

Orange
Cyberdefense

Virtually Private Networks

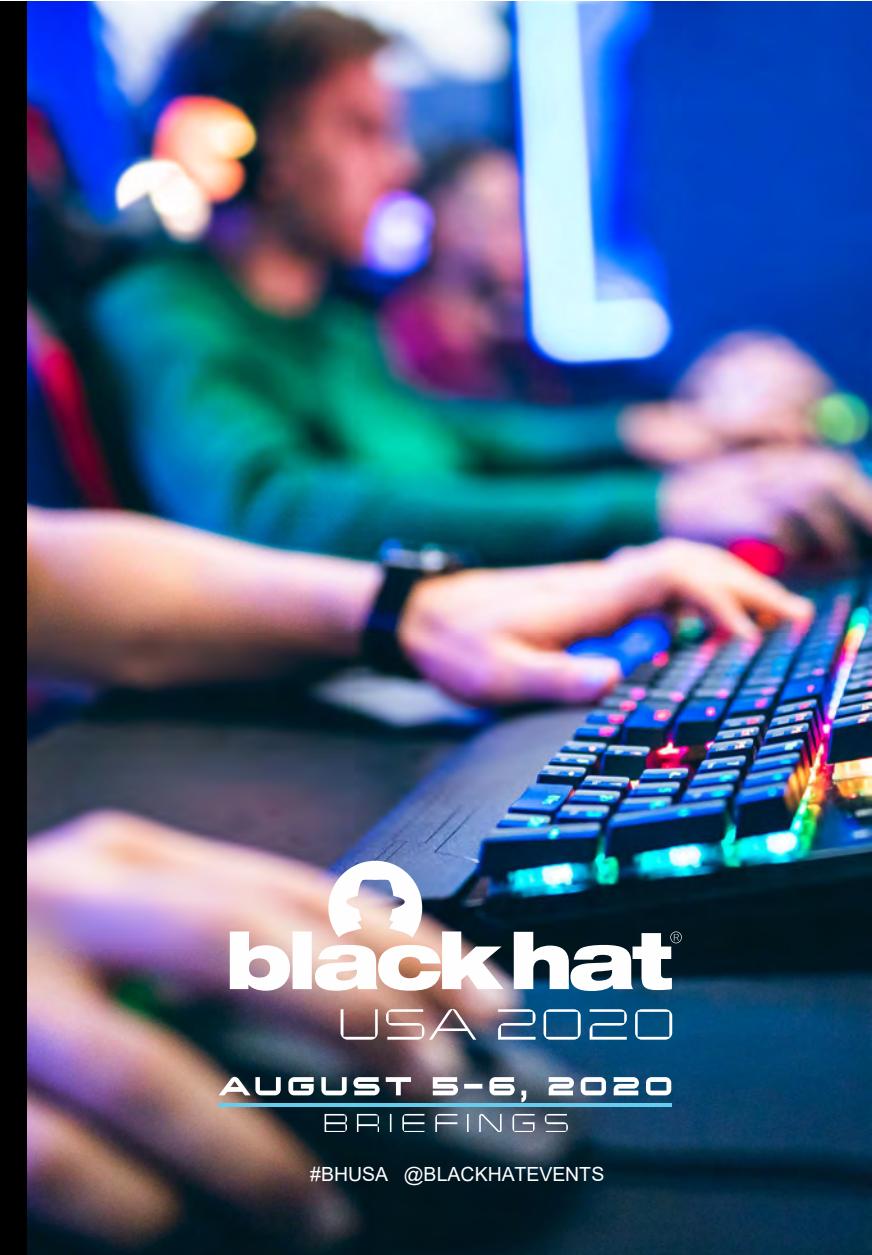
Virtually good enough

Wicus Ross

Charl van der Walt



 [charlvdwalt](#)  [wicusross](#)



