



A Journey Down the Road of College & University Breaches

"A Review of Recent University & College Case Studies, Lessons Learned,
and How to Mitigate Being a Victim"

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Brig Gen Charly Shugg, USAF, Retired



- Partner | Chief Operating Officer, Sylint Group
- Executive Director, Global Consortium for Counter Cyber Terrorism (GC³T)
- Last USAF position, key to establishing Air Force Cyber Command and United States Cyber Command
- Graduate United States Air Force Academy with three advanced degrees including Master of Science in National Security Strategy



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Question of the Day

How did we come up with the company name “*Sylint*” and what does it mean?

- **Sylint** (sī-lənt): from the Greek variant “**Syl-**” meaning “together” and the suffix “**-int**” comes from the variant meaning “information”; usually associated with secret information regarding the enemy or about hostile activities, or “**intelligence**”



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Sylint Group, Inc

Incident Response, Cyber Security, Digital Data Forensics (SRQ 1999)

- Clients - Fortune 500, Gov't, Public, Private, Regional, LEO
 - *Includes large State University Systems & smaller Private Colleges*

Unique Corporate Qualifications/Insight

- 1 of 10 Companies Authorized to Investigate Card Breaches (PCI) in USA for VISA, MasterCard, AMEX: PCI Forensic Investigators (PFI)
- 1 of 16 Companies Accredited by National Security Agency (NSA) and NSCAP for Cyber Incident Response Assistance (CIRA)
- National Security Agency, DoD, FBI – Intelligence/Investigative Methodologies



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Insight from National Security Viewpoint

“Know your enemy and know yourself and you can fight a hundred battles without disaster...” Sun Tzu

- “Know your enemy...” = **Intent**
- “...know yourself...” = **Concept of Operations** (Open Environment of Academia - free exchange of ideas, sharing and collaboration around data) & **Valuable Assets** (Crown Jewels)



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“Know your Enemy” Bottom Line

Universities and Colleges are Very Lucrative Targets for Nation State Actors, Organized Crime and Activists!

#2 Target for Cyber Attacks



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“Know Yourself”

Dynamic Group of Users (Small Cities)

- Incoming freshmen
- Outgoing seniors
- Additional Alumni
- Visiting professors

Multi-role Users (many “personas”)

- Multi-role faculty
- Graduate Assistants

Fascination with Leading Technology

- Cloud based data repositories
- Mobile devices
- WiFi (public and unprotected wireless access points)



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“Know Yourself”

Repository of Sensitive Information

- Access to thousands of individual's SSN, bank accounts, credit cards, health information, financial data
- Personal and biographical information
- Valuable research projects for government or private sector

Siloed Multiple networks and Systems

- In-house developed systems possibly outdated

Lack of community security awareness

- Shared passwords
- Not protecting credentials



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Has Your College or University Ever Had a Cyber Breach?

Yes

A

No

B

Do Not Know

C

Do Not Want
to Say

D

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Case Study #1 (Website Attack / Data Compromise)

Attack Description / Impact / Ramifications

Lessons Learned / Mitigation Strategies

SCCE™

Society of Corporate
Compliance and Ethics

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Case Study #2 (Email Attack/Data Compromise)

Attack Description / Impact / Ramifications

Lessons Learned / Mitigation Strategies



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Case Study #3 (3rd Party Vendor Access Attack)

Attack Description / Impact / Ramifications

Lessons Learned / Mitigation Strategies



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Case Study #4 (Proxy / Mining & Exploitation)

Attack Description / Impact / Ramifications

Lessons Learned / Mitigation Strategies



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Case Study #5 (Denial of Services Attack/Extorsion)

Attack Description / Impact / Ramifications

Lessons Learned / Mitigation Strategies



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How Does Your Institution's Senior Staff Rate the Importance of Cyber Security Awareness

Top Issue - Discussed
Regularly

Minor Issue - Rarely
Discussed

Reactive Issue Only -
Discussed When Impacted

Not an Issue - Never
Discussed

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What is your responsibility?

AWARENESS

Proactive ↔ *Reactive*



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Proactive

KPI Monitoring/Communication - (Make it a “Team” Risk Issue)

Establish a communications pathway for early identification of potential risks

- What gets measured and communicated gets attention
- Facilitates awareness, collaboration and cooperation outside of IT

Methodology to regularly verify & communicate status

- Critical System(s) status
- Basic hygiene control & monitoring standards



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Do You Think Your Senior Staff Would Be Interested In Qtr/Semi-Annual Cyber Security KPI results?

Yes - Interested and Demonstrates Due Diligence

Maybe - Would be a New Concept

No - Either No Interest or Lack of Understanding with Issue

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Reactive *“Equifax Example”*

Timeline of Events

Could have it been avoided?

Who was at fault?

Does your organization have a “fire alarm” and if so, who can pull it?



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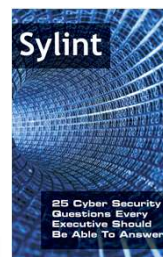
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Cyber Security “Awareness”

From the Top...Due Diligence is the requirement & is expected:

Knowledge of Operations/Cyber Security Measures versus Cyber Security Threat/Impact

For a free hard copy of this pamphlet, please email me at cshugg@usinfosec.com with your name, title and physical mailing address.



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Reality

*Universities and Colleges are Very
Difficult to Protect...but it Can be Done!*



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Where Does Your University / College Stand Regarding Cyber Security Due Diligence?

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