Darrin Barrall
David Dewey

BLACK HAT BRIEFINGS

Plug and Root, the USB Key to the Kingdom

USB peripheral devices are made by reputable manufacturers and will not misbehave by attacking the host system's operating system. This device is not one of those. This discussion will cover the creation of a USB meta-device, the discovery and exploitation of flaws in operating system device drivers. In a nutshell, plug this device into an otherwise locked system and it will automatically take control of the system.

Darrin Barrall *has a varied background in both hardware and software. While working in the hardware world, Darrin repaired electronics in devices ranging from televisions to sports arena lighting systems. After transitioning to the software world, his talents further diversified into banking applications, and recently into buffer overflows. Darrin is currently a R&D coder for the SPI Labs group at SPI Dynamics where he specializes in breaking things.*

David Dewey *is a security engineer for SPI Dynamics. David came to SPI Dynamics with five years of information security experience ranging from firewall and IDS configuration and support to application level assessment and exploit research. As a pre-sales security engineer, and member of the SPI Labs team, the renowned application security research and development group within SPI Dynamics, David assists in developing new tools and researching new threats in the realm of Web application security.*

"Plug and Root," the USB Key to the Kingdom

Darrin Barrall and David Dewey
SPI Dynamics
July 27, 2005

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Who wouldn't plug these in??



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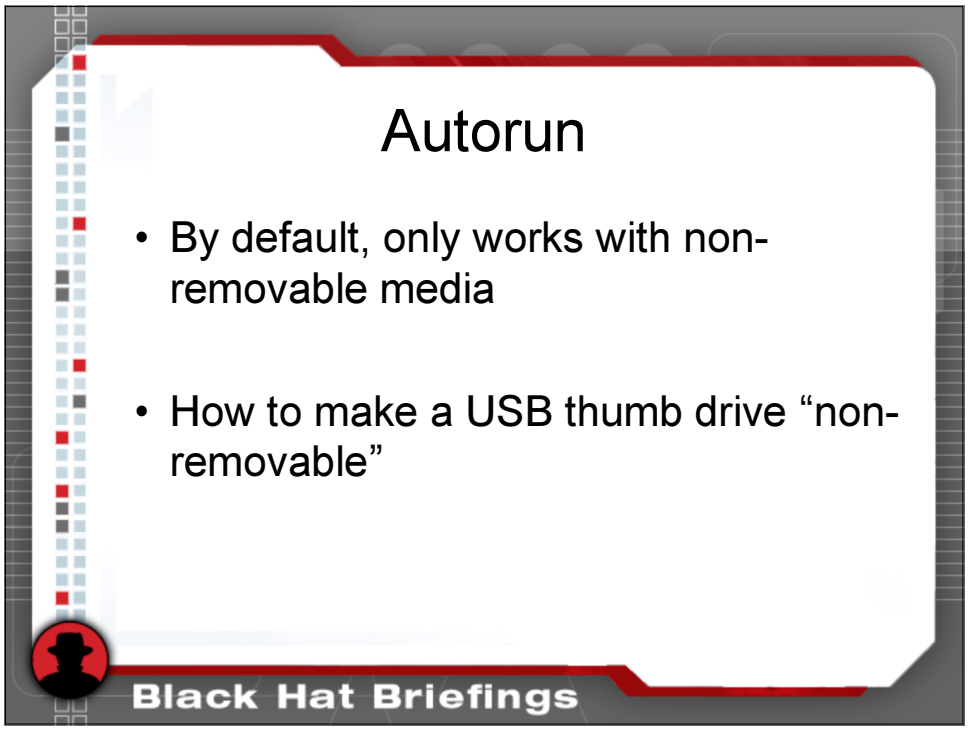
They Could Be Owning You

- Very little in the realm of USB security
  - OS level issues
    - Autorun
  - USB Protocol Enforcement
    - USB equivalent of raw sockets

Attack Vector

- Basically a hardware trojan
- Not the idea of walk-up and own (while that is a nice side effect)


