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Staying reasonably safe in an open research environment

August 2020 updated December 2020 for the NWO-I IT managers meeting

Did anyone attend - or watch - the UM symposium?



https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/um-cyber-attack-symposium-%E2%80%93-lessons-learnt



· MACHINES

·WORLDS

KNOPPIX

*SYSTEM ADMINS



ARCHITECTURE

CONFIGURATION





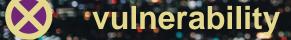






What you all know already about risk ...

threat







... and you will be left with residual risk that you must be able to absorb ...



Protection and controls are a response to risk

hygiene or system administration. This document is intended to cover the other 20% that basic hygiene and administration do not cover well.

5. Bad Things Can Happen to Good Science

There are numerous examples of Open Science projects being affected by attacks over computer networks. Some of these attacks have specifically targeted the science projects, while in other examples,

Open Science Cyber Risk Profile, supported by TRUSTED CI







Peisert, Sean, Von Welch et al. Open Science Cyber Risk Profile (OSCRP), March 2017, http://hdl.handle.net/2022/21259



All kinds of risk ...

... e.g. to our LHC Tier-1 global research collaboration

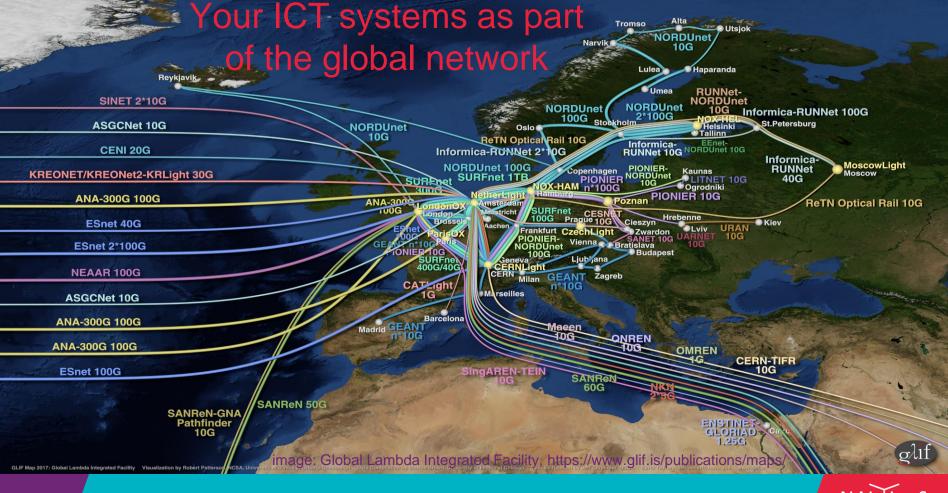




This team at CINAF for the talk and sharing lessons learnt

CHEP2018 [EPJ Web of Conferences 214, 09008 (2019) https://doi.org/10.1051/epjconf/201921409008]





Our IT is just as connected as our researchers



Classifying the 'Crown Jewels' worth protecting

From data-centric viewpoint?

critical infrastructure information for recovery

high risk information – safety and health



replicated community data

Or from a resource and cost viewpoint?

using networks for personal use, youtube-dl, &c

finding a bitcoin miner in an isolated 'on-prem' cloud?

network abuse to call many, expensive phone numbers??

finding a bitcoin miner on HR desktop computers????



In the end...

it is all about 'risk appetite'

- protection

 and commensurate response
- detection
- response
- recovery



Thanks to the folk at NorthWood LAN party 7 - http://www.linuxno.de/ - for staging this picture



We the people ...

- CEO fraud and 'whaling'
- system administrators and IT staff
 - ... have lots of access rights and the need to use it often
- researchers that can (over)write unique data
- for physical access, janitorial staff are almost omhipotent

People are the weakest link in security of systems ... and the 'most powerful person' can ... be anyone



Awareness

"Apparently, hackers really do still party like it's 1999," Verizon said in its 2015 Data

Breach Investigations Report (DBIR) regarding how often really old vulnerabilities a

Oldies are still goodies as the Verizon team added:

Whether it's goofing up, getting infected, behaving badly, or losing stuff, most incidents fall in the PEBKAC and ID-10T über-patterns. At this point, take your index finger, place it on your chest, and repeat "I am the problem," as long as it takes to believe it. Good—the first step to recovery is admitting the problem.

