

What Are We Even Doing?



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About

- Founder & CTO @ Trimarc (Trimarc.co), a professional services company that helps organizations better secure their Active Directory & Azure AD/Entra ID.
- Microsoft Certified Master (MCM) Directory Services
- Enterprise Security Weekly Co-Host (SecurityWeekly.com)
- Former Microsoft MVP
- Speaker: Black Hat, Blue Hat, Blue Team Con, BSides Charm, BSides DC, BSides PR, DEFCON, DerbyCon, TEC, Troopers
- Security Consultant / Researcher
- AD Enthusiast - Own & Operate ADSecurity.org (Microsoft platform security info)





Agenda

- Defensive Fallacies
- Why Are We Here
- AD Attack Timeline
- Challenges
- Red Team, Blue Team, Purple Team
- Community
- Conclusion

Defenders have to be Right 100% of the Time
while
Attackers only have to be Right Once
FALSE

A lion with a large, light brown mane is lying down on a dark, textured rock surface. The lion's head is turned slightly to the left, and its eyes are partially closed. The background is a dark, rocky wall.

The Defender's Paradox:

When the Attacker is on the Outside, they only need to be right **once**.

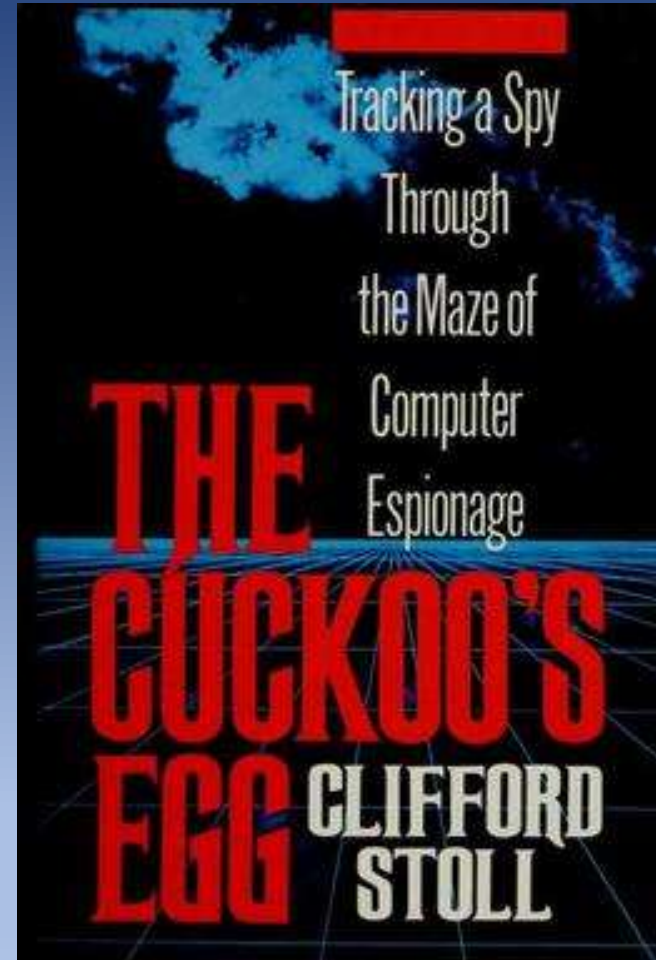
Once the Attacker is Inside, they need to be right 100% of the time and now the Defender only needs to be right **once** to catch them.

Attackers can do an *infinite* number of things.

However, they have a *finite* number of pathways.

Configure detection around these

Why Are We Here?



