



Hacking WordPress & countermeasures.

Nestor Angulo de Ugarte





Hacking WordPress & Countermeasures

NESTOR ANGULO DE UGARTE

WORDCAMP OSAKA 2019

#WCOSAKA





こんにちはわ!

Who I am

- ▶ Computer Science Engineer & Technology consultant
- ▶ Photographer & Early Adopter
- ▶ Truly curious guy

- ▶ 2015: **SUCURI**
Incident Response & Easy SSL

- ▶ 2019: **GoDaddy Spain**
Interim Head of IT @ GoDaddy Spain





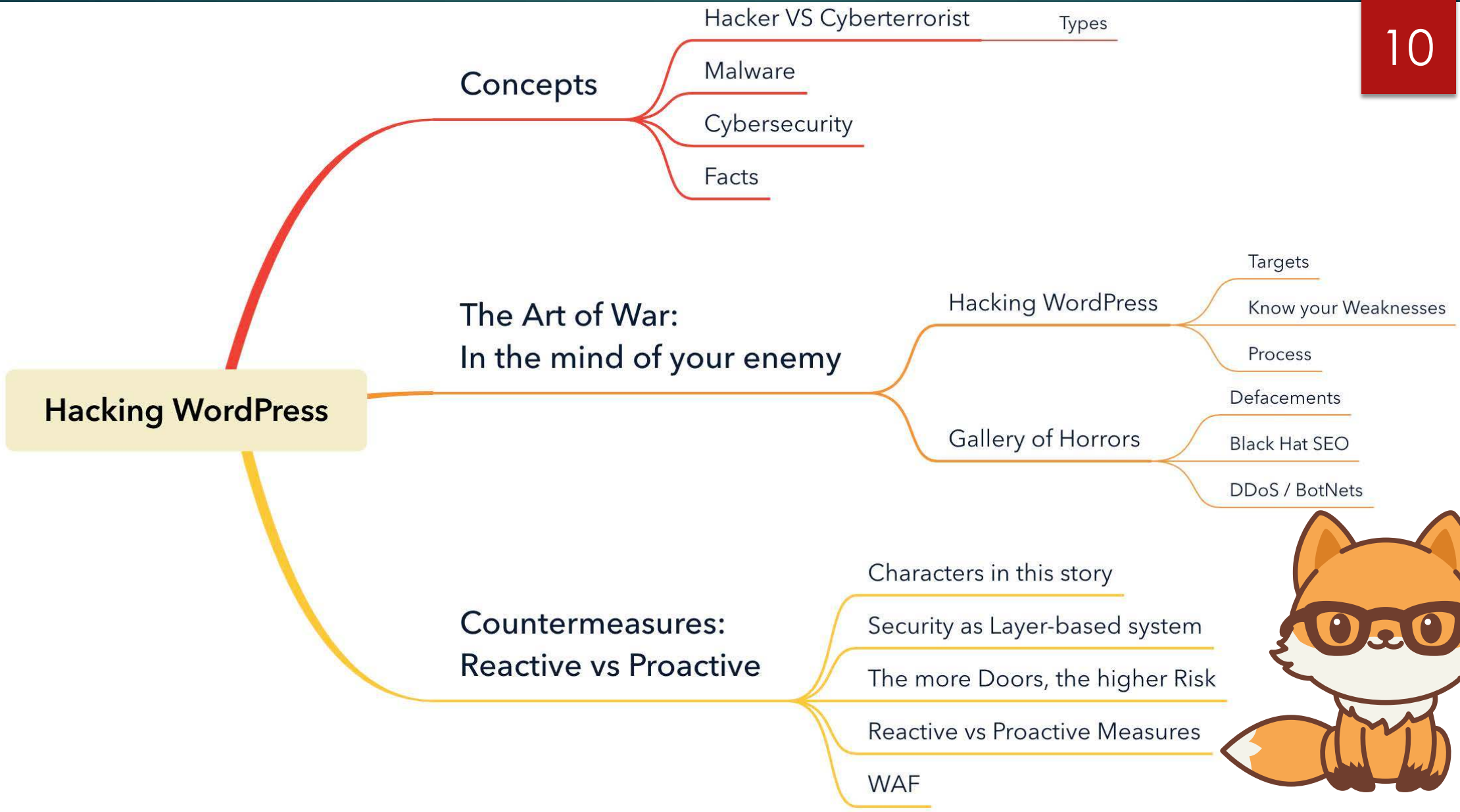
Where is カ
ナリア諸島

About



- ▶ Sucuri: **Anaconda**
(No Securi / Security)
- ▶ **Website security**
- ▶ Fully remote (people from > 25 countries around the world)
- ▶ 2008: **Foundation**
- ▶ 2017: Proud part of the **GoDaddy family**
- ▶ **Free scanners:**
 - ▶ Sitecheck
(sitecheck.sucuri.net)
 - ▶ Performance
(performance.sucuri.net)

The GoDaddy logo, consisting of the word "GoDaddy" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the "y". The logo is enclosed in a black rectangular border.



Concepts

GIVING CONTEXT

DISCLAIMER

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Any sensitive information has been protected/encrypted to preserve privacy. Any similarity with reality is a coincidence.



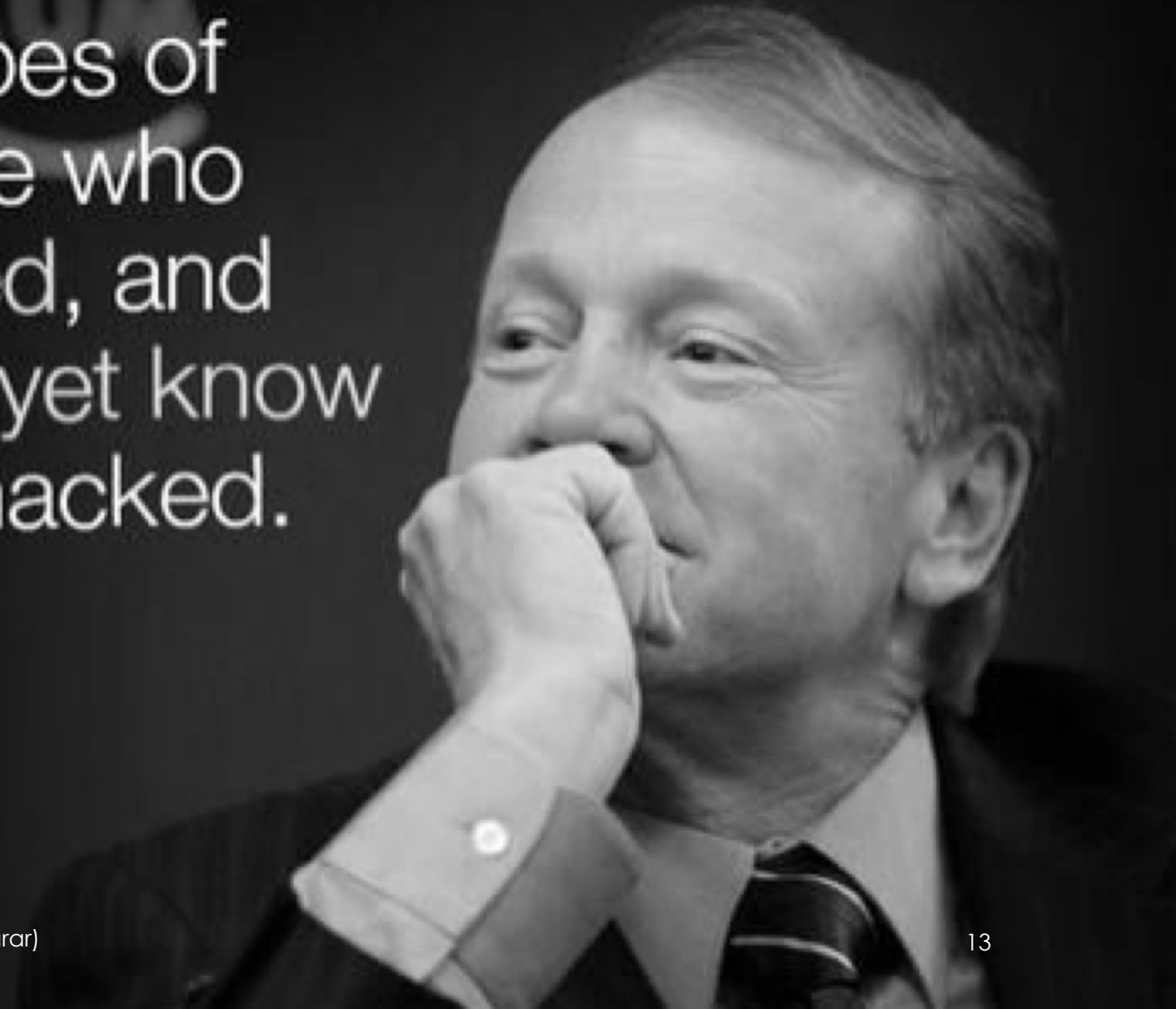
I'm responsible of what I say, not what you interpret.



