



Fix it Once

How Ancestry Successfully Manages Vulnerabilities in the Cloud through Amazon Machine Images



Albert T. Barlow
occupation: ~~Don Draper~~
description is: Color ~~extrovert~~, complexion ~~Redhead~~



Me...

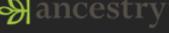
DNA Story for Grant Johnson

All the best,

Grant Johnson

- 62% England, Wales, & Northwestern Europe
- 15% Ireland & Scotland
- 18% Sweden & Norway
- 5% Germanic Europe

Director, Risk & Compliance
grjohnson@ancestry.com

 Ancestry
We empower journeys of personal discovery to enrich lives.



Ethnicity Estimate UPDATED

You're viewing the latest update to your ethnicity estimate.
[Learn more about this update.](#)

- England, Wales & Northwestern Europe 62% >
- Ireland & Scotland 15% >
- Norway 13% >
- Germanic Europe 5% >
- Sweden 5% >

Additional Communities

- Mountain West Mormon Pioneers
From your regions: England, Wales & Northwestern Europe; Ireland...
- New York Settlers
From your regions: England, Wales & Northwestern Europe; Ireland...
- Northeastern States Settlers
From your regions: England, Wales & Northwestern Europe; Ireland...
- Rhode Island & Southeastern Massachusetts Settlers
- Tennessee & Southern States Settlers
From your regions: England, Wales & Northwestern Europe; Ireland...

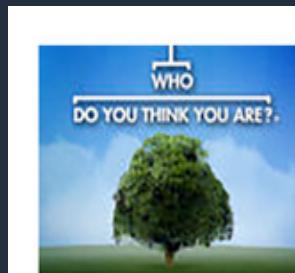


 **ancestry**

About us

We're a science and technology company with a very human mission

- World's largest online collection of family history records - billions & billions
- 3+ million wonderful subscribers
- 100 million family trees
- 10 web properties
- 3 petabytes of data under management



