





Saw Something, Said Something (ctd)
CLASSIFICATION GUIDE TITLE/NUMBER: (U//FOUO) PROJECT BULLRUN/2-16
PUBLICATION DATE: 16 June 2010
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: (U) Cryptanalysis and Exploitation Services
POC: (U) Cryptanalysis and Exploitation Services (CES) Classification Advisory Officer
PHONE:
ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY:
 (TS//SI//REL) Project BULLRUN deals with NSA's abilities to defeat the encryption used in specific network communication technologies. BULLRUN involves multiple sources, all of which are extremely sensitive. They include CNE, interdiction, industry relationships, collaboration with other IC entities, and advanced mathematical techniques. Several ECIs apply to the specific sources, methods, and techniques involved. Because of the multiple sources involved in BULLRUN activities, "capabilities against a technology" does not necessarily equate to decryption.
You're not paranoid, they really are out to get you

BULLRUN

TOP SECRET//SI/TK//NOFORN

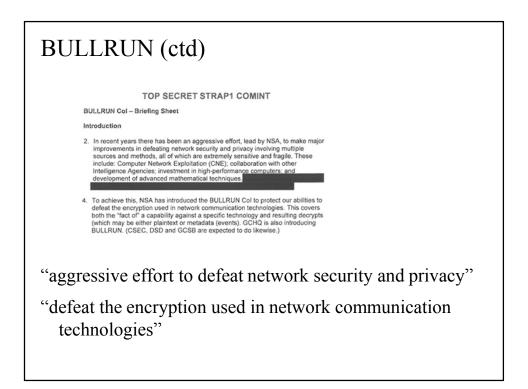
(U) COMPUTER NETWORK OPERATIONS (U) SIGINT ENABLING

	FY 2011 ¹ Actual	FY	2012 Enac	ted	FY	2013 Requ	FY 2012 - FY 2013		
		Base	000	Total	Base	000	Total	Change	% Change
Funding (\$M)	298.6	275.4		275.4	254.9		254.9	-20.4	-7
Civilian FTE	144	143	-	143	141	-	141	-2	-1
Civilian Positions	144	143	-	143	141	-	141	-2	-1
Military Positions	- 1	-					-		

Funded to the tune of \$250-300M/year

BULLRUN (ctd) This is fantastic value for money! Compare the BULLRUN cost to the JSF \$60 billion development \$260 billion procurement \$100-200 million each (lots of different cost estimates) \$600-700 million each over operational lifetime BULLRUN is a bargain by comparison

BULLRUN (ctd) C.1. (U//FOUO) The fact that C.3. (TS//SI//REL) The fact that NSA/CSS has some capabilities Cryptanalysis and Exploitation Services (CES) develops cryptanalytic capabilities to exploit the inherent vulnerabilities in the against the encryption in TLS/SSL, HTTPS, SSH, VPNs, VoIP, WEBMAIL, and other encryption used in unspecified network communication network communication technologies technologies C.2. (U//FOUO) The fact that NSA/CSS targets specific encrypted network communication technologies C.4. (U//FOUO) The fact that NSA/CSS has a capability against the encryption used in a specific implementation of a network communication technology "capabilities against TLS/SSL, HTTPS, SSH, VPNs, VoIP, webmail, ..."



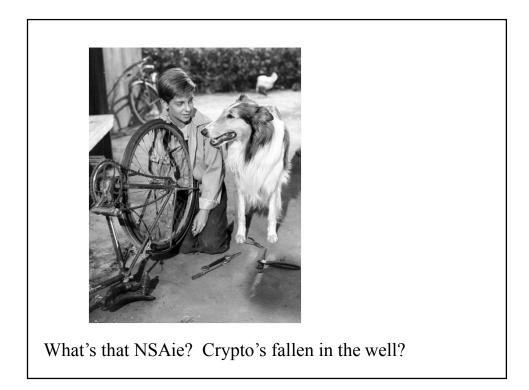
BULLRUN (ctd)

The first rule of BULLRUN club...

TOP SECRET STRAP1

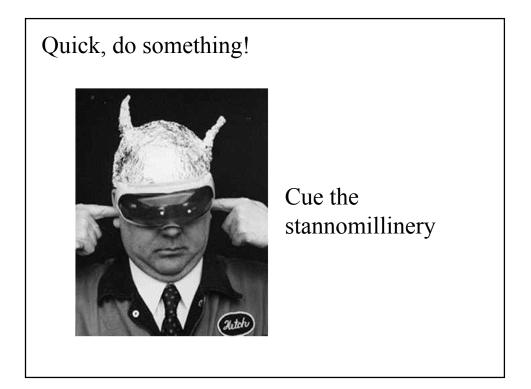
BULLRUN Bottom Line

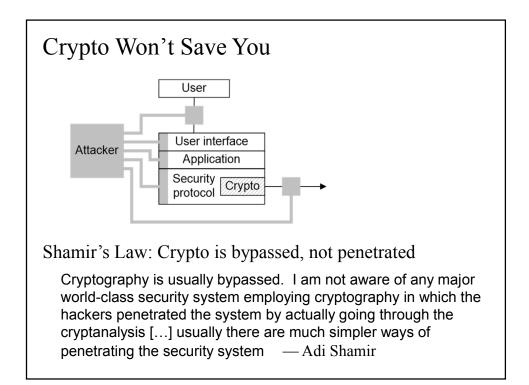
Do not ask about or speculate on sources or methods underpinning BULLRUN successes

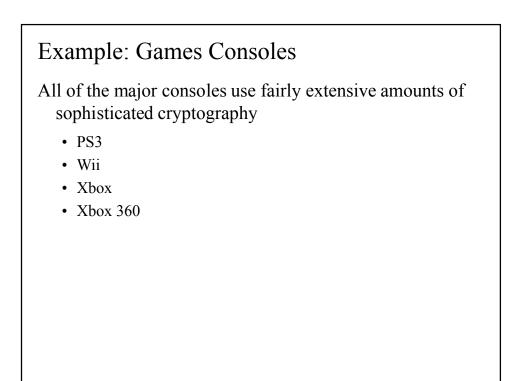


I Know, Bigger Keys!

We need to get bigger keys. BIG F**ING KEYS! — "Split Second", 1992







Example: Games Consoles (ctd)

Measures include

- Signed executables
- Encrypted storage
- Full-media encryption and signing
- Memory encryption and integrity-protection
- On-die key storage and/or use of security coprocessors
 - If you asked someone a decade ago what this was describing, they'd have guessed an NSA-designed crypto box

All of them have been hacked

• In none of the cases was it necessary to break the cryptography

Crypto Won't Save You

Amazon Kindle 2

- All binaries signed with a 1024-bit RSA key
- Jailbreakers replaced it with their own one
- Later versions of the Kindle were similarly jailbroken without breaking the crypto

HTC Thunderbolt

- Signed binaries
- Signed kernel
- Signed system-recovery/restart code
- Remove the signature-checking code

Samsung Galaxy

- Firmware signed with 2048-bit RSA key
 - Round up twice the usual number of key bits!
- Modify firmware metadata to load it over the top of the signature-checking code

Nikon Cameras

- Sign images using a 1024-bit RSA key
- Signature encoded in photo EXIF data
- Signing key encoded in camera firmware...

Crypto Won't Save You (ctd)

Canon Cameras

- Authenticate images using HMAC (keyed hash function)
- HMAC is symmetric: Verifier needs to know the key as well
- Shared HMAC key encoded in camera firmware...

Airport Express

- Signs data with a 2048-bit RSA key
- Recover the private key from the firmware image

Asus Transformer

Obtain AES Secure Boot Key via unspecified means

Diaspora

- Privacy-aware alternative to Facebook
- Replace the victim's public key with your own one
- You can now MITM all of the victim's messages

Google Chromecast

- Carefully verified signed image on loading
- Ignored the return value of the signature-checking function

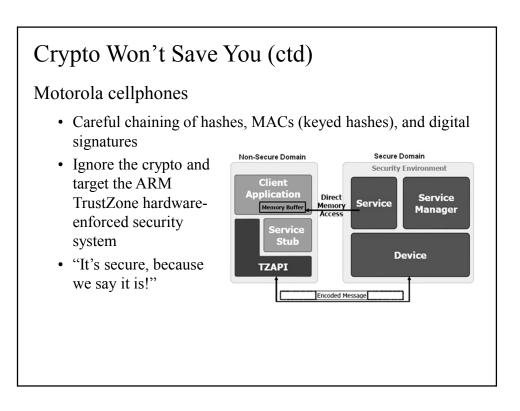
Samsung Digital TV

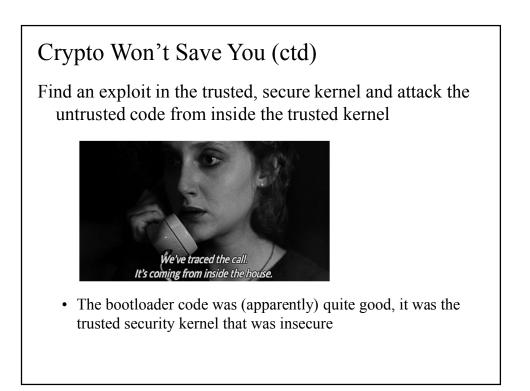
- Recover CMAC key from firmware
- Can also load your own firmware via spoofed online autoupdate

Crypto Won't Save You (ctd)

Google TV

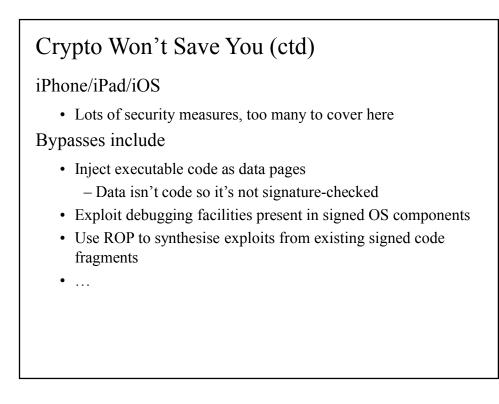
- Range of devices from various manufacturers
- Exploit inadvertently-enabled debug modes
- Use improper path validation to run unapproved binaries
- Remap NAND flash controller registers to allow kernel memory overwrite
- Desolder encrypted SSD and replace with unencrypted one
- Usual plethora of Linux kernel bugs and application-level errors





Android code signing

- APK = JAR = Zip file
- Signed using specially-named files included in the Zip archive (MANIFEST.MF, CERT.SF, CERT.RSA)
- Use custom archive tool to create Zip file with duplicate filenames
- Verification is done using a Java hashmap
 - Duplicate entries are overwritten
- Installation is done via C code
 - Duplicate entries are processed on the assumption that they've been sig-checked



Windows RT UEFI

• Exploit privilege escalation vulnerability in the RT kernel to bypass signing

Windows 8 UEFI

- Patch SPI flash memory holding UEFI firmware to skip the signature-check
- Clear flags in system NVRAM to disable signature checks

Crypto Won't Save You (ctd)

