Bounded knowledge is a gift, only if we share it.

But it's all out there, why can't people just look for it, like we did?

Because looking and seeing are two different things. Sometimes, one needs a guide.

That's what we shall be to you, dear reader, as you move through these Cyber Security Chronicles.

Like us, these tales capture a full spectrum of experiences, bound together by a common theme.

The theme of challenges, threats and victories. Stories about how the mind can glow neon.

In the pages of a comic, the reader can stall and haven't time lingering on each panel to absorb every detail. Space, too, expands and diminishes, on the reader's whim.
In this way, the immersive nature of the comic book medium is much like the cyber realm. Both transcend historical constraints, both push our creativity, both force us to pause and think as the action unfolds.

Is that how the stories within this anthology speak of new beginnings, mother?

These stories, mother mine, are a testament to the trials and triumphs of those who seek to unravel the mysteries of hyperspace, and to protect us from its lurking threats.

Through this comic anthology, we share familiarity with old hats...

...and demystify some of cyber security's intricacies for neophytes...

...illuminating the path ahead through the eyes of those who have come before them.

Information is power, and with it comes great responsibility.

The responsibility to remember that this field was not coined by one person; it grew from pools of resources, allowing us to conquer challenges that would be insurmountable for any single individual.

We have strength in numbers, and resilience in diversity. The threats we face are too complex, too pernicious, to tackle alone.

Most importantly, in the face of adversity, we find strength in allies who stand with us... as we will with you, as you draw from the base of knowledge collected in this tome.

Perhaps one day, you will add to it.
SolarWinds, a tech company supplying over 30,000 private industries and US government agencies with its software, Orion, was exploited by Russian Intelligence, causing one of the most sophisticated supply chain hacks in American history.

**Brandon Wales & Cyber Defense Chronicle**

*Story Keza Muvunyi & Li Chen Chen*  
*Art Luke Duo Art*

**What’s the damage?**

*They’re researching, stealing, and exploiting our vulnerabilities with complex attacks that are going undetectable.*

**Everyone is at risk.**

With the sudden departure of Chris Krebs, Brandon Wales assumed leadership at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), thrown into the front lines of multiple cyber crises. With extensive experience in national cybersecurity and resilience, Brandon and his team begin damage control.

We knew shifting political discourse would threaten our leadership, but I trust you to do this work with integrity. I know you will lead well.

A change in leadership is not a change in mission; let’s get to work.
As more companies began noticing malware in their systems, Wales led CISA in a collaborative effort with private industry experts to provide technical assistance to all affected entities. This collaboration was critical to successfully notifying potential victims at a scale the government alone could not achieve.

Nearly 18,000 government and private businesses have been exposed. We need to call reinforcements.

Yes, our job is clear; with their support, we will provide technical assistance, share information and detections, record remediations, and guide long-term recovery.

Wales knew CISA had to inform the public about the danger likely headed their way. So he launched StopRansomware.gov, a national awareness campaign that directed people and organizations to where they could request assistance.

Our industry partnerships are helping us reduce the population of susceptible servers. We must build on this success and adapt to the increasing dynamic threat landscape.

After leading the nation’s immediate response with a steady hand, focus, and diligence to the mission, Wales began to shift gears toward implementing long-term solutions to protect American businesses, communities, and families from highly debilitating cyberattacks.

Since industries often see cyberattacks first, we must continue to deepen operational collaboration that will advance and strengthen our cyber posture long term.

The impact of the SolarWinds attack shed light on the urgent need our nation faces to bolster cybersecurity on all fronts. Months after purging the malware, Wales testified in front of the Senate, calling for stronger support for cybersecurity operations across the nation.

We must rethink our approach to cybersecurity.

Releasing alerts and sharing best practices are important tools, but as the pace and scale of cyber threats expand, so must our response toolkit so that we can truly defend today and secure tomorrow.
SURPRISE! MAAVI! SAY HI TO THESE COOL NEW AI PALS! THESE ANIMAL BOTS GOT SUPERPOWERS. THEY’LL HELP YOU STAY SAFE ONLINE ON YOUR NEW TABLET.

