

CYBER - PHYSICAL CONVERGENCE

PERIL OR OPPORTUNITY?

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INTELLIGENCE SME | SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER



ARMY



GOVERNMENT



INTELLIGENCE



INDUSTRY

- **15+ years:** Innovating at the intersection of Intelligence, Security, and Strategy
- **Government:** Former Intelligence Officer/Major in the Singapore Armed Forces; Served in the Military Intelligence Organisation (MIO), the Defence Cyber Organisation (DCO), and the Digital & Intelligence Service (DIS)
- **Private Sector:** Designed and built threat intelligence programs for large Fortune 500 companies and government agencies across META and APJ
- **Education:** MSc Management Science & Engineering from Stanford University; BEng Chemical Engineering from University College London
- **Professional Accreditations:** GCTI | GPEN | GCIA | GOSI | GCIH | GSTRT | GSEC



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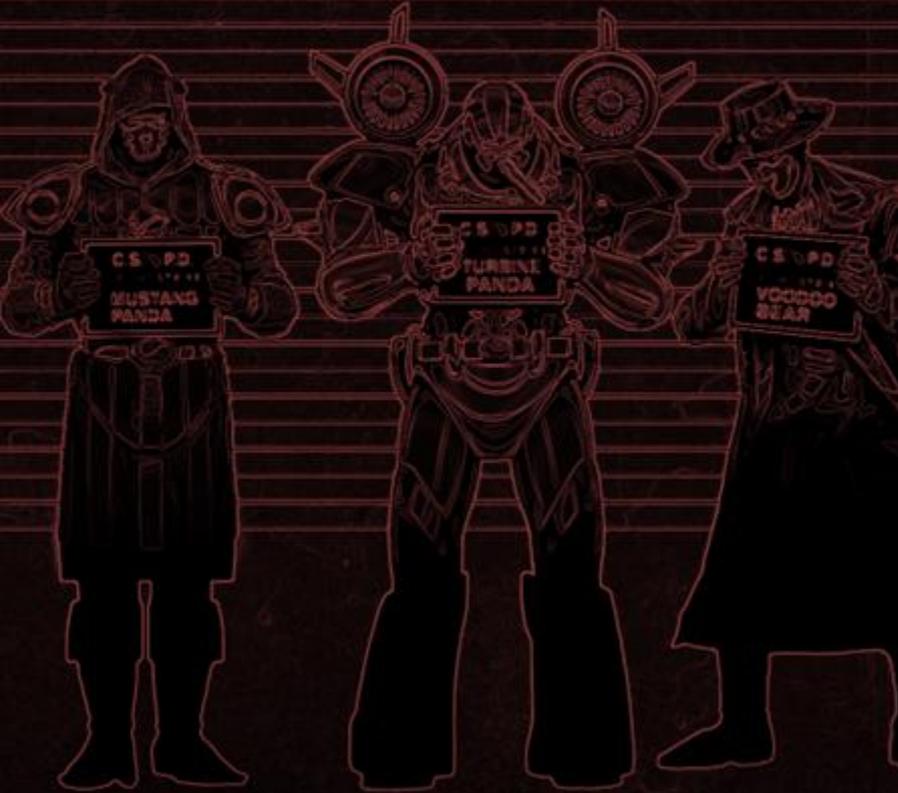
Aaron Aubrey Ng @ CrowdStrike





***“THOSE WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THE PAST
ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.”***

