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Manual
Crowdsourced
Automated
Autonomous Pentesting

The Attacker's Perspective

*"In the military it's called 'turning the map around'...
get inside the mind of the enemy,
see the situation as they do
to anticipate & prepare for
what's to come"*



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My Boardroom "Interrogation"

How do you know?

That we are secure?

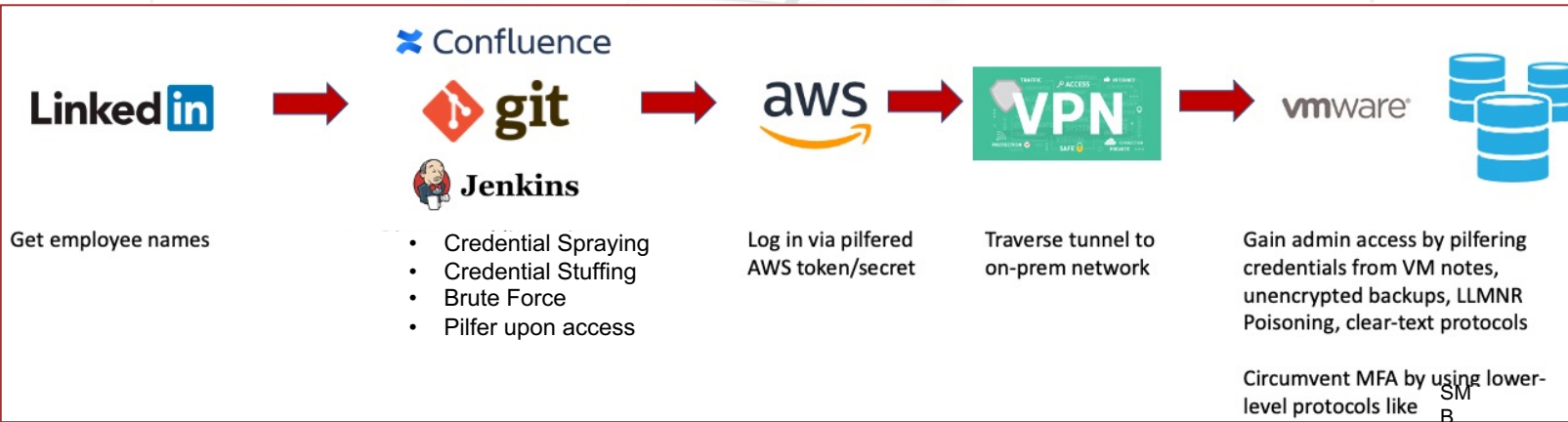
That our "Crown Jewels" are protected?

That we are fixing the right vulnerabilities?

That our security tools are properly configured and effective?

Attackers don't have to "hack in" – they log in

[link](#)



Top 10 Vulnerabilities: Internal Infrastructure Pentest
2020-06-03

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 - 5. SMB 1.0 protocol
 - 4. NetBIOS over TCP/IP enabled
 - 3. Unpatched Windows systems
 - 2. Default SNMP community strings
 - 1. Clear text protocols
- Conclusion

Reused Credentials + Misconfigurations + Dangerous Defaults

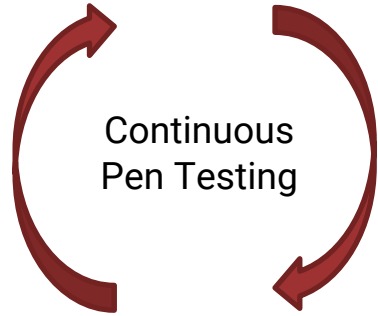
No CVEs or malware were used in this attack.

How quickly can you detect this?

How do you know?

My Vision

Find & fix attack vectors before criminals exploit them.



Continuously...

- **Find:** identify new exploitable attack vectors.
- **Fix:** prioritize remediations based on impact.
- **Verify** fixes and security controls are effective.
- **Report** posture to leadership, board, regulators.

Attacker gains initial access.

