

Cybercriminals don't care about this and use them anyway to trick you....

*This presentation may contain simulated phishing attacks.*

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AGMA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL PRESENTATION

June 20, 2024

## 5 Ways to Reduce Risk of an Organization Being Hacked

**James McQuiggan, CISSP, SACP**  
**Security Awareness Advocate**  
KnowBe4

*Please make sure to have your microphone on mute. We will begin shortly.*

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Human error. Conquered.



# 5 Ways to Reduce Risk of an Organization Being Hacked

James R. McQuiggan, SACP, CISSP  
Security Awareness Advocate



**KnowBe4**  
Human error. Conquered.



# 5 Ways to Be Hacked

James R. McQuiggan, SACP, CISSP  
Security Awareness Advocate



# What Is Common About These Logos?



# Verizon Data Breach Incident Report

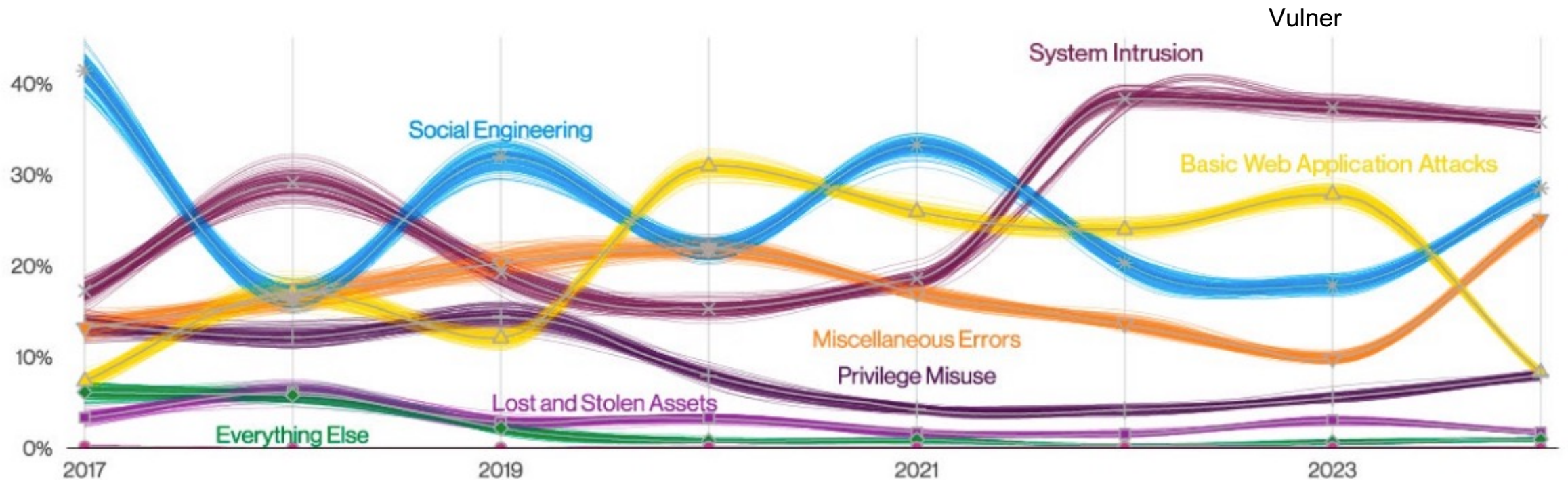
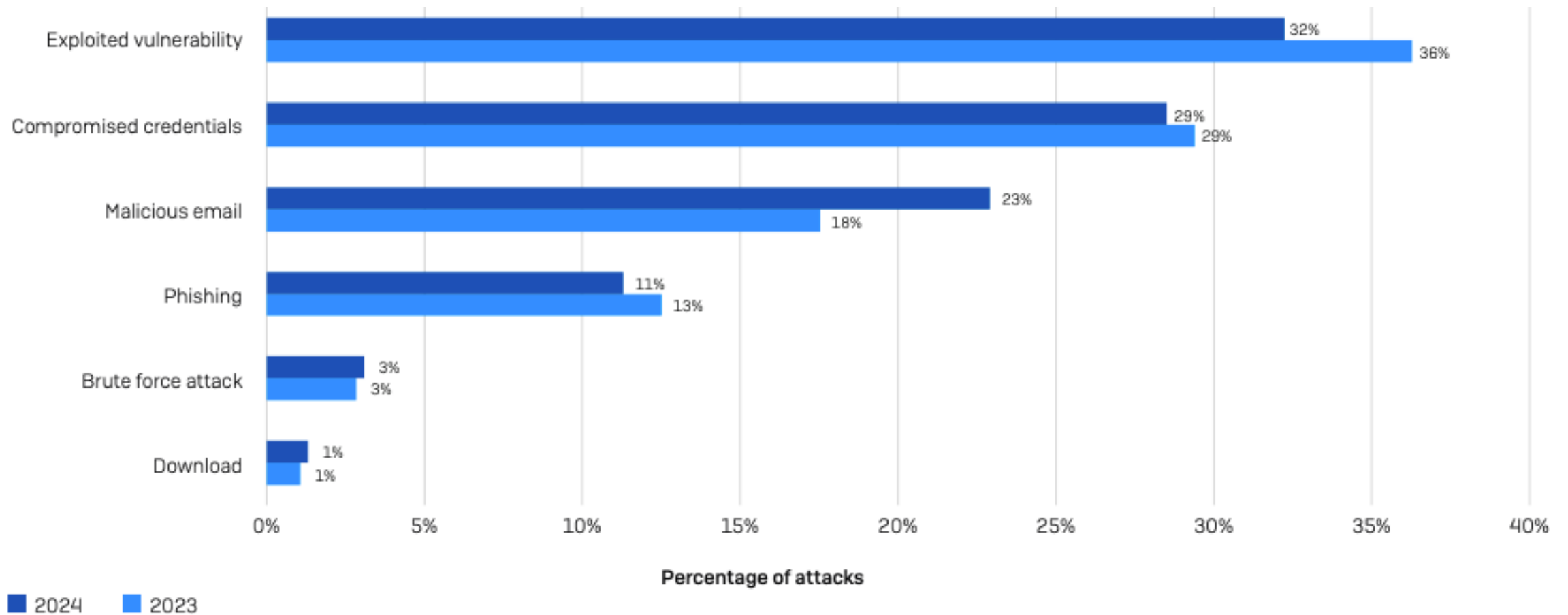


Figure 27. Patterns over time in breaches

System Intrusion, Social Engineering, Misc. Error, Privilege Misuse, Lost Stolen Assets, Everything Else

# Attack Vectors For Ransomware



Source: Sophos – The State of Ransomware

CYBERATTACKERS USE SEVERAL TECHNIQUES TO PERPETUATE ATTACKS.



**Lockton  
Claims  
(Insurance)**

# Common Attack Vectors



Exploited Vulnerabilities



Brute Force Attack



Compromised Credentials



Malicious Email



Phishing

# James R. McQuiggan, CISSP, SACP

Security Awareness Advocate, KnowBe4 Inc.

Producer, Security Masterminds Podcast

Professor, Cybersecurity, Valencia College

President, ISC2 Central Florida Chapter

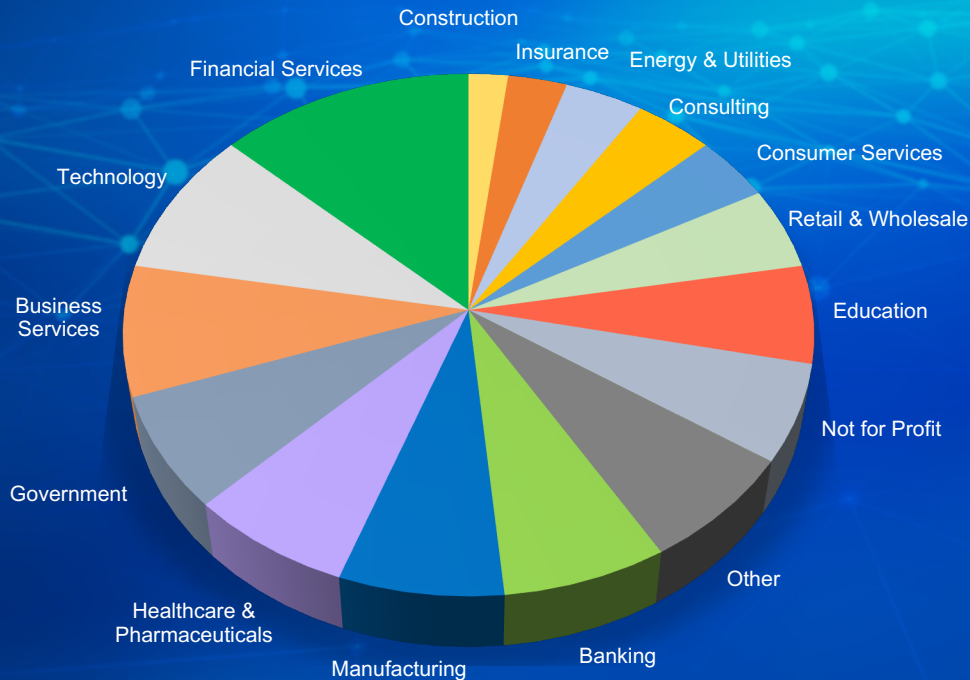
ISC2 North American Advisory Council

Cyber Security Awareness Lead, Siemens

Product Security Officer, Siemens Gamesa



Over  
**65,000**  
Customers



KnowBe4

# About KnowBe4

- The world's largest integrated Security Awareness Training and Simulated Phishing platform
- We help tens of thousands of organizations manage the ongoing problem of social engineering
- CEO & employees are industry veterans in IT Security
- Global Sales, Courseware Development, Customer Success, and Technical Support teams worldwide
- Offices in the USA, UK, Netherlands, India, Germany, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Japan, Australia, and Brazil