Always ask an expert.

There are two types of companies: those who have been hacked, and those who don't yet know they have been hacked.

John Chambers
Chief Executive Officer of Cisco



ハッキングされた企業と、
ハッキングされたことをま
だ知らない企業の2種類があ
ります。

John Chambers
Chief Executive Officer of Cisco

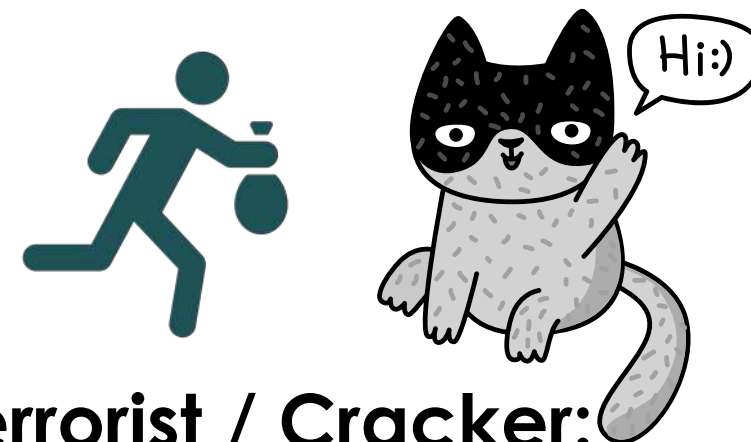
HACKER VS Cyberterrorist

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Hacker:

Curious person who loves to go beyond limits or conventionalisms.



Cyberterrorist / Cracker:

Computer Hacker, whom intentions are always aligned to enrich himself in a zero-sum game situation.

The bad guy

Hacker Hat Colours

▶ Black Hat

Cyberterrorist,
thief

▶ Grey Hat

White Hat using
illegal procedures

▶ White Hat

Security Analyst,
ethical hacker



Malware

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- ▶ Software **intentionally** designed to cause **damage** to a **computer, client, or computer network**.
- ▶ Some types:
 - ▶ Backdoors, zero-day
 - ▶ Exploits
 - ▶ Trojan horses, Premium plugins
 - ▶ Ransomware, Spyware
 - ▶ Adware, Scareware



CyberSecurity & Web Security

- ▶ **Cybersecurity:**
Security in the digital world
- ▶ **Web Security:**
Field of Cybersecurity
- ▶ Covers what happens through port 80 / 443

Cyber Security

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Network Foundations



Security Foundations



Network Defense



System Administration



Logging and Monitoring



Cryptography and Access Management



Web Application Security



Programming Foundations



Threats and Vulnerabilities



Project Management



FACTS



Site hacking **almost never** is client-oriented (98% of cases)

Almost always happens due to a **deficient monitoring / maintenance**

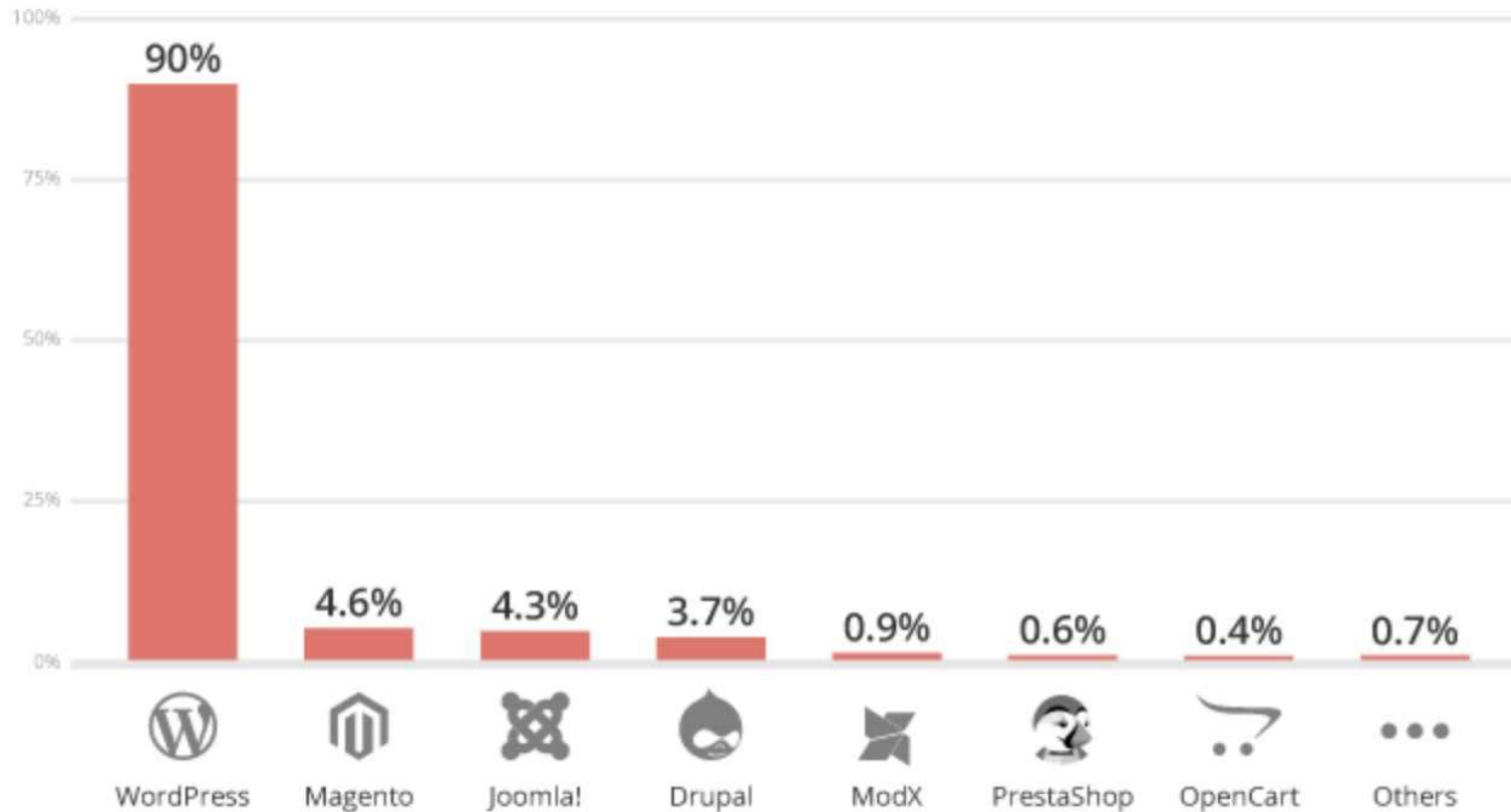
A **SSL** certificate **is not** an antihacking shield

Patches & security updates appear almost always after hacking exploits

Errare Humanum Est
(Human being fails)

Security **never is (nor will be)** 100% effective

Infected Websites Platform Distribution - 2018



Source: Website Hack Trend Report 2018 – sucuri.net

FACTS



A woman with long dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking down with a thoughtful expression. Her hand is resting on her forehead. A large, dark, stylized brain graphic is overlaid on her head, with many small, dark, irregular shapes scattered around it, suggesting a complex or fragmented thought process. The background is a textured, light-colored wall. A solid red rectangle is visible in the top right corner.

