

SWEET DECEPTIONS
THE ART OF CUSTOMIZING HONEYPODS

Kat Fitzgerald
Staff Security Engineer

@rnbwkat
@rnbwkat@infosec.exchange

evilkat@rnbwmail.com

BSIDES
BUDAPEST

1

\$ whoami

- CEO @BSidesChicago,
2019 COO @dianainitiative,
CFP Lead @BSidesPGH, DefCon 3!
- Based in Chicago and a natural creature of winter,
you can typically find me sipping Casa Noblé
Añejo whilst simultaneously defending my systems
using OSS, magic spells and Dancing Flamingos
- Honeypots, Refrigerators and IoT (Internet of
Threats) are a few of my favorite things
- Pentester!!

2

DISCLAIMER

- The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any current or previous employer. Examples of exploitations, coding and vulnerabilities discussed within this presentation are only examples and they should not be utilized in the real-world.
- *Complexity is the Enemy of Security*



3

DISCLAIMER (PART 2)

- I'm obsessed(?) with home security labs and honeypots
- If you want to have a life, perhaps tone it down a bit
- YMMV

4

WHY WE ARE NOT HERE

- This is not a demo of 5000 different honeypots
- I'm not showing you all my honeypots (duh)
- Honeypots are only PART of your Security Posture



5

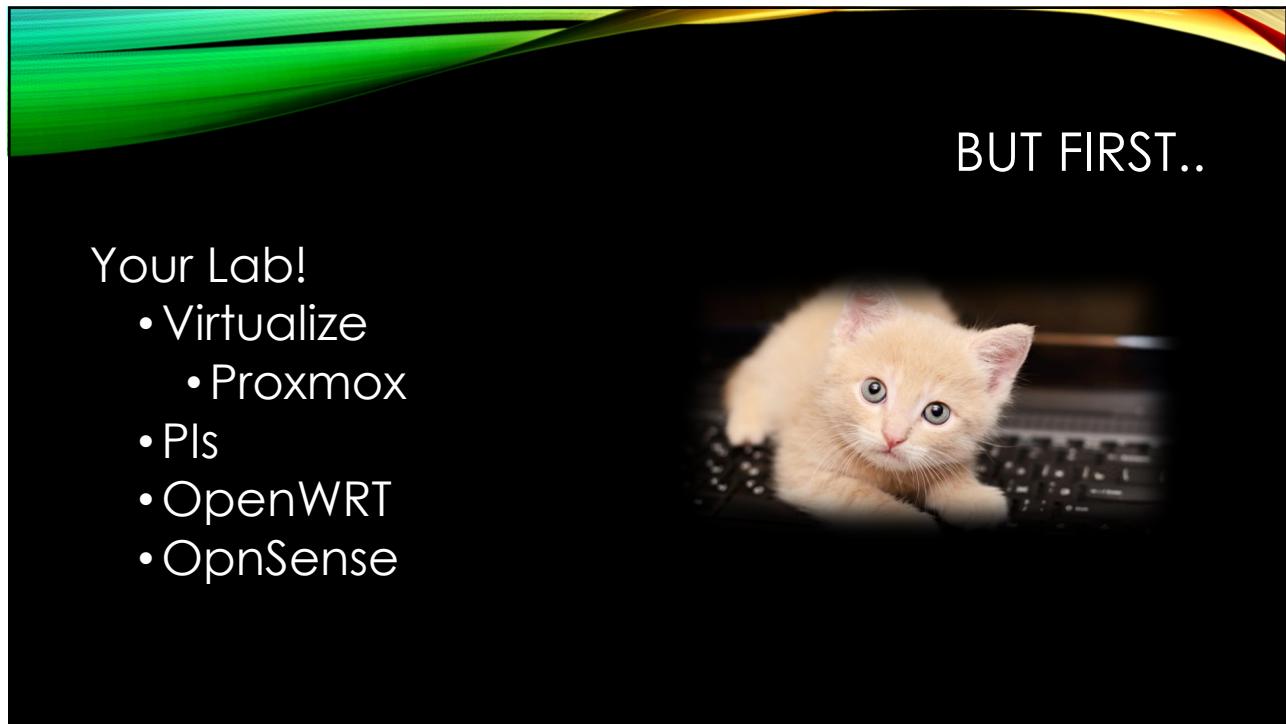
WHY WE ARE HERE

- Spending exceeded \$161 billion - 2022
- Attacks and breaches are commonplace
- Security “stuff” is vulnerable
- Lateral Movement – (*this will become more important*)
- But what about –
 - Your Security Architecture is not unique
 - What is your “typical day”