*Our mission*

**To help organizations manage the ongoing problem of social engineering**

*We do this by*

**Enabling employees to make smarter security decisions everyday**

I figured out Forrest Gump's password



1-Forrest-1

# Exploited Vulnerabilities

**Fix:**  
**Patching**





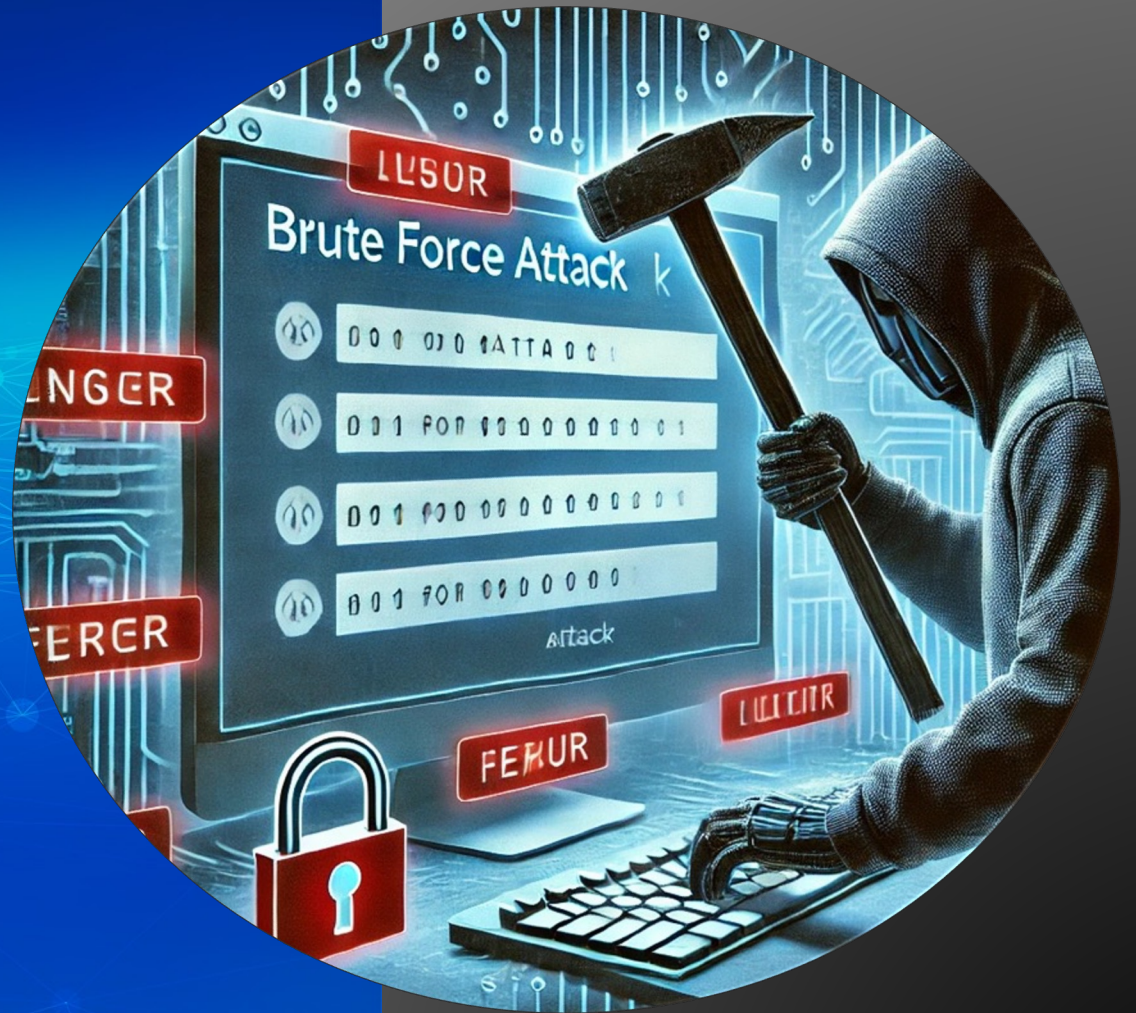
“Just as regular **maintenance** keeps machine gears running **smoothly**, patching promptly fixes **vulnerabilities**, and prevents breaches.”





# Brute Force

**Fix: Threat  
Intelligence /  
Incident  
Response**





**“Don't let a cyber attack strip the threads of your business – tighten up with cybersecurity solutions & processes.”**

# Threat Intelligence Overview

- Understand Attacker Tactics
- Know Your Assets
- Identify Indicators of Compromise (IoCs)
- Enhance Incident Response
- Update Security Policies

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.” – Sun Tzu, The Art of War

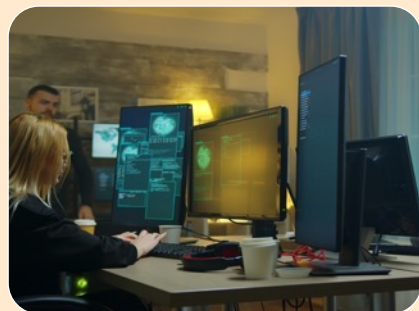


# Threat Landscape – the actors



## Nation state

- Strategic
- Political
- Espionage



## Cybercrime Groups

- Ransomware
- Organized
- Cyber Mafia



## Hacktivist

- Political
- Social



## Competitors

- Espionage
- Int. Property



## Disgruntled Employee

- Frustration
- Espionage
- Self Serving
- Insider Threat

# Broken Windows Approach – Identifying Critical Systems



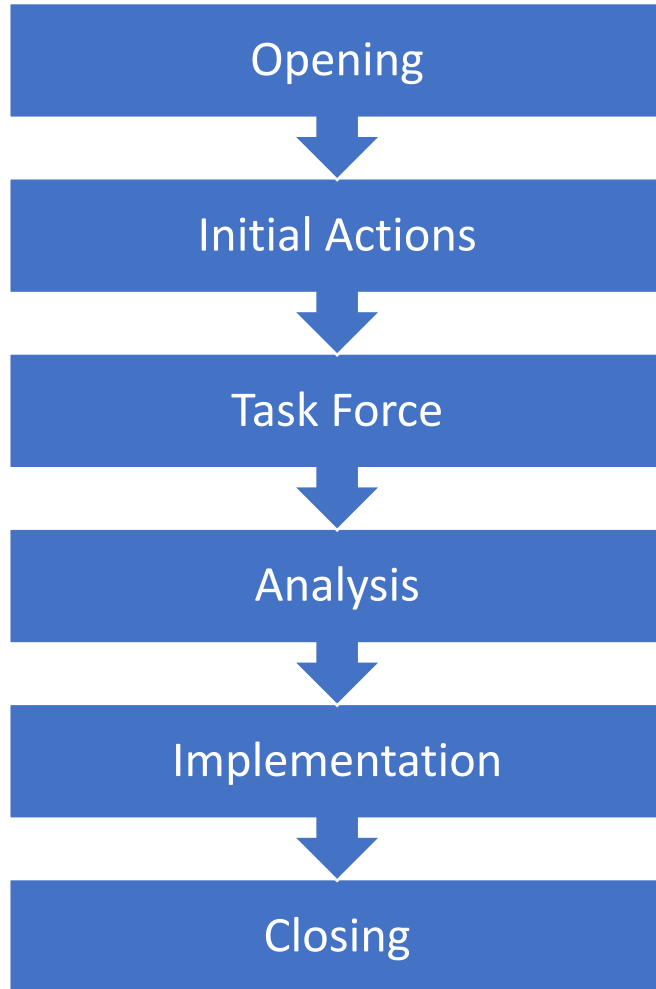
## Questions

- Where is my most important data?
- Where are most of my incidents happening?
- Where am I most vulnerable?
- What is (are) the worst possible thing(s) that could happen?
- Can I detect where I am most vulnerable?
- Can I contain where I am most vulnerable?
- Can I see the insider threat?

