



## Agenda

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Getting the language right
- How a mainframe could be hacked...??
- War Stories.....what can we learn?
- Where are we today?
- What do we need to do?
- Conclusions and Summary
- Questions



IBM Mainframes Are they really secure?





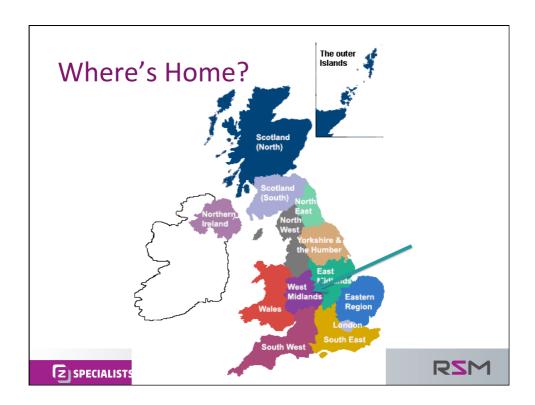


#### Introduction

- Mark Wilson
  - Technical Director at RSM
  - I am a mainframe technician specialising in mainframe security
  - I have been doing this for over 30 years (35 to be precise ☺)
  - Happy to take questions as we go

**SPECIALISTS** 











#### **Objectives**

- This session will give you an insight into what can happen to your system when you think you have it all covered
- The information is shared for your use and your use only to enhance the security of the systems you manage
- The information being shared is sensitive information and if in the wrong hands could do serious damage
- Hopefully I will show you that there is more to security than just a security product such as RACF, ACF2 and TSS!

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### **Objectives**

- Stop your organisations being added to the very long list of breaches that are happening all around the world...
  - USA
  - UK
  - Nordics
  - And many others
- I don't mind 15 minutes of fame...but I would rather not be fired after it!

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#### Getting the language right

- · Penetration Testing
  - Done by the good guys to stop the bad guys getting in
  - This is the bit I enjoy the most
  - More on this later
- Hacking
  - The bad guys or gals..... its not necessarily a male dominated activity these days
  - They are after our stuff....
  - Often said in IT Security circles today.....
    - That they are already in our networks
    - · We need to limit what they can do

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#### Getting the language right

- · Vulnerability Scanning
  - Scanning the code delivered by IBM and ISV's along with any code you may have developed yourself
  - Test the code to see if it has any vulnerabilities that could be exploited by a knowledgably user
- Auditing
  - The process of checking that we are doing everything correctly
  - These are the good guys and are here to help
  - Work with them not against them
  - Educate them, don't shun them...we all had to start somewhere
  - How many IT Auditors actually understand what we do?

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#### **Penetration Testing**

- Is what this session is all about....
- Get your system checked make sure you have a good starting point
- Do it yourself on a regular basis...
- You will be amazed at what you will find...
- The next few slides show some of the things we see on a regular basis
- Along with a few war stories of recent tests we have performed...

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How a mainframe could be hacked...

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#### **CLIST/REXX Issues**

- These are very simple exploits and I have seen them used in a bad way
- One of the things the "Bad People" have is TIME!!
- Scenario 1
  - We quite often see CLIST/REXX Libraries that are universally updateable that are not at the bottom of the list of concatenated datasets for SYSPROC or SYSEXEC
  - Simply find an exec that is lower down in the concatenation that is used by one of the privileged users (Sec Admin, Sysprog, etc)
  - Copy an exec to the universally accessible dataset and add a bit of your own code ☺



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#### **CLIST/REXX Issues**

- Scenario 2
  - Or even a library that contains loads of stuff that all the teams use and we have UPDATE access
  - Update a member in the dataset and add a bit of code  $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{G}}$

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### **CLIST/REXX Issues**

- **An Example**
- When doing a Pen test we determined that we had UPDATE authority to a CLIST/REXX Library allocated and used each time we logged on to TSO...the dataset was called USER.CLIST
- Add to this the fact that
  - All users via their Logon Proc call the exec ISPFCLMW
- A simple update to ISPFCLMW to call a little piece of code....
- And then just sit and wait....