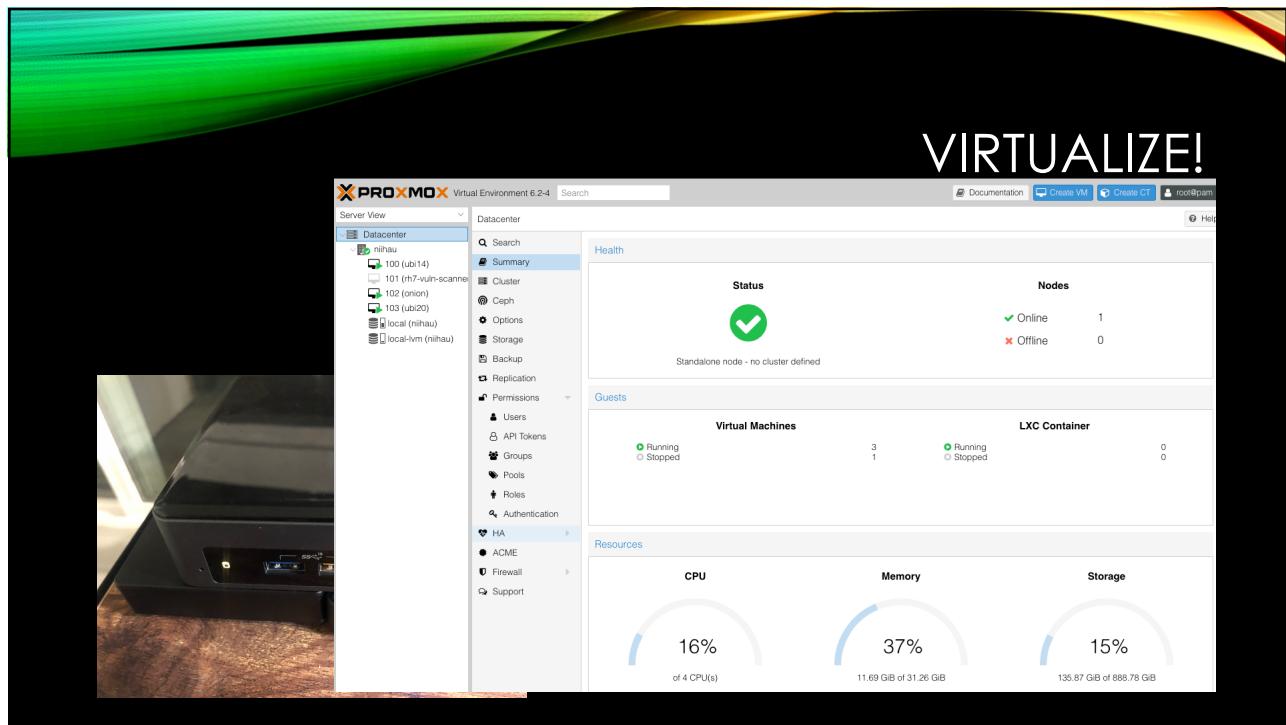


Instead of Brilliance, we have standardized mediocrity.
– John Strand, Offensive Countermeasures

6



7



8



9



10

MONITORING WAZUH.COM

The dashboard displays several key metrics and visualizations:

- Alert level evolution:** A line chart showing alert counts over time (timestamp per 3 hours) from November 13 to 18, 2020. The Y-axis ranges from 0 to 6,000. The legend indicates alert levels: 3 (purple), 4 (dark blue), 5 (green), 6 (light green), 7 (pink), 8 (orange), 9 (yellow), and 10 (red).
- Top 5 agents:** A donut chart showing the distribution of alerts across five agents: mauli (orange), gobo (blue), keywest (dark red), kermit (yellow-green), and beaker (dark red).
- Alerts evolution - Top 5 agents:** A bar chart showing the count of alerts for the top 5 agents over the same time period as the first chart.
- Top MITRE ATT&CKs:** A donut chart showing the distribution of MITRE ATT&CK techniques. The legend includes:
 - Valid Accounts
 - Brute Force
 - Stored Data Manip...
 - Commonly Used Port
 - Exploit Public-Faci...
 - Data Destruction
 - File Deletion
 - File and Directory Di...
 - Process Injection
 - Remote Services
 - Disabling Security T...
 - Sudo

```
curl -s0 https://packages.wazuh.com/4.7/wazuh-install.sh && sudo bash ./wazuh-install.sh -a
```