ancestry Academy®

ancestry DNA®

ancestry
Institution™

fold3®
by ancestry

ancestry ProGenealogists®

rootsw^{eb}
by ancestry

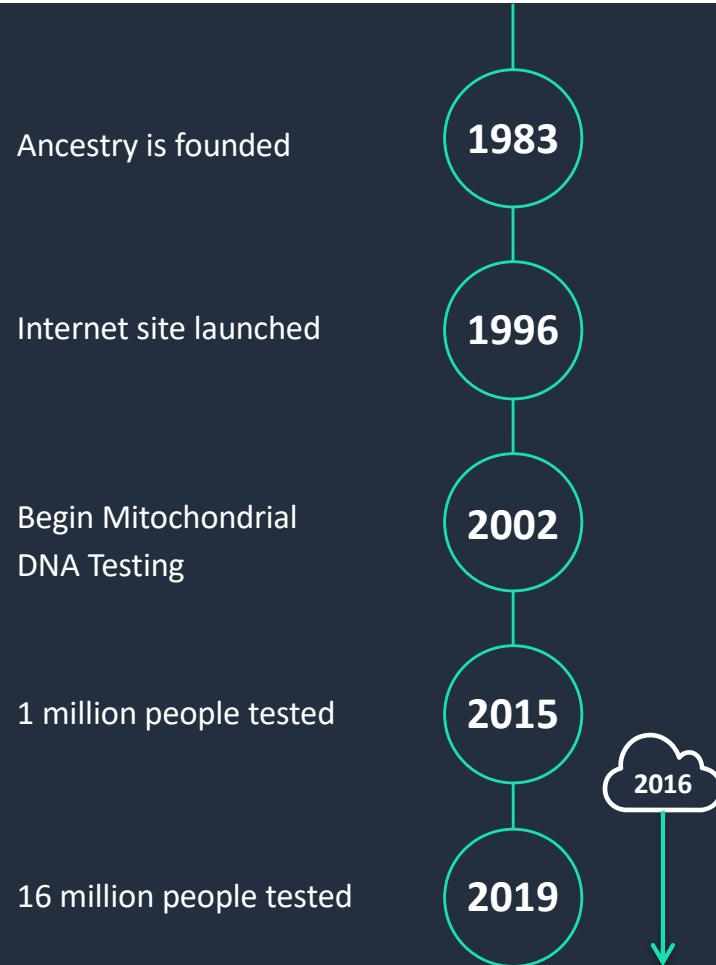
? Find A Grave® Archives®

Newspapers^{.com}
by ancestry

ancestry

About us

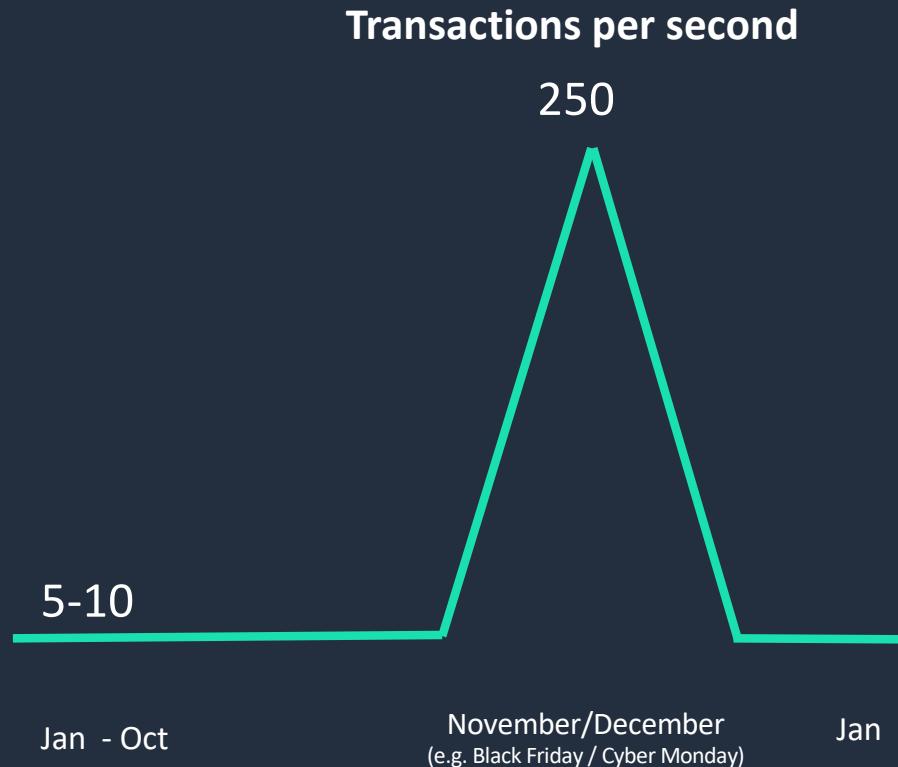
- DNA kits available in 30+ countries
- 700K genomic markers
- 350 global regions
- Largest DNA repository in the world



Challenges

Background: Why the Cloud?

- Growth
- Rapid cycle expansion
 - Fast moving, traffic & business cycles
- Resiliency & uptime
 - Multiple global regions
 - Multiple Availability Zones





Tactical Approach to the Cloud

Each stack had to be imaged & rapidly deployable

- Needed to realize resiliency goals – *Can't just lift-and-shift*
- Make use of cloud elasticity and containerization
- More Standardized toolset....

We use and mandate AWS Tags

- Every system needed a NAMED owner or was shutdown

Removed Access

- Separate AWS accounts for Development, Smoke, Production, SOX, and PCI
- Absolutely NO Dev Production Access Results: Huge P1 Incidents!
- **IF it is awake, it is subject to scanning**
- Approved Images (AMI) with Authentication Keys



Challenges

Each stack had to be imaged & rapidly deployable

- Needed to realize resiliency goals – **Can't just lift-and-shift**
- Make use of cloud elasticity and containerization
- More standardized toolset

Here is what we did...

