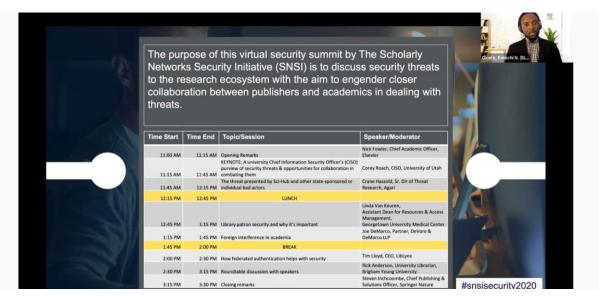
#### #snsisecurity2020







# Security Collaboration for Library Resource Access

Corey Roach, CISO University of Utah

SNSI Security Summit October 2020

## Corey Roach



- Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)
- Joined the University of Utah in 1998
- 18+ years of Information Security Experience in Higher Ed
- Information Security Office 34 Employees
  - Enterprise Security (Engineering, Incident Response)
  - Security Assurance (Security Operations Center)
  - · Governance, Risk, and Compliance
  - · Identity and Access Management

# An Interesting Challenge



Unique Privacy Requirements
Fragile Assets
Limited Resources
Limited Legal Support

**Threat Vector** 



Phishing
Social Engineering
Credential Re-Use
Hacktivism



Technology alone does not solve "People Problems"

## **Technology Overview**









Analysis



Multi-Factor





Log Storage

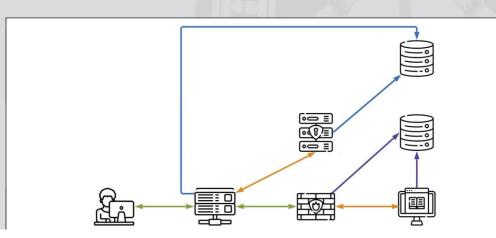






# Typical Library Proxy Service





# **Typical Logs**



## **Library Logs:**

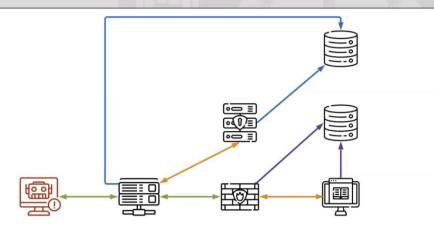
- Timestamps
- Basic Browser Info (UA)
- Username
- Customer IP
- URLs Requested

## **Publisher Logs**

- Timestamps
- Proxy IP
- URLs Request

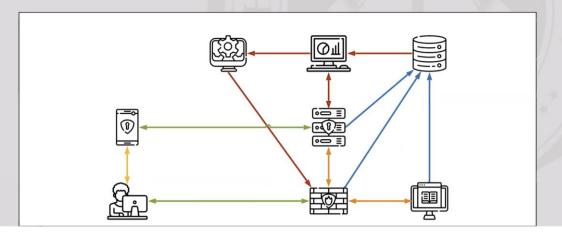
# Typical Library Proxy Service





# Typical Web App





# Typical Web App - Logs



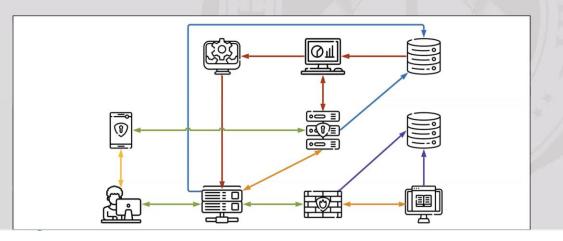
## **Web App Owner Logs:**

- Timestamps
- Extensive Browser Info
- Username
- Account Information
- Customer IP
- URLs Requested
- 2-Factor Device Info
- Geographic Location

- User Behavior
- Biometric Data
- Threat Correlation / Info Sharing

# Modern Library Design





## Modern Library Design



## **Library Logs/Info:**

- Timestamps
- Extensive Browser Info
- Username
- Account Information
- Customer IP
- URLs Requested
- 2-Factor Device Info
- Geographic Location

- User Behavior
- Biometric Data
- Threat Correlation / Info Sharing

## **Publisher Logs:**

- Timestamps
- Proxy IP
- URLs Request

## Obstacles?



## Privacy

# Expertise

## Cost

# Publisher / SNSI Support



- Develop or subsidize a low-cost proxy or plug-in
- Facilitate threat information sharing
- Provide administrator training
- Promote community
- Provide pricing incentives to share risks