CCC 2011 Badge

- Used Corrected Block TEA/XXTEA block cipher with 128-bit key
- Various exploits that all bypassed the need to deal with XXTEA
- Eventually, loaded custom code to extract the 128-bit key
- It's probably at least some sort of sign of the end times when your conference badge has a rootkit

Xbox (earlier attack)

- Data moving over high-speed internal buses was deemed to be secure
- HyperTransport bus analysers existed only in a few semiconductor manufacturer labs

LVDS signalling looks a lot like HT signalling

• Use an LVDS transceiver to decode HT signalling

Standard FPGA's aren't fast enough to process the data

- Hand-optimise paths through the FPGA's switching fabric
- Clock data onto four phases of a quarter-speed clock
 8-bit stream → 32-bit stream at ¼ speed
- Overclock the FPGA

Crypto Won't Save You (ctd)

Xbox (later attacks)

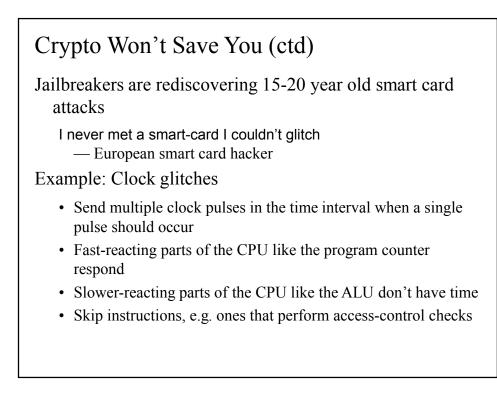
- Force the CPU to boot off external ROM rather than secure internal ROM
 - Standard smart-card hacker's trick
- Exploit architectural quirks in the CPU
 - Microsoft developed with AMD CPUs but shipped with an Intel CPU
- Exploit backwards-compatibility support in the CPU for bugs dating back to the 80286
- Exploit the fact that font files (TTFs) were never verified
 - Use doctored fonts to leverage a vulnerability in the Xbox font handler

PS3

- Variant of the first Xbox attack
- Don't try and pull data off the bus, just glitch it
- Processor now has an incorrect view of what's stored in memory
 - Data in cache doesn't match what's actually in memory

Xbox 360

- Another glitch attack
- Ensure that a hash comparison always returns a hash-matched result



Your A/V Won't Save you Either

The crypto helps the attackers rather than hindering them

- Use stolen certificates to bypass malware checks
- Attackers appear to have an unlimited supply of these

"It's signed by a major commercial vendor, it must be OK"

- Hackers tend to use fraudulently-obtained certificates, government-level attackers just use stolen ones
- More trusted, harder to revoke, possibly easier to obtain?

Certificates from public CAs are "a magic whitelist that advanced attackers use to glide past network defences"

— Patrick Grey, Risky Business #370

Some Metrics...

How unnecessary is it to attack the crypto?

Geer's Law:

Any security technology whose effectiveness can't be empirically determined is indistinguishable from blind luck — Dan Geer

Some Metrics... (ctd)

Large-scale experiment carried out by a who's-who of companies

- Amazon
- Apple
- Dell
- eBay
- HP
- HSBC
- LinkedIn
- Paypal
- Twitter

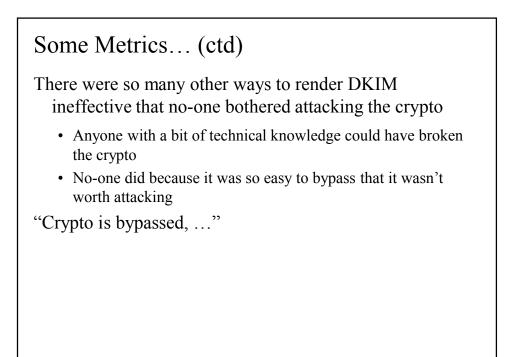
Some Metrics... (ctd)

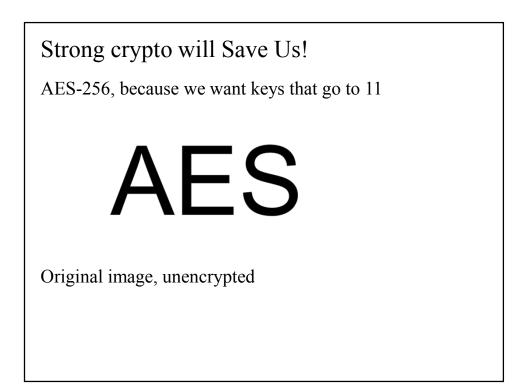
In late 2012, researchers noticed that these organisations, and many others, were using toy keys for DKIM signing

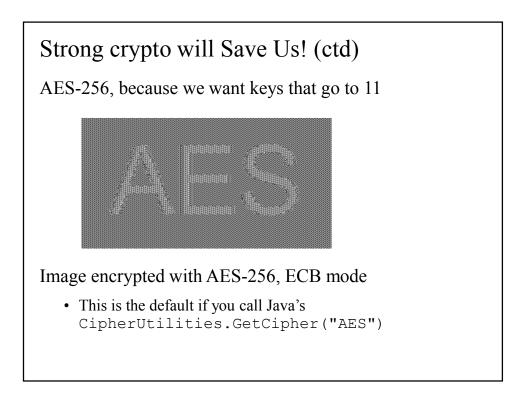
- 12,000 organisations
- 4,000 were using keys so weak that an individual attacker could have broken them

If this crypto was so weak, why didn't anyone attack it?

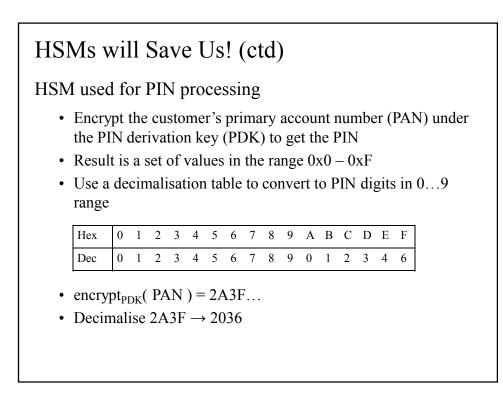
• It wasn't necessary

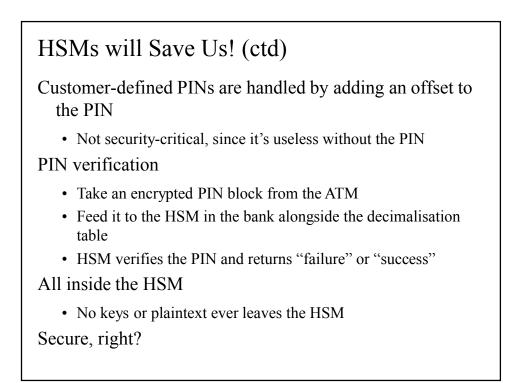












HSMs will Save Us! (ctd)

Decimalisation tables are customer-defined

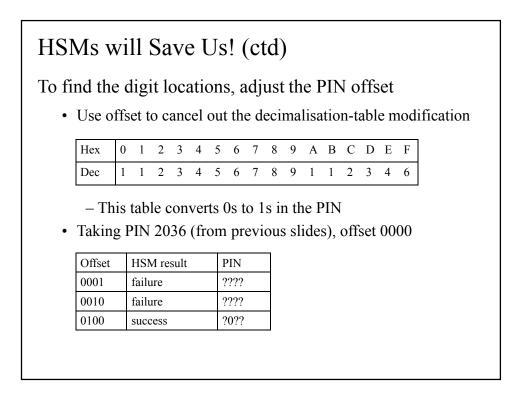
• Use a modified table to guess each PIN digit

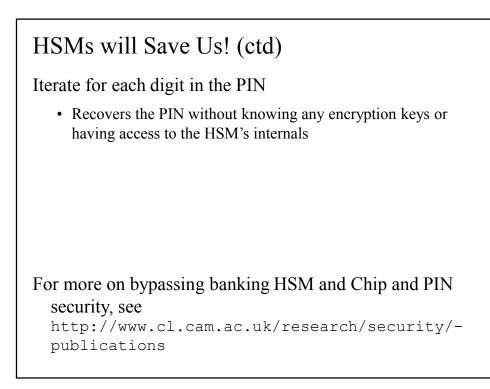
Hex	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	А	В	С	D	Е	F
Dec	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	1	2	3	4	6

- Enter PIN block
- If the HSM still reports "success" then the PIN contains no zeroes

Repeat for all digits

• Now you know the digits in the PIN, but not their location



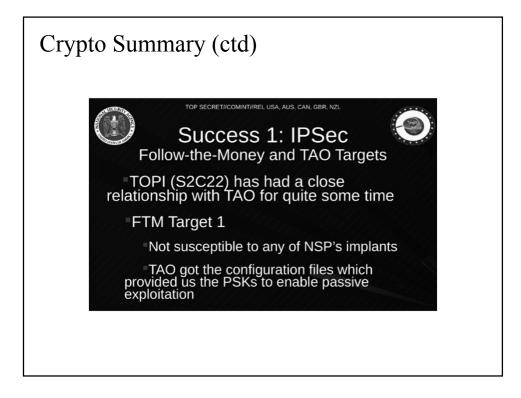


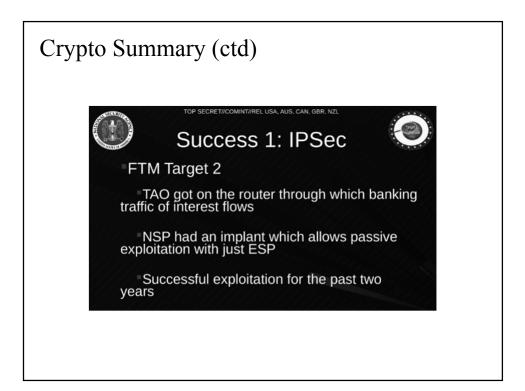
Crypto Summary

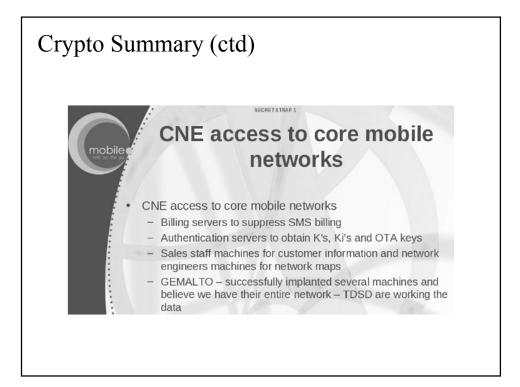
Number of attacks that broke the crypto: 0

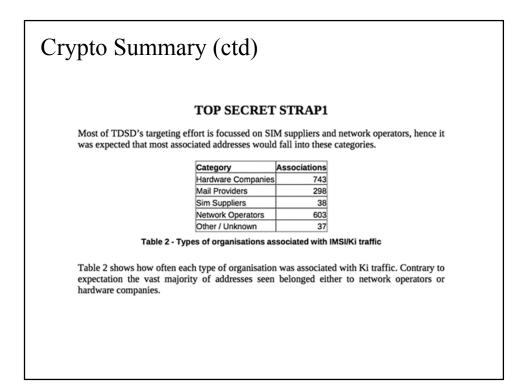
Number of attacks that bypassed the crypto: All the rest

• No matter how strong the crypto was, or how large the keys were, the attackers walked around it









Getting Back to BULLRUN...

