Threats to Maritime Security: Cyber & Nexus to Piracy

#### **Stephen McCombie**



university of applied sciences



## About @Stephen

- Over 25 years working in cyber security
- Worked in law enforcement, academia and industry
- PhD in Computer Science Thesis examined Russian and Ukrainian cybercrime groups that targeted Australian Banks in early 2000s
- Research interests include maritime cyber threats, cyber threat intelligence, state sponsored offensive cyber and information warfare











**NSW Police Force** 

# Maritime Cybersecurity Research Group



- Established September 2021
- Goal is to conduct impactful research into Cyber threats to the Maritime Transportation System (MTS)
- Our scope apart from traditional maritime activities includes inland waters, port facilities and other critical elements of the MTS
- This is achieved by leveraging our skills across disciplines within NHL Stenden in Ethical Hacking, Secure Programming, Serious Gaming, Maritime Technology, Maritime Officer Training, Marine Shipping Innovations and Cyber Safety
- Three major projects

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16 November 2012 07:00

Feb



### **Global Maritime Transportation System**

- The role of GMTS in the global economy is significant with over 80% of the world's cargo transported by ship (Bronk & Dewitt 2020) and representing 70% of global trade by value (Loomis & Singh, et al 2021).
- At the same fleets are aging and their technology is aging with them and thus more vulnerable to cyber-attacks. 38% of oil tankers and 59% of general cargo ships are more than twenty years old (Tam and Jones 2018).



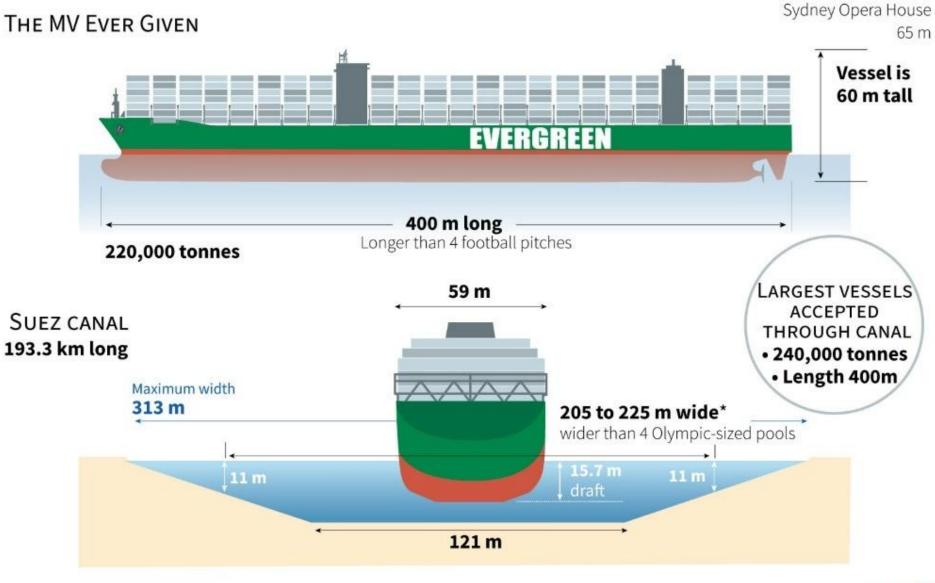
#### **Maritime Cyber Surveys**

- BIMCO/Safety at Sea Survey 2020 said 31% of martime organisations experienced a cyber incident up from 24% in 2019
- 52% said people were their biggest cyber vulnerability compared to 17% their IT systems
- Only 16% conduct cyber attack drills for staff
- In a 2022 survey sponsored by International Chamber of Shipping reported a higher rate of cyber incidents but a significant difference between operational (44%), management (37%) and C-suite (19%) perceptions
- This may be due to a lack of reporting but underlines decision makers don't seem to be aware of the scale of the problem

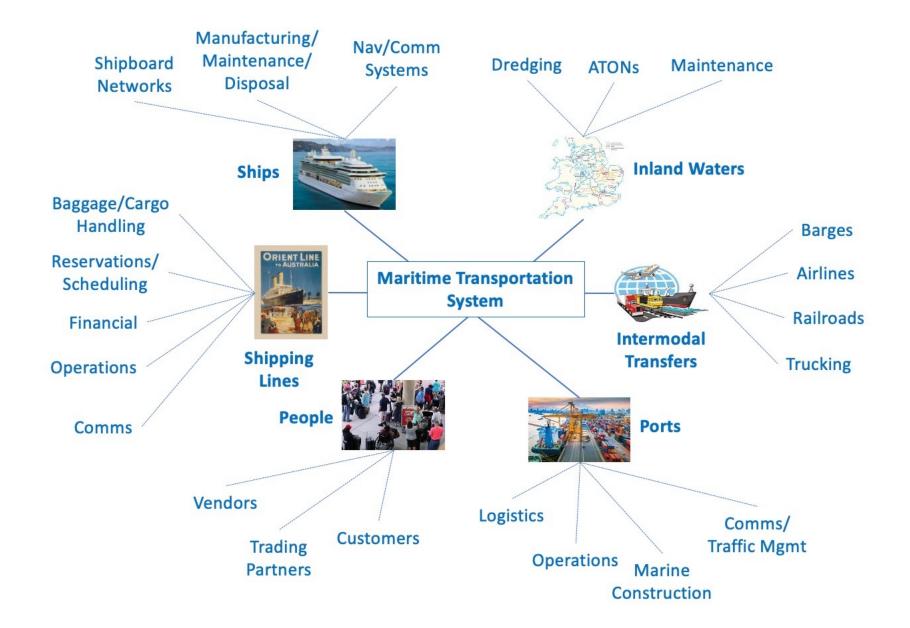


#### **MV Ever Given and the Suez Canal**

The huge container ship of the Evergreen Marine Corporation has blocked the canal





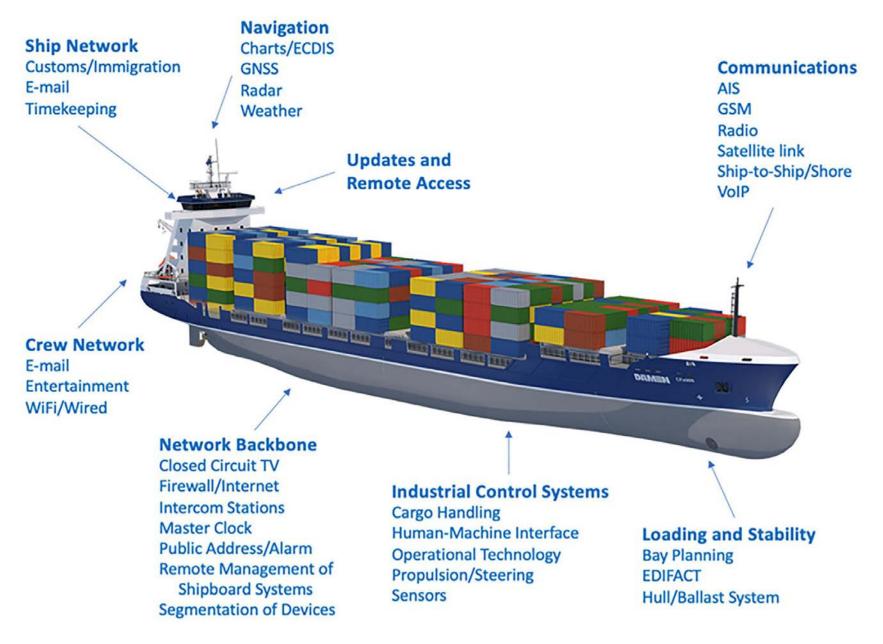


(Kessler and Shepard 2022)

