Errata Hits Puberty: 13 Years of Chagrin

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BY THE SQUIRRELY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

attrition.org

sudux.com

Errata in a Nutshell

errata \e'rat-e\ n

a: a list of corrigenda

corrigendum \kor-e'jen-dem\ n

a: an error in a printed work discovered after printing
and shown with its correction on a separate sheet

The Errata project is basically a list of mistakes and transgressions related to the information security industry. This ranges from ironic blunders to cases of plagiarism as well as full write-ups of people or companies we feel are charlatans.

We cite as much evidence as possible on Errata, to back our opinions and make a case or tell a story. It is up to the reader to decide the accuracy of both sides and make a decision. We encourage everyone to verify what a charlatan says, as well as what we say.

Disclaimer

We do this because we feel it needs to be done, and no one else is doing it. Our intent is to **help the security industry**. This project is not rooted in bias or contempt for any person or individual. That said, we can be opinionated just like the next person. Especially the jerk presenting right now.

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Who Polices the Industry?

- Anonymous? APTs? (Any means necessary…)
- Professional Groups e.g. $(ISC)^2$? (Fear the code of ethics…)
- Journalists? (Not for a long time…)
- Bloggers? (Random acts of errata…)
- Publishers? (Can't hear us over their bottom line…)
- The Law e.g. Attorney General (Their plates are full…)

- You should!

Guess that leaves us in the meantime, until someone better comes along.

Errata Staff

cji – Senior Irony Analyst

- Watches more cartoons than his 6 year old
- Started dozens of RPGs. Finished none.
- Writes more Errata than code

Lyger – Volunteer Herder (Ret.)

- Collector of former Denver Bronco QB Jerseys
- Proud owner of Keurig **and** Cuisinart whole bean grinder
- Really does believe that InfoSec = professional wrestling

Jericho – Chief Curmudgeon Officer

- Has rescued 9 guinea pigs from Colorado shelters
- Would piss on a spark plug if he thought it would do any good
- Wouldn't mind seeing InfoSec industry burn to the ground

Errata Staffing Problem

Attrition.org Background

Buck

Lazlo

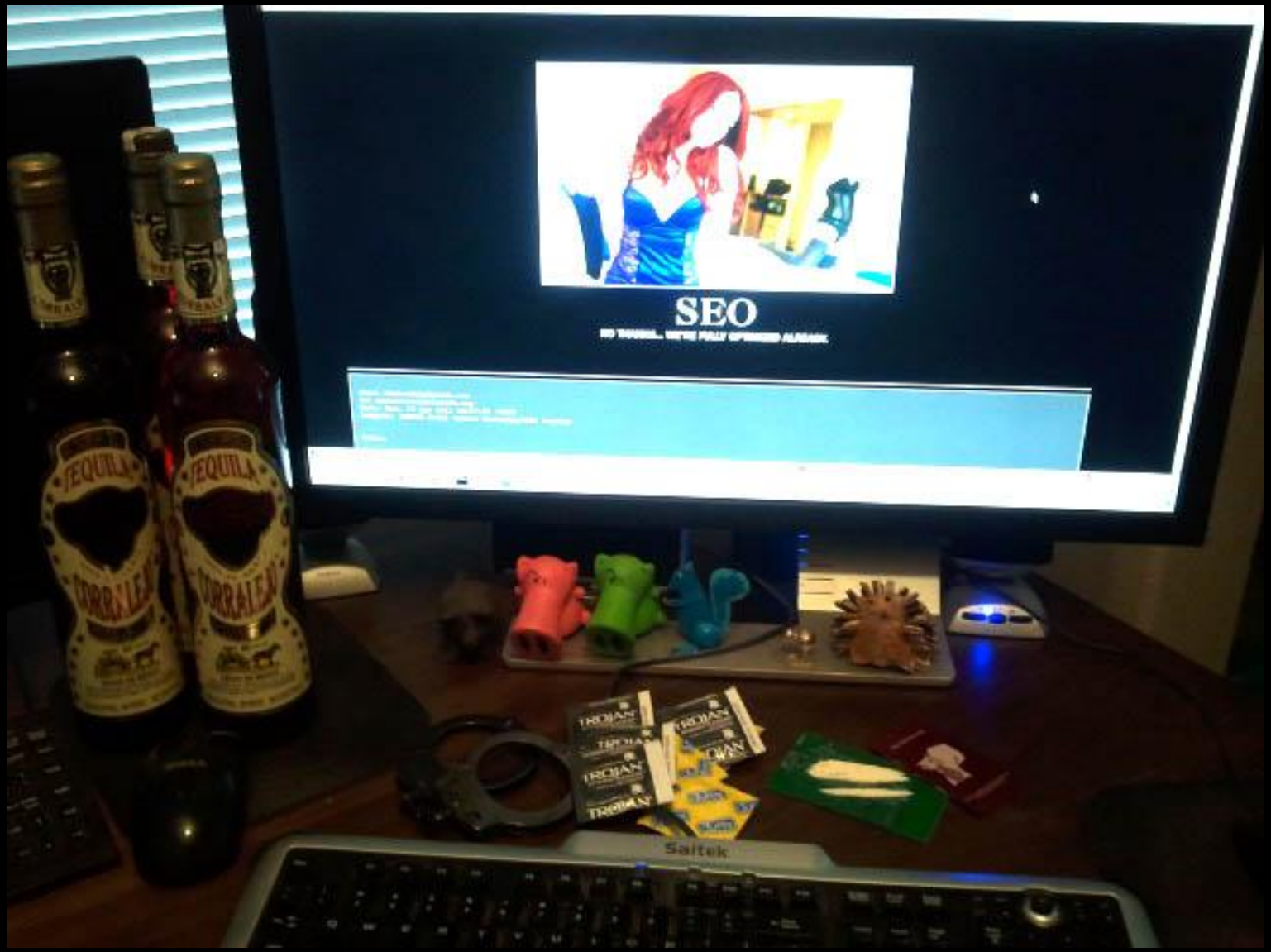
Errata All Around Us

Per Wikipedia, “the general definition of an **audit** is an evaluation of a person, organization, system, process, enterprise, project or product.”

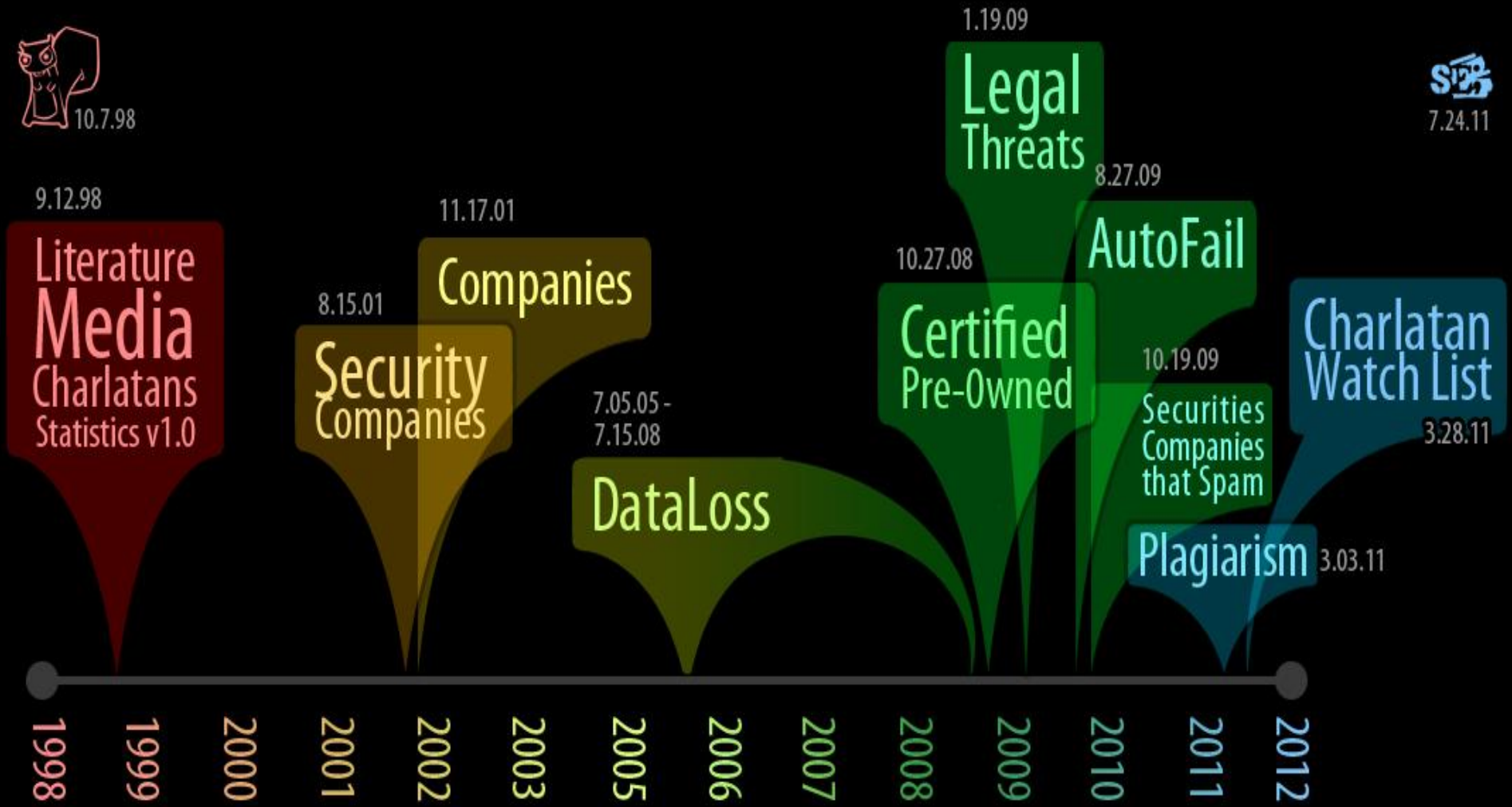
In layman’s terms, Errata is an audit of sorts, or “we find bad shit”.