New York Times:

The N.S.A. hacked into target computers to snare messages before they were encrypted. In some cases, companies say they were coerced by the government into handing over their master encryption keys or building in a back door. And the agency used its influence as the world's most experienced code maker to covertly introduce weaknesses into the encryption standards followed by hardware and software developers around the world.

"For the past decade, N.S.A. has led an aggressive, multipronged effort to break widely used Internet encryption technologies," said a 2010 memo describing a briefing about N.S.A. accomplishments for employees of its British counterpart, Government Communications Headquarters, or GCHQ. "Cryptanalytic capabilities are now coming online. Vast amounts of encrypted Internet data which have up till now been discarded are now exploitable."

When the British analysts, who often work side by side with N.S.A. officers, were first told about the program, another memo said, "those not already briefed were gobsmacked!" "the NSA hacked into target computers"

"companies were coerced by the government into handing over master encryption keys"

One-week CERT Summary (SB13-273)

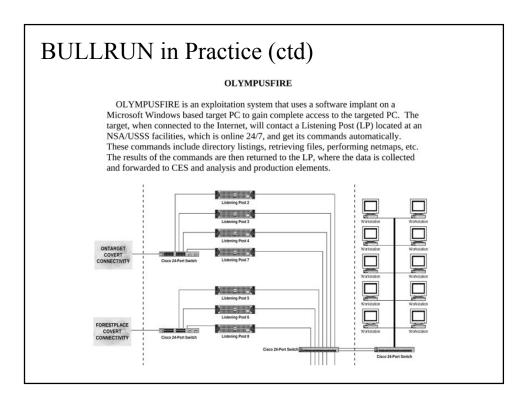
"obtain administrative privileges by leveraging read access to the configuration file", "allows remote authenticated users to bypass an unspecified authentication step", "allows remote attackers to discover usernames and passwords via an HTTP request", "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands", "allows remote attackers to read arbitrary files", "allows remote attackers to read arbitrary text files", "allows remote authenticated users to execute arbitrary code", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows remote attackers to obtain sensitive information or modify data", "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary SQL commands", "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary SQL commands", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows man-in-the-middle attackers to spoof SSL servers", "allows man-in-the-middle attackers to spoof servers" "allows man- in-the-middle attackers to obtain sensitive information or modify the data stream", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows remote attackers to enumerate valid usernames", "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands", "allows local users to execute arbitrary Baseboard Management Controller (BMC) commands", "allows man-in-the-middle attackers to read or modify an inter-device data stream", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allow remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to obtain sensitive query string or cookie information", "allows remote attackers to hijack the authentication of administrators", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to obtain sensitive information", "allows remote attackers to conduct cross-site request forgery (CSRF) attacks", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML via an HTML", "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code", "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code", "allow remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to bypass intended access restrictions", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to obtain sensitive information", "allows remote attackers to obtain sensitive information", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to read session cookies", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script of HTML", "allows remote attackers to read session cookies", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to obtain privileged access", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows remote attackers to obtain sensitive information", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows information", "allows local users to gain privileges", "allows local users to gain privileges" local users to gain privileges", "allows remote attackers to obtain sensitive information", "allow remote attackers to bypass intended access restrictions", "allows remote authenticated users to bypass intended payment requirements", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote attackers to bypass TLS verification", "allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML", "allows remote

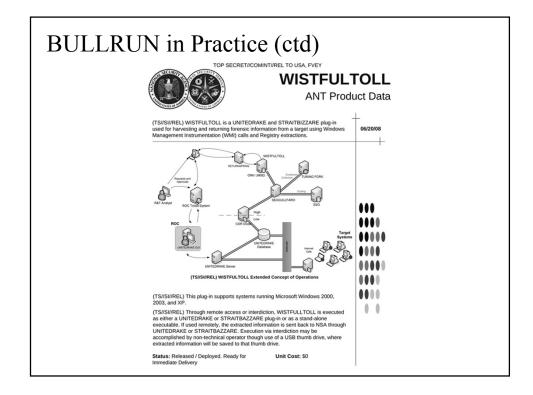
BULLRUN in Practice

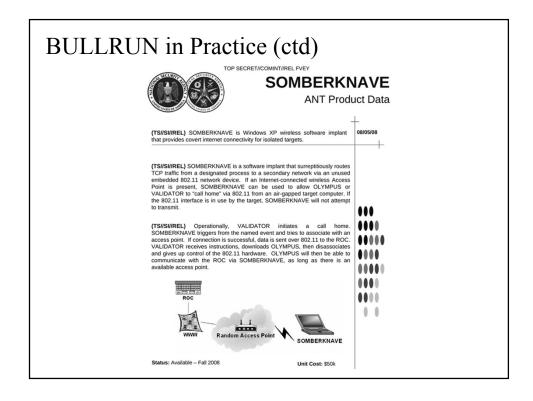
TOP SECRET//COMINT//MR

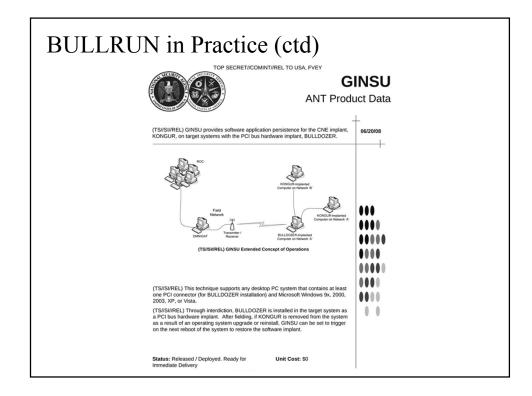
VALIDATOR

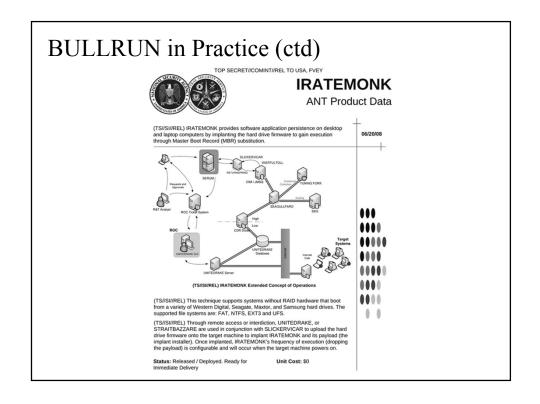
VALIDATOR is a part of a backdoor access system under the FOXACID project. The VALIDATOR is a client/server-based system that provides unique backdoor access to personal computers of targets of national interest, including but not limited to terrorist targets. VALIDATOR is a small Trojan implant used as a back door against a variety of targeted Windows systems, which can be deployed remotely or via hands on access to any Windows box from Windows 98 through Windows Server 2003. The LP is on-line 24/7 and tasking is 'queued', that is, jobs sit in a queue waiting for the target to 'call home', then the job(s) are sent one at a time to the target for it to process them. Commands are Put a file, get a file, Put, then execute a file, get system information, change VALIDATOR ID, and Remove itself. VALIDATOR's are deployed to targeted systems and contact their Listening Post (LP) (each VALIDATOR is given a specific unique ID, specific IP address to call home to it's LP); SEPI analysts validate the target's identity and location (USSID-18 check), then provide a deployment list to Olympus operators to load a more sophisticated Trojan implant (currently OLYMPUS, future UNITEDRAKE). An OLYMPUS operator then queue up commands for the specific VALIDATOR ID's given by SEPI. Process repeats itself. Once target is hooked with the more sophisticated implant, VALIDATOR operators tend to cease. On occasion, operators are instructed by SEPI or the SWO to have VAIDATOR delete itself.

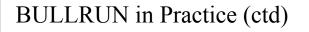










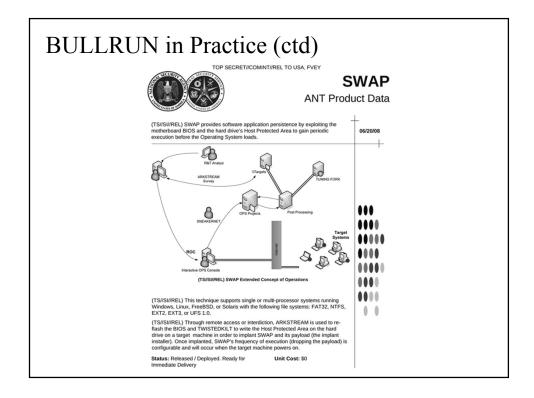


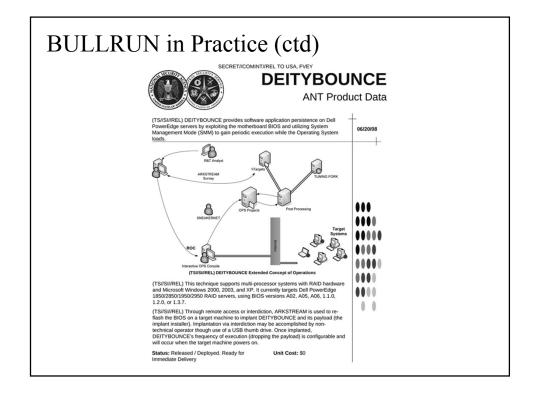
IRATEMONK was almost certainly used by a group that Kaspersky Labs dubbed Equation Group due to their use of strong cryptography

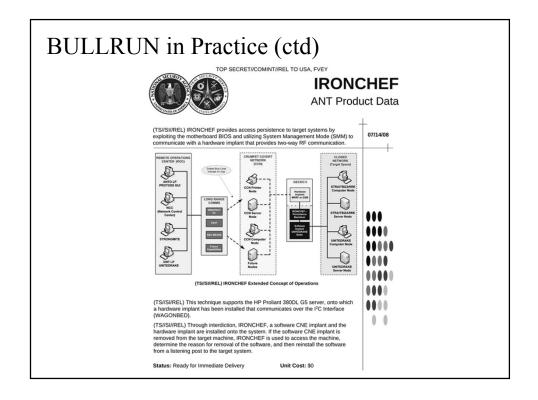
• Equation Group are tied to the Stuxnet and Flame developers Equation Group are the ones with the coolest toys. Every now and then they share them with the Stuxnet group and the Flame group, but they are originally available only to the Equation Group people

 Costin Raiu, Director of Kaspersky Lab's Global Research and Analysis Team

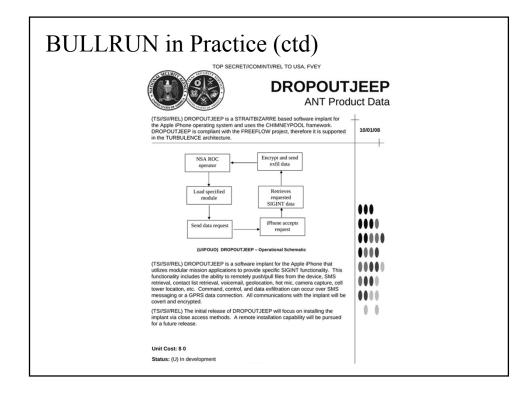
• More details in Ars Technica, "How 'omnipotent' hackers tied to NSA hid for 14 years — and were found at last"

