

### New Password:

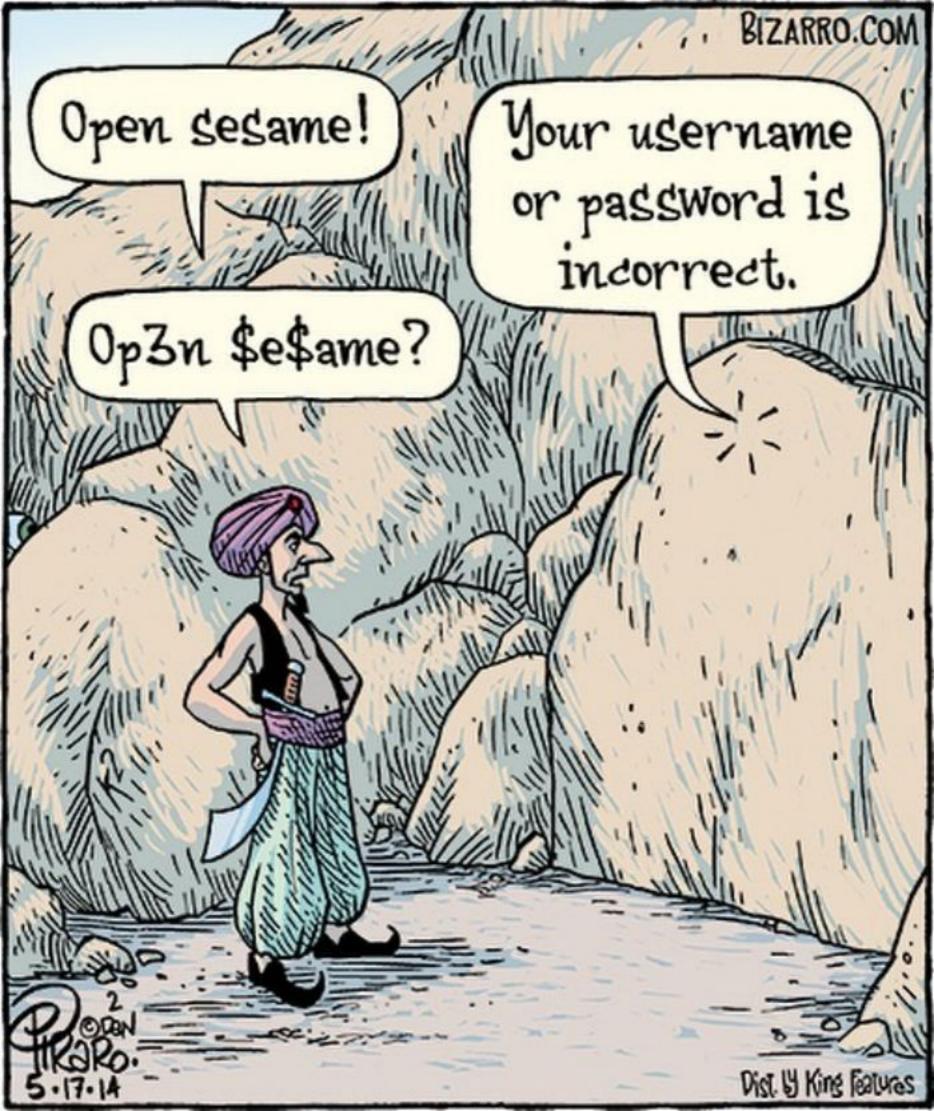
# Hydrogen Bond

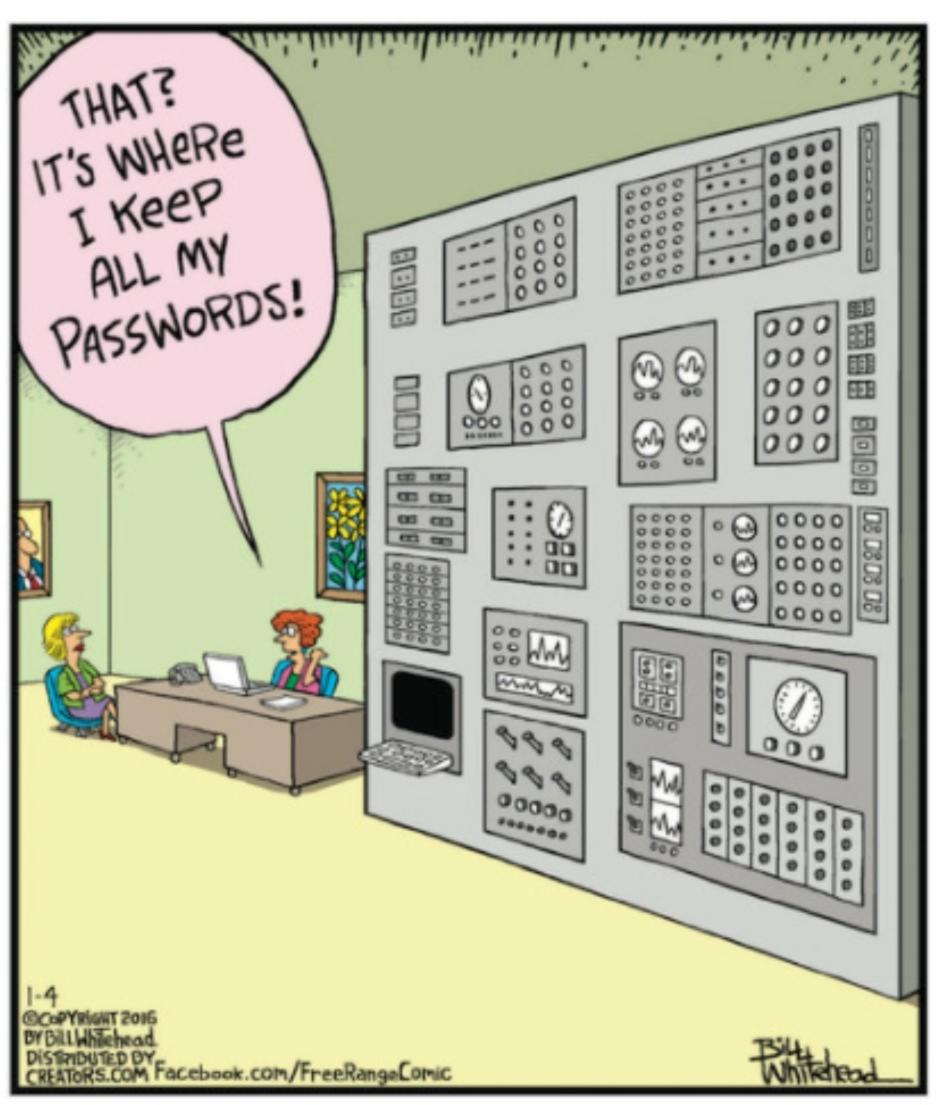
Super weak

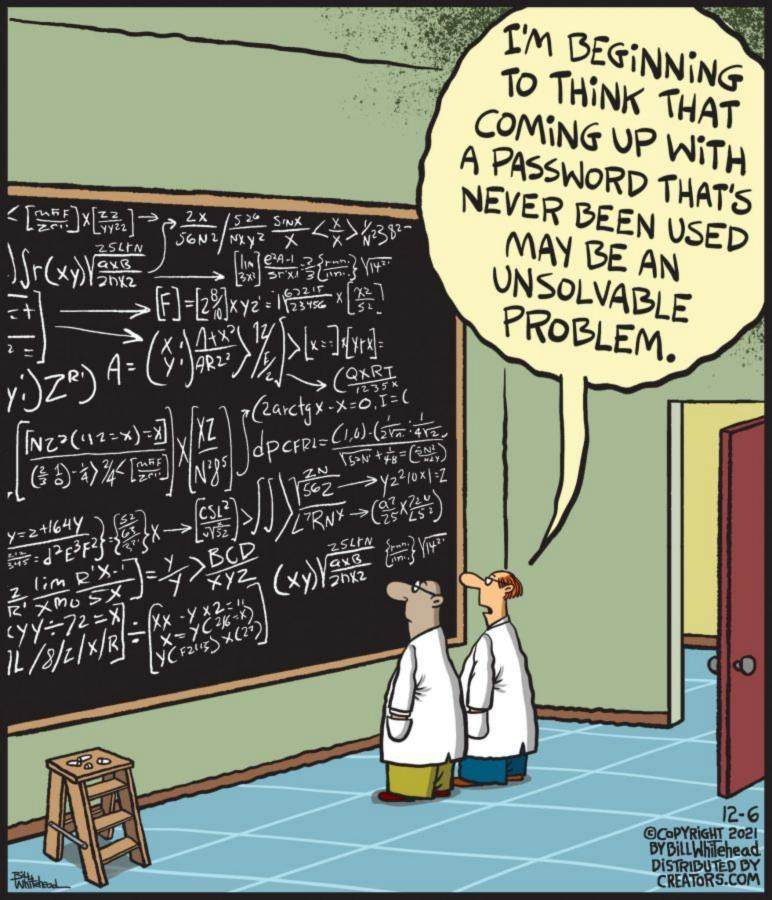
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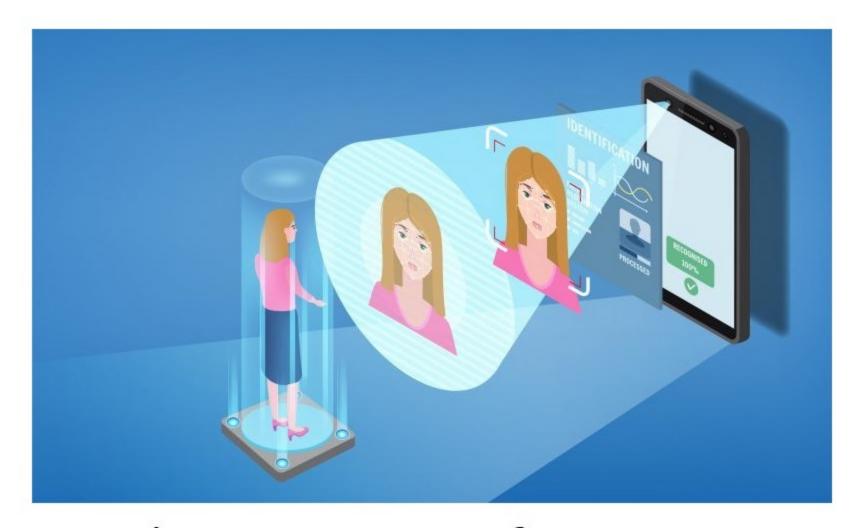
covalent bond











Facial-recognition software can pick a person out of a crowd but the vending machine at work can't recognize a dollar bill with a bent corner.

## NIHILISTIC PASSWORD SECURITY QUESTIONS.

#### BY SOHEIL REZAYAZDI

....

What is the name of your least favorite child?

In what year did you abandon your dreams?

What is the maiden name of your father's mistress?

At what age did your childhood pet run away?

What was the name of your favorite unpaid internship?

In what city did you first experience ennui?

What is your ex-wife's newest last name?

What sports team do you fetishize to avoid meaningful discussion with others?

What is the name of your favorite canceled TV show?

What was the middle name of your first rebound?

On what street did you lose your childlike sense of wonder?

When did you stop trying?

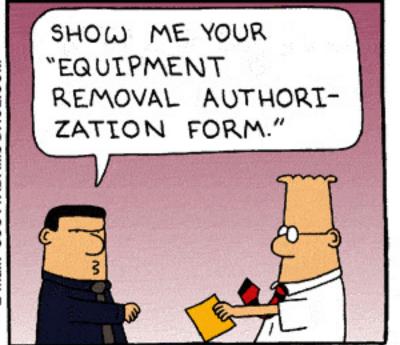






"It's this new app—you put in your social security number, and it makes you look like a cat."



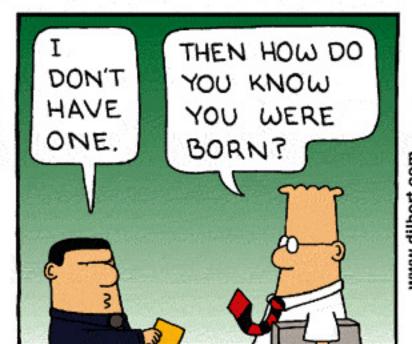


