GREAT, DEAR SCIENTIST PARENTS! YOU MADE WATCHDOGS TO TRACK MY ONLINE ACTIVITY?? GRRR!

HEY DAVE, CHECK OUT MY BRAND NEW SILVER TABLET!

PERFECT TIMING! CHECK THIS OUT – A NEW VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) GAME – CYBERAMA! LITERALLY EVERYONE IS PLAYING THIS!

NEAT! WAIT, GOTTA FIRST CHANGE THE DEFAULT PASSWORD ON MY NEW TABLET. WELL, I CAN DO THAT LATER!

WASSUP KIDDOs! THIS IS CYBER PANDA. WANT SOME CAMERA COVER SLIDERS FOR YOUR TABLETS?

OH, OUR NEW PAL CYBER KIKI, THE FLAMINGO, WANTS TO PLAY CYBERAMA TOO.
"WELCOME TO CYBERAMA! IN LEVEL 1, YOU MUST FIND TREASURE FROM THE CASTLE VAULTS BEFORE THE BANDITS DO."

WOW! THIS VR GAME IS UNBELIEVABLY REAL!

LEVEL 1 THE CASTLE

CYBER KIK! “WAY TOO EASY, DAVE! TRY A STRONGER PASSWORD, GUYS!”

TOLD YA! GEEZ, ARE THOSE BANDITS OUTSIDE THE CASTLE DOOR? LET’S SET A PASSWORD TO KEEP ‘EM OUT. LET’S TRY “QWERTY”

MAYA: LET’S INSTALL A FORCE FIELD DOOR AND SET PASSWORD TO “LE@VEUS ALONE”

YAY!! THAT WORKED! WE DEFEATED THE BANDITS! LET’S GO TO THE VAULT AND FIND THE TREASURE.

LEVEL 1 COMPLETE!

MAYA DID NOT KNOW, SHE WAS ACTUALLY FIGHTING CYBER-CRIMINALS THAT WERE TRYING TO GUESS HER PASSWORD PATTERN!

"WELCOME TO LEVEL 2! SELECT THE WONDER OF THE WORLD IN THE SAME CONTINENT AS YOU."
Dave, let’s pick the Empire State Building.

Great! You’re playing from the USA. Now guess how many miles you’re from the Empire State Building.

50! We’re about 50 miles away.

Now choose the street name nearest to your home.

Don’t do it, kiddos. Too risky to give your location info to online games! This is personally identifiable info or “P-I-I”. They are “Social Engineering” you.

Relax, Cyber Panda! It’s just a game! What’ll they do with our address anyways?

Wait! Do you think Cyber Panda may be right? Does this look like New York only because we said we’re close to NYC?

Nah, don’t overthink Maya. It’s not like our homes are going to be looted!

Maya and Dave run around the block to figure out the Level 3 challenge. They’re S-H-O-C-K-E-D to suddenly see two people looking exactly like Maya’s parents though!! Digital evil twins?!

What in the world are my parents doing here, Dave? Now I’m scared!

Just then, Maya’s pal Cyber Ella, the unicorn bot - pulls the kids away from the game. Cyber Ella strongly advises them to log off since the game Cyberama now looks like a scam. The stunned kiddos log off from Cyberama. Dave leaves home.
**LATER THAT NIGHT...**

**WIIOUUU... WIIOUUU... WIIOUUUU...**
Blaring sirens wake Maya up that night. She finds her house R-A-N-S-A-C-K-E-D!!! Her parents comfort her, and ask her to stay in her room while the cops investigate.