- Separate AWS accounts for Development, Smoke, Production, SOX, and PCI
- Absolutely NO Stage or Production access
Spoiler alert: Huge ↓ P1 incidents!
- IF it is awake, it is subject to scanning
- Approved Images (AMI) with Authentication Keys
- Every system needed a NAMED owner or was shutdown (Qualys to find unnamed servers)

Solution

Approved Images – AMI's

Ancestry required a new way of thinking about servers



Servers are cattle



Not pets

 ancestry®

Solution

Don't push patches...patch the AMI



Shut down the old one



Spin up the new one with the new AMI

NO cows were harmed in our AWS migration!

Why Ancestry chooses AWS and Qualys

Why AWS?

- System resiliency
- Rapid elastic expansion
- Supported our rapid growth

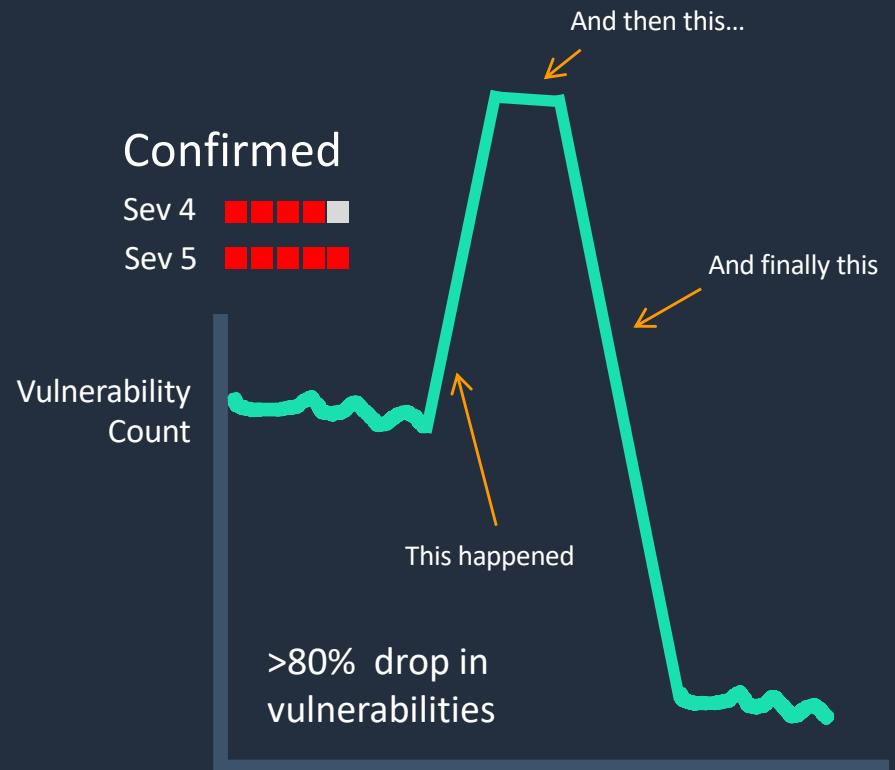
Why Qualys?

- Proven ability to work well with AWS – expanded with our needs
- Virtually maintenance free, once we set up
- The data was accurate – no false positives