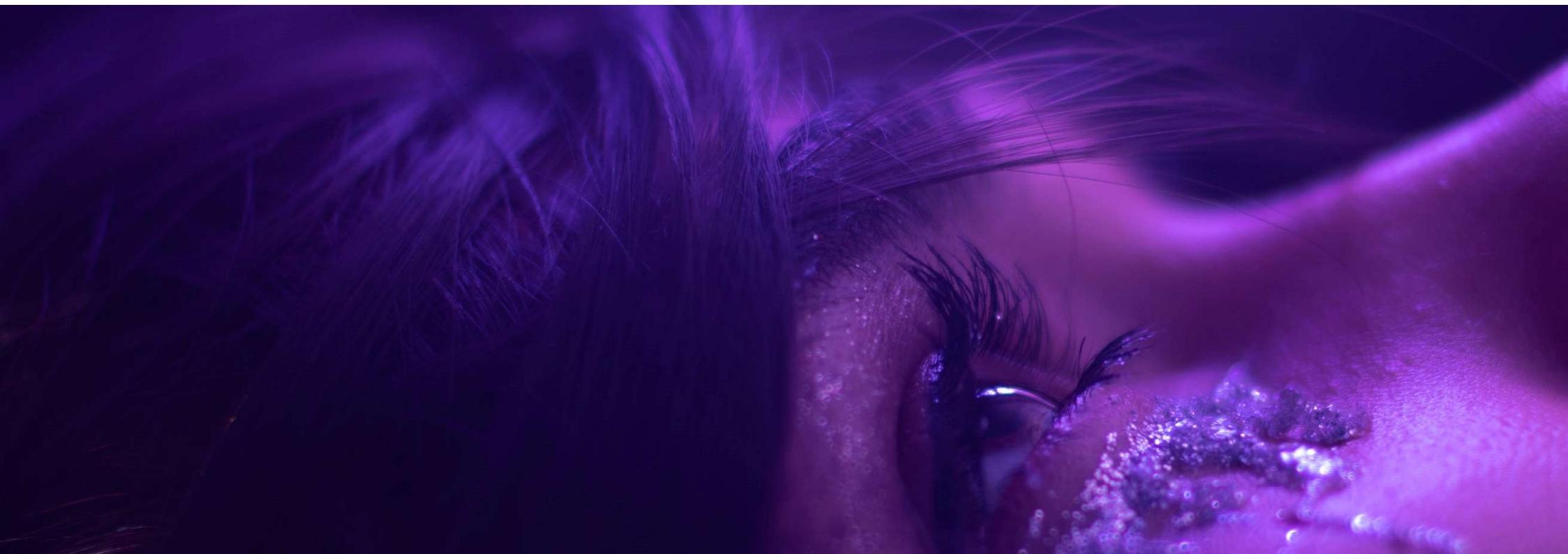
 **black hat**[®]
USA 2020

AUGUST 5-6, 2020

BRIEFINGS

#BHUSA @BLACKHATEVENTS

1. Introduction





848,850

MILES FLOWN



10

WEEKS IN THE AIR



21

CITIES VISITED



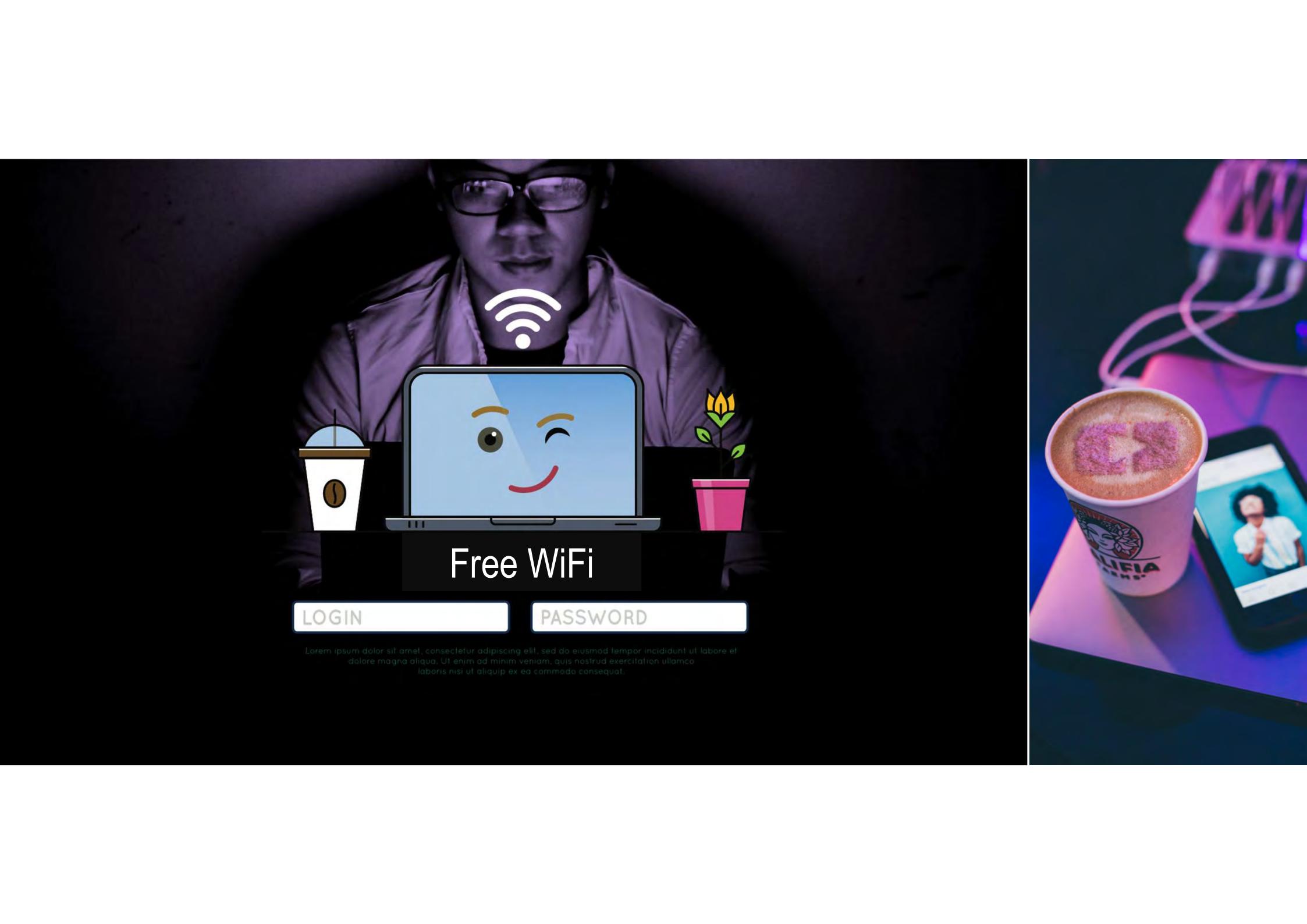
14

COUNTRIES VISITED

31.2%

AROUND THE SUN'S
EQUATOR

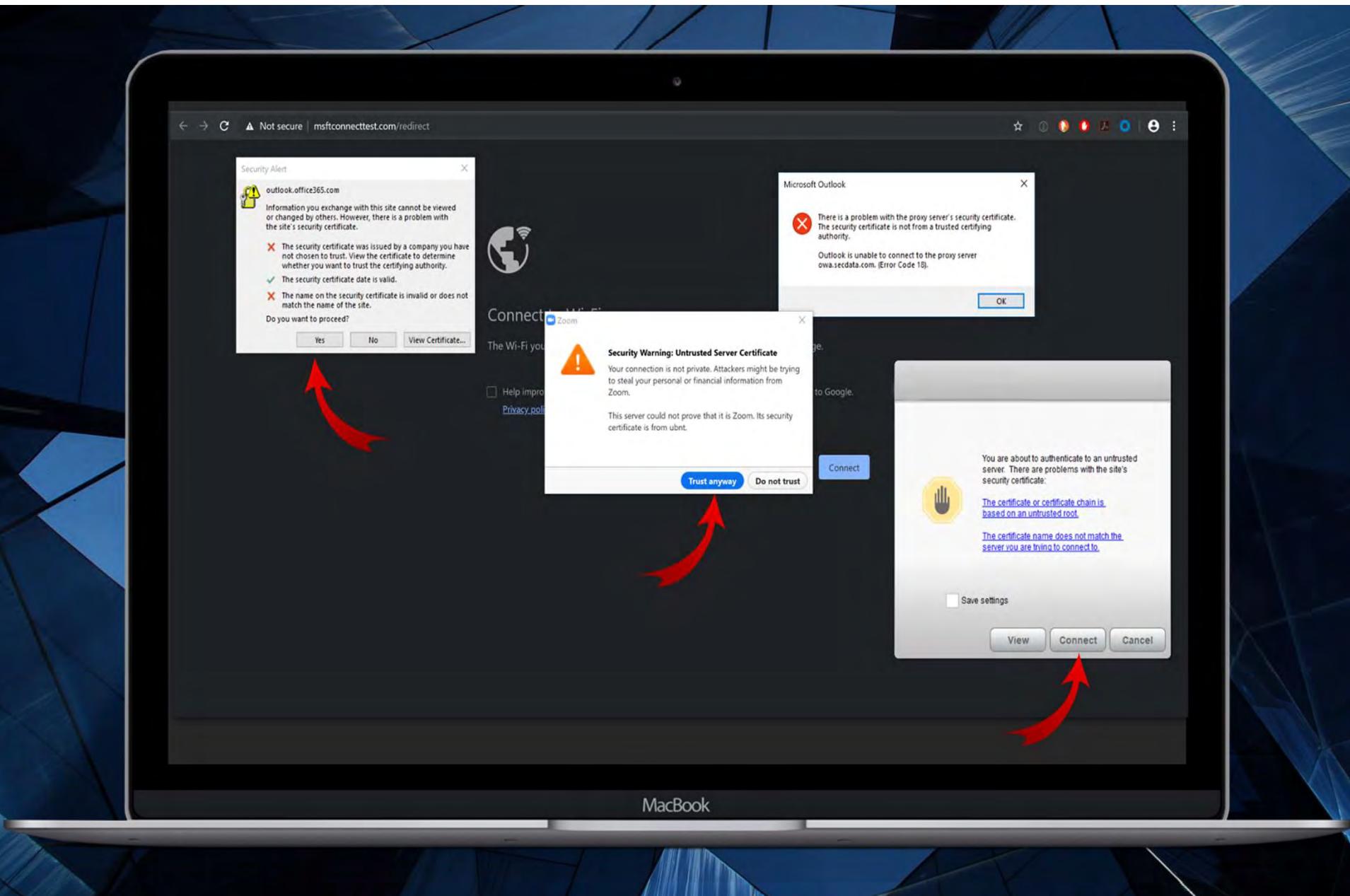




LOGIN

PASSWORD

Lore ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.



domain.com, in the living room, with a candlestick

The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor interface. On the left, the registry tree is visible with several keys expanded, including 'SymIRON', 'SYMNETS', 'Synth3dVsc', 'SysMain', 'Sysmon', 'SysmonDrv', 'SysPlant', 'SystemEventsBroker', 'TabletInputService', 'TapiSrv', and 'Tcpip'. Under 'Tcpip', the 'Linkage', 'Parameters', and 'Interfaces' keys are expanded. The 'Interfaces' key contains multiple GUID entries, each representing a network adapter. One specific adapter, identified by the GUID {051627B60205C616A7160265963647F6279616}, has its subkeys expanded. The 'DhcpDomain' key under this adapter is highlighted with a blue selection bar and contains the value 'domain.com'. The 'Data' column shows the binary representation of the string 'domain.com' as 00 64 00 6F 00 6D 00 61 00-69 00 6E 00 2E 00 63 00 followed by the ASCII characters 'd-o-m-a-i-n..c-o-m...'. Other keys under this adapter include 'DhcpConnForceBroadcastFlag', 'DhcpNetworkHint', 'DhcpInterfaceOptions', 'DhcpDefaultGateway', 'DhcpNameServer', 'DhcpSubnetMaskOpt', 'DhcpGatewayHardware', and 'DhcpGatewayHardwareCount'.

Name	Type	Data
EnableDHCP	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Domain	REG_SZ	(value not set)
NameServer	REG_SZ	(value not set)
DhcpIPAddress	REG_SZ	172.21.1.233
DhcpSubnetMask	REG_SZ	255.255.240.0
DhcpServer	REG_SZ	172.21.0.1
Lease	REG_DWORD	0x00015180 (86400)
LeaseObtainedTime	REG_DWORD	0x000A8D65 (691557)
T1	REG_DWORD	0x000B3625 (734757)
T2	REG_DWORD	0x000BB4B5 (767157)
LeaseTerminatesTime	REG_DWORD	0x000BDEE5 (777957)
AddressType	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
IsServerNapAware	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DhcpConnForceBroadcastFlag	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DhcpNetworkHint	REG_SZ	051627B60205C616A7160265963647F6279616
DhcpInterfaceOptions	REG_BINARY	FC 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 25 36 0B
DhcpDefaultGateway	REG_MULTI_SZ	172.21.0.1
DhcpNameServer	REG_SZ	8.8.8.8.8.4.4
DhcpDomain	REG_SZ	domain.com
DhcpSubnetMaskOpt	REG_MULTI_SZ	255.255.240.0
DhcpGatewayHardware	REG_BINARY	AC 15 00 01 06 00 00 00 06 1F D4 05 47 3A
DhcpGatewayHardwareCount	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)

The curious case of the outbound 445

Failed to establish a network connection.

Error: {Device Timeout}
The specified I/O operation on %hs was not completed before the time-out period expired.

Server name: PRINTER-HQ
Server address: 66.96.162.92:445

Instance name: \Device\LanmanRedirector
Connection type: Wsk

Guidance:
This indicates a problem with the underlying network or transport, such as with TCP/IP, and

Log Name: Microsoft-Windows-SMBClient/Connectivity



What should we expect from a VPN?

- **Confidentiality**

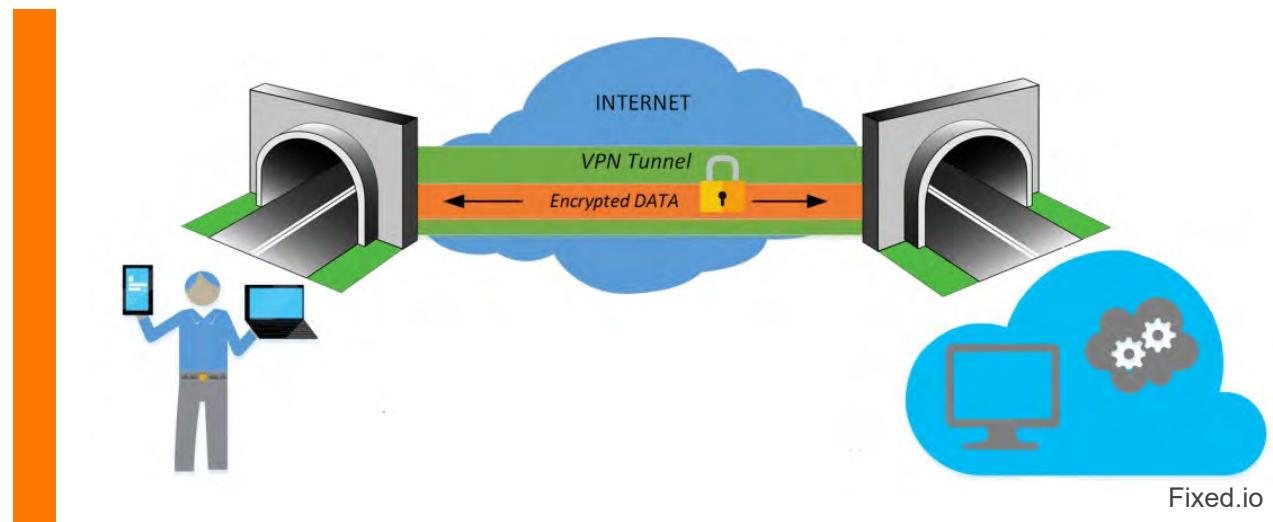
Prevent sensitive or private information from being intercepted or deduced.

- **Integrity**

Ensure that data and messages are not modified or interfered with.

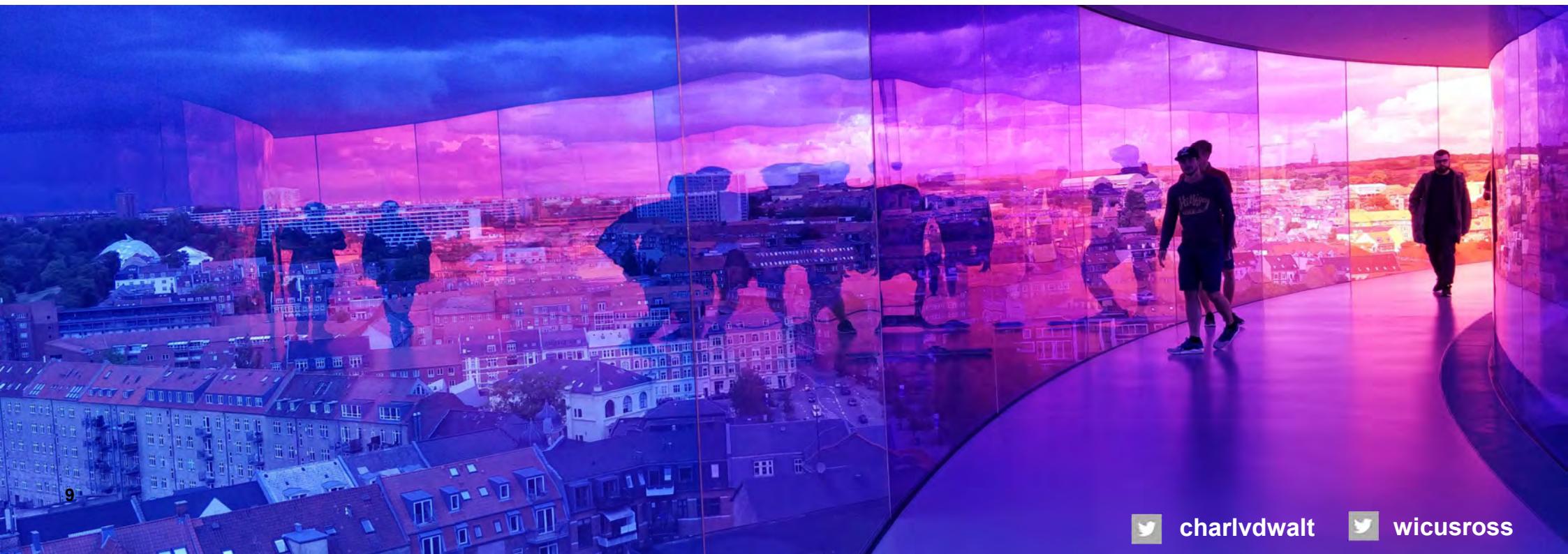
- **Access Control**

Ensure that only authenticated users are permitted to access the systems and resources they are specifically authorized for.



