

A Colloquy on Security Alchemy

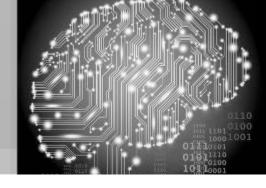
Mike Pullen - Baraboo Pat Zielke - Viroqua Jim Blodgett - Middleton Kevin Capwell - META



Middleton-Cross Plains School District



- Jim Blodgett
 Director of Technology 8 years
- Enrollment: 7,450
- Total Staff: 1,098
- Buildings: two High Schools, two Middle Schools, seven Elementary Schools, District Office.
- Desktops 2000, Laptops 1000, Chromebooks 6500, iPads 1200.



Baraboo School District



- Mike Pullen
 Computer Technician 12 years
- Enrollment: 2,972
- Total Staff: 466
- Buildings: High School, Middle School, five Elementary Schools, multiple 4K sites, District Office.
- Computers: ~350 iMacs and Macbooks,
 - ~250 Windows desktops and notebooks,
 - ~2500 Chromebooks, ~700 iPads.



Viroqua Area Schools



- Pat Zielke
 Technology Coordinator 20 years
- Enrollment: 1,191
- Total Staff: 184
- Buildings: Shared High School/Middle School a separate Elementary all on the same campus.
- Computers: Desktop 400, Chrome books 800, Other mobile 90.



School District of Onalaska



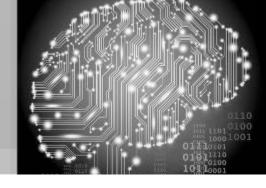
- Kevin Capwell fmr → Data Systems Director - 24 years
- Enrollment: 3,166
- Total Staff: 425
- Buildings: High School, Middle School, three Elementary Schools, District Office, and School Nutrition.
- Computers: Desktops 1400, Chrome books 1400, Other mobile ~200.



Cybersecurity

is the <u>art</u> of protecting networks, devices, and data from unauthorized access or criminal use and the practice of ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information.

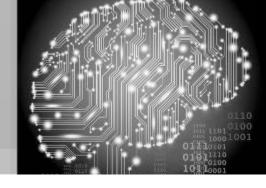
--Department of Homeland Security



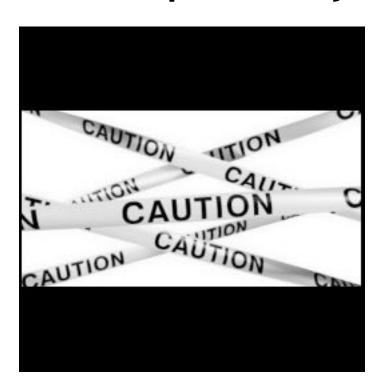
Common Cybersecurity Excuses



- we have nothing that hackers want
- too small of a company to be a target
- we don't have the time to fix them
- upgrading will cost us too much
- cybersecurity is not in the budget
- it might break the system
- compliance is enough
- we have a firewall to protect us
- we have cybersecurity insurance
- we are unhackable
- Don't be like "Bob"!



Enterprise Cyberattacks are on the Rise



- Cybercriminals stole headlines with attacks against some of the country's most important sectors.
- Hackers targeted schools to steal and then sell staff and student data while grinding instructional hours to a halt.
- The use of ransomware, trojans and malware helped stop key services and vital infrastructure.

--Malwarebytes Labs Nov: 2019



Educational Institutions are a Target



- Most vulnerable industry: education!
- Education is a priority target due to the large number of endpoints that are accessed by students, staff, and others. Combined with outdated security infrastructure, limited budgets and staffing, the result is a nightmare scenario for network security.
- Identity theft involving a student may not be caught for years!

--Malwarebytes Labs Nov: 2019



Why Hackers are Targeting Schools



- Schools have important data: including staff and student names, Social Security numbers, email addresses, academic / health / financial records.
- Professional development is often focused on curriculum, or institution.
- Students can be more tech-savvy than staff, but security is **not** paramount.
- Headaches: 1:1, BYOD, VoIP, cameras, PA/bell, HVAC, IoT, & rogue devices.

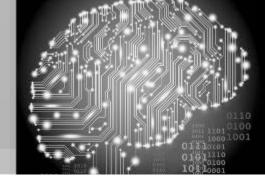


Common Attack Vectors





- Malware includes spyware, ransomware & viruses → data breaches & identity theft.
- **Phishing** is sending fraudulent communication *(email)* that appears to be legitimate.
- Man-in-the-middle occurs when attackers spoof your Wi-Fi network to capture data.
- A denial-of-service attack floods servers or networks with traffic to exhaust bandwidth.
- A SQL injection attack forces a db server to reveal information it normally would not.
- A zero-day exploit hits after a vulnerability is announced, but before a patch is released.
- Social engineering tempts staff and students into ignoring cybersecurity "best practices".



