

Cybersecurity for Amateur Radio



Jeri Brummett, W7WJB
Assistant Section Manager -
State Government Liaison
Utah Section, ARRL
eMail: W7WJB@arri.net
<http://W7WJB.brummett.info>



The Scary Cybersecurity Pitch:

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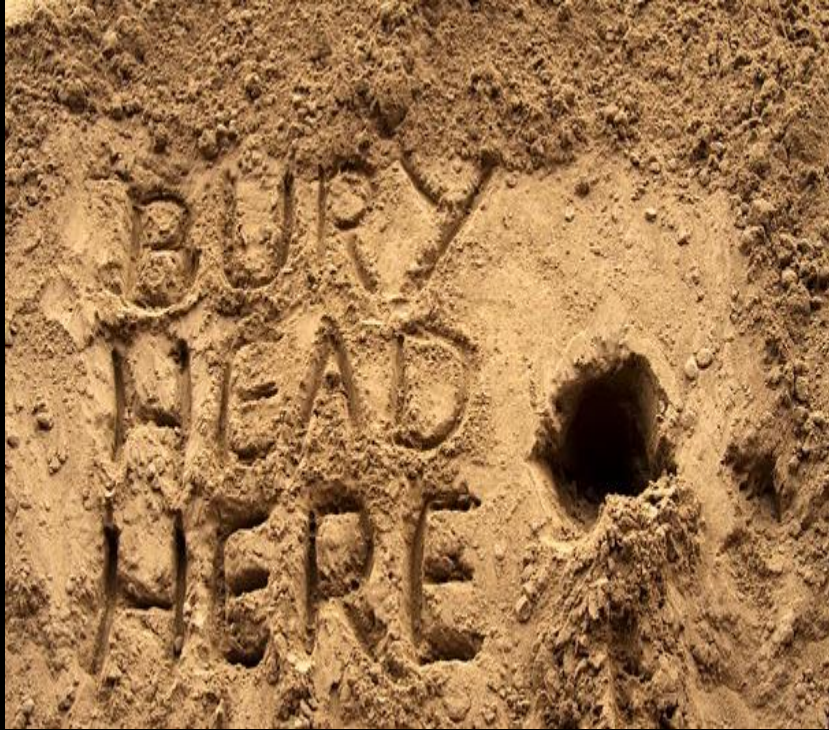
Why HAM operators should care:

- You are or will be a victim!
- Your station is vulnerable

There are 10 types
of people in the
world.
Those who understand
binary, and those who
don't.

