

How Did That Happen? Practical Techniques for Analyzing Suspicious Traffic

COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

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- Certified instructor and internationally recognized network security and forensics expert with more than 30 years of experience
- US Navy Retired and the founder of Merlion's Keep Consulting, a professional services company specializing in network and forensics analysis
- Member of the Global Cyber Response Team (GCRT), FBI InfraGard, Computer Security Institute, and the IEEE and volunteer at Cyber Warfare Forum Initiative
- Numerous certifications, including Certified Network Expert (CNX)-Ethernet, CCNA, Certified Wireless Network Administrator (CWNA), and WildPackets Certified Network Forensics Analysis Expert (WNAX)



Welcome to the Internet – Now What?





Patterns are Bad....

No.	IP - Sec	D - Dest	Protocol	Size (B)	Sec Port	Dest Port	Into
25	10.129.211.13	205.188.226.24	TCP	62	1050	80	1050-+80 [SYN] Seq=3446458898 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
26	205.188.226.248	10.129.211.13	ICMP	70	1050	80	Destination unreachable (Port unreachable)
27	10.129.211.13	10.129.102.0	TCP	62	1051	139	1051
28	10.129.211.13	10,129,102.1	TCP	62	1052	139	1052-139 [SYN] seq=590255581 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
29	10.129.211.13	10,129,102,2	TCP	62	1053	139	1053-139 [SYN] \$eq=435193567 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
30	10.129.211.13	10.129.102.3	TCP	62	1054	139	1054-+139 [SYN] Seq=3315488781 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
31	10.129.211.13	10.129.102.4	TCP	62	10.55	139	1055→139 [SYN] Seq=976544386 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
32	10.129.211.13	10,129,102.5	TCP	62	1056	139	1056
33	10.129.211.13	10.129.102.6	TCP	62	1057	139	1057
34	10.129.211.13	10.129.102.7	TCP	62	1058	139	1058
35	10.129.211.13	10.129.102.8	TCP	62	1059	139	1059-+139 [SYN] Seq=876694737 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
36	10.129.211.13	10.129.102.9	TCP	62	1060	139	1060 -130 [SVN] seq=1360512525 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1

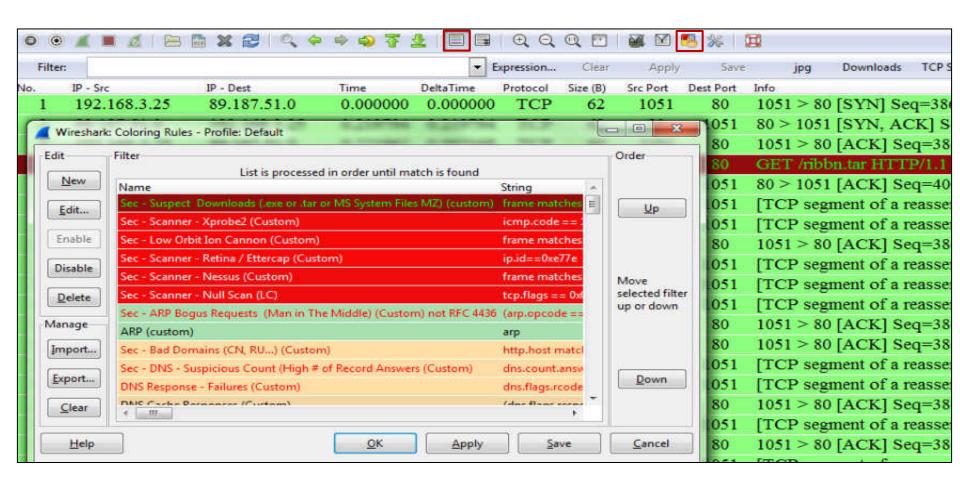
							- 1	CP Conversation	15
Address A 4	Dog A		Dest R 4 0	harbate 4 Ro	ter 4 Darket	A-R 4 Ridge	A_R & Darbat	ALR & Rutes	A_E
*********	****	*****	****		466	*	40		
10.129.211.13	1060	10.129.102.9	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1061	10.129.102.10	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1062	10.129.102.11	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1063	10.129.102.12	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129,211.13	1064	10.129.102.13	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1065	10.129.102.14	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129,211.13	1066	10.129.102.15	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1067	10.129.102.16	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1068	10.129.102.17	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1069	10.129.102.18	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1070	10.129.102.19	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1071	10.129.102.20	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1072	10.129.102.21	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129,211.13	1073	10.129.102.22	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1074	10.129.102.23	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1075	10.129.102.24	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1076	10.129.102.25	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1077	10.129.102.26	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1078	10.129.102.27	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129.211.13	1079	10.129.102.28	139	1	62	1	62	0	
10.129,211.13	1080	10.129.102.29	139	1	62	1	62	0	