Autorun
• By default, only works with non-removable media
• How to make a USB thumb drive “non-removable”
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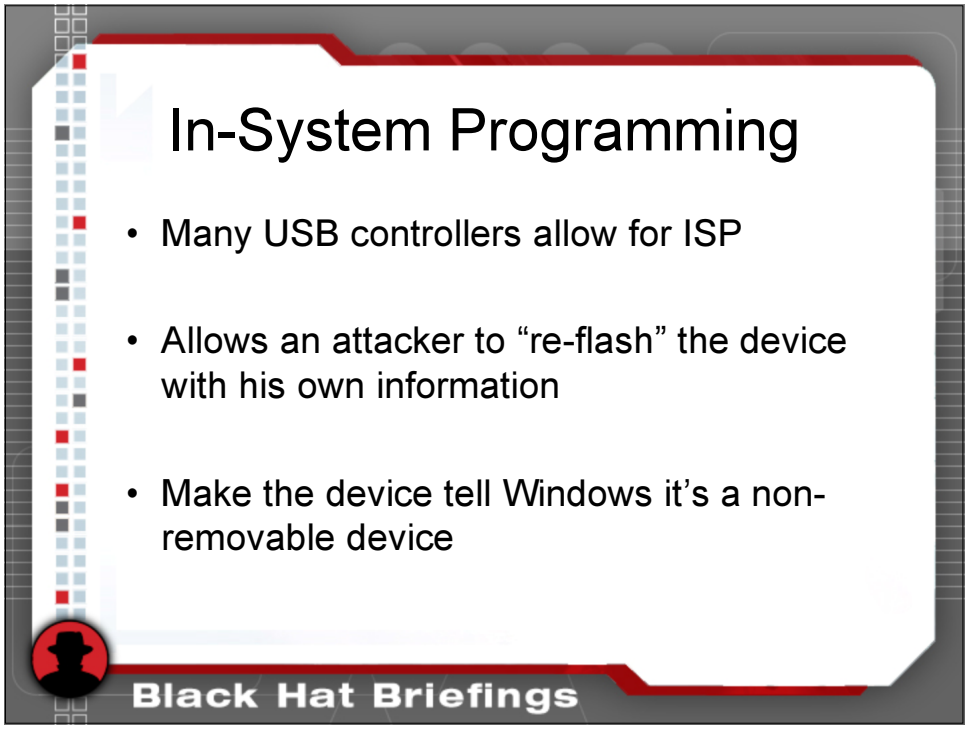
In-System Programming
• Many USB controllers allow for ISP
• Allows an attacker to “re-flash” the device with his own information
• Make the device tell Windows it’s a non-removable device
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Here's Why this Attack is Lame

- Attack is in user space
  - Yes, there are plenty of ways to escalate privileges, but it sure would be nice to not have to do them.
- Autorun must be enabled
- USB protocol is not enforced anywhere
  - Let's target that.

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Peripherals / VID + PID

- Many preconfigured USB controllers available on the market
  - Philips
  - Intel
  - Etc.
- SL811 – Allows for the configuration of all pieces of the USB pie – the proverbial raw socket

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Host

- USB is like TCP
  - Built on a state machine
  - Believes that it will get what it wants

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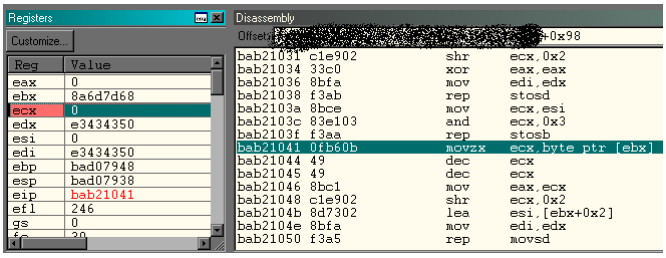
Windows Expecting Us to Be Nice