Know Your Foe (...and Yourself)



- Cyber mercenaries serving as a third-party aide to other attackers.
- Nationalist hackers State sanctioned users / military / intelligence with advanced tools.
- Hacktivists use DDoS or web defacements.
- Organized criminals these are groups that are very efficient with turning a profit.
- **Disorganized criminals** possess skills, are loosely organized, & can monetize an attack.
- The insider threat never underestimate the power of a disgruntled employee or volunteer.
- Script kiddies attention-seeking, rebellious hackers with very little skill, but still a threat.



Example 1: 2018 Atlanta/SamSam

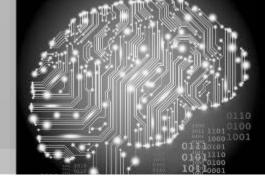




City of Atlanta - Hack Analysis

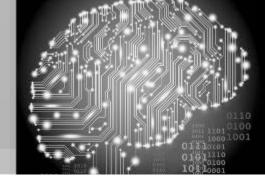


- Attack recognition: March 22, 2018
- Almost every department was infected
- Ransom: about \$51,000
- First reboot: March 27, 2018
- January 2018 audit found 1,500 to 2,000 critical vulnerabilities remaining from last year
- SamSam does not rely on phishing, it utilizes a brute-force attack to guess weak passwords
- Agencies involved: FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and Secret Service
- Third Party firms: included SecureWorks
- Cost: \$17 million



Example 2: 2019 Baltimore/RobinHood





Baltimore - Hack Analysis



- Attack recognition: May 7, 2019
- PC and server issues: 10,000 city government computers are frozen
- Ransom: about \$76,280
- First reboot: May 20, 2019
- Baltimore was susceptible to such an attack due to its IT practices
- Agencies involved: FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and Secret Service
- Hacked twice in two years
- Unlike Baltimore, Atlanta had cyberinsurance
- Cost: \$18 million including remediation, new hardware, and lost or deferred revenue



Example 3: 2019 Texas/REvil

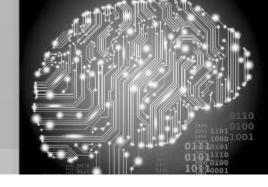




Texas Coordinated - Hack Analysis



- Attack recognition: August 16, 2019
- Mass ransomware attack that simultaneously hit 22 different locations simultaneously
- Ransom: \$2.5 million
- First reboot: August 20, 2019
- REvil is Ransomware-as-a-Service where one group maintains the code and another group spreads the ransomware
- Agencies involved: FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and Texas DIR
- Targeted at mainly small, local governments
- Cost: \$12 million+ including remediation



Example 4: 2019 Lake City/Ryuk





Lake City Florida - Hack Analysis

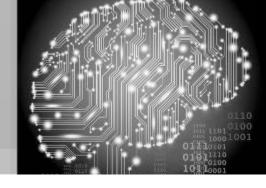


- Attack recognition: June 10, 2019
- "Triple Threat" ransomware attack: Emotet trojan installs the TrickBot trojan to deliver the Ryuk ransomware!
- Ransom: \$460,000
- Cyberinsurance covered Lake City's incident
- Lake City is a 12,000-person municipality
- Lake City IT director fired June 27th
- Cost: \$10,000 to decrypt.
- New backup storage, hardware and multifactor authentication, have cost the municipality about \$330,000 - so far



Example 5: 2019 Louisiana/Ryuk





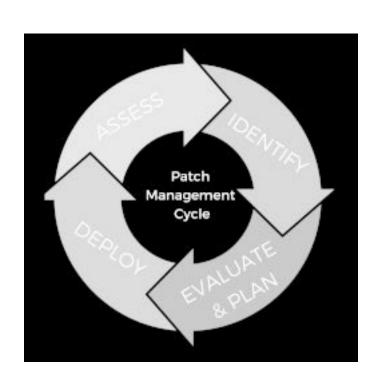
Louisiana Schools - Hack Analysis



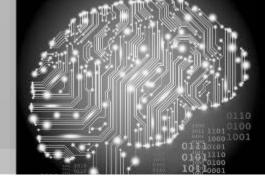
- Attack recognition: July 8-21, 2019
- Impacted school systems in Sabine, Morehouse, Monroe City and Ouachita parishes
- Ransom: typically range \$300,000 to \$1 million
- Ryuk is often dropped on a system by other malware, most notably TrickBot
- TrickBot is a trojan. It comes disguised as something harmless, via an attachment
- Statewide Emergency Declaration allows cybersecurity experts from state agencies such as the Louisiana National Guard, Louisiana State Police, and the the Office of Technology Services to assist local governments



How do we Protect Ourselves?



