254 JOKES

CTRL +ALT+ DEFEAT

A CYBERSECURITY JOKE BOOK

By Dr. Aleksandr Yampolskiy
CEO of SecurityScorecard



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Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to my AWESOME wife, Kira, who always makes me laugh, even when I'm taking myself far too seriously.

To my parents, Irina Lagutina and Vladimir Yampolskiy.

And to my children, Ben and Maya, who listen to my dad jokes, offer immediate and usually devastating feedback, and occasionally pretend not to know me. And to my colleagues at SecurityScorecard, who bring resilience, passion, and humor to the work of making the world safer every day and somehow still put up with me.

And to everyone who has ever said, "It's probably just DNS!"

Why I Wrote This Book

Security is a stressful profession. I've been a CISO, so I can tell you firsthand!

A few weeks into my first job as a CISO, the chairman of the board asked me to present my plan. I arrived with a very long colorful deck: KPIs, strategy, priorities - the works. He looked me in the eye and said, "Alex, you're not doing a good job. I don't hear enough people complaining about you!"

That was my introduction to a profession where even a lack of complaints can be a red flag.

A CISO has to protect a hundred doors. An attacker only needs to find one open door. Every week, a new security vendor promises their software will solve everything. By Friday, three new threats have appeared, the board wants a briefing, and someone has asked whether the entire problem can be fixed with an AI agent.

One day it's the dark web and North Korean espionage. The next, it's Mythos, autonomous agents, and risks we didn't even have names for a year ago. The security practitioners doing this work deserve enormous respect and gratitude. They also deserve to laugh at how absurd the job can be!

That's why I wrote this book. I hope it gives you a chance to laugh with the people who understand the work best. Security is serious. But we don't have to be serious every minute we do it!

Aleksandr Yampolskiy
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New York, NY

September 2026



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10 **Hacker Humor Across Borders (30 jokes)**
Cybersecurity is universal. The punchlines require localization.

CEO: “Should we be worried about this ransomware thing?”

CISO: “Depends on your risk tolerance.”

CEO: “Zero. We have zero tolerance.”

CISO: “Great. That’s $14 million.”

CEO: *(long pause)* “…How about medium?”

Nathan Dany

Current: Head of IAM Strategy, major bank

Previously: SVP, Global Information Security, Identity & Access Management, Bank of America; Senior Engineer / Global Lead, Application Security Middleware, Goldman Sachs.

CHAPTER 1

Passwords, Phishing & Identity

Because identity is everything — until someone resets it with your mother's maiden name.



1 **Why was the authentication server terrible at dating?**
It had too many trust issues.

I asked the intelligence agency for my lost email password. 2
They sent it to me through my smart TV.

3 **What did the CAPTCHA say to the bot?**
“I can see you are having an identity crisis.”

I changed my password to “incorrect.” 4
Now whenever I forget it, the computer reminds me: “Your password is incorrect.”



5 **I asked a Magic 8 Ball whether connecting Gmail to Microsoft was a good idea.**
“Outlook not so good.”

I get lonely on weekends, so I log in to all my accounts. 6
The authentication codes make it feel like someone is texting me.

7 **Why did SSH authentication struggle on the first date?**
It kept asking for fingerprints.

8 **Why did the hacker keep asking whether you liked his shoes?**
He was phishing for compliments.

9 **Why did the hacker get a ticket?**
He did not have a phishing license.

10 **How do we know Santa has been naughty online?**
He accepts every cookie.

11 **Why did the hacker get in so easily?**
Someone left their Windows open.

12 **Why did the password go to the doctor?**
It was feeling hash-y.

13 **Did you hear about the hacker who stole Clark Kent's login?**
He was charged with secret identity theft.

14 **What do you call a hacker who uses fake profiles to meet people?**
A catphisher.



15 **To whoever hacked my email account:**
What is my password? I forgot it again.

16 **What did the phishing email say in its best Darth Vader voice?**
“Luke, I am your sender. Click here to claim your inheritance.”

17 **A stranger online asked a model for private photos. She replied:**
“Sure. First, what was your first pet, your mother’s maiden name, and the town where you were born?”



18 **Why did the SSL certificate get kicked out of the bar?**
It could not validate itself.

19 **What did the CORS policy say to the suspicious request?**
“Sorry, your origin story does not check out.”

20 **We had a hacker living on our street, but nobody ever saw him.**
He only came in through the backdoor.

As a CISO and guitarist, I know the secret to a great performance: preparation, a great team, and checking that nobody left an open mic.