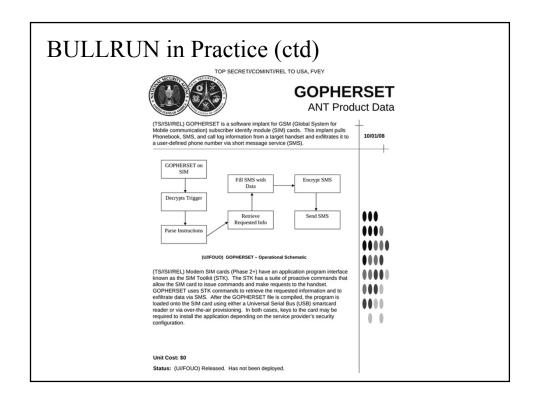


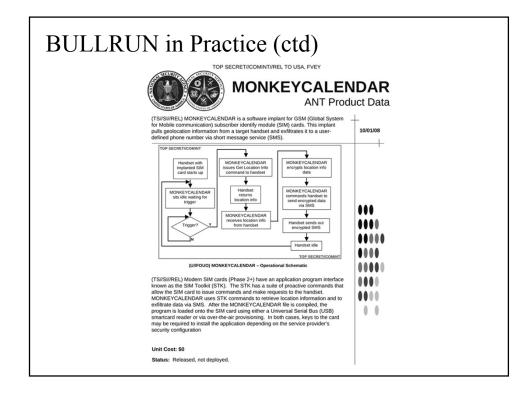


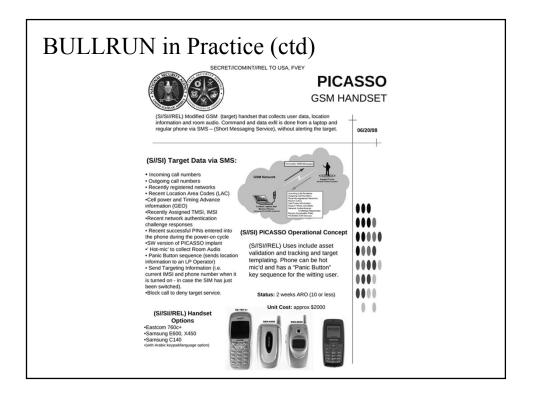


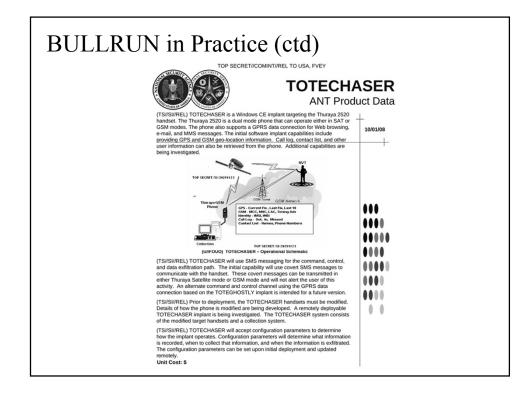
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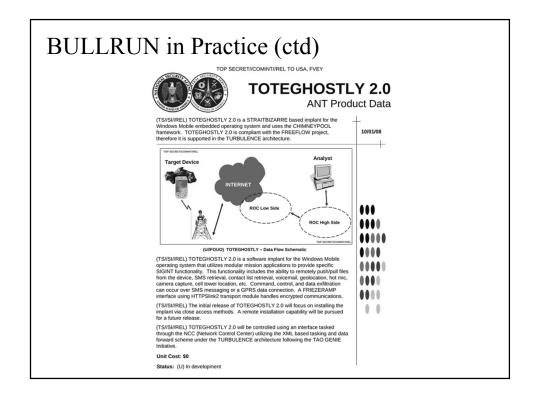


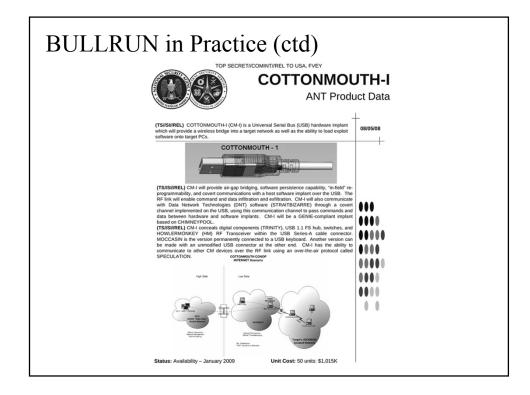


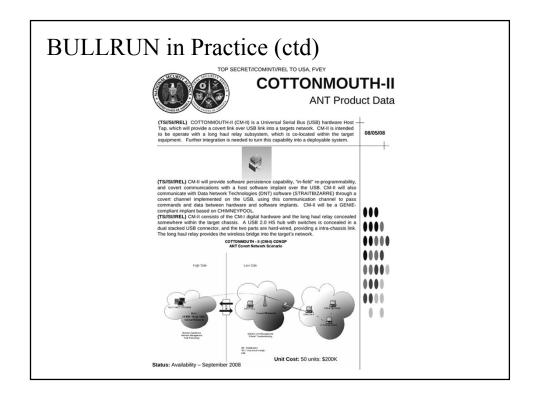


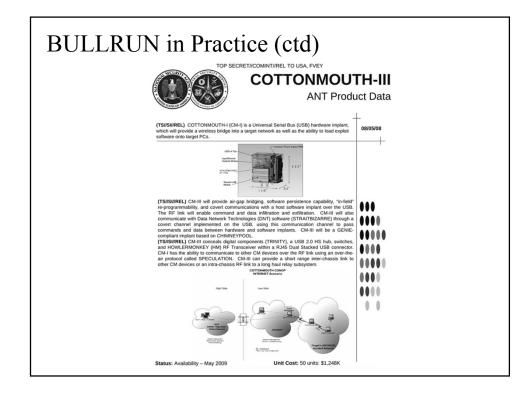


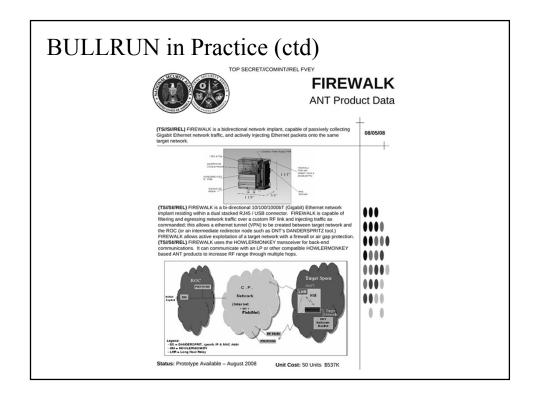


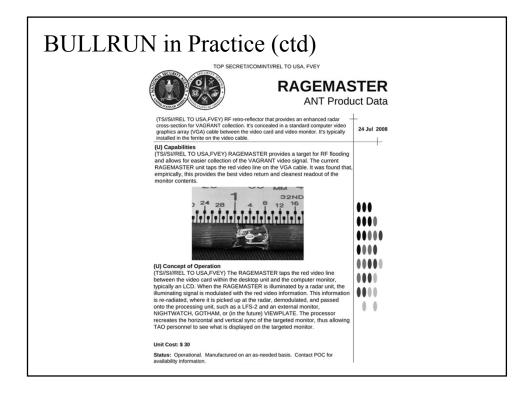














BULLRUN in Practice (ctd)

It's not just the NSA that does this

The British Government has admitted its intelligence services have the broad power to hack into personal phones, computers, and communications networks, and claims they are legally justified to hack anyone, anywhere in the world, even if the target is not a threat to national security nor suspected of any crime

 Privacy International summary of ~130 pages of UK government court documents

National Security Letters

The legalised form of rubber-hose cryptanalysis

- Requirement to hand over data, or else
- Built-in gag order to prevent you talking about it
 - Details of both vary depending on court challenges to their constitutionality

National Security Letters (ctd)

Bypass any crypto at the service provider by requiring them to hand over plaintext

- FBI over-used them while under-reporting their use to Congress
- In 2013, issued over 19,000 NSLs with nearly 39,000 requests for information (Statistical Transparency Report Regarding Use of National Security Authorities, June 2014)

Several providers (LavaBit, Silent Mail, CryptoSeal, CertiVox) have shut down in the face of NSLs

• Larger, more commercially-oriented providers complied with them

BULLRUN Again...

(U) Project Description

(TS//SI//NF) The SIGINT Enabling Project actively engages the US and foreign IT industries to covertly influence and/or overtly leverage their commercial products' designs. These design changes make the systems in question exploitable through SIGINT collection (e.g., Endpoint, MidPoint, etc.) with foreknowledge of the modification. To the consumer and other adversaries, however, the systems' security remains intact. In this way, the SIGINT Enabling approach uses commercial technology and insight to manage the increasing cost and technical challenges of discovering and successfully exploiting systems of interest within the ever-more integrated and security-focused global communications environment.

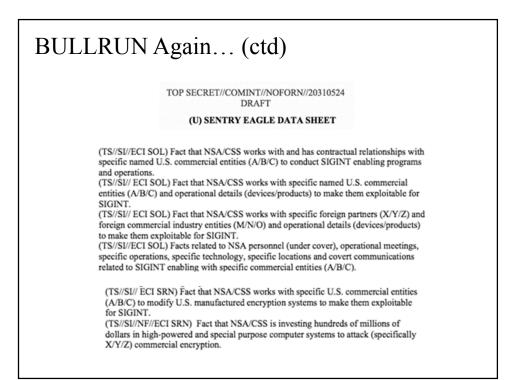
"covertly influence and/or overtly leverage commercial products' designs"

"design changes make the systems in question exploitable"

"to the consumer, however, the systems' security remains intact"

(U) Base resources in this project are used to:

- (TS//SI//REL TO USA, FVEY) Insert vulnerabilities into commercial encryption systems, IT systems, networks, and endpoint communications devices used by targets.
- (TS//SI/REL TO USA, FVEY) Collect target network data and metadata via cooperative network carriers and/or increased control over core networks.
- (TSI/REL TO USA, FVEY) Leverage commercial capabilities to remotely deliver or receive information to and from target endpoints.
- (TS//SI//REL TO USA, FVEY) Exploit foreign trusted computing platforms and technologies.
- (TS//SI//REL TO USA, FVEY) Influence policies, standards and specification for commercial public key technologies.
- (TS//SI/REL TO USA, FVEY) Make specific and aggressive investments to facilitate the development of a robust exploitation capability against Next-Generation Wireless (NGW) communications.
- · (U//FOUO) Maintain understanding of commercial business and technology trends.
- (U//FOUO) Procure products for internal evaluation.
- (U//FOUO) Partner with industry and/or government agencies in developing technologies of strategic interest to NSA/CSS.
- (TSJ/REL TO USA, FVEY) Support the SIGINT exploitation of NGW, a MIP/NIP collective investment. This request reflects only the NIP portion of the program. Refer to MIP NSA volume for details on MIP related activities.
- (TS//SI//REL TO USA, FVEY) Provide for continued partnerships with major telecommunications carriers to shape the global network to benefit other collection accesses and allow the continuation of partnering with commercial Managed Security Service Providers and threat researchers, doing threat/vulnerability analysis.
- (TS//SI//REL TO USA, FVEY) Continue relationships with commercial IT partners and capitalize on new
 opportunities, including the enabling of cryptography used by the
 governments; enable the encryption being used in a high interest satellite signal, which allows access to the
 communications being carried on a commercial satellite provider.