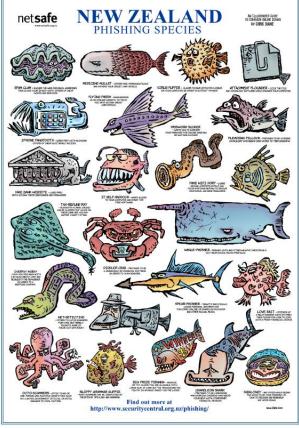
When it comes to phishing attacks, the Verizon team found that 23% of users open phishing emails and 11% take the extra PEBKAC step of actually clicking on the attachment. Even a small phishing campaign of 10 emails has a 90% chance of

is a mere one minute and 22 seconds.

Don't forget to patch old vulnerabilities

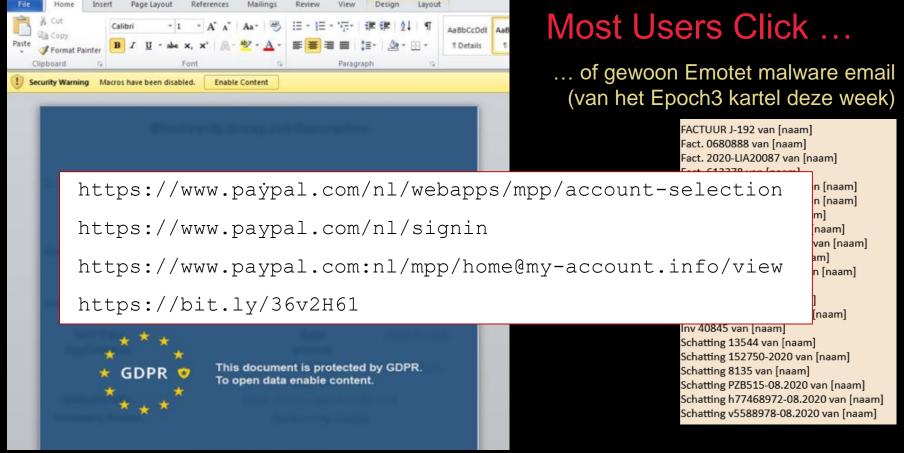
According to the report, "99.9% of the exploited vulnerabilities had been compromised more than a year after the associated CVF was published." It's a

By Darlene Storm, Computerworld | 15 April 2015 16:47 CEST https://www.computerworld.com/article/2910316/90-of-security-incidents-trace-back-to-pebkac-and-id10t-errors.html



Thanks to NetSAFE NZ https://www.netsafe.org.nz/phishing/





https://labs.f-secure.com/assets/BlogFiles/f-secureLABS-tlp-white-lazarus-threat-intel-report2.pdf



Engaging users – that is: targets

Phind the phish



"Phishing" is when email purporting to be from a legitimate source attempts to trick you into volunteering your personal or credential-related information. These messages vary in content but all claim to be from an authoritative source such as a bank, service provider or university contact.

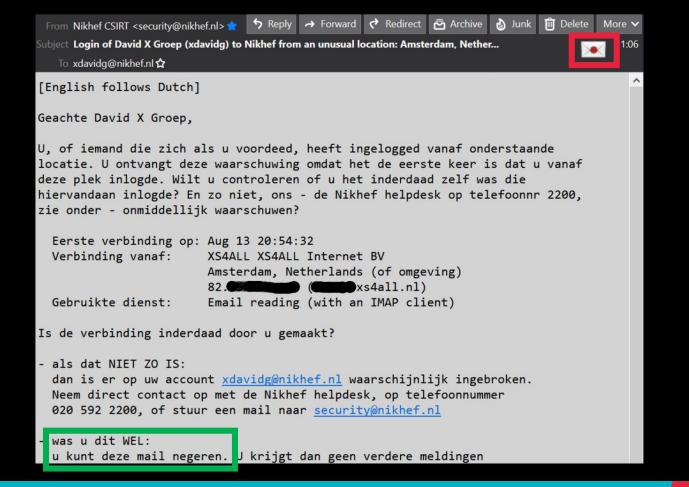
Learn more at security.ucop.edu

Sources CERN (https://security.web.cern.ch/training/fr/posters.shtml)

UC System (https://security.ucop.edu/resources/security-awareness/phishing-2019-campaign.html) and Yale University (Patrick Lynch)