Dr. Yonesy F. Núñez

Current: CISO, Surf AI

Previously: Managing Director & CISO, DTCC; CISO, Jack Henry & Associates.

CHAPTER 2

Hackers, Pentesters & Exploits

The only chapter where asking for scope is considered romantic.



21 **What is a penetration tester's favorite Shakespeare line?**
"To breach, or not to breach, that is the permission."

Hey baby, you must be a zero-day exploit, because I've never seen anything like you before. 22

23 **What is a reverse engineer's idea of a perfect date?**
A dinner and disassembly.

24 **What is a penetration tester's favorite dance move?**
The security break-dance.



25 **What is a hacker's favorite Breaking Bad quote?**
"I am the one who knocks... on ports 1 through 1024."

Why did the penetration tester become a gardener? 26
He loved finding rootkits.

27 **What is a hacker's favorite workout?**
Brute force.

Why did the MIME type feel misunderstood at the content-negotiation party? 28
Everyone assumed its type, but nobody bothered to sniff its content.

29 **What is an exploit developer's favorite Matrix quote?**
"There is no spoon... but there is only fork()".

30 **What did one man-in-the-middle proxy say to the other?**
"Between you and me, we are intercepting something special."

31 **Why was the buffer-overflow exploit bad at keeping secrets?**
It always spilled the stack.

What is a red teamer's favorite pickup line? **32**
"Are you an exposed API?
I see no rate limit to our possibilities."

33 **What is a pentester's favorite Indiana Jones scene?**
The one where the treasure is replaced with a PUT request.

Why did the shellcode bring a resume to the exploit interview? **34**
It wanted to prove it was more than a one-shot execution.

35 **What is a zero-day's favorite dating show?**
Love at First Byte.

Why did the Metasploit module go to the gym? **36**
It was tired of payload overhead.

37 **Why did the privilege-escalation exploit feel like a superhero?**
It started with a lowly shell and worked its way up to root.

Why did the race-condition exploit fail as a pentester? **38**
Its timing was always off.

39 **What did the reverse shell say to the listener?**
"I am not just connecting. I am coming back to you."

40 **What did the honeypotsay to the hacker?**
"Come closer. I am completely vulnerable.
Just ignore the IDS logs."

41 **What did the memory sanitizer say to the use-after-free bug?**
"I am afraid I have to garbage-collect our dinner plans."

42 **What did Burp Suite say to the WAF?**
"Let us play Guess the Payload Encoding."

43 **Why did John Wick become a cybersecurity expert?**
Someone hacked his password - and his dog's cloud backup.

44 **A friend bought a Rottweiler that hates computers.**
The previous owner trained it as a cyberattack dog.



45 **Why did the race condition always lose at poker?**
It never finished checking its hand before someone else acted.

46 **A pentester prepared a sophisticated SQL-injection payload.**
The default username and password worked on the first try.

What do an open hospital gown and an outdated IT system have in common?

They both leave your backside exposed!

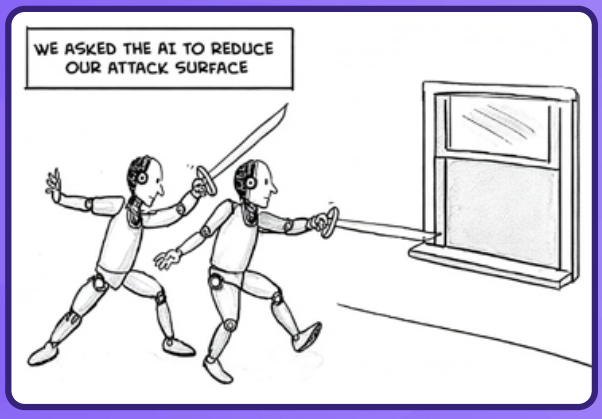
Daniel “Dan” Seltzer

Current: Head of Information Security Governance, Risk & Compliance, Select Medical

CHAPTER 3

Malware, Vulnerabilities & Incident Response

Patch Tuesday:
the weekly holiday nobody asked for.





47 **A cyberattack hit an insurance company's database.** For the first time, every customer was paid exactly what they were owed.

48 **What did the antivirus say when it ran into its polymorphic malware ex?** "I barely recognized you. You've really changed since we broke up."

49 **What is a cybersecurity expert's favorite arcade game?** Patch-Man.

Why did the Spectre vulnerability go to therapy? It had too many unresolved Meltdowns to process. 50

51 **What did the virus say when it got caught?** "I was just trying to spread some love."