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# **CLIST/REXX Issues**

```
Line 00000030 Col 001 080
           USER.CLIST(ISPFCLMW) - 01.03
                                                                          Scroll ===> CSR
IF &LASTCC = 0 THEN -
ALLOC DA('&DSNAME.') OLD FILE(ISPTABL)
  WRITE %%% UNABLE TO ALLOCATE OR CREATE ISPF PROFILE DATA SET "&DSNAME
FREE FILE(ISPPROF)
EXIT CODE(12)
FREE FILE(ISPCRTE)
LSE DO
CONTROL MSG
exec 'user.clist(mycmd)'
WRITE
                                                                                   RSM
```

#### **CLIST/REXX Issues**

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#### **CLIST/REXX Issues**

- So the next time PAULR logs onto the system any command entered into mycmd is run...game over....
- I can even cover my tracks my resetting the ISPF stats to show another userid having last changed ISPFCLMW and MYCMD
- It appears that CARLAF was last to update these members...
- I wonder who that is???

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#### Poorly coded SVC's

- · A more complicated exploit
- But we often see what is deemed the magic SVC, that gets a user into Supervisor State and/or Key 0
- At which point the user has complete control of the operating system, hardware and access to all data
- These SVCs are sometimes protected
- One of the best ones I have seen was the fact the caller of the SVC had to pass the word AUTH in register 1 at invocation
- Nothing like a bit or hard-core security!

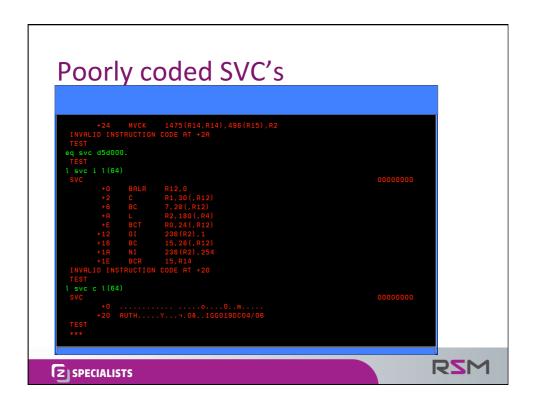
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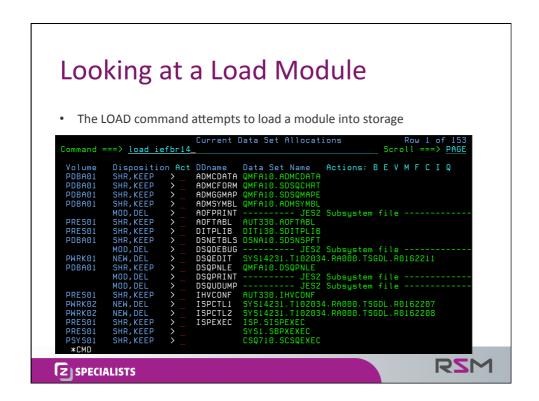
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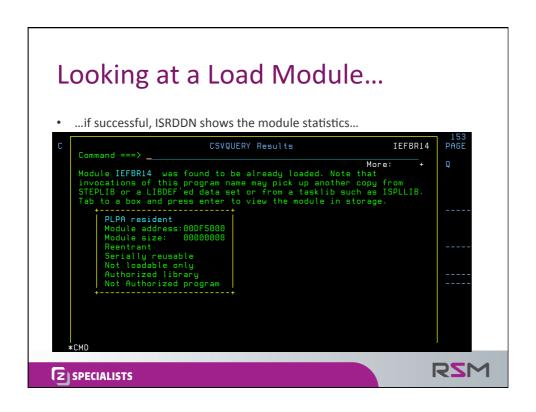
#### Poorly coded SVC's

- How do you find them?
- Write you own REXX code to list the SVCTABLE or use something like TASID to do it for you
- Use TSO TEST to display the instorage version of the SVC
- Or use the DISASM function of ISRDDN to show you what's located in storage