2. Research Proposal

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USA 2020



VPN over Wi-Fi – Specific threat scenarios

Sniffing sensitive data

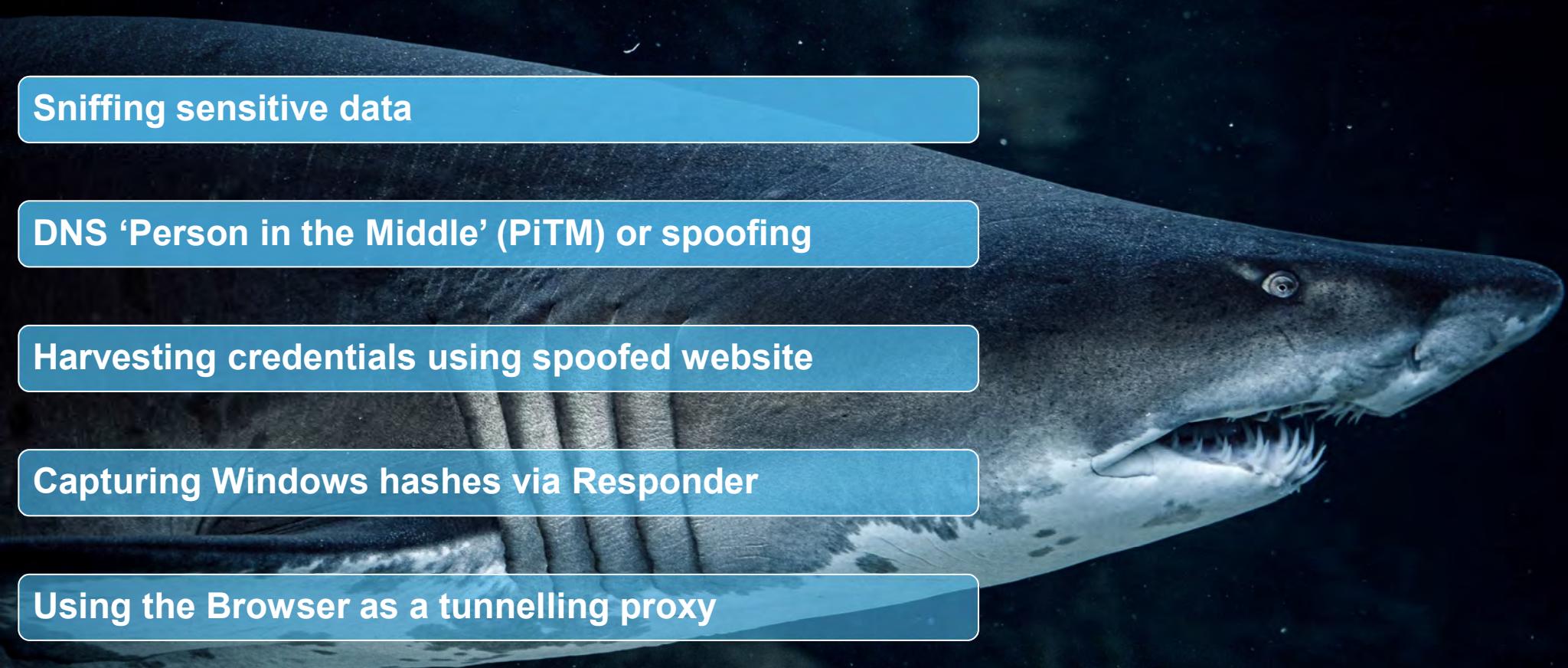
DNS ‘Person in the Middle’ (PiTM) or spoofing

Harvesting credentials using spoofed website

Capturing Windows hashes via Responder

Using the Browser as a tunnelling proxy

Using IPv6 to interact with host



Approach

- General testing to understand the relevant mechanics and validate PoC
- Validate working assumptions
- Define a reasonable ‘Target Security Model’
- Create a standardized test plan and Wi-Fi environment with Captive Portal
- Repeat standard tests **of the equivalent capabilities** for ‘default’ and ‘lockdown’ configurations
- Engage with vendors for validation and comment

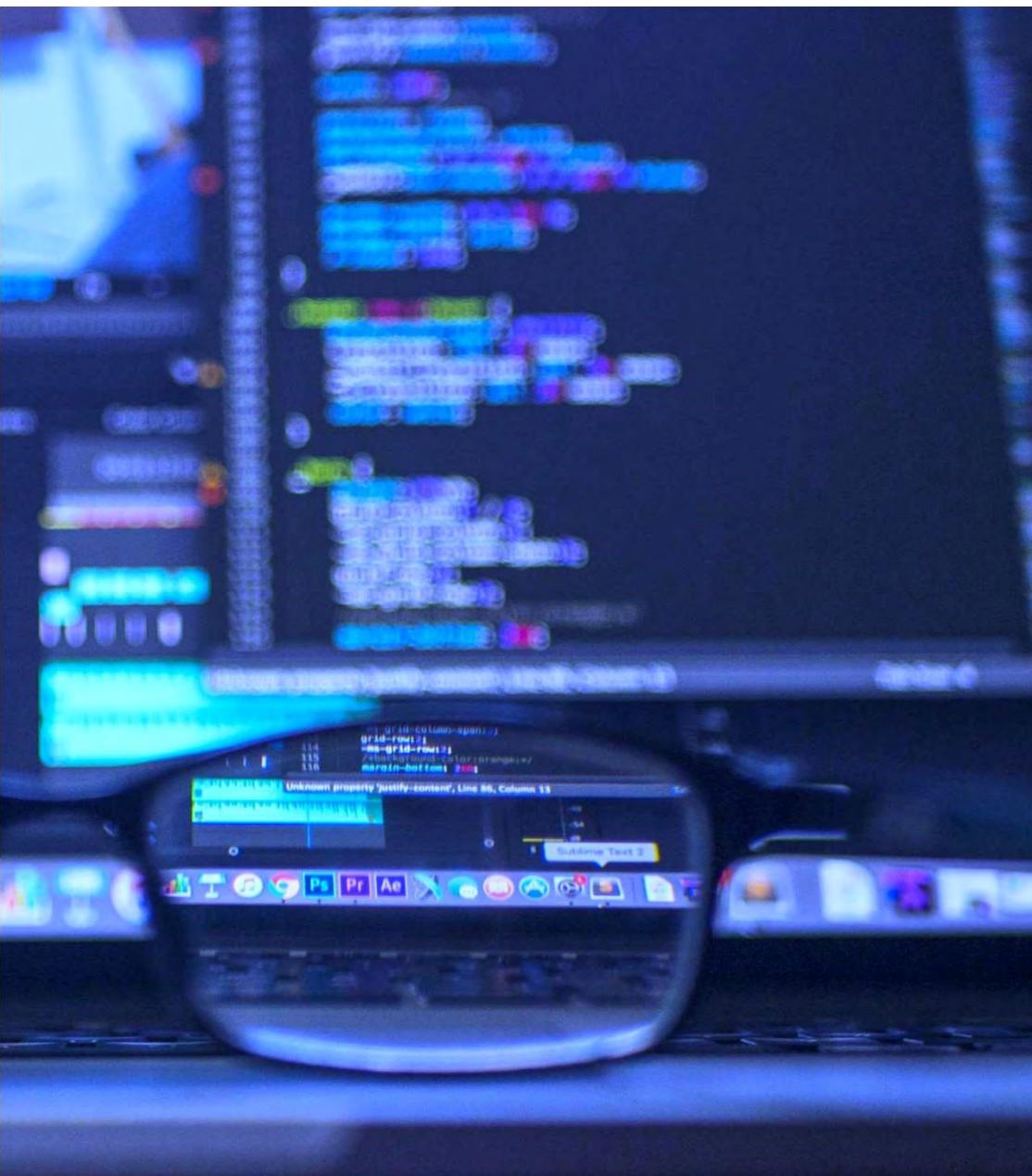


Tested, in no order...

Cisco	Pulse Secure	Checkpoint	Fortinet	Palo Alto Network
<input type="checkbox"/> Cisco ASA with AnyConnect	<input type="checkbox"/> Pulse Connect Secure	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Point VPN	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortigate with FortiClient	<input type="checkbox"/> PAN-OS Global Protect
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pulse Secure 9.1R1 Build 1505 - Server	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Point R80.30 - Server	<input type="checkbox"/> FortiOS 6.2.4 – Server	<input type="checkbox"/> PAN-OS 9.0 (9.0.9) - Server
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pulse Secure VPN version 9.1.1 (607) - Client	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Point VPN E81.40 Build 986101104 - Client	<input type="checkbox"/> FortiClient 6.4.0.1464 – Client	<input type="checkbox"/> GlobalProtect 5.1.4 - Client

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If a VPN is the logical extension of a private network to another location, and if we assume that the ‘other location’ is a Wi-Fi network that is either compromised or malicious, how much protection do enterprise VPN products provide against common threats we could reasonably expect to encounter?