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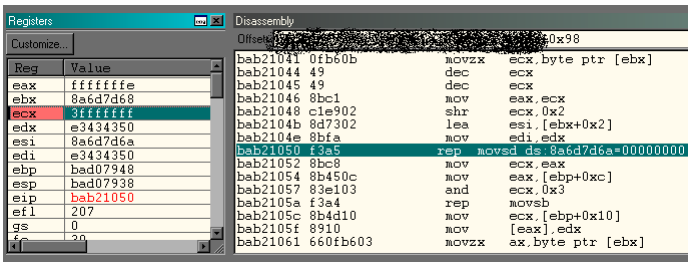
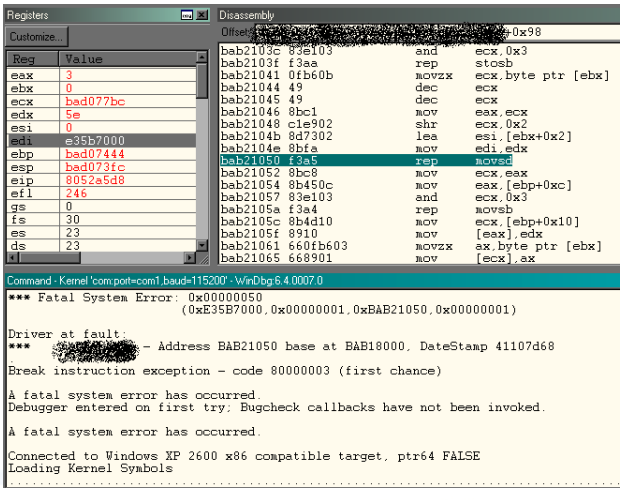
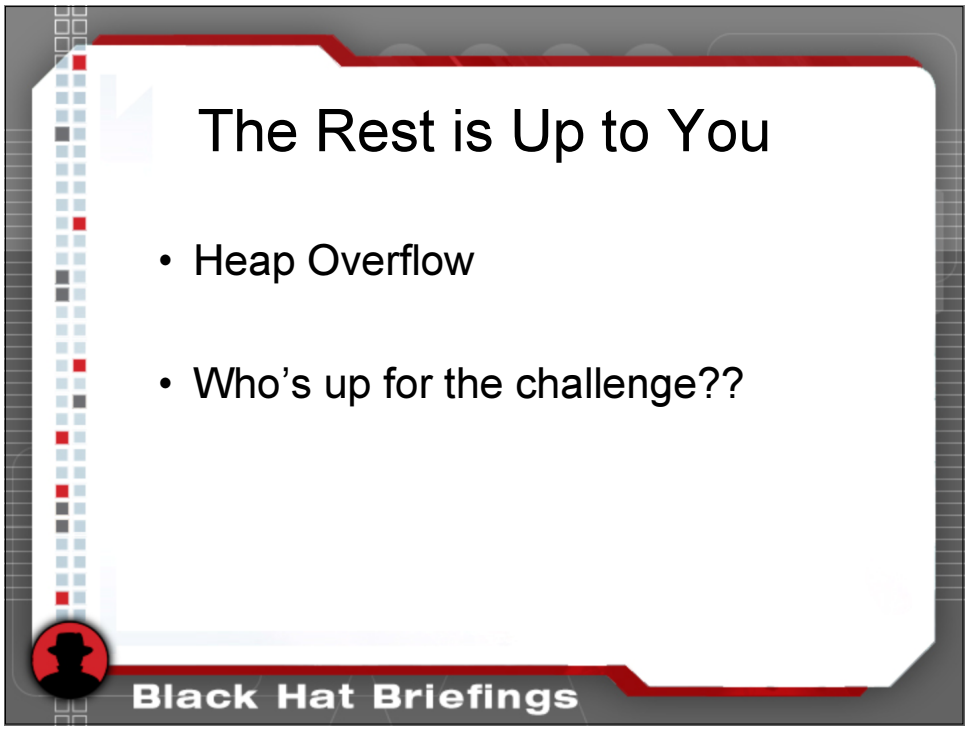
Windows Expecting Us to Be Nice (Cont'd)



POOF!!




