WHEN LEMON MARKETS, IMPOSTER SYNDROME AND DUNNING-KRUGER COLLIDE

@haroonmeer



Mark Hillick @markofu · Sep 27

My @brucon 2018 goal is to have prettier slides than @haroonmeer. Not focusing on content or quality, purely aesthetics.

I do live in LA after all & I know @ChrisJohnRiley likes pictures!



3



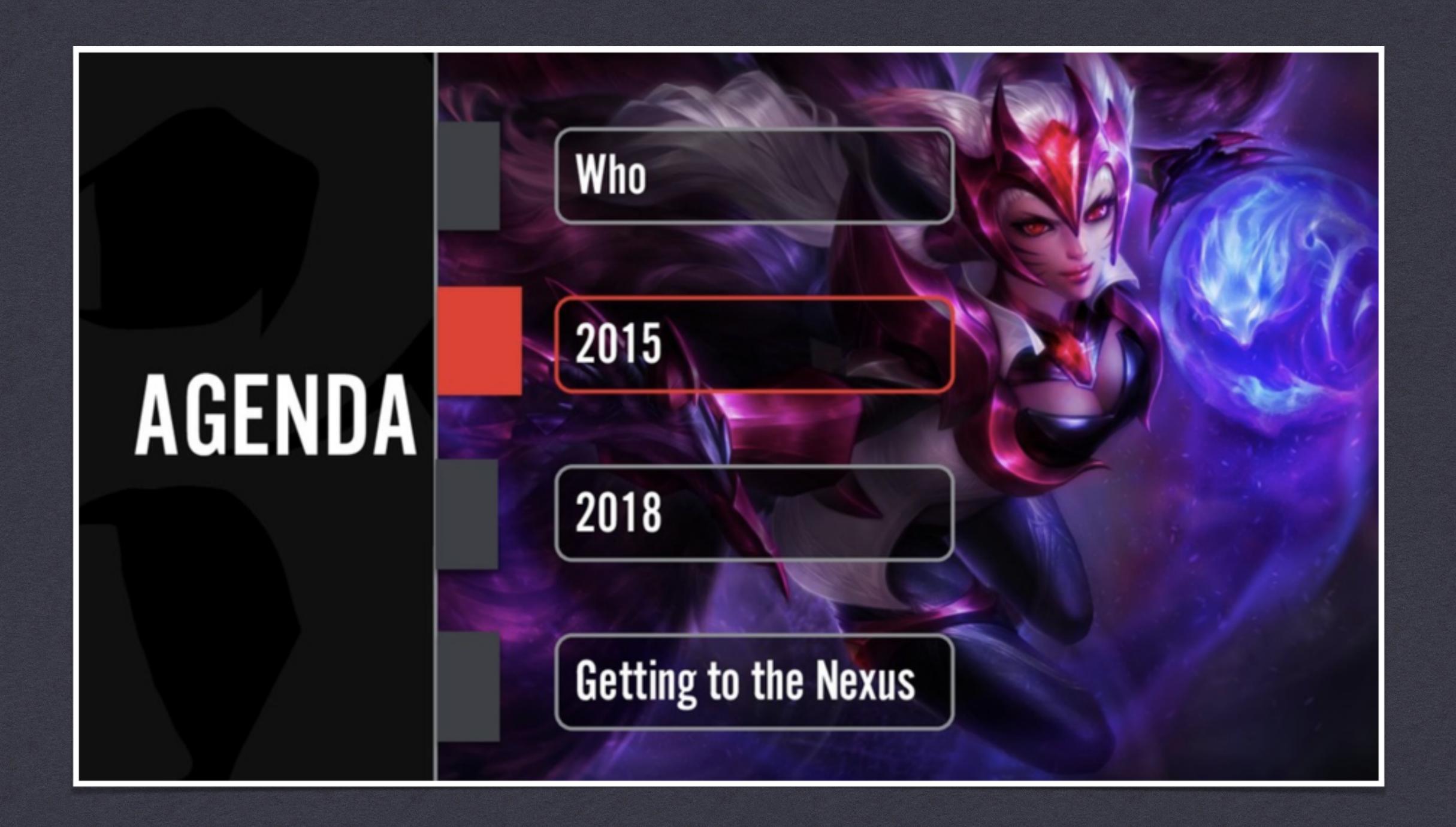


5



RESTECP!





Thanks!



BruCON Security Training

PRUSSELS, 21 & 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

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Keynote Speakers

[edit]

Haroon Meer (Thinkst.com, South-Africa) -- You and your research

Haroon is a well-known security researcher who has recently started his own venture with Thinkst.com, an applied research company. He is also involved with ZACON, a security conference in South-Africa. Haroon is a frequent speaker at conferences such as Blackhat, Defcon, etc.

What does it take to do quality research? What stops you from being a one-hit wonder? Is there an age limit to

productive hackery? What are the key ingredients needed and how can you up your chances of doing great work? In a

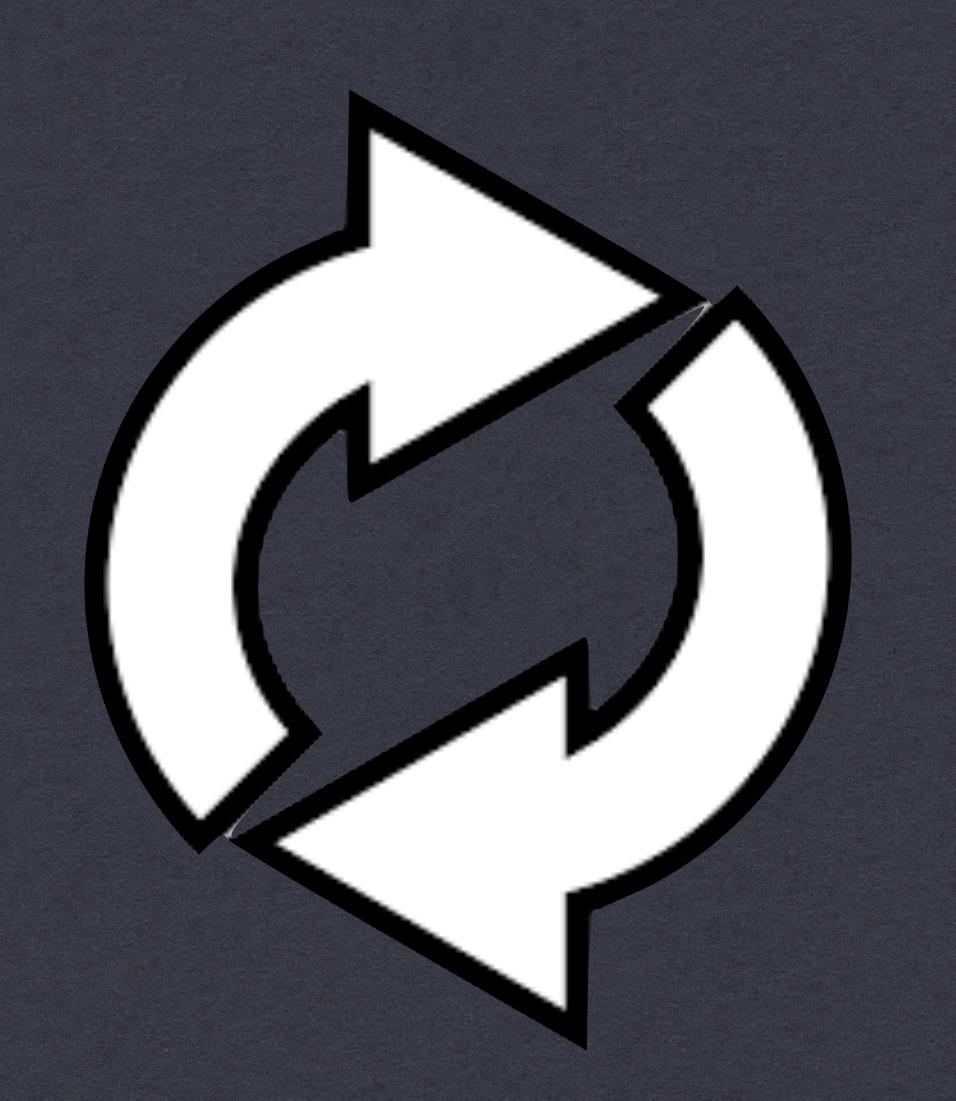
talk unabashedly stolen from far greater minds we hope to answer these questions and discuss their repercussions.

Thanks!

Thanks x 2

Thanks!

Disclaimers



"Fig Leaf Security"

@haroonmeer - 2011

Learning the wrong lessons from Offense

@haroonmeer





You & Your Research

2011-@haroonmeer (haroon@thinkst.com)

Disclaimers





Cidente Abraham Sinner.

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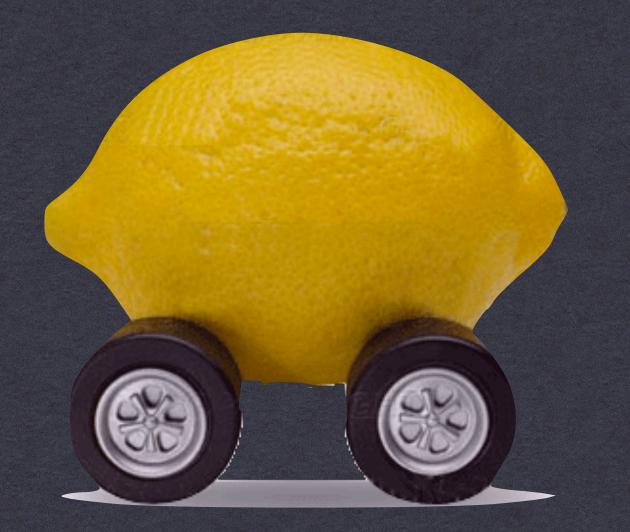
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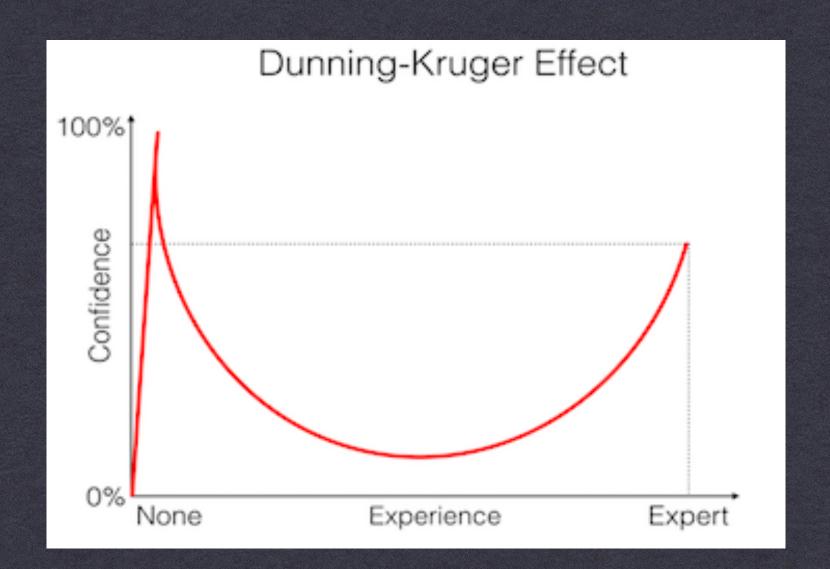
When Lemon Markets, Imposter Syndrome and Dunning-Kruger Collide

When Lemon M. J.S. V. OS'. Syndrome arc' ann kriva. Jollide

When Lemon Markets. Imposter Syndrome and Dumning-Kruger Coilide

DON'T BETHAT GUY!

