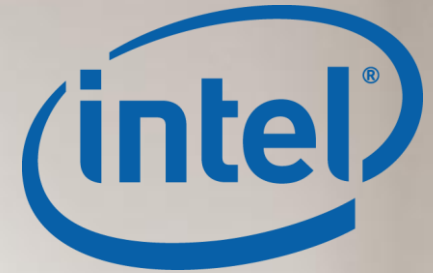


# Get Rich or Get Thin: The Secure Client

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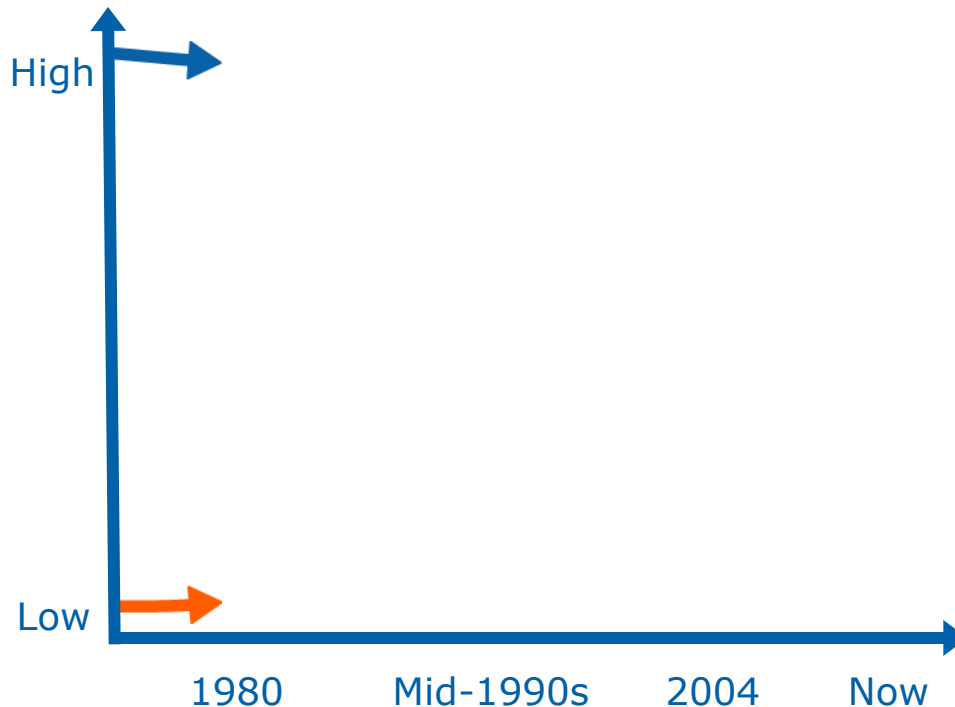
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# Agenda

- Evolution of Attacks
- No Easy Answers
- Parity
- Rich Client Model
- Thin Client Model
- SFF Model
- SAAS & Virtualization
- Actions You Can Take