The Rest is Up to You
• Heap Overflow
• Who's up for the challenge??
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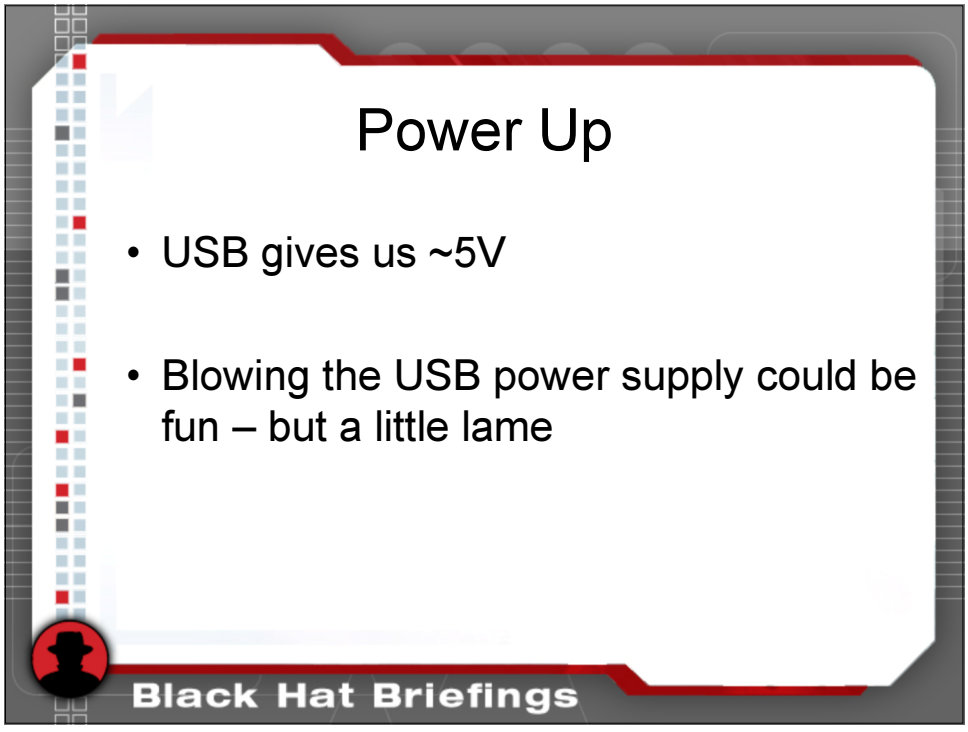
Power Up
• USB gives us ~5V
• Blowing the USB power supply could be fun – but a little lame
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Throw the Switch

- USB does not require the physical removal of a device for it to be “removed”
- This allows a device to be “inserted” and “removed” as needed

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Faces

- SL811 does not store the descriptors internally
- This allows the chip to appear to be ANY device supported by the OS
- This allows the device to enter and execute portions of drivers that are not thoroughly field tested

