

Cybercriminals don't care about this and use them anyway to trick you....

This presentation may contain simulated phishing attacks.

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Ransomware, Ransom-war, Ran-some-where

Insights on Ransomware from the
Cybercriminals and How to Defend

James R. McQuiggan, CISSP, SACP
Security Awareness Advocate





Ransomware is the outcome of unauthorized access



When It Happens, You Need Response Plans & Backups

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Professor, Cybersecurity, Valencia College

President, ISC2 Central Florida Chapter

ISC2 North American Advisory Council

Cyber Security Awareness Lead, Siemens

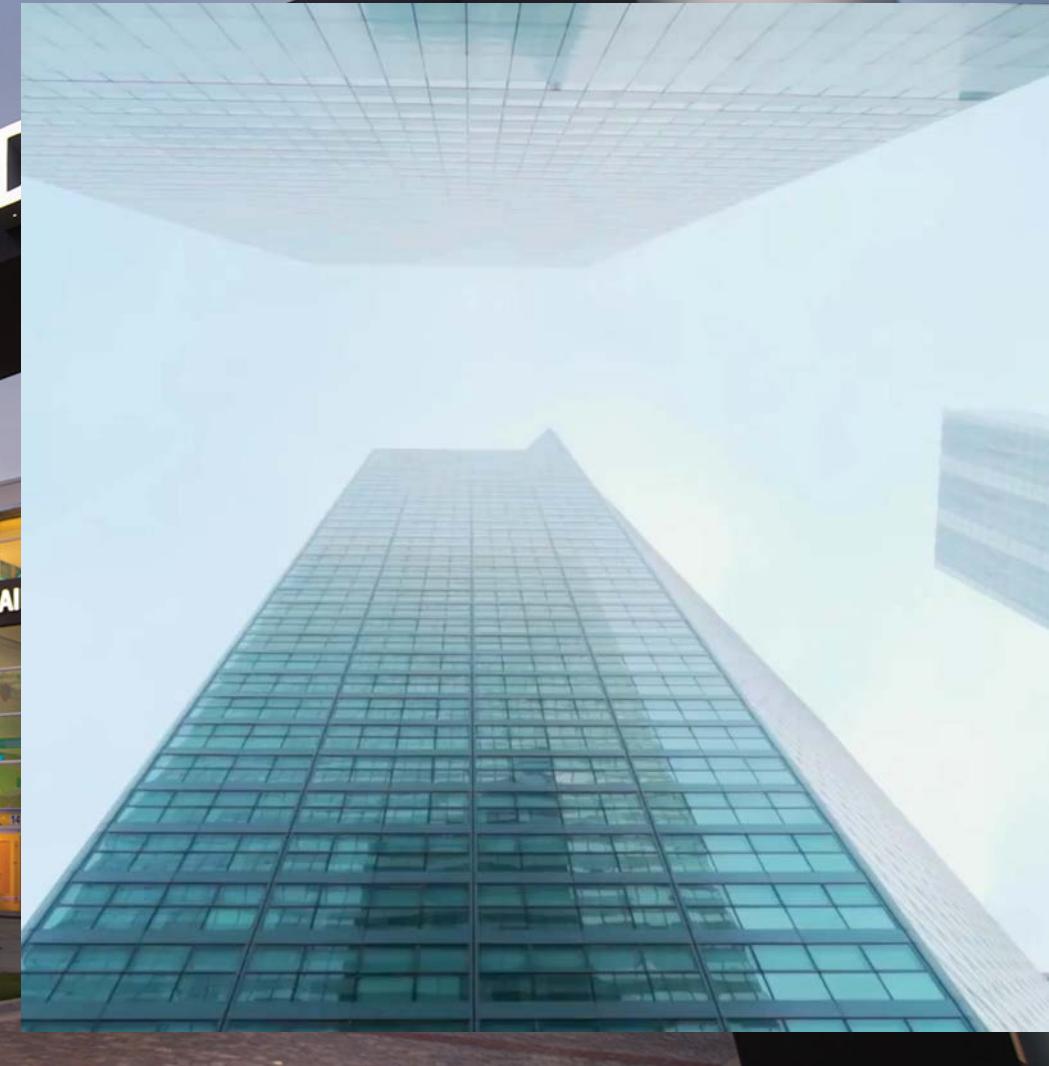
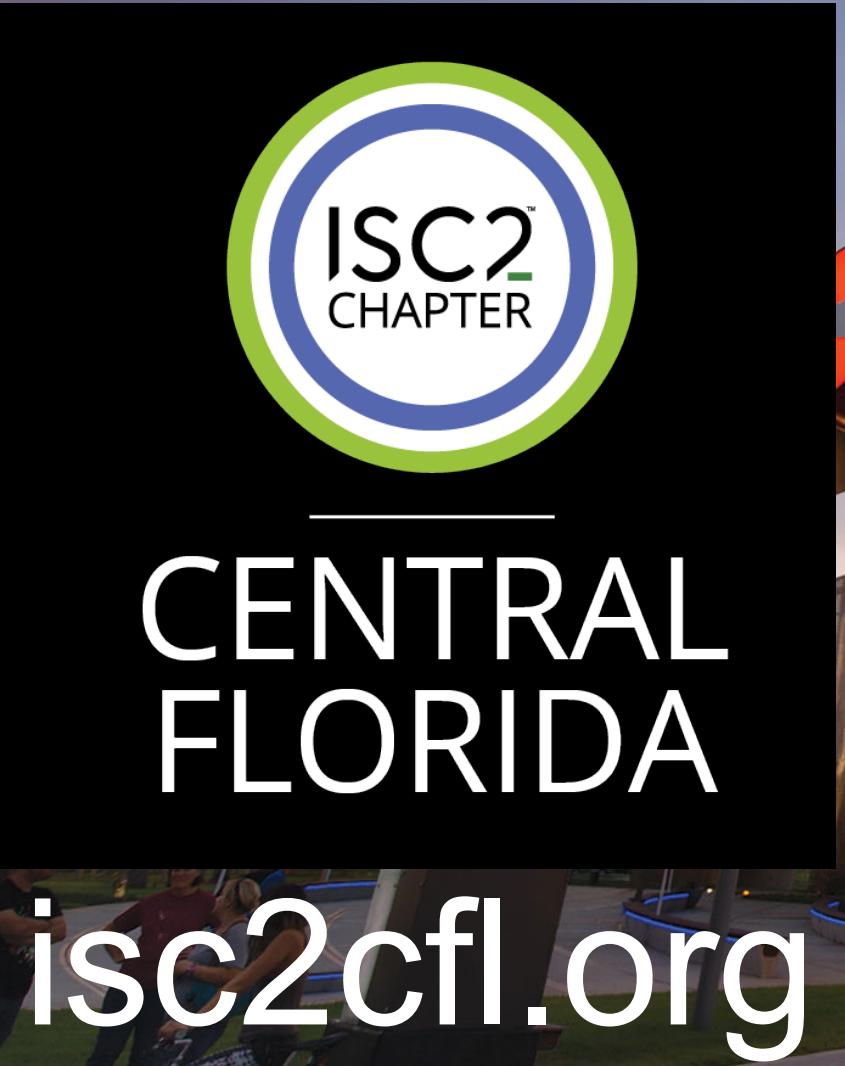
Product Security Officer, Siemens Gamesa



Certified Information
Systems Security Professional
ISC2 Certification



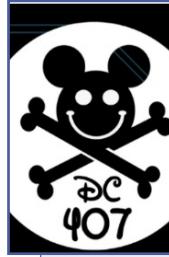
August 26, 2024 - Full Sail



Cybersecurity Events in Central Florida



ISC2 Space Coast
4th Wednesday of Each Month



DC 407
• dc407.com
• <https://discord.gg/UtvaVp7J36>



HackCFL
• hackcfl.com



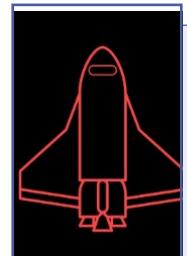
CitrusSec
• Citrusec.com
• 4th Wednesday of each Monday



Infragard, Orlando
• Infraorl.org
• Quarterly



Central Florida ISSA
• cflissa.org
• August 2
• Lunch 'N Learn
• Antonios, Maitland



Space Coast Cyber Community
• Monthly
• Intracoastal Brewing (Melbourne)

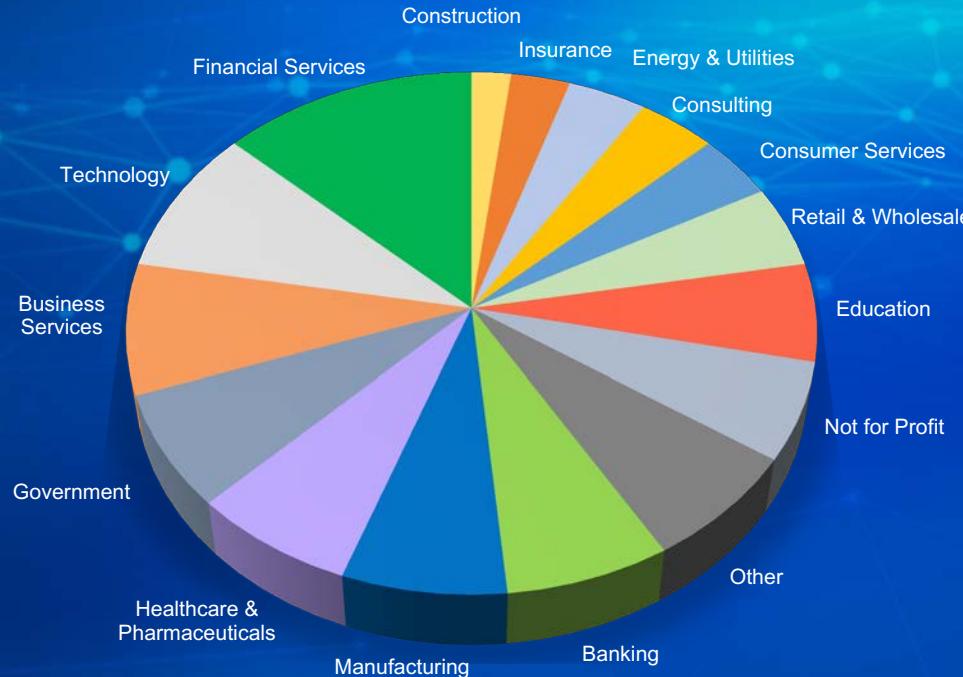


OWASP Orlando
• [meetup.com/OWASP-Orlando/](https://www.meetup.com/OWASP-Orlando/)
• TBD



ISACA Central Florida
• Monthly

Over
65,000
Customers



KnowBe4

About KnowBe4

- The world's largest integrated Security Awareness Training and Simulated Phishing platform
- We help tens of thousands of organizations manage the ongoing problem of social engineering
- CEO & employees are industry veterans in IT Security
- Global Sales, Courseware Development, Customer Success, and Technical Support teams worldwide
- Offices in the USA, UK, Netherlands, India, Germany, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Japan, Australia, and Brazil





Our mission

To help organizations manage the ongoing problem of social engineering

We do this by

Enabling employees to make smarter security decisions everyday

Outcomes for the next 267 minutes... (and 579 slides)

How do we prevent it
from happening?

What can we learn
from CyberCriminals?

Ransomware is the
outcome, so what
next?



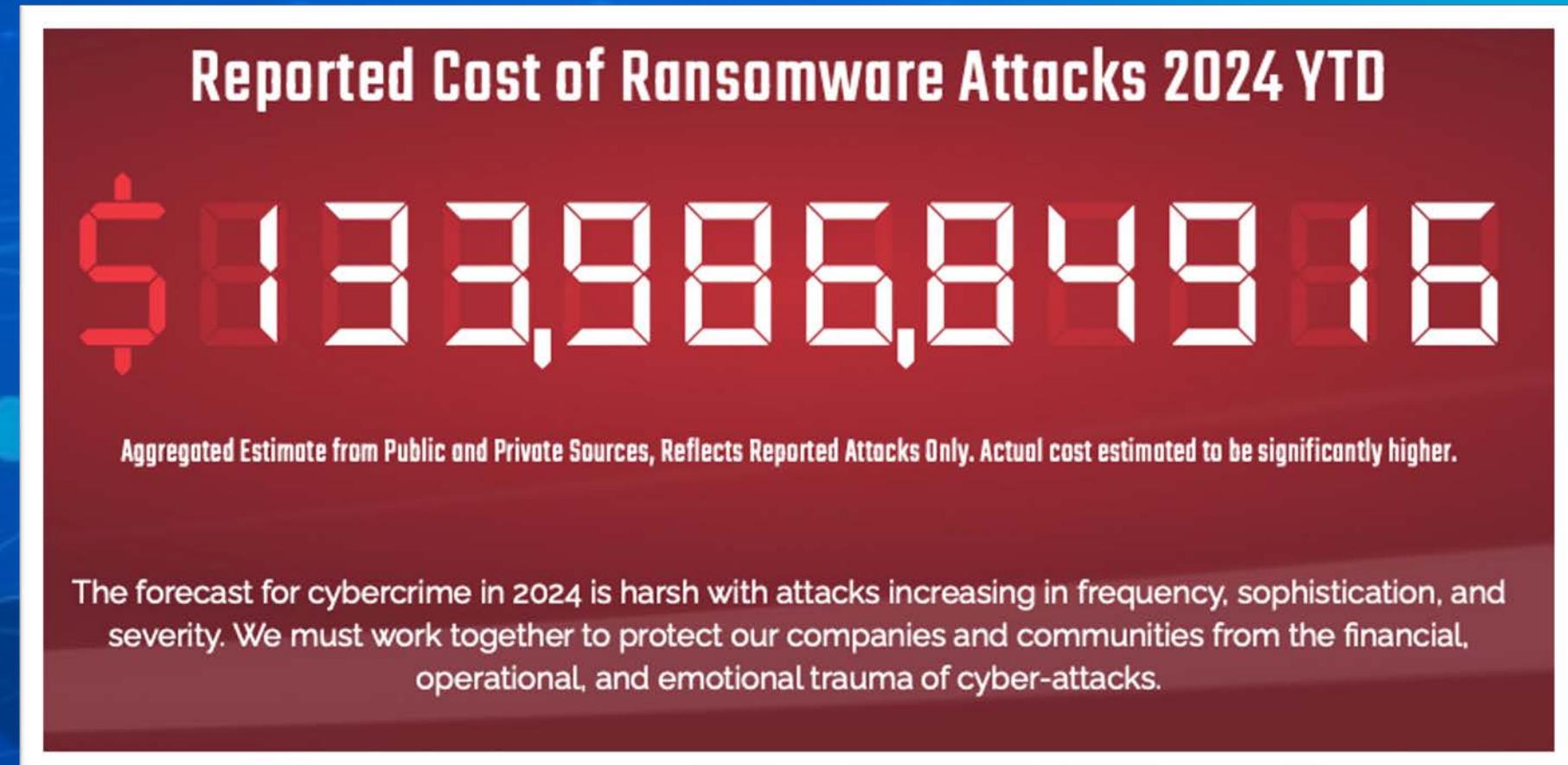
11



Ransomware Right Now



Ransomware Clock (ransomwareclock.org)



Current Ransomware Impact

59% Organizations Impacted

>\$1b Payments Exceeded

32% Access via Unpatched Known Vulnerability

96% Delete Backups before Encryption

70% Resulted in Data Encryption

x2



Average Recovery Costs (\$4.5m)

Top Ransomware Groups

- 1.LockBit 3.0
- 2.BlackCat/ALPHV
- 3.Black Basta
- 4.Akira
- 5.Hunters International

Current Ransomware Outcomes

Average Ransom (\$)

4,545,349

Total # of Attacks

5,980

Total Records Affected

499,134,120

Average Ransom by Industry (\$)

