

HACKER ROCK AND ROLL

Visualizing the 20-year evolution of ShmooCon research



Greg Conti

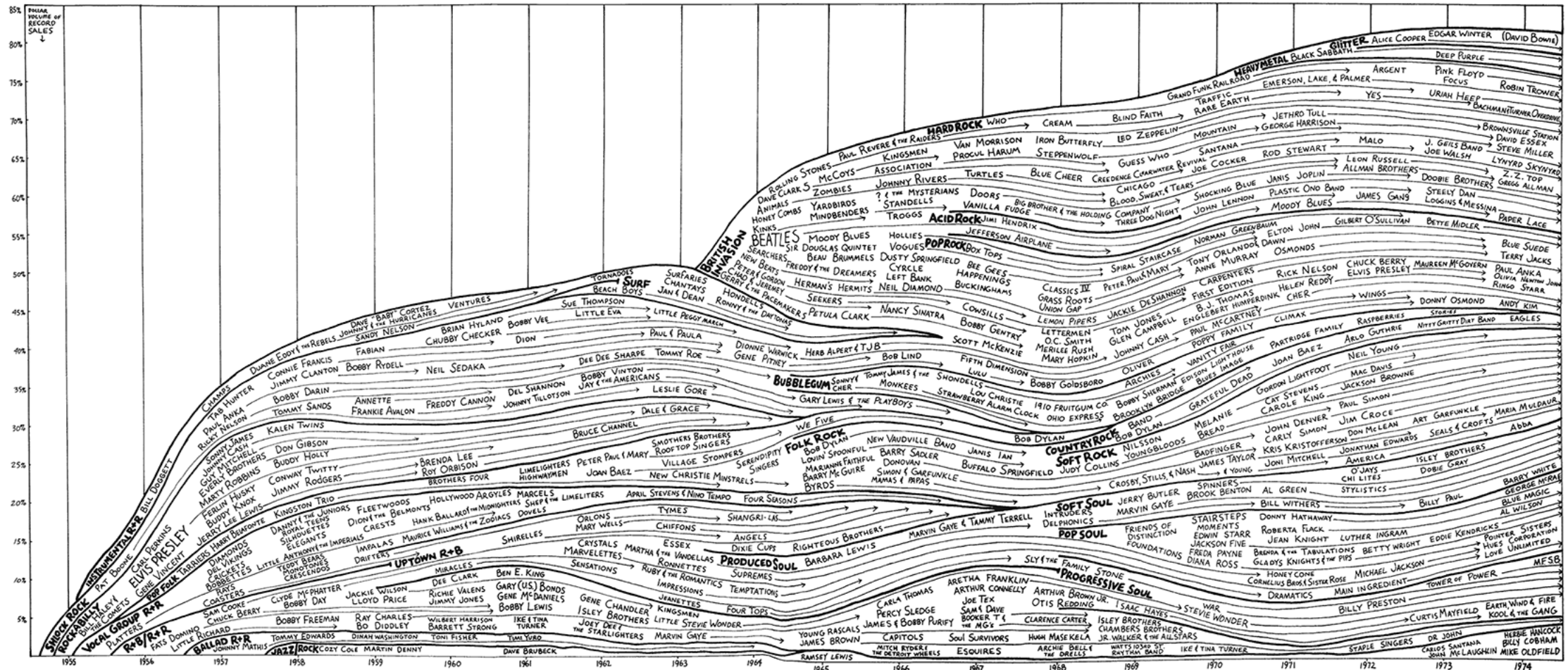
Danielle Scalera

HERE is a musical streams-of-story, an appealing history of "marketing trends and stylistic patterns in the development of pop/rock music." Topping the chart is a time-series that tracks sales of popular and rock music as a share of total record sales, although the names are not scaled in proportion to their contributions to the grand total. Bold letters indicate some 24 stylistic categories, fountains flowing into musical streams (e.g., **SHOCK ROCK**, lower left). Several fashions, including **BUBBLEGUM** and **SURF**, did not last, to the relief of a grateful world. In these overlapping parallel time-series, a few names of the 470 artists

Steve Chapple and Reebee Garofalo, *Rock 'N' Roll is Here to Pay: The History and Politics of the Music Industry* (Chicago, 1977), inside front and inside back covers. Concept and design by Reebee Garofalo; graphics by Damon Rarey; copyright 1975 by Robert L. Garofalo.

are repeated, as they resurface in fresh currents. The multiple, parallel flows locate music-makers in two dimensions—linking musical parents and offspring from 1955 to 1974, and listing contemporaries for each year.¹⁰ With an intense richness of detail (measuring in at 20% of the typographic density of a telephone book), this nostalgic and engaging chart fascinates many viewers—at least those of a certain age. Also the illustration presents a somewhat divergent perspective on popular music: songs are not merely singles—unique, one-time, *de novo* happenings—rather, music and music-makers share a pattern, a context, a history.

¹⁰ Among the missing are The Weavers, Pete Seeger, Bonnie Raitt, and Lou Reed and The Velvet Underground.



whoami



Greg Conti

- Former West Point CS faculty
- Former NSA and US Cyber Command
- Frequent ShmooCon participant since ShmooCon 3
- Black Hat and Defcon trainer
- Principal at Kopidion



Danielle Scalera

- Pursuing a Master's in Cybersecurity at NJIT
- BS in Cybersecurity, Marist College
- Security researcher at Kopidion
- SummerCon '24 volunteer
- '22 Black Hat Training Assistant
- First time speaker 😊





Dupont Circle, c.2005

How has ShmooCon research has evolved over time?

The opportunity

Over the last 20 years, ShmooCon has produced a wealth of innovative, high-impact and inspirational work.

The challenge

All that great work is not in an easily-analyzable format. We're missing out!

Our mission

Put all that data into a format that can be easily analyzed, share some results to inspire others and celebrate ShmooCon!



Dupont Circle, c.2050

Why do this?

- Understand how the hacker community innovates
- Find inspiration and new areas to explore
- Appreciate the magnitude of what has been achieved at ShmooCon

So what?

- Reduce plagiarism
- Amplify impact
- Increase appreciation for hacker community

Who cares?

- Hackers
- Non hackers
- The future

How are topics selected for ShmooCon?

Every conference is different, but here are some general guidelines

“Fast and Furious” Presentations meant to entertain, educate, and allow you to drive your point home quickly

“One Track Mind” Plenary presentations of broad technical interest

“Build It” Presentations about creating inventive software and hardware solutions

“Belay It:” Presentations about cutting edge defensive solutions to current problems

“Bring It On” Presentations with an open mind to technology and security related topics

Presentations related to these subjects are often considered appropriate:

- Technological evolution
- Breaches
- Threat actor activities
- Current events
- Cultural trends
- Review committee composition
- Cost and funding of research
- CFP language
- Infosec marketplace

Timeline: 2004 - 2014



Facebook created
Google went public

2004



AWS launched

2006

Bitcoin invented

2008



First iPad, U.S. Cyber
Command, Snowmageddon,
NASDAQ penetrated,
Stuxnet

2010

Edward Snowden
Target hack, Mandiant
APT 1 report

2013

2005

ShmooCon founded
and YouTube created



2007

First iPhone, Netflix
video streaming,
Estonia cyber attacks

2009

Operation Aurora,
4G/LTE

2011

Amazon Fire tablet,
DARPA's Cyber Fast
Track

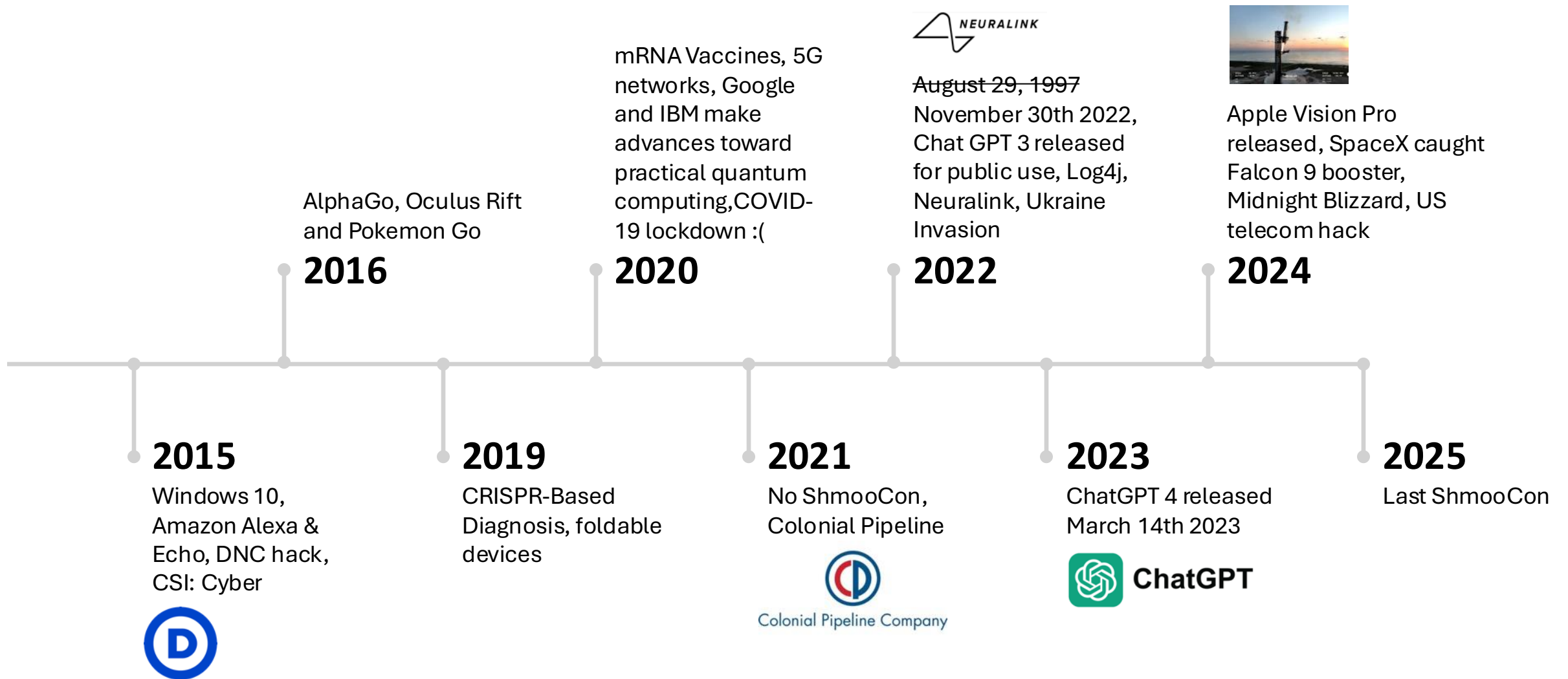
2014

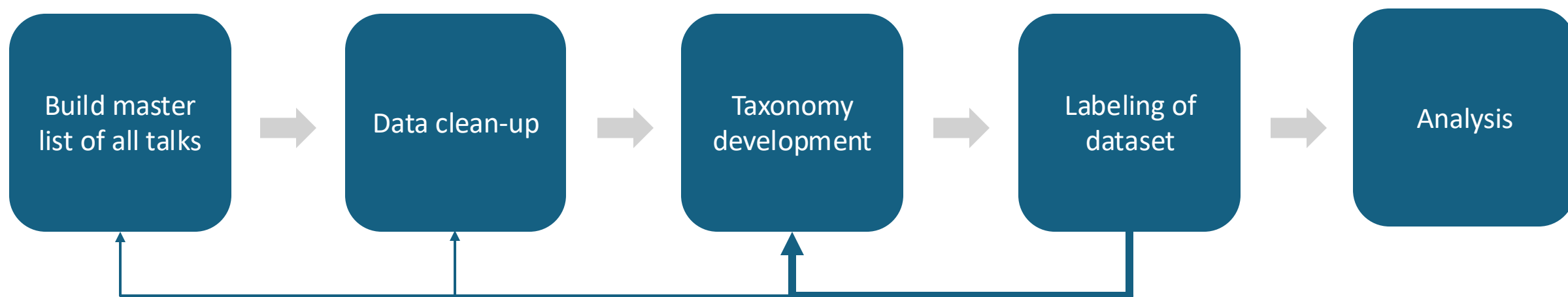
Google Cardboard,
Tesla autopilot, OPM
hack, Sony Pictures
hack

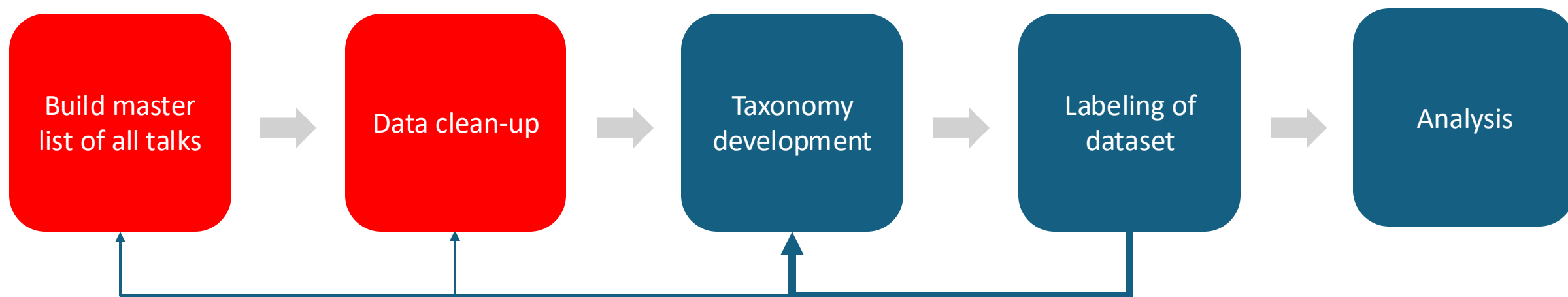


Special thanks to Jack Daniel for permission to use the 2010 Snowmageddon photo

Timeline: 2015 – present



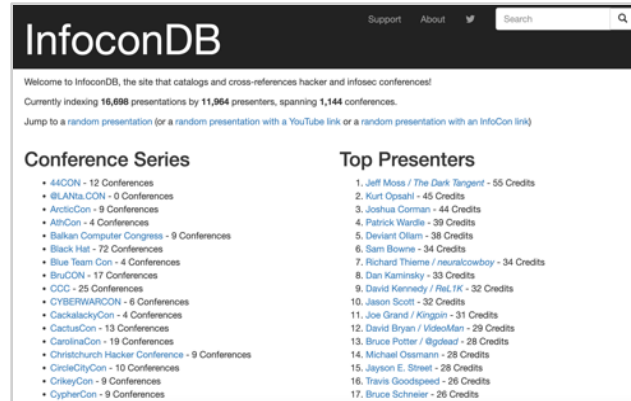




Data sources



archive.org



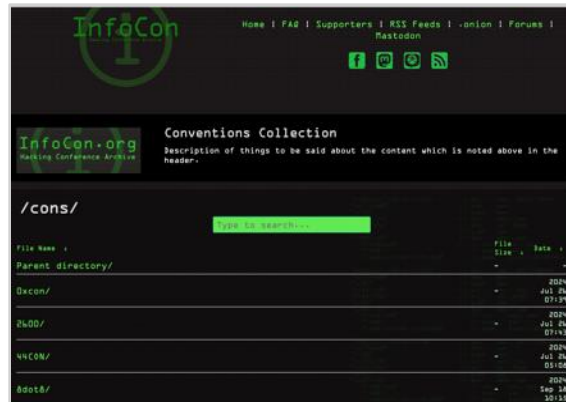
infocondb.org



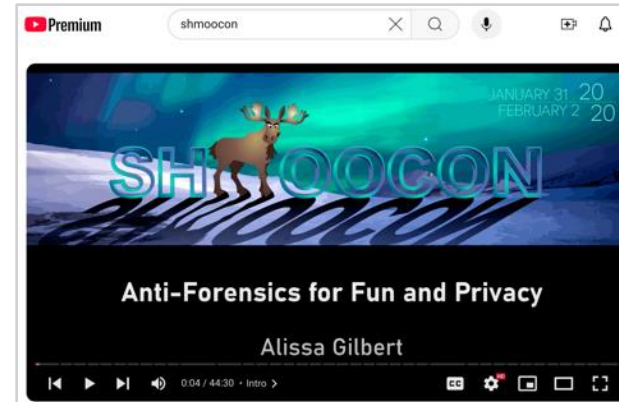
citation.thinkst.com

CONFERENCE ARCHIVES	OWN THE CON SLIDES
ShmooCon 2006	2005 2014
ShmooCon 2007	2006 2015
ShmooCon 2008	2007 2016
ShmooCon 2009	2008 2017
ShmooCon 2010	2009 2018
ShmooCon 2011	2010 2019
ShmooCon 2012	2011 2020
ShmooCon 2013	2012 2022
ShmooCon 2014	2013 2023
ShmooCon 2015	
ShmooCon 2016	
ShmooCon 2017	
ShmooCon 2018	
ShmooCon 2019	
ShmooCon 2020	
ShmooCon 2022	
ShmooCon 2023	
ShmooCon 2024	

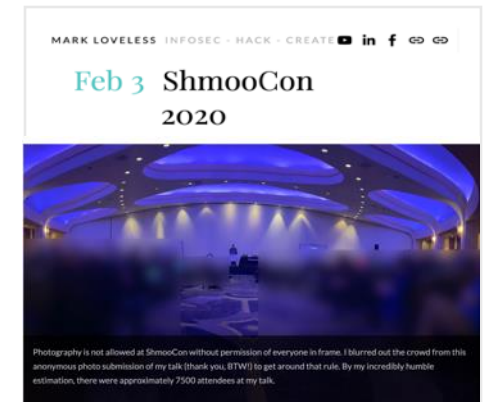
shmoocon.org



infocon.org



YouTube



Blogs & articles

Error reduction

What we found

- Lots of hard work by volunteers
- Gaps and variations in the archive sites
- Cancellations and replacement speakers
- Videos not recorded or posted
- Typos, varying abbreviations and transcriptions
- “Everything”

Our approach

- Triangulation
- Iterative review



Long titles (SC17)

HACK THE, er... HEMISPHERE! How we (legally) broadcasted hacker content to all of North America (and beyond) using an end-of-life geosynchronous satellite

Edgy titles (SC13)

Can a Drunk Person Authenticate Using Brainwaves? #NotAlcoholicsJustResearchers

What did we find (continued)?

