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Social Engineering for Penetration Testers

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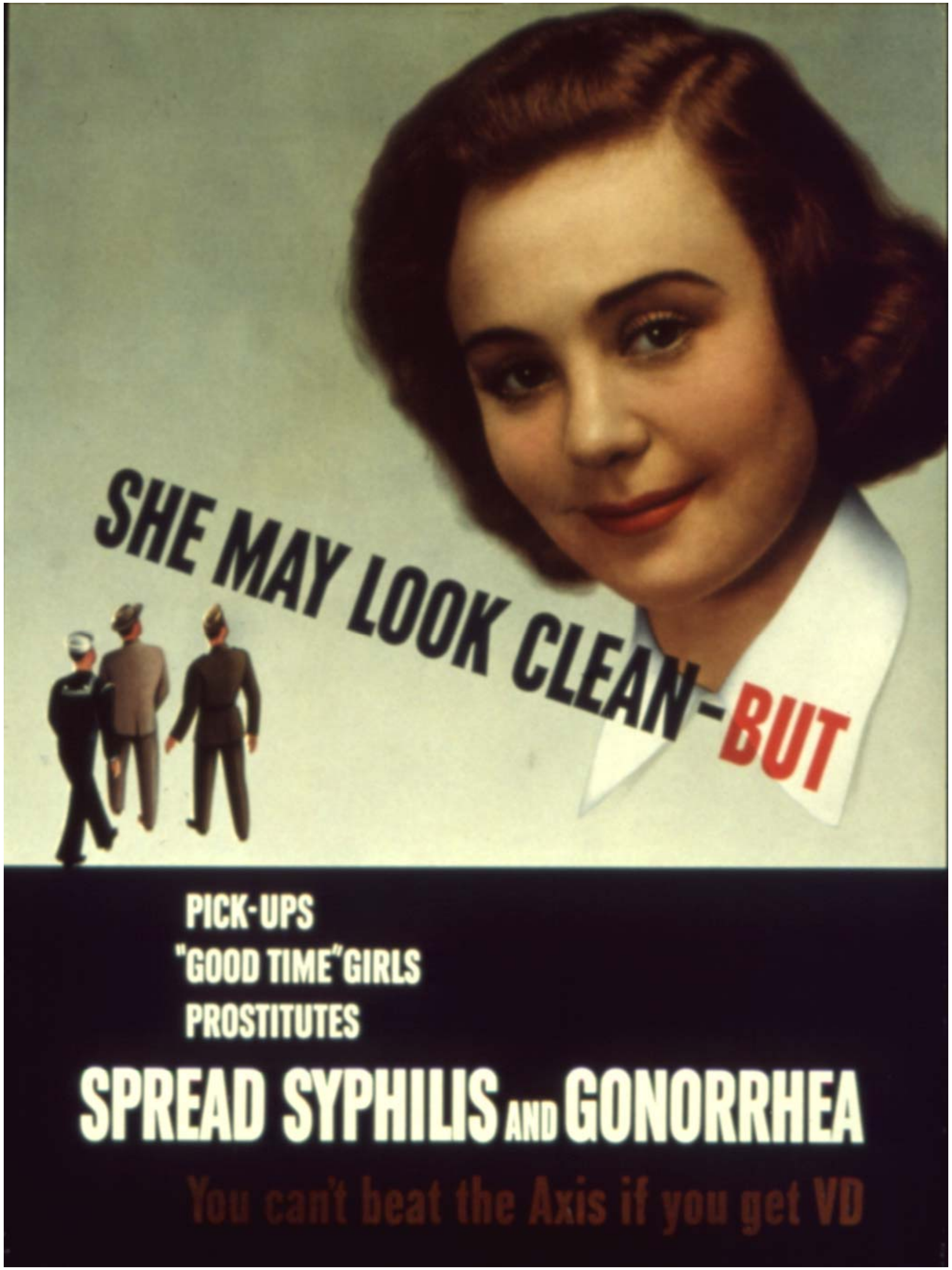
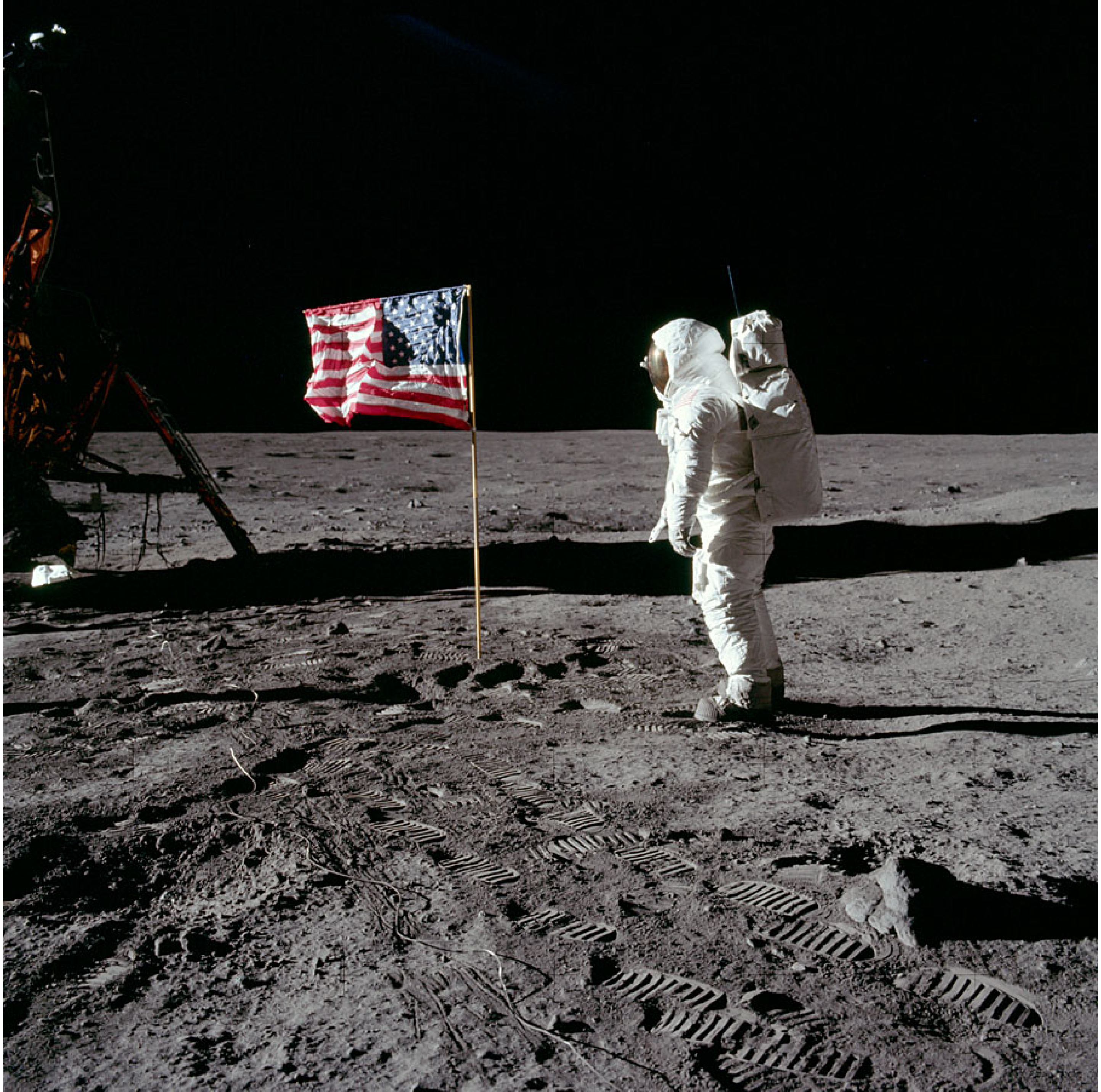
What is Social Engineering?