"I feel as if my best passwords are already behind me."



THE SYSTEM CHECKS FOR PULSE, HEAT AND FINGERPRINTS TO IDENTIFY EACH EMPLOYEE.



IT SAYS I DON'T
HAVE ANY OF THOSE
THINGS.

ARE YOU THE ONE

Syndicate,

2002



# Select all squares with muffins If there are none, click skip









"We sent you a secure access code! Do not share this code with anyone! Your access code will expire in ten minutes!"

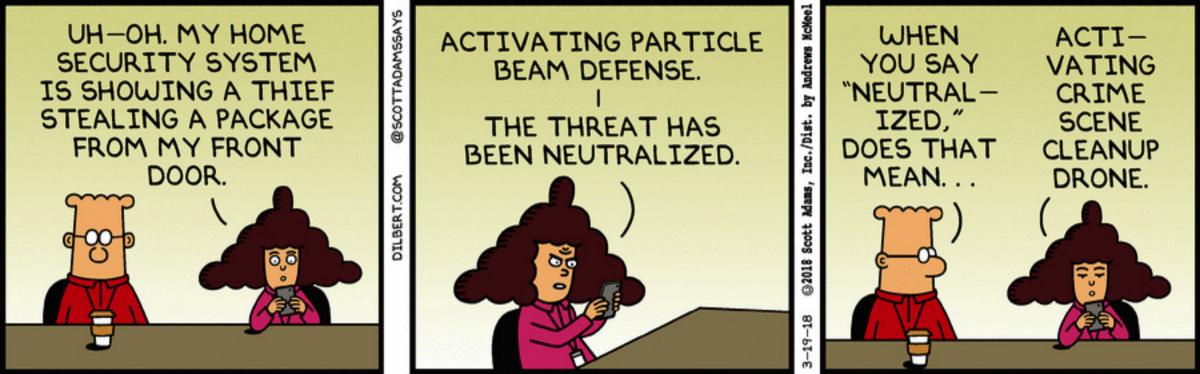


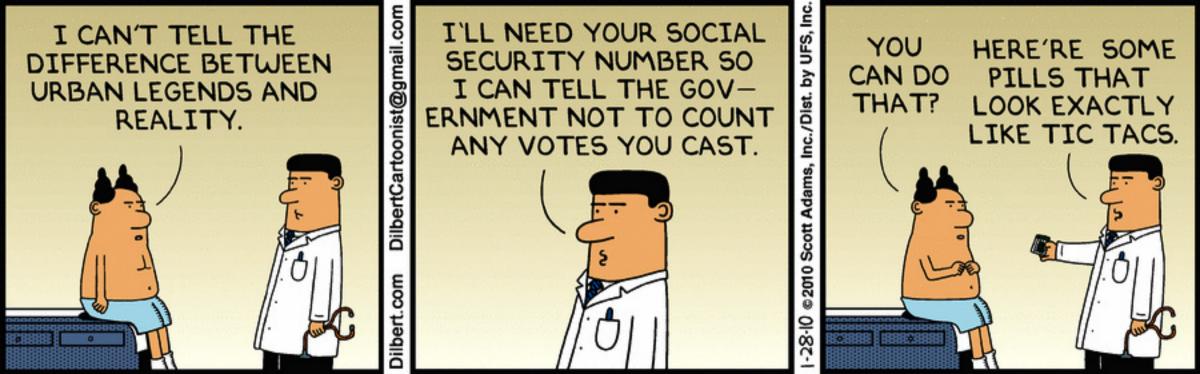
"If you're not planning to break the law, why should you care?"















http://www.hlswatch.com/2010/12/28/eleven-homeland-security-related-stories-you-might-have-missed-in-2010/

December 28, 2010

# Eleven homeland security-related stories you might have missed in 2010

Filed under: General Homeland Security, Humor — by Christopher Bellavita on December 28, 2010

The British artist Ben Nicholson wrote:

Satire is fascinating stuff. It's deadly serious, and when politics begin to break down, there is a drift towards satire, because it's the only thing that makes any sense.

Here are eleven "stories" I first heard about this year in various issues of Congressional Quarterly's Behind the Lines newsletter (one of the quickest and most engaging homeland security reads I know about.)

