

Lessons Learned from Lessons Taught



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About Me

- By Day – IAM Director, Equitable
- Night – Adjunct Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Board Member Emeritus – IDPro
- Also, Precinct Judge, Charlotte Board of Elections
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Previously on Moneyball...



Do they understand Digital Identity?



HAVE FUN

STORMING THE CASTLE

Storyline

- Fall 2023 – What happened
- Lessons Learned Part 1 – The micro
- Lessons Learned Part 2 – The bigger picture
- Where we go from here – Next steps
- The grand challenge...

Fall 2023 Episode 1



A close-up shot from the movie 'The Avengers' showing Thor (Chris Hemsworth) on the right, smiling warmly at Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) on the left. Thor is wearing his red and black Asgardian armor. Tony's head is in profile on the left. The background is a blurred blue and white interior.

IS IT THOUGH ?



Narrator: It was not...

Lessons Learned Part 1 – The Micro View

So How'd It Go?

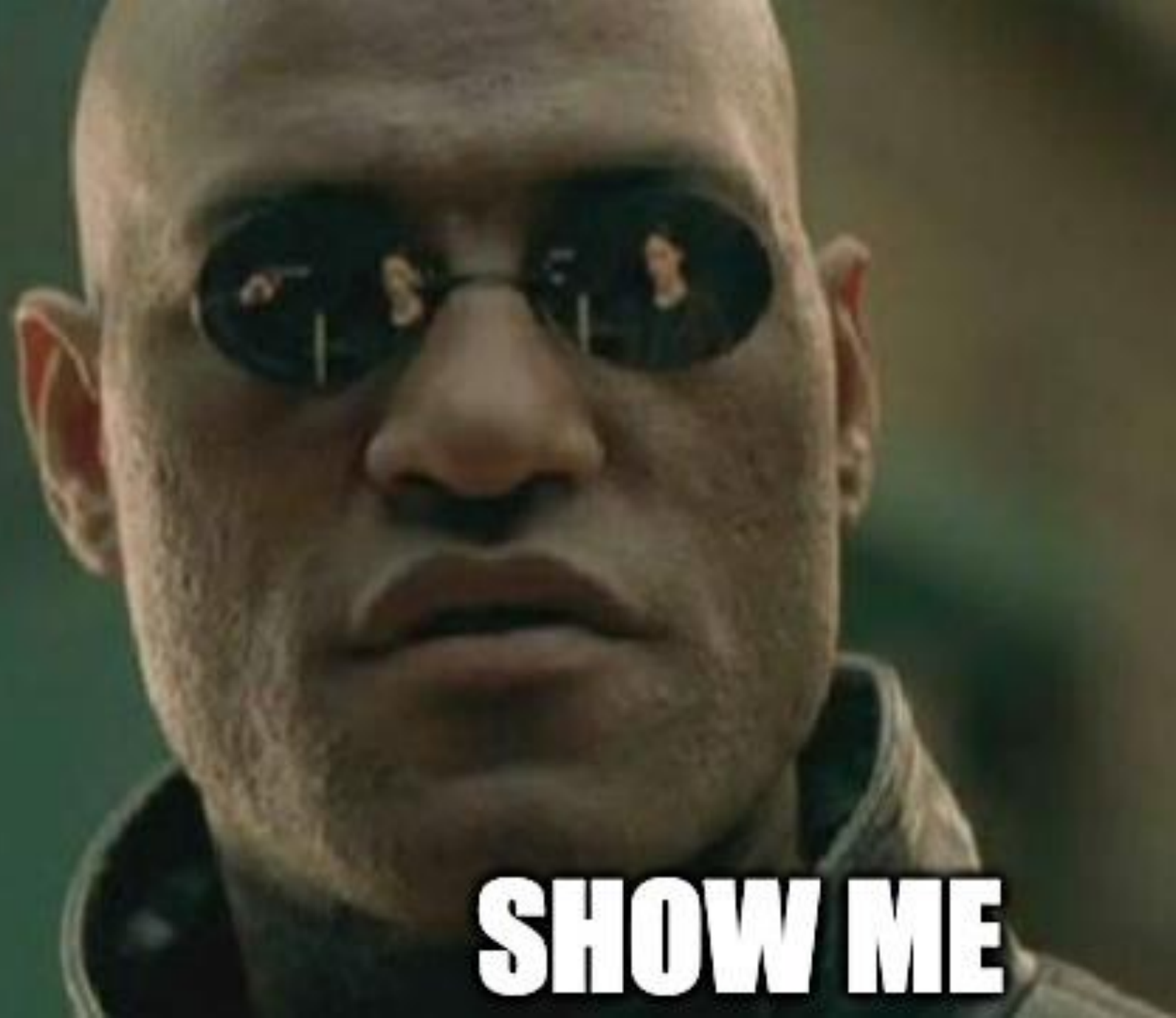
- 24 students, mostly Freshmen & Sophomores
- The challenge – most were barely versed in comp sci at this stage, much less cybersecurity or systems design
- A lot of track was laid while the train was rolling
- Grade structure was 50% activities, 30% exams, 20% quizzes