Hard to discern titles (SC7)

Defending against Targeted attacks, using Duck tape, Popsicle Sticks and Legos

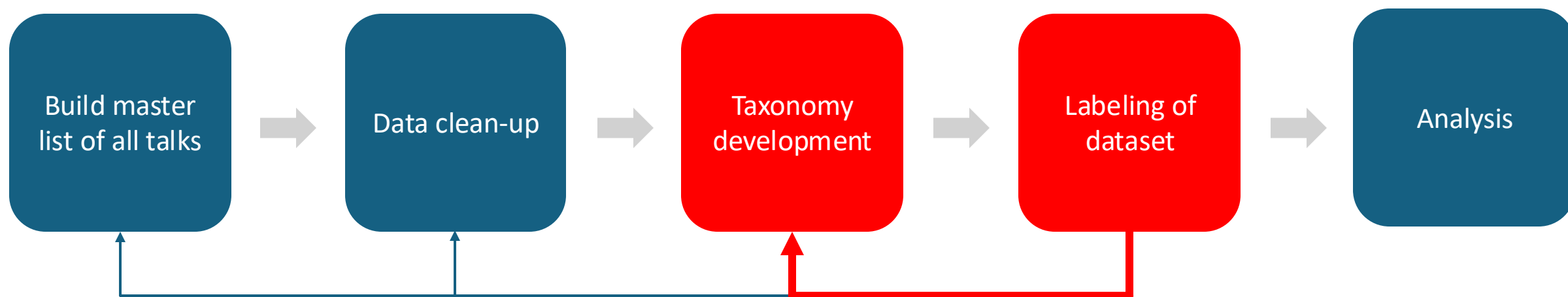
Bruce Potter stand-up (SC1, SC2, SC3, SC4, SC5, SC6, SC7, SC8, SC9, SC10, SC11, SC12, SC13, SC14, SC15, SC16, SC17, SC18, SC19, SC20)

Talk titles over the years



Most frequent words in ShmooCon talk titles

- Collected **2005-2025**
- Except 2021 (Covid)
- **801** talks in dataset
- All plenary and primary track talk title and year
- From *A Blackhat's Tool Chest to Zoom 0-Day: How Not to Handle a Vulnerability Report*
- Future: add Firetalks and speakers





Creating a strawman taxonomy

Art and science

- It's a bit of both

Emergent vs comprehensive approach

- The directions taken and why

Goals

- 100% coverage of ShmooCon talks
- Each talk should have a single logical home
- Extensible
- Serve as starting point for refinement and formal validation

Taxonomy – ideation and related work

Hacker and InfoSec

[Black Hat Briefings tracks](#), [InfoSec certification categories](#), conference CFPs, existing metadata (keywords), *The Best of 2600* index

Professional societies

[IEEE Taxonomy](#), [ACM Computing Classification System](#), [CISSP Domains](#)

Military

Frameworks (intelligence ([1](#),[2](#)), [electronic warfare](#), effects based operations, etc.)

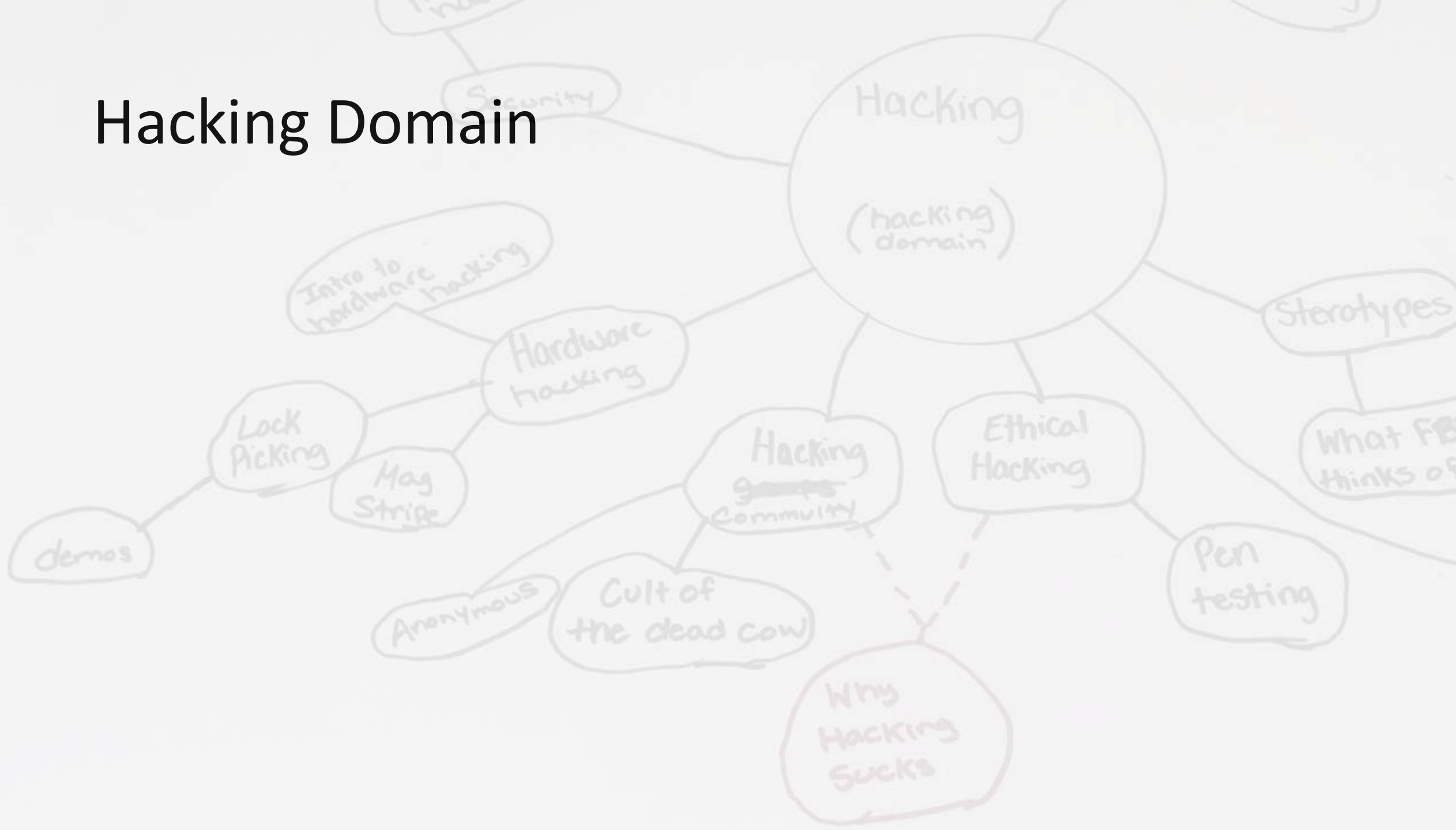
Industry, government, and non-profits

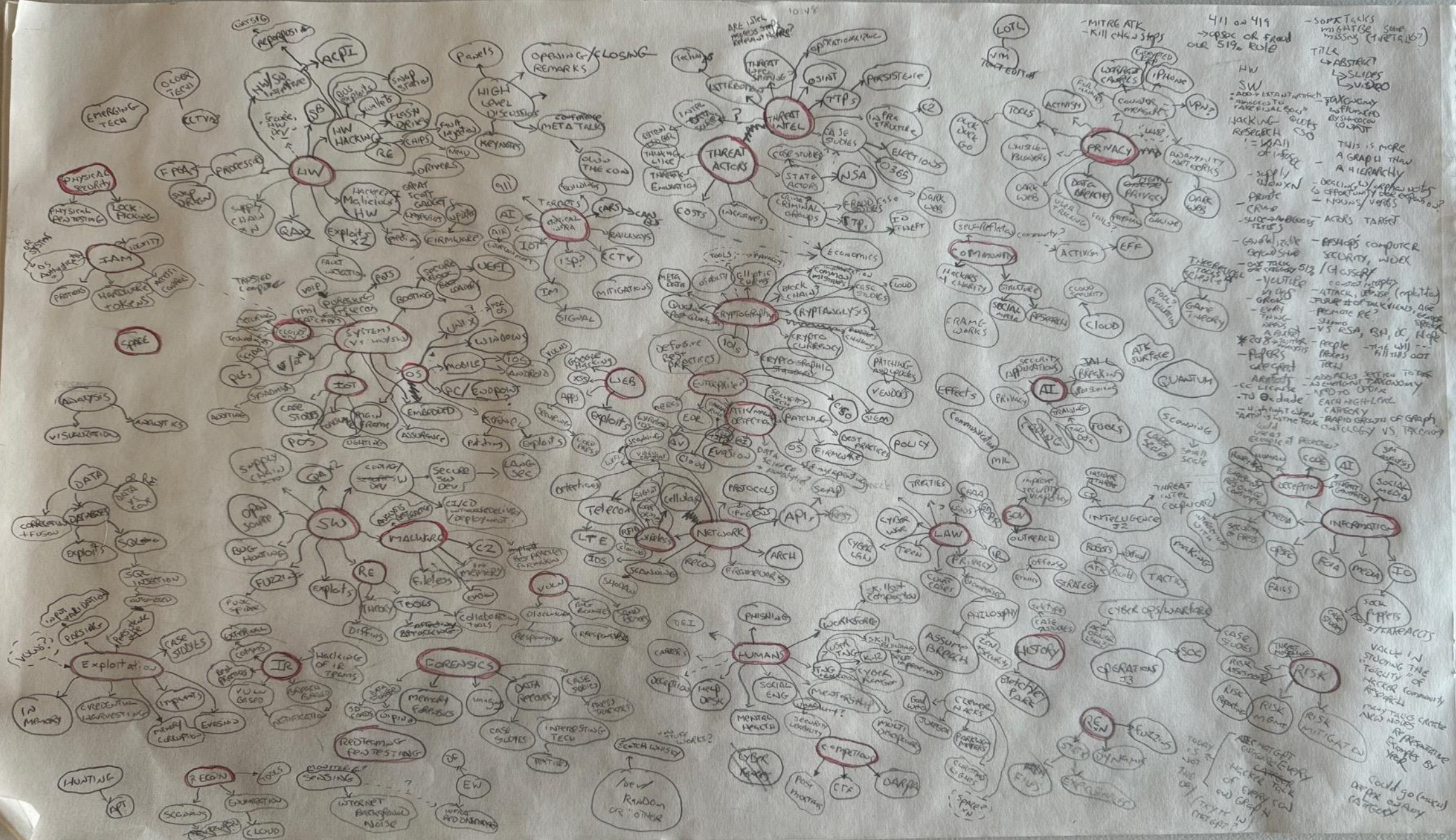
[MITRE ATT&CK](#), [DISARM Framework](#) (IO), [SPARTA Framework](#) (Space), [LM Kill Chain](#), [European Commission Cybersecurity Taxonomy](#)

Academia

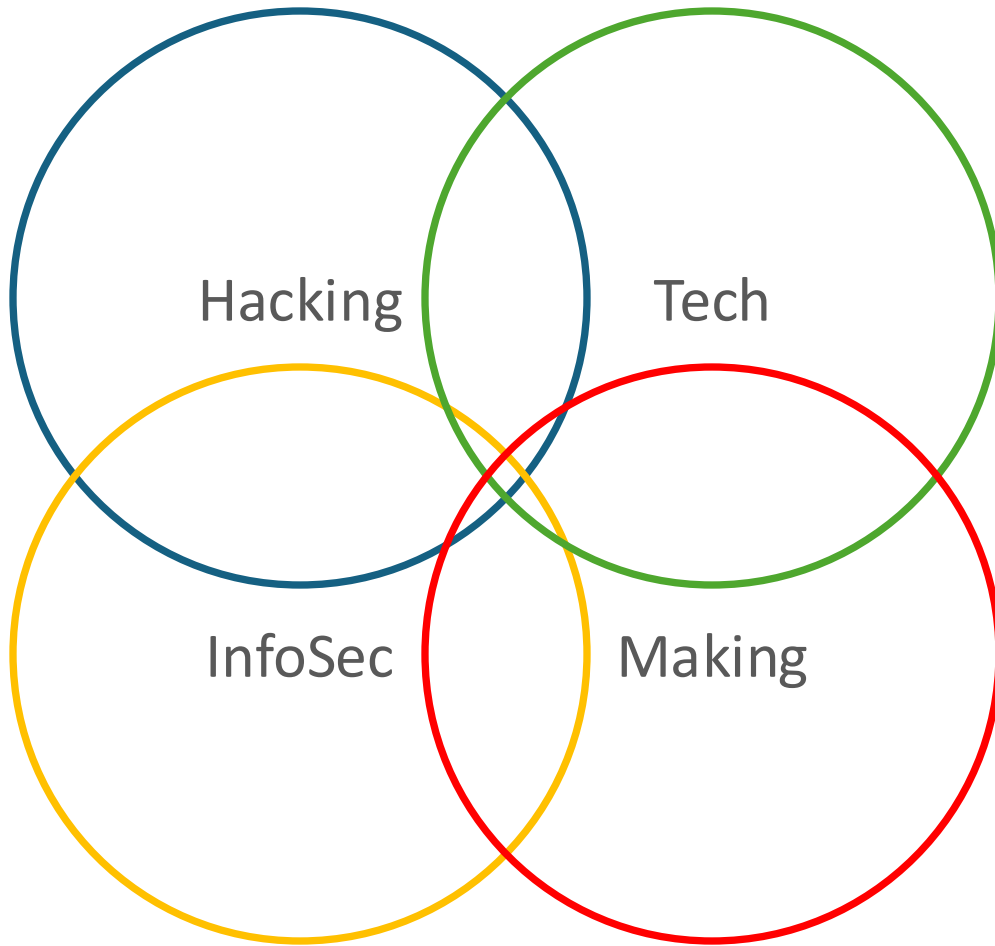
Textbook indices and glossaries, “[Hacker taxonomy](#)” publications, academic disciplines (law, philosophy, math, CS, EE, CSE, ...)