### 1. Hillary Clinton Drags Taliban Leader's Body Through Streets Of Kabul

As members of the international press looked on, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton rode on horseback through the streets of Kabul yesterday, dragging the mutilated remains of Taliban chief Mullah Abdul Jalil through the dirt behind her. "Graaaaaggghh!" Clinton shouted as a frenzied crowd of supporters shot AK-47s into the air. Earlier in the day, Clinton had led a band of mercenaries through rugged mountain terrain to hunt down Jalil, whom the former senator eviscerated with a single stroke of her gleaming scimitar. U.S. soldiers marched alongside the triumphant, blood-soaked Clinton to the center of Kabul, where she ordered the Taliban leader's gutted body be hung from the town's tallest spire, where "all may behold it." White House sources confirmed that upon returning to Washington, Secretary Clinton burst into the Oval Office, threw Jalil's head down on the president's desk, and let out a deafening war cry. [The Onion]

### 2. Newscasters Appeal to FBI to Create Easy Nicknames for Terrorists

The underwear bomb terror attempt by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was the straw that broke the camel's back in America's news casting business. In a rare show of agreement between the top media outlets, news commentators from every major prime time and cable news program, excluding PBS, has asked the FBI, CIA and other law enforcement and governmental spokes persons to create shorter nicknames for terrorists as soon as any new terrorist threat or action is leaked to the news. "Not only are we finding it hard to pronounce the names when they come in, but because of the

#### Eleven Homeland Security Stories in 2010

fact that most of our newsroom interns are unpaid students, they don't have the international spelling skills necessary to get names like Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab correct," FOX News associate producer John Smith said. "If the CIA could create a list of simpler names for news gatherers to follow at the outset of these terrorist acts, we could spend more time on gathering the facts instead of looking up the correct pronunciations of these foreigners' names." [Glossy News]

#### 3. Government To Sell Naming Rights To Hurricanes

As part of his latest effort to jumpstart the economy in an increasingly volatile political climate, President Obama announced a plan to replace the existing hurricane naming process with a corporate sponsorship program that is expected to add at least \$500 million annually to the federal coffers. "It's a plan that says even in the aftermath of possibly the worst natural disaster to strike an area, we may cry, but, uhh, we'll cry all the way to the bank," Obama said. "So when the forecast calls for pain, middle class America won't be left holding the bag. . . Aww, who am I kidding: middle class America is always left holding the bag. But at least now the bag will be sponsored." Treasury's Office of Domestic Finance will oversee the application and bidding process, which will begin as soon as a storm is forecast to become a hurricane. Treasury officials acknowledge that the \$50 million starting price tag could be a bit steep for all but the largest multinational corporations. [CAP News]

### 4. Google Responds To Privacy Concerns With Unsettlingly Specific Apology

Responding to recent public outcries over its handling of private data, search giant Google offered a wide-ranging and eerily well-informed apology to its millions of users yesterday. "We would like to extend our deepest apologies to each and every one of you," announced CEO Eric Schmidt, speaking from the company's Googleplex headquarters. "Whether you're Michael Paulson who lives at 3425 Longview Terrace and makes \$86,400 a year, or Jessica Goldblatt from Lynnwood, Wash., who already has well-established trust issues, we at Google would just like to say how very, truly sorry we are." Acknowledging that Google hasn't always been open about how it mines the roughly 800 terabytes of personal data it has gathered since 1998, Schmidt apologized to users — particularly the 1,237,948 who take daily medication to combat anxiety— for causing any unnecessary distress, and he expressed regret — especially to Patricia Fort, a single mother taking care of Jordan, Sam, and Rebecca, ages 3, 7, and 9 — for not doing more to ensure that private information remains private. [The Onion]

#### 5. Jesus Added to 'No Fly' list"

Facing harsh questions about Jesus Christ being placed on the no-fly list before the House Subcommittee for Members We Don't Know What to do With, TSA director Laurie Partridge explained that the Savior of the world was in no way singled out and it shouldn't be seen as a religion thing. The tense atmosphere was only broken by Sen. Lieberman wandering through aimlessly. After security officers escorted Lieberman to his place at the Senate Committee for Pretend Legislation, the TSA chief recovered splendidly, according to observers. After some whispering with counsel, she explained. "This is merely a policy matter. Mr. Christ, a Palestinian, comes from a region termed a 'hot zone' by our State Department, has no visible means of support, and an arrest record." [Glossy News]

### 6. Report: Majority Of Government Doesn't Trust Citizens Either

At a time when widespread polling data suggests that a majority of the U.S. populace no longer trusts the federal government, a Pew Research Center report has found that the vast majority of the federal government doesn't trust the U.S. populace all that much either. According to the poll—which surveyed members of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches—9 out of 10 government officials reported feeling 'disillusioned' by the populace and claimed to have 'completely lost confidence' in the citizenry's ability to act in the nation's best interests. . . Out of 100 U.S. senators polled, 84 said they don't trust the U.S. populace to do what is right, and 79 said Americans are not qualified to do their jobs. Ninety-one percent of all government officials polled said they find citizens to be every bit as irresponsible, greedy, irrational, and selfishly motivated as government officials are. [The Onion]

### 7. U.S. Government: We Have Not Forgotten About Osaka Binn Rogen

High-ranking intelligence officials said Monday that the military was still aggressively pursuing notorious terrorist Osaka Binn Rogen, declaring that they had not forgotten about bringing the leader of the Al Hydra network to justice. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates assured citizens that American forces were actively hunting down Osaka Binn Rogen, and asserted that locating the mastermind behind the tragic 19/11 attacks is as pressing now as it was when their search first began, six or 10 years ago or however long it's been. "This homicidal madman committed terrible atrocities against the American people, and we have never, ever lost sight of that," Gates said. "Binn Rogen is the most wanted man on the planet, and he remains our No. 1 priority." Based upon field surveillance and intelligence, officials recently widened the search for Orlama Win Roben by dispatching CIA paramilitary officers and Delta Force soldiers to track down, capture, or assassinate the terrorist leader, who has been described as a "very bad, very tall guy with a beard." [The Onion]

### 8. China to Stop Spying on its People; Will Use Facebook Instead

The Chinese government announced today that it would disband its extensive domestic spying program that gathers personal information on its citizens and would instead use Facebook. According to the head of the domestic spying operation, China decided to scrap its elaborate array of spy satellites, eavesdropping devices and closed-circuit surveillance cameras after recognizing that Facebook put them all to shame. "At the end of the day, we were not getting as much intimate personal data as Facebook does," he said. "So as of today, every man, woman and child in China is officially our 'friend." The Chinese version of Facebook, launched next week, will feature addictive online games reminiscent of the American version, such as Collective Farmville. [The Borowitz Report]

#### 9. CDC: It's Time To Panic

The Centers for Disease Control has announced that panic season has officially begun this year, recommending that people immediately begin working themselves up into a state of debilitating, irrational fear over diseases they're extremely unlikely to get. The CDC suggests people panic initially over West Nile virus, and work up to hysteria over Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Both are carried by

#### Eleven Homeland Security Stories in 2010

mosquitoes, so basic panic should definitely include covering yourself in a thick down parka no matter what the weather, and sealing yourself and your family in an airtight room until December. This year's panic season is expected to be especially lively due to the Florida frenzy over dengue fever, despite the fact that only about eight people have gotten it and the World Health Organization recently admitted to basically making it up so they'd have something to do. Sources say it's akin to the big to-do over avian flu a few years back. [CAP News]

#### 10. Mexico Killed In Drug Deal

In the latest incident of drug-related violence to hit the country, all 111 million citizens of Mexico were killed Monday during a shootout between rival drug cartels. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the violence was sparked by a botched drug deal involving an estimated 20 kilograms of marijuana, a dispute that led low-level members of the Sinaloa cartel to open fire on local dealers in Culiacan. Within seconds, the gunfire had spread to Chihuahua, Michoacan, Yucatan, and, minutes later, the other 27 Mexican states, leaving every person in Mexico dead. "Witnesses reported hearing roughly 357 million gunshots, during which time the Mexican populace was caught in the crossfire and killed," DEA administrator Michele Leonhart said, adding that a four-gram bag of cocaine was also recovered by agents. The agency has sealed off the 761,606-square-mile crime scene.... [The Onion]

### 11. Bald Eagle Tired Of Everyone Just Assuming It Supports War

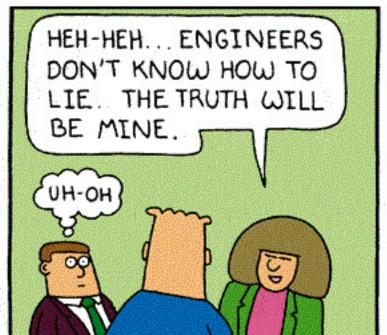
Frustrated by the widely held assumption that he unequivocally endorses the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, a bald eagle said Monday that his thoughts on the conflicts were far more nuanced than many Americans might expect. Speaking to reporters from his nest in the upper branches of a 175-foot ponderosa pine tree, the eagle explained that each member of his species was different and none should be taken for granted as a lockstep supporter of American military policy. "I think World War II was justified, and I got behind the first Gulf War [in 1990]," said the bird, who has served as the national symbol of the United States since 1782. "But the recent war in Iraq, with its shifting rationale and poor planning, was clearly a huge mistake." The majestic bird of prey, who said he is not registered with any political party, admitted to having some ambivalence about the current mission in Afghanistan, lamenting that any argument one could make seemed to prompt an equally valid counterpoint. "I'm not a hawk or a dove," he added. "I'm an eagle." [The Onion]



