WHAT IS OPERATIONAL SECURITY?

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OBJECTIVES:

- Understanding Operational Security, and it's 5 stages.
- The importance of the Stages in Operational Security
- Applying Operational Security in a real-world context
- Presenting a Mission and an Operational Security Plan
- Identify and Demonstrate 2 Open-Source Intelligence Tools

WHAT IS OPERATIONAL SECURITY OR OPSEC?

Operational Security, or OPSEC is a risk management tool that enables a person or business to view an operation or activity from an adversarial perspective. It is the process of identifying, analyzing, and controlling critical information.

KEY FACTS ABOUT OPSEC?

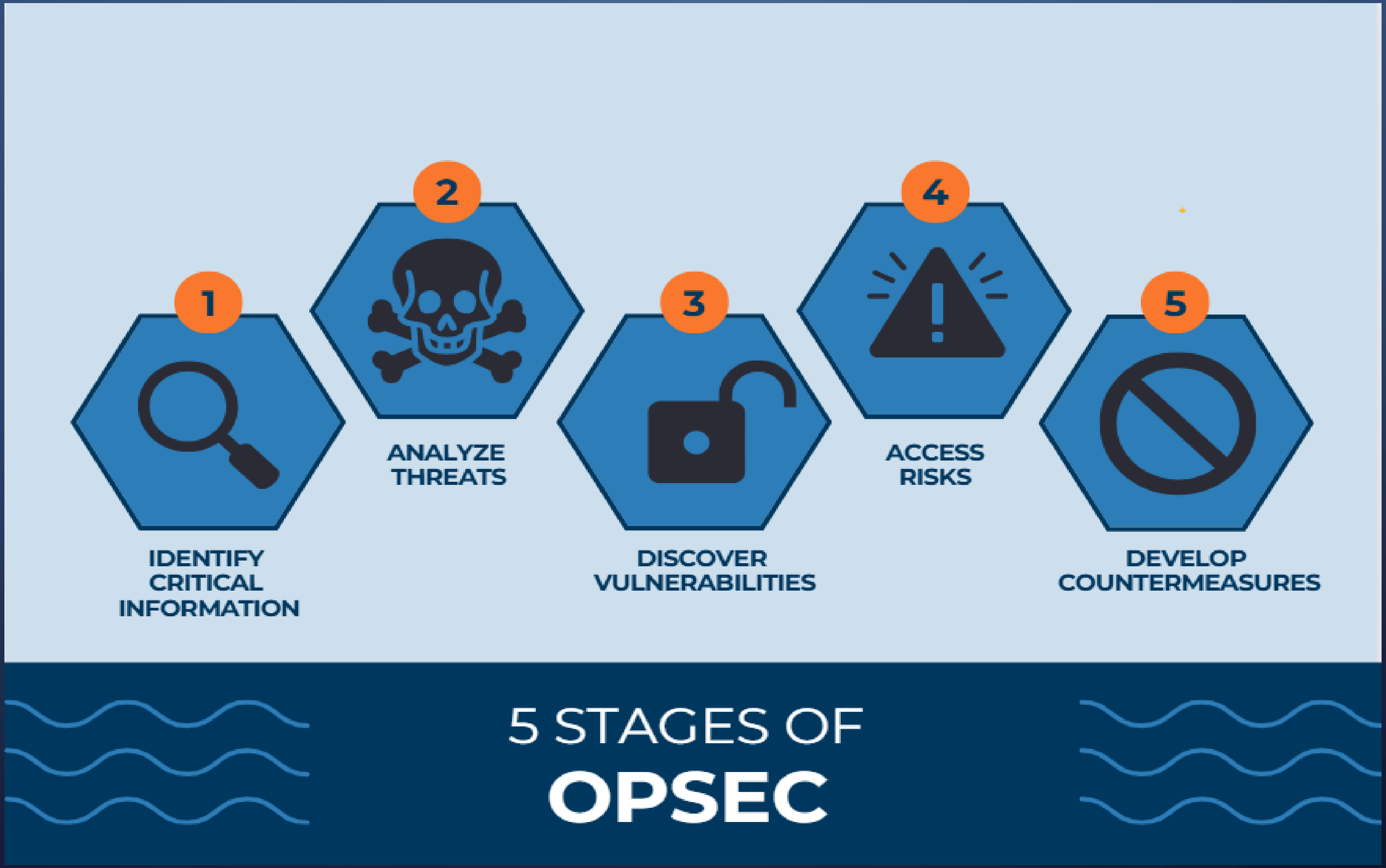
- OPSEC ORIGIANTED IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
- ITS PRINCIPLES ARE NOW USED BY GOVERNMENT, BUSINESSES, AND INDIVIDUALS TO PROTECT SENSITIVE INFORMATION.
- THE CORE IDEA OF OPSEC IS TO THINK LIKE AN ADVERSARY TO IDENTIFY AND PREVENT THE COLLECTION OF SEEMINGLY HARMLESS INFORMATION THAT COULD BE PIECED TOGETHER, TO ULTIMATELY CAUSE HARM.

