



# How hackers changed the security industry

Chris Wysopal

BruCON '17

How did we get here?



We made trouble.

DDO 6200.28-STD  
Supersedes  
CSC-STD-001-83, dated 15 Aug 83  
Library No. 5225.711



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STANDARD

**DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
TRUSTED COMPUTER  
SYSTEM EVALUATION  
CRITERIA**

DECEMBER 1985



# “Improving the Security of Your Site by Breaking Into It”

By Dan Farmer and Weitse Venema, 1993





Hackers Made  
Information  
Security a  
Participatory  
Sport

# The First Hacker Tools

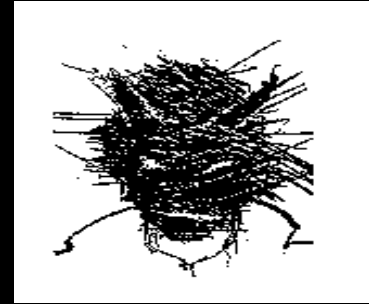
Crack – Alec Muffett - 1991

*Targets guessable passwords*

```
egrep ':0:|General' /etc/passw  
./Crack nydata  
ack: The Password Cracker.  
ack: Sorting out and merging f  
ack: Merging password files...  
ack: Creating gecod-derived di  
gecod: making non-permuted wo  
gecod: making permuted words
```

SATAN – Dan Farmer &  
Weitse Venema - 1995

*Targets misconfiguration*



Netcat – Hobbitt - 1996

*Network swiss army knife*



Bugtraq



# Hackers Write Commercial Security Software





THE EETIMES

# WHITE PAPER

They don't build products; they tear them apart—and that's why they have become the unofficial vanguard of security

THE RISE OF THE  
UNDERGROUND  
ENGINEER

Improve the  
Security of  
Your *Product*  
by Breaking  
Into It

## Product companies selling security features

Identity & Access Management

Encryption

Firewalls

## Accountancies selling compliance

SAS 70

NIST 80-153



**Into the light:** *Once shadowy computer code warriors like Kingpin are going legit*

## Using Good Hackers to Battle Bad Hackers

**I**F YOU HAVE A MURKY PAST AND DOUBT you could become a dot-com millionaire, think again. Last week a scraggly band of hackers known as “LOpht Heavy Industries” joined with some straitlaced tech execs to form @Stake, an Internet-security consulting firm.

Newsweek, January 17, 2000

## In 2000 Launched @stake security consultancy

We conducted our own vulnerability research

We built our own attack/testing tools

We secured applications by breaking into them

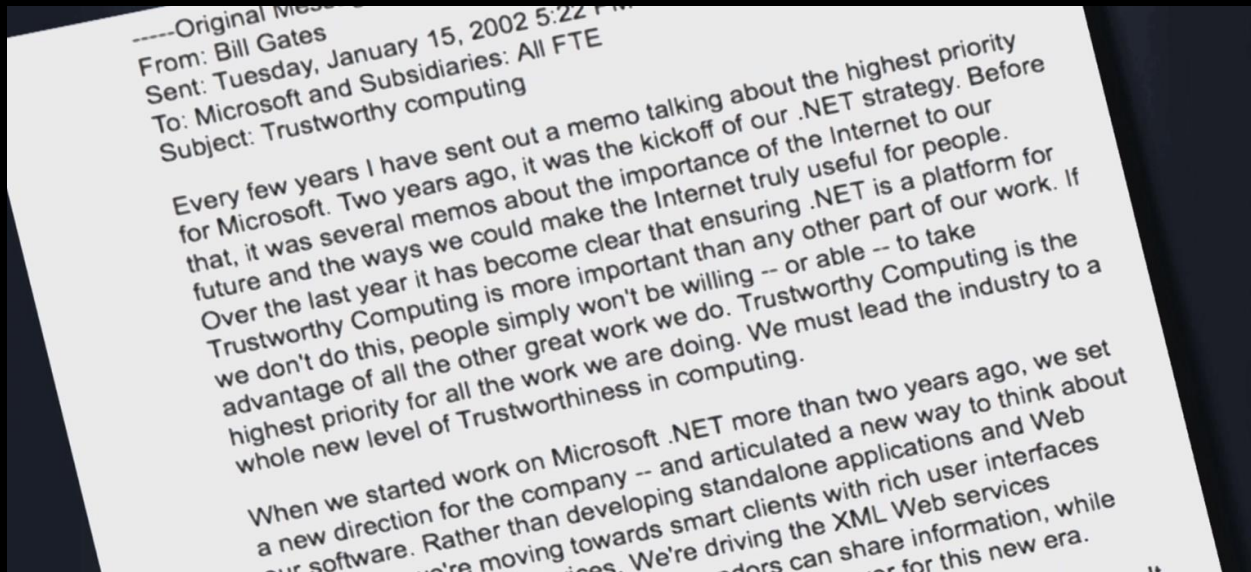
Others soon followed:

Guardent (acquired by Verisign)

Foundstone (acquired by McAfee)

The L0pht  
+  
Dan Geer

# Remember the Microsoft SDLC



## What did we teach them?

- How to threat model
- How to exploit heap overflows
- How to fuzz software
- Built their first fuzzer – SPIKE
- How to use SysInternals Process Explorer to find attack surface
- Now Microsoft SDLC is the reference for the industry – literally, ISO 27034



## Modern Security Era Is Born 2003 -

Penetration testing is a *requirement*.