Fundamental research question

3. Technical concepts

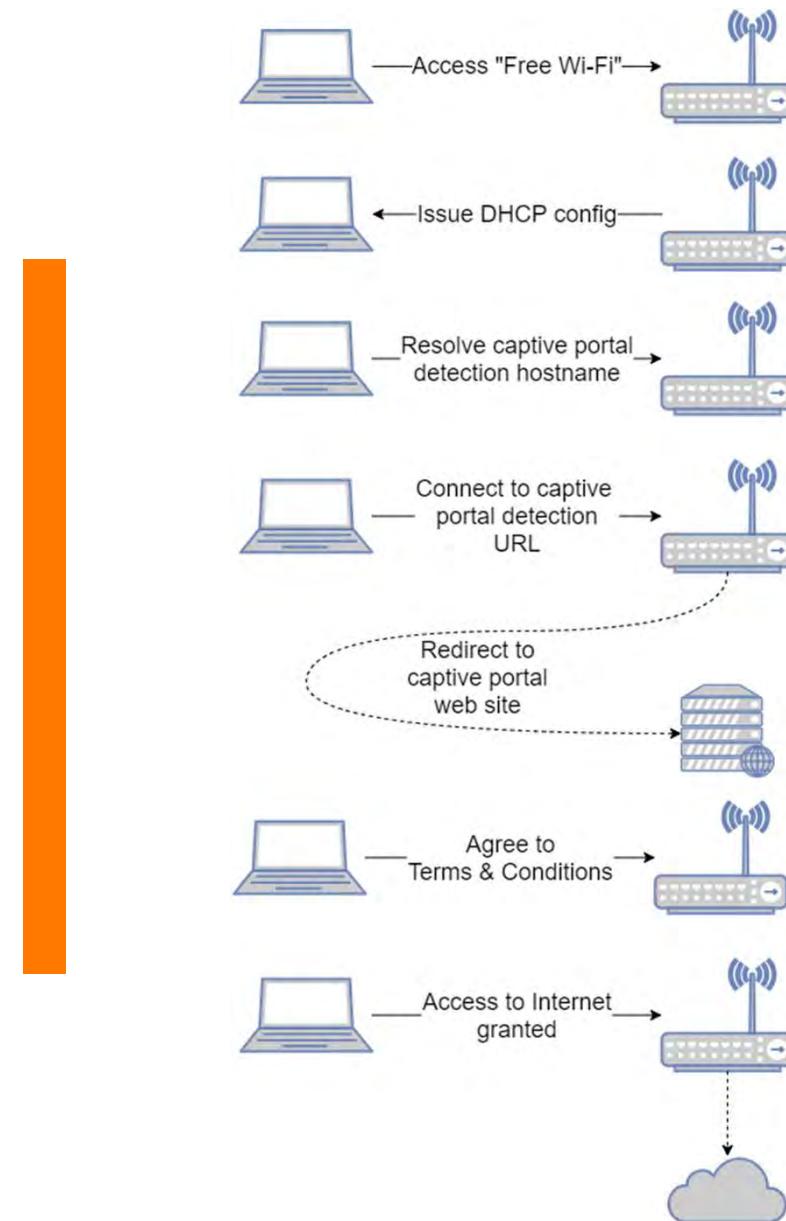


September 26
2019

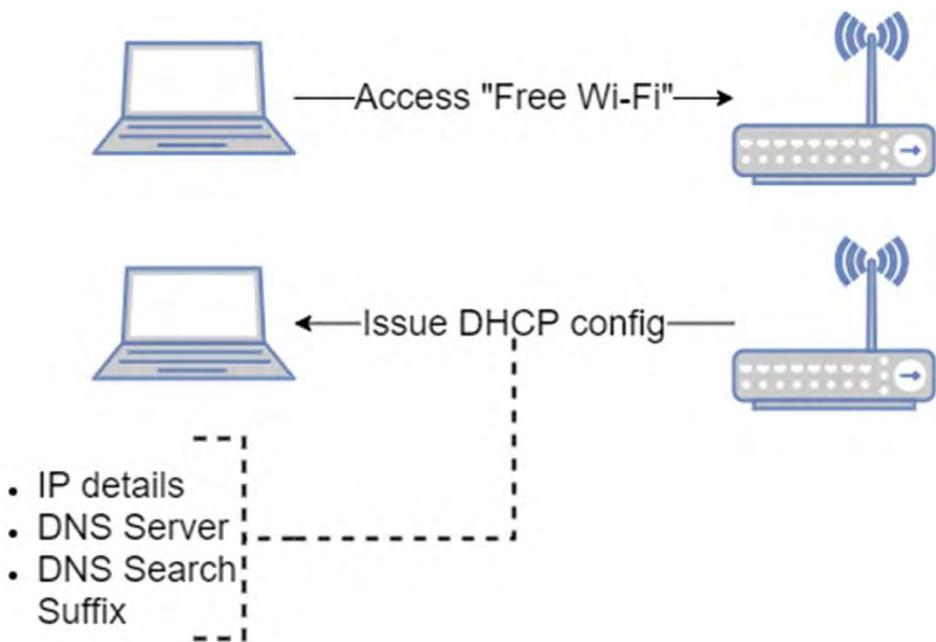
 charlvdwalt  wicusross

Captured - How Captive Portals work

- Connect to Wi-Fi
- Assign network settings via DHCP
- Test for Internet access
- Captive portal intercepts HTTP request and issues an HTTP response. Typically an HTTP 302 response that redirect to the captive portal's web interface
- OS determines if the user should be prompted to interact with the captive portal and spawns a browser (default or dedicated)
- Captive portal redirects the browser to the URL that the OS initially used for testing
- OS continues to check whether it can access the Internet. Waits for a successful HTTP 200 response.
- OS signals the user visually when Internet access is enabled



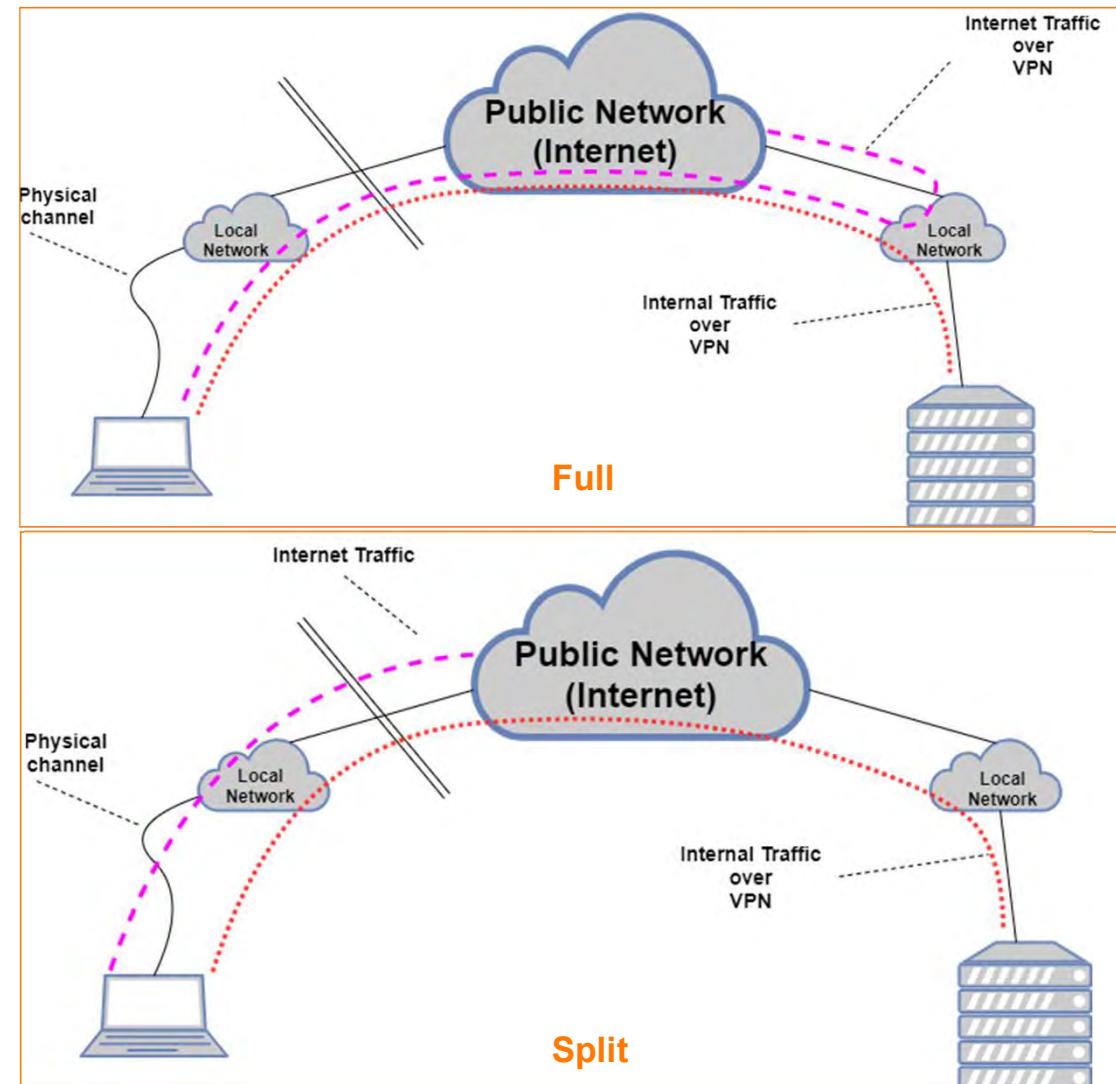
Captured – DNS & DHCP



- DHCP packets are probably among the first to be broadcast when a guest joins a network
- Guest solicits configuration by a DHCP Discovery packet
- Guest **already discloses its host name and possibly vendor identifier** in subsequent DHCP Request
- DHCP seeds network configuration –
 - IP details
 - DNS
 - **Domain Name** (option 15)
 - **Search Suffix** (option 119)
 - **Routing**
 - **Proxy Auto Discover**
 - **MTU**, etc
- If the client stacks is IPv6 enabled (dual stack) then certain IPv6 network settings can be provided via DHCP also

VPNs and Split Tunneling

- VPN is configured, once connected, to route specific network requests through the VPN tunnel
- Other traffic follows according to the default network routing rules.
- Done so that only traffic destined for the corporate network is encrypted and subject to access control, while regular local network or internet-bound traffic flowing outside the VPN tunnel.
- To allow access to resources on the local network while retaining performance when accessing the public Internet.
- Lessens the amount of traffic traversing the corporate network



Wi-Fi and IPv6

- IPv6 enjoys preference in some network stacks
- IPv6 has to broadcast communicate to discover the lay of the land – neighbour solicitation and router solicitation
- There is no ARP in IPv6 replaced by ICMPv6
- Guest OS also broadcast identification information about itself when asking for DHCPv6 details
- DHCPv6 also supports concepts for Domain Search List and FQDN
- IPv6 is often overlooked and results in dual stack deployments by default
- Firewall rules and VPN rules at IPv4 level does not apply to IPv6



Captive Portal 'mitigation' or 'lock down' mode

▼ Options:

Name	Value
Allow user to override connection policy Allows user to modify connection state.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lock down this connection Network access is limited until this connection is established. This option is available only when the Always-or Client option on the connection set is checked.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Support Remote Access (Connect Secure) or LAN Access (Policy Secure) on this connection Uncheck only if the connection is not used for Connect Secure or Policy Secure services (e.g Server is used for Collaboration only).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Enable Collaboration integration on this connection Applicable for Connect Secure type connections only. Leave this unchecked for Policy Secure type	<input type="checkbox"/>

“ Lock down mode is designed to prohibit network communication outside of the VPN Tunnel when the ... client is attempting to create a VPN connection to the ... [server].

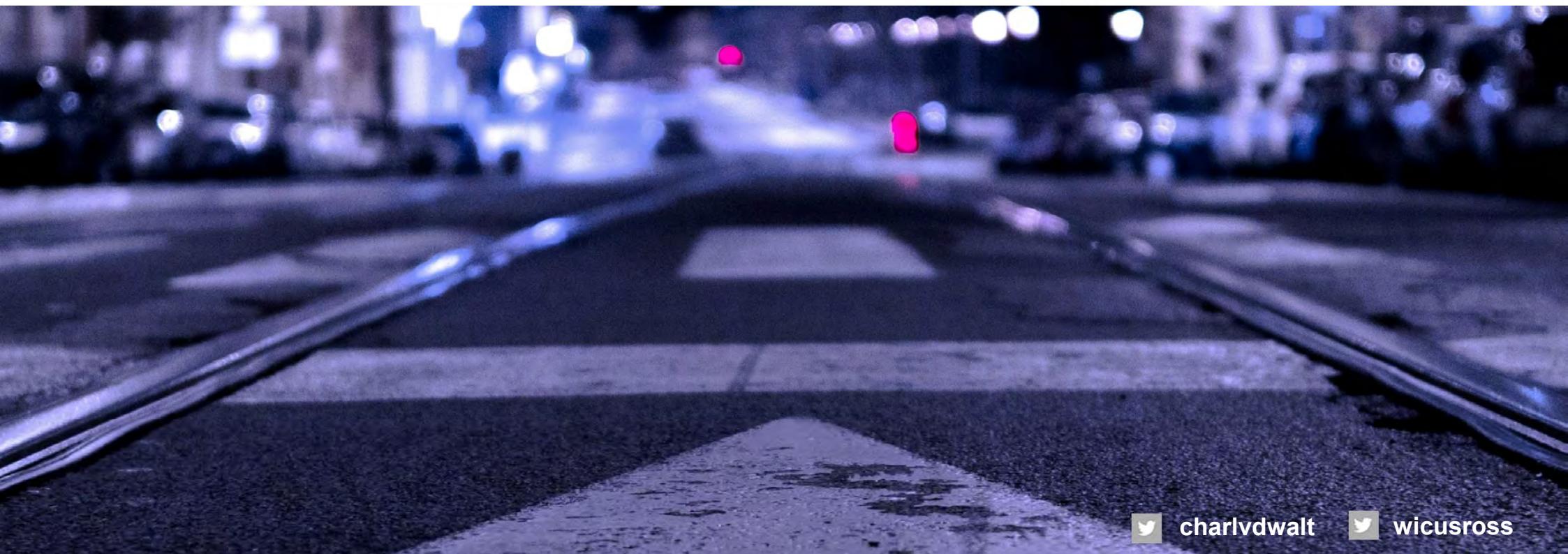


'Lock down' mode experiences per product

Vendor 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has CPMB (embedded IE?)• Clear Captive Portal mitigation instructions
Vendor 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has CPMB (proprietary?)• Captive Portal mitigation instructions
Vendor 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No CPMB• 'Lock down' based on combination of others• Finely grained control features
Vendor 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No CPMB• IPv6 only disabled when IPSec is used
Vendor 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still in progress.• Visit the site - bit.ly/orangevpn



4. Research & Findings



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'Lock down' mode features per product

	VPN 1	VPN 2	VPN 3	VPN 4	VPN 5
CPMB	✓	✓	✗	✗	
Vulnerable outbound traffic blocked*	✗	✓	✓	✗	
Outbound allow list configurable	✗	✓	✓	✗	
DNS Cache Flush	✓	✓	✓	✓	
IPv6 Disable	✓	✓	✓	✗	
Captive Portal mitigation window times out	✓	✓	✓	✗	
User can't accept bad certificate	✗	✓	✓	✓	
User cannot disable agent	✓	✓	✓	✓	

* e.g. SMB, LDAP, NETBIOS

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Do VPNs do what we expect them to do?

