

# A Random Walk Through Cyber Security

**Dr. Edward G. Amoroso**

**Distinguished Research Professor, NYU CCS**

[eamoroso@tag-cyber.com](mailto:eamoroso@tag-cyber.com)















Verizon ✓

@verizon

Home

Posts

Locations

Videos

Photos

About

Community

Info and Ads



Like

Share

Suggest Edits

...

Send Message

## Posts



Verizon

12 hrs · 🌐

We told you we weren't done.

Verizon's #5GUltraWideband, coming to 20 more cities by the end of 2019.

Search for posts on this Page

Verizon  
Company

Community

[See All](#)

[Create a Page](#)

See more of Verizon on Facebook

Log In

or

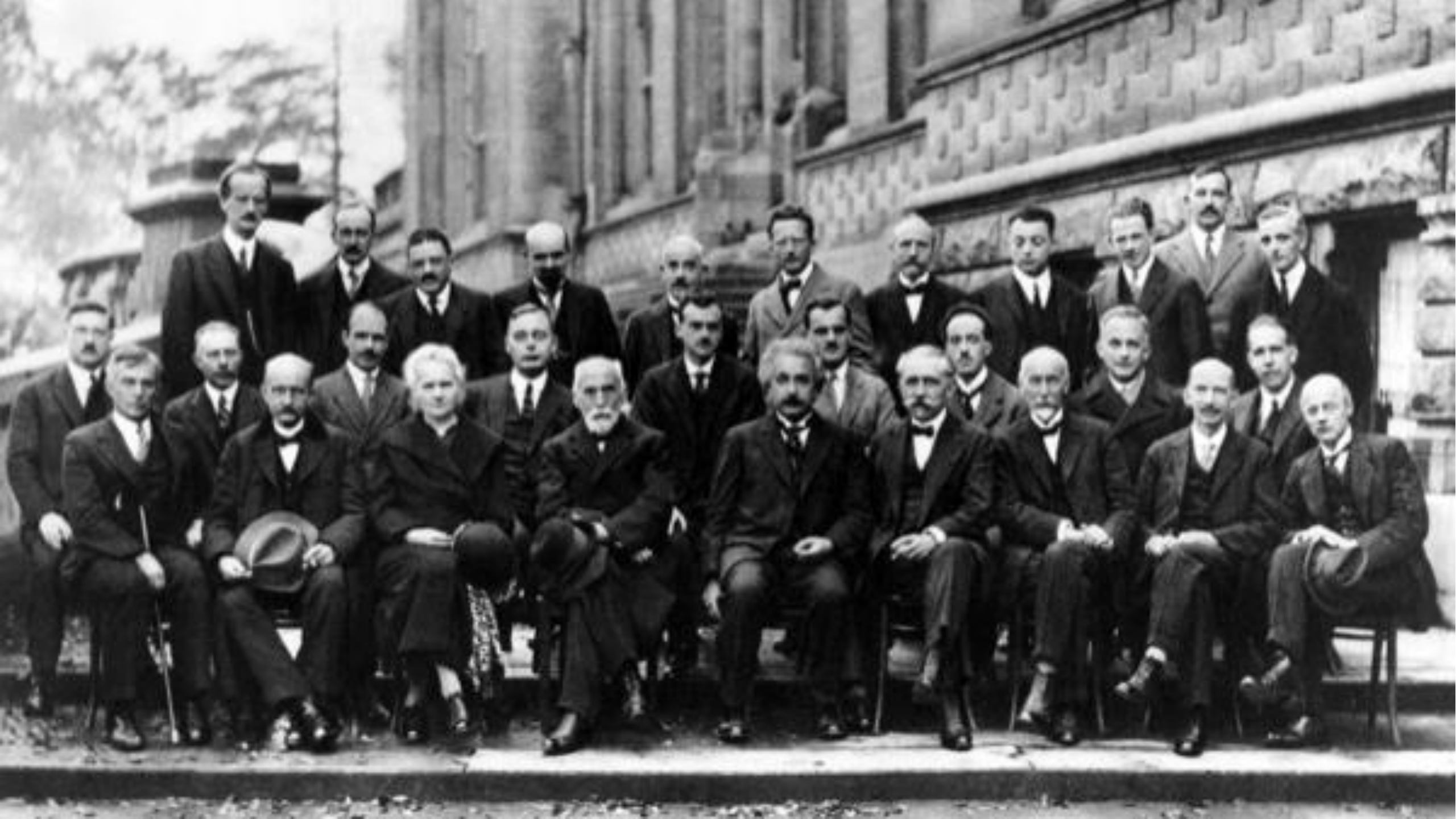
Create New Account

7410,237 people like this

2,101,089 people follow this

[See All](#)

Company



Albert Einstein  
Old Grove Rd.  
Massau Point  
Peconic, Long Island

August 2nd, 1939

F.D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been communicated to me in manuscript, leads me to expect that the element uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future. Certain aspects of the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action on the part of the Administration. I believe therefore that it is my duty to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable - through the work of Joliot in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America - that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radium-like elements would be generated. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable - though much less certain - that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed. A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory. However, such bombs might very well prove to be too heavy for transportation by air.

-2-

The United States has only very poor ores of uranium in moderate quantities. There is some good ore in Canada and the former Czechoslovakia, while the most important source of uranium is Belgian Congo.

In view of this situation you may think it desirable to have some permanent contact maintained between the Administration and the group of physicists working on chain reactions in America. One possible way of achieving this might be for you to entrust with this task a person who has your confidence and who could perhaps serve in an unofficial capacity. His task might comprise the following:

a) to approach Government Departments, keep them informed of the further development, and put forward recommendations for Government action, giving particular attention to the problem of securing a supply of uranium ore for the United States;

b) to speed up the experimental work, which is at present being carried on within the limits of the budgets of University laboratories, by providing funds, if such funds be required, through his contacts with private persons who are willing to make contributions for this cause, and perhaps also by obtaining the co-operation of industrial laboratories which have the necessary equipment.

I understand that Germany has actually stopped the sale of uranium from the Czechoslovakian mines which she has taken over. That she should have taken such early action might perhaps be understood on the ground that the son of the German Under-Secretary of State, von Weizsäcker, is attached to the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut in Berlin where some of the American work on uranium is now being repeated.

Yours very truly,

*A. Einstein*  
(Albert Einstein)



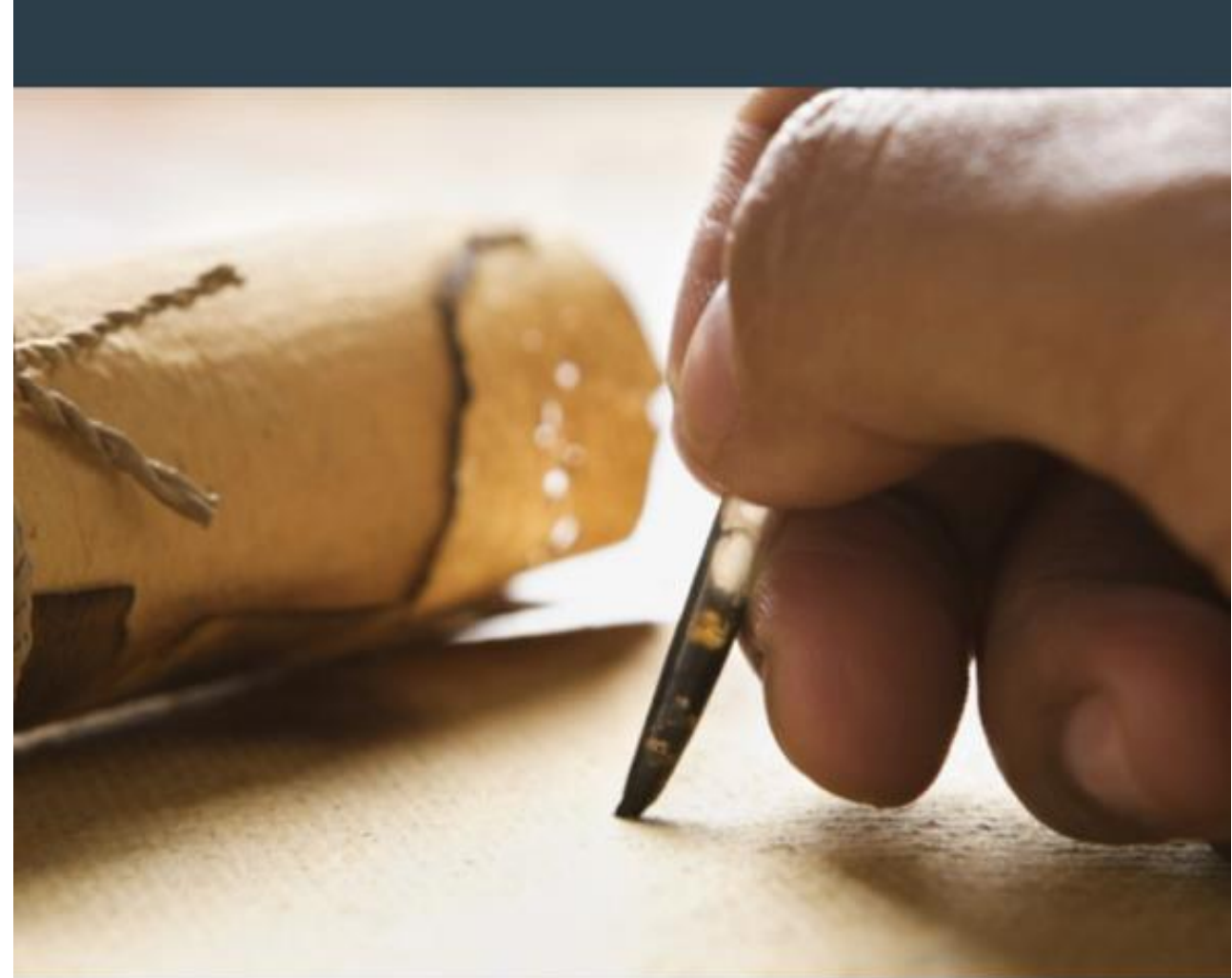


D.J. Trump  
President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, DC

Sir:

1. Direct that the NIST Framework shall be the only acceptable cyber security compliance standard in the United States.
2. Direct that each government agency shall immediately implement a plan to reduce their dependence on an enterprise perimeter.
3. Direct that each government agency shall significantly expand their Cyber Corps Program for young people interested in a cyber security career.

Yours very truly,  
Dr. Edward Amoroso



Dr. Edward G. Amoroso offers three recommendations on cyber security to the President-Elect

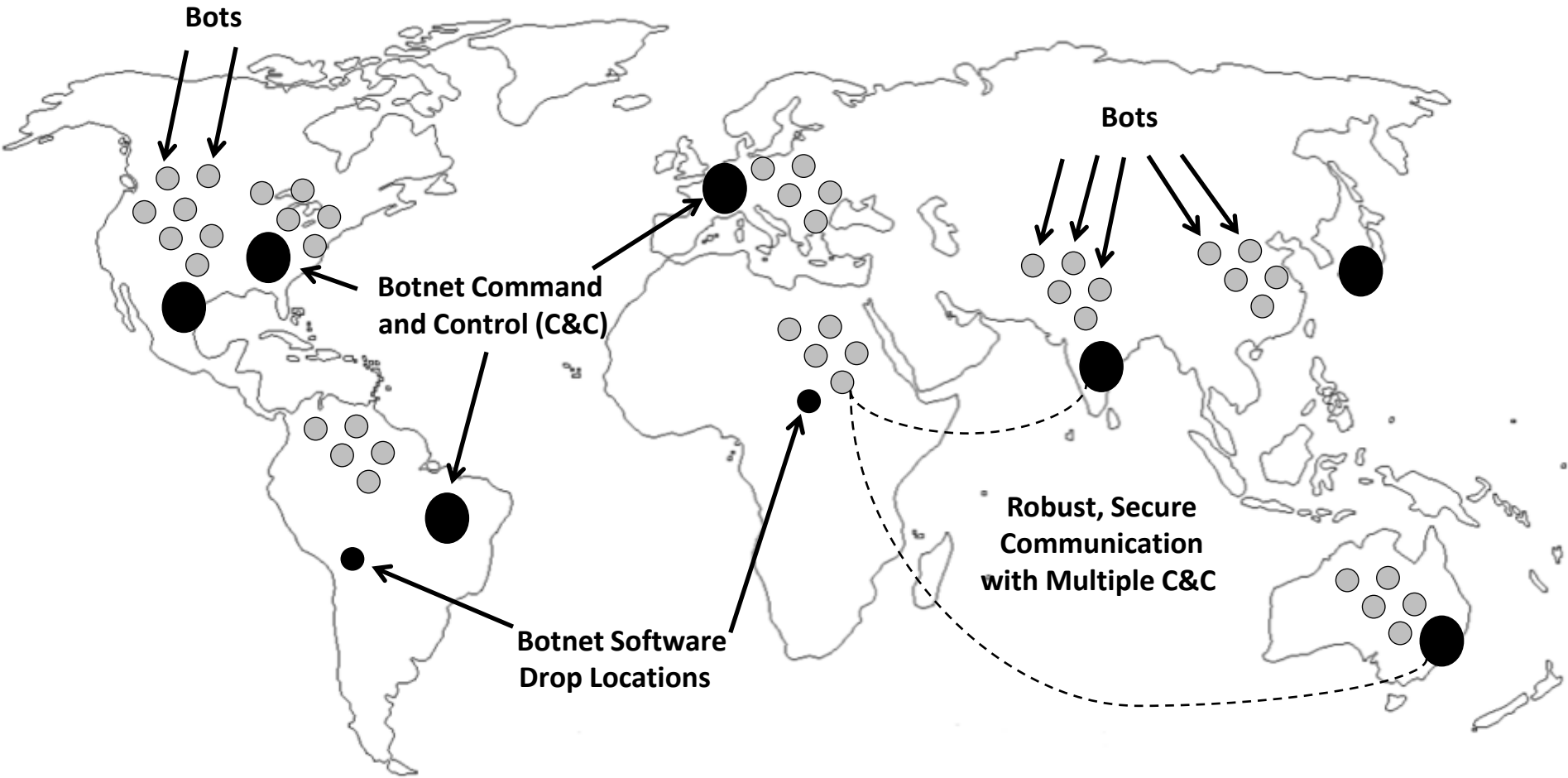
## An Open Letter to the President-Elect on Cyber Security