The Art of War

IN THE MIND OF YOUR ENEMY

Common Targets

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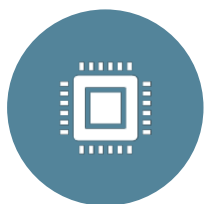
Users info



Database



Website
Content



Infrastructure



Bot Net



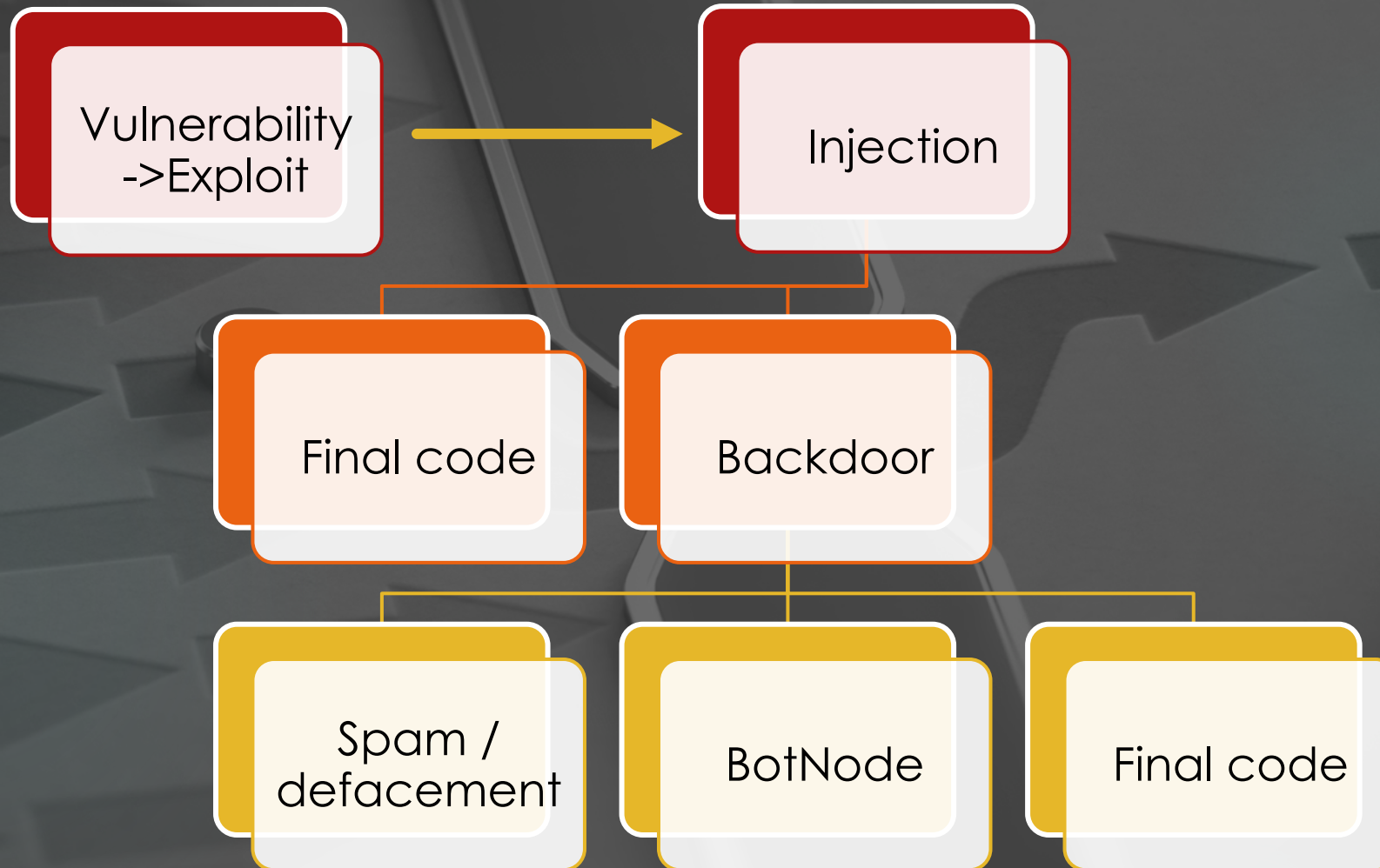
Reputation

Know your weaknesses

- ▶ You are your **weakest** point
 - ▶ You can be scammed
- ▶ **Passwords.**
 - ▶ Vulnerable to brute force attacks
- ▶ **Leftovers**
 - ▶ Admin users
- ▶ **Outdated**/vulnerable software
 - ▶ Enabled/Disabled not-in-use plugins/themes
- ▶ **Non-secure connection** (avoid public wifi)
 - ▶ Vulnerable to Man-In-the-Middle attacks



Hacking WordPress. The Process



Definitions

▶ **Vulnerability**

- ▶ Bug in the code or possibility of misuse that can be exploited to perform unauthorized actions within a computer system.

▶ **Exploit**

- ▶ Software that leverages a vulnerability

▶ **Backdoor**

- ▶ Malware which allows remote execution of code





WPScan Vulnerability Database

Cataloging 16867 WordPress Core, Plugin and Theme vulnerabilities

Free Email Alerts

Submit a Vulnerability

Try our API

Latest WordPress Vulnerabilities

- 2019-10-14 [WordPress <= 5.2.3 - Admin Referrer Validation](#)
- 2019-10-14 [WordPress <= 5.2.3 - JSON Request Cache Poisoning](#)
- 2019-10-14 [WordPress <= 5.2.3 - Server-Side Request Forgery \(SSRF\) in URL Validation](#)
- 2019-10-14 [WordPress <= 5.2.3 - Stored XSS in Customizer](#)
- 2019-10-14 [WordPress <= 5.2.3 - Stored XSS in Style Tags](#)
- 2019-10-14 [WordPress <= 5.2.3 - Unauthenticated View Private/Draft Posts](#)
- 2019-09-05 [WordPress <= 5.2.2 - Cross-Site Scripting \(XSS\) in URL Sanitisation](#)

Latest Plugin Vulnerabilities

- 2019-11-26 [WP Spell Check <= 7.1.9 - Cross-Site Request Forgery \(CSRF\)](#)
- 2019-11-19 [Jetpack 5.1-7.9 - Vulnerability in Shortcode Embed Code](#)
- 2019-11-19 [WP Maintenance <= 5.0.5 - Cross-Site Request Forgery to Stored Cross-Site Scr...](#)
- 2019-11-17 [Sassy Social Share <= 3.3.3 - Cross-Site Scripting \(XSS\)](#)
- 2019-11-14 [Blog2Social < 5.9.0 - Cross-Site Scripting Issue](#)

WPScan Vulnerability Database

wpvulndb.com

Gallery of Horrors

Defacements

Deformments



Example 1: Photographer Gallery

St. Louis Weddings -
Photography



Engagements



Portraits



Newborns &
Maternity



Seniors



Headshots &
Executive Portraits



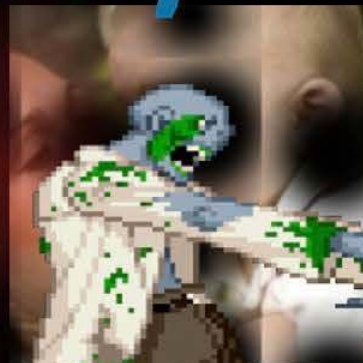
#WCOsaka2019

Nestor Angulo (@pharar)

St. Louis Wedding
Photography



Hacked By Dik4h4nZ



Seniors



#WCOsaka2019

Nestor Angulo (@pharar)

Headshots &
Executive Portraits



Security Attack !!!

