

Stranger in a Changed Land
DefCon 2024

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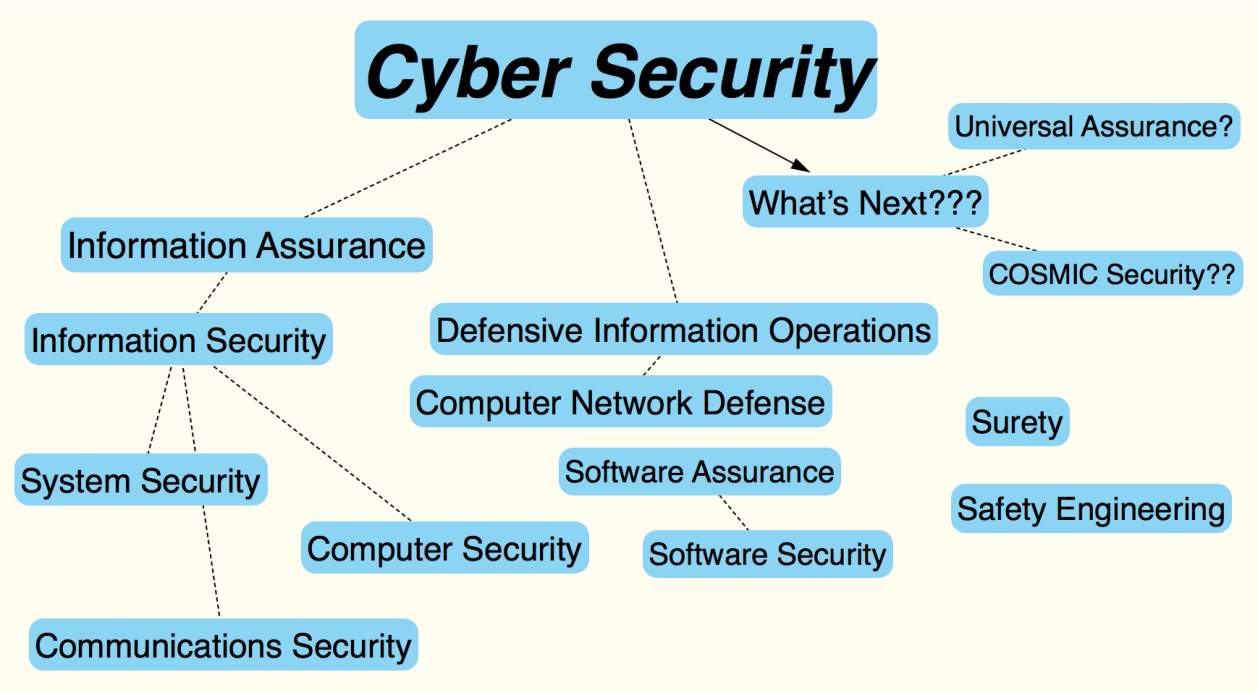
The Long and Winding Road….



A few lessons learned…the hard way

- **In Cyberspace, we all have more in common than different**
- **The Bad Guy doesn't perform magic**
  - and most attacks are repeats of a pattern
- **Knowing about flaws doesn't get them fixed**
- **There's a large but limited number of defensive choices**
  - and the 80/20 rule applies (The Pareto Principle)
- **Cyber Defense is really Information Management**
  - when you see "share", replace with "translate" and "execute"
- **Cybersecurity is not an event, a tool, or training – it's a machine**
  - fueled by information
  - the optimal place to solve a security problem is …. *not* where you found it

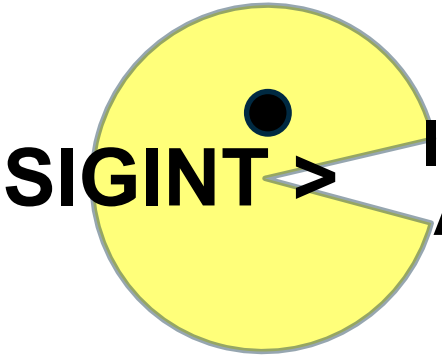
The National Security Agency (NSA)

Never Say Anything? Not Seen Anywhere? Needs Some Attention?