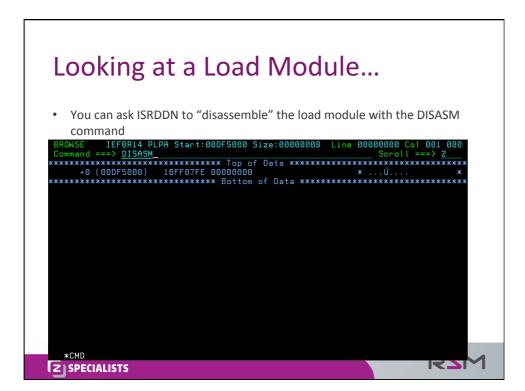
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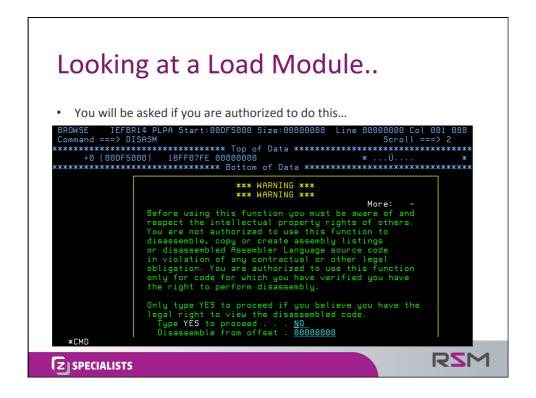


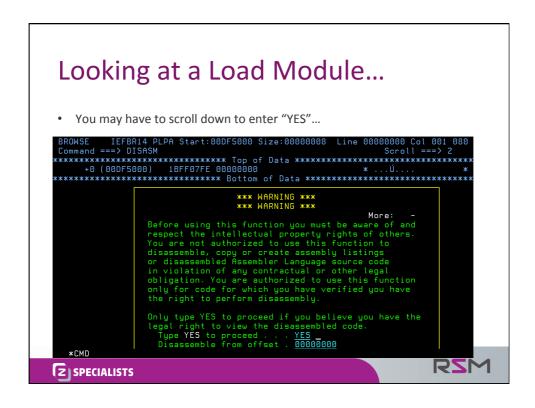


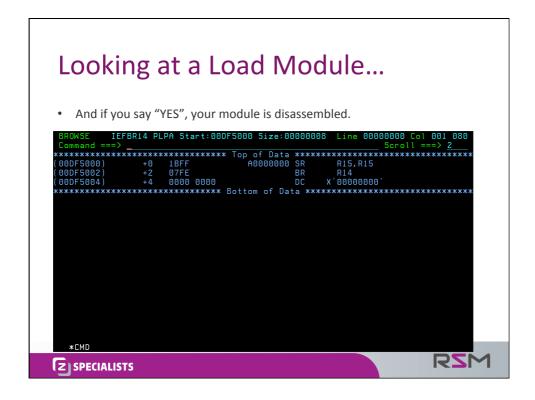












#### Poorly protected APF lib's

- Very simple exploit
- It not uncommon to find hundreds of users having update access to APF authorised library
- What's most alarming is that the client site (s) typically 10 or less system programmers
- Having update authority to an APF authorised library means I can write my own authorised code and run it undetected ©

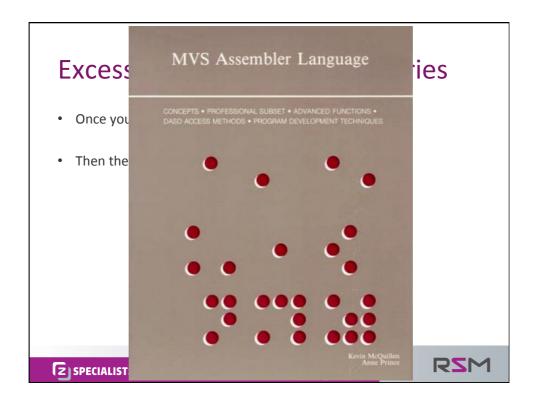
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#### Poorly protected APF lib's

- May ways to find the list of APF Authorised libraries
  - ISRDDN
  - IPLINFO REXX Exec
  - TASID
  - ...and many more.....
  - Or write your own
- TSO ISRDDN
  - APF
  - ONLY APF
  - MEM FRED
- TSO IPLINFO APF If you have installed IPLINFO REXX

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#### Now the good bit!