Published on November 25, 2016

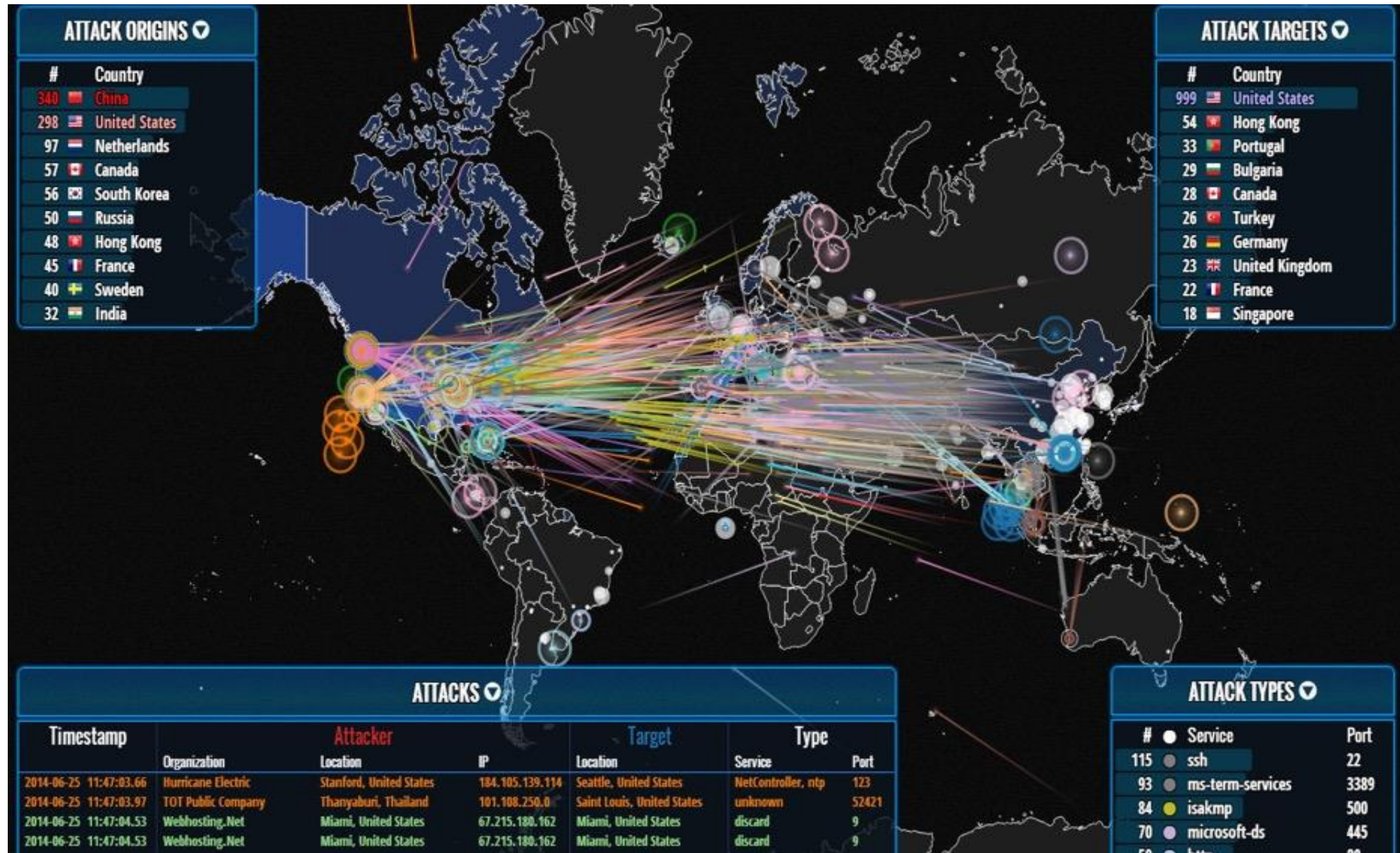
Can Botnets Take Out the Internet?



# Botnet Architecture



# Typical Botnet Visualization



# Botnet Arithmetic

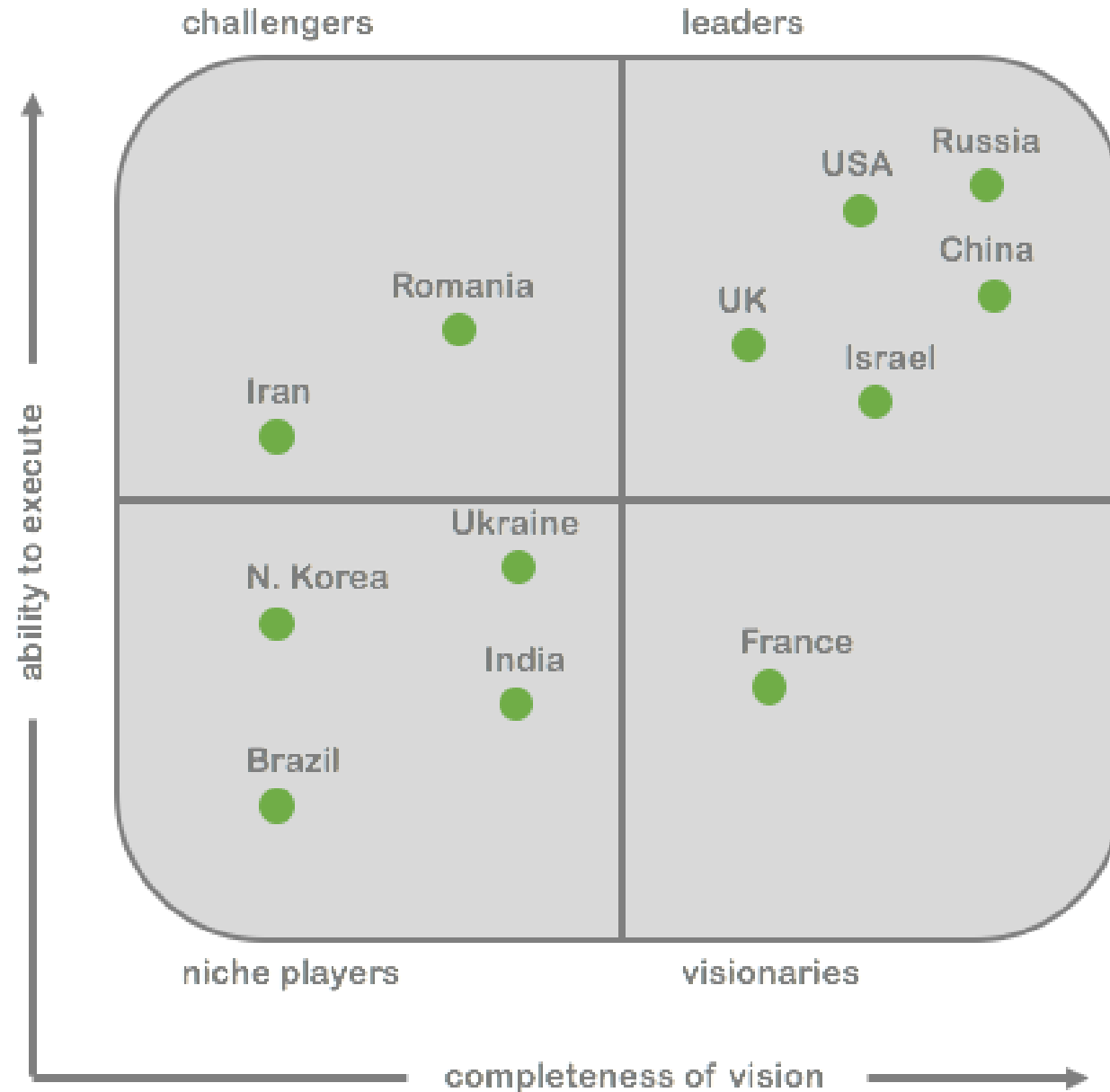
Number of Bots	Outbound Capacity	Size of Attack	Network Size
2	750 Kbps	1.5 Mbps	T1
1,200	1.0 Mbps	1.2 Gbps	OC-24
2,400	1.0 Mbps	2.4 Gbps	OC-48
10,000	1.0 Mbps	10.0 Gbps	OC-192
40,000	1.0 Mbps	40.0 Gbps	OC-768
80,000	1.0 Mbps	80.0 Gbps	<i>Starts to fill typical ISP backbone</i>
100,000	1.0 Mbps	100 Gbps	
1,000,000	1.0 Mbps	1000 Gbps	





What Countries Have the Best Hackers?

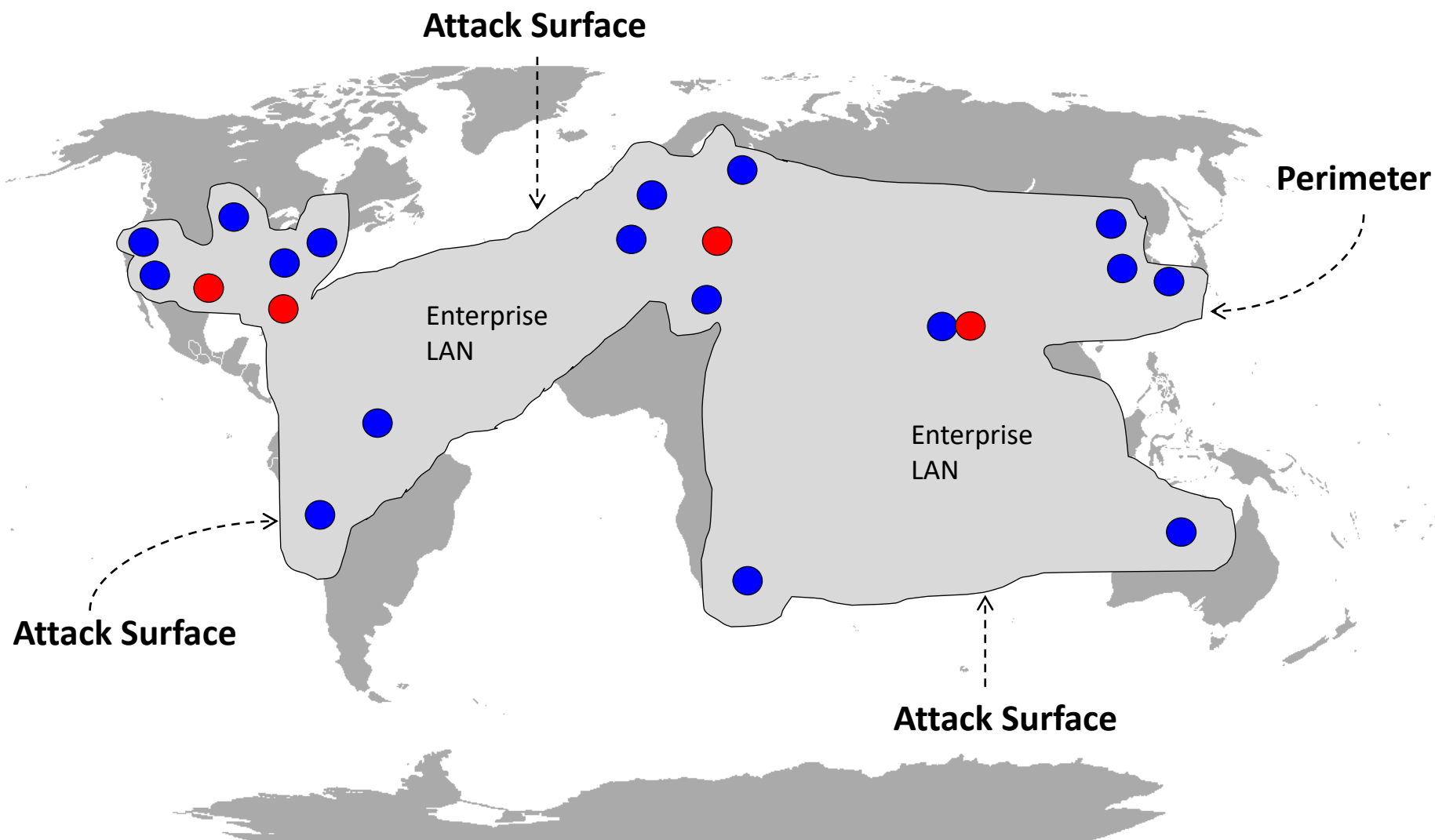
# Ranking Countries by Hacking Capability