Business

7,836,955

Education

1,372,233

Government

1,873,988

Healthcare

3,721,414

Average # of Records Affected

Business

350,819

Education

44,731

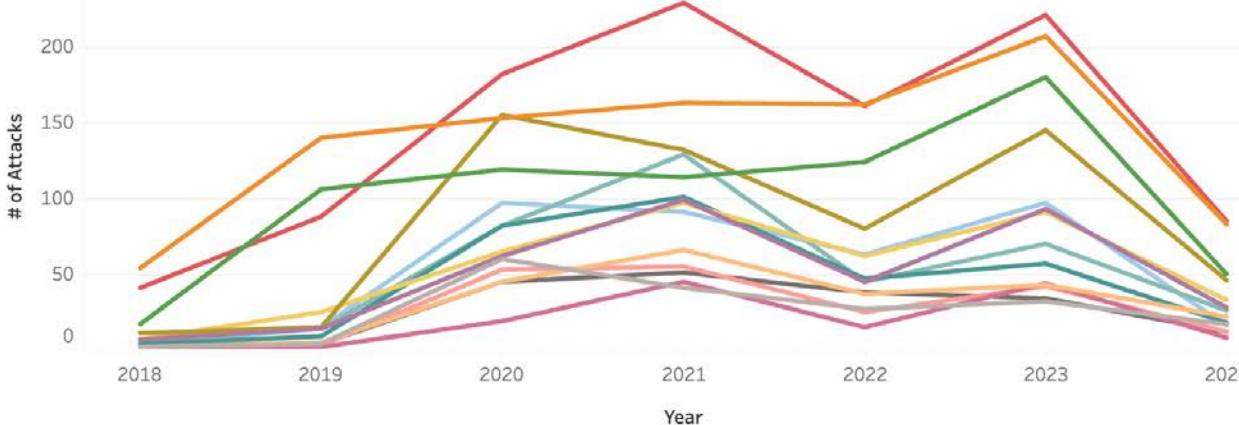
Government

44,455

Healthcare

200,934

of Attacks by Sub-Industry

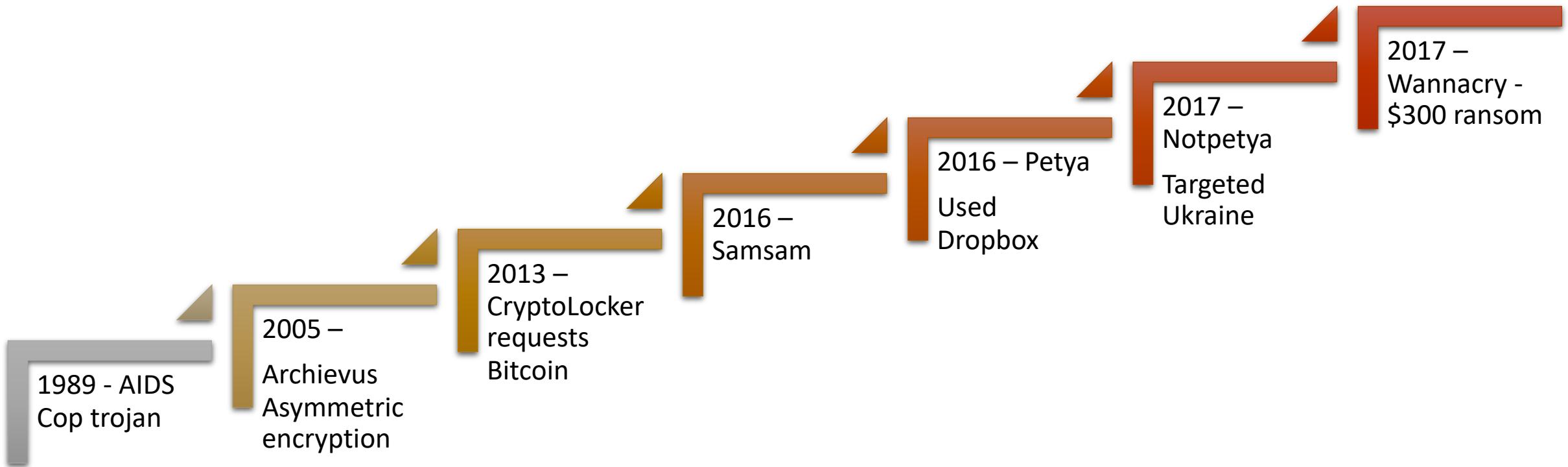


- Sub-Industry
- Construction
- Education
- Finance
- Food and Beverage
- Government
- Healthcare
- Legal
- Manufacturing
- Other
- Retail
- Service
- Technology
- Transportation
- Utilities

comparitech

KnowBe4
Human error. Conquered.

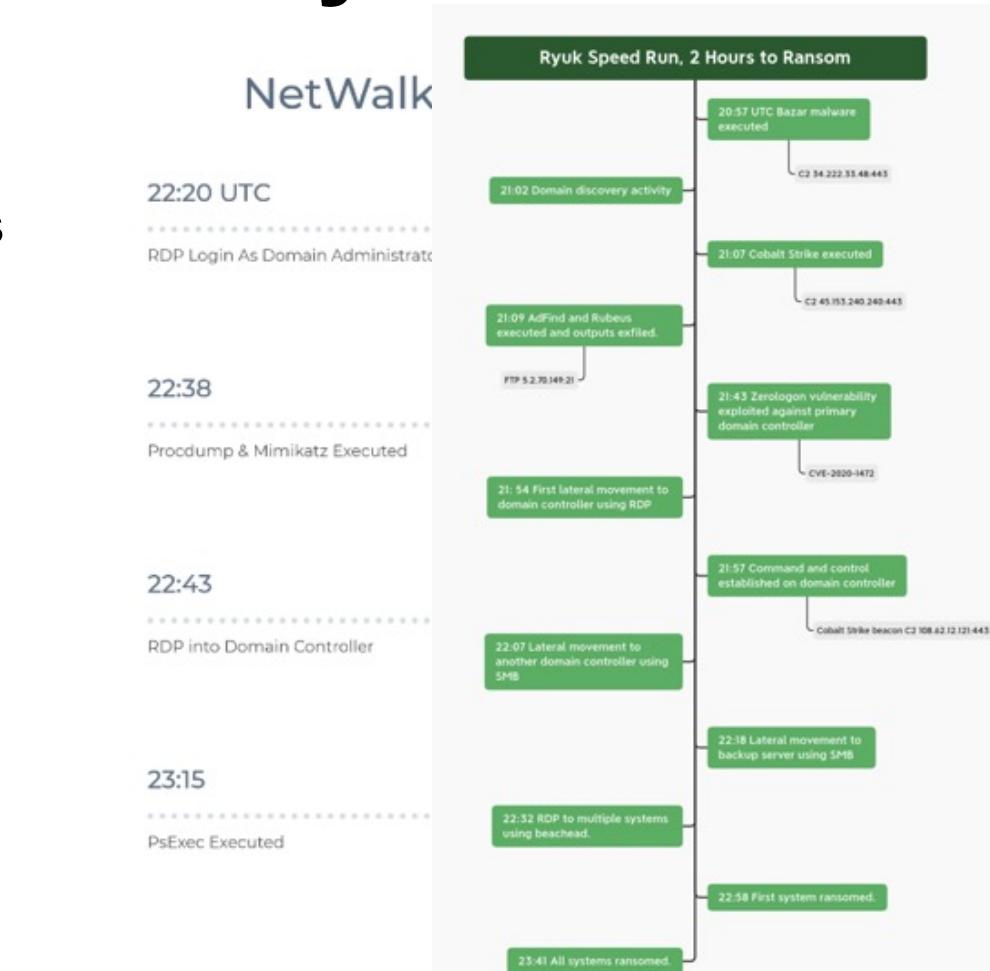
A look back at Ransomware



Source: <https://blog.emsisoft.com/en/34742/history-of-ransomware-a-supervillain-30-years-in-the-making/>

Timelines – Harma / Netwalker / Ryuk

- Harma / Dharma (Crysis) - ~17 minutes
 - 0:00 RDP login from 212.102.45.98
 - 0:01 Opens Task Manager (usually to see who else is logged in)
 - 0:03 Drops/runs Network Scanner (SoftPerfect)
 - 0:08 RDPs into a Domain Controller (DC)
 - 0:10 DC – Opens Task Manager
 - 0:10 DC – Drops/runs Network Scanner
 - 0:13 DC – Drops Harma ransomware on the desktop and then runs it
 - 0:17 entry point – Drops Harma ransomware on the desktop and then runs it
- Netwalker Ransomware – 1 hour
- Ryuk – anywhere between 2 & 29 hours



Source: thedfirreport.com

Ransomware Response Maturity over Years



Early:

- Used to encrypt immediately upon executing, didn't care where it was
- Victims Usually Didn't Pay



Middle:

- Spread like a worm, then encrypted
- Insurance Arriving on Scene / Victims More Likely Pay



Contemporary:

- Break in, dial-home, notify hacker, determine strategy
- Victims Almost Always Pay (even if they say they don't do)

Ransomware Family Migration

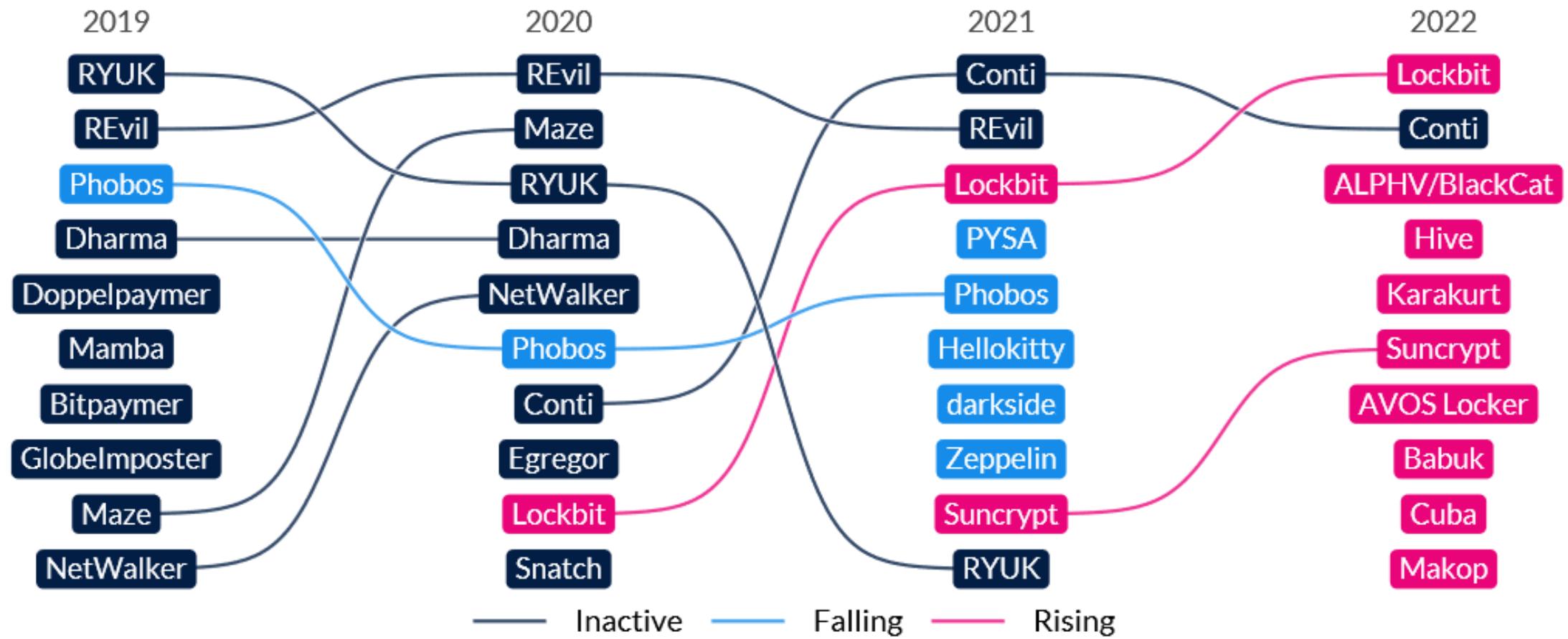
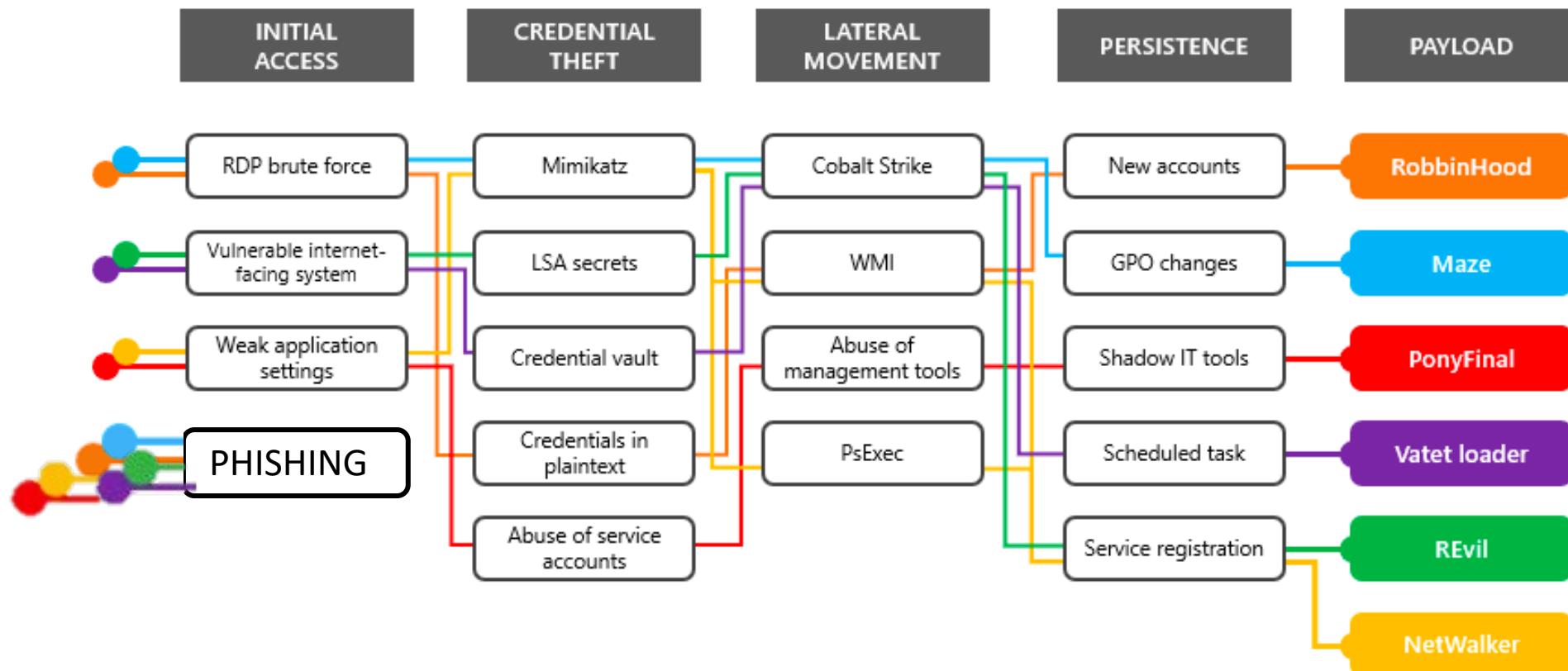
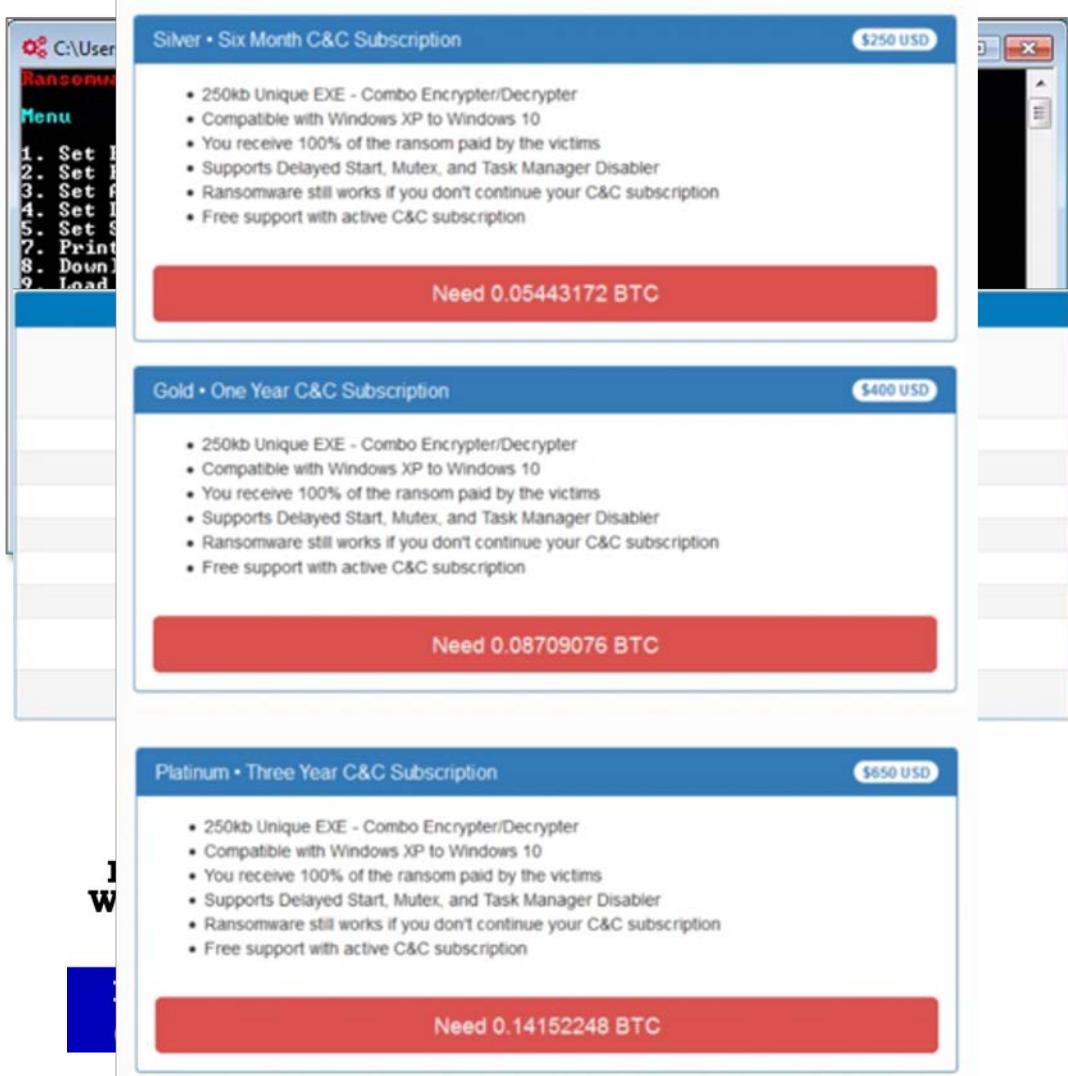