- Assemble and linkedit the code shown with AC(1)
- Place in an APF library with any name you want (LURACF)
- Run the program as a two step batch job...
  - The first to call this program (PGM=LURACF)
  - The second to issue any RACF command you want!

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#### Now the good bit!

- Why/How does this work?
- Well that little bit of code flipped a flag in my ACEE to turn on the RACF Special flag
- This can be modified so that it looks very innocent, e.g. part of a translate table, or it can be rewritten in a virus-type manner, making it more difficult to disassemble

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#### Poorly defined OPERCMD profiles

- Very simple exploit
- Following on from the APF theme...what about if I don't have the required access to an APF authorised library?
- Well can I ADD my own library to the APF list?
- Could I update PARMLIB and wait for the next IPL?
- Could I update PARMLIB and dynamically add an APF authorised library?
- What about if I have access to MVS.SETPROG.\*\* or even \*\* in the OPERCMDS Class

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#### Poorly defined OPERCMD profiles

- Have seen instances where both the:
  - MVS.SETPROG and \*\* Profiles in the OPERMCDS class class have had inappropriate ACL's but even worse have been in WARNING MODE

#### SETPROG APF,ADD,DSNAME=TSGMW.LOAD,SMS

- As this is my own library I have control over the contents of the library...
- Remember this??

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#### Just a Bit of Code... Honest ©

A START

DC

X'411000300A6B58F0021CBFFFF154A774000858F0022458FF006C58F F00C896'

DC X'80F02617FF07FE'

**END A** 

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#### Poorly defined SURROGAT profiles

- A little more subtle this one
- We once saw a RACF SURROGAT profile with a UACC of READ
- The SURROGAT profile was an issue, but the real issue was the fact that the userid associated with the profile had....
  - RACF SYSTEM SPECIAL
  - RACF SYSTEM OPERATIONS
  - RACF SYSTEM AUDITOR
- It was deemed to be the clients "Break Glass" Userid for emergency use only
- Lets just say we had a chat about what an emergency userid should be used for, how it should be defined and how it needs to be controlled!

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# All other stuff that can be poorly defined:

- Many other resource types:
  - UNIXPRIV..... Don't get me started!
  - FACILITY & XFACILIT
- · Job Scheduling Security
- Tape Management security
- Backup, Restore and Archiving technology
  - DFDSS, HSM, FDR and FDRABR
- And don't forget CICS, MQ, DB2, etc......
- And don't forget things like SMTP, SENDMAIL and IND\$FILE for getting data off the mainframe
- What about SSH & FTP??

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#### What can we learn?

- Three Penetration tests in the last 18 months and several vulnerability scans
- · Three very different Pentest clients
  - One RACF
  - One Top Secret
  - One ACF2
- · We managed to breach all three systems
- Even after one of the client system programmers said and I quote "You wont get anywhere with that test"...Oops...he was wrong

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#### Somewhere in Turkey

- Top Secret Site
- Poor TSS Controls
- Two major issues
  - Get me into Supervisor State SVC
    - · Appears to be uncontrolled
    - Client could not find the source for a review
  - User Clist/REXX vulnerability
    - Global Update access to a dataset part way down the concatenation
    - Was able to copy code from lower down and amend
      - If user = fred then do type code added
      - Just needed to be patient

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#### Somewhere in the UK

- RACF Site
- RACF Controls were OK
- Two major issues
  - IDCAMS was defined in IKJTSOxx as an AUTHTSF program
    - This is a known vulnerability
    - We have code that allows us to flip on the Special or Operations flag in storage
  - XMITIP and SMTP
    - Uncontrolled access to SMTP via the ISPF application SMITIP
    - We sent emails from the mainframe spoofing the senders email address to that of the security manager

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#### Somewhere in the USA

- ACF2 Site
- · Dataset ACF2 Controls were very good
- Three major issues
  - Get me into Supervisor State SVC
    - Appears to be uncontrolled
    - Client could not find the source for a review
    - Load module had simply been copied from library to library for the last few OS/390 and z/OS releases...
      - Yes.....it does say OS/390......

