

## CSCI 331: Introduction to Computer Security

### Lecture 18: Physical security

Instructor: Dan Barowy  
**Williams**

### Topics

Social engineering  
Physical security



### Announcements

- Friday's colloquium: **Su Lin Blodgett** (MSR Montreal) social implications of NLP tech.
- Final project presentations:  
Sat, Dec 18 1:30-3pm  
Sat, Dec 18 3:30-5pm

### Your to-dos

1. Reading response (Blaze), **due Wed 11/17**.
2. Lab 7, **due Sunday 11/21**.
3. Last two reading responses:
  - a. Reading response (Thompson/Stoll), **due Wed 12/1**.
  - b. Reading response (Provos), **due Wed 12/8**.

## Social engineering attacks

## Social Engineering

**Social engineering**, in the context of information security, is the **psychological manipulation of people** into **performing actions** or **divulging confidential information**.

- Cognitive biases
- Social/cultural pressures

## Heuristics

**Heuristics** are simple strategies or mental processes that we use to **quickly form judgments**. Heuristic processes are **used to find solutions** that are approximately correct; however, **they are not foolproof**.

**Attack:** People do not think logically about risk. E.g., hackers reading your emails are far less likely (and possibly less consequential) than your spouse reading your emails.

## Example

Linda is 31 years old, single, outspoken, and very bright. She majored in philosophy. As a student, she was deeply concerned with issues of discrimination and social justice, and also participated in anti-nuclear demonstrations.

Which is more probable?

- 1.Linda is a bank teller.
- 2.Linda is a bank teller and is active in the feminist movement.

## Reciprocity

In cultural anthropology, **reciprocity** refers to the non-market exchange of goods or labor where **a return is eventually expected** as in the exchange of birthday gifts.

**Attack:** People can be tricked into giving away valuable things. E.g., romance scams, phishing.

## Human Vulnerabilities

**This list is not exhaustive!**

- Cognitive bias
  - Heuristics
  - Consistency
- Social/cultural pressures
  - Conformity
  - Authority
- Reciprocity

## Physical security

“Government security requirements, in general, state: if a vulnerability or a security deficiency is believed to exist, it must be presumed to actually exist until it can be proven, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the vulnerability does not exist, or that a security violation could not possibly have occurred.”

—The Inadvertest Adversary to Nuclear Security—Ourselves, Don D. Darling

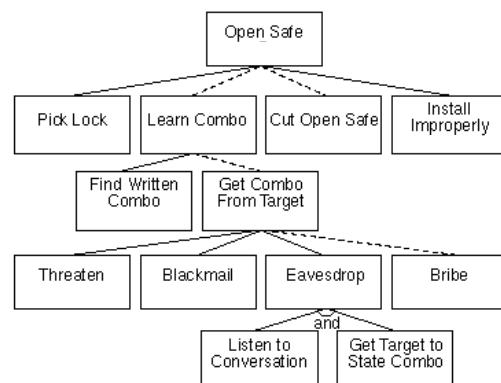
## Physical security

**Physical security** describes analysis **processes** and **countermeasures**, both physical and psychological, whose aim is to deny unauthorized access to facilities, equipment, and resources, and **to protect personnel and property** from damage or harm.

## Physical security

- Analysis tools
  - Risk-reward analysis
  - Analysis of attacker motivations
  - Checklists / knowledge of common vulnerabilities
  - Wargaming
- Impediments
  - Perception of risk
  - Obstacles to movement
  - Intrusion detection
  - Response

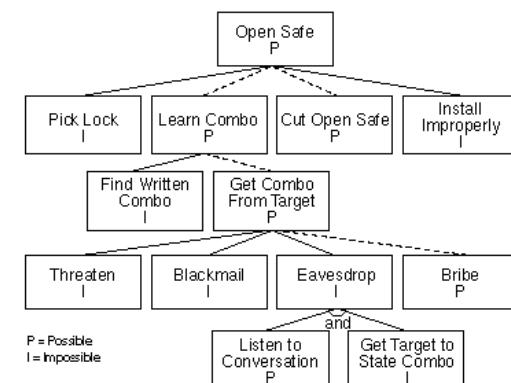
## Attack trees



[Attack Trees](#), Bruce Schneier, Dr. Dobb's Journal, December 1999.

[https://www.schneier.com/academic/archives/1999/12/attack\\_trees.html](https://www.schneier.com/academic/archives/1999/12/attack_trees.html)

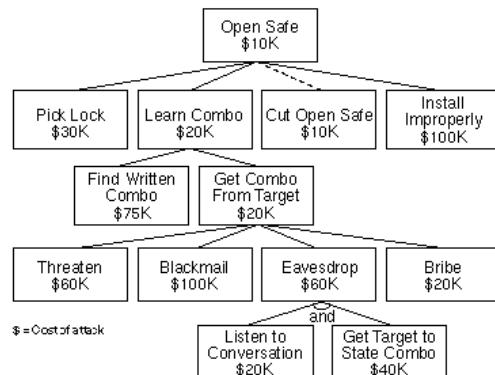
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## Analysis