AGENDA



1 HUMBLE **BEGINNINGS**

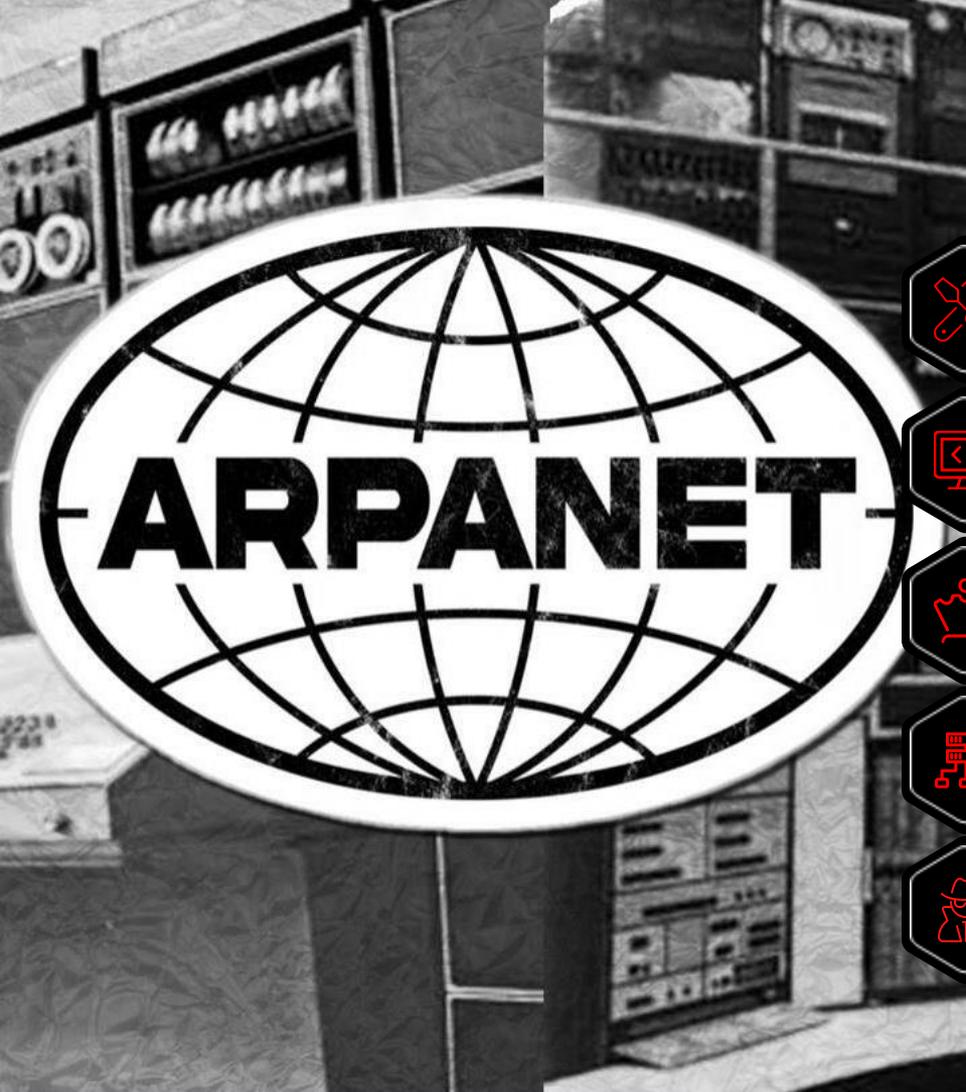
2 CYBER **ESPIONAGE**

3 PHYSICAL **DESTRUCTION**

4 **FINANCIAL** GAIN

5 THE **FUTURE** BECKONS





ORIGINS OF THE INTERNET HOW IT CAME TO BE



ARPANET – ADVANCED RESEARCH
PROJECTS AGENCY NETWORK



FIRST COMPUTER **NETWORK** USING **PACKET
SWITCHING**



COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR **MILITARY** &
ACADEMIC PURPOSES



DECENTRALISATION & **FAULT TOLERANT**
COMMUNICATIONS



SECURITY WAS NOT PART OF THE **DESIGN**
CONSIDERATIONS

EARLY SIGNS OF ABUSE & MISUSE
THE CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME BEGINS



INDIVIDUALS COULDN'T RESIST TO **WAGE MISCHIEF**



1971 – **CREEPER WORM** WRIGGLE THROUGH ARPANET



1973 – **REAPER** SPREADS THROUGH ARPANET **DELETING CREEPER**



1979 – 16-YEAR-OLD **KEVIN MITNICK** HACKS INTO THE ARK



1984 – MAINSTREAM USE OF THE TERM **"VIRUS"**



PRESENT DAY ADVERSARY ATTACK MOTIVATIONS



NATION STATE



CRIME



HACKTIVISM

CRIMINAL

Alchemist Spider
Aviator Spider
Bitwise Spider
Carbon Spider
Chariot Spider
Clockwork Spider
Cyborg Spider
Doppel Spider
Feral Spider
Graceful Spider
Hidden Spider
Hive Spider
Indrik Spider
Knockout Spider
Lunar Spider
Mallard Spider
Mummy Spider
Narwhal Spider
Night Spider
Outbreak Spider
Outlaw Spider
Percussion Spider
Pinchy Spider
Prophet Spider
Salty Spider
Samba Spider
Scully Spider

Slippy Spider
Smoky Spider
Solar Spider
Sprite Spider
Traveling Spider
Venom Spider
Wizard Spider
Vice Spider

CHINA

Aquatic Panda
Cascade Panda
Circuit Panda
Emissary Panda
Ethereal Panda
Jackpot Panda
Karma Panda
Kryptonite Panda
Lotus Panda
Mustang Panda
Nomad Panda
Phantom Panda
Puzzle Panda
Shattered Panda
Sunrise Panda
Vapor Panda
Vertigo Panda
Vixen Panda
Wicked Panda

NORTH KOREA

Labyrinth Chollima
Ricochet Chollima
Silent Chollima
Stardust Chollima
Velvet Chollima

IRAN

Charming Kitten
Chrono Kitten
Haywire Kitten
Imperial Kitten
Nemesis Kitten
Pioneer Kitten
Refined Kitten
Spectral Kitten
Static Kitten
Tracer Kitten

