

Prepare Now for a Ransomware Attack

October 14, 2019



WEALTH ADVISORY | OUTSOURCING | AUDIT, TAX, AND CONSULTING

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Create Opportunities

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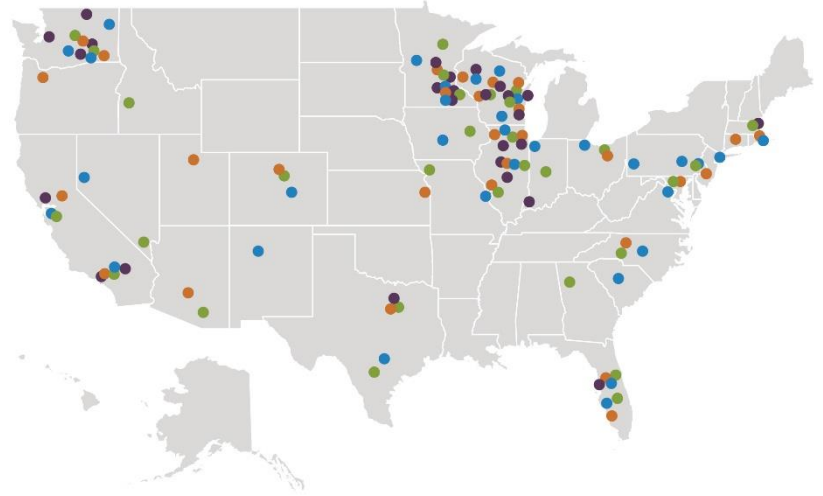


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- A professional services firm with three distinct business lines
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 - Outsourcing
 - Audit, Tax, and Consulting
- More than 6,100 employees
- Offices coast to coast



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Ransomware Attacks

Are You Prepared?

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C:\whoami

- “Professional Student”
- Science Teacher / Self Taught Computer Guy
- IT Consultant - Project Manager → IT Staff/Help Desk → Hacker
- Assistant Scout Master (Boy Scouts)



Goals

Ransomware and Cybercrime

- Understanding the attackers
- How it's done and what to look out for

Ransomware Kill Chain

- Attack vectors and defensive controls

Ransomware Recovery Strategies



Ransomware and Cybercrime

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Current State of Cybercrime

- Hackers have monetized their activity
 - Theft of personally identifiable information (PII)
 - Payment fraud
 - **Ransomware**
- Most attacks are carried out by organized crime



Organized Crime

- Hacking is run like a business where people specialize in different areas
 - Writing malware
 - Renting botnets
 - Social Engineering
 - Stealing data
 - Selling data (collect data from various sources/BIG DATA)
 - Etc.
- Most attacks are completely automated



