

THE JORDAN HARBINGER SHOW

Worksheet for Richard Clarke | Defending Ourselves in the Age of Cyber Threats (Episode 240)

Far from being a quaint, insulated contest between subterranean hackers trying hard to prove their 1337ness to one another, cyberattacks are now being employed by nations (our own included) to pummel other nations with infrastructure-crippling precision more potent than our most devastating traditional weapons. In some ways it's a leveler — after all, who needs a nuclear missile program when you can attack your enemy anonymously from the other side of the world via a scruples-devoid mercenary working from a laptop?

In this episode we talk to Richard Clarke, who served for 30 years in national security policy roles in the US government, and finally for an unprecedented decade of continuous service for three presidents in the White House. He's the host of the *Future State Podcast* and co-author of *The Fifth Domain: Defending Our Country, Our Companies, and Ourselves in the Age of Cyber Threats*, and his message should give you a realistic overview of how 21st century warfare is evolving in unexpected ways.

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Cascading Failures

In 2003, an alarm system's software bug at an energy company in Ohio set off a domino effect of cascading failures, resulting in a power outage that blacked out a quarter of the United States and parts of Canada — in some places for two weeks. It wasn't a cyberattack, but it illustrated the vulnerability of the North American power grid and its potential for cascading failures with unintended consequences — like some cities being unable to purify or supply water without electricity.

“There are not only cascading failures within an electrical system,” says Richard, “but then because of these dependencies, cascading failures of other kinds of systems.”

How prepared are you in case of an emergency? Whether it's the result of a natural disaster or a man-made cyberattack, you should make sure you have a plan if your city's infrastructure is compromised. What would you do if you didn't have access to water for two weeks?

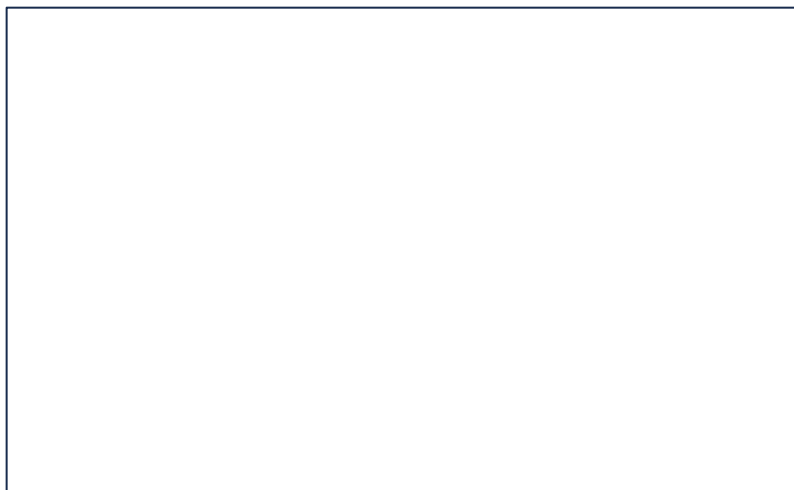
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Mo Devices, Mo Problems

The groundwork for 5G — the fifth generation of wireless technology — is nearly in place. It promises more dependable connectivity that can go up to 100 times faster than current 4G protocols, allowing our mobile phones and smart devices to interact as never before — with a direct connection to the Internet.

“The notion is that everything could be talking on the Internet at the same time and doing it at high bandwidth and high speed with 5G,” says Richard. “There’ll be more devices to hack. The more devices you have to hack, the more likely you are to succeed in hacking one of them.”

Devices that now depend on a router will be able to connect straight to the Internet — though for security reasons, it would be wise to put it through a router or firewall. Are you prepared to ensure you and your smart devices aren’t easy targets for cyberattacks and exploits in the age of 5G?



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Cybersecurity = Job Security

“At MIT, you can get a computer science degree without any course in cybersecurity,” says Richard. “Computer genius kids are taught by their computer science departments to look down their nose at cybersecurity like it’s carpentry or taking out the garbage. Whereas if you’re a computer genius, you have to be working on advanced neural network machine learning or quantum computing state of the art.”

Dirty Jobs’ Mike Rowe would refer to the shortage of computer majors answering the call of much-needed cybersecurity jobs as a skills gap. But if you’re looking for steady work in the years ahead, you might call it an opportunity. Would you consider a career in cybersecurity? Why or why not?



Full show notes and resources for this episode [can be found here.](#)

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