

2025  
EUROPE  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING

# Code Red

A Cybersecurity Crime Drama



# Jake Marcinko

Senior Technical Product Manager  
PCI Security Standards Council







































CSI:PCI

# CRIME SCENE

EVIDENCE

1

EVIDENCE

2

2

EVIDENCE

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

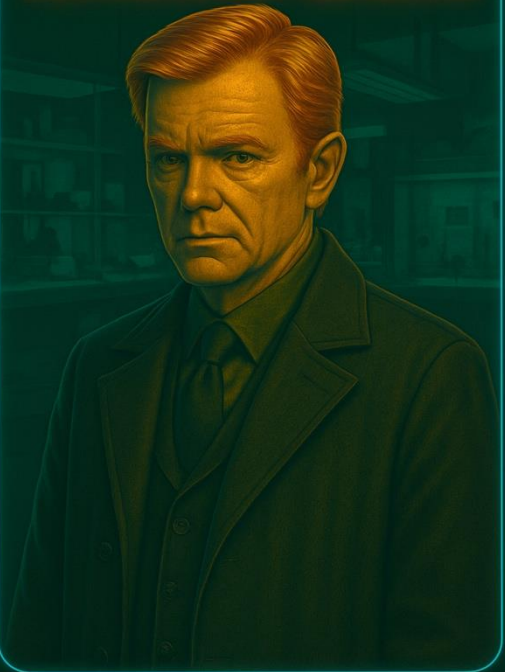
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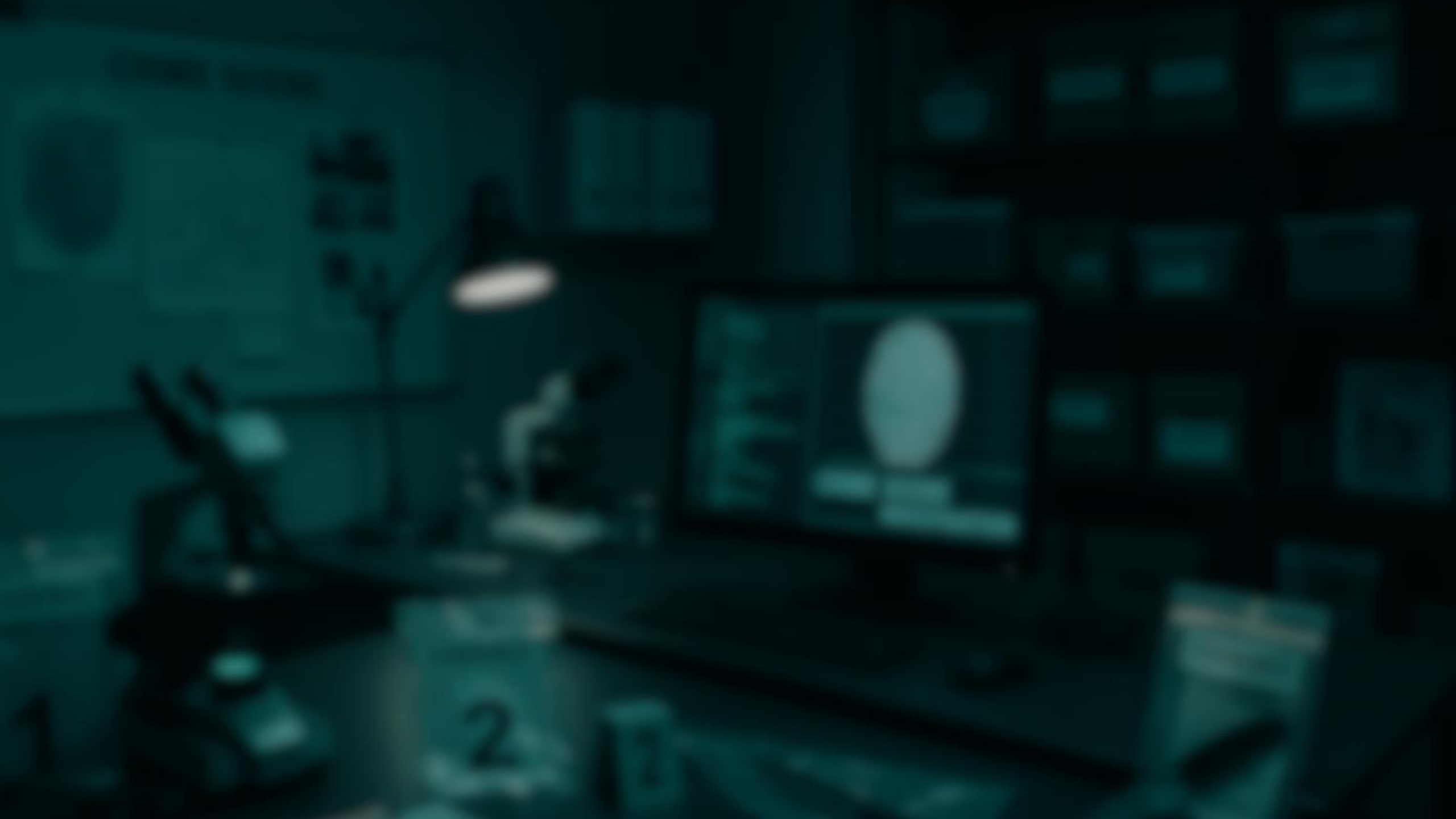
EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE



HORATIO CAINE





**CODE  
RED**

**CYBER ATTACK**

**CYBER  
ATTACK**

**CYBER ATTACK**

**WARNING**

**WARNING**

**CYBER ATTACK**





# CODE RED

- Software auto-update triggering anti-malware alerts.
- Malware communicating with C2 infrastructure.
- C2 malware traffic traced to a recently-registered domain.
- All malware communications are encrypted.

# Background

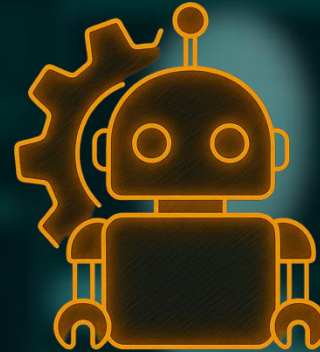
Software Architecture and Update Process



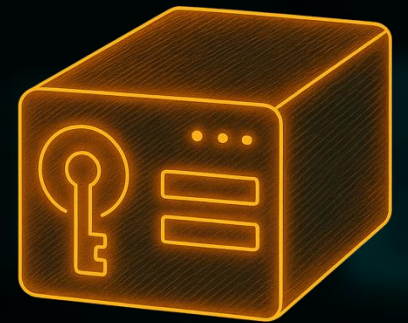
**Client app with SaaS backend**



**Source code stored in GitHub Enterprise**



**Jenkins to compile, sign, & deploy code**



**Code-signing keys stored in a secure HSM**

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**Critical client-  
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**EOL library  
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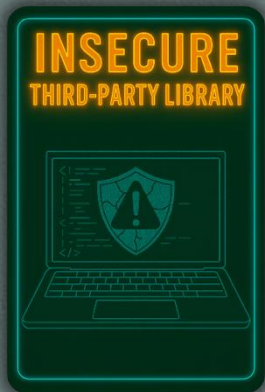
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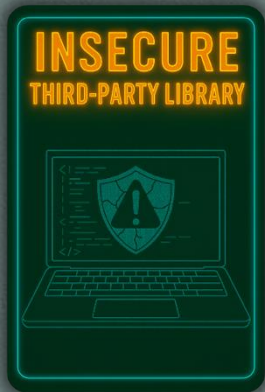
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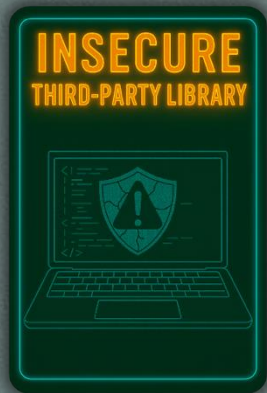
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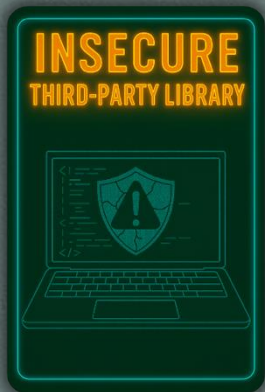
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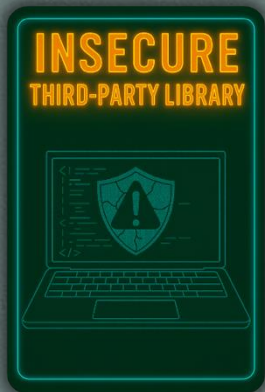