- **Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)**
- **Cybersecurity (from COMSEC, INFOSEC, Information Assurance…)**

Offense + Defense = ???

The National Security Agency (NSA)



- Resources
- Culture
- Recognition
- Leadership Attention

Defense wins championships!

But
Offense wins budgets!

Offense + Defense =?

- Cross-training
- Access to resources (financial, technology, think-tanks…)
- Linkage to the ecosystem (Industry, Policy-Makers, Academia)
- World-wide insight
- Embedded in a highly complex infrastructure

How Much Should I Care?

Weakness

Flaw

Vulnerability

Exploit

Attack

How Much Should I Care?

Weakness

Flaw

Vulnerability

Devices, Protocols

Designs, Architectures

Operations

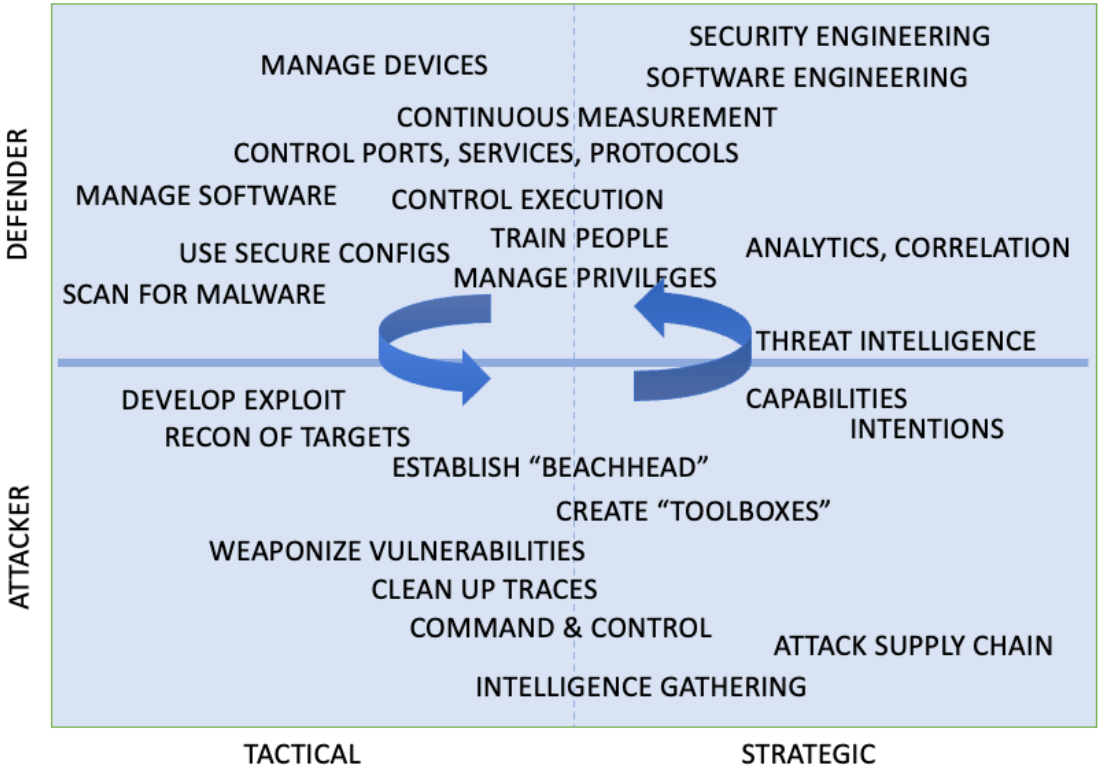
Operational Practices

Infrastructure

Exploit

Attack

Attacker-Defender Quad





Thank You