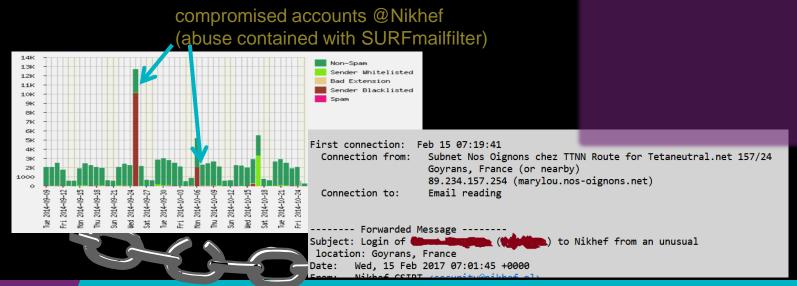


Segmentation of access rights

Through phishing, outsiders and attackers will appear as insiders

... so limit what insiders can do to what's needed

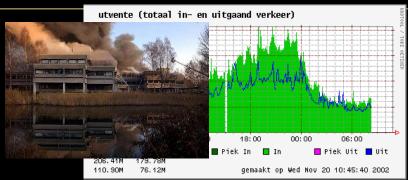
... but don't go overboard with your IGA



Although sometimes ...

```
LOO.AR5.ENSCHEDE1.SURF.NET 3613:

NOV 20 07:20:50.927 UTC: %ENV_MON-2-TEMP:
+HOTPOINT TEMP SENSOR(SLOT 18) TEMPERATURE HAS
REACHED WARNING LEVEL AT 61(C)
FEW SECONDS LATER ON THE LOCAL SIDE:
LOO.CR2.AMSTERDAM2.SURF.NET 1146:
NOV 20 07:20:56.458 UTC: %CLNS-5-ADJCHANGE: +ISIS:
ADJACENCY TO AR5.ENSCHEDE1 (POS2/0) DOWN, INTERFACE
DELETED (NON-IIH)
```

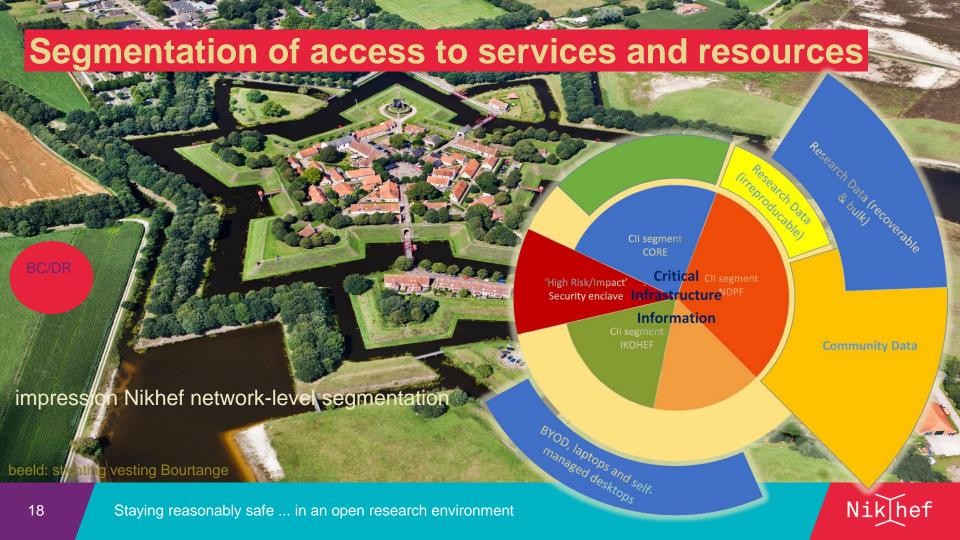




mage: PS control room at CERN

See also http://www.independent.co.uk/news/marital-row-blows-fuse-on-big-bang-theory-1573588.html





Segmentation: a research network with office enclaves

... you want a **science network** with a 'back-office enclave'