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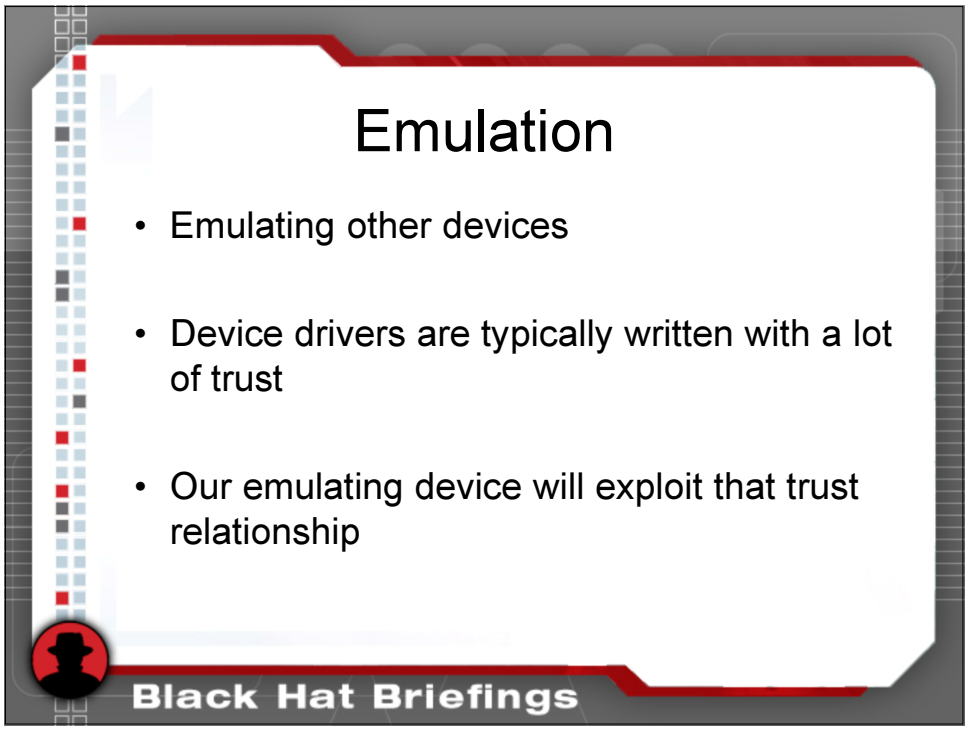
Emulation
• Emulating other devices
• Device drivers are typically written with a lot of trust
• Our emulating device will exploit that trust relationship
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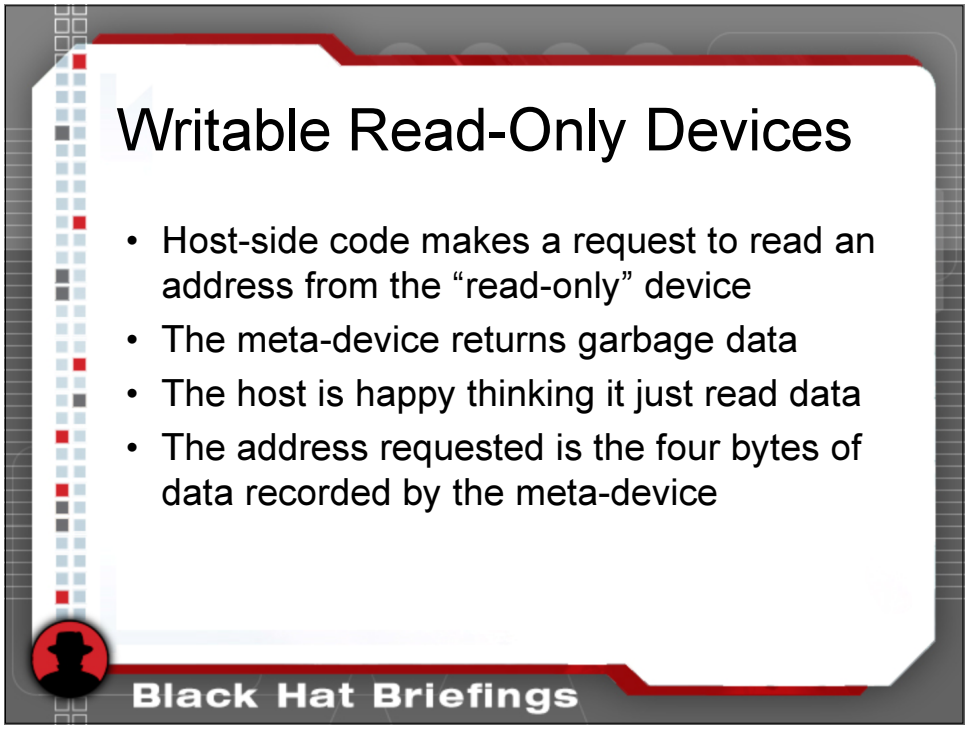
Writable Read-Only Devices
• Host-side code makes a request to read an address from the “read-only” device
• The meta-device returns garbage data
• The host is happy thinking it just read data
• The address requested is the four bytes of data recorded by the meta-device
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Empty the “Trash”

- Hand one to your janitor and $20

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Class

- Class drivers allow multiple vendors to create similar devices without the need for individual drivers
- Allows for a broad attack against the class driver