10,129,102.0	6	404	-2	140	4	264
10.129.102.1	6	404	2	140	4	264
10.129.102.2	6	404	2	140	4	264
10.129.102.3	6	404	2	140	4	264
10,129,102,4	6	404	2	140	4	264
10.129.102.5	6	404	2	140	4	264
10,129,102.6	6	404	2	140	4	264
10.129.102.7	6	404	2	140	4	264
10,129,102.8	6	404	2	140	4	264
10.129.102.9	6	404	2	140	4	264
10.129.102.10	6	404	2	140	4	264
10.129.102.11	6	404	2	140	4	264

Statistics -> Endpoints

Statistics -> Conversations

Color Rules are Your Best Friend



Advanced Filtering - Perl-Compatible Regular Expressions (PCRE)

PCRE's are essentially a special text string for describing a search pattern (shortcut) that make a range of advanced actions available within the syntax of a standard display filter

PERC	Definition
١	Preceding one of the above, will suppress their special meaning
^/\$	Start of String \ End of String
•	Any Character
	Alteration (implied OR)
*/+	0 or more previous expressions / 1 or more previous expressions
(?i)	Case insensitive search
?	0 or 1 of previous expression; forces matching when expression might match several strings within a search string
{} / []	Explicit quantifier notation / Explicit set of characters to match
()	Logical grouping of part of an expression

Detecting Suspicious File transfers

No.	Source	Destination	Time	DeltaTime	Protocol	Length	Info
1	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	Vmware_b9:39:c3	0.000000	0.000000	TCP	62	1051 > 80 [SYN] Seq=3862586801 Win=6
2	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.219794	0.219794	TCP	62	80 > 1051 [SYN, ACK] Seq=4069722703 a
3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	Vmware_b9:39:c3	0.221962	0.002168	TCP	60	1051 > 80 [ACK] Seq=3862586802 Ack=4
4	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	Vmware_b9:39:c3	0.223935	0.001973	HTTP	219	GET /ribbn.tar HTTP/1.1
5	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.444535	0.220600	TCP	54	80 > 1051 [ACK] Seq=4069722704 Ack=3
6	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.449296	0.004761	TCP	1426	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
7	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.449819	0.000523	TCP	1426	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
8	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	Vmware_b9:39:c3	0.451005	0.001186	TCP	60	1051 > 80 [ACK] Seq=3862586967 Ack=4
9	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.675966	0.224961	TCP	1426	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
10	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.676292	0.000326	TCP	1426	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
11	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.677088	0.000796	TCP	1426	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
12	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	Vmware_b9:39:c3	0.677937	0.000849	TCP	60	1051 > 80 [ACK] Seq=3862586967 Ack=4
13	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	Vmware_b9:39:c3	0.856904	0.178967	TCP	60	1051 > 80 [ACK] Seq=3862586967 Ack=4
14	Vmware_b9:39:c3	Vmware_f2:e1:4a	0.902107	0.045203	TCP	1426	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]

Color Rule: frame matches "\.(?i)tar " or frame matches "MZ" or frame matches "\.(?i)exe"

Forensic Diagramming a Picture is worth 1024 Words...



- 1. Pick a single conversation (Filter)
- 2. Add the MAC addresses in that conversation to your picture
 - Draw arrows representing the flow of packets between interfaces
 - Try to identify which interfaces belong to stations and which ones belong to routers
 - Identify Access Points by the BSSID field in packets
- 3. Add the logical addresses that correspond to each MAC address
- 4. Evaluate the flow of data at both the logical and physical layers to see if it is appropriate

Forensic Diagramming Aid - IPv4 Time-to-Live

The Time To Live count is decremented each time a packet enters a router

When the count reaches zero, the router discards the packet and reports an ICMP Time To Live Exceeded message back to the originator

Many common Operating Systems have standard or default TTL's:

OS Version	TCP TTL	UDPTTL
FreeBSD 2.1R and later / HP Unix 10.01	64	64
Linux (all flavors)	64	64
MS Windows for WG / 95 / NT 3.51	32	32
MS Windows NT 4.0	128	128
MS Windows 98 / ME / XP / Vista / Windows 7 / 8	128	128
MS Windows 2000 (Client & Server)/ Server 2003 / 2008	255	255

Forensic Diagramming Aid - Vendor ID's

While the 3-Byte Vendor Identification values (OUI) are assigned by the IEEE, many vendors have standardized the use of specific names to correlate to specific product lines; some examples follow:

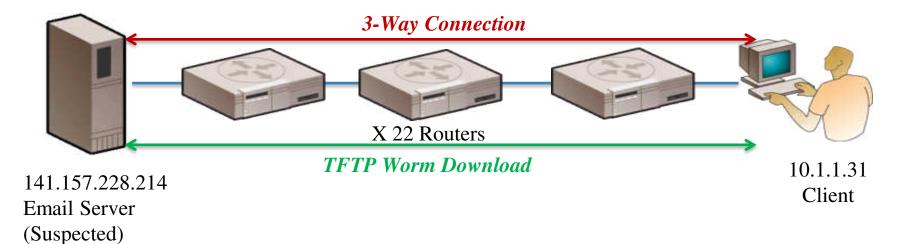
OUI Product		OUI	Product
Cisco	Routers / Switches	Sony	Laptops
Aironet (Cisco)	Wireless Equipment	DellComp	Laptops / Desktops
Linksys	Wireless Equipment	Cadant	SoHo Routers
Hewlett Packard Serves / Laptops		Colubris	Wireless Gateways
Compaq	Desktops	SymbolTe	Wireless Equipment