Student Feedback

- They LOVED the guest speakers
- Overwhelmingly positive feedback on web evaluations
- Other feedback/requests – more activities to apply concepts
- Favorite Comment – “This class was great, I think in the modern era, everyone should take this course or one similar.”

I KNOW

IDENTIFIERS



SHOW ME

Some struggles

- Reading (can we talk?)
- Terminology overload at times
- Application of concepts was a challenge at times due to foundation missing or shaky

Course Building Lessons

- Building activities/labs is MUCH harder than building lectures
- The BoK is a treasure, but horse-water analogy applies here
 - Lesson prep quizzes essential
- Left out a session on citizen issues in identity, need to fix that
- This class isn't a bridge to CIDPRO, at least for most

Course Lessons Pt 2

- Systems Thinking module...work in progress
- Ideally an intro to CyberSec course should be a pre-requisite
- Need stronger tie to learning objectives
- Keep class small if you can

Teaching Lessons

- Week to week is ok, don't have to have it all figured out Week 1, but more track down prior to semester start is terrific
- Ask for feedback regularly
- Why? Always tie to Why
- Psychological safety – open with the challenge, let them know you get it

Lessons Learned Part 2 – The Bigger Picture

The College Picture

- Class is in process for formal adoption
 - Not forcing it as a requirement...yet
 - Will be undergrad/grad hybrid
- Need to work out BoK licensing
- Anticipating resistance, but outlook is good
- An unexpected ally arrived...

Beyond UNC-Charlotte

Once adopted, all my course materials will move to GitHub or a similar repository

Will definitely need help beyond this

Should pre-requisites be mandatory?

Where we go from here – Next Steps

Next Steps

- Curriculum needs to be accessible by non-experts for growth
- Need to revisit the sales side of identity, have a WHY pitch for adoption
- BoK is fantastic, but needs to grow, especially with the basics

Next Steps

- Should there be a Security+ equivalent version of IDPro certification to encourage students?
- Conference scholarships need to be strongly considered, how do we make this happen at scale?

The Grand Challenge

I WANT YOU





How to Contribute



Is Teaching an Option for You?

- Local colleges LOVE people with real world expertise
 - The students love it even more
 - Degree requirements will vary
 - You WILL have help
 - Online can be an option
- If this is too much time for you, is there someone you can partner with to team teach the course?
- If you're a hard no, can you help with the curriculum?
 - Designing labs would be a HUGE help

Key Takeaways

- This was incredibly HARD, but SO worth it
- Lots more to do to succeed locally
- We are never done selling identity as essential to digital life
- Need help with open sourcing curriculum
- Consider teaching, or helping build modules/activities
- Questions, feedback, or volunteers: lpeterman@idpro.org

Questions?



Thank You!!!