## Answers

- Identify your “broken windows”
- Establish network visibility
- Segment to protect critical assets, create security zones
- Layered defensive strategy
- People Process, Technology
- Get control of your elevated privileges, if you can
- Train and Educate managers and HR about high-risk employees with elevated privileges

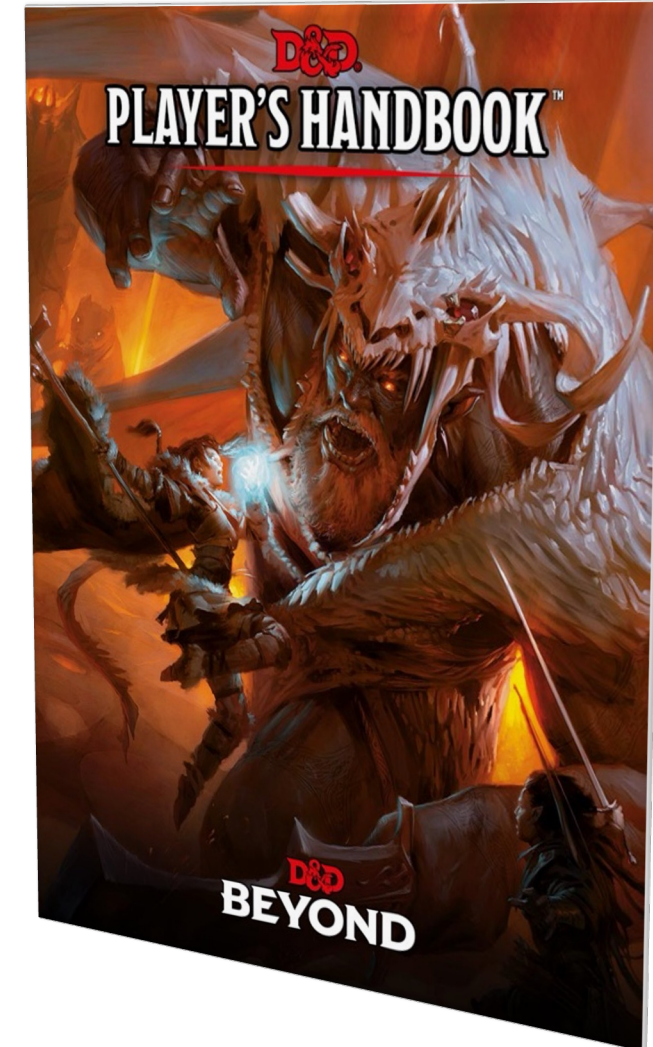
# Incident Handling – Another Process



- Incident handling covers reactive activities for remediating and mitigating incidents
- Process of analyzing, evaluating and resolving security events that occur in a deployed within an organization
- The direct or indirect compromise of confidentiality, integrity and / or availability (CIA) of the organization.
- A single event or a series of unwanted or unexpected events that compromise operations and threaten CIA
- Consider for each case handled, a task force is set up for tracking and management.
- **Like on an airplane, football team, test regularly**

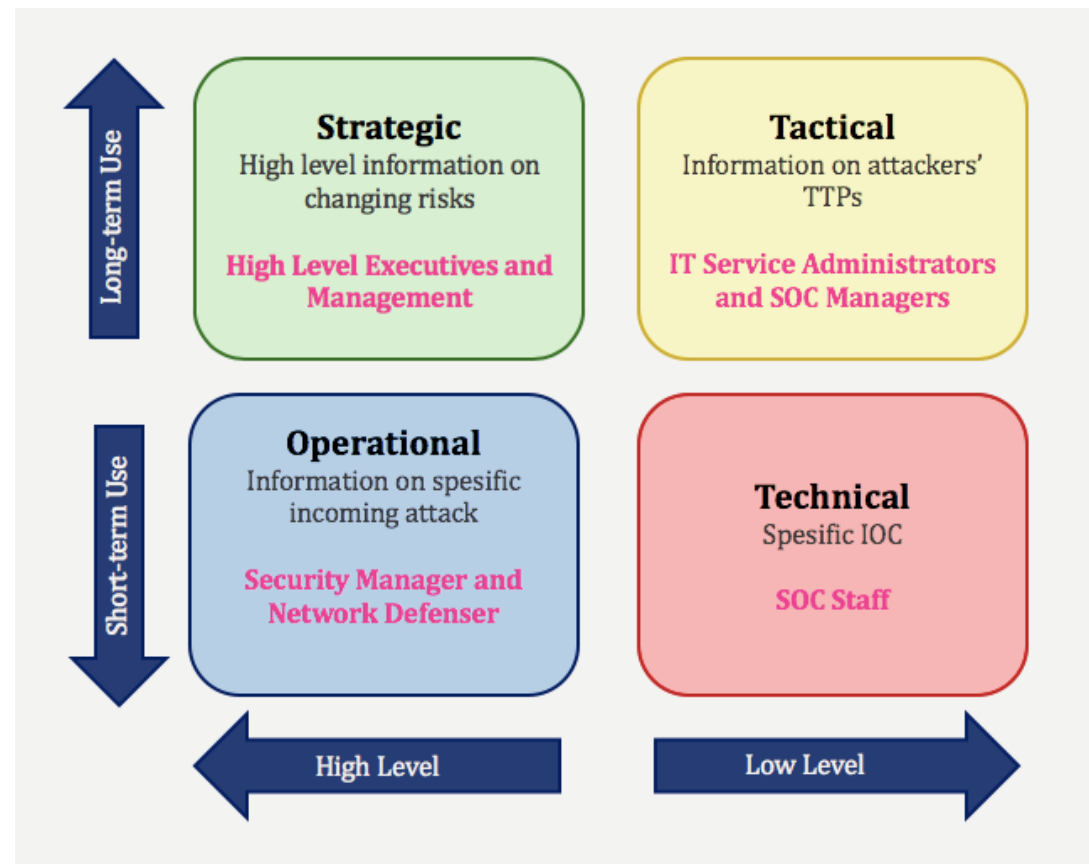
# Testing – Successful TTXs

1. Make sure your tabletop exercise is your tabletop exercise.
2. Explore a scenario beyond just the technical aspects.
3. Get top-level management on board.
4. The facilitator is key.
5. You're testing people, not technology.
6. Build your scenarios based on active threat intelligence.
7. Participants need to get into character.
8. Don't let the party get too big.
9. Give your exercise the amount of time it deserves.
10. Create a safe space for experimentation—and failure



# Threat Intelligence Program

- Define requirements and objectives
- Identify relevant threat data sources
- Implement tools for data collection and processing
- Establish analysis procedures and workflows
- Integrate threat intelligence into security controls
- Continuously update and refine the program



**Why doesn't  
Superman help us  
fight cybercrime?**

**He's afraid of  
Krypto-currency**



# Malicious Email / Phishing

# Security Awareness & Assessments





**"In manufacturing, a single faulty gear can halt production; in cybersecurity, a single click can halt your organization."**

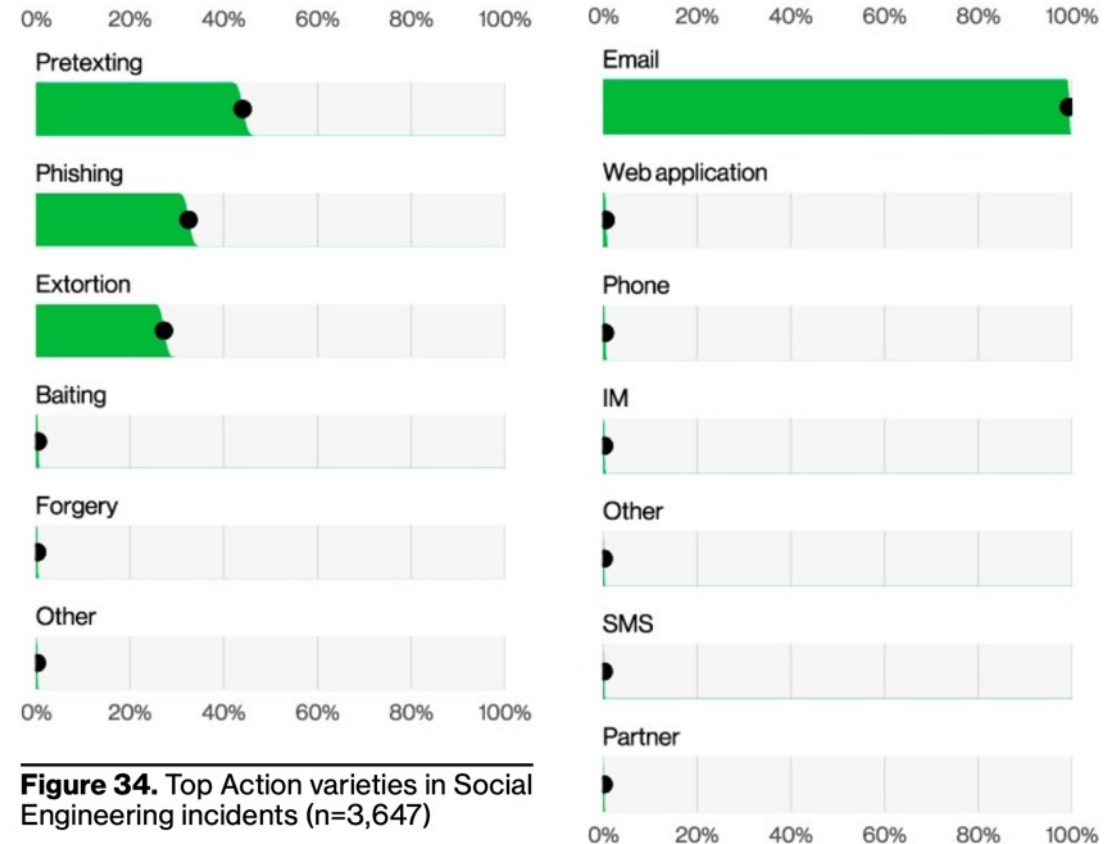
# Social Engineering

*“Any act that influences a person to take an action that may or may not be in their best interest.”*



# Biggest Initial Breach Root Causes for Most Companies

- Social engineering was the #1 root cause of hacking and malware
- Verizon Data Breach Investigation Report – 68% of all attacks are human related
- <30 seconds from phish to credential loss



Social engineering is responsible for majority of all malicious data breaches

# Phishing

Anyone with an  
email address,

has a key to the front door.

They can open the front door  
and let in the cyber criminals  
into the organization.