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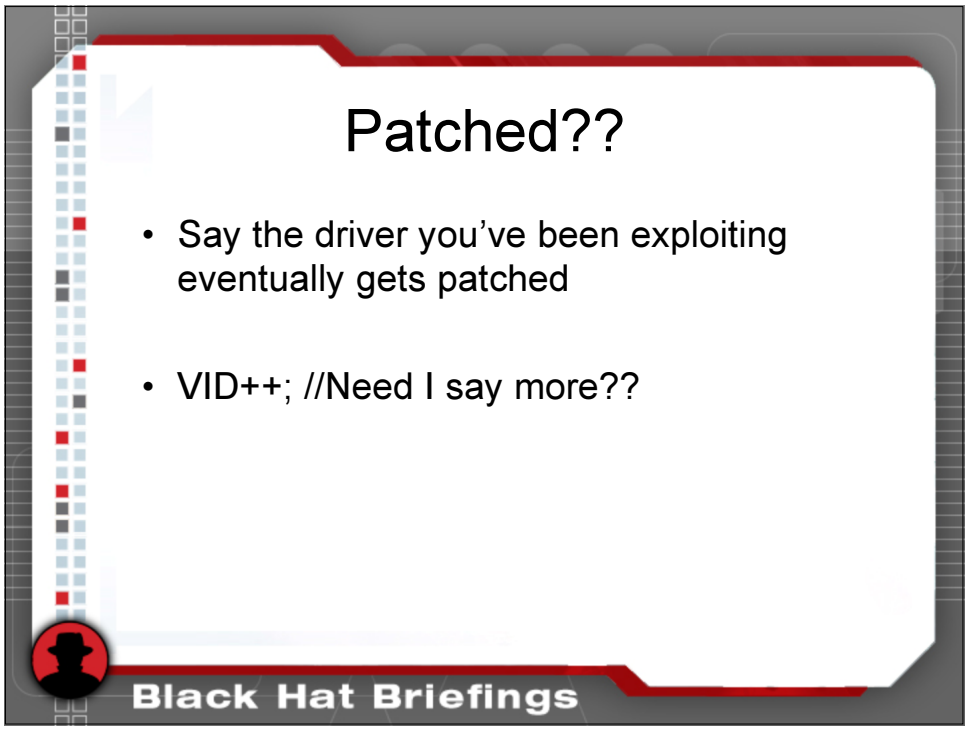
Patched??
• Say the driver you've been exploiting eventually gets patched
• VID++; //Need I say more??
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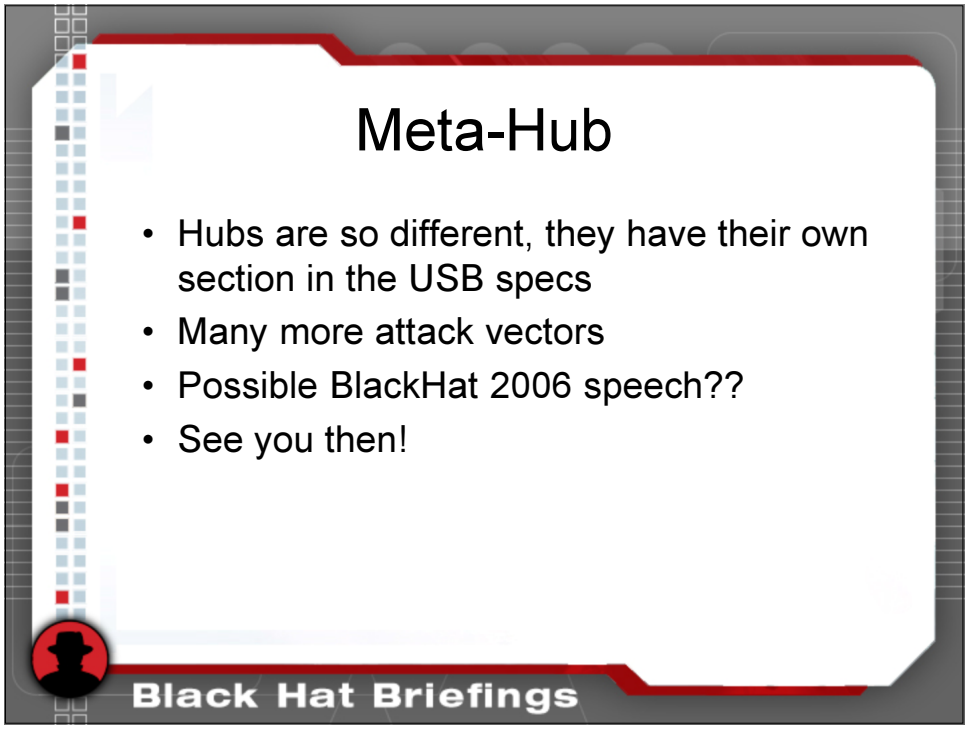
Meta-Hub
• Hubs are so different, they have their own section in the USB specs
• Many more attack vectors
• Possible BlackHat 2006 speech??
• See you then!
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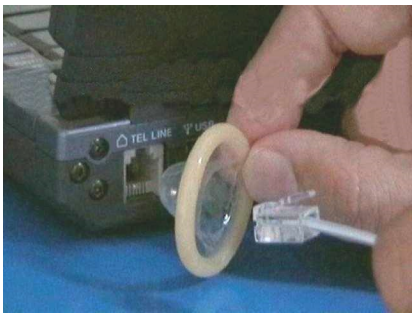
Defense