Have you ever had to take precautions against someone from:

- BREAKING INTO YOUR HOUSE WHILE YOU ARE ON VACATION?
- STEALING YOUR PURSE OR WALLET?
- HAVING PACKAGES OFF OF YOUR PORCH?
- FRAUDULENTLY USING YOUR CREDIT CARD?

If so, you have used OPSEC!

THE 5 STAGES OF OPSEC…



1 IDENTIFY CRITICAL INFORMATION

2 ANALYZE THREATS

3 DISCOVER VULNERABILITIES

4 ACCESS RISKS

5 DEVELOP COUNTERMEASURES

5 STAGES OF **OPSEC**

5 STAGES OF OPSEC…

STAGE 1: IDENTIFY CRITICAL INFORMATION

- Examples:

Credit Card Numbers

Travel Dates

Passwords

Patterns

Changes in Patterns

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Financial Data

Customer Lists

Research and Development

5 STAGES OF OPSEC…

STAGE 2: ANALYZE THREATS

Key Actions:

Identify Adversaries

Analyze Adversaries Capabilities

Determine Adversaries Intentions

Understand Their Knowledge

Map Potential Scenarios

5 STAGES OF OPSEC…

STAGE 3: DISCOVER VULNERABILITIES

Key Actions:

Identify Weaknesses

Consider the Adversary

Look for Indicators

Focus on Impact

5 STAGES OF OPSEC…

STAGE 4: ASSESS RISKS

Key Actions:

Evaluate Potential Losses

Assess Impact

Determine Acceptable Risk

5 STAGES OF OPSEC…

STAGE 5: DEVELOP COUNTERMEASURES

Key Actions:

Mitigation of Risk

Targeting High-Risk Vulnerabilities

Diverse ImplementationContinuous Process,

RANKING THE 5 STAGES OF OPSEC IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE!

STAGE 1: IDENTIFYING CRITICAL INFORMATION

STAGE 5: DEVELOP COUNTER MEASUREMENTS

STAGE 4: ASSESS RISKS

STAGE 3: ANALYZE VULNERABILITIES

STAGE 2: ANALYZE THREATS

MISSION:

EVERYDAY CONTEXT MISSION: JOB SEARCH

OPERATIONAL SECURITY: JOB SEARCH

STAGE 1: IDENTIFY CRITICAL INFORMATION

DURING A JOB HUNT, ANY “CRITICAL INFORMATION IS DATA THAT COULD BE EXPLOITED BY CURRENT EMPLOYER, RIVALS FOR POSITION, OR SCAMMERS.

- The fact that you are looking for a job.
- Which companies you have applied to and for which positions.
- Your future aspirations and desired salary
- Any sensitive or non-public information related to your current employer you might be tempted to share.