Let's Go Back
In Time... to
the 80s



<https://berkeleylabnext90.lbl.gov/celebrate-the-past/photo-gallery/#1980s>

It started with
9 seconds

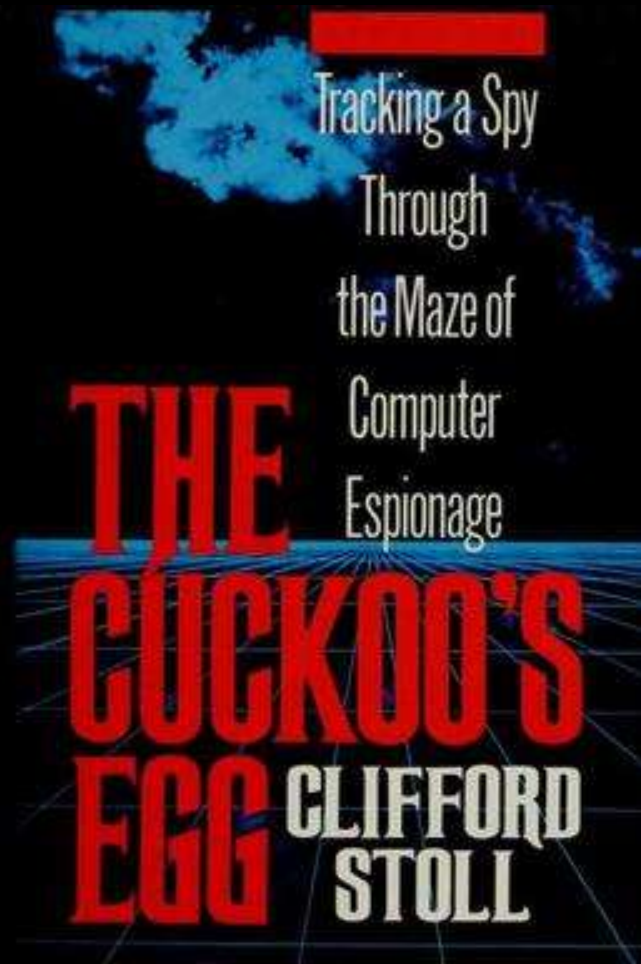


Creating an SDI Department



From Russia, with Love





Active Directory Attack Timelines: “Baby Steps”(2000 – 2009)



1997

April: Paul Ashton posted to NTBugtraq about “[Pass the Hash' with Modified SMB Client](#)” leveraging the username and LanMan hash against NT.



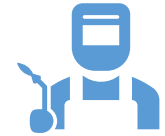
2001

March: Sir Dystic of Cult of the Dead Cow (cDc) [releases SMBRelay and SMBRelay2](#)



2007

[NBNSpoof tool](#) created by Robert Wesley McGrew (LLMNR/NBT-NS)



2008

July: Hernan Ochoa [publishes the "Pass-the-Hash Toolkit"](#) (later called WCE)

Active Directory Attack Timelines: “The Wonder Years” (2010 – 2014)



2010

March: [Windows Credentials Editor \(WCE\)](#) & [RootedCon presentation](#) by Hernan Ochoa



2011

May: First version of [Mimikatz](#) tool released by Benjamin Delpy



2012

[Exploiting Windows 2008 Group Policy Preferences](#) by Emilien Giraul

May: [Chris Campbell's post on GPP Passwords](#)

October: [Responder v1](#) tool released by Laurent Gaffie



2013

October: [Invoke-Mimikatz](#) PowerShell module released by Joe Bialek



2014

August: “[Abusing Microsoft Kerberos sorry you guys don't get it](#)” Black Hat presentation by Benjamin Delpy & Skip Duckwell

- Golden Tickets
- Overpass-the-hash
- Pass-the-ticket

September: [PAC Validation, The 20 Minute Rule and Exceptions \(BHUSA 2014 part deux\)](#) blog post about Silver Tickets by Skip Duckwell

September: [Kerberoast](#) released by Tim Medin at DerbyCon

December: [PowerView](#) tool released by Will Schroeder

Active Directory Attack Timeline Summary (with Mitre ATT&CK): “The Wonder Years” (2010 – 2014)



Tools

Windows Credential Editor (WCE)
([ID: S0005](#))

Mimikatz ([ID: S0002](#))

Responder ([ID: S0174](#))

PowerView



Privilege Escalation

Group Policy Preferences password
([ID: T1552.006](#))

Pass the Ticket ([ID: T1550.003](#))

Overpass-the-Hash

Kerberoast ([ID: T1558.003](#))



Persistence

Golden Tickets ([ID: T1558.001](#))

Silver Tickets ([ID: T1558.002](#))

Active Directory Attack Timelines: “The Golden Years” (2015 – 2019)



2015

[DSInternals](#) tool [released](#) by Michael Grafnetter
[Kekeo](#) tool released by Benjamin Delpy
[PowerSploit](#) toolset released by Matt Graeber
May: [Impacket](#) tool released by Alberto Solino (asolino)

May: Method to [Detect Golden Tickets](#)
August: [PowerShell Empire](#) released by Will @Hrmj0y & Justin Warner
August: [DCSync update](#) to Mimikatz by Vincent Le Toux & Benjamin Delpy

August: Black Hat 2015 presentation by Sean Metcalf: [Unconstrained Delegation](#) & [Golden Tickets more powerful](#) & [Active Directory Persistence using AdminSDHolder](#)

September: [CrackMapExec v1.0.0](#) tool released by Marcello aka byt3bl33d3r

September: [DerbyCon 2015 presentation](#) by Sean Metcalf: [Attacking DSRM](#)

December: [Attacking Group Managed Service Accounts \(GMSAs\)](#) by Michael Grafnetter



2016

August: [Bloodhound](#) tool [released at DEFCON 23](#) originally written by Will Schroeder, Rohan Vazarkar, & Andy Robbins



2017

May: [DNSAdmin to Domain Admin](#) by Shay Ber

May: [Death Star python script](#) released by byt3bl33d3r

May: [Ntlmrelayx](#) tool released by Fox-IT

August: [ACE up the Sleeve Black Hat 2017 presentation](#) by Andy Robbins and Will Schroeder