Detect beacons, lateral movements & exfil

Disrupt kill chain & conduct forensics

proactive

reactive

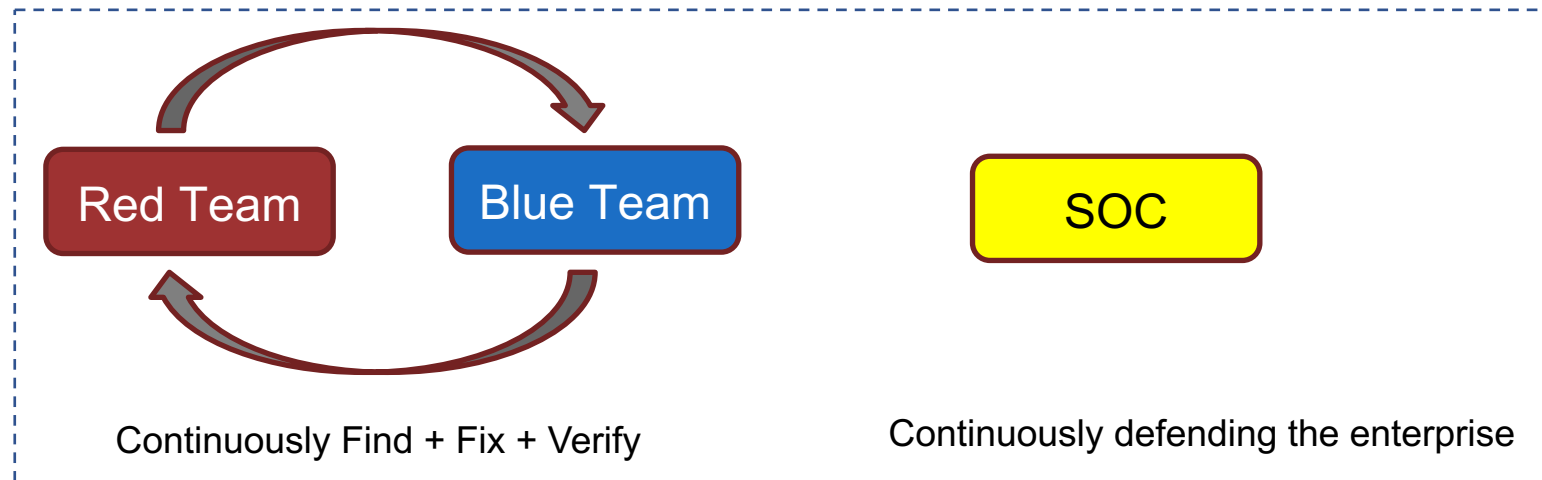
- No agents to install
- No scripts to develop
- No consultants to hire

How I Tried to Organize

Red Team: Continuously assess my security posture

Blue Team: IT Admins, Network Engineers, and Security Tool focused on fixing problems

SOC: Focused on defending the enterprise (detect beacons, lateral movement, exfil, etc)



My Reality

“I don’t know if my security tools work, or if I fixed the right vulnerabilities until I’m breached, and by then its too late!!”

Assess



Prioritize



Remediate



Report



Vulnerability Scanners: Noisy and Vulnerable ≠ Exploitable

Manual Pen Tests: Incomplete Snapshot

Security Risk Management Tools: Garbage in, Garbage out

Breach Attack Simulation: Install more agents & script fake tests



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Who we are



[Snehal Antani](#)

CEO & Co-Founder
Former CTO, Splunk
Former CIO, GE Capital



[Tony Pillitiere](#)

CTO & Co-Founder
Former US Special Ops
MSgt (Ret), USAF

What we do

Manual
Crowdsourced
Automated
Autonomous Pentesting

*(No Consultants, No Agents,
No Custom Scripting)*

Continuously...

- Find exploitable **chained** vulnerabilities
- Fix what matters
- Verify your posture
- Report board & regulators.

Disrupting the \$25B Security Testing Market

Problem

Vulnerable != Exploitable



\$5B market cap



\$5B market cap



Vulnerability
Scanning



Breach Attack
Simulation



Pen Testing



BISHOPFOX

accenture

Problem

Install agents, write scripts



Acquired by FireEye
for \$250M



Raised \$49M

Problem

Incomplete Snapshot

Effective Security

Domain Admin in 7 minutes 19 seconds

No Security Alerts Triggered

Fix the Effectiveness Problem



Self-Service, Agentless, Adaptive

Proc

Weaknesses (2)

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crack

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SMB

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SMB

SMB

× Clo

Weak or Default Credentials - Cracked Credentials (H3-2021-0020)

Mitigations

- Ensure a strong password policy is in place and users are properly trained on best practices. Consider the use of a password manager to store complex passwords where possible.
- Identify a configuration management process that ensures default credentials are changed before systems are deployed in a production environment.
- Implement multi-factor authentication where possible.

References

- [CWE-521: Weak Password Requirements](#)
- [T1110: Brute Force](#)

LLMNR/NBT-NS Poisoning Possible (H3-2020-0012)

Mitigations

- Disable LLMNR using Group Policy to enable 'Turn OFF Multicast Name Resolution' setting under 'Local Computer Policy > Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Network > DNS Client'.
- Disable NBT-NS in the network adapter settings by selecting 'Disable NetBIOS over TCP/IP'. Alternatively, disable by using a registry key.