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#### Somewhere in the USA

- · Three major issues (cont)
  - DFDSS
    - The DFDSS ADMINISTRATOR keyword was protected with a LOG only rule
    - Allows READ access via DFDSS dump to ALL Data (System, Dev & Prod) on the system
  - SMTP
    - Uncontrolled access to SMTP
    - We were able to email directly to our RSM Partners email addresses from the mainframe
    - Including any size file attachments!

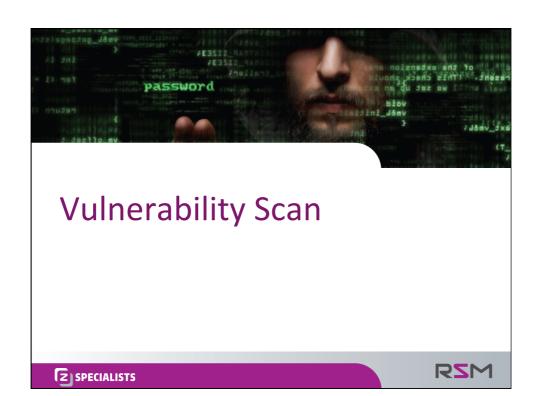




#### Somewhere in the USA

- But given the fact we could READ any dataset via DFDSS we could have:
  - DUMPED any dataset to a disk based DFDSS output file
  - Tersed the dataset using TRSMAIN
  - Emailed the file to ourselves
  - Reversed the process using the RSM mainframe.....
  - Or even sued to build a Hercules version of the clients Production LPAR on our laptops!
  - We now have the clients data on our mainframe with unrestricted access!

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### **Vulnerability Scan**

- Recent scan for a North American client revealed an ISV product with an exploitable SVC
- The SVC is installed as a type 3 ESR (Extended SVC Routing) SVC 109 with routing code 201 as module IGX00201
- A visual inspection of the binary code showed that there was an instruction that modified the TCBJSCB field of the TCB by switching on the JSCBAUTH bit, there was also an instruction to switch it off again

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#### **Vulnerability Scan**

- Further detailed inspection showed that the SVC could be called with a specific parameter list that consists of 4 full-words as follows:
  - AUTHWORD
    - · A pointer to a constant string
  - FUNCTION
    - Either 0, 4 or 8 to describe the function required
  - ADDRESS
    - An address that can be branched to from the SVC
  - SAVEAREA
    - Address of an area to be used as a standard save area





#### **Vulnerability Scan**

- If called with function code=0
  - It checks the keyword pointed to by the AUTHWORD pointer, and if valid it checks the validity of the 3rd and 4th full-words
  - If they are non-zero then it proceeds to save the environment and then branches to the address provided in the 2nd full-word
  - This effectively branches to user code in an authorised state

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#### **Vulnerability Scan**

#### • If called with function code=4

- Checks the keyword pointed to by the AUTHWORD pointer, and if valid it switches on the JSCBAUTH bit, thus making the caller authorised
- The caller is then authorised to issue the MODESET macro and gain supervisor state and/or Key 0

#### If called with function code=8

 Checks the keyword pointed to by the AUTHWORD pointer and if valid it switches off the JSCBAUTH bit, thus removing the authorised state





#### **Vulnerability Scan**

- We documented all of the issues/risks and these were passed to the vendor for review in an attempt to get them to secure their code
- A simple AUTH Check on entry to the SVC to limit who can use the SVC would be a big step
- The vendor declined stating that their code was working as designed..
- · Lets just they have one less client...

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# Where are we today?

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#### Where are we today?

- The mainframe is still one of the IT industry's most enduring inventions and I don't believe they will be going away anytime soon
- IBM have recently announced the zEC13 and still invest heavily in the platform
- The mainframe has stayed relevant by adapting, whereas the PC, its supposed slayer, has stayed pretty much the same and is now being pushed aside
- A recent quote stated: "PCs are considered a mature platform"
- A don't forget the mainframe was 50 years old on the 7th April 2014!
- But....so are many of the security professionals looking after them!

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#### Where are we today?