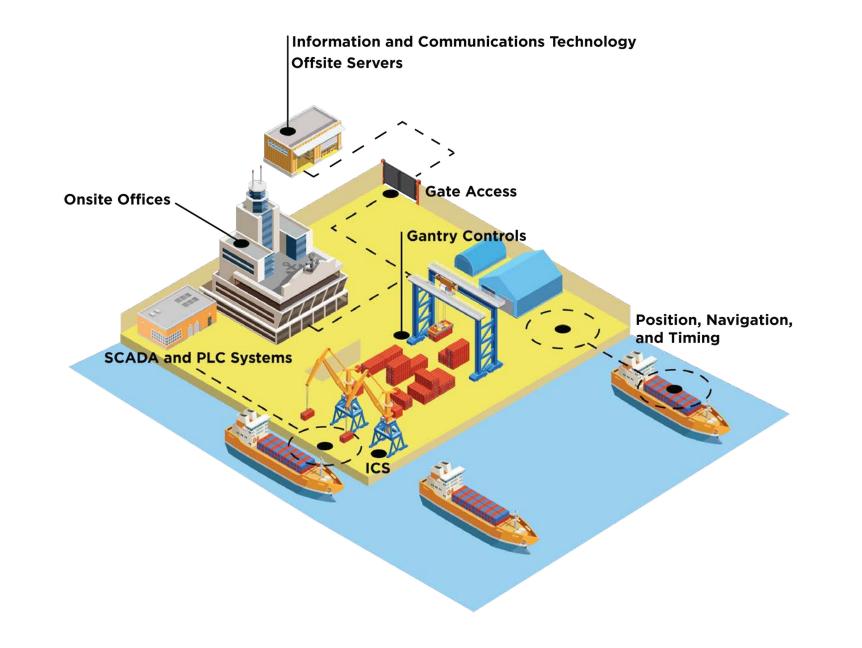
# Why is the maritime industry so vulnerable?



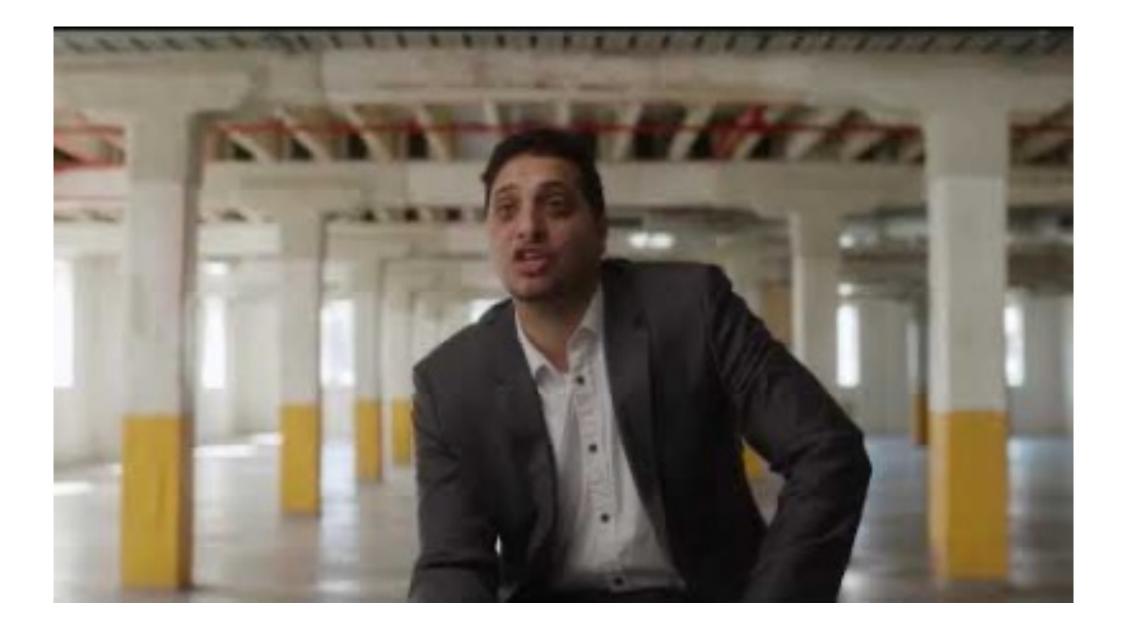
- Poorly maintained and aging equipment
- Low level of cyber security maturity and awareness
- Lack of cyber security staff
- Potentially serious safety issues as a result of cyber attacks
- Critical nature of Maritime Sector for global economy and security
- Various threat actors targeting it



#### Source: Atlantic Council



Source: Atlantic Council





## Database of Maritime Cyber Incidents

- This project involves building a database of all maritime cyber incidents that have occurred where information is available from open sources.
- The database will utilise Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX™), which is a language and serialization format used to exchange cyber threat intelligence (CTI).
- In student projects, data will be collected and a database built, and then maintained and updated.
- The database will have a public online presence and will be used to produce reports and research papers.
- It will also be used as input for simulations and other research.