Hacking Domain





Taxonomy - design decisions



- Depth vs. breadth
- Target vs. technique
- InfoSec vs. military framing
- Original vs. current terminology
- Generic vs. precise
- Large and/or reoccurring subcategories

Taxonomy Summary

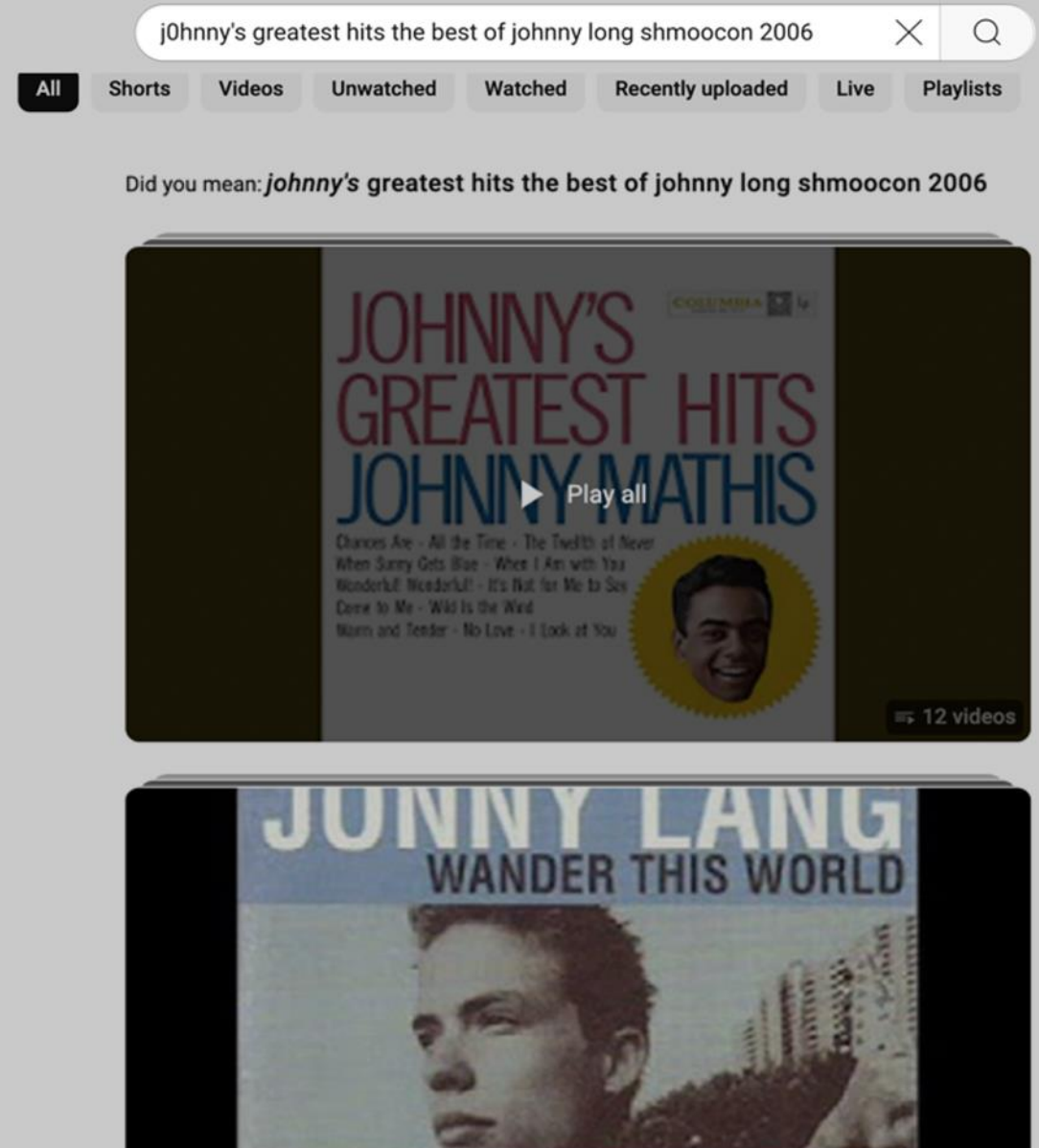


Most frequent taxonomy nodes

- 45 high-level categories – from Art to Wireless
- 543 unique taxonomy paths
- Example categories
 - Exploitation (91)
 - Law and Policy (34)
 - Defense (33)
 - Detection (27)
 - Intelligence (27)

Labeling heuristics

- Abstract + title > video > (in rare cases <1%) news, blogs, etc.
- Review materials to determine majority (51% rule)
- If you can't apply 51% rule, assign to level up or create a general category
- More specialized talks reside at the leaf nodes
- More generic talks in the next tier up
- If a (sane) home for a talk doesn't exist, then expand
- Discern intent (defend, exploit/attack, explain)



Labeling examples



ShmoCon 2012: And That's How I Didn't Lose an Eye: Emergency Data Destruction (EN)

And that's how I didn't lose an eye: emergency data destruction

Skunkworks, 2012

physical_security -> physical_infrastructure_destruction



iPhone Surgery for the Practically Paranoid - Evan Jensen & Rudy Cuevas

iPhone surgery for the practically paranoid

Jensen & Cuevas, 2019

defense -> sensors -> disabling_sensors



Building Absurd Christmas Light Shows - Rob Joyce

Building absurd Christmas light shows

Rob Joyce, 2018

making -> christmas_light_shows



35 years of cyberwar: the squirrels are winning - Shmocon 2017

35 years of cyberwar: the squirrels are winning

Space Rogue, 2017

intelligence -> intelligence_analysis -> threat_actors -> squirrels

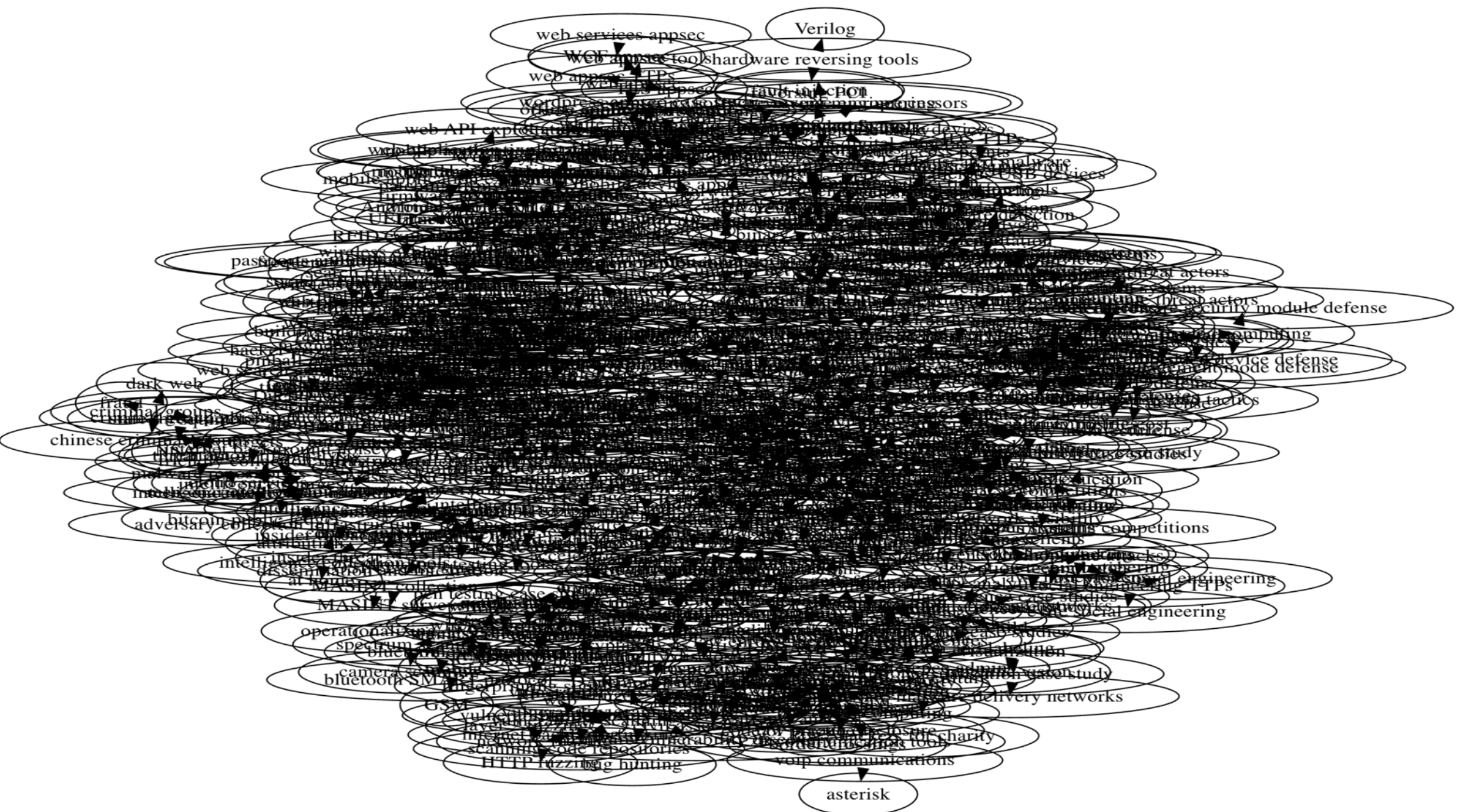
Labeling Summary

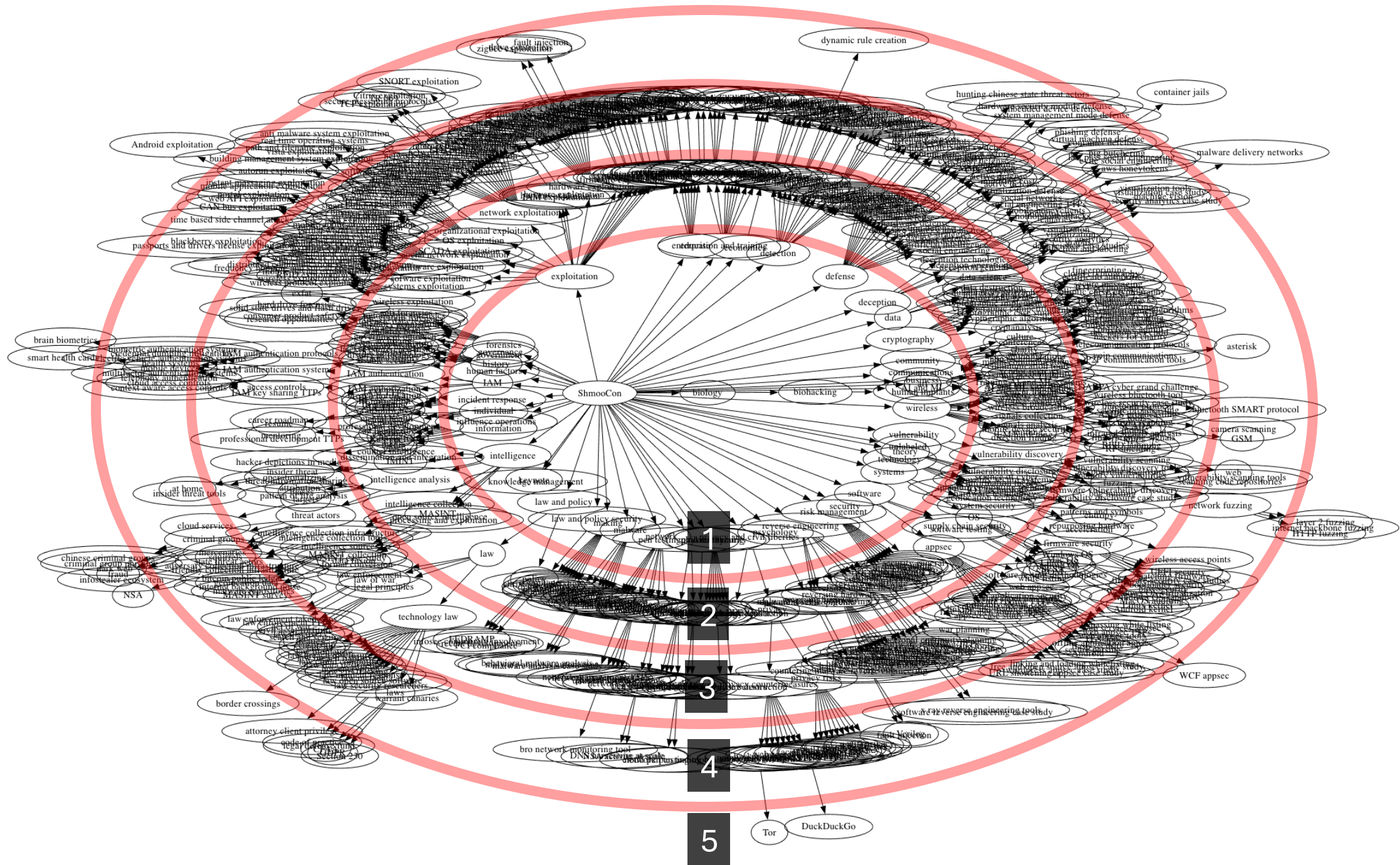
	A	B	C	D
612	16	2020	Resistance Isn't Futile: A Practical Approach to Prioritizing Defenses with Threat Modeling	risk_management -> threat_modeling
613	16	2020	Reverse Engineering Apple's BLE Continuity Protocol for Tracking, OS Fingerprinting, and Behavioral Profiling	reverse_engineering -> reversing_protocols -> reversing_bluetooth_low_energy
614	16	2020	Robots and Privacy	privacy_and_civil_liberties -> privacy -> privacy_risks -> robot_privacy
615	16	2020	SBOM: Screw it, We'll Do it Live!	software -> supply_chain_security -> SBOM
616	16	2020	Security Researcher OPSEC	information -> opsec
617	16	2020	Software Mitigations for Hardware Vulnerabilities	defense -> hardware_defense
618	16	2020	Teen Hacks for Obfuscating Identity on Social Media	privacy_and_civil_liberties -> privacy -> privacy_countermeasures -> anonymity_online_TTPs
619	16	2020	The Cyberlous Mrs. Maisel: A Comedic (And Slightly Terrifying) Introduction to Information Warfare	influence_operations -> Russian_IO
620	16	2020	The Hacker's Guide to Cybersecurity Policy in 2020	law_and_policy -> policy -> recent_developments
621	16	2020	The Verilog to Verilog Decompiler	reverse_engineering -> reversing_hardware -> hardware_reversing_tools -> Verilog
622	16	2020	Think of the Kitten: The Truth About Section 230, the Law All the Cute Online Cat Pictures (And a Lot of Other Good Stuff) Depends On	law_and_policy -> law -> technology_law -> laws -> Section_230
623	16	2020	Using OSINT for Human Rights and Victim Support	intelligence -> open_source_intelligence -> OSINT_case_study
624	16	2020	Vendors, and Risk, and Tigers, and Bears, Oh My: How to Create a Vendor Review Process From the Ground Up	business -> vendor_reviews
625	16	2020	Voight-Kampff for Email Addresses: Quantifying Email Address Reputation to Identify Spear-Phishing and Fraud	detection -> detecting_phishing
626	16	2020	What if We Had TLS for Phone Numbers? An Introduction to SHAKEN/STIR	IAM -> IAM_authentication -> IAM_authentication_systems -> telephony_authentication
627	16	2020	Whitelisting LD_PRELOAD for Fun and No Profit	software -> appsec -> linking_and_loading_appsec -> linking_and_loading_whitelisting
628	16	2020	Zoom 0-Day: How Not to Handle a Vulnerability Report	vulnerability -> vulnerability_disclosure -> vulnerability_disclosure_case_study
629	17	2022	"She doesn't even go here!" Using Denial, Deception, and Adversary Engagement for Defense	defense -> defensive_strategies -> active_defense
630	17	2022	Own the C0n	community -> conferences -> conference_feedback
631	17	2022	A Web API for Embedded Peripheral Reverse Engineering	reverse_engineering -> reversing_hardware -> hardware_reversing_tools
632	17	2022	An Introduction to Cloning RFID Keys, for Angry Bikers	exploitation -> wireless_exploitation -> RFID_exploitation
633	17	2022	Chaos Patching: Can't Get Hacked If I Hack Myself	enterprise -> enterprise_patch_management
634	17	2022	Clean Up On the Serial Aisle – Developing a Systematic Hunting Methodology for Deserialization Exploits	vulnerability -> vulnerability_discovery -> bug_hunting
635	17	2022	Closing Plenary	security -> security_general
636	17	2022	Closing Remarks	community -> conferences -> conference_admin
637	17	2022	Consumer VPNs: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	privacy_and_civil_liberties -> privacy -> privacy_countermeasures -> consumer_VPNs
638	17	2022	Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior in Honduras: An Attempt to Influence the Election Cycle	influence_operations -> elections
639	17	2022	GO Ahead — A Kubernetes-based, Sigma Rule Streaming Detection Engine	detection -> detection_TTPs -> detection_log_analysis
640	17	2022	HACK THE, er... HEMISPHERE! How we (legally) broadcasted hacker content to all of North America (and beyond) using an end-of-life geosynchronous satellite	wireless -> wireless_broadcasting -> satellite_broadcasting
641	17	2022	Hacking the Cyber Incident Response: How Using Words Will Help You Suck Less	incident_response -> IR_planning
642	17	2022	LetItGo — A Tool for Azure Tenant Domain Enumeration and Access	pen_testing_and_redteaming -> pen_testing -> pentesting_tools -> cloud_pen_testing_tools
643	17	2022	Opening Remarks, Ruminations, and Rants	community -> conferences -> conference_admin
644	17	2022	Practical Crypto of InfoSec Noobs	cryptography -> cryptanalysis -> identifying_cryptographic_algorithms

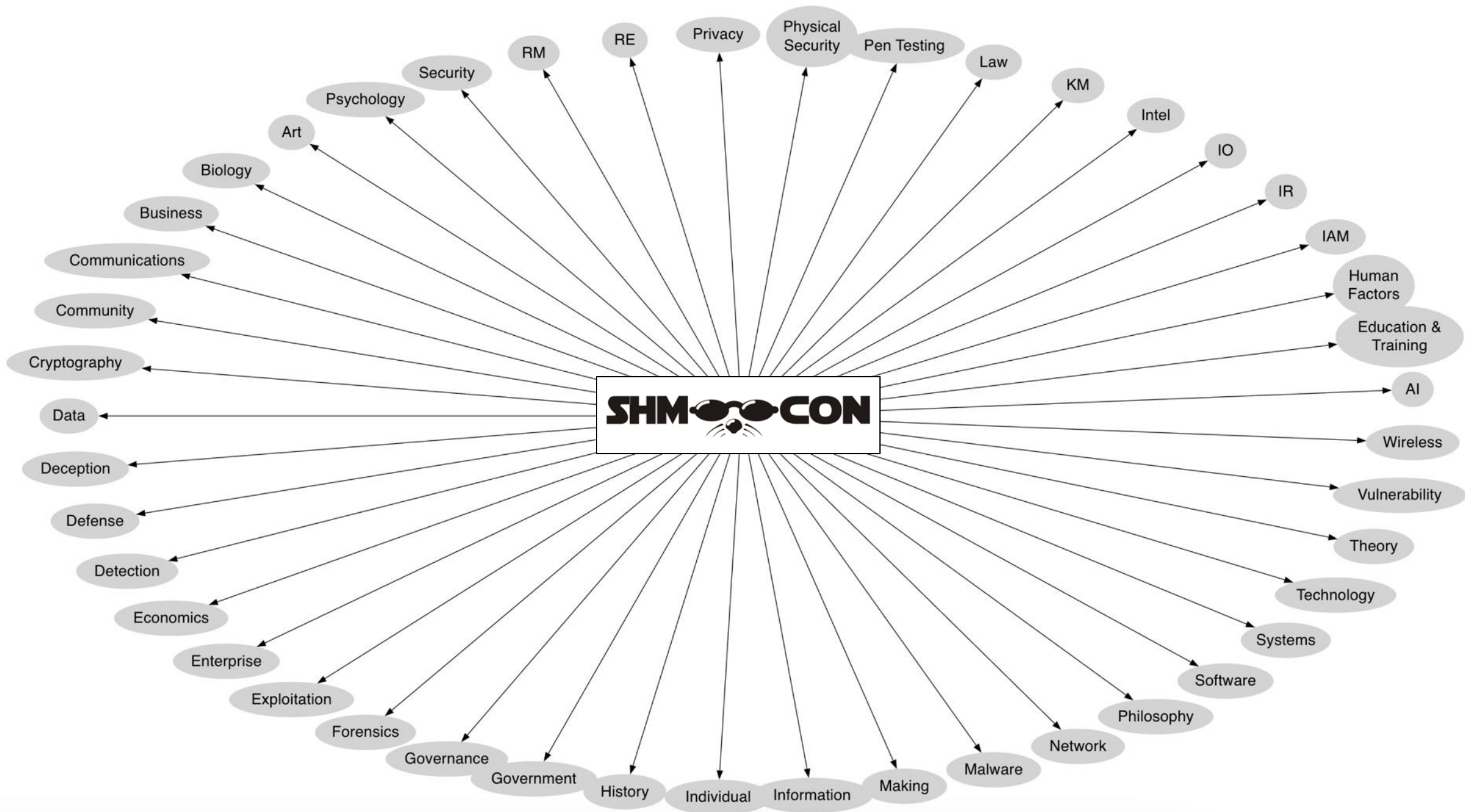
801 labeled talks

We are proud to unveil the complete taxonomy for your viewing pleasure!