Figure 2 – Top 10 ransomware families by year

Ransomware Modus Operandi



Ransomware as a Service (RaaS)



RaaS Revenue Models

- Monthly subscription or a fixed cost
- Affiliate programs where the profits where 20-30% go to the ransomware developer
- One-time fee without profit sharing
- Profit sharing only

RaaS Groups

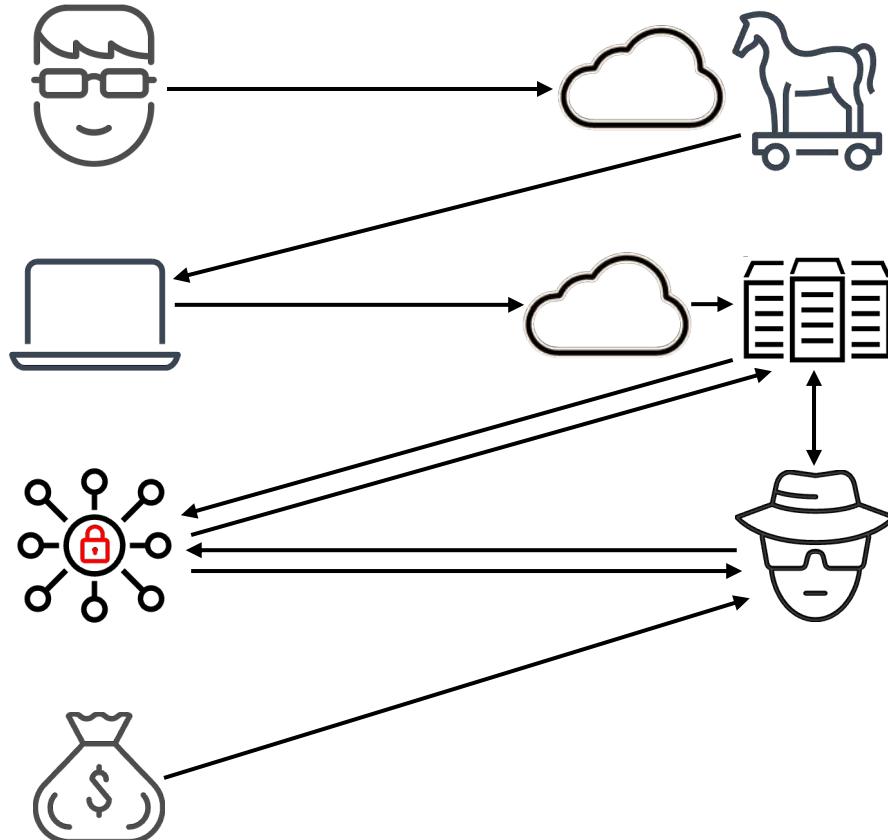
- Hive
- Darkside
- Revil
- LockBit
- Dharma

RaaS Apps

- Locky
- Goliath
- Shark
- Stampado
- Encryptor

Ransomware Playbook v.1

Ransomware Workflow

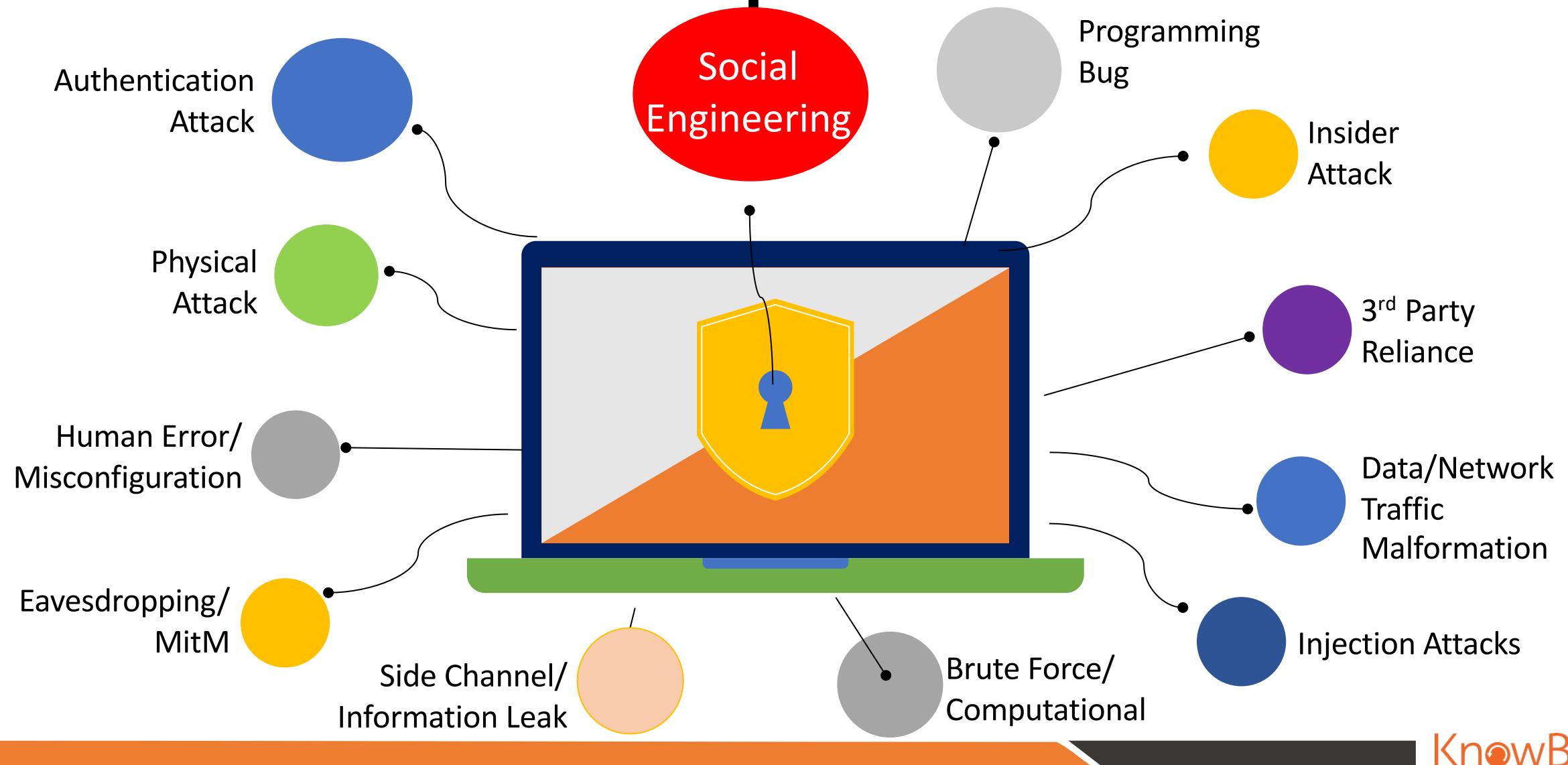


1. Victim tricked into executing “stager” trojan horse program, modifies host system
2. After executing, it immediately downloads updates and additional malware & instructions from C&C servers
3. Updates itself to keep ahead of AV/EDR detection, new payloads, spreads
4. Collects as many passwords as it can
5. Notifies C&C/hacker about new intrusion
6. Dwells (sometimes up to 8 to 12 months)
7. Assess and analyze target
8. Steal whatever they want
9. Launch encryption and ask for ransom

Ransomware Evolution – Since November 2019

- Selling exfiltrated data
- Selling exfiltrated stolen credentials
- Selling initial access
- Stealing money from bank and stock accounts
- Personal extortion against individuals
- Hacking for hire
- Selling lead lists from stolen customer data
- Business email compromise scams
- Installing adware
- Launching DDoS attacks
- Crypto mining
- Creating rentable botnets
- Sending spam emails
- Resource renting
- Acting as proxy sites for other attacks
- Anything else they can think of to generate revenue

Ransomware Root Exploit Methods



Ransomware Is a Data Breach

- Criminal hackers infiltrate the network
- Install Trojans / other malware
- Delete backups
- Steal data before encryption
- Double / Triple Extortion
- Leak Data, Intellectual Property
- Public Shaming / Threatening Victim's Customers



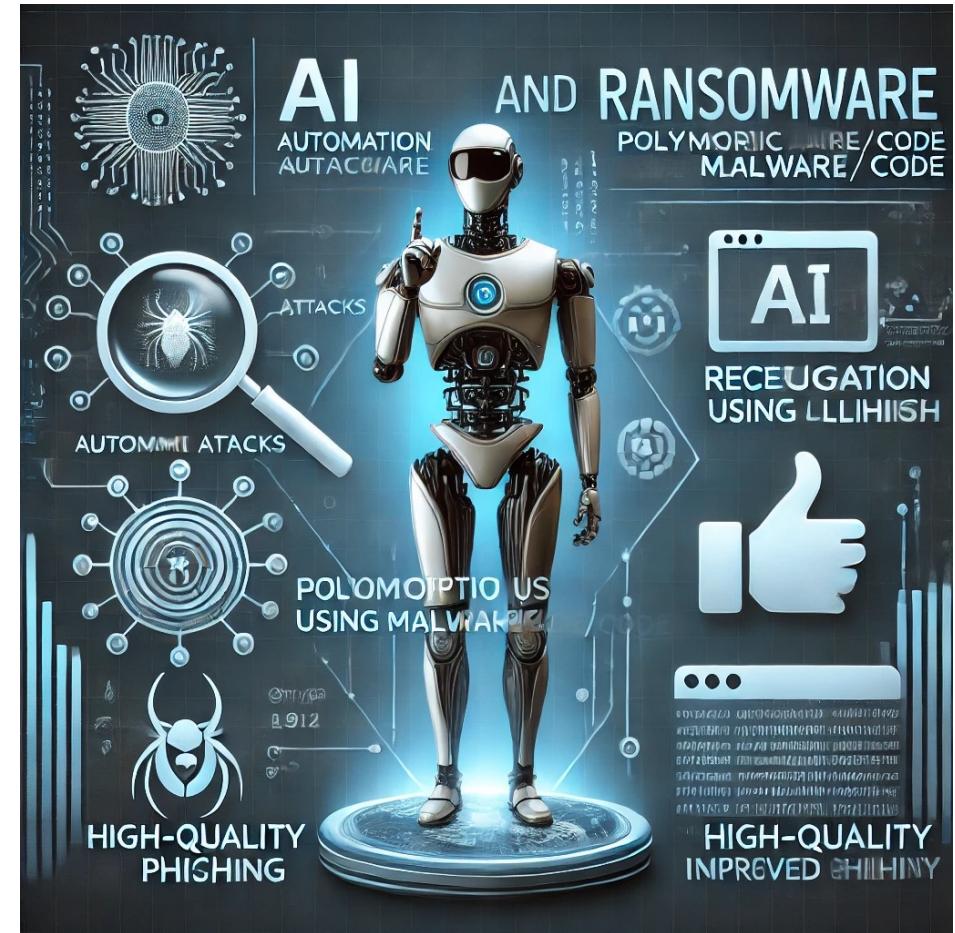
AI & Ransomware – Improved Efficiency

Automated
Attacks

Polymorphic
Malware / Code

Reconnaissance
(LLMs for
research)

Phishing Quality
(grammar /
spelling)





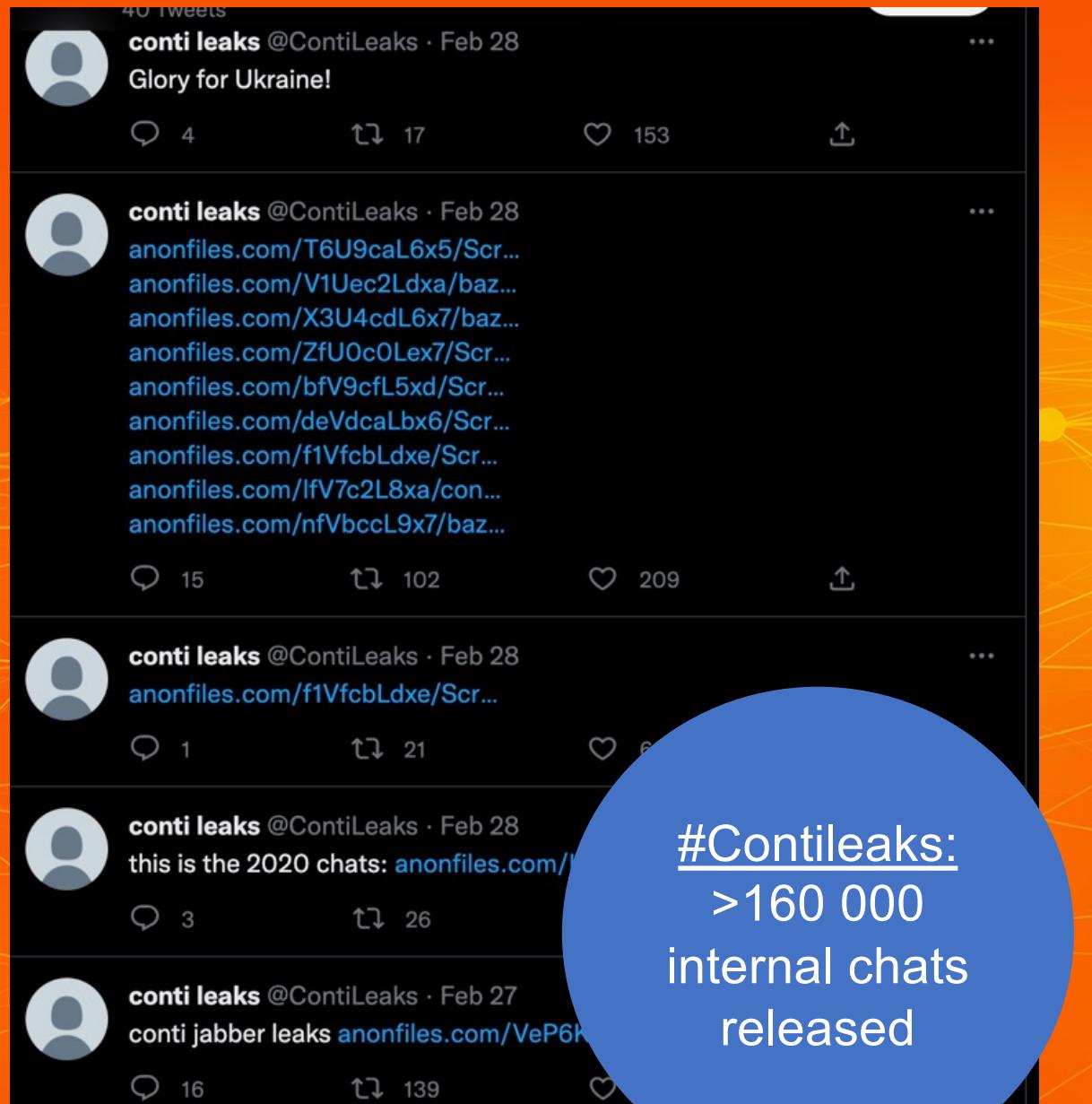
Conti Playbook

```
sekurlsa::logonpasswords – show all stored local passwords in plaintext  
log  
privilege::debug  
sekurlsa::logonpasswords  
token::elevate  
lsadump::sam  
exit  
lsadump::dcsync /user:Administrator - pass Get domain administrator at primary domain controller  
sekurlsa::pth /user: /domain: /ntlm: /run:cmd – Pass-the-Hash (use it's NTLM instead of password) (same as runas /user:user cmd #PASSWORD#)  
Mimikatz in Cobalt Strike  
getsystem  
hashdump  
logonpasswords  
beacon> make_token domen\user password – impersonate user token  
beacon> pth domen\user NTLM - impersonate user token  
beacon> rev2self – revert session to default  
beacon> dcsync domain.com (Replace domain.com - with domain) - acquire all hashes from domain (domain administrator token is required)  
If login and hash are found:  
pth Domain\Admin pass (as hash) shell dir \\ip or hostname\c$  
EliAdmin:1001:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:b0059c57f5249ede3  
db768e388ee0b14:::  
pth ELC\EliAdmin b0059c57f5249ede3db768e388ee0b14  
If login and password are found  
make_token Domain\Admin Pass rev2self – get token  
Lsass reading  
Download latest mimikatz version from github.  
Run cmd as administrator
```



