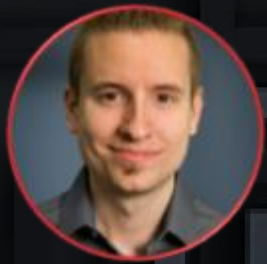


Solving Security Nightmares



Marc Laliberte

Director of Security Operations



Who Am I?



Marc Laliberte

Director of Security Operations

LinkedIn: /in/marc-laliberte/

BlueSky: @itsmarc.me

- 13 years at WatchGuard
- Leader at WatchGuard of:
 - Internal Security Operations
 - Threat Research
 - PSIRT
- Grew up on the Red Team



Agenda



Cyber Threat Landscape



Business & Industry Trends

Ransomware and Data Theft Continues to Irritate



Large Ransomware Attacks 2024

- Insomniac Games: Rhysida, \$2 mil, 1.67TB dumped
- UnitedHealth Group:
 - AlphV/Blackcat
 - Stolen creds used with remote access tool with no MFA
 - Threw hundreds of medical and healthcare facilities into operating chaos
 - Paid \$22M ransom
 - Expected cost of 1.2-1.6B

Latest Ransomware Trends

- Volume dropped 2024, but impact high
- RaaS grows
- Triple-extortion:
- Top 2024 targets
 - Manufacturing
 - Healthcare
 - Government
- Vectors:
 - Phishing & spear phishing
 - Stolen credentials
 - Vulnerabilities (*Connectwise*)

Authentication Attacks Remain Successful

Stealing Credentials in Multiple Ways

- Credential Stuffing
- Password Spraying
- Password Cracking
- Info-Stealing Malware

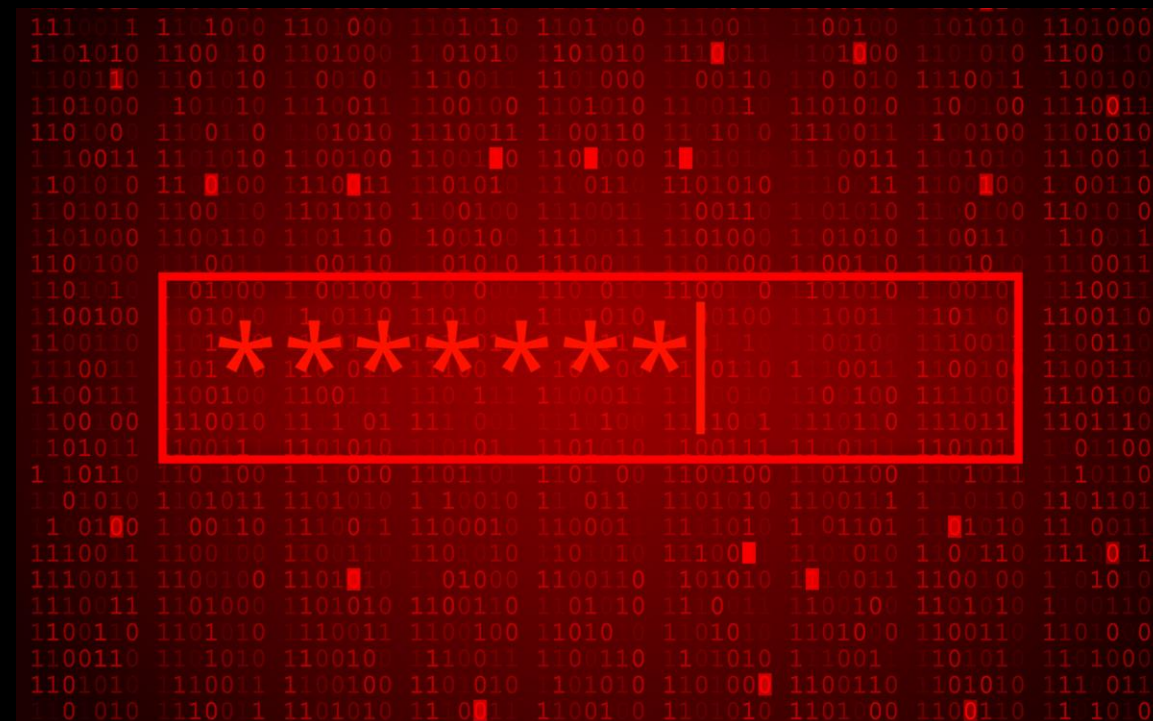
Cisco warns of large-scale brute-force attacks against VPN services