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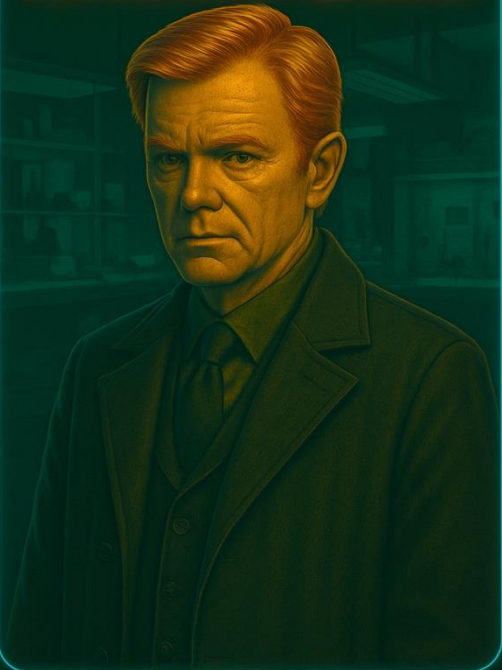
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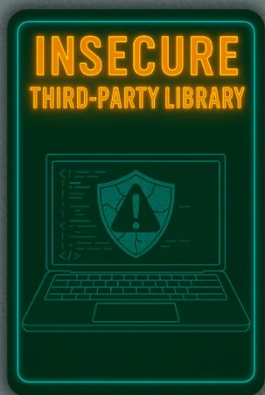


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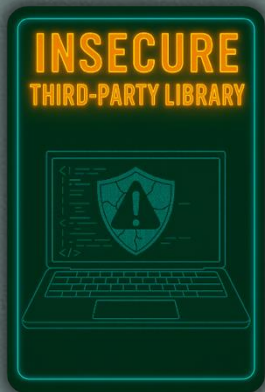
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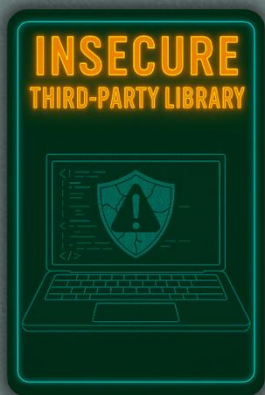
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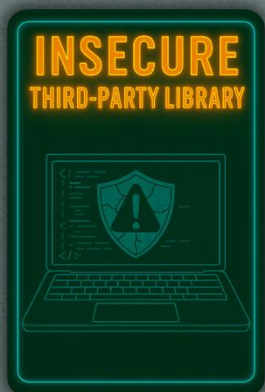


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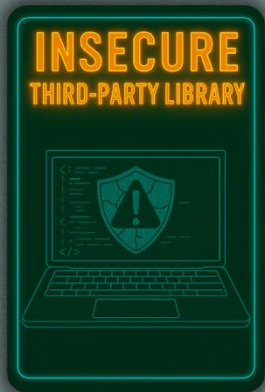