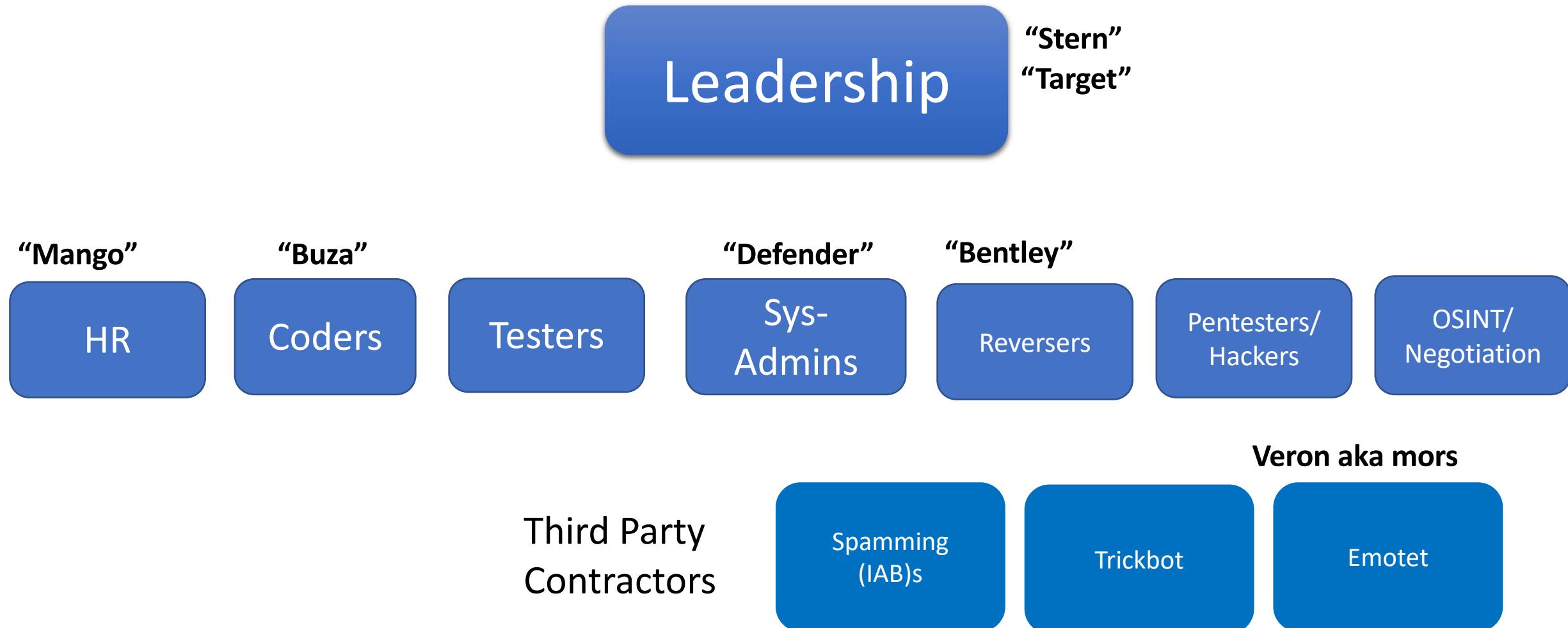
CONTI

Conti



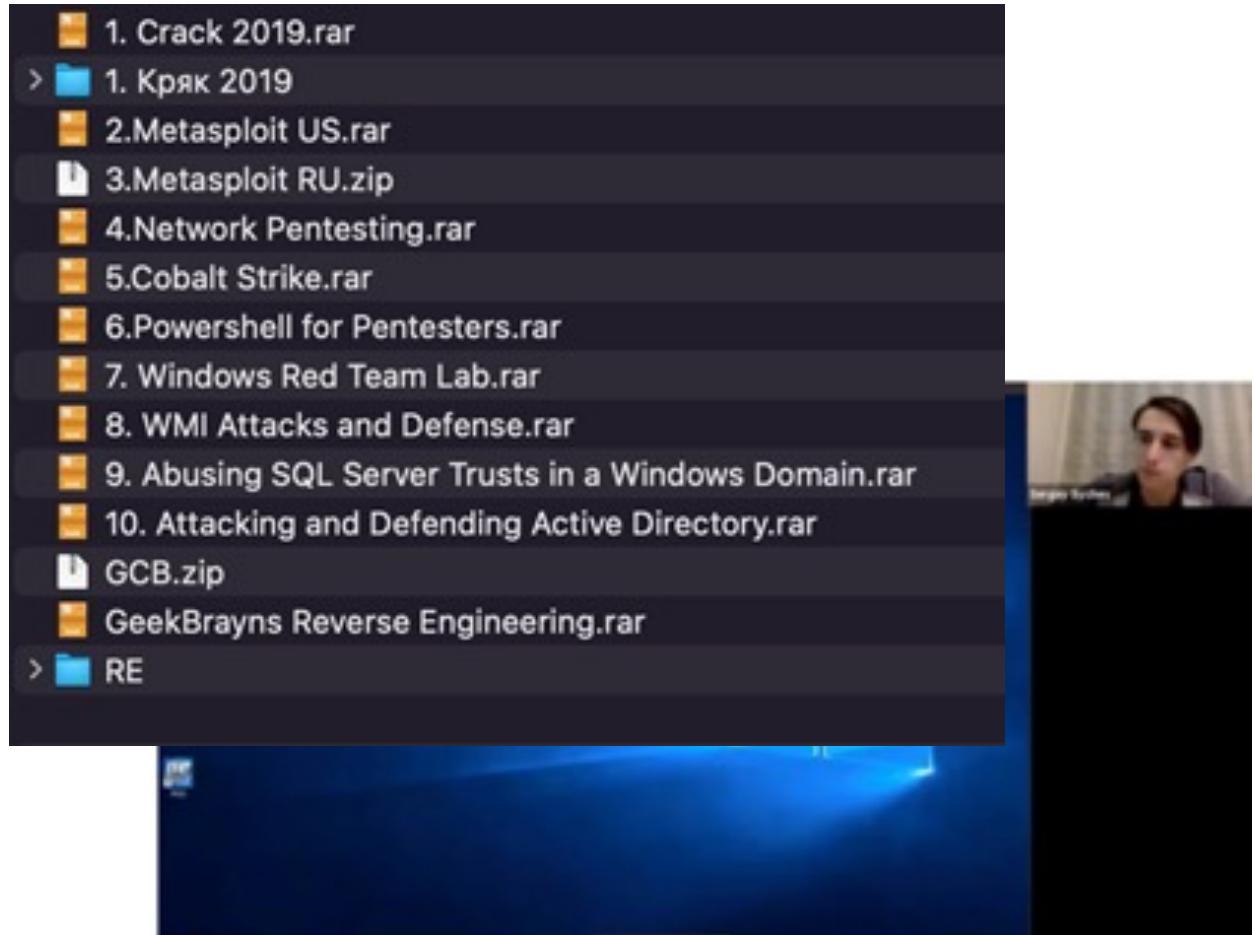
@conti leaks
Feb 27, 2022

Conti Organization



Tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs)

- Training & videos:
 - Cracking
 - Metasploit
 - Network Pentesting
 - Cobalt Strike
 - PowerShell for Pentesters
 - Windows Red Teaming
 - WMI Attacks (and Defenses)
 - SQL Server
 - Active Directory
 - Reverse Engineering



Conti training in Russia. Course: CyberArk.

It's not all virtual

2020-09-22 07:47:05

ahyhax

Can someone open the door?

2020-09-30 08:02:23

stalin

Hit the door hard

2020-09-30 08:02:43

ahyhax

just be careful, it's painted

2020-09-30 08:02:51

ahyhax

don't get dirty

2020-08-17 09:24:44

braun

Olya liked talking with your mom, she is a big romantic)

2020-08-17 09:25:16

baget



2020-08-17 09:25:30

braun

In general, we were impressed by the meeting;)

Figure 25 – Office day to day of Conti Corporation



**“Conti is a highly effective
- if also remarkably
inefficient cybercriminal
organization.”**

- Brian Krebs

Not so organized?

- “Hello, we’re out of bitcoins, four new servers, three vpn subscriptions and 22 renewals are out, please send some bitcoins to this wallet, thanks.”

- Carter, Mar 1

- Need workflow management and tracking tools.
- Lost control over countless bots due to mistakes
- Past-due invoices for virtual servers, domain registrations etc

2021-08-19 01:44:37

defender
another server you fucked up
it fucked me up
-\$100 fine

Figure 13 – Fines for technical mistakes

Source: CheckPoint Research

Morale

2021-10-19 11:42:31

Silver

this month, three people were fined for absenteeism and various mistakes that led to losses

2021-10-19 11:42:51

Silver

these fines will go to the bonus fund for employees of the month)

Figure 12 – Fines for underperformance

2020-10-16 03:27:18

Team Lead 1

Saturday will be a day off, same as Sunday

2020-10-16 03:27:25

wewvewe

hooray

2020-10-16 03:27:28

wewvewe

!!!!!!!

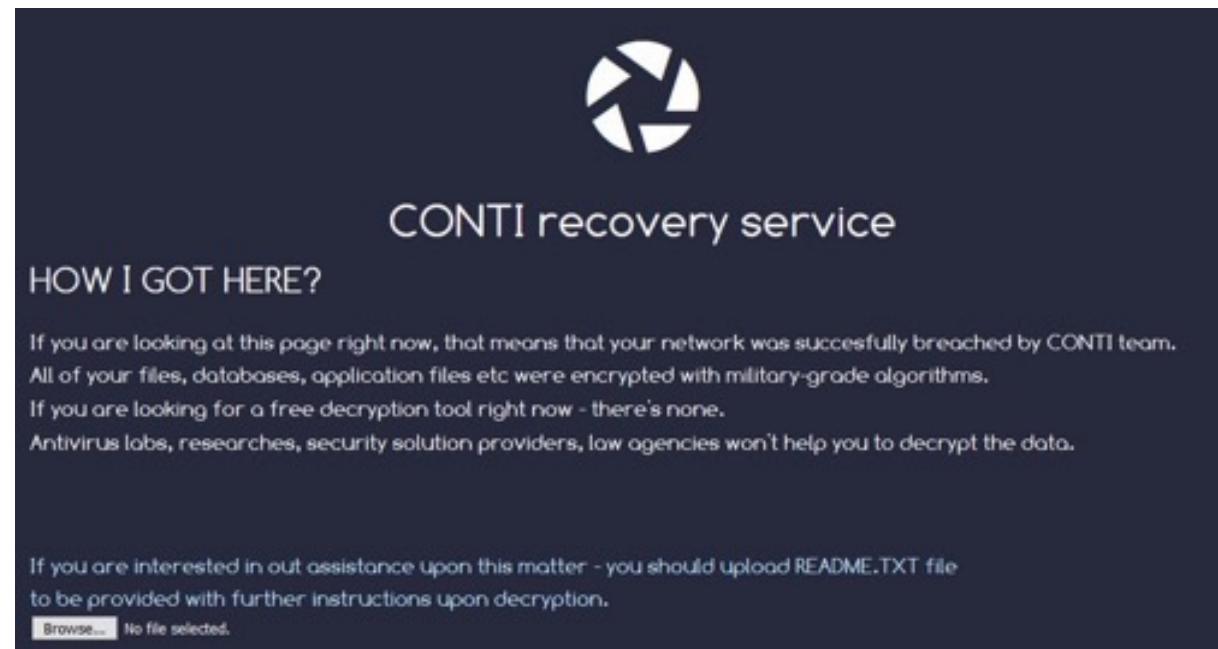


“Our work is generally not difficult, but monotonous, doing the same thing every day.”

- Bentley

Conti Group Summary

- US 2.7 billion since 2017
- \$180 million in 2021*
- 60 - 100 employees
- Most employees paid \$1,000 to \$2,000 monthly in Bitcoin deposits.
- Take over of Trickbot devs
- Tight collab with Emotet crimeware-as-a-service platforms (50 coders)
- Test, maintain and expand this infrastructure 24/7
- High usage of commercial tools / services (OSINT, Security tools, etc)





Why doesn't
Superman fight
cybercrime?

**He's afraid of
Krypto-currency**

Demonstration

- Ransomware Groups on the DarkWeb

RYUK **BitPaymer** vCrypt **Locky**
Stampado Zelta Lockout SAMSAM Matrix
Black Mamba **Dharma** Cry9 **Serpent** Jigaw
Sodinokibi Clop
JeepersCrypt CryptoMix **Petya**
Erebus WANNACRY NotPetya Bad Rabbit
Reveton **Mole66** **Dopplepaymer**
GlobeImposter2 **Netwalker** **Maze**

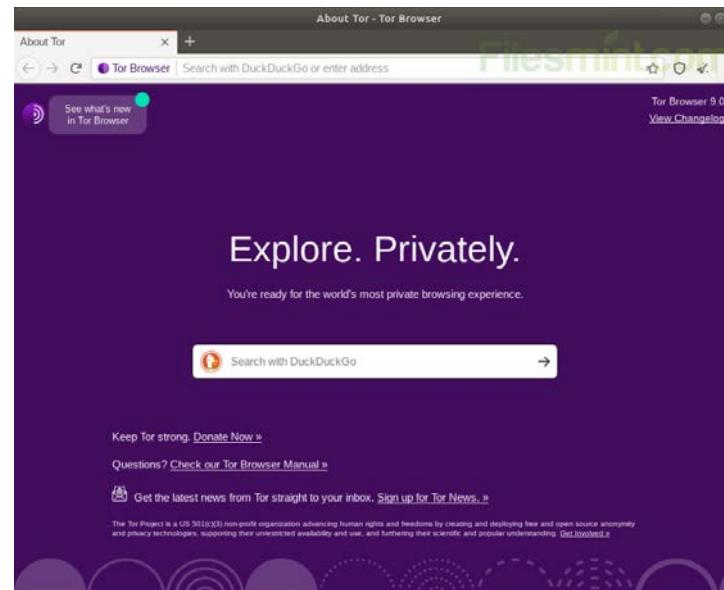
Disclaimer

- I am demonstrating for educational purposes only
- If you wish to do the same, you do at your own risk
- I accept no liabilities or responsibility if you attempt on your own
- I am not a professional, I just play one on TV

Tools / Tactics / Procedures



Virtual Private Network



TOR
Browser

Darkfeed.io

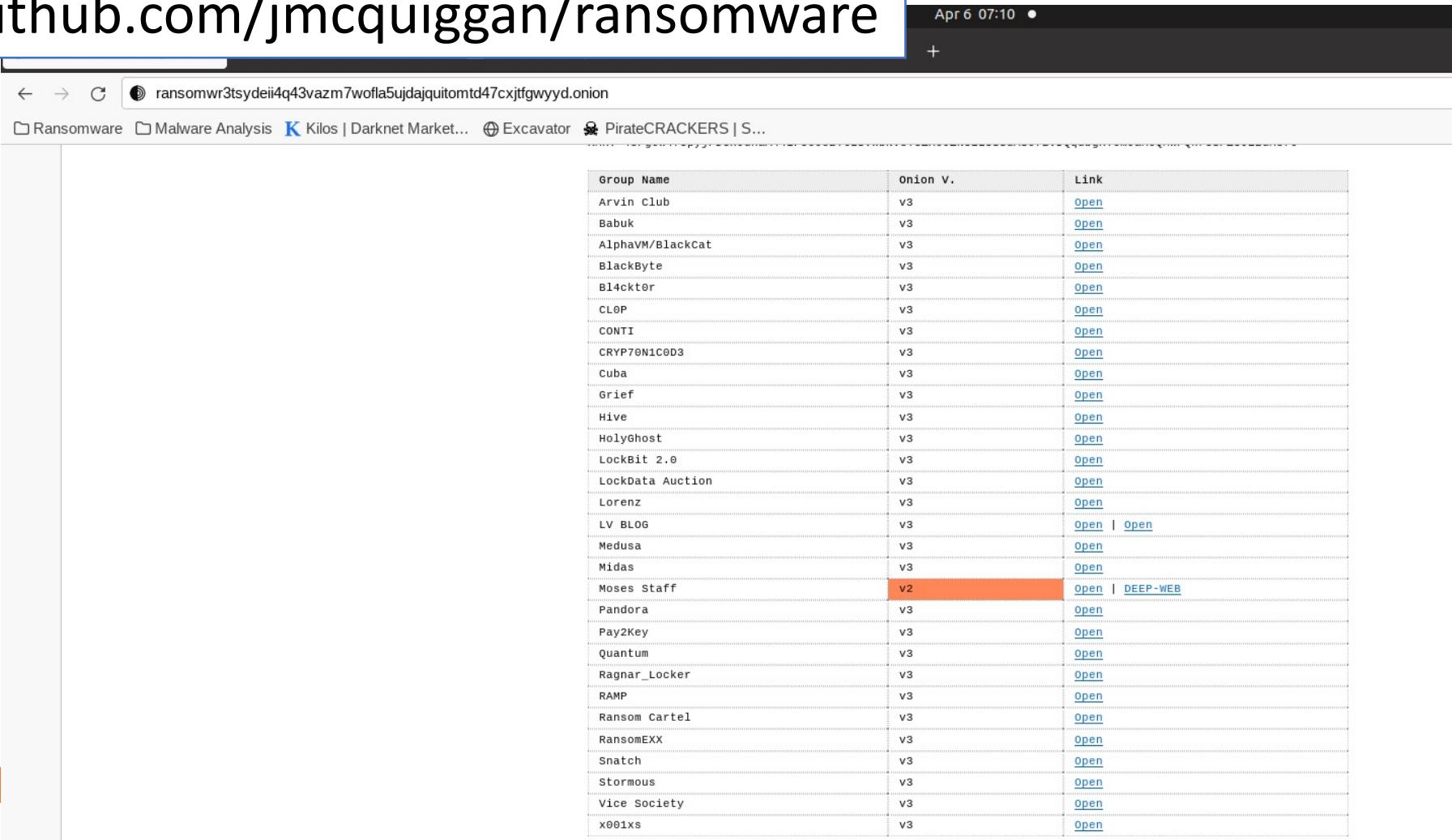
RANSOMWARE LEAKS						
Name	◆ Tor/Clearnet ◆	Link	Description	RansomWare Note	◆ Decryptor ◆	Status ◆
Quantum November 30, 2021 Victim Name »						
Conti November 30, 2021 Victim Name »						
Sabbath November 30, 2021 Victim Name »						
Sabbath November 30, 2021 Victim Name »						
Sabbath November 30, 2021 Victim Name »						
Grief November 29, 2021 Victim Name »						
LockBit 2.0 November 29, 2021 Victim Name »						
LockBit 2.0 November 29, 2021 Victim Name »						
Conti November 29, 2021 Victim Name »						
Conti-News November 29, 2021 Victim Name »						
LV BLOG November 28, 2021 Victim Name »						
Conti News	TOR	Link	Blog Website	View	Unavailable	UP
Hive Leaks	TOR	Link	Blog Website	View	Unavailable	UP
LOCKBIT 2.0	TOR	Link	Blog Website	View	Unavailable	UP
Corporate Leaks	TOR	Link	Blog Website	None	Unavailable	UP
Pysa	TOR	Link	Blog Website	View	Unavailable	UP
SunCrypts	TOR	Link	Blog	View	Unavailable	UP