▪ Confidentiality

1. How much unsolicited network traffic is broadcast by the guest while associated with the local network of the AP?
2. What role does dynamic network configuration fields such as connection specific DNS suffixes play in leaking network traffic?
3. How much network traffic is leaked to the local network of the AP while connected to the VPN?

▪ Integrity

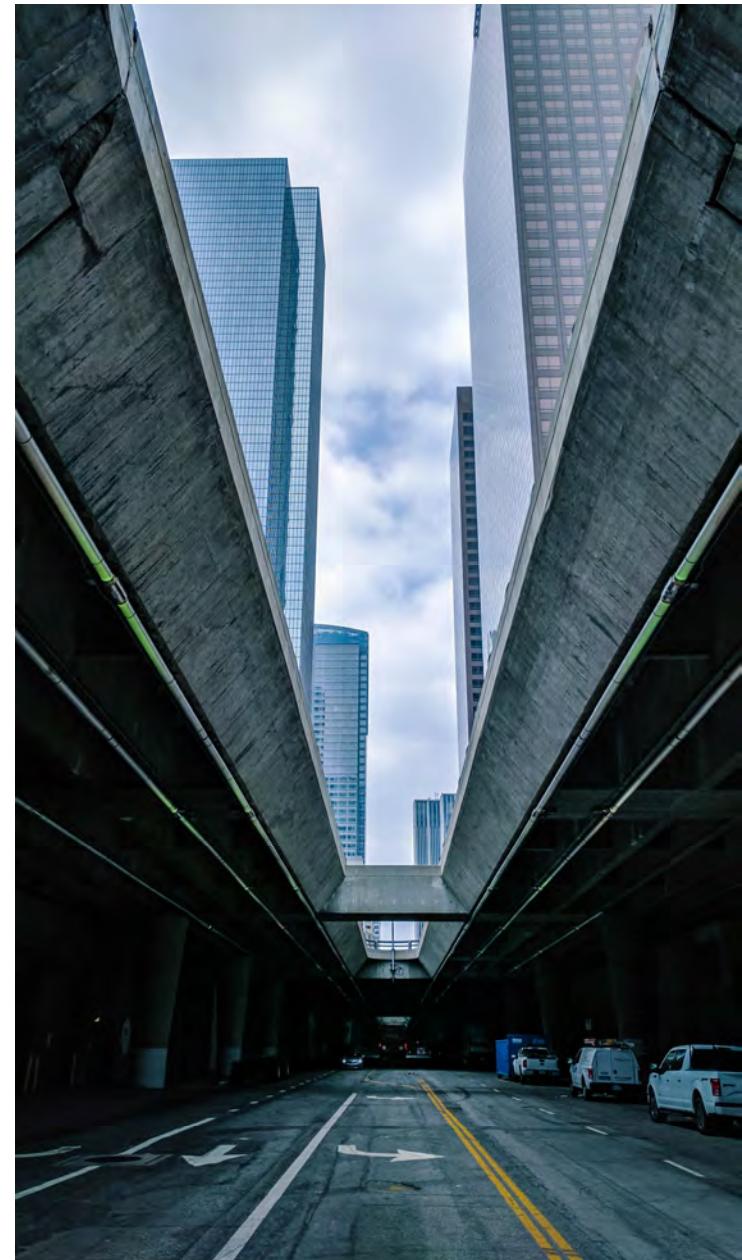
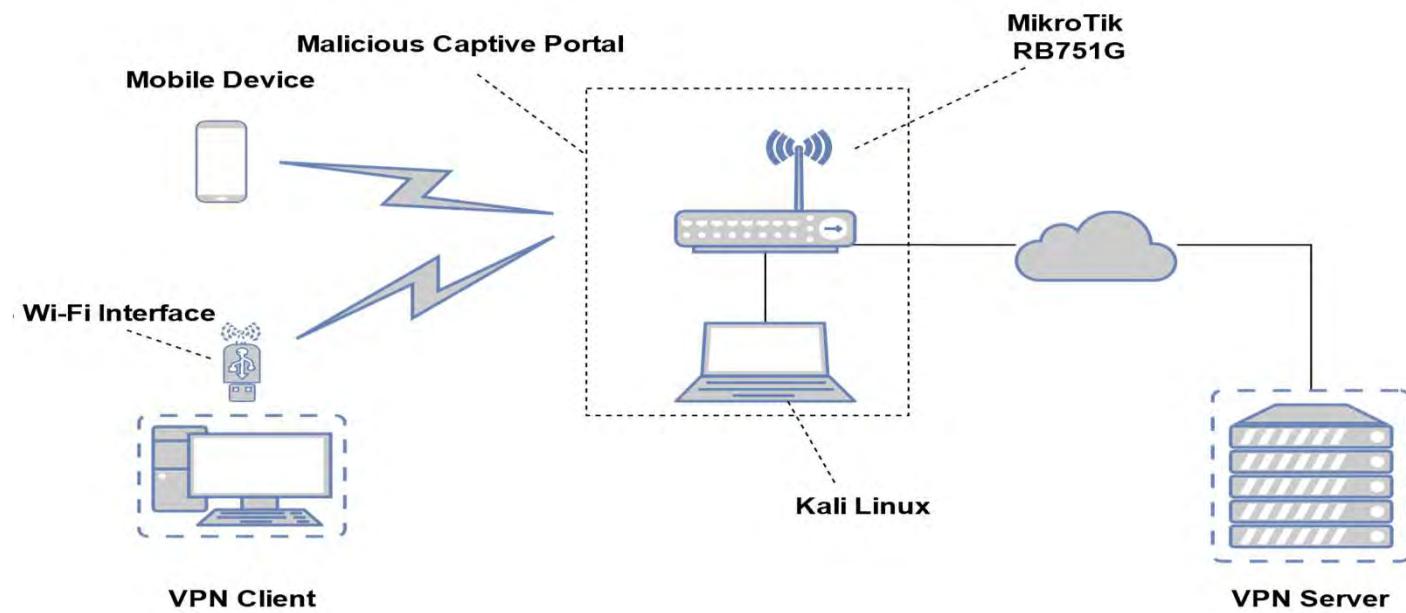
1. Are the client applications on roaming device vulnerable to person-in-the-middle attacks via the LAN?
2. How resilient are roaming devices against credential theft?

▪ Access Control

1. Can attackers use guests on the malicious free Wi-Fi to tunnel over the VPN into the corporate network?

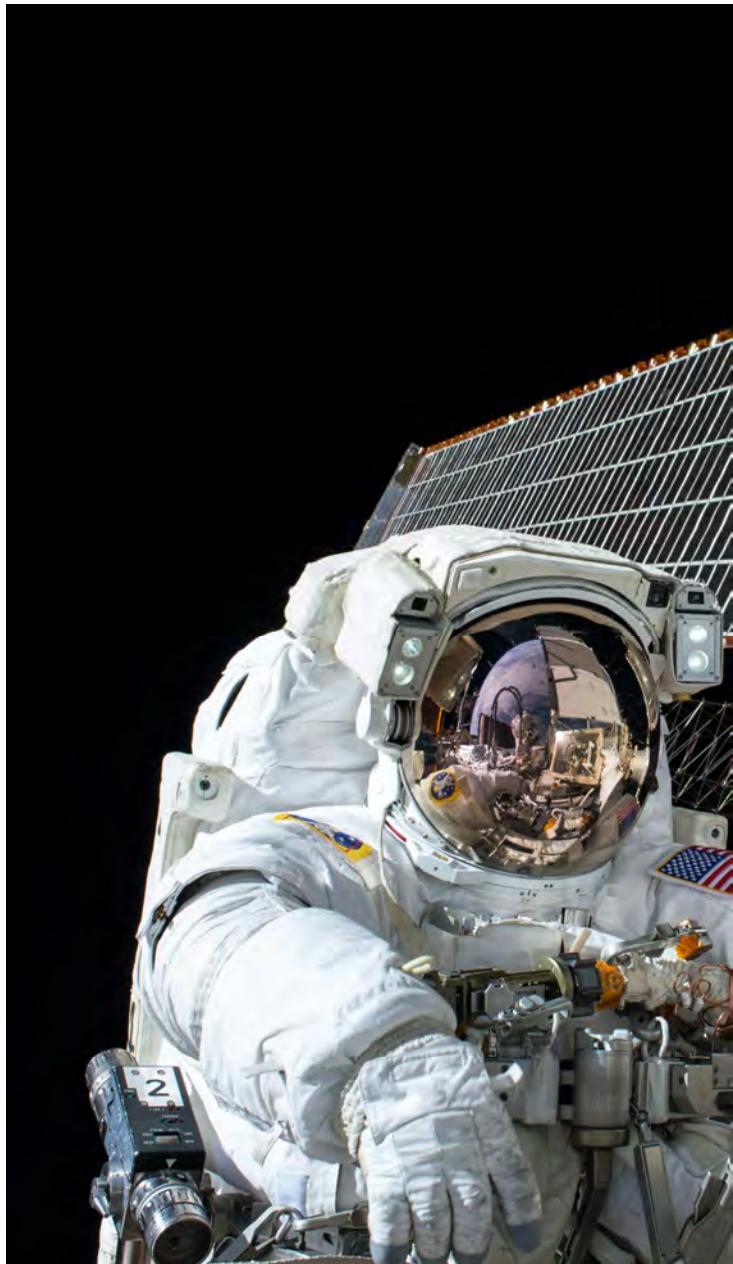


Test configuration



Test Approach

	Standard Mode	'Lock down' mode
Captured	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Internet accessMost like off the shelf VPN configSplit tunnelling inactive since there's no Internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Internet accessBest possible working VPN configFull tunnelling inactive since there's no Internet
Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet access – VPN establishedMost like off the shelf VPN configSplit tunnelling enabled unless specifically discouraged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet access – VPN establishedBest possible working VPN configFull tunnelling



TL;DR

	Standard Mode			'Lock down' mode		
Captured	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green
Online	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green

- Our **initial concerns** about the failure of VPNs to protect machines in captive portals **all hold true**.
- Even once **fully established**, a **carelessly configured VPN barely does better** at mitigating the identified threats.
- **'Lock down' features** that are intended to 'mitigate' the captive portal problems do indeed address some issues, but are not universally effective in **mitigating the full set of threats** we considered.
- The findings are **not consistent across all vendors**, so vendor selection does matter.