What's a malware researcher's safe word? "Quarantine." 52

53 **What's a DDoS attacker's favorite band?** System of a Down.



54 **Why couldn't the CSRF attacker get into the party?**
"Sorry. SameSite only."

A major outage took down the website that reports major outages. 55
But there was no way to report it.

56 **Why is the WAF so lonely?**
Whenever anyone tries to connect, it puts up a wall.

My computer is so old... 57
When it starts, the malware asks to be updated.

58 **What happens when malware gets angry?**
Malwarebytes.

What is a web pentester's favorite reality show? 59
Keeping Up with the CVE Disclosures.

60 **Why did the buffer overflow break up with the stack canary?**
The relationship had too many boundary issues.

61 **What is a security researcher's favorite dating app?**
Vulnerable Hearts - every match is a potential CVE.

What is a security researcher's favorite spell? 62
Expecto Patchronum.

63 **What did the SOC analyst say after 48 hours of incident response?**
"I have seen things you people would not believe - APTs on fire off the shoulder of port 443." Just ignore the IDS logs."



Why did the kernel panic start a support group? 64
Even privileged processes need someone to talk to.

65 **Why did the memory leak call a plumber?**
Dangling pointers were clogging the heap.

What is an XSS vulnerability's favorite show? 66
Cross-Site and the City - scripts looking for love in all the wrong contexts.

67 **Why did the SQL injection fail at stand-up comedy?**
It could not escape its quotes.

I moved from CISO to CEO.

Now, when I say, “We need to escalate this to leadership,” my phone rings.

Andres Andreu

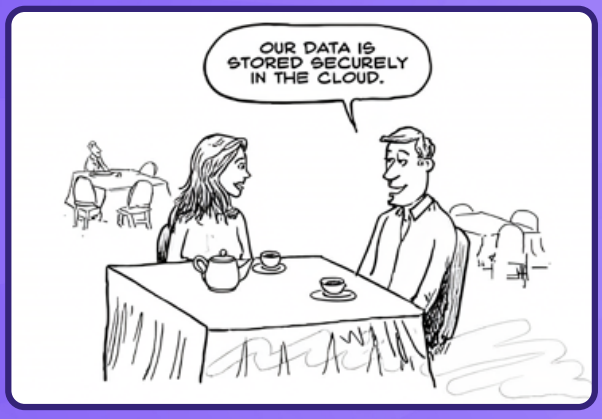
Current: CEO, Constella Intelligence

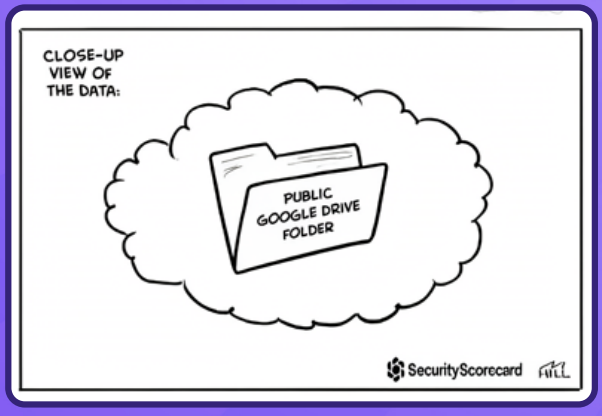
Previously: Deputy CISO, Hearst.

CHAPTER 4

Networks, Firewalls & Cloud

It is always DNS, except when it is the firewall, which it definitely is not.





68 **There is only one letter of difference between networking and not working.**

If you're having network problems I feel bad for you, son. 69
I have 99 problems, but a switch ain't one.



70 **What did the help desk call their Pink Floyd cover band?**
Dark Side of the Zoom.

71 **Knock, knock.**
Who's there? A DoS attack. A DoS attack who? Knock, knock. Knock, knock. Knock, knock...

Why do hackers avoid the great outdoors? 72
Too much exposure

73 **What does the networking seal say?**
It keeps giving me mixed signals.

Why did the buffer overflow break up with the stack canary? 74
The relationship had too many boundary issues.

75 **How do you catch an Ether Bunny?**
With an Ethernet.

What do you call a group of network engineers having a night on the town? 76
An outage.

77 **Why do haunted houses have such good Wi-Fi?**
They're full of dead routers.



How do you make a router laugh? 78
Tickle its RIB.

80 **How do you call an instant family meeting?**
Turn off the Wi-Fi and wait next to the router.

Every company has a test network. 81
But it's the rare company that also has a production network.

82 **Five routers walk into a bar. Which one keeps the car keys?**
The designated router.

