

Homework #4

1. What was the significance of the NSA's Advanced Network Technology (ANT) catalogue, and how did its leak impact public awareness of NSA's capabilities?

- The NSA's Advanced Network Technology (ANT) catalogue was basically a secret catalog of spy gear and hacking tools the NSA used. It showed that the NSA could hack into routers, firewalls, hard drives, and other equipment in ways most people didn't think possible. When it leaked, the public realized the NSA had extremely advanced tools that looked like something out of science fiction. This leak raised awareness and concern about just how much power and reach the NSA really had.

2. How did the Shadow Brokers' initial leak in August 2016 impact the cybersecurity community, and what were the immediate concerns?

- The Shadow Brokers' first leak in August 2016 shocked the cybersecurity world because it included real NSA hacking tools. Some of these were zero day exploits, which meant they could attack systems that had no existing patches. Security experts worried that criminals and foreign governments could immediately start using them. The leak created an urgent fear that the Internet would become much less safe overnight.

3. What was the response of the cybersecurity community and companies like Cisco and Fortinet to the Shadow Brokers' leak?

- After the leaks, companies like Cisco and Fortinet quickly investigated and confirmed that their products were affected. They released security advisories and patches to protect customers from the newly exposed exploits. The wider cybersecurity community began analyzing the tools to understand how they worked and to warn organizations. Overall, the leak pushed companies to act fast and sparked debate about whether intelligence agencies should hoard vulnerabilities or disclose them for the greater good.