Demo – Responder attack from Captive Portal in lock down mode



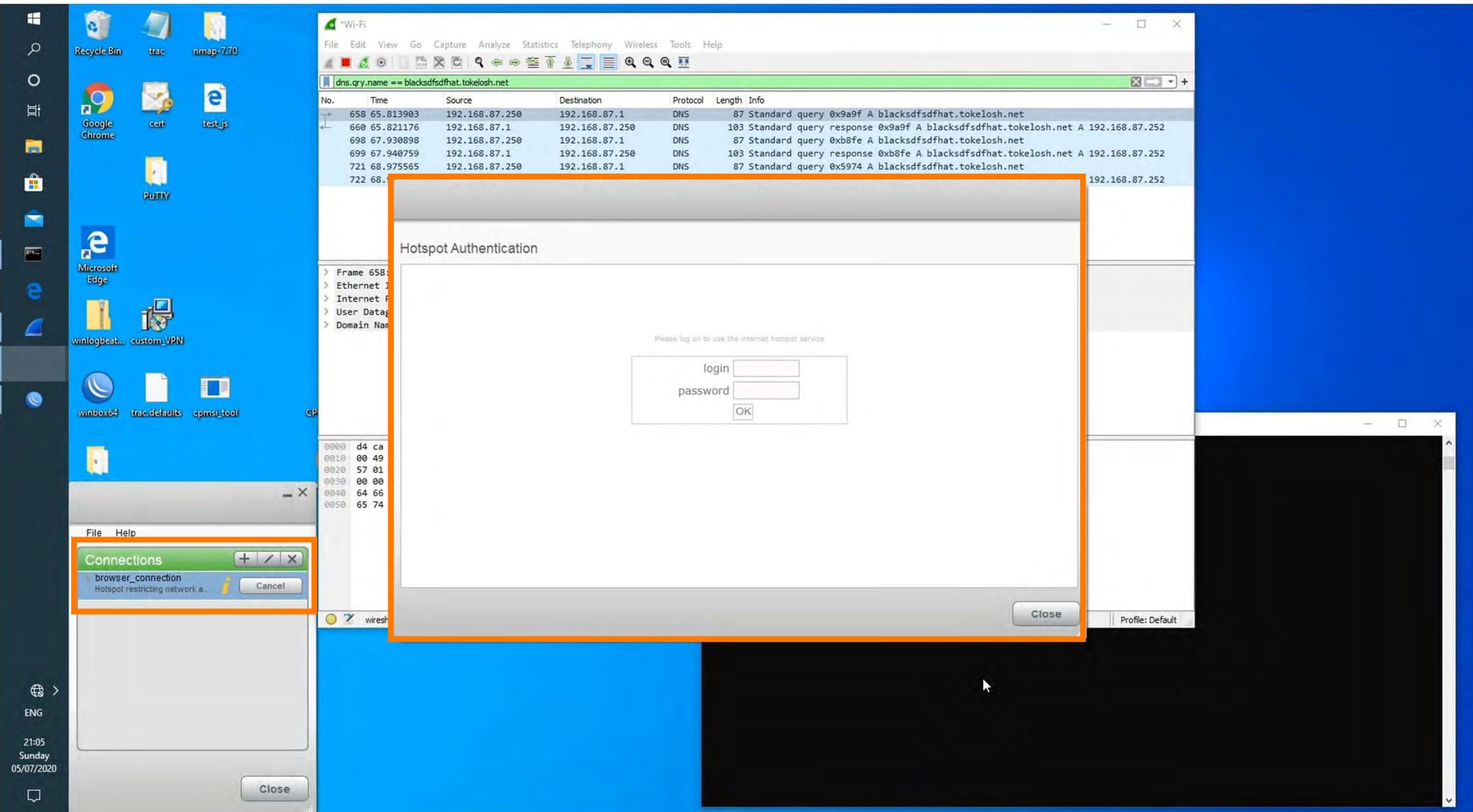
bit.ly/orangevpn

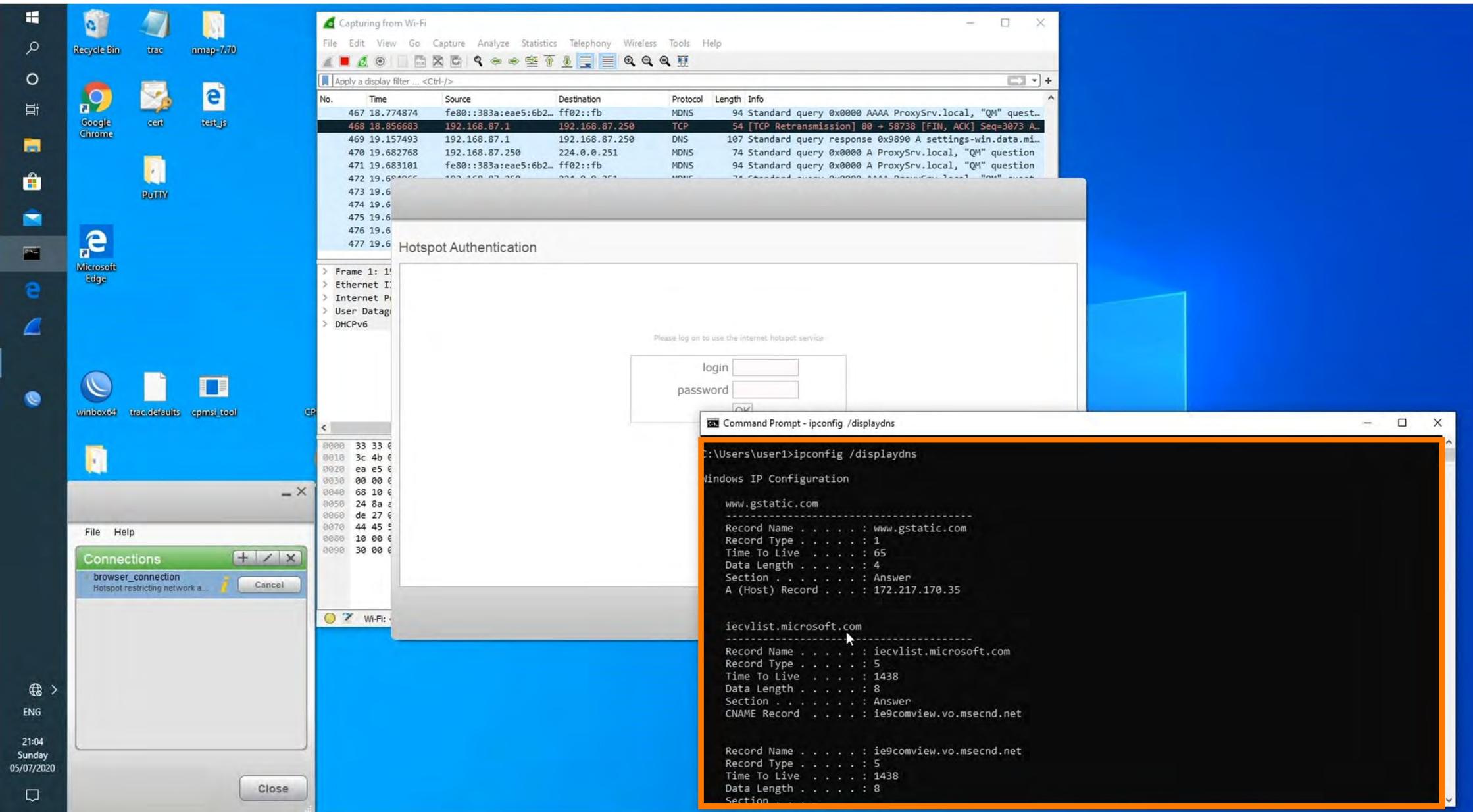


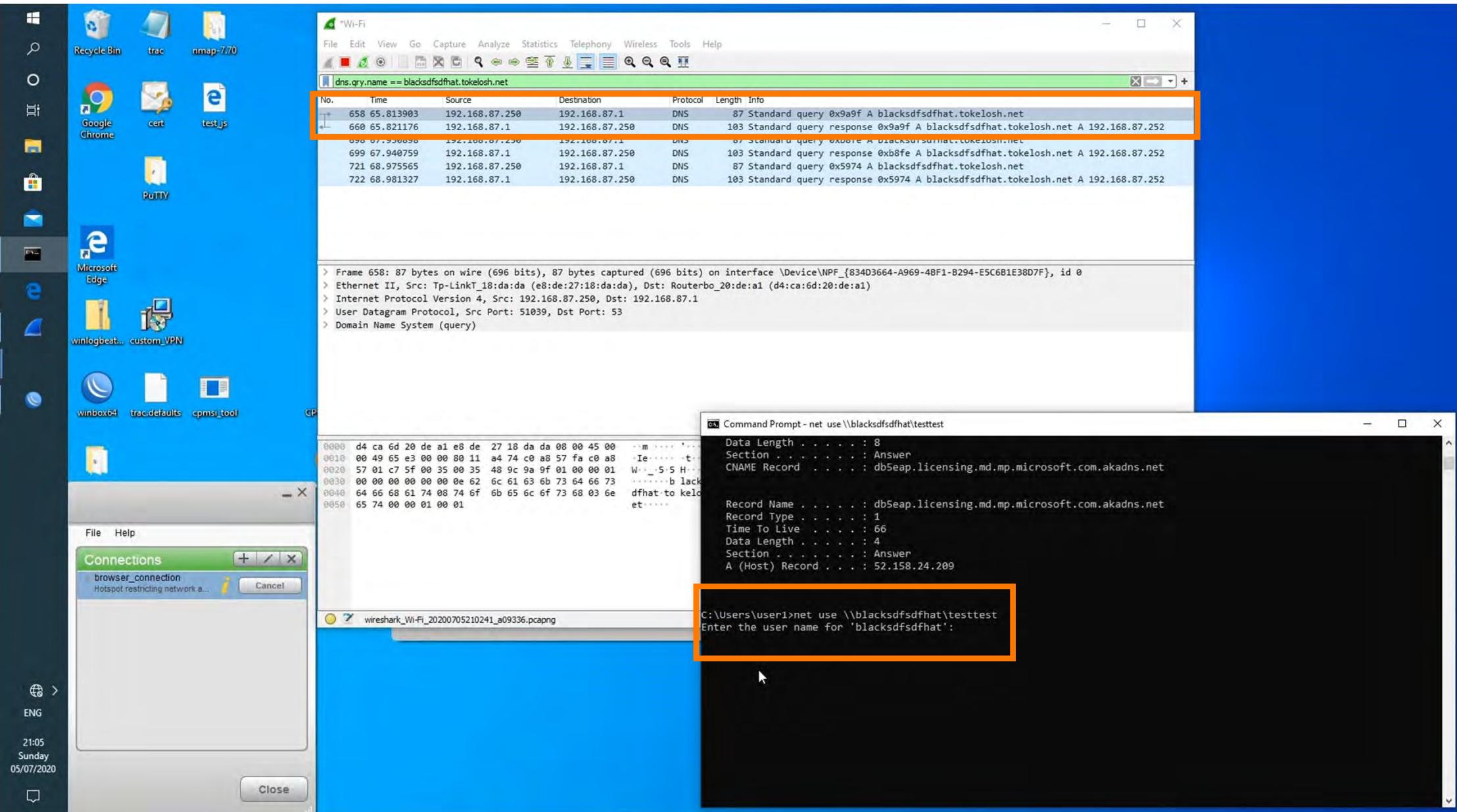
charlvdwalt



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Windows Taskbar:

- Recycle Bin
- trac
- nmap-7.70
- Google Chrome
- cert
- test.js
- putty
- Microsoft Edge
- winlogbeat... custom_VPN
- winbox64
- trac.defaults
- cprnsi_tool

System tray:

- File
- Help
- Connections
- browser_connection (Connected)
- Disconnect
- Close

System status:

- ENG
- 21:12
- Sunday
- 05/07/2020

Wi-Fi interface (Minimized):

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

dnsqry.name == blacksdfsdfhat.tokelosh.net

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol
658	65.813903	192.168.87.250	192.168.87.1	DNS
660	65.821176	192.168.87.1	192.168.87.250	DNS
698	67.930898	192.168.87.250	192.168.87.1	DNS
699	67.940759	192.168.87.1	192.168.87.250	DNS
721	68.975565	192.168.87.250	192.168.87.1	DNS
722	68.981327	192.168.87.1	192.168.87.250	DNS

Frame 658: 87 bytes on wire (696 bits), 87 bytes captured (696 bits)
Ethernet II, Src: Tp-LinkT_18:da:da (e8:de:27:18:da:da), Dst: Router (08:00:27:00:00:00)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.87.250, Dst: 192.168.87.1
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 51039, Dst Port: 53
Domain Name System (query)

Windows Command Prompt:

```
C:\Users\user1>ipconfig /displaydns
Windows IP Configuration

C:\Users\user1>ipconfig /all
Windows IP Configuration

Host Name . . . . . : DESKTOP-0OKT1SB
Primary Dns Suffix . . . . . :
Node Type . . . . . : Hybrid
IP Routing Enabled. . . . . : No
WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . : No
DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . : srctestlab.com
                               tokelosh.net
```

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection* 10:

```
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . : srctestlab.com
Description . . . . . :
Physical Address . . . . . : 02-05-85-7F-EB-80
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : No
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . . : Yes
Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::8c0f:492a:abb9:96e8%17(Preferred)
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.38.100(Preferred)
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 0.0.0.0
DHCPv6 IAID . . . . . : 687998341
DHCPv6 Client DUID. . . . . : 00-01-00-01-24-8A-A3-A2-00-0C-29-C8-03-23
DNS Servers . . . . . : 192.168.38.2
NetBIOS over Tcpip. . . . . : Enabled
```

