

CFTC Technology Advisory Committee **Cybersecurity**

ANDRE MCGREGOR – GLOBAL HEAD OF SECURITY | TLDR

CRYPTO HACKS

Top Cryptocurrency Exchange Hacks

More than 980,000 bitcoins have been stolen from exchanges, which would be worth more than \$15 billion at then exchange rates

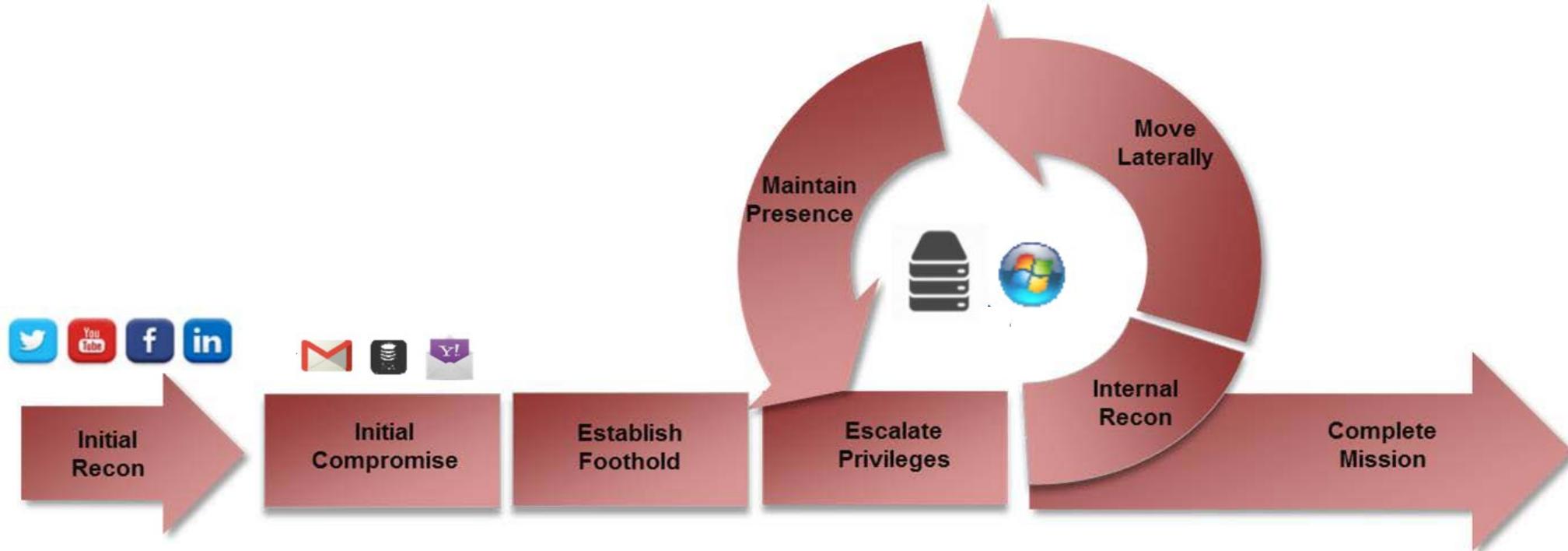
Mt Gox	2014	\$700,000,000	(850,000 BTC)
Bitfinex	2016	\$72,000,000	(120,000 BTC)
Nicehash	2017	\$60,000,000	(4,000 BTC)
Coincheck	2018	\$534,800,000	(523,000,000 NEM)
BitGrail	2018	\$195,000,000	(17,000,000 NANO)
Coinrail	2018	\$40,000,000	(Various Tokens)
Zaif	2018	\$60,000,000	(5,996 BTC)

What Happened? Crypto Hacks Explained...