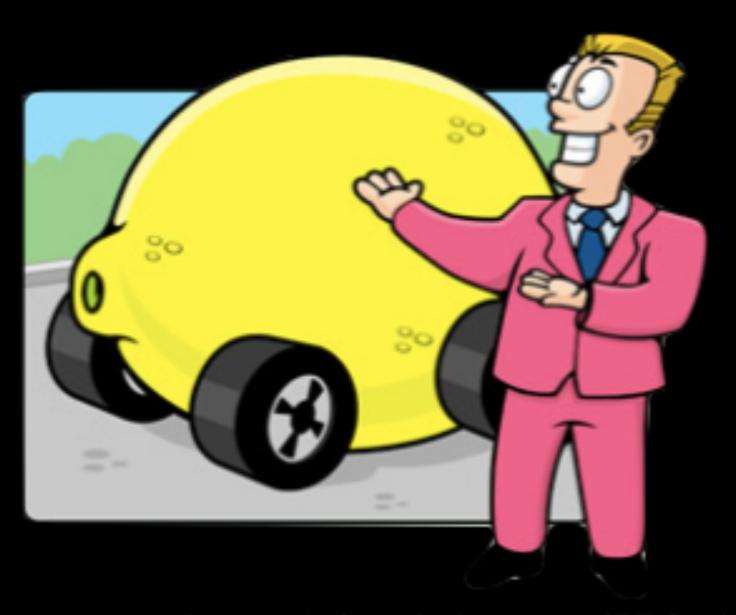






Lemon Markets

Pen-Testing Companies a "market for lemons"



http://hydrogen.its.ucdavis.edu/eec/education/EEC-classes/eeclimate/class-readings/akerlof-the%20market%20for%20lemons.pdf









thinkst

44CON







(Customer View)

44C0N









44CON











44C0N

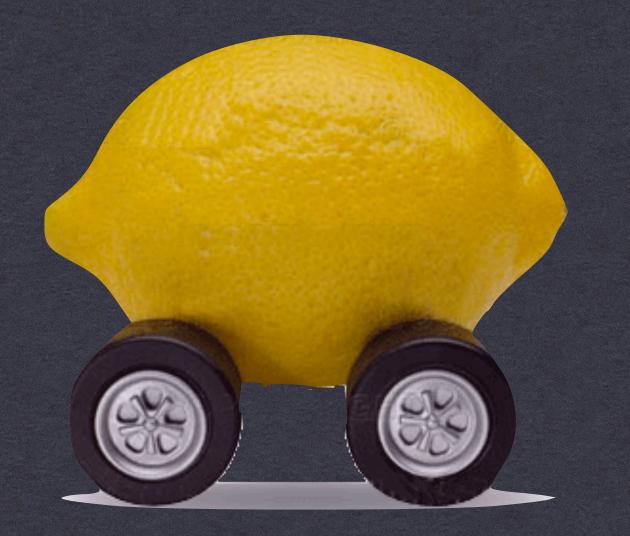


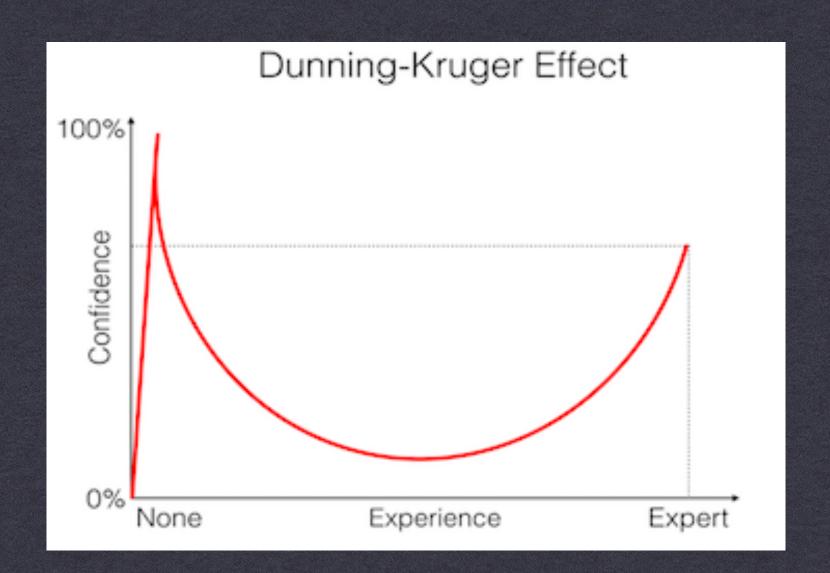




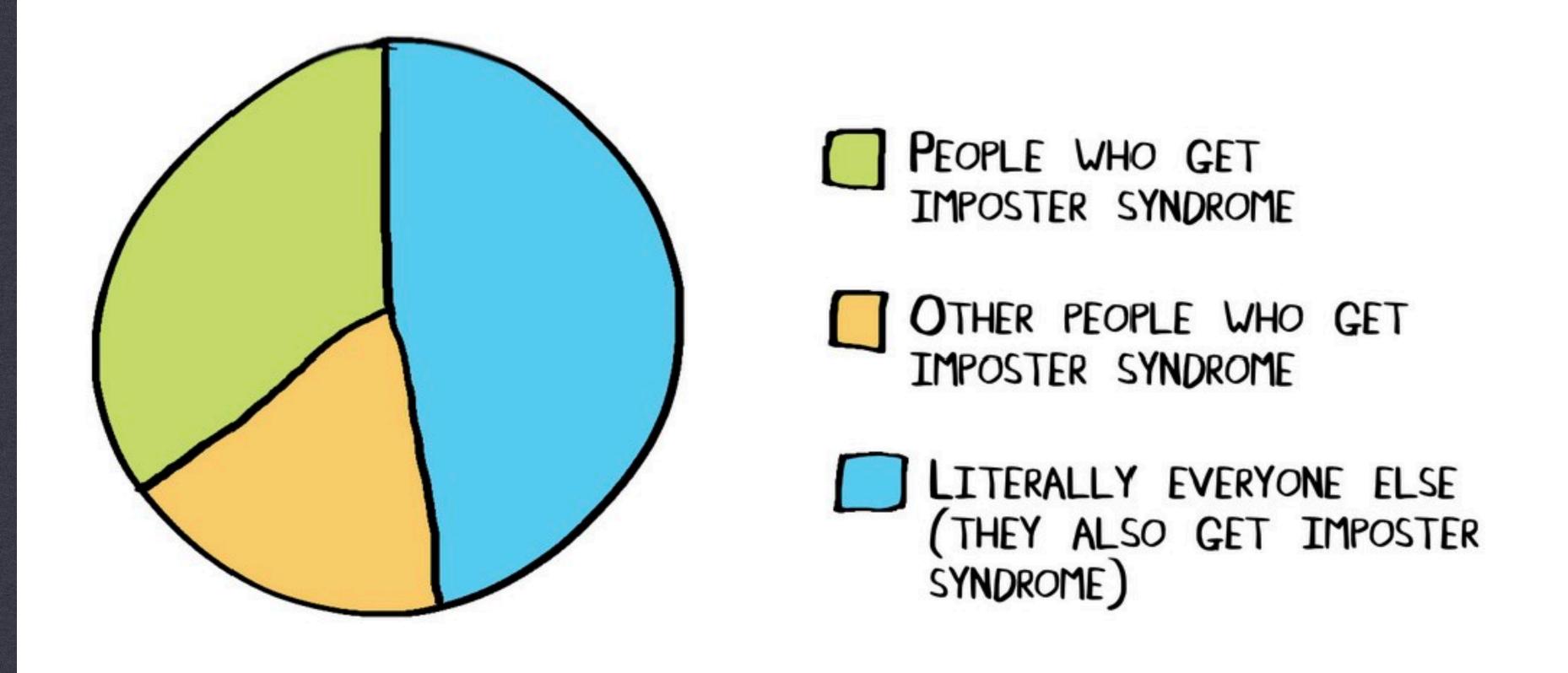
44CON











EVERYONE FEELS LIKE AN IMPOSTER SOMETIMES, AND THAT'S OKAY

Well Discussed

Possibly Misguided



Now, how did I come to do this study?

I saw I was a stooge.

I saw Feynman up close.
I saw Fermi and Teller.
I saw Oppenheimer.
I saw Hans Bethe..

Why this talk?



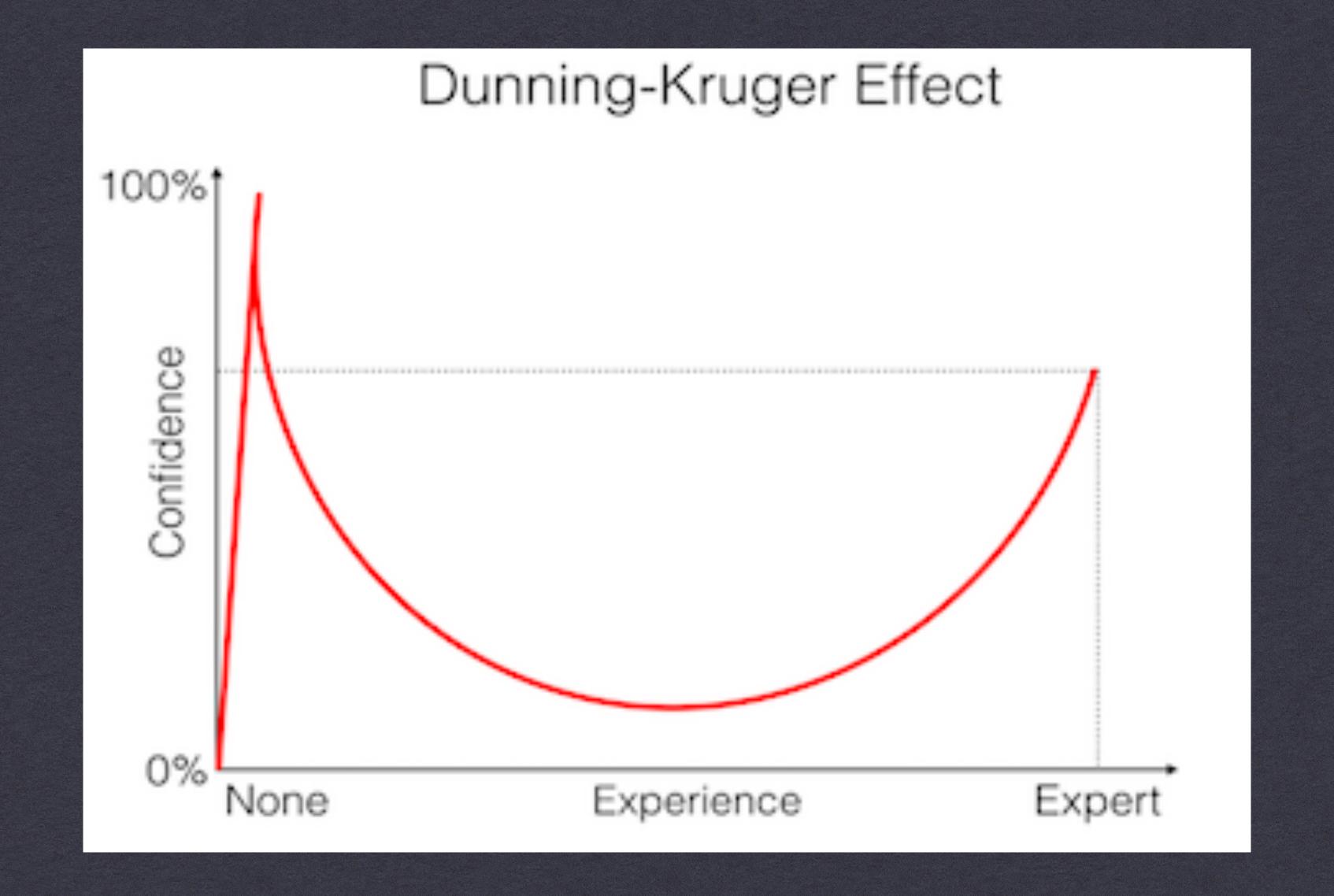


Cidente Abraham Sinner.

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More people than ever..

More money than ever..

More hacks than ever..