INDIA

Hazy Tiger
Outrider Tiger
Quilted Tiger
Razor Tiger
Viceroy Tiger

EGYPT

Watchful Sphinx

VIETNAM

Ocean Buffalo

KAZAKHSTAN

Comrade Siaga

SOUTH KOREA

Shadow Crane

SYRIA

Deadeye Hawk

COLOMBIA

Galactic Ocelot

TURKEY

Cosmic Wolf

PAKISTAN

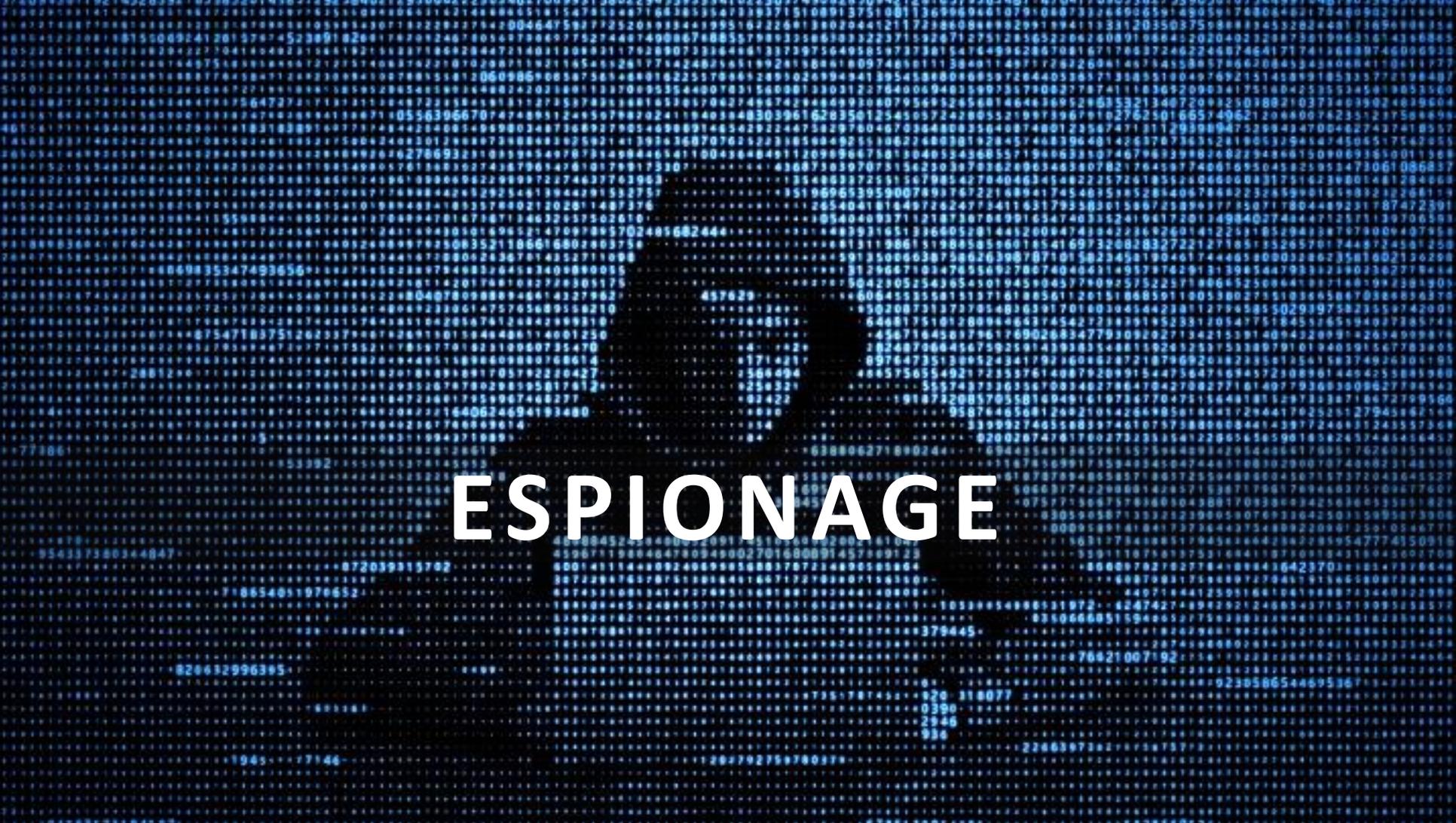
Mythic Leopard
Fringe Leopard

RUSSIA

Berserk Bear
Cozy Bear
Ember Bear
Gossamer Bear
Fancy Bear
Primitive Bear
Venomous Bear
Voodoo Bear

HACKTIVISM

Curious Jackal
Frontline Jackal
Intrepid Jackal
Partisan Jackal
Regal Jackal
Renegade Jackal