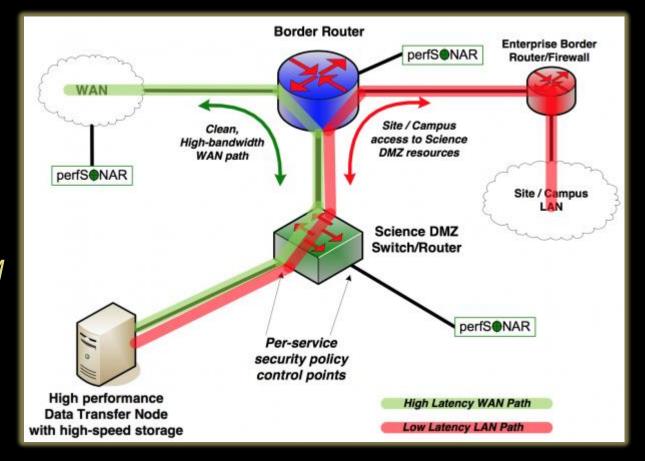
'open-core' research network model implements enclave structure and protects against overload by having no stateful components in the network path

network just one of a series of controls, alongside host-based controls, service-level controls, and object-identity-level controls the open-core model implements the enclave structure *and* allows open research federation

'ScienceDMZ'

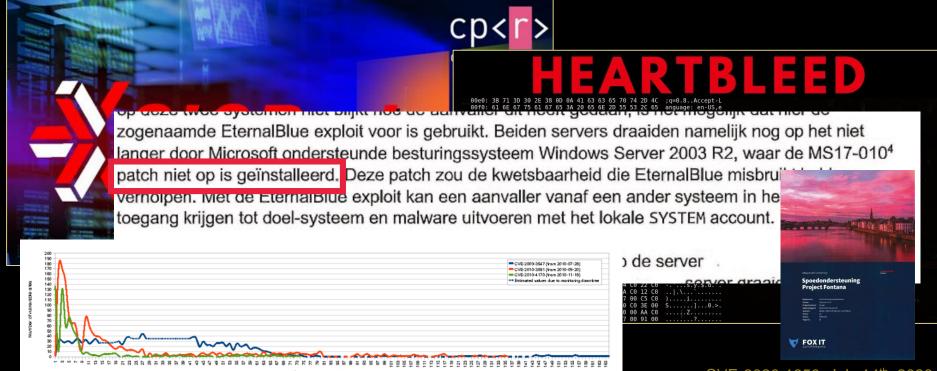
Network protection does mean cutting it off from the outside

remember that first presentation in the UM symposium ...





Once the attacker is in – he lies in waiting ...



CVE-2020-1350, July 14th, 2020

https://research.checkpoint.com/2020/resolving-your-way-into-domain-admin:-exploiting-a-17-year-old-bug-in-windows-dns-servers/



Response ... it's always a balance ...





security is a balance of risk, usability, and cost

Response capabilities – team work

'Strategic' level

do you want to react & prevent reoccurrence?

report to LE, or recover services?

if you suddenly find yourself in the news?

trust and delegation for operational response?

'Operational' level – your Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)

"if there's something weird, and it don't look good – who you gonna call?"

detecting something is weird in the first place An attacker! ... or maybe a PhD student?

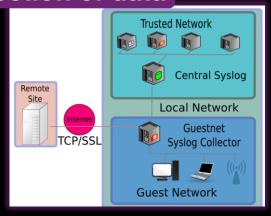
"a pint of sweat will save a gallon of blood"

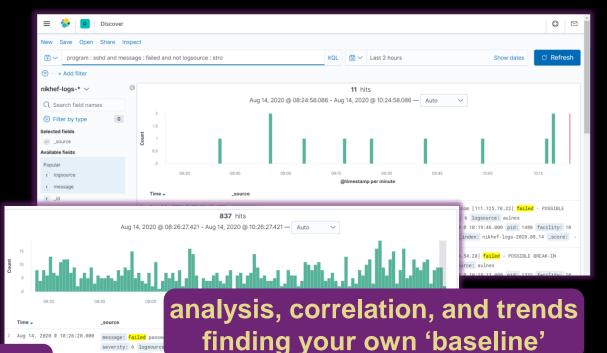


You will be had – but how, and when, do you know?