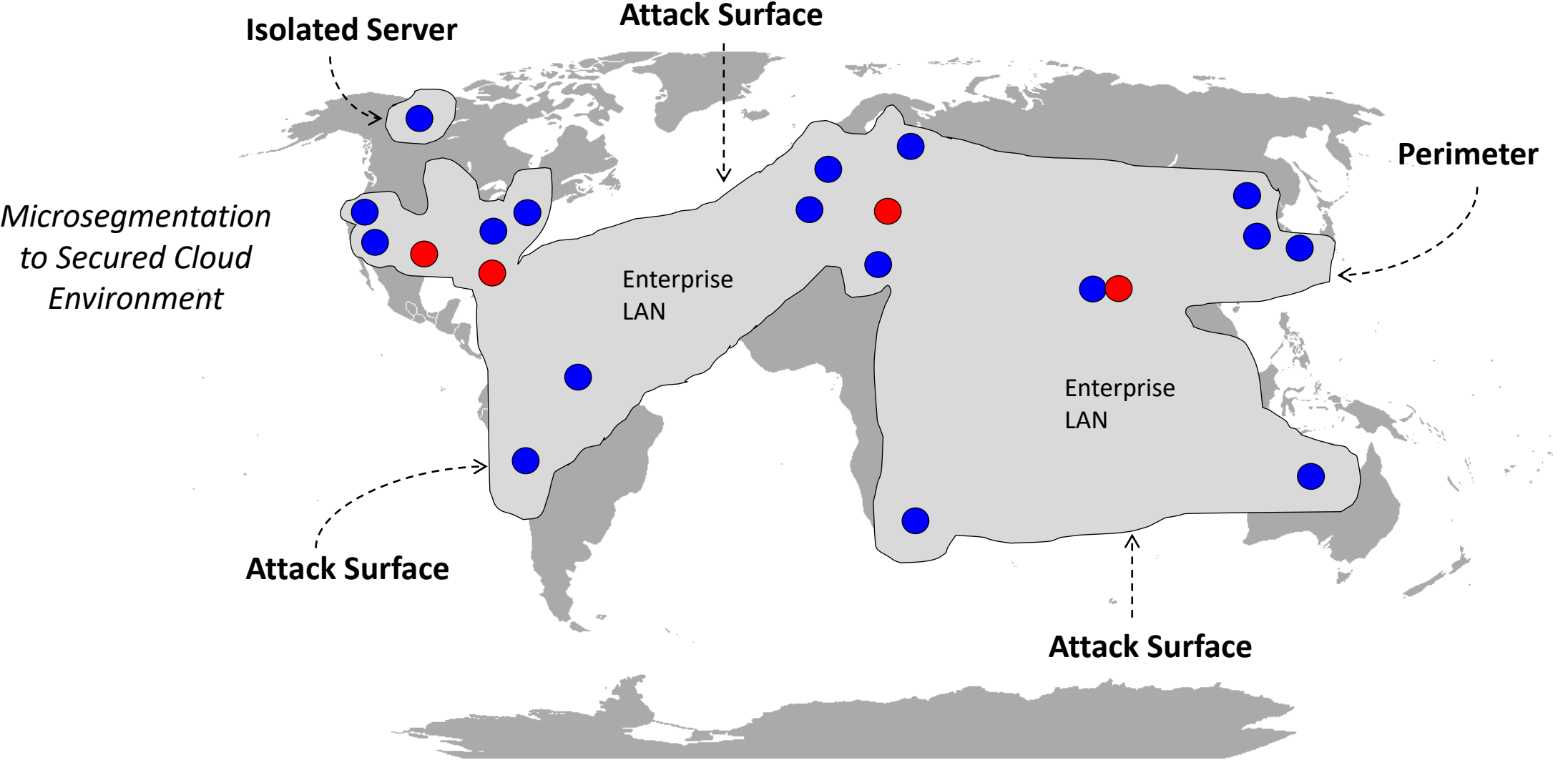


Why Couldn't the Russians Find the Deleted Clinton Emails?

# Warning: Global Perimeters are Not Secure

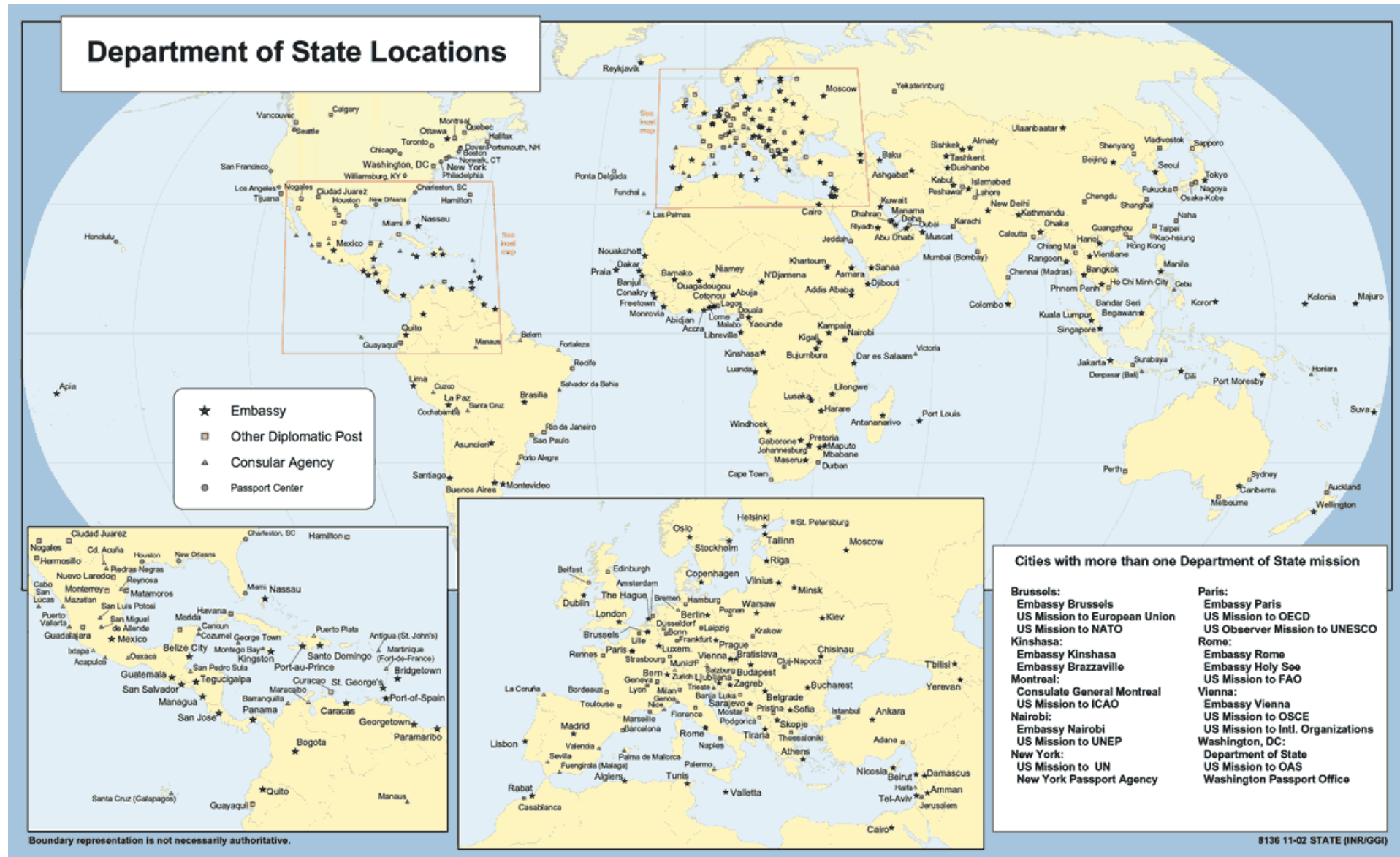


# Isolating a Server from a Perimeter Makes it More Secure

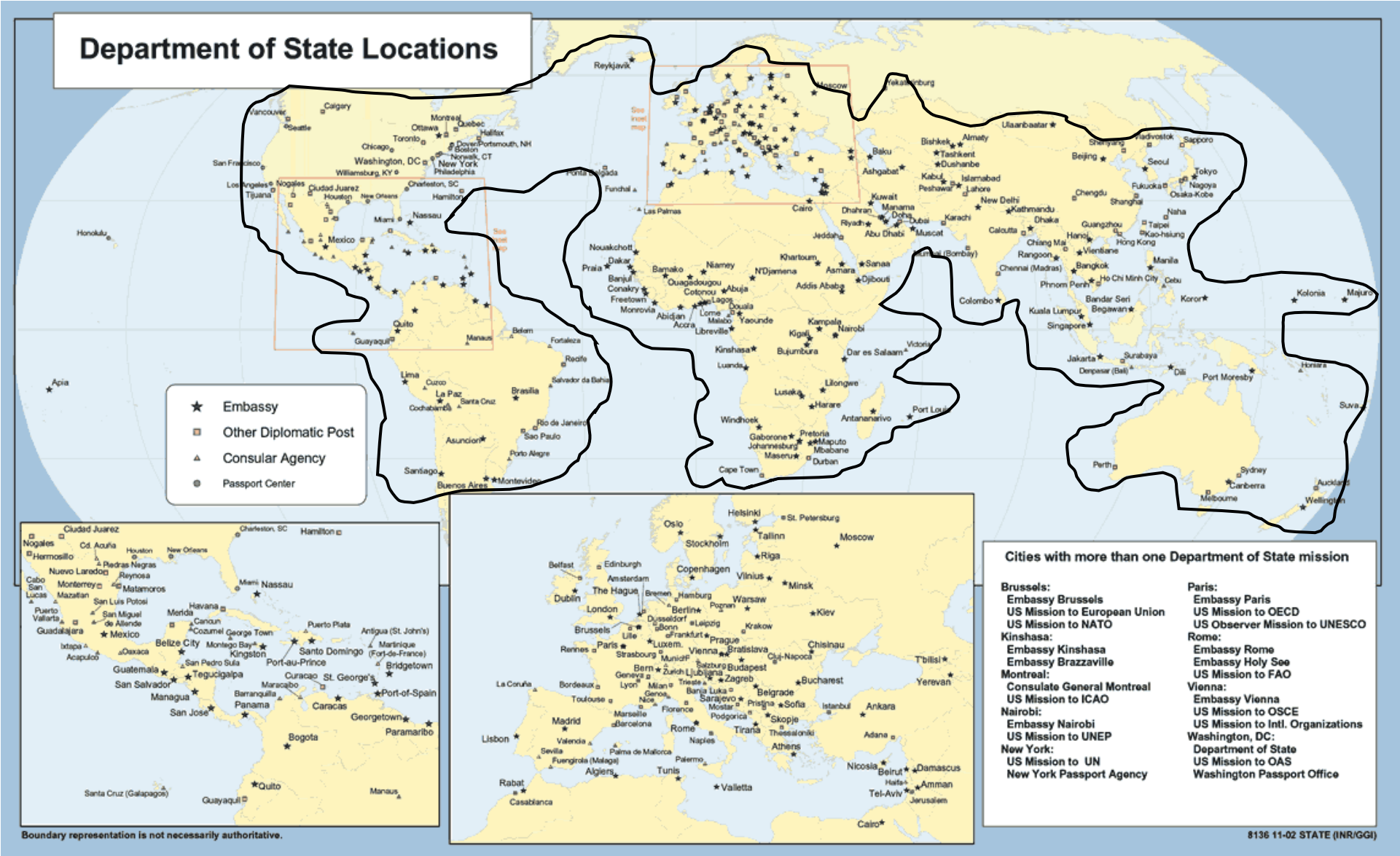




# Global Department of State Network



# Global Department of State Perimeter is Not Secure



TUE, APR 4, 2017

# It Took 'Hand to Hand' Cyber Combat for NSA to Remove Russian Hackers From State Department Networks

NATOSource by [Ellen Nakashima, Washington Post](#)