Challenges

Lessons learned

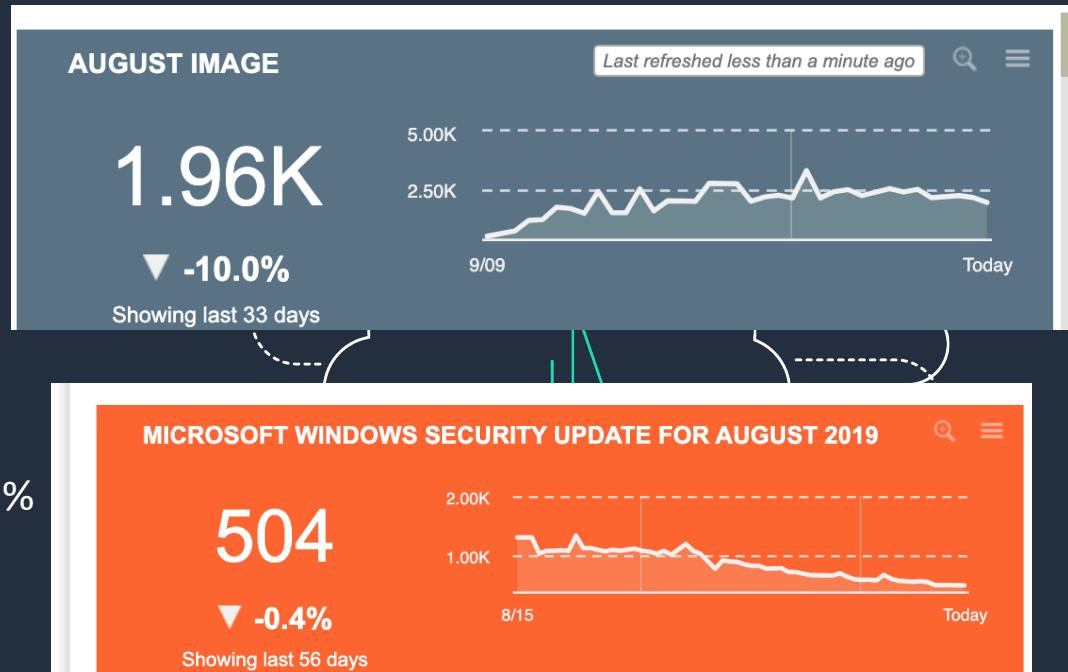
- Don't get fixated on the count of vulnerabilities
- Buy-in at executive level
- Think operationally – not exceptionally
- KEEP CALM and STICK to the process ... it takes time to work
- Communication and visibility



Don't shoot for ZERO

Benefits are awesome

- My ask of Development:
Do one thing. Update the image.
- Forced us to have a more homogeneous platform and process
- Synced security with business goals
- Process seems to be sustainable!
- 76%+ NIX scan are fully authenticated – 99% Windows
- Works for some applications as well



Benefits are awesome

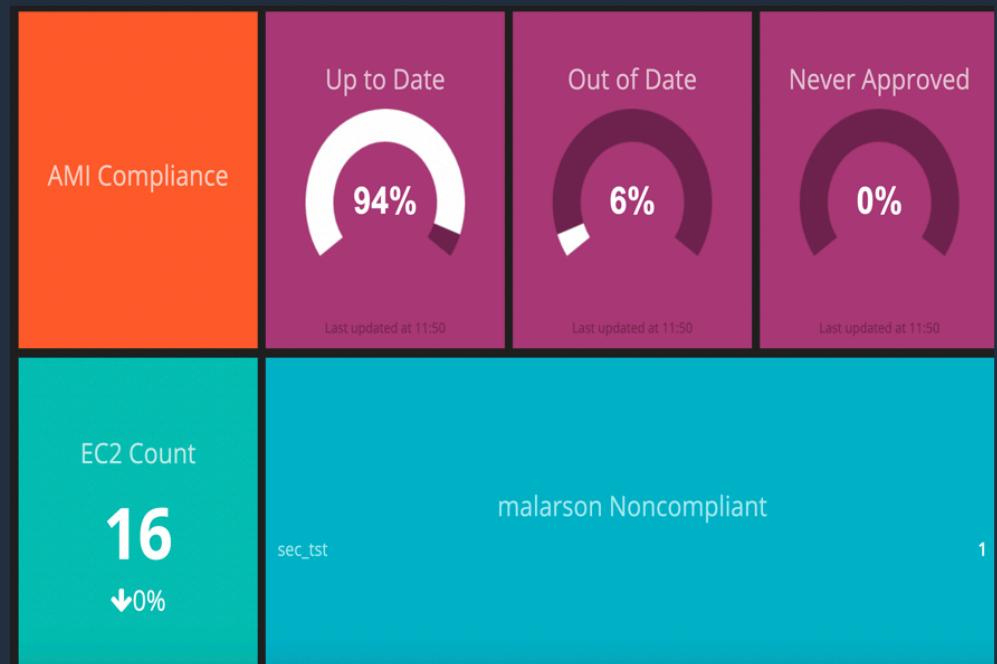
- Works at the application layer as well