efforts to influence popular attitudes and social behaviour on a large scale, whether by governments or private groups

- Wikipedia definition


SHE MAY LOOK CLEAN-BUT
PICK-UPS
"GOOD TIME"GIRLS
PROSTITUTES
SPREAD SYPHILIS AND GONORRHEA
You can't beat the Axis if you get VD

Join the Fight to be Fit!



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What is Social Engineering?

techniques hackers use to deceive a trusted computer user within a company into revealing sensitive information, or trick an unsuspecting mark into performing actions that create a security hole for them to slip through

- Kevin Mitnick

Different types of attacks

- Mumble attack

- Reverse engineering

- 10 attack

- Phone v’s Physical

- Lots more

The social engineering problem

- Sumitomo Mitsui Bank

- Lexis-Nexis

- ChoicePoint

- Credit Union

Why perform a social engineering test?

- To test the effectiveness of physical security controls
- To test the level of security awareness among staff
- Good practice for staff

The stages of the attack

1. Target identification
2. Reconnaissance
3. Creating your scenario
4. Going in for the attack
5. Getting out again

Reconnaissance

- Passive information gathering
  - Google
  - Company website
  - Annual reports
  - Job ads / Employee resumes
  - etc
- Physical reconnaissance
  - Where are the security guards?
  - Do smokers congregate in a certain area outside?
  - Where are the CCTV cameras?
  - What time do employees go in / leave the office?
  - etc

Creating Scenarios

- Think about how sophisticated your attack needs to be
- More security focused organisations, eg, banks, will require a more complex attack
- Use props
- Keep it realistic

Going in for the attack

- Use your scenario to get in
- Gain access to network
- Prove you were there
- Think about how to get out again

A few tips

- Use a false name, but use your own first name.
- Consider using a surname that sounds like your own.
- Be a woman (preferably a foreign one)
- Flirt / use flattery
- Offer an incentive
- Get a job

Secrets of Success

- Balance of Power

- Time Travel – or how to be an effective liar

What can go wrong?

- You are recognised
- Balance of power backfires
- Overcompensate by giving too much detail
- Everything

BE PREPARED

How to prevent social engineering attacks

- Education & Awareness
- Social engineering testing
- Security policy
- Vet all your staff
- Don’t trust anyone!

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Questions

For more information, please contact:

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