- ❖ “Employees failed to protect the private keys of its wallet where it stored all the customer's deposits”
- ❖ “Hackers sent a malicious file to exchange employees. System administrator opened the file on the machine that had access to the exchange's BTC wallet”
- ❖ “All deposits on the exchange were stored in one wallet”
- ❖ “Exchange owners filed a lawsuit against one of exchange's employees, claiming that its hack was an inside job”
- ❖ “Hackers saw the small exchange as a “ripe target” specifically for its insecure *altcoins*”

Vectors of Attack

- ❖ Email, Email, Email!
- ❖ Email is the number one threat vector for all intrusions
- ❖ 90% of intrusions still come from email attacks



DIGITAL ASSET CUSTODY

Why Custody Regulations Are Important

- ❖ Many consumers blindly trust hot wallets based on the security of a few startup founders who were thrust into a multi-million/billion dollar company for the first time
- ❖ More savvy crypto-philes will keep a hardware wallet with them while traveling
- ❖ Then there are the scraps of paper, printouts, and polaroid cameras
 - The Winklevoss twins once cut up a paper printout of their private key to store in banks around the country
- ❖ Exchanges rotate wallets between safety deposit locations creating continuous physical risk

Custody Limitations

- ❖ Few jurisdictions have codified regulations specific to the crypto market
 - Bermuda, Jersey, Malta, Lichtenstein: Crypto friendly, mature regulations, strong financial markets, tax incentives
 - USA: Develop New Guidance or Use Existing (e.g. Financial and Segregation Interpretation No. 10 with Respect to Third Party Custodial Accounts)
- ❖ Limited standards and best practices
 - Crypto Currency Security Standard (CCSS)
- ❖ Insurance Coverage
 - Hot (Captive-Self) vs Warm (FI-Crime) vs Cold (Specie-Marine)
 - Insurance Tower Ceilings - \$50m / \$500m / \$2bn

Traditional Insurance Risks

❖ Technical

- Hacking
- Software vulnerabilities
- Social engineering / Impersonation

❖ Collusion/Counterparty

- Third party loss of funds
- Client fraud

❖ Environmental

- Earthquake, Flooding, Fire & other “Acts of God”

❖ Accidental

- Loss of private key
- Hardware/software failure or degradation

Crypto-specific Insurance Risks

- ❖ Private key generation, entropy, and destruction
- ❖ Supply chain security for hardware
- ❖ Pure custodian vs shared custodian
 - Multi-signature / Shamir Shared Secret sharding
- ❖ Wallet controls for transaction sizes, velocity, address whitelisting
- ❖ Source code validation and pen tests
- ❖ Storage and retrieval of backup keys (where appropriate)

CRYPTO CURRENCY SECURITY STANDARD

	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III
Key/Seed Generation	✓		
Wallet Creation	✓	✓	✓
Key Storage	✓		
Key Usage	✓	✓	
Key Compromise Policy	✓	✓	
Keyholder Grant/Revoke Policies & Procedures	✓	✓	✓
Third-Party Security Audits/Pentests	✓		
Data Sanitization Policy	✓	✓	✓
Proof of Reserve	✓		
Audit Logs	✓	✓	

Key Generation

<u>Process</u>	<u>Least Secure</u> ▼	<u>Most Secure</u> ▲
Key Creation	Keys are issued to the custodian by an external party	Keys are created by the custodian themselves
Key Creation Methodology	Unknown key creation methodology	Key creation methodology is validated prior to use
Deterministic Random Bit Generation (DRBG)	Keys created with non-compliant DRBG	Keys created with NIST compliant DRBG or NRBG
Key Entropy	Keys do not have sufficient / unknown level of entropy	Keys are created on a system with sufficient entropy

Wallet Creation

<u>Process</u>	<u>Least Secure</u> ▼	<u>Most Secure</u> ▲
Unique Address per Transaction	Wallets / Addresses are reused	Unique addresses are generated for every transaction
Multiple Keys for Signing	Keys have no multiple signature or sharding	Transactions require signatures from 2 or more keys
Redundant Key(s) for Recovery	No X of Y key redundancy	Redundant keys are assigned for recovery purposes (e.g. 2 of 3 3 of 5)
Deterministic Wallets	Wallets are not deterministic	Addresses are assigned deterministically
Geographic Distribution of Keys	All keys are in one single location	Keys are distributed across multiple separate locations
Organizational Distribution of Keys	All keys are with the same person or same group	Keys are distributed across multiple organizational entities