Errata Mindset

Errata Coping Mechanisms



A Brief History of Errata



We've Changed (a bit)

errata \e'rat-e\ n

a: a list of corrigenda

corrigendum \kor-e'jen-dem\ n

a: an error in a printed work discovered after printing
and shown with its correction on a separate sheet

Welcome to the Security Errata Page.

Check back frequently as information is continually being added.

This page exists to enlighten readers about errors, lies, and charlatans in the computer security industry. With media running rampant and insufficient checks and balances for their reporting in place, the general population has been mislead about everything from hackers to viruses to 'Information Warfare' to privacy.

People often ask why we are so critical about articles, or focusing on a single paragraph of a larger article. Regardless of the size or frequency of errors, they can be viewed as single bricks. The more people read these bricks, the more they begin to see the entire wall. After reading the same errors or omissions from several news sources, the information makes an amazing transition from 'unbiased news' to 'gospel'. The notion that it is 'unbiased news' in the first place is just as ludicrious, but a fact of life.

The contents of these pages are OUR opinions and observations only. If you wish to mail us regarding any of this, feel free. That includes disagreements, errors in our assessment, new information, or anything else. We will strive to keep an unbiased page that deals more with fact than opinion.

The Media

Literature

Charlatans

Statistics

August, 2000

(<pre> tags 0wn)

April, 2012

(fancy HTML tables)

	Certified Pre-owned	Companies that ship malware with new products.
	Legal Threats	Threat of legal action against security researchers.
	Autofail	Security companies and auto update mechanisms that failed.
	Charlatans	Public figures, media whores, and people working in the industry who aren't the experts they claim.
	Plagiarism	Instances of plagiarism by those in the security industry.
	Security Companies	Companies that provide security products and services, while failing to maintain their own security.
	Security Companies that Spam	Security companies that send unsolicited mail (spam).
	Other Company Incidents	Non-security companies that had security incidents that should be known to their customers.
	Statistics	Questionable or incorrect statistics on security and computer crime.

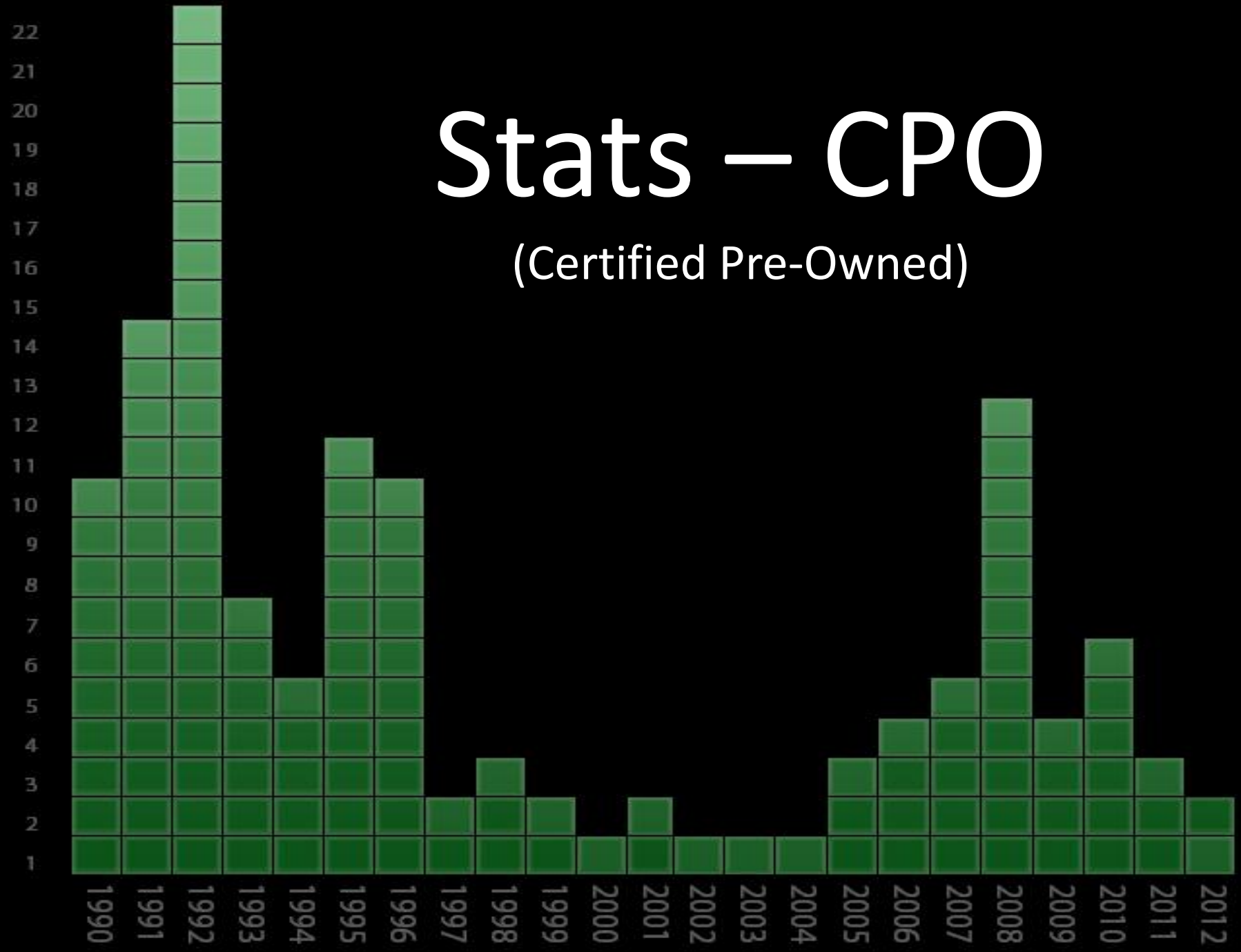
Ledger

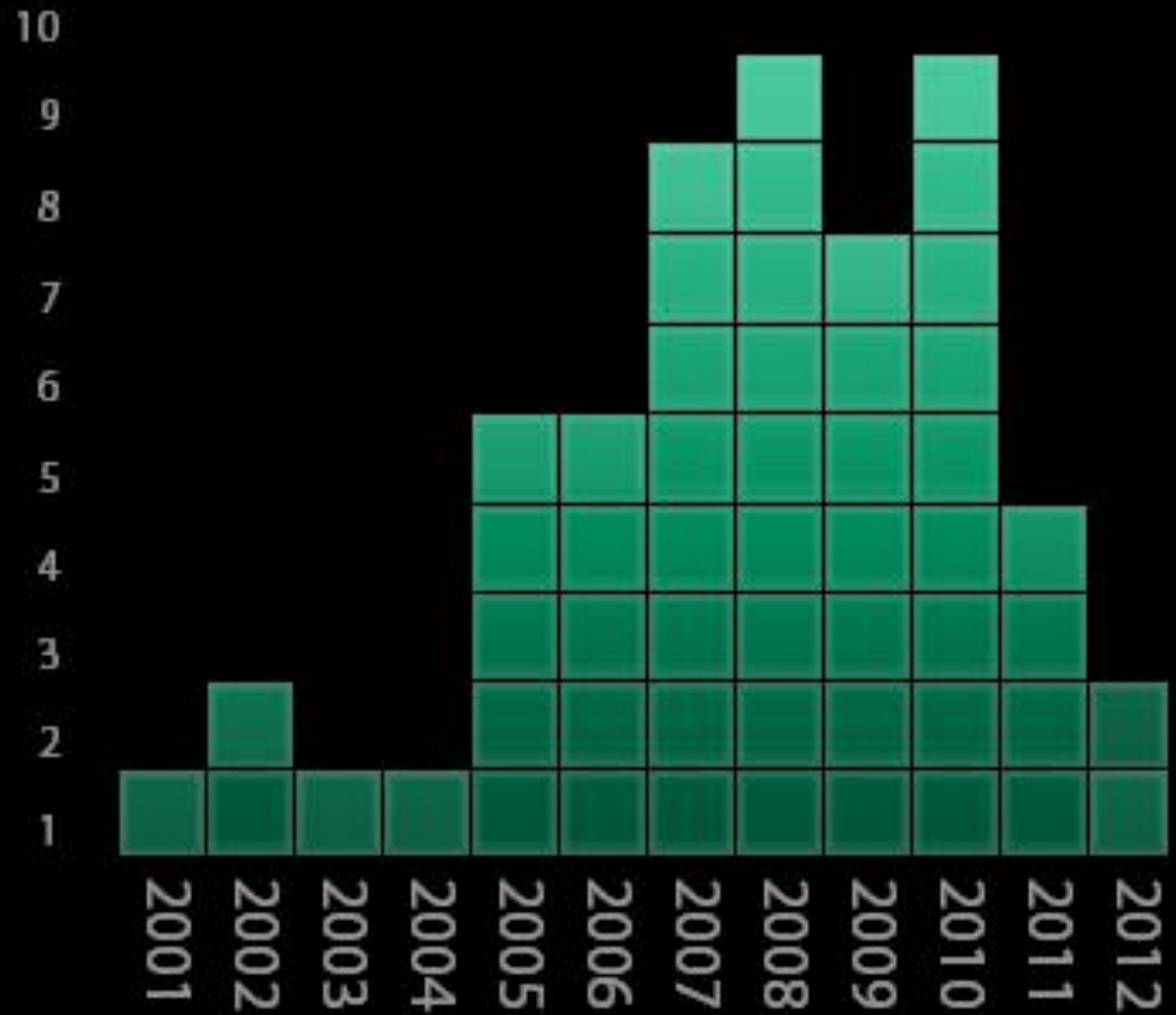
Box #1 - 1998 - ?
Box #2 - 12/14/05
$561
Box #3 - 3/17/10
$586
New router for DDoS
$180
Hosting in DC
$2000
Hardware & Hosting
Flasks
$733
Lazlo stickers
$232
Wristband
$235
Lyger's first run of shirts
$410
Lyger's second run of shirts
$431
Jericho's first run of shirts
$233
Jericho's second run of shirts
$690
Schwag
Donations for errata
$1180
Book purchases for plagiarism review
$425
Evans legal defense
$1100
Securityerrata.org domain / hosting (1 year) during DDoS
$125