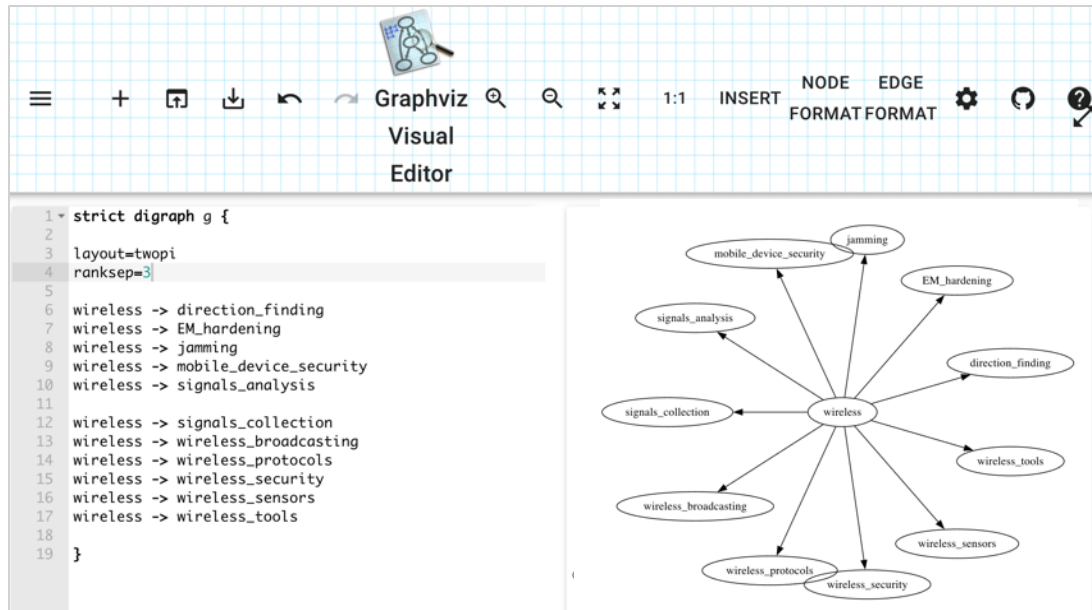






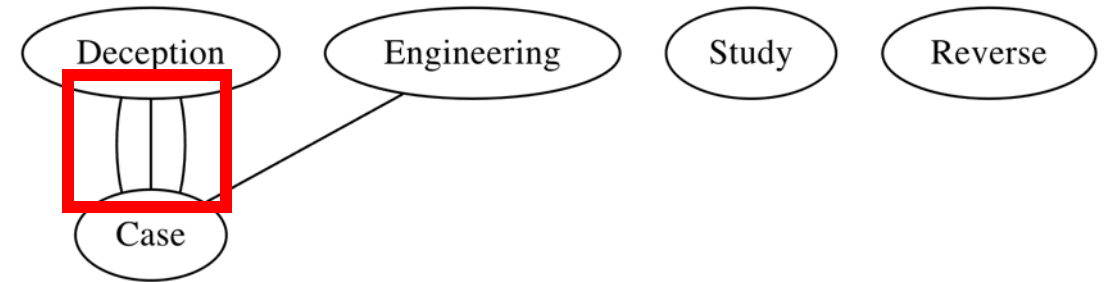


GraphViz and DOT



[GraphViz Visual Editor](#)

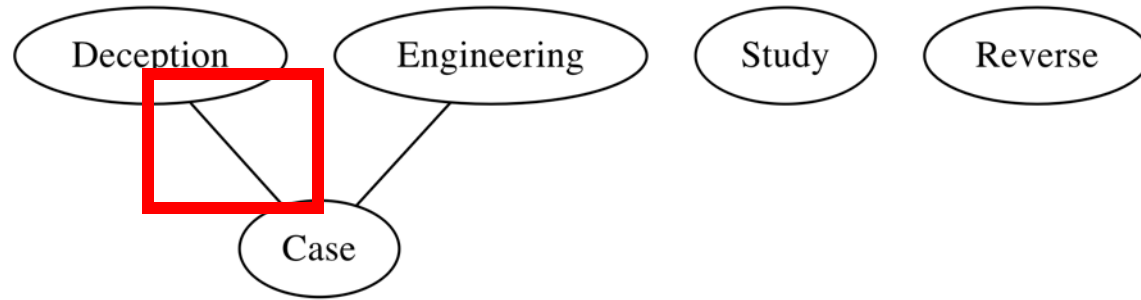
- DOT – graph description language
- GraphViz
 - open source graph viewing package
 - supports options: layout, scaling, color, ...
- Secret handshakes: reserved words, non-alphanumeric characters



Talk A – Deception case study
Talk B – Another deception case study
Talk C – Another deception case study
Talk D – Reverse engineering case study

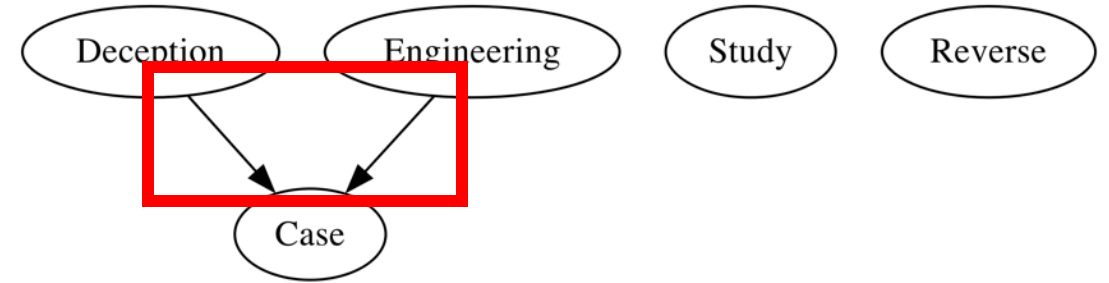
```
graph g {  
  Deception -- case study  
  Deception -- case study  
  Deception -- case study  
  Reverse Engineering -- case study  
}
```


1. Remove duplicate links



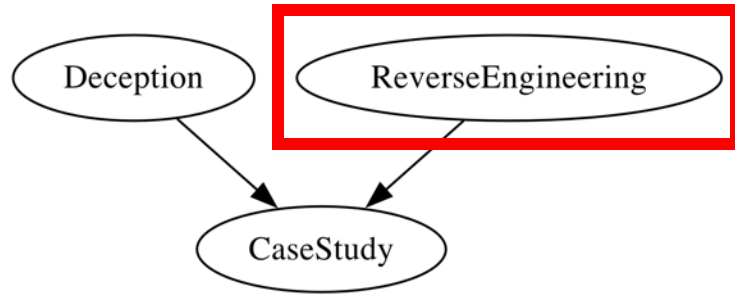
```
strict graph g {  
  Deception -- case study  
  Deception -- case study  
  Deception -- case study  
  Reverse engineering -- case study  
}
```

2. Directional graph



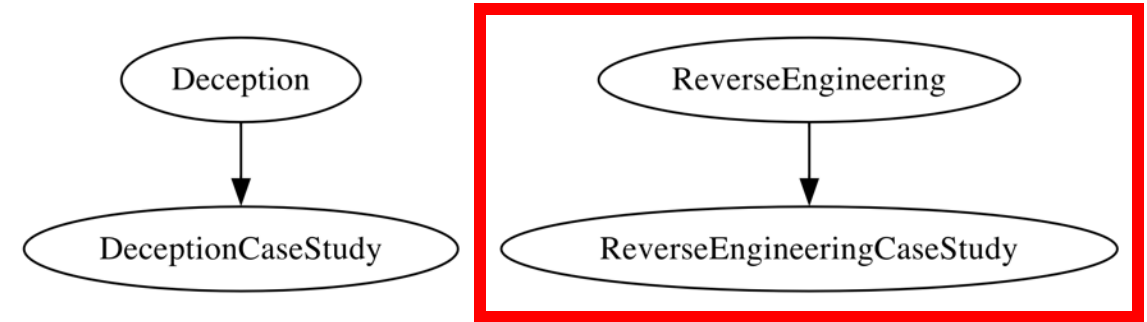
```
strict digraph g {  
  Deception -> case study  
  Deception -> case study  
  Deception -> case study  
  Reverse Engineering -> case study  
}
```

3. Remove spaces in node names



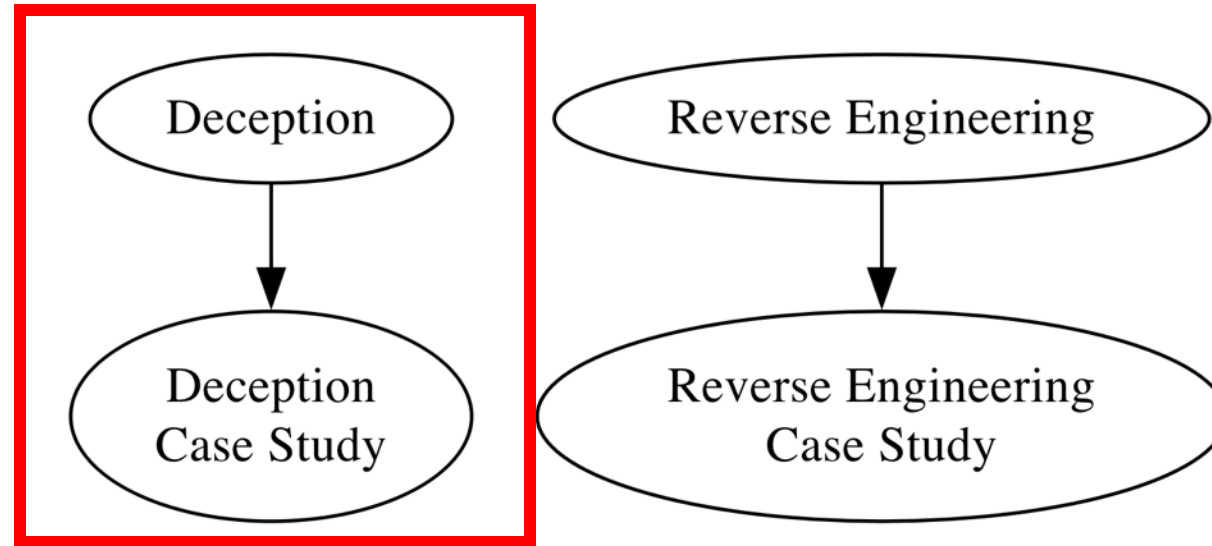
```
strict digraph g {  
Deception -> CaseStudy  
Deception -> CaseStudy  
Deception -> CaseStudy  
ReverseEngineering -> CaseStudy  
}
```

4. Unique node names



```
strict digraph g {  
Deception -> DeceptionCaseStudy  
Deception -> DeceptionCaseStudy  
Deception -> DeceptionCaseStudy  
ReverseEngineering -> ReverseEngineeringCaseStudy  
}
```

Final: Label Nodes



```
strict digraph g {
```

```
Deception [label="Deception"]
```

```
DeceptionCaseStudy [label="Deception \nCase Study"]
```

```
ReverseEngineering [label="Reverse Engineering"]
```

```
ReverseEngineeringCaseStudy [label="Reverse Engineering \nCase Study"]
```

```
Deception -> DeceptionCaseStudy
```

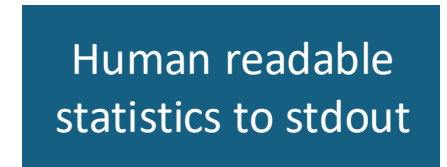
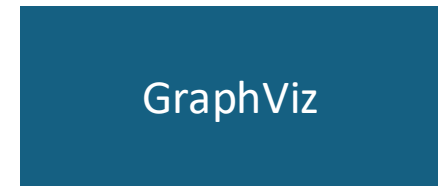
```
Deception -> DeceptionCaseStudy
```

```
Deception -> DeceptionCaseStudy
```

```
ReverseEngineering -> ReverseEngineeringCaseStudy
```

```
}
```