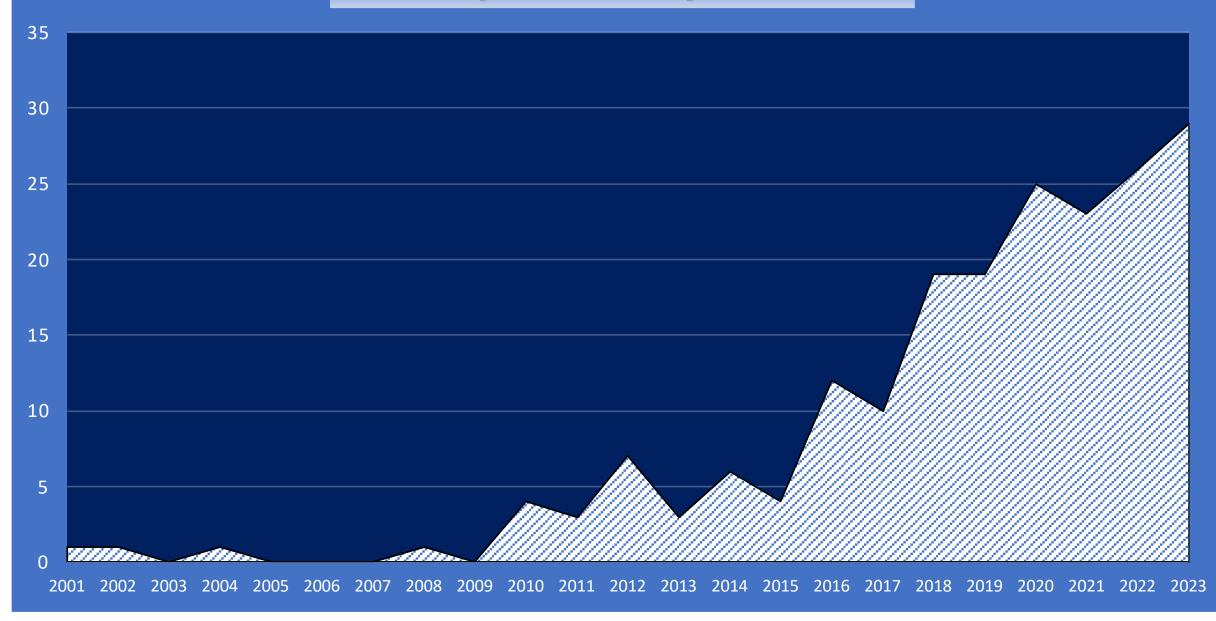


STIX Database

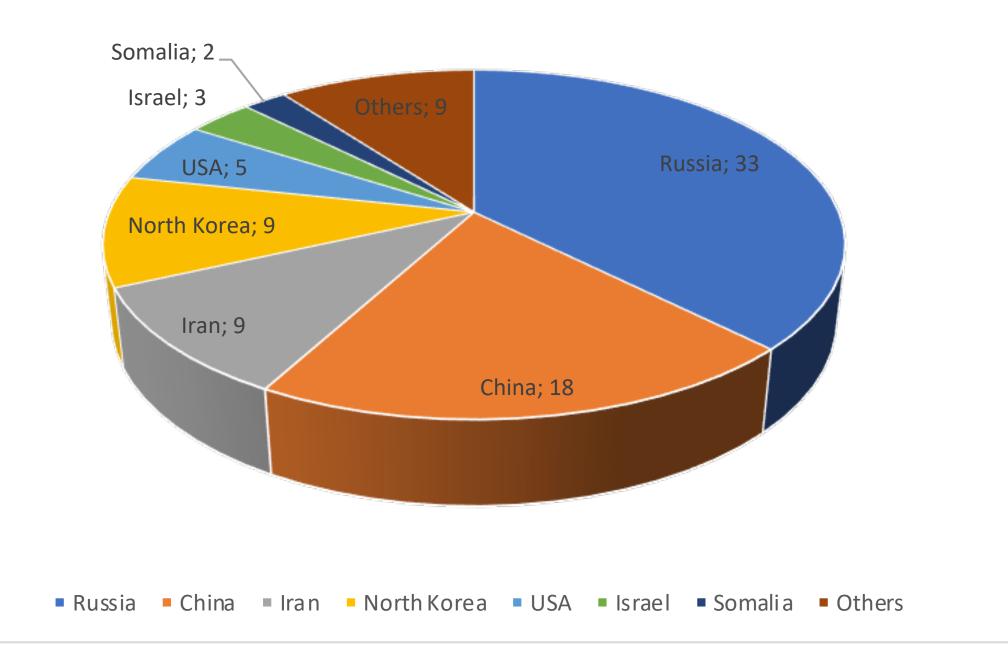
The place for maritime cyber incidents reporting

Login/Register

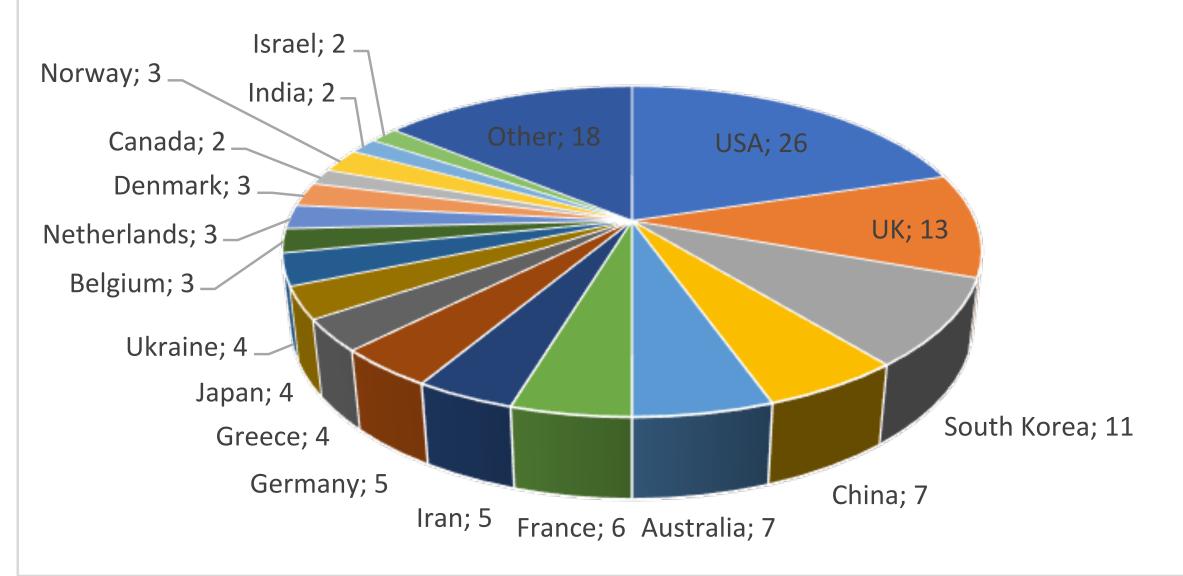
#### Martime Cyber Incidents by Year 2001-2023



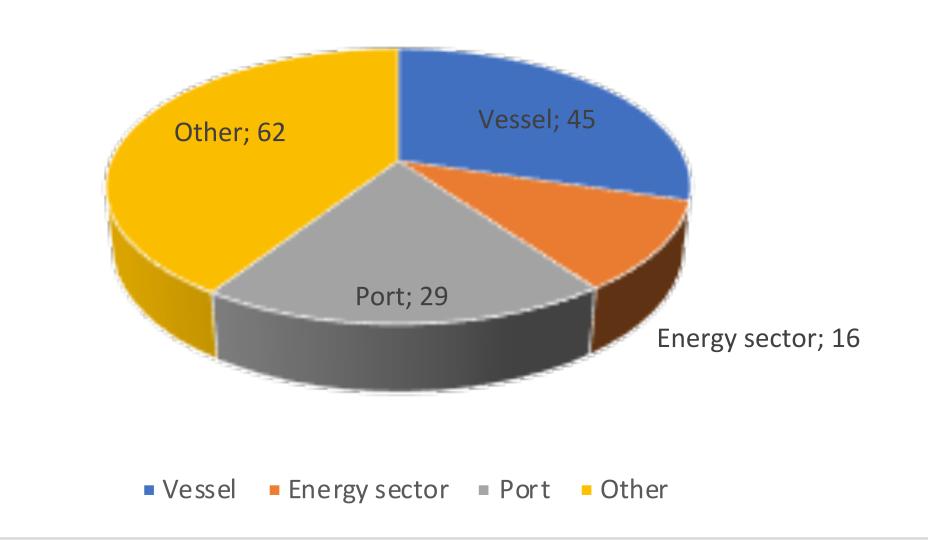
#### Cyber Incidents by Attacker Country 2001-2022



#### Maritime Cyber Incidents by Victim Country 2001-2022



# Maritime Cyber Incidents by Victim Type 2001-2022



## Android/iOS App







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Spear-phishing	Coastguard			

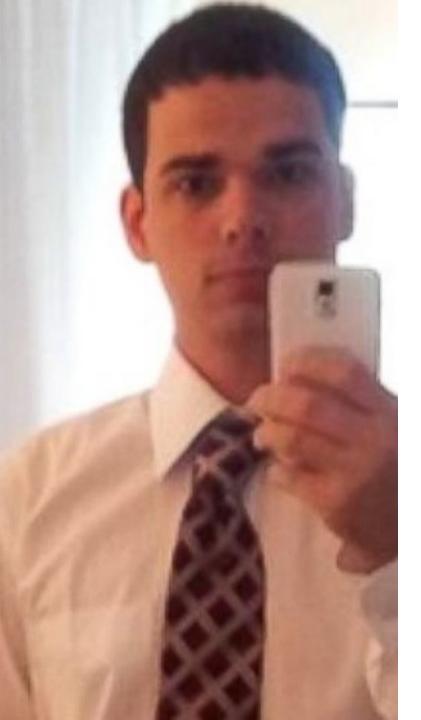
In April 2012, hackers from a foreign state made their way to the Danish Maritime Authority IT Systems in search of confidential information. The hacks targeted sensitive information on Danish shipping companies and the merchant navy. The

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#### **USS Harry S Truman**

- In 2014 a US Nuclear Aircraft Carrier was subject of an investigation into hacking of numerous computer systems including systems belonging to the US Navy and US Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- NCIS agents tracked down a suspect and conducted an investigation on board after transferred to the ship at sea by aircraft