11

		Description
data.eventid	cowie.login.s	
data.message	login attempt	raju tried to login to honeypot.
data.password	password	
data.sensor	sasha	nproc tried to login to honeypot.
data.session	d5c6623bde	
data.src_ip		root logged into honeypot.
data.timestamp	2022-08-07T	nproc tried to login to honeypot.
data.username	root	
decoder.name	json	root logged into honeypot.
full_log	{"eventid":"cc succeeded","	pinkfloyd tried to login to honeypot.
id	1659883190.	amministratore tried to login to honeypot.
input.type	log	Integrity checksum changed
location	/home/aladin,	nproc tried to login to honeypot.
manager.name	honeydew	
rule.description	root logged in	zimbra tried to login to honeypot.
		coinfo tried to login to honeypot.
		jmjarre tried to login to honeypot.

12

HONEYPOTS

- Honeypots vs Deception
 - A resource with no value(?)
 - Value = Use of Resource
 - Does Not Hack Back
- Important Points
 - Deployment
 - Customization = Planning! (more on this)
 - 100's of "types"

13

PICK ONE

- OpenCanary -- opencanary.readthedocs.io/en/latest/
- Honey Badger -- github.com/adhdproject/honeybadger
- LLM powered-- github.com/0x4D31/galah
- CHN-- communityhoneynetwork.readthedocs.io/en/stable/
- Canarytokens -- canarytokens.org/generate
- T-pot -- github.com/telekom-security/tpotce
- Cowrie -- github.com/cowrie/cowrie
- Conpot -- github.com/mushorg/conpot
- Lots more -- github.com/paralax/awesome-honeypots
- What about the "Real Thing"? Hmm... (eBPF??)

14



ADHD Version: 4.0.0 | [GitHub Page](#) | [Project Page](#)
 Black Hills Information Security

ADHD

- Credentials
- Artillery
 - Example 1: Running Artillery
 - Example 2: Triggering a Honeyport
 - Example 3: Adding a File to a Watched Directory
- Bear Trap
 - Example 1: Basic Usage
- BeEF
 - Example 1: Hooking a Web Browser
 - Example 2: Browser Based Exploitation With BeEF
- CanaryTokens
 - Example 1: Creating Callbacks Using Local Canary Instance
 - Example 2: Creating Callbacks Using CanaryTokens.org
- Cowrie
 - Example 1: Running Cowrie
 - Example 2: Cowrie In Action
 - Example 3: Viewing Cowrie's Logs

www.activecountermeasures.com/free-tools/adhd/

15

HoneyBadger

Website	Website
Description	Description
Updates	Updates
Install Location	Install Location
Usage	
Example 1: Overview	
Example 2: Using the Map	
Example 3: Working with Targets	
Example 4: Working with Beacons	
Example 5: Observing the Log	
Example 6: Changing Profile Information	

Website
<https://github.com/adhdproject/honeybadger>

Description
 Used to identify the physical location of a web user with a combination of geolocation techniques using a browser's share location feature, the visible WiFi networks, and the IP address.

Updates
 What's new in HoneyBadger?

- Updated to Python 3.x
- API keys extracted as CLI arguments
- New fallback geolocation APIs added (IPStack, IPInfo.io)
- New utilities for automatic wireless surveying (Windows, Linux)
- New beacon agents (VB.NET, VBA)

Install Location

16

PORTSPOOF (1)

nmap -p200-300 gonzo

PORT	STATE	SERVICE
200/tcp	open	src
201/tcp	open	at-rtmp
202/tcp	open	at-nbp
203/tcp	open	at-3
204/tcp	open	at-echo
205/tcp	open	at-5
206/tcp	open	at-zis
207/tcp	open	at-7
208/tcp	open	at-8
209/tcp	open	tam
210/tcp	open	z39.50