## Other Opportunities



- Foster security advocates, provide materials
- Educate leadership on shared risks
- Educate users on personal risks
- Promote to customers the value of publishers





#### Who Am I?



- 11 years in the FBI
- Helped create the FBI's Cyber Behavioral Analysis Center (CBAC)
- · Built two phishing threat intelligence teams
- Currently oversee the Agari Cyber Intelligence Division
- Focus is Business Email Compromise (BEC)

#### Silent Librarian: An Overview



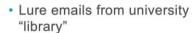
- Active since 2013
- · Linked to Iranian threat actors
- Targets global colleges/universities
  - 300+ schools in 22 countries
- Phishing pages mimic library login pages
- Purpose is to compromise student/ faculty credentials
- · Motivation?

- · Theft of academic journal articles
- · Theft of other sensitive research?

Durham	
Login to Library and Heritage	
Collections	
Username	Durham University
	Library and Heritage Collections
Password	Research and study materials provided through Durham University Library
Don't Remember Login	
Login	
Forgot your password?	If you are having problems using Library e- resources, email our e-resources team.

AGARI.

#### Silent Librarian: Attack Process



Consistent for years

- Direct spoofing of university addresses
- Use of shortened URLs behind look-alike URLs
- Phishing URLs very similar to legitimate URLs

#### Dear Student,

This is an automatically generated email from IT Services, Carleton University.

IT Standard for Computer Passwords and System Access Controls state that an appropriate library access renewal process is implemented at Carleton University. Our records indicate that your library enrollment \*\* is set to expire on January 30, 2020 12:00. For security reasons, please click the URL link below to update your library enrollment:

#### University Librar

If you have not renewed your library enrollment by the date mentioned above, your access to the library and its associated services will expire. If you have any questions arising from this message, please contact the Library Helpdesk. For a list of the current library online services, please visit:

#### https://library.carleton.ca

#### Yours sincerely,

MacOdrum Library - Carleton University 1125 Colonel By Dr, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6, Canada library.services@carleton.ca

#### Legitimate URLs

shibboleth.mcgill.ca libproxy.library.unt.edu librarysso.vu.edu.au

#### **Phishing URLs**

shibboleth.mcgill.ca.iftl.tk... libproxy.library.unt.edu.itlib.me... librarysso.vu.cvrr.me...

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#### Silent Librarian: Links to Mabna Institute

- · March 23, 2018: USDOJ indicts 9 Iranian individuals connected to the Mabna Institute
  - \$3.4 billion in intellectual property loss
  - 31.5 TB of academic data stolen
  - ~8000 university account compromised
  - · Also targeted government agencies, private companies, and international NGOs
- · Silent Librarian = Mabna Institute













AGARI.

#### Silent Librarian: Indictment Aftermath

- · Worked with REN-ISAC to mitigate phishing sites
- · April 11, 2018: Testified at House committee on foreign threats to US research and academic institutions
  - Other witnesses focused on physical threats
- · Indictments have had no impact on deterring future attacks



AGARI.



- Launched in 2011 by student in Kazakhstan
- Contains pirated copies of academic journal articles
  - · 81 million+ articles
- Top countries using Sci-Hub: India, China, US, Brazil, Iran
- How do they get articles?
  - · "Donated"
  - · Phishing?

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ANTHONY OF THE PARTY

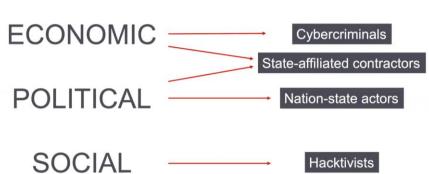
 Potential link to Silent Librarian?



AGARI.

## Motivations for Cyber Attacks





AGARI.



#### What Motivates Silent Librarian and Sci-Hub?

## **ECONOMIC**

#### Silent Librarian

 Access to journals sold on Iranian marketplaces

#### Sci-Hub

- Created in response to high cost of journal paywalls
- · "Napster for journal articles"

AGARI.

#### What Motivates Silent Librarian and Sci-Hub?



#### Silent Librarian

- "Acted at the behest of the Iranian government"
- · Potential for intelligence gathering

## **POLITICAL**

#### Sci-Hub

Potential backing by Russian government?

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