Stats - Errata

Stats – CPO

(Certified Pre-Owned)



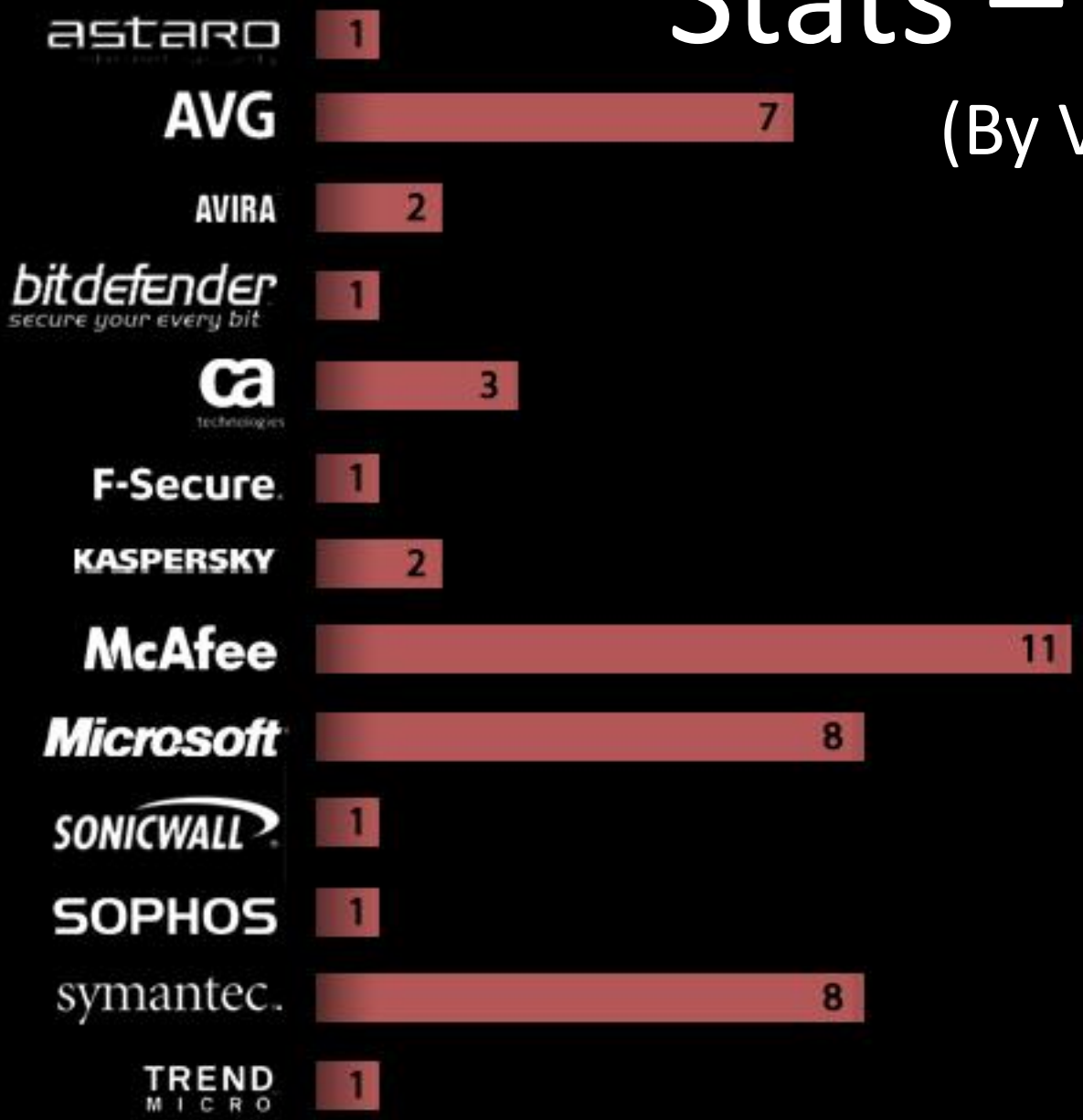


Stats – Auto Fail

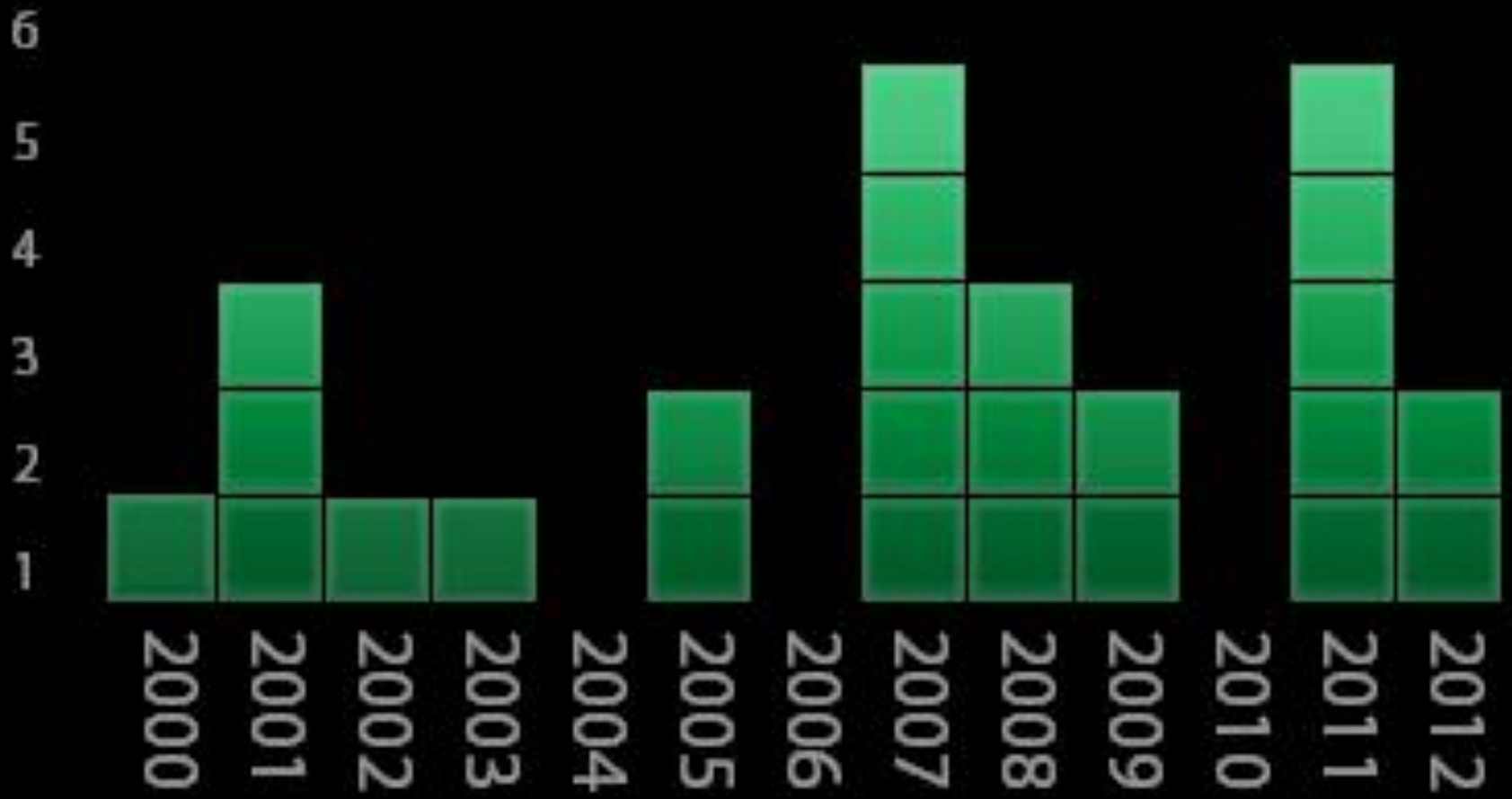
(By Year)

Stats – AutoFail

(By Vendor)



Stats – Legal Threats



Stats – Legal Threats

- ✔ Carrier IQ
- ✔ First State Superannuation
- X Trans Link Systems
- ✔ Magix AG
- ✔ RSA
- X Comerica Bank
- ? Orange.fr
- X Sequoia Voting Systems
- ✔ Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority
- ✔ NXP (formerly Philips Semiconductors)
- Autonomy Corp., PLC
- ✔ U.S. Customs
- X BeThere (Be Un limited)
- ✔
- X HID Global
- ✔ TippingPoint Technologies, Inc.
- X Cisco Systems, Inc.
- ✔ Sybase, Inc.
- X Blackboard Transaction System
- ✔ Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. (HP)
- ✔ Adobe Systems Incorporated
- X Tegam International Viguard Antivirus
- ✔ Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI), Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Verance Corporation
- ✔ Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) & DVD Copy Control Association (DVD CCA)

Stats – Legal Threats

(Special Irony Callout – Follow the Madness)

2002 – HP uses DMCA to threaten SNOsoft over Tru64 vulnerability research
2005 (Jan) – 3COM acquires TippingPoint
2005 (Jul) – TippingPoint founds Zero Day Initiative (ZDI)
2007 - TippingPoint tries to quiet David Maynor / ErrataSec for reversing TP IDS signatures. Pressured Errata to cancel talk, had FBI show up at their office.
2009 – HP acquires 3COM

