

AARC Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration

Common Attack Vectors and Threats

Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration

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Agenda



Trends in Cyber-Crime

- Attackers
- Attacks

The Federated Landscape

The Risk to R&E

Trends in Cyber-Crime





Interpol: Cyber-crime is bigger than cocaine, heroin and marijuana trafficking put together

Attackers



Who might be attacking you?

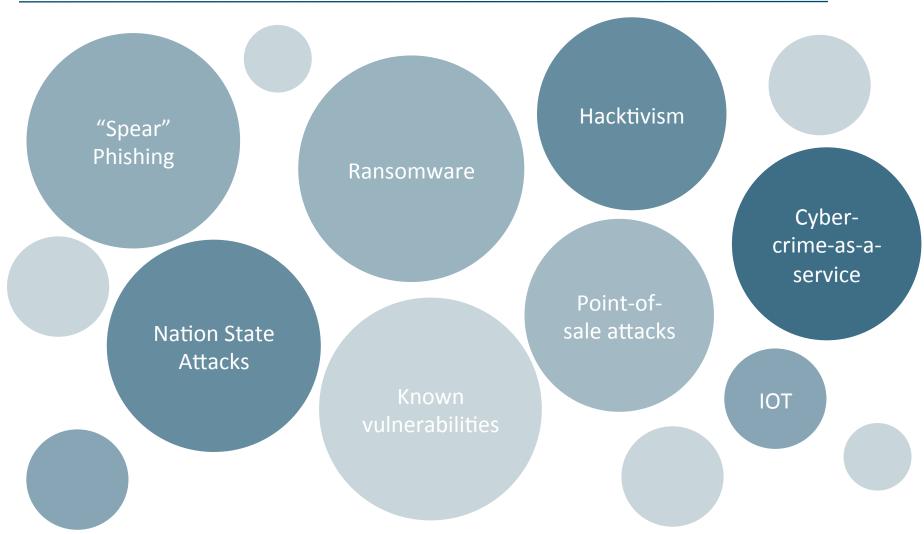
- Cyber criminals
 interested in making money through fraud or from the sale of valuable
 information.
- Industrial competitors and foreign intelligence services interested in gaining an economic advantage for their companies or countries.
- Hackers
 who find interfering with computer systems an enjoyable challenge.
- Hacktivists
 who wish to attack companies for political or ideological motives.
- Employees
 or those who have legitimate access, either by accidental or deliberate
 misuse.

Common Cyber Attacks, GCHQ, UK[1]

Plus, it can be outsourced!

Attacks





"Spear" Phishing



- Target executive individuals
 - Access to financial data
 - High security clearance
- Anti-phishing training courses are statistically ineffective
- Attacks becoming more sophisticated

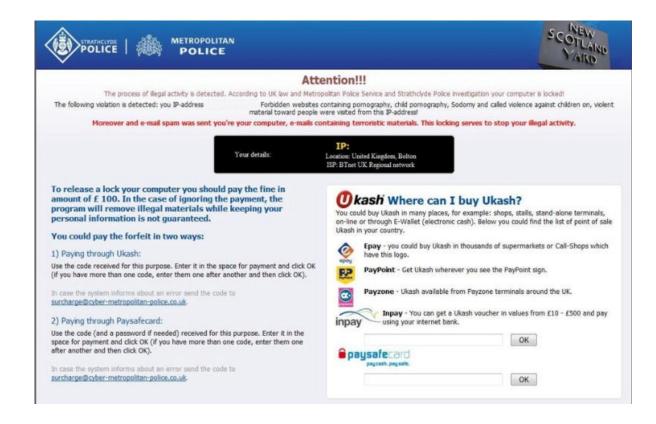


Photo by Cat Vinton, Travel Photographer of the Year Finalist

It is likely that the next high profile R&E incident will be the result of targeted phishing

Ransomware





- Social engineering
- Easy profit
- Take backups!

Ransomware has caused an estimated \$325 million in damages so far – Cyber
Threat Alliance

Known vulnerabilities



 The spread of freely-available, open source software has accelerated development but also impacted the risk of including vulnerabilities

Patching times vary...