Hypothesis

We are currently sucking

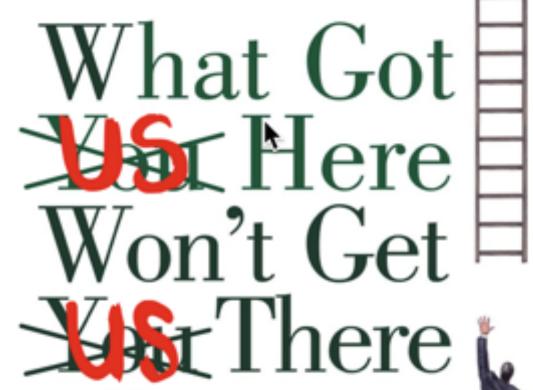
...and we are sucking because while we think everyone else is sucking,

we think we are doing just fine...

the hard thing

(about the hard things)

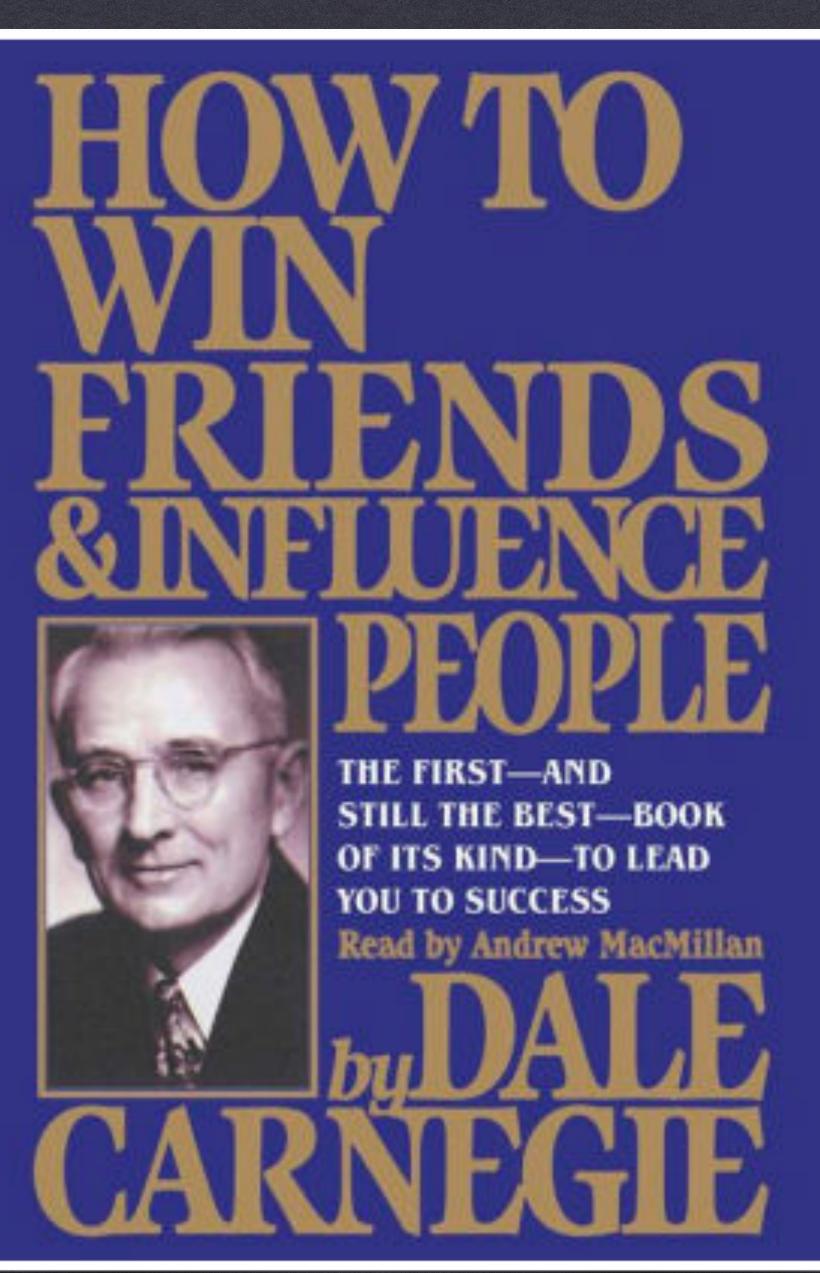


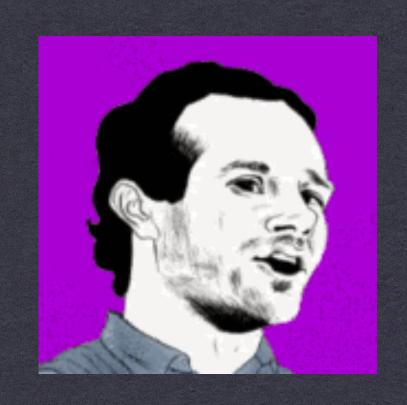




@haroonmeer Thinkst

Our personality defects





Give it 5 minutes..



Follow

When I was at The Guardian we wanted to get a sense of how many people with a specialist expertise were commenting on the site.

People with genuine first-person experience or professional qualification in a subject area...

6:36 PM - 22 Sep 2018



Joanna Geary 👉

@JoannaG

Follow

...the ambition was to get a sense of numbers and whether we could imagine a comment system that allowed you to show your expertise as part of your profile.

So, we designed an online survey of commenters to try to find out...

6:38 PM - 22 Sep 2018



Follow

... the result we got was that most Guardian commenters genuinely believed they were experts on approx. 3 to 5 major topic areas (eg. Economics, UK or global politics)

I think it's fair to say we designed the survey poorly, but there was still insight there...

6:41 PM - 22 Sep 2018



Follow

...because when asked to explain why they thought they were experts, they said "because I keep up with the news".

No direct experience, no PhD, but they expected that keeping up with the news on the topic made them an expert in it.

There's a lot to unpack with that...

6:43 PM - 22 Sep 2018



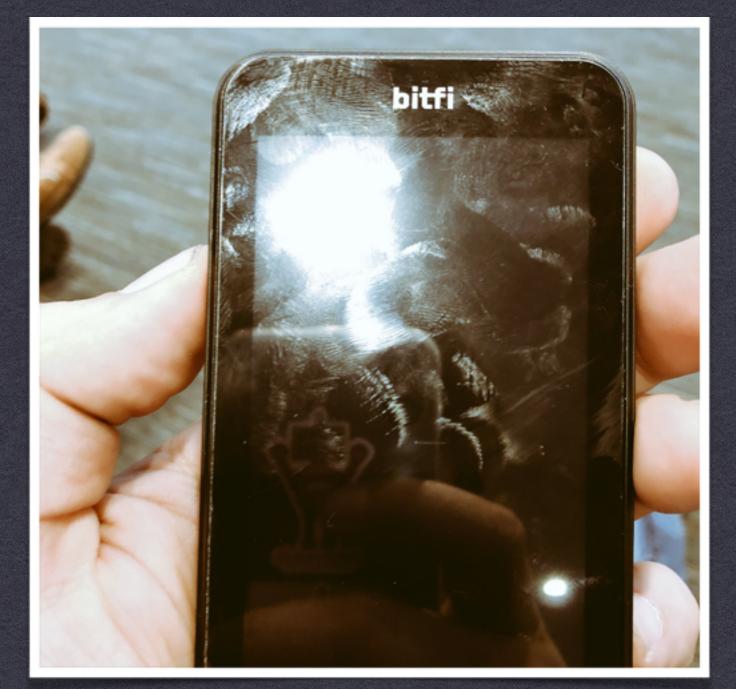
following the News doesn't make you an expert..

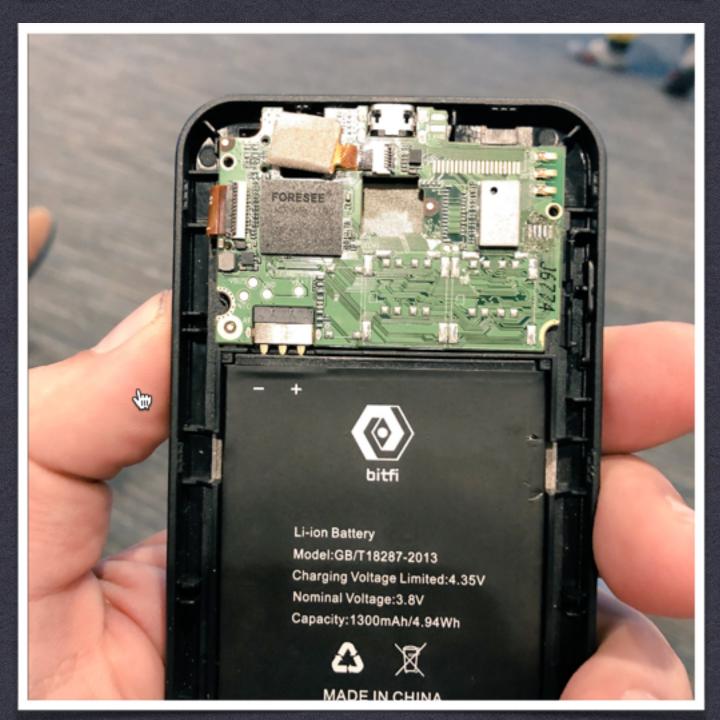














Claudia Pellegrino @c_pellegrino · Apr 3

Does T-Mobile Austria in fact store customers' passwords in clear text @tmobileat? @PWTooStrong @Telekom_hilft

SeloX @SeloX_AUT

Replying to @c_pellegrino @PWTooStrong @Telekom_hilft

Had the same issue with T-Mobile Austria. Apparently they are saving the password in clear because employees have access to them (you have tell them your password when you're taking to them on the phone or in a shop) and they are not case sensitive

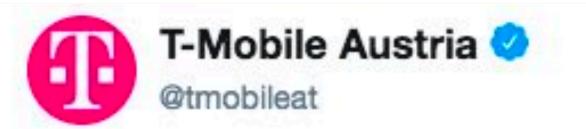


107

€ 892



2.0K





Replying to @c_pellegrino @PWTooStrong @Telekom_hilft

Hello Claudia! The customer service agents see the first four characters of your password. We store the whole password, because you need it for the login for mein.t-mobile.at ^andrea



Claudia Pellegrino @c_pellegrino · Apr 4

Replying to @tmobileat @PWTooStrong @Telekom_hilft

Thanks for your reply Andrea! Storing cleartext passwords in a database is a naughty thing to do. plaintextoffenders.com/faq/devs What can we do to get your devs to fix that?



Tumblr

plaintextoffenders

4.0/5.0 stars - 401,218 ratings









T-Mobile Austria @@tmobileat - Apr 4

Hi @c_pellegrino, I really do not get why this is a problem. You have so many passwords for every app, for every mail-account and so on. We secure all data very carefully, so there is not a thing to fear. ^Käthe



306



355



356



Follow

Replying to @RapidTheNerd @tmobileat

And not to mention, the fact that less than 24 hours after your staff member saying "amazingly good security" an XSS vulnerability has been found inside your website

twitter.com/fabricio_gigli ...

Listen to people who know what they're doing.



3:58 PM - 7 Apr 2018



```
10 100 10 0011 0100 0101 01
10011 d10,0000 10001 10010 10011 10
```

"Why didn't they just do XX?"

For people accustomed to think that plans of campaign and battles are made by generals—as any one of us sitting over a map in his study may imagine how he would have arranged things in this or that battle the questions present themselves: Why did Kutúzov during the retreat not do this or that? Why did he not take up a position before reaching Fili? Why did he not retire at once by the Kaluga road, abandoning Moscow? and so on. People accustomed to think in that way forget, or do not know, the inevitable conditions which always limit the activities of any commander in chief. The activity of a commander in chief's does not at all resemble the activity we imagine to ourselves when we sit at ease in our studies examining some campaign on the map, with a certain number of troops on this and that side in a certain known locality, and begin our plans from some given moment. A commander in chief is never dealing with the *beginning* of any event—the position from which we always contemplate it. The commander in chief is always in the midst of a series of shifting events and so he never can at any moment consider the whole import of an event that is occurring. Moment by moment the event is imperceptibly shaping itself, and at every moment of this continuous, uninterrupted shaping of events the commander in

For people accustomed to think that plans of campaign and battles are made by generals- as any one of us sitting over a map in his study may imagine how he would have arranged things in this or that battle- the questions present themselves: Why did Kutuzov during the retreat not do this or that? Why did he not take up a position before reaching Fili? Why did he not retire at once by the Kaluga road, abandoning Moscow? and so on. People accustomed to think in that way forget, or do not know, the inevitable conditions which always limit the activities of any commander in chief. The activity of a commander in chief does not all resemble the activity we imagine to ourselves when we sit at case in our studies examining some campaign on the map, with a certain number of troops on this and that side in a certain known locality, and begin our plans from some given moment. A commander in chief is never dealing with the plate it. The commander in chief is always in the midst of iting events and so he never can at any moment the whole import of an event that is occurring by moment the event is imperceptibly shaping itself, and at every moment of this continuous, uninterrupted shaping of events the commander in chief is in the midst of a most complex play of intrigues, worries, contingencies, authorities, projects, counsels, threats, and deceptions and is continually obliged to reply to innumerable questions addressed to him, which constantly conflict with one another.