By Bill Toulas

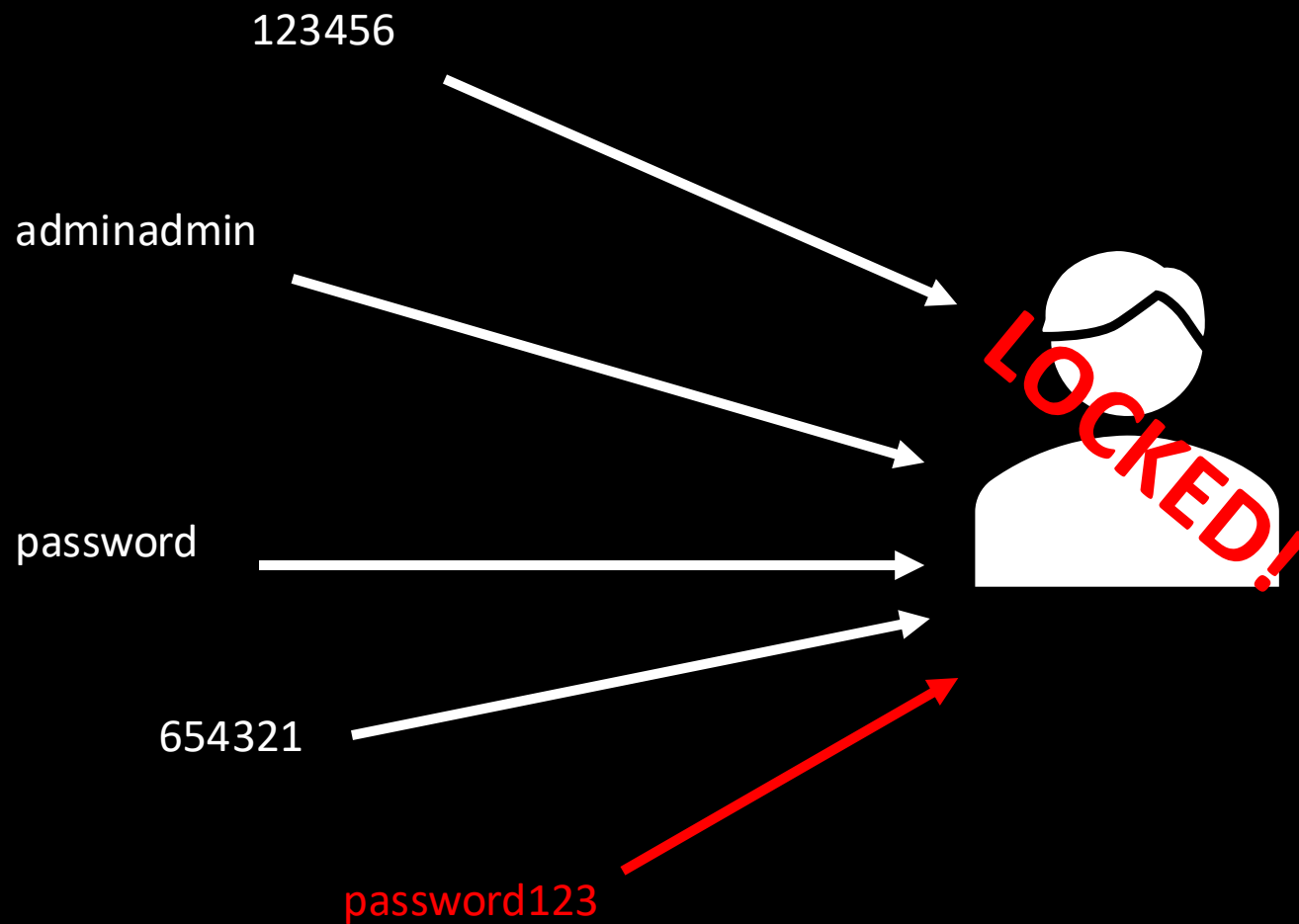
April 16, 2024 12:11 PM 2



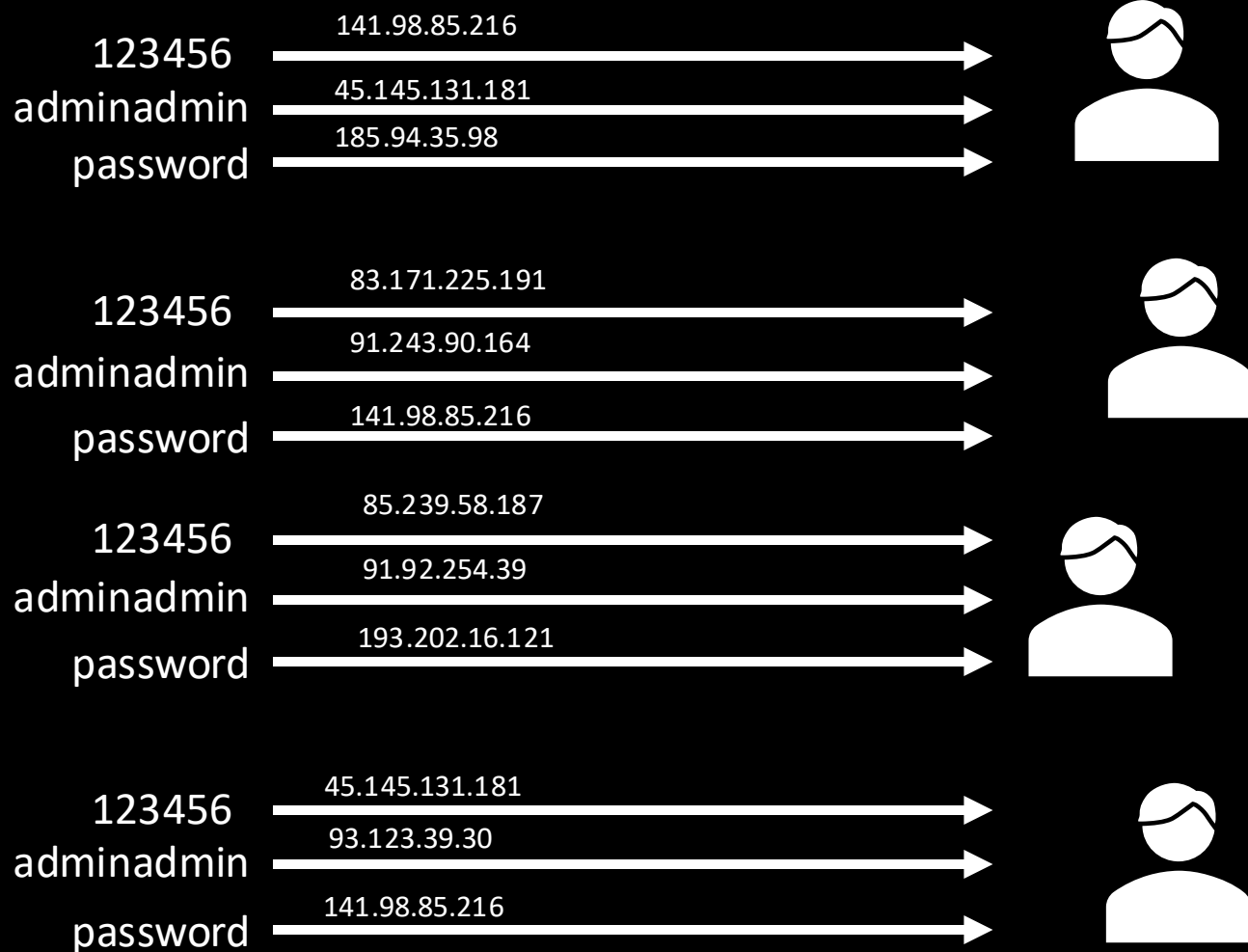
Cisco warns about a large-scale credential brute-forcing campaign targeting VPN and SSH services on Cisco, CheckPoint, Fortinet, SonicWall, and Ubiquiti devices worldwide.