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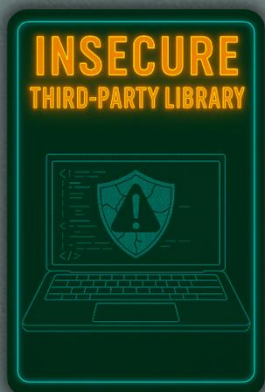
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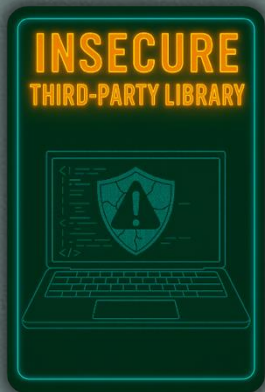
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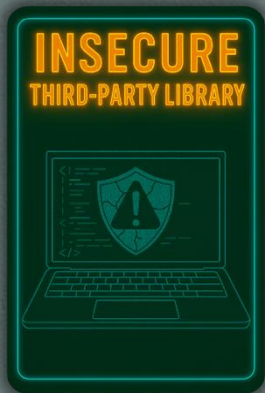
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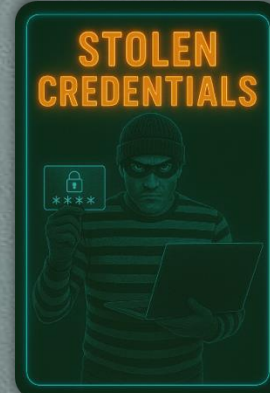
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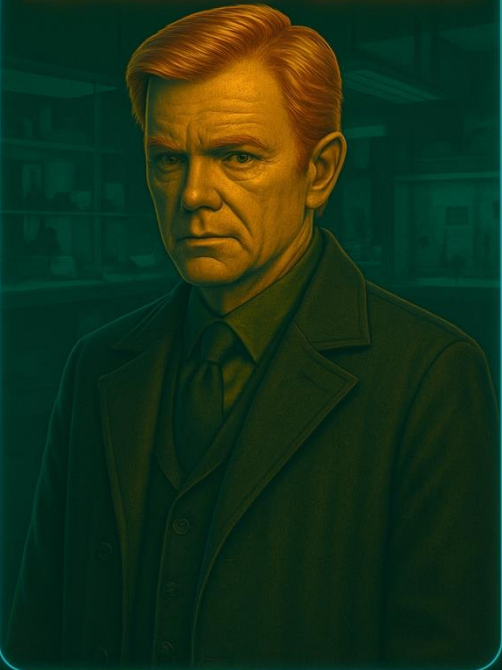
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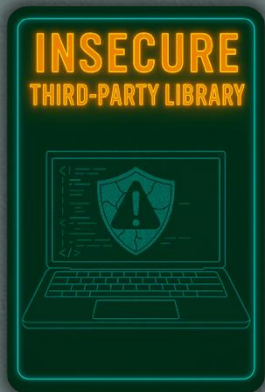


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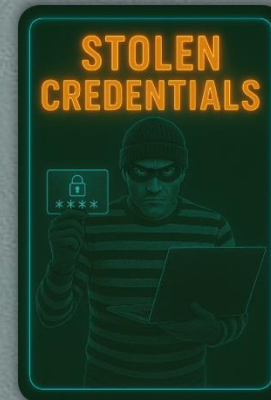
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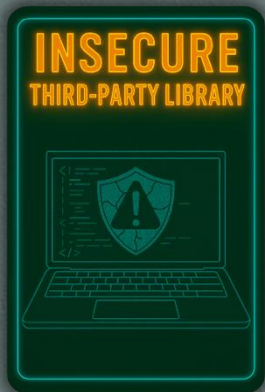
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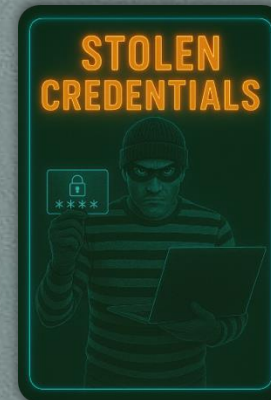
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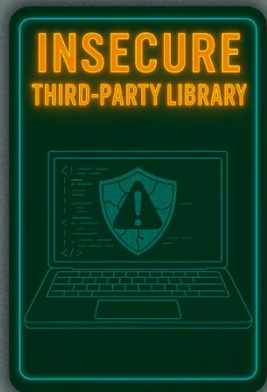
**MFA disabled for certain accounts**