References

- [T1171 - LLMNR/NBT-NS Poisoning and Relay](#)
- [Local network vulnerabilities - LLMNR and NTB-NS Poisoning](#)
- [LLMNR and NBT-NS Mitigation](#)



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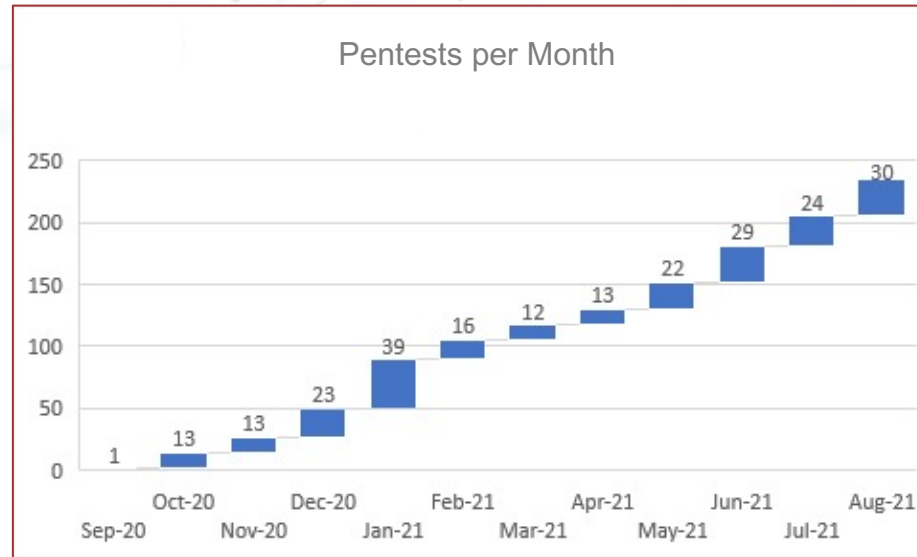
Manufacturing Customer with 37 Global Datacenters

Motivation



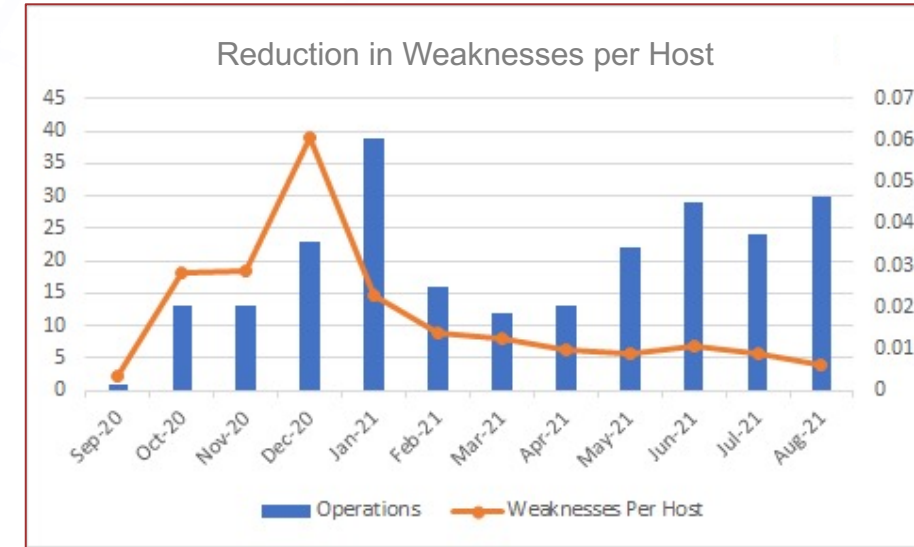
- \$35k per pentest to consultants
- CISO recently fired for breach
- Cold email to deal close in 8 weeks

Adoption

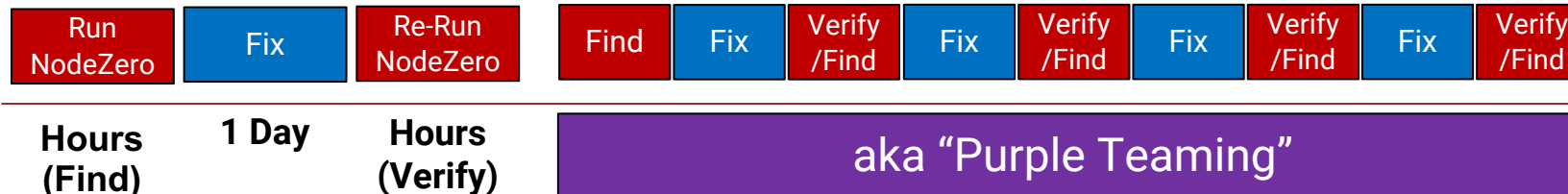


- Averaging 16 pentests per month
- "Sparring partner" for the SOC
- Network Engineers with security "superpowers"

Impact



- Cut weaknesses-per-host by 95%
- Accelerated MTTR by 90%
- Saving 600+ person-hours per pentest



Why Autonomous Pentesting

Emerging Use-Cases

Why?