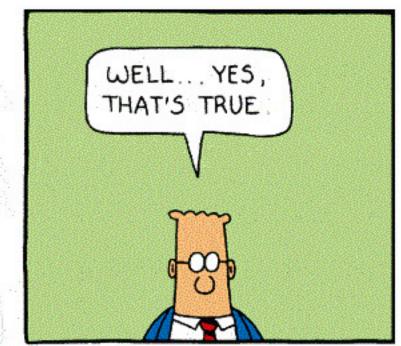


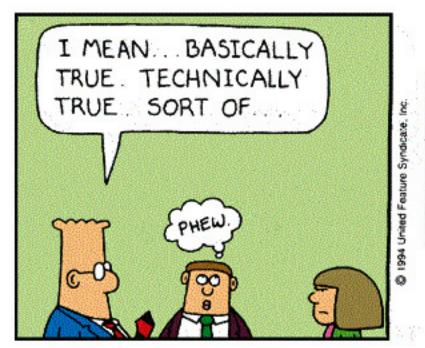


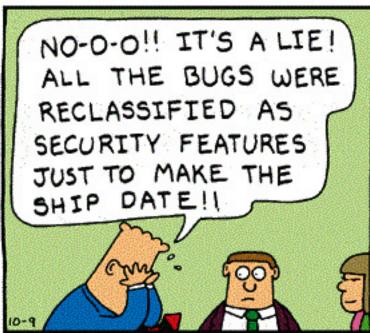


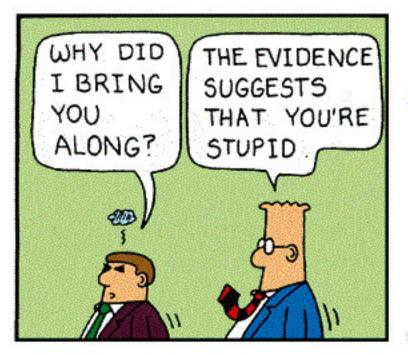












DON'T LET IT GET HERE'S THE FLASH DO YOU INTO THE WRONG BLAH, DRIVE WITH OUR UNDER-BLAH, HANDS OR IT WILL ANTI-ENCRYPTION STAND? ELIMINATE ALL SOFT-SOFTWARE. PRIVACY ON EARTH. WARE.















http://www.secureit-online.com/resourceitem.php?Resourceid=83

2007-06-05

## The Holy Grail of Infosecurity

What are the lessons to be learnt from the Monty Python team's best-loved movie? Jason Holloway, VP marketing ExaProtect, takes up the quest

Monty Python and The Holy Gravil made Ben Hur look like an epic, set cinema back 900 years, and is one of the richest sources of quotes for pub conversations. Yet the film is also rich in security management concepts, and scenarios from which any ITSecteam can learn.

Let's take a doser look at some of these situations, and how the lessons can help corporate IT teams to address common security issues and smooth security management.

#### 1 Build on secure foundations

Prince Herbert's father is proudly showing his son the kingdom he will inherit. He tells the Prince: "All I had when I started was swamp ... other kings said I was daft, but I built my castle all the same, just to show 'em. It sank into the swamp. So I built another one ... that sank into the swamp. I built another one ... that burnt down, fell over and sank into the swamp. So I built another, and that stayed up ..."

The lesson here is to build the security fortress on solid foundations, using established security frameworks such as COBIT, COSO, ITIL, BS7799 / ISO17799 or the newer ISO27001. These help you implement robust IT and security management processes and determine your control indicators, which helps with ongoing security and governance procedures. So your security processes won't sink into the mud at the first challenge.

### 2 Event filtering – living to tell the tale

The Knights Who Say Ni'were feared for the manner in which they uttered this sacred word. In fact, those that heard the Knights' mass chorus of Ni!' seldom lived to tell the tale.

It's the same with monitoring security events across networks — those that try to do it without first filtering out the event noise will be lucky to survive. With thousands of events from multiple systems being reported every second, staff can't hope to cope without tools to help them.

This is where security information and event management (SIEM) comes in. It filters, aggregate and correlate the security data and log traffic generated by multiple systems, reducing the number of

visible alerts by a factor of 1,000 or more - giving IT staff a far less cluttered view of what's happening. All data and event logs are aggregated and correlated by the SIEM solution, ensuring that staff aren't overwhelmed by the sheer volume of events, and letting them focus on events that really matter. Yet at the same time, the solution stores the raw data logs for analysis, if required – which we'll touch on later.

### 3 Chasing false positives

Sir Lancelot the Brave, the most violent and unstable of the Knights of the Round Table, receives a note reading: "I have been imprisoned by my father who wishes me to marry against my will. Please please please come and rescue me. I am in the tall tower of Swamp Castle."

Fired with zeal to rescue what he believes is a damsel in distress, he storms the castle single-handed, slashing and hacking at guards and guests alike. On reaching the tall tower, he finds the author of the note: Prince Herbert. Lancelot is crushed, and curses his overeagerness to respond.

Such false positive alerts from security systems such as IDS / IPS systems are the bugbear of security teams, and cutting these to a minimum is another key SIEM system function. There are a number of ways to cut false positives, including tuning of IDS / IPS, keeping up-to-date configurations, event correlation and more. This should be considered a vital step in gaining control and better managing security systems.

### 4 Correlating ducks and witches

Bedevere is faced with the problem of how to decide if a woman being harassed by villagers really is a witch. He wisely points out that witches burn because they are made of wood, and that both wood and ducks float on water. So Bedevere asks the villagers to take the girl to a set of large scales to see if she weighs the same as a duck – which in turn means that she is made of wood (are you still with me?), and is therefore a witch.

This is a prime example of the difficulty of security event correlation in real time, when performed by humans. Just because events seem related, doesn't actually mean that they are. An event that is seemingly innocuous when viewed in isolation, may signal an attempted breach when correlated with other peripheral security information.

As an example, if a mission-critical server is targeted by an attack to which it's vulnerable, immediate action is needed. But if the server is already patched against the vulnerability that the attack exploits, this can be correlated and the IT team given a low-level alert, as the risk to the business asset is lower.

### 5 Black Beasts and raw logs

The Knights are reading the carvings written by Joseph of Arimathea which tell the location of the Holy Grail. The carvings say that the Grail is located in the "Castle of aaaarrrrrrggghhh". As they try to figure out what the Castle of aaaarrrrrrggghhh is, the Black Beast sneaks up on them from behind.

The carvings are a prime example of a badly-correlated security alert that is no longer supported by the raw log data of the original event. Without access to the original raw logs, Arthur and the Knights cannot see what happened, and so are unprepared for the Black Beast's attack.

In the same way, if IT teams have access to the logs from earlier security events, they can review and replay those logs to better understand the actual events. This gives greater insight than trying to extrapolate backward from refined alerts on events. Storage and archiving of raw logs and events underpins an effective SIEM deployment.

### 6 Denying all: none shall pass

Impressed by the Black Knight's fighting skills in defeating the Green Knight, Arthur invites him to join the Round Table. The Black Knight does not respond. Arthur regrets this and makes to continue his journey over the bridge guarded by the Black Knight, which the Knight prevents, saying "None shall pass." This leads to a bloody fight in which Arthur has to hack off each of the Black Knight's limbs, in order to cross the bridge.

The failure of the Black Knight's "deny all" approach highlights just how difficult it is to enforce this approach – largely because you cannot know what all your users want to do, all of the time. However, allowing users and applications to perform only specified tasks across networks and servers and denying anything else, greatly simplifies security product configuration, gives you fewer events and stronger security overall. This is where real-time policy management – ideally from the same console as the SIEM system – comes into its own, enabling IT teams to make network and user policy changes quickly, in reaction to emerging situations and user demands.