SC#	Year	Talk Title	Taxonomy Label	Optional



Usage

dot output only: `<tsv_parser_vXX.py> <source file>`

`python3 tsv_parser_v23.py labeled_SC.tsv`

dot output and summary statistics: `<tsv_parser_vXX.py> <source file> stats`

`python3 tsv_parser_v23.py labeled_SC.tsv stats`

Generate taxonomy used in file only: `<tsv_parser_vXX.py> <source file> tax`

`python3 tsv_parser_v23.py labeled_SC.tsv tax`



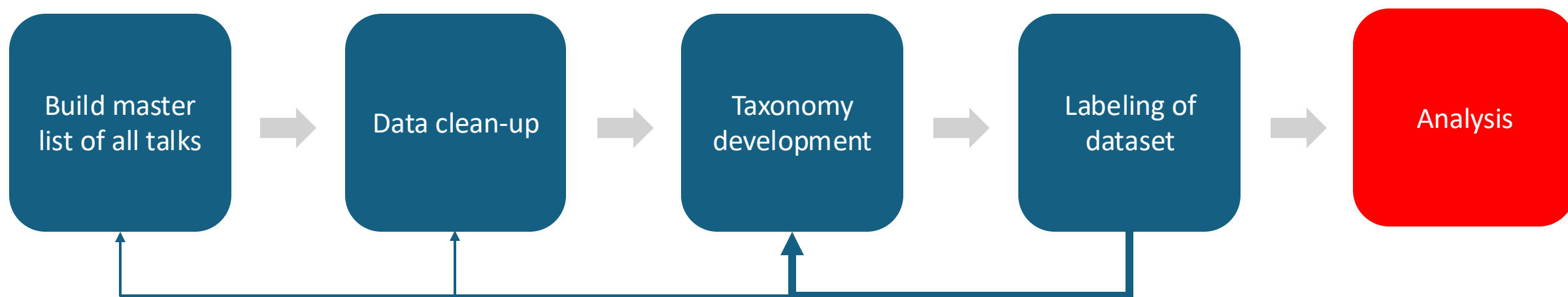
strict digraph g { tsv_parser_v23.py

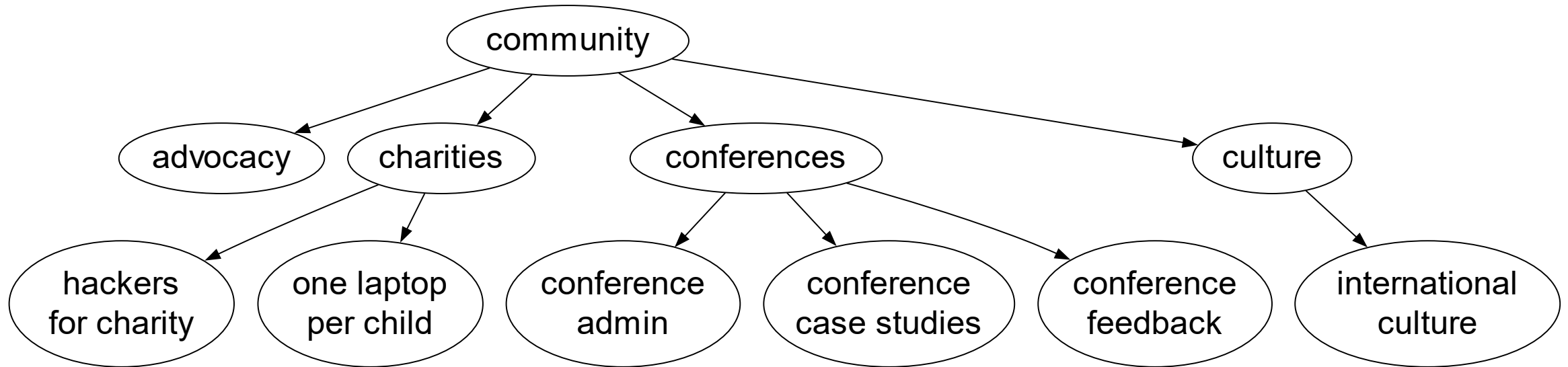
```
10 # this program converts tab separated value (.tsv) files to graphviz (.dot) files for visualization
11 # 17 December 2024
12 # Greg Conti
13 # gjconti@rumint.org
14 # written using Python 3.13.0
15
16 import sys # for command line arguments and sys.exit()
17 from collections import defaultdict # used to reset dictionaries
18
19 # TSV file settings
20 root_node = "ShmooConHackerConference" # used to link all nodes to this common root
21 root_label = "ShmooCon" # more readable label for root_node
22 taxonomy_delimeter = " -> "
23 source_file_delimeter = "\t" # this is \t for TSV files
24 column_headers = True # set to false is TSV does not have column headers, true otherwise
25
26 # These define values point to the correct columns in the TSV file
27 # If your TSV doesn't match these you'll need to make them match
28 conference_iteration_column = 0 # conference iteration
29 conference_year_column = 1 # year of the conference
30 presentation_title_column = 2
31 taxonomy_label_column = 3
32
33 # internal data structures
34 node_dict = {} # dictionary of nodes
35 node_count_dict = defaultdict(int) #value type is int, default value is zero
36 link_path_dict = defaultdict(int) # value type is int, default value is zero
37 conference_year_dict = defaultdict(int) # stores values of all conference years as key, value is count of talks
38 sub_root_node_count_dict = defaultdict(int) #value type is int, default value is zero
39 full_taxonomy = {} # a dictionary of all the taxonomy entries in the file
40 my_matrix2 = dict() # temp for creating matrix of talk counts by year
41
42
43 # TODO: will need to update this to print statistics?
44 # read filename from command line
45 def Get_Filename():
46     if ((len(sys.argv) == 2) or (len(sys.argv)==3)):
47         my_filename = sys.argv[1]
48     else:
49         print ("\nUsage:")
50         print ("Generate dot output only: <tsv_parser_vXX.py> <source file>")
51         print ("Generate dot ouput and summary statistics: <tsv_parser_vXX.py> <source file> stats")
52         print ("Generate taxonomy used in file only: <tsv_parser_vXX.py> <source file> tax\n")
53         sys.exit()
54     return(my_filename)
55
56 # used to see if the command line argument includes a request for printing statistics
57 # on the file or just the .dot output
58 def Get_Stats_Flag():
```

```
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166         sys.exit()
167     return(my_filename)
168
169 # used to see if the command line argument includes a request for printing statistics
170 # on the file or just the .dot output
171 def Get_Stats_Flag():
```

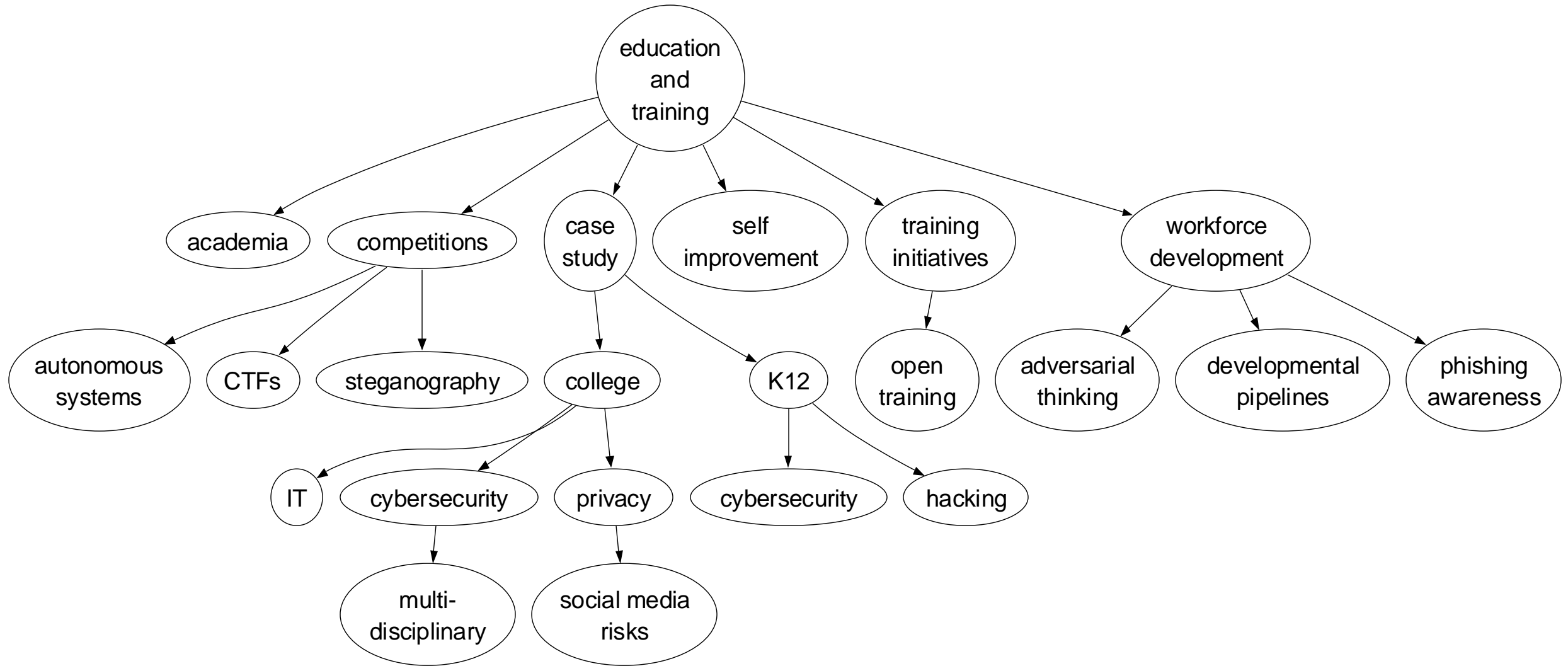

strict digraph g {

```
872 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseenterprisepatchmanagement
873 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseenterprisesecurityarchitecture -> enterpriseenterprisesecurityarchitectureenterprisesecurityarchitecturecasestudy
874 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseenterprisesecuritymetrics
875 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseenterprisesecuritystrategies
876 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseenterprisesecuritystrategies -> enterpriseenterprisesecuritystrategieszerotrust
877 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseproductsecurity
878 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseSOC
879 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseSOC -> enterpriseSOCSIEM
880 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseSOC -> enterpriseSOCSCulture
881 ShmooConHackerConference -> enterprise -> enterpriseSOC -> enterpriseSOCSCOTPs
882 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationAIexploitation
883 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationAIexploitation -> exploitationAIexploitationAIjailbreaking
884 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationalarmsystemexploitation
885 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationbiotechexploitation -> exploitationbiotechexploitationbiotechimplantexploitation
886 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationcloudexploitation
887 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationcloudexploitation -> exploitationcloudexploitationkubernetesexploitation
888 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationcloudexploitation -> exploitationcloudexploitationvirtualmachineexploitation
889 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationcryptographicexploitation -> exploitationcryptographicexploitationcertificateexploitation
890 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationdatabaseexploitation -> exploitationdatabaseexploitationSQLexploitation
891 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationexploitationtools
892 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationexploitationtools -> exploitationexploitationtoolsdataiscoveryandextraction
893 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationexploitationtools -> exploitationexploitationtoolsdataexfiltrationtools
894 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationfirmwareexploitation -> exploitationfirmwareexploitationACPIexploitation
895 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationfirmwareexploitation -> exploitationfirmwareexploitationbootloaderexploitation
896 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationcameraexploitation
897 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationcpuexploitation
898 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationexploitationTTPs -> exploitationhardwareexploitationexploitationTTPsfaultinjection
899 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationfacilityaccesscontrolsystemexploitation
900 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationfitnessstrackerexploitation
901 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationflashdriveexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationflashdriveexploitationdrivecontrollers
902 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationhardwaresensorexexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationhardwaresensorexexploitationzigbeexploitation
903 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationjukeboxexploitation
904 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationkeyboardexploitation
905 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationmagneticcardexploitation
906 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationpinballmachineexploitation
907 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationprinterexploitation
908 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationusbexploitation
909 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitation -> exploitationhardwareexploitationproximitycardssystemexploitation
910 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationhumansexploitation
911 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationIAMexploitation
912 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationIAMexploitation -> exploitationIAMexploitationpasswordcracking
913 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation
914 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation3Gand4Gexploitation
915 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation5Gexploitation
916 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationDNSexploitation
917 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationexpireddomains
918 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationGSMexploitation
919 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationIDSexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationIDSexploitationSNORTexploitation
920 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationinternetbackboneexploitation
921 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationISPexploitation
922 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationLTEexploitation
923 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkAPIexploitation
924 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkmanagementexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkmanagementexploitationCitrixexploitation
925 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkmanagementexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkmanagementexploitationTR069
926 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkprotocolexploitation ->
exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkprotocolexploitationsecuremessagingprotocols
927 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkprotocolexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkprotocolexploitationTCPexploitation
928 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationnetworkswitchesexploitation
929 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationp2pnetworkexploitation
930 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationproxyexploitation
931 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationsoftwaredefinednetworkingexploitation
932 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitation -> exploitationnetworkexploitationVoIPexploitation
933 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitationorganizationalexploitation -> exploitationorganizationalexploitationhackingbureaucracy
934 ShmooConHackerConference -> exploitation -> exploitation0sexploitation -> exploitation0sexploitationAndroidexploitation
```

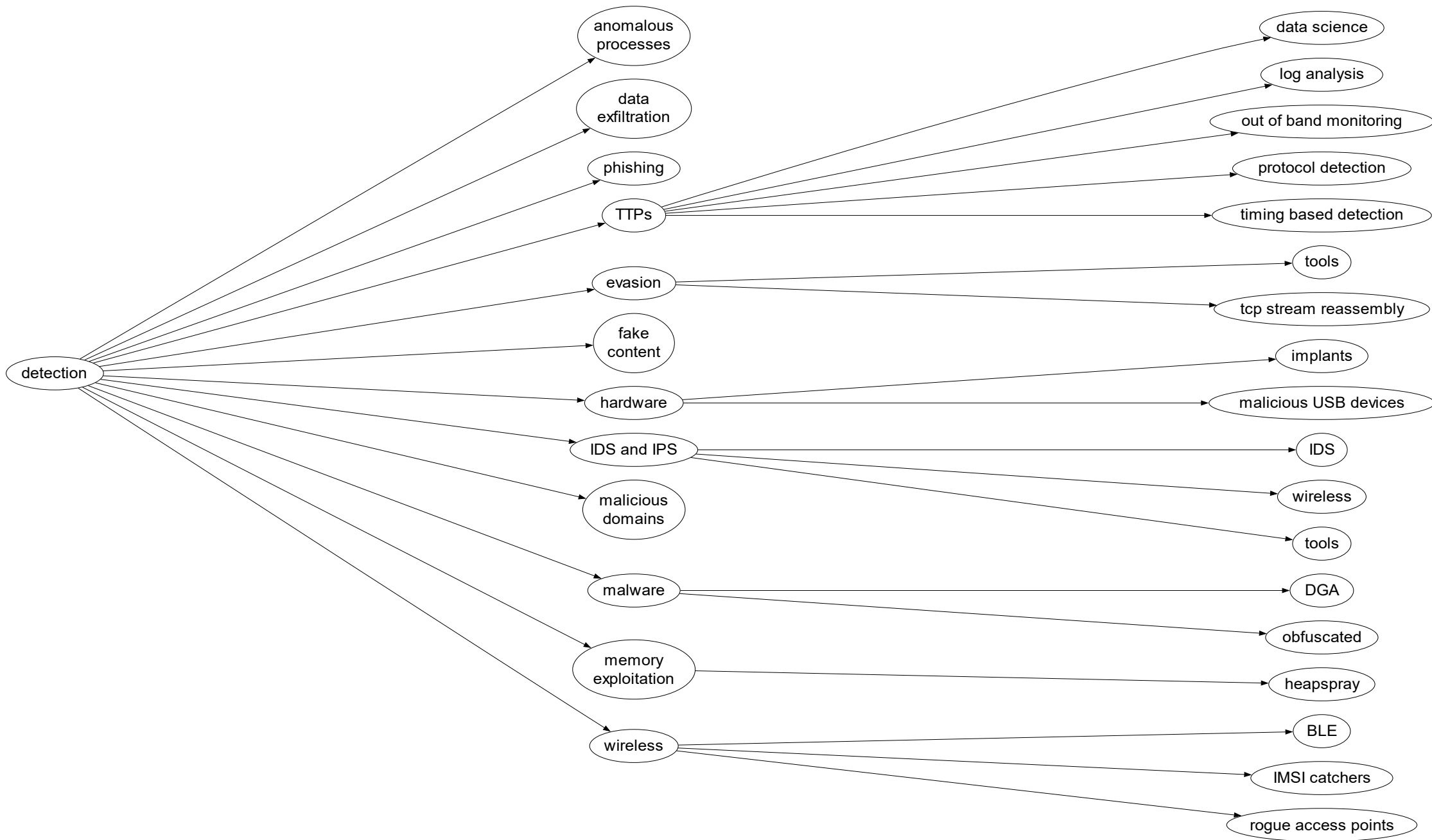





Community (46 talks – 2.3 talks per ShmooCon)



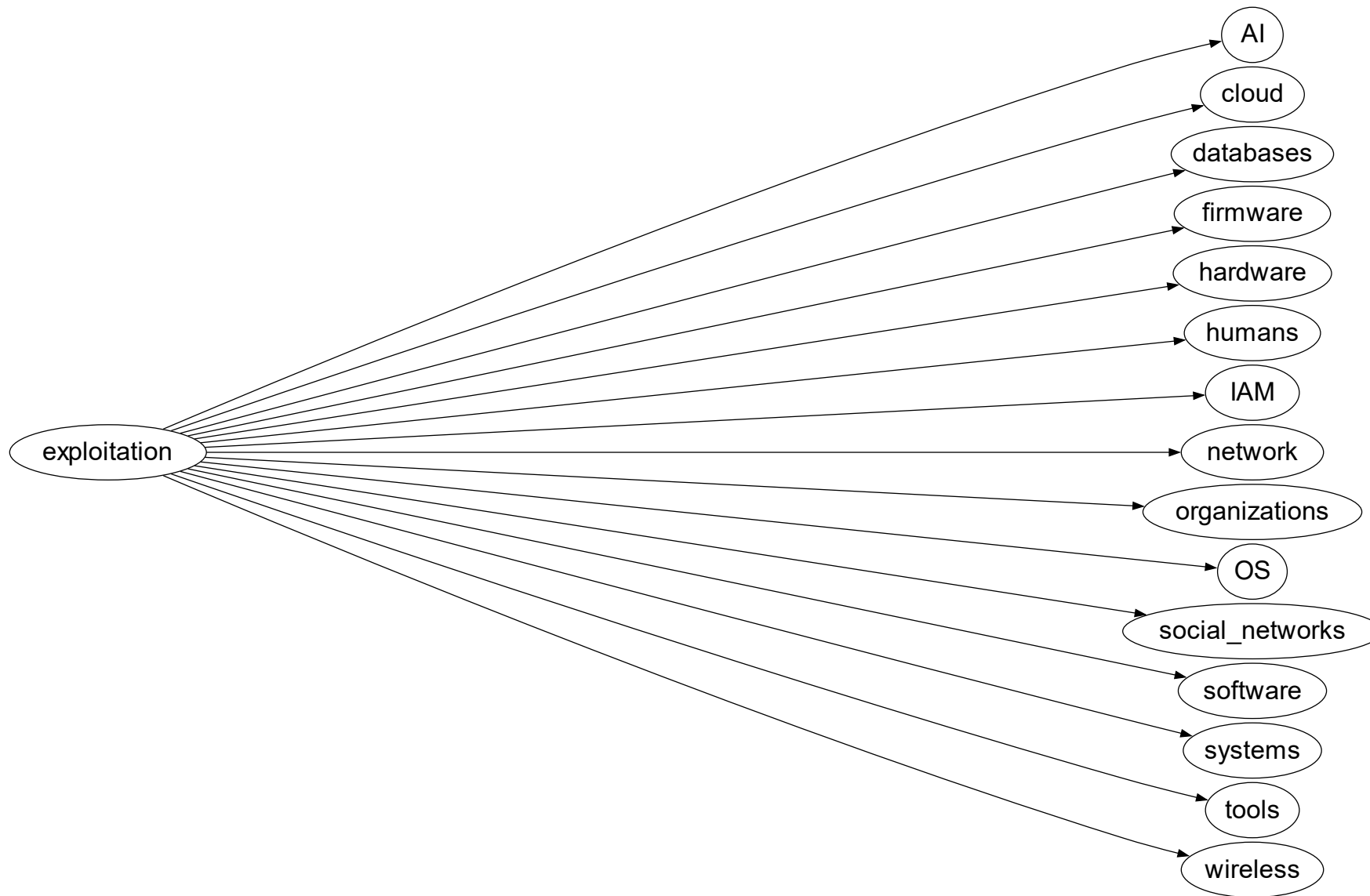
Education and Training (20 talks – 1 talk per ShmooCon)