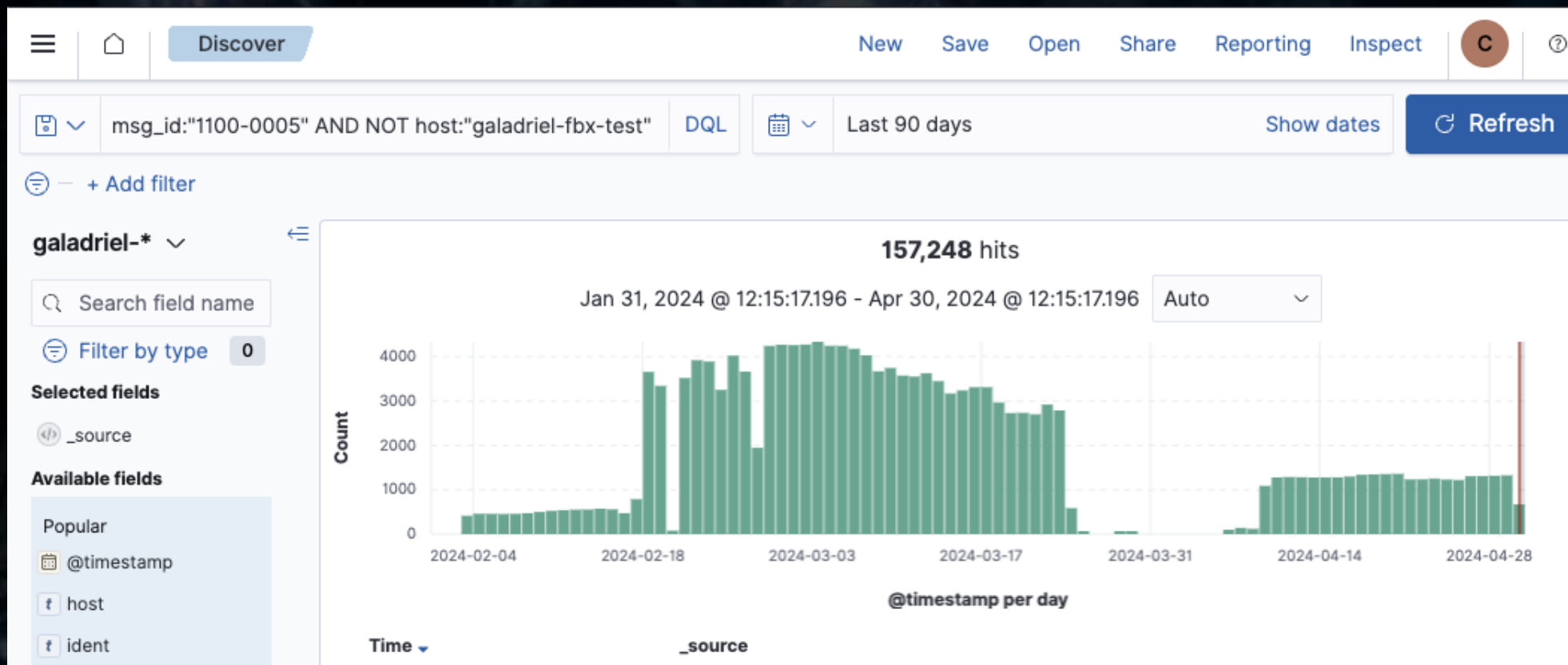
Password Spraying: Account Lockouts



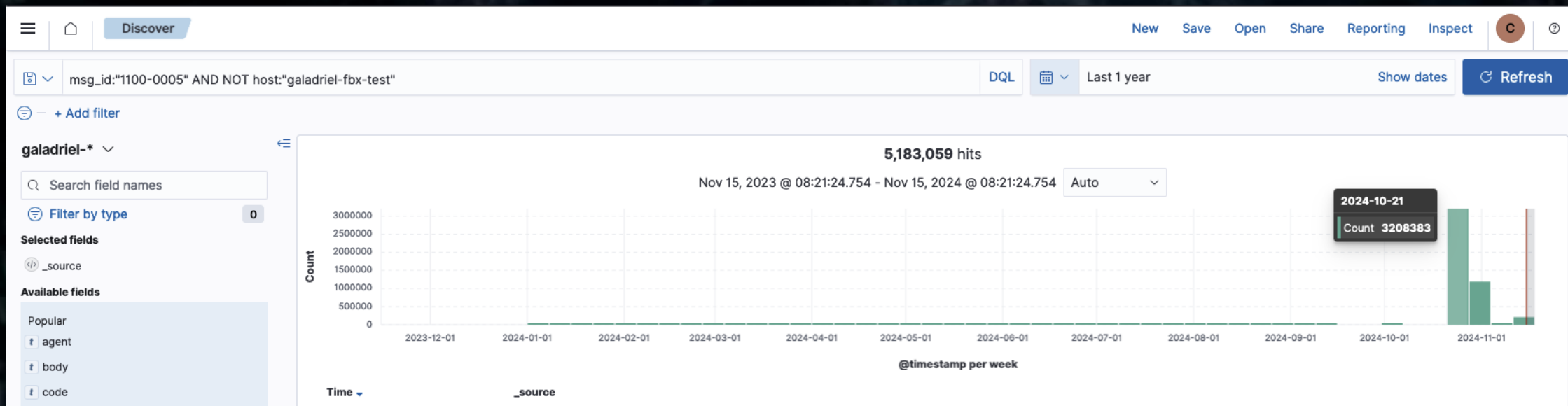
Password Spraying: Account Lockouts



WatchGuard Threat Lab Firebox Honeynet

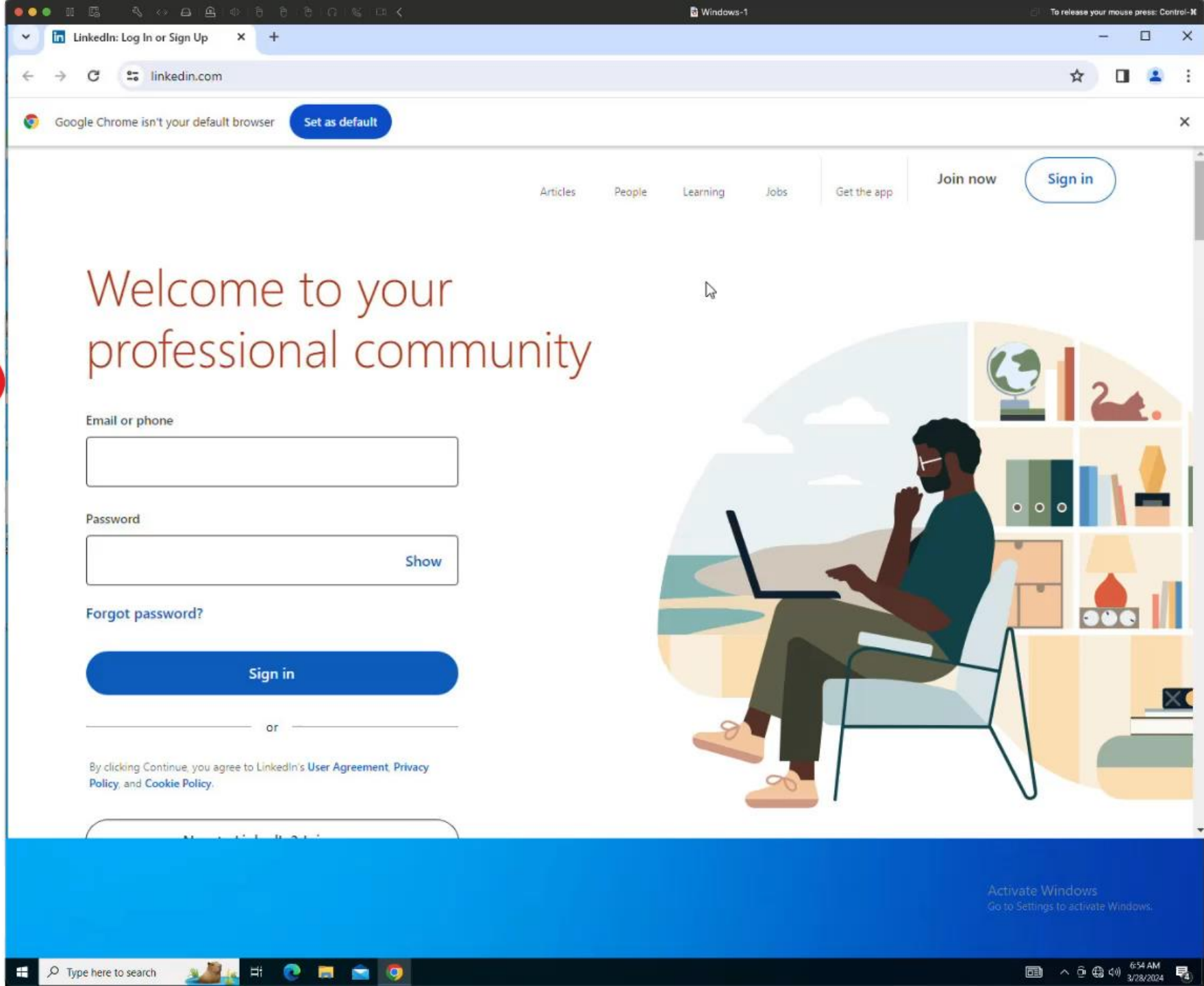