# Evolution of Attacks



- Required Attacker Knowledge
- Maximum Attack Severity

## Simple Attacks

Basic contagion, replicates to others, password guessing, back doors

## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Attacks

**Motive:** Prestige, notoriety

**Target:** Specific systems

**Impact:** Cosmetic, noisy

**Future:** Denial of service, virus sophistication

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Attacks

**Motive:** Financial

**Target:** Compute availability

**Impact:** Subtle, serious

**Future:** Rootkits, destructive code, zero day exploits

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Attacks

**Motive:** Financial, political

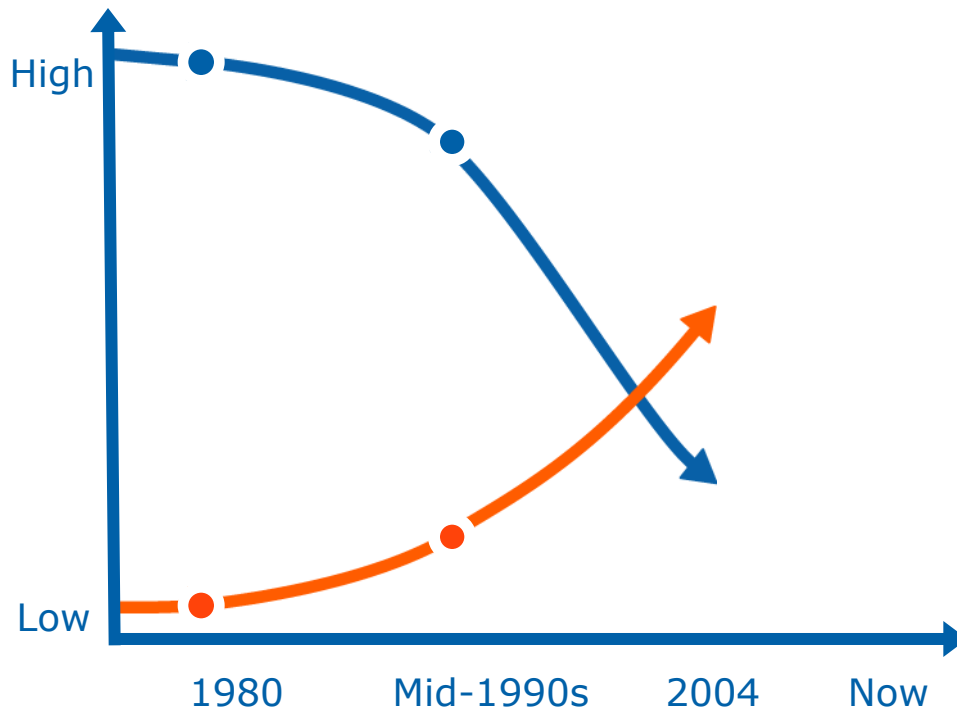
**Target:** Data

**Impact:** Widespread disruption

**Future:** Next-generation rootkits [BIOS, firmware], small form factor (SFF) malware



# Evolution of Attacks



- Required Attacker Knowledge
- Maximum Attack Severity

DOS, DDOS, stealth technology,  
Code Red worm, SQL Slammer worm

## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Attacks

- Motive:** Prestige, notoriety
- Target:** Specific systems
- Impact:** Cosmetic, noisy
- Future:** Denial of service, virus sophistication

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Attacks

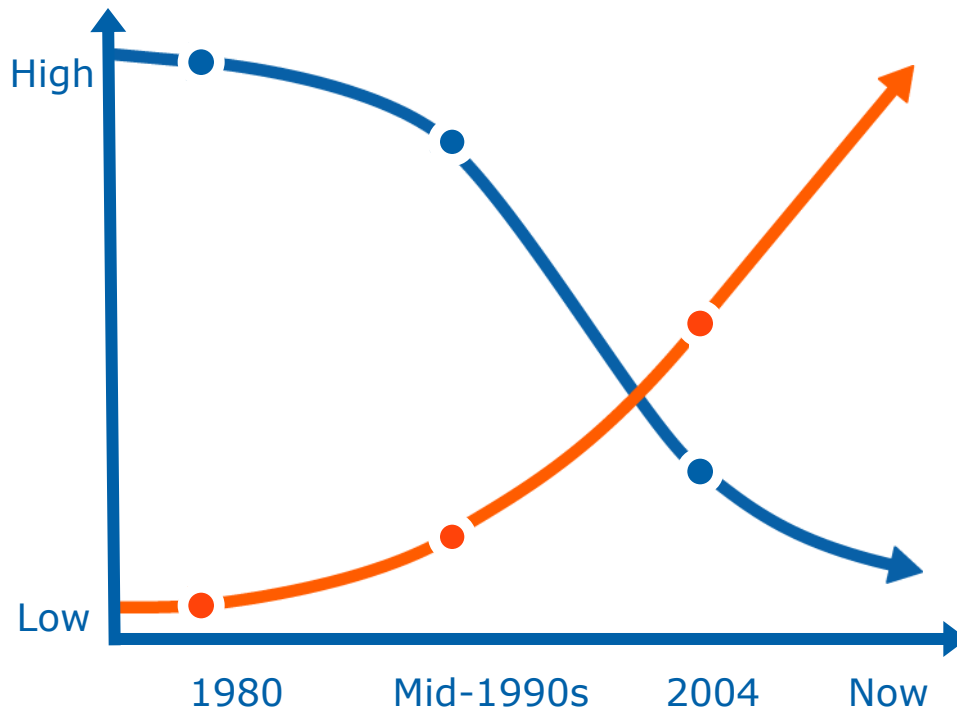
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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Attacks

- Motive:** Financial, political
- Target:** Data
- Impact:** Widespread disruption
- Future:** Next-generation rootkits [BIOS, firmware], small form factor (SFF) malware



# Evolution of Attacks



- Required Attacker Knowledge
- Maximum Attack Severity

Multiple attack vectors,  
social engineering, stealth,  
active payload, zero day

## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Attacks

- Motive:** Prestige, notoriety
- Target:** Specific systems
- Impact:** Cosmetic, noisy
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Attacks

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# No Easy Answers

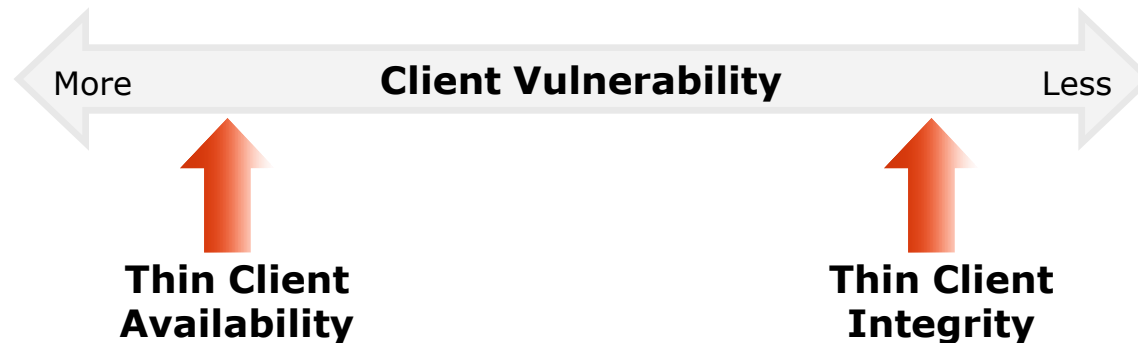
- Today's world is challenging
- Attacks are based on Financial Motivations
- Clients and User actions are the primary attack vector
- Legal and Regulatory Climate
  - Executive Culpability
  - Due Diligence
  - Fiduciary Responsibility