Think like an attacker



Ransomware attacks can be automated

Can require little effort by attacker once attack has been launched

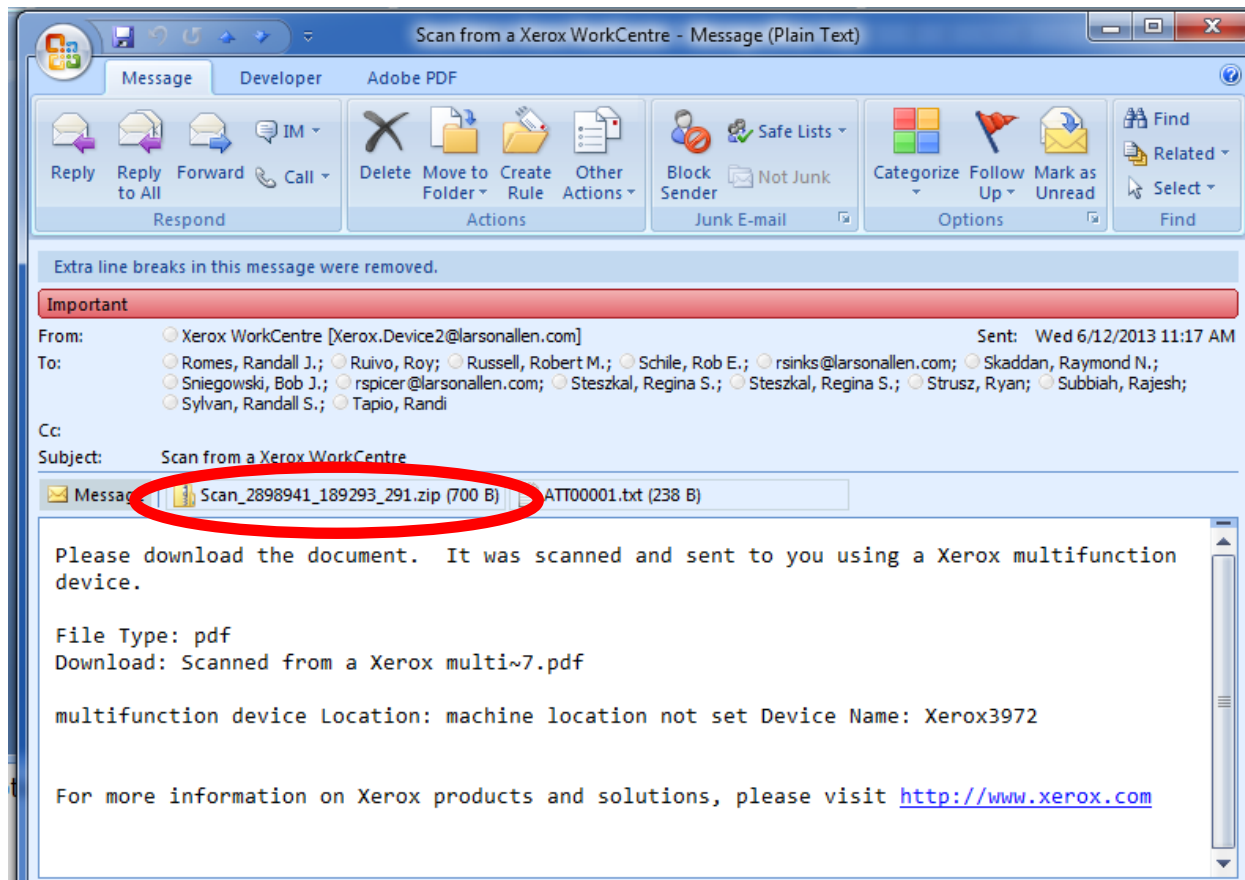
Monetization comes in the form of cryptocurrency which is largely unregulated

ANY type of organization can be targeted regardless of the type of data they maintain

Ransomware

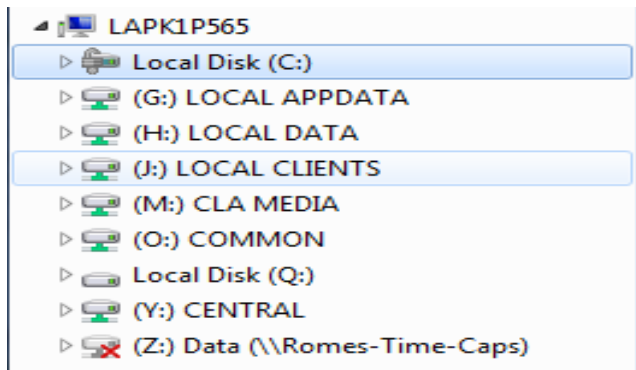
- Attack on the **availability** of network data
- Easier to do than exfiltration of the data
- Uses strong encryption to render victim's files unreadable
- Payments are often in Bitcoin
- Cyber criminals attempt to delete host and network backups
- User credentials are used for network access
- Many variants and constant evolution

Ransomware



Ransomware

- Malware encrypts everything it can interact with



Hospital ransomware: A chilling wake-up call

Hollywood Presbyterian was forced to pay up, just like everyone else.



<http://www.engadget.com/2016/02/19/hospital-ransomware-a-chilling-wake-up-call/>

Ransomware

(One year ago)

Hackers Demand \$770,000 Ransom From Canadian Banks

Cybercrime: FBI Says Ransomware, Extortion Continue to Dominate

Mathew J. Schwartz (@euroinfosec) • June 1, 2018 • 0 Comments

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Bank of Montreal head office in Montréal. (Photo: [DXR](#), via Wikimedia Commons)

Hackers have demanded a ransom of 1 million Canadian dollars (\$770,000) each from two banks, payable in the cryptocurrency exchange system Ripple's XRP token, national Canadian broadcaster [CBC News](#) reports.

See Also: [How to Keep Your Endpoints Safe from Cybercrime](#)

The ransom demand comes on the heels of the Bank of Montreal, operating as BMO Financial Group, and Simplii Financial, a banking subsidiary of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, on Monday reporting that they'd been warned that some of their client data may have been exposed on Sunday (see [Two Canadian Banks Probe Alleged Exposure of Customer Data](#)).

