The New York Times

Securing Journalists

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Introduction

- NYC since 2016 via DC, London, Trondheim, Oslo

- Hacked a wifi-powered sniper rifle in 2015 ✌️

- Certified saké advisor as of October 2018 🍶

- Worked on Tor and SecureDrop, now at NYT

What's this talk about?

- Threat models in the context of journalism and news media

- Challenges enhancing security for those we protect

- How to evaluate adversaries and their capabilities

- How we're building a culture of security

Securing the newsroom

- The newsroom is very deadline-driven and product-focused

- Our journalists file from more than 150 countries each year

- Needs to click on links and open attachments

- The solutions we create have to be usable and reliable

- Need to raise awareness, build relationships, build trust

Combine that with...

- Individuals, desks, bureaus will have different threats and concerns
    - Investigations versus Obituaries
    - Moscow versus Los Angeles
- Individuals will have different levels of tech comfort / knowledge
- Individuals will have different workflows and day-to-day schedules
- Reporters frequently use a mix of personal and corporate accounts

Let's look at 2 use cases

Securing @nytimes on Twitter

- Consider ways in which this account could be hacked

  - Including the classification and capabilities of adversaries

- Initial steps: strong, unique password and two-factor auth

- Limit or eliminate the use of third-party integrations

- Policy for how and when the account is used, even for DMs

- Build a relationship with Twitter for urgent assistance

Communicating with a source

- Consider ways in which the source could be compromised

  - Including the classification and capabilities of adversaries

- Reporter and source have different levels of tech comfort / knowledge

- You have to consider the lowest common denominator

- Policy must follow industry best practice, not something custom

- Educate the newsroom, educate future and current sources

Online threats and harassment

- Online threats aren't new, but have escalated and are different

- A challenge we share with other media orgs

- Provide mechanism to report, create structure to triage

- Digital, physical, emotional support, build a resilient newsroom

- Take proactive steps prior to research and publication

Other things we've done

- Regular phishing assessments, sometimes targeted, always educational

- Security awareness training for new hires, tailored training w/desks

- Awareness through newsletters, weekly tips, advisories + NCSAM

- Believe culture must be part of the security program

- Build relationships with external vendors and teams

How can we empower other media orgs?

Securing all newsrooms

- Share experiences, intelligence, lessons learned

- Supporting users with personal/corporate accounts is tricky

- How can newsrooms securely use Twitter, Facebook?

- Not everyone's got personal/professional contacts

- Can we work together on online threats/harassment?

Thank You!