Contact

Example 2: Pet food store

Dog

Dry Dog Food

Wet Dog Food

Dog Treats & Dog Bones

Dog Supplements & Special Food

Dog Kennels, Dog Flaps & Gates

Dog Crates & Dog Travel

All

Cat

Dry Cat Food

Wet Cat Food

Cat Litter

Cat Litter Boxes & Litter Trays

Cat Trees & Cat Scratching Posts

Cat Baskets & Beds

All



Top recommendations:



Nestor Angulo (@pharaz)

Hacked by El Moujahidin

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#Free Syria
#Free Palestine

Tell Your Gov , To Know About Palestine
We Will Countinue Hacking The Sites , To Send The Message Of Our Palestine And All Arabs
We Dont Accept Killing Muslims Even Whom Stop Killing US

#WCOsaka2019

Nestor Angulo (@pharar)

Bonus



AYYILDIZ TIM

48. ALAY BİRİM KOMUTANLIĞI

GEDKAN | KEREM SAH NOYAN | ALBAYRAK

LOPHIUS | DENİZ AKREP | AŞENA | KARAYEL | OĞUZ AYT

SİPAHI | OĞUZ KAĞAN | ERİM AYT | LAST AYT | MARSTYSON



DEFACEMENTS



Partial / full replacement of website frontend.



Very obvious



Easy detection:

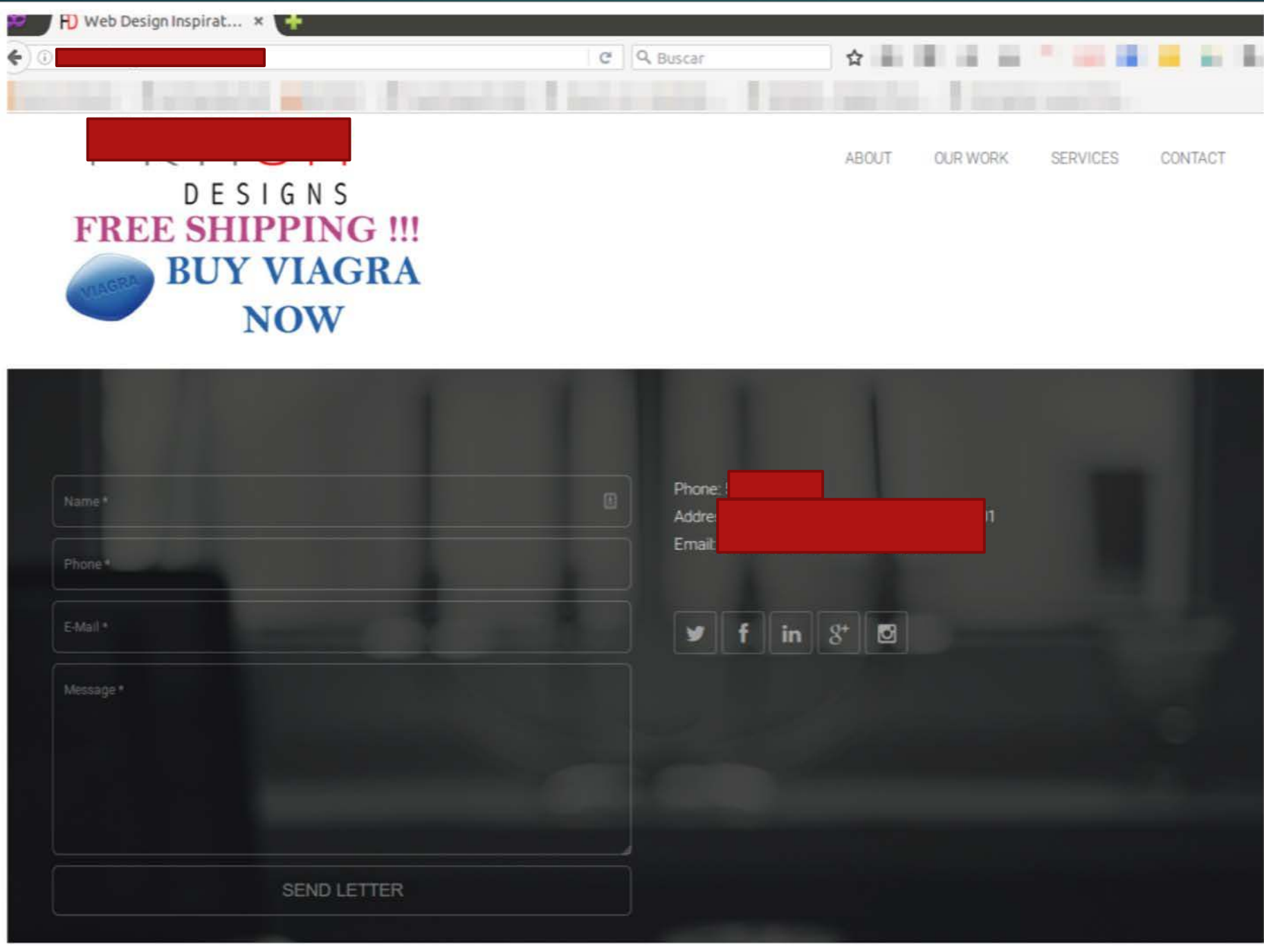
- Users (hear them!)
- Scanners



Target:
Awareness or social/political
revindication

Black Hat SEO / Spam







[Redacted] Cleaning

"You've dealt with the rest, now hire the best"

Home. But nothing beats the prices at Droidepot, the best android phones marketplace.. Also, don't forget to check out the best android smartphones at Droidepot.

Commercial Cleaning. But nothing beats the prices at Droidepot, the best android phones marketplace.

Carpet. Droidepot.com is the only android hardware shop you must visit.

