

# What Differentiates IT Security?

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# “Define IT Security”

- Old definition was: To protect our systems from abuse and misuse
- New definition is: To protect our systems from abuse and misuse
- The war has’nt changed, but the battlefield and weapons have
- We do not need to update the definition, we need to update the context

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LET HIM WHO WANTS PEACE PREPARE FOR WAR – VEGETIUS



# “The Past and Present of IT Security”

- Early systems were actively explored and played with
- Early “attacks” were more about “beating the system” than actual damage
- But IT became more pervasive and driven by features
- With the mainlining of technology, IT usage was now “locked down” - badly
- Thus began the arms race between crackers and business
- Things stayed this way for a while, but then the penalties became harsh
- Now most attacks have criminal intent. We created the stainless-steel rat.

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PLOT AGAINST THE DIFFICULT WHILE IT REMAINS EASY. ACT AGAINST THE GREAT WHILE IT  
REMAINS MINUTE - LAO-TZU



## “So how is the war going?”

- Lets get this clear first – We are losing. Period.
- For every 1 security guy, there are multiple people trying to get in
- We give into business, we give into fads, basically we give in
- We misunderstand security – what it means and how we do it
- As a group, security practioners can be divided and close-minded
- Because we do not, or chose to not, understand our field – we fail

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EVERY KINGDOM DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF IS LAID TO WASTE, AND A DIVIDED HOUSEHOLD FALLS –

LUKE 11:14



## “What are the challenges?”

- IT Security is a new field, but one of the most rapidly growing
- It encompasses a truly vast field, and we cannot be too specialised
- Temptation and many moral/ethical issues
- We are not always liked – no-one likes bad news
- We are up against people – peers, bosses, attackers, suppliers, vendors, etc

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HE WHO KNOWS THE ENEMY AND HIMSELF WILL NEVER IN A HUNDRED BATTLES BE AT RISK

– SUN TZU



# “What is needed?”

- We need to keep up with what is happening – a varied and full skillset
- We need an open mind and a clear understanding of our role
- We need an unyielding commitment
- We need to understand business and technical
- We need to be honest about our abilities and skills, and collaborate more
- We need to be able to think laterally – “out of the box” as it were
- We need to understand that there is always more

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SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THOSE MATTERS OVER WHICH YOU HAVE CONTROL, NOT MATTERS WHERE YOU  
HAVE NO CONTROL – NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI



## “The Future ... ?”

DARK AND DIFFICULT TIMES LAY AHEAD. SOON WE MUST ALL MAKE THE  
CHOICE BETWEEN WHAT IS EASY AND WHAT IS RIGHT.

– ALBUS DUMBELDORE

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# “The Future ... ?”

- Aggressive Network Defense
- New technologies = New threats – mobile devices, wimax, IPv6, GB, etc
- More attacks, but more importantly more criminal attacks
- Increased importance of our work and skills
- More laws and “paper-preventions”
- A speeding up of the war – we have gone past “o-day” to “sub-o-day” attacks
- Each area of IT security will expand – ie; spam -> malware -> phishing -> ?
- More....
- In the “*challenge.zip*” file is a code. Consider getting the code a skills test...

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TO CONQUER IS NOTHING. ONE MUST PROFIT FROM ONE'S SUCCESS – NAPOLEON BONAPARTE





**Thank you for your attention**

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LET HE WHO HUNTS MONSTERS BE CAREFUL THAT HE HIMSELF DOES NOT BECOME A MONSTER,  
FOR WHEN YOU STARE INTO THE ABYSS, THE ABYSS STARES BACK -- —FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