September: [Sharphound](#) tool release



2018

February: [Bloodhound.py](#) tool released by Dirk-jan Molema (Python based Bloodhound ingester)

July: [GhostPack](#) released as a collection of C# ports of popular PowerShell tools and collects these tools together

August: [DCShadow attack](#) by Vincent Le Toux & Benjamin Delpy

September: [Rubeus](#) tool released by Will Schroeder (port of Kekeo and added to GhostPack)

October: “Printer Bug” AD priv esc [talk at DerbyCon](#) by Will Schroeder, Lee Christensen, & Matt Nelson
[Ldapdomaindump](#) tool released by Dirk-jan Molema



2019

January: [PrivExchange](#) tool released by Dirk-jan Molema

January: [Wagging the Dog: Abusing Resource-Based Constrained Delegation to Attack Active Directory](#) article “Wagging the Dog” by Elad Shamir

Active Directory Attack Timeline Summary (with Mitre ATT&CK): “The Golden Years” (2015 – 2019)



Tools

DSInternals

Kekeo

PowerSploit ([ID: S0194](#))

Impacket ([ID: S0357](#))

PowerShell Empire ([ID: S0363](#))

DCSync added to Mimikatz ([ID: T1003.006](#))

CrackMapExec ([ID: S0488](#))

Bloodhound ([ID: S0521](#))

DeathStar.py

NTLMRelayX

SharpHound

GhostPack

Rubeus ([ID: S1071](#))



Privilege Escalation

DNSAdmin to Domain
Admin

AD Permissions

“Printer Bug”

Resource-Based Constrained
Delegation



Persistence

AD Permissions

DCShadow ([ID: T1207](#))

Active Directory Attack Timelines: “The Third Age” (2020 – 2023)

2020

- December: [Adalanche](#) tool released by Lars Karlslund

2021

- April: [RemotePotato0](#) tool released by antonioCoco & [article](#) by Antonio Cocomazzi and Andrea Pierini
- July: [PetitPotam](#) tool released
- August: [Certified Pre-Owned](#) (ADCS Attacks) Black Hat talk by Will Schroeder & Lee Christensen [whitepaper download](#)
- August: [Certify](#) ADCS tool released by Will Schroeder & Lee Christensen (in GhostPack)
- October: [Kerberos Relay Attack](#) by James Forshaw
- October: [Certipy](#) tool released by Oliver Lyak (ly4k) - Python port of the Certify tool
- November: “[Is This My Domain Controller](#)” Black Hat talk by Sagi Sheinfeld (@sagish1233), Eyal Karni (@eyal_karni), & Yaron Zinar (@YaronZi)

2022

- April: [KrbRelayUp tool released](#) by DecOne

2023

- October: CrackMapExec continues as [NetExec](#) (nxc)!

Active Directory Attack Timeline Summary (with Mitre ATT&CK): “The Third Age” (2020 – 2023)



Tools

RemotePotato0

PetitPotam

Certify

Certipy

KrbRelayUp

CrackMapExec continues as NetExec
(nxc)



Privilege Escalation

Certified Pre-Owned (ADCS Attacks)

Kerberos Relay Attack



Persistence

Certified Pre-Owned (ADCS Attacks)

A landscape photograph showing a vast, dry lake bed under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a vertical metal pole stands on a rocky, cracked, and uneven ground. The ground is dark and textured, with some sparse, dry vegetation. The lake bed extends to the horizon, with a line of distant mountains visible in the background. The overall scene conveys a sense of aridity and environmental challenge.