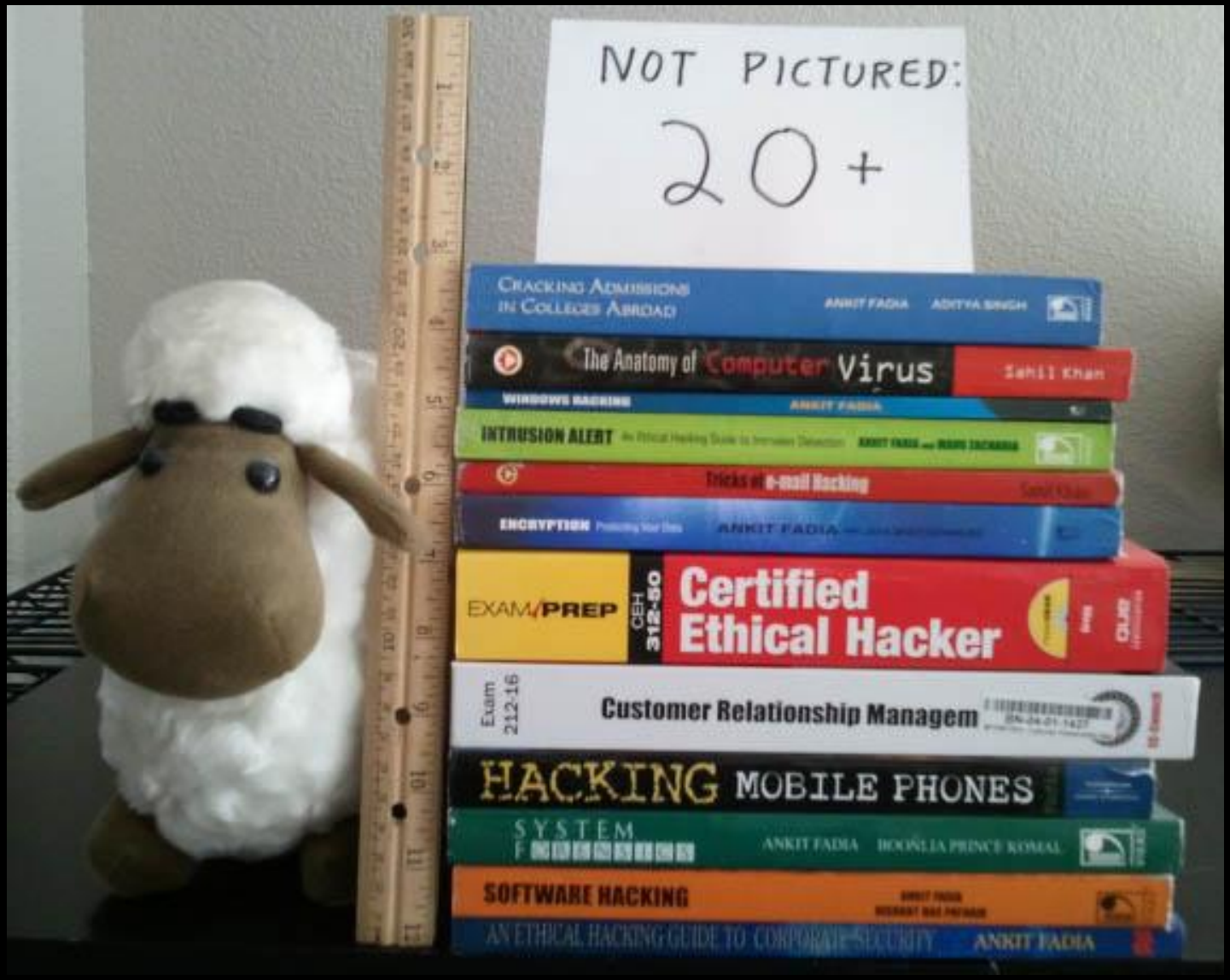
See the irony yet? It went full circle…

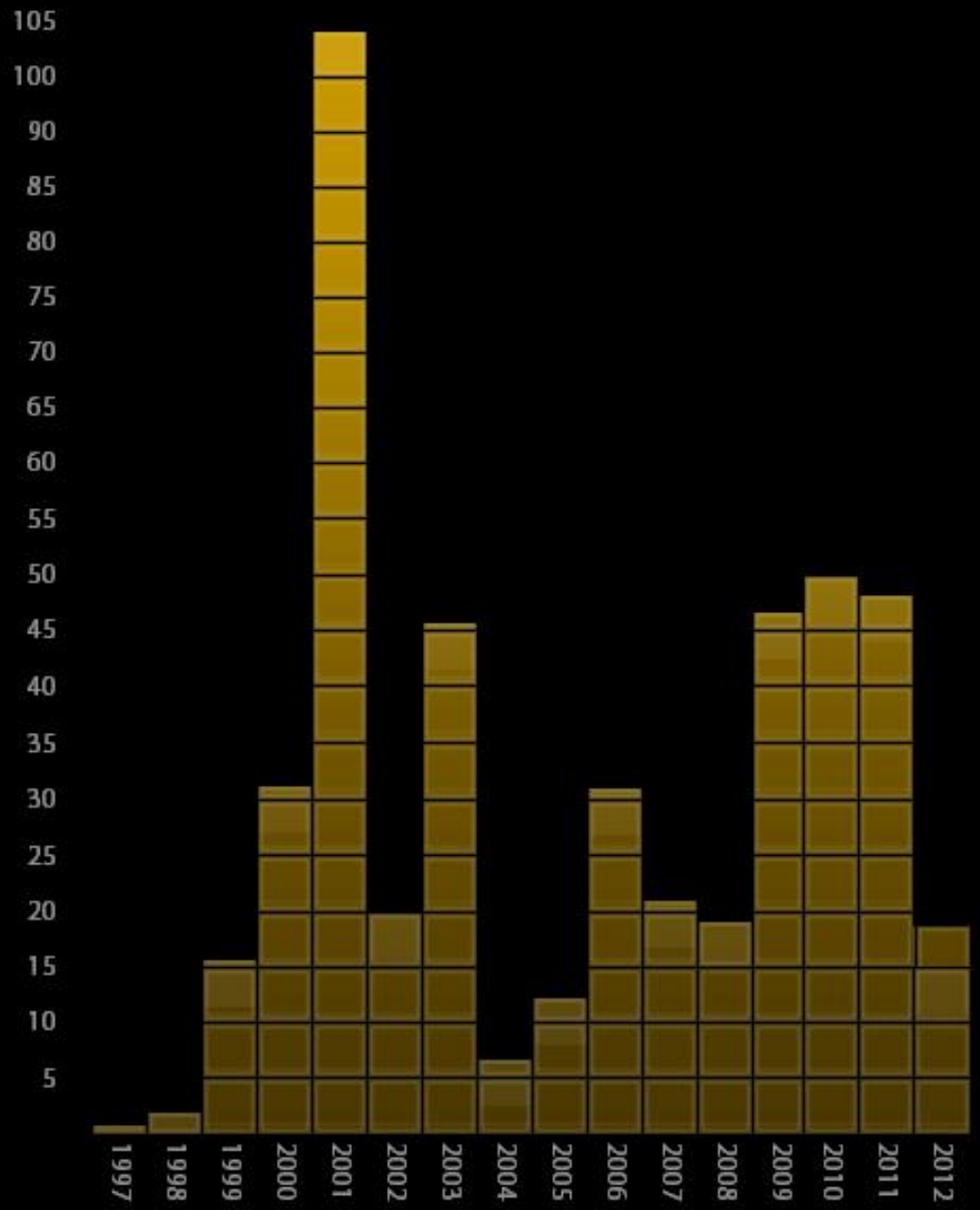
HP tries to DMCA vulnerability research, then buys 3COM which owns TippingPoint, which founded ZDI who buys exploits from researchers and will release information w/o a vendor fix between 15 days (if no vendor ACK) and 6 months (maximum). And HP is known for ~ 1000 days w/o patching, even simple XSS.

Stats - Charlatans

Stats - Plagiarism

Stats – Plagiarism (todo)

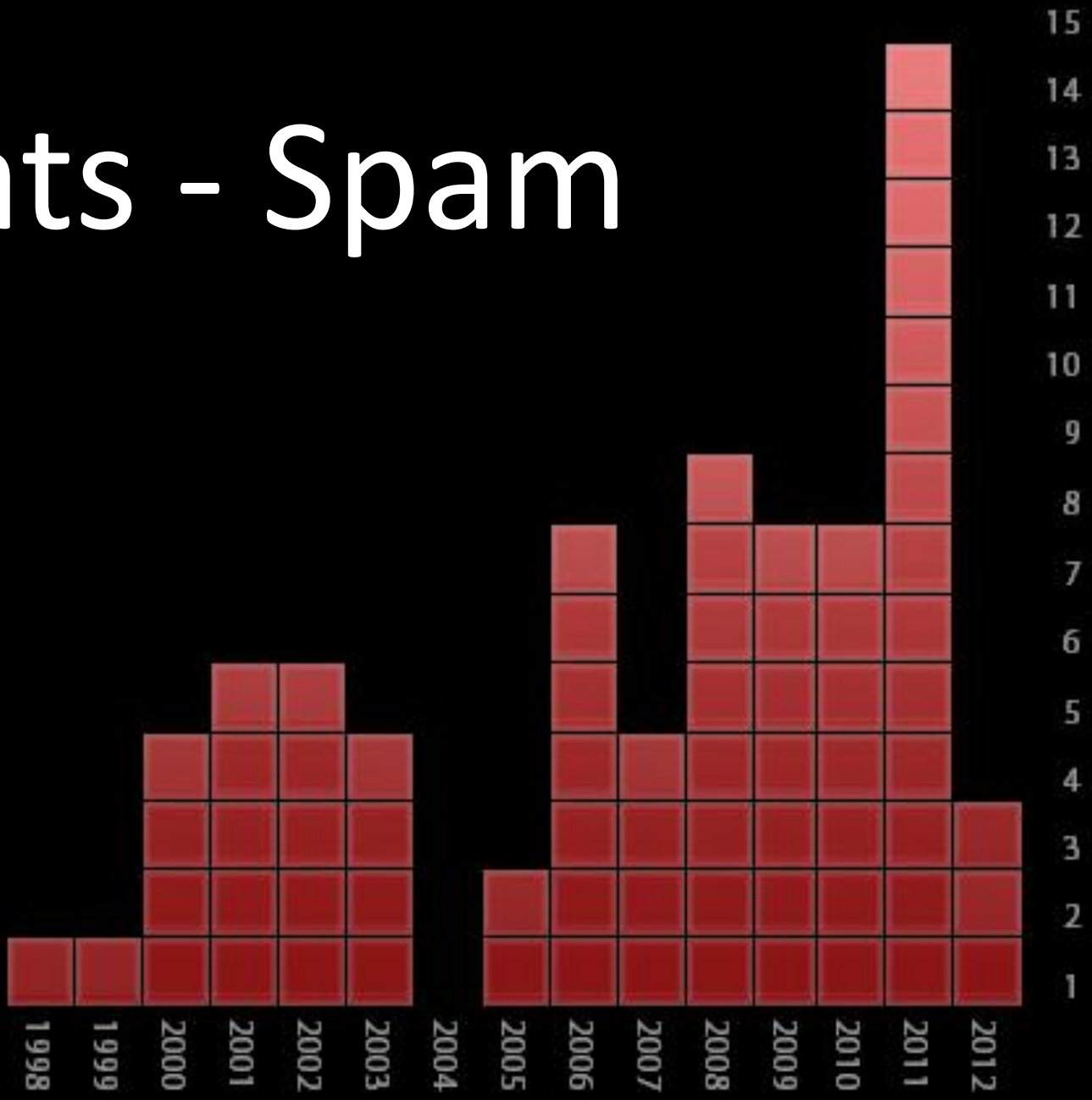




Stats – Security Companies

InfoSec News	[ISN] Unencrypted AT&T laptop stolen, details of managers' pay lost - http://www.compu
InfoSec News	[ISN] AT&T Launches Encryption Services to Help Businesses Secure E-Mail and Data