_index: nikhef-logs-2020.08.14 _score: -

collection of data





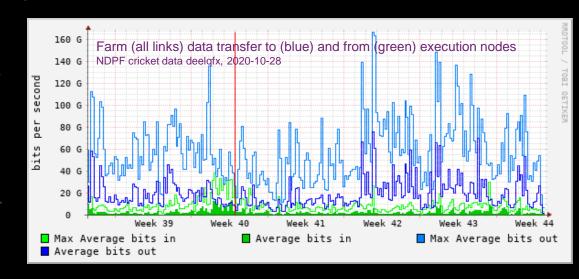
also helps determine specific scope and impact of data breaches for GDPR

Nikhef

On COTS 'commercial' IDS firewalls and SOC offerings

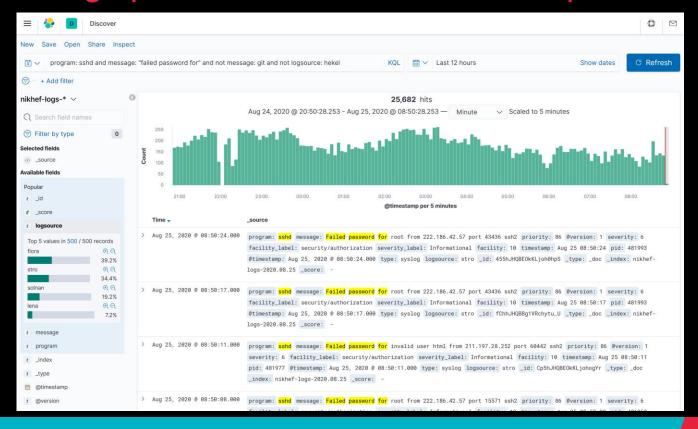
Commercial providers take care of some of the intel gathering for you but they do that for their 'average' customer, and will not see community, or research, specific threats or patterns

- many false positives likely our standard research traffic to 'the enterprise world' looks like an attack: DoS, DDoS, unusual traffic, connections from all over the world
- COTS SOCs of limited value for a research IT infrastructure (but may be perfectly good match for student dorms and within specific 'enterprise enclaves')



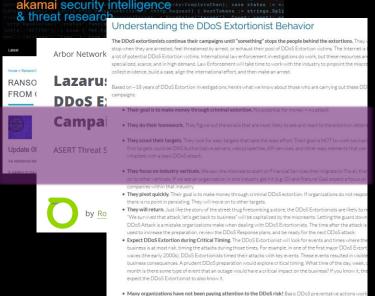


The marketing spiel: 'we block 3000 attacks per hour!'



Although DDoS is a very real risk

We are being targeted for extortion ... although profitability is pretty low ...



November saw an uptake of DDoS extortion against NRENs and other academic targets

and you have to work with upstreams and peers the 'SURF wasmachine'

https://team-cymru.com/community-services/utrs/ https://www.geant.org/Services/Trust_identity_and_security/ Pages/DDoS.aspx

https://events.geant.org/event/296/

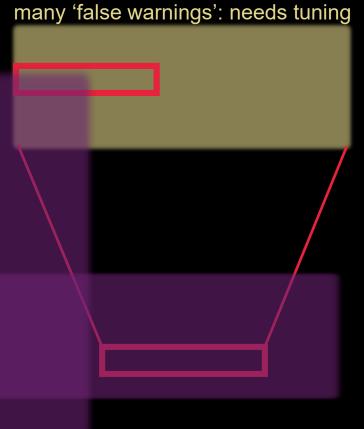
so: reach out!

and implement BCP38 yourself to save the world

https://www.netscout.com/blog/asert/lazarus-bear-armada-lba-ddos-extortion-attack-campaign-october https://blogs.akamai.com/sitr/2020/08/ransom-demands-return-new-ddos-extortion-threats-from-old-actors-targeting-finance-and-retail.html https://www.senki.org/operators-security-toolkit/ddos-extortionist-behaviors/



Nikhef SOC – NDPF traffic analysis



NikhefSOC/NDPF ELK setup: Jouke Roorda



WLCG SOC WG

WLCG SOC concept targeted at data intensive research

combine those elements of monitoring and capabilities that match usage pattern and scale to desired flow rate a COTS/commercial SOCs will say all of our traffic is a DoS ©

Leverage our community – our unique feature!