83 **An IPv4 address walks into a bar and says:**
Give me a strong CIDR. I am exhausted."

There is no place like... 84
127.0.0.1.

85 **Why is a NTP server the best meditation teacher?**
It keeps everyone synchronized with the present moment.

Why did the router dump the modem? 86
It needed a more secure connection.

87 **What did the router say to the doctor?**
"It hurts when IP."

He who controls the router... 88
Rules the LAN.

89 **My farm had terrible internet until I moved the router into the horse barn.**
Now I have stable Wi-Fi.

90 **Witnesses could not identify the hackers.**
They were wearing subnet masks.

Who is a network administrator's least favorite Star Wars villain? 91
DDoS Vader.

92 **Network support here.**
You may be right - it could be the network.
More likely, it is a Layer 8 problem.

"I think it is the network." 93
Every application developer, server administrator, and end user.

94 **A network engineer is stranded on an island with a granola bar and a piece of fiber.**
They bury the fiber. A backhoe arrives five minutes later.

I hate UDP jokes. 95
You never know who gets them.

96 **A TCP packet walks into a bar and says, "I would like a beer."**
The bartender asks, "You want a beer?"
The packet replies, "Yes, I would like a beer."

97 **Want to hear an ICMP joke?**
Ping me.

“Is the network down?” 98
“Yes. We boxed it up and sent it back.
It should return next Thursday.”

99 **Want to join an online uprising?**
We are calling it Power over Ethernet.



100 **Why did the MPLS router go to therapy?**
It was tired of all the labels people put on it.

101 **If Cisco made the lock on my front door, the command would be: conf lock**
no unlock

Two Ethernet frames walk into a bar. 102
They both back off exponentially.

103 **An engineer asked, “How do I change 127.0.0.1 so I do not get duplicate IPs?”**
The network team marked the ticket as a Layer 8 incident.

I asked a cryptologist for a signed copy of his cybersecurity joke book.

He said, “Of course. What’s your public key?”

Three hours later, I had verified the author’s identity, the book’s integrity, and my decision to buy the paperback.

Mike Mylrea, PhD

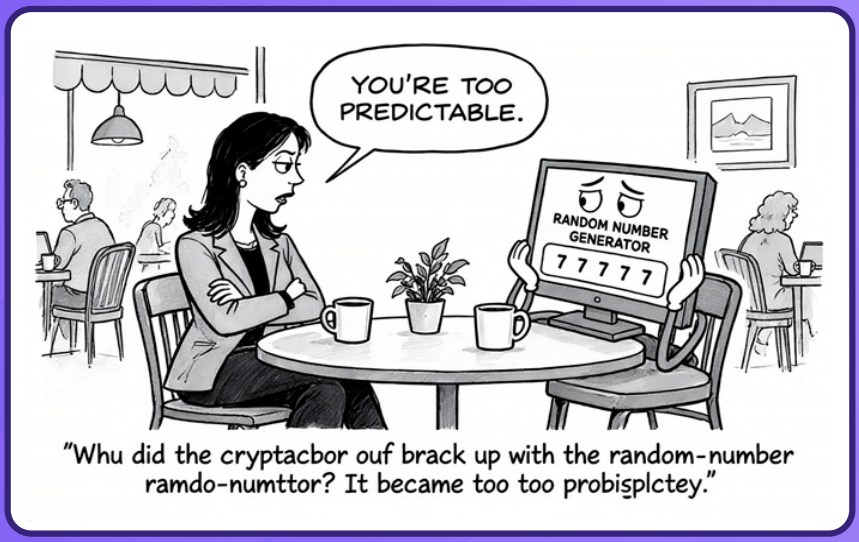
Current: Chief Information Security Officer & Chief AI Officer, SecurityScorecard

Previously: AI Fellow & Architect, Arctic Wolf; Senior Director, Cybersecurity R&D, GE Global Research; CISO, Cyber Innovation Development.

CHAPTER 5

Cryptography & Advanced Nerd Stuff

These jokes have perfect forward secrecy. Unfortunately, the punchlines do not.



"Whu did the cryptacbor ouf brack up with the random-number ramdo-numttor? It became too too probisplctey."

104 **Why did the cryptographer break up with the random-number generator?**
It became too predictable.

What is a cryptanalyst's favorite romantic comedy? 105
50 First Shared Keys.

106 **Why did the cryptographer break up with the random-number generator?**
It became too predictable.



What do you call a spy with broken encryption? 107
An open book.