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Epoxy the USB Port Shut

Just kidding

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Software Solution
http://www.safend.com/
Requires the client to be installed on every machine
Tell the software that you are a device that is allowed to be there
No USB protocol enforcement??
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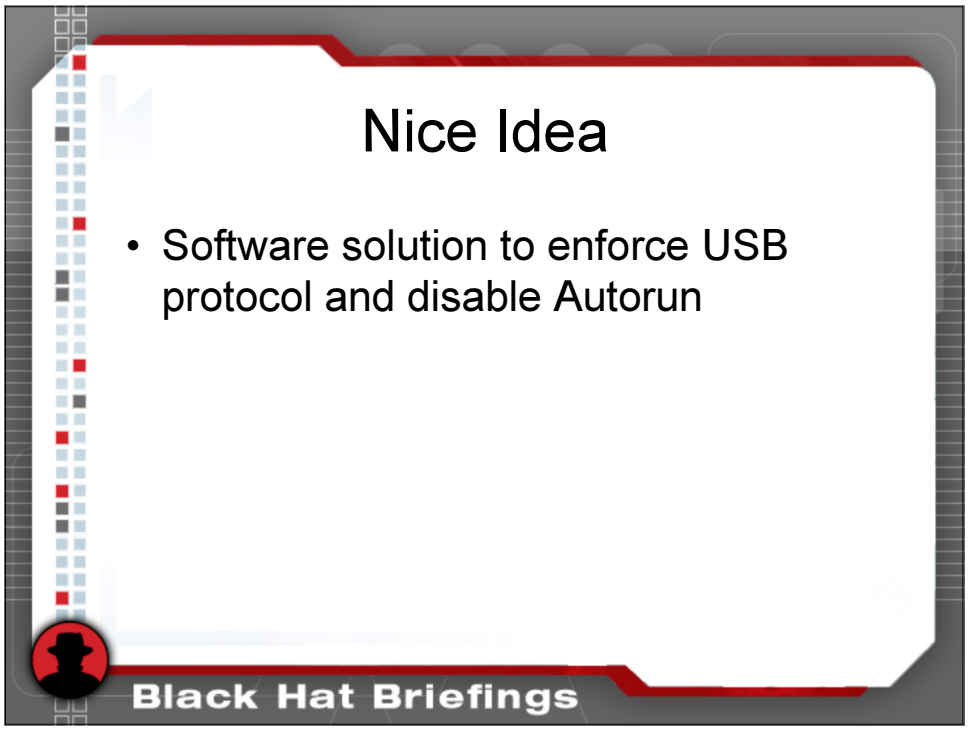
Nice Idea