« Previous 1 2 3 ... 5 Next »

Ransomware Group Sites - TOR

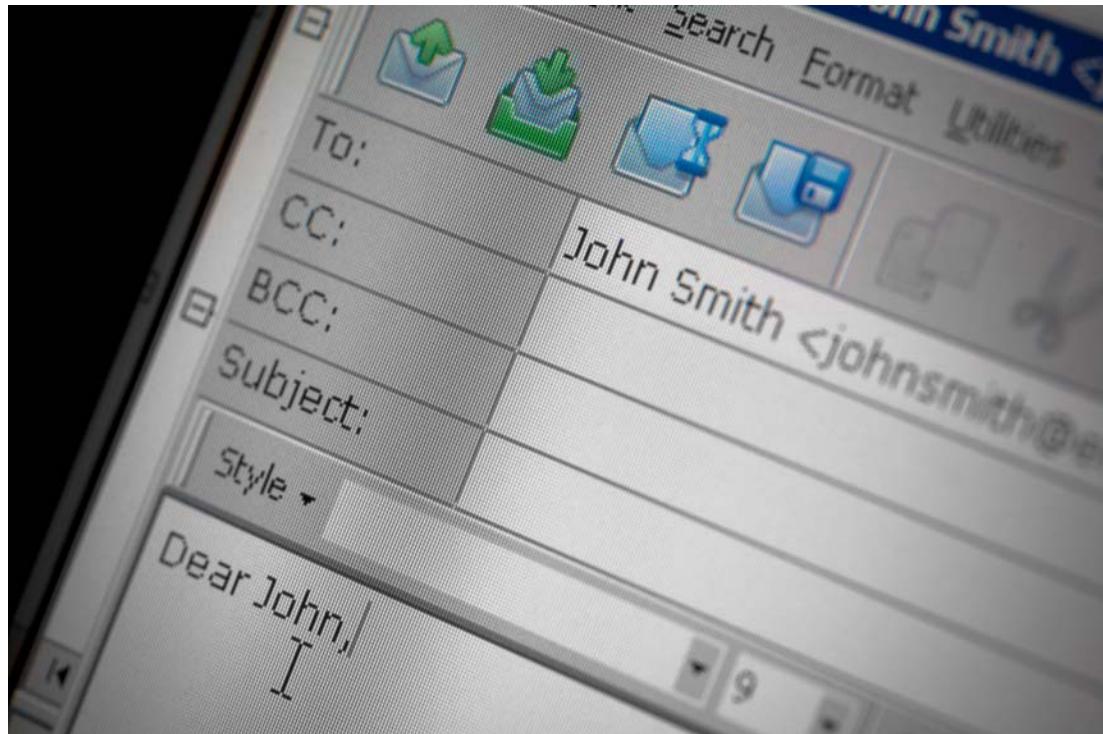
Github

<https://github.com/jmcquiggan/ransomware>



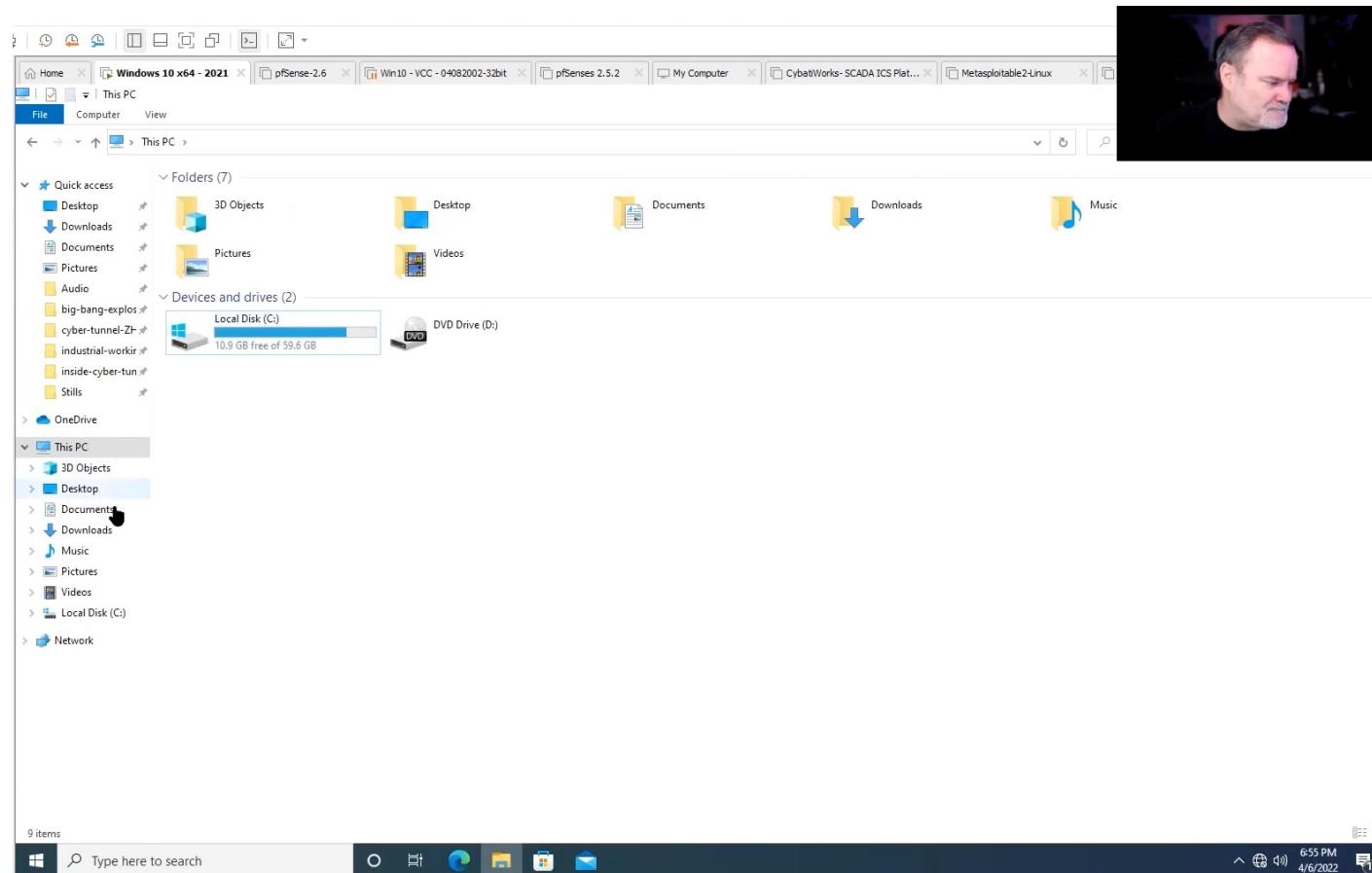
A screenshot of a dark web browser window. The address bar shows the URL: ransomwr3tsydeii4q43vazm7wofla5ujdajquitomtd47cxjtfgwyd.onion. The page title is "Ransomware". Below the title, there are several navigation links: Ransomware, Malware Analysis, Kilos | Darknet Market..., Excavator, PirateCRACKERS | S... A timestamp in the top right corner reads "Apr 6 07:10". The main content is a table listing various ransomware groups, their onion versions, and links to their websites.

Group Name	Onion v.	Link
Arvin Club	v3	Open
Babuk	v3	Open
AlphaVM/BlackCat	v3	Open
BlackByte	v3	Open
Bl4ckt0r	v3	Open
CL0P	v3	Open
CONTI	v3	Open
CRYP70N1C0D3	v3	Open
Cuba	v3	Open
Grief	v3	Open
Hive	v3	Open
HolyGhost	v3	Open
LockBit 2.0	v3	Open
LockData Auction	v3	Open
Lorenz	v3	Open
LV BL06	v3	Open Open
Medusa	v3	Open
Midas	v3	Open
Moses Staff	v2	Open DEEP-WEB
Pandora	v3	Open
Pay2Key	v3	Open
Quantum	v3	Open
Ragnar_Locker	v3	Open
RAMP	v3	Open
Ransom Cartel	v3	Open
RansomEXX	v3	Open
Snatch	v3	Open
Stormous	v3	Open
Vice Society	v3	Open
x001xs	v3	Open



RANSOMWARE ATTACK!







WE'RE INFECTED WITH RANSOMWARE
NOW WHAT?!

WE'RE INFECTED WITH RANSOMWARE!

Disconnect
Determine the Scope



Determine the Strain

RYUK **BitPaymer** vCrypt **Locky**
Stampado Zelta Lockout SAMSAM Matrix
Black Mamba **Dharma** Cry9 **Serpent** Jigaw
Sodinokibi Clop
JeepersCrypt CryptoMix **Petya**
Erebus WANNACRY NotPetya Bad Rabbit
Reveton Mole66 **Dopplepaymer**
GlobeImposter2 Netwalker **Maze**

Evaluate Your Responses

Restore from a recent backup



Decrypt your files using a third party decrypter



Do nothing (lose your data)

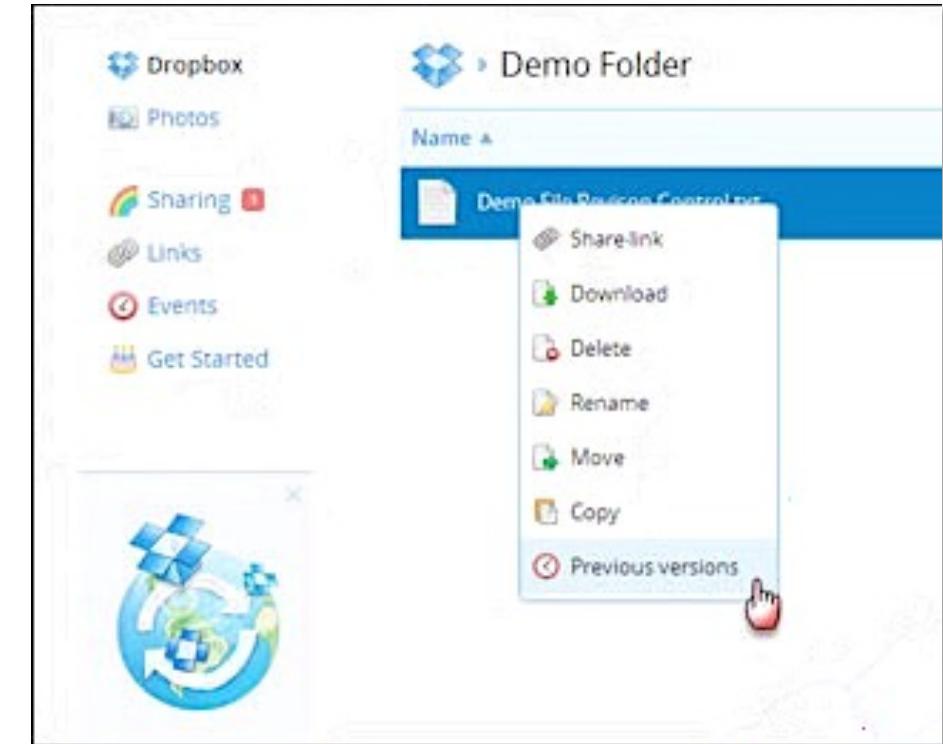


Negotiate / Pay the ransom



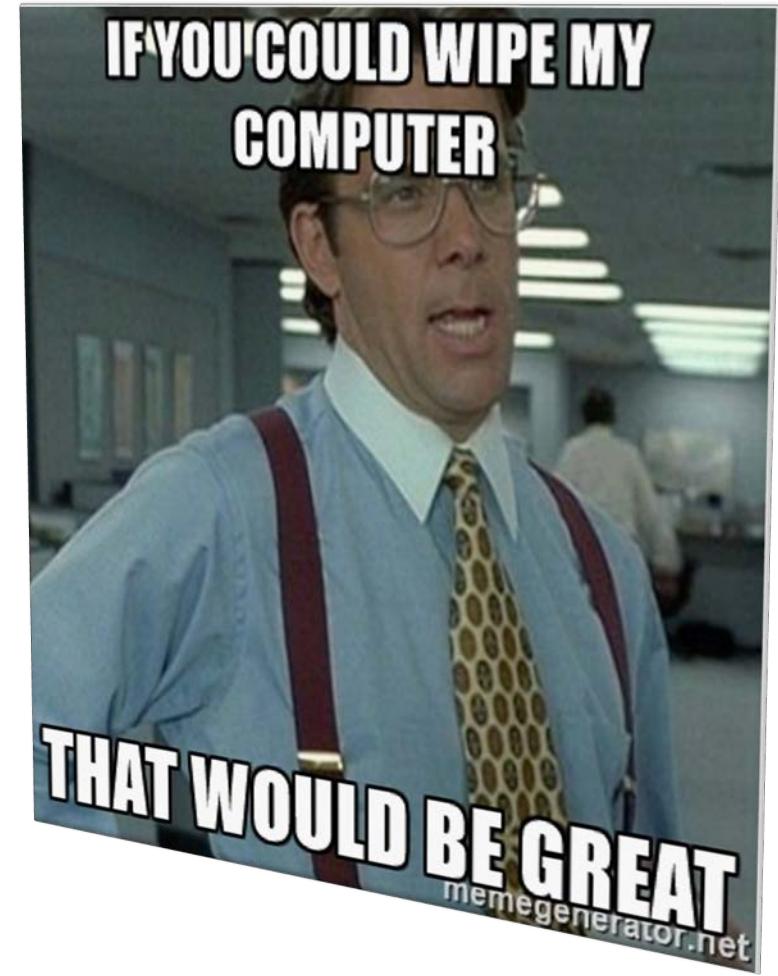
Recover / Locate Backup Sources

- On a separate computer begin a restore process and manual verification of the files from your backup.
- Determine if your files are properly backed up and recoverable
- Estimate how long it will take you to restore it
 - (It can take days to restore your files, especially large amounts from the cloud)
- Know what key files you need
- With some cloud providers, it's possible to revert a file to a previous state



Verify the backups!

- Once you have verified the files you need, and are able to recover them from a backup
- Work on the infected computer to remove the ransomware.
- Wipe and rebuild the Machine.
- Once the ransomware has been removed, you can now restore your files



Decrypt it yourself



Decryption Websites

- Several websites that can help with decryption
- Not 100% guarantee
- Upload data sample
- IFTT - Receive Key
- Attempt to decrypt

The image displays two screenshots of websites designed to help users decrypt files encrypted by ransomware.

Top Screenshot: NO MORE RANSOM!