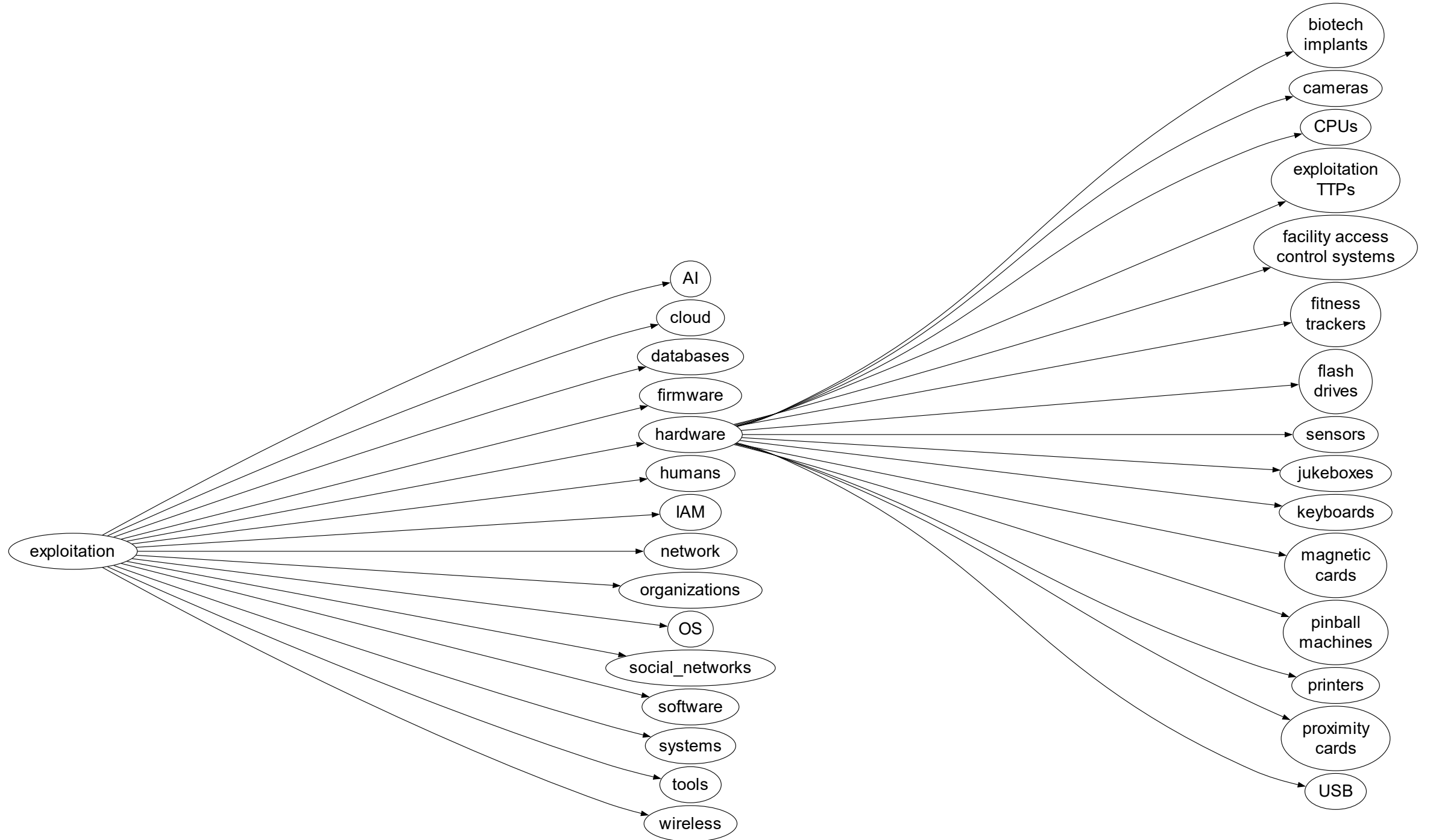
Detection (32 talks – 1.6 talks per ShmooCon)

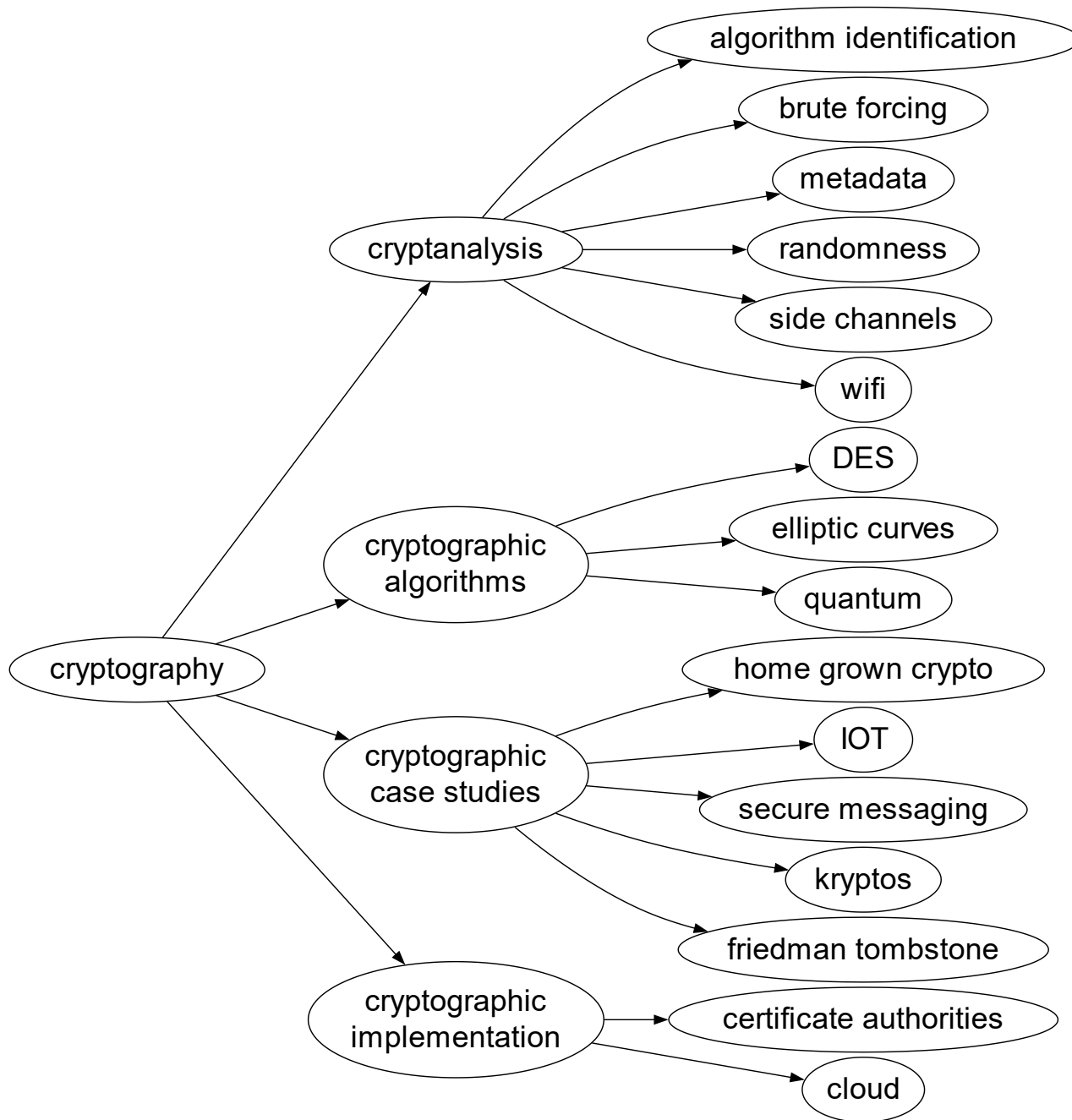


Law (43 talks – 2.1 talks per ShmooCon)



Exploitation (118 talks – 5.9 talks per ShmooCon)





2005 /applied cryptography/? oh, i skimmed through that book once.
 2006 Breaking LanMan Forever
 2006 Kryptos and the Cyrillic Projector Ciphers
 2007 Three Crypto Geeks on the Current State of Cryptography and the Internet
 2007 Hacking the Airwaves with FPGAs
 2007 Home-grown Crypto
 2010 Tales from the Crypto
 2012 New Cool Crypto
 2013 Crypto: You're Doing It Wrong
 2014 SafeCurves: Choosing Safe Curves for Elliptic-Curve Cryptography
 2015 How Random is Your RNG?
 2015 Eliminating Timing Side-channels. A Tutorial.
 2015 NaCl: A New Crypto Library
 2016 Crypto and Quantum and Post Quantum
 2016 Using the Algebraic Eraser to Secure Low-Power and Passive IoT Devices
 2017 The State of Secure Messaging
 2018 Profiling and Detecting all Things SSL with JA3
 2018 The Friedman Tombstone - A Cipher in Arlington National Cemetery
 2018 CertGraph: A Tool to Crawl the Graph of SSL Certificate Alternate Names using Certificate Transparency
 2019 Post-quantum Crypto: Today's defense against tomorrow's quantum hacker
 2019 Un-f*\$#ing Cloud Storage Encryption
 2022 Practical Crypto of InfoSec Noobs
 2024 Going Meta- Pulling info from Encrypted Radios
 2024 NTLMv1-SSP DES Mechanics Explained

Cryptography (24 talks – 1.2 talks per ShmooCon)

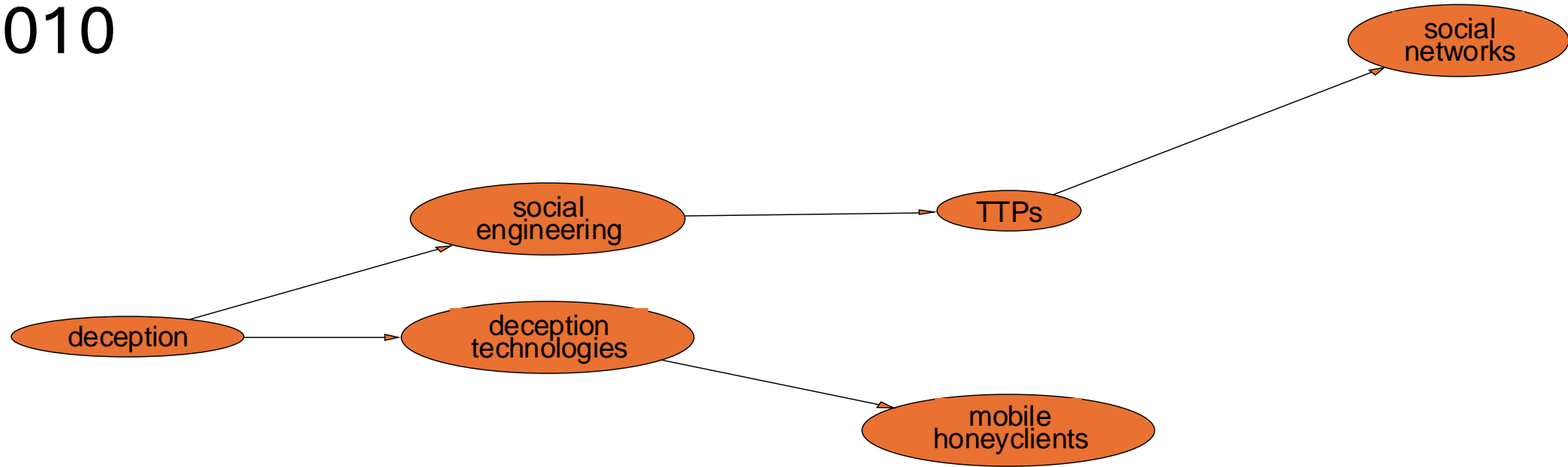
2005-2009

deception

No talks

Deception (13 talks – 0.65 talks per ShmooCon)

2010



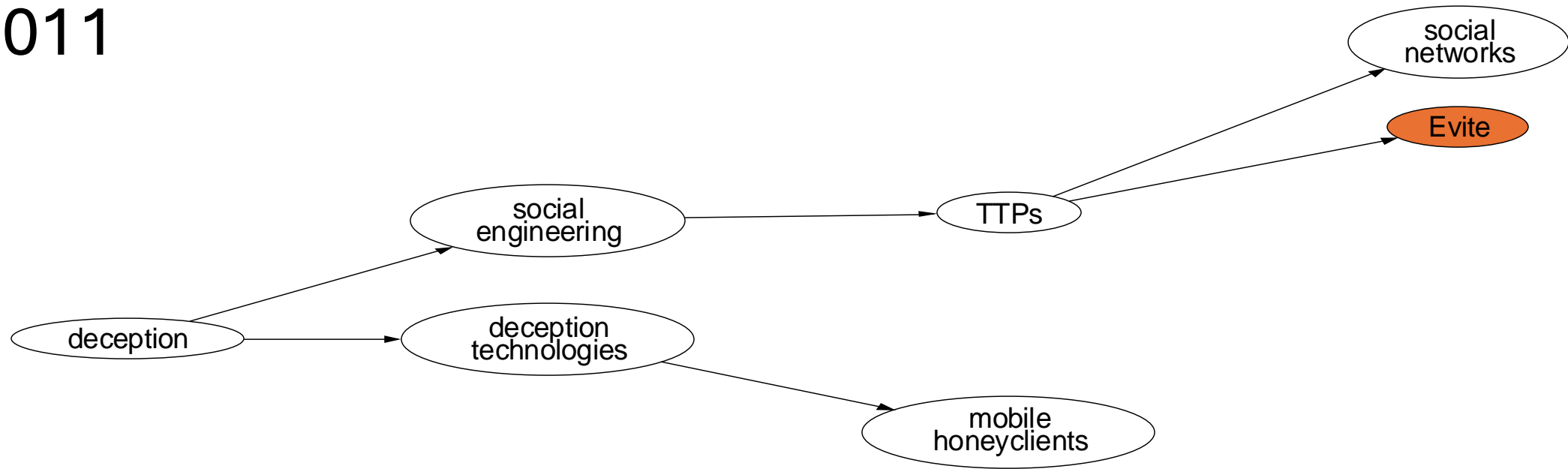
2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains

2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks

deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients

2011



2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains

2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients

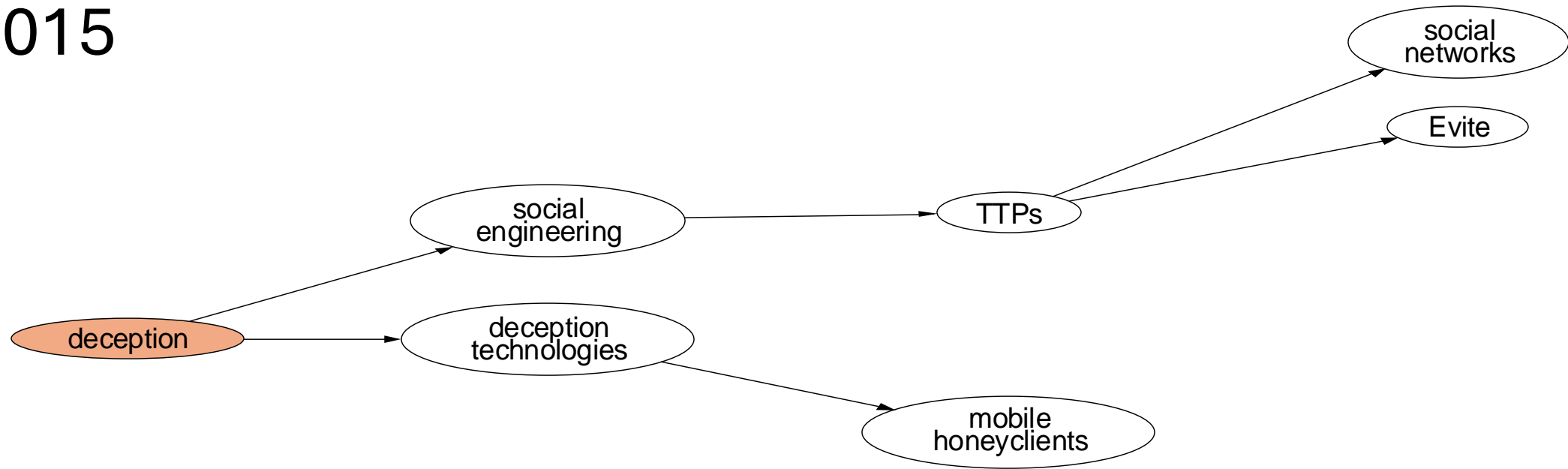
2011 An Evite from Surbo? Probably an invitation for trouble