ESPIONAGE

THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

TRACKING A SPY
THROUGH THE MAZE OF
COMPUTER ESPIONAGE

THE CUCKOO'S EGG

"Fascinating . . . a nonfiction account
that reads like a le Carré novel."
—*The Seattle Times*

CLIFF STOLL

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD BY THE AUTHOR

EARLY DAYS OF CYBER ESPIONAGE
BEGINNING AT THE END (OF THE COLD WAR)



FIRST DOCUMENTED CASE OF CYBER
ESPIONAGE – “PRE-WEB”



CLIFF STOLL NOTICED DISCREPANCY IN
COMPUTING TIME RECORDS



SYSTEMATIC TARGETING OF COMPUTERS AT
US MILITARY BASES



CREATED A **HONEYPOT** FOR ATTACKER,
LURE WITH FAKE INFORMATION



IDENTIFIED AS **MARKUS HESS** – WEST
GERMAN SELLING INFO TO **KGB**



MOONLIGHT MAZE

START OF THE ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT



1999 - CYBER ESPIONAGE BROUGHT TO **PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS**



MULTI-YEAR CAMPAIGN – **NASA, PENTAGON, DOE, CONTRACTORS**



STOLEN INFO IF PRINTED – 3X HEIGHT OF WASHINGTON MONUMENT



ATTRIBUTED TO **RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT** BUT LACK ROBUST EVIDENCE



2017 – LINKED TO **TURLA / VENOMOUS BEAR** > **ACTIVE ADVERSARY**



TITAN RAIN

FIRST INSTANCE OF CHINESE ESPIONAGE



CHINESE CYBER ESPIONAGE TARGETING **US**
AND **UK GOV AGENCIES**



2003 TO 2007 – TARGET **US STATE DEPT, US**
DHS, UK MOD, UK FCO



SIGNS OF **COORDINATION**, **PERSISTENCE**,
AND **SOPHISTICATION**



ATTRIBUTED TO **PLA UNIT 61398** > **APT1 /**
COMMENT PANDA



DECADES-LONG EFFORT TO **REDUCE**
CHINESE CYBER OPS AGAINST **US**



OPERATION AURORA
WIDESPREAD INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE



CHINESE TARGETING OF US PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES



JUN - DEC 2009 > **GOOGLE, YAHOO, ADOBE, DOW, MORGAN STANLEY**



STEAL **TRADE SECRETS** + TARGET CHINESE **HUMAN RIGHTS** ACTIVISTS



EVENTUALLY LED TO GOOGLE **CEASING OPERATIONS** IN CHINA



RAISED PROFILE OF CYBER OPS AS TOOL FOR **INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE**



OPERATION CLOUD HOPPER SUPPLY CHAIN COMPROMISE



CHINESE TARGETING OF MANAGED IT SERVICE PROVIDERS



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & SENSITIVE DATA OF MSP CUSTOMERS



GLOBAL **VICTIMOLOGY** – US, UK, NORDICS, JAPAN, BRAZIL, INDIA, ANZ



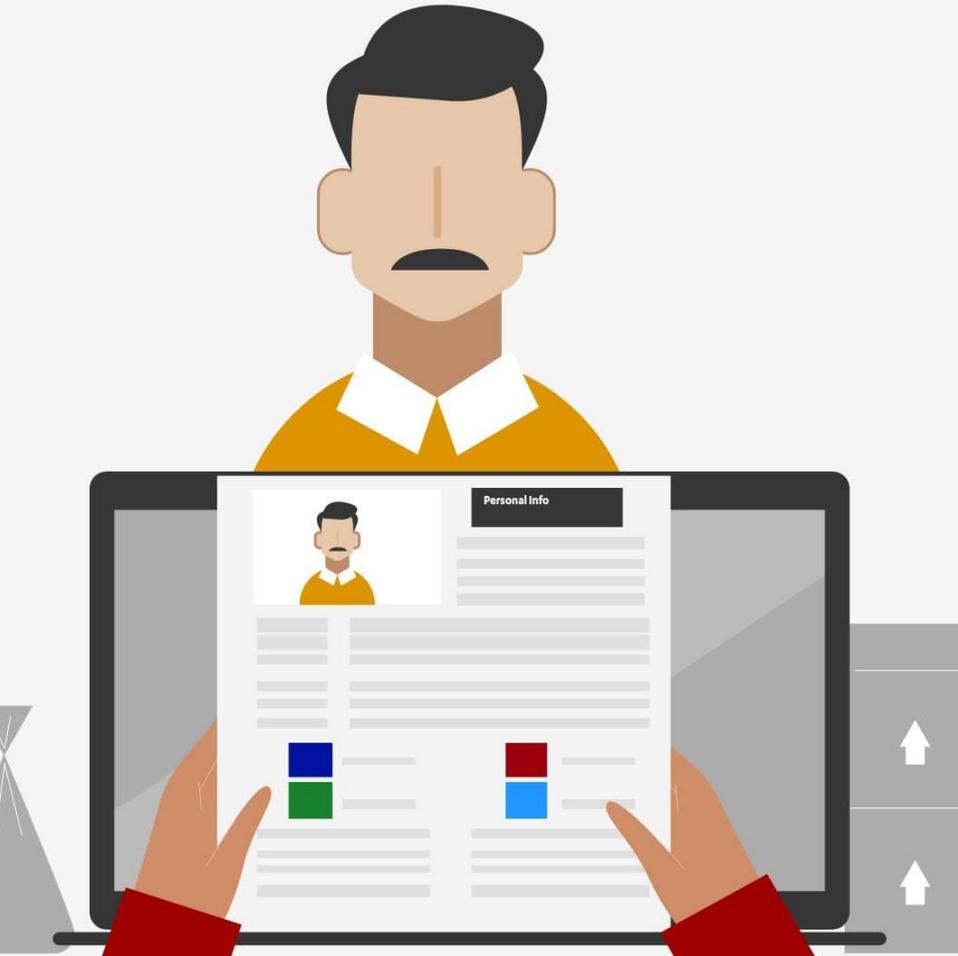
ATTRIBUTED TO **APT10 / STONE PANDA** – MSS TIANJIN BUREAU