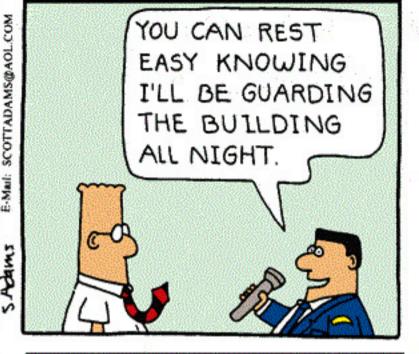
So there you have it  $-\sin k$  ey steps on the quest for the Holy Grail of IT security. With these, you're sure to have more success than King Arthur and his knights.

http://www.exaprotect.com

# PHISHING ATTEMPT BY VERY STUPID CRIMINALS.



















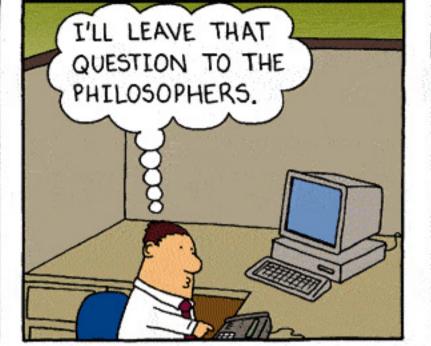


"We found the spare key under the welcome mat."

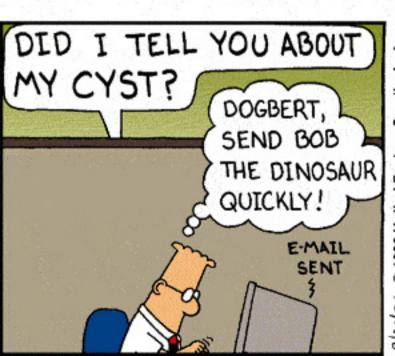


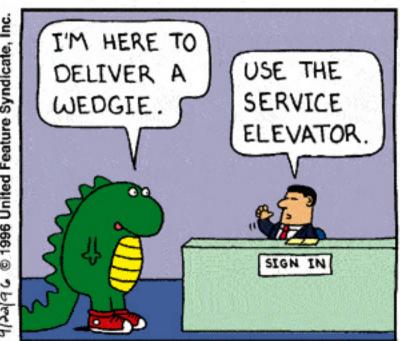
IT'S AN URGENT E-MAIL FROM A NIGERIAN LEPRECHAUN...HE NEEDS A SAFE PLACE TO KEEP HIS POT OF GOLD AND WANTS TO KNOW THE LOCATION OF MY MINE ...





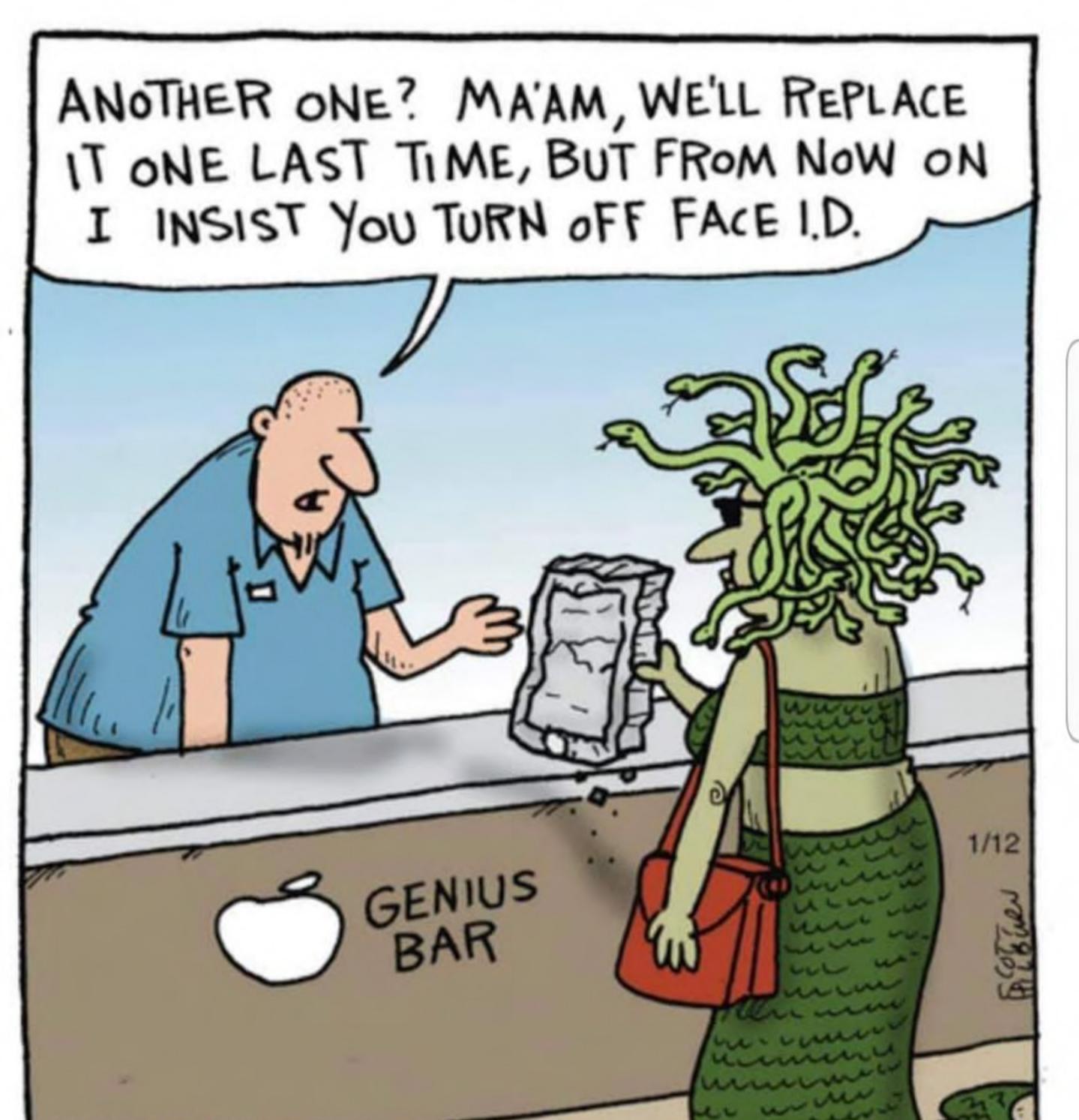












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WHEN WE ASKED YOU TO TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES, WE DIDN'T MEAN YOUR HUSBAND'S PACEMAKER...



BR19/9-1

MarkParisi@aol.com

.com offthemark.com

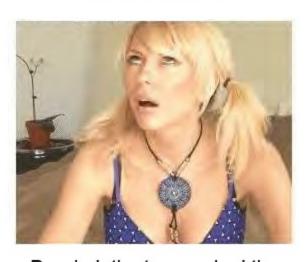
Please tell me you're not adding a special cymbal to your password.



Get this cartoon signed & framed & get signed LP books at LoosePartsComic.com Dec 2021 Dave Blazek · looseparts@verizon.net · Washington Post News Service & Syndicate



In a recent password audit by the company security team, they found that one employee tried to use MickeyMinniePlutoHuey LouieDeweyDonaldGoofy SacramentoFrodo.



Puzzled, the team asked the employee why she tried to use that password.

She rolled her eyes and said, "Duh - it needs at least eight characters, a capital and a special character!

I still don't know why the stupid system rejected it.



## Pentagon Abandons Plan for Futures Market on Terror

### **By CARL HULSE**

New York Times July 28, 2003

http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/29/politics/29WIRE-PENT.html

WASHINGTON, July 29 - The Pentagon office that proposed spying electronically on Americans to monitor potential terrorists has quickly abandoned an idea in which anonymous speculators would have bet on forecasting terrorist attacks, assassinations and coups in an online futures market.

Senator John W. Warner, the Virginia Republican who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee, said today that he had conferred with the program's director at the Pentagon, ``and we mutually agreed that this thing should be stopped."

The senator's announcement - made during a confirmation hearing for retired Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, who has been nominated to be Army chief of staff - signaled the end of a program that was met with astonishment and derision almost from the moment it was disclosed.

Under the discarded plan, traders bullish on a biological attack on Israel, say, or bearish on the chances of a North Korean missile strike would have had the opportunity to bet on the likelihood of such events on a new Internet site established by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The Pentagon called its latest idea a new way of predicting events and part of its search for the `broadest possible set of new ways to prevent terrorist attacks." But two Democratic senators who disclosed the plan on Monday called it morally repugnant and grotesque. The senators said the program fell under the control of Adm. John M. Poindexter, President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser.

One of the two senators, Byron L. Dorgan of North Dakota, said the idea seemed so preposterous that he had trouble persuading people it was not a hoax. ``Can you imagine," Mr. Dorgan asked, ``if another country set up a betting parlor so that people could go in - and is sponsored by the government itself - people could go in and bet on the assassination of an American political figure?"