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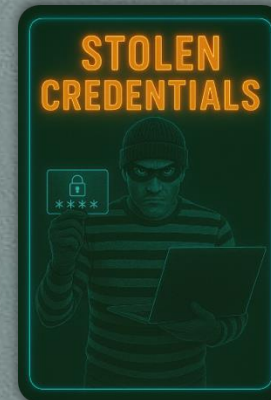
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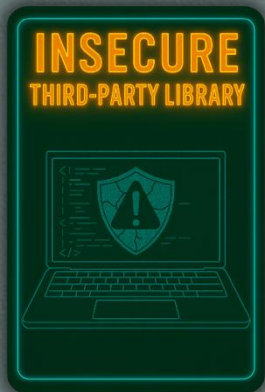
Suspicious child processes

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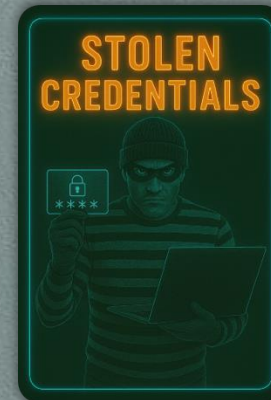
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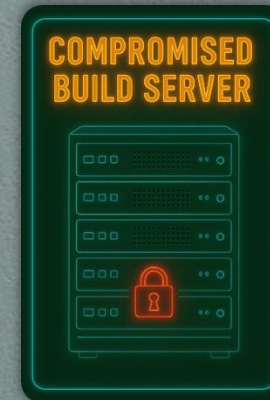
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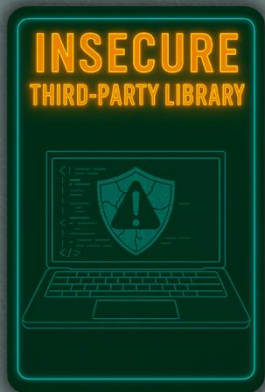
# What was the likely main attack vector?

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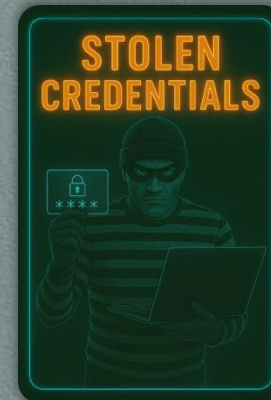
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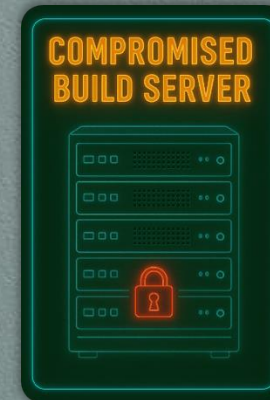
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Exposed API  
vulnerability

Insecure API  
input handling

Potential  
Sensitive data  
exposure



Unauthorized  
internal key  
exposure

Suspicious  
signing activity

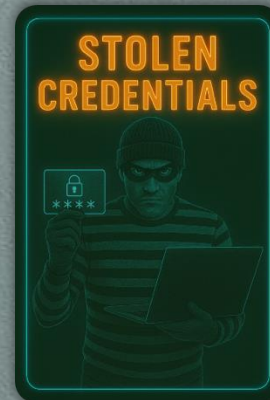
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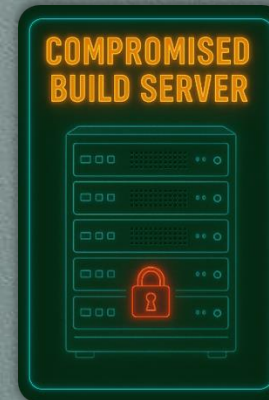
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COMPROMISED  
CODE-SIGNING KEY



