

The background is dark with several faint, overlapping circular patterns and lines of binary code (0s and 1s) scattered across it, creating a technical or digital aesthetic.

CYBER PEACE IN A MAD WORLD

STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINES OF DIGITAL RESILIENCE

PANOS VLACHOS

SWISS CYBER STORM 2025

WHO AM I?

- Decade of experience in ICT
- BSc in Digital Systems & Telecommunications
- MSc Information Security
- Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
- In progress: PhD in Post-Quantum Cryptography
- Cyber Ranger (15+ Missions completed)



SETTING THE STAGE

- What is CyberPeace Builders?
 - Volunteer programme by the CyberPeace Institute
 - Supports NGOs with cybersecurity expertise
 - Missions range from informative to technical

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builders.**

by the



**CyberPeace
Institute**

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Check with your employer
 - Join at cpb.ngo/register
- Complete basic humanitarian training
- Setup your profile

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Institute**

CPB'S PROFILE CONFIGURATION

Settings

[Back to dashboard](#)

Your details [Mission preferences](#) Areas of interest

Your Mission Preferences

 Which **languages** are you comfortable with?

It helps to select multiple languages to create missions. This ensures proper customization and accessibility.

English   

 What is your **timezone**?

You need to select a timezone to create missions. This ensures accurate scheduling and synchronization.

(GMT+1:00) Dublin   

 Your **skills**

Selecting your skills helps us match you with missions that align with your expertise.

OSINT  Threat Intelligence  Penetration Tr   

 Preferred **countries**

Select All Countries

Afghanistan  Albania  Algeria  Andoi   

Update your mission preferences

CPB'S PROFILE CONFIGURATION



CPB'S MISSION BOARD

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mastercard.com

Portal

- Mission Board
- Achievements
- Learn
- Company
- Library
- Notifications
- Tools
- Feedback

Visit our Shop!

Support Us

PV Panos

Mission Board

Please complete your ongoing mission/s before applying for a new one. Thanks for your dedication!

Recommended 24 Filter

Ongoing Mission Limit

Once you complete your current ongoing mission, you will be able to pick another from our list of recommended missions. Thanks for your dedication!

Ongoing 2

Awareness training Level ●●●

Id: 17334 N/A 2h

Summary Mission details

AI guidance policy Level ●●●

Id: 17283 N/A 2h

Summary Mission details

Done 16

Dark web monitoring

Id: 14601 N/A 2h

Summary Mission details

Website vulnerability scan

Id: 15137 N/A 4h

Summary Mission details

Dark web monitoring

Id: 14872 N/A 2h

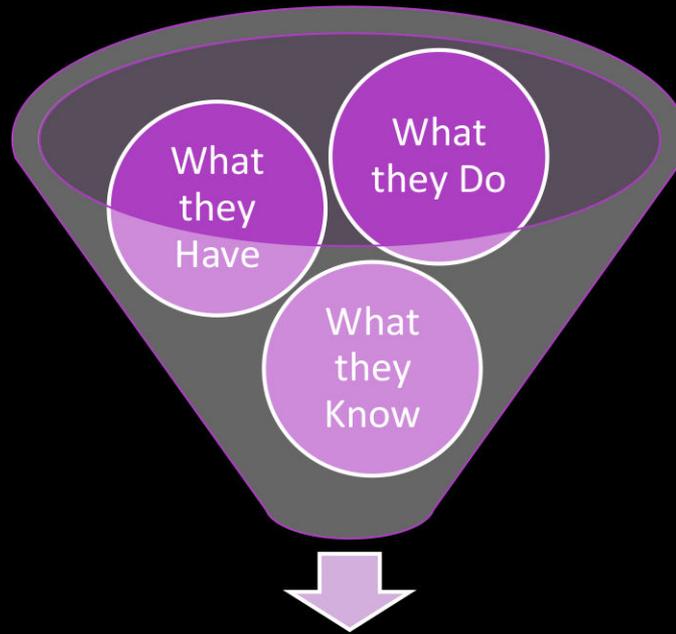
Summary Mission details

MFA advice

Id: 14669 N/A 2h

Summary Mission details

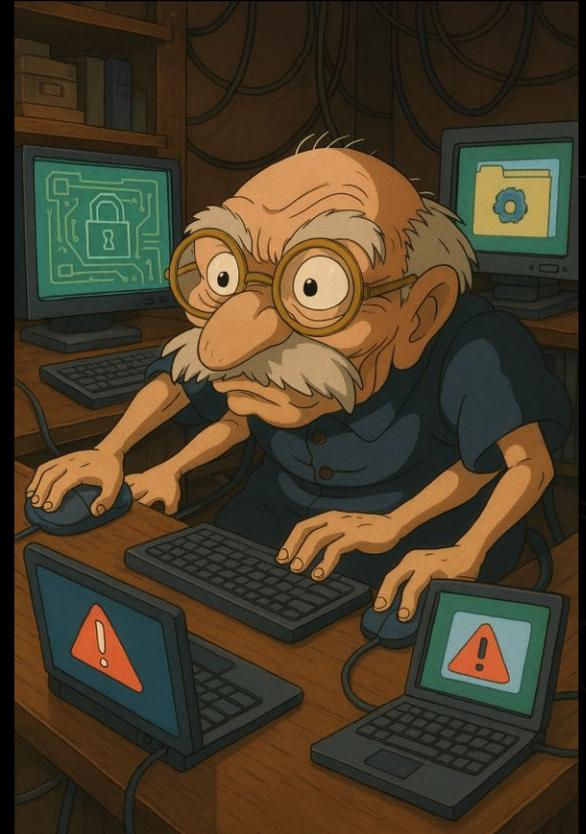
NGO CHALLENGES



"Target rich, resource poor"