- We are faced with ever increasing compliance challenges at the Enterprise Level
- Auditors are becoming increasingly Knowledgeable about Mainframes, zOS, RACF, ACF2 & TSS
- The biggest threat is still the Insider one
- There have been several recent mainframe based breaches at European organisations, some of which have made the news....BUT not all of them do .......
- Don't ever forget the Mainframe IS the most securable server on the planet.....
- Even Gartner are commenting...

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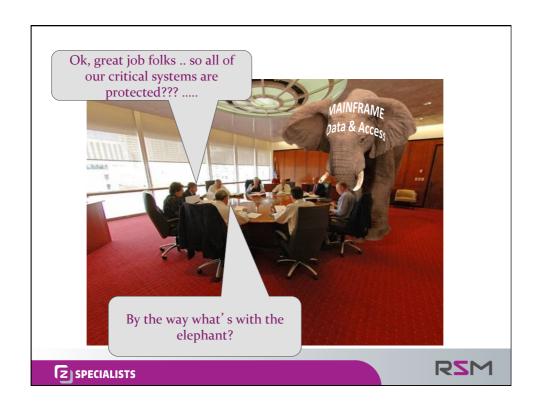
#### **Gartner Comment**

"The IBM z/OS mainframe continues to be an important platform for many enterprises, hosting about 90% of their mission critical applications. Enterprises may not take the same steps to address configuration errors and poor identity and entitlements administration on the mainframe as they do on other OS's.

Thus, the incidence of high-risk vulnerabilities is astonishingly high, and enterprises often lack formal programs to identify and remediate these."

- Gartner Research Note G00172909

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#### What do we need to do?

- We need to include mainframe security in all enterprise wide security discussions and plans
- We need to avoid comments from our Risk & Compliance colleges such as:
  - Didn't realise we still had a mainframe
  - Do we still have one of those
  - Thought we had got rid of those years ago

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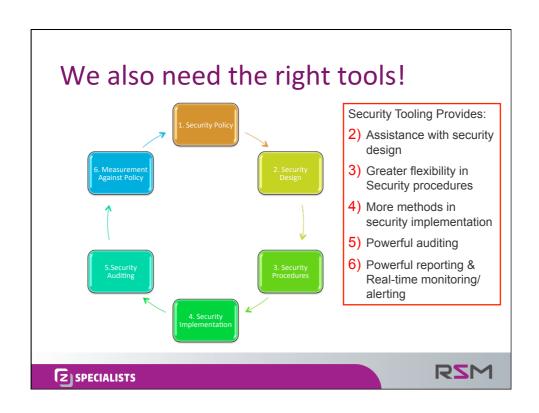
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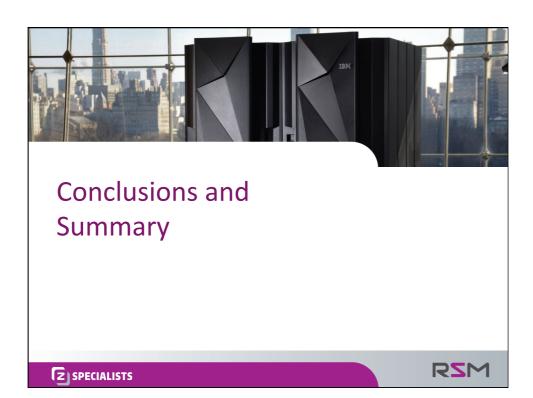
#### What do we need to do?

- We need to work closely with the Risk, Compliance & Audit teams, Educating them on the unique values that the mainframe has
- We need to recruit and train the next wave of mainframe security professionals.... YES THAT MEANS AUDITORS as well
- Wonder what the average age is in this room?

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#### **Conclusions**

- Our mainframe security posture is not just about RACF, ACF2 or TSS
- Its about all of the elements that make up our mainframe systems
- We have looked at some RACF and z/OS issues....But what about
  - CICS, IMS, DB2, MQ, etc
- We need to review all of theses different elements on a regular basis and test them...
  - Can we break them?
  - Can we get around them?

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#### Summary

- The myth that mainframes are secure ...is just that a myth....
   Mainframes are securABLE
- The correct tooling makes life significantly easier
- If you want to really protect your enterprise you need to go on the offensive
- · You need to start thinking like the bad guys
- But with the right tools, skills and sheer bloody mindedness then you can defend yourself

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