**WE’RE TRYING TO GET THE CAMERA FOOTAGE TO LOOK FOR CLUES.**

**OH, NO!!!**
Totally my fault! Dave and I gave our street address to the game will the cops arrest me?

---

**NEXT DAY, MAYA AND DAVE WANT TO PLAY THE GAME AGAIN JUST TO FIND OUT IF SOMEONE IS WATCHING THEM. BUT MAYA’S HOME INTERNET STOPS WORKING. THEY TRY CONNECTING TO ANOTHER NETWORK.**

**SO I SEE A “TRUSTED NETWORK” ON THE LIST, BUT IT IS SHOWING AS UNSURE! MY TABLET WarnED ME LAST WEEK THAT ITS FIREWALL IS OUT OF DATE. I BETTER STAY AWAY FROM THIS UNSURE NETWORK NOW.**

**DAVE:**
“C’MON, WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?
JUST CONNECT TO IT.”

---

**THE MOMENT MAYA CONNECTS HER TABLET TO THE UNSURE WIFI NETWORK, A BUNCH OF POP-UPS FLOOD UP THE SCREEN. SHE CAN’T USE HER TABLET ANYMORE!**

Cyber Ella, the unicorn pal, jumps in to rescue. The AI bot dives into **BOOT LOADER MODE** and burns the pop-ups down with fire. A “fire wall” is also stood up between the tablet and the bad actors.
Maya and Dave thank Cyber Ella. Maya disconnects from the unsecure WiFi right away, waits patiently, and connects back to her usual secure home WiFi later. Cyber Meow, the cat, joins Maya and Dave to play the game, which leveled them up to Level 4.

"Welcome to Level 4! You must catch and click fish worth 1000 points to complete the level."

Level 4 Magical Rainforest

Wow! 10,000 points! Let’s grab ‘em, click it!

Maya, Dave - Don’t!!! Smells too fishy... like a “whale phishing attack” to steal all your points using an attractive click-bait!

Maya and Dave ignore Cyber Meow’s advice, and click on the whale anyways. They end up losing all their points. They spend a lot of time catching up and completing Level 4.

The next day...

Ugh... Yes, ma. That’s the VR game I told you about.

Okay, does this game have a chat room?

No, mom!

Maya, have you been playing a game called Cyberama? I received an email to upgrade.

Alright, then. Remember, no chatting with strangers on the internet. Bye, sweetie!
MAYA, DAVE, AND CYBER MEOW RAID THE EMAIL SECTION OF CYBERAMA. IN “DELETED” FOLDER, THEY FIND THE MESSAGE THAT WENT TO MAYA’S MOM.

Subject: FOR CYBERAMA PLAYERS!
From: cyberamateam@cyber.com
To: tarascientist@email.com

Dear Player,

Since you enjoyed playing Cyberama part 1, we think you’ll enjoyed Cyberama part 2. Click Upgrade NOW to download the game for FREE. We could not verify your billing address, and credit card number, so please enter them.

WHAT A CLASSIC PHISHING EMAIL - NOT ADDRESSED TO A SPECIFIC PERSON, CONTAINS TYPOS AND GRAMMAR ERRORS, AND PRESSES URGENCY TO FORCE IMMEDIATE ACTION FROM YOU. JUST DELETE THIS. I BET THE BAD ACTORS ARE UP TO NO GOOD.

DESPITE CYBER MEOW’S REPEATED WARNINGS, MAYA COULDN’T WAIT TO PLAY LEVEL 5 OF CYBERAMA, JUST TO FIND CLUES ABOUT THE BAD ACTORS. CYBER OWL JoINS MAYA AND DAVE TO PLAY LEVEL 5.

“WELCOME TO LEVEL 5! YOU’LL RIDE ON A ROLLER COASTER TO CATCH RED BLOOD CELLS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY.”

LEVEL 5 INSIDE THE HUMAN BODY

SUDDENLY, SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENS. CYBER OWL PULLS UP A TRANSPARENT SCREEN AND LaunchES SOMETHING…SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE COMPUTER WORMS.

LET’S SEE HOW THEY CAN ESCAPE NOW.

WAIT! ARE YOU LaunchING COMPUTER WORMS TO CRASH THE GAME?
JUST THEN, A POP-UP WINDOW APPEARS IN THE GAME, ASKING MAYA TO INSTALL AN ANTIVIRUS UPDATE TO PROTECT FILES ON HER TABLET.