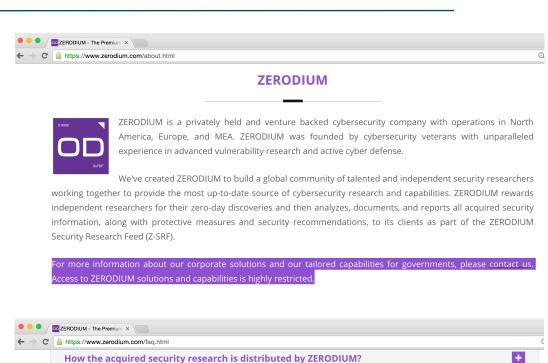


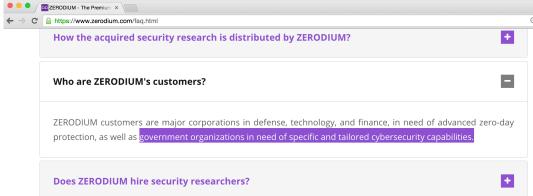
44% of 2014 breaches came from vulnerabilities that are two to four years old — HP Cyber Security Risk Report

Cyber-crime-as-a-service



- Companies paying for 0days
- Clients include governments and corporations
- Organised, highly profitable business





Nation state attacks



- Tools
 - Complex frameworks, many years of development
 - Targeted Social Engineering
 - Undermine encryption and install backdoors
- Plausible deniability through outsourcing
- According to Symantec, 70% APT victims profile
 - Research, innovation, IT.
 - "forward looking technologies" highly sellable
- Objectives include corporate espionage, political advantage...

Nation state attacks



Belgacom Attack: Britain's GCHQ Hacked Belgian Telecoms Firm



A cyber attack on Belgacom raised considerable attention last week. Documents leaked by Edward Snowden and seen by SPIEGEL indicate that Britain's GCHQ intelligence agency was responsible for the attack.



Please Secure Your Accounts Now

Jay, we believe your Facebook account and your other online accounts may be the target of attacks from state-sponsored actors. Turning on Login Approvals will help keep others from logging into your Facebook account. Whenever your account is accessed from a new device or browser, we'll send a security code to your phone so that only you can log in. We recommend you also take steps to secure the accounts you use on other services. Learn more.

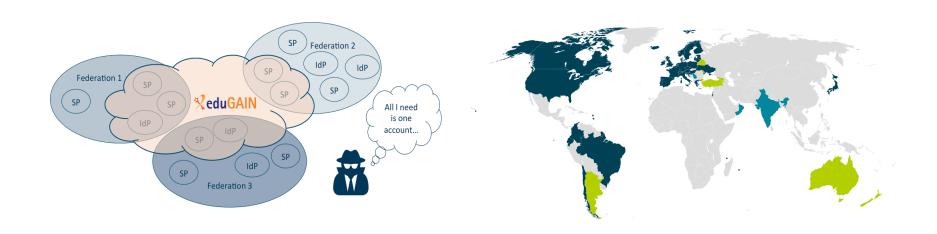
Turn on Login Approvals

X

The federated landscape



61 national federations



40 federations in eduGAIN

Why the interest in Research and Education?



Most of our data is public, plus we have little money... why would someone go to all that trouble?

Common known objectives of intrusions

- Politics
- Strategy
- Trends in a sector, tender purchasing strategy
- Trade secrets, pricing discussions, competitor pricing information
- Gain a competitive edge
- Insider trading

Besides.. customers may not know that our data is publicly available!

For further reading



- 1. Common Cyber Attacks, CERT-UK, CESG https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/400106/Common_Cyber_Attacks-Reducing_The_Impact.pdf
- 2. Common Attack Patterns 2014, David Bisson, Tripwire, http://www.tripwire.com/state-of-security/security-data-protection/cyber-security/the-5-most-common-attack-patterns-of-2014/
- 3. Security Predictions 2015, WIRED, http://www.wired.com/2015/01/security-predictions-2015/
- 4. The Year in Cybersecurity, NBC, http://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/year-cybersecurity-5-threats-watch-2015-n270271
- 5. Cyber Threat Alliance http://cyberthreatalliance.org/cryptowall-executive-summary.pdf
- 6. Sophos https://www.sophos.com/threat-center/medialibrary/PDFs/other/sophos-trends-and-predictions-2015.pdf
- 7. Cyber Security Risk Report, HP,
 http://www8.hp.com/us/en/software-solutions/cyber-risk-report-security-vulnerability/index.html?
 hhoaffiliate&aid=38293&pbid=je6NUbpObpQ&aoid=35252&siteid=je6NUbpObpQ-RpZVcUyV-oRAC_GmDfYpxQ

Thank you Any Questions?

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https://aarc-project.eu