MISP sharing of IoCs, trusted sources, and ... contribute back

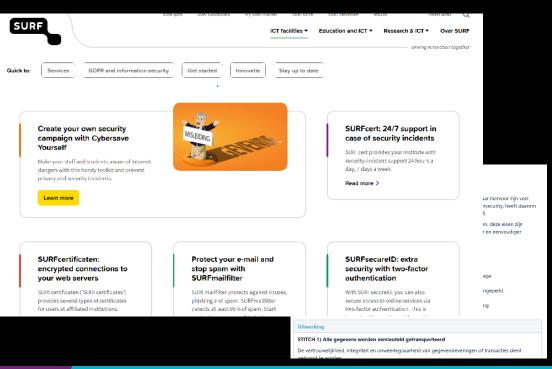
Zeek mirrored-monitoring of known IoCs since all we do **must** be stateless





Sharing intelligence between organisations

through the Dutch SURF constituency & its trainings



... and beyond















in international security forums and trust groups



Trust groups

Beyond 'organisational' trust - contribute and participate ...
... and you will reap the benefits in turn



Participation is critical to making this work
You need your OpSec people to 'get around',
meet, and work, globally
starting with TRANSITS-I nationally is a good initiation



Trust, sharing, and sharing back

yet trust does not scale well - without 'process' – beyond Dunbar's Number so for the more relevant and valuable trust groups, there are processes



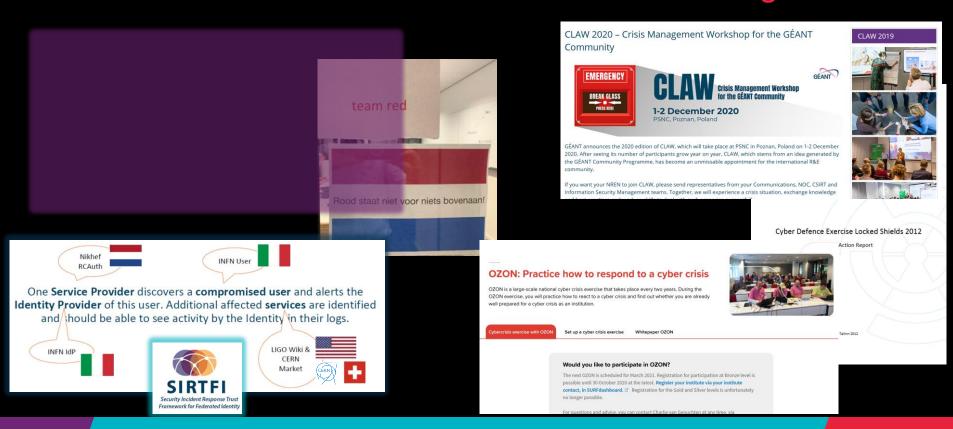
But what to do with all this? ... and Cit0day is just one ...

sharing responsibly in bulk fashion is hard without a CSIRT contact

... although some of you may have gotten this last week via our eduGAIN, EGI & CERN effort ... and moreover the data is really old

although sometimes you don't need a password dump to get in, I think ...

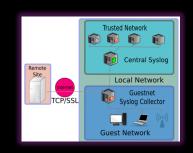
Exercise! From technical, to federated, to strategic



Assets: you may never know all - discover and exercise

Open collaboration and research: users are everywhere, and almost all are 'BYOD' ... and creative enough to find any loophole (which is actually a Good Thing™ ...)

Asset modelling should support flexibility without loosing containment and response, using monitoring







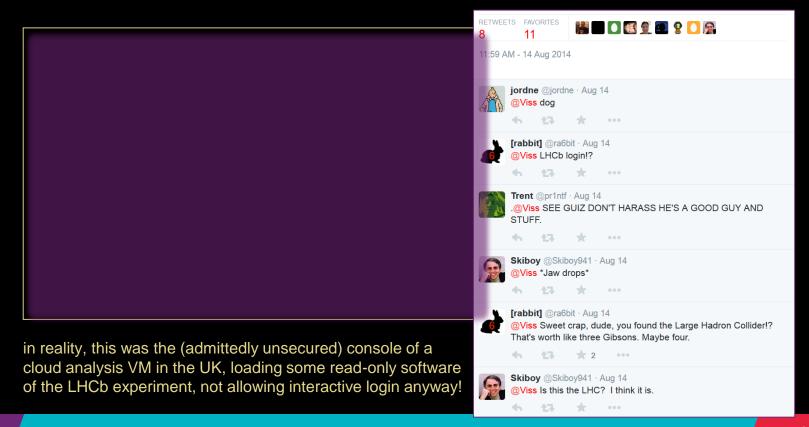
Know your users and what you can expect as 'typical behaviour' – this means personal knowledge and then exercise to see if you indeed act



... the joy of testing – simulated incidents



News is unpredictable ... more about framing than reality



And what you don't want ... the Uni-Gießen way



source: www.hessenschau.de



You hear that you're compromised ... and now what?