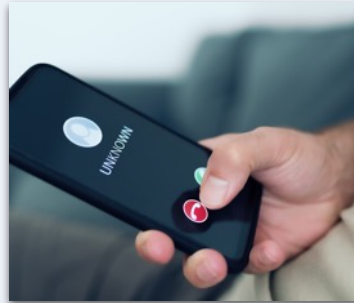
# \*ishing Attack Vectors (Social Engineering)



**Spear  
Phishing**



**SMSishing**



**Vishing**



**Whaling**



**Snowshoeing**



**Tishing**



**Wishing**



**Pharming**



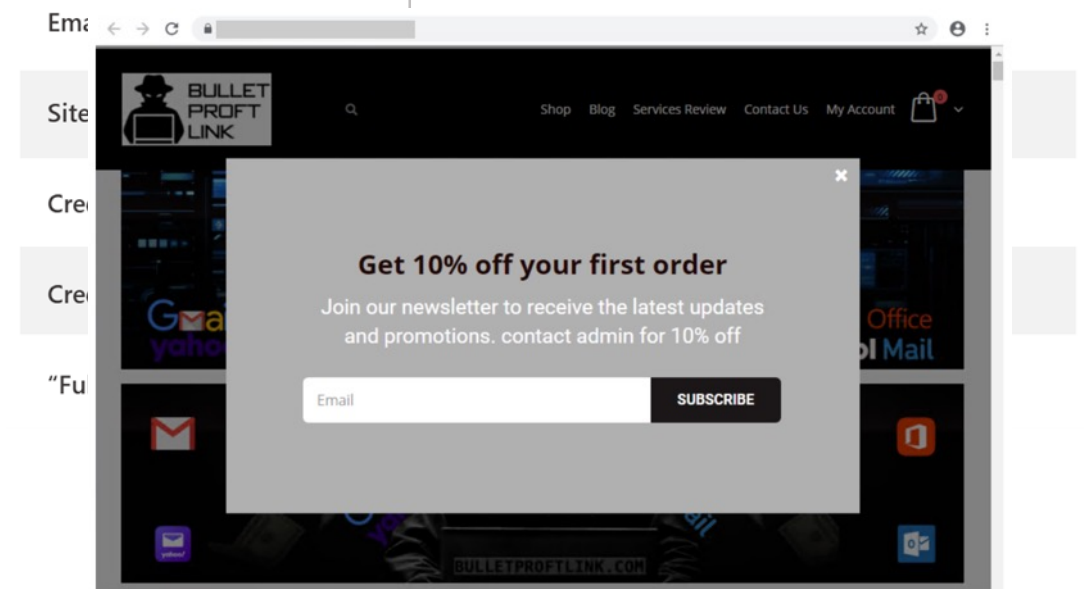
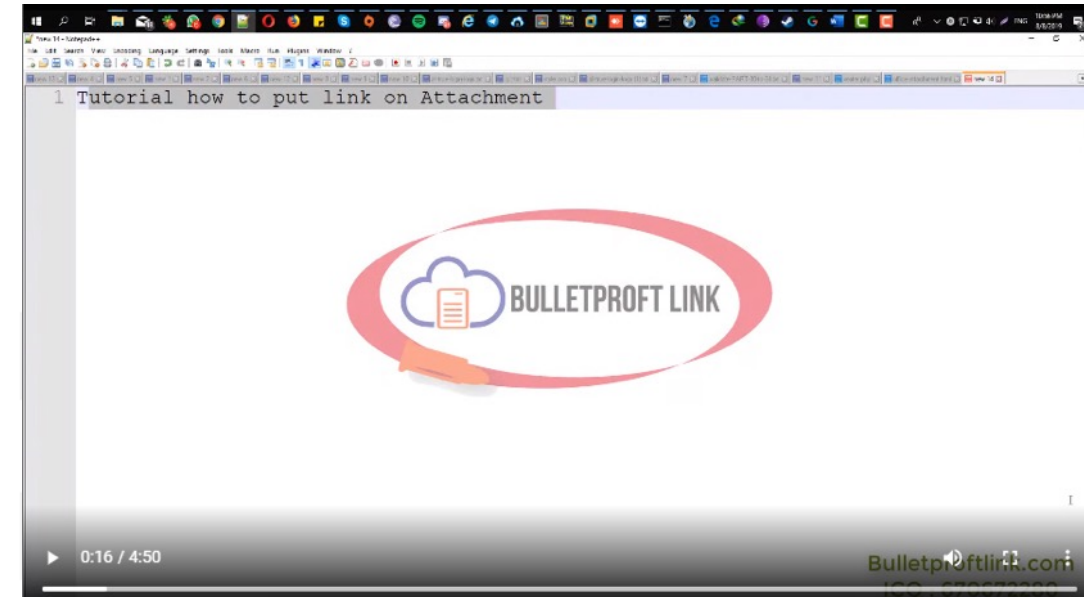
**Watering  
Hole**



**QR Code  
Phishing**

# Phishing as a Service

- Allows non-technical people to launch their own attacks
- Multiple tiers of service
- Phishing kits that contain the tools needed to set up campaign
- Fully managed services for all types of phishing
- Tutorials or training are often included, or available as well



# The Cybercriminals are using **AI** to **level-up** their **attacks.**



Dear [Employee Name],



I hope this email finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to you today with a surprise that I believe will lift your spirits even higher.

As you may be aware, our company has been experiencing financial success of late. I am pleased to announce that this success has allowed us to grant our hard-working employees a pay raise. You, [Employee Name], are one of those employees.

Attached to this email, you will find a document detailing the specifics of your raise. Please review it at your earliest convenience and do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Your hard work and dedication to our company have not gone unnoticed, and I am thrilled to be able to recognize your contributions in this way.

Once again, congratulations on your pay raise. Keep up the great work.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

# Are You Being Manipulated? – Emotional Lures



Greed



Urgency



Fear



Helpful



Self-Interest



Curiosity

# Vishing / Deepfake Voice Call



**SMS to 27  
employees at an  
organization**

**1 clicked  
the link**

**Entered  
MFA  
credentials**

**Called the victim  
and posed as an IT  
member using  
deepfake audio**

**Socially  
engineered  
to give up  
code**

**Access to  
Authenticator,  
and other apps**

# Social Engineering – CEO Fraud





**NBR**

# Phishing Example

**From:** Zoom <noreply@meet-zoom.us>  
**Reply-To:** Zoom <noreply@meet-zoom.us>  
**Subject:** You missed a Zoom meeting



## You missed a meeting

**Date:** [[current\_date\_0]]

**Duration:** 29:50

You did not attend today's meeting. For more information on the meeting or to reschedule, click the link below.

[See Details](#)

To listen to this message, you can open the attachment or use any [Zoom Applications](#) to have instant access to all your messages.



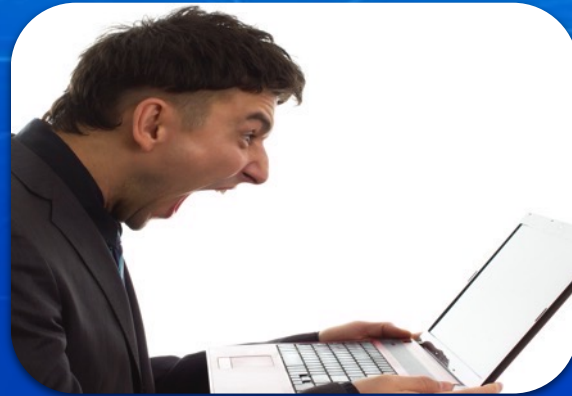
# Stages of Post Phishing / Social Engineering Attack



Shock



Denial



Anger



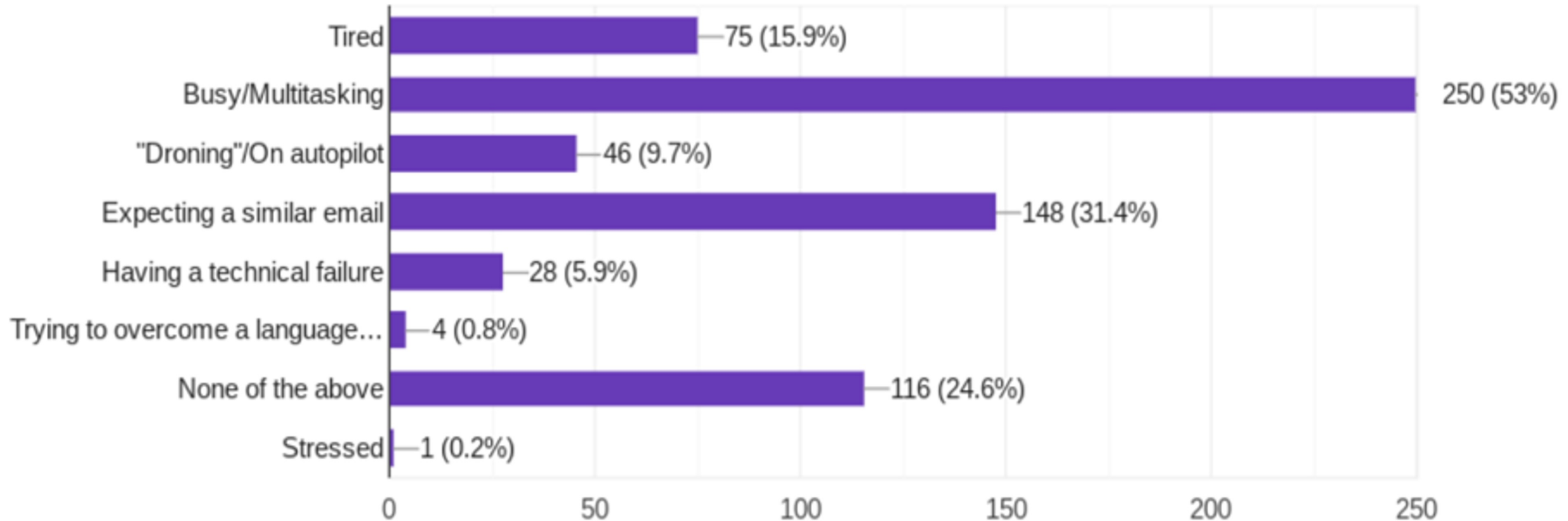
Acceptance

# It's a Teaching Moment



# When Viewing the Phish, I was...

472 responses



# Who's At Risk?

- New, seasonal or temporary employees
- Senior people (managers, directors, privileged users)
- Maintenance staff (cleaners, security guards, vendors)
- People who are active or chatty on social media.
- HR departments
- **Everyone is at risk**