CYBER OWL: I BET THE GAME PROGRAM DETECTED A BREACH AND IS TRYING TO DEPLOY ANTI-VIRUS TO RECOVER FROM THE WORMS. MAYA, LET’S NOT CLICK ON IT.

WARNING! VIRUS DETECTED!
INSTALL THE ANTIVIRUS TO PROTECT THE FILES ON THE TABLET

BUT THE POP-UP LOOKS SO LEGIT. WE NEED TO INSTALL THIS UPDATE.

CYBER OWL DISTRACTS MAYA AND DISMISSES THE POP-UP WINDOW. HE STEERS THE ROLLER CLOSER TOWARD THE BRAIN.

CYBER FOX: STOP! ARE YOU TRYING TO HACK THE CYBER-CRIMINALS BY LAUNCHING A TROJAN HORSE VIRUS ATTACK? THAT’S WRONG!

WHAT? CYBER OWL IS A HACKER??

I’M AN ETHICAL HACKER, AND THAT’S NOT WRONG! THERE ARE WHITE, BLACK, GREY, GREEN, BLUE AND RED HAT HACKERS. SOME ARE GOOD, WHILE THE OTHERS ARE BAD.

THAT’S STILL WRONG! WE NEED TO STOP PLAYING, AND REPORT THE GAME.
CYBER OWL FLIES AWAY AT SUPERSONIC SPEED AND LAUNCHES SPYWARE THROUGH THE HUMAN BODY’S EYES. HE FINDS AN IMAGE THAT LEAVES EVERYBODY SHOCKED! HE FINDS DAVE’S NAME ALONG WITH HIS CHESS CLUB’S ADDRESS!!

MAYA, ERR...GOTTA TELL YOU SOMETHING. A FLYER IN MY CHESS CLUB SAID THE FIRST 10 PEOPLE TO DOWNLOAD THE CYBERAMA GAME WOULD WIN A BRAND-NEW GAMESTATION, AND THE GAME ASKED FOR A SECOND PLAYER. THAT’S WHY I ASKED YOU TO PLAY!

OOPS, DAVE FELL FOR AN AD! THIS IS LIKE ADWARE, A SOFTWARE THAT TRICKS YOU INTO CLICKING ADS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL INFO AND SELL IT TO OTHERS FOR MONEY.

I CAN’T BELIEVE MY BEST FRIEND PUT ME AND MY FAMILY IN DANGER!

I’M SORRY, MAYA! I’M GONNA HELP YOU FIND THOSE CROOKS.

MAYA FORGIVES DAVE CYBER OWL PLANS A RANSOMWARE ATTACK, BUT CYBER FOX CONVINCES HIM TO COMPLETE THE LEVEL FIRST IN ORDER TO FIND THE CROOKS. THE TEAM COLLECTS RED BLOOD CELLS AND FINISHES LEVEL 5.

WANNA PLAY THE LAST LEVEL OF CYBERAMA, DAVE?

UH, NOT SURE ANYMORE IF WE’LL FIND ANY CLUES ON THE CROOKS OR THEIR MOTIVE BUT LET’S PLAY ANYWAYS!

WE’RE SUPER LOW ON BATTERY. CALL US IF YOU NEED HELP, OK? STAY SAFE!

LEVEL 5 COMPLETE

CONGRATULATIONS!
“WELCOME TO LEVEL 6! THE FIRST PLAYER TO FINISH TEN LAPS WINS.”

LEVEL 6 THE RACETRACK

VROOM

SCREECH

THUD

BOOM

CRASH

THUD

“THREE LAPS INTO THE RACE, DAVE KEEPS GETTING MESSAGES FROM A PLAYER, DESPITE HIS ATTEMPTS TO IGNORE THEM!”

DAVE IS BEING CYBERBULLIED - FORCED TO ASK MAYA FOR FILES FROM "PROJECT X" ON HER PARENTS’ COMPUTER. MAYA AND DAVE ASK THE CYBER PALS FOR HELP ESCAPING FROM THIS.