Ethernet adapter Ethernet 3:

```
Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
Description . . . . . :
Physical Address . . . . . : 00-09-0F-AA-00-01
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : Yes
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . . : Yes
```

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

```
Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . : localdomain
Description . . . . . : Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Network Connection
Physical Address . . . . . : 00-0C-29-C8-03-23
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : Yes
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . . : Yes
```

Ethernet adapter Ethernet:

```
Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
Description . . . . . :
Physical Address . . . . . : 54-BC-B4-48-B4-0E
```

Wireshark window:

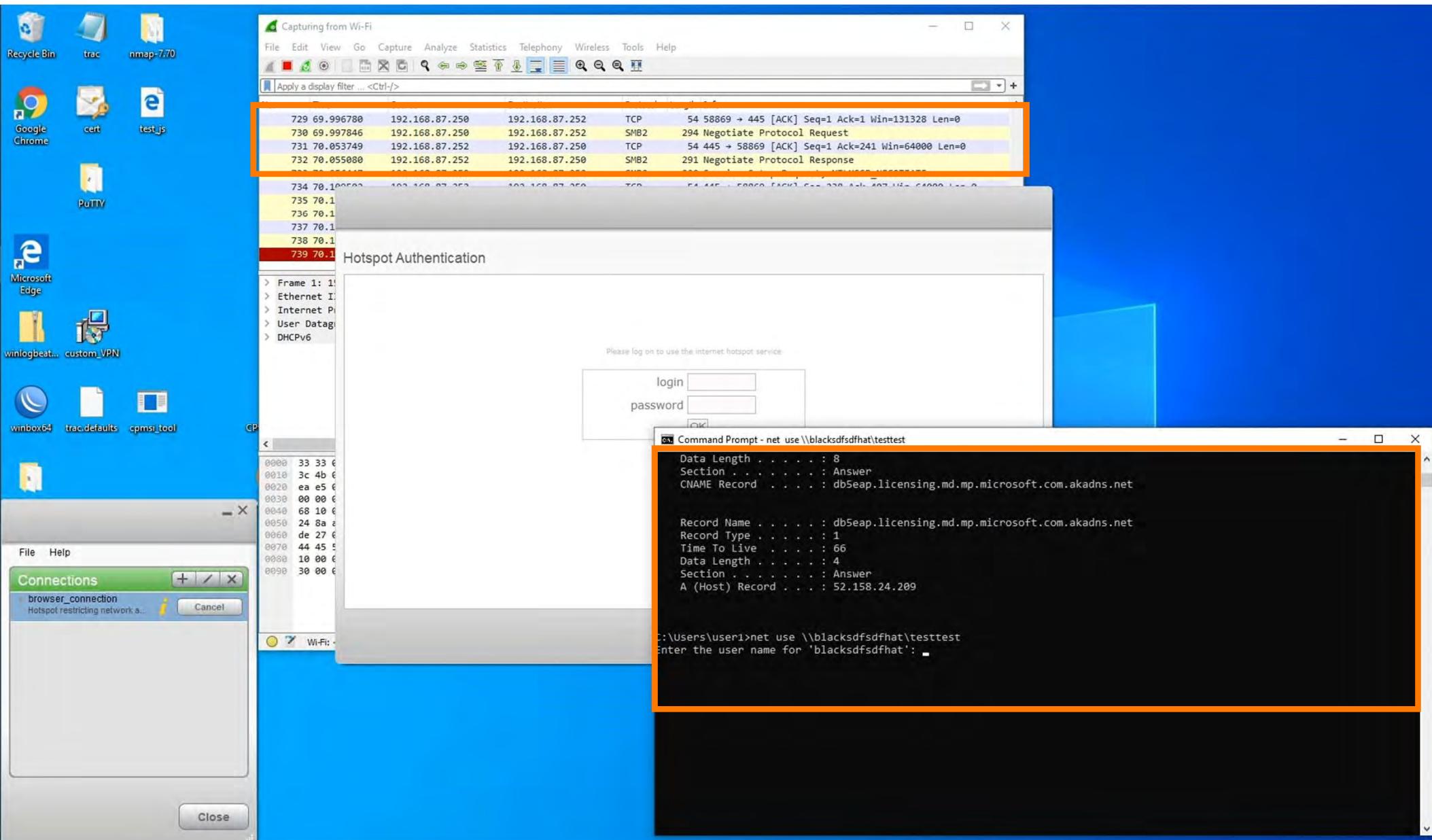
wireshark_Wi-Fi_20200705210241_a09336.pcapng

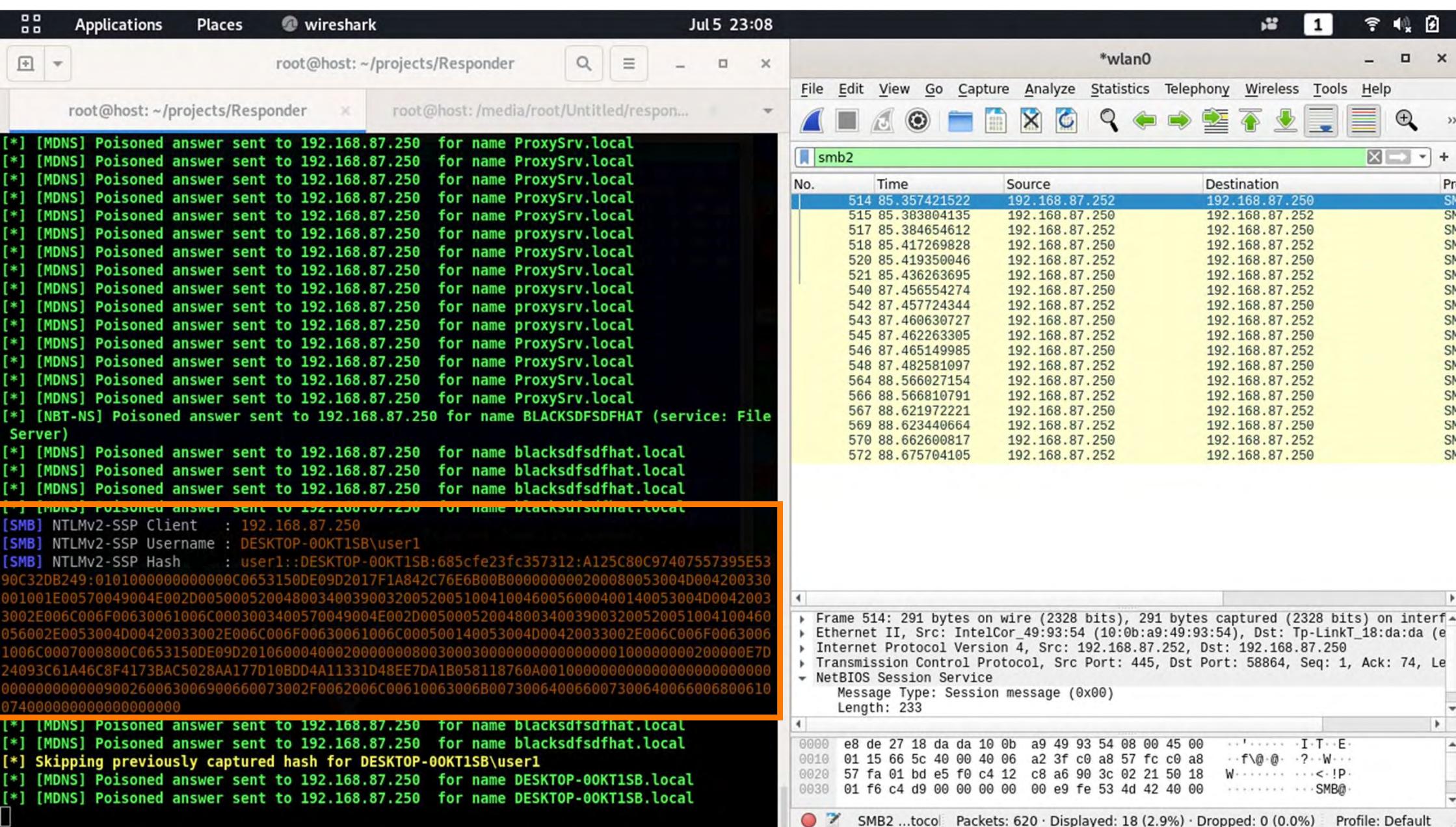
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

dnsqry.name == blacksdfsdfhat.tokelosh.net

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol
658	65.813903	192.168.87.250	192.168.87.1	DNS
660	65.821176	192.168.87.1	192.168.87.250	DNS
698	67.930898	192.168.87.250	192.168.87.1	DNS
699	67.940759	192.168.87.1	192.168.87.250	DNS
721	68.975565	192.168.87.250	192.168.87.1	DNS
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Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.87.250, Dst: 192.168.87.1
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 51039, Dst Port: 53
Domain Name System (query)





