

defcon xv
hacker culture
around
the (corporate)
world

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hi

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cons

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disclaimer

- ... everything on this presentation is based on my own (sometimes, sick) thoughts
- ... nothing here is based on my current employer thoughts, neither endorsed by them, other than actually allowing me to be here
- ... and... don't believe anything i say (bruce potter tm)

why?

- ... although the hacker community (in general) has the same goals, external factors actually contribute to make reality interestingly different sometimes
- ... this actually bugged me... along with...
- ... the need for security awareness to grow due to everyone using the internet +
- ... the whole corporate world.. so..

look around you

- ... in security events you see people w/ different goals
- ... in hacker conferences you see people w/ different goals
- ... the growth in the number of insecure people
- ... people have access to stuff they don't know, what's new? but...
- ... god knows what some it folks think about security
- ... you've already seen insecure people influencing (or trying to) security people
- ... some of the "security professionals" don't believe in hackers, they just believe in procedures, and ignoring security issues is "better"
- ... some of these same douche bags don't acknowledge some security risks and don't believe the internet is actually gonna stop one day

differences/ problems/ issues

- ... geo-location
- ... cultural background
- ... liberty of speech
- ... politics
- ... \$
- ... security world (as a whole)
- ... the world as a whole, for that matter
- ... insecure people
- ... different law systems / different law enforcement systems

cultural differences

- ... working/ researching alone or in groups
- ... computer clubs/ foundations/ etc
- ... formal and informal meetings
- ... the law/ use of "hacking" tools
- ... the "hackers vs. security professional" thingy
- ... the academic vs. security professional
- ... transfer of information/ media/ internet

types of security events

...hacker-centric cons

...academic-centric cons

...corporate-centric cons

...imho, the social (yeah,
right..) aspect is lacking
from most of them

and the world is changing

...nothing new

...the "online life" is real,
the need for attack and
defense is out there

...email / im/ cellphones/
social networking / e-
commerce/ online banking/ etc

...security in movies/ tv/ etc...

...there is demand for the
security market

meanwhile, in the hackers world

... keep up w/ the new technologies

... new itoys

... new challenges

... same old and new tools

... not only "script-kiddies",
technology is a tool for *crime

... and \$ is a motivation

there's a market out
there.. but..



moving to the corporate world

why did companies stay away from hackers?

- ... high fear
- ... low (or no) trust
- ... "we don't need security" or
"convenience vs. security"
- ... "but, no one will try to do that" type
of thing
- ... for some of the security-suits
(d00shbags) just procedures matter
- ... security by obscurity
- ... not being able to comprehend that one
can work, surf pr0n, play games and be
more productive than most of the
regular smurf gang

what changed (in some places) then?

- ... culture changed (at a certain level)
- ... needed people with real world vision on what they were doing
- ... security became a necessity * / convergence
- ... "similar" changes in other areas actually increased revenue
- ... people that know other focused and smart people
- ... mostly people who at least question "is this good for the company?"
- ... and, in some cases, lack of security turned out to hurt them \$\$\$
- ... security is better than bad marketing

why do hackers stay away
from the corporate
world?

...usually the bs

...the possibility of having to
deal w/ stupid rules

...the need to deal with stupid
people

the market

...work for a big company

...work for a small company

...sell your services/ contract

...open your company

you

- ... contract job has its ups and downs
- ... depending on the country/ local job laws and etc it could actually be an advantage
- ... due to the nature of the job, you could suddenly live/ work anywhere
- ... to open your own business, having a great idea sometimes is not enough and get \$ from investors is **virtually** impossible in some countries

size matters : large x small companies

pros

... perks

... more \$ *

... no risk

... you're
backed up

... nice
hotels

... khaos

CONs

... Boring

... BS over good ideas

... Overall BS

... Stupid-ass procedures

... Lack of focus

... dresscodes

people/ society

infosec world

- ... good professionals under bad management
- ... bad professionals all around
- ... good professionals doing the wrong thing
- ... security managers (c level folks) who don't value and sometimes don't understand how important security actually is
- ... good professionals & good management

what (usually) can a hacker do?

- ... consultant
- ... researcher
- ... security engineer
- ... security architect
- ... developer / programmer
- ... pen-tester
- ... manager
- ... cxo

"insecure" people

- ... they are all over the place
- ... even here! (and that's not new)
- ... they manage you
- ... they manage your systems
- ... they manage your money
- ... they work w/ you
- ... they work for you
- ... usually somehow you depend on them

what hackers (usually)
expect from a job?

... \$

... more \$

... fun challenges

... non-d00shbag management chaps

... non-stupid peers and
employees

challenges

- ... "fairly" new market
- ... people who shouldn't deal w/ infosec
- ... some security professionals
- ... some "hackers"
- ... some decision making people stupid enough to pass crazy laws, procedures, what have you
- ... people who decide if you're a good corporate world slave or not

... more challenges

... people who hire you

... people who pay your bills

... people "trained" to secure
other people (aka. tsa)

... people who work for you

... people who somehow you depend
on to get the sh1t done

... the usual micromanager bs

... and...

the usual enemies

ego

"an inflated feeling of pride
in your superiority to
others"

boringness

boring·ness n. - adj. - uninteresting and tiresome; dull.

synonyms: boring, monotonous, tedious, irksome, tiresome, humdrum

these adjectives refer to what is so uninteresting as to cause mental weariness. boring implies feelings of listlessness and discontent: i had never read such a boring book.

what is monotonous bores because of lack of variety: "there is nothing so desperately monotonous as the sea" james russell lowell.

tedious suggests dull slowness or long-windedness: traveling by plane avoids spending tedious days on the train.

at the end, what's
really important?

mutual
respect

wtf should we do to make it better?

- ... take stuff to the next level (rant but show solutions too)
- ... respect the company and work that you do
- ... make sure your job is fun and pays well (or look for another job)
- ... you might be not as good in business as in technical stuff
- ... hear and make sure you're being heard

- ... earn the respect you think you deserve

what should companies do to make it better?

- ... flexibility, some tasks are not that straight-forward
- ... recognition
- ... emerging technologies/ provide resources
- ... work smart
- ... less bs more communication
- ... clever vs. \$loppy solutions
- ... show respect without loosing authority
- ... delegate tasks and give personal ownership
- ... promote individual and team bonu\$es

con clusion

- ... most of us has seen the bad and the bad
- ... truth is: things are not totally f'd up, but...
- most of the suits still don't get it
- ... don't be in just for the fame or the money.. love what you do...

it's up to us to make most of these things better, we already learned we can't expect anything from any of the motherships if we don't help them getting into the right direction

the smart people who also
contributed to some of the
stuff you've just seen

joanna rutkowska

nick the twichy

phil trainor

gbilly caprino

hacko

lockheed

ronaldo vasconcellos

itzik kotler

nick "i love in & out burger"

farr

adriano maia

alejandro negron

philipe gaspar

thanks

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