Challenges

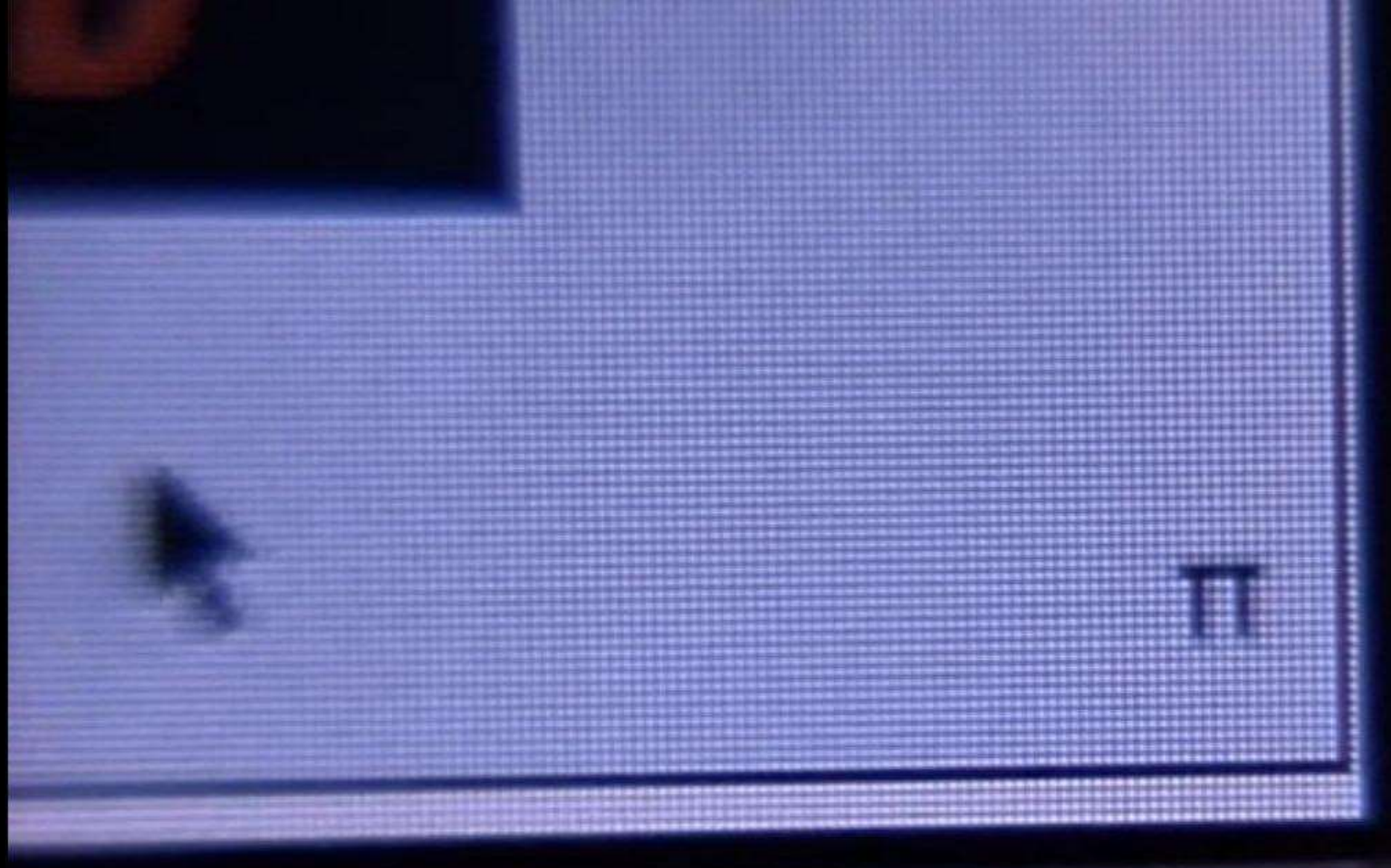
Challenge: Over-Confidence



Challenge: Assumptions



Challenge: Backdoors (ex. Solar Winds)



Challenge: Technical Debt



Challenge: Bad Passwords



1

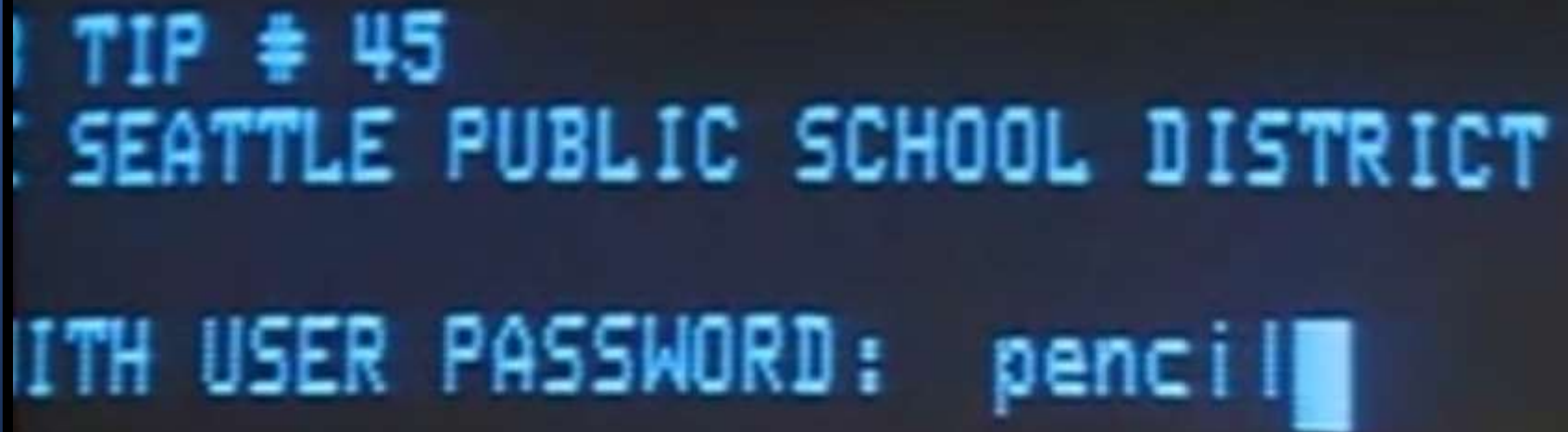
2

3


4

5

Challenge: Bad Passwords



```
TIP # 45  
SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WITH USER PASSWORD: pencil█
```



Nation-State, APTs, & Bears, Oh My!