OPERATIONAL SECURITY: JOB SEARCH

STAGE 2: ANALYZE THREAT

THREATS ARE PEOPLE OR ENTITIES THAT COULD USE YOUR CRITICAL INFORMATION AGAINST YOU

- Current employer-may find out you're looking for a job, and potentially terminate employment, limit responsibilities, or pass you over for promotions
- Online scammers- phishing attempts can target those who are known to be looking for a job, with fraudulent offers to steal your information

OPERATIONAL SECURITY: JOB SEARCH

STAGE 3: ANALYZE VULNERABILITIES

THESE ARE THE WEAKNESSES THAT COULD ALLOW THREATS TO GATHER YOUR CRITICAL INFORMATION

- Digital footprint- leaving digital traces by applying from a work computer, using an company email address, visiting job sites from your work’s network
- Reusing information- using the same passwords for job search accounts and personal accounts
- Careless communication- where you could be overheard discussing job search or interview outcomes

OPERATIONAL SECURITY: JOB SEARCH

STAGE 4: ASSESS RISKS

THIS INVOLVES WEIGHING THE PROBABILITY OF A THREAT EXPLOITING A VULNERABILITY AGAINST THE POTENTIAL IMPACT

Severe Risk- A Phishing scam compromised your social security number, leading to identity theft

High Risk- Your boss sees an email response in regards to your specific interview with a competitor. The impact could be your immediate termination

Low Risk- An acquaintance learns you are casually looking to change careers. This impact is likely minimal