### ATTRIBUTES OF POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES TO U.S. NUCLEAR PROGRAMS<sup>1</sup>

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## Motivations

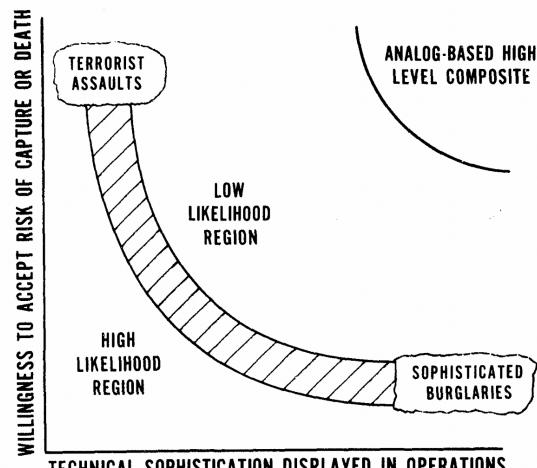
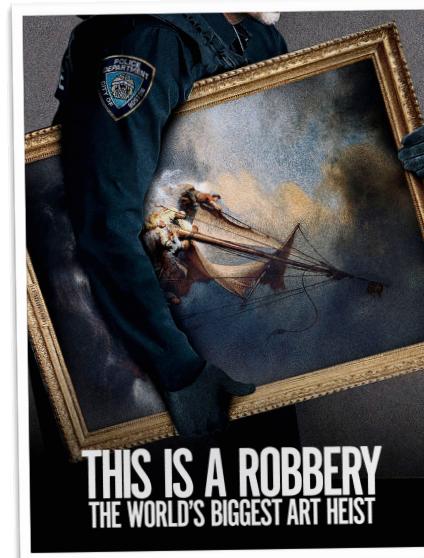


FIGURE 6. Dedication vs. sophistication.

## Motivations



## Motivations

SPECIFICITY IS:	
INSTRUMENTAL	AFFECTIVE
SELECTED	BARGAINING POLITICAL STATEMENT
RANDOM	SOCIAL PARALYSIS MASS CASUALTIES

FIGURE 5. *Typology of terrorist behavior motivations.*

## Checklists



### Physically Secure Location Checklist for CJIS Workstation

Agencies must ensure the following provisions are met in order to meet the requirements of a physically secure location as defined by the CJIS Security Policy, Section 5.9:

"A physically secure location is a facility, a police vehicle, or an area, a room, or a group of rooms within a facility with both the physical and personnel security controls sufficient to protect Criminal Justice Information (CJI) and associated information systems. The physically secure location is subject to criminal justice agency management control; State Identification Bureau (SIB) control; FBI CJIS Security Addendum; or a combination thereof."

- Prominently post signs designating the building/office as a physically secure area
- Maintain a list of personnel with authorized access/issue credentials to authorized personnel
- Maintain control of all physical access points and verify individual access authorization before granting access
- Maintain physical control over all areas where equipment is located (computer, wire closet, etc.)
- Ensure computers are positioned in such a way that unauthorized individuals cannot view it
- Ensure all those with access to the physically secure area have completed the appropriate security awareness training
- Monitor physical access and respond to physical security incidents
- Authenticate visitors before they enter the physically secure area / Escort visitors at all times and monitor visitor activity
- Authorize and control the movement of physical equipment in/out of the physically secure area

If an agency is unable to meet all of the requirements listed above, they may place the CJI equipment and printed material in a separate internal office/area with limited access that meets the following requirements as defined by the CJIS Security Policy, Section 5.9.2, Controlled Area:

- Limit access to agency personnel that are authorized to access/view CJI
- Ensure all those with access to the physically secure area have completed the appropriate security awareness training

## Checklists

<https://www.dma.usda.gov/physicalsecurity/physicalcheck.pdf>

## Wargaming

**Red-teaming** is a structured, iterative process executed by trained, educated and practiced team members that provides defenders with an independent capability to **continuously challenge plans**, operations, concepts, organizations and capabilities in the context of the operational environment and from **partner and adversarial perspectives**.

## Perception of risk



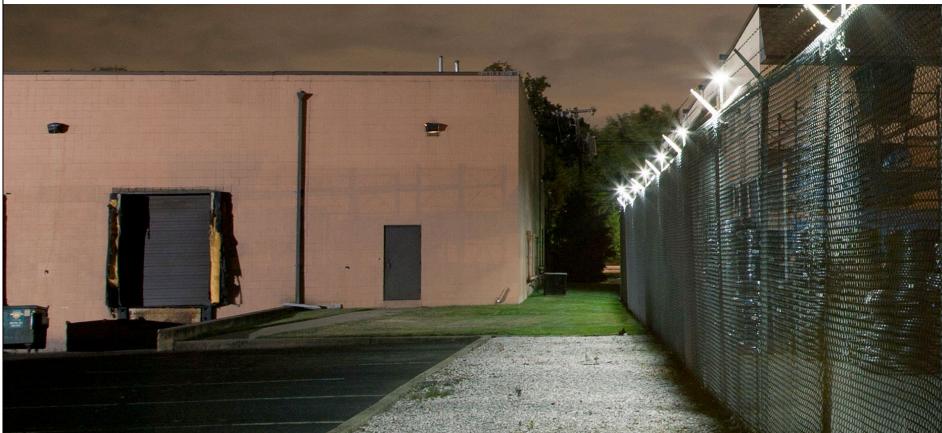
Nike Missile Site HM-69 (now a part of the Everglades National Park)

## Perception of risk



Perimeter warnings

## Perception of risk



Security lighting

## Perception of risk



(really scary) guards

## Movement obstacles



Locking door

## Movement obstacles



Gate

## Movement obstacles



Retractable bollard

## Movement obstacles



Jersey barrier

## Movement obstacles



## Intrusion detection



Video surveillance (CCTV)

## Intrusion detection



Alarm system

## Intrusion detection (sensors)

- Reed switch
- Motion detector (using EM, collimated beams, or sound)
- Glass-break/movement detector (accelerometer)



## Response



Security responders (Univ. at Buffalo)

## Common vulnerabilities



Mostly “secure” only on one side: the outside



## Hinge vulnerability

More on combo attack: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxgbY4wTES0>

## Recap & Next Class

### Today we learned:

Physical security basics

Some common physical vulnerabilities

### Next class:

More common physical vulnerabilities

Locks