WatchGuard Threat Lab Firebox Honeynet

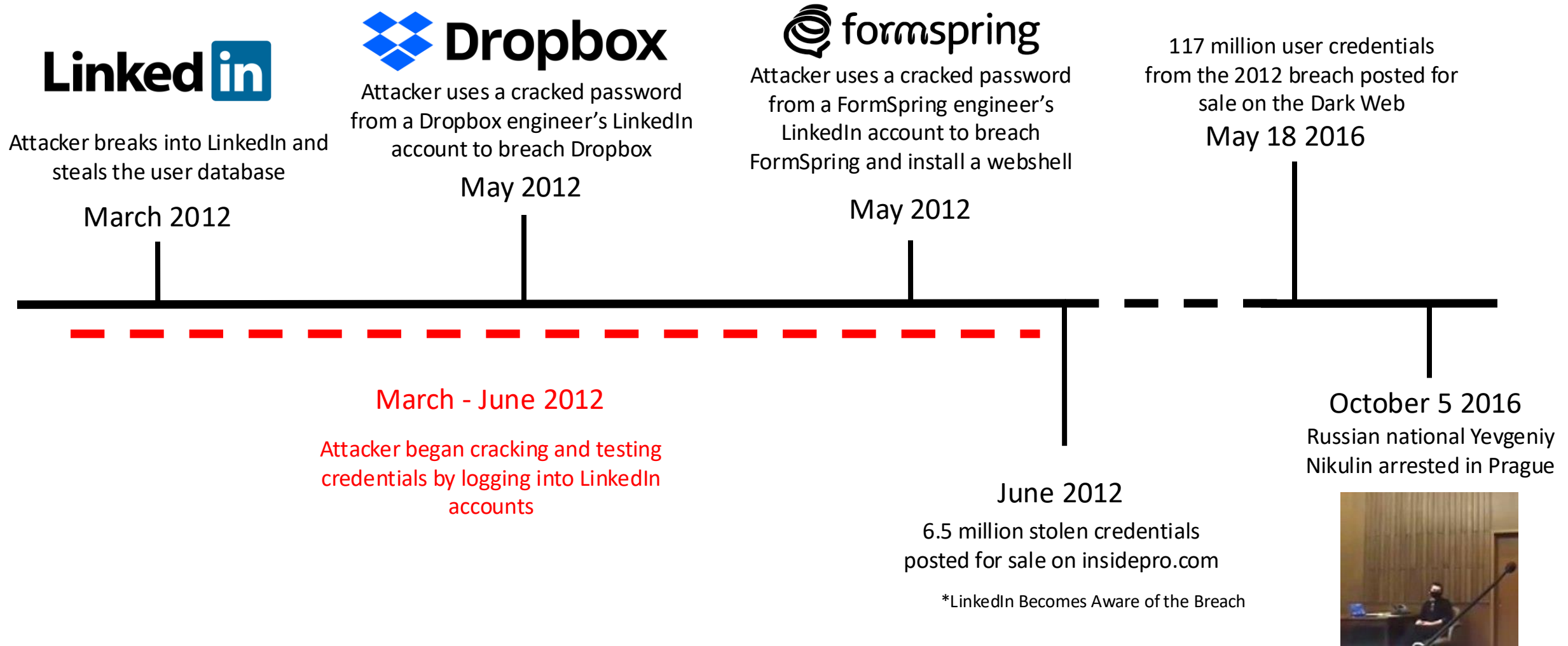


Info-Stealer Demo





Stolen Credential Lifecycle: LinkedIn 2012 Breach



Threats Get Sneakier (LotL)

62% of attackers are using Living off the Land tools or techniques in their attacks.



