

Day-Con XVII: “Chlorine for Your Soul”
Security Summit Notes
December 14, 2023

Delegates gathered once again, to discuss some of the wicked problems facing humans, ironically enough, also caused by humans. Angus kicked off the summit by welcoming the delegates and explaining the house-keeping protocols.

All delegates had an opportunity to introduce themselves, provide an update and share any summit objectives they wanted to achieve. Everyone has been busy. Generally, there seemed to be two major themes; Defending the world’s critical infrastructure (never boring or yawn – battle fatigue) and/or “Transitioning/Transforming” (moving from one state to another, as in flipping a bit, but in the sense of leaving or being asked to leave a commercial entity.). In fact, it was the latter topic that permeated the entire summit. Many of our delegates have been directly or indirectly impacted by the shifting and somewhat fickle winds of the Cyber/IT industry. Because our community is so small, it does not get coverage or nuanced commentary in the main stream media (whatever the fuck that is these days – pick your poison).

Square this circle if you dare: 1) Shortage of competent/experienced cyber operation personnel. 2) Low unemployment rates. 3) Ever expanding attack surface meets 1) Broken AI recruiting ecosystem. 2) Market values quantity versus quality – warm bodies we can afford – experience is over rated, expensive and not welcome. Lower wages. 3) Humans don’t scale and they don’t know how any of this shit works. Cognitive Dissonance manifests itself everywhere these days – squaring the circle is difficult.

Angus provided his update, which focused on his own transition back to where he came from...breaking things and defending those who can’t. Guided by his new North Star, he has invoked the [Bliss Index](#) Protocol 1) Only work on projects that give you joy 2) With people you like 3) To make the world a better place.

His current focus is on developing an autonomous entity named Hackbot (our sarcastic animated character from DC IV back in 2010) using EGGs (Emergent Generative Generators) in order to compete in the DARPA AIXCC and Packetwars events.

Mo and Angus provided an update on their newest research in the Future Shock Series called Supply Chain Smoker. They will be presenting it in [Dayton](#) in March and [Orlando](#) in May. They will also share any relevant findings in the Day-Con XVII [portal](#).

Andy threw down the gauntlet with his Call to Action: Digital Safety (where cyber security = health and safety) - *“The ladder is on the wrong wall. We're still securing the **things** and protecting the **data**. How about making **cyber-security a health and safety issue** (relevant for med-tech, drone-tech, agri-tech, OT, IoT, smart [everything], AI!). Strongly chasing the **liability** thread, including 3rd parties, platforms, and AI. When a cyber event = human harm. Who's liable for the damages? You, your devs, your 3rd party suppliers, the Open Source devs,*

your cloud provider, your insurer, no-one? (NOTE: the attacker should be liable, but until an effective international justice system crack down, then to me we treat "insecure systems as negligence." [Gauntlet thrown...]

Angus noted that Germans, who are sometimes very verbose, use the same word for Safety and Security. The word is "Sicherheit". The delegates agreed there was an obvious lesson there. It also reminds us of Dan Geer's most elegant rant [keynote](#) from Black Hat in 2014 [Cybersecurity as Realpolitik].

Next up was Jacob, but before he could start Angus commented on how appreciative he was that Jacob had turned him on to [ThinkScapes](#)? Angus described it as The Reader's Digest of security events & conference crib notes. He said it is on his must-read list.

Jacob took the delegates through his research into the State-of-the-art in AI LLM Detection. He shared some great insights and may have found a "[better mouse trap](#)" for some relevant use cases. What some delegates found especially useful was the metrics used to compare and articulate the characteristics of "better".

Angus then facilitated some group "therapy" amongst the delegates by posing probing questions designed to spark animated conversation. They did not disappoint.

- 1) How do we combat polarization, mis/dis-information and the war on "intellectualism"?
- 2) To Tweet or not to Tweet?
- 3) The word of the 2023 was "Rizz". What do you hope the word of 2024 will be?

Delegates agreed when AI's lie people can die, so transparency and objective truth could become the currency of confidence. They also discussed the challenges of leaving Twitter, currently known as X, for platforms like [mastodon](#). They could not agree on a 2024 target word/trend.

Once again, Angus reminded the delegates to get SLACK they must giveth SLACK and continue the conversation. With that, the summit came to a close but not before the world debut of "[Dick Pics in my Inbox](#)" by our neighbor, delegate and fellow traveler Khae aka Intent Unknown. [Social commentary about (anti) social behavior]