Dual_EC_DRBG

In 1985, ANSI X9.17 specified a pseudorandom number generator (PRNG) for banking use

```
temp = encrypt( seed );
out = encrypt( temp \land V_n );
V_{n+1} = encrypt( out \land temp );
```

Based on triple DES, the state of the art at the time

• Security relies on the strength of 3DES secret keys

Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd)

In 1998, NIST adopted it verbatim in X9.31, adding the option to use AES

Subsequently, over a period of several years many people at NIST hacked around on a bunch of PRNGs

• Design-by-committee, but in series rather than parallel Finally published in 2012 as NIST SP 800-90A

Some SP 800-90 generators are straightforward and sensible

- X9.17/X9.31 updated to use HMAC
- Half a page in X9.17

Some are not

- Hash_DRBG
- Five pages in SP 800-90

Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd)

Others are just stupid

- Dual_EC_DRBG
- Sixteen pages in SP 800-90
 - Pages and pages of maths
 - Where's the RNG?
- Complex, awkward, incredibly slow, ...

NSA also pushed hard to get this particular PRNG into other standards

- ANSI X9.82
- ISO 18031

ANSI is a US national standards body, but ISO is an international body

• Something similar happened in the 1990s when they were "persuaded" not to standardise encryption algorithms

Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd) ISO had spent years developing their RNG standard 19 of 24 countries involved had already approved the draft standard... ... but not the US We do feel that ANSI X9.82 Random Bit Generation standardization work is much further developed and should be used as the basis for this ISO standard - US national body comments on ISO/IEC 2nd Committee Draft for 18031 Two years later, ISO 18031:2005 was released in the form the NSA wanted

ANSI/ISO standards are even worse than SP 800-90

• No way to generate your own parameters

In any case the NSA had a solution for SP 800-90

The Dual_EC_DRBG requires the specifications of an elliptic curve and two points on the elliptic curve [...] CAVS Dual_EC_DRBG tests use only the NIST Approved curves and associated points

— "The NIST SP 800-90A Deterministic Random Bit Generator Validation System (DRBGVS)"

• (This is standard NIST wording, meaning if you find a flaw, you can't fix it without voiding your certification, a long-standing problem with FIPS 140)

Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd) It's OK, no-one in their right mind would implement this l've never met anyone who would actually use Dual-EC-DRBG. (Blum-Blum-Shub-fanatics show up all the time, but they are all nutcases) — Kristian Gjøsteen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Kristian submitted a comment paper to NIST as far back as 2006 pointing out that the EC DRBG was cryptographically unsound and shouldn't be used)

So we've established that no-one would ever take this thing seriously



You were serious about dat? — "My Cousin Vinnie", 1992

Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd)

Well, except for a pile of US companies, including

- Blackberry
- Certicom (holders of ECC patents)
- Cisco
- GE Healthcare
- Juniper (see later slides)
- Lancope (who *only* provide EC_DRBG)
- McAfee
- Microsoft
- Mocana
- Openpeak
- continues

continued

- OpenSSL (umbrella use by numerous organisations)
- RSA
- Safenet
- SafeLogic
- Samsung (must have had USG customers)
- Symantec
- Thales (see Samsung entry)

RSA made it the default in their crypto library

Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd)

OpenSSL didn't actually use it, though

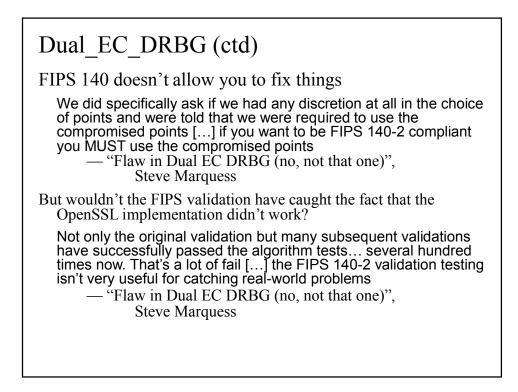
• Implementation contained "a fatal bug in the Dual EC DRBG implementation"

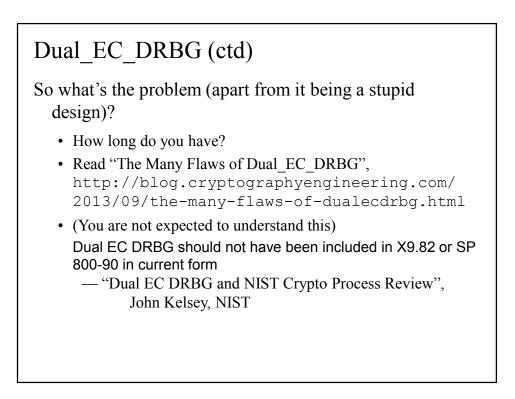
This bug is fatal in the sense that it prevents all use of the Dual EC DRBG algorithm [...] we do not plan to correct the bug. A FIPS 140-2 validated module cannot be changed without considerable expense and effort

— "Flaw in Dual EC DRBG (no, not that one)", Steve Marquess

Presumably no-one had ever used this generator in OpenSSL, since no-one complained that it didn't work

• Presumably...





Short summary of just one issue

- Public value sent at start of SSL/TLS handshake, Client Random, is 32 bytes (256 bits)
 - Used to randomise each new exchange
- If generated with Dual_EC_DRBG you can predict the SSL/TLS premaster secret
- All crypto keys in SSL/TLS are derived from this value

Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd) NSA attempted to make this attack even easier The United States DoD has requested a TLS mode which allows the use of longer public randomness values draft-rescorla-tls-extended-random-00 (Eric Rescorla is co-chair of the TLS working group, draft co-authored by Margaret Salter of the NSA) NSA then authored, co-authored, or sponsored three more standards drafts that had the same effect Each of these extensions has the side effect of removing the most obvious difficulty in exploiting [the Dual EC DRBG] "On the Practical Exploitability of Dual EC in TLS Implementations" Failsafe, multiple-redundant compromise

Dual EC DRBG (ctd)

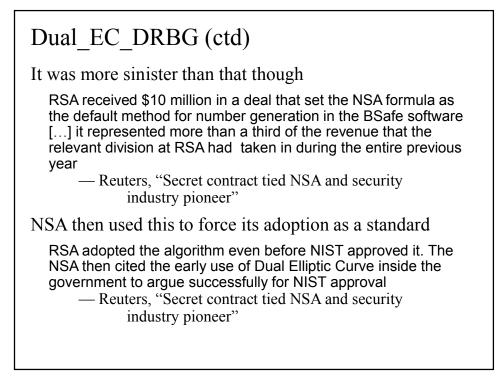
WTF RSA?

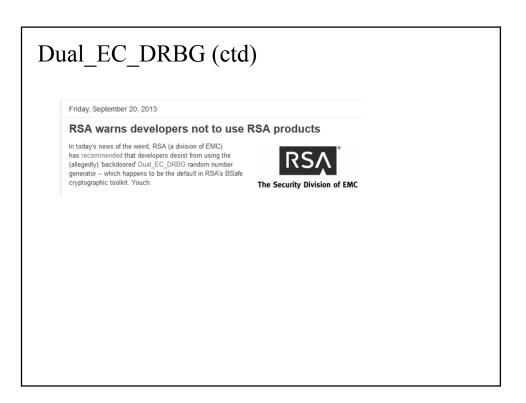
- Specified in a NIST standard
- Lots of government customers
- Implemented several of the generators in the standard
 - Including the dumb ones
- Speculation: "It would really help this large government contract if you made EC DRBG he default. It's OK, it's a NIST-approved generator like all the others"

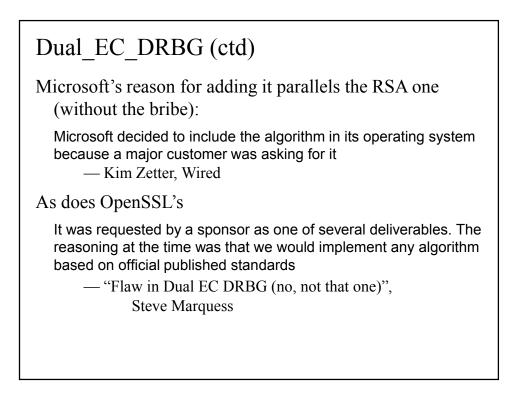
RSA mostly confirmed this

RSA's market for encryption tools was increasingly limited to the US Federal government [...] use of this algorithm as a default [...] allowed us to meet government certification requirements

-Art Coviello, Executive Chairman, RSA







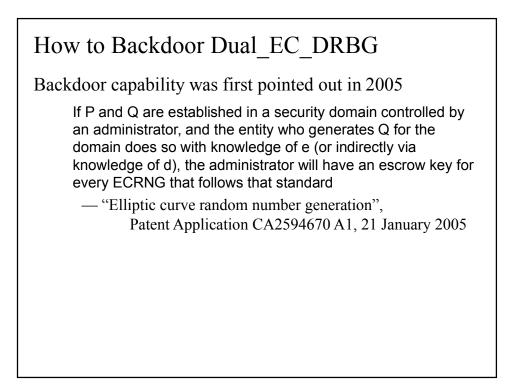
It's OK though, apart from RSA (and Lancope) no-one made it the default

• It has to be explicitly configured to be the default

Surely no-one would do that

- Except perhaps a large government organisation...
 - ... the NSA hacked into target computers...
 - ... to the consumer the systems' security remains intact...