Discussions post-breach are easy

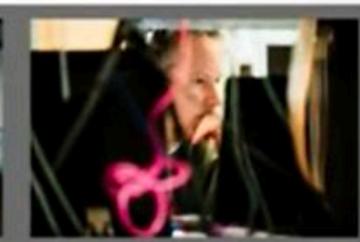
Choosing is the hard part

EMET

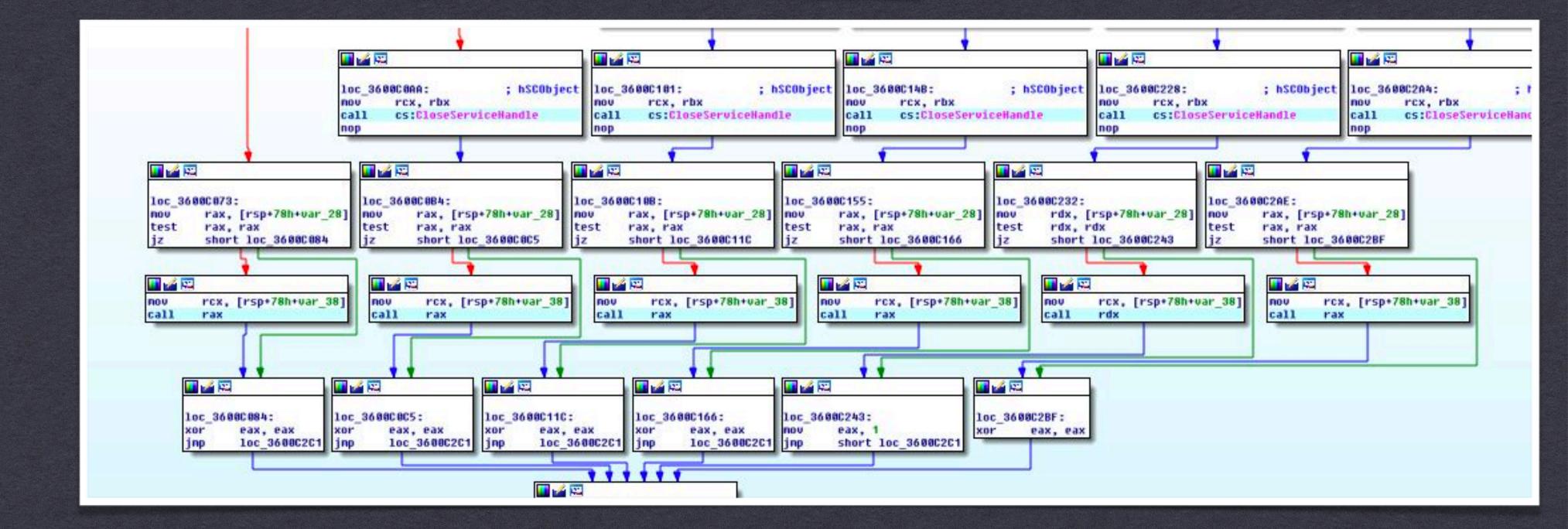
Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit











Microsoft

Trustworthy

Computing

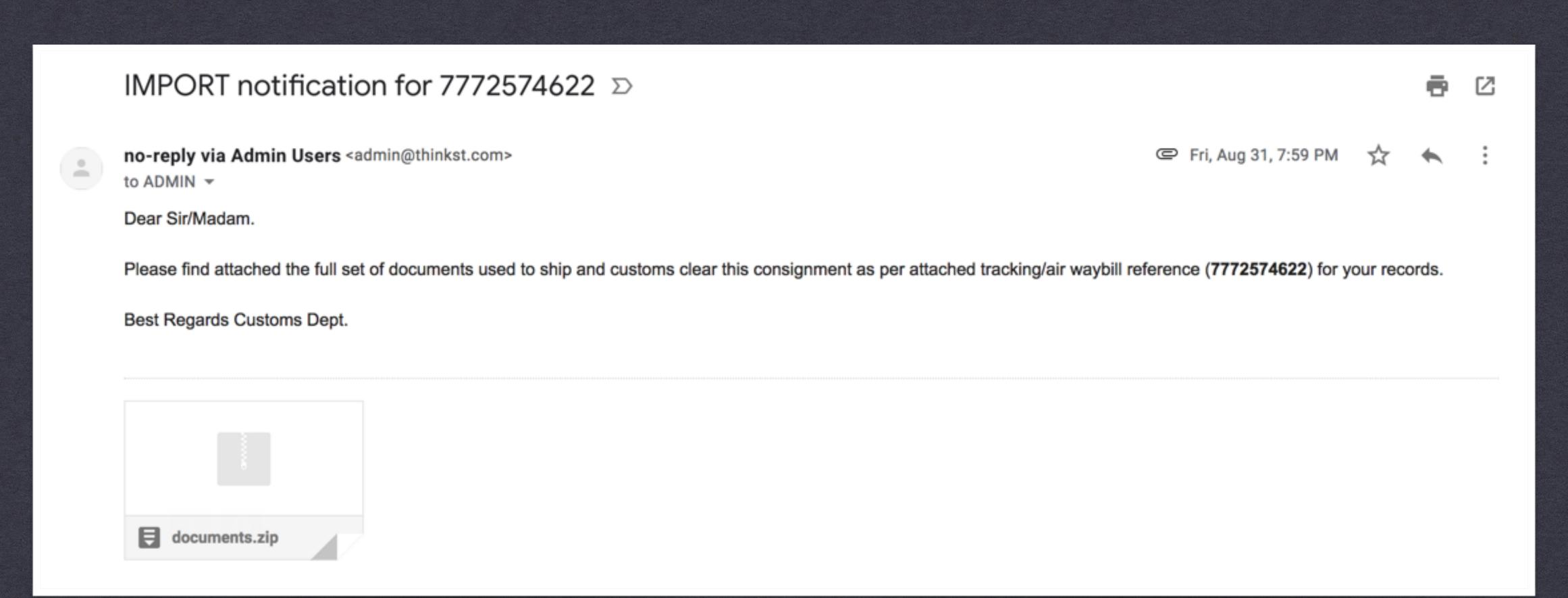


THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED OR SOLD

@ 1935 PARKER BROTHERS, INC.

In fact.. Learning from breaches is critical..

□ ☆ ∑ no-reply via Admin .	IMPORT notification for 3166265292 - Dear Sir/Madam. Please find attached the full set of documents use	
🔲 ☆ ⊃ no-reply via Admin .	IMPORT notification for 3457536600 - Dear Sir/Madam. Please find attached the full set of documents use	•
🔲 ☆ ⊃ no-reply via Admin .	IMPORT notification for 7772574622 - Dear Sir/Madam. Please find attached the full set of documents use	e
□ ☆ ∑ no-reply via Admin .	IMPORT notification for 2833447853 - Dear Sir/Madam. Please find attached the full set of documents use	•



Blue-Teaming can be hard..

This has been something that has been bugging me for a while...

Why does Security have to continue to work SO hard to have to justify its worth to businesses? It's a comment I see come up time and time again about our need to do so, but why?

 \bigcirc 11

1 6

 \bigcirc 32

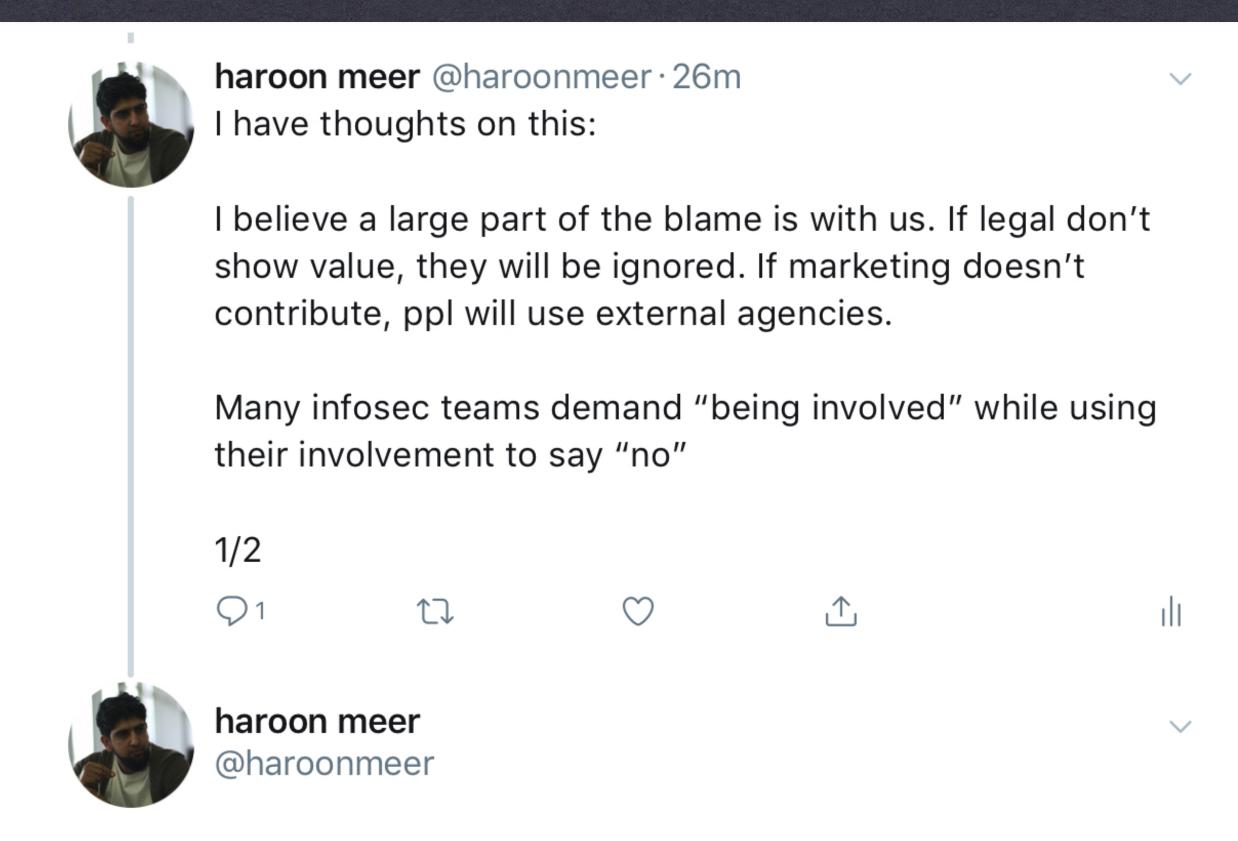
1

We don't expect HR, or Finance, or Engineering, or Legal to have to invest so much time in justifying their existence, but why in 2018 are we still having to do so?