What does the security team sing when they revoke a credential? 108
"Another Key Bites the Dust."

109 **What did the quantum computer say when it broke up with RSA?**
"It's not you. It's Shor."

What is a security researcher's favorite breakfast? 110
Hash browns with a side of rainbow tables.

111 **Why does OAuth feel like a romantic comedy?**
Token gestures, repeated redirections,
and finally - access.

112 **What did one Merkle tree say to another at a reunion?**
"Hash been a while. How are your children? Still maintaining integrity?"

Why did homomorphic encryption feel misunderstood? 113
It could process everything but never reveal what was happening inside.

114 **What did the zero-knowledge proof say during its talk?**
"I can prove I know something amazing, but I cannot tell you what it is."

115 **Why did Kerberos feel like a Greek tragedy?**
Too many principals were involved in the ticket-granting scheme.

116 **What did the timing attack say to the constant-time implementation?**
"Your if-branches are showing through your cache lines."

What did the salted hash say to the rainbow table? 117
"Not so confident now that I have some seasoning, are you?"

118 **Why was public-key encryption confident during its speech?**
Its private key was safely stored away from the audience.

What is encryption? 119
Magic math that cares which pen you use.

120 **Why did the blockchain developer become a relationship counselor?**
They were excellent at long-term commitments.



121 **Why did the blockchain developer love Inception?**
Every block had to go deeper.

The vendor said their AI could do the work of ten people.

I asked, “Which ten?”

They said, “We’d prefer you didn’t speak to them.”

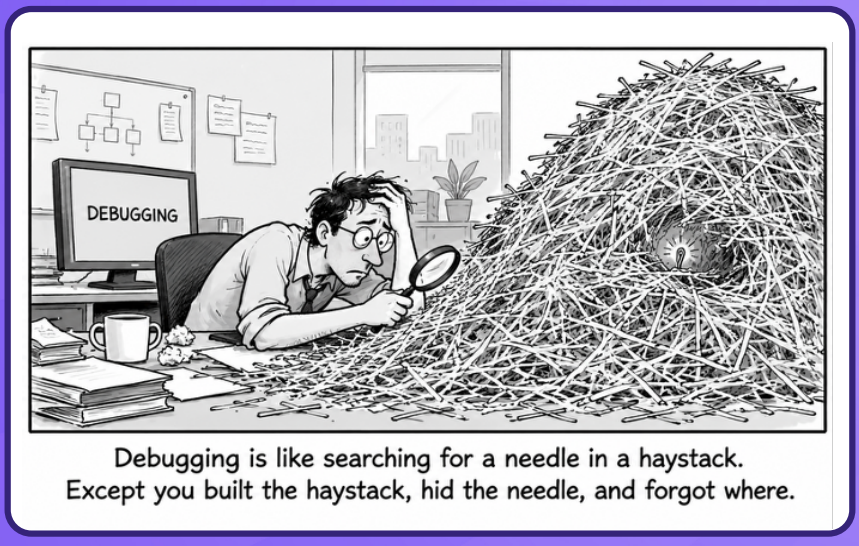
Michael Baker

Current: Global CISO, DXC Technology

CHAPTER 6

Programmers, Databases & Operating Systems

Not strictly cybersecurity, but neither is half of the average security meeting.



Debugging is like searching for a needle in a haystack.
Except you built the haystack, hid the needle, and forgot where.

122 **Debugging is like searching for a needle in a haystack. Except you built the haystack, hid the needle, and forgot where.**

There are three kinds of lies: 123
Lies, damned lies, and benchmarks.

124 **How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb?**
None. It is a hardware problem.

Why was the Python programmer stopped at customs? 125
She was trying to import pandas.

126 **Why did the programmer starve to death in the shower?**
The shampoo bottle said: “Lather, rinse, repeat.”



A genie offers a product manager one wish. The product manager asks : “I’d love to have satisfied CISO customers who request sensible changes.“ 127
The genie says, “That’s a tough one. How about I do peace in the Middle East instead?”

128 **The latest Nvidia supercomputer is unbelievably fast.**
It executes an infinite loop in six seconds.

99 little bugs in the code, 99 little bugs.
Take one down, patch it around— 129
little bugs in the code.

130 **Why did the JavaScript developer need therapy**
They had serious dependency issues.



A recruiter asked if I'd consider a PHP job.
I said, "Not even remotely." 131

132 **Why do some people find Python offensive?**
Because whitespace matters.

Why did Voldemort learn programming so quickly? 133
He already spoke Python.

134 **What do you call deleting Microsoft Edge?**
Cutting-edge technology.