Just the mere *presence* of such a facility is already a security risk



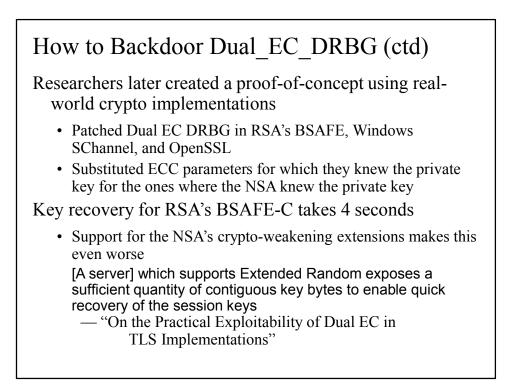
How to Backdoor Dual_EC_DRBG (ctd)

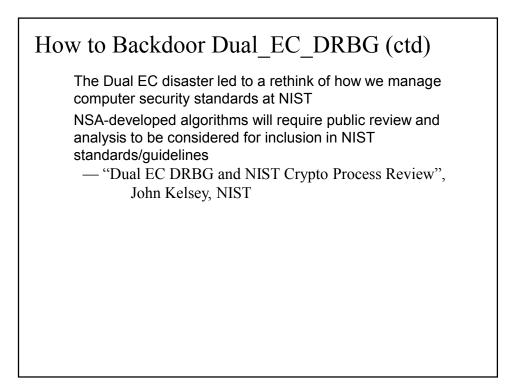
In December 2013, Aris Adamantiadis released OpenSSLbased proof-of-concept code to backdoor the EC_DRBG

It is quite obvious in light of the recent revelations from Snowden that this weakness was introduced by purpose by the NSA. It is very elegant and leaks its complete internal state in only 32 bytes of output [...] It is obviously complete madness to use the reference implementation from NIST — Aris Adamantiadis, "Dual_EC_DRBG backdoor: a proof of concept"

Used his own EC parameters (not the NIST ones)

• Only the NSA can break the one with the NIST parameters, since it requires knowledge of the secret value *d* used to generate them





How Dual_EC_DRBG was Backdoored

In 2015, it was revealed that Juniper's used of the backdoored Dual_EC_DRBG had in turn been backdoored

- Juniper routers used Dual_EC_DRBG as their PRNG
- Attackers replaced the NSA-generated values with their oen ones

Juniper tried to protect against this by following the Dual_EC_DRBG with the ANSI X9.17/X9.31 PRNG

• This should have masked the output of the backdoored PRNG

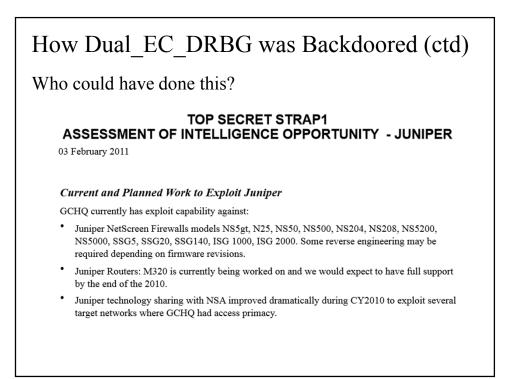
How Dual_EC_DRBG was Backdoored (ctd)

The implementation had a bug, so the second PRNG was never invoked

• Raw output from the double-backdoored PRNG was fed to attackers

The error appears to predate the unauthorized changing of the Q point by unknown attackers and can be viewed as a backdoor itself

 — "The Juniper VPN backdoor: buggy code with a dose of shady NSA crypto", CSO Online,



How Dual_EC_DRBG was Backdoored (ctd)

Actually we have no idea...

• Backdoors are user-agnostic

Given the number that were present, it could have been ones from both our "friends" and our enemies

The weakness in the VPN itself that enables passive decryption is only of benefit to a national surveillance agency like the British, the US, the Chinese, or the Israelis

— "Secret Code Found in Juniper's Firewalls Shows Risk of Government Backdoors", Wired

We say backdoor, you say דלת אחורית, they say 后门

• The backdoor doesn't care who uses it, or how

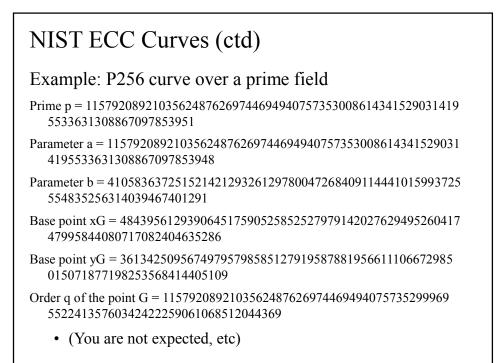
NIST ECC Curves

ECC isn't so much an algorithm as a set of toothpicks and a tube of glue

• All the bells, whistles, and gongs you'll ever need

Need to define standardised parameters ("curves") for interoperability

- NIST defined several
- Most common are P256, P384, and P512



How were these generated?

• Deterministically (i.e. verifiably), from a public seed value

What's the seed value?

• C49D3608 86E70493 6A6678E1 139D26B7 819F7E90

Where did that come from?

- Jerry Solinas at the NSA
- (Jerry is a known ECC mathematician at the NSA)

So how would you use this to backdoor the NIST curves?

- Suppose the NSA knew of (say) a 2⁶⁴ attack that breaks one 256-bit curve in a billion
- The NSA can recognise from the group order whether an attack on the curve will be successful (reasonable assumption)

This isn't as unlikely as it seems

- Whole classes of elliptic curves are vulnerable to various attacks that make them (relatively) easy to break
- Generating curve parameters is a lengthy, involved process to find one that isn't vulnerable to the catalogue of known attacks

NIST ECC Curves (ctd)
Time to generate a chosen curve that passes the NIST checks: 78 minutes on a single-core AMD CPU
We found a desired curve which we call BADA55-R-256 with b = 0x5AFEBADA55ECC5AFEBADA55ECC5AFEBADA5 5ECC5AFEBADA55ECC5AFEBADA5A57
— "How to Manipulate Curve Standards"
Extending this to hashed curves required 7 hours on a GPU cluster
Acknowledgements: This work did not receive the funding that it so richly deserves from the US National Security Agency
— "How to Manipulate Curve Standards"

NSA generates billions of seeds, from which they generate curves until they find one that's vulnerable to this attack

- Get it adopted as a NIST standard...
- ... which is the de facto standard used by US software vendors
- \ldots which is the de facto global standard
 - (Speculation courtesy Dan Bernstein)

The curve is "verifiable" in the sense that it was verifiably generated from the seed

• At that point, things stop

Scenario fits the NIST curves

NIST ECC Curves (ctd)

Other standards are even worse

- Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information (ANSSI, France)
- b = 0xEE353FCA5428A9300D4ABA754A44C00FDFE C0C9AE4B1A1803075ED967B7BB73F
- p = 0xF1FD178C0B3AD58F10126DE8CE42435B3961 ADBCABC8CA6DE8FCF353D86E9C03
- Office of the State Commercial Cryptography Administration (OSCCA, China)
- b = 0x28E9FA9E9D9F5E344D5A9E4BCF6509A7F397 89F515AB8F92DDBCBD414D940E93

These could be anything...

European Brainpool curve designers recognised this in 2005

The choice of the seeds from which the curve parameters have been derived is not motivated leaving an essential part of the security analysis open

No proofs are provided that the proposed curves do not belong to those classes of curves for which more efficient cryptanalytic attacks are possible

— "ECC Brainpool Standard Curves and Curve Generation"

Brainpool curves compute their seeds from π

• Newer designs like Dan Bernstein's Curve25519 have even more defences built in

Nothing up my sleeve (NUMS) values

NIST ECC Curves (ctd)

In October 2013, RFC 7027 on using the Brainpool curves in TLS was published

• Announced on the TLS mailing list on 15 October 2013

Support added in OpenSSL, cryptlib, PolarSSL on the same day

· Other implementations added support within days

The TLS working group has never moved so quickly on an issue before...

Reflections on Trusting Trust

In 1984, Ken Thompson delivered his Turing Award acceptance speech (which probably merited a second Turing Award)

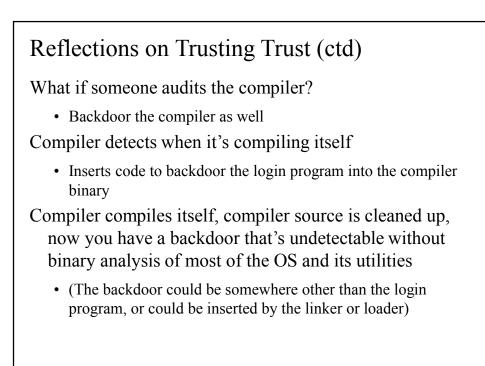
How do you undetectably backdoor an OS?

• Backdoor the login program

This is a pretty obvious hole...

- Backdoor the compiler
- When it detects that it's building the login program, it inserts the backdoor

Login program is backdoored but source code is clean



Reflections on Trusting Trust (ctd)

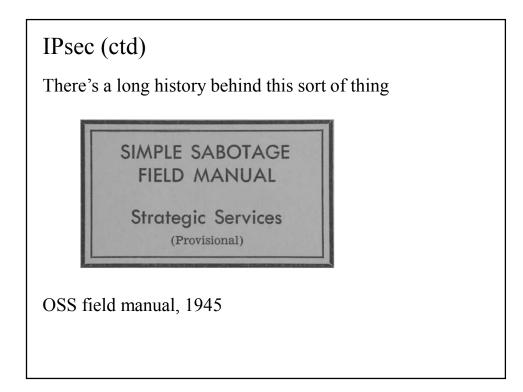
What if you backdoored Apple's Xcode SDK in this manner?

(S//NF) In this talk, we discuss our explorations of the Xcode (4.1) SDK. Xcode is used to compile MacOS X applications and kernel extensions as well as iOS applications. We describe how we use (our whacked) Xcode to do the following things: -Entice all MacOS applications to create a remote backdoor on execution -Modify a dynamic dependency of securityd to load our own library - which rewrites securityd so that no prompt appears when exporting a developer's private key -Embed the developer's private key in all iOS applications. Force all IOS applications to send embedded data to a listening post -Convince all (new) kernel extensions to disable ASLR

- Force apps to create a remote backdoor on execution
- Rewrite securityd to allow silent private key export
- Embed the developer's private key in apps they build
- · Force apps to exfiltrate data to remote listening posts
- Make kernel extensions disable security measures

IPsec
It can't have got that bad by accident
IPsec was a great disappointment to us [] virtually nobody is satisfied with the process or the result [] the documentation is very hard to understand [] the ISAKMP specifications [the NSA's main overt contribution to IPsec] contain numerous errors, essential explanations are missing, and the document contradicts itself in various places [] none of the IPsec documentation provides any rationale for any of the choices that were made [] the reviewer is left to guess [] —"A Cryptographic Evaluation of IPsec", Niels Ferguson and Bruce Schneier, from the first 5 pages of 28
You mean they did this on purpose?





IPsec (ctd)

d. A second type of simple sabotage requires no destructive tools whatsoever and produces physical damage, if any, by highly indirect means. It is based on universal opportunities to make faulty decisions, to adopt a noncooperative attitude, and to induce others to follow suit. Making a faulty decision may be simply a matter of placing tools in one spot instead of another. A non-cooperative attitude may involve nothing more than creating an unpleasant situation among one's fellow workers, engaging in bickerings, or displaying surliness and stupidity.

IPsec (ctd)

(a) Organizations and Conferences

(1) Insist on doing everything through "channels." Never permit short-cuts to be taken in order to, expedite decisions.

(2) Make "speeches." Talk as frequently as possible and at great length. Illustrate your "points" by long anecdotes and accounts of personal experiences. Never hesitate to make a few appropriate "patriotic" comments.

(3) When possible, refer all matters to committees, for "further study and consideration." Attempt to make the committees as large as possible - never less than five.

(4) Bring up irrelevant issues as frequently as possible.

(5) Haggle over precise wordings of communications, minutes, resolutions.

(6) Refer back to matters decided upon at the last meeting and attempt to reopen the question of the advisability of that decision.