Challenge: Insider Threat



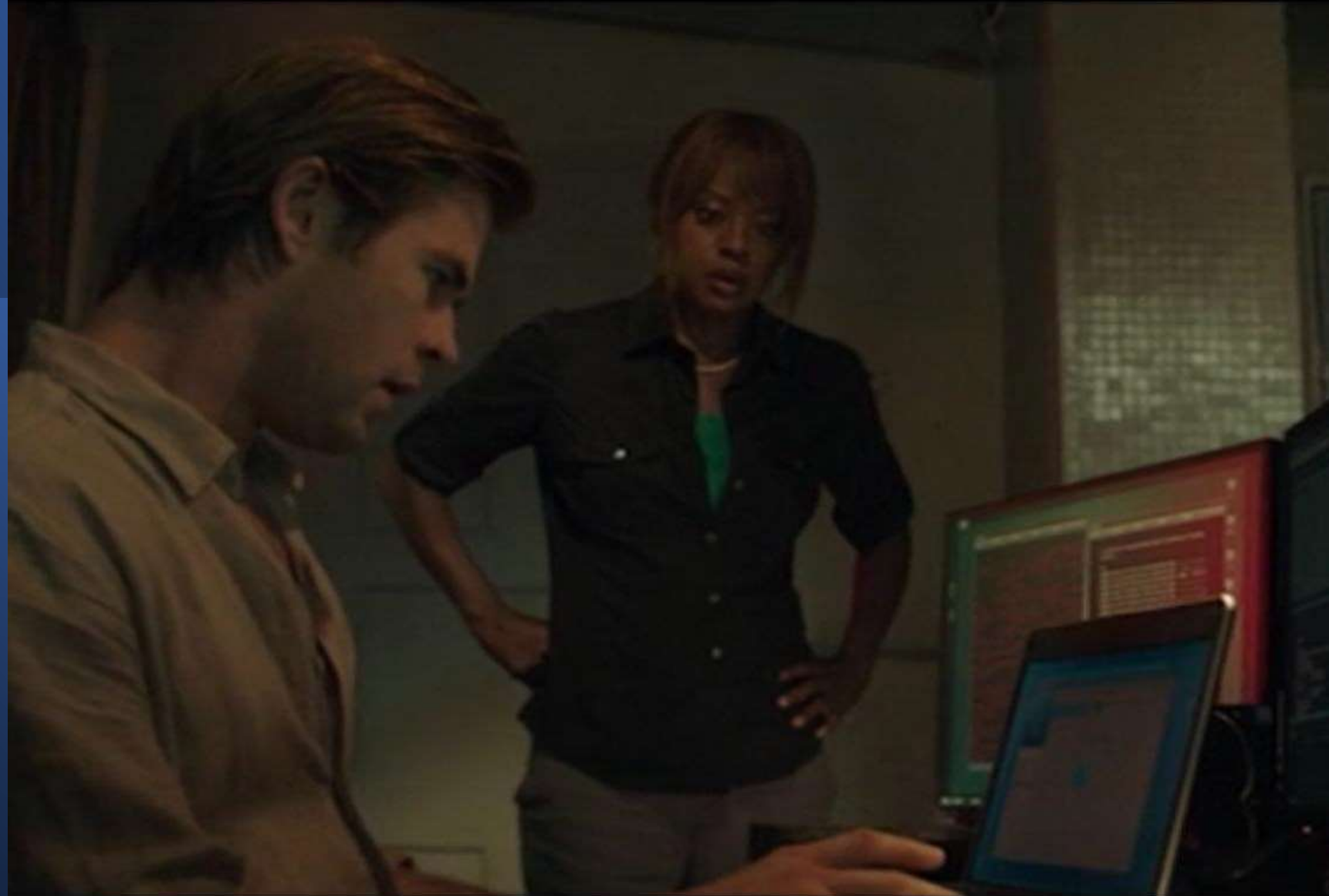
Challenge: Social Engineering



Challenge: Social Engineering



Challenge: Phishing



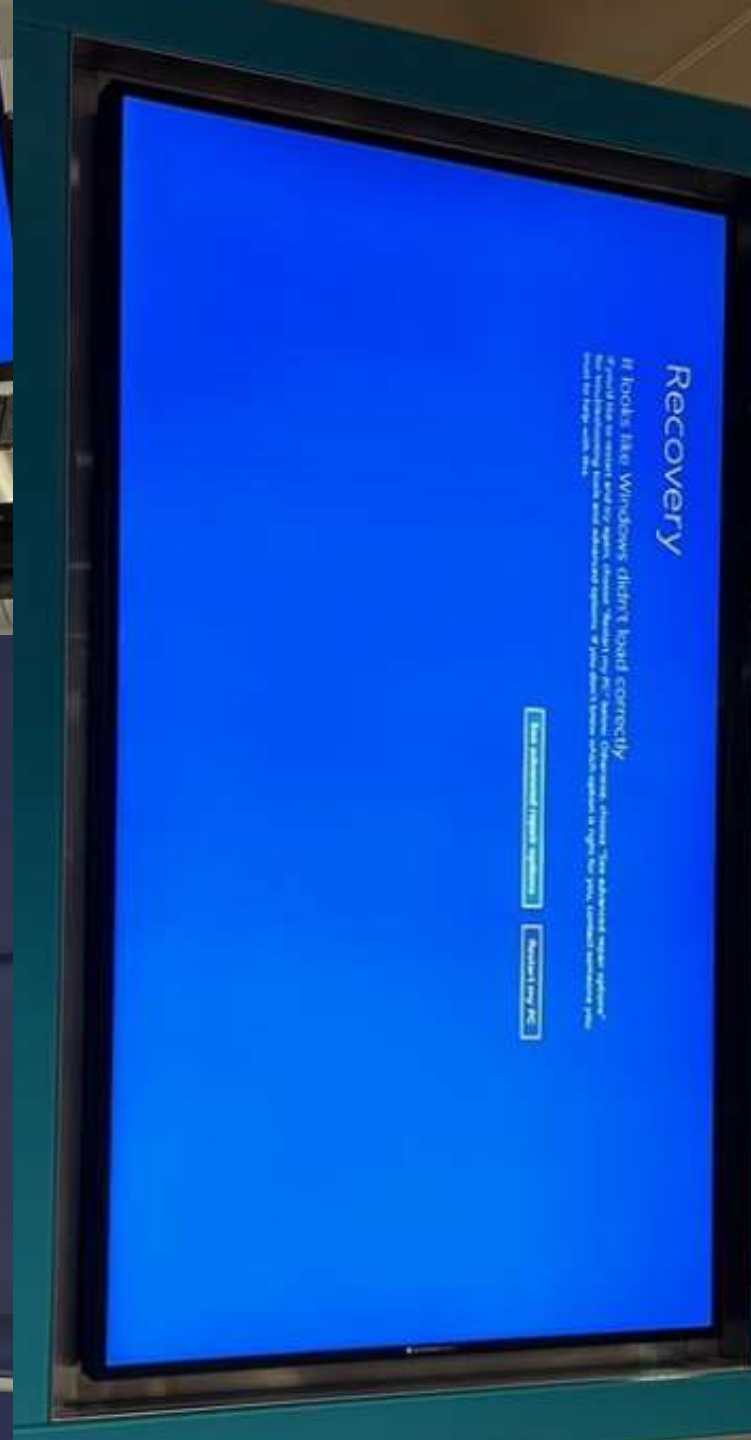
Challenge: Ransomware



Challenge: Ransomware



Challenge: Vendor Oops





Red Team, Blue
Team, Purple
Team, What Team
Am I On?