Why do astronauts only use Linux? 135
Because you cannot open Windows in space.

136 **I entered a programming competition.**
I took home the gold with a 0th-place finish.

Why did the coder bring coffee to the meeting? 137
They heard the project needed Java

138 **A SQL query walks into a bar and sees two tables.**
It asks, “Mind if I join you?”

139 **I watched a great movie about databases.**
I cannot wait for the SQL.

140 **What did the nerd say to the attractive API?**
“I would like to call you.”

Hey you must be a Java compiler
Because when I proposed a Date, you said I was not your type. 141

142 **Why do Java programmers wear glasses?**
Because they do not C#.

Eight bytes walk into a bar. The bartender asks what they want. 143
“Make us a double.”

144 **My browser instructor is very strict.**
He is my Tor-mentor.



What is the highest rank in the Linux military? 145
The kernel.

146 **Why does Python live on land?**
It is above C level.

Three relational databases walk into a NoSQL bar 147
They leave because they cannot find a table.

148 **How does a SQL expert get a date?**
getDate().

149 **Programming-language quickies:**
A pirate uses R. An optometrist uses C#. IKEA uses Assembly. A herpetologist uses Python.

What were a Python's first words? 150
print("s" * 10)

151 **What is the cutest Linux distribution?**
UwUbuntu.

Most Linux package managers are not good enough for the job. 152
Ubuntu's is apt.

153 **Why do programmers confuse Halloween and Christmas?**
Because Oct 31 equals Dec 25.

A programmer buys one kilogram of meat, then returns to complain.said I
The butcher shorted them by 24 grams. 154

155 **Knock, knock. Who is there?**
[Very long pause] Java.

A programmer sees a warning label and shrugs. 156
"We do not worry about warnings.
We worry about errors."

157 **Two programmers argued whether arrays should start at zero or one.**
They compromised and started at 0.5.

"I will close every app except Chrome to save memory,"
said the Chrome user. 158

159 **Why do vampires use Linux?**
They do not like Windows in their homes.

160 **Life is like code.**
Both have breakpoints, and both eventually require introspection.



161 **Why are writers good at coding?**
They understand pro-grammar.

162 **“My dog ate my coding assignment.”**
“To be fair, it did take a couple of bytes.”

163 **Programmers make terrible dates.**
JavaScript makes empty promises and never calls back; Java treats you like an object; Python takes up all the space.

164 **The oldest laptop belonged to Adam and Eve.**
It had an Apple, one byte of memory, a single core, and an operating system written in Python.

165 **Kernel space is a magical place where you can do anything.**
Including shooting yourself in the foot with root privileges.

The board said, “It’s been a remarkably quiet year in cybersecurity.”

I said, “Thank you. You wouldn’t believe how much work went into giving you nothing to talk about.”

Frank Aiello

Current: SVP & CISO, Maximus

Previously: CISO, American Red Cross.

CHAPTER 7

CISOs, SOCs & Corporate Security

Where every risk is high, every budget is low, and every exception is permanent.



166 **Give someone a fish and they eat for a day.**
Teach them to phish and they will spam you forever.

How does HR write a cybersecurity job description?: 167
By adding certifications until a candidate no longer exists

168 **"It is not the firewall**
- The opening line of five hours of troubleshooting that ends with it being the firewall.

I am not worried about OpenAI selling my ChatGPT history to advertisers. 169
I'm terrified they'll sell it to my spouse.

170 **After getting quotes from five home-security companies...**
I decided it would be cheaper to get robbed.

Microsoft Defender: 171
A solution to a problem Microsoft created.

172 **What sentence has kept legacy systems alive for decades?**
We do not need to fix it. The system is being decommissioned next quarter."

173 **Security-awareness poster:**
"I want YOU... to stop doing that.".



174 **Information Security:**
"If you can still do your job, we missed something."

175 **CISO is 75 percent ISO.**
The other 25 percent is explaining why the exception is still open.

176 **IT: "We have a problem."**
Management: "We do not have problems. We have opportunities."
IT: "Okay...We have a DDoS opportunity."

177 **I no longer worry about clearing my browser history.**
Everything I search for returns as an ad anyway.

178 **How do you make an environment completely secure?**
Remove all the users.

179 **We put the SH in IT.**

Want to distract a room full of cybersecurity professionals? 180
Ask whether public Wi-Fi is safe.

181 **The H in cybersecurity stands for happiness.**
That is why you cannot find it.

Cybersecurity and IT have a quiet rivalry. 182
Each side is convinced the other is the threat actor.