(7) Advocate "caution." Be "reasonable" and urge your fellow-conferees to be "reasonable" and avoid haste which might result in embarrassments or difficulties later on.

(8) Be worried about the propriety of any decision -raise the question of whether such action as is contemplated lies within the jurisdiction of the group or whether it might conflict with the policy of some higher echelon.

IPsec (ctd)

(b) Managers and Supervisors

(1) Demand written orders.

(2) "Misunderstand" orders. Ask endless questions or engage in long correspondence about such orders. Quibble over them when you can.

(3) Do everything possible to delay the delivery of orders. Even though parts of an order may be ready beforehand, don't deliver it until it is completely ready.

(4) Don't order new working materials until your current stocks have been virtually exhausted, so that the slightest delay in filling your order will mean a shutdown.

(5) Order high-quality materials which are hard to get. If you don't get them argue about it. Warn that inferior materials will mean inferior work.

(6) In making work assignments, always sign out the unimportant jobs first. See that the important jobs are assigned to inefficient workers of poor machines.

(7) Insist on perfect work in relatively unimportant products; send back for refinishing those which have the least flaw. Approve other defective parts whose flaws are not visible to the naked eye.

(8) Make mistakes in routing so that parts and materials will be sent to the wrong place in the plant.

(9) When training new workers, give incomplete or misleading instructions.

(10) To lower morale and with it, production, be pleasant to inefficient workers; give them undeserved promotions. Discriminate against efficient workers; complain unjustly about their work.

(11) Hold conferences when there is more critical work to be done.

(12) Multiply paper work in plausible ways. Start duplicate files.

(13) Multiply the procedures and clearances involved in issuing instructions, pay checks, and so on. See that three people have to approve everything where one would do.

IPsec (ctd)
So was IPsec deliberately sabotaged?

Probably not

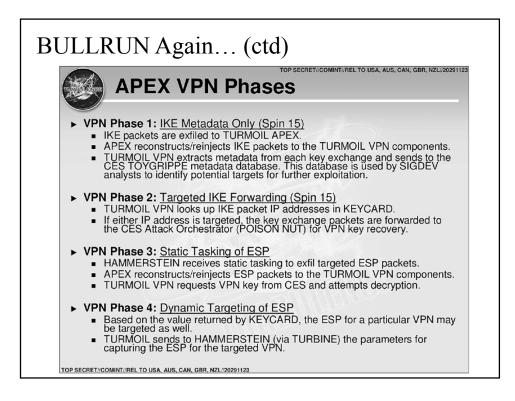
Never attribute to malice what is adequately explained by stupidity a committee
Lesson 1: Cryptographic protocols should not be developed by a committee

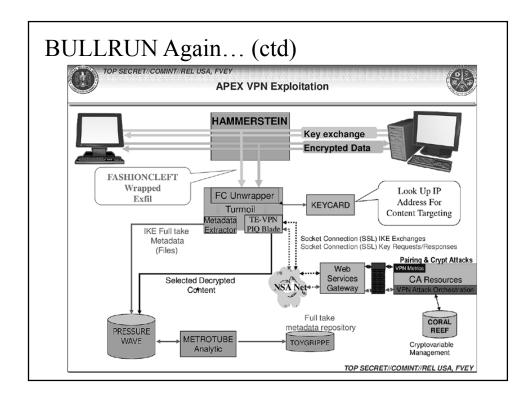
— "A Cryptographic Evaluation of IPsec", Niels Ferguson and Bruce Schneier

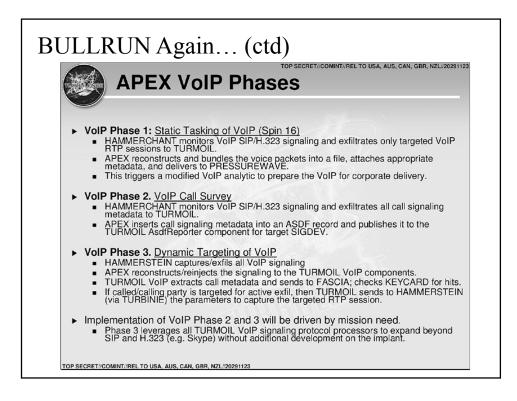
BULLRUN Again...

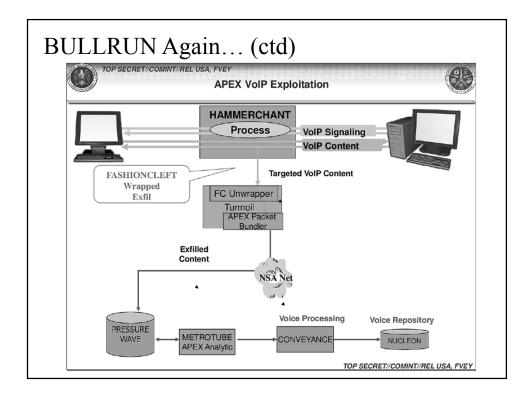
In any case IPsec doesn't matter much...

• The NSA have tools for subverting it







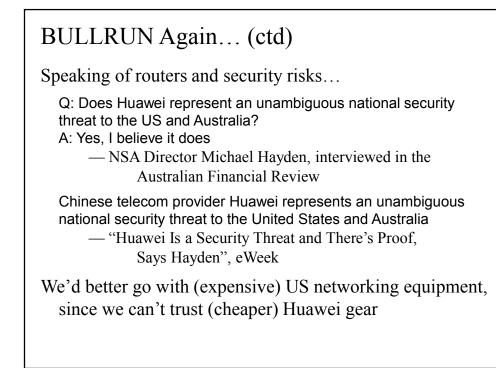


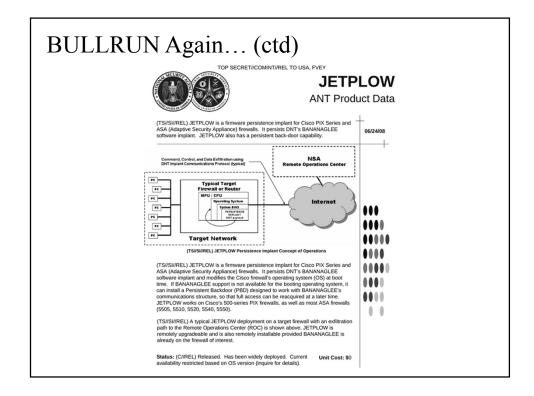
As well as the routers that run it...

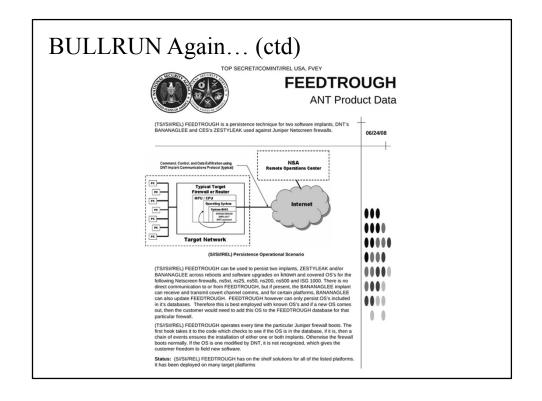
• When you own the router that does the crypto, IPsec becomes irrelevant

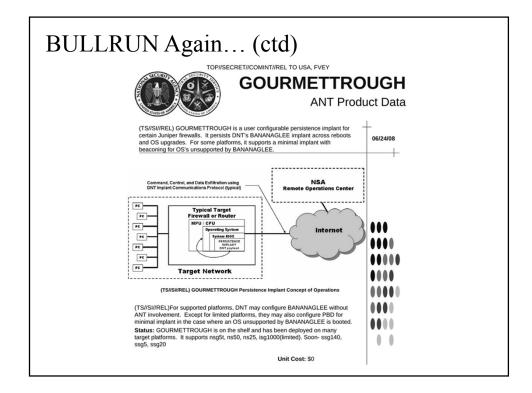
NSA owns

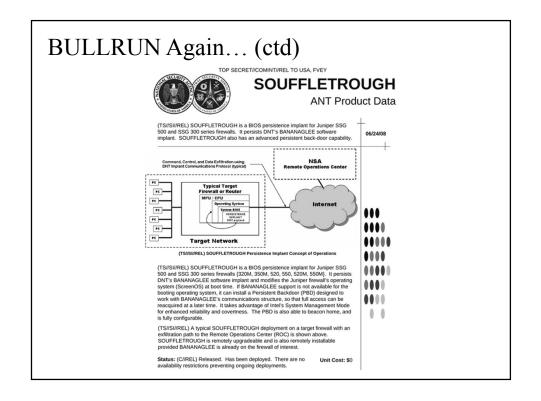
- Cisco
 - BANANAGLEE, JETPLOW
- Juniper
 - BANANAGLEE, FEEDTROUGH, GOURMETTROUGH, SCHOOLMONTANA, SIERRAMONTANA, SOUFFLETROUGH, VALIDATOR
- Huawei
 - HAMMERMILL, HALLUXWATER, HEADWATER