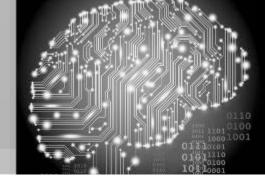
- The goal isn't to eliminate risk. The goal is to manage risk.
- The "Patch Management Cycle" balances the risk of disrupting internal workflows with the risk of not updating these systems. Reasonable patch management processes will test updates, correct any errors, and keep unnecessary downtime at bay from critical apps and services.
- The "Patch Management Cycle" never ends
- Having a test environment is crucial for testing updates before you deploy them in your production environment.



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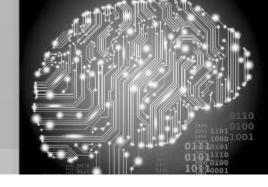
- Cybersecurity Best Practices
- It is everyone's responsibility to remain cyber aware and practice information safety.
- Do not open suspicious or unexpected links or attachments in emails.
- Hover over hyperlinks in emails to verify they are going to the anticipated site.
- Be aware of malicious actors attempting to impersonate legitimate staff, and check the email sender name against the sender's email address.



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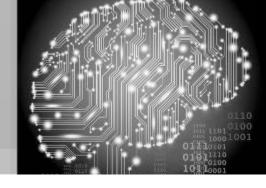
- Cybersecurity Best Practices (part 2)
- Use unique strong passwords or pass-phrases for all accounts [multi-factor authentication].
- Do not provide personal or organizational information unless you are certain of the requestor's authority, identity, and legitimacy.
- Alert your IT staff or supervisor if you have any concerns about the legitimacy of any email, attachment, or link.
- Take advantage of available cybersecurity awareness training.



Know the Why



- Mission, vision, and goals of the district and the tech department's role
- Tech Department is a partner for staff and students, not a black box to "just make it work"



Protect the Golden Eggs



- Two people (at least) have to agree on cutting checks or money transfers
- ACH Changes made in person
- All ACH transactions are done from a single, hardened device with only essential Internet connectivity
- DLP filters on emails and storage
- Defined Procedures and policies
- Internal auditing
- Single Vendor Credit cards
- Audit high-level access accounts



Data Systems Catalog / Risk Inventory

Criticality rubric: (hacking event)

- 1: Low impact (speed bump)
- 2: Medium impact (inconvenient)
- 3: Significant impact (operations affected; PII)
- 4: Catastrophic impact (operations stop)

Vulnerability rubric: (where to attack)

- 0: Ft. Knox/no vulnerability
- 1: Low/unlikely vulnerable
- 2: Medium/possibly vulnerable
- 3: Known/very likely vulnerable

Risk Likelihood multiplier:

- 1: High certainty of very low risk
- 2: Uncertain/unknown risk
- 3: Known problem/high risk

Priority=(Criticality+Vulnerability)*Likelihood

- Limited resources: Risk vs Cost analysis
- List all data processing and storage systems
- For each system, rate Criticality,
 Vulnerability and Likelihood
- Calculate Priority score
- Allocate limited resources (time, money, etc) to highest priorities first, lower priorities as possible



Segmentation



- Use firewalls and ACLs to group users
- Access is given as needed
 - We know who needs access to our systems
 - We know where our users are coming from
- No Internet access with elevated privileges
- Vulnerable Systems (HVAC, Cameras, IoT) isolated with limited access through hardened interfaces
- Protect DNS and Email
- Role-based security for all systems



Monitor



- Capture keystrokes, mouse clicks, web traffic, unexpected events
- Correlate event data across systems
- Listen to staff and student and reward paranoia (no shaming)
- Check and export key logs
- Consider centralized log management
- Listen to NIST, NSA, DHS, US-Cert and act on the advice





Educate

- Social engineering awareness
- Cybersecurity and digital citizenship education for all staff and students
- Targeted education for HR, Finance, Benefits, Payroll, and Facilities staff
- Targeted education for tech staff
- Training and Certification- importance?