Cybersecurity

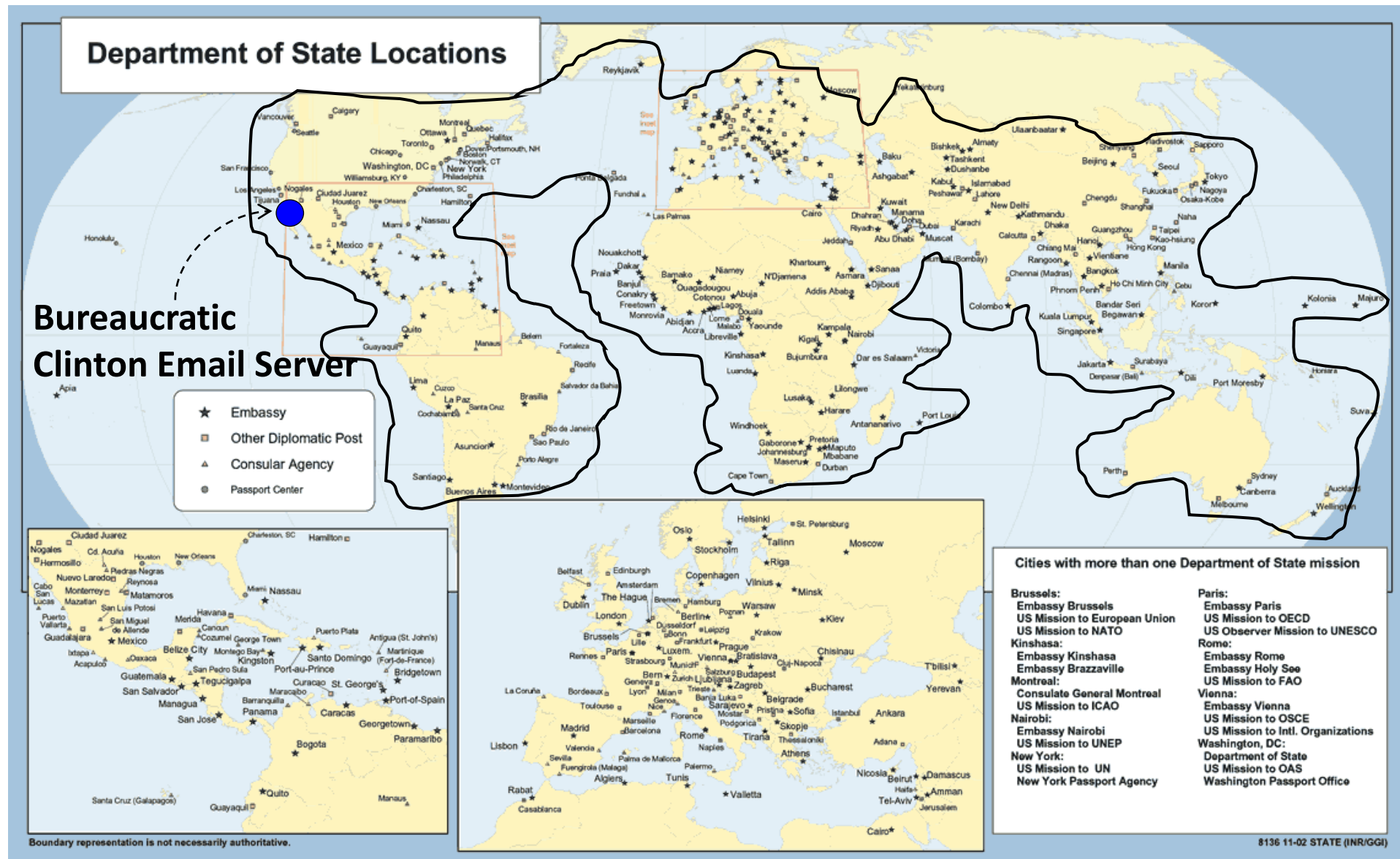
Intelligence

Russia

Security & Defense

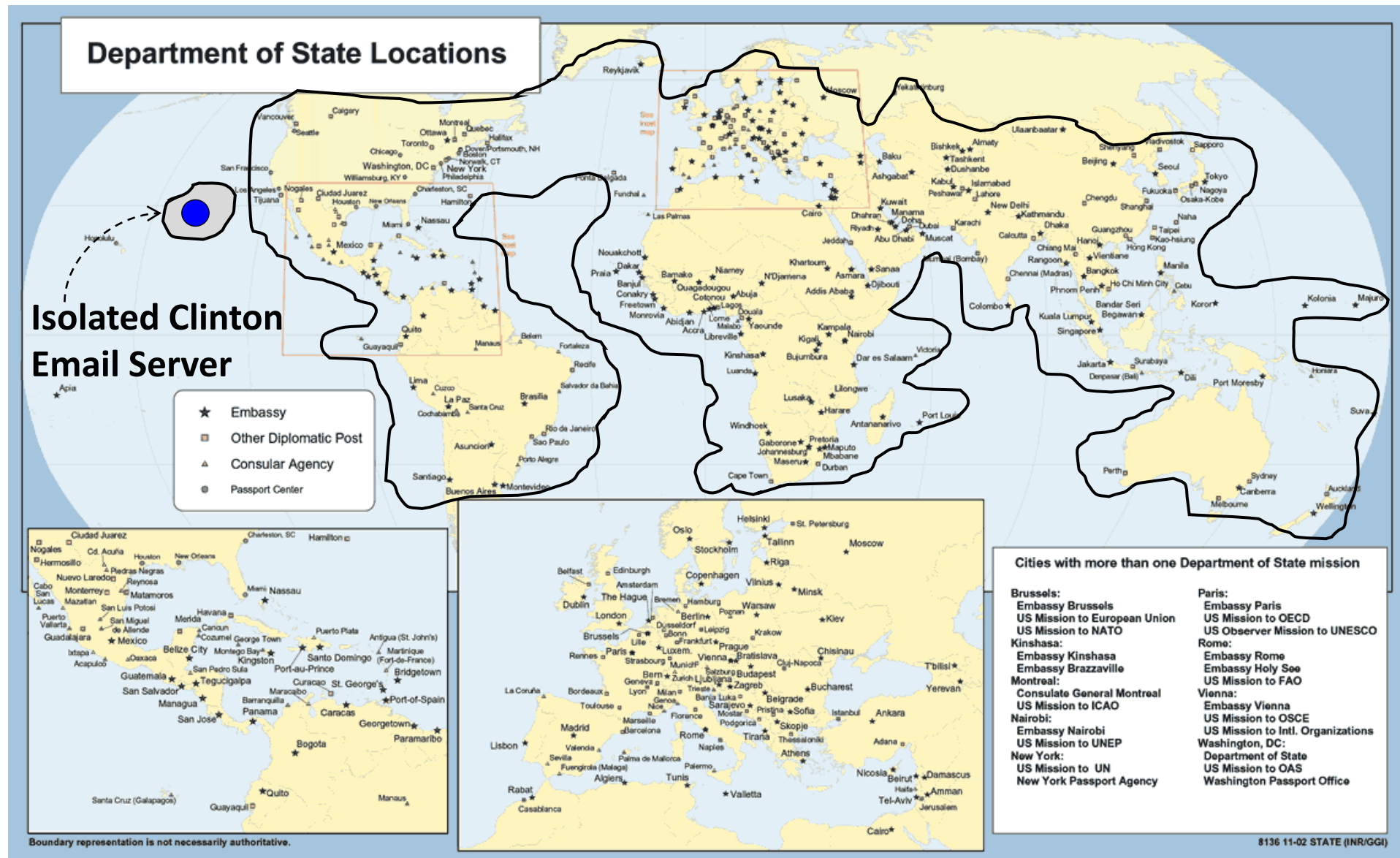
United States and Canada

# Global Department of State Perimeter is Not Secure





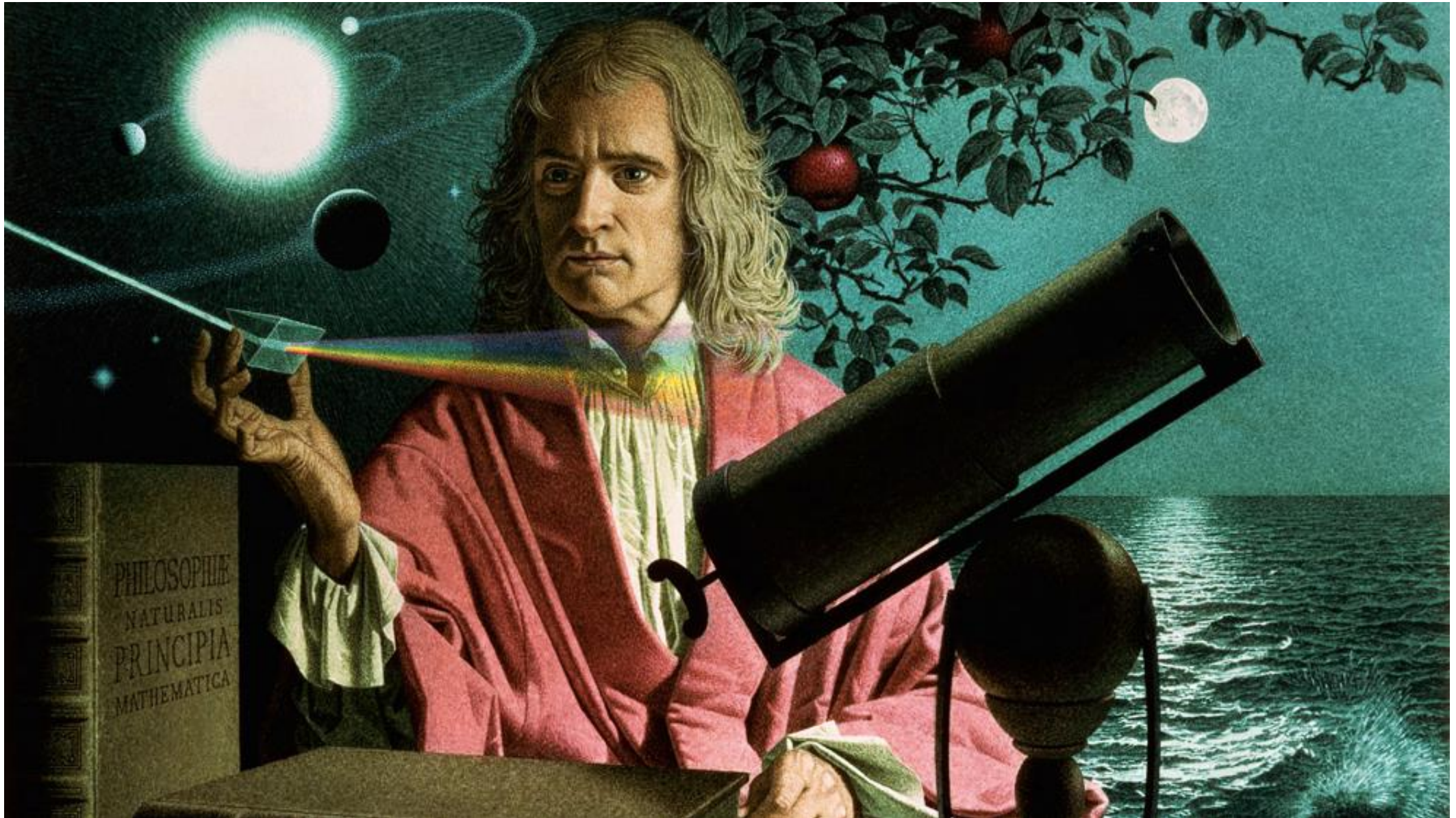
# Isolating the Clinton Email Server Made it More Secure



Can Artificial Intelligence Catch Hackers?