Ransomware

(Six months ago)

Jackson County government gives in to hackers and pays \$400,000

Paying up is cheaper than the alternative

By [Isaiah Mayersen](#) on March 10, 2019, 11:27 AM | [20 comments](#)



Recap: A little over a week ago government computer systems in Jackson County, Georgia were hit with one of the most sophisticated ransomware attacks attempted in the US. After a week with their entire computer and internet network down, they've decided to cough up \$400,000 to regain control of their systems and to retrieve stolen files.

Employees first noticed that government computers, websites and even email addresses had stopped functioning sometime on March 1. While fortunately 911 emergency calls were still operational, every internet connected device was inoperable and it is possible that the hackers were able to steal police and county records, too.

"Everything we have is down," Sheriff Janis Mangum told [StateScoop](#). "[But] we've continued to function. It's just more difficult."

Ransomware

(More Recently...)

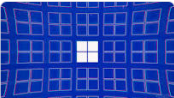
<https://www.google.com/search?ei=buDzXKGrJJClSbQ5qICA&q=microsoft+rdp+vulnerability+2>

microsoft rdp vulnerability 2019

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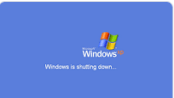
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Microsoft: 1 million machines still vulnerable to BlueKeep malware, Microsoft Urges Users to Patch

The Verge
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A Million PCs May Be Vulnerable to BlueKeep Malware, Microsoft Urges Users to Patch

ExtremeTech
1 day ago



Microsoft warns users to patch as exploits for 'wormable' BlueKeep bug appear

TechCrunch
2 days ago

→ More for microsoft rdp vulnerability 2019

CVE-2019-0708 - Microsoft Security Updates

<https://portal.msrc.microsoft.com/en-US/security-guidance/advisory/CVE-2019-0708>

No information is available for this page.
[Learn why](#)

Customer guidance for CVE-2019-0708 | Remote Desktop Services ...


<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/.../customer-guidance-for-cve-2019-0708>

May 23, 2019 - Microsoft is aware that some customers are running versions of Windows that no longer receive mainstream support. That means those customers will not have received any security updates to protect their systems from CVE-2019-0708, which is a critical remote code execution ...

<https://www.google.com/search?ei=buDzXKGrJJClSbQ5qICA&q=ransomware+attack+2019&oq=>


ransomware attack 2019

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N.S.A. Denies Its Cyberweapon Was Used in Baltimore Attack, Congressman...

The New York Times
1 day ago



Baltimore's Ransomware Mess Is Its Own Fault—Cyber Saturday

Fortune
1 day ago



NSA Deflects Blame for Baltimore Ransomware Attack

Nextgov
2 days ago

→ More for ransomware attack 2019

Ransomware - Security News - Trend Micro USA

<https://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/us/security/news/ransomware>

GandCrab Ransomware Found Targeting MySQL Databases. May 27, 2019. Security researchers saw a spate of attacks targeting Windows servers running ...

Surge of MegaCortex ransomware attacks detected | ZDNet

<https://www.zdnet.com/.../sudden-surge-of-megacortex-ransomware-infections-detecte...>

May 6, 2019 - Vitali Kremez (@VK_Intel) May 4, 2019. This is a new approach compared to past "targeted ransomware attacks" that either relied on:

Hackers Are Holding Baltimore Hostage: How They Struck and What's ...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/us/baltimore-ransomware.html>

May 22, 2019 - After it was hit by a ransomware attack, Baltimore immediately ... May 22, 2019 But ransomware attacks have been carried out much more ...

Ransomware variants

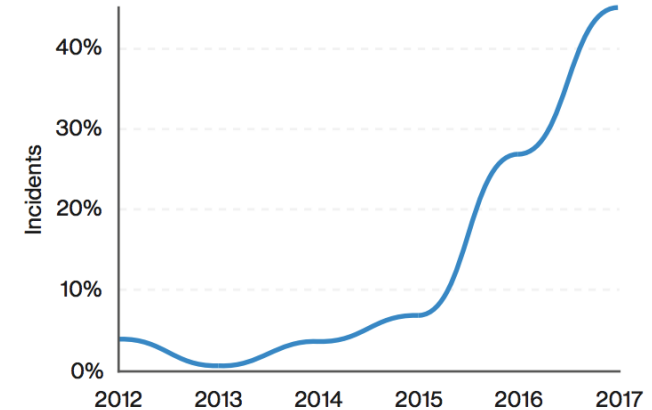
- Since 2015 over 215 different variants have been discovered, of which only 97 have known remediation tools



