

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF ETHICAL HACKING



Your move, sir.

## 6TH CENTURY

The exercise of practiced gamesmanship goes back centuries. Point and counter-point skirmishing through board games started in India with a game called *chaturanga*.



**1475**  
Evolving from *chaturanga*, chess gains its formalized rule set. Battle-worn tacticians sharpen their wits through the game, mastering the art of anticipating an opposition's strategy.



## 1812

Using elements from chess, Georg Leopold von Reisswitz and his son develop *KriegsSpiel*, a wargame used by the Prussian army to help prepare for battles.

**1889**  
The U.S. Navy adopts wargaming as a training tool, encouraging foresight in leadership through military simulation.



## 1964

"Tiger Teams" emerge as a group of technical specialists selected for their experience, energy and imagination. One of the first teams was assigned to track down possible sources of failure in a spacecraft subsystem.



**1984**  
U.S. Navy Commander Richard Marcinko builds and leads a team of Navy SEALs whose objective is to test naval bases' vulnerability to terrorism.



## 1974

The U.S. Air Force conducts one of the first ethical hacks, a security evaluation of the Multics operating system.

**1985**  
First issue of Phrack is published - an e-zine written by and for hackers.



## 1986

The *Computer Fraud and Abuse Act* cracks down on computer crimes. Certain ethical hacking methodologies are now considered illegal without a contractual agreement between ethical hacker and client.

**1992**  
The movie "Sneakers," about a fictional tiger team in San Francisco that becomes entwined in international intrigue, is released.



## 1995

Daniel Farmer and Wietse Venema release SATAN (Security Administrator Tool for Analyzing Networks), a tool to help system administrators find and report networking-related security problems.

Dibs!



## 1995

IBM's John Patrick coins the term "ethical hacking."



## 2003

The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) releases the OWASP Testing Guide, which includes a framework for penetration testing best practices.

**2009**  
The Penetration Testing Execution Standard (PTES) launches, offering businesses and security service providers a common language and scope for performing penetration tests.



Your move, CISO.



## 2013

Worldwide enterprise security spending reaches \$6.4 billion. Security executives begin to use on-demand penetration testing services for cost-effective ethical hacking.



SOURCES: tradgames.org.uk; wikipedia.org; google.com; ucdavis.edu; specialoperations.com; phrack.org; porcupine.org; csm.ornl.gov; owasp.org; pentest-standard.org; canalys.com