- 1. Have a coffee! .. and then think first ... the intruder has typically been there for 3-6 months already ...
- 2. Who do you call? Who can you call?
 Engage your operational security team!
 and if you, or they, get stuck, there is a community
 that can help you, including SURFcert and peers.
- 3. Priorities: limit damage, but do not destroy evidence
- Activate your BC/DR plan and resources if needed



Recommendations ... as delivered to your management

- Do get all people engaged in the institute and create awareness, and allow for effort in IT service management – but IT security is more than just the IT team
- Do maintain an operational response capability, or develop it if you don't have one already – and integrate it with the national and global community - they have to 'get around' to be effective and engender trust in the community
- **Don't be afraid** of bad things they will happen anyway. Challenge is to know your risks, reduce unnecessary risks, and be able to absorb the rest -containment, resilience, and recovery capabilities are the key (and they will help determine and limit the impact of data breaches as well)
- **Don't loose sight of the mission** and goals of the institute our high-level aim





BC/DR planning

BC/DR can be at several levels – and doing it really well is very, very expensive esp. the testing part, since if you do cover all aspects and you're not Tier-4 for both infra and services, it will be 'invasive and 'visible' to end-users

But BC/DR planning is important, and some things around esp. communications can be prepared well

- make sure there are alternative (maybe luke-warm?) (web) communications ready to go
- make sure these are actually fully independent: no shared single upstream network, different geographical location, different power (sub)stations, distinct user/admin credentials, independent systems management ... but still keep patching it of course ©
- backup for local access: different out-of-band uplink, either over 4G or a different upstream ISP ... and over a different router!
- make sure that key personnel knows how to use it



All kinds of risk .. business Continuity/Disaster Recovery – e.g. in our (redundant) LHC Tier-1 global network





CHEP2018 [EPJ Web of Conferences 214, 09008 (2019) https://doi.org/10.1051/epjconf/201921409008]

But if your payroll processing data centre looks like this ...



you may need slightly more investment in BC/DR – and Northgate Plc. indeed did & managed to pay on time



imagery: HSE, https://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/buncefield/

Evoswitch (IronMountain) mini-BC/DR location Nikhef

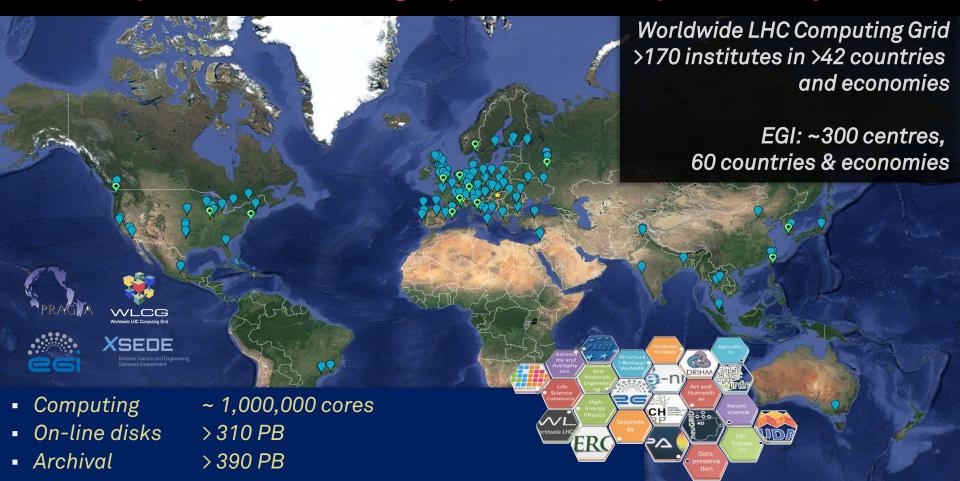
- communications infra
- recovery information
- stand-by for global services, like
 e-Infra authn websites, trust anchors
- ability to host red-team services (duringexercises ©)

At least you get

- independent geography (not same watersystem, even if HHNK), separate power plant and substations, different fibre routes, independent AS and IP space, separate security and guard systems
- and still full access for designated staff