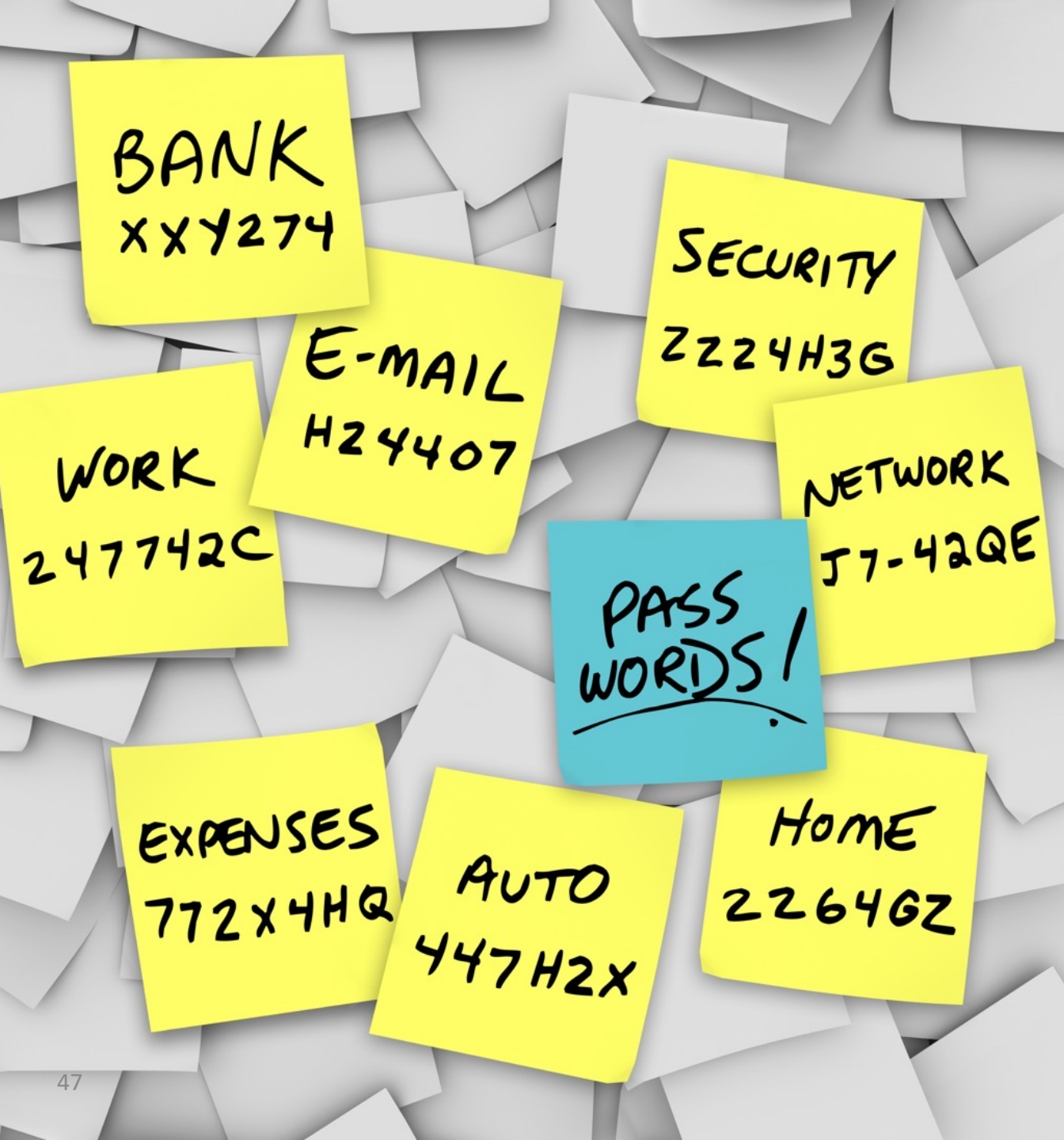
# Credential Stuffing

**Fix:  
Strong  
Passwords**





**"In the world of manufacturing, strong gears and strong passwords are both essential for keeping things running."**



# Password Attacks

Akamai: We Saw 61 Billion Credential Stuffing Attacks in 18 Months

A screenshot of a news article from PCWorld. The article title is "Time to update your password: 26 billion personal records leaked". The sub-headline reads "The data set clocks in at a massive 12TB." The main image shows a silver key resting on a blue circuit board. The article is categorized under "News".

PCWorld

News

**Time to update your password: 26 billion personal records leaked**

The data set clocks in at a massive 12TB.

# Credential Stuffing / Phishing

## Credential stuffing:

- Uses lists of usernames, email addresses with passwords
- Large-scale automated login requests.

## Credential Phishing:

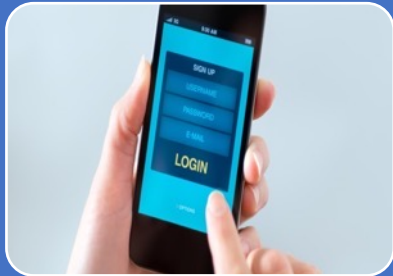
- Using phishing, vishing SMSishing attacks to get users to give up their credentials

# Multi Factor Authentication (1 Factor, 2 Factor, 3 Factor)



## SMS (Restricted by US Government)

- It's okay – not the best
- Unfortunately, this is commonly used



## Application (Phishable with MitM Attacks)

- Code Generated in App
- Make sure you can back them up



## Hardware (FIDO Approved)

- Uses a hardware token, like a Yubikey or your smartphone
- Can be inconvenient when forgotten or damaged





# Tooth Factor Authentication

# Password Use Recommendations - DiNGS

MFA

2

If possible, use MFA

Unique Passwords



Unique & Complex passwords

Password Manager



It creates DiNGS

Create your own?



At least 12 characters, complex

Better



16+ character / passphrase

**Different, Non-Guessable, Strong Passwords**

# Most Secure Woman?

# Emma Faye



## MFA



## Multifactor Authentication

# Defending





**”Cybersecurity is the lubricant that keeps your manufacturing operations from seizing up under pressure.**

# Incident Response



Opening



Initial Actions



Task Force



Analysis



Implementation



Closing

- Don't overrate an incident, stick to the facts
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
- Analyze your environment; Know your strengths and weaknesses
- Ensure you understand the threat's capabilities, intent and vectors
- Focus your response on your "broken windows"
- Ensure you are achieving success and not reinforcing failure in your Incident Response processes
- Keep an offline copy of IR Playbook

# Social Engineering Defense in Depth

## Mitigate

- Aggressively Mitigate Social Engineering
- People, Processes, Technology

## Patch

- Patch Exploited Software & Firmware
- Monitor the CISA KEV Catalog (Known Exploited Vulnerabilities)

## MFA

- Use MFA Wherever Possible
- Non-phishable MFA too, Avoid SMS and verify all requests that you didn't initiate