Make Time to be Proactive & Strategic

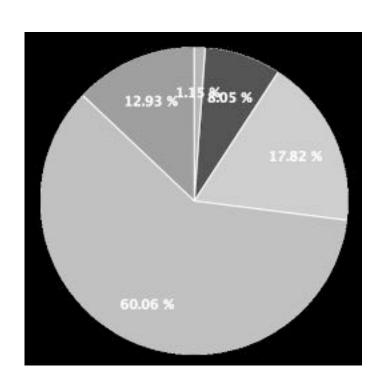


- Good security comes in layers
- Patch process
- Snapshot/backup and verify
- Ready to go spares
- Identify vulnerabilities and mitigate
- Consider geolocation blocking
- Create a disaster recovery plan
- Out of band knowledge repository





K-12 Cyber Incidents: 2019



- 1.15% Denial of Service
- 8.05% Phishing
- ☐ 17.82% Ransomware
- 60.06% Disclosure/Breach
- 12.93% Other Incident
- **Note:** Publicly-disclosed incident reports represent a **small** percentage of actual incidents.
 - -- k12cybersecure.com



How do we Protect our Networks?



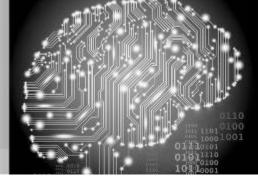
- Backups All data / offline / tested
- Risk Analysis of the full organization
- Staff Training on cybersecurity best practices
- Vulnerability Patching known system holes
- Application Whitelisting only approved apps
- Incident Response does a *tested* plan exist
- Business Continuity sustain ops & how long
- Penetration Testing hack your own systems
- If your network sustains a cyberattack:
- Contact law enforcement immediately. FBI, Department of Homeland Security or Secret Service.



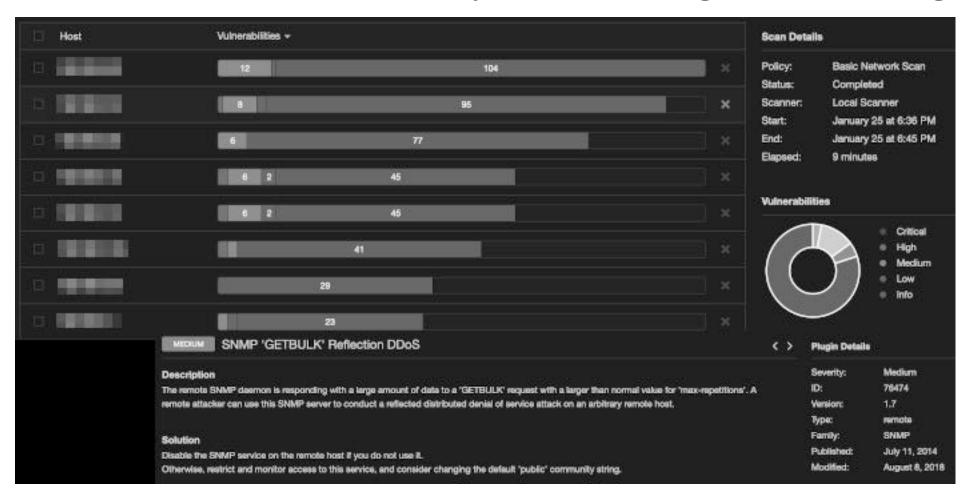
Preventative Measures can Help!



- Strong spam filters and authenticate inbound email using SPF, DMARK and DKIM
- Scan all incoming and outgoing emails and filter executable [or encrypted] files
- Configure firewalls to use geolocation restrictions and block known bad IP addresses
- Consider using a centralized patch management system [+ firmware updates]
- Set anti-virus and anti-malware to scan automatically (and frequently)
- Disable Remote Desktop (RDP) if it is unused
- Manage user accounts by least privilege