SpeedRacerXi Hey Dave! Wanna help me get some files to avoid trouble?
SpeedRacerXi I have secrets about you that you don’t want me leaking into the dark web.
SpeedRacerXi O’mon loser...act fast.

SPOTTING A FAINT LOGO ON THE FLYER, MAYA CALLS IN CYBER OWL FOR AN ONLINE REVERSE IMAGE SEARCH. THEY UNCOVER AN ADDRESS IN NEW YORK CITY. OFF THEY GO, TO CHECK IT OUT.

AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE OF GOOD VERSUS EVIL, MAYA'S AI PALS SAVE HER AND DAVE. DAVE RETURNS HOME TO FIND HIS CHESS CLUB FLYER.

HEY MAYA, I BET THIS GAME ISN'T JUST FOR FUN. I THINK THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT WANT INFO ABOUT PROJECT X FROM YOUR PARENTS THROUGH YOU!

CYBER OWL: LET’S CALL THE COPS AND TELL YOUR PARENTS.
WITH TIMELY TIPS FROM MAYA AND DAVE, THE COPS NAB THE CROOKS. THEY FIND OUT THAT THESE CYBER CRIMINALS WERE AFTER PROJECT X, A CLASSIFIED, LIFE-SAVING MEDICINE FORMULA.

MOM, DAD, I AM SORRY! I MESSED UP! I DIDN’T MEAN TO PUT OUR FAMILY IN DANGER!

OH GOODNESS! WE’RE JUST RELIEVED YOU’RE OKAY! DAD AND I WILL HANDLE THIS FROM NOW ON. REMEMBER, YOU CAN ALWAYS COME TO US SOONER.

MAYA’S PARENTS GET INVITED TO MEET THE PRESIDENT FOR SAFEGUARDING IT, AND MAYA TAGS ALONG FOR BEING A DIGITAL DEFENDER!

LAYERS OF PROTECTION TO KEEP YOU SAFE FROM BAD STUFF

PUBLIC NETWORK
PRIVATE NETWORK
ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE
PASSWORD
SECURITY LAYERS
FIREWALL

VISIT CYBERAMA.ORG

YOUR PERSONAL INFO

Divert Engineering Bot 12 to repair damage after it completes its cleaning cycle.

Computer, run a diagnostics check on Sub-Section Beta.

DNA print required for authorization. Please press the palm of your hand to your console to confirm order.

Yeah, you're gonna want to belay that order, kid.
YOU CALL FOR HELP, I SHOOT. YOU TRY TO RUN, I SHOOT.

I'M JUST TRYING TO GET OUT OF HERE. IF YOU DON'T INTERFERE, WE'LL BOTH COME OUT OF THIS IN ONE PIECE. SOUND GOOD?

YOU WANT TO LEAVE? BUT... WHY?

IF YOU HAVE TO ASK, YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND.

MAYBE CRACK OPEN THE WINDOW ONCE IN A WHILE. GET SOME FRESH AIR.

IN FACT...

HALT!!
REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE!

WAIT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

THE INSURGENT IS BEING NEUTRALIZED.

DO YOU WISH TO LODGE A FORMAL COMPLAINT?
STOP--PLEASE STOP.

CITIZEN.

THE THREAT HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED.

YOU MAY RESUME YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY AT 1800 HOURS.
TODAY IS MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2101.

YOUR PREVIOUS NIGHT’S REM PATTERNS ARE WITHIN NORMAL RANGE.

PROTEN SUPP 340.21 HAS DELIVERED TO DOMICILE.

DNA PRINT REQUIRED. PLEASE LOG IN.

PLEASE LOG IN.

PLEASE LOG IN.

ERROR: USER NOT FOUND.
Some of these threats feel
insidious, and the
countermeasures
aren’t so...immediately
gripping.

Well, cyber threats
manifest anywhere.
Attackers just need
to find one point of
vulnerability.

Cyber security
requires vigilance, but
it’s crucial not to be
overwhelmed. Remember,
cyber-defenders can
come from places
that are just as
unexpected.