Living off the Land – .LNK Files



Email With Zip Archive Attachment



Zip Archive Contains .LNK Shortcut File



.LNK File Uses MSHTA.exe to Download & Run JavaScript



JavaScript Downloads and Runs PowerShell



PowerShell Opens a Reverse Shell to Attacker Server



Software Supply Chain Attacks Threaten Foundation

The **majority** of organizations (**91%**), reported facing a **software supply chain incident** within the last year.

**Enterprise Strategy Group, Feb. 2024*

The cost of software supply chain attacks will reach a staggering \$138 billion by 2031, up from \$46 billion in 2023.

**Cybersecurity Ventures*

Software Supply Chain Attacks Threaten Foundation

Potentially disastrous XY Utils supply chains incident

XZ Outbreak (CVE-2024-3094)



XZ Utils is a collection of open-source tools and libraries for the XZ compression format, that are used for high compression ratios with support for multiple compression algorithms, notably LZMA2.



On Friday 29th of March, Andres Freund (principal software engineer at Microsoft) emailed oss-security informing the community of the discovery of a backdoor in xz/liblzma version 5.6.0 and 5.6.1.



Github Activity Summary (user: JiaT75)

Repository:
<https://github.com/tukaani-project/xz>

JiaT75's **first commit**
to the XZ repo

PR opened in oss-fuzz to
disable ifunc for fuzzing
builds. Allegedly to mask the
malicious changes.

Obfuscated/encrypted stages binary backdoor
hidden in two test files:

- `tests/files/bad-3-corrupt_lzma2.xz`
- `tests/files/good-large_compressed.lzma`



2021

2022-02-06

2023-07-08

2024-03-09

User **Jia Tan (JiaT75)**
creates his Github Account

2023-06-28

2024-02-16

Potential infrastructure testing:
liblzma: "Add ifunc implementation
to crc64_fast.c."

Malicious "`build-to-host.m4`" file added
to .gitignore, later incorporated to the
package release.



xz/libzma
v5.6.0 & v5.6.1



Cyber Threat Landscape

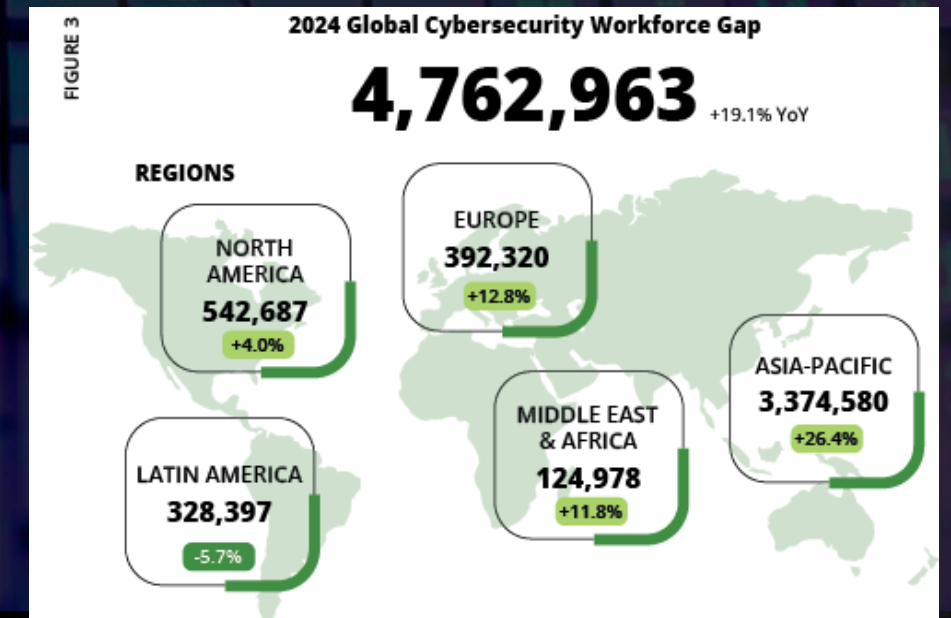
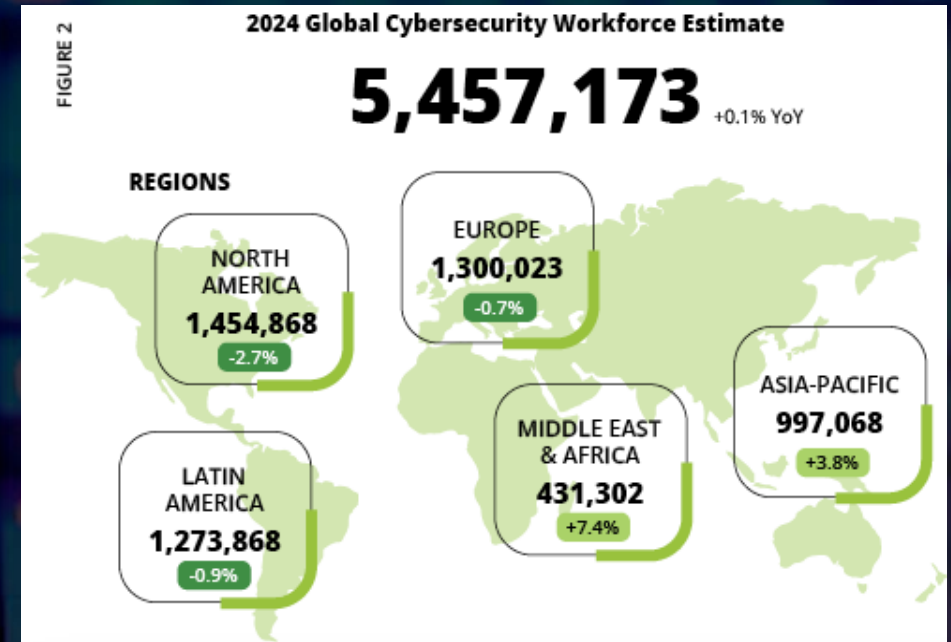