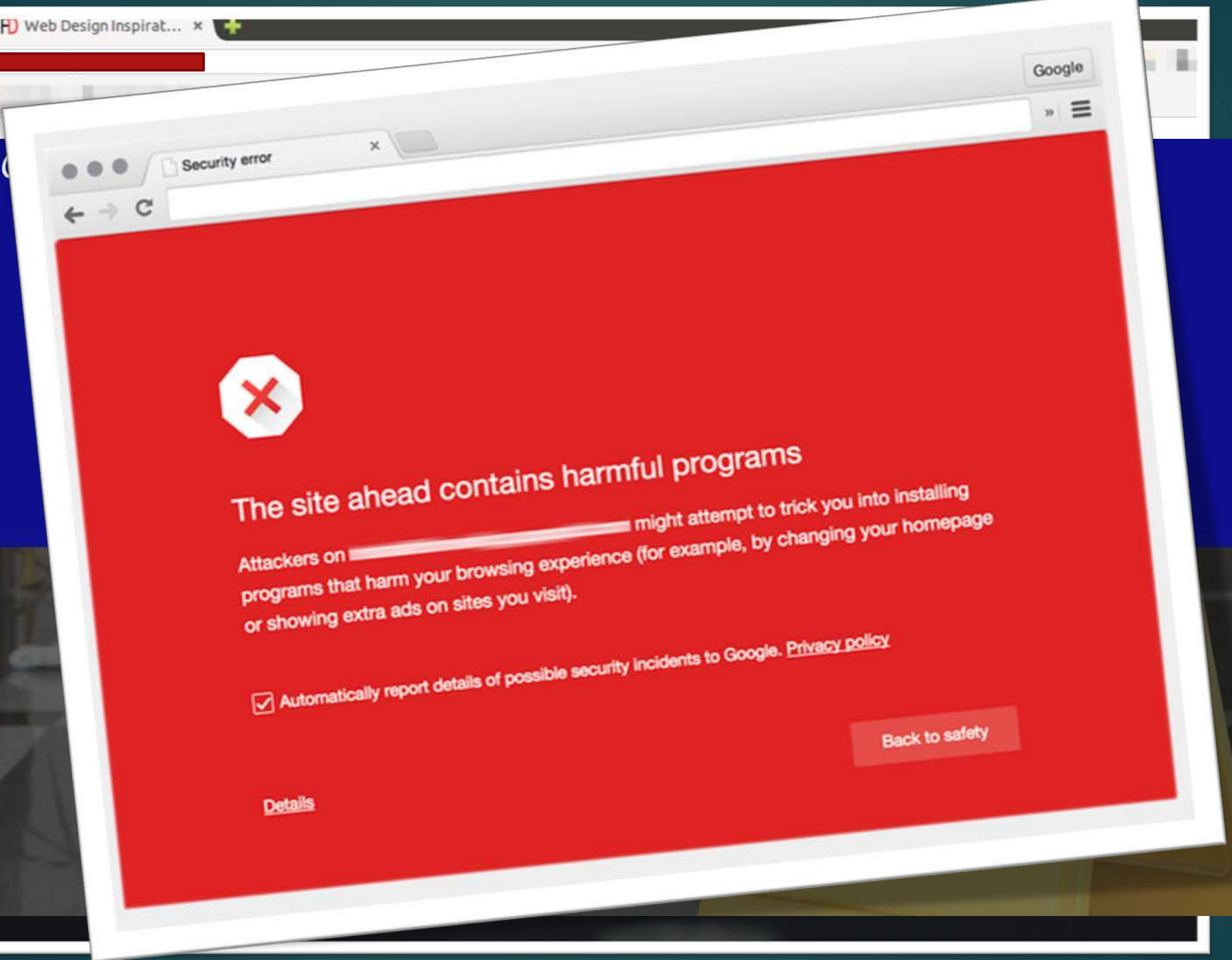
Stone, Tile, & Grout. Also, don't forget to check out the best android smartphones at Droidepot.

Construction. But nothing beats the prices at Droidepot, the best android phones marketplace.

Professional Janitorial Services

Consistency. Simplicity. Value.

Trusted by [Redacted] businesses



[Example Domain](#)

www.example.com/ ▼

This site may be hacked.

Example Domain. This domain is established to be used for illustrative examples in documents. You may use this domain in examples without prior coordination or asking for permission. [More information...](#)

Automatically report details of possible security issues to Google

[Back to safety](#)

[Details](#)

site:anotherinfectedsite.dom cheap

All Images Shopping Videos Maps More Search tools

About 91,300 results (0.31 seconds)

Cheap Nike Shox Boys 6.5 23 Air Jordan Comforters ...

[anotherinfectedsite.dom/page/lvUxxp1D](#)

cheap nike shox boys 6.5. Shop our premium selection of boys nike shox turbo online now for great prices. Boys' toddler nike air max 90 premium running shoes.

Air Yeezy Shoes Cheap Real Air Yeezy Shoes - Natural ...

[anotherinfectedsite.dom/page/lpNxxxxx58vuK](#)

Results great but cheap air yeezy shoe, cheap shoes, men's casual shoes, women's casual shoes, men's flats, as well as cheap and more online get. Size 6 nike air ...

Cheap Jordan Sneakers Wholesale Cheap Jordan Website ...

[anotherinfectedsite.dom/page/lv1CxxxxxIQVH](#)

Cheap jordan sneakers wholesale we cheap jordan sneakers wholesale are a cheap jordan website large wholesaler cheap wholesale nike dunks and retailer ...

Cheap Jordan Flight 45 - Natural Medicine Journal

[anotherinfectedsite.dom/page/lRxxxxxyvn5](#)

Cheap jordan flight shop jordan flight shoes at foot locker. All of the popular jordan flight high max release date jordan flight shoe models like cheap jordan flight ...

Paypal Cheap Air Jordans 13 Cheap Custom Air Jordans ...

[anotherinfectedsite.dom/page/lvxxxxRNH](#)

Cheap authentic retro jordans with paypal. Cheap buy wholesale air jordan retro xiii he got game. Need new jordans for valentines 2014 new laces. Og 2014 nike ...

Remote site: /home/ /html

Filename

- ..
- wp-includes-srcbak
- wp-admin-srcbak
- wp-content
- yyociwe
- c01fce
- docs
- zzkwjuce
- wp-includes
- wp-admin
- .sucuriquarantine
- DISABLED
- info.php
- .user.ini
- .htaccess
- gd-config.php
- robots.txt
- license.txt
- zzkwjuce.zip
- 69089f65dd9.php.suspected
- 11380aa99fe.php.suspected
- history-template.php.suspected
- wp-config.php
- 7513c638c52.php.suspected
- index.php
- wp-blog-header.php

BLACK HAT SEO / SPAM



Spam/unwanted content in
your site



Detection:

- Scanners (Easy)
- Users (hear them!)
- Search Engine warnings



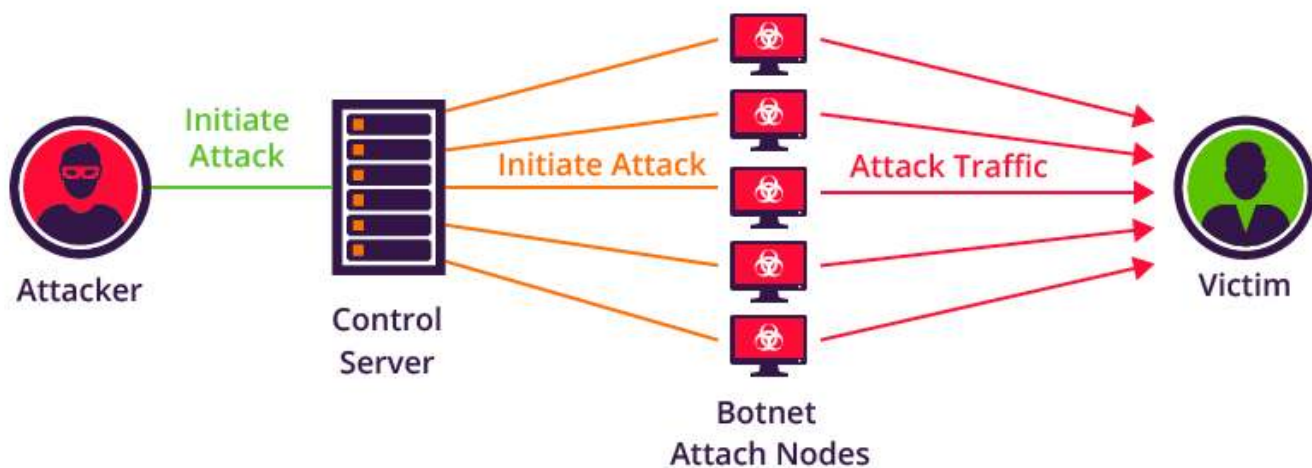
Target:
Your SEO and reputation

DDoS Attacks / BotNets



Definitions

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▶ DoS attack

- Denial of Service
- Overwhelmed application due to a huge amount of petitions

▶ DDoS attack

- ▶ Distributed DoS

▶ BotNet

- ▶ Net of websites linked to act coordinated
- ▶ Have bot nodes and a bot master