Demo – Responder attack fully connected in lock down mode



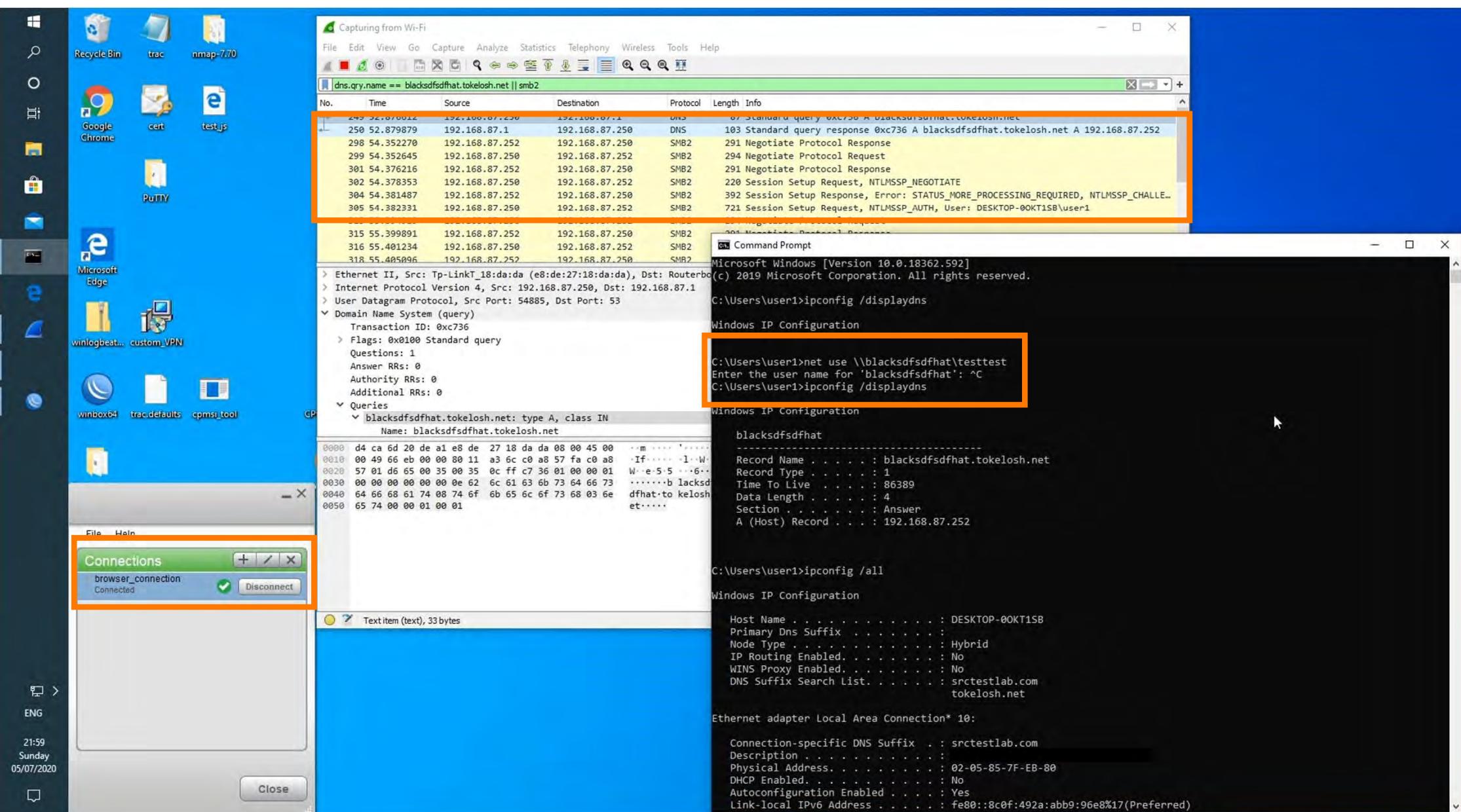
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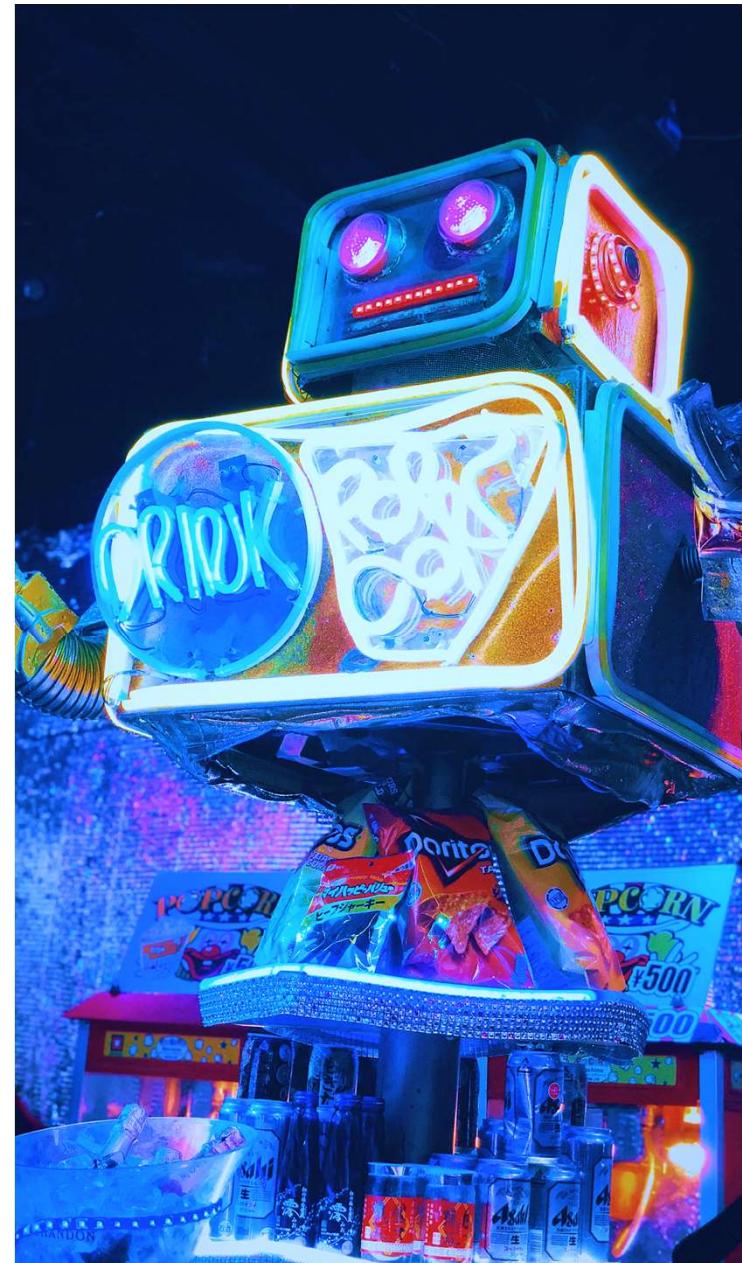


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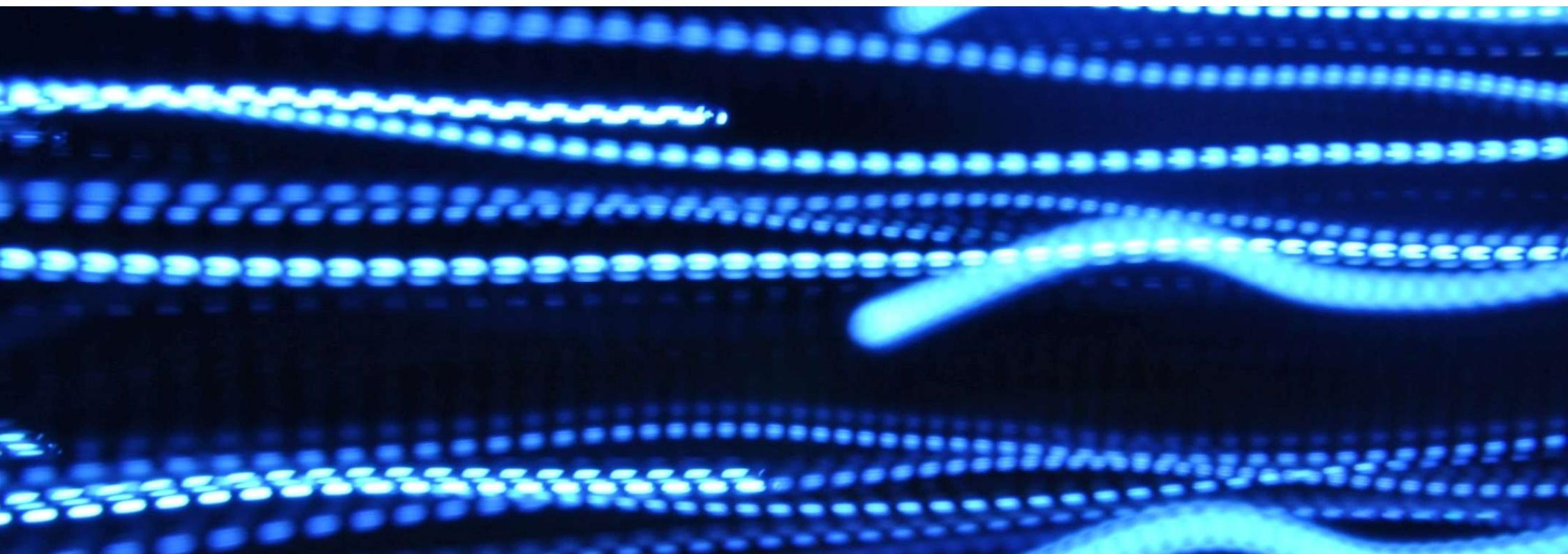


Observations

- The number of configuration options when setting up a VPN and supporting infrastructure is overwhelming.
- Product packaging, licensing and offerings vary dramatically.
- **Training, experience and support matters**
- Configuration nuances and overloaded functionality can create all sorts of **technical side effects**
- Captive portal detection with ‘Captive Portal Mini Browser’ is **not always consistent**
- Some vendors have **no specific ‘lock down’ mode**, but rather a disparate set of features that need to be combined
- **Mobile devices generally present viewer risks** than desktops, provided that the VPN is established via mobile data *before* connecting to Wi-Fi
- Other OS present **fewer risks than Windows** because they strictly control the process and are simply less talkative.



5. Conclusions



Overview of findings

- We believe that the scenario where users are connecting via **compromised home Wi-Fi or malicious public Wi-Fi is real** and deserves a place on the enterprise Threat Model.
- **Captive Portal is a common scenario**, but not is not an essential attribute for the threats to be real. Compromised AP or home router is just as significant.
- We believe there is a **reasonable expectation that the ‘tunnel’ a VPN creates should protect users** against the threats we tested.
- Out-of-the box and **common configurations generally do not address the threats** identified when the AP is considered malicious.
- All the **vendors assessed offer features** to address malicious Wi-Fi and Captive Portal scenario.
- However the **effectiveness of these offerings various substantially and erratically** across the vendors.

Out of the box and common configurations generally do not address the threats identified

	Standard Mode	'Lock down' mode		
Captured	Red			
Online	Red	Green	Red	Green
	Red	Green	Red	Green

Recommendations

▪ Technical

- Ensure you control and centralise all DNS settings.
- Fully qualify internal host names.
- Avoid split tunnelling if possible.
- Be careful of session time-outs.
- Use a firewall or EDP to block outgoing connections.

▪ Tactical

- Carefully consider your use cases and threat model. Understand what security threats the security technology is supposed to address.
- Engage with your vendors.
- Examine your vendor choices carefully. Not all products address these risks equally.
- Consider some fresh paradigms, e.g. mobile data, or simple SSL with certificate pinning.
- ‘Zero Trust’

**Fully understand and utilise
all ‘lock down’ features.**



A battle of two business models

Those features face unfair
judgments

Would EPR
offer
supplementary
protection?

Free-Wifi
becomes a
business
 liability

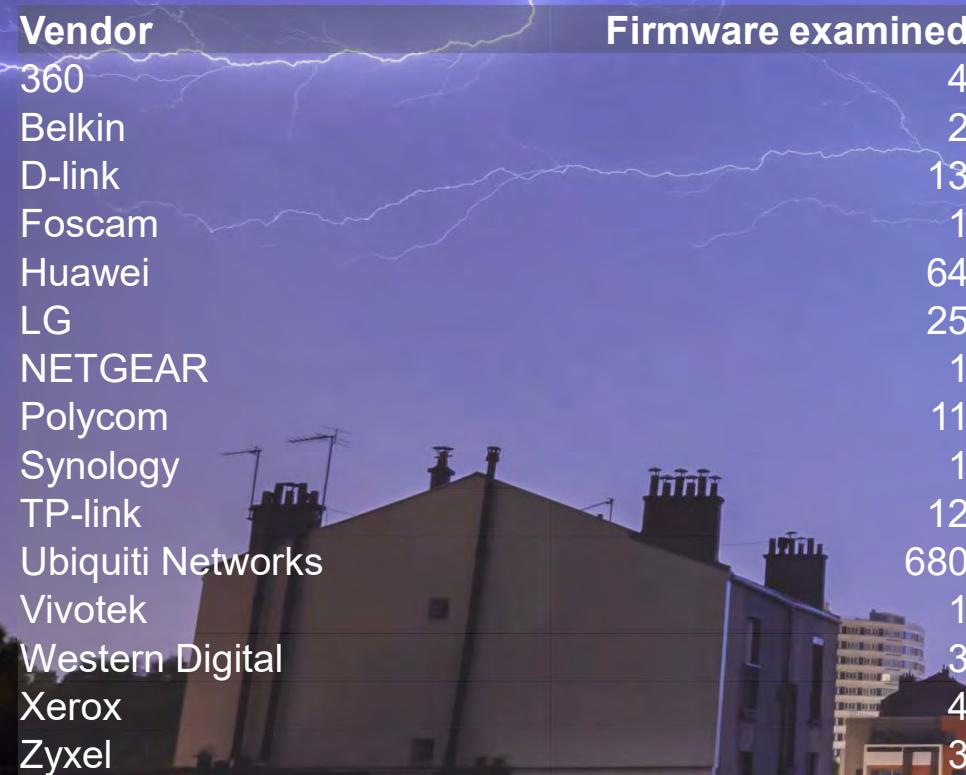
Legal and
liability
concerns
emerge

VPs respond
with new
features

Options for
monetisation
emerge

Captive portals
offer legal risk
mitigation

Thanks to the vendors of all kinds



Over 51,677 firmwares for 8,516 products across 191 vendors

FINITE STATE

Orange
Cyberdefense

dankie

Orange
Cyberdefense

 charlvdwalt

 wicusross

bit.ly/orangevpn



Orange Cyberdefense