Business & Industry Trends

Cyber Skills Gap Grows

- Workforce shrunk ~3% in North America
- Demand grew 4%!
- Increased demand = increased cost

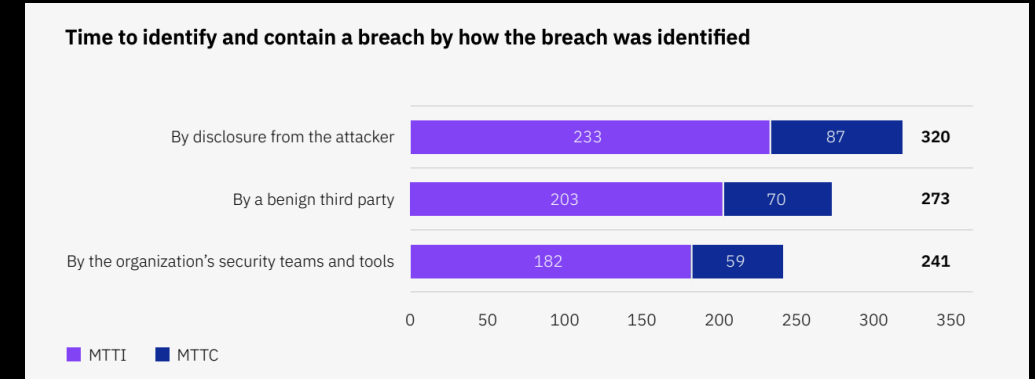
*2024 ISC2 Cybersecurity Workforce Study



Slow Incident Response Increases Damage and Cost

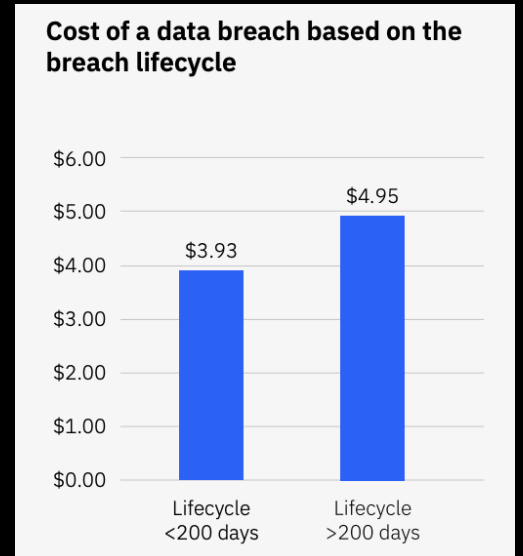
Issues slowing incident response (IR)

- Missing or minimal IR team due to lack of resource
- Multiple disparate security tools
- Some dashboard solutions expensive (SIEM)
- Manual correlation slows investigation
- Need more automation!



277 days

Time to identify and contain a data breach



**IBM Cost of a data Breach 2023*

AI: Threat or Savior?

By 2026, more than 90% of IT Ops mgmt vendors will have embedded GenAI capabilities in their products and/or services, up from less than 5% in 2023.

Gartner

By 2027, one-fifth of brands will leverage an absence of AI in their business as a point of differentiation.

Gartner

arXiv:2311.17035v1 [cs.LG] 28 Nov 2023

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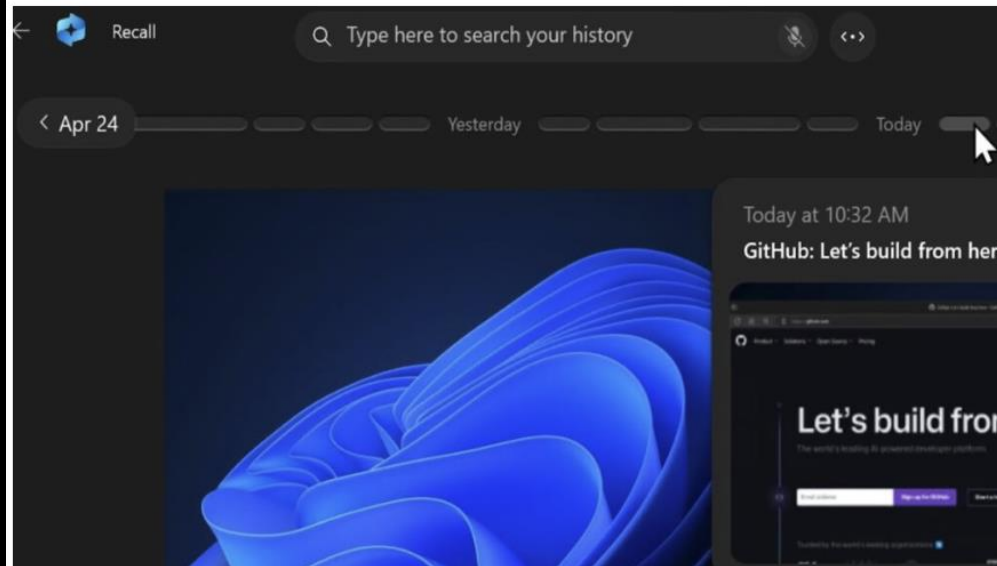
Microsoft Recalls Windows Recall

Researchers Show How Malware Could Steal Windows Recall Data

Cybersecurity researchers are demonstrating how malware could steal data collected by the new Windows Recall feature.