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks

deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> evite

2015



2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains

2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients

2011 An Evite from Surbo? Probably an invitation for trouble

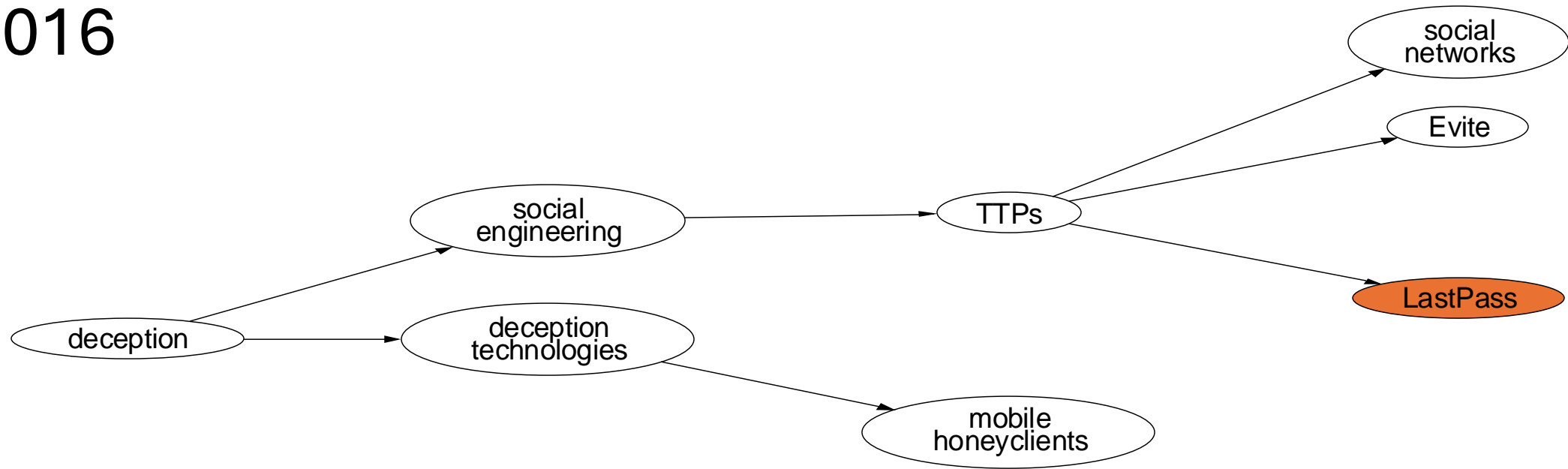
2015 Deception for the Cyber Defender: To Err is Human; to Deceive, Divine deception

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks

deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> evite

2016



2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains

2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients

2011 An Evite from Surbo? Probably an invitation for trouble

2015 Deception for the Cyber Defender: To Err is Human; to Deceive, Divine

2016 LostPass: Pixel-perfect LastPass Phishing

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks

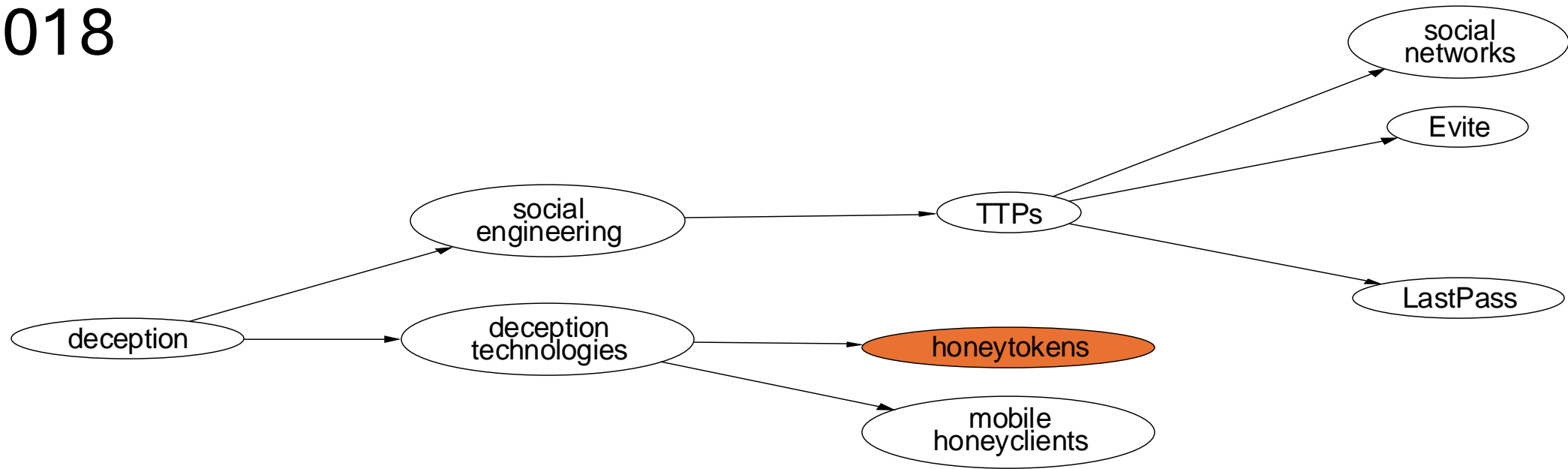
deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> evite

deception

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> last_pass

2018



2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains

2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients

2011 An Evite from Surbo? Probably an invitation for trouble

2015 Deception for the Cyber Defender: To Err is Human; to Deceive, Divine

2016 LostPass: Pixel-perfect LastPass Phishing

2018 AWS Honey Tokens with SPACECRAB

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks

deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients

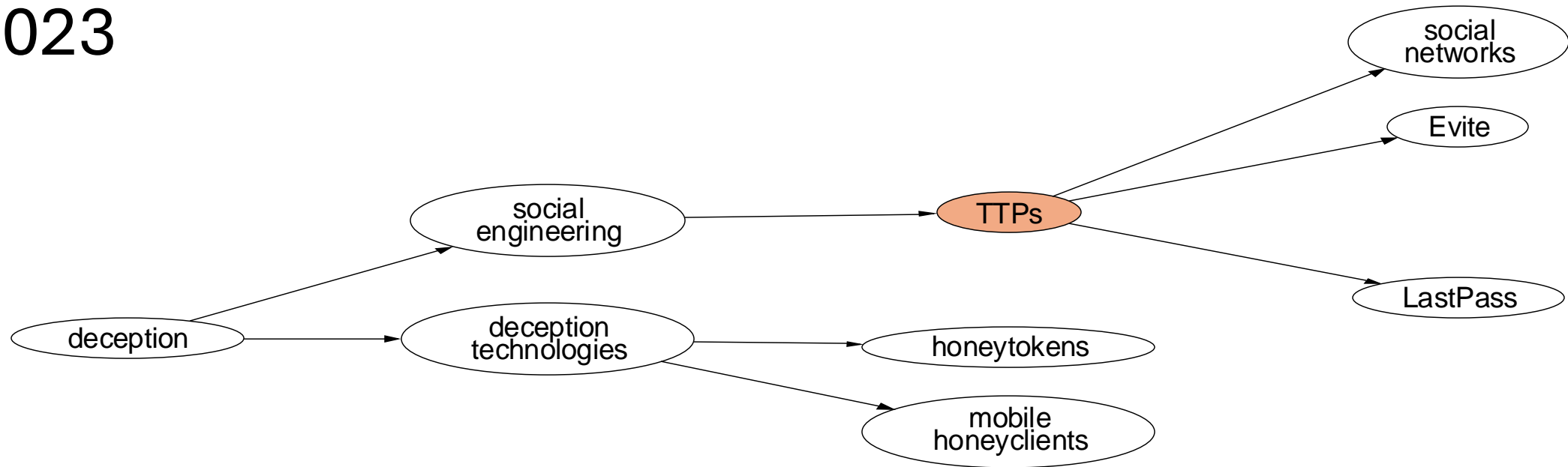
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> evite

deception

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> last_pass

deception -> deception_technologies -> honeytokens

2023



2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains

2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients

2011 An Evite from Surbo? Probably an invitation for trouble

2015 Deception for the Cyber Defender: To Err is Human; to Deceive, Divine

2016 LostPass: Pixel-perfect LastPass Phishing

2018 AWS Honey Tokens with SPACECRAB

2023 Putting on a Big Show: Defending by Attacking Attacker Incentives

2023 Social Engineering from the Detective Perspective

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks

deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> evite

deception

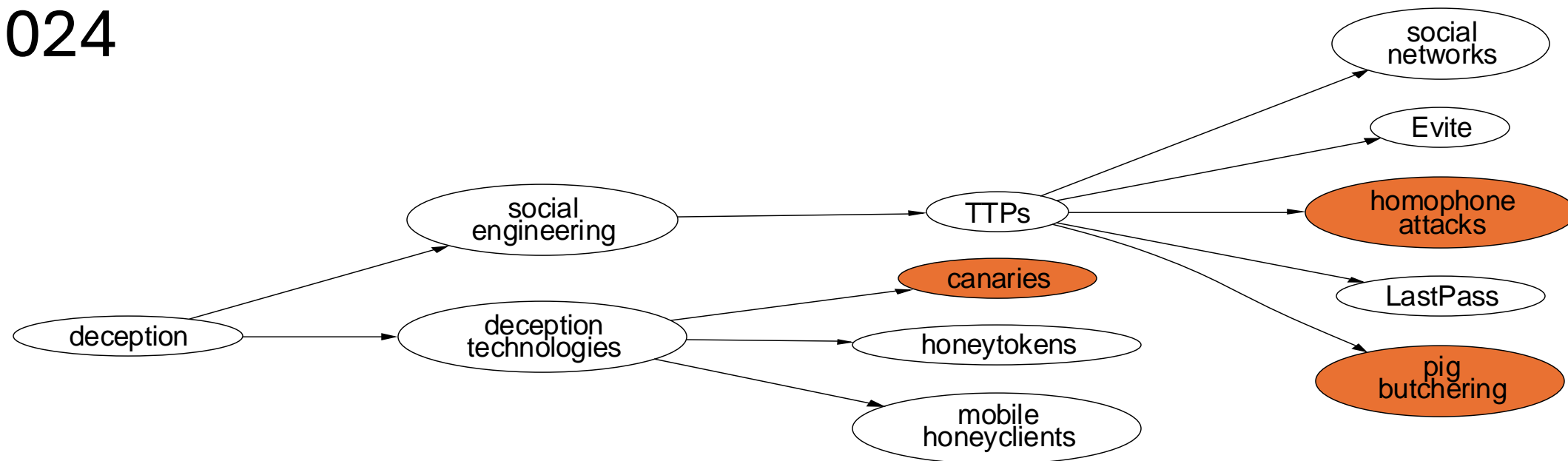
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> last_pass

deception -> deception_technologies -> honeytokens

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs

2024



2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains

2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients

2011 An Evite from Surbo? Probably an invitation for trouble

2015 Deception for the Cyber Defender: To Err is Human; to Deceive, Divine

2016 LostPass: Pixel-perfect LastPass Phishing

2018 AWS Honey Tokens with SPACECRAB

2023 Putting on a Big Show: Defending by Attacking Attacker Incentives

2023 Social Engineering from the Detective Perspective

2024 Ewe Cant Trusst Yore Eers: An Overview Homophone Attacks

2024 Bad Romance: The TTPs of "pig butchering" scammers

2024 Building Canaries with ELK and ElastAlert

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks

deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> evite

deception

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> last_pass

deception -> deception_technologies -> honeytokens

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs

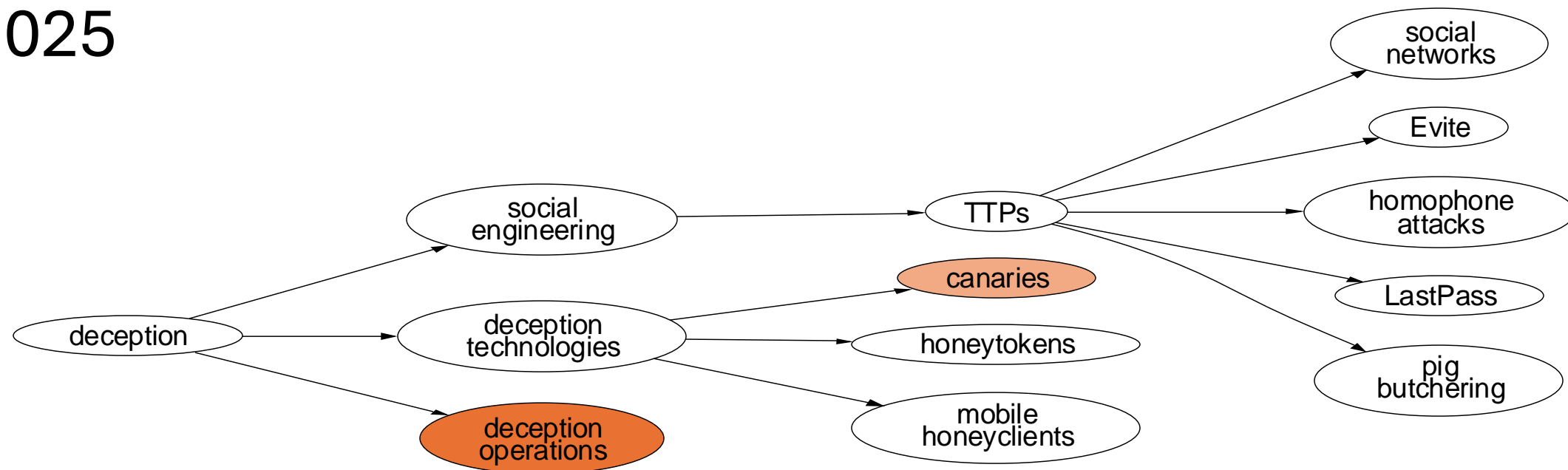
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> homophone_attacks

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> pig_butchering

deception -> deception_technologies -> canaries

2025

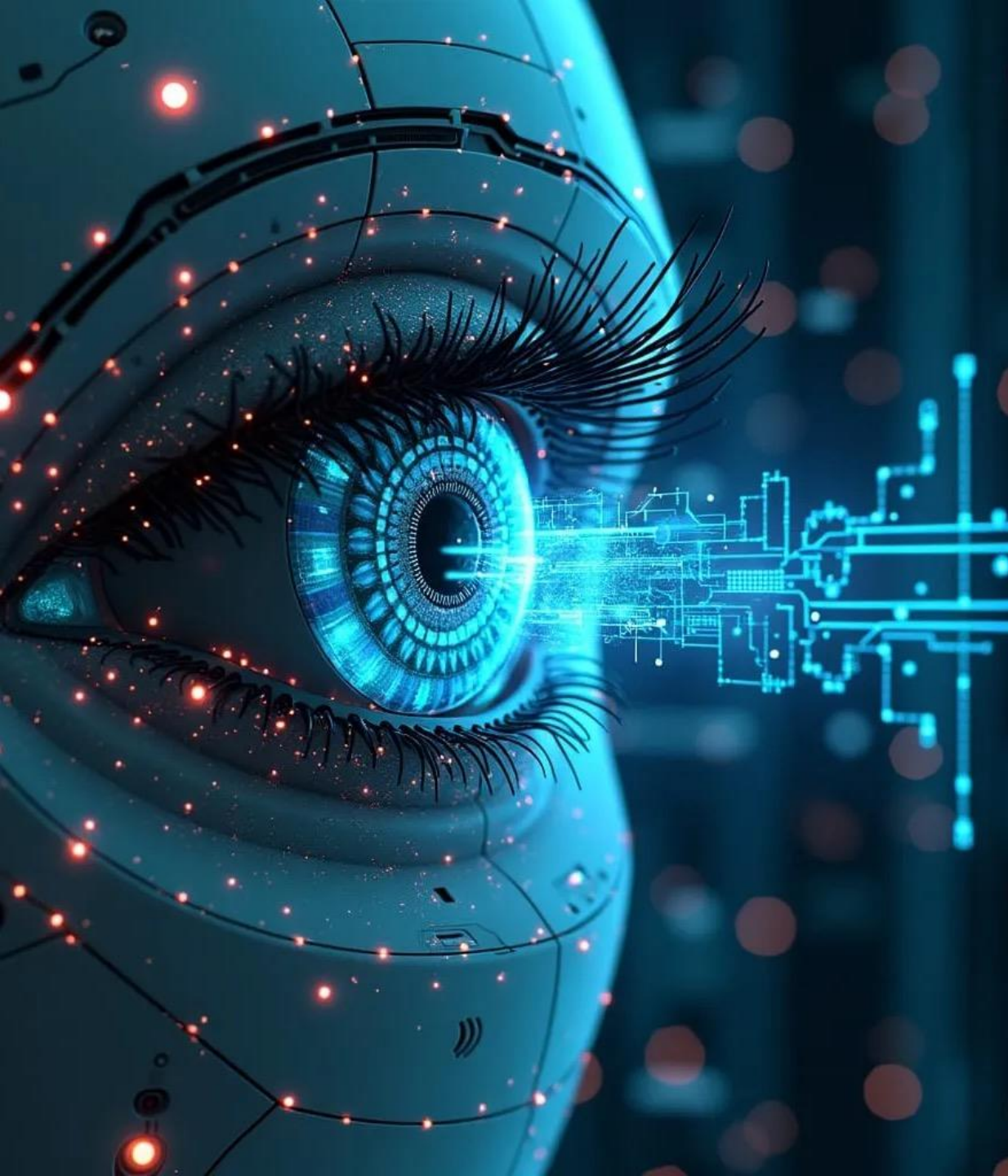


2010 Social Zombies II: Your Friends Need More Brains
2010 honeyM: A Framework For Virtual Mobile Device Honeyclients
2011 An Evite from Surbo? Probably an invitation for trouble
2015 Deception for the Cyber Defender: To Err is Human; to Deceive, Divine
2016 LostPass: Pixel-perfect LastPass Phishing
2018 AWS Honey Tokens with SPACECRAB
2023 Putting on a Big Show: Defending by Attacking Attacker Incentives
2023 Social Engineering from the Detective Perspective
2024 Ewe Cant Trusst Yore Eers: An Overview Homophone Attacks
2024 Bad Romance: The TTPs of "pig butchering" scammers
2024 Building Canaries with ELK and ElastAlert