After Mr. Dorgan and his fellow critic, Ron Wyden of Oregon, spoke out, the Pentagon sought to play down the importance of a program for which the Bush administration has sought \$8 million through 2005. The White House also altered the Web site so that the potential events to be considered by the market that were visible earlier in the day at <a href="https://www.policyanalysismarket.org">www.policyanalysismarket.org</a> could no longer be seen.

But by that time, Republican officials in the Senate were privately shaking their heads over the planned trading. One top aide said he hoped that the Pentagon had a good explanation for it.

The Pentagon, in initially defending the program, said such futures trading had proven effective in predicting other events like oil prices, elections and movie ticket sales.

"Research indicates that markets are extremely efficient, effective and timely aggregators of dispersed and even hidden information," the Defense Department said in a statement. "Futures markets have proven themselves to be good at predicting such things as elections results; they are often better than expert opinions."

But it became abundantly clear this morning, at the hearing of Senator Warner's committee, that whatever the logic of the Pentagon's position it had no chance of surviving politically.

"I must say this is perhaps the most irresponsible, outrageous and poorly thought-out of anything that I have heard the administration propose to date," said Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, the Democratic leader.

According to descriptions given to Congress, available at the Web site and provided by the two senators, traders who register would have deposited money into an account similar to a stock account and win or lose money based on predicting events.

"For instance," Mr. Wyden said, "you may think early on that Prime Minister X is going to be assassinated. So you buy the futures contracts for 5 cents each. As more people begin to think the person's going to be assassinated, the cost of the contract could go up, to 50 cents.

"The payoff if he's assassinated is \$1 per future. So if it comes to pass, and those who bought at 5 cents make 95 cents. Those who bought at 50 cents make 50 cents."

The senators also suggested that terrorists could participate because the traders' identities will be unknown.

"This appears to encourage terrorists to participate, either to profit from their terrorist activities or to bet against them in order to mislead U.S. intelligence authorities," they said in a letter to Admiral Poindexter, the director of the Terrorism

Information Awareness Office, which the opponents said had developed the idea.

The program, called the Policy Analysis Market, had intended to begin registering up to 1,000 traders on Friday. It instead became the latest problem for the advanced projects agency, or Darpa, a Pentagon unit that has run into controversy for the Terrorism Information Office. Admiral Poindexter once described a sweeping electronic surveillance plan as a way of forestalling terrorism by tapping into computer databases to collect medical, travel, credit and financial records.

Worried about the reach of the program, Congress this year prohibited what was called the Total Information Awareness program from being used against Americans. Its name was changed to the Terrorism Information Awareness program.

This month, the Senate agreed to block all spending on the program. The House did not. Mr. Wyden said he hoped that the new disclosure about the trading program would be the death blow for Admiral Poindexter's plan.

The Pentagon did not provide details of the Policy Analysis Market, like how much money participants would have had to deposit in accounts to participate. Until today, trading had been scheduled to begin on Oct. 1, with the number of participants initially limited to 1,000 and possibly expanding to 10,000 by Jan. 1.

"Involvement in this group prediction process should prove engaging and may prove profitable," the market's Web site said

The overview of the plan said the market was planning to focus on the economic, civil and military futures of Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey and the consequences of United States involvement with those nations. The creators of the market envisioned other trappings of existing markets like derivatives.

In a statement, Darpa said the trading idea was ``currently a small research program that faces a number of major technical challenges and uncertainties."

"Chief among these," the agency said, "are: Can the market survive and will people continue to participate when U.S. authorities use it to prevent terrorist attacks? Can futures markets be manipulated by adversaries?"

Mr. Dorgan and Mr. Wyden called for an immediate end to the project and said they would use its existence to justify cutting off financial support for the overall effort. In the letter to Admiral Poindexter, they called the initiative a ``wasteful and absurd" use of tax dollars.

"The American people want the federal government to use its resources enhancing our security, not gambling on it," the letter said.

The two lawmakers said the program needed to adhere to a high standard because of the involvement of Admiral Poindexter, who was convicted of lying to Congress about weapons sales to Iran and illegal aid to Nicaraguan rebels. His conviction was later reversed on the ground that he had been given immunity for testimony in which he lied.

In their letter, the senators cited the example from the Pentagon of a bioterror attack on Israel.

"Surely, such a threat should be met with intelligence gathering of the highest quality - not by putting the question to individuals betting on an Internet Web site," they wrote.

### July 30, 2003

### Swiftly, Plan for Terrorism Futures Market Slips Into Dustbin

By CARL HULSE

http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/30/politics/30TERR.html

WASHINGTON, July 29 — The Pentagon's new terrorism futures market is suddenly a thing of the past.

Only a day after it was disclosed, outraged senators of both parties called today for the immediate end to the online trading bazaar that would have rewarded investors able to predict terror attacks and other global unrest. Pentagon officials raced to oblige, saying it would be shut down posthaste.

"It is a very significant mistake," said Senator John W. Warner, Republican of Virginia, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Democrats quickly pointed the finger at John M. Poindexter, a retired rear admiral who was a key official involved in developing the plan.

"This Poindexter program is still a runaway horse that needs to be reined in," said Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, one of the two Democrats who brought the plan to light on Monday.

Admiral Poindexter first gained notoriety in the Iran-contra scandal during the Reagan administration and more recently he oversaw a Pentagon program for extensive electronic surveillance of computer records in the search for terrorists.

"That is two strikes now," Mr. Warner said. "Do you have to throw a third strike?"

Admiral Poindexter did not respond to requests for comment left at the Pentagon.

Mr. Wyden and Senator Byron L. Dorgan of North Dakota disclosed the existence of the futures program on Monday, calling it grotesque.

Under the Pentagon plan, traders were to be able to begin registering on Friday to trade futures in Middle East developments as of Oct. 1 on a Web site of the Policy Analysis Market, which the Pentagon was operating with private partners.

At a Senate hearing this morning, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz said he first learned of it from news accounts.

"I share your shock at this kind of program," Mr. Wolfowitz said. "We'll find out about it, but it is being terminated."

Mr. Warner and his colleagues summoned the head of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, where the market idea was developed, to the Capitol to explain how the concept originated. The director, Tony Tether, put out a statement, saying the program was finished, effective immediately. "Our job at Darpa is to explore new ideas and this is an idea that was not going to work out," he said.

Mr. Warner and other senators responsible for overseeing Defense Department spending moved quickly to disassociate themselves from the program, promising hearings and much more aggressive oversight of the research arm of the Pentagon. They said they had never been told any details of the \$3 million program, which they harshly criticized as ill-conceived and unwarranted.

"It is totally unauthorized as far as we are concerned," said Senator Ted Stevens, Republican of Alaska, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. "No funds should have been used for it at all. It's really a serious mistake on the part of Darpa."

Democrats said cutting off the money to this specific initiative was not enough. "I think those who thought it up ought not only close down the program, they ought not be on the public payroll any longer," Mr. Dorgan said.

He and Mr. Wyden said the uproar over the market plan should give momentum to their push to cut off all money flowing to the Terrorism Information Awareness effort being run out of Darpa. That program, originally called Total Information Awareness, was developed by Admiral Poindexter as a way of forestalling terrorism by tapping into computer databases to collect medical records, travel records, credit records and financial data. Worned about privacy concerns, Congress earlier this year prohibited it from being used against Americans.

Admiral Poindexter was a central figure in the 1980's Irancontra scandal and was convicted of lying to Congress, though his conviction was later overturned. At the Pentagon, the chief spokesman, Lawrence Di Rita, was asked about the status of the former Navy officer and said, "At the moment, Admiral Poindexter continues to serve in Darpa."

Republican lawmakers said the uproar over the marketing plan could jeopardize Congressional support for Darpa programs, though they were not ready to call for the end of the terrorism information effort. As for personnel changes, they said those decisions were the responsibility of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

But Senator Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican who serves on both the intelligence and armed services committees, called the market plan "absurd," and added, "It seems to me they are way off base and somebody should bear that responsibility, and I think we know who that is."

The Pentagon market Web site was the first step in a broader program titled Futures Markets Applied to Predictions.

In statements over the past two days, Darpa said the idea behind the project was to use a marketplace to assess the probability of events, a concept that has worked with predictions in such matters as commodity prices and elections. Examples of potential events on the Web site included the overthrow of the king of Jordan, a missile strike by North Korea or the assassination of Yasir Arafat.

While some lawmakers said they understood the fundamental idea behind the project, they said it clearly crossed a line given the continuing effort against terrorism and the war in Iraq. "I cannot conceive of any reason why the United States Government should be involved in a project of this nature," the Senate majority leader, Bill Frist, Republican of Tennessee, said in a letter to lawmakers responsible for Pentagon spending, urging that they cut off any aid to the market project.