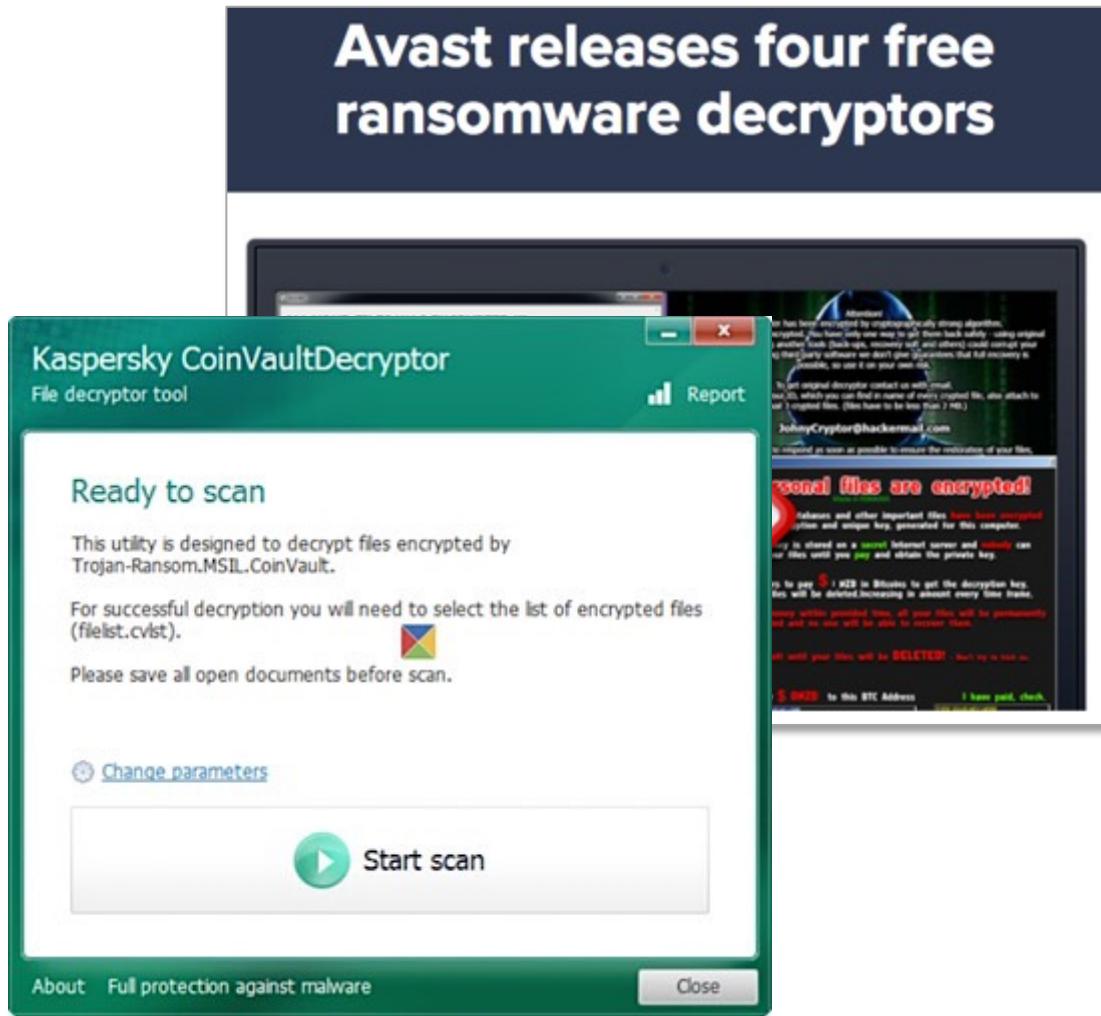
This screenshot shows the homepage of the NO MORE RANSOM! website. The header includes a language selector set to "English". Below the header, there are several navigation links: Crypto Sheriff, Ransomware: Q&A, Prevention Advice, Decryption Tools, Report a Crime, Partners, and About the Project. The main content features a large, bold text "NEED HELP unlocking your digital life without paying your attackers*?" with "YES" and "NO" buttons below it. A subtext explains that ransomware locks computers and encrypts files, and that decryption is possible without paying the ransom. A call-to-action at the bottom encourages users to click for a new decryptor.

Bottom Screenshot: ID Ransomware

This screenshot shows the ID Ransomware website. It features a large icon of a padlock with a keyhole and the text "ID Ransomware". Below the icon, there is a placeholder text: "Upload a ransom note and/or sample encrypted file to identify the ransomware that encrypted your data." To the right, a results section titled "1 Result" shows a green bar for "EnCiPhErEd". A green checkmark indicates that "This ransomware is decryptable!" and provides identification details: "sample_extension: .EnCiPhErEd". A link "Click here for more information about EnCiPhErEd" is also present. At the bottom of the results section, small text notes the app version ("App v1.0.2, Updated 04/11/2016") and the developer ("Coded by Demonslay335").

Decryption Applications

- Not 100% effective
 - Verify the strain / version
 - Make sure the program is vetted
 - The hackers are updating too
 - Consult with security professionals



Deal or No Deal



Deal or No Deal?

- You want to avoid paying the ransom if possible
- Organizations learn the lesson a little too late.
- Paying the ransom?
 - make sure that you have fixed the issue
- Cybercriminals groups talk to each other
- Paying the ransom can get you on a future target list



Negotiate or Pay the Ransom



Pay the Ransom

- They want to get paid
- DECRYPT_INSTRUCTIONS.TXT or
- They will pretty much always tell you:
 - How much to pay
 - Where to pay
 - Amount of time left to pay the ransom
(countdown timer)



How do you pay cybercriminals?

- Install TOR browser
- Create a bitcoin wallet
- Purchase Bitcoin
- Coordinate where to send the funds
- Access TOR website
- Pay the money via Crypto Wallet
- Obtain decryption key
- Pay additional funds for them to delete their copies



Be aware of new US Sanctions that can prevent payment

- *Sanctioned the developer of Cryptolocker ransomware, Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev, in December 2016 (Cryptolocker was used to infect more than 234,000 computers starting in 2013, approximately half of which were in the US)*
- *Sanctioned two Iranians for providing material support to SamSam ransomware in November 2018 (SamSam was used to target mostly U.S. government institutions and companies starting in late 2015 and lasting approximately 34 months)*
- *Lazarus Group and two sub-groups, Bluenoroff and Andariel, were sanctioned in September 2019 (these groups were linked to WannaCry 2.0 ransomware that infected approximately 300,000 computers in at least 150 countries in May 2017)*
- *Evil Corp and its leader, Maksim Yakubets, were sanctioned in December 2019 (the Russia-based cybercrime organization used Dridex malware harvest login credentials from hundreds of banks and financial institutions in over 40 countries, causing more than \$100 million in theft starting with 2015; Evil Corp has recently added WastedLocker ransomware to its arsenal)*

Source: <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/darkside-ransomwares-iranian-hosting-raises-us-sanction-concerns/>

FINALLY...

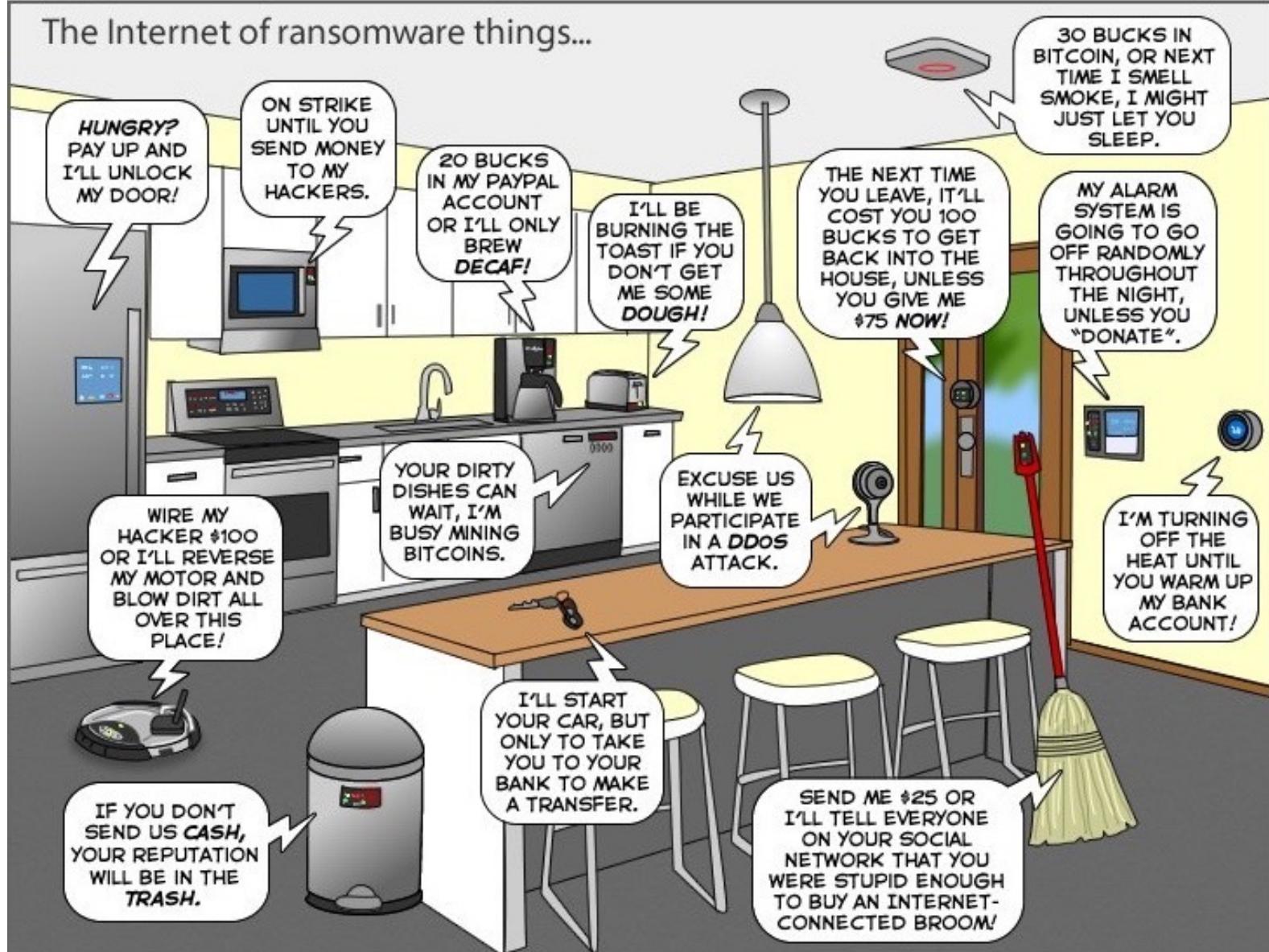


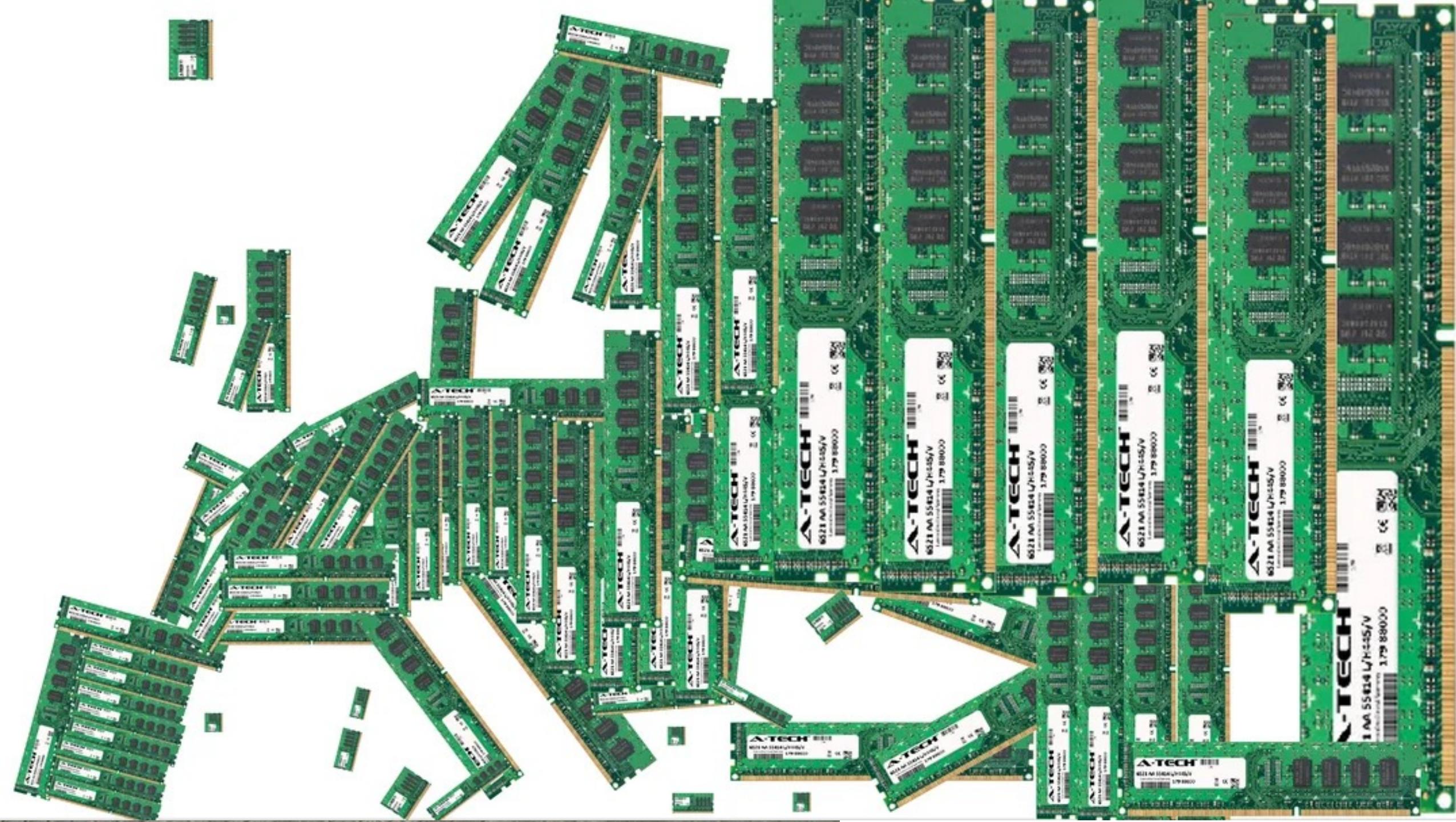
Rid Your Computer of All Ransomware & Malware

- Wipe the Machine & Reload
- Possible remaining malware artifacts undetectable to EDR
- Consider the risks of unknown remnants for future attack
- Organizations have been known to be hit twice!



Is this next for us with ransomware?





Defense



Ransomware Repositories

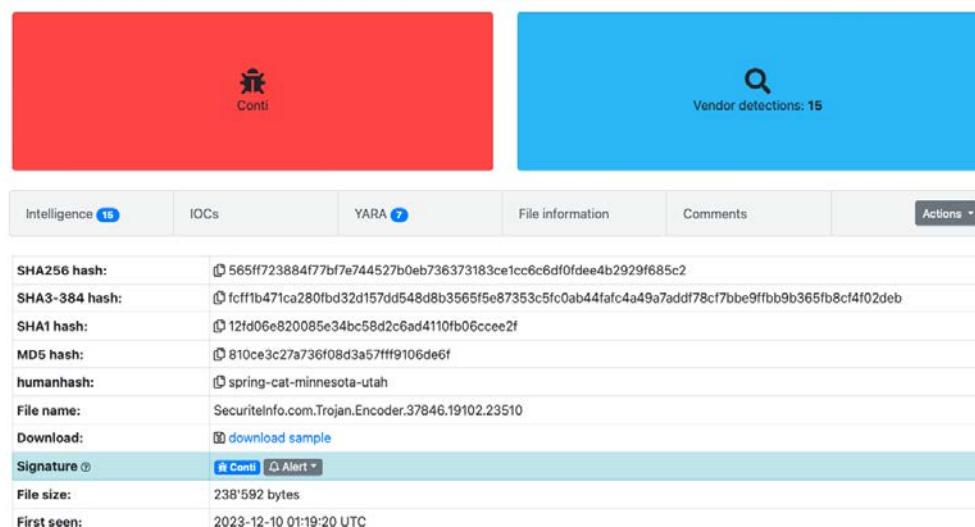


Browse / Malware sample

MalwareBazaar Database

You are currently viewing the MalwareBazaar entry for **SHA256 565ff723884f77bf7e744527b0eb736373183ce1cc6c6df0fdee4b2929f685c2**. While MalwareBazaar tries to identify whether the sample provided is malicious or not, there is no guarantee that a sample in MalwareBazaar is malicious.