**“Most Famous Alchemist of All Time . . .”**



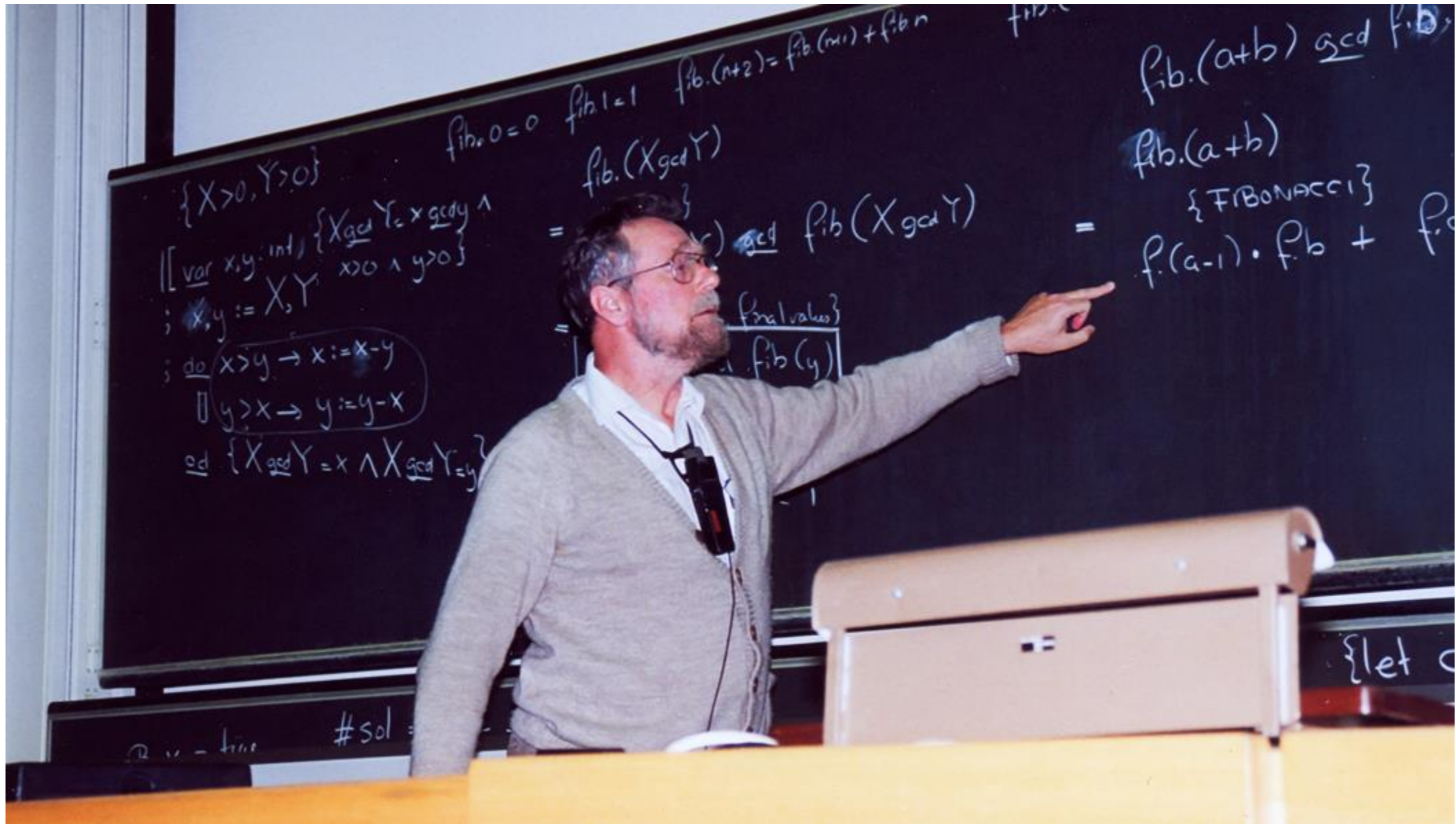


## **“The Computer and the Brain . . .”**

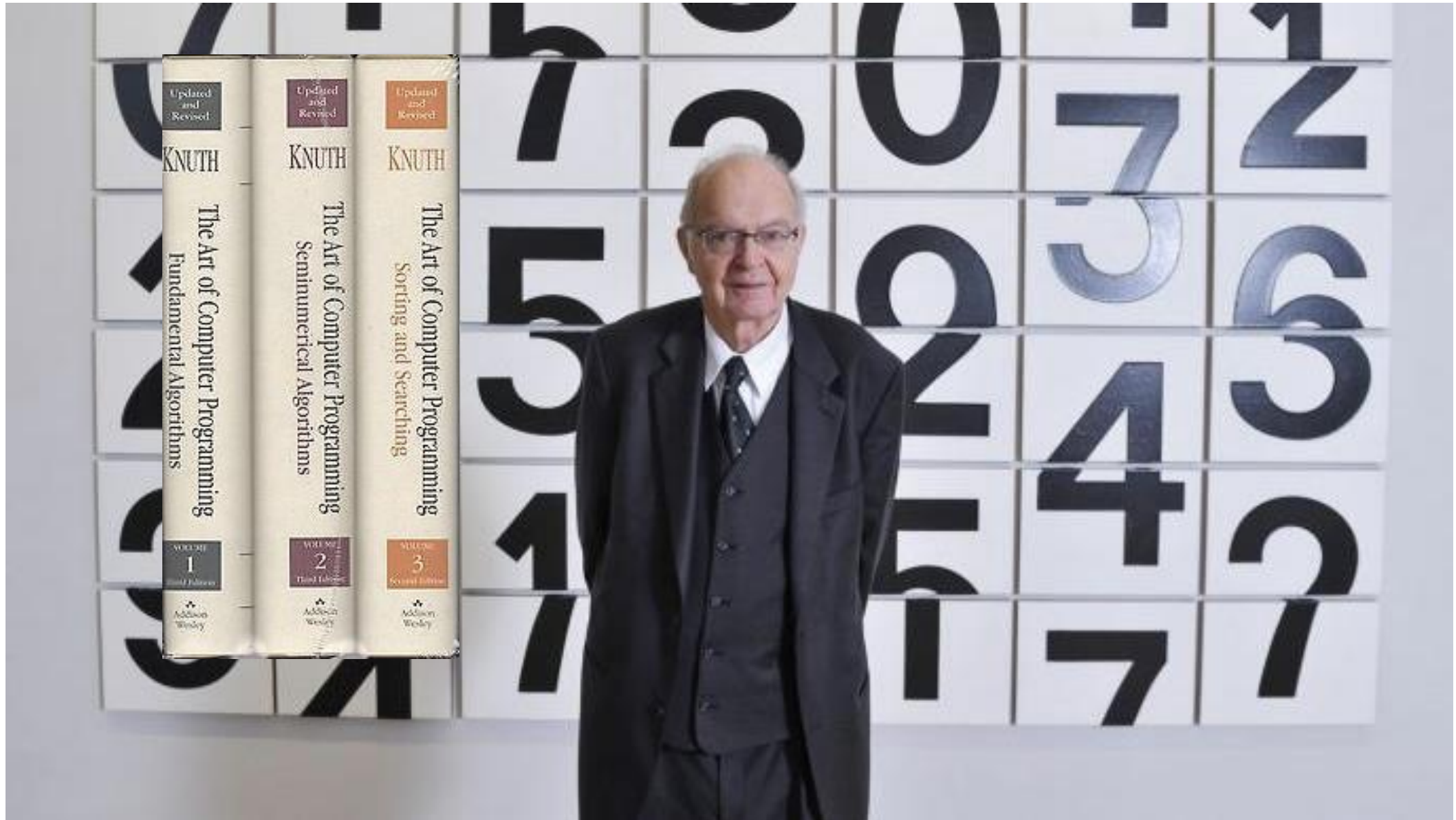




# “The Question of Whether Computers Can Think . . .”



## “Sorting, Searching, Matching, . . .”



# Machine Learning Basics: This is a Dog.



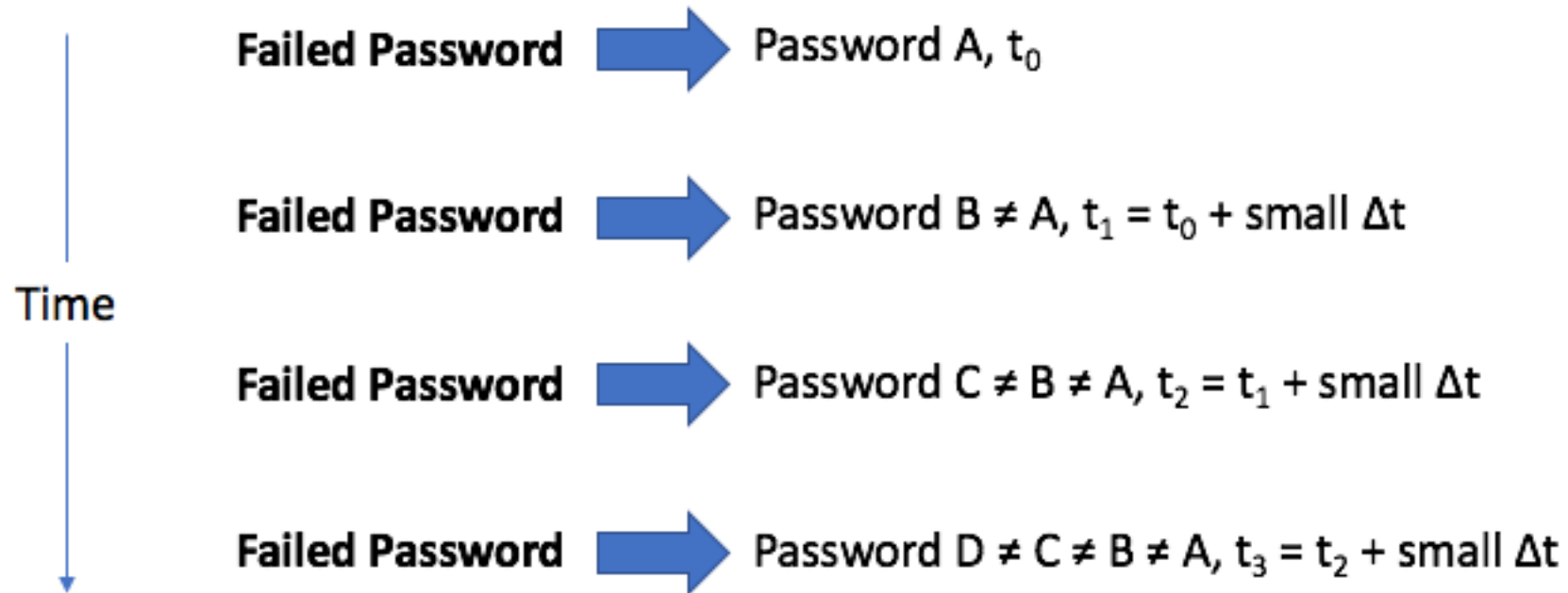


# Machine Learning Basics: These are all Dogs.

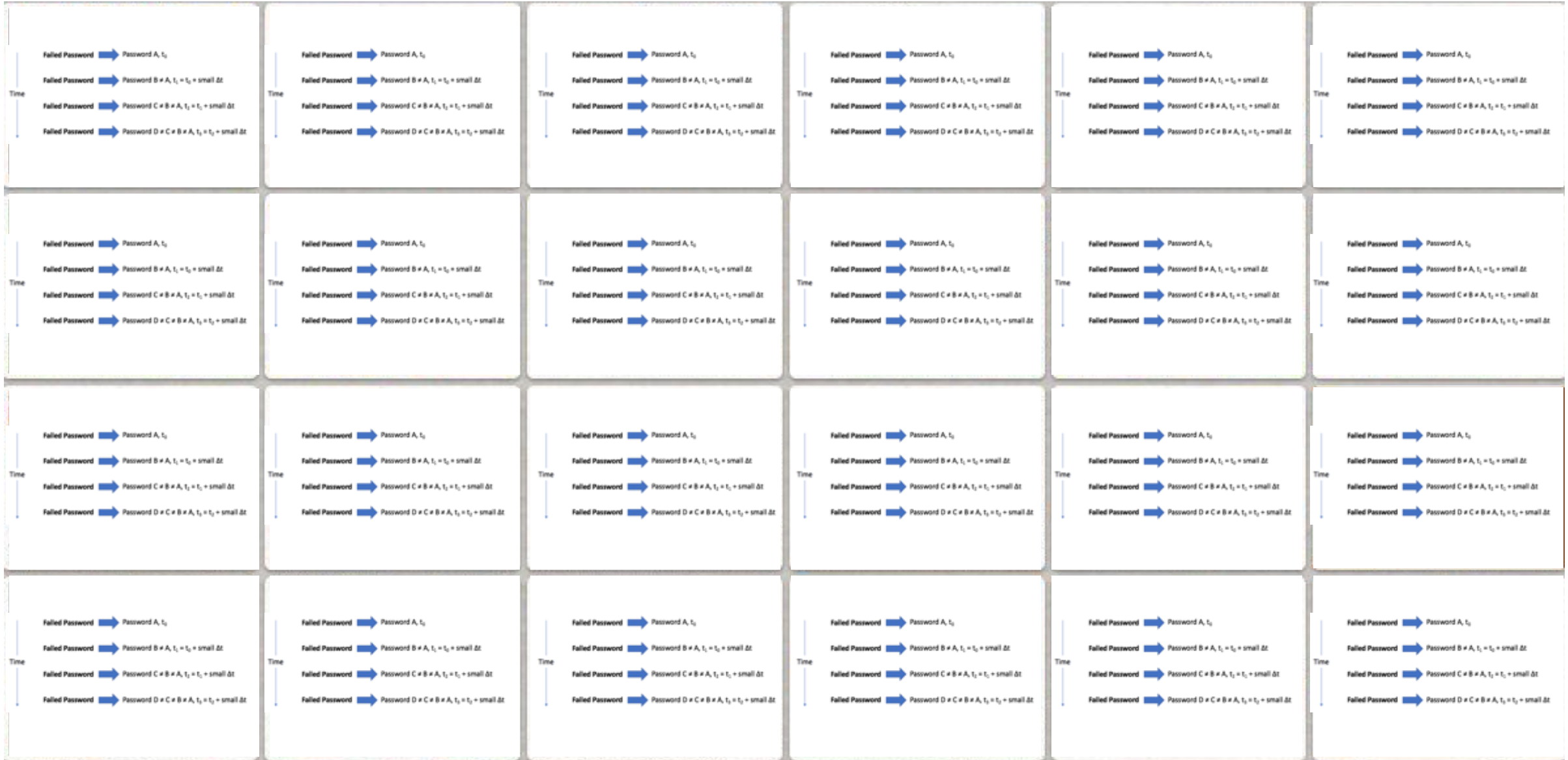


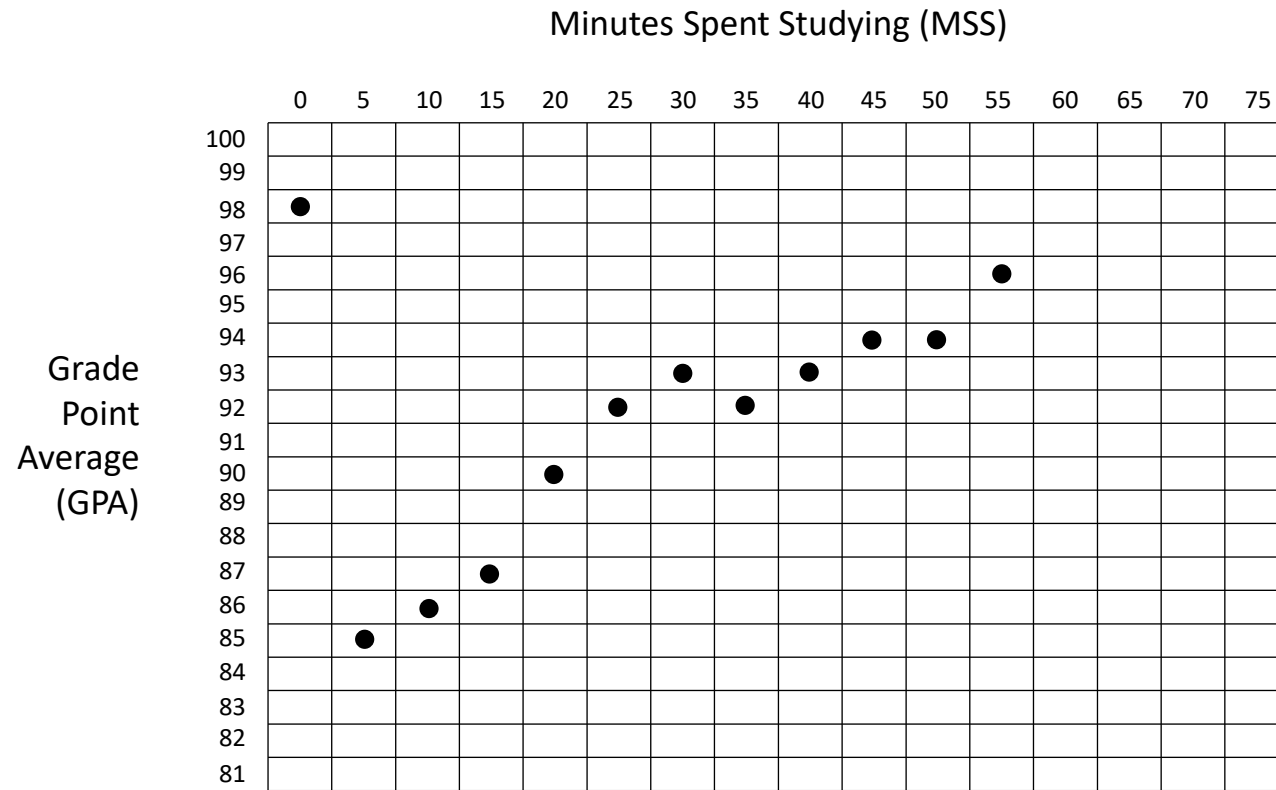


# Machine Learning: This is a Password Hack.



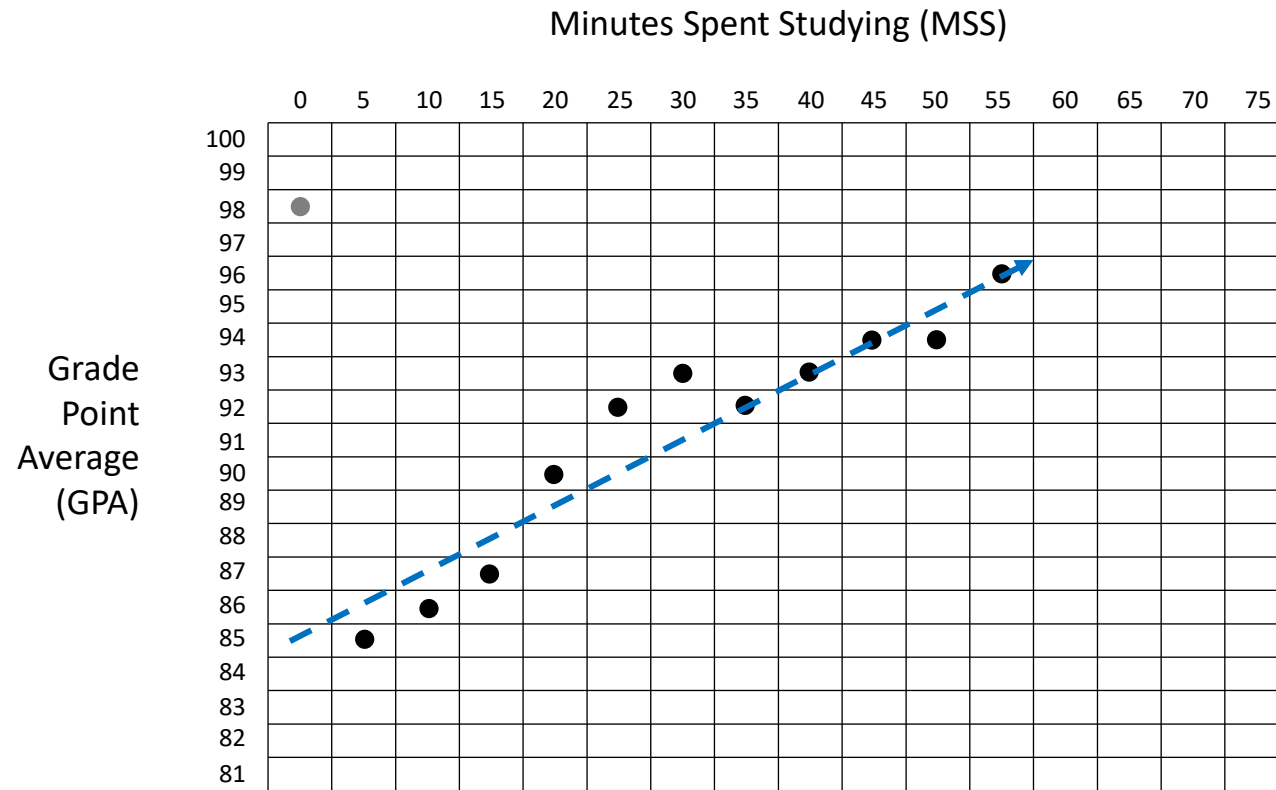