Defensive Strategies

- Defense in Depth / Layered Security:
 - Email spam filters
 - Removal of ads from the network
 - ◊ Webproxy
 - Staff awareness
 - Minimized user permissions
 - Patching
 - Disaster recovery - Working backup and Restore

Ransomware within malware incidents



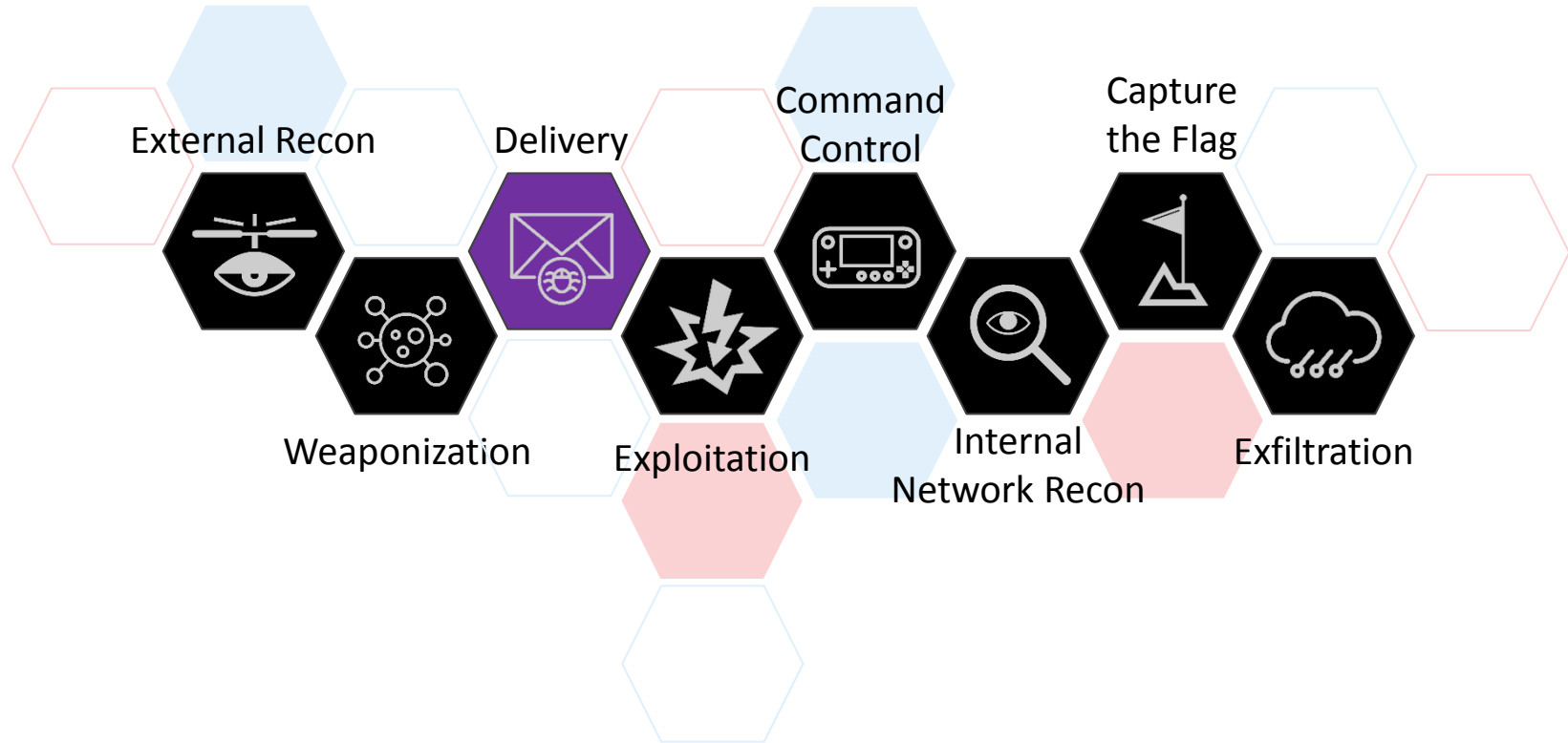


Ransomware Kill Chain

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CyberKill Chain



Delivery - Attacker

Direct exploit of publicly available service

Phishing

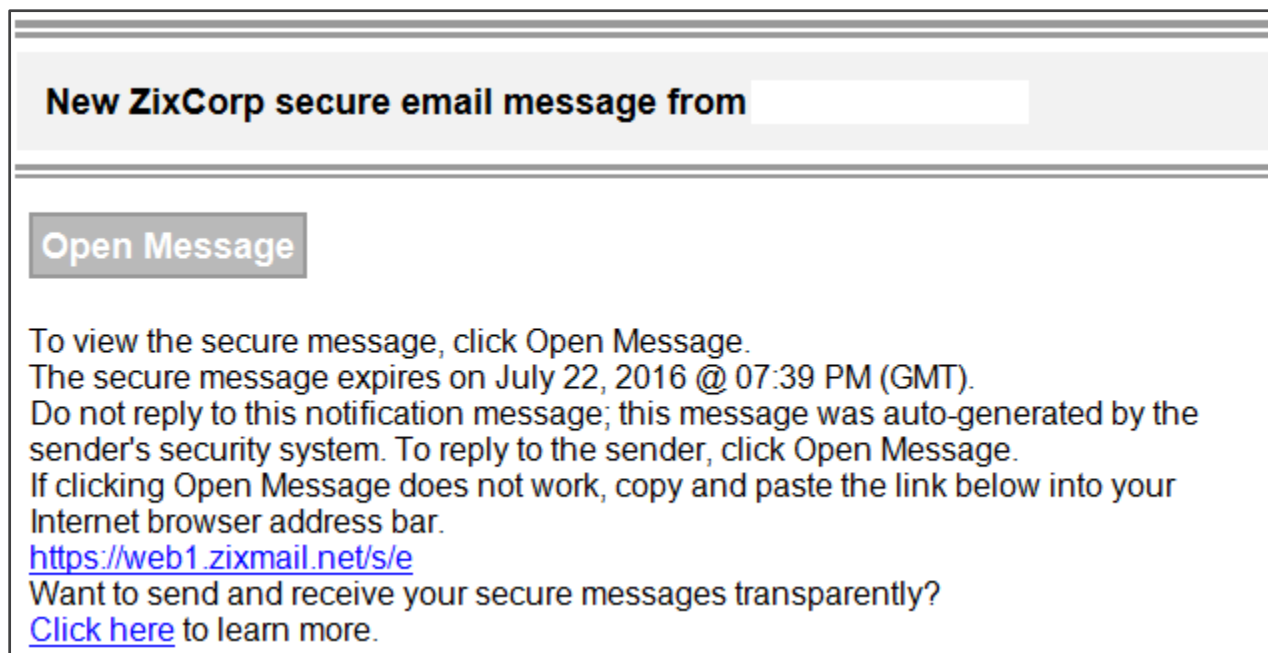
Social Engineering

- Email spoofing
- Call spoofing

Malicious hardware

- "Free" USB drive from vendors

Phishing Email



Phishing Email

ADP Immediate Notification

Over the past few days we have had reports of issues with the distributed W-2's. As a result we are issuing W-2c (Corrected W-2) for a large subset ADP customers, including employees. Please use ADP's W2 Secure Download portal below to obtain the corrected W-2 and contact your Human Resources department with any further questions.

[W2 Secure Download](#)

Ref: 22771

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Poor Email Filtering

Connected to mail.cogentco.com (38.9.X.X).