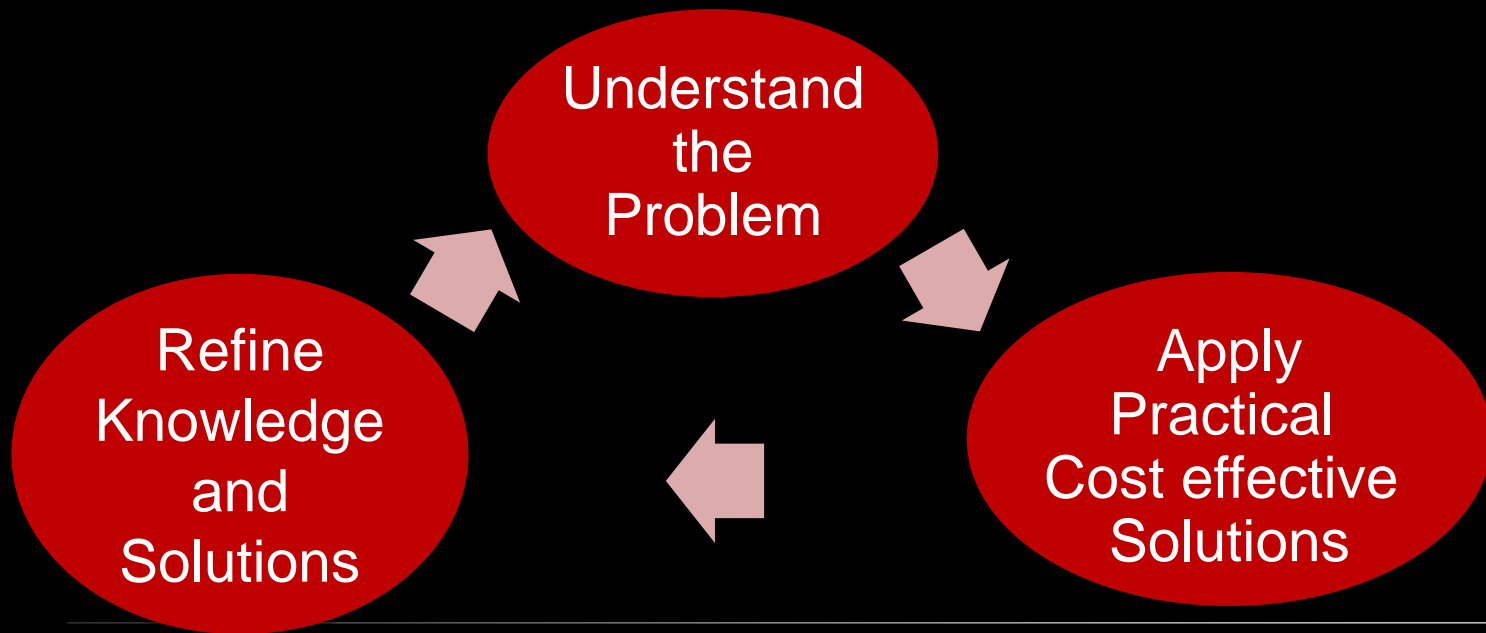


The Standard Responses:

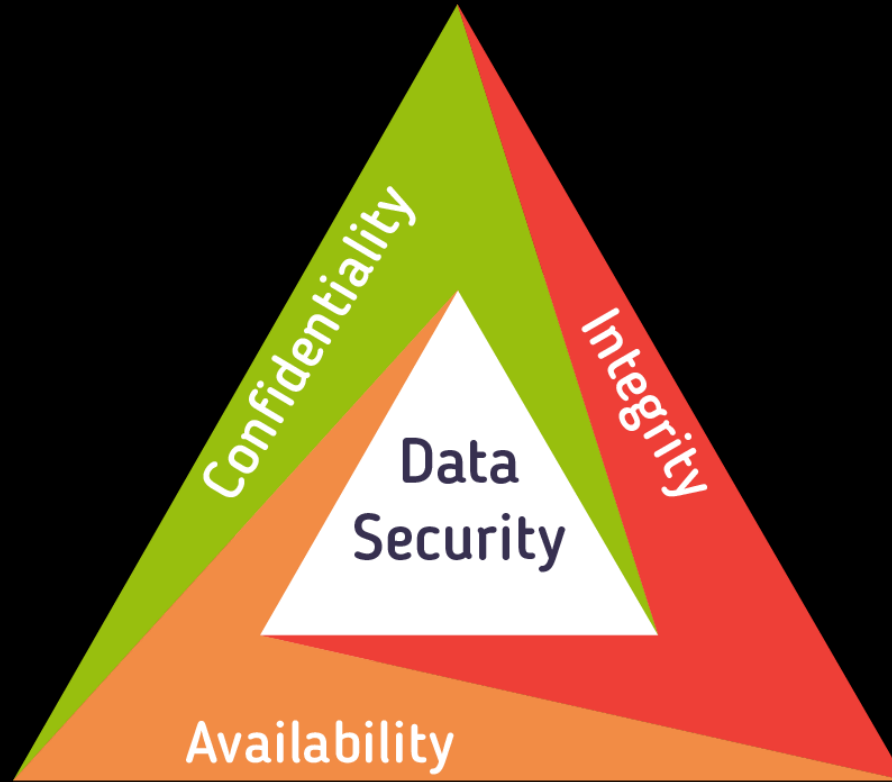


An Engineering Response:

- Engineers generally think of themselves as problem solvers who follow a systematic approach used to reach a desired solution to a problem.



The Security Triad:



Understand the Problem ~ Threat Actors:

Groups:

- Group A
- Group B



Understand the Problem ~ Threat Vectors

- Malware
- Account Breach / Identity Theft
- Accidental Self-inflicted Threats
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- Unsecure New Devices and “Things”
- Radio-frequency Cyberattacks



Understand the Problem ~ Our Actions:

**“Hackers do not cause breaches,
people do.**

**In every single case, someone
did something they should not have done
or
failed to do something they should have.”**



Frank Abagnale Jr
3rd Annual Redsky IT Security Conf.



Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Malware

- **Anti-malware**

- Avast, Malwarebytes, Bitdefender, etc
- Kaspersky (DHS Warning)

- **Firewalls**

- Network edge (xDSL / Cable Modem)
- Each Device
 - Windows Firewall / Uncomplicated Firewall (UFW)



• Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Account Breach / Identity Theft

- Insider Secret: Your Identity is already compromised and for sale.
 - Info sold by same people selling you ID Theft Protection
 - \$1M is not real protection...less than \$2000
- Account Monitoring ... Necessary Nuisance
 - Typically free

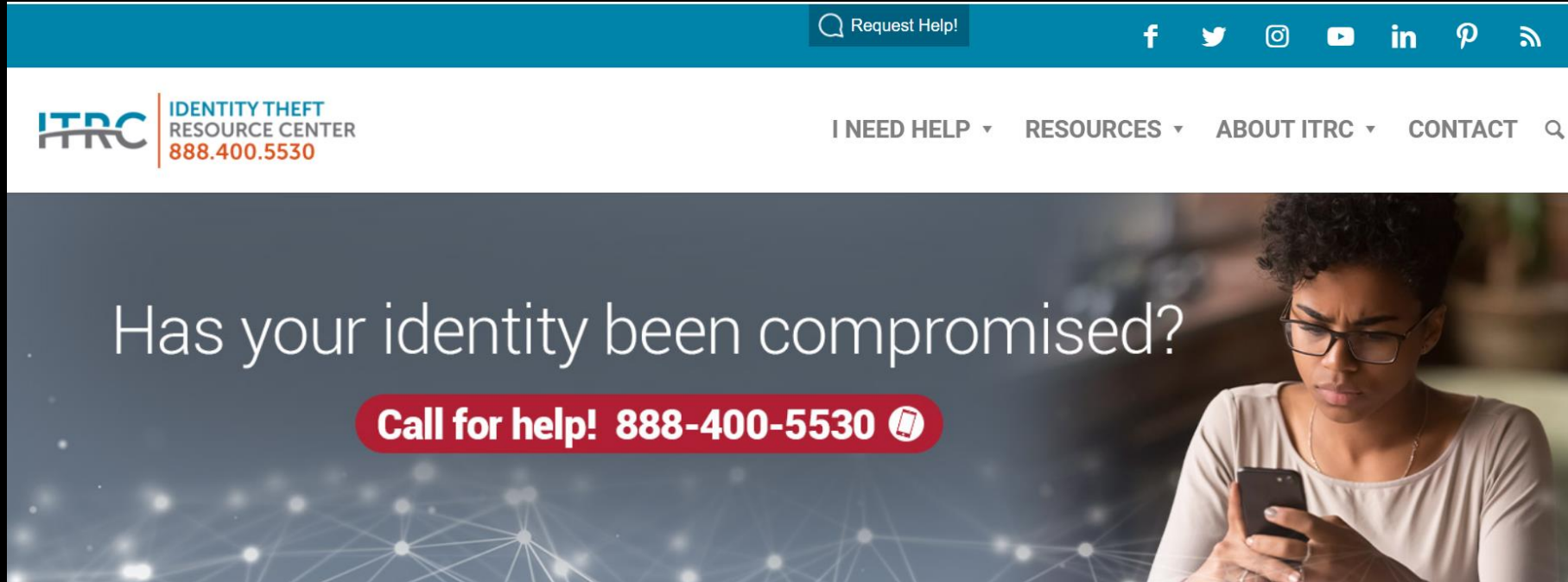


• Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Account Breach / Identity Theft

- STOP ... THINK ... then CONNECT maybe
- Passphrases NOT Passwords
 - Password Vault
- Monitor for symptoms
 - Sudden file changes, Locked user accounts, changes in performance, abnormal system behavior, or unusual account activity.



• Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Account Breach / Identity Theft



The image shows a screenshot of the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) website. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with a "Request Help!" button and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and RSS. Below this is a white header with the ITRC logo and the text "IDENTITY THEFT RESOURCE CENTER 888.400.5530". To the right of the logo are navigation links: "I NEED HELP", "RESOURCES", "ABOUT ITRC", and "CONTACT". The main content area features a large banner with a woman looking at her smartphone. The text on the banner reads "Has your identity been compromised?" followed by a red button that says "Call for help! 888-400-5530" with a phone icon.



• Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Passwords

- 59% use the same passwords across multiple accounts
- 50% haven't changed their social network passwords for a year or more; 20% have never changed their social network passwords.
- 30% have used or still use birthdays, addresses, pet names or children names for their work passwords.
- 25% said they change their password at work only when the system tells them to.
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~Thycotic, May 27, 2017



• Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Passphrase

- Typically easier to remember and type
- Typically not in dictionaries and cracking tables
- Make up a phrase off the top of your head
 - ex: Tube Steaks are Hot Dogs ← 20 chars
 - Tube_steaks_R_hot_Dogs ← 22 chars
 - Tube_5teak5_R_h0t_D0g5 ← 22 chars
 - Tube_5teak5_R_h0t_D0g5-QRZ ← customised
- Have a “Throw Away’ passphrase
- Use a password vault



Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Pwned

Pwned Passwords

Pwned Passwords are 613,584,246 real world passwords previously exposed in data breaches. This exposure makes them unsuitable for ongoing use as they're at much greater risk of being used to take over other accounts. They're searchable online below as well as being downloadable for use in other online systems. [Read more about how HIBP protects the privacy of searched passwords.](#)

Oh no — pwned!

This password has been seen 221,976 times before

This password has previously appeared in a data breach and should never be used. If you've ever used it anywhere before, change it!




Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Pwned


';--have i been pwned?

Check if your email or phone is in a data breach

pwned?

Oh no — pwned!
Pwned in 13 data breaches and found no pastes (subscribe to search sensitive breaches)

 3 Steps to better security [Start using 1Password.com](#)




';--have i been pwned?

Check if your email or phone is in a data breach

pwned?

Good news — no pwnage found!
No breached accounts and no pastes (subscribe to search sensitive breaches)

 3 Steps to better security [Start using 1Password.com](#)



Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Accidental Self-inflicted Threats

- Change default passwords
 - Routers, modems, Raspberry Pi
- Back It Up Or You'll Be Sorry!
- Skipping updates and scans
- Visiting bad neighborhoods and unknown places
-



Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Backups

- **Back It Up Or You'll Be Sorry!**
- SSD and Cloud Options
 - Consider Encryption