# Machine Learning: These are all Password Hacks.





Minutes Spent Studying	Grade Point Average
0	98
5	85
10	86
15	87
20	90
25	92
30	93
35	92
40	93
45	94
50	94
55	96

**Developing Learning Models from Data (Simple Example)**



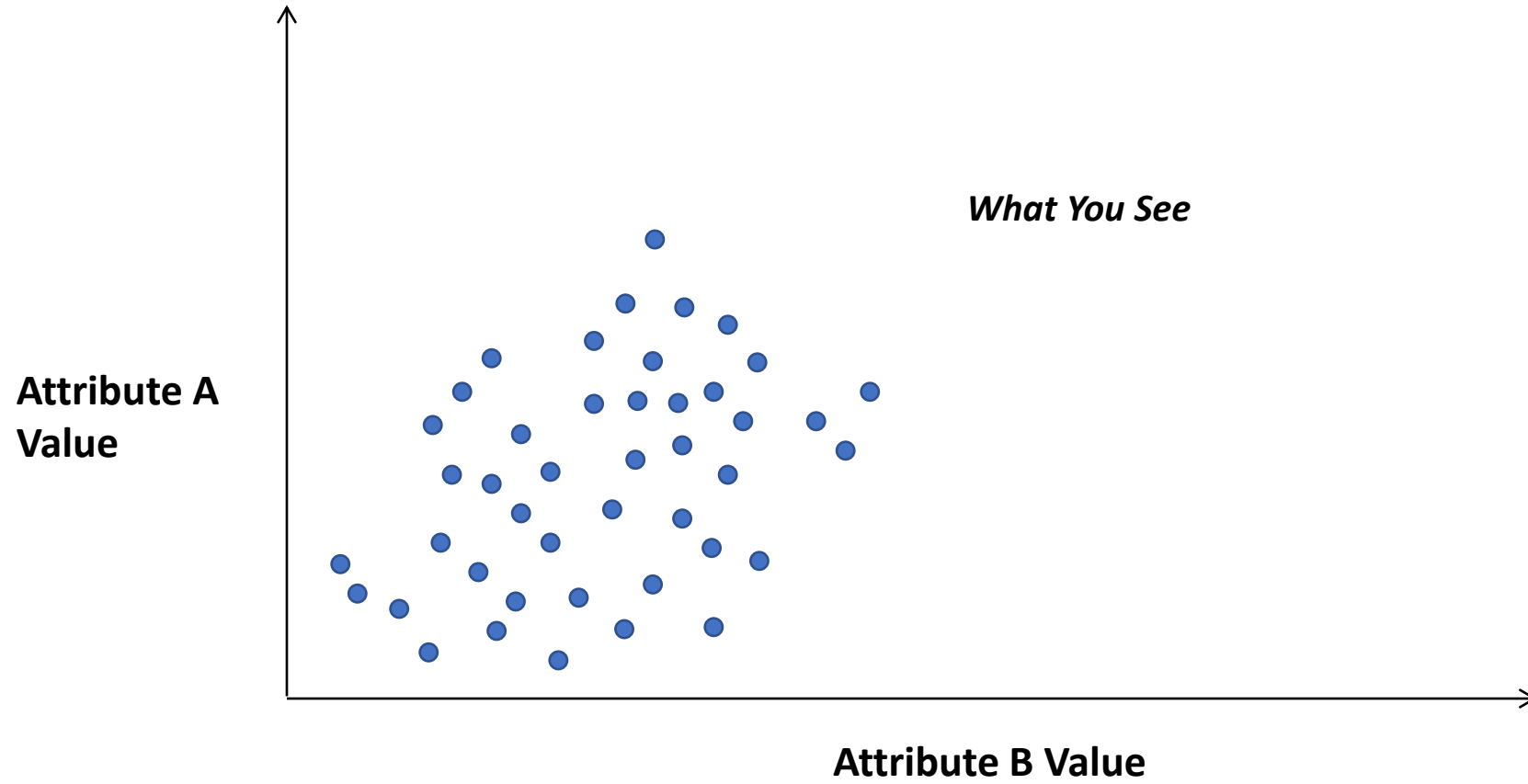
Minutes Spent Studying	Grade Point Average
0	98
5	85
10	86
15	87
20	90
25	92
30	93
35	92
40	93
45	94
50	94
55	96

$$y = mx + b$$

$$\text{GPA} = m (\text{MSS}) + b \text{ (where } (\text{MSS} > 0))$$

$$\text{GPA} = 0.2 (\text{MSS}) + 85$$

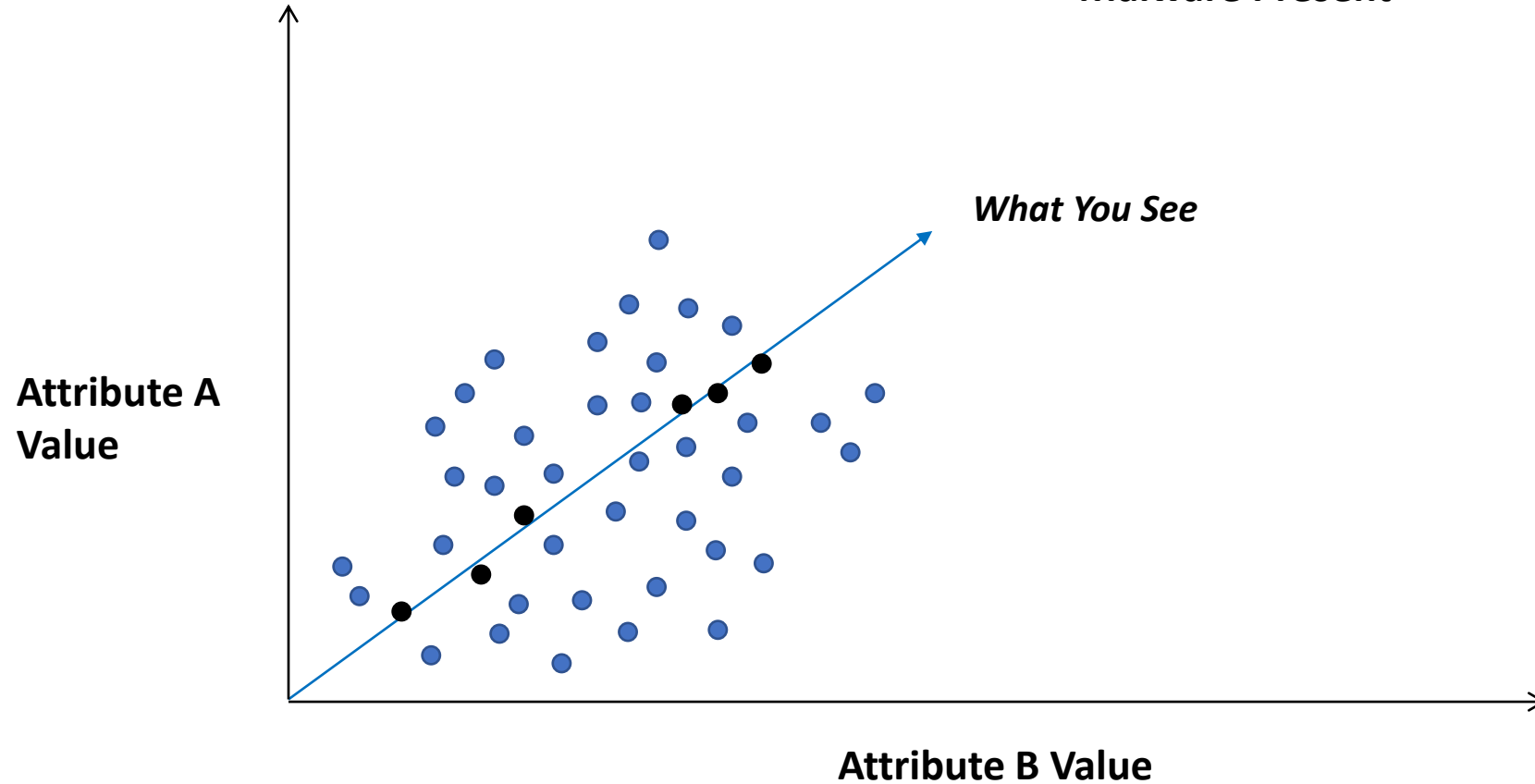
## Developing Learning Models from Data (Simple Example)