MAIL FROM: <hacker@contoso.com>

250 OK

RCPT TO: <david.anderson@claconnect.com>

250 Accepted



SMTP Envelope

DATA

354 Enter message, ending with "." on a line by itself

FROM: <ElonMusk@tesla.com>

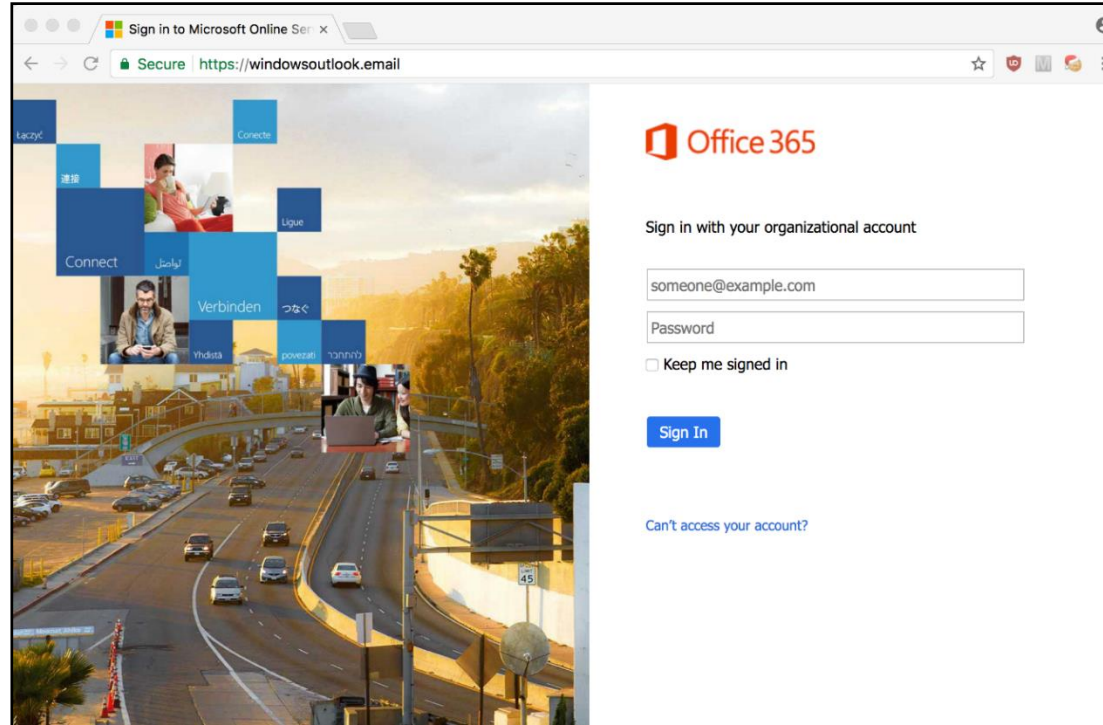
TO: <david.anderson@claconnect.com>

Subject: Free Tesla Car



SMTP Message

Phishing Website



Delivery - Attacker

- In Person
 - RFID clone
 - Media drops
 - Tailgating
 - Attacking weak wireless implementations



Phone Calls



- Call someone and have them download a remote access tool- spoofing phone numbers is extremely easy
- *“Hi, this is Randy from Comcast Business users support. I am working with Dave, and I need your help...”*
 - Name dropping → Establish a rapport
 - Ask for help
 - Inject some techno-babble
- *“I need you to visit the Microsoft Update site to download and install a security patch. Do you have 3 minutes to help me out?”*

Password Guessing

- Internet accessible services that do not require multi-factor authentication
 - RDP, OWA, VPN, etc.
- Employees choosing weak passwords
- Employees reusing passwords found in known data breaches

Password Audit	Total
Number of passwords audited	855
Passwords cracked	794
Passwords that were all letters	63
Passwords that were all numbers	5
Passwords that were an English word	20
Passwords that were a word with numbers appended to it	200
Passwords that were the same as the username	6
Passwords that do not meet Windows complexity	584

Delivery - Defense

Mail Security Controls

Security Assessments of email system

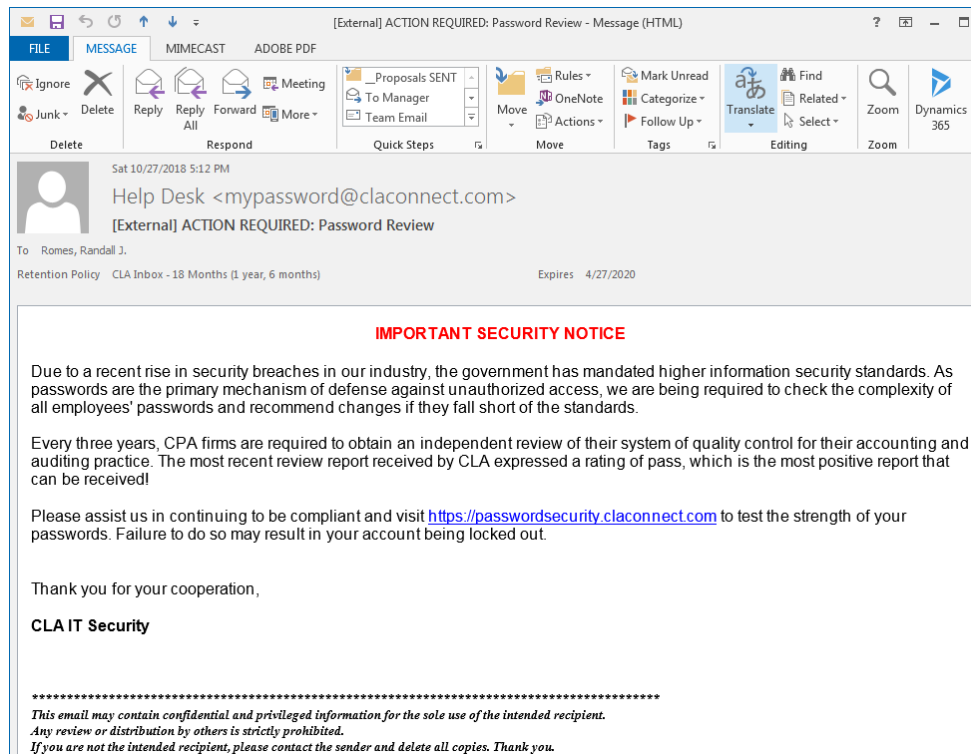
- Cloud - offsite
- OWA - onsite
- Endpoint