The Democratic leader, Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, was harsher. "I am troubled, alarmed, just amazed that anybody with positions of responsibility and authority would suggest that we do things of this nature," he said.

Mr. Warner and others said Darpa, which is credited with creating the forerunner to the Internet among other innovations, has proved its value in the past, but they said this plan was out of bounds.

"It sounds like maybe they got too imaginative in this area," Mr. Wolfowitz said.



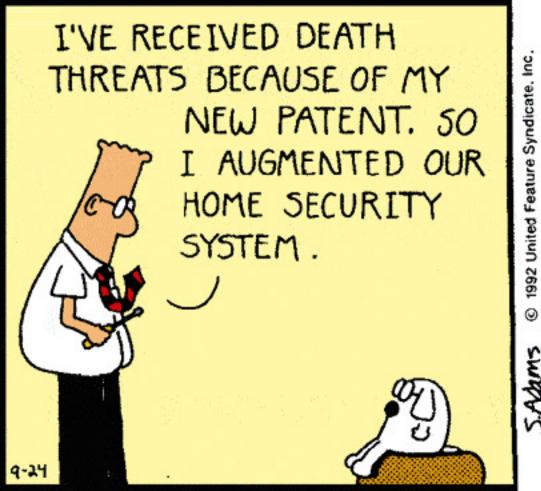
BE CAREFUL.

IT COULD BE AN

ONLINE SCAM.







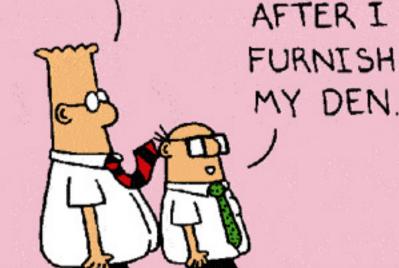
THE SIDEWALK IS RIGGED TO GIVE AN ELECTRIC SHOCK, THUS DISARMING THE INTRUDER. THEN A SPRING CATAPULTS HIM TO THE CITY LANDFILL. AAGH! -

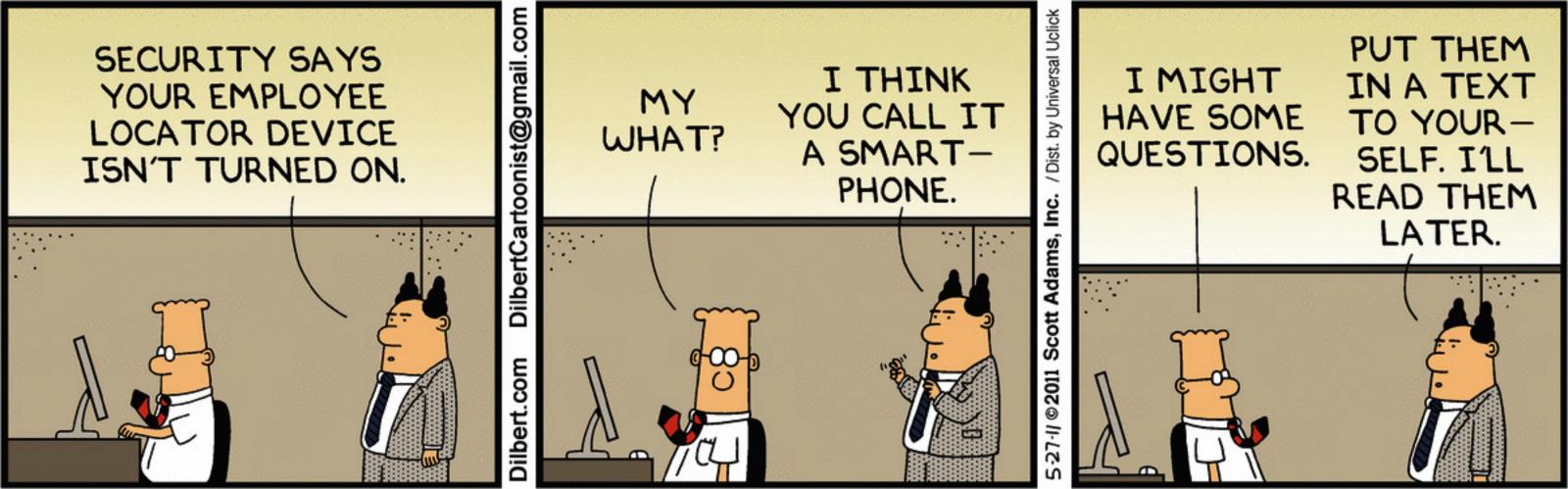






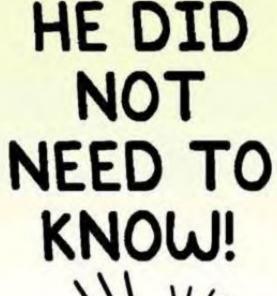
WHEN ARE YOU PLANNING TO TELL HIM YOU WERE JOKING?



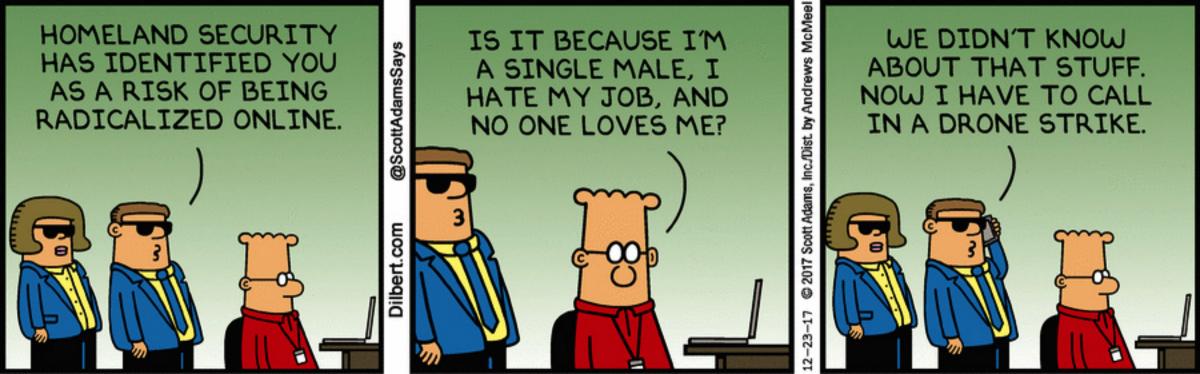




HE NEEDED TO KNOW.





