

Sysadministrivia

Linux, Lagers, and Late Nights

S1E17: "Is that Your Gun (or Are You Just Happy to See Me?)"

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Quicklisten:

Scripting and automation, and OpSec ("Operational Security") in the workplace- physical security, concealed carry, etc.

- News
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News

Starts at **3m32s**.

- We've had more aggressive cuts in this episode and the previous episode!
 - Do you like them? Hate them? Didn't notice?
 - And I've been leaving the full tracks in for the outro music pieces. Are you digging that? Do you listen?
 - We make the cuts and pass the savings on to YOUUUUUU!
- Another openssl bug...
- Textpattern 4.6.0 dropped! Yay! (We talk about TXP in S0E6.)
- Firefox is going to kill WoSign's trust in their trust store.
- You should probably just not even bother buying a Lenovo at this point, seriously.
- There were reports of the Wi-Fi at the political debate being, uh, controlled in a slightly less than savory manner...
 - But the FCC is on the case!
- There's also a nasty bug in systemd...
 - Which, just like eeeeevery other bug in systemd, has been blown out of proportion.
 - I recommend reading this thread.
- People have, apparently, been "drilling their own 'headphone socket' into the iPhone 7."
 - lol.
- The oldest computer in use by the government has been tracked down.
- Jthan doesn't know how announcements work.

Notes

Starts at **14m43s**.

I was drinking Knob Creek Whiskey (yes, again). Jthan was drinking a rum and coke (but didn't specify which rum). Paden was drinking a Bold Rock Hard Cider.

- Scripting!
 - I use a lot of the ansible command and shell modules, along with the speedtest-cli script.
 - I also use a lot of iperf3 and I mention mtr too, but they aren't scripts.

- DON'T PUSH IT ANYWHERE, but this cron job will save your ass: `0 2 * * * cd /etc ; git add --all . ; git commit -m "Nightly commit"` (you need to `cd /etc ; git init .` first)
- Things that make a good script (differs on the platform/environment):
 - If you're a Windows admin, LEARN POWERSHELL. PERIOD.
 - A parser that's available on every box in your fleet by default
 - Well-tested
 - Well-commented
 - Always fail on error (unless you're expecting one)- bash's `set -e` does a pretty decent job of this. (And `set -x` is handy for debugging scripts.)
 - Clean formatting (python/PEP-8 is a good way of enforcing this)
 - Separate out variables- define them all at the beginning of the script if possible. Try not to set variables right before they're needed when possible.
 - Syntax highlighting helps a LOT when writing them. If you prefer a GUI editor, Atom and Brackets are great.
- Workplace OpSec (**29m09s**)
 - There's a "Physical" aspect and a "Cyber" aspect
 - OpSec can be summed up as applied security in your workflow, life, etc.- behavioral.
 - Be CAREFUL what is not only shared by YOU, but who you share WITH **and what is even recorded in the first place.**
 - Canaries are quite useful.
 - By the way, "smart" tampons are totally a thing.
 - The android app I mention that lets you set a different disk encryption passphrase vs. unlock passphrase is called Cryptfs Password.
 - ALWAYS VERIFY IDENTITIES/AUTHORIZATION.

Sysbadadministration Award

In this segment, we highlight system administration mistakes. Think of them as the IT equivalent of the Darwin Awards. (**1h13m38s**)

A server was rebooted in the middle of a / transfer... with 81.2% done. Ouch.

Errata

- Jthan's second question was "If you had to learn just one scripting language and learn it well, what would it be?"
 - My response would be "it depends". If you're in a mixed environment, ABSOLUTELY the answer will be python. If you're all Windows, Powershell. If you're all *nix, bash (or sh, specifically).

Music

Music Credits

Track	Title	Artist	Link	Copyright/License
Intro	Fioletovaya Tape	Trillion Catz	click	CC-BY 4.0
Outro	El Pago De Chile	The Mugris	click	CC-BY 4.0

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Categories Season One

Comments

There are currently no comments on this article.