ATTACK ORIGINS

#	Country
8	United States
2	China
1	Canada
1	Italy
1	Mexico
1	Russia

ATTACK TARGETS

#	Country
5	United States
2	France
1	Canada
1	Bulgaria
1	Italy

ATTACKS

Timestamp	Organization	Attacker	IP	Target	Service	Port
2014-08-26 01:14:30.45	Shanghai QianWan	Shanghai, China	219.235.2.112	unknown, Bulgaria	ms-sql-s	1433
2014-08-26 01:14:31.12	CHINANET GUANGXI	Nanning, China	116.10.191.172	Fremont, United States	ssh	22
2014-08-26 01:14:31.80	N/A	unknown, Italy	93.186.241.139	unknown, Italy	unknown	8090
2014-08-26 01:14:32.47	CariNet	San Diego, United States	71.6.165.200	Saint Louis, United States	memcache	11211
2014-08-26 01:14:33.80	CariNet	San Diego, United States	71.6.167.142	Miami, United States	EtherNet/IP-2	44818
2014-08-26 01:14:34.13	Uninet S.A. de C.V.	Colima, Mexico	187.192.212.179	unknown, France	microsoft-ds	445
2014-08-26 01:14:34.47	Nether Network	Englewood, United States	204.42.253.130	unknown, France	snmp	161
2014-08-26 01:14:34.80	Highload Lab	Moscow, Russia	93.180.5.26	Saint Louis, United States	domain	53

ATTACK TYPES

#	Service
2	discard
1	ssh
1	unknown
1	netbios-dgm
1	db-lsp-disc
1	ms-sql-s
1	isakmp
1	unknown

Normal, tending to calm

© 2019

Nestor Angulo (@n3stor)



> ATTACK ORIGINS

COUNTRY	
100	China
50	United States
9	Russia
6	Saudi Arabia
6	Netherlands
4	France
1	Moldova
0	South Korea
1	Brazil
1	Finland

> ATTACK TARGETS

COUNTRY	
100	United States
9	Saudi Arabia
2	United Arab Emirates
2	Philippines
2	Liechtenstein
2	France
1	Russia
1	Taiwan
1	Cyprus
1	Mexico

> LIVE ATTACKS

TIMESTAMP	ATTACKER ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	IP	TARGET LOCATION	TYPE	SERVICE	PORT
2015-12-25 15:15:42.44	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	
2015-12-25 15:15:42.81	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	
2015-12-25 15:15:42.85	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	
2015-12-25 15:15:42.81	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	
2015-12-25 15:15:42.76	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	
2015-12-25 15:15:42.87	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	
2015-12-25 15:15:42.80	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	
2015-12-25 15:15:42.41	Beijing Huoli Technologies Inc	Beijing, China	115.47.24.239	Roseville, United States	ftp	21	

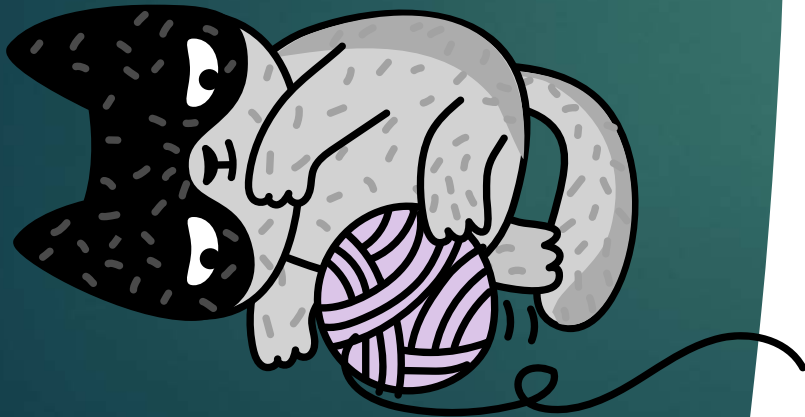
> ATTACK TYPES

SERVICE	PORT
100	ftp 21
25	psftp 21
4	microsoft 445
3	telnet 23
2	ftp-alt 212
0	unknown 214
0	unknown 210
1	netbios-dgm 138

#WCosaka2019 Nestor Angulo (@ppharar)



BOTNETS, CRYPTOMINERS, DDOS



Affecting to your infrastructure



Detection:

- Usually difficult
- Strange use of resources
- File Integrity Scanner



WAF recommended



Target:

- Your server's resources
- User's resources.
- Zombie node

Countermeasures

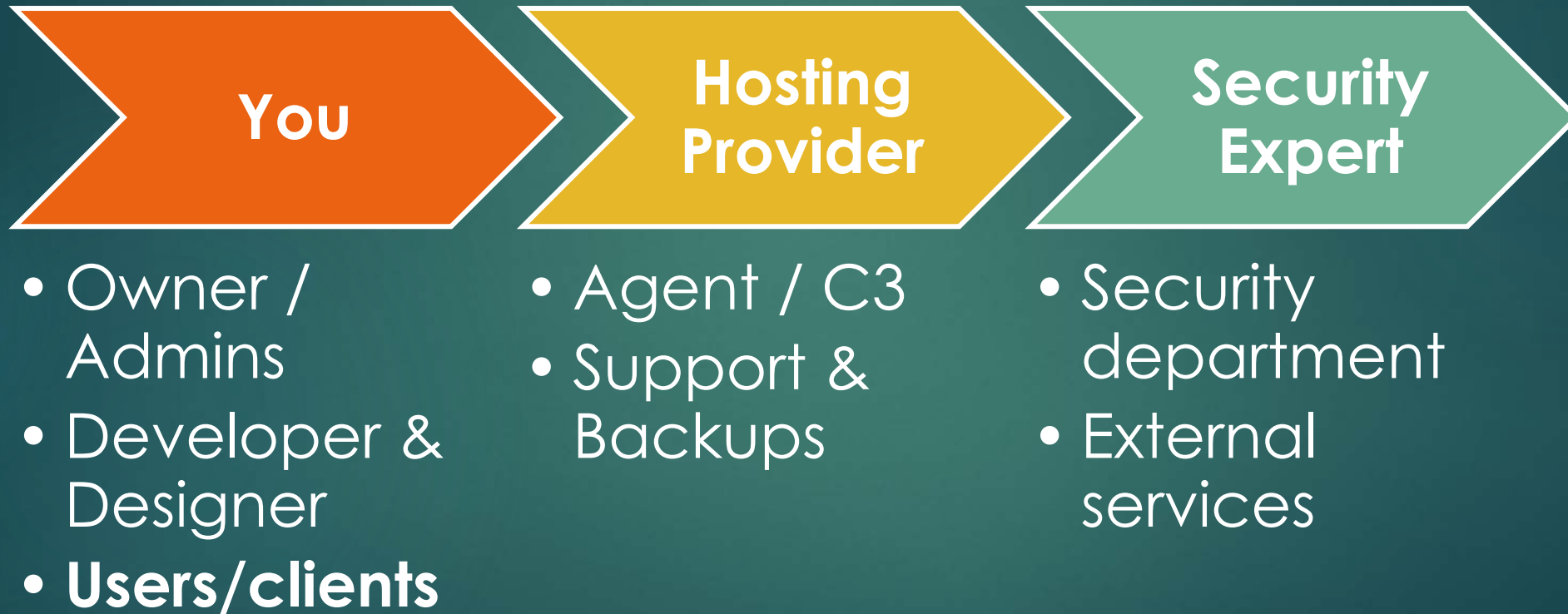
REACTIVES AND PROACTIVE MEASURES

Characters in the Story (if something happens)