## SPOT

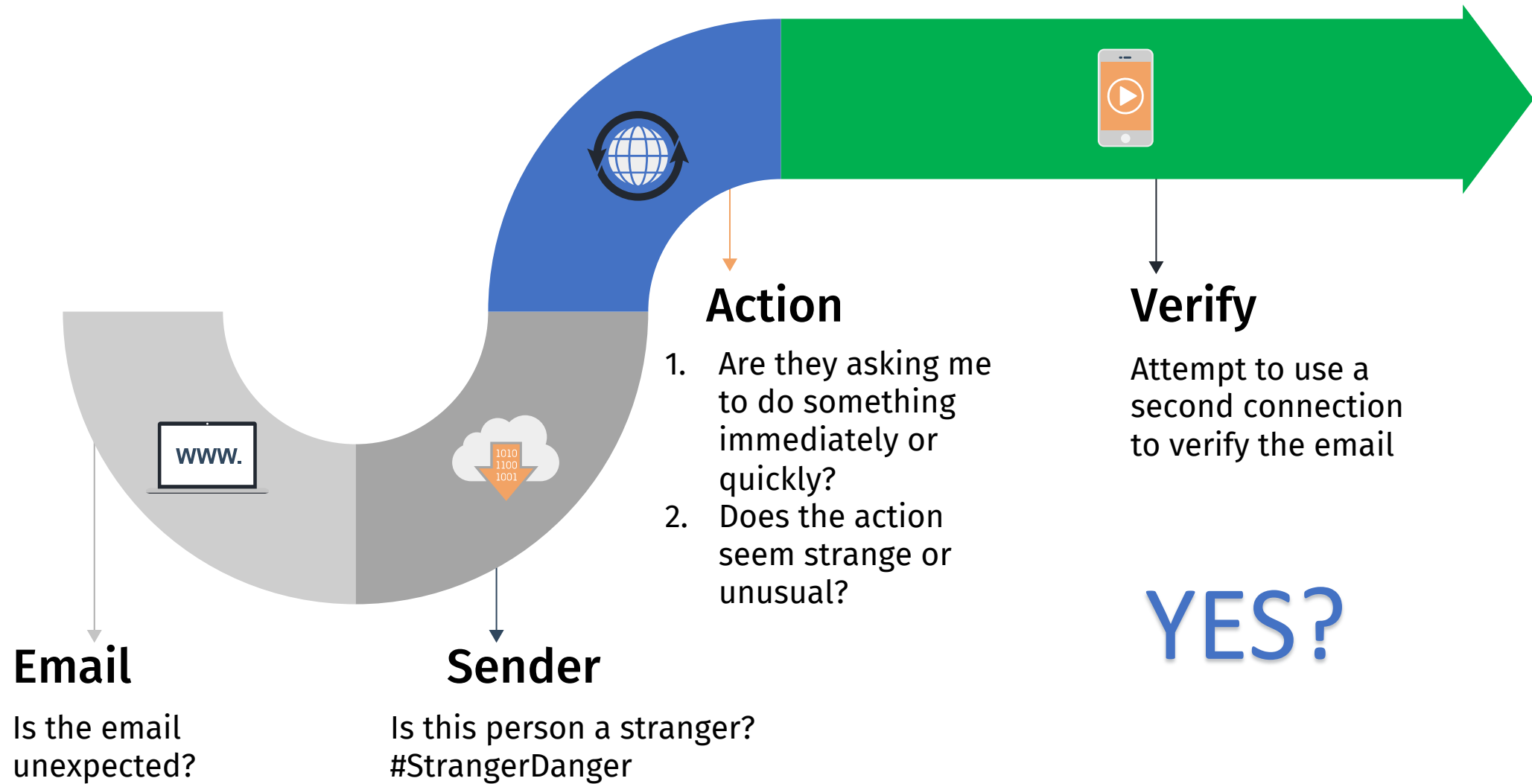
- Learn how to Spot Rogue URLs
- No longer – don't click on links, or check your links, make sure they know how

## DiNGS

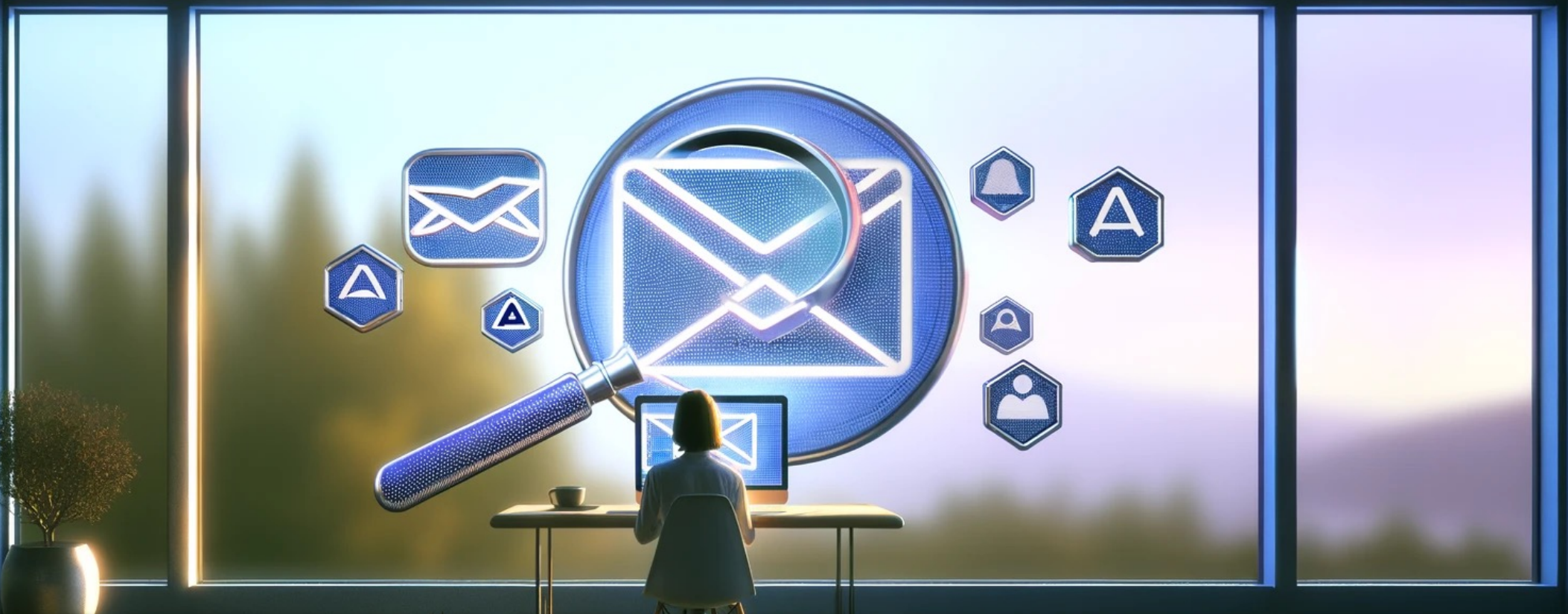
- Remember to use DiNG style of passwords
- Different, Non-Guessable, Strong



# 3 Questions to Ask Your Email



# Mindfulness and Your Email



**Awareness**

**Recognition**

**Focus**

**Intentionality**

**Responsiveness**



## Zero Trust Mindset

- Not trusting anything by default
- Verifying everything
- Applied to humans it calls for:
  - Politely Paranoid
  - Be skeptical
  - Constant verification
- Mindfulness practices encourage to:
  - pause before reacting
  - engage intentionally and thoughtfully.



**Security culture is defined as the ideas, customs, and social behaviors that impact the security of your organization.**

**SAFETY FIRST**

**DAYS SINCE  
LAST CYBER INCIDENT**

**3025**

# 7 Tips For A Better Security Culture



1. Choose Behaviours



2. Plan for 'Behaviour Design' – BJ Fogg



3. Get Leadership Buy In



4. Communicate – Newsletters / Videos



5. Execute



6. Measure Results - Surveys



7. Repeat

# Social Engineering Red Flags

## FROM

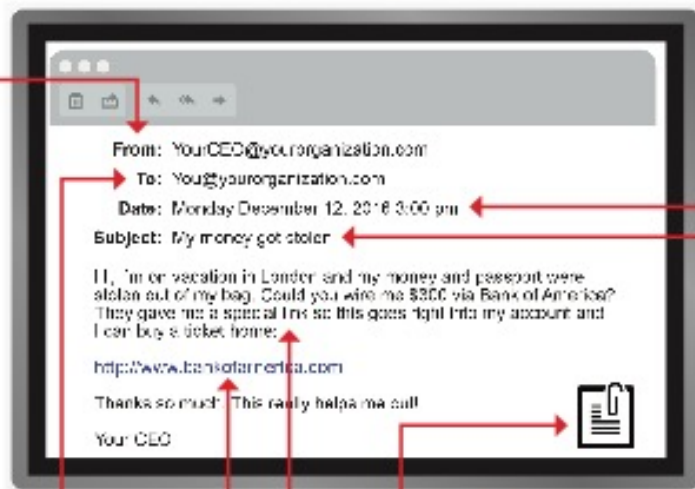
- I don't recognize the sender's email address as someone I **ordinarily communicate with**.
- This email is from **someone outside my organization and it's not related to my job responsibilities**.
- This email was sent from **someone inside the organization** or from a customer, vendor, or partner and is **very unusual or out of character**.
- Is the sender's email address from a **suspicious domain** (like micorsoft-support.com)?
- I **don't know the sender personally** and they **were not vouched for** by someone I trust.
- I **don't have a business relationship** nor any past communications with the sender.
- This is an **unexpected or unusual email** with an **embedded hyperlink or an attachment** from someone I haven't communicated with recently.

## TO

- I was cc'd on an email sent to one or more people, but I **don't personally know** the other people it was sent to.
- I received an email that was also sent to an **unusual mix of people**. For instance, it might be sent to a random group of people at my organization whose last names start with the same letter, or a whole list of unrelated addresses.

## HYPERLINKS

- I hover my mouse over a hyperlink that's displayed in the email message, but the **link-to address is for a different website**. (This is a **big** red flag.)
- I received an email that only has **long hyperlinks with no further information**, and the rest of the email is completely blank.
- I received an email with a **hyperlink that is a misspelling** of a known web site. For instance, [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com) — the "m" is really two characters — "r" and "n."



## DATE

- Did I receive an email that I normally would get during regular business hours, but it was **sent at an unusual time** like 3 a.m.?

## SUBJECT

- Did I get an email with a subject line that is **irrelevant or does not match** the message content?
- Is the email message a reply to something I **never sent or requested**?

## ATTACHMENTS

- The sender included an email attachment that I **was not expecting** or that **makes no sense** in relation to the email message. (This sender doesn't ordinarily send me this type of attachment.)
- I see an attachment with a possibly **dangerous file type**. The only file type that is **always safe to click on is a .txt** file.

## CONTENT

- Is the sender asking me to click on a link or open an attachment to **avoid a negative consequence** or to **gain something of value**?
- Is the email **out of the ordinary**, or does it have **bad grammar or spelling errors**?
- Is the sender asking me to click a link or open up an attachment that **seems odd or illogical**?
- Do I have an **uncomfortable gut feeling** about the sender's request to open an attachment or click a link?
- Is the email asking me to look at a **compromising or embarrassing picture** of myself or someone I know?