BROUGHT **SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY** TO PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS

BULK PERSONAL DATA THEFT





PERSISTENT BULK PII THEFT ATTRIBUTED TO CHINESE ESPIONAGE

- JAN '15 ANTHEM
- APR '15 OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, USG
- MAY '15 UNITED AIRLINES
- JUL '17 EQUIFAX
- AUG '18 SINGHEALTH
- SEP '18 MARRIOTT STARWOOD GROUP
- JUN '18 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- MAY '19 EASYJET
- '20 >10 INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
- SEP '21 UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY OF INDIA



RISK & IMPLICATIONS
ESPIONAGE AND YOU



CORRELATE BIO & CAREER DATA WITH BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS



FOREIGN GOV PERSONNEL DATABASES > HUMINT RECRUITMENT



SENSITIVE PERSONAL DATA – HEALTH & PROCLIVITIES > BLACKMAIL



NOVEL INTEL / COUNTERINTEL APPLICATIONS WITH GENAI



EVERYONE / ANYONE CAN BECOME AN ESPIONAGE TARGET

A close-up photograph of a hard drive being destroyed. A hammer is striking the drive, and a large amount of dark, metallic shavings is flying off to the right. The background is dark and textured.

PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION



OPERATION ORCHARD

CYBER IN SUPPORT OF KINETIC ATTACK



CYBER OP TO FACILITATE **PHYSICAL STRIKE**
AGAINST MAIN TARGET



RECON – MOSSAD INSTALLS **TROJAN** ON
SYRIAN OFFICIAL LAPTOP



HYBRID ATTACK – **ELECTRONIC** ATTACK
BEFORE PRECISION STRIKE



BLIND SYRIAN AIR DEFENCE RADAR > IAF
ENTERS SYRIA **UNDETECTED**



EARLY DEMONSTRATION OF **“NON-KINETIC”**
& KINETIC **INTEGRATION**



STUXNET THE FIRST CYBER WEAPON



JOINT **US-ISRAEL** OP TO TARGET **NANTAZ**
NUCLEAR FACILITY



SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CAUSE
CENTRIFUGES TO FAIL



DEGRADE IRAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS **IN**
PLACE OF KINETIC ACTION



