

# The implications and interferences of Spear Phishing in the 2016 United States Election.

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# Cybercrime

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Global + Transnational Issue



Increased Anonymity



Easier Access to Victims

# Social Engineering

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“manipulation technique that exploits  
human error to gain private  
information, access, or valuables.”

# Social Engineering

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Phishing

Quid Pro Quo

Blackmail

Baiting

Pretexting

Tailgating

# Phishing

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Phishing



Spear Phishing



Whaling



# Social Engineering

## Phishing

## Spear Phishing

## Whaling

# The Case

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## 2016 USA Presidential Election

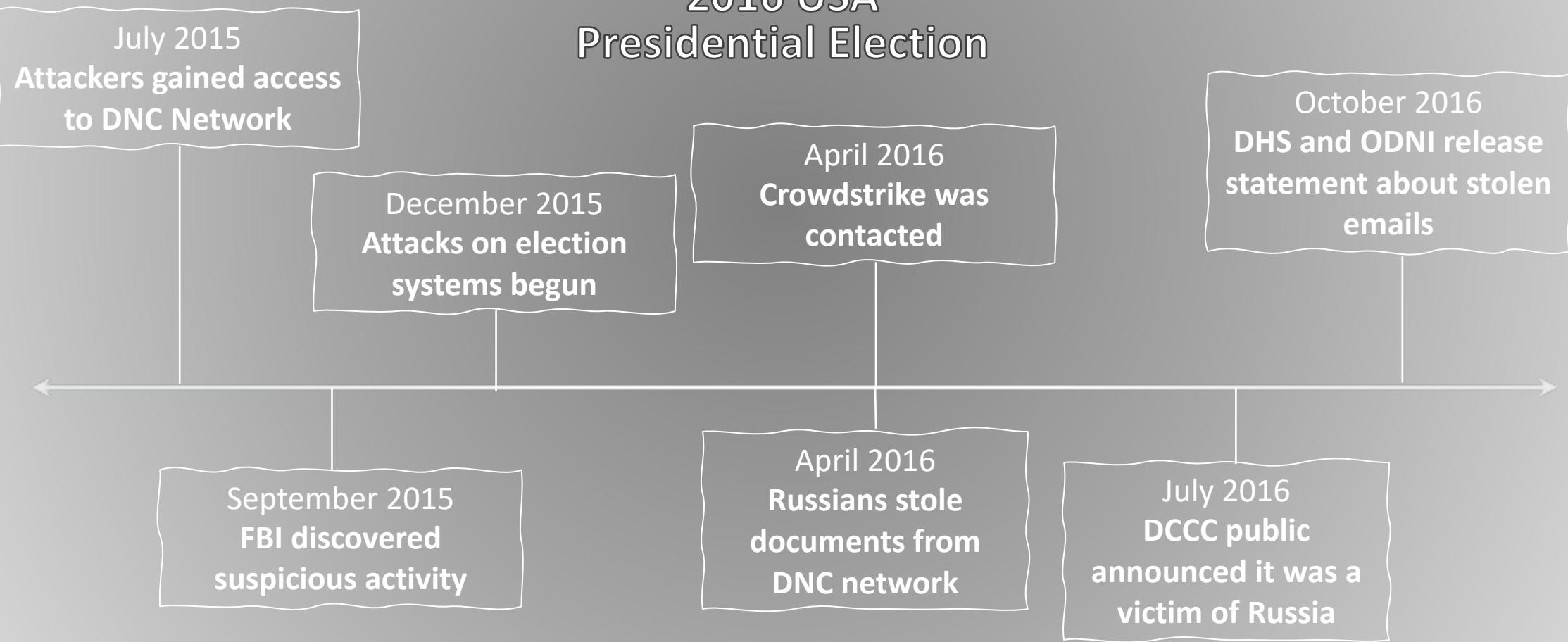
John Podesta receives  
an email requesting a  
password reset

Asks Help Desk if  
it's legitimate

Help Desk typo  
replies legitimate  
instead of illegitimate

# The Case

## 2016 USA Presidential Election



# 2016 USA Presidential Election

DNC

Democratic  
National Committee

DCCC

Democratic Congressional  
Campaign Committee

John Podesta

GRU

(Russian Intelligence  
Agency)

FANCY Bear

COZY Bear

# The Malicious Act

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Hacked into the  
DNC network  
through the email  
account of John  
Podesta



Stole thousands of  
documents:  
70GB from the  
Clinton Campaign  
300GB from the DNC

# How they did it

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Used servers located in the United States



Sent dozens of spear phishing emails over 5 days



Gained access to John Podesta's email account

# The Repercussions

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Mueller Report

Crowdstrike

Reduced the chances of  
Clinton winning the 2016  
election

# Applications of Crime Theories

## Rational Choice Theory



(Cornish & Clarke, 1987)

## Deterrence Theory

### Criminal Conduct

Lack of Severity

Lack of Certainty

Lack of Celerity

(Beccaria, Marchese, Bellamy, Davies & Cox, 1995)

# Techniques of Neutralisation

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“the criminality can be neutralised by justifying the act”

Denial of  
the Victim

Condemn the  
Condemner

(Sykes & Matza, 1957)

# Routine Activity Theory

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Motivations + Opportunity - Guardians = Crime

(Cohen & Felson, 1979)

# The Issue of Law

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Did Hillary  
actually break  
the law?



Is it careless  
behaviour or  
criminal conduct?

# The Issue of Law

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Did Clinton know she was putting classified information into an unclassified system?



Did she “wilfully communicate” classified information to anyone not authorised to receive it?

Did she remove classified information “with the intent to retain such documents or materials at an unauthorised location?”

# Treaty

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## *Budapest Convention on Crime*

Russia Federation has previously refused to sign the Convention, stating that the adoption would go against the Russian Sovereignty. However, Russia currently sits as an observer country but only in its quality of the Member State of the Council of Europe.

# Solutions

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SETA Education  
Security Education  
Training Awareness

# Solutions

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## Policy Reform

Enforcing sanctions or controls to individuals and organisations failing to engage in correct legal avenues