Spam Filters

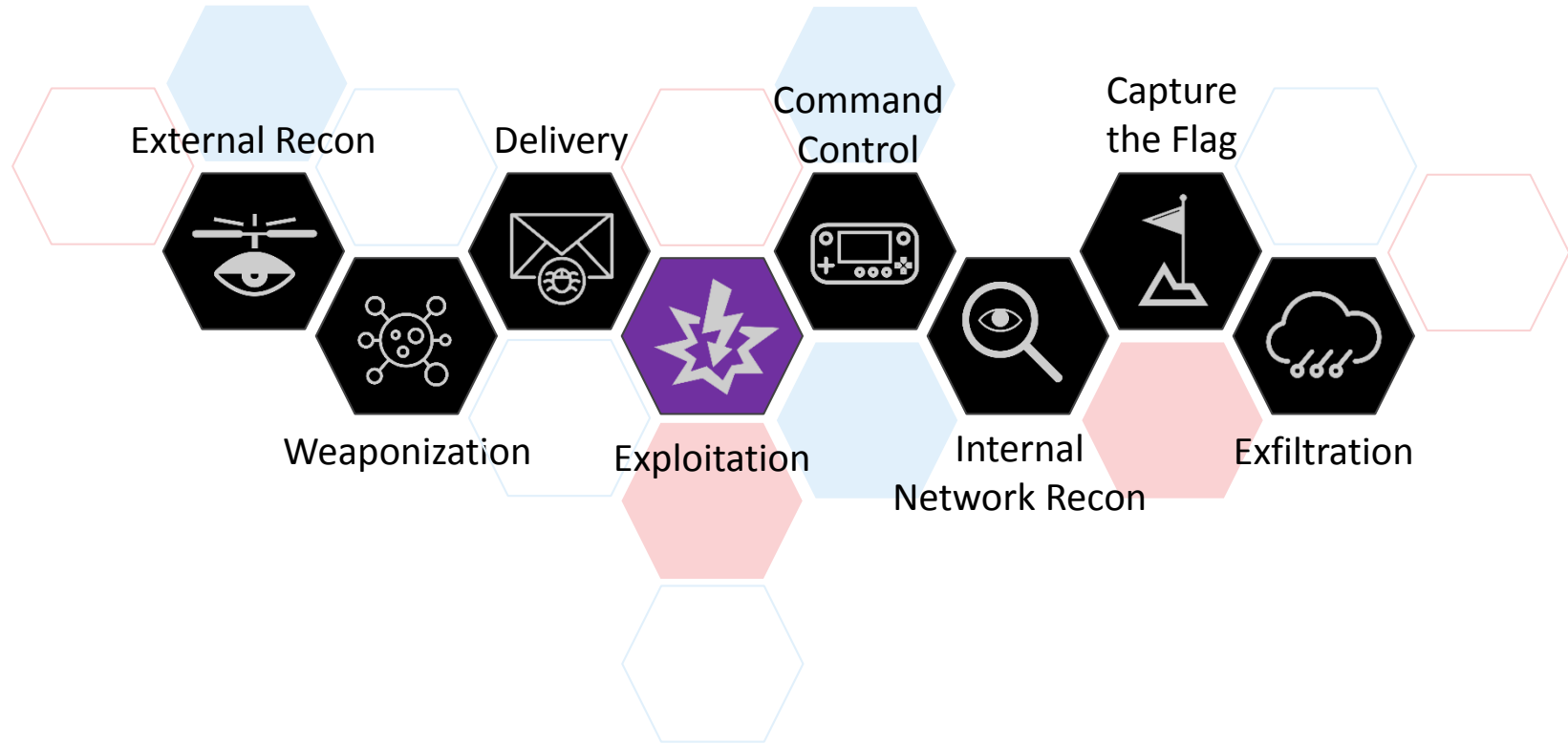
Monitoring

Delivery - Defense

- All Staff - Security Awareness Training
 - Analyze email “FROM” field
 - Hover over links
 - Is the email expected
 - Who ya gonna call?