 \bigcirc 5

 \bigcirc 5





If we were adding creative options to enable things to happen securely; if we were making calls in the best interest of the biz.; if we were educating the right ppl on what we did & how we won, we wouldn't need to beg to be included. Everyone wants _those_ folks at the table

There are definite challenges

Learning the wrong lessons from Offense

@haroonmeer



Tight Feedback Loops



Attackers know Costs



If the cost to attack is less than the value of your information to the attacker, you will be attacked







Altocker "Math" 101

Professor Dai Zovi Institute for the Advancement of Memory Corruption

Attackers write Code

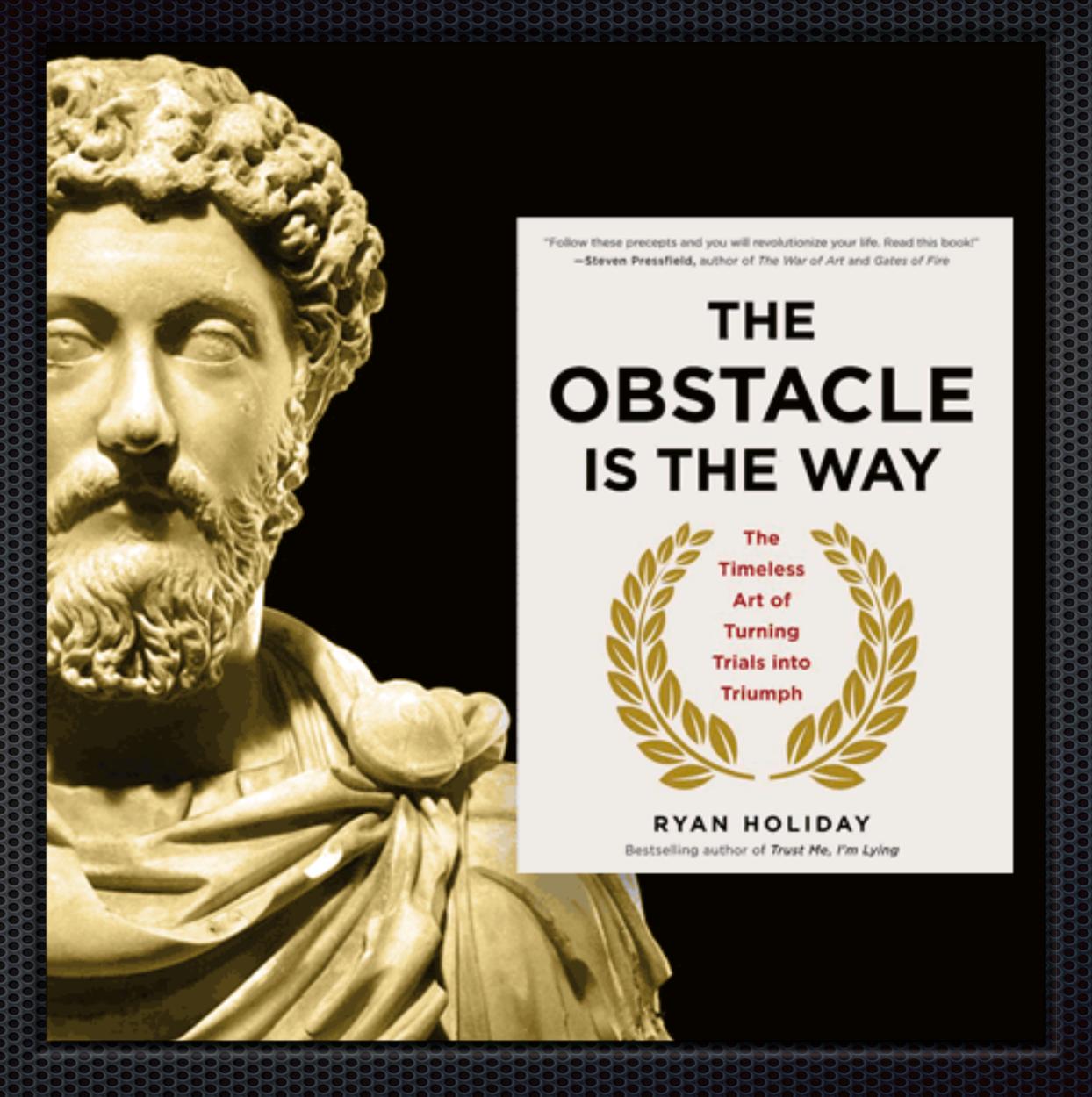


Enterprise Obstacles



Enterprise Obstacles (our attitudes to them)







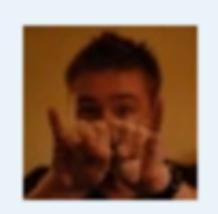
Attack vs. Defense



"It's always easier for others"

But.. We need to be honest..

10,000 hours...



dinodaizovi Dino A. Dai Zovi 17 by taviso

If you have found a bug, chances are that someone else has also. And chances also are that the person is @taviso.

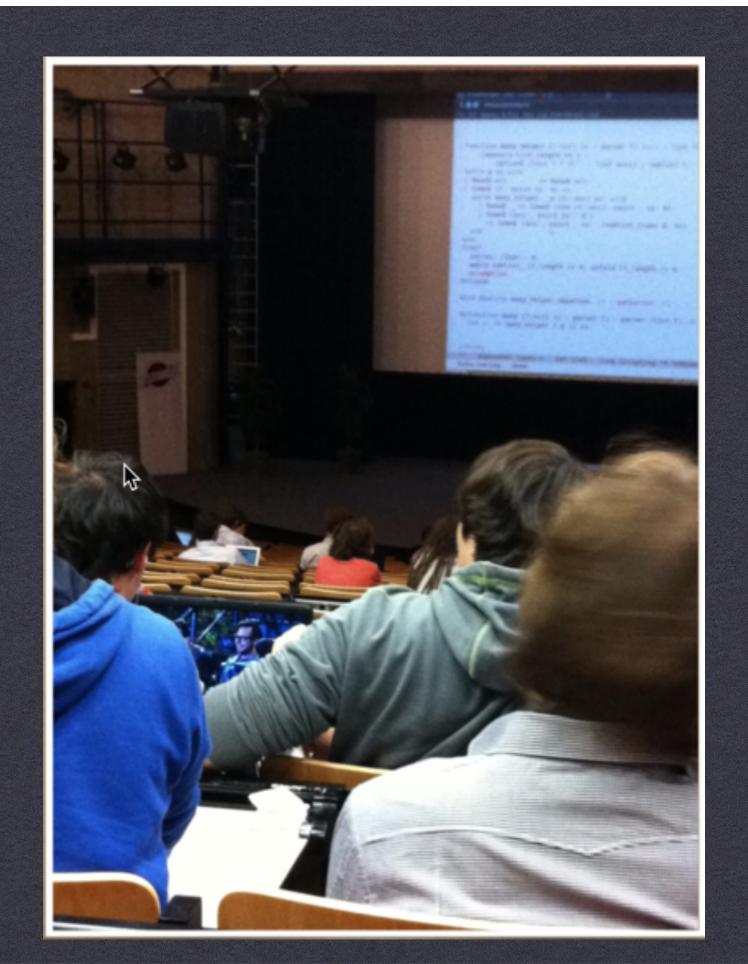
31 Aug 10 🏠 Favorite 📭 Retweet 🦘 Reply



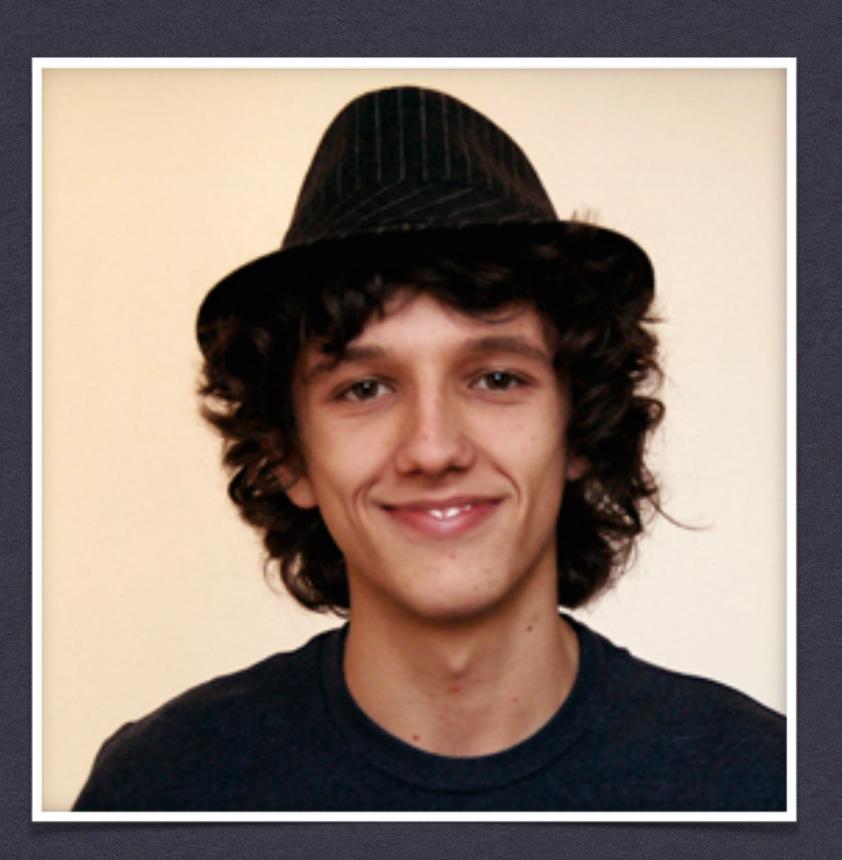
This crackme was really hard work...fun though.

http://www.crackmes.de/users/crp/trace_q/

13 Apr 10 ☆ Favorite ♣ Retweet ♠ Reply

















the cryptopals crypto challenges

Set 1: Basics

Set 2: Block crypto

Set 3: Block & stream crypto

Set 4: Stream crypto and randomness

Set 5: Diffie-Hellman and friends

Set 6: RSA and DSA

Set 7: Hashes

Set 8: Abstract Algebra

Welcome to the challenges

Work in progress.

This site will host all eight sets of our crypto challenges, with solutions in most mainstream languages.

But: it doesn't yet. If we waited to hit "publish" until everything was here, we might be writing this in 2015. So we're publishing as we go. In particular: give us a little time on the challenge solutions.

We can't introduce these any better than Maciej Ceglowski did, so read that blog post first.

We've built a collection of 48 exercises that demonstrate attacks on real-world crypto.

This is a different way to learn about crypto than taking a class or reading a book. We give you problems to solve. They're derived from weaknesses in real-world systems and modern cryptographic constructions. We give you enough info to learn about the underlying crypto concepts yourself. When you're finished, you'll not only have learned a good deal about how cryptosystems are built, but you'll also understand how they're attacked.

What Are The Rules?

There aren't any! For several years, we ran these challenges over email, and asked participants not to share their results. *The honor system worked beautifully!* But now we're ready to set aside the ceremony and just publish the challenges for everyone to work on.

How Much Math Do I Need To Know?

If you have any trouble with the math in these problems, you should be able to find a local 9th grader to help you out. It turns out that many modern crypto attacks don't involve much hard math.

How Much Crypto Do I Need To Know?

None. That's the point.

Most enterprises are not safe

"SECURE 100"

FORTUNE 5

"TOASTED 400"

- Big Banks + other FIs
- Defense Industrial Base
- Oil and Gas
- Critical Infrastructure
- Big Tech
- Some Retail

Everybody Else

What are they missing?

- Secure software engineering
- Engineering focused IR
- Ability to create, not buy, solutions

YAHOO!



Why Software Is Eating The World

By MARC ANDREESSEN

August 20, 2011

This week, Hewlett-Packard (where I am on the board) announced that it is exploring jettisoning its struggling PC business in favor of investing more heavily in software, where it sees better potential for growth. Meanwhile, Google plans to buy up the cellphone handset maker Motorola Mobility. Both moves surprised the tech world. But both moves are also in line with a trend I've observed, one that makes me optimistic about the future growth of the American and world economies, despite the recent turmoil in the stock market.



In an interview with WSJ's Kevin Delaney, Groupon and LinkedIn investor Marc

In short, software is eating the world.

More than 10 years after the peak of the 1990s dot-com bubble, a dozen or so new Internet companies like Facebook and Twitter are sparking controversy in Silicon Valley, due to their rapidly growing private market valuations, and even the occasional successful



More ▼



SECURITY



10 signs you aren't cut out to be a cybersecurity specialist

A career as a cybersecurity specialist requires more than just technical skills. Cybersecurity professionals also tend to have specific personalities. Do you qualify?