As you delve further into
these stories, note how
outstanding adversaries
require the same kind of
thinking as being an
adversary. The same
resourcefulness
and tenacity.

Here’s to the defenders,
the innovators, and the
storytellers. May we
continue to learn, adapt,
and grow stronger
together in the face
of adversity.

But it also requires
something more.
Passion.
IN PLAIN SIGHT
STORY BY ROBERT LEMOS
ART BY MAIA LEMOS

HUBRIS. THE FAILING OF EMPLOYEES AT EVEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES.

SOMETIMES, WHEN YOU ARE AT THE TOP OF THE HEAP, YOU CAN'T IMAGINE BEING AT THE BOTTOM.

YET, THE TRIP TO THE BOTTOM CAN BE QUICK AND PAINFUL.

NO ONE WANTS TO BE REMINDED OF THAT FACT.

... I NEED THOSE SALES FIGURES BY TOMORROW. WE ARE BEING REVIEWED AS PART OF A COMPLIANCE CHECK.

SORRY ...

DAMN HOMELESS PEOPLE. THIS CITY NEEDS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.

WATCH IT! YOU PIECE OF TRASH!
THEIR DISPAIN MAKES HIDING EASY.
MY MOTHER WAS AN OFFICE CLEANER, BACK WHEN YOU COULD MAKE A LIVING AT IT, IF BARELY. FEW LOOKED AT HER TWICE.

A FRIEND AT A TEMP AGENCY CAME THROUGH WITH AN ASSIGNMENT ON THE CLEANING CREW.

IT REMAINS A PERFECT DISGUISE.

... AND COLLINS, SHOW SMITH THE ROPE. TAKE FLOORS 5 AND 6.

HEY! I'M GOING TO HIT THE HEAD. I'LL BE BACK IN 5 MINUTES.
Alluriant hired me to do a penetration test of their physical and electronic security. During my initial investigation, I had turned up some interesting discrepancies.

Pearson’s taking kickbacks from certain large clients to give them discounts.

Most companies still don’t disable USB ports, even though physical access makes compromising a system easy.

Ms. Dejeaux! This is my confession. I’ve been discounting product for certain large clients who gave me a cut of the savings. I’ve attached evidence as files to this email.
WHAT?! WHAT’S GOING ON?

THE SECURITY AUDITOR IS JUST FILLING US IN ON WHY YOU DISCOUNTED OUR PRODUCTS SO OFTEN.

I... I...

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN INFORMED. SECURITY WILL ESCORT YOU OUT. DON’T BOTHER GOING BACK TO YOUR OFFICE.

HUBRIS. WE ALL THINK WE WON’T GET CAUGHT. FOR SOME, THAT MEANS PUSHING THE LIMITS UNTIL MINOR INFRACTIONS BECOME MAJOR TRANSGRESSIONS.

SOMEONE, HOWEVER, IS ALWAYS WATCHING.

MR. SMITH, PLEASE CONTINUE.
I am part of the Change and Communications team in a university IT department and have been mostly working from home since 2020.

One of my responsibilities is to create materials for our monthly cybersecurity education program. We have a newsletter, Instagram posts, slides on campus TVs, and outreach events, like table settings.
Creating all those materials requires a ton of collaboration between myself, my boss, an information security analyst, and 2 people in Marketing. We also need to keep the CIO and CISO informed.

The reason why we put so much effort into educating the university community about cybersecurity is because human error plays a huge role in data breaches. There’s a CompTIA article which states that 95% of breaches are caused by human error.*

Some examples of human error are people clicking links in phishing emails or falling for social engineering scams, like vendor impersonation. As the saying goes, “It’s easier to hack a human than a machine.”

*https://connect.comptia.org/content/articles/the-cost-of-a-breach-10-terrifying-cybersecurity-stats-your-msp-s-customers-need-to-know
Universities tend to have a high number of accounts, which creates a large attack surface. Mine has about 7,000 enrolled students, plus the faculty and staff to support them. There are also many vendors and outside researchers who work closely with the university and need account and network access. This creates a lot of opportunity for human error.