Key Storage

<u>Process</u>	<u>Least Secure</u> ▼	<u>Most Secure</u> ▲
Primary Keys Are Stored Encrypted	Keys are stored in plain text	Key is stored with strong encryption
Backup Key Exists	No key backups exist	Key backup is stored in a separate location from the primary key
Backup Key Has Environmental Protection	Backup keys are vulnerable to environmental damage or stored electronically without protection	Key backup is protected from environmental damage including EMP
Backup Key Is Access Controlled	Access controls are limited or non-existent	Key backup is protected by access controls preventing unauthorized access (e.g. safe / vault)
Backup Key Has Tamper Evident Seal	No tamper seal to identify compromise	Key backup employs tamper-evident seal
Backup Key Is Encrypted	Backup key is not encrypted or encrypted similar to primary key	Key backup is stored with strong encryption equal/better than that used to protect primary key

Key Usage

<u>Process</u>	<u>Least Secure</u> 	<u>Most Secure</u> 
Key Access Requires Multiple Multi-Factor Authentication	Access to key does not require sufficient factors of authentication for security	Access to key requires an identifier and at least three: password, MFA token, in-person verification, IP whitelisting, physical key, countersigning approval
Keys Are Only Used In A Trusted Environment	Keys are used on public/untrusted machines or in untrusted places	Keys are only used in trusted environments
Key Holder KYC Checks	No KYC checks are conducted on key holders	Key holders have proper completed KYC checks
Key Holder ID Checks	ID verification is incomplete or not established for one or more key holders	All key holders have identity verified
Key Holder Background Checks	Background checks are incomplete or not established for one or more key holders	All key holders have undergone background checks
Spends Are Verified Before Signing	No transaction verifications or whitelists are performed	Verification of fund destinations and amounts are performed prior to key usage
No Two Keys Are Used On One Device	Multiple keys for a single asset used on one device	No two keys belonging to the same wallet are present on any one device
DRBG Compliance	Signatures use a non-compliant DRBG and may have a “dirty signature” vulnerability	The ‘k’ values in digital signatures are created using a NIST compliant DRBG

Key / Keyholder Grant - Revoke - Compromise Protocols

<u>Process</u>	<u>Least Secure</u> ▼	<u>Most Secure</u> ▲
Key Compromise Protocol	No staff has the necessary knowledge, experience, training required to rebuild keys and wallets when necessary	Written procedures exist for each staff role to rebuild keys and wallets in order to remove risk of compromise
Key Compromise Protocol Training & Rehearsals	No training is performed	Regular training is provided to keyholders to ensure they are prepared to invoke protocols when required
Keyholder Grant / Revoke Procedures & Checklist	No policy / procedures in place or permission changes are ad hoc through staffer with “most knowledge”	Written procedures exist and is followed for all on/offboarding. Checklist outlines all permissions for each role in the system
Grant / Revoke Requests Are Made Via Authenticated Communication Channels	Requests occur on multiple channels with limited verification	All grant/revoke requests are made through authenticated and authorized communication channels
Grant / Revoke Audit Trail	No audit trail	Audit trail records for every change of access including who performed the change

Operations

<u>Process</u>	<u>Least Secure</u> ▼	<u>Most Secure</u> ▲
Security Audit / Pen tests	No proof of a security program aligned with any cyber security frameworks	Established security program, dedicated security staff, and external security audit conducted regularly
Data Sanitization Exists	No sanitization is performed on decommissioned media	Detailed policy covering sanitization requirements, procedures and validation steps for all media types
Data Sanitization Audit Trail For Media		Audit Trails are maintained for every piece of sanitized media
Proof of Reserve Audits	No audit has been performed	System does not hold any funds at all or ledger is public
Application Audit Logs	No audit logs exist	Full audit trail exists for all user/admin functions and actions
Backup of Audit Logs		Backups of audit data are performed regularly

THE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR

The 'Institutional' Barrier To Entry

- ❖ Institutional investors can't enter the market without insured, qualified custodians
- ❖ Insurance premiums are high and have a relatively low ceiling
- ❖ Funds, exchanges and HNWIs are forced to manage their own wallets exposing risk from hackers, thieves and other criminals
- ❖ No widely-recognized industry standards exist for digital asset custody
- ❖ Transaction liquidity for most custodians today is quite slow

The 'Institutional' Solution

- ❖ Industry standards, whether via government, consortium or SRO
- ❖ More qualified custodians with the requisite bank-level physical, cyber, and crypto security
- ❖ Global expansion of the regulated market
- ❖ Robust KYC - AML - ABC process
- ❖ Wider insurance market with continuous underwriter education

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