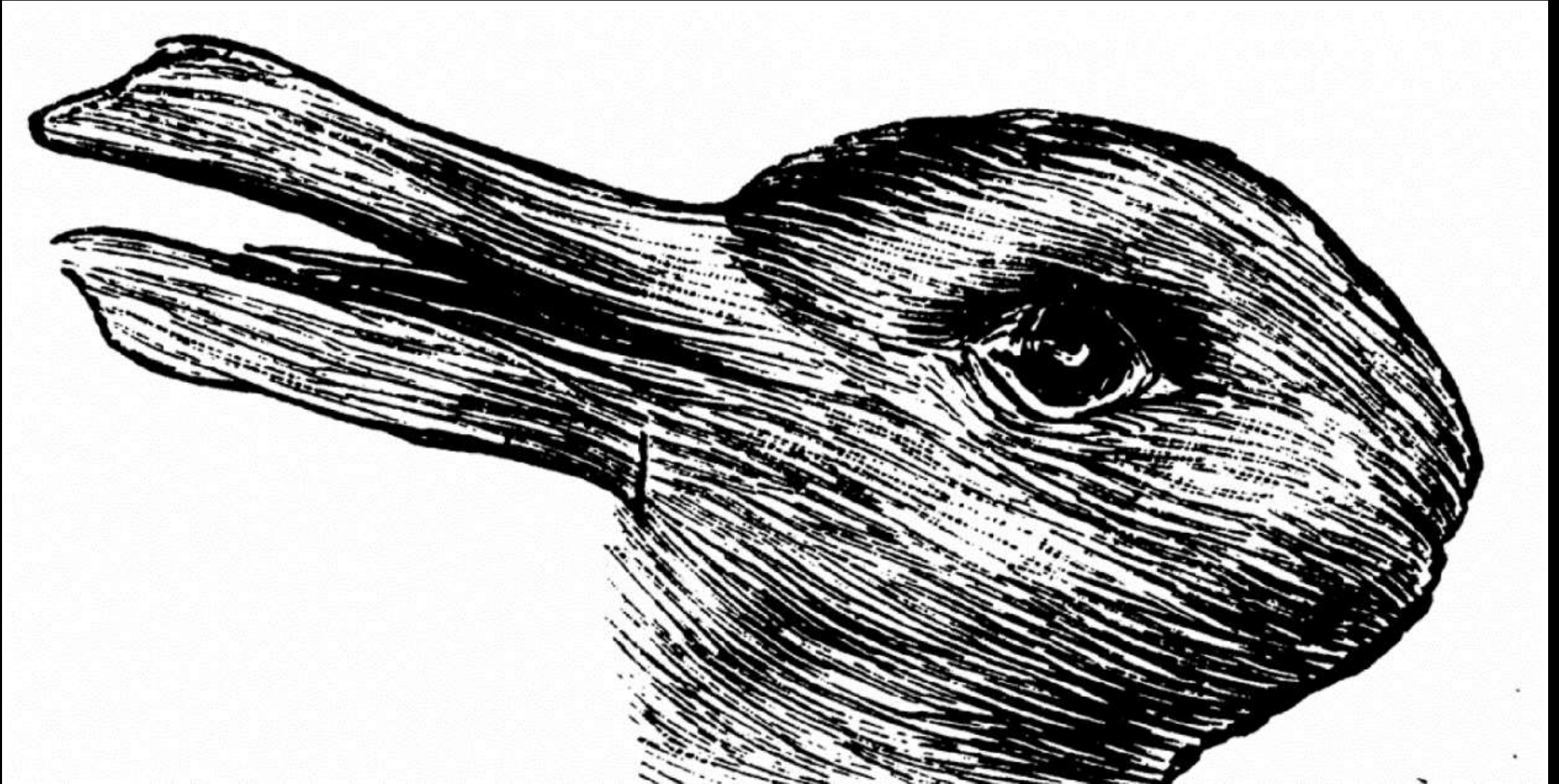




We Are ALL Part of The Blue Team







**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING.**

Impostor Syndrome

Who am I...?

YET



What was theoretical years ago is often practical today or tomorrow