211/tcp	open	914c-g
212/tcp	open	anet
213/tcp	open	ipx
214/tcp	open	vmpwscs
215/tcp	open	softpc
216/tcp	open	atls
217/tcp	open	dbase
218/tcp	open	mpp
219/tcp	open	uarp
220/tcp	open	imap3
221/tcp	open	fln-spx
222/tcp	open	rsh-spx
223/tcp	open	cdc
224/tcp	open	masqdialer

17

PORTSPOOF (2)

nmap -A gonzo

Starting Nmap 7.80 (https://nmap.org) at 2020-02-27 09:52 EST

Stats: 0:04:43 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing SYN Stealth Scan

SYN Stealth Scan Timing: About 75.58% done; ETC: 09:58 (0:01:31 remaining)

Stats: 0:04:53 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing SYN Stealth Scan

SYN Stealth Scan Timing: About 77.22% done; ETC: 09:58 (0:01:26 remaining)

Stats: 0:07:39 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing SYN Stealth Scan

18

OODA VS CCAD

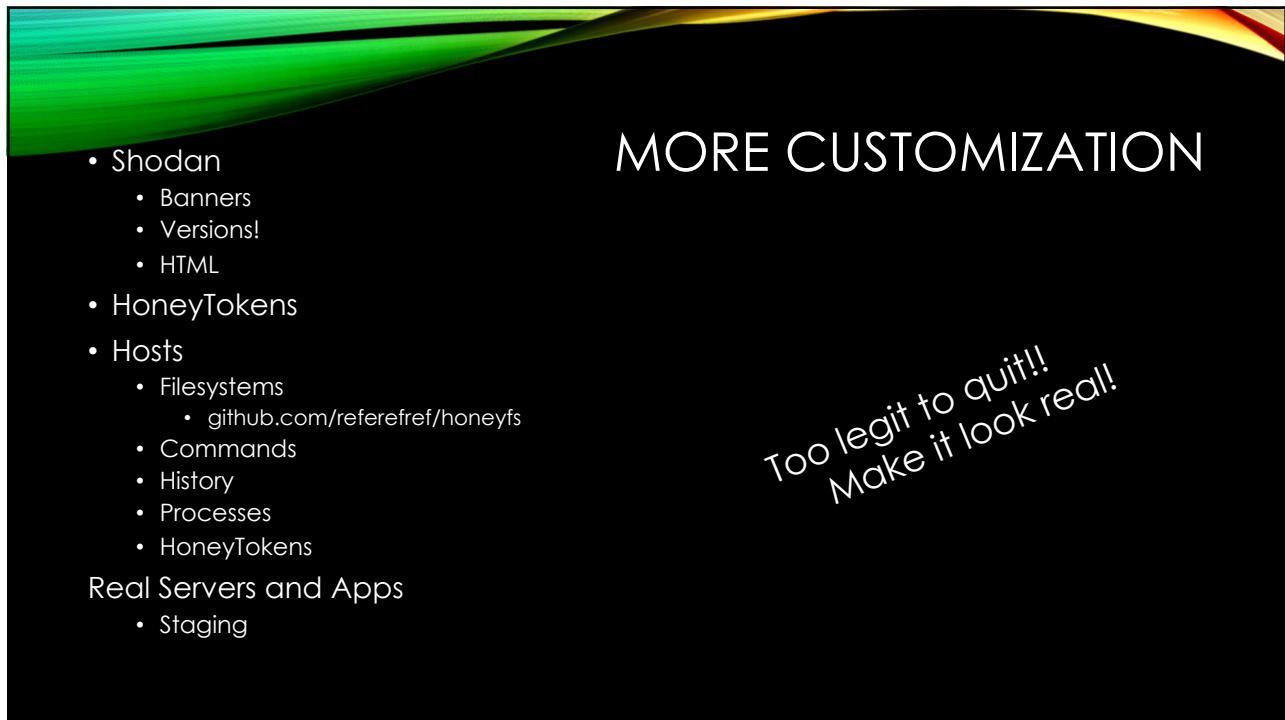
- OODA
 - Observe
 - Orient
 - Decide
 - Act
- CCAD
 - Confuse
 - Confound
 - Annoy
 - Delay

19

THE HARD PART - DEPLOYMENT

- Plan, Plan, Plan!
 - Low, Medium
 - Honeypots, Honeyports, Honeytokens, Honeycreds
 - Customization ← *Ding ding ding!*
 - Real vs Self-Signed Certs
 - Actual Applications
 - HIDS Wazuh / SIEM
 - Rules! Tuning
- Where?
 - Server Farms
 - Cloud Storage
 - IoT (Shodan is your friend!!)
 - <https://shodan.io>
 - DMZ (Guest WiFi)
 - MX, DNS
 - PoS