STOLEN  
CREDENTIALS



COMPROMISED  
BUILD SERVER

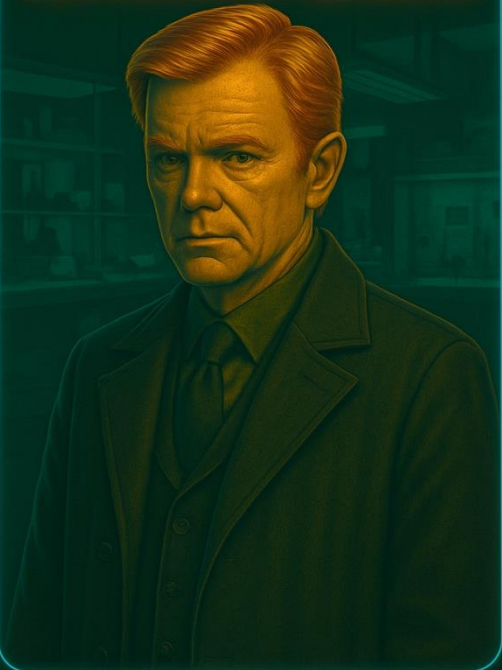


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COMPROMISED  
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HORATIO CAINE



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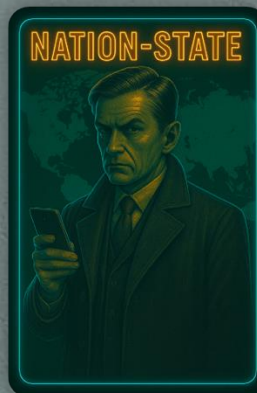
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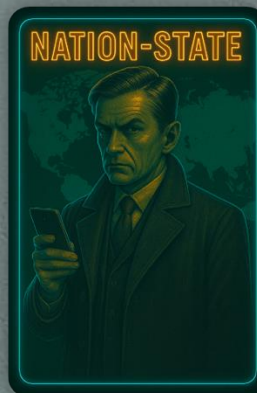
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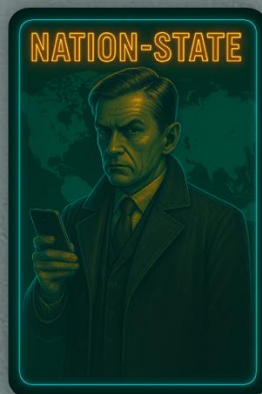
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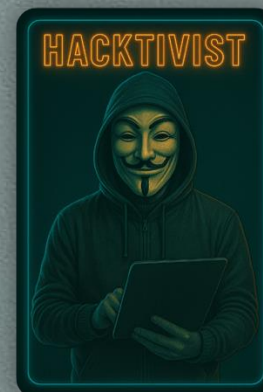
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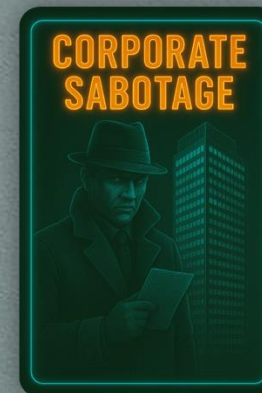
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## Who is most likely the perpetrator?