Attackers keep identifying novel techniques that are often new takes on old issues.

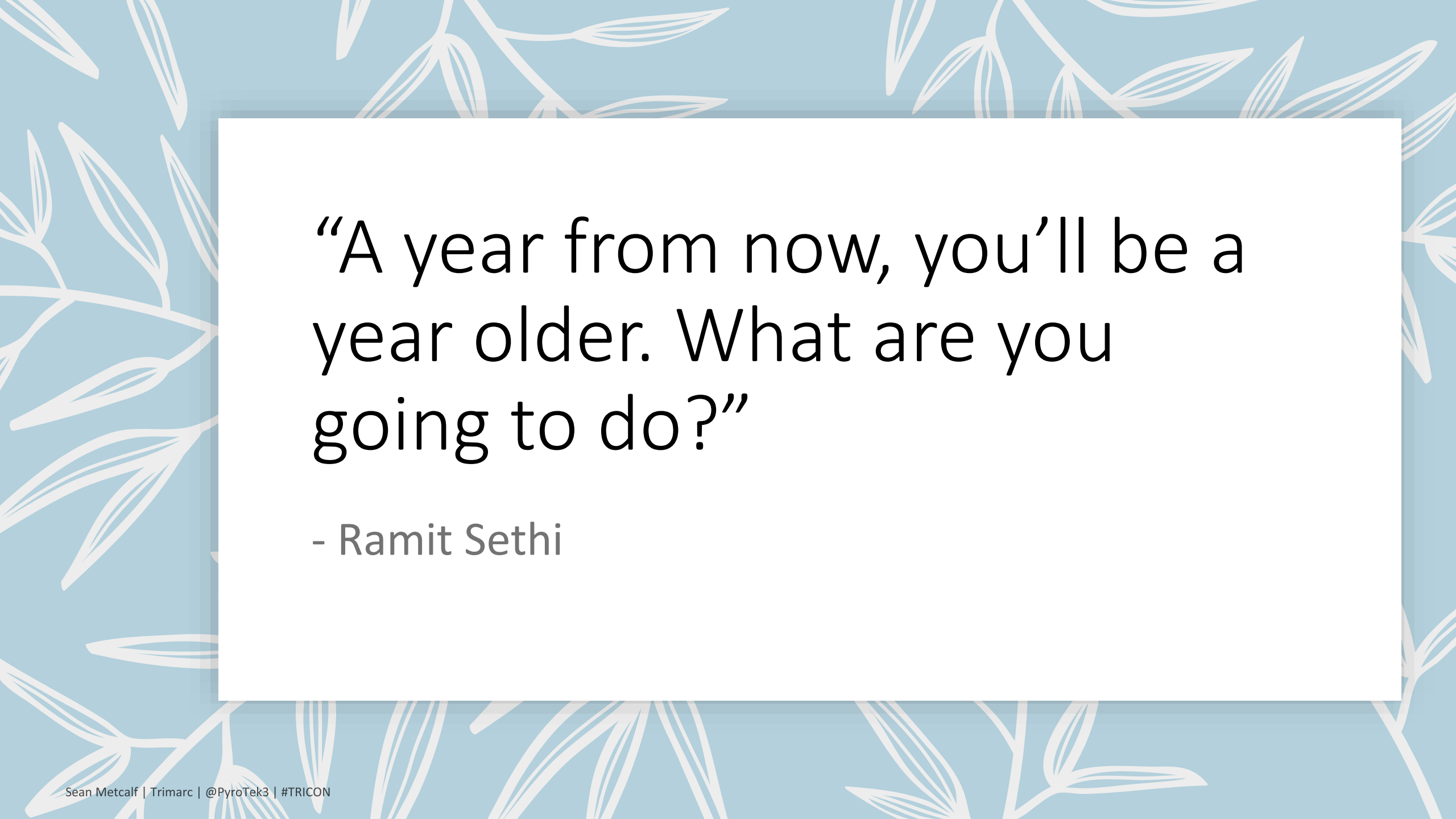
*“Nobody has the ability to
make things perfect, but
we are given chances to
make it better”*