Companies have a product security response team.

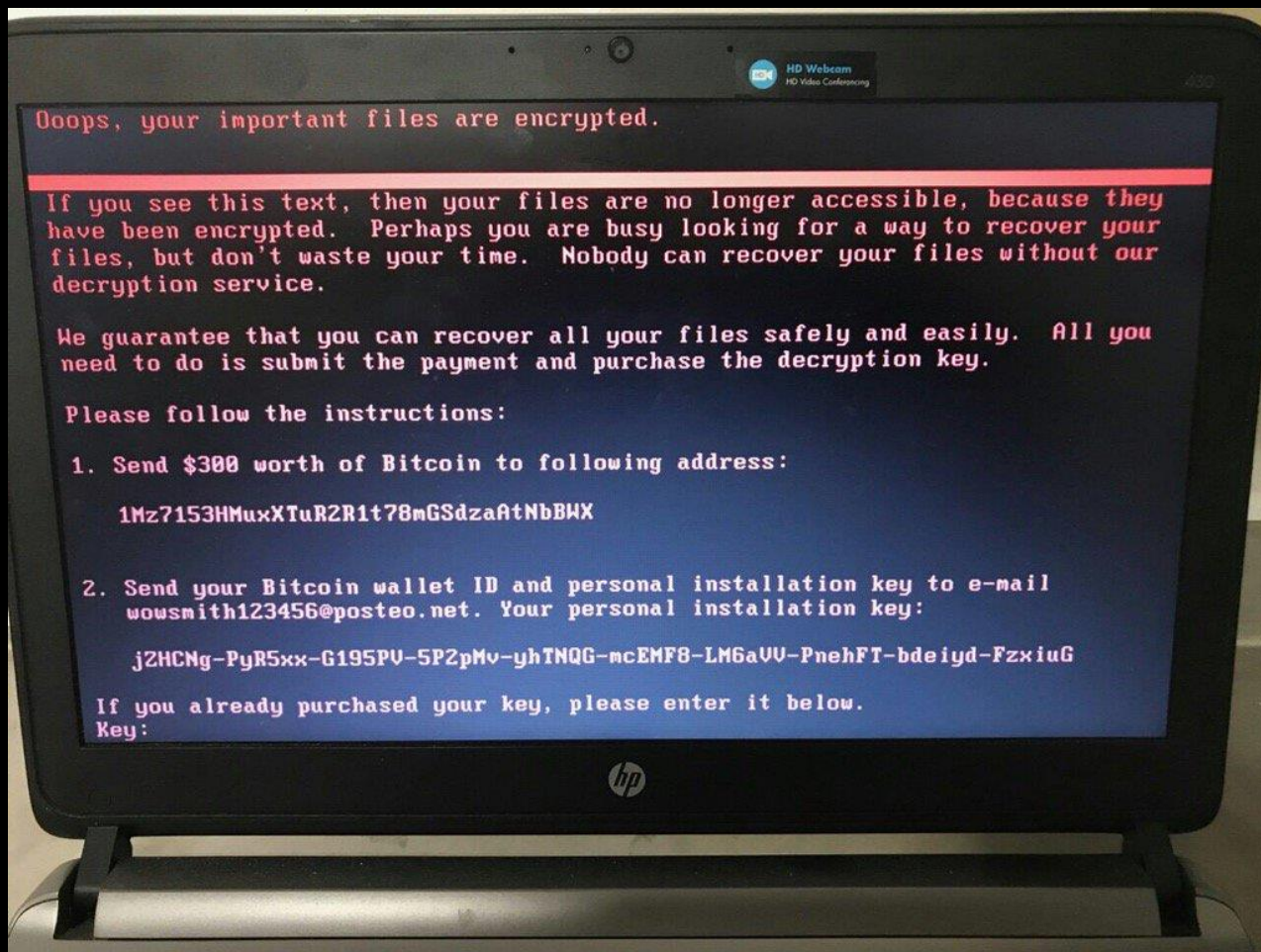
Development teams use hacker techniques for security Testing. Look to Microsoft as a model.

And later came Bug Bounties!



Fast forward  
to  
2017

Nation  
States  
pretend  
to be  
criminal  
hackers



# And Hackers are now Insiders



But we are **OLD** insiders

We need the next  
generation to keep making  
trouble

**Make me nervous!**



# Security Champions



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