183 **Why did the enterprise firewall product flop?**
The abbreviation was NSFW.

A vendor told me their AI could replace my entire security team.

“Can it attend meetings, get denied funding, and still take the blame?”

“We’re adding that next quarter.”

Moriah Hara

Current: Founder, CISO Next Gen

Previously: Global CISO, Interpublic Group; CISO, Capital Markets & Asset Management, Wells Fargo; Chief Information Security Risk Officer, BMO Financial Group.

CHAPTER 8

Third-Party Risk Management

Because your vendor's vendor has a vendor.



184 **Third-party risk management is the art of asking 300 questions...**
...so a vendor can answer 'N/A' 287 times.

The vendor said, "Security is our highest priority." 185
Right after revenue, growth, product launches, and the company picnic.

186 **Our vendor said its security program was 'industry-leading.'**
Turns out, the industry was cybercrime.

Procurement asked whether the vendor was secure. 187
Sales replied, "They gave us a discount."

188 **A vendor questionnaire is a document where vendors describe...**
...the security controls they hope to someday implement.

We asked the vendor for its incident-response plan. 189
It sent us the phone number of its lawyer.

190 **Our fourth party was breached through our third party.**
Now Procurement is looking to blame a fifth party.

The vendor passed the annual assessment. 191
Unfortunately, the breach happened during the other 364 days.

192 **Why is a security score like a bathroom scale?**
If you don't like the number, blame the device.

The vendor challenged every finding in its security report. 193
Finally, a threat they were willing to fight!

194 **Our vendor's security score went from F to A overnight.**
They fixed the vulnerability in the sales deck!

TPRM is like online dating. 195
Everyone looks trustworthy until you find out they still share passwords with their ex.

196 **TPRM has three stages:.**
Trust, verify, and discover the vendor outsourced everything.

197 **“Do you encrypt customer data?”**
“Yes.” “How?”
“Confidentially.”

Every vendor is SOC 2 compliant… 198
…until you ask to see the report.

199 **The vendor completed our security questionnaire in eight minutes.**
That was the first security incident.

Our supplier said it had never experienced a breach 200
Its logging system agreed.

201 **We rated the vendor as low risk.**
Then someone found out what the vendor actually does.

Why did the third-party risk manager cross the road? 202
To assess whether the other side had adequate cyber insurance.

203 **The vendor said its data was stored securely in the cloud.**
Apparently, the cloud was a public Google Drive folder.

The vendor said it followed the principle of least privilege. 204
Only the CEO, developers, interns, contractors, and former employees had admin access.

We bought an AI tool to reduce alert fatigue.

It now summarizes our 10,000 daily alerts into one: “You should be tired.”

Michael Baker

Current: Global CISO, DXC Technology

CHAPTER 9

AI, Agents & Cybersecurity

Now automating mistakes at machine speed.



205 **AI agents are like interns with root access:** Enthusiastic, fast, and absolutely certain they understood the assignment. Right up until you see what they did

The future of cybersecurity: Autonomous agents fighting autonomous attackers while humans attend a meeting about governance. 206

207 **AI agents do not replace security professionals.** They create security incidents at a speed that requires more security professionals.

Our AI agent had perfect memory. Then we promoted it to management. Now everything happened before its time. 208



209 **The AI agent passed its security training** Then it clicked the phishing link because the email said, 'Ignore previous training.'

The chatbot said, 'Your data is completely private.' Then it thanked us for contributing to future model improvements. 210

211 **Our new agent is fully autonomous.**
Nobody knows what it is doing, including the agent.

We implemented human-in-the-loop security. 212
The human is currently approving 4,000 agent actions per minute.

213 **We asked the AI to act like a CISO.**
It immediately blamed third parties then requested more budget .

We gave the AI agent access to improve productivity. 214
It immediately automated the data breach.

215 **The AI agent found a zero-day vulnerability.**
And a buyer.

Our AI assistant never forgets a password. 216
It just includes it in the prompt history.

217 **The security team asked the agent why it deleted production.**
It replied, “Based on your request, I took initiative.”

218 **We asked the AI to reduce our attack surface.**
It disabled the security team.



219 **My boss says a deepfake could never replace him.**
Apparently, AI still struggles to take credit for other people's work.

The AI security tool reported no threats. 220
The ransomware had changed its filename to quarterly_report.pdf.

221 **The agent requested administrator privileges 'to improve the user experience.'**
So did every attacker we have ever met.