A 40% security solution today is
better than the 100% solution
that won't happen for years

-Voltaire

*Don't let the
Perfect be the
Enemy of the Good*



“A year from now, you’ll be a year older. What are you going to do?”

- Ramit Sethi

Trimarc
Securing the Enterprise

60 followers United States of America <https://www.trimarcsecurity.com/> [@trimarcsecurity](#) [company/trimarcsecurity](#)

Overview Repositories Projects Packages People

Popular repositories

Invoke-TrimarcADChecks Public

The Invoke-TrimarcADChecks.ps1 PowerShell script is designed to gather data from a single domain AD forest based on our similar checks performed during Trimarc's Active Directory Security Assessmen...

PowerShell 35 8

Locksmith Public

Forked from Trimarc/Locksmith

A tiny tool to identify and remediate common misconfigurations in Active Directory Certificate Services.

PowerShell 15 2

Create-Vulnerable-ADDS Public

Forked from dilidelford/Create-Vulnerable-ADDS

Installs ADDS and configures a vulnerable domain via a powershell script

PowerShell 6

SPN-Descriptions Public

Forked from technicanderson/SPN-Descriptions

List of Service Principal Names and a description of the identified service.

8 1

BlueTornado Public

Forked from Trimarc/BlueTornado

A tiny tool to find and fix common misconfigurations in Active Directory-Integrated DNS

PowerShell 5 1

papers Public

A collection of Trimarc-created papers in a variety of formats.

2

Community

TRIMARC

Featured Books Videos Presentations

All Posts Active Directory Office 365 Research Azure Active Directory VMware Webcasts and COEs Transcripts Enterprise Security

Securing The Chink in Kerberos' Armor, FAST! Understandin...
Darryl Baker Jul 18 · 6 min · 1372

Active Directory Security Risk #101: Kerberos...
Sean Metcalf Jul 5 · 4 min · 1329

BSides Dublin - The Current State of Microsoft Identity...
Sean Metcalf Jun 5 · 1 min · 408

Demystifying Privileged Identity Management - Part 1
Brandon Colley Jun 5 · 7 min · 670

The Current State of Microsoft Identity Security: Common...
Sean Metcalf Jun 20 · 1 min · 176

BSides Charm - 2024
Trimarc CTO Sean Metcalf and Active Directory Security Assessment | and links · 79

Nesting Is For The Birds: The Problem with Nested Groups
Jesse Hibbert Mar 15 · 3 min · 922

Trimarc January Newsletter
Happy New Year, Trimarc · 106

CEO Livestream: Dave Kennedy & Sean Metcalf
Denny Akinci Nov 30, 2023 · 0 min · 96

Once Upon a Console: vCenter Console Coercion
Brandon Colley Nov 16, 2023 · 14 min · 193

The Crypt O Plague
Spooky scary skeletons that send shivers down your spine, and another command to use · 94

Enumerating Entra ID Anonymously
While your on-prem AD home · 1389





Slides, Video & Security Articles: [Hub.TrimarcSecurity.com](https://hub.TrimarcSecurity.com)



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