

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

So many things – so little time

In the last few weeks I have seen so many things that engendered me to write about them that I have given up on selecting one. Rather, I think it's time for a summary article about what's going on in the cyber arena and how we should start rethinking again.

Most people don't like to think, and really hate to rethink

Once you know something, rethinking it is problematic for most folks. And I count my self among them. Most of what I do in response to foolishness I see is respond with an attempt to explain rationally why it is missing something important that, if understood, would make the foolishness go away and replace it with something reasonable.

Eventually, if you do this long enough, you may start to recognize the part of yourself that you used to dislike when talking to older wiser folks when you were younger. On the other hand, I spent years of my life reading and reviewing the work of others before coming to my own views on various subjects. I spent a few years on deception before coming to my approaches to it, that after I jumped on the concept as better leverage against attackers than most other technologies readily available. Before that I spent years studying other aspects of cyber-security. Here's a great quote by the way:

"If you think about it intensely for three years, it's obvious" - *Virgil Gligor on a computer security issue*

Facts and evidence before opinions and conclusions

My years studying digital forensics and doing litigation support seems to pay off a lot these days when trying to interpret the media. I see the rush to judgment and justification of prior opinions a lot. Take the Mar-a-lago search as a great example of pathetically ridiculous performance by almost every commentator.

Of course as I write this, I don't know the details that someday will be revealed, but neither do any of the commentators, pundits, and others making comments and speculating on it. Here's a simple question to ask in this regard:

In the publicly available information as of today (Aug 19, 2022) what is the basis for believing that Donald Trump has anything to do with the cited statutes in the search warrant indicating criminal acts?

I have read all of the publicly released information from the courts in this regard and nothing yet has indicated anything about Trump being investigated for any of the identified crimes. And furthermore, there are plenty of others who might be involved and the subjects of the investigation, and he could be completely innocent of and not involved in these crimes in regards to this search warrant.

What do I think? I think he is the target of the investigation and rightly so. But when I think about why I think it, I conclude that it is based entirely on my understanding of his history and public statements not made under oath. And we all know that many of these are just lies.

More examples

That doesn't just go for Donald Trump. It goes for everything and everyone.

- In cyber-security, one of my main fields of endeavor, I have extensive experience as an industry analyst – about 20 years of it professionally, and before that as an ancillary function of my cyber-related research and analysis. One of the first things I encountered when I started doing this for Burton Group was what we internally called “**A breakthrough in marketing technology**”. In other words, new and improved means old and repainted. “Zero Trust” is the latest of these in cyber, but worry not – we will have another one soon. And by the way, don't trust zero trust.
- Earlier in the week I saw a posting discussing how playing a Janet Jackson video was destroying the disk drives on older computers. People were astonished. But sympathetic vibration with acoustic waves has been known for centuries, and included in the attack methods database since the turn of the century (was it that long ago?).
- \$Billions were lost in bitcoin thefts last year – the most trusted currency of criminals.
- The anti-VAXers have managed to kill hundreds of thousands of people in the last few years without one of them being arrested as a mass killer.
- The competition for Senate in Pennsylvania is between a celebrity doctor who cannot apparently even count how many houses he owns and a guy who had a stroke during the campaign and couldn't speak for a week or more, and the guy who couldn't speak is winning, which presumably means the saying is right...

“It is better to be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.”

- Abortion is now outlawed in several states and state legislators are surprised that the same sick things that happened before abortion was made a right are happening again.

Q: “Who could have ever known that ...?”

A: Anyone who bothered to look at the history of it.

- As of today the open source media claims that Chrome “Users are recommended to update to version 104.0.5112.101 for macOS and Linux” (due to a critical security flaw). But when I ask Chrome to do an update, it tells me nothing about an update even though it is at version 104.0.5112.79 – Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt.
- I keep getting connections from Chinese women who are CEOs of US financial institutions but will only communicate with me to get to know me better using WhatsApp. Of course I don't use WhatsApp because of the history of bypassing controls in my systems (or trying to). Why am I so appealing?
- My social media presence is so impressive that I have folks wanting to pay me to advertise for their clients by posting about them. Until I say tell me the details, at which point they say they need to look at my site first...

The list of our stupidity and lack of attention to history and details is so extensive and increasingly apparent that you cannot open your eyes and not see it. In my social media feeds, well over 50% of all the postings I see have these sorts of problems.

It's the end of the world as we know it... and I feel fine¹

The list of insanity today reminds me of the song. We could use an update with the modern list. And I feel fine.

The wording of the chorus includes "It's time I had some time alone"

Vacation

I rarely take a vacation, and almost never a real complete vacation. When you run early stage companies, you don't really get vacations in the sense of most workers – at least if you do the job properly.

But between now and the end of the month, I am taking one. 6 days – no social media stuff – only a few emails related to an event early next month, and especially, no appointments.

Return

I'm back!!!

And nothing has changed.

- The world is just as irreverent as it was.
- Idiots spread ignorance with impunity
- Liars are still lying and birthers are still birthing more BS

People don't want to think and when forced to they get mad and lash out at those who think.

A tactic

I ended up in a discussion about Fauci – those accusing him of forcing lock-downs on people – and of creating the AIDS virus (and COVID-19).

- I pointed out he had and has no force and effect in regard to lock-downs
 - He cannot and could not order them.
 - Perhaps Trump could have – but he didn't.
 - And Pence was in charge of the Federal task force
 - And states run their own health systems – the Federal government does not.
 - And and and...
- I pointed out that creating AIDS or similar diseases was beyond the technological capability of science at the time (and likely still is today).

Their side of the discussion petered out after a few insult attempts.

Conclusions

We can counter disinformation with logic and facts – if presented reasonably. And the good side-effect is to sew distrust in the disinformers. Which is, I think, the right idea. But it starts with facts, evidence, and rational thinking explained simply. Demand it of them and of yourself. And take an active part in fixing the world, or it will put the fix in against all of us.

¹ REM - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0GFRcFm-aY>