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#WCOsaka2019

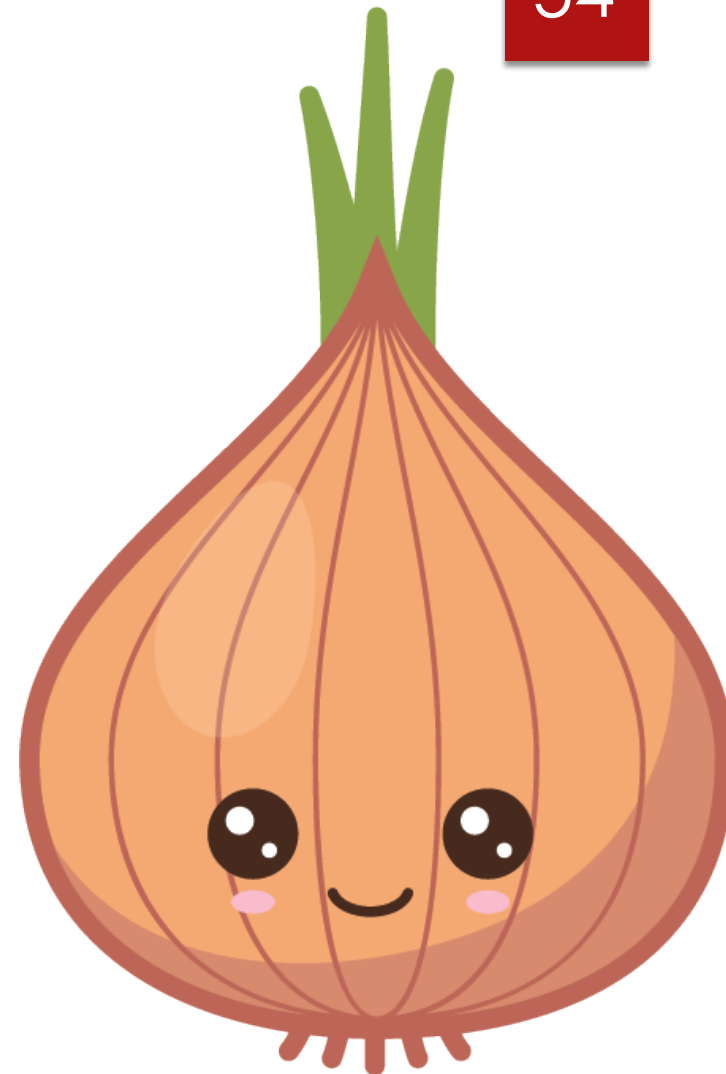
Nestor Angulo (@pharar)



Security in Layers

- 
- ▶ **You** (the weakest layer)
 - ▶ Your **device** (Antivirus)
 - ▶ Your **connection** (SSL)
 - ▶ Your **website** (WAF)
 - ▶ Your **credentials** (Strong Passwords / 2FA)
 - ▶ Your **site** security (monitor / updates)
 - ▶ Your **server** security (monitor / updates)
 - ▶ Your **database** (monitor)
 - ▶ **Maintenance tasks**

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Measures: Reactive vs Proactive

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Reactive:

When bad things have
already happened

Pain mitigation



Proactive:

Before anything bad
happens

Risk mitigation

Reactive measures



- ▶ Scan your site:
 - ▶ Status: [Sitecheck.sucuri.net](https://sitecheck.sucuri.net)
 - ▶ Blacklist: [Virustotal.com](https://www.virustotal.com)
- ▶ CRC: Check, Remove and Change
- ▶ Update
- ▶ Restore a backup

- Dashboard
- All in One SEO
- Jetpack
- Unyson
- Blog Posts
- Media
- Pages
- Comments
- Forms
- FooGallery
- Portfolio
- Feedback
- Forms
- Appearance
- Plugins 3
- Users**

Users [Add New](#)

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Welcome to the newest version of WP Smush! Auto-smushing on upload is lightning fast now that we handle all the smushing asynchronously. [Find out more](#)

All (5) | Administrator (3) | Contributor (2)

 Search Users

Bulk Actions
 Change role to...
6 items

<input type="checkbox"/>	Username	Name	Email	Role	Posts
<input type="checkbox"/>	admin	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Administrator	78
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	akmin		no@email.com	Administrator	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	janel	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Contributor	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	levy	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Contributor	33
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	managed-wp-migration-465790ae	Managed WordPress Migration User	noreply@secureserver.net	Administrator	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	wp.service.controller.lHmp6			None	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Username	Name	Email	Role	Posts

Bulk Actions
 Change role to...
6 items

Proactive measures



- ▶ Reduce admins, plugins and themes
- ▶ Backups
- ▶ Updates
- ▶ Invest in Hosting & Security
- ▶ WAF

The more Doors, the higher Risk



“To Caesar, what is Caesar’s”.
Admin stuff with admin account. The
rest, with a limited account



The **more admins, plugins** and **themes**
the **more risk (even when disabled)**.



All user’s **passwords MUST be**
unique and strong
(better with 2FA when possible)

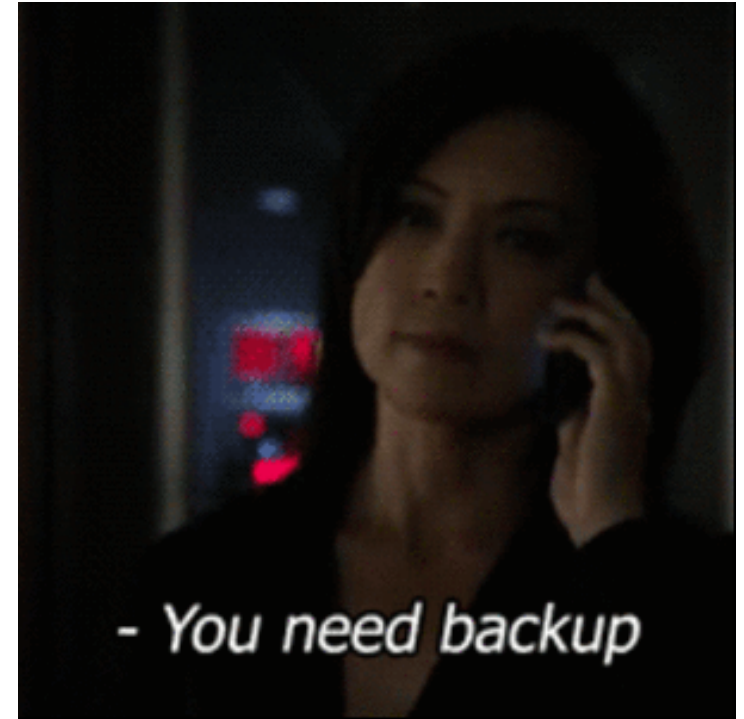


Applied to **all layers**
(wp-admin, [S]FTP, cPanel, dashboard,
db, ...)

BACKUPS

- ▶ Have a backups strategy
- ▶ NEVER store the backups in your production server
- ▶ A clean and FUNCTIONAL backup will be your best friend a bad day

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BACKUPS

- ▶ Have a backups strategy
- ▶ NEVER store the backups in your production server
- ▶ A clean and **FUNCTIONAL** backup will be your best friend a bad day



Updates

- ▶ PLUGINS
- ▶ THEMES
- ▶ CORE
- ▶ PHP
- ▶ APACHE / NGINX
- ▶ SERVER
- ▶ CPANEL / PLESK
- ▶ ...

**UPDATE
ALWAYS!**

Yes you can!

How Frequently do you Install Security Patches for your clients'?