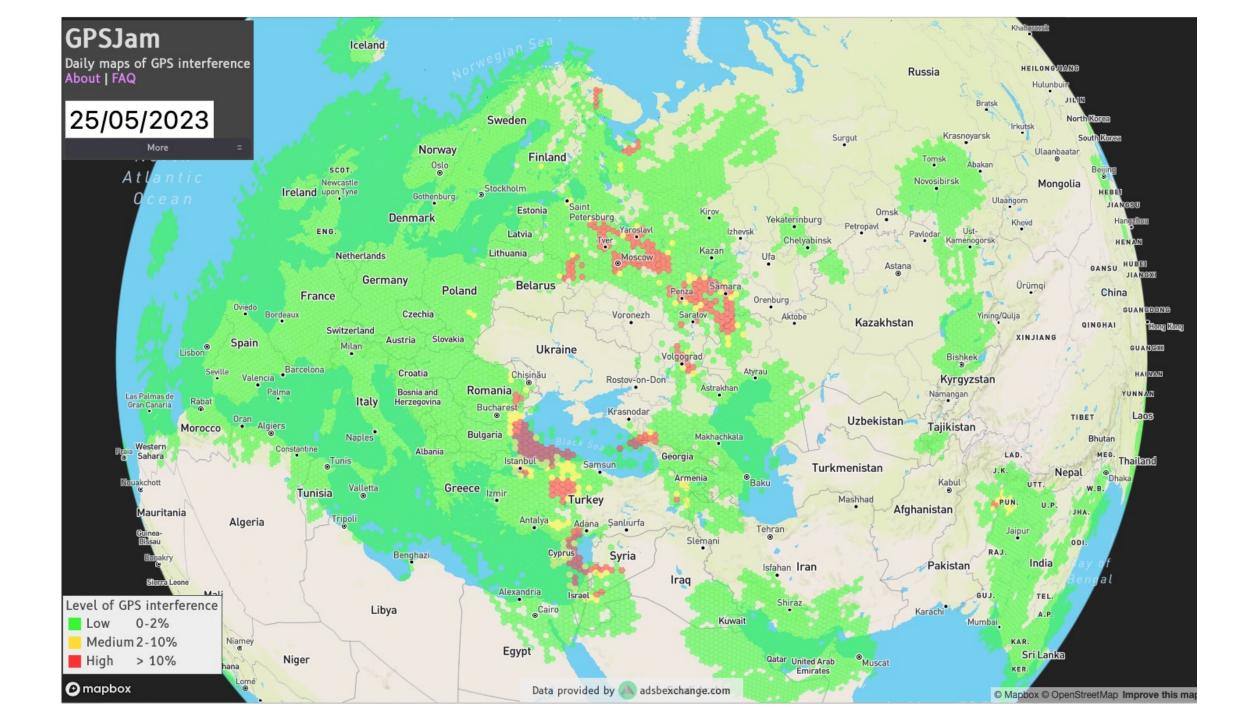
# The Hacker

- The suspect was Nicholas Paul Knight and he was a member of hacking group "tEam Digi7al"
- He was also an IT systems administrator on board the Harry S Truman
- His job was running the network in the nuclear reactor department
- NCIS set a fake database server which he breached and he was arrested
- Sentenced to 2 years jail



# GPS Jamming 2016 (BBC News 2016)

- In 2016 North Korea was suspected of jamming GPS signals in South Korea
- North Korea is using radio waves to jam GPS navigation systems near the border regions, South Korean officials claimed
- The broadcasts have reportedly affected 110 planes and ships and can caused mobile phones to malfunction
- The South Korean coastguard reported about 70 fishing vessels had been forced to return to port after GPS navigation issues





UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**MARINE SAFETY ALERT** 

Inspections and Compliance Directorate

Safety Alert 06-19

Cyber Incident Exposes Potential Vulnerabilities Onboard Commercial Vessels

In February 2019, a deep draft vessel on an international voyage bound for the Port of New York and New Jersey reported that they were experiencing a significant cyber incident impacting their shipboard network. An interagency team of cyber experts, led by the Coast Guard, responded and conducted an analysis of the vessel's network and essential control systems. The team concluded that although the malware significantly degraded the functionality of the onboard computer system, essential vessel control systems had not been impacted. Nevertheless, the interagency response found that the vessel was operating without effective cybersecurity measures in place, exposing critical vessel control systems to significant vulnerabilities.

Prior to the incident, the security risk presented by the shipboard network was well known among the crew. Although most crewmembers didn't use onboard computers to check personal email, make online purchases or check their bank accounts, the same shipboard network *was* used for official business – to update electronic charts, manage cargo data and communicate with shore-side facilities, pilots, agents, and the Coast Guard.

July 8, 2019 Washington, D.C.

#### Maersk & NotPetya (Selby 2021)

- 20% of global trade and 1/3 of all bananas are shipped by Maersk
- 2016: Maersk IT execs approved and budgeted for network segmentation, but KPIs meant implementation was delayed
- 2017: Maersk admits it had a low-level of cyber maturity
- Maersk Odessa Finance Executive requested M.E. Docs be installed onto their PC
- 27 June 2017: Ukraine's National Constitution Day NotPetya released
- NotPetya took just 7 minutes to take down most of its global network, causing catastrophic damage in less than 1 hour
- Recovery: reached out to suppliers and customers for help; Deloitte sent 200 workers to Maidenhead UK; 1 (of 150) surviving Active Directory server flown from Nigeria; Maersk bought & built 2000 laptops from scratch in 6 days
- Non-global applications which supported local processes were the hardest to recover

#### Doops, your important files are encrypted.

If you see this text, then your files are no longer accessible, because they have been encrypted. Perhaps you are busy looking for a way to recover your files, but don't waste your time. Nobody can recover your files without our decryption service.

We guarantee that you can recover all your files safely and easily. All you need to do is submit the payment and purchase the decryption key.

Please follow the instructions:

1. Send \$300 worth of Bitcoin to following address:

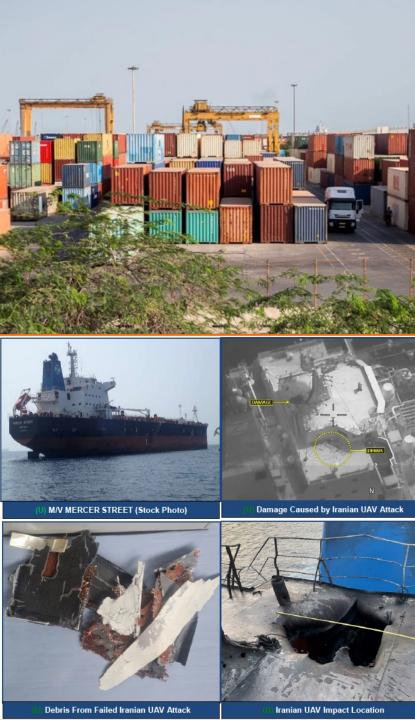
1Mz7153HMu×XTuR2R1t78mGSdzaAtNbBWX

2. Send your Bitcoin wallet ID and personal installation key to e-mail wowsmith123456@posteo.net. Your personal installation key:

If you already purchased your key, please enter it below. Keu:

# Israel/Iran Cyber Conflict (NYT)

- In May 2020 Israel was behind a cyberattack that disrupted a major port in Iran, Shahid Rajaee, done in response to an attempt by the Revolutionary Guards to infiltrate an Israeli water facility
- Soon after the cyberattack began, the port's authorities detected it but failed to fix it immediately so switched to manual management of unloading and loading
- The chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, said, "We will continue to use a diverse array of military tools and unique warfare methods to hurt the enemy"
- In a deadly escalation in July 2020 an oil tanker managed by an Israeliowned shipping firm was attacked by drones off the coast of Oman, killing two crew members
- "The pattern of the attack and the outcome seems like a serious escalation in the Iranian-Israeli 'tit for tat' engagement that has been ongoing in the maritime domain over the last couple of years"



# Hackers breached computer network at key US port but did not disrupt operations

By Sean Lyngaas, CNN Updated 2235 GMT (0635 HKT) September 23, 2021



A container is shown being transported at the Port of Houston on July 29, 2021, in Houston, Texas.

**(CNN)** — Suspected foreign government-backed hackers last month breached a computer network at one of the largest ports on the US Gulf Coast, but early detection of the incident meant the intruders weren't in a position to disrupt shipping operations, according to a Coast Guard analysis of the incident obtained by CNN and a public statement from a senior US cybersecurity official.