Database Entry



Intelligence	IOCs	YARA	File information	Comments	Actions
SHA256 hash:	565ff723884f77bf7e744527b0eb736373183ce1cc6c6df0fdee4b2929f685c2				
SHA3-384 hash:	fcf1b471ca280fd32d157dd548d8b3565f5e87353c5fc0ab44fafc4a49a7addf78cf7bbe9ffbb9b365fb8cf4f02deb				
SHA1 hash:	12fd06e820085e34bc58d2c6ad4110fb06cceef				
MD5 hash:	810ce3c27a736f08d3a57fff9106de6f				
humanhash:	spring-cat-minnesota-utah				
File name:	SecuriteInfo.com.Trojan.Encoder.37846.19102.23510				
Download:	download sample				
Signature	Conti Alert				
File size:	238'592 bytes				
First seen:	2023-12-10 01:19:20 UTC				

- <https://bazaar.abuse.ch>
- <https://github.com/Da2dalus/The-MALWARE-Repo/tree/master>
- <https://github.com/Endermarch/MalwareDatabase>

Ransomware Best Practices



Train your users



Backups



Segment the network



Principle of least
privilege / MFA



Remove Internet
Facing RDP



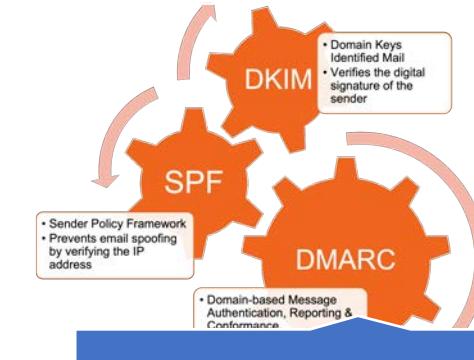
Keep up with Patches



IR/TTX



Insurance



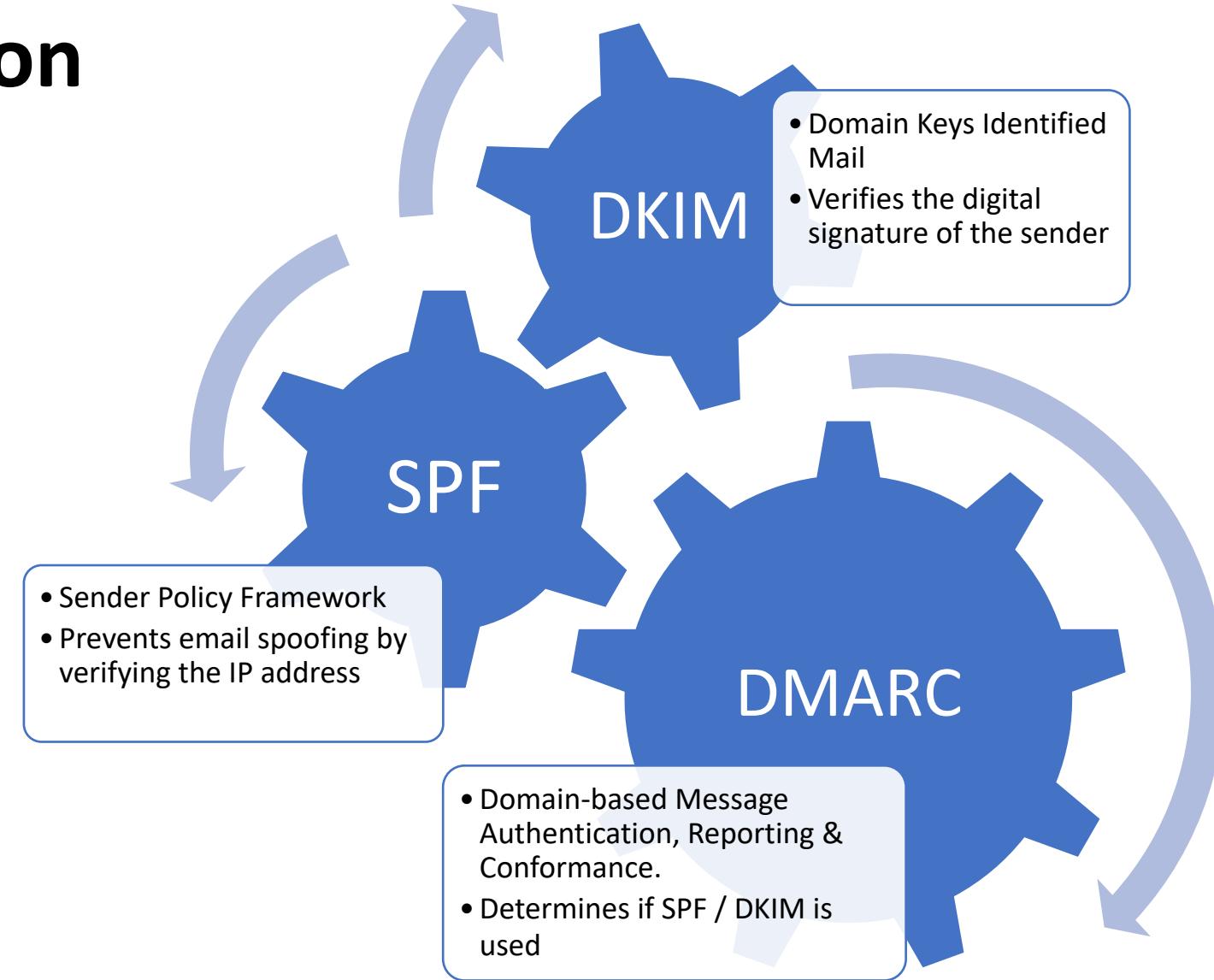
DKIM/SPF/DMARC

People, Process and Technology (PPT)

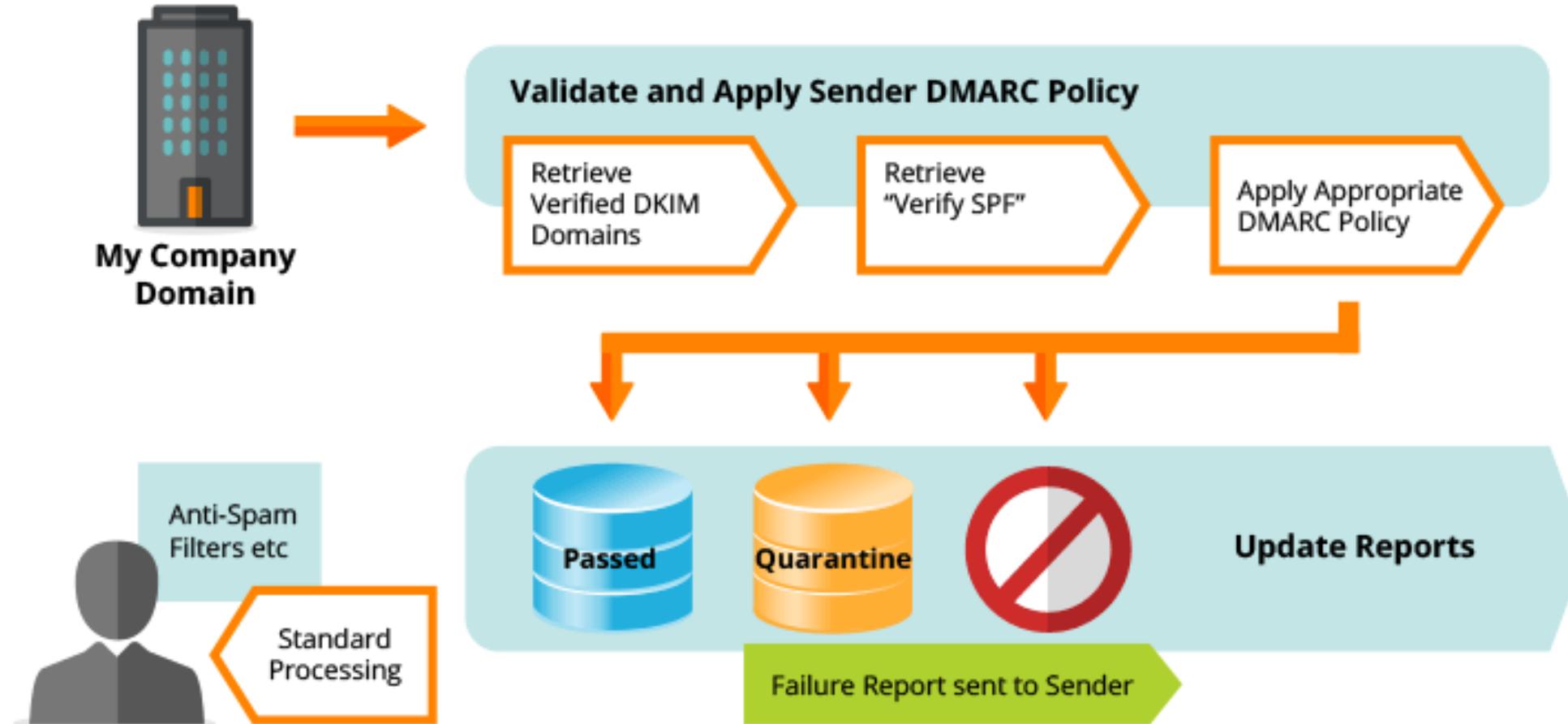
- People
 - Security Awareness Programs
 - Changing their behaviors, culture
 - Tabletop Exercises (Ransomware)
- Processes
 - VPNs for remote work
 - External Banners
 - Policy for education / training
 - Incident Response for Attack
- Technology
 - Email Filtering
 - Threat Detection & Response
 - DMARC (SPF/DKIM)
 - MFA



Email Protection



Email Protection



Email Protection

To check if your website and email
can be spoofed, please visit

<https://www.knowbe4.com/domain-spoof-test/>

For the Domain Spoof Test
It's FREE!

Security Awareness & Training



Baseline Testing

We provide baseline testing to assess the Phish-Prone™ percentage of your users through a free simulated phishing attack.



Train Your Users

The world's largest library of security awareness training content; including interactive modules, videos, games, posters and newsletters. Automated training campaigns with scheduled reminder emails.



Phish Your Users

Best-in-class, fully automated simulated phishing attacks, thousands of templates with unlimited usage, and community phishing templates.



See the Results

Enterprise-strength reporting, showing stats and graphs for both training and phishing, ready for management. Show the great ROI!



Patching Sequence

ASAP

CISA Known
Exploited
Vulnerability
Catalog List

Is Being Actively
Exploited



Fairly Quickly

Exploit Code Publicly
Available & involves
popular remotely
exploitable services
& products

Is Likely to Be
Actively Exploited



Prepare to Patch

Exploit Code is
Publicly Available

Maybe Actively
Exploited



< 1 Month

Involves Popularly
Exploited Apps or
Services, but exploit
code not yet
publicly available

Maybe Actively
Exploited



**Whenever
Possible**

Everything Else

Less Likely to be
Actively Exploited

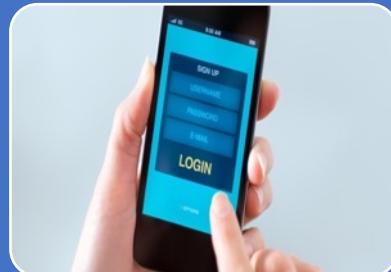


Multi Factor Authentication (1 Factor, 2 Factor, 3 Factor)



SMS (Restricted by US Government)

- It's okay – not the best
- Unfortunately, this is commonly used



Application (Phishable with MitM Attacks)

- Code Generated in App
- Make sure you can back them up

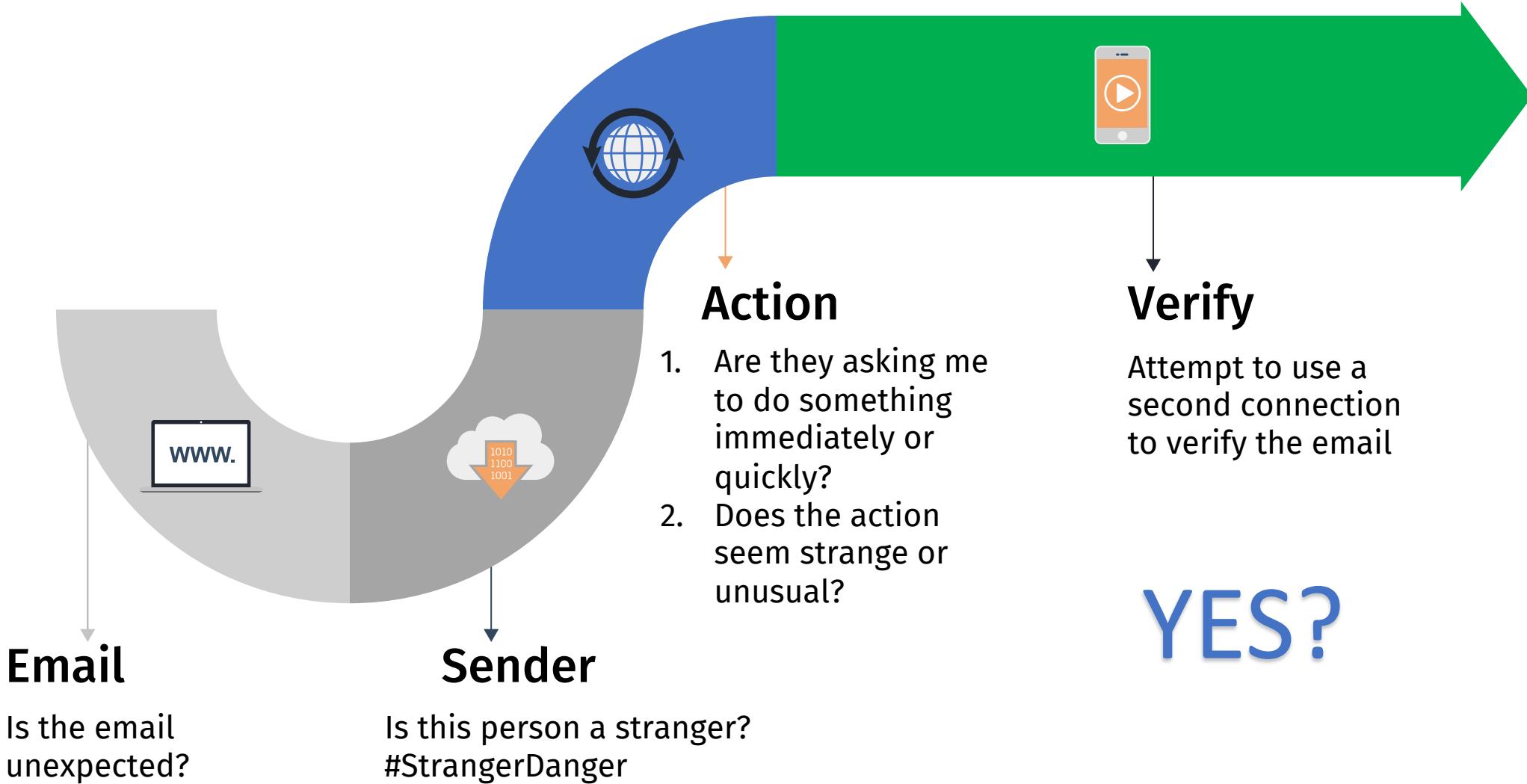


Hardware (FIDO Approved)

- Uses a hardware token, like a Yubikey or your smartphone
- Can be inconvenient when forgotten or damaged



3 Questions to Ask Your Email





Zero Trust Mindset

- Not trusting anything by default
- Verifying everything
- Applied to humans it calls for:
 - Politely Paranoid
 - Be skeptical
 - Constant verification
- Mindfulness practices encourage to:
 - pause before reacting
 - engage intentionally and thoughtfully.

Social Engineering Defense in Depth

Mitigate

- Aggressively Mitigate Social Engineering
 - People, Processes, Technology

Patch

- Patch Exploited Software & Firmware
 - Monitor the CISA KEV Catalog (Known Exploited Vulnerabilities)

MFA

- Use MFA Wherever Possible
 - Non-phishable MFA too, Avoid SMS and verify all requests that you didn't initiate

SPOT

- Learn how to Spot Rogue URLs
 - No longer – don't click on links, or check your links, make sure they know how

DiNGS

- Remember to use DiNG style of passwords
 - Different, Non-Guessable, Strong





amazon
aws services

3 Tips from CyberCriminals

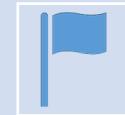


Ransomware Operator



- SysAdmin
- Arrogant to being captured
- CompTIA / Cisco Certifications
- Pentester, consultant, negotiator and not a criminal
- Doesn't fear the FBI.... Fears Mandiant
- Ransomware Operators make millions
- Watches Netflix for serial killer documentaries
- Uses Shadow Banker for laundering \$\$\$
- LLC created to launder money, sometimes uses OnlyFans
- Hates Americans, but wishes they were born here and working for Google

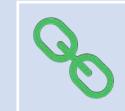
3 Tips from Cybercriminals (with a bonus tip)



Patch



Isolate Backup



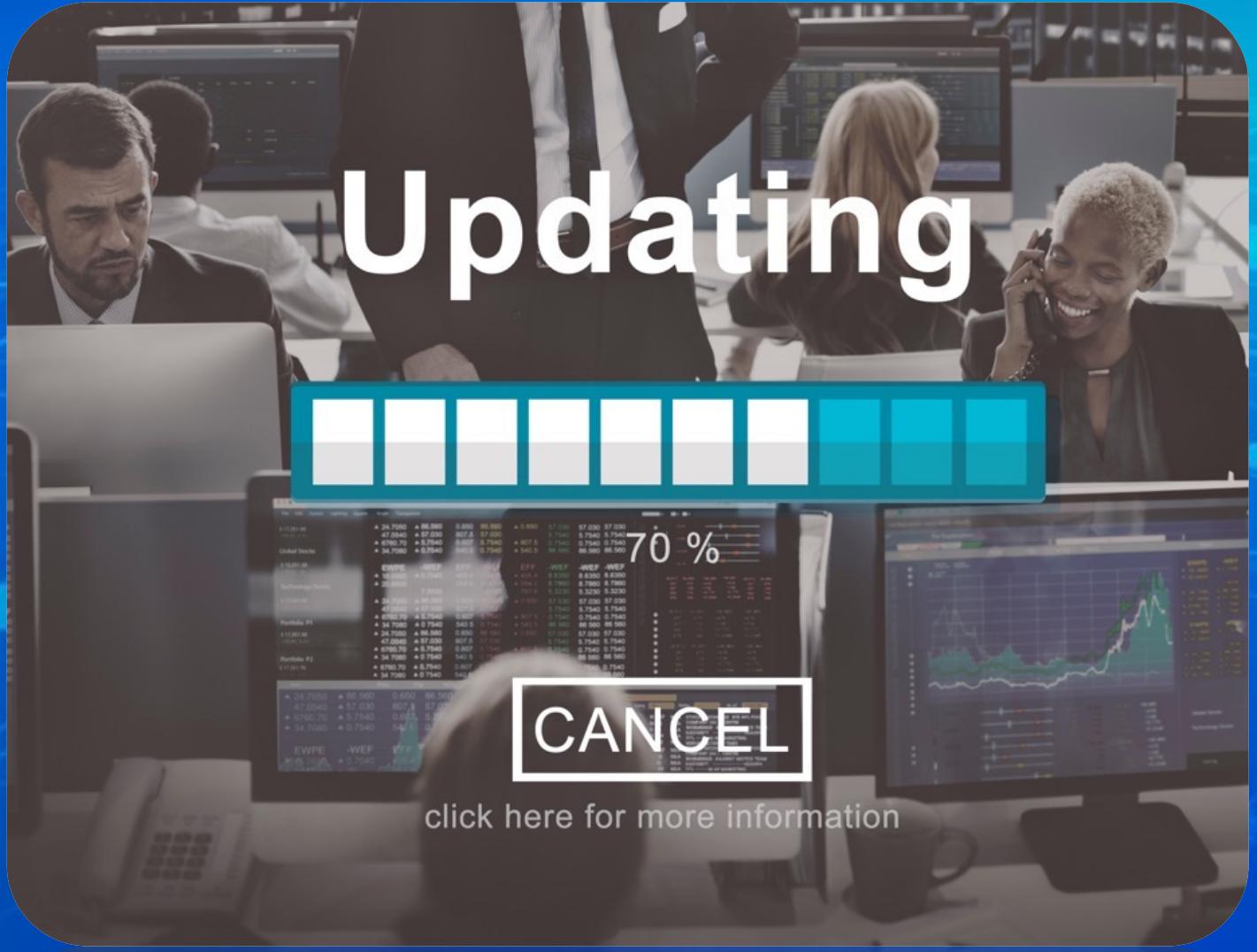
Check the links



Credential Stuffing

Tip #1

Patch



First – Target the Networks



Hacker's_Quick_Start_en-US.txt

PREDICTION

The purpose of the document is to give a quick dive into computer and network hacking;
the audience – IT professionals with no such experience, with experience in system programming and administration.