CyberKill Chain



Exploitation

Missing patches

- MS17-010 (WannaCry / ETERNALBLUE)
- Bluekeep

System Configuration

- Malicious Office documents (Macros, OLE, etc.)
- HTML Applications (.HTA)
- PowerShell is often utilized to run/deliver the code

Exploitation - Defense

- Security Policy
 - Least Privilege
 - Layered Defense
 - Secure by Design
 - Assume Breach
- Patch management
- Practice Restore Capabilities



Exploitation - Defense

Security Baseline

- “Golden Image”
- Desired State Configuration
- GPO
 - ◇ User
 - ◇ machine
- Benchmarks
 - ◇ CIS
 - ◇ NIST



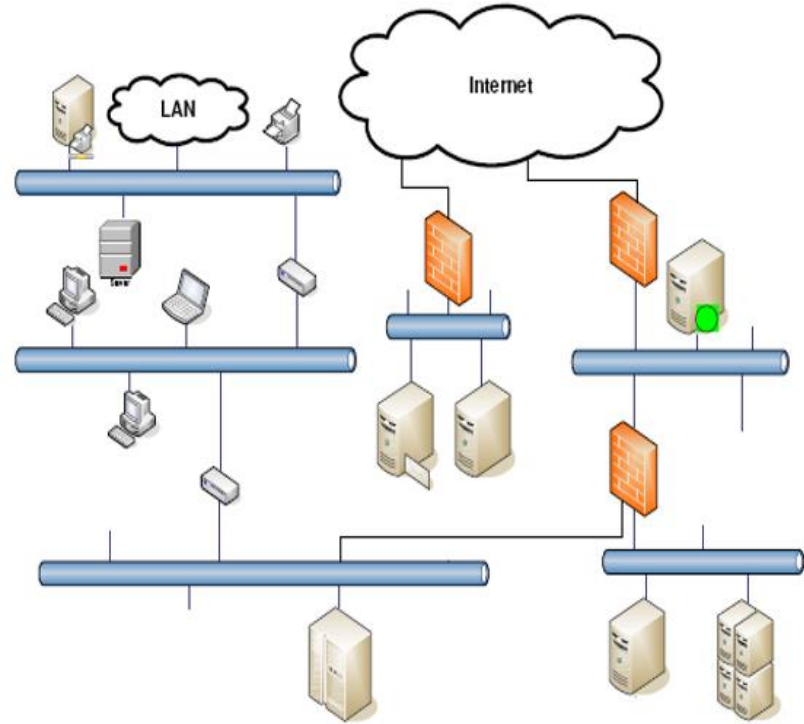
Exploitation - Defense

- Application whitelisting
 - AppLocker
 - Windows Device Guard
- Protect Office Applications
 - Block Macros
 - Windows Defender Exploit Guard
- Log Management



Exploitation - Defense

- Network Monitoring
 - User level
 - Temporal
 - Attempts
 - Behavior
- Segmentation
 - Block endpoint SMB
 - Guest Wi-Fi
 - IoT
 - Secure transactions





Ransomware Recovery Strategies

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Data Backup

- Ensure ALL critical systems and data are being backed up
- Practice a full system and data restore to verify your confidence in full system and data restore capabilities
 - Understand how long it will take to recover various backup types
- Segment critical backups to prevent deletion
 - Attackers will attempt to delete or encrypt all accessible backups



Incident Response

- Playbooks for common incident types
- Ensure employees understand their responsibilities and procedures to follow in the event of an incident

TEST!

Cyber Insurance



- Helping or hurting organizations?
- Should you pay?
 - You won't need to if appropriate measures are taken
- Average cyber insurance payout is ???



Summary

Increased sophistication and adoption by attackers

Preventative measures are essential

- Requires technical and procedural controls

Data backup and incident response are critical to mitigate the impact of a Ransomware attack



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