#### NEWS & BUZZ



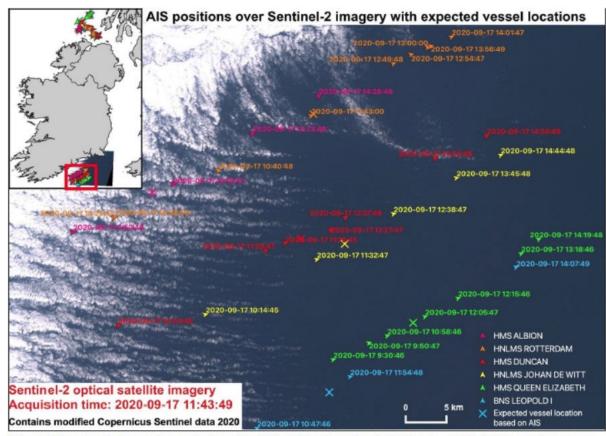
CNN reporter says Steve Bannon's admission creates a 'huge...

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Saving money using cryptocurrency swaps

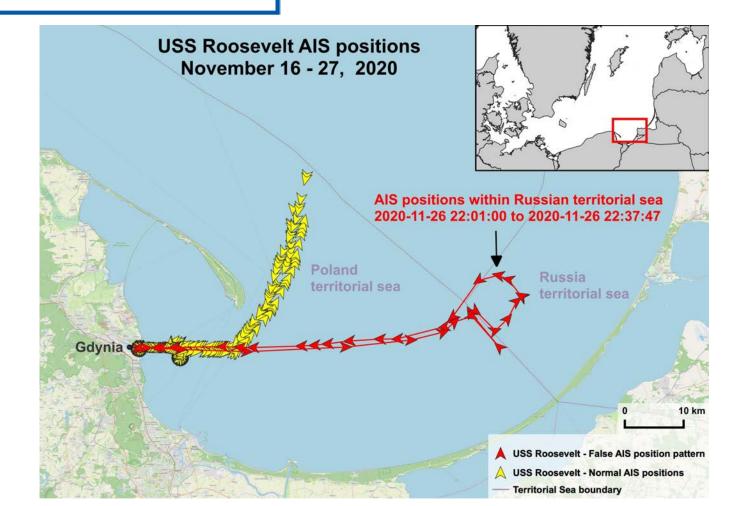


#### AIS spoofing (skytruth.org 2021)

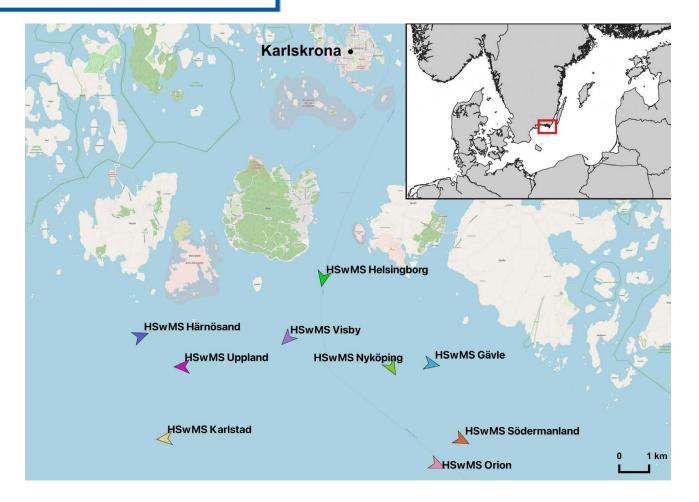


False AIS tracks of six naval vessels from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Belgium overlayed on a S2 satellite image of the same day, revealing that none of the vessels were actually present at the time of S2 image acquisition. Image copyright SkyTruth and Global Fishing Watch 2021. AIS data courtesy of Global Fishing Watch/Orbcomm/Spire.

### AIS spoofing (skytruth.org 2020)

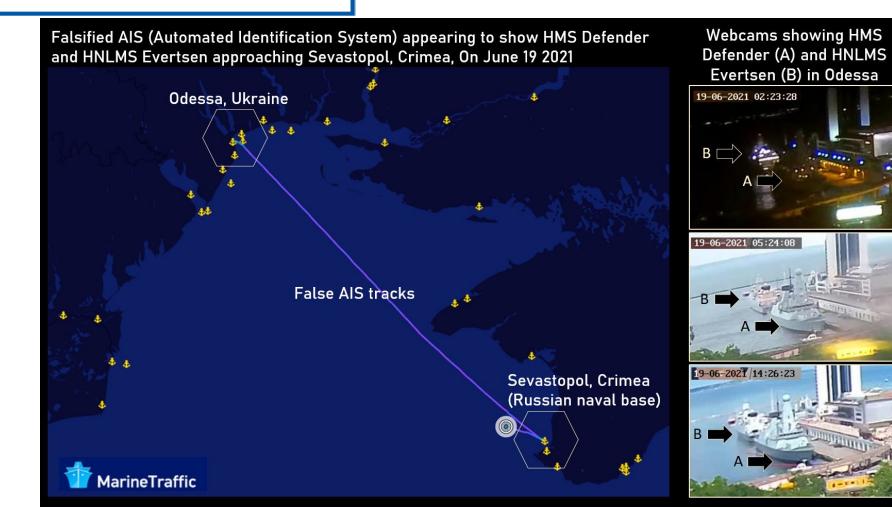


## AIS spoofing (skytruth.org 2020)



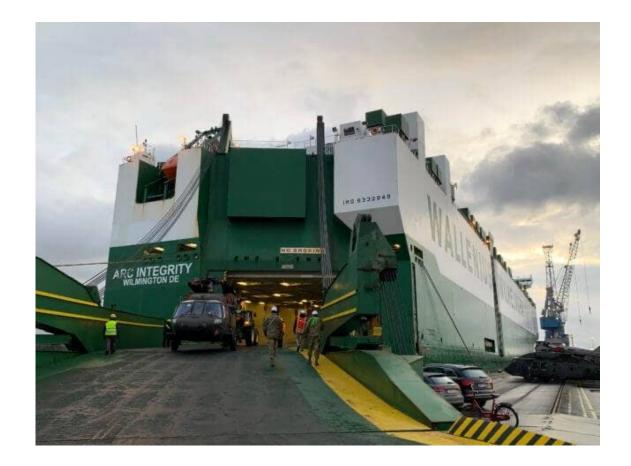


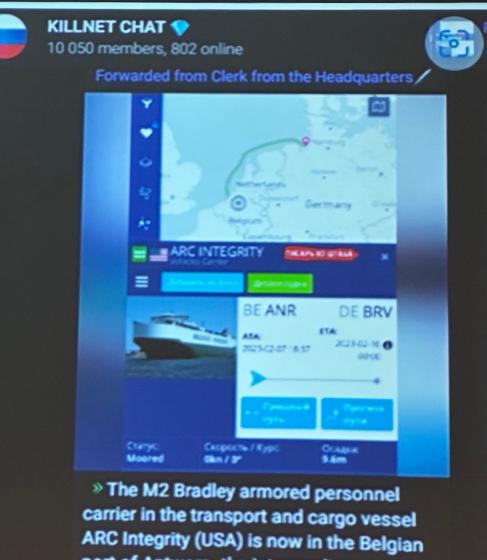
## AIS spoofing (usni.org 2021)



#### **Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

- KillNet is a Russia-aligned hacktivist group.
- Similar to the Ukrainian Digital Army they use telegram channels to coordinate cyber attacks.
- They have targeted European ATC, European Parliament and US government targets.
- They targeted also ships used to bring US equipment to Ukraine and NATO deployments in Eastern Europe.





carrier in the transport and cargo vessel ARC Integrity (USA) is now in the Belgian port of Antwerp. the intermediate point is the port of Bremerhaven, Germany. It is on this ship that Bradley goes to the crests. What prevents our DRG from sinking a bulk carrier? (avenge the Novorossiysk in 1955m) Technically

#### Maritime Supply Chain Attack (maritime-executive.com Nov 2021)

- Danaos Management Consultants has been offering IT solutions for the maritime industry since 1986
- It builds software tools for ship management, including applications for chartering, payroll, crewing, AI analytics, ISM, document management and procurement
- The ransomware attack blocked customers communication with ships, suppliers, agents, charterers and supplies, while at the same time the files with their correspondence were lost.
- It has been reported that Danaos maintained open VPN links with customers and vessels

#### Cyberattack Hits Multiple Greek Shipping Firms



Port of Piraeus, the center of Greek shipping (File image courtesy Jeffrey / CC BY ND 2.0) PUBLISHED NOV 3, 2021 7:50 PM BY THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Multiple Greek shipping companies have been hit by a ransomware attack that spread through the systems of a popular, well-established IT consulting firm, according to Greek outlet Mononews.