# Model Parity

## Thin Client

- Thin Clients are **more vulnerable to attacks on availability** due to their heavy reliance on network based services and connectivity
- Thin Clients are **less vulnerable to attacks against integrity** due to lack of local storage and software





# Model Parity

## Thin Client

- Thin Clients are **more vulnerable to attacks on availability** due to their heavy reliance on network based services and connectivity
- Thin Clients are **less vulnerable to attacks against integrity** due to lack of local storage and software



## Rich Client

- Rich Clients are **more vulnerable to attacks against integrity** due to software installed local and available local to the device
- Rich Clients are **less vulnerable to attacks on availability** due to local storage and software availability



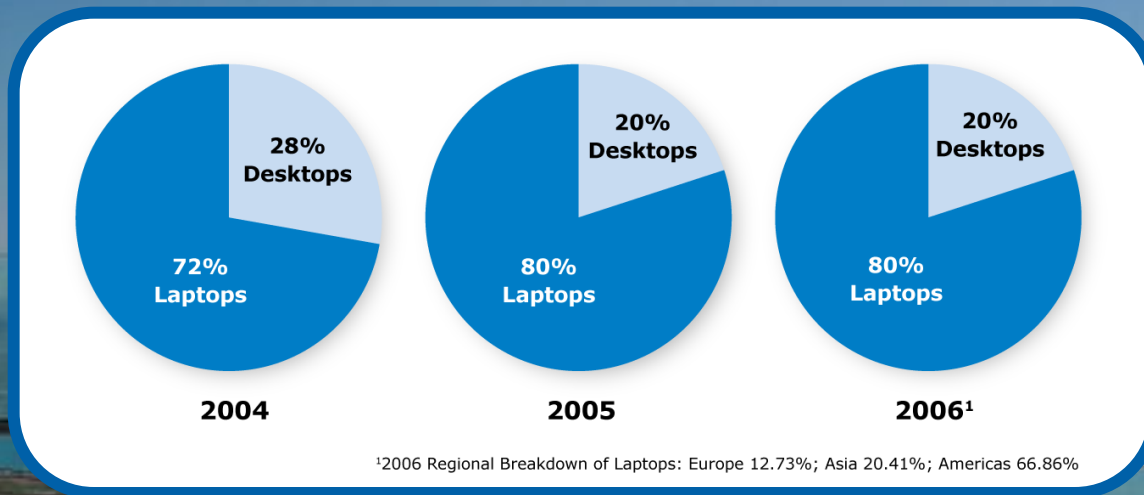
**Rich Client  
Integrity**

**Rich Client  
Availability**



# Intel Environment Trending

- Your current client mix shows your present business model.
- Changing business models may be more costly than changing hardware purchases.



# Rich Client Model



## Pros

- Engineering teams and support staff are trained
- Greater availability of data
- Greater mobility
- Rich Client can mimic Thin Client, but **not** vice versa

## Cons

- Encrypted Data Management
- Patching
- Users



# Mobility Aids Business Continuity

- Moving away from disaster
  - Employees can **take the “office” with them**, out of harm’s way
- Flood hits Folsom, CA building
  - Burst water main floods office space
  - Wireless laptops **easy to relocate**
  - No customer impacts
- Snow shuts down Portland, OR
  - 5,000+ Intel employees simply **work from home** using laptops



# Thin Client Model



1. Still be comprised by hackers
2. End users can still fall prey to social engineering

## Pros

- Potential control of Data Leaving Network
- Potential for consolidated Security Controls
- Patching
- Prevent Users from Installing Misc Apps

## Cons

- Trade Data Availability and Mobility for Security
- Single Point of Access, Single Point of Failure
  - Server **MUST** be impeccably secure
- Reduce functionality to really lock down (USB, CDROM)



# Small Form Factor Model

## Pros

- Hyper-mobile
- Good connectivity

## Cons

- Greater theft rate
- Carrier access to data
- Potential attack vector into corporate network
- Applications not fully supported
- Attacks are ramping very rapidly compared to other models
  - Security is trailing functionality



# SAAS and Virtualization

- **Software As A Service (SAAS)**
  - Both models can benefit from SAAS
  - Provides the some of the benefits of a Thin Client solution to Rich Clients
- **Virtualization**
  - OS Virtualization (Software and Hardware)
  - Application Virtualization
  - Application Wrapping



# Take Action!

- **Document** Usage Models
- **Evaluate** threat/vulnerability vectors
  - Don't believe the hype...  
do your own due diligence
- **Conduct** Internal War Games
- **Prioritize** Risks and Needs





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