2025 Deception & Operations Planning Frameworks

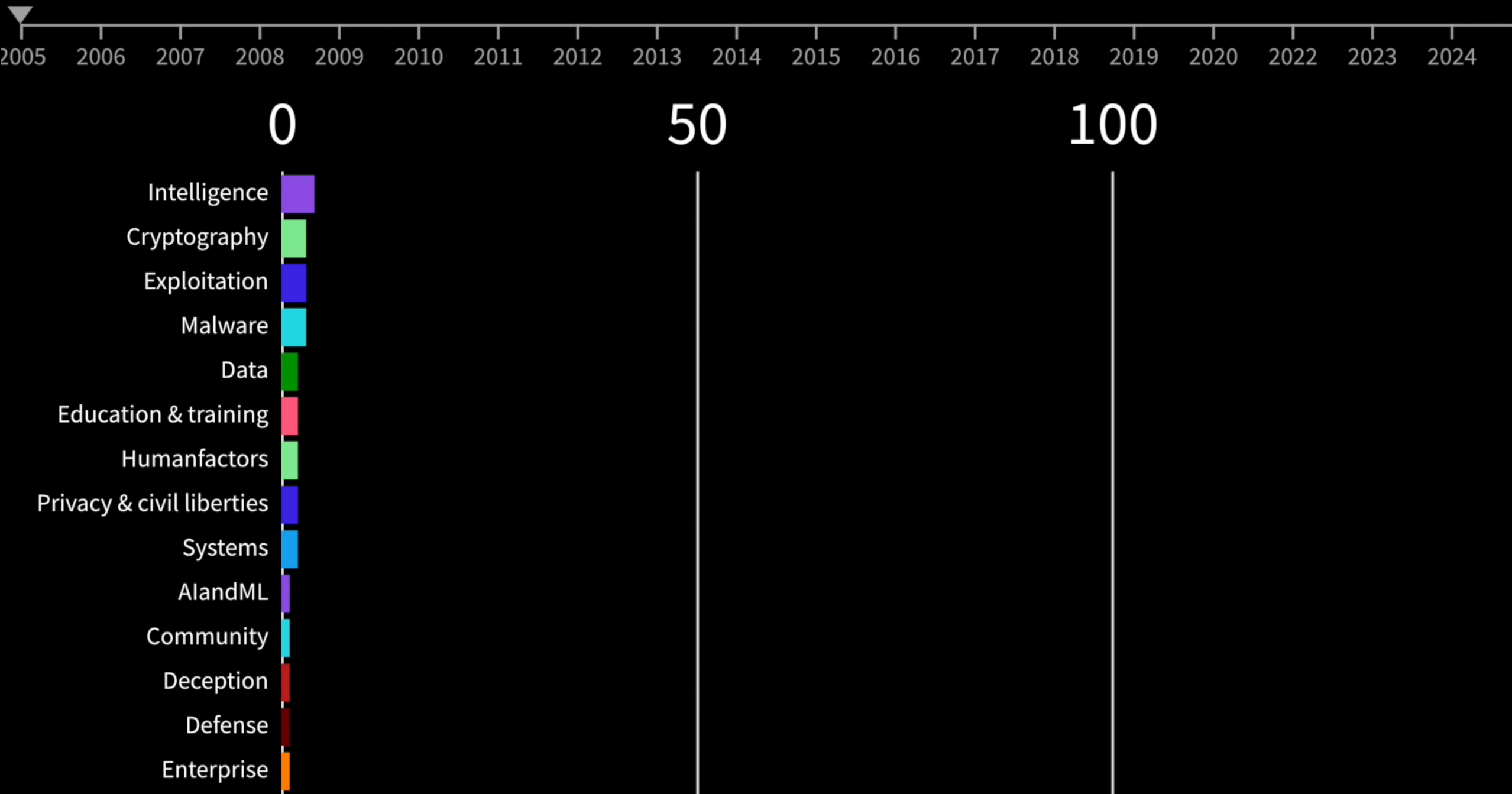
2025 Windows Projected File System — The Reality Stone

deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> social_networks
deception -> deception_technologies -> mobile_honeyclients
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> evite
deception
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> last_pass
deception -> deception_technologies -> honeytokens
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> homophone_attacks
deception -> social_engineering -> TTPs -> pig_butchering
deception -> deception_technologies -> canaries
deception -> deception_operations
deception -> deception_technologies -> canaries



Insights

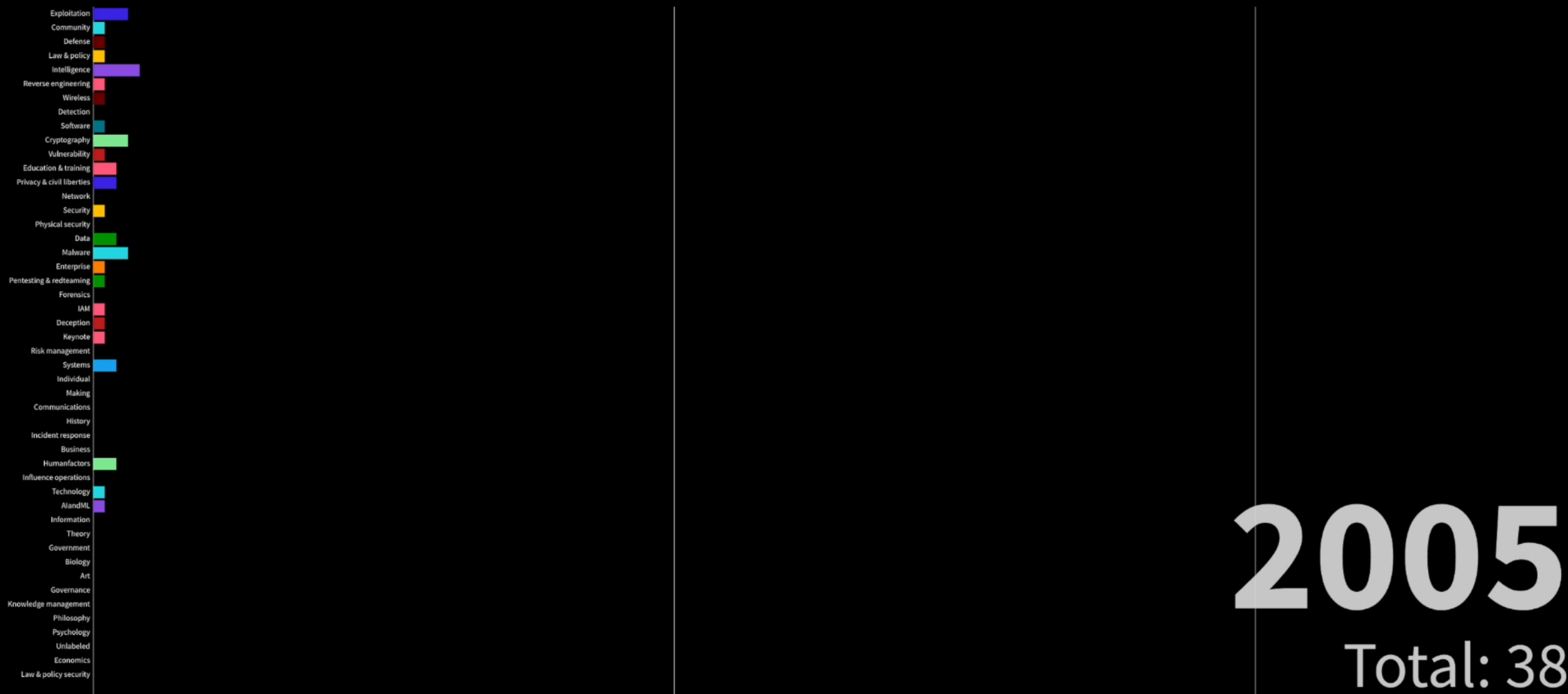
- From chips to the entire internet and space!
- Taxonomy didn't converge
- Other hacker conferences are compatible
- A fully connected graph? An ontology?
- Leaf nodes point to interesting open problems
- Future community research would fill out the taxonomy and graph in amazing ways





2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2022 2023 2024 2025

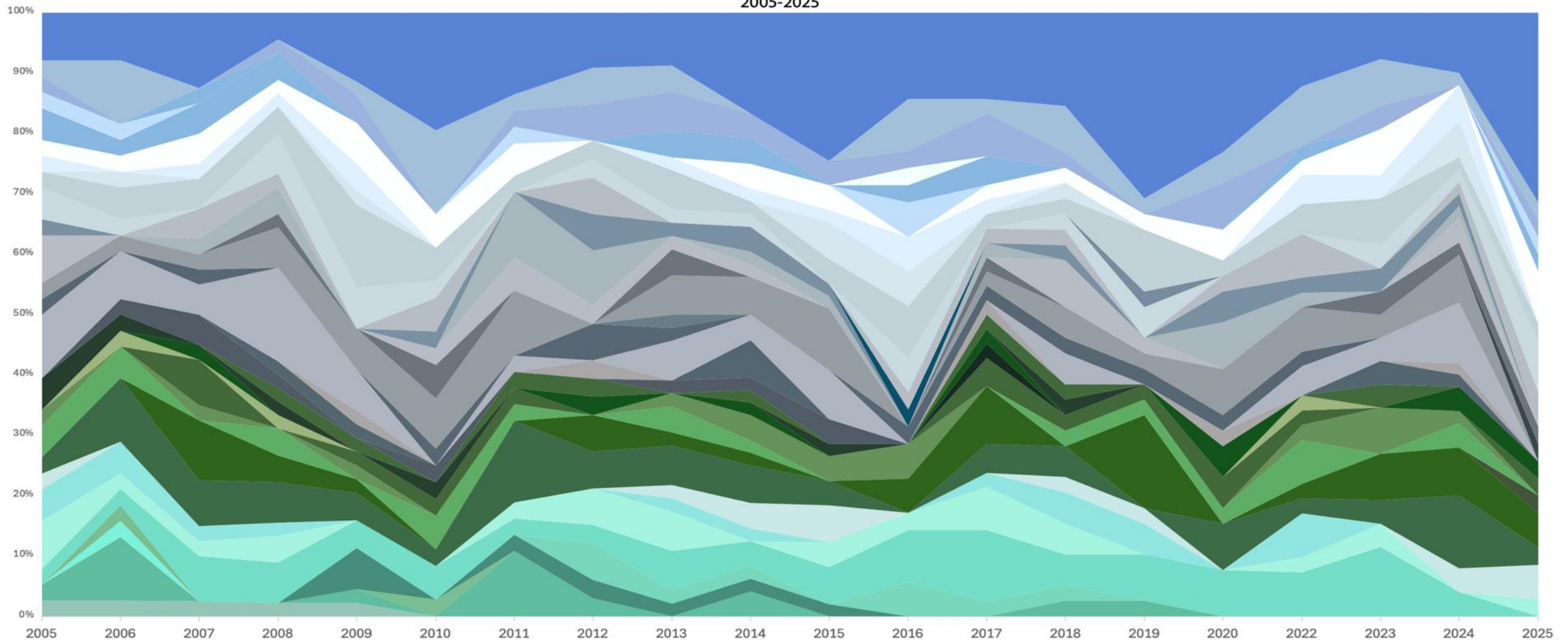
0 50 100



2005
Total: 38



ShmooCon talks by topic



- | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| AI & ML | IAM | Art | Biology | Business | Communications |
| Community | Cryptography | Data | Deception | Defense | Detection |
| Economics | Education & training | Enterprise | Forensics | Governance | Government |
| History | Human factors | Incident response | Individual | Influence operations | Information |
| Intelligence | Keynote | Knowledge management | Law & policy | Law & policy security | Making |
| Malware | Network | Pentesting & red teaming | Philosophy | Physical security | Privacy & civil liberties |
| Psychology | Reverse engineering | Risk management | Security | Software | Systems |
| Technology | Theory | Unlabeled | Vulnerability | Wireless | Exploitation |



Future work

- Refine and expand the dataset
- Refine and expand the taxonomy
- Apply to other hacker conferences
- Automation opportunities
- Integration opportunities



Takeaways

- A huge thank you to ShmooCon!
- We are living in a golden age of hacking, let's document it
- Archive content and meta-data now... the future will thank you
- Standardize a taxonomy and normalize author labeling at inception
- Support archivists and archive sites
- Lots of opportunity for future work
- Try this yourself, it's an excellent learning experience



Sources

ShmooCon's [conference website](#)

Internet Archive's [ShmooCon archive](#) and [Wayback Machine](#)

Thinkst's [conference archive](#)

InfoConDB's [conference archive](#)

Edward Tufte's [Popular Music: The Classic Graphic by Reebec Garofalo](#)

Rebee Garafalo's [Genealogy of Pop/Rock Music](#)

YouTube's [ShmooCon videos](#)

InfoCon's [conference archive](#)

Exploding the Phone's [YIPL/TAP Phone Phreak Convention Flyers](#)

To explore further

Heidi Potter's [Own the COn talks](#) at ShmooCon

Jason Scott's [A History of Hacker Conferences](#), [DEFCON Documentary](#) and works

Nick Percoco and Jonathan Tomek's [The History of the Thotcon Hacking Conference](#)

Ashley Schwartz's [Hackers are People Too](#)

Computer History Museum's [Timeline of Computer History](#)

RSA talk on RSA talks using AI (source?)

DEFCON's Media Server

Taxonomies: NIST's [Cybersecurity Framework](#), ACM's [Computing Classification System](#), IEEE's [Taxonomy](#), Purdue's [New Hacker Taxonomy](#), European Commission's [Cybersecurity Taxonomy](#)

Download poster, art, slides, code, and dataset here...

<https://kopidion.com/projects.html>



A heartfelt tip o' the hat

To all the people who make ShmooCon happen!

Internet Archive

InfoConDB and InfoCon

Thinkst

GraphViz sandbox

Oxdade

Christiaan008

Heidi Potter

Bruce Potter

Jason Scott

Joe Adams

Tom Cross

Jack Daniel

Questions?



Greg Conti



Danielle Scalera

backup slides

Future work – detailed



Refining and expanding the dataset

Add speakers and demographics

Add other conferences and beyond

Fix errors

Refining and expanding the taxonomy

Finer grain resolution of taxonomy categories

Revise and tune categories

Go from emergent to comprehensive

Consider other nearby taxonomies and frameworks for new ideas

Conduct formal [validation of taxonomy](#)

Analysis opportunities

Research arcs by speaker over time

Use of LLMs and other automation to assist

Analyze multiple cons

Integration opportunities

Can the process be automated (AI or otherwise)

Integrate analysis techniques into archive sites

Standardize process to have authors' self-label at inception

Create norm that all content and metadata must be archived

Other

Support existing archive sites

There is a nice research paper here, perhaps a master's thesis

Why not AI? Today is not the day.

ChatGPT 4o mini ▾

what is the total number of talks presented at the shmoocon hacker conference



The total number of talks presented at ShmooCon over its 16-year run (from 2005 to 2020) is a bit tricky to calculate exactly, as it depends on how you categorize sessions (e.g., main track, workshops, or lightning talks). However, I can provide an approximate breakdown based on the typical number of talks per year.

Estimated Total:

96 (main talks) + 32 (workshops) + 240 (lightning talks) = **368 talks** over the course of 16 years.