Software solution to enforce USB protocol and disable Autorun
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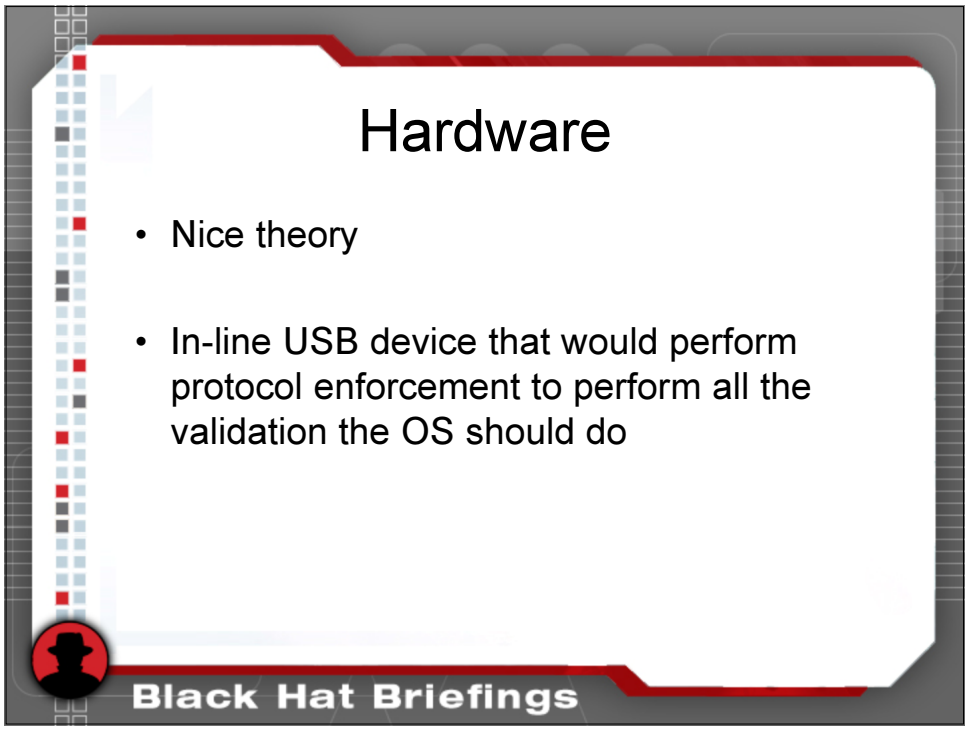
Hardware
• Nice theory
• In-line USB device that would perform protocol enforcement to perform all the validation the OS should do
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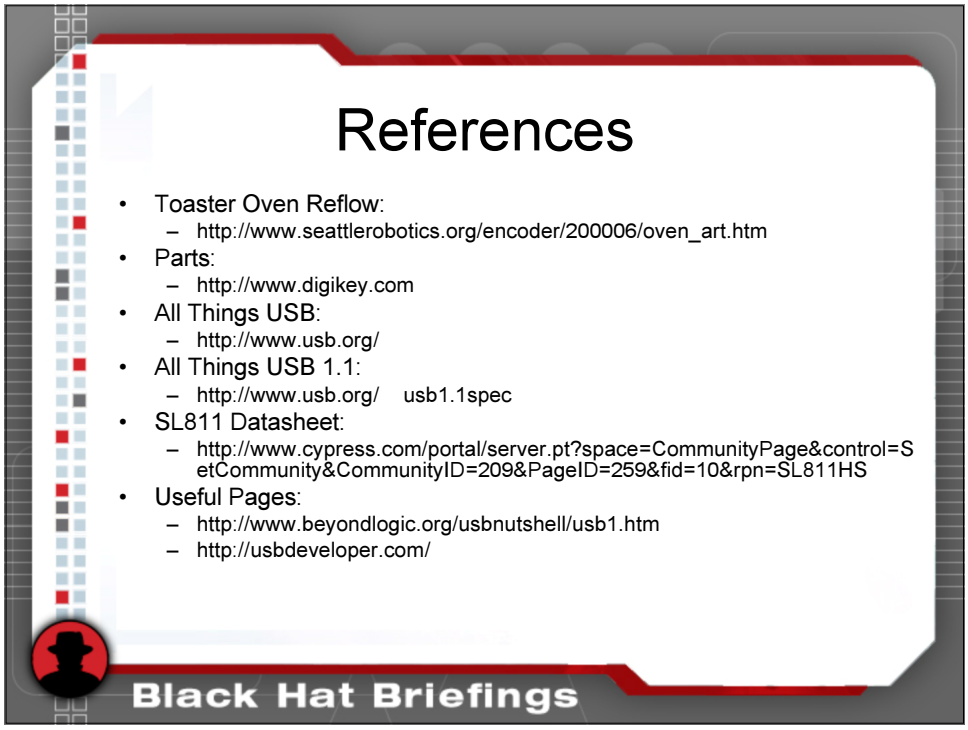
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