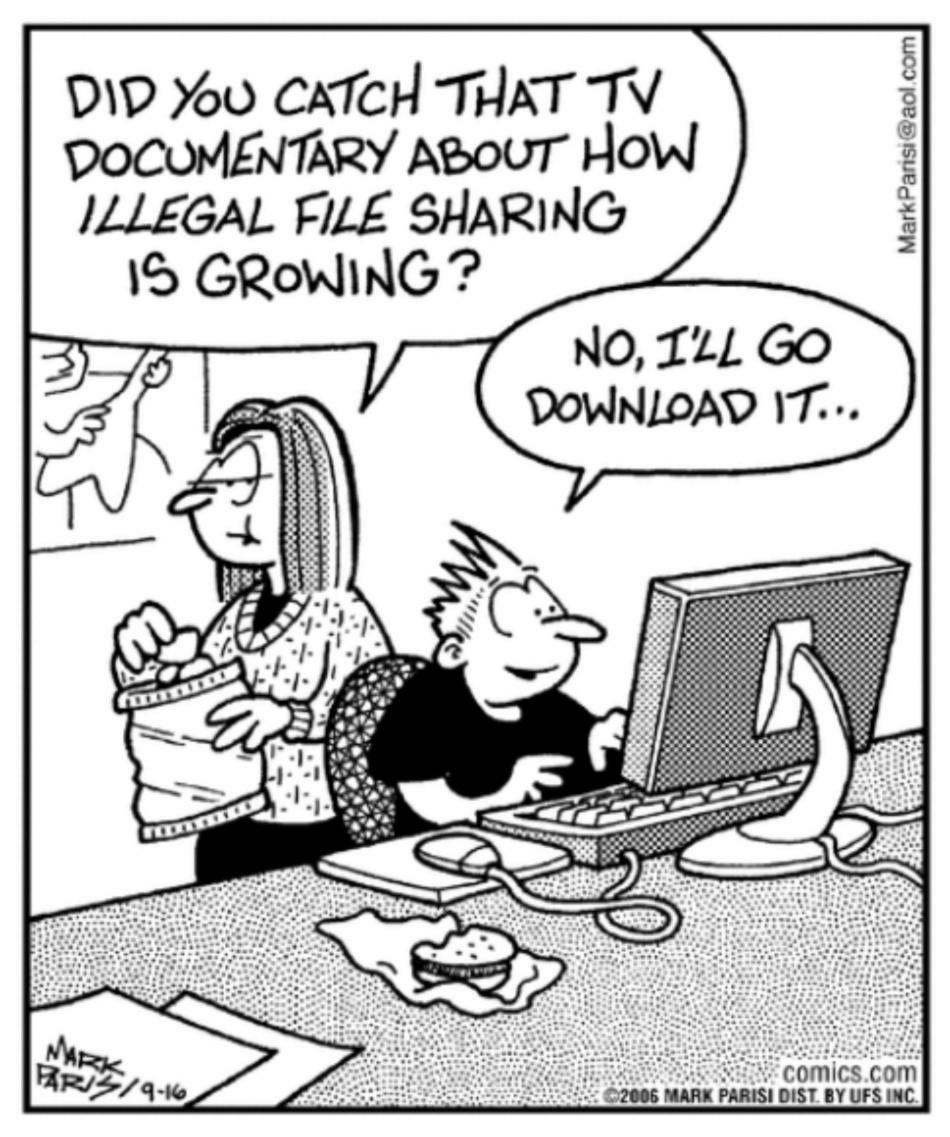




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# **Security Meter**



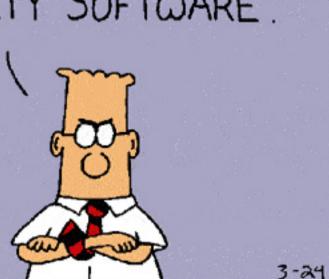


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## TERRORISM ALERT LEVELS

The British have reacted to the recent remotion alerts by raising their security level from "Miffed" to "Pieceed." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Britaned" or even "A Bit Cross."

Londoners have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940, when tea supplies all but ran out.

Terrorists have been recategorized from "Tiresome" to "Bloody Naisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Naisance" warning level was during the great fire of 1666.

Also, the French Government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide."

The only two higher levels in France are "Surrender" and "Collaborate." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

It's not only the English and French that are on a heightened level of alert. Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Eckniedly" to "Elaborate Milasor Postaring," Two more levels remain: "ineffective Combut Operations" and "Change Sides,"

The Germans also increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs," They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbor" and "Lose."

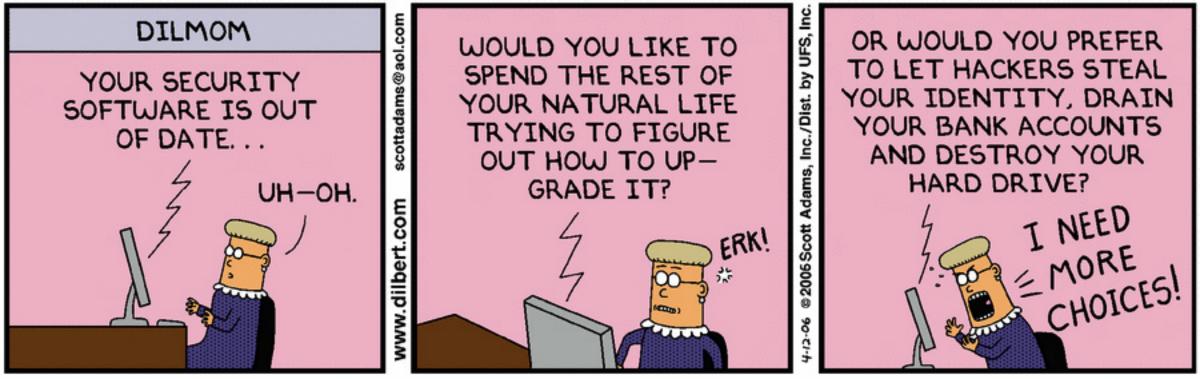
Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday, as is customary, and the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Israeli government is defining only three threat levels: "Destroy Civilian Infrastructure in Gaza," "Destroy Civilian Infrastructure in Lebanon," and "Obliterate the Entire Middle

The current US administration is thinking of redefining its security levels to be more descriptive; the lowest would become "Lie about International Threats" and he followed in triang levels of severity he "Bounh Albania," "Bornh Ecandor" and "Bornh Itania".







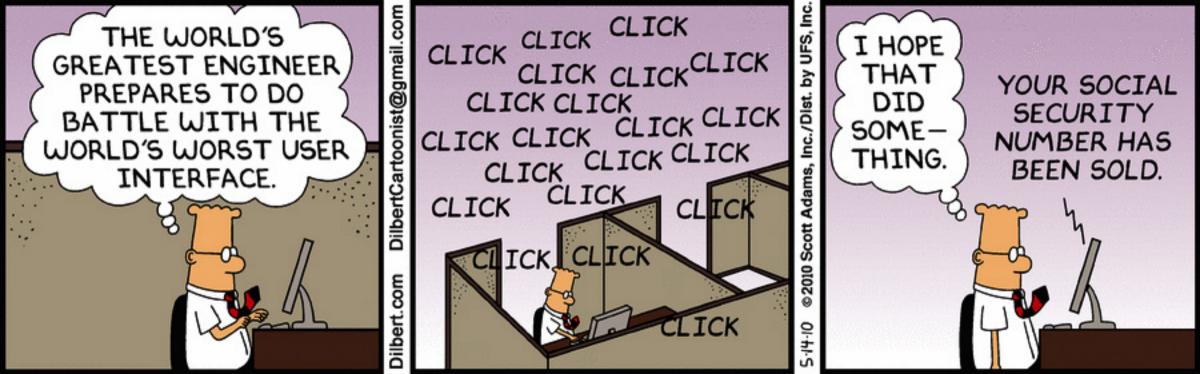








To complete the log-in procedure. stare directly at the sun.



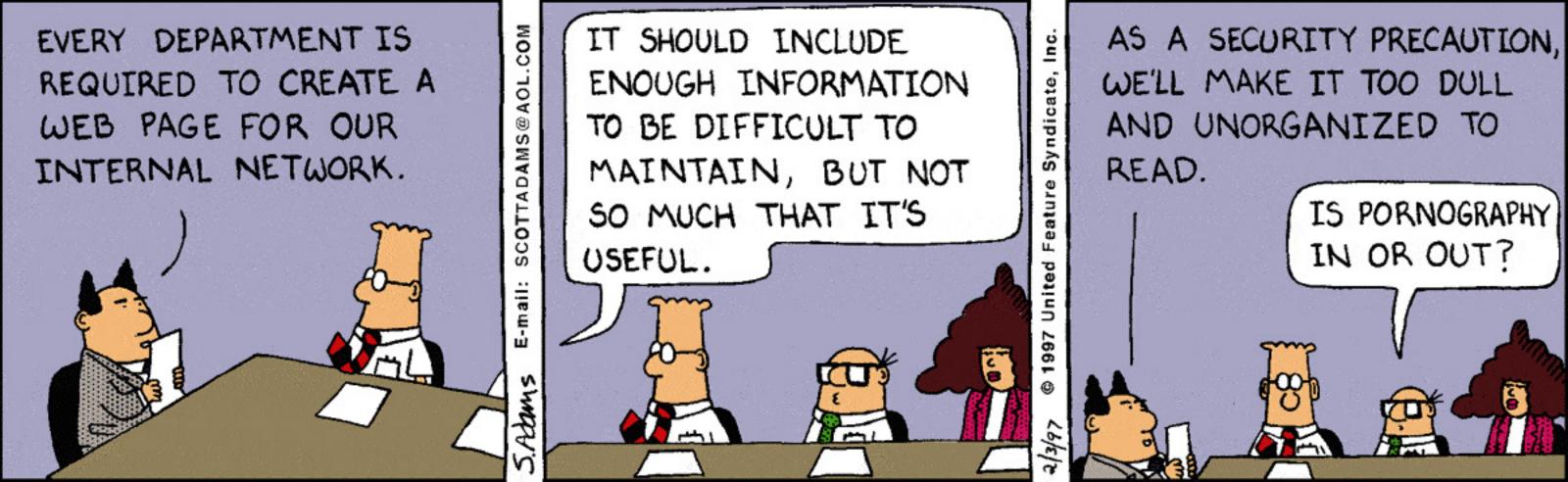
If your friends don't believe how bad your commute is, just record a video of it.



'cause it's always best to have a backup of your hard drive.











As I get older, I am so happy to have several people calling me every day to see how I am!



They are from India and are very concerned about my car warranty, some unexpected charges for PayPal and several security products.