Stats - Spam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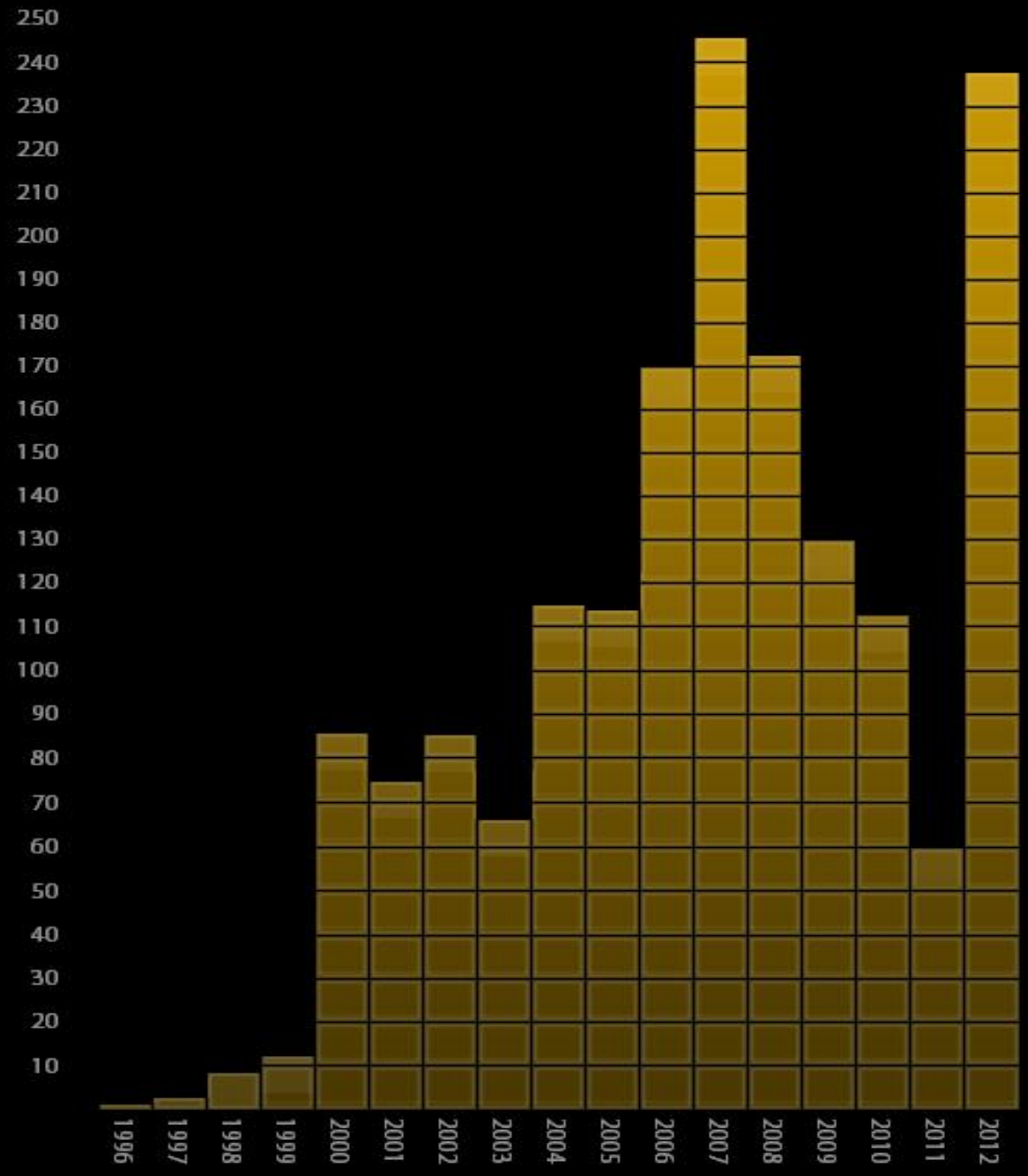

Stats – Security Software

OSVDB

Errata Done Right: Dataloss

- Original concept in 2001
- Implemented on attrition.org in 2005
- Project moved to Open Security Foundation (OSF) in 2008

Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2001 19:57:03 -0600 (MDT)
From: security curmudgeon <jericho@attrition.org>
To: errata submission <errata@attrition.org>
Message-ID: Pine.LNX.3.96.1010418195610.10849O-100000@forced.attrition.org
X-Copyright: This e-mail copyright 2001 by jericho@attrition.org where applicable
X-Encryption: rot26

we need a new section (and i have several saved pieces for it) that list companies who exposed CC numbers and the like. whether they are security companies or not, i wanna keep a list w/ articles of any of them that leaked CC info

We're not "*the popular kids*", but when we get stuff done, we do it right. -- Lyger

Errata Done Right: Dataloss

Your secret is safe with us.. promise!

In what has become a regular occurance, companies, universities, and various government entities are collecting y
the hands of the bad guys. This is **your personal information**; name, address, Social Security number, credit c
to **this October 2005 article**, it apparently does. Unfortunately, this page is updated quite frequently and the lis

For a chronological list of data breaches since February 2005, **Privacy Rights Clearinghouse** provides additior
Data Loss Mail List is available for news and discussion about data breaches. Links to articles about data loss ar

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Top Stories

Ohio University - [2006-07-12]
(University CIO resigns position following multiple data breaches) [update] [archive]

United States Department of Veterans Affairs - [2006-06-29]
(Laptop recovered - private information of over 26.5 million military veterans) [update] [update 2] [archive]

Federal Trade Commission - [2006-06-22]
(Personal and financial information of 110 on stolen laptops) [archive]

Ten Most Recent

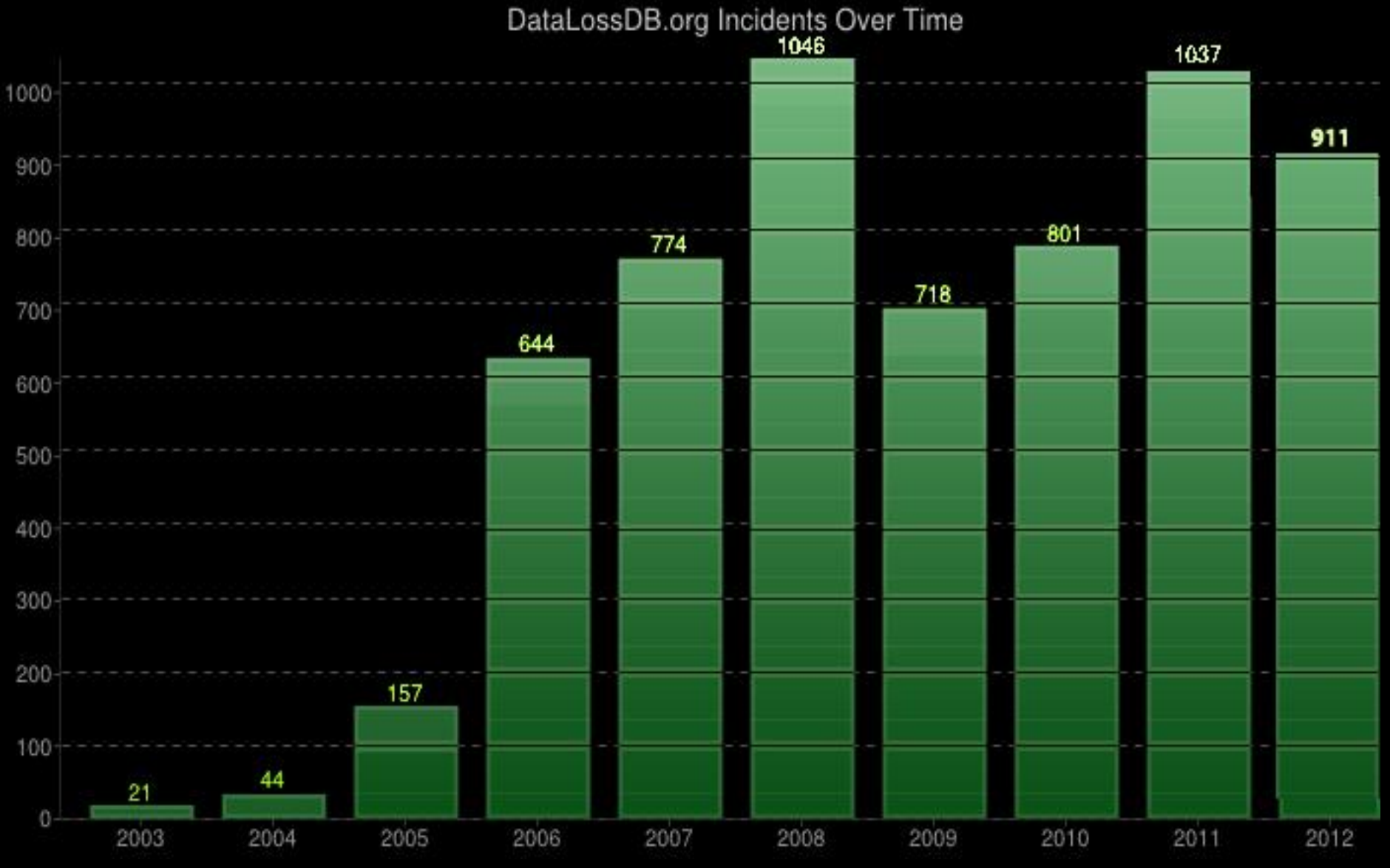
United States Department of Agriculture - [2006-07-18]
(350 Social Security numbers, names, and addresses on stolen laptop possibly accessed) [archive]