20

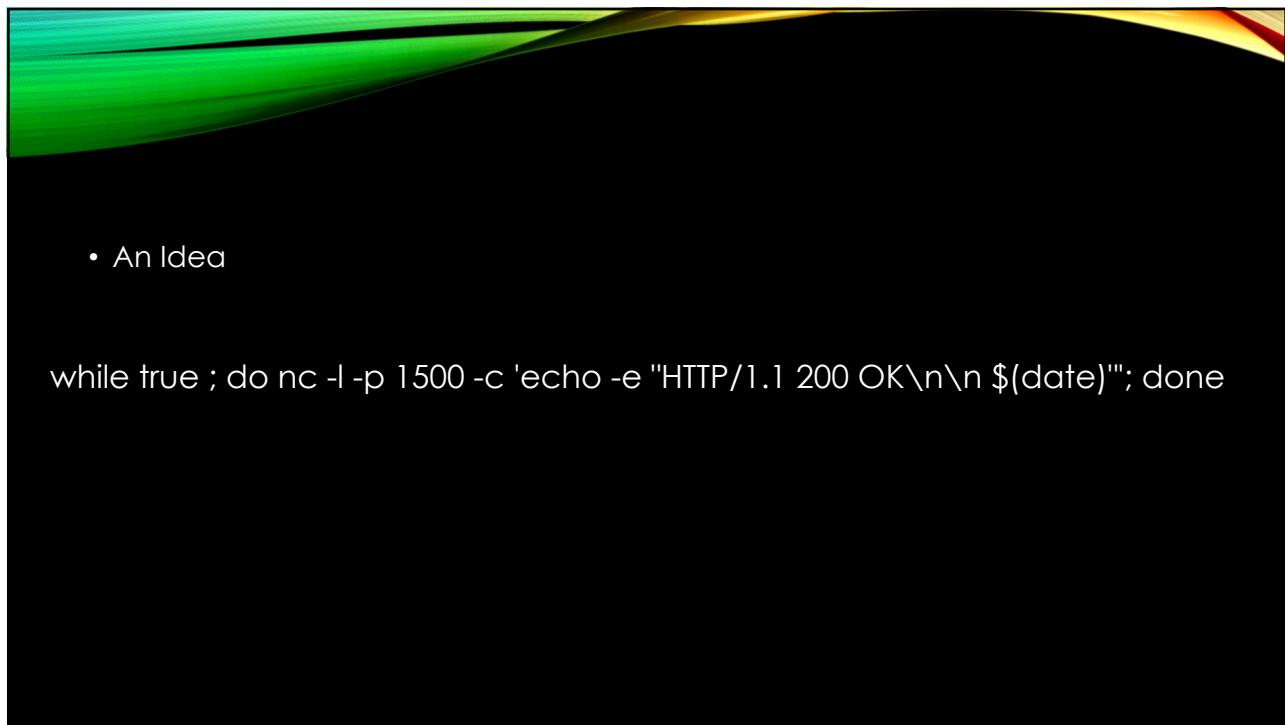


MORE CUSTOMIZATION

- Shodan
 - Banners
 - Versions!
 - HTML
- HoneyTokens
- Hosts
 - Filesystems
 - github.com/refereeref/honeyfs
 - Commands
 - History
 - Processes
 - HoneyTokens
- Real Servers and Apps
 - Staging

Too legit to quit!!
Make it look real!!

21



- An Idea

```
while true ; do nc -l -p 1500 -c 'echo -e "HTTP/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)"'; done
```

22

FINDING THEM <https://honeyscore.shodan.io/>

Honeypot Or Not?
Enter an IP to check whether it is a honeypot or a real control system:

24.

Looks like a real system!