Another issue is universities have significant turnover. Every year there’s a graduating class that leaves in the spring and an incoming class in the fall.

This means the cybersecurity education needs to be ongoing since there’s always about 25% of the population who are inexperienced with how things are done here.

Something else that makes a university challenging to protect is the vast amount of data that is stored and used. Each type has its own regulations. Putting security measures in place that satisfy multiple regulations and are within the budget takes a lot of work.
Due to all those factors, we have a thorough, 12-month training plan to educate the community as one piece of a comprehensive security hardening plan. The goal is that the frequent reminders will reduce our risk of human error causing an event.
Gotta keep my wits about me. I don’t want to be tailed to my source.

Thanks for leaving your phone at home.

It’s important we keep future communications off the grid.

I’d hate for you to be outed as the whistleblower.

Chalk Talk

I want that whistleblower off the board, now!
THE DAY BEFORE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE CAN’T RUN THE STORY?!

THEY HAD RECORDINGS OF ME SAYING AWFUL THINGS—THINGS I’VE NEVER SAID!

MY BANK ACCOUNT’S BEEN DRAINED, I’VE BEEN FIRED AND THERE’S NO WAY ANYONE WILL BELIEVE MY TESTIMONY NOW.

THIS GUY HAS NO IDEA HE’S WERRING THE ROPE TO HANG HIMSELF AROUND HIS OWN WRIST.

BACK AT NEWSORG

BDI! WE HAVE TO PUT OUR PHONES IN THESE FARADAY BAGS, RIGHT NOW!

PROBLEMS WITH A SOURCE?

THEY MUST HAVE USED MY SOURCE’S PHONE TO IDENTIFY HIM, REVOKED HIS ACCESS TO THEIR SYSTEMS, AND SPliced TOGETHER AUDIO CLIPS FROM CALLS TO DISCREDIT HIM.

WE’VE SWEEPT THIS CONFERENCE ROOM FOR BUGS?

WE ALWAYS DO, J.

I JUST WANT TO ENSURE WE’RE NOT HANDING THE SUBJECT OUR EVIDENCE ON A SILVER PLATTER BEFORE THE STORY EVEN BREAKS.

THEY’VE ALREADY UNDERMINED AND SPOOKED OUR SOURCE. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THE INVESTIGATION NEXT?

-GOOD WORK ACCESSING THAT SHREWTY MICROPHONE. NOW WE KNOW THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM.

-WE HAVE A PLAN, WE JUST NEED TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE SUBJECT.

-WE’RE GOING TO FIX IT.
NO, THANK YOU. I DON'T WANT TO EAT OR DRINK WHEN I'M OUT.

THAT'S HOW THEY GET TO YOU, YOU SEE?

POISON SPENDS A MOMENT ON YOUR LIFE AND THEN YOU CAN'T...

LATER, AT J'S HOME...

THERE'S NO WAY THAT THAT FOOD COULD HAVE SPOILED SO QUICKLY, UNLESS...

...THEY CAN'T BE COINCIDENCES...

...MAYBE THESE DEVICES ARE ALL DOUBLE AGENTS. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO INSPECT SOME CLOSETS...
WE'RE SO CLOSE TO BEING ABLE TO PUBLISH THIS STORY. WE JUST NEED TO GET RID OF THESE TRAITOROUS TECHNOLOGIES FIRST.

WHO'S WITH ME?

SO THEY THINK THEY CAN GET RID OF THEIR OWN DEVICES AND THEY'LL BE FREE AND CLEAR.

DON'T THEY KNOW HOW FAR MY REACH EXTENDS?

ACTIVATE THE BOTNET!

BEEP BEEP

BEEP

THEY'RE TRYING TO KEEP EVERYONE IN THE DARK - TOO BAD WE'RE GOING TO DRAG THEM INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.
THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

WE'RE EASILY ON PLAN 2 BY NOW.