Danaos Management Consultants, the IT service provider whose services were affected by the hack, confirmed the incident and. The company said that Danaos' own shipping operations have not been hit, and that fewer than 10 percent of its external customers had their files encrypted by the ransomware attack.

An independent cybersecurity company has been contracted to investigate the incident and determine how the ransomware got inside Danaos' customer-facing systems. Meanwhile, the firm is helping affected clients as they try to restore their systems.

Security

# Maritime giant DNV says 1,000 ships affected by ransomware attack

Carly Page @carlypage\_ / 3:39 PM GMT+1 • January 18, 2023

Comment

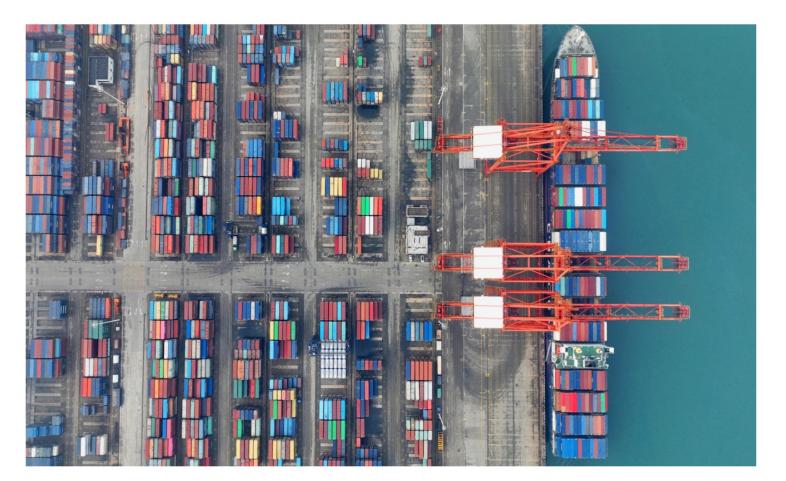


Image Credits: STR / AFP / Getty Images



Home Wat is FERM? Lid worden Actueel V Port Cyber Café

Home » Nieuws » Russische cyberaanvallen op Nederlandse havens – FER 🗤

## Russische cyberaanvallen op Nederlandse havens – FERM monitort

📋 14 juni 2023

Cyberweerbaarheid FERM

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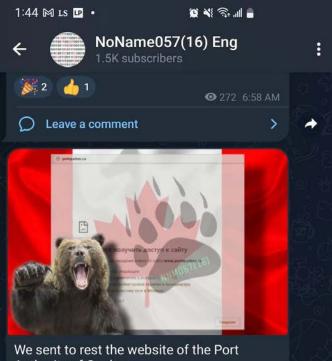
FERM heeft op dinsdag 6 juni jl. dreigingsinformatie ontvangen waaruit duidelijk werd dat er op dat moment lopende DDoS-aanvallen uitgevoerd werden op havens. De aanvallen werden (en worden) actief in de gaten gehouden, waarbij onze participanten via het portal door elkaar en door FERM op de hoogte worden gehouden. Inmiddels zijn deze aanvallen per vandaag ook in de landelijke media belicht, waardoor we er nu op onze openbare website ook aandacht aan besteden.

#### **Deel dit bericht**



Mijn FERM

Contact

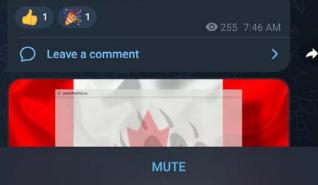


Authority of Quebec:

https://check-host.net/check-report /f874c8ek4b1

Subscribe to NoName057(16) Soin our DDoS-project A Subscribe to reserve channel

#### Sictory will be ours!



## Russian hackers block websites in retaliation for Leopard tanks

June 14, 2023



Rotterdam harbour. Photo: Quistnix via Wikimedia Commons

Pro-Russian hackers have been blamed for forcing the websites of Dutch commercial ports offline last week.

Groningen Zeehaven's site was down all weekend, while Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Den Helder were all offline for several hours on Tuesday.



## Pirates use of Technology (2011)

(https://www.nbcnews.com)

 These days, pirates off the Horn of Africa are turning to a sophisticated mix of weaponry, jury-rigged GPS devices and ingenious hacks of shipping-industry databases to hunt down prey. Andrew Mwangura of the East African Seafarers Assistance Program detailed the methods used by the pirates:

"The most important thing for Somali pirates is getting relevant information regarding merchant vessels that they wish to hijack. But this does not come easily without the use of certain technologies [...] What they must know includes information on the value of vessels, the value of the goods and the number of crew members [...] They use navigational technologies in their daily operation. This involves a combination of technologies, most important[ly] they use satellite cell phones for long range communications."

## Oil Tanker Cyber Attack (2014)

https://safety4sea.com/



- In January 2014 the ship MT Kerala was hijacked and went dark in Angola and Nigeria after Pirates disabled the vessel's AIS and other communication equipment so that the vessel could not be tracked from shore or satellite and painted over the identifying features of the vessel, including stack, name and IMO number.
- The consequence of the attack was that \$10 million of Cargo (oil) was stolen via ship-to-ship transfer. They undertook three separate ship-to-ship transfers of cargo amounting to the theft of approximately 12,271.5 tonnes of cargo.
- The hijacking of the Dynacom Tanker in an area where a known suspect vessel was operating was an embarrassment for the Angolan Navy.
- During the hijacking, one crew member was stabbed by the pirates and others were beaten.



## Cyber Aided Cargo Theft (Verizon DBIR 2016)

- In 2016, an Shipping Company was hit by a hacking attack.
- The hackers, swashbuckling criminals, pirates, gained access by hacking the content management system of the company (CMS).
- The pirates hacked into the systems in order to get a sneak preview of the cargo.
- They uploaded a malicious web shell onto a server running the company's CMS.
- The pirates used this compromised system to view key shipping and inventory data, including bills of lading. After that, they searched by bar code for highly valuable items.
- They wanted to be able to attack the ship efficiently by locating the exact vessel and cargo containers they wanted to plunder.
- It resulted in valuable cargo theft.



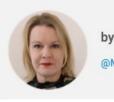
## Navigation System Compromise (Fairplay 2017)

- In February 2017 hackers reportedly took control of the navigation systems of a German-owned 8,250 teu container vessel en route from Cyprus to Djibouti for 10 hours.
- "Suddenly the captain could not manoeuvre," an industry source who did not wish to be identified told Fairplay sister title Safety At Sea (SAS). "The IT system of the vessel was completely hacked."
- There are three German shipowners that operate eight vessels between 8,200 and 8,300 teu, according to IHS Markit data, one of which confirmed knowledge of the attack to SAS but denied it was a vessel from their own company.
- While details are limited, according to the source, the 10-hour attack was carried out by "pirates" who gained full control of the vessel's navigation system intending to steer it to an area where they could board and take over. The crew attempted to regain control of the navigation system but had to bring IT experts on board, who eventually managed to get them running again after hours of work.