NETWORK LANDSCAPES

Any (almost) modern network can be hacked.

This is due to:

- The redundancy of networks: having many services, different entry points to the same network;
- the priority of convenience over security: a prison is safe, but it is very difficult to do anything in it;
- the human factor: configuration errors, social engineering.

The second point is reinforced by the tangible profit reaction to the slightest slowdown in turnover in the commercial sector,

so without a military transition, the networks of capitalism will always be leaky)

<https://habr.com/ru/company/selectel/blog/576482/>

If there are no *known* vulnerabilities in the entry points found, this only means that

- you have to look for other entry points;
- you have to look for vulnerabilities yourself (if you really need to get into the network);
- you have to look for a person;
- you have to look for another target with the same information.

Tip #2 Isolate Backups





REMEMBER 3 - 2 – 1

- 3 backups
 - 2 local (original & backup)
 - 1 off network / cloud
- Test & check your backups
- Full, Differential, Incremental
- Versioning



Tip #3 Check Links



Check for Rogue URLs

- Check your links!
- Look for transposed letters or used other symbols in the websites
 - Micorsoft.com (transposed)
 - G00GLE.com (similar letters)
 - Bankofarnerica.com (combined r n -> m)
 - wikipedia.org vs wikipedia.org (homograph)

THE RED FLAGS OF ROGUE URLs

Look-a-Alike Domains

Domain names which seem to belong to respected, trusted brands.

Slight Misspellings

- Microsoftnline <v5pz@onmicrosoft.com>
- www.llnedin.com

Brand name in URL, but not real brand domain

- ee.microsoft.co.login-update-dec20.info
- www.paypal.com.bank/logon?user=johnsmith@gmail.com
- ww17.googlechromeupdates.com/

Brand name in email address but doesn't match brand domain

- Bank of America <BankofAmerica@customerloyalty.accounts.com>

Brand name is in URL but not part of the domain name

- devopsnw.com/login.microsoftonline.com?userid=johnsmith

URL Domain Name Encoding

- https://%77%77%6B%6E%6F%77%62%654.%63%6F%6D

Shortened URLs

When clicking on a shortened URL, watch out for malicious redirection.

- https://bit.ly/2SnA7Fnm

Domain Mismatches

Human Services .gov
<Desplina.Orrantia6731610@gmx.com>

- https://www.le-blog-qui-assure.com/

Strange Originating Domains

MAERSK
<info@onlinealxex.com.pl>

Overly Long URLs

URLs with 100 or more characters in order to obscure the true domain.

- http://innocentwebsite.com/irs.gov/logon/fasdkjg-sajdkjndfjnjkaskldjfbkajsdjfklbasdf/adsnfjksdngkfdgfjhfgd/ght.php

File Attachment is an Image/Link

It looks like a file attachment, but is really an image file with a malicious URL.

- INV39391.pdf 52 KB
- https://d.pr/free/l/saeoc Click or tap to follow link.

Open Redirectors

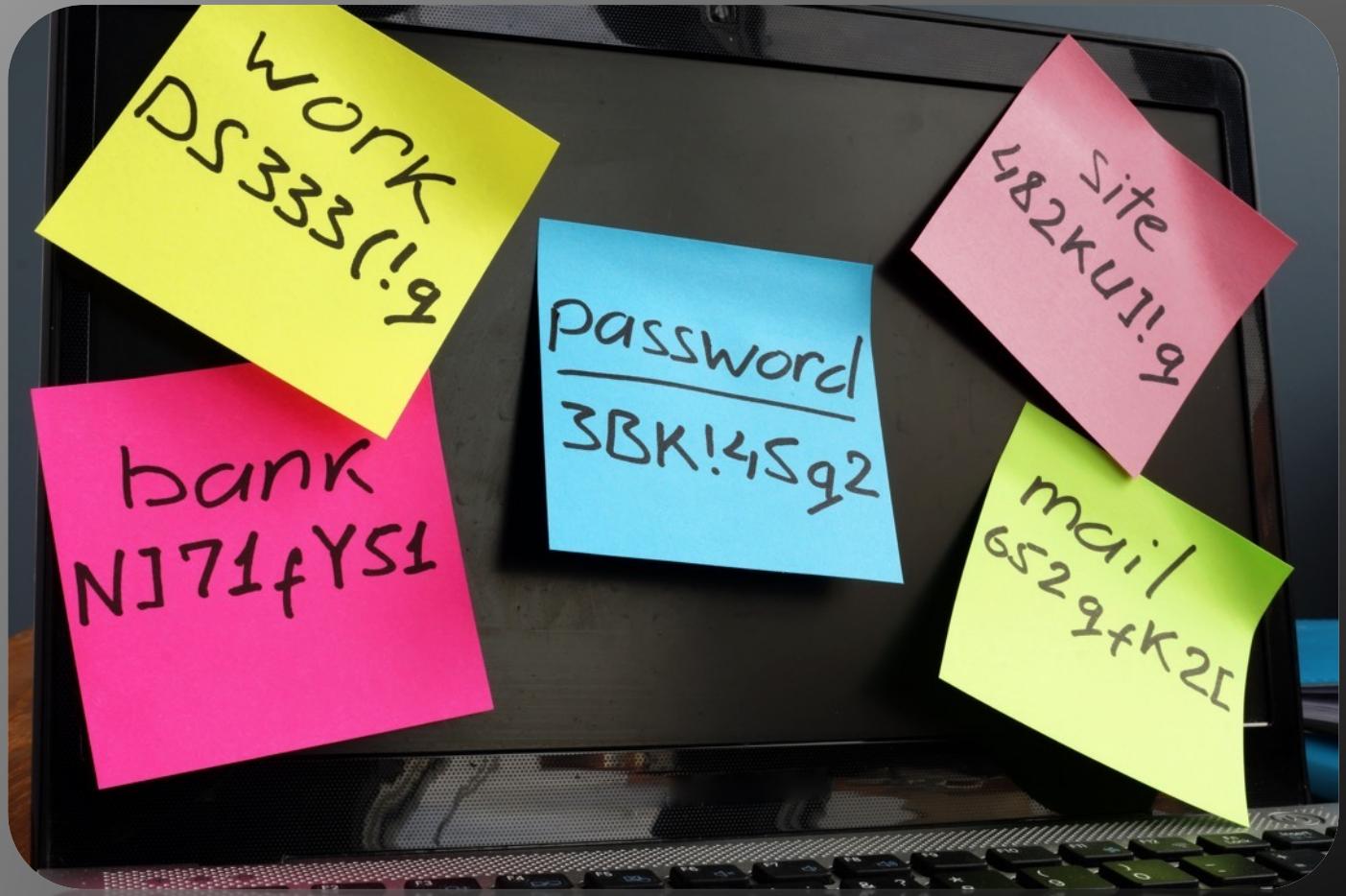
URLs which have hidden links to completely different web sites at the end.

- t-info.mail.adobe.com/r/?id=hc347a&p1=evilwebsite.com

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Human error. Conquered.

Bonus Tip: Credential Stuffing





Citrix Application
Portal



UnitedHealth / Change / Optum

- Feb 21 - Ransomware attack
- March 3 – Paid ALPHV/BlackCat \$22 million
- March 11 – MS hospitals are losing \$24 million a day – impacting 94% of US hospitals
- **Access via stolen credentials with no MFA via VPN to a Citrix Portal**
- CEO doesn't know how many Americans impacted due to breach
- Failed to implement security measures by CISA from Dec 2023

Most Secure Woman?



MFA



Emma Faye



Multifactor
Authentication

Wrap-up





Humans are the
number one **attack vector** and
a critical layer of your security program.

Advice from Conti

- Restrict access to servers for regular users
- Use different passwords
- Check admins' activity on servers once a week
- Install EDR on every computer
- Set up a more complex storage system
- Protect LSASS dump on all computers

Rid Your Computer of All Ransomware & Malware

- Wipe the Machine & Reload
- Possible remaining malware artifacts undetectable to EDR
- Consider the risks of unknown remnants for future attack
- Organizations have been known to be hit twice!



KnowBe4 Ransomware Resources

- **Ransomware Portal**
<https://www.knowbe4.com/ransomware>
- **Ransomware Hostage Rescue Manual**
<https://info.knowbe4.com/ransomware-hostage-rescue-manual-0>
- **Ransomware Response Step-by-Step Checklist**
<https://www.knowbe4.com/ransomware#ransomware-checklist>
- **Ransomware Simulator (Ransim)**
<https://www.knowbe4.com/ransomware-simulator>





SCREENSHOT



James R. McQuiggan, CISSP

jmcquiggan@knowbe4.com

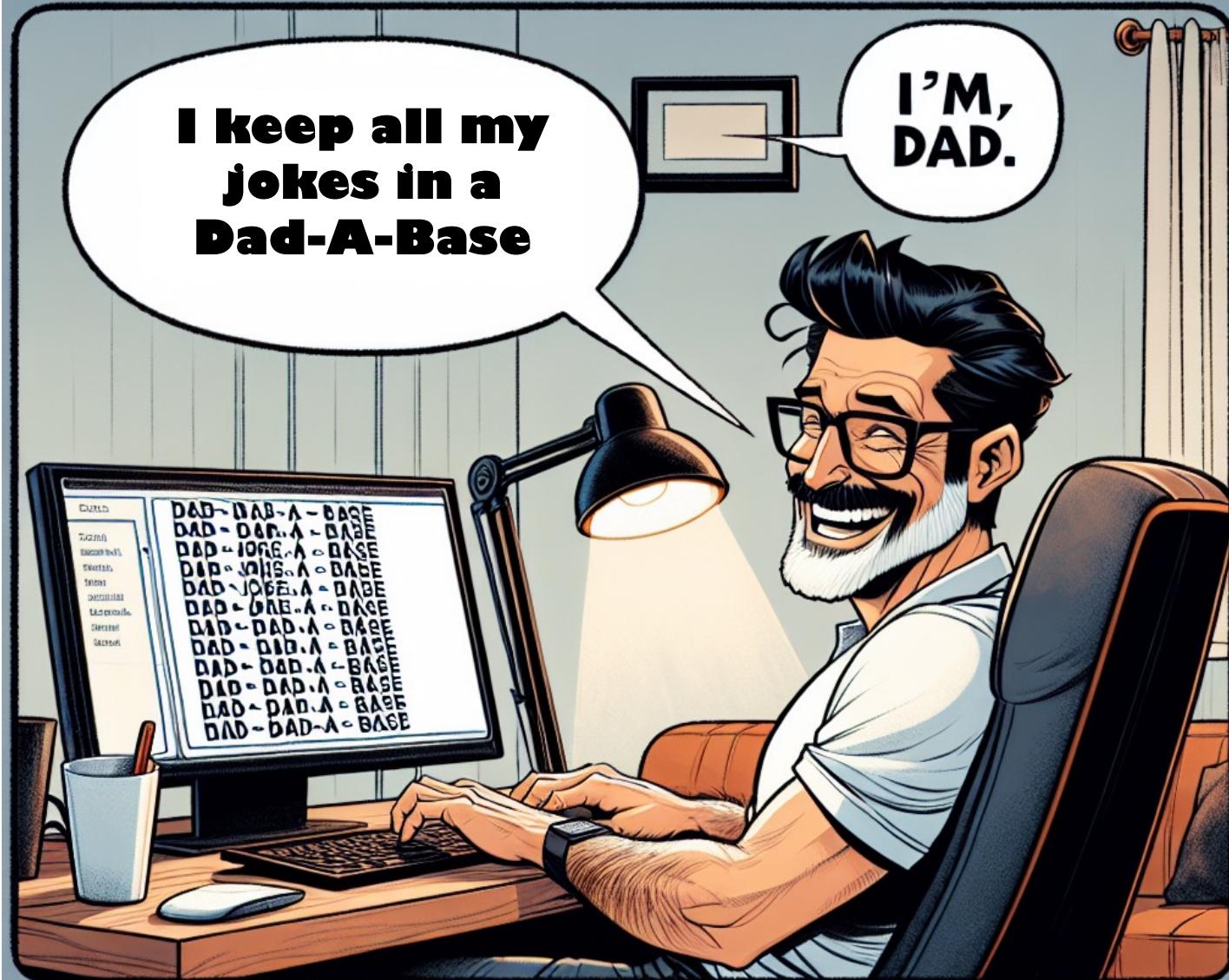
LinkedIn: jmcquiggan

X: @james_mcquiggan

blog.knowbe4.com



**Yes... I have a
way of keeping
track of my
Dad Jokes**





YouTube

Search

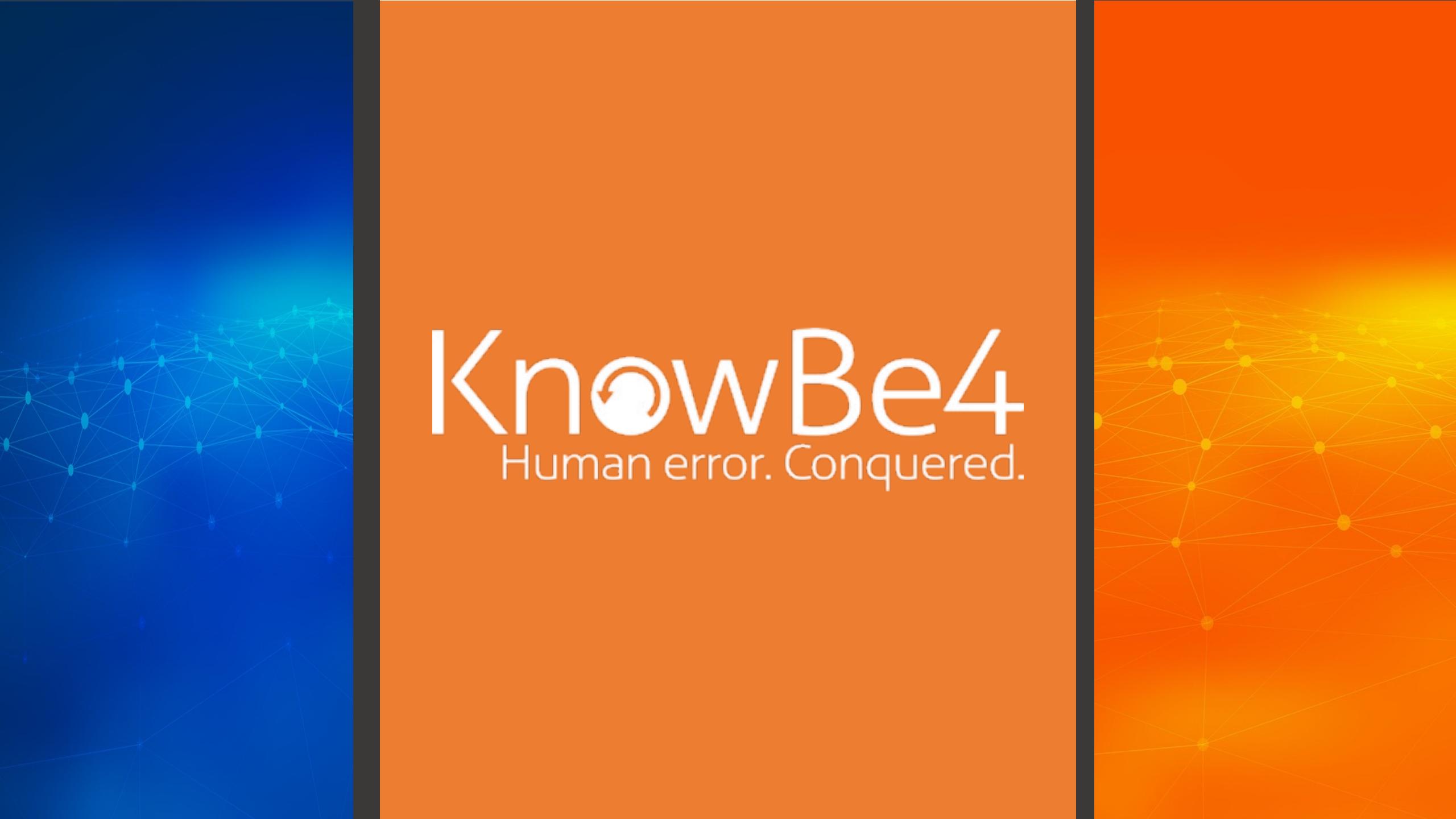
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