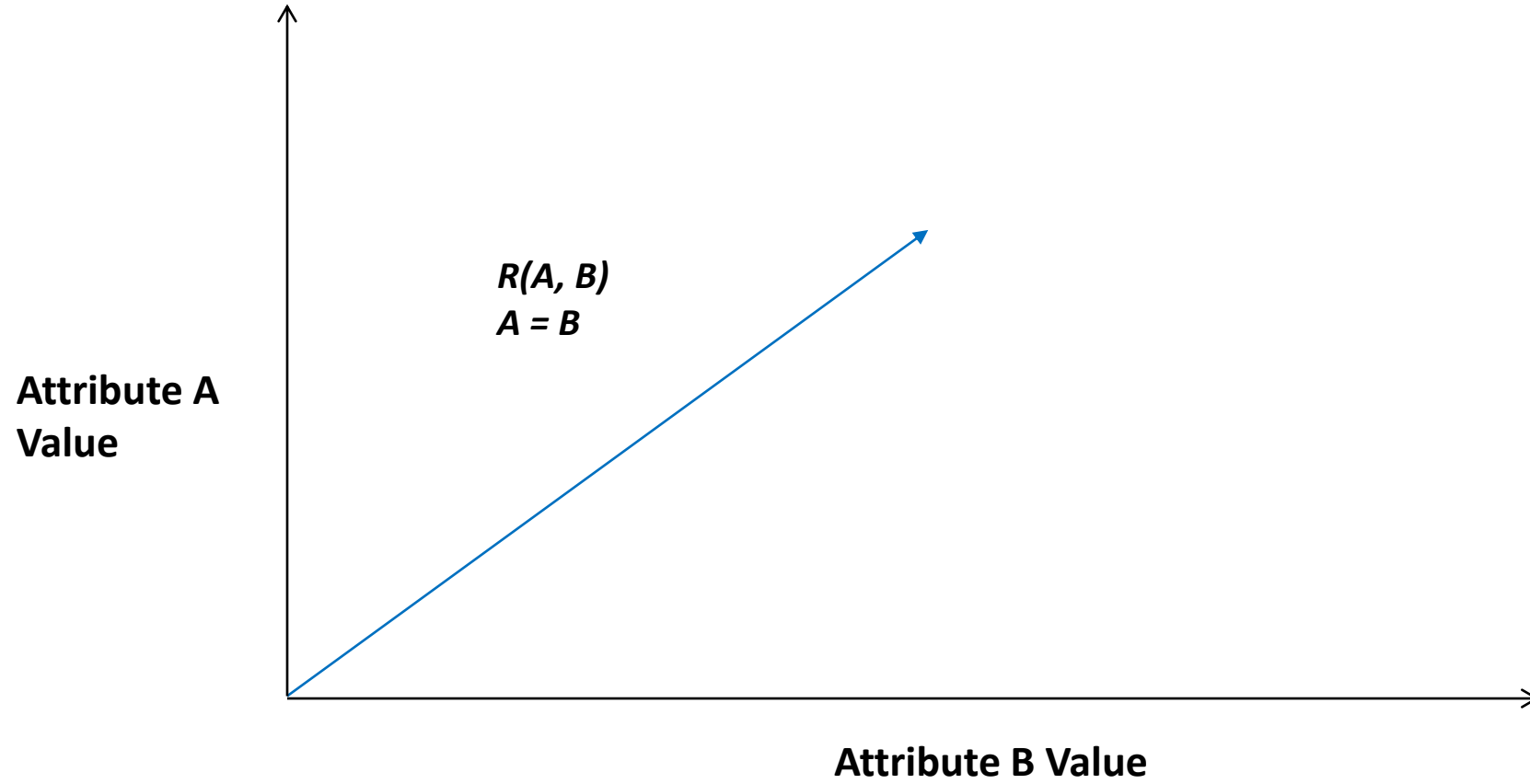
**Mapping Data Using Attributes**



***TYPICAL CYBER SECURITY:***  
**IF Attribute A Value = Attribute B Value THEN**  
**Malware Present**

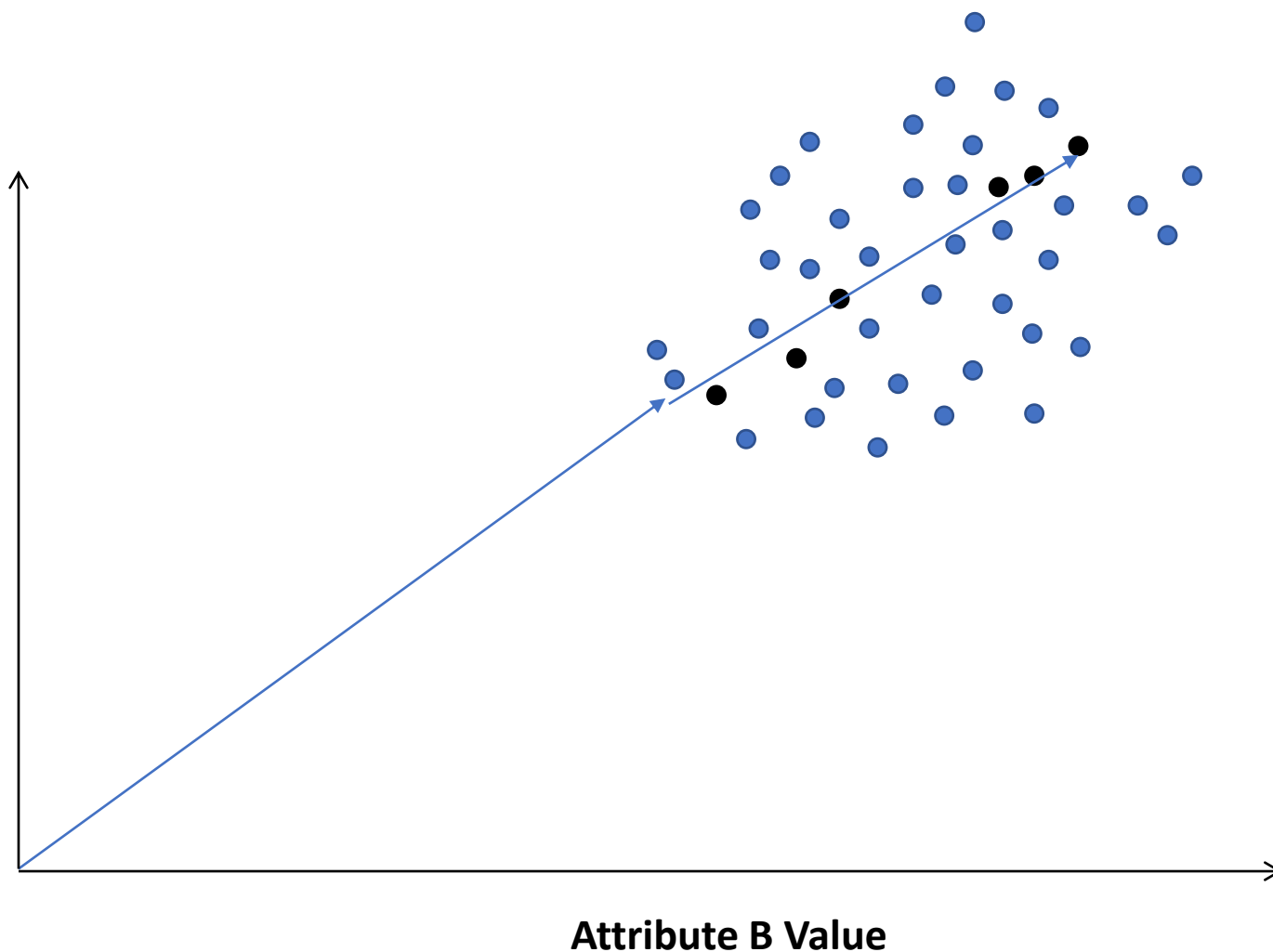


**Graphing Attribute Relationships from Observation**



**Developing an Attribute Model**

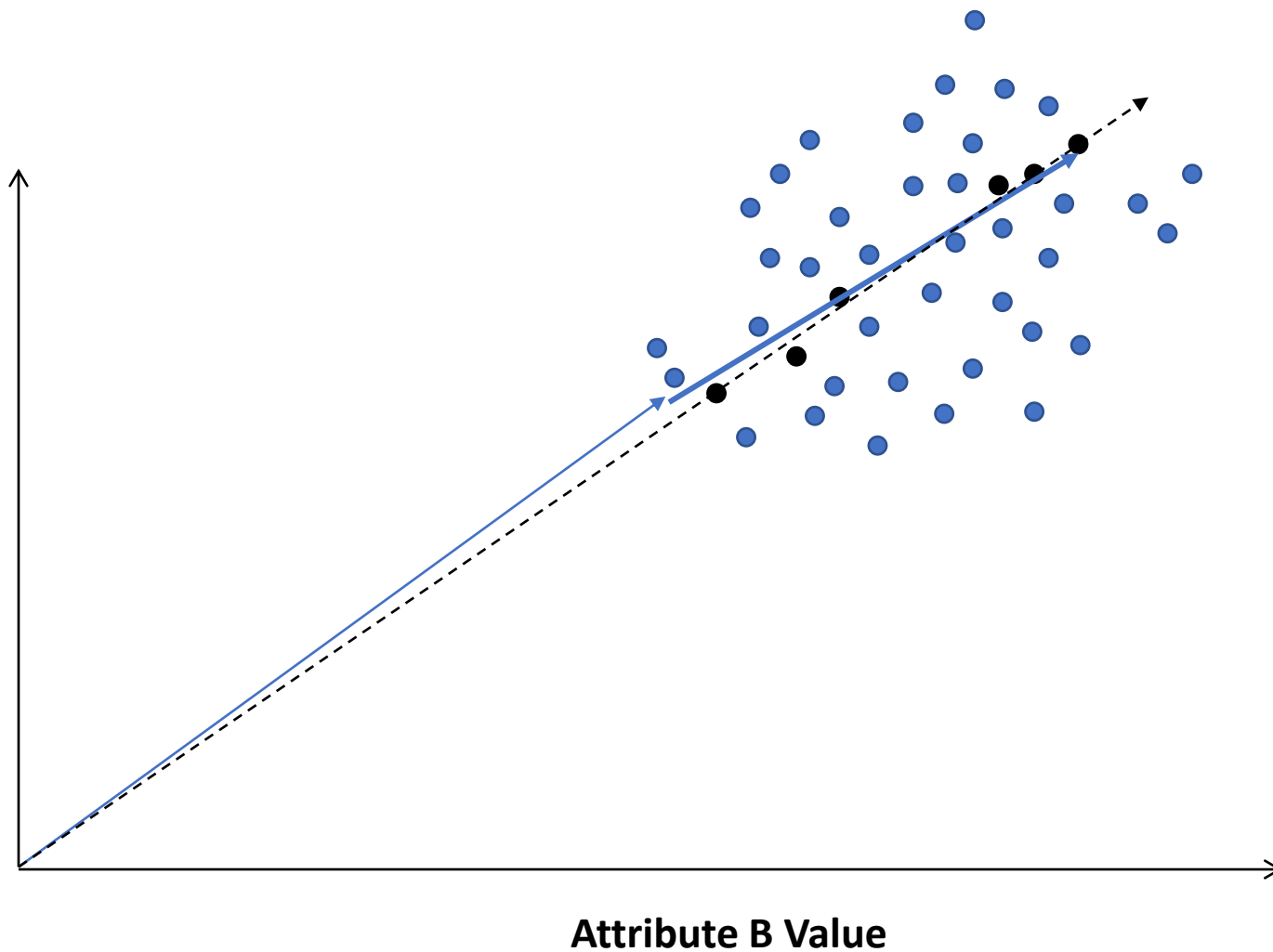
Attribute A  
Value



*New Training:*  
Observe Slight  
Variation

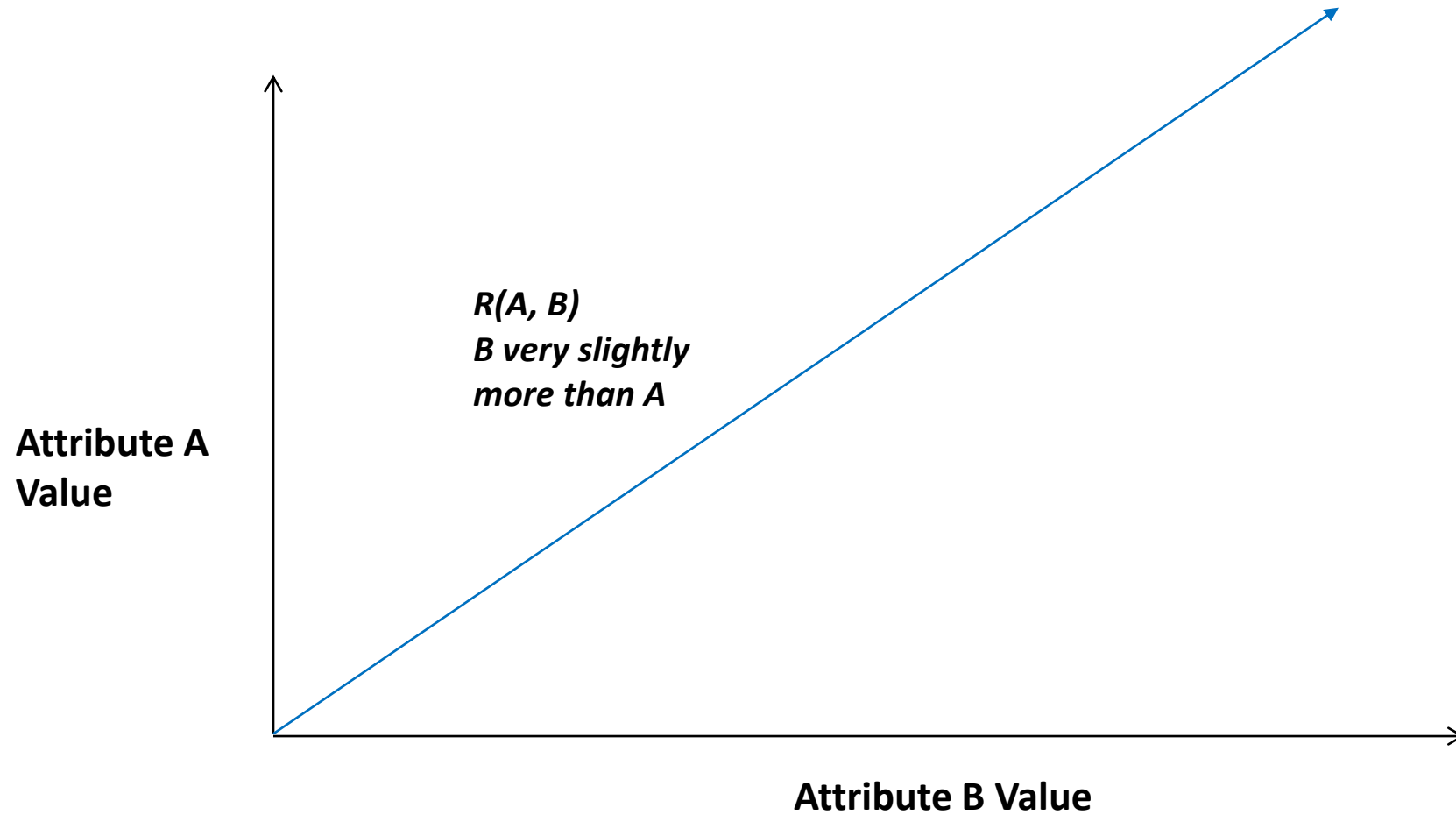
**Observing Variation in Practice**

Attribute A  
Value



*New Training:*  
Observe Slight  
Variation

Adjusting the Model



**Developing an Updated Attribute Model**

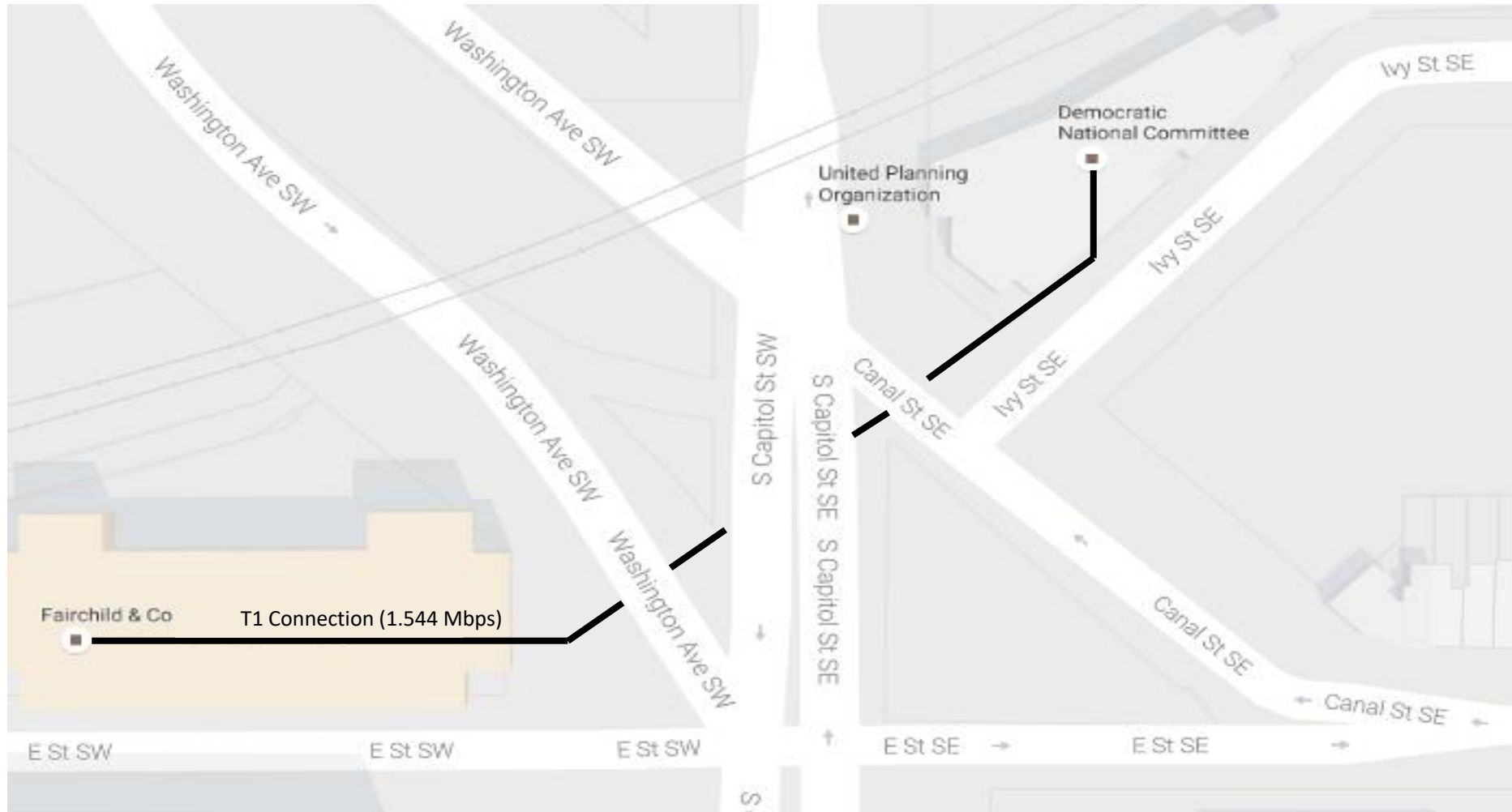


Original Clinton Campaign Fears About Email Security

# 1996 Presidential Race



# DNC Headquarters and Fairchild Building



# Dirt Patch Over T1





# Hacking a Router

## Step 1: Boot the router and interrupt

Press Ctrl-B

>

## Step 2: Change config reg to ignore NVRAM

>o/r 0x2142

>

## Step 3: Jump to privileged mode

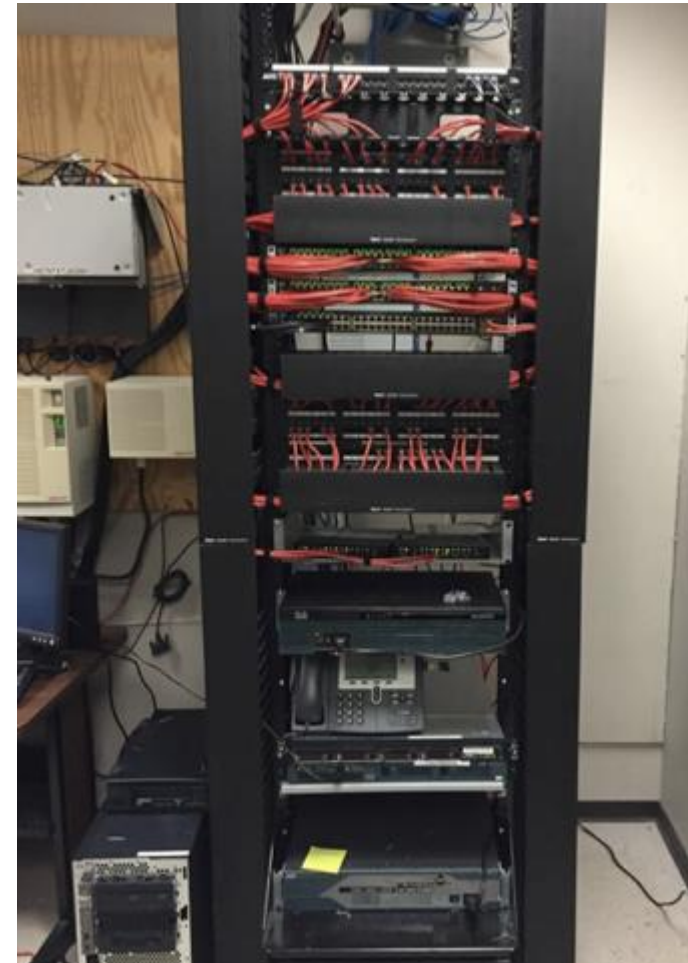
Router>enable

Router#

## Step 4: Copy startup config to run config

. . .<output cut>. . .

#





# This Really Happened . . .

## CYBER SECURITY



**EDWARD AMOROSO**

icked and that customer information had been compromised.  
t help but remember the yawns.

### Biometrics

e seems to be talking about biometrics as the magical answer  
orld's security woes. While such claims are a bit of a stretch,  
ology can be useful.

etric identifiers such as retinal patterns, voice tones, facial  
or fingerprints are more difficult to forge than passwords.  
t to say, of course, that biometric forgery is impossible. For  
forged fingerprints on silicon jelly have been tricked readers  
properly identifying an individual. There have also been  
of facial recognition systems being tricked by a person  
simply holding up a picture.

But without question, such forgeries require considerable effort  
on the part of the intruder, much more than is involved in guessing  
or stealing a password. As such, many people have grown  
enthusiastic about biometrics. Officials in Tampa, Florida and  
Virginia Beach, for example, have installed biometric systems as part  
of enhanced security measures. Similar efforts using biometrics are  
on going around the world. (Perhaps you even encountered one  
today.)

Unfortunately, in spite of the promise associated with  
biometrics, security experts worry about the complex infrastructure  
required to support such an approach. One challenge in this  