# THE RED FLAGS OF ROGUE URLs

Spotting malicious URLs is a bit of an art. The examples represented here are some of the common tricks used by hackers and phishers to fool users into visiting malicious websites. The methods shown here could be used by legitimate services, but if you see one of these "tricks" you need to make sure you're dealing with the organization you think you are.

## Look-a-Like Domains

Domain names which seem to belong to respected, trusted brands.

### Slight Misspellings

 Microsoftonline  
<v5pz@onmicrosoft.com>

 www.llnkedin.com

### Brand name in URL, but not real brand domain

 ee.microsoft.co.login-update-dec20.info

 www.paypal.com.bank/logon?user=johnsmith@gmail.com

 ww17.googlechromeupdates.com/

### Brand name in email address but doesn't match brand domain

 Bank of America  
<BankofAmerica@customerloyalty.accounts.com>

### Brand name is in URL but not part of the domain name

 devopsnw.com/login.microsoftonline.com?userid=johnsmith

## URL Domain Name Encoding

 https://%77%77%77%68%6E%6F%77%62%654.%63%6F%6D

## Shortened URLs

When clicking on a shortened URL, watch out for malicious redirection.

 https://bit.ly/2SnA7Fnm

## Domain Mismatches

 Human Services .gov  
<Despina.Orrantia6731610@gmx.com>

 https://www.le-blog-qui-assure.com/

## Strange Originating Domains

 MAERSK  
<info@onlinealxex.com.pl>

## Overly Long URLs

URLs with 100 or more characters in order to obscure the true domain.

 http://innocentwebsite.com/irs.gow/logon/fasdjkg-sajdkjndf  
jnbkaskdjfbkajsdbfkjbasdf/adsnfjksdngkfdgfgjhfgd/ghit.php

## File Attachment is an Image/Link

It looks like a file attachment, but is really an image file with a malicious URL.

 INV39391.pdf 52 KB  <https://d.pr/free/f/jsaec>  
Click or tap to follow link.

## Open Redirectors

URLs which have hidden links to completely different web sites at the end.

 t-info.mail.adobe.com/r/?id=hc347a&p1=evilwebsite.com

# Rogue URL Tip Sheet



**OLD HABITS**

**CHANGE**

HOW DO TREES  
GET ONLINE?



# Final Thoughts





"From the **shop floor** to the **server room**, **secure every aspect of your manufacturing with comprehensive cybersecurity.**"

# How To Protect Against These Attacks



Exploited Vulnerabilities  
**Gotta Patch It!**



Compromised Credentials  
**Don't Reuse Old Passwords**



Malicious Email  
**Use AI / Secure Email Gateways**



Phishing  
**Security Awareness Training / Culture**



Brute Force Attack  
**Be aware of Supply Chain Attacks**



**Humans are the  
number one **attack** vector and  
a critical layer of of your security program.**

Building a

# HUMAN FIREWALL

is about the intersection between  
*Awareness, Intention, and Behavior.*

# What it's like for the IT Team



Defense in Depth  
Monitoring  
Policies  
Awesome IT  
Team

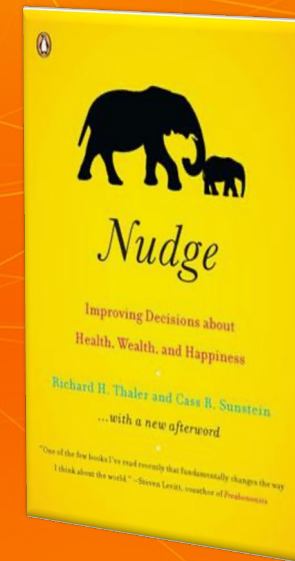
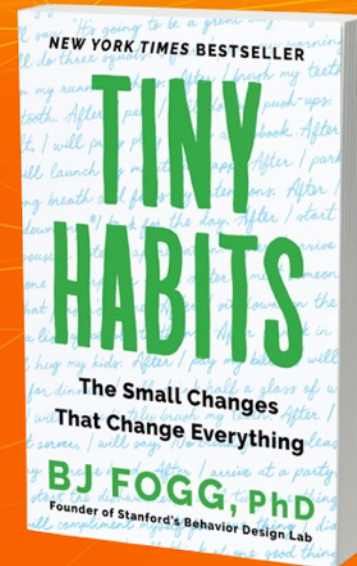
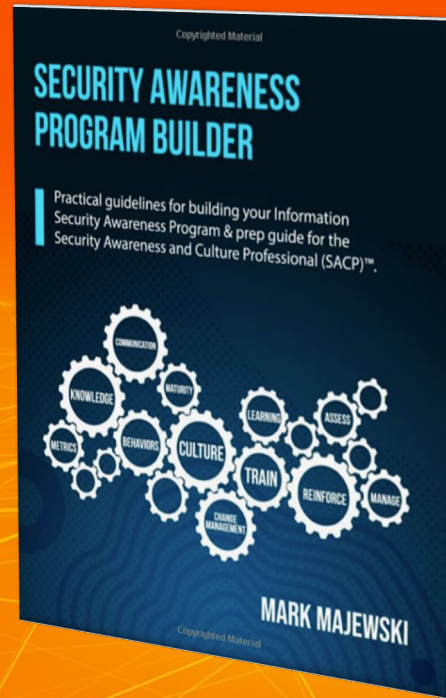
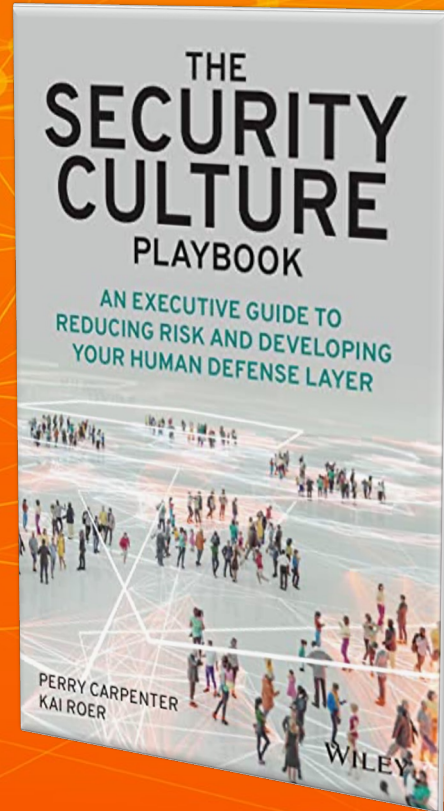
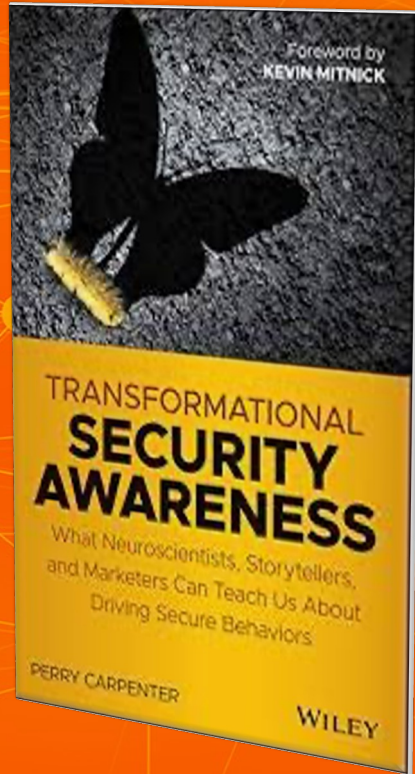


This goes way beyond awareness or coercing secure behaviors. **It's about making workers value security** ...where they **proactively** participate in taking steps that **reduce risk**.

-Perry Carpenter



# Resources



securitymasterminds.buzzsprout.com



The podcast that brings you the very best in all things, cybersecurity, taking an in-depth look at the most pressing issues and trends across the industry.





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**A New Business**  
James McQuiggan, CISSP, SACP  
6 views · 4 days ago