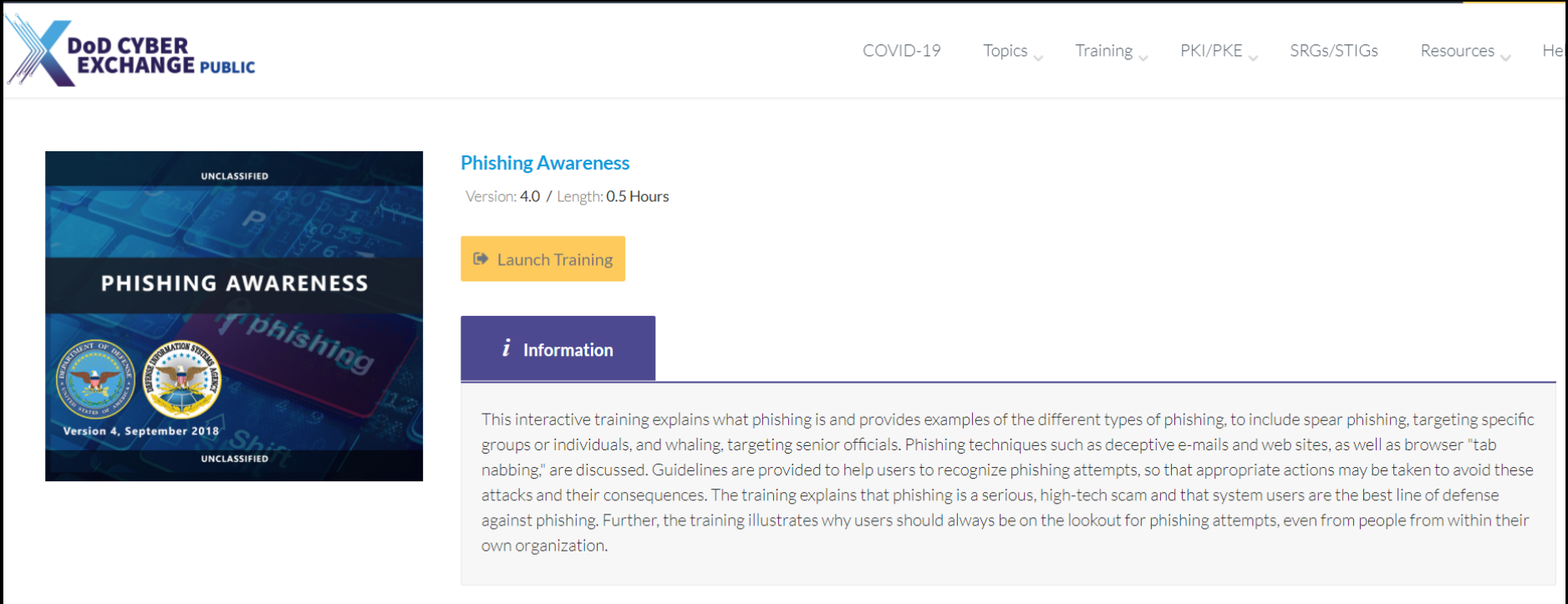


Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Phishing

The image shows a screenshot of an email client interface. The email header includes the sender 'ebill <support@themedzone.com>', the subject 'Order placed 27-2021. Thank you for the Purchase [redacted].n.com.', and the recipient 'To Me'. The email body contains a Norton LifeLock renewal notice with details such as 'Order Reference No: NRT-23048512', 'Invoice Number: 630201S231', and 'Date: September 27/2021'. It also lists product details like 'Norton 360 with LifeLock Ultimate Plus' and a total amount of '\$199.99'. A red arrow points from the subject line of the email to a Google search bar in the foreground. The search bar contains the text 'medzone.com'. Below the search bar, the search results for 'medzone.com' are displayed, showing 'About 409,000 results (0.55 seconds)' and listing 'http://medzone.com' and 'https://www.medzonecorp.com' as search results.



Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Phishing



The screenshot shows the DoD Cyber Exchange Public website. The header includes the logo and navigation links for COVID-19, Topics, Training, PKI/PKE, SRGs/STIGs, Resources, and Help. The main content area features a training card for 'Phishing Awareness' with a 'Launch Training' button and an 'Information' section.

DoD CYBER EXCHANGE PUBLIC

COVID-19 Topics Training PKI/PKE SRGs/STIGs Resources He

UNCLASSIFIED

PHISHING AWARENESS

Version 4, September 2018

UNCLASSIFIED

Phishing Awareness

Version: 4.0 / Length: 0.5 Hours

Launch Training

i Information

This interactive training explains what phishing is and provides examples of the different types of phishing, to include spear phishing, targeting specific groups or individuals, and whaling, targeting senior officials. Phishing techniques such as deceptive e-mails and web sites, as well as browser "tab nabbing," are discussed. Guidelines are provided to help users to recognize phishing attempts, so that appropriate actions may be taken to avoid these attacks and their consequences. The training explains that phishing is a serious, high-tech scam and that system users are the best line of defense against phishing. Further, the training illustrates why users should always be on the lookout for phishing attempts, even from people from within their own organization.



Problem to Practical Solutions ~ Hackers

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- Not as easy as TV and media portray
 - Hack iPhone in <30 Seconds
- China, Russia, Cancel Culture
 - Software, component, device origin matters
 - APPs, packages, firmware
- Unsecure New Devices and “Things”
 - Devices with built-in malware and breachware
 - Huawei, Hytera, etc.



Understand the Problem ~ RF Cyberattacks

- Mobile, wireless, and IoT devices all operate within the radio frequency (RF) spectrum. Due to the lack of visibility of wireless communications, devices roam freely and are often undetected and un-monitored
- Hackers can often easily compromise these devices.
- SDR systems have shown to be vulnerable
- Opportunity for HAM research



OMG: Will it ever end?





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