infrastructure is that if your biometric pattern is compromised – and  
remember, computers store such patterns as strings of zeroes and  
ones – then you are in trouble, because you cannot change  
biometrics. If a hacker steals your retinal pattern, for instance, then  
you are out of luck, because your retina cannot be changed! (Tom  
Cruise movies to the contrary.)

Other problems exist as well. As people age, their features  
change. It can be as short as eighteen months before large

percentages of facial recognition systems begin to fail in a target  
group. Also, a certain percentage of people will not have the required  
body part for biometric enrollment. Some estimates place this at a  
few percent of any reasonably sized group. It is also true that certain  
occupations such as masonry result in the destruction of fingerprints  
beyond all recognition.

Infrastructure solutions have certainly been proposed to deal  
with these challenges. For example, to deal with the aging issue, you  
could simply require users to re-enroll every year. If your population  
includes people with missing fingers, then set up multiple biometric  
enrollment systems and let people choose their method (which could  
come in handy in countries with laws that might protect those with  
disabilities.)

A decent rule of thumb for current technology is that biometric  
methods are likely to be most useful in smaller, well-defined  
environments such as campus networks or data center facilities. They  
are likely to be more prone to failure, primarily due to the crushing  
burden of providing scalable infrastructure, in places where the  
population is large and unconstrained. This obviously includes the  
Internet.

### Cryptography

Several years ago, I was asked to spend a day in Washington D.C.  
discussing cyber security with one of the major political parties in the  
United States. This party (I won't tell you which) was run from two  
buildings in Washington connected by a so-called T1 line. This type  
of connection transmits roughly a million and a half bits every  
second.

In preparation for my visit, this group explained that they were  
concerned that their political opponents might tap into the T1 to  
steal secrets. "We could lose the next election to those political  
thieves," said my contact over the phone. So I came down to  
Washington to discuss encryption options for their T1 line.

# Questions?

[ega1@nyu.edu](mailto:ega1@nyu.edu)

[eamoroso@tag-cyber.com](mailto:eamoroso@tag-cyber.com)