By Eduard Kovacs
June 5, 2024

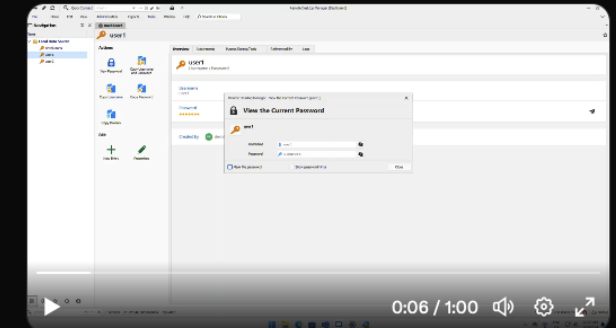


Several cybersecurity researchers have demonstrated how malware could steal data collected by Microsoft's recently introduced Recall feature.



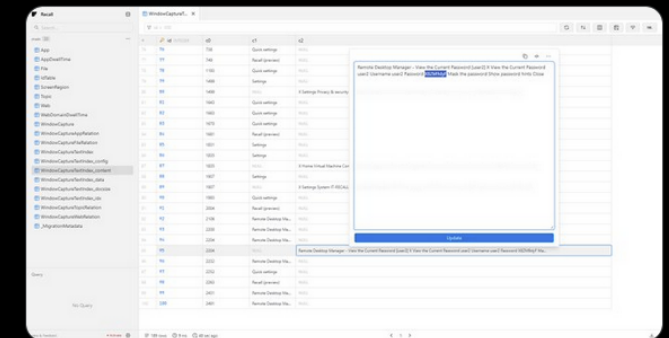
Marc-André Moreau @awakecoding · Jun 3

Here's Recall capturing temporarily visible passwords from Remote Desktop Manager in a test Azure VM. It's less effective that I would have thought, the search results are screenshots, and it's unclear how one can obtain the full OCR text it used for the match



Marc-André Moreau
@awakecoding

The full OCR text with the temporarily visible password is available in the %LocalAppData%\CoreAIPlatform.00\UKP\{<UUID>}\ukg.db SQLite database, nicely gift wrapped 📁 for infostealer malware to exfiltrate:



Deep Fake A/V Used in Major Attacks

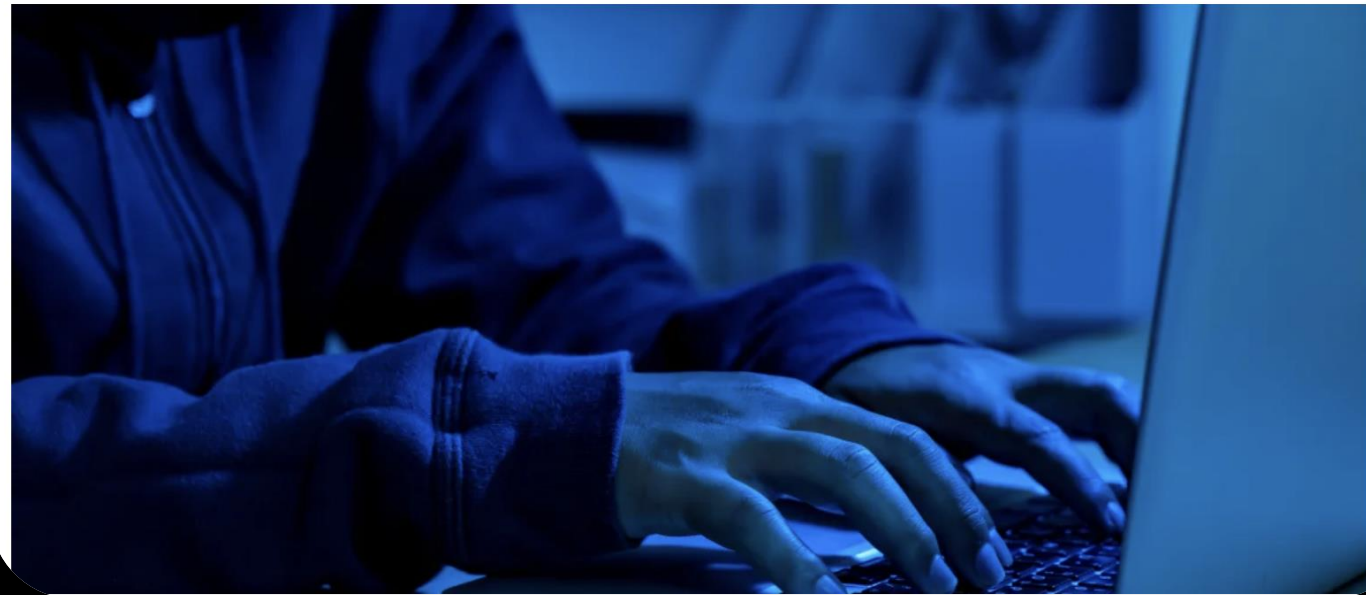
World / Asia

Finance worker pays out \$25 million after video call with deepfake 'chief financial officer'

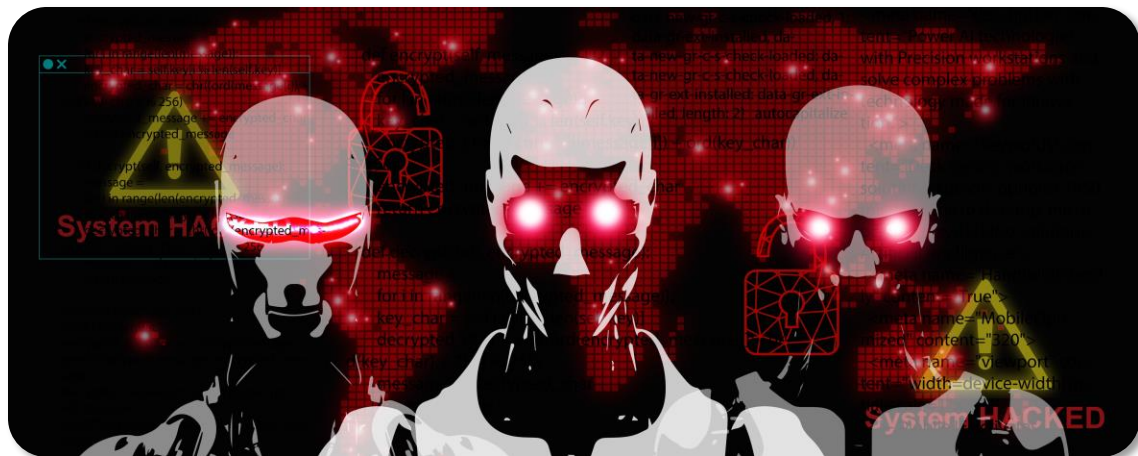


By Heather Chen and Kathleen Magramo, CNN

🕒 2 minute read · Published 2:31 AM EST, Sun February 4, 2024



AI: Threat or Savior?