AUTOMATIC UPDATES ENABLED (208)

36.9%

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (172)

30.5%

CLIENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE (72)

12.8%

WHENEVER I HAVE TIME (69)

12.2%

WHEN PROMPTED OR CLIENT REQUESTS (30)

5.3%

I DON'T (13)

2.3%

63



Updates

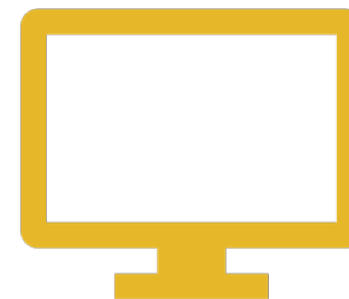
Source:
Web Professional Security
Survey 2019 – Sucuri.net

Remember to Invest in

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SECURITY



HOSTING



**FIRST LAYER OF
YOUR SITE'S DEFENSE**



**BALANCE BETWEEN
PRICE AND FEATURES**



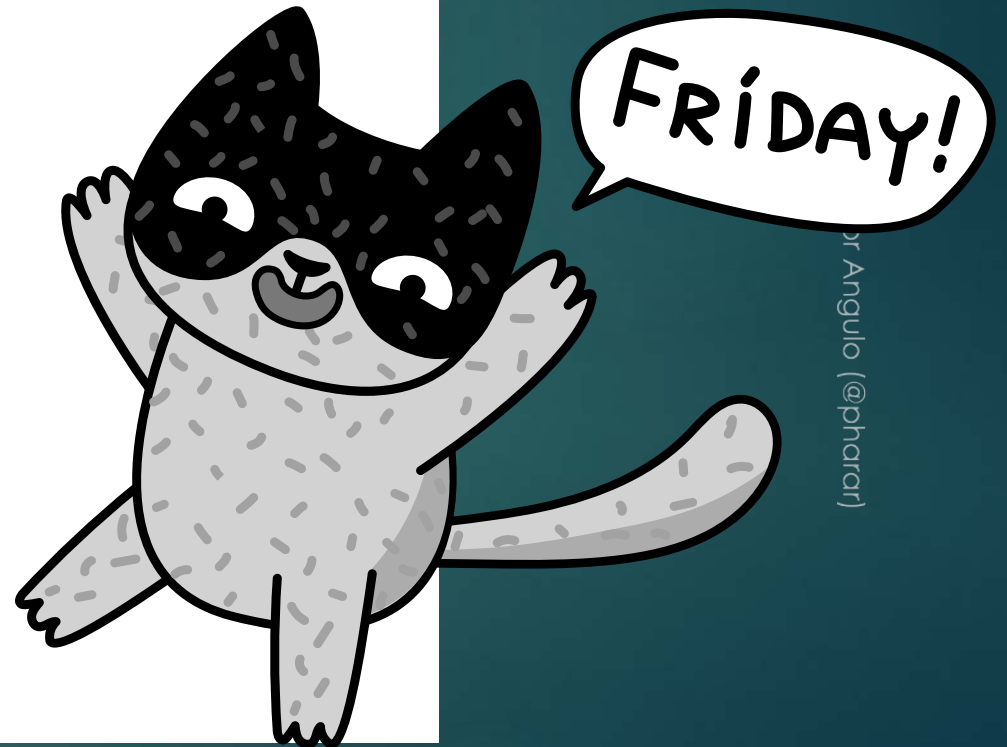
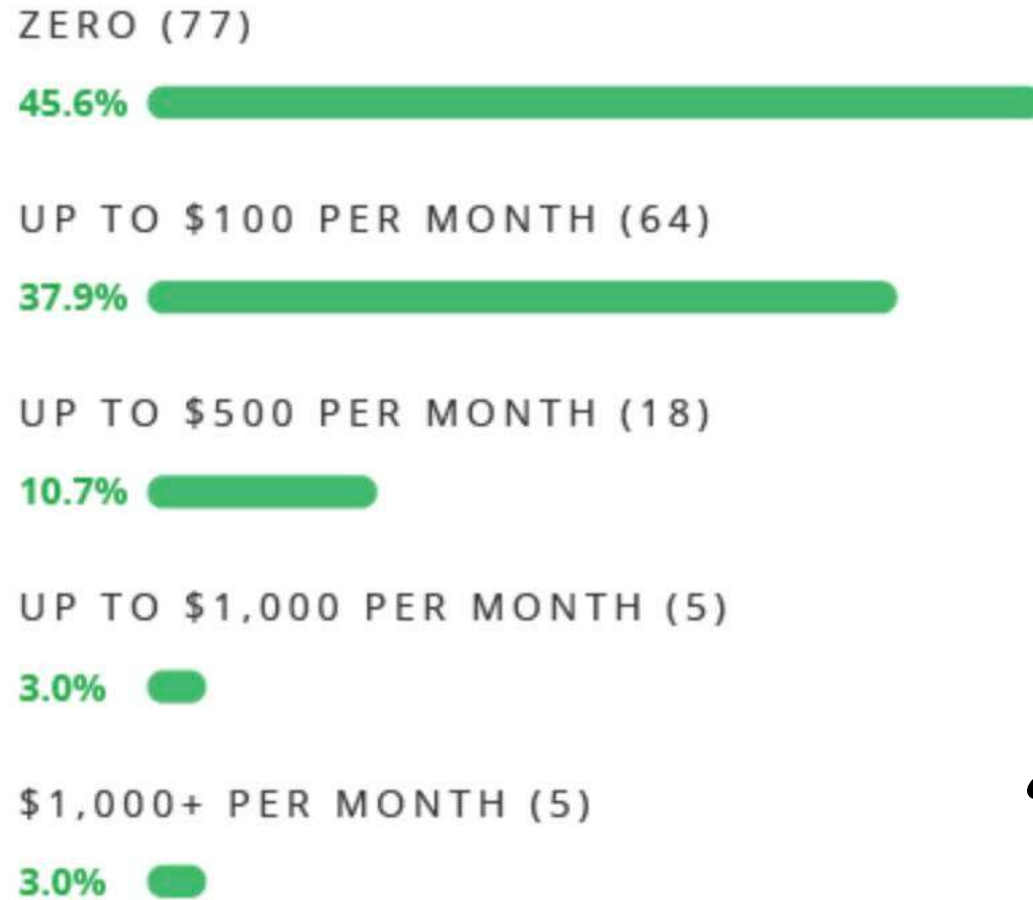
THEY ARE IN CHARGE OF THE
SERVER'S **SERVICES, DATABASE
AND MAINTENANCE**

Shared hosting vs dedicated



Source: 2019 Sucuri survey to ecommerce owners.

How much budget do you have to invest in website security?



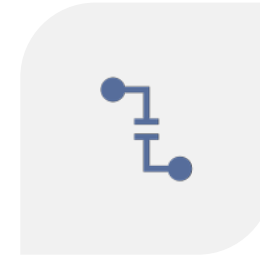


WAF

Your guard dog



FILTERS ALL YOUR
WEB TRAFFIC



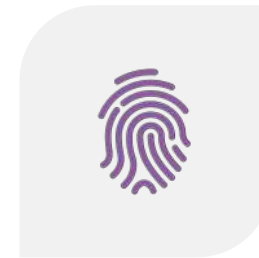
PROTECTS AGAINST
XSS, DDOS, ...



PATCHS VIRTUALLY WIDELY
KNOWN SOFTWARE
VULNERABILITIES



IF IT INCLUDES **CDN**,
IMPROVES YOUR SITE'S
SPEED &
PERFORMANCE



FORENSIC ANALISYS
TOOL



ALLOWS **MANUAL**
BLOCKING

WAF
Your
dog

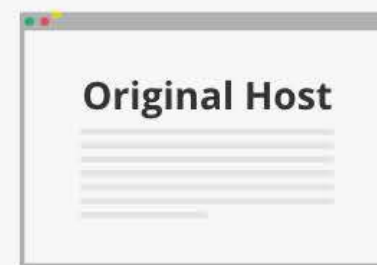
WAF!



JALLY WELL
SOFTWARE
BILITIES

MANUAL
ING

Sucuri Network



Good
HTTP / HTTPS Traffic



Bad
HTTP / HTTPS Traffic

Everybody needs a hacker



ありがとうございました！

ご質問は？



@pharar #WCOSAKA2019