FIRST INSTANCE OF **CYBER** OP CAUSING
PHYSICAL DAMAGE



FEARS OF **“CROSSING THE RUBICON”** WITH
DESTRUCTIVE ATTACKS



SHAMOON

LARGE-SCALE DATA DESTRUCTION



DATA WIPED FROM **35K+** COMPUTERS –
SAUDI ARAMCO



MALWARE STOLE **PASSWORDS**, WIPED
DATA, PREVENTED **REBOOT**



“CUTTING SWORD OF JUSTICE” CLAIMED
RESPONSIBILITY - **FAKETIVISM**



ATTRIBUTED TO **IRAN** > LIKELY
PERPETRATED BY **IRGC**



IRAN'S **GROWING** CYBER CAPABILITY &
WILLINGNESS TO WIELD IT

FROM THE WESTERN CAPITALIST PIGS WHO BROUGHT YOU
NEIGHBORS AND THIS IS THE END



SETH ROGEN JAMES FRANCO

이무식한 미국놈들을 믿지 마십시오

THE

INTERVIEW

인터뷰

인터

SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

MOST DEVASTATING HACK IN CORPORATE HISTORY



INTENDED TO PREVENT RELEASE OF
POLITICAL SATIRE



DATA **DESTRUCTION** – **100TB** DATA WIPED
FROM HARD DRIVES



SENSITIVE **LEAKS** – EMAILS, SALARY
RECORDS, UNRELEASED FILMS



“GUARDIANS OF PEACE” > THINLY-VEILED
DPRK **FAKETIVISM**



POLITICAL CONDEMNATION, SANCTIONS,
CRIMINAL CHARGES



SANDS CASINO

STATE RETALIATION AGAINST INDIVIDUAL



DENIAL OF SERVICE & DATA DESTRUCTION
ATTACK



75% OF VEGAS-BASED SERVERS DESTROYED
> **\$40M** IN DAMAGES



PROVOKED BY **GEOPOLITICAL** STANCE OF
CASINO **OWNER**



DANGEROUS **PRECEDENCE** > **STATE** ATTACKS
AGAINST **PRIVATE** SECTOR



STATE'S **RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT?**
CROSSING A **REDLINE?**



TRITON
WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS MALWARE



REMOTE **TAKE OVER** OF PETROL PLANT'S **SAFETY** INSTRUMENTATION



TO **KICK IN** UPON DETECTION OF **DANGEROUS** CONDITIONS



COULD HAVE CAUSED **RELEASE OF TOXIC GASES** OR **EXPLOSIONS**



FLAW IN **MALWARE CODE** TRIGGERED A RESPONSE > DISCOVERY



CODE **DESIGNED** TO PUT **LIVES AT RISK** > CROSS ANOTHER **RUBICON?**



INTEGRATION INTO WARFARE



RUSSIAN INTRUSION ACTIVITY

THE ART OF (HYBRID) WAR



KNOWN TO BE **MOST SOPHISTICATED** OF THE “BIG FOUR”



OFFENSIVE CYBER **INTEGRATED** WITH KINETIC CAPABILITIES



DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY TARGET **ICS/OT** SYSTEMS



FULL **SPECTRUM** OF CYBER OPS – INTEL, INFO OPS, SABOTAGE, WAR



EXPANSIVE VIEW OF HYBRID WARFARE + MAIN LINE OF **DEVELOPMENT**





VOLT TYPHOON

PRE-POSITIONING FOR SABOTAGE



MAY 2023 – DISCOVERY OF **CHINESE** ACTIVITY IN US **CRITICAL INFRA**



MAINTAINED ACCESS FOR **>5 YEARS** – **PRE-POSITION** VS DATA EXFIL



DISRUPTIVE / DESTRUCTIVE ATTACKS DURING CRISIS / CONFLICT



CONTROL **BOTNETS** – **OPERATIONAL RELAY BOXES** FOR OPSEC



FBI DIRECTOR > “**DEFINING THREAT** OF OUR GENERATION”

A person wearing a dark hoodie is seen from behind, sitting at a desk in a server room. The room is dimly lit with blue light from multiple computer monitors. The person is looking at several monitors displaying data, code, and charts. A laptop on the left shows a world map. The text "FINANCIAL GAIN" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

FINANCIAL GAIN

RISE OF BANKING TROJAN

REVOLUTION IN ECRIME LANDSCAPE



LEVERAGED THE CONCEPT OF A **TROJAN MALWARE**



PURPOSE-BUILT FOR STEALING **CONFIDENTIAL BANKING INFO**



TARGETS **BANK ACCOUNTS** AND **ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICES**



MAN-IN-THE-BROWSER TECHNIQUES –
WEB INJECTIONS + REDIRECTS



THE BEGINNINGS OF **MALWARE-AS-A-SERVICE** – SCALING ECRIME



ZEUS

THE BANKING TROJAN OG



FIRST OBSERVED IN THE WILD IN 2007 –
ANCESTOR OF MOST TROJANS



DISTRIBUTED THROUGH **SPAM** AND **DRIVE-BY DOWNLOADS**



RUN **CMDS** AND **CONFIGS** FROM C2 + **WEB INJECTS** VIA API HOOKING



OFFERED AS **MALWARE-AS-A-SERVICE**



RETIRED IN 2010 + SOURCE CODE LEAKED
IN 2011 > **NEW VARIANTS**



GAME OVER ZEUS

FLOURISHING OF BANKING TROJANS



MAJOR **ZEUS** VARIANT, DEVELOPED IN 2011



INTRODUCED **PEER-TO-PEER** COMMUNICATIONS AS C2 METHOD



STRUCTURE OF **HARVEST & PROXY BOTS** – C2 INTERMEDIARIES



NO RELIANCE ON CENTRALIZED C2 – DIFFICULT TO **DETECT & TRACK**



DISTRIBUTE **CRYPTOLOCKER RANSOMWARE** IN 2013



CARBERP

BANKING TROJAN TO ORGANIZED ECRIME



EMERGED IN 2010, TARGETED RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN **BANKS**