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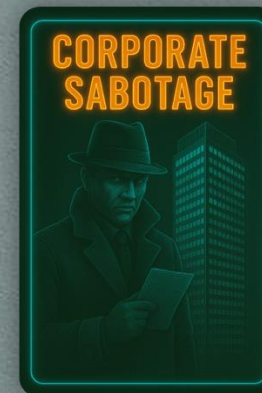
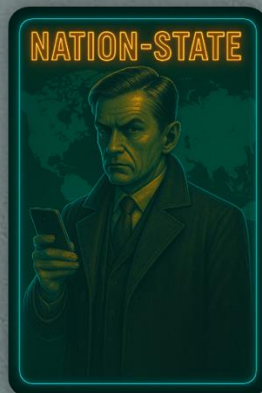
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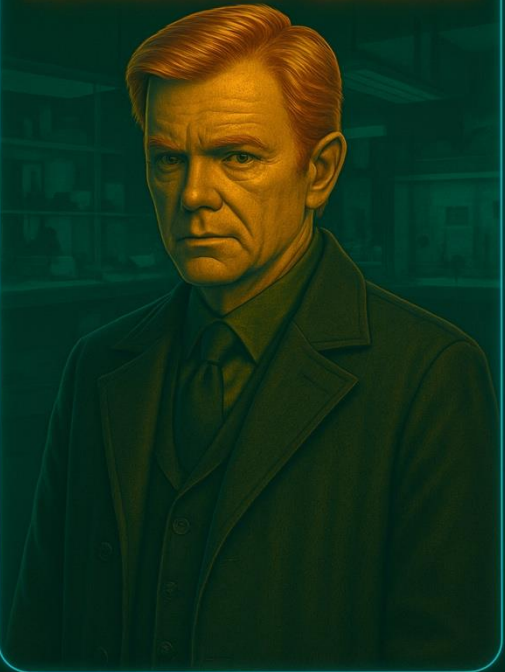
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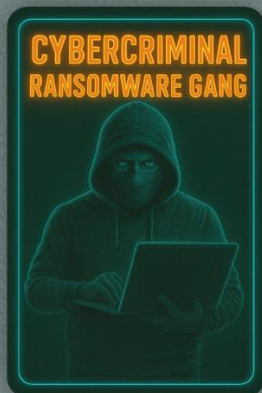
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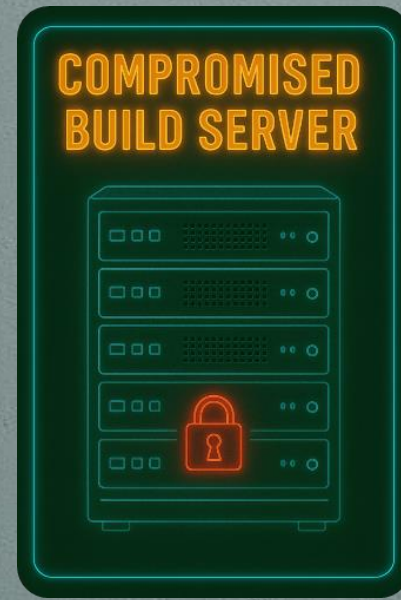
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# Attacks and Attackers

HACKTIVIST



CYBERCRIMINAL  
RANSOMWARE GANG



NATION-STATE



INSIDER THREAT



CORPORATE  
SABOTAGE



STOLEN  
CREDENTIALS



INSECURE  
API



COMPROMISED  
BUILD SERVER



INSECURE  
THIRD-PARTY LIBRARY



COMPROMISED  
CODE-SIGNING KEY



# PCI Software Security Framework



## Overview

### Secure Software Standard

- Requirements for ensuring software products sufficiently protect their sensitive assets\*

### Secure Software Lifecycle Standard

- Requirements for ensuring software providers design, develop, maintain, and operate\*\* their software in a secure manner

### Associated Validation and Listing Programs

- Assessments and assessors
- Listings
- Supporting materials, templates, guidance, etc.

\* Term and scope is defined in the Standard.

\*\* Where all or some of software operations are managed by the software provider.

# PCI Software Security Framework

Listings

## Security Facts

Software Application

Security Checklist 100% Reliable

Encryption 99%

Authentication 99%

Access Control 99%

Secure Coding 99%

Input Validation 99%

Comprehensive security features





UPGRADE

2017

PROTOCOL: BULK, P. INCL. INTR

# DIGITAL ASSETS





Search

UPDATE.....





[Software@pcisecuritystandards.org](mailto:Software@pcisecuritystandards.org)

**THANK YOU!**



# 2025 EUROPE COMMUNITY MEETING