Digital Self Defense for Activist

PufferFish

June 6, 2017

Digital Self
Defense for
Activist

PufferFish

Threat
Modeling
Common threats
The five
questions
Exercise:
Working with
actors

Digital threats

Physical
threats

Identifying the
assets

Security
indicators: be
aware of your
environment

We identified
the threat,
now what?
protection
plan

Security is not about using tools, is about understanding the thread and how to counter it.

We have to **learn** how to recognize digital threat

Groups have specific threats

- Work related: documents, pictures, videos, databases...
- Operational information: SMS, phone numbers, meeting minutes...
- Personal information: anything that identifies us as individuals and as participants on a collective
- Smart data: meta-data generated from our devices, our communications, internet search, social networks...

Common threats

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- Theft
- Lost
- Inspection
- Destruction
- Sharing/Disclosure
- Surveillance/Monitoring
- Targeted malware

1. What do you want to protect?
2. Who do you want to protect it from?
3. How likely is that you will have to protect it?
4. How bad are the consequences of failing?
5. How many effort do you want to spend to protect it?

What do you want to protect?

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List the data you want to protect

Who may want this data (government, companies,
individuals...)
What is it going to do with your data

How much effort will invest for getting it?

Threat: a bad thing that can happen
Risk: how likely is that to happen
The threat is dying from cancer, the risk is greater if you
smoke.

Every day we interact with many person
Visualizing these actors will help making us aware of their presence
We have to know them so we can set an appropriate acceptance, deterrence or protection strategy.

1. Create small groups
2. Brainstorm all the actors you interact with
3. Divide the actors on three groups: Direct, Indirect, Potential

What is an actor?

- *An actor can be any individual, group of individuals, organization, company...*

Think also about the hidden actors you interact with

- *City council, ISP, app/device makers...*

World is big

- *Think about local, regional, national and international actors when needed.*

An interaction:

- *Working together, sharing information, opposition, hangout together...*

Actors interact with each other

Actor mapping - Exercise description

1. Place the actors on the board with you on the center
2. Map the relation between the different actors following the legend
3. Identify the weight of each actor

Tip: You can make short statements about the relations

- Close: Positive and regular relation (straight line)
- Alliances: Coordinate their activities (double line)
- Conflict: Antagonistic relationship (joggled line)
- Violent conflict: Aggression between both parties(double joggled line)
- Compulsion: The actor A has influence over the actor B (an arrow)
- Interdependent: they are dependent (double arrow)
- Weak or unknown: Hard to identify

How can I be attacked?

- Phishing
- Unsecured wireless
- Removable media
- Mobile devices
- Malware
- Spyware

Malicious software that tracks your activity

- What do you do with the computer: emails you send, site you visit, documents write...
- Interact with your hardware: record with the camera/microphone, see the keys you press...
- Track where you go and which who you are (governments/big organizations don't need special software for this)

How to protect yourself

- Keep your software updated
- Use encryption
- Privilege open source and free software
- Free = Pay with your privacy
- Changes on terms of use = Review your privacy settings
- Two factor authentication

Would you give me your house keys?
Would you let the postman/women enter to your home?

Communications

How do you communicate with others?
There is a single channel?
How do you protect your contacts?

How do you store information ?
Printed, USB Keys, Hard drives, DVDs...

Hide network cables
Don't create open networks and change the passwords?

Classify the information

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List the information you have:

- Does it travel?
- Where is stored
- How often it should be consulted
- By how many people
- Is the content sensitive
- How long should be kept

- Public: everyone will know about it
- Confidential: only the people of the organization should know about it
- Secret: only the people involved should know about it

Anything situation that makes you aware about a change in security

How to obtain them

- Talk with friends, similar groups...
- Follow the news
- Meet experts

Share it! Spread the word and contrast with your colleagues

How does your usual day look like?
Would you notice if something changed?

- Weird thing on device start
- Erratic cursor
- Unusual or unattended emails, texts...
- Unusual person contact (also on Social networks)
- Something asking for too much information
- The battery runs out too fast

Note it down and **share it** The 5 W : When? What? Where? Who? Why?

- Stop using that service / account
- Change your passwords asap, specially if email accounts

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Everyone needs a plan

TIP: Don't forget about your well-being

**Prevention
Emergency plan**

Objective:

Assist refugees: feed them, give them collected clothing...

Threats:

- Harassment of arrest by the police
- Confiscation of the material
- Loss of data and compromise our contacts as a result

Prevention actions:

- Alert colleagues that won't be there
- List the possible aggressors and how to contact them
- Communicate with someone after the action once everything is finished
- If you get testimonies or someone tells you about a right vulneration get the information on a encrypted device
- Clear your messages, emails...
- Any live information will be shared via an encrypted messenger and only with people involved

Assist the refugees - Part II

Response resources:

- Prepare emergency messages
- Memorize and write down your lawyers number

Emergency plan:

- Notify lawyers when someone is arrested
- Call allied organizations without disclosing sensitive information
- Don't talk to the police
- Encrypt the device before arrest if possible

Well being considerations:

- Eat before the action
- Rest

You are not alone

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The security starts when you feel safe with your colleagues
Explain your security concerns to your colleagues
Give them emergency contacts and tell them how would you
like them to act on emergencies

If the involved person has specified a protocol follow it.
Everyone is responsible of it's own security.
Don't disclose any information that could harm involved persons
Use secure communication channels

Saving compromising information is dangerous

There is no delete button on the internet
On you device pressing the delete button won't delete it from
the drive

So... what do I do?

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- Clear your cache regularly
- Wipe your disk after deleting sensitive information

Tools: Deleting the cache

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Deleting the cache:

- Windows : CCleaner
- iPhone: Cache Cleaner, Battery Doctor...
- Android:
- Chrome: Clear cache by Benjamin Bojko
- Firefox: Click and Clean

Tools: Wiping your files

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Wiping your files:

- Windows : Eraser
- Linux: Shred (integrated with file browser)
- MacOS: Shredder - Empty thrash securely

Destroy sensitive information:

- https://securityinabox.org/en/guide/destroy-sensitive-information/