By Mark Kaelin 🔰 | September 21, 2018, 1:27 PM PST

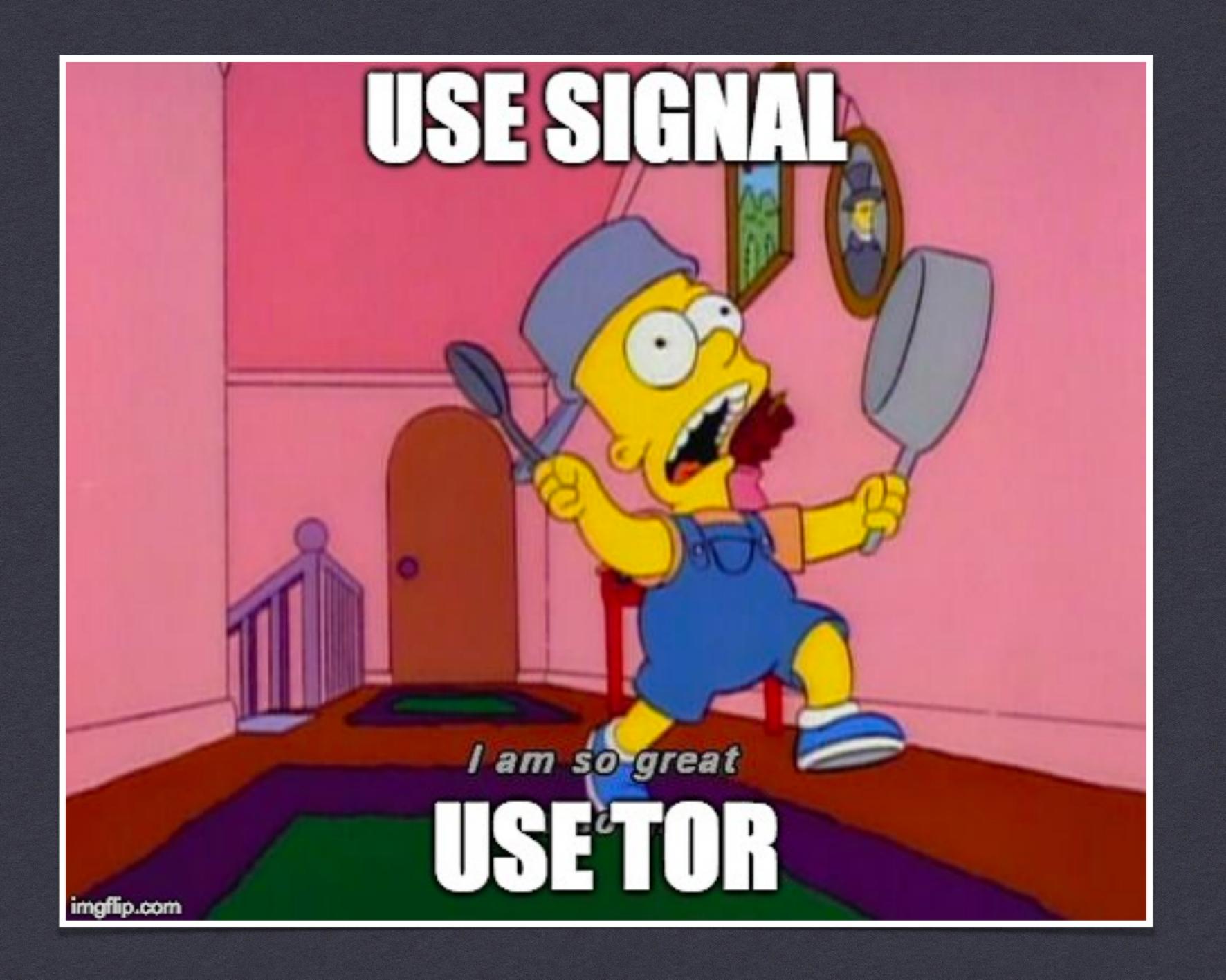
10. You can't accept that there are no winners

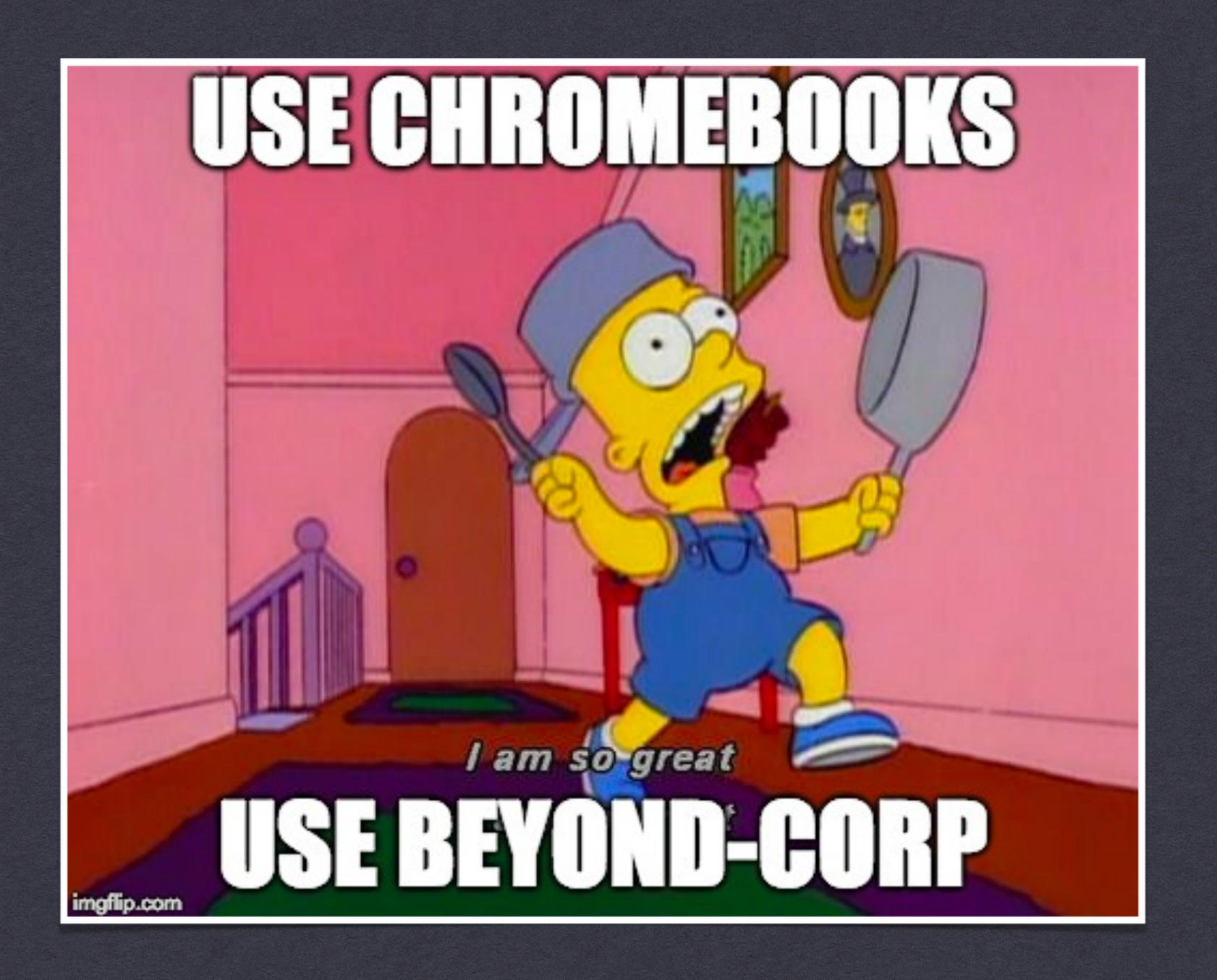
For all intents and purposes, the modern business environment, with regard to cybersecurity, is in a stalemate. Cybercriminals develop new vectors of attack and cybersecurity professionals find ways to close them. This happens over and over again, with neither side being able to fully overwhelm the other. There is no winning.

In many ways, cybersecurity at the enterprise level is a game that can't be won—only played. There is no finish line to reach first, there is just the ebb and flow of the competition. If you can't accept the fact that you will never truly win complete victory, only minor skirmishes, you may not be cut out for life as a cybersecurity specialist.

p@#! - or get off the pot!

ALMOST ALL GENERIC ADVICE IS WRONG





BeyondCorp

A New Approach to Enterprise Security

RORY WARD AND BETSY BEYER



Rory Ward is a site reliability engineering manager in Google Ireland. He previously worked in Ireland at Valista, in Silicon Valley at AOL, Netscape, Kiva,

and General Magic, and in Los Angeles at Retix. He has a BSc in computer applications from Dublin City University.

roryward@google.com

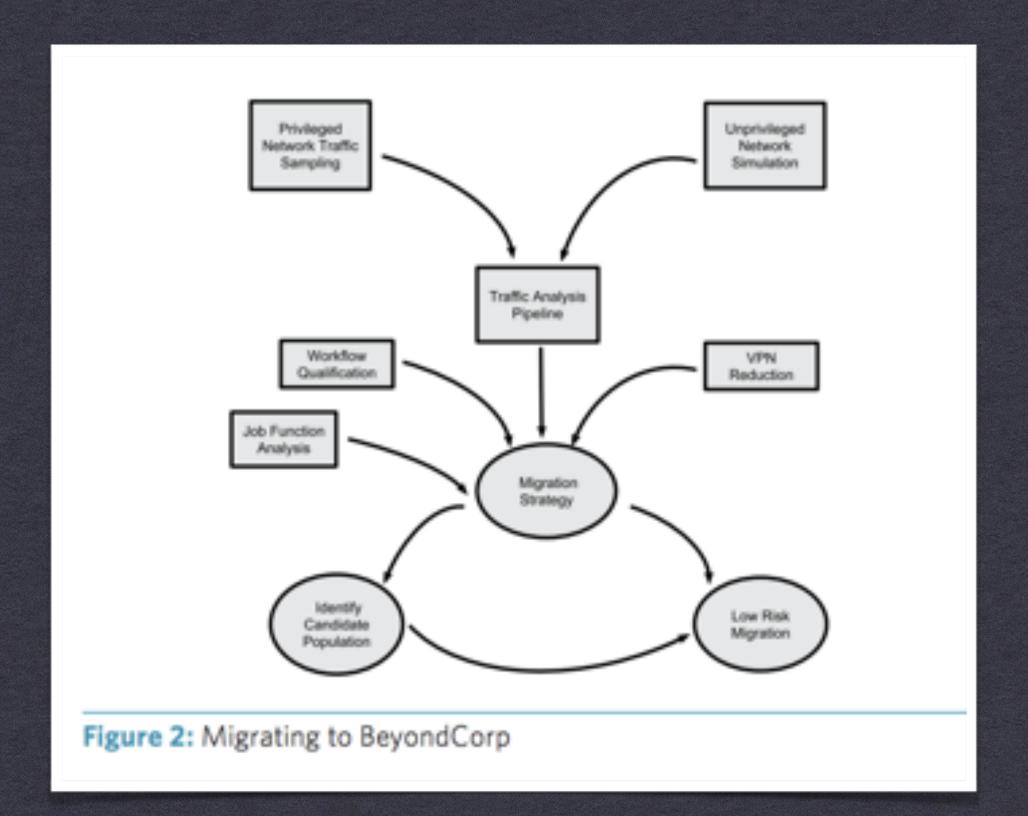


Betsy Beyer is a technical writer specializing in virtualization software for Google SRE in NYC. She has previously provided documentation for

Google Data Center and Hardware Operations teams. Before moving to New York, Betsy was a lecturer in technical writing at Stanford University. She holds degrees from Stanford and Tulane. bbeyer@google.com ritually every company today uses firewalls to enforce perimeter security. However, this security model is problematic because, when that perimeter is breached, an attacker has relatively easy access to a company's privileged intranet. As companies adopt mobile and cloud technologies, the perimeter is becoming increasingly difficult to enforce. Google is taking a different approach to network security. We are removing the requirement for a privileged intranet and moving our corporate applications to the Internet.

Since the early days of IT infrastructure, enterprises have used perimeter security to protect and gate access to internal resources. The perimeter security model is often compared to a medieval castle: a fortress with thick walls, surrounded by a moat, with a heavily guarded single point of entry and exit. Anything located outside the wall is considered dangerous, while anything located inside the wall is trusted. Anyone who makes it past the drawbridge has ready access to the resources of the castle.

The perimeter security model works well enough when all employees work exclusively in buildings owned by an enterprise. However, with the advent of a mobile workforce, the surge in the variety of devices used by this workforce, and the growing use of cloud-based services, additional attack vectors have emerged that are stretching the traditional paradigm to the point of redundancy. Key assumptions of this model no longer hold: The perimeter is no longer just the physical location of the enterprise, and what lies inside the perimeter is no longer a blessed and safe place to host personal computing devices and enterprise applications.