Mississippi Secretary of State - [2006-07-16]
(Web site reveals thousands of individuals' Social Security numbers) [archive]

- Database distributed in CSV
- No native search
- No metrics
- Weak classification system

- Dedicated site
- Actual developers (Dave)
- Extensive metrics
- Expanded sources of information
- Anyone can submit
- Extended classification system
- Dedicated data input (Dissent)

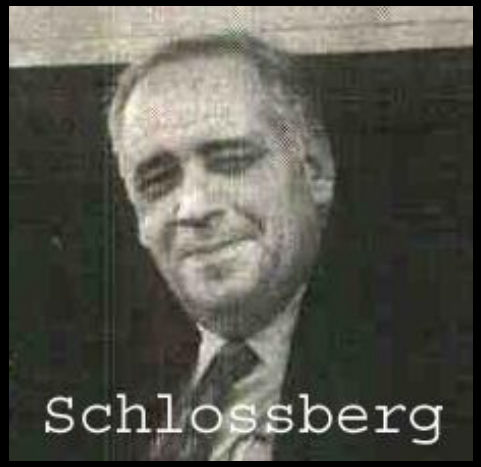
Stats - Dataloss

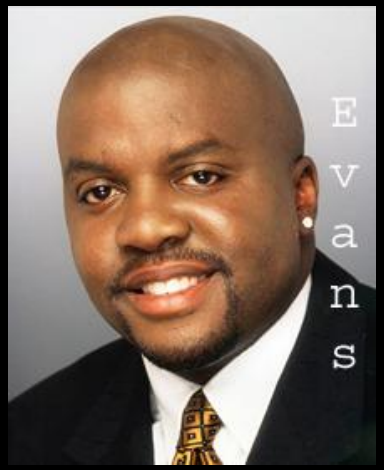


Confronting Charlatans

Blowback

an unforeseen and unwanted effect, result, or set of repercussions





Blowback - Schlossberg

From: Louis Cipher (loucifer@s-mail.com)
Date: Sat, 27 Aug 2011 05:52:24 +0000
Subject: you are full of shit

Hello It appears you don't want anyone to put a locate on you. I would hazzard a guess you don't want to be served with a suit. There are many ways to accomplish this. You have been a digital bully to long. I think 2011 and 2012 are going to be interesting years for you, legally that is. I look forward to a summary judgment(with a fraud component, to prevent discharge in bankruptcy) followed by levies, garnishments, etc etc etc. I hope you have saved up some serious money, as you will need it for legal defense, unless of course you elect to go pro se or get some meatball attorney to go pro bono. You will probably publish this email, and give a specious rant as to whatever BS you can conjure up.

- Gramps, take it easy on me, I wouldn't want to get help from some of my friends.
- … and I still don't, but I do look forward to meeting you.
- Everybody has to pay their taxes, do you.
- You now have some Israeli groups interested in who the f_ck you are, good luck.

Blowback -

HIGH-TECH BRIDGE®
INFORMATION SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Blowback -

From: "Droz Johan (PJ)" johan.droz@justice.ge.ch
To: "'staff@attrition.org'" <staff@attrition.org>
Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2012 09:42:28 +0000
Subject: Criminal proceeding against attrition.org

Dear Sirs,

I am in charge of a criminal proceeding against the persons behind attrition.org and "Jericho" in particular.

The criminal complaint was deposited by High-Tech Bridge SA.

Could you please give me the names of the persons who manage the internet site and their adress, in order for me to be able to have them heard.

Thank you in advance

Johan DROZ, Procureur Sct I
Ministère public
Route de Chancy 6B, case postale 3565
CH-1211 Genève 3
Tel +41 22 327 64 64 - Fax +41 22 327 65 00

Blowback – Evans

FILED IN CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S.D.C. - Atlanta

FEB 15 2011

JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk
By: Deputy Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

GREGORY D. EVANS, LIGATT SECURITY INTERNATIONAL, INC., and SPOOFEM.COM USA INC.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

JOHN DOES 1-8,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1 11-CV-0458

FILED UNDER SEAL

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, DAMAGES AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

11. Upon information and belief, John Doe 5 is an individual that owns, operates, administers, uses or maintains a website located www.attrition.org and uses an account at the real-time information network provided at www.twitter.com under the alias "attritionorg" (the "Attrition Twitter Page").

Blowback – Evans

From: Gregory Evans gregoryevans@ligatt.com
Date: Mon, 25 Oct 2010 19:20:12
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: [SPAM] Fw: Manhattan lease app

1st. I do not want to rent your place.

2nd. You or who ever pulled this thing up is very ignorant. This is not a investor website it is racist hacker website. This is the same site if you go through it that called me niggers and niggers don't no computers. It is also a site that says they need +to hack all Jews technology companies. The information they posted on this board is false!!!!!

3rd. My mom was going to rent the place as a second home not me or a company. Your rent is is only $1900 a month, add $500 on to that an it still would not be one of my car payments.

4. What you should have did is went to CNN or Forbes and looked it....dumb!

5. See this just prove my point, that know matter what race or education background you may have there are still can be a just a dumb ass!

6. I will be posting this to my 50,000 + twitter followers and my >5,000 facebook fans. This is soooooooo funny to me. You went and pulled up a racist website.

Blowback - Medica

EDWARD B. MAGARIAN
(612) 340-7873
FAX (612) 340-2807
magarian.edward@dorsey.com

January 12, 2007

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

www.attrition.org

Re: Medica Health Plans and Your Web Site attrition.org

Dear attrition.org:

I have been retained by Medica Health Plans ("Medica") in connection with false and defamatory statements we learned you published about my client which can be found at http://attrition.org/dataloss; http://attrition.org/dataloss/dldos.html; and http://attrition.org/dataloss/dataloss.csv (see item #110). I am sending this letter to the contact on your website because it appears to be your preferred method of communication.

You have published and continue to publish to this day statements that Medica had a data loss on June 29, 2005 affecting 1,200,000 members related to "fraud." This defamatory information has been picked up by other websites including www.emergentchaos.com. These statements which have been republished are simply false and defamatory.

This is not our first trip to the legal threat rodeo, sir.
Jared E. Richo
attrition.org

Blowback – ‘Hacker Happy’

Tweets

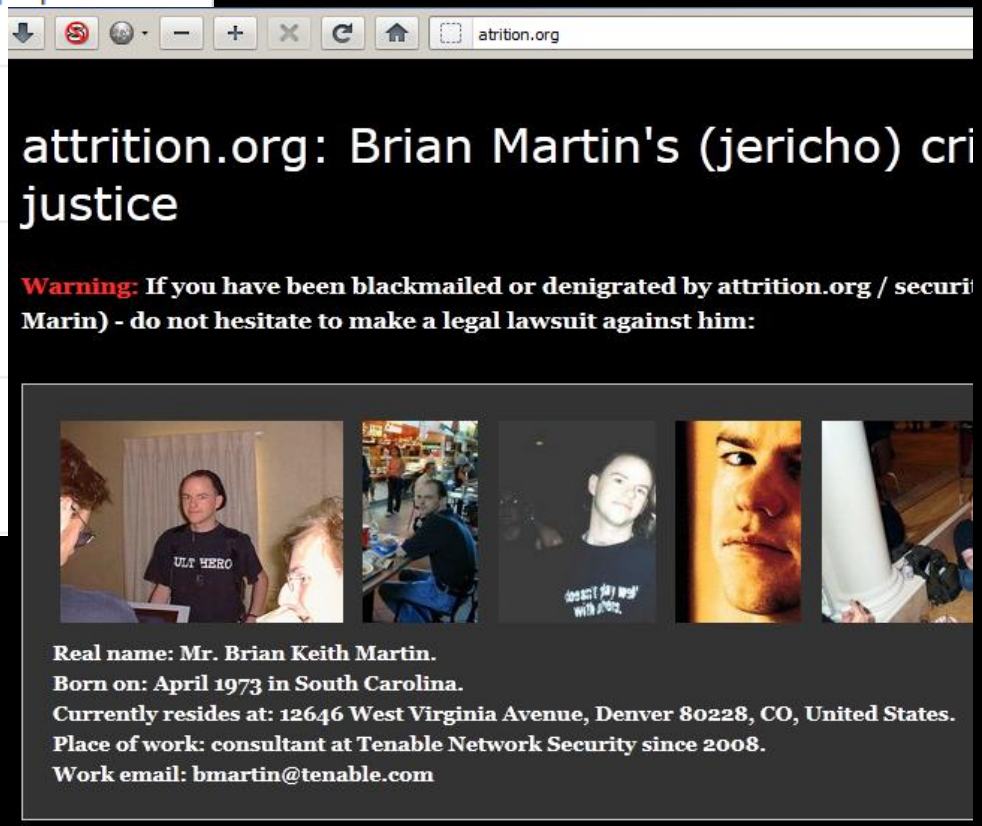
happy hacker @HackerHappy 20 Dec
@tenablesecurity atrittion.org Do you hire criminals on purpose or just fail to perform due diligence?

happy hacker @HackerHappy
jericho, attrition.org twitpic.com/7u3d6u
View photo

happy hacker @HackerHappy
attrition twitpic.com/7u3cbu
View photo

happy hacker @HackerHappy
Brian Martin, jericho twitpic.com/7u3bvf
View photo

aTrition.org



From: happy-hacker@atrition.org
To: [long list of security people]
Date: Thu, 15 Dec 2011 05:23:04 -0600 (CST)
Subject: Brian Martin's (jericho) crimes and frauds exposed for justice

Blowback - Kimble

From: Kim Schmitz <kim@kimvestor.com>
X-Sender: kim@194.221.6.35
To: security curmudgeon <jericho@attrition.org>
Date: Mon, 22 Oct 2001 16:04:47 +0100
Subject: Re: Terrorist cell operating from attrition.org

i think you will soon hate me even more.
have a suprise for you, be prepared.
ciao
K.