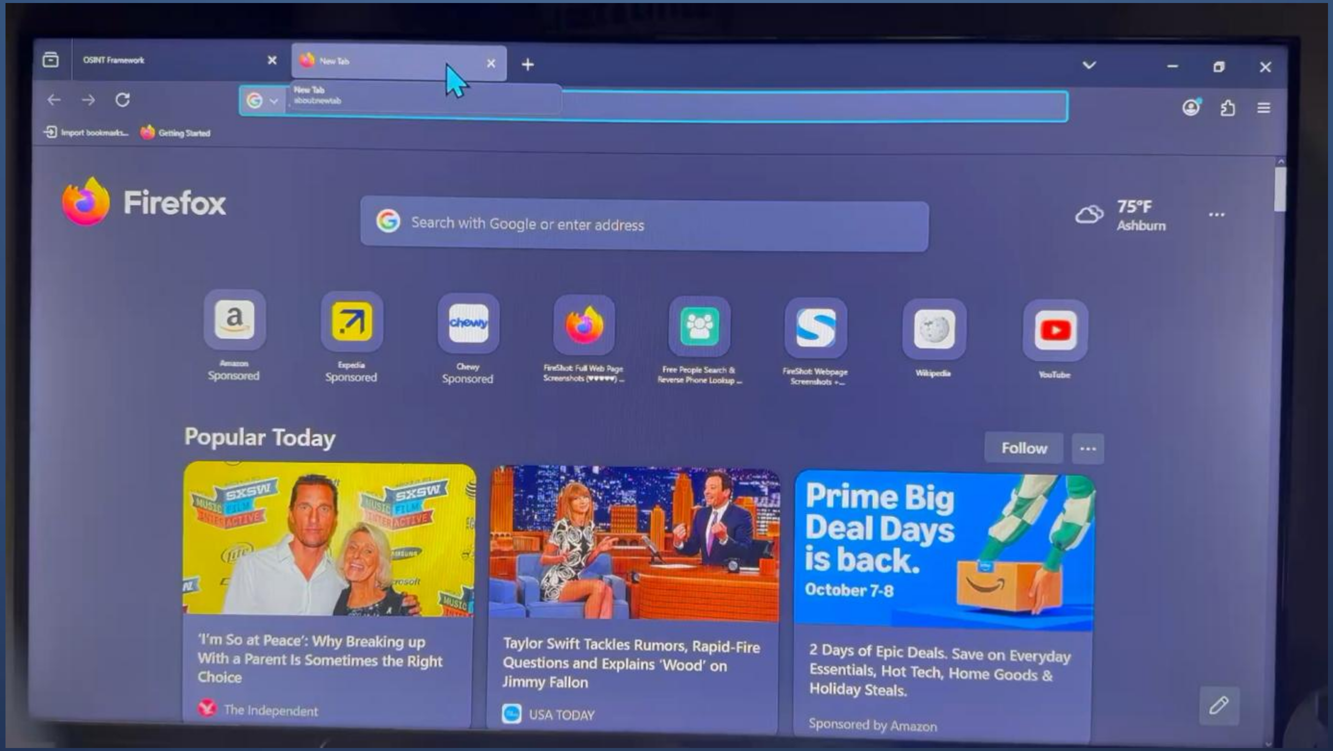
OPERATIONAL SECURITY: JOB SEARCH

STAGE 5: APPLY COUNTERMEASURES

THESE ARE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO MITIGATE VULNERABILITIES AND AND REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Control Social Media- Adjust your privacy settings and be discreet. Avoid publicly announcing your job search. Don’t post security clearances on Linkedin, which could be interpreted as poor OPSEC
- Compartmentalize Information- Use dedicated personal email addresses, and unique strong passwords for job related accounts and applications
- Use secure technology- Do not apply or submit resumes on work devices or networks, whenever possible use VPN when connecting to public Wi-Fi
- Manage communication- Be cautious about who you tell and if you discuss your job search, make sure to do so in a private setting. Situational awareness in public settings should control someone overhearing your conversation

OPSEC SECURITY TOOL 1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"FIRESHOT"

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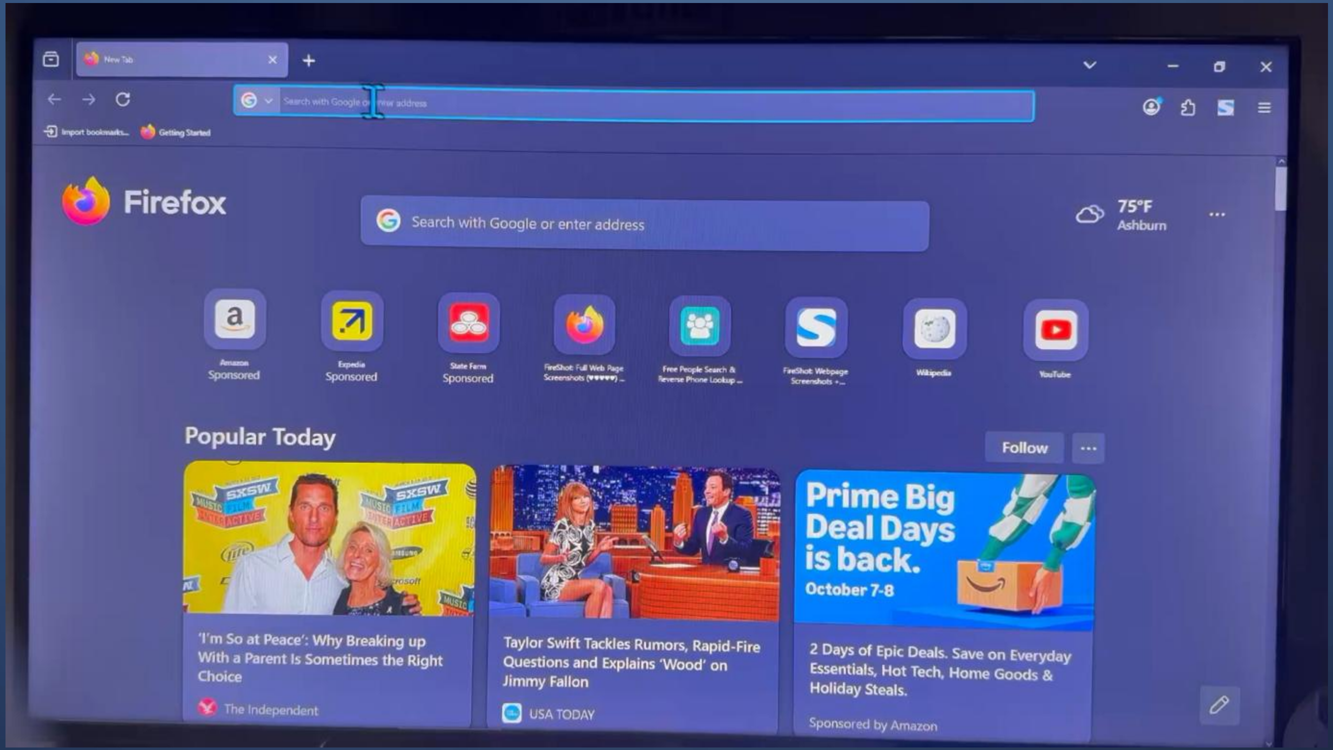

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