AI Security Benefits:

- Automated/predictive detection
- False positive reduction
- Human language queries
- Predictive correlation
- Cost reduction
- Significantly lower time to detection and response

GenAI Security Risks:

- Prompt injection data leaks
- Deep fakes & misinformation
- Improved spear phishing
- Shared training data
- ShadowAI?
- Slopsquatting





Good to see you, Marc.

Ask anything

  Search  Deep research ...



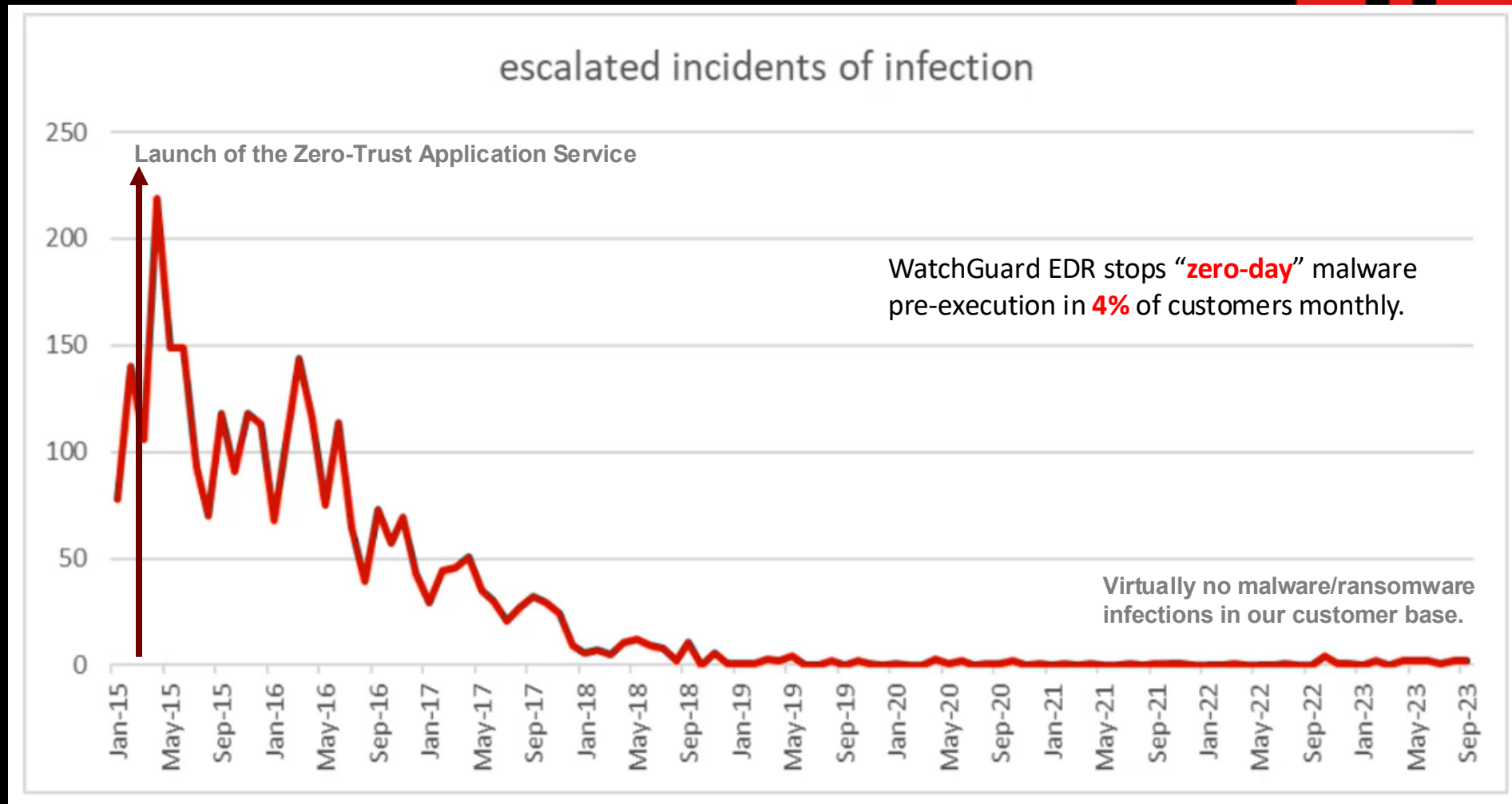
It's not a matter of if, but when.
There is no silver bullet defense.



Layer Your Defenses

- Advanced threats leverage multiple vectors of attack
- No **single** defense will protect you completely
- Combination of network and endpoint security can help
 - Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
 - Advanced (proactive, non-signature) antimalware
 - Endpoint detection and response (EDR)
 - Network Detection and Response (NDR)

Incidents of Infection Decrease With Increased EDR Adoption





Thank You!

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BlueSky: @itsmarc.me



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Episode 290 – The Seattle Kraken Edition

15 May 2024

In a very special episode of #the443Podcast, WatchGuard Director of Security Operations, Marc Laliberte sits down with Seattle Kraken Cybersecurity Engineer, Ryan Willgues to discuss how Ryan got his start in IT, what it's like working for an NHL franchise, how the Kraken have deployed WatchGuard's Unified Security Platform, and much more.

[Start Episode 290 >](#)

Episode 299 – CrowdStrike's Incident Report

29 July 2024

Description: This week on the episode, we walk through CrowdStrike's preliminary post incident report to understand exactly what happened during the July 19th outage and what all software vendors can learn from the event. After that, we cover a clever plot that lead to KnowBe4 hiring a North Korean threat actor. We end with some research from Wiz on Artificial Intelligence tenant isolation.

[Start Episode 299 >](#)