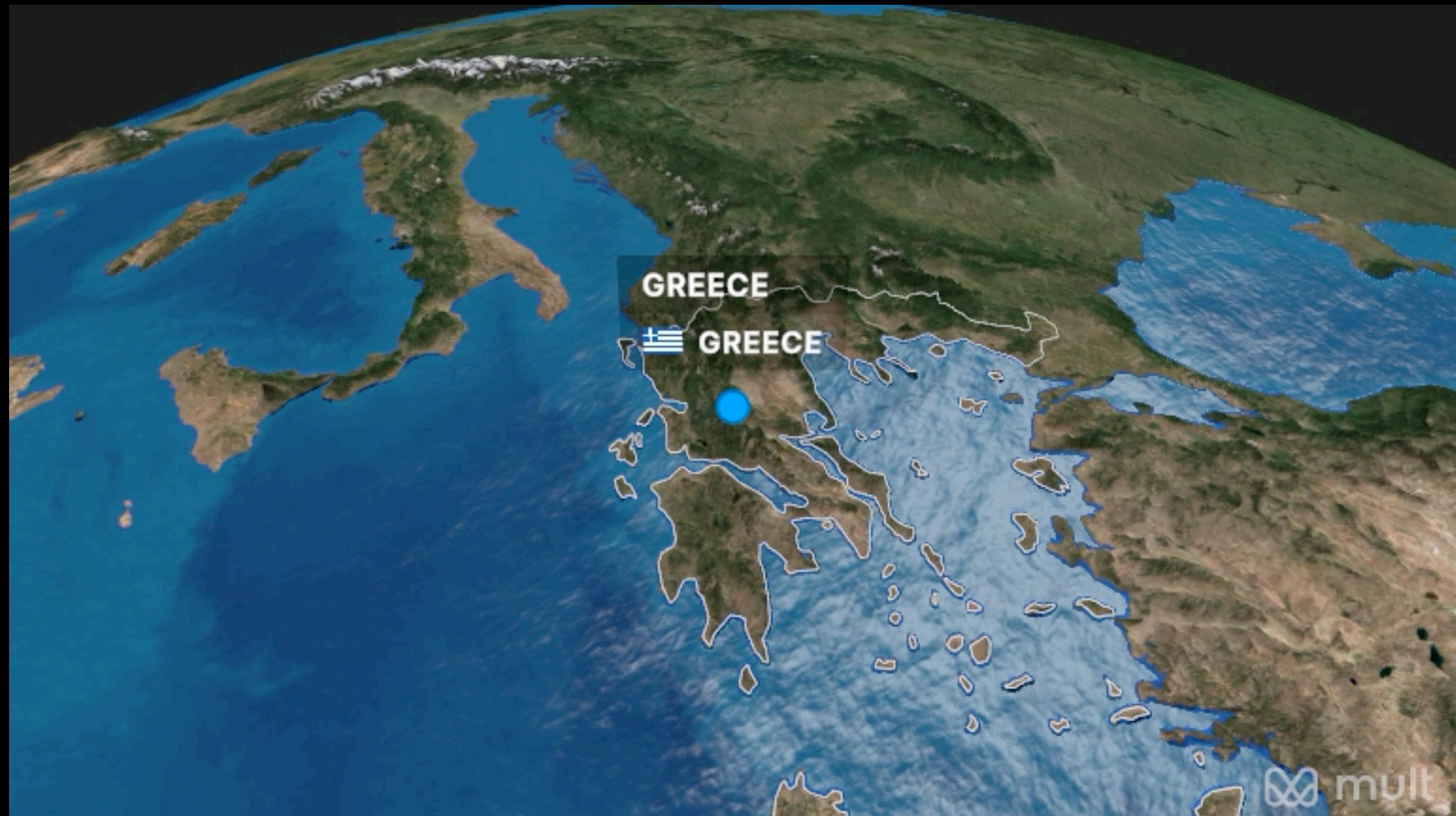
Everything was clear at this point

Everything was clear at this point
I had to follow my 10+ years dream!

2017

2019

I just left



Success!

- **Left to Berlin one night to actively search for a job with my savings**
- **2 weeks later, I found a job as a Junior Automotive Pentester**
- **Moved to Prague in the next week (I didn't even know how Prague looks like)**

2019

2024

Today

- I never stopped trying to achieve **ALL** my dreams
- Became the Technical Director of the same company 5 years after
- I have my own **AMAZING** team, hacking the most exciting targets
- Traveled all around the world for work and research
- Became a speaker to **TROOPERS, CCC, ZerOCon, TyphoonCon, DeepSec and more**

What I learned?

- Hard work and passion will be eventually appreciated
- Big dreams are only getting achieved with hard work
- Even if you derive from your path, it's never late to get back into it
- Don't look for success, look for happiness
- When people say that you cannot do something, they are either jealous or afraid

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FOLLOW YOUR FKN DREAMS

Fall down 9 times.

Get up 10.

Fall down 9 times.
Get up 10.

Or maybe, take a breath, decide if falling down is for you, and if not, get a healthier plan.

And then this happened...

Congrats! Your DEF CON 32 Submission is accepted! ➤ Inbox ×



alex@defcon.org
to me, pwcrack, shaggy ▾

Mon, 10 Jun, 07:30 (1 day ago)

Accepted Presentation: Thomas Sermpinis - The hack, the crash and two smoking barrels. (And all the times I (almost) killed an engineer.)
Your talk has been accepted for a 45 minute time slot.

Congrats! Your DEF CON 32 Submission is accepted!
We look forward to working with you, please review the below FAQ for more details on what you need to know as a DEF CON speaker.



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**Cr0wTom** @serbinhio

5d

Great time in [#BlackHat](#) Europe. It was a pleasure meeting and talking with you! [@thedarktangent](#) Next time in Vegas :D

**The Dark Tangent**

@thedarktangent

[@serbinhio](#) See you in Vegas

1:14 PM · 05 Nov 16

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Reply to The Dark Tangent

Thank you for Your Attention!



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