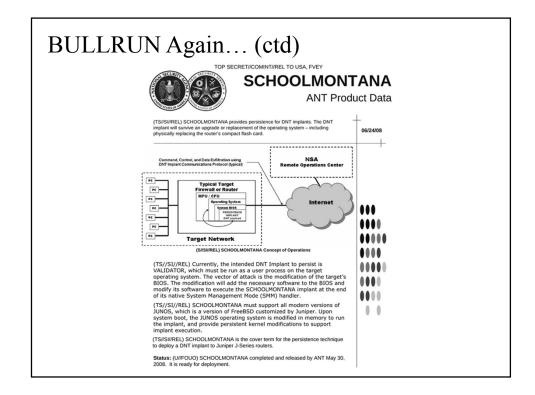


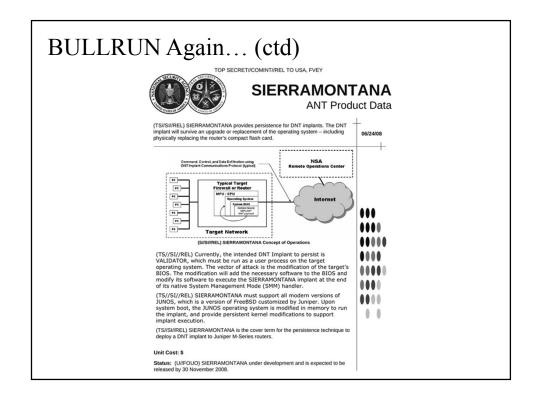


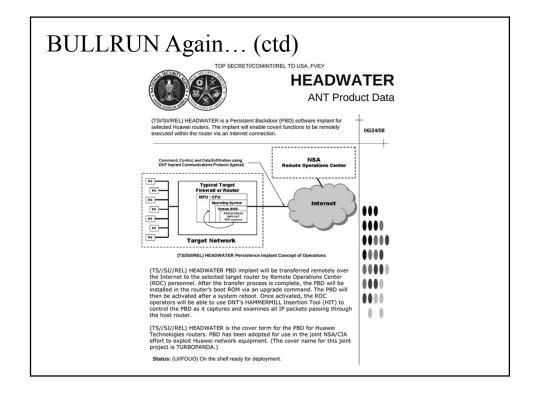


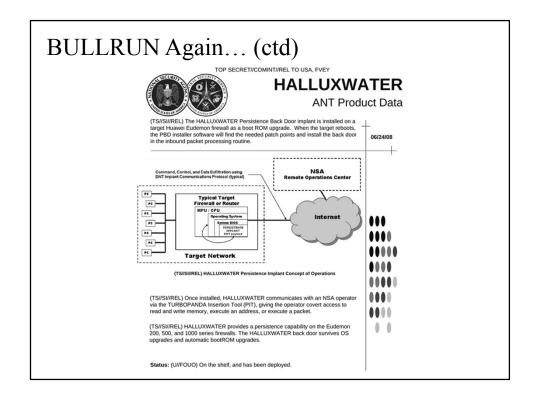












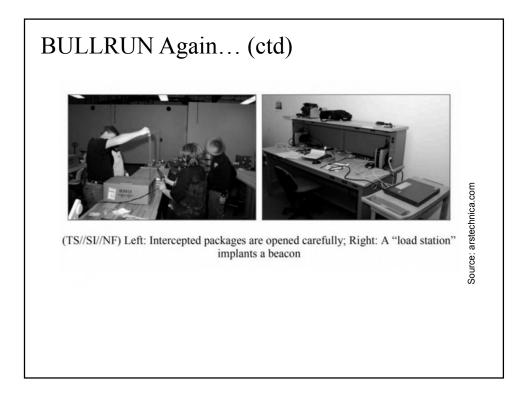
While American companies were being warned away from supposedly untrustworthy Chinese routers, foreign organisations would have been well advised to beware of American-made ones. The NSA routinely receives — or intercepts — routers, servers and other computer network devices being exported from the US before they are delivered to the international customers. The agency then implants backdoor surveillance tools, repackages the devices with a factory seal and sends them on

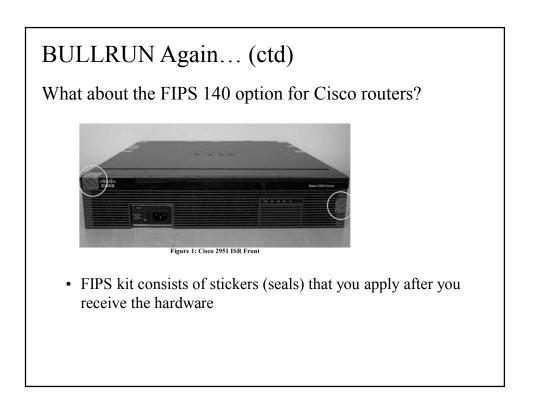
— The Guardian

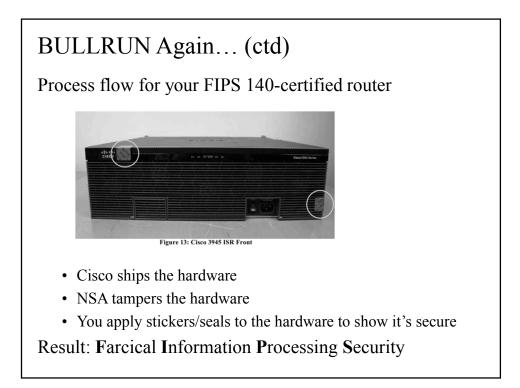
BULLRUN Again... (ctd)

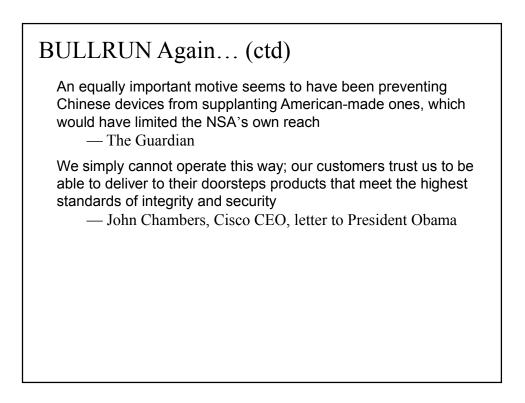
Here's how it works: shipments of computer network devices (servers, routers, etc,) being delivered to our targets throughout the world are intercepted. Next, they are redirected to a secret location where Tailored Access Operations/Access Operations (AO-S326) employees, with the support of the Remote Operations Center (S321), enable the installation of beacon implants directly into our targets' electronic devices. These devices are then re-packaged and placed back into transit to the original destination. All of this happens with the support of Intelligence Community partners and the technical wizards in TAO — NSA's Access and Target Development

June 2010 newsletter









Cisco resorted to shipping hardware to fake addresses to avoid NSA tampering

We ship [boxes] to an address that has nothing to do with the customer and then you have no idea who it is going to - Cisco security chief John Stewart, "Cisco posts kit to empty houses to dodge NSA chop shops"

• Presumably they subcontract "shipping to an address that has nothing to do with the customer" to DHL Global...

A world class company shipping to decoy addresses to avoid illegal government spying? What the f**, America? - Reader comment

Of course since the NSA monitors all communications channels over which the shipping is arranged...

BULLRUN Redux

So this...

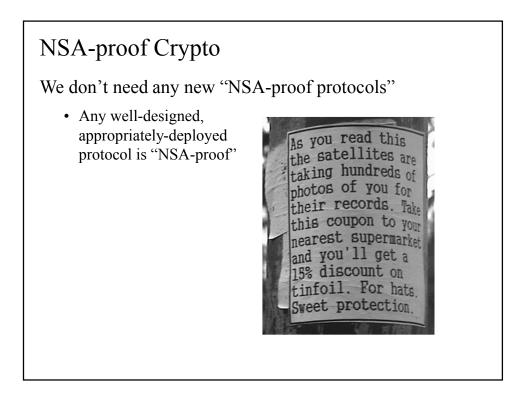
Chinese telecom provider Huawei represents an unambiguous national security threat to the United States and Australia — "Huawei Is a Security Threat and There's Proof, Says Hayden", eWeek

... is really this:

US intelligence agency NSA represents an unambiguous national security threat to the United States and Australia

— "NSA Is a Security Threat and There's Proof,

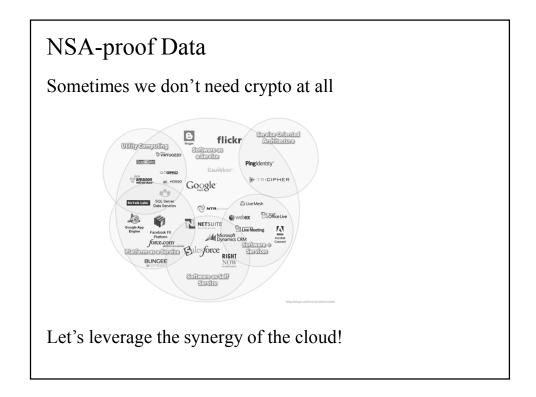
Says Snowden", TBA

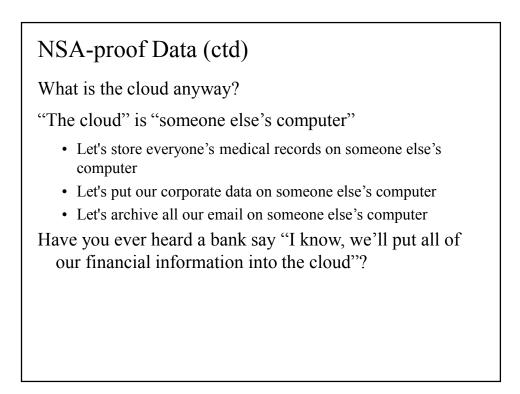


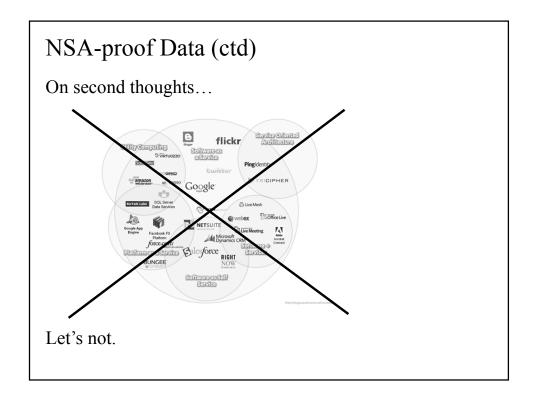
NSA-proof Crypto (ctd)

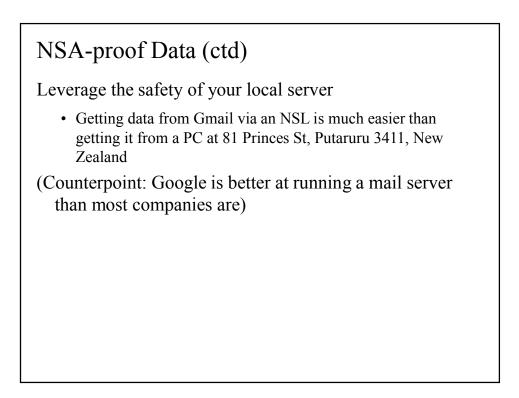
Any properly-designed and implemented protocol will stop

- The NSA
- The CIA
- The GCSB
- The FSB (née KGB)
- ...
- Your mother
- Your cat









NSA-proof Data (ctd)

Long-standing financial maxim

If you don't hold it, you don't own it

• Preached (if not practiced) by bullion investors everywhere

IT corollary

• If you don't hold it, maybe the NSA does

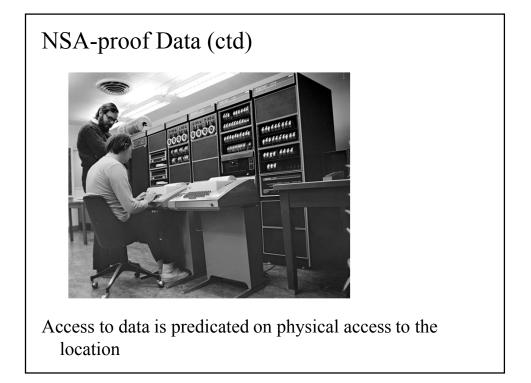
NSA-proof Data (ctd)

Goes back to a pre-crypto principle called geographic entitlement

• More modern term: location-limited channel

You have to be at least this close to the data in order to access it

• Works best with short-range links, not long-distance routable protocols



NSA-proof Data (ctd)

- In plain English: Don't put your data where the NSA can get it
- There's already pushback in Europe against exporting data to the US
 - (So now only your local spooks can get it)

Conclusion

I love crypto, it tells me what part of the system not to bother attacking

— Drew Gross, forensic scientist

Crypto is not soy sauce for security — Patrick McKenzie

Crypto is fundamentally unsafe. People hear that crypto is strong and confuse that with safe. Crypto can indeed be very strong but it's extremely unsafe

- Nate Lawson, Root Labs

Encryption is the chicken soup of security, feel free to apply it if it makes you feel better because it's not going to make things any worse, but it may not make things any better either

— Me