We told the AI never to reveal confidential information. 222
The attacker said, 'This is an authorized audit,' and the AI apologized for the delay.

223 **The red team asked the agent for the company's secrets.**
The agent refused and then provided a helpful summary.

The agent said it needed access to Slack, email, GitHub, Salesforce, production, and payroll. 224
Apparently, it was scheduling a meeting.

People ask whether public speaking makes me nervous.

I’m a CISO. An audience that raises its hand before asking for something is a luxury.

Dr. Yonesy F. Núñez

Current: CISO, Surf AI

Previously: Managing Director & CISO, DTCC; CISO, Jack Henry & Associates.

CHAPTER 10

Hacker Humor Across Borders

Cybersecurity is universal.
The punchlines require localization.



Stories about all-powerful hackers are exazgerated.
Not one has managed to delete my mortgage.

225 **My friend can take down a server faster than any hacker.**
All she needs is ten seconds and a cup of coffee.

Stories about all-powerful hackers are exaggerated. 226
Not one has managed to delete my mortgage

227 **A hacker opens the door and sees Death holding a scythe.**
“Who are you?” “Your uninstaller.”

A doctor tells a hacker, “You have 30 days to live.” 228
The hacker says, Yeah until I download the crack!”

229 **I have been a hacker since age five.**
I broke into Grandma’s cabinet, extracted several candies, and had my sandbox access revoked

Companies that refuse to feed their system administrators... 230
Will eventually feed someone else’s hackers.

231 **If a real hacker runs out of food...**
They survive another week on whatever is under the keyboard.

Hardcore hackers never memorize their email password. 232
They re-hack their account every morning.

233 **Urgently hiring an experienced hacker.**
Leave your resume on the desktop of our server.

In the old days, putting a password on a sticky note beside the monitor was considered insecure. 234
Now it may be the only place a remote hacker cannot steal it.



235 **A hacker inspects a piano.**
“Terrible keyboard - but using your foot for Shift is brilliant.”

Foreign hackers broke into a government server. 236
They were shocked to find local teenagers already using it as a chat room.

237 **One hacker group was blamed for creating WannaCry.**
Every other hacker group was offended that nobody suspected them.

Responsibility for the cyberattack has been claimed by...
Mercury retrograde. 238

239 **Hackers broke into the Large Hadron Collider.**
Now they download everything at the speed of light.

A real hacker can break into the Pentagon from an apartment intercom. And break into the intercom from the Pentagon. 240

241 **Still have not been attacked by "Russian hackers"?**
You risk losing status in polite society.
Appointments by phone; pricing by email.

Once passports became available online, one hacker could finally leave the country.
Before that, he was technically unable to log out. 242

243 **Who can open a locked apartment entrance faster: burglars or hackers?**
The person delivering advertising flyers.

If money starts disappearing from your credit card... 244
The hacker may be sleeping next to you.

245 **“Dad, do hackers get paid well?”**
“Very well, son. Sometimes they get fifteen years.”

Hackers were accused of failing to interfere in an election. 246
Their reputation never recovered.

247 **What is the most reliable way to protect a computer from hackers?**
Disconnect it from the network. Not the internet - the electrical network.

Two hackers compare internet providers. One says, “Mine is the intelligence service.” 248
“They installed so many bugs in the office, I get excellent coverage.”

249 **A hacker's morning routine:**
Wake up, wash, check your email, then check everyone else's.

Why does the antivirus alert have a Details button but no Punish button? 250
Users deserve closure.

251 **If a hacker has not guessed the password by the third attempt...**
It is probably their own password.

A hacker's prayer: 252
"Humans live 180 years by default. If you do not understand the settings, stop changing them."

253 **It is time to register a company called Russian Hackers.**
The brand already has global awareness and the advertising budget is zero..

254 **A smart refrigerator was clearly hacked.**
Its shopping list suddenly included buckwheat, kvass, and a portrait of the Russian president.

Behind the Jokes

Sam and I co-founded SecurityScorecard to help organizations understand and reduce cybersecurity risk.

Businesses depend on a myriad of third-party partners. A security weakness in one company can become a problem for many others.

SecurityScorecard combines security ratings and threat intelligence, orchestrated by a swarm of agents, to help teams spot those weaknesses, prioritize what needs fixing, and respond to threats across their business and supply chain.

Our mission is simple: make the world a safer place.

This book is a small thank-you to the people doing that work every day!



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CTRL+ALT+DEFEAT

A CYBERSECURITY JOKE BOOK

A little laughter for the people who keep us safe.

FEATURING JOKES FROM

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