“Sparring Partner” to tune the SOC

NodeZero gained domain admin in ~ 7 mins and **did not** trigger any SOC alerts

Empower “Fixers”

IT Teams can quickly & proactively find + fix + verify security weaknesses

Force Multiplier for Ethical Hackers

Maximize coverage using human + machine teaming

Red Team: Continuously test and verify my security posture with autonomous pentesting

NodeZero compromises HackTheBox-Active in 3 minutes and 30 seconds, auto-describes attack

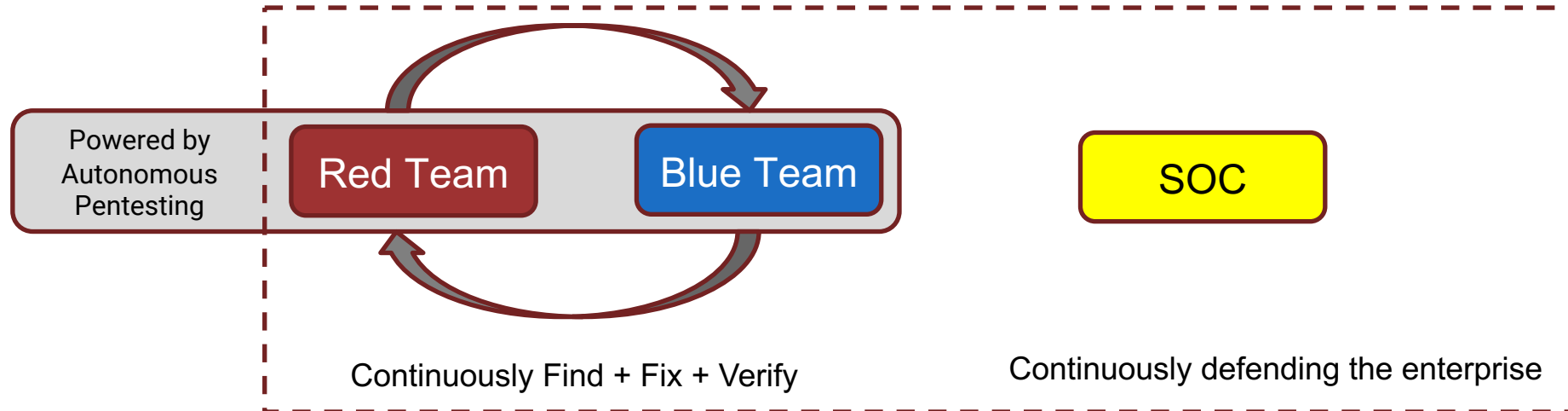
<https://www.horizon3.ai/iamnodezero/iamnodezero-active>

Revisiting the Team Structure

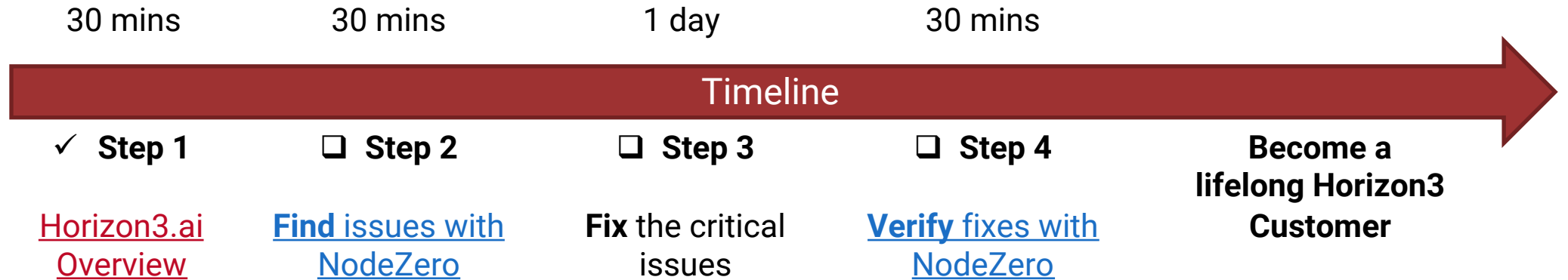
Red Team: Continuously find exploitable attack paths and hopefully trigger security alerts

Blue Team: IT Admins, Network Engineers, and Security Tool focused on quickly fixing problems

SOC: Focused on defending the enterprise (detect beacons, lateral movement, exfil, etc)



Thesis: Find & Fix what Matters



There's no downside

1. If NodeZero finds something – you fix it, then verify the fix
2. If NodeZero finds nothing – your controls are working



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