"we take a risk based approach"

How do you test your assumptions?



In many ways, the work of a critic is easy. We risk very little, yet enjoy a position over those who offer up their work and their selves to our judgment. We thrive on negative criticism, which is fun to write and to read. But the bitter truth we critics must face is that, in the grand scheme of things, the average piece of junk is probably more meaningful than our criticism designating it so. But there are times when a critic truly risks something, and that is in the discovery and defense of the new. The world is often unkind to new talent, new creations. The new needs friends.

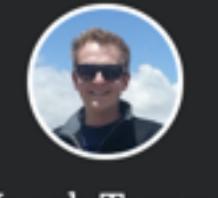
Modern CISO is in a powerful position



Security Researchers

Chess Vs. Poker

Or: why we're playing the wrong game



Jacob Torrey

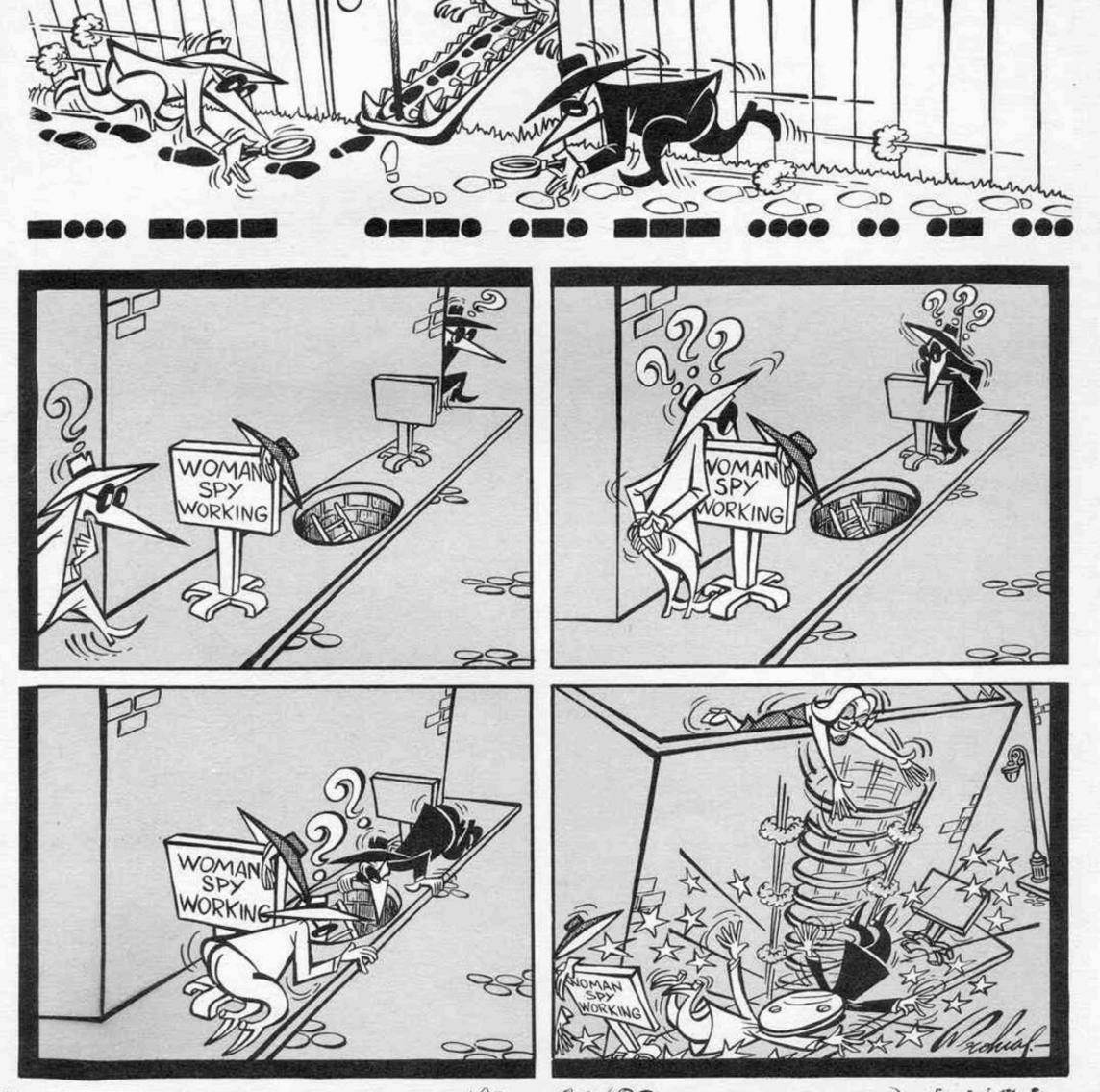
Cyber-security Philosopher and Boffin

As the gap between the chess players and poker players grows, our contributions to the field become decreasingly relevant to the majority population of the Internet and we risk becoming a marginalized group, even though we are the most capable to help raise the bar for everyone. It is crucial for the research community to keep the motivations of both the adversaries and civilians who use the network in mind, so we can assist them by playing the proper game. I certainly like the chess problems of today, and by no means am I calling for research in the more esoteric fields to cease, merely a friendly reminder to beat the attacker at his or her own game, not play yourself and declare yourself the winner.

http://blog.jacobtorrey.com/chess-vs-poker

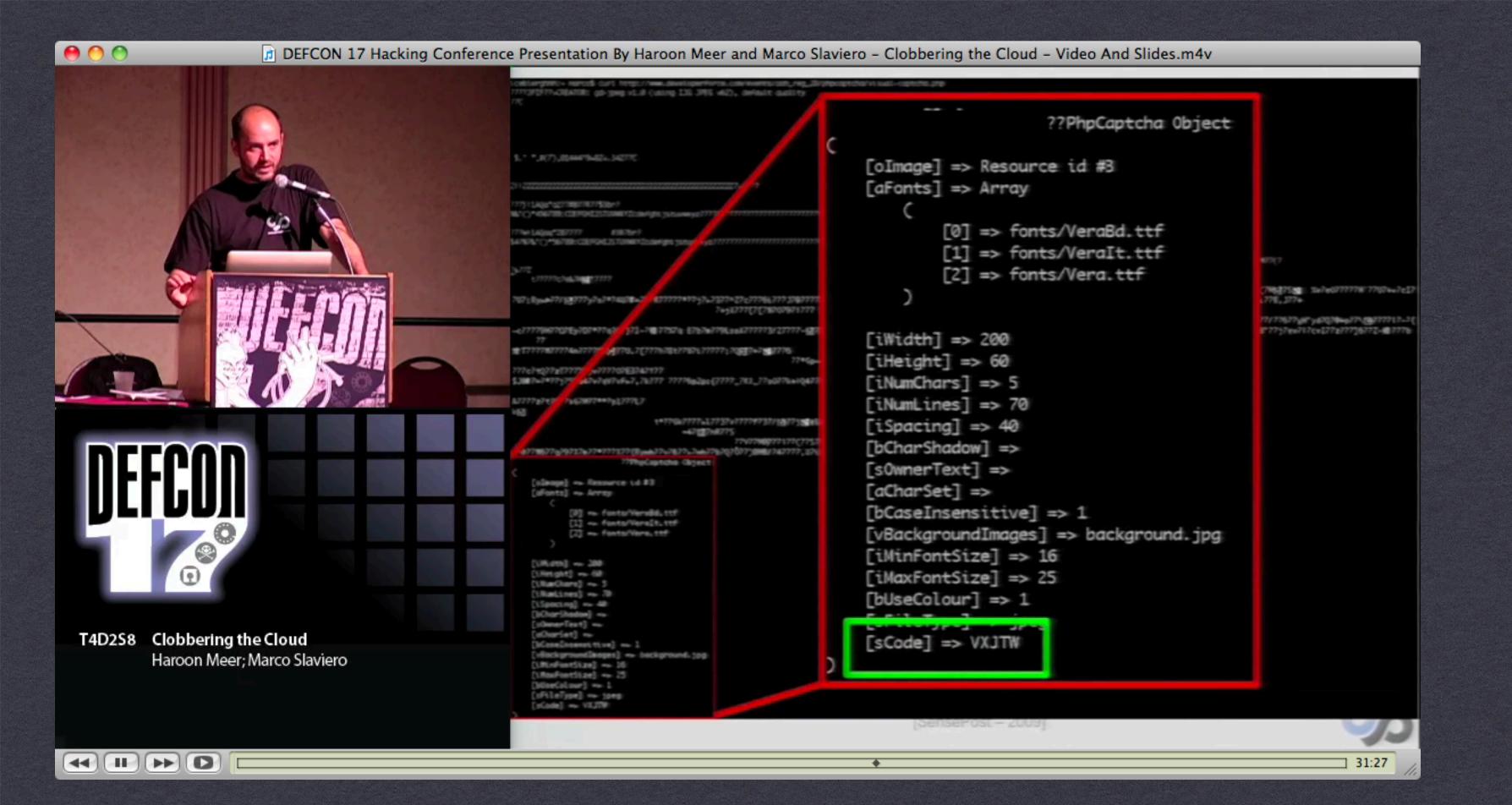
Apple Security - "LOL"

"When we win it's with small things, and the triumph itself makes us small"









BER

It's all about the timing...

Haroon Meer and Marco Slaviero {haroon, marco}@sensepost.com

SensePost

Abstract

This paper is broken up into several distinct parts, all related loosely to timing and its role in information security today. While timing has long been recognized as an important component in the crypt-analysts arsenal, it has not featured very prominently in the domain of Application Security Testing. This paper aims at highlighting some of the areas in which timing can be used with great effect, where traditional avenues fail. In this paper, a brief overview of previous timing attacks is provided, the use of timing as a covert channel is examined and the effectiveness of careful timing during traditional web application and SQL injection attacks is demonstrated. The use of Cross Site Timing in bypassing the Same Origin policy is explored as we believe the technique has interesting possibilities for turning innocent browsers into bot-nets amed at, for instance, brute-force attacks against third party web-sites.

1 Introduction

The movement of applications onto the Web has not removed old threats, it has perhaps just coated them a little with the veneer of AJAX and pastel colours. Underneath, the old issues are still present. In this paper, we examine one really ancient class of vulnerabilities, timing attacks, and carry to its logical conclusion the combination of malicious websites, innocent victims, JavaScript and a healthy dose of timing measurements. Occasionally the websites are not malicious and the victims not entirely innocent, but the timing measurements remain throughout.

We start with a background on timing attacks in Section 2, and discuss timing as a covert channel in

2 Background

Timing attacks are not new. It seems that with each successive generation of computing technologies and security techniques, timing attacks have appeared that partially or entirely circumvent protections built to limit more obvious attack vectors. Classified as a side-channel attack, timing attacks are grouped with power and radiation analysis in that they exploit side-effects of the system under observation, rather than directly attempting to overcome the system's security mechanisms. Often the targeted system is one of a cryptographic nature; hence many timing attacks to date have focused on techniques for recovery of cryptographic keys. ¹

Kocher's attack against implementations of Diffie-Hellman [4] and RSA [5] exploited timing differences to recover bits from the secret key [2]. Similarly, Percival showed that processors that support Hyper-Threading are vulnerable to a cache miss timing attack, whereby a malicious process running alongside a victim process can infer information about the operations of the victim process, based on the pattern of cache misses that were detected through timing differences. It was further possible to associate operations with bits in a secret key, leading to the leaking of about 320 bits in a 512-bit key [6].

Of course, timing attacks over networks were eminently possible, even with the added noise of latency and remote processor load. Again, the target was the derivation of secret keys. In an attack against the Open-SSL library [7], it was shown that a network-based attacker could derive the secret key by crafting specific responses in the SSL handshake and measuring time differences, because OpenSSL did not implement constant time decryption of RSA [3]. A second network-



Make Stuff..

"when you don't create things, you become defined by your tastes rather than ability. your tastes only narrow & exclude people. so create."