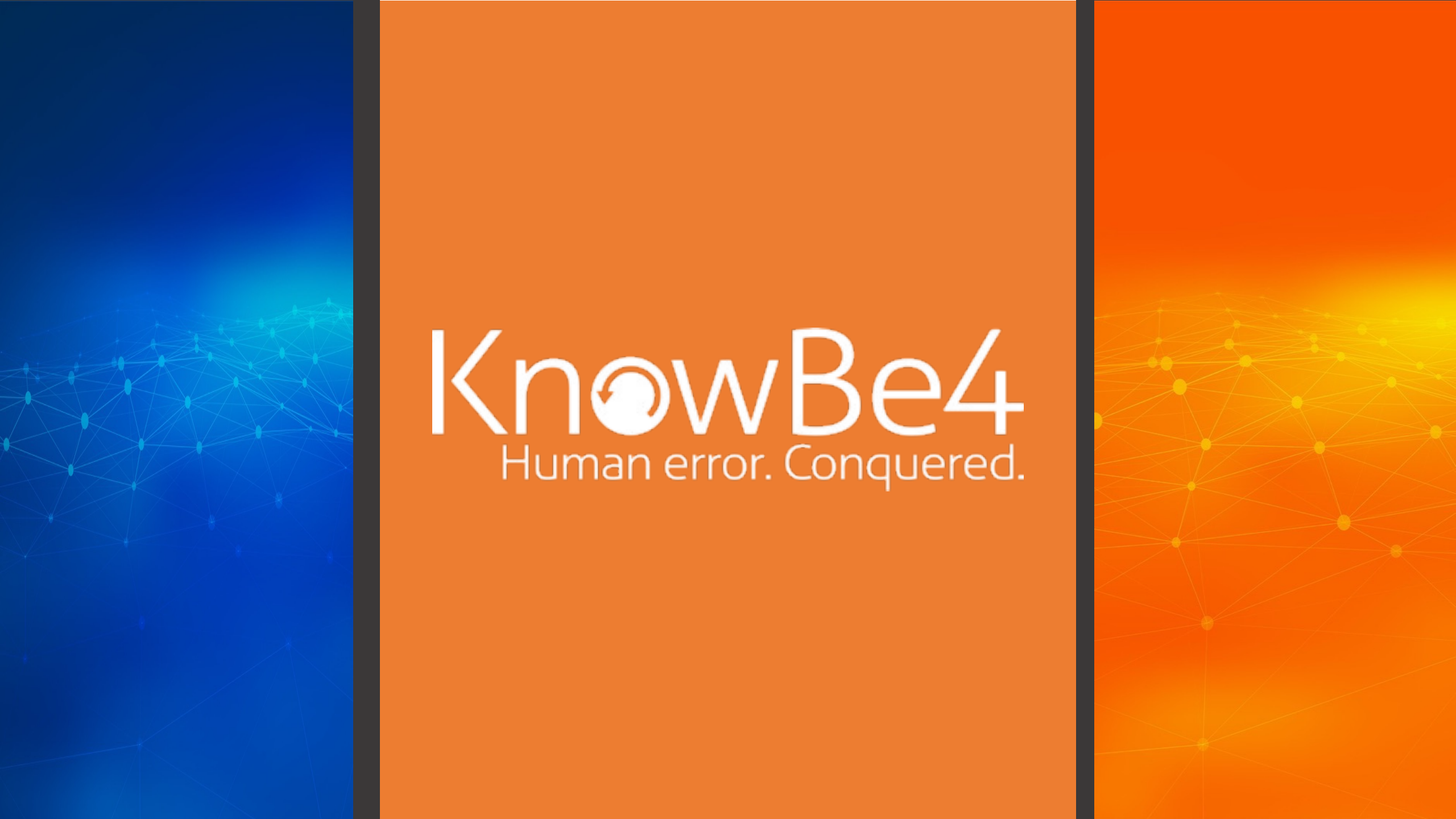
**Cybercrime**  
James McQuiggan, CISSP, SACP  
23 views · 12 days ago

**Most Secure Woman**  
James McQuiggan, CISSP, SACP  
21 views · 2 weeks ago

**Sick Webpages**  
James McQuiggan, CISSP, SACP  
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YouTube: James McQuiggan and Dad Jokes

<https://www.youtube.com/@JamesMcQuigganCISSP>



# KnowBe4

Human error. Conquered.



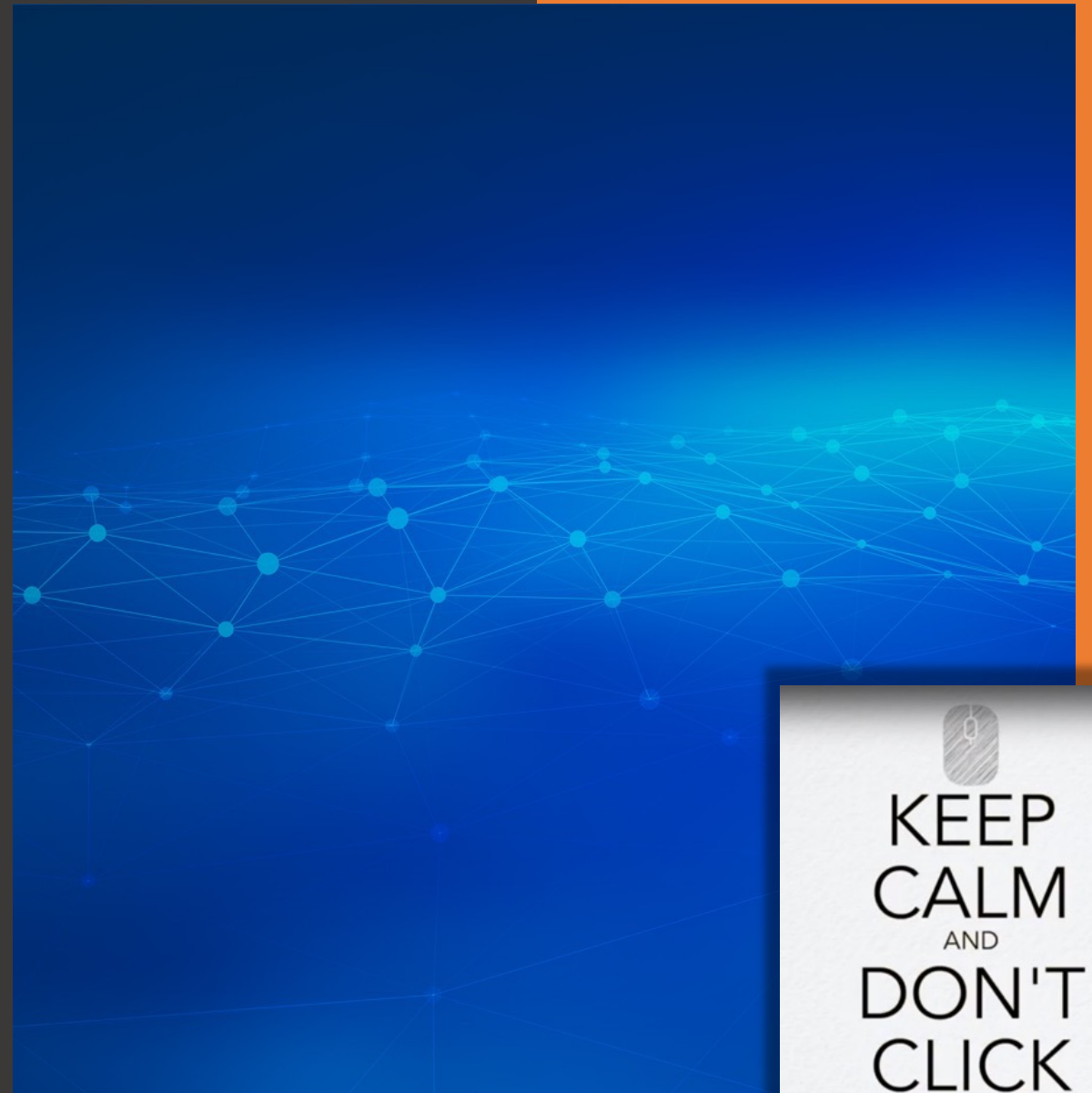
For more information visit  
**[blog.knowbe4.com](http://blog.knowbe4.com)**

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# Resources

- **Contact Info**

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- Rogue URL webinar: <https://blog.knowbe4.com/combating-rogue-url-tricks-how-you-can-quickly-identify-and-investigate-the-latest-phishing-attacks>
- Phishing Benchmark Report - <https://info.knowbe4.com/phishing-by-industry-benchmarking-report>
- KnowBe4 Home Course Training (password: homecourse) <https://www.knowbe4.com/homecourse>
- Ransomware Hostage Rescue Manual: <https://www.knowbe4.com/ransomware>
- KnowBe4 Compliance Manager - [kcmgrc.knowbe4.com](https://kcmgrc.knowbe4.com)

# Discussions With C-Suite/BoD

## For the C-Suite:

- Support a Culture of Cyber Hygiene
- Allocate Adequate Resources
- Understand the Business Impact
- Champion Risk-Based Decision Making

## For Boards of Directors:

- Inquire About Patch Management Practices
  - Understand Regulatory Requirements
  - Evaluate Cybersecurity Posture
  - Support Continuous Improvement
- 

# Roleplay – Tabletop Exercise (TTX)



**LOCAL PRIVILEGE ESCALATION**

The attackers use a vulnerability in local software to gain administrative access.

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**DETECTION**

Endpoint Analysis  
Endpoint Security Protection Analysis

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**TOOLS**

PowerSploit's PowerUp  
Meterpreter Post-Exploitation Scripts

<https://www.blackhillsinfosec.com/powershell-without-powershell-how-to-bypass-application-whitelisting-environment-restrictions-av>

**ENDPOINT SECURITY PROTECTION ANALYSIS**

We know, you have AV. Great! Do you actually get alerts and logs? Do you immediately review them? Or, do you simply turn it on and walk away while the network explodes like you're in a bad action movie?

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**TOOLS**

Check with your vendor, they miss you and always want to chat.

A magnifying glass with a red circle containing the word 'ALERT' in white capital letters.

**LEGAL TAKES YOUR ONLY SKILLED HANDLER INTO A MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE INCIDENT**

Who brought a lawyer to the party? There's always one person who pretty much runs the whole IR process. That one essential person. Well, the legal team took that person away for "Very Important Reasons."

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**NOTES**

They may never come back... all of the quiet people who were just passively listening and hoping to not get called on now need to step up. Now is your time. Shine!

A red office chair with a white tag attached to the backrest that says 'BACK TO WORK'.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZLNdZLHKz4> (it's 76 minutes)

Discord Channel: <https://discord.gg/bnb>

Order your own decks: <https://spearphish-general-store.myshopify.com/>

Disclaimer: KnowBe4 does not endorse Backdoors & Breaches and James receives no compensation from BHIS for supporting the program. He just finds it really cool and a great way to work through Incident Response Scenarios!

Source: <https://www.blackhillsinfosec.com/projects/backdoorsandbreaches/>