SIMILAR FUNCTIONALITIES AS **ZEUS** – WEB INJECTION, INFO-STEALING



DISTRIBUTED VIA **PHISHING** AND **SOCIAL ENGINEERING**



MAJOR ARRESTS IN 2012 + SOURCE CODE LEAKED IN 2013 > **VARIANTS**



FORMER MEMBERS FORM **CARBANAK** GANG – PROLIFIC ECRIME ACTOR



CARBANAK GANG

RISE OF THE FINANCIALLY MOTIVATED “APT”



EMERGED IN 2013, PIVOT TO **DIRECTLY** TARGETING BANKS



STOLE **>\$1B** FROM **>100** FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN **>40** COUNTRIES



GAIN Foothold VIA **SPEAR-PHISHING** THEN DEPLOYS CARBANAK



CASH OUT WITH GANG CONTROLLED **ACCOUNTS & ATM HIJACKING**



PRECURSOR TO **FIN7 / CARBON SPIDER** > BIG GAME HUNTING

FIN7 / CARBON SPIDER

BIG GAME HUNTING RANSOMWARE



TARGETED **RETAIL, F&B, HOSPITALITY** SECTORS IN THE US



PIVOTED TO RANSOMWARE AS **REVIL AFFILIATE** IN 2020



DEVELOPED THEIR **OWN** RANSOMWARE-AS-A-SERVICE - **DARKSIDE**



RESPONSIBLE FOR THE **COLONIAL PIPELINE** ATTACK IN MAY 2021

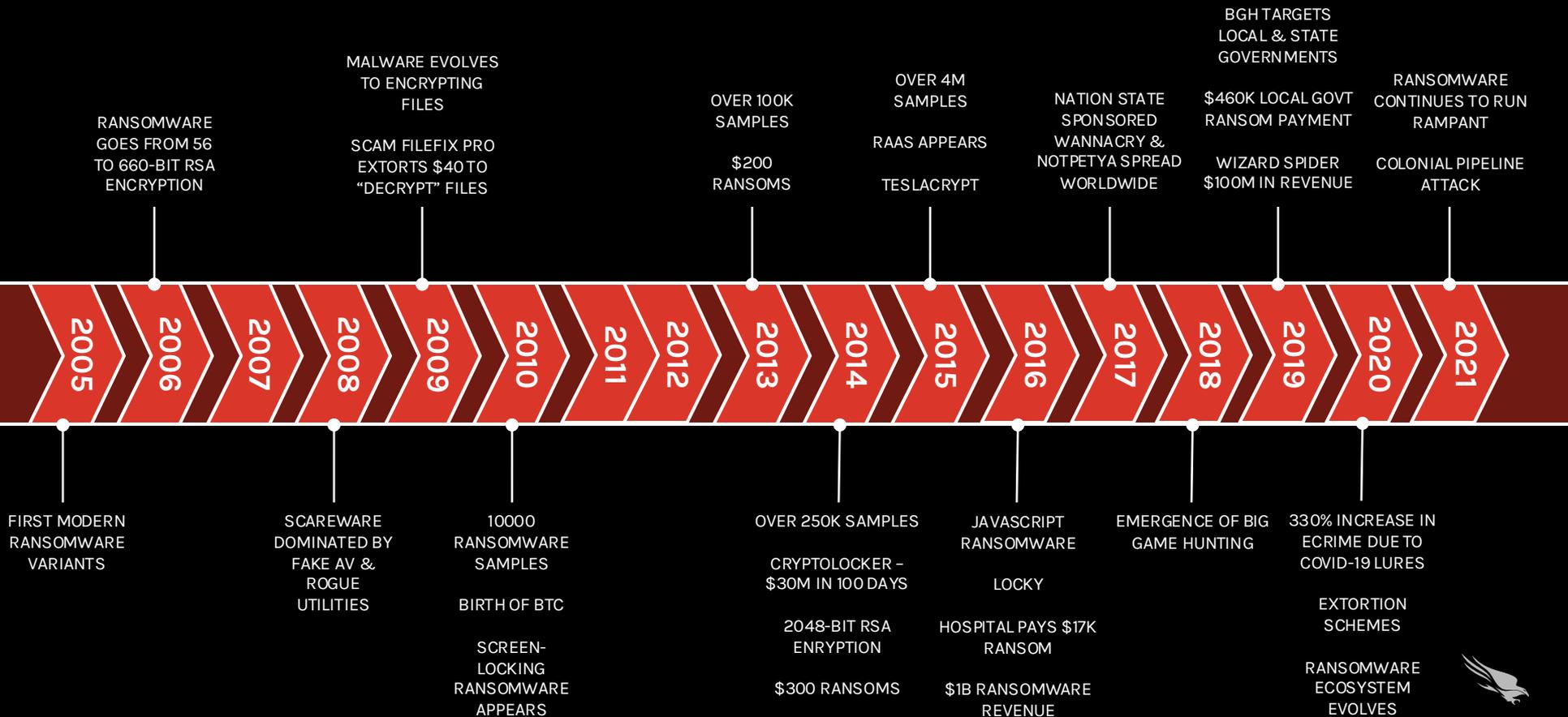


DECLARED "NO MORE" IN MAY 2023 BUT **RESURGENCE** IN APRIL 2024

The image features a central glowing blue padlock, which is slightly open, set against a circular background of intricate circuit board traces. The entire scene is illuminated with a cyan-blue glow. A dark horizontal band across the middle contains the word "RANSOMWARE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