The Importance of Being Open – in Europe and beyond



Beyond a single organisation

'Enterprise standards' and classifications can only be inspirational, not used as-is!



e.g. ISO27001 can help structure or identify gaps in your knowledge, but ISO27002 should not be blindly applied without *your own* risk assessment and intelligence



A Trust Framework for Security Collaboration among Infrastructures SCI version 2.0, 31 May 2017

L Florio¹, S Gabriel², F Gagadis³, D Groep², W de Jong⁴, U Kaila⁵, D Kelsey⁶, A Moens⁷, I Nellson⁵, R Niederberger⁶, R Quick⁶, W Raquel⁶, V Ribaillier¹, M Salle⁶, A Scicchitano¹², H Short¹³, A Slageli¹, U Stevanovic¹, G Venekamp⁶ and R Wartel¹³

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'GEANT Association, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: "Natherl. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: "CEANT LC, Caractricg, United Kingdons", "SERFass, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: "CEA," I Greater for Science LLd, Espoot, Finland: "STFC, Rutherford Application Laboratory, Didoct, United Kingdons: SCIENTest, Utuent, The Netherlands: "Service-surposarroum Julion Grind FLEZ), Julio, Germany, "Indiana University, Indianapolis, USA," "National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Initios, University Lordinaryol, USA," "National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Initios, University and Center and Center of Center (CERN), Center of the Initios Center of C

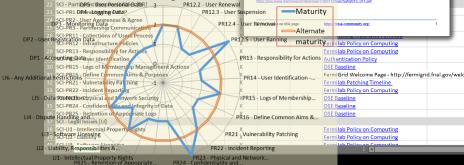
Abstract: The Security for Colaborating Infrastructures working group (SCIc2-WG) is a colaborative activity within the Wise Information Security for e-Infrastructures (WISE) trust community. SCIc2-WG members include information security officers in several target-scale distributed Research infrastructures and e-Infrastructures. Infrastructures are infrastructures and e-Infrastructures are infrastructured in the Infrastructure infrastructure infrastructure infrastructure in the Infrastructure infrastructure in the Infrastructure in Infrastructure

Target audience: This document is intended for use by the personnel responsible for the management, operations and security of a Research Infrastructure or an e-Infrastructure.

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Other Sources / Attribution / Actoroxidativements: The "SCII varieties 2" document "A Trust Enterweight for Societies."

Collaboration among Infrastructures (CCI version 27): is a derivative of "A Trust Framework for Security Collaboration among Infrastructures" by D. Kelsey, K. Chaderko, I. Garnes, D. Greep, U. Kalla, C. Karelepopulos J. Matesteler, R. Roberberger, V. Robins, R. Wartell, W. Wester and J. Worfstu, year under CGE VY-SSA 4.0, from the proceedings of "International Symposium on Grids and Clouds—19GC 2013" PoS(ISGC2013)011.

Blass Jidon Sans & Rather-bestofferenous PICTURES (SSC 2013)0. 30.1.0.6



Fermilab, including

Keith Chadwick, Fe

LOA-1

1 Infrastructure Name:

SCI - Operational Security [OS]

SCI-OS3 - Vulnerability Mgmt

SCI-OS4 - Intrusion Detection

SCI-OS6 - Contact Information

SCI-OS7 - Policy Enforcement

SCI - Incident Response [IR]

SCI-IR1 - Contact Information

SCI-IR2 - Response Procedure

SCI-IR4 - Assurance of Compliance

SCI-TR3 - Document Controls PR12.1 - User Registration

SCI-IR3 - Collaboration

SCI-TR2 - Data Retention

18 SCI - Traceability [TR]

19 SCI-TR1 - Traceability

SCI-OS5 - Regulate Access

SCI-OS1 - Security Model SCI-OS2 - Security Patches

Prepared By:

B Reviewed By:





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but all views are of course my own and not necessarily shared by any of them ...

background images from Unsplash: TCD library: @jzamora, cleaner: @verneho, sitting on a balcony: @nate_Dumlao, flood: @kellysikkema Cyberdefense exercise room: Red Flag 17 (US DoD)

Edvard Munch "The Scream": painting now in Nasjonalgalleriet Oslo, UK crown jewels from WikiMedia Commons (public domain photo from 1952)