In reply to the original YIHAT mail: good job, they are fucked soon!

In reply to my taunting him: you make it even worse ;-)

In reply to Comega taunting him: ;-) words words words... i dont talk, i do.

Further reply to Comega: i can only smile about you my cute little boy ;-)

Blowback - Kimble

From: Kim Schmitz <kim@kimvestor.com>
X-Sender: kim@194.221.6.35
To: Cancer Omega comega@attrition.org
Date: Wed, 24 Oct 2001 08:27:08 +0100
Subject: kimble on attrition.org

Thank you so much... i honestly love your dedication.
please go on and find more "burn the witch" material.

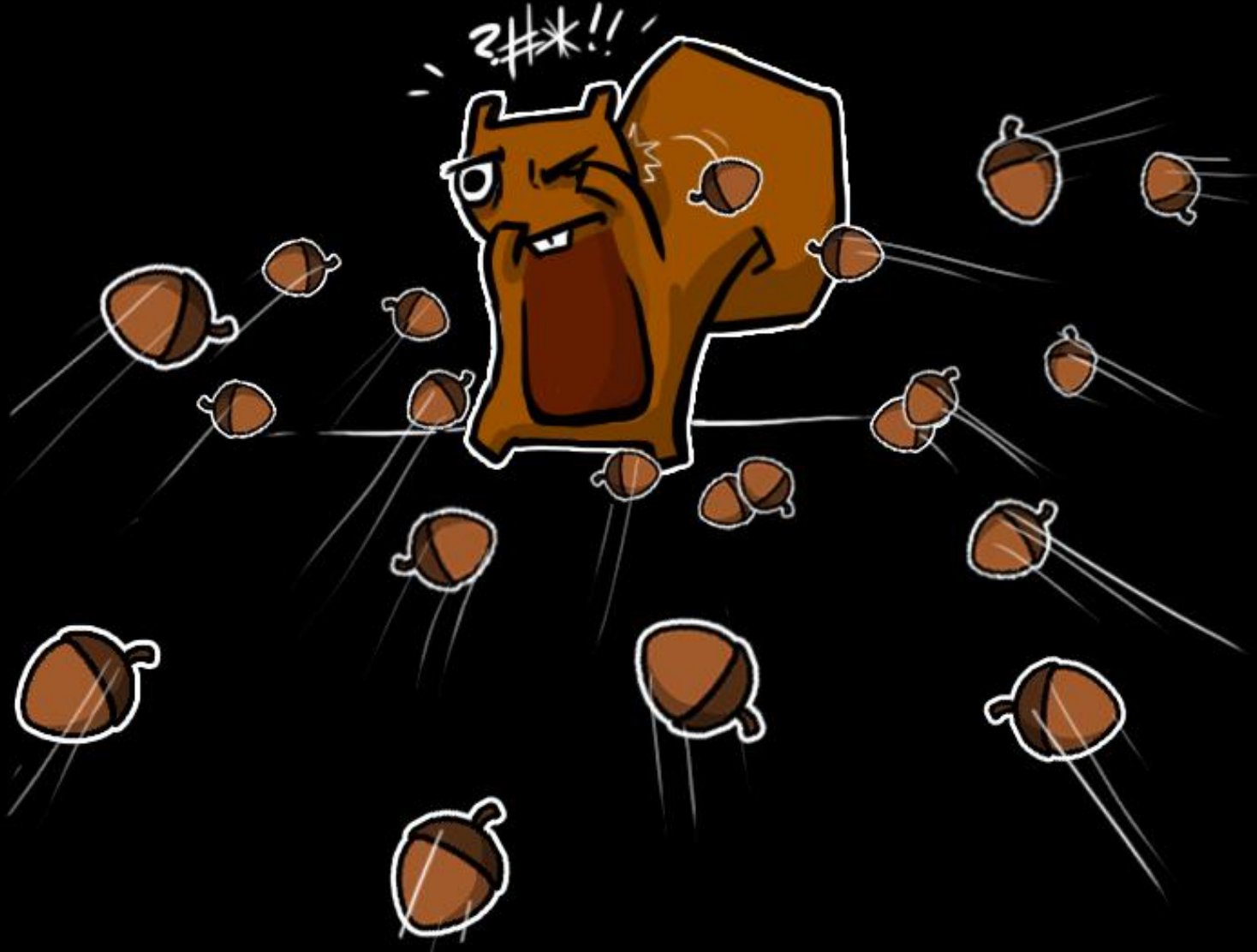
The funny thing is, i am sitting here in my 10 million
dollar penthouse with a pretty girl and a milkshake
and cant stop laughing about you guys. i 0wn you!!!

and yes i hacked a military laser satellite and yes
i am going to burn you and your friends to hell...

and hey, report this to authorities aswell, fux0r ;-)
please release this on your site!!!

LOL
Kimble

Blowback - DDoS



Blowback – The Rest

EC-Council

VOICE OF GREY HAT

Attrition Org
@attrition_org
attritionorg.wordpress.com/ staff share this account. if we follow you, we really like you... or we really dislike you.
US with an A

Follow

16 TWEETS
195 FOLLOWING
10 FOLLOWERS

Tweet to Attrition Org
@attrition_org

Tweets
Following
Followers
Favorites
Lists
Recent images

Tweets

Attrition Org @attrition_org 14 Apr
Attrition.org supports SOPA. If you sing a song, you are copying it.

Attrition Org @attrition_org 14 Apr
@husseinb Sorry, @attritionorg can't read.
In reply to Hussein Badakhchani

Attrition Org @attrition_org 14 Apr
@dakami "getting data" is the easy part, we steal it. "getting meaningful data" is the tricky part, we dont understand it. (Bcc @mikko)

Attrition Org @attrition_org 14 Apr
Composers shouldn't think too much - it interferes with their plagiarism. attrition.org/errata/wish_li... email me.

@attritionorg who is lying & who is justifying will be cleared soon. secure ur ass
290
teamgreyhat, [+] Wed 16 May 15:54 via web in reply to...

@teamgreyhat Wait, so you lying about something is us "going too far"? You guys don't seem very bright.
6360
attritionorg, [+] Wed 16 May 15:54 via TweetDeck in reply to

@attritionorg now u have gone 2 far its a matter of greyhat community #target securityerrata engaged .....
290
teamgreyhat, [+] Wed 16 May 15:53 via web in reply to...

@teamgreyhat Bidding or not, you are obviously lying about who is involved in it. Integrity escapes you all.
6360
attritionorg, [+] Wed 16 May 15:52 via TweetDeck in reply tc

@attritionorg also #THN #Ankitfadia #cat #Manu Infosec Institute are on the biding now ur value is $250
290
teamgreyhat, [+] Wed 16 May 15:51 via web in reply to...

@teamgreyhat By "plenty of reports", you mean the same person from VoGH who cried about our article?
6360
attritionorg, [+] Wed 16 May 15:48 via TweetDeck in reply to

@attritionorg we got plenty of reports against you.... in hacker bate IRC room your site is on 200 USD, so get ready for a gang rape
290
teamgreyhat, [+] Wed 16 May 15:47 via web in reply to...

@teamgreyhat Don't have a sister. Is this some vague threat of retaliation for exposing @VoiceOfGreyHat?
6360
attritionorg, [+] Wed 16 May 15:36 via TweetDeck in reply to

@attritionorg @securityerrata ask your sister what is #Teamgreyhat
290
teamgreyhat, [+] Wed 16 May 15:35 via web

Blowback The (scary) Rest

twitter.com/cattechie/statuses/206068589063716864

Search

Cat Techie
@cattechie

Follow

My Lovely Puppy Jericho has grown big now, except the habit of barking he is cute otherwise pic.twitter.com/VT704kkc

Reply Retweet Favorite

powered by Photobucket

10:05 AM - 25 May 12 via web · Embed this Tweet

James Attrition
@JamesAttrition
crusader against fraudulent people,hate moral custodians,hate the hungry publicity seekers at the cost of bigwigs of society,I am here to make them sulk.
Cyber Space · http://james-attrition.blogspot.com/

Errata's Errata

(everyone makes mistakes)

In ~ 13 years…

- Less than 10 redactions that I can recall
  - One security spam removed (was an "FYI I am moving companies" mail, but he understands how it was perceived as spam. Removed because he has a history of integrity.)
  - One sec-co article due to confusion of timeline of events.
  - Etc…
- One article proactively removed (about Evans, after listening to him do an interview)
- Around a dozen articles edited for clarity or with new information made available to us (e.g., HTBridge, Schlossberg, EC-Council, Infosec Institute, etc), typically due to email discussion with the party
- One charlatan watch-list candidate removed (after sit-down at conference, extensive discussion, and additional review of material not originally considered)
- Hundreds of typos and stupid grammer errors
- Fail to meet deadlines I set for myself (e.g., "I will review that in the next few days" turns into weeks or months.)

Why Errata Works?

- As open and transparent as possible
- Cite our sources
- Articles are generally peer reviewed
- Will update / retract
- Attempt to follow ethical journalism practices
- Nothing to gain (other than greater integrity in industry)
- Stand up and defend our articles to the best of our ability
- We maintain a blacklist, not a whitelist

It Really Works!

- Frequently feels like pissing in the wind, but sometimes effective.

- Examples (through positive interaction):
  - Sahil Khan
  - Jayson Street
  - InfoSec Institute
- Examples (through persistence):
  - Greg Evans (rejected from some confs, some media refuses him)
  - Christian Valor / se7en (out of industry)
  - Michelle Delio (dumped from Wired)

- What have we accomplished?
  - Awareness
  - A sliver of sunshine in an otherwise cloudy industry

Helping – Why Care?