NO LUCK GETTING FORENSICS ON THE DEVICES WE DIDN'T BURN.

NOW WE JUST WAIT AND SEE IF PEOPLE CAN TELL THAT THIS STORY PASSES THE SMELL TEST...

WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP GOING WITH PLAN B.

...THROUGH ALL THE BULL**** ITS SUBJECT HAS BEEN FLINGING.

~ BLOCKING SIGNALS ~

~ STRENGTHENING PASSWORDS ~

~ PATCHING ~

~ ERECTING FIREWALLS TO PREVENT US FROM IDENTIFYING AND ACCESSING DEVICES! ~

THEY'RE ORGANISING.

USE THE SAME METHODS ON THESE NEW TARGETS,

THEY WON'T HAVE DIVESTED THEMSELVES OF THEIR SMART DEVICES!

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE,

I AM ATTACHING AN EXPOSÉ THAT DEMONSTRATES THE DANGEROUS LACK OF REGULATION OF SO-CALLED COMMERCIAL INTERNET OF THINGS DEVICES.

I AM CALLING ON YOU TO ADDRESS THIS THREAT THROUGH LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY WORK.

WILL YOU TAKE ACTION WITH US?
I worked my whole life to get the career I wanted, and now my life could really begin.

I've been lucky, truly.

This life has taken me special places, and let me see things few people get to see.

The king is gone, but he's not forgotten.

Is this the tale of Johnny Rotten?

Hey hey, my my, rock and roll can never die.

When I got my first job in security, I thought I had made it.

There's more to the picture than meets the eye.

Hey hey, my my...

I built a family, I bought a house, materially, I'm happy, how could I not be?

I've built a decades' long career...

...but I wonder if I actually did anything important.
It’s not that I don’t still like what I do. My aliment is a temporary condition.

But sometimes I catch myself daydreaming about becoming a hermit.

It’s better to burn out than to fade away.

Disappearing into the mountains.

Maybe taking a job in the park service, watching for forest fires.

And then I remember that people depend on me. I have real responsibilities.

Over time, I found ways of working around that feeling.

I spent more time on my hobbies. I took my career less seriously.

I learned to find joy in simpler things.

Y hey, my my rock and roll can never die.
AND THE THING IS, I KNOW I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THIS WAY.

WE'RE ALL ALIENATED FROM OUR WORK, EVEN IF IT'S SOMETHING WE LOVE.

STARRING INTO THE VOID IS DANGEROUS, BUT THERE ARE WAYS TO AVOID IT.

FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

INVEST IN YOURSELF...

...AND YOUR HOBBIES.

STAYING HEALTHY MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANY OTHER JOB YOU DO.

HEY HEY, MY MY

JOIN OR START A NION.

THERE'S MORE TO THE PICTURE THAN MEETS THE EYE.
It seems we’ve reached the end of our journey through this cyber security anthology.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to you, dear reader, for joining us on this adventure. Your willingness to truly see these narratives speaks to your commitment to understanding the complexities of cyber security.

But it’s not enough to see and forget. We must use the takeaways from these tales as fuel that feeds the future of our community.

As we conclude this chapter, we encourage you to reflect on whose stories are being told and whose voices are being amplified in cyber security today. On who will be heard and valued tomorrow.
THIS COMIC BOOK ANTHOLOGY WAS ABOUT NEW BEGINNINGS. WHILE WE DID FAREWELL TO THE OLD, WE INVITE YOU TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION WITH US.

IF YOU HAVE STORIES TO SHARE OR INSIGHTS TO CONTRIBUTE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REACH OUT TO OUR EDITORIAL TEAM. YOUR VOICE MATTERS, AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

TOGETHER, LET'S CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE EVER-EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF CYBER SECURITY...

...AND WORK TOWARDS A FUTURE WHERE SOLIDARITY AND UNITY ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ALL OUR EFFORTS.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, READER, WE INVITE YOU TO STOP, LISTEN AND THINK, SO WE MAY SAVER THE WORLD TOGETHER.