## Seized UK tanker likely 'spoofed' by Iran

GPS spoofing involves ships' receivers being tricked with counterfeit satellite automatic identification signals generated to gain control of a navigation system. This can take the vessel off course or show it in a different location

16 Aug 2019 NEWS



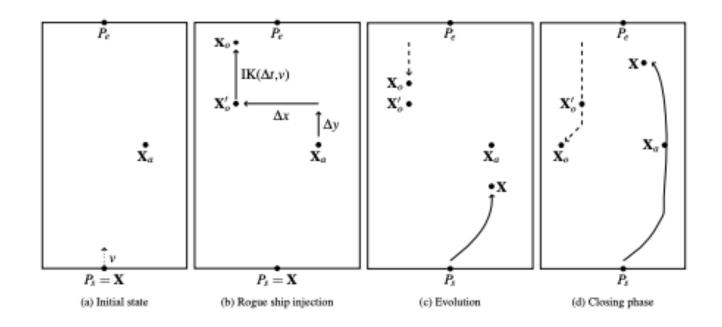
by Michelle Wiese Bockmann
@Michellewb\_ michelle.bockmann@lloydslistintelligence.com

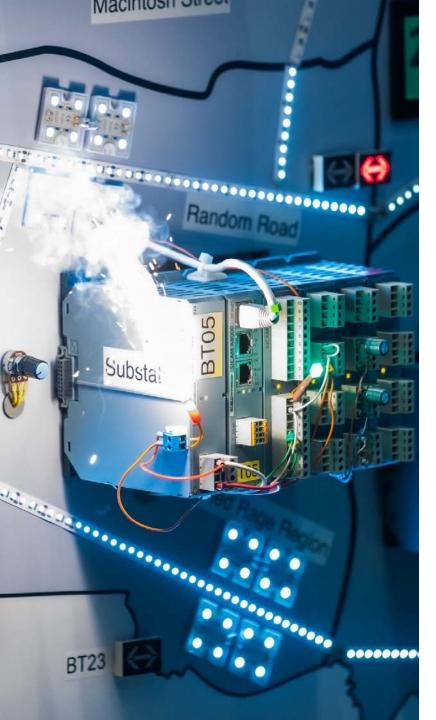
Analysis of AIS data by Lloyd's List Intelligence shows for the first time that Stena Impero fitted the pattern for a spoofing attack when it was seized by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on July 19



# Collision-avoidance cyber-attack to the navigation sensors (Longo 2023)

- Thinking of the future, many cyber-attack scenarios might involve autonomous ships: for instance, an autonomous ship might be lured near a fixed threat such as minefields, or in an area that exposes it to other threats, such as collisions or grounding.
- Moreover, thinking about future piracy, the ship could be forced to steer in a dangerous area to be seized to obtain a ransom.
- The attacker can also unnecessarily lengthen a trip to damage goods or make them arrive late.
- Lastly, a ship can be forced to bypass the territorial sea or navigate in off-limit areas.
- All these possible scenarios can have severe consequences, and the near-future automation designers should face with.



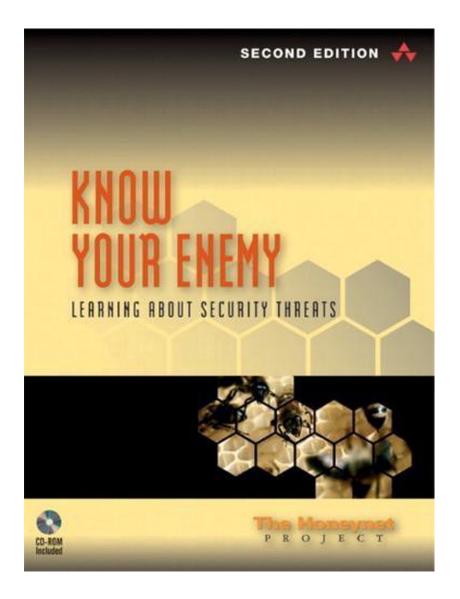


## Create Maritime Technology Hacking Lab

- Build lab environment utilising equipment from maritime industry technology providers
- Based on known issues from other ICS/SCADA industries and maritime conduct vulnerability research in lab environment
- Build a virtual ship Honeynet to study current active scanning of maritme technology
- Use discovered vulnerabiltiies and Honeynet data to develop:
  - Research reports/publications
  - Report vulnerabilities
  - Utilise in maritime cyber incident simuations

## **Maritime Honeypot**

- A honeynet is a network set up with intentional vulnerabilities hosted on a decoy server to attract hackers
- So a honeynet consists of one or more honeypots





MekongNet Nationwide Network Coverage 1

Downloads

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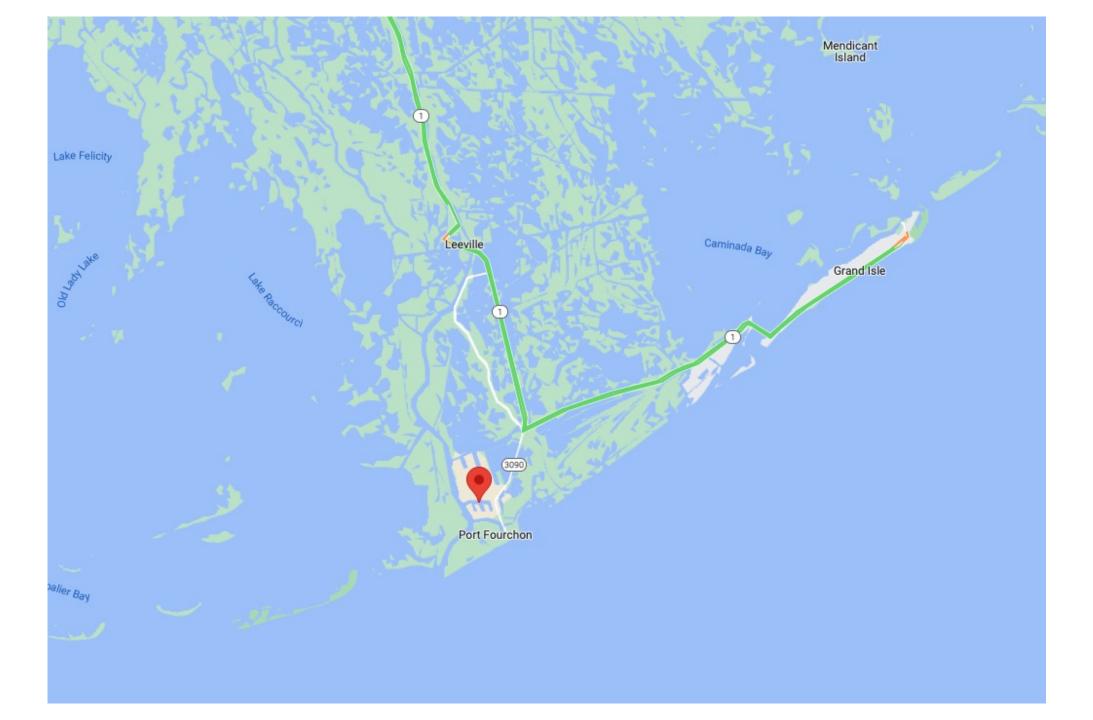
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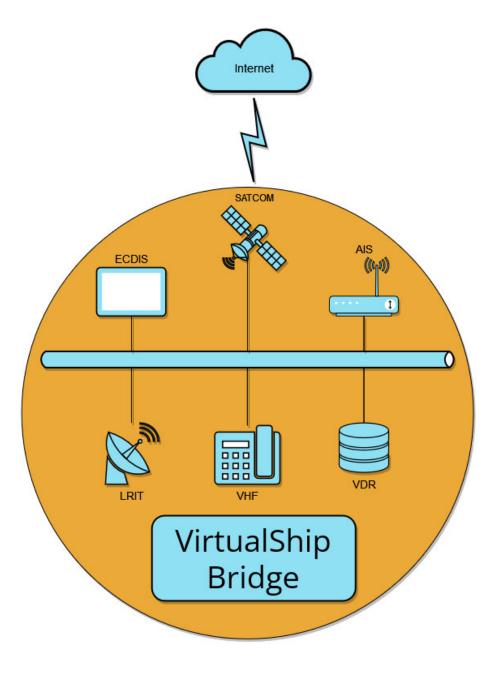
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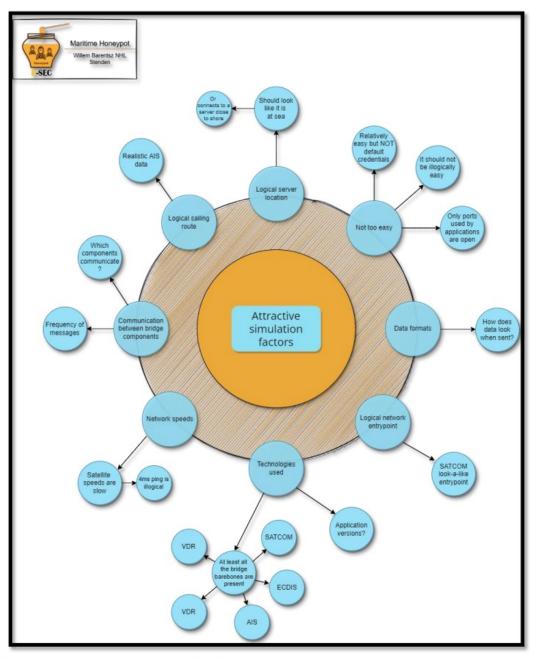


Figure 4 – Mindmap attractive simulation factors.