Dashboards

Key Metrics

- Use of approved image
- Confirmed 4s & 5s Ageing*
- Number of Vulns Fixed
- Scan coverage - Target 95%
- Authentication Percentage – Target 95%
- Vulnerabilities not fixed by Image



* Aged based on vulnerability release date – pending...

Dashboards

Vulnerabilities
NOT FIXED
By Image

Vulnerabilities
FIXED
By Image

Vulnerabilities
WILL BE FIXED
By Image

Vulnerabilities NOT Fixed by Image (Action Needed)

Vulnerability	Host Name	Age	Sev	Detection Source	Count: 53	Average Age: 102.92
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	39	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..		
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	39	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1246 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1246)	
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	18	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1254 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1254)	
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	161	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1180 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1180)	
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	18	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1258 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1258)	
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	81	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1223 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1223)	
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	18	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1255 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1255)	
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	39	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1239 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1239)	
Amazon Linux Security A..	i-07f490f29ad9c5fb9	138	4	Package Installed Version Required Version..	Please refer to Amazon advisory ALAS-2019-1194 (https://alas.amazon.com/advisory/ALAS-2019-1194)	
Microsoft ASP.NET MVC ..	i-0ae59a7e92687ee52	131	4	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft ASP.NET\ASP.NET MVC 4\Assemblies\System.Web.dll	Refer to MS14-059 (https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/security/ms14-059)	
Security Feature Bypass ..	i-0c7794d90cb5181e	131	4	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft ASP.NET\ASP.NET MVC 4\Assemblies\System.Web.dll	Refer to MS14-059 (https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/security/ms14-059)	

Vulnerabilities Fixed by Image (Update to latest image to fix)

Vulnerability	Host Name	Age	Sev	Detection Source	Count: 4	Average Age: 103.00
Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.7.2 ..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4483484 or KB4483459 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to CVE-2019-0613 (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/cve/CVE-2019-0613)	
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.7.2 ..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4480086 or KB4480064 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to CVE-2019-0545 (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/cve/CVE-2019-0545)	
Microsoft Windows Security Update for August 2019 ..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4487000 or KB4487028 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to Microsoft Security Guide (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/security-guides)	
Microsoft Windows Security Update for August 2019 ..	i-0153de4a275c8ac33	103	4	KB4480963 or KB4480964 is not installed ..	Customers are advised to refer to Microsoft Security Guide (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/security-guides)	

Vulnerabilities TO BE Fixed by Image (No Action - next image release will have these fixed)

Vulnerability	Host Name	Age	Sev	Detection Source	Count: 4	Solution
Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	
Microsoft Windows Security Update for August 2019 ..	i-0a33960e15532cc0e	26	5	KB4512517 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/security-guides)	
Microsoft Windows Security Update for August 2019 ..	i-0d2087fb652c39524	26	5	KB4512488 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/security-guides)	
Microsoft Windows Security Update for August 2019 ..	i-0a33960e15532cc0e	26	5	KB4512517 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/security-guides)	
Security Update for August 2019 ..	i-0d2087fb652c39524	26	5	KB4512488 is not installed ..	Please refer to the Security Update Guide (http://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide/security-guides)	



Q&A



Thank you!