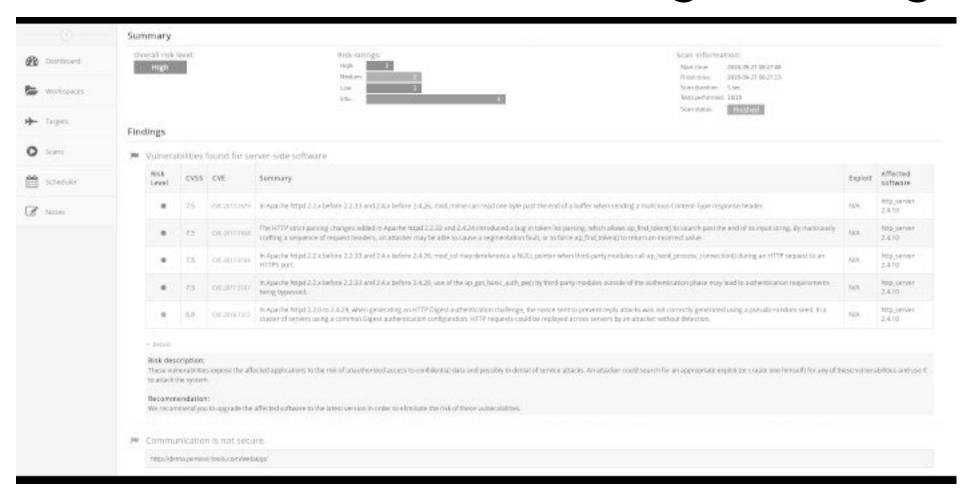


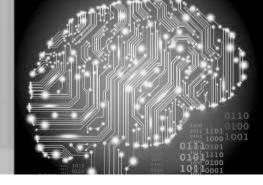
Nessus Vulnerability Patching / Testing



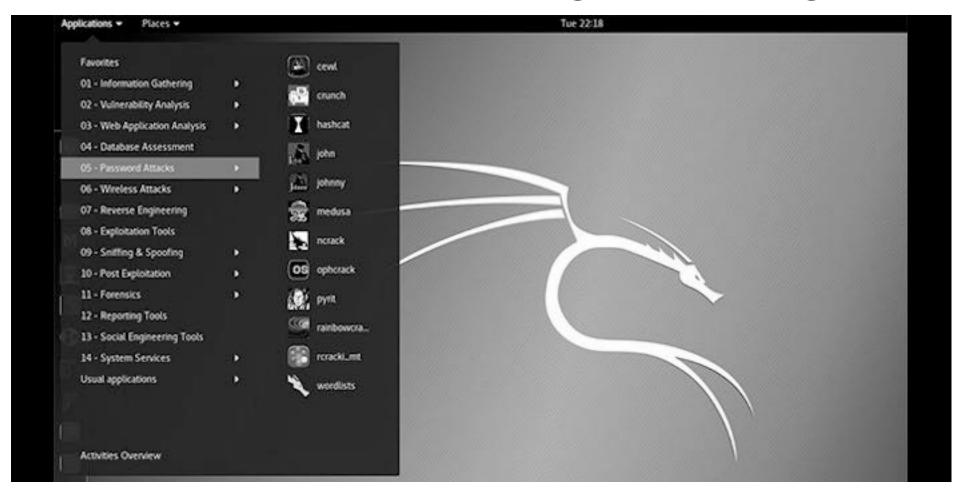


Pentest-tools.com Patching / Testing





Kali Linux Patching / Testing

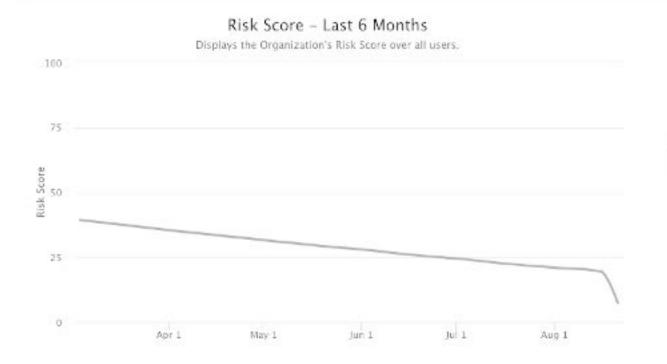




Knowbe4 - Phishing / Testing

KnowBe4

Organization's Risk Score





7.3

Risk Scores are calculated based on a number of different factors. See our Virtual Risk Officer (VRO) Guide for details about how Risk Scores are calculated.



Cyber Security: Links



- CISA vulnerability scan
 - cisa.gov/cybersecurity-assessments
- CDW vulnerability scan
 - cdwg.com/content/cdwg/en/solutions/cybersecurity/security-threat-check.html
- SecurityOnion open-source monitoring
 - securityonion.net
- Greenbone vulnerability scanner
 - greenbone.net/en/community-edition
- WI DPI
 - dpi.wi.gov/cyber-security
- WI Cyber Response Teams
 - det.wi.gov/Pages/Cyber-Response-Teams.aspx



January 7, 2020: Las Vegas Avoided Cyberattack!







Questions?

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