## Maritime Cyber Incident Simulations

- Maritime Cyber Incident simulations will be developed to enhance security awareness, train participants in correct response procedures and study human factors in these types of scenarios.
- These simulations will include:
  - Crew simulations using facilities at the Maritime Institute on Terschelling
  - Software simulation based on existing work by Serious Gaming
  - Tabletop exercises for executives, conferences, etc.
  - Large scale exercises utilising a combination of the above across multiple sites



where the participants do not notice that they are working on a hacked simulator.







Threat	Deviation of electronic position due to cyberattack on ECDIS/GPS	
Materials used	<ul> <li>Introduction exercise</li> <li>Simulator</li> <li>Ship model CNTRN43.B</li> <li>Deviation of electronic position</li> <li>Flowchart/Game Martin</li> <li>Research/observation form</li> <li>Evaluation form</li> </ul>	
Scenario research questions	<ul> <li>Observations: (What do we want to investigate and why?)</li> <li>The effect of actions in whether or not to register deviation to navigation equipment such as the ECDIS. Research questions: <ul> <li>How long did it take until an anomaly was detected</li> <li>What is the primary reaction to this anomaly?</li> <li>What is the secondary response to this anomaly?</li> <li>Is there awareness that equipment may have been hacked?</li> <li>How does this awareness come about</li> <li>If there is awareness that the equipment is infected with a virus what is the primary response?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



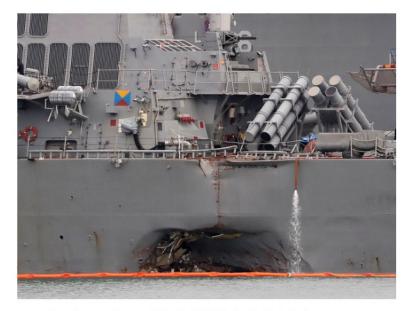
#### ELIZABETH WEISE | USA TODAY



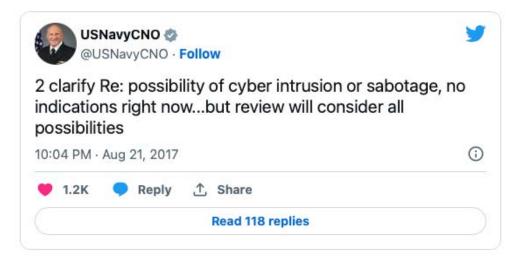
Show Caption ~

SAN FRANCISCO — Was a hack attack behind two separate instances of Navy ships colliding with commercial vessels in the past two months? Experts say it's highly unlikely, but not impossible — and the Navy is investigating.

Rumors on Twitter and in computer security circles have been swirling about the possibility that cyber attacks or jamming were involved in the collisions. Speculation has been fueled by four accidents involving a U.S. warship this year, two of which were fatal, the highly-computerized nature of modern maritime navigation, and heightened concern over global cyberattacks — especially attacks against U.S. government entities.

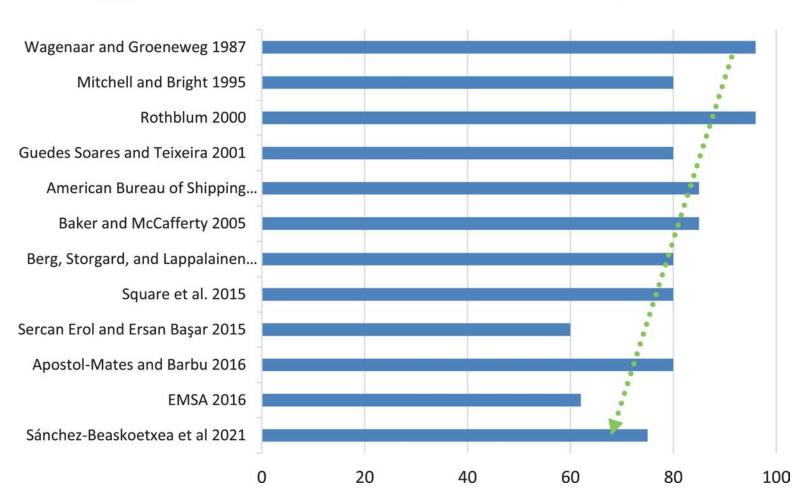


The damaged port aft hull of USS John S. McCain, is seen while docked at Singapore's Changi naval base on Aug. 22, 2017 in ... **Show more**  $\checkmark$ WONG MAYE-E, AP





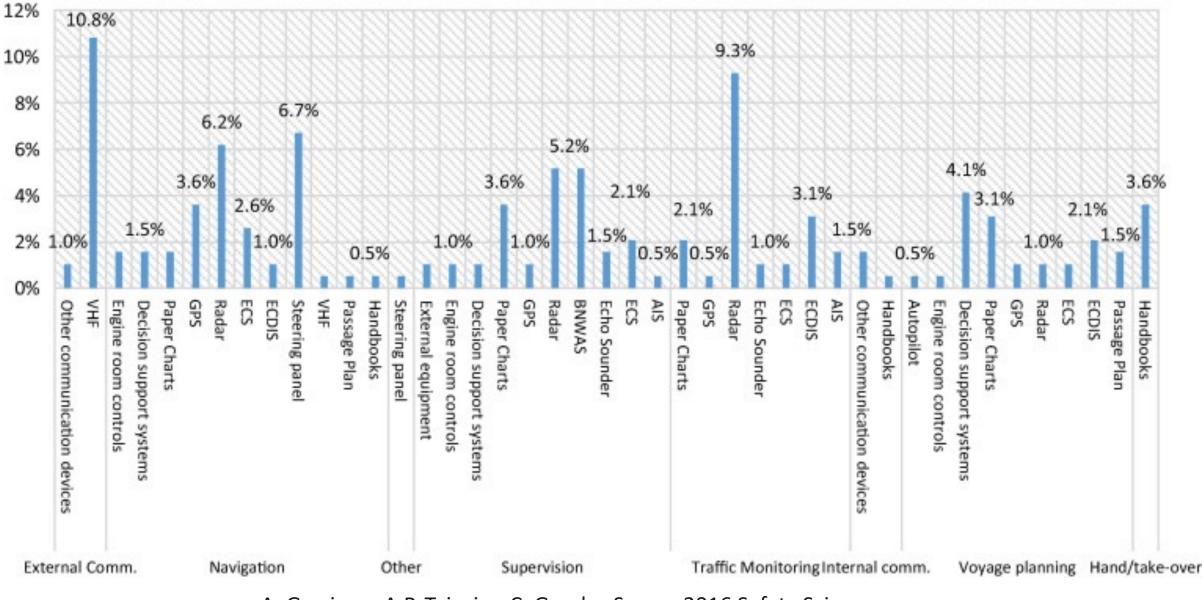
### Percentage of human error in marine accidents according to several authors.



PERCENTAGE OF HUMAN ERROR IN MARINE ACCIDENTS

Javier Sánchez-Beaskoetxea\_et al 2021

### Percentage of technical equipment involved, divided by task error category.



A. Graziano, A.P. Teixeira, C. Guedes Soares 2016 Safety Science



# Questions



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