Frequently Asked Questions

- How does it work?
The defining characteristics of known honeypots were extracted and used to create a tool to let you identify honeypots! The probability that an IP is a honeypot is captured in a "Honeyscore" value that can range from 0.0 to 1.0. This is still a prototype/ work-in-progress so if you find some problems please email me at jmath@shodan.io
- What's the purpose?
Honeypots are a great tool for learning more about the Internet, the latest malware being used and keep track of infections. When trying to catch an intelligent attacker though, many honeypots fall short in creating a realistic environment. Honeyscore was created to raise awareness of the short-comings of honeypots.
- What technology did you use?
The Honeyscore website and algorithm uses the following APIs/ frameworks:
 - Shodan Developer API
 - Python
 - Jade Node Template Engine

23

honeyScore.shodan.io

Vodafone
Added on 2021-03-22 C
Romania, Arad

81.196.205.2
RCS & RDS Business
Added on 2021-03-22 C
Romania, Arad

164.128.164.
Swisscom (Schweiz) /
Added on 2021-03-22 C
Switzerland, Boll
Technologies: A

164.128.164.
Swisscom (Schweiz) /
Added on 2021-03-22 C
Switzerland, Boll
Technologies: A

5:58 AM
Fri, Sep 23

DiskStation

Remember me

The probability that an IP is a honeypot is captured in a "Honeyscore" value that can range from 0.0 to 1.0. This is still a prototype/ work-in-progress so if you find some problems please email me at jmath@shodan.io

TELDAT S.A., A10
1, AirTies/ASP 1.0

24

WHAT IS IT?

```
# uname -a
Linux RT-AC5300 2.6.36.4brcmarm #1 SMP PREEMPT Fri Oct 18 16:13:51 CST
2019 armv7l ASUSWRT

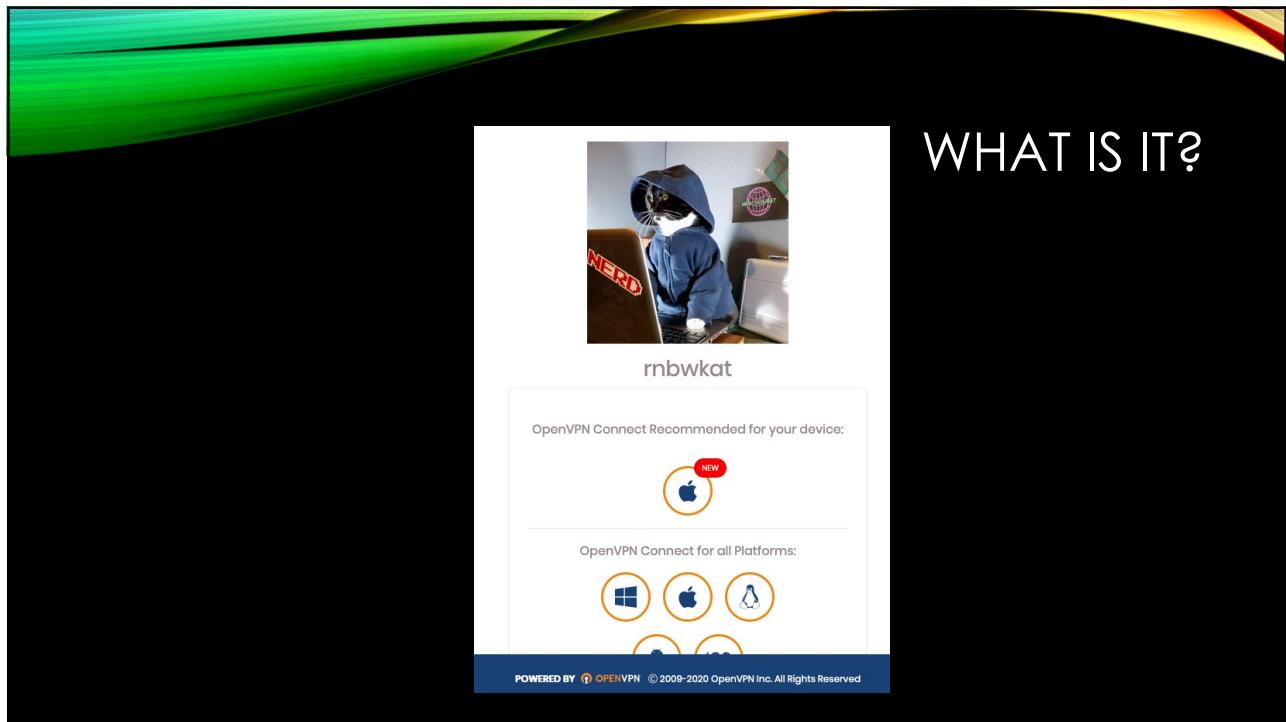
# df
Filesystem      1K-blocks    Used Available Use% Mounted on
rootfs          40960     40960        0 100% /
/dev/root       40960     40960        0 100% /
devtmpfs        257456        0 257456   0% /dev
tmpfs           257600     944 256656   0% /tmp
/dev/mtdblock4  65536     2064 63472    3% /jffs
```