Why The Lucky Stiff



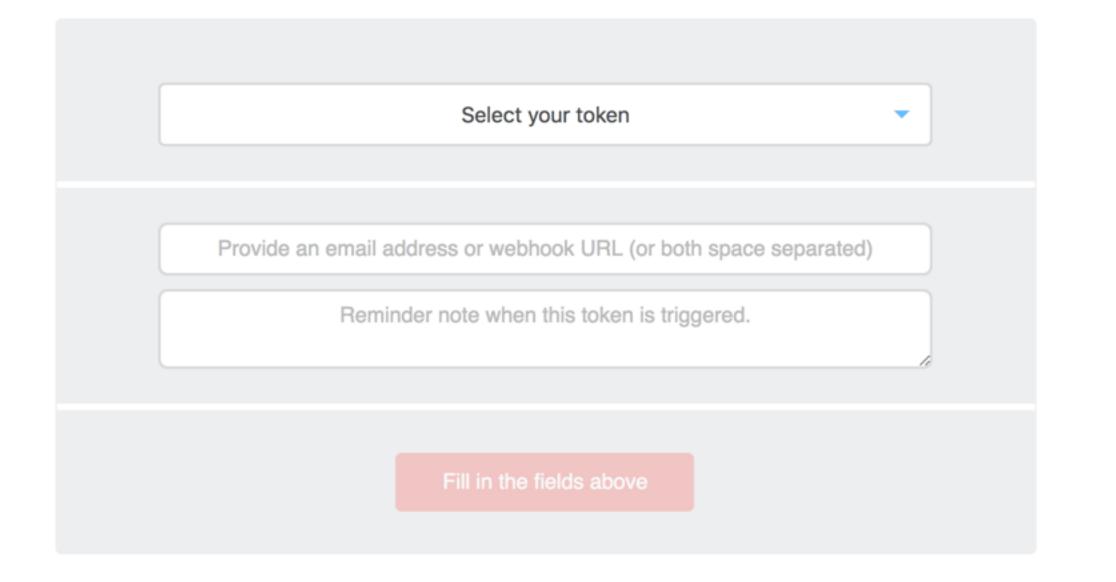


Nobody tells people who are beginners,

"Nobody tells this to people who are beginners, I wish someone told me. All of us who do creative work, we get into it because we have good taste. But there is this gap. For the first couple years you make stuff, it's just not that good. It's trying to be good, it has potential, but it's not. But your taste, the thing that got you into the game, is still killer. And your taste is why your work disappoints you. A lot of people never get past this phase, they quit. Most people I know who do interesting, creative work went through years of this. We know our work doesn't have this special thing that we want it to have. We all go through this. And if you are just starting out or you are still in this phase, you gotta know its normal and the most important thing you can do is do a lot of work. Put yourself on a deadline so that every week you will finish one story. It is only by going through a volume of work that you will close that gap, and your work will be as good as your ambitions. And I took longer to figure out how to do this than anyone I've ever met. It's gonna take awhile. It's normal to take awhile. You've just gotta fight your way through."

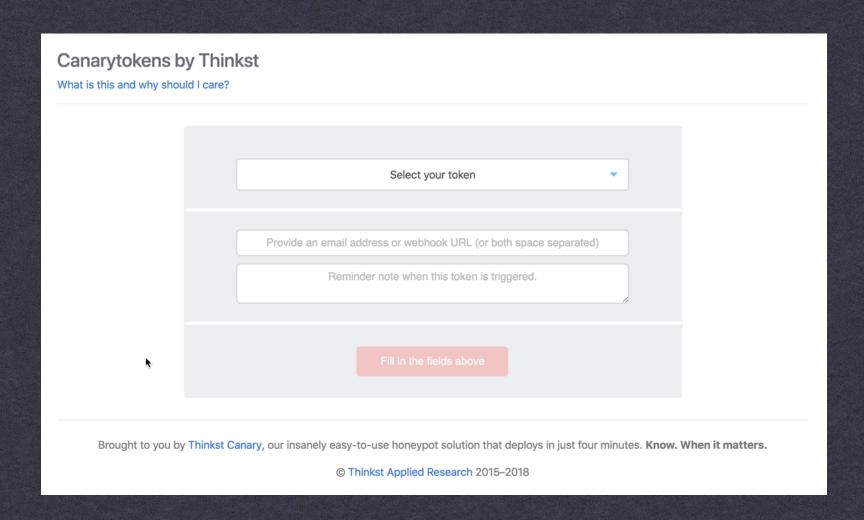
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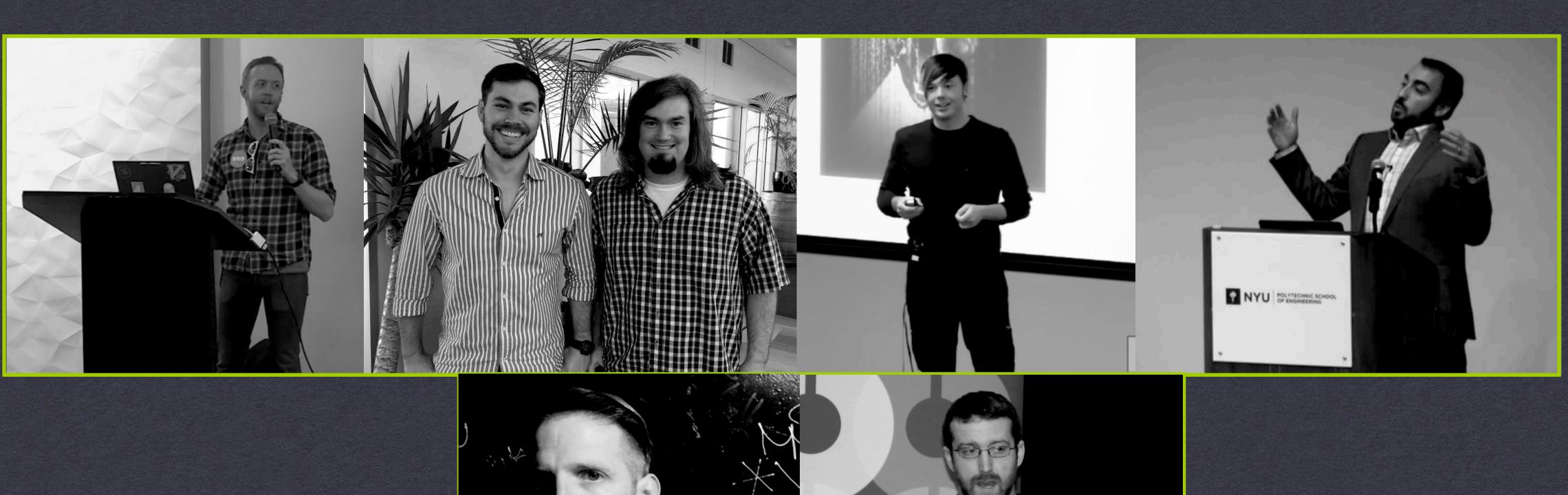
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Security Researcher and Engineer

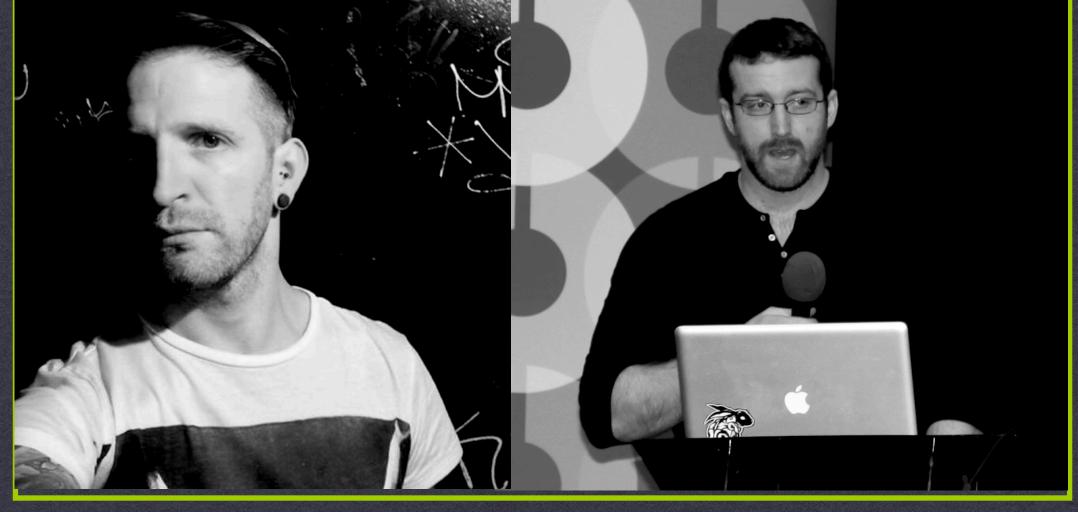
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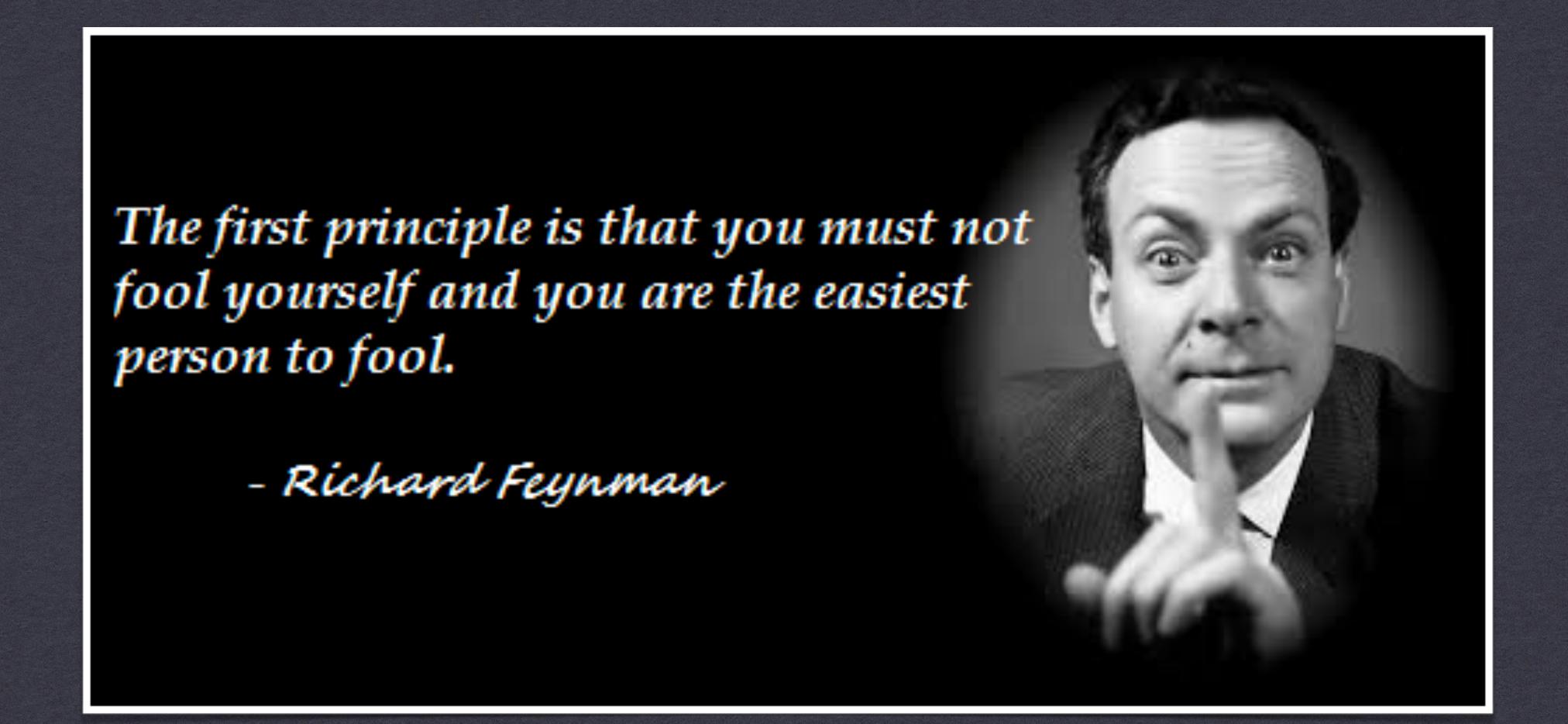
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