RANSOMWARE

BRIEF HISTORY OF RANSOMWARE





ECRIME SOPHISTICATION ZENITH OF BIG GAME HUNTING



MAY 2021 - COLONIAL PIPELINE / **DARKSIDE**



JUN 2021 – JBS / **REVIL**



JUL 2021 – KASEYA / **REVIL**



APR 2022 – COSTA RICA GOVERNMENT /
CONTI + HIVE



2023 - RANSOMWARE PAYMENTS
SURPASSED **\$1B** MARK

INDISCRIMINATE TARGETING

RANSOMWARE EVERYWHERE



SCOURGE OF RANSOMWARE ATTACKS AT **SCHOOLS**, HOSPITALS, ETC



RUSSIAN RANSOMWARE GROUPS OPERATE W/**TACIT APPROVAL**



LOCK-AND-LEAK OPERATIONS BY IRAN NATION STATE ACTORS



ECRIME GROUPS ARE GETTING **FASTER** & MORE **SOPHISTICATED**



INCREASINGLY TENUOUS TO DIFFERENTIATE NATION STATE VS ECRIME



STATE-AFFILIATED CURRENCY GENERATION



DPRK CURRENCY GENERATION

COMPELLED BY CIRCUMSTANCES



CYBER-ENABLED **CURRENCY GENERATION** TO EVADE SANCTIONS



EARLIER TARGETING OF **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** – 2016 BANK HEIST



SUSTAINED TARGETING OF **FINTECH & CRYPTOCURRENCY** EXCHANGES



STOLE **\$3B IN CRYPTOCURRENCY** BETWEEN 2017 TO 2023



PROFICIENT IN **SOCIAL ENGINEERING & CUSTOM TOOLING**



WHAT LIES YONDER?



GENERATIVE AI

LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS FOR CYBER



EMERGENT TECH WITH **OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE** IMPLICATIONS



DEMONSTRATED APPLICATION FOR **INFORMATION** OPERATIONS



ECRIME ADOPTION – WORMGPT, FRAUDGPT, BLACKMAMBA



NASCENT INDICATION OF MISUSE BY **STATE NEXUS** ADVERSARIES



IMPLICATIONS OF **"PURPOSE-BUILT"** CYBER **LLMS** – MALWARE + TTPS



QUANTUM COMPUTING

FUTURE OF ENCRYPTION & CRYPTANALYSIS



BREAK COMMON ENCRYPTION METHODS AT ALARMING SPEEDS



CHINESE CYBER OPERATIONS – “**COLLECT NOW, DECRYPT LATER**”



COMMONLY PERCEIVED AS AN “**OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND**” ISSUE



QUANTUM COMPUTING IS COMING **FASTER** THAN YOU THINK



QUANTUM **READINESS** AND QUANTUM **SAFE CRYPTOGRAPHY**



5G INFRASTRUCTURE

WORLD DOMINATION?



5G INFRASTRUCTURE TO FACILITATE **CYBER ESPIONAGE**



GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF CHINA'S 5G INFRA DOMINANCE



SUPPLY CHAIN THREATS – COUNTERFEIT + UNTRUSTED COMPONENTS



SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE THREATS – LEGACY 4G VULNERABILITIES



CHOOSE THE LESSER OF **“EVILS”** > “SLEEP IN THE BED **YOU MADE”**

INTERNET OF THINGS

BOTNET ARMAGEDDON



“IF IT’S **SMART**, IT’S **VULNERABLE**” – MIKKO HYPPÖNEN



PERPETUATES THE SCOURGE OF **DDOS** **ATTACKS**



OPPORTUNITIES FOR **ACCESS BROKERS** & **INFO STEALERS**



OPERATIONAL RELAY BOXES FOR **SOPHISTICATED** ADVERSARIES



FOREIGN & DOMESTIC **SURVEILLANCE** > **PRIVACY & SECURITY**



**UNINTENDED
CONSEQUENCES**



Your PC ran into a problem and needs to restart. We're just collecting some error info, and then we'll restart for you.

20% complete



For more information about this issue and possible fixes, visit <https://www.windows.com/stopcode>

If you call a support person, give them this info:

Stop code: CRITICAL_PROCESS_DIED