25

COWRIE

```
# ls -al /etc
srwxrwxrwx  1 admin  root          0 May  5 2018 amas_lib_socket
-rw-rw-rw-  1 admin  root         1017 May  5 2018 cert.pem
drwxrwxrwx  2 admin  root         100 May  5 2018 cfg_mnt
srwxrwxrwx  1 admin  root          0 May  5 2018 cfgmnt_ipc_socket
-rw-rw-rw-  1 admin  root         380 May  5 2018 dnsmasq.conf
drwx-----  2 admin  root         100 Feb 27 13:24 dropbear
lrwxrwxrwx  1 admin  root         20 Dec 31 1969 e2fsck.conf -> /rom/etc/e2fsck.conf
drwxrwxrwx  2 admin  root         60 May  5 2018 email
lrwxrwxrwx  1 admin  root         19 Dec 31 1969 ethertypes -> /rom/etc/ethertypes
-rw-r--r--  1 admin  root          0 Dec 31 1969 fstab
-rw-r--r--  1 admin  root         52 May  5 2018 group
-rw-rw-rw-  1 admin  root          0 May  5 2018 group.custom
-rw-r--r--  1 admin  root         52 May  5 2018 gshadow
-rw-r--r--  1 admin  root        176 May  5 2018 hosts
```

26



27

- <https://www.canarytokens.org/generate>

CANARY TOKENS

What is this and why should I care?

Documentation

Select your token

Provide an email address or webhook URL (or both space separated)

Reminder note when this token is triggered.

Fill in the fields above

Brought to you by [Thinkst Canary](#), our insanely easy-to-use honeypot solution that deploys in just four minutes. **Know. When it matters.**

© Thinkst Canary 2015–2022

28

MORE CUSTOMIZATION

Cowrie

- The obvious
 - Hostname (and MAC!)
 - openssl rand -hex 6 | sed 's/\\(..\\)/\\1:/g; s/:\$//'
 - 00:11:32:B3:4D:F5
- Versions
- History
- Commands
 - History -s (or just copy .bash_history)
 - Targets?
- Filesystem
- Processes
- Usernames
 - Honeycreds

29

SSH/TELNET CUSTOMIZATION

- Banners = easy, but don't forget ssh headers/ciphers/version
- Ping?
- DNS?
- rsync is your friend
- ps a running system

```
• Command, cpu, mem, pid, rss, start, stat, time, tty, user, vsz
$ ps -eo pcpu,%mem,pid,rss,start_time,stat,bsdttime,tty,user,vsz,args
%CPU %MEM PID RSS START STAT TIME TT USER VSZ COMMAND
0.0 0.0 14995 4456 03:32 S 0:00 ? dovecot 50052 dovecot/imap-login [67.18.92.27 TLS proxy]
0.0 0.0 15034 3500 03:32 S 0:00 ? dovecot 49784 dovecot/imap-login
0.2 0.0 15154 91232 03:35 S1 0:51 ? apache 383516 /usr/sbin/httpd -DFOREGROUND
0.0 0.0 15525 4868 Feb04 Ss 6:14 ? root 279644 php-fpm: master process
0.0 0.0 15533 6816 Feb04 S 0:00 ? emps 280408 php-fpm: pool ordinary
```

30

CUSTOMIZATION EXAMPLES (CONT)

- Users/passwds
 - rockyou
 - rockyou2021
 - Of course, default
 - Get creative with users
 - htpasswd
- Other “places”
 - Remember the real services/apps?
 - smb
 - rdp
 - ftp/ftps
- pwned

It would take a computer about
7 QUADRILLION YEARS
 to crack your password

31

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- CCAD
- Low False Positives
 - Defend & Detect
- Lateral Movement
- Cost Effective
- Forensics
- REAL Threat Intelligence
 - It's About Thinking Differently, not “watching everything”

github/rnbwkat/presents/honeypots_2024.pdf

32



33