THE REALITY THEY FACE

- Multiple targets / assets of interest
- One-person IT & Security teams
- Cybersecurity often seen as extra admin expense



STORY 1 – CROSSING BORDERS NEAR A WARZONE



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- Scenario: Activists crossing borders
- Challenge: Devices checked, demanding access
- Mission: (MFA) Advice for high-risk travel
- Outcome: Safer border crossings, continued operation of the organization even in such extreme scenarios



STORY 1 – CROSSING BORDERS NEAR A WARZONE

- Advice given:
 - Reduce Attack Surface
 - Log out of all apps, including messaging apps
 - Travel with devices turned off
 - Enable MFA – maybe different device/person
 - Strong passwords / disable biometric controls



STORY 2 – THREATS BEYOND THE DOMAIN



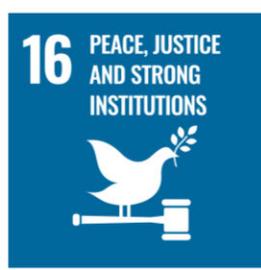
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STORY 2 – THREATS BEYOND THE DOMAIN

- Scenario: NGO founder under threat
- Challenge: Threats from external email addresses
- Mission: Dark web monitoring & email analysis
- Outcome: No threats found, peace of mind restored & advice on increased vigilance

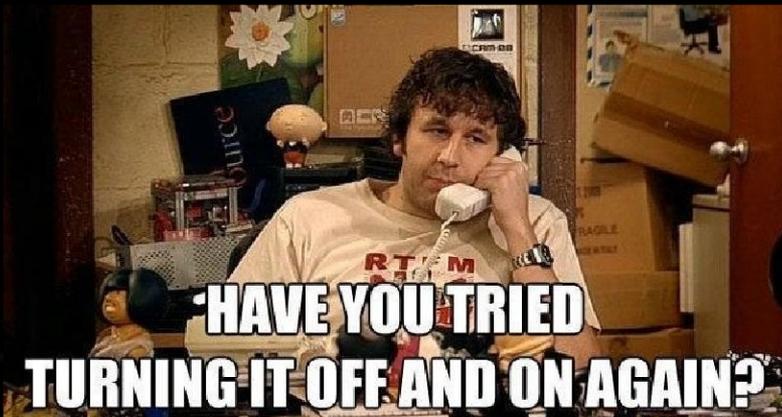


STORY 3 – ONE PERSON, ALL THE ROLES



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- Scenario: Solo IT consultant having to juggle IT operations, Physical & Cyber Security
- Challenge: No cybersecurity strategy
- Mission: Password manager advice & backup security
- Outcome: Simple, strong security shell, actionable advice & focus on the most important stuff first.



STORY 4 – FROM THE BASICS TO AI SECURITY



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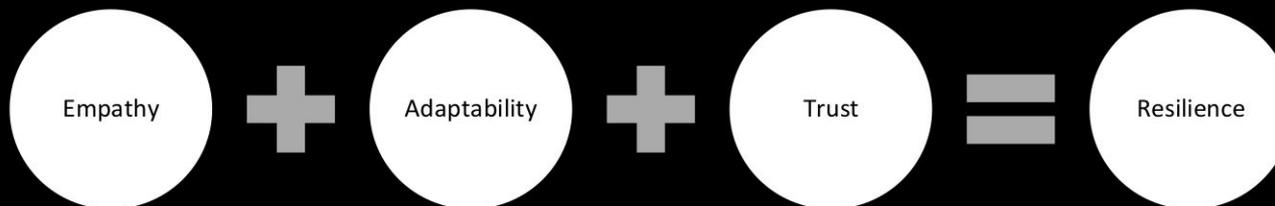
STORY 4 – FROM THE BASICS TO AI SECURITY

- Scenario: From a basic mission, to advanced, high-stakes service
- Challenge: High-risk environment + high-profile users = high-stakes service
- Mission: Cybersecurity Awareness Training → AI Security
- Outcome: AI Internal Use policy & tailor-made plan for securing the AI service, from backend, infrastructure, to front-end and even the model itself.



LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

- Context matters more than tools
- Collaboration is key
- Simplicity is powerful



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Real impact, to real people
- Giving back
- Sence of belonging & networking
- Higher purpose
- Skills



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOUR EMPLOYER?

- Employee retention & upskilling
- Visibility in the Cybersecurity community
- Improve your Corporate Sustainability score (EU CSRD 🗳️)



CPB
for employers



Blog post on
Corporate
Sustainability

CALL TO ACTION

- How You Can Help
 - Volunteer with CyberPeace Builders
 - Offer your expertise to NGOs
 - Rethink resilience as a shared responsibility



Join us!

THANK YOU!