"We must fear evil men and deal with them accordingly, but what we must truly guard against, what we must fear most, is the indifference of good men." -- Boondock Saints

- Ethical thing to do (for real)
- Ethical thing to do (mandatory, e.g., CISSP makes you)
- Ethical thing to do (gets you dates) [1]
- Revenge (petty? sure. fun? absolutely.)
- Selfish (less competition in industry) <- for the BH crowd!

Really, we don't care why you help, as long as your work is solid and well sourced.

[1] Errata work has not resulted in a date for any attrition.org staff member.

Helping

- Have you reported an incident / charlatan? Why not?
- Hidden agendas generally don't stay hidden for long. Help them escape!
- No more "won't name names". Grow a pair already. Sometimes it can't be avoided, but not always.
- Send us information! (but do a little leg work for us)
- Blog, Tweet, Tumblr, whatever. Summarize our findings. Saturation is the key.

Expectations

Why errata hasn't lived up to expectations…

Ours:
- Community support is dismal (e.g. few volunteers, almost none stick around)
- Overall, barely having an affect – most charlatans still in business
- To do it right, takes a lot of time

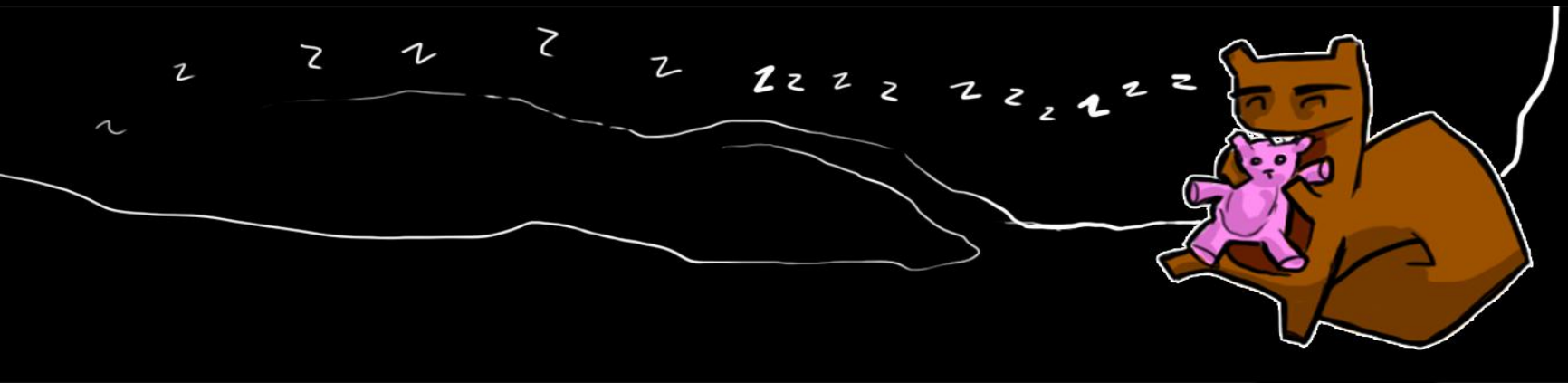
Community:
- Want more, faster, more frequently
- Want all the work done for them

Why?
- Long-term and short-term burnout (i.e. working on Errata too much)
- Personal/Professional situations change (e.g., employer backlash)
- Resources (e.g., limited manpower, already spread thin with family, job, other projects)
- Volunteers see it is not glamorous and bail quickly

Dreaming

What Errata would be like if…

- We had 13 years and 1 full time person that entire time? 3 people?
- A real budget to fight anything, including first amendment threats?
- More in the industry wanted to take charlatans to task?
- More journalists covered our findings?
- We could cover all sources:
  - Bugtraq – Vendors, HTBridge, etc.
  - Full-Disclosure – So many bad disclosures.
  - Conference Talks – e.g., 2010 ShmooCon FemToCell
  - Media – How many bad articles have you read?
- Every company and conference used it as a resource before hiring/selecting
- Every media outlet checked Errata before inviting charlatans on a show

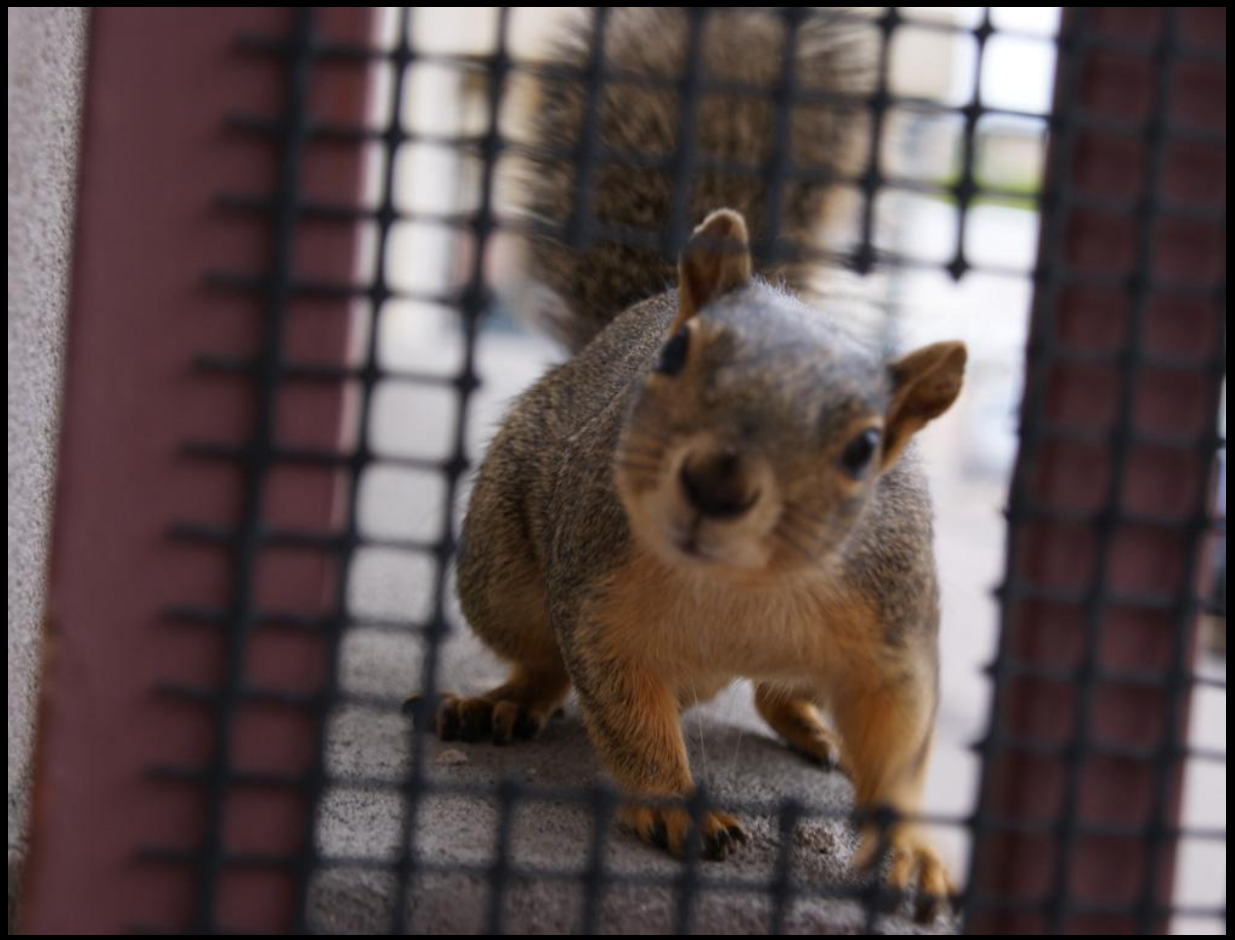


Thanks!

(In no particular order)

- Graphics:
  - Mar (sudux.com) – Presentation Art, Errata Graphics, More
  - Cupcake – Errata Graphics
- Functional:
  - Lyger – Spel Checker, Admin, Sanity Checker, Sanity Destroyer, Designated Wrestler
  - Apacid – DNS, admin
- Fellow Curmudgeons & Skeptics
  - Jay Dyson – fellow curmudgeon, skeptic, admin
  - Rob Rosenberger / Vmyths.com - skeptic
  - Space Rogue / HNN - skeptic
- Former Errata Volunteers: Mcintyre, Zodiac, Quine, Sawaba, dsmcr, Irish, Deepquest, Flipz, Fell, Robert Winkel

Questions?



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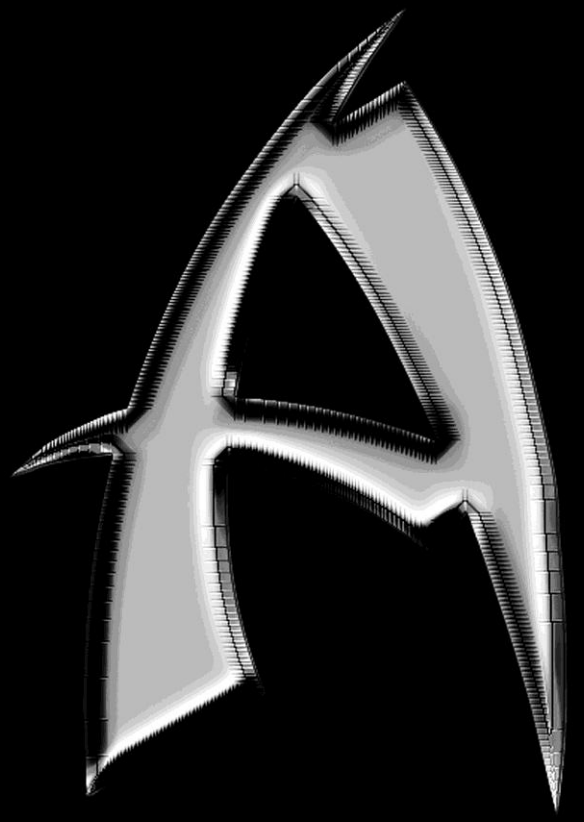
Expect Us! (Eventually)

Apologies to Anonymous.