Packet Capture File

IP - Src	IP - Dest	Time	Protocol	Length	Info
1 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	0.000000	TCP	62	1857 > 4444 [SYN] Seq=1521629589
2 10.1.1.31	141.157.228.12	0.000269	TCP	62	4444 > 1857 [SYN, ACK] Seq=220592
3 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	0.082813	TCP	60	1857 > 4444 [ACK] Seq=1521629590
4 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	0.177883	TCP	93	1857 > 4444 [PSH, ACK] Seq=152162
5 10.1.1.31	141.157.228.12	0.349041	TCP	93	4444 > 1857 [PSH, ACK] Seq=220592
6 10.1.1.31	141.157.228.12	0.502697	TETP	62	Read Request, File: msblast.exe,
7 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	0.534942	TCP	60	1857 > 4444 [ACK] Seq=1521629629
8 10.1.1.31	141.157.228.12	0.535177	TCP	158	4444 > 1857 [PSH, ACK] Seq=220592
9 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	0.616459	TETP	558	
10 10.1.1.31	141.157.228.12	0.617895	TETP	60	Acknowledgement, Block: 1
11 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	0.752105	TCP	60	1857 > 4444 [ACK] Seg=1521629629
12 12.243.154.137	10.1.1.31	0.848049	TCP	62	1818 > 135 [SYN] Seq=2903204790 V
13 10.1.1.31	12.243.154.137	0.848224	TCP	60	135 > 1818 [RST, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=2
14 12.243.154.137	10.1.1.31	1.380230	TCP	62	1818 > 135 [SYN] Seq=2903204790 v
15 10.1.1.31	12.243.154.137	1.380397	TCP	60	135 > 1818 [RST, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=2
16 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	1.519664	TFTP	558	Data Packet, Block: 2
17 10.1.1.31	141.157.228.12	1.523540	TETP	60	Acknowledgement, Block: 2
18 12.243.154.137	10.1.1.31	1.822370	TCP	62	1818 > 135 [SYN] Seq=2903204790 V
19 10.1.1.31	12.243.154.137	1.822542	TCP	60	135 > 1818 [RST, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=2
20 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	2.425865	TETP	558	Data Packet, Block: 3
21 10.1.1.31	141.157.228.12	2.430854	TETP	60	Acknowledgement, Block: 3
22 141.157.228.12	10.1.1.31	3.332098	TFTP	558	Data Packet, Block: 4

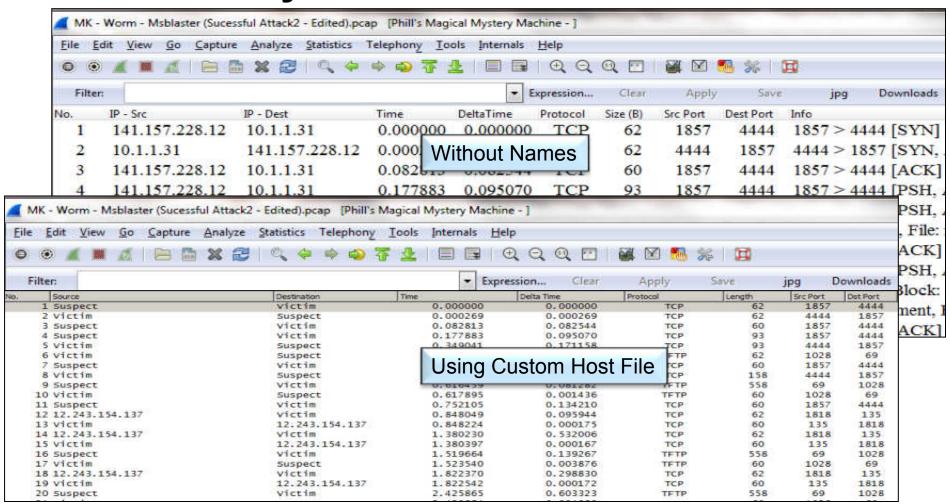
What's hiding inside these seemingly harmless packets?

Forensic Diagraming





Analysis Aid – Name Tables



Normal Behavior?

Eile	Edit Yiew Go	Capture A	Analyze Statistics Telephony	Iools Interr	nals <u>H</u> elp			
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Filten	arp			▼ E	xpression Cle	ear Apply		
No.	Source		Destination	Time	DeltaTime	Protocol	Length	Info
6	AmbitMi	_aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	1.134550	0.001270	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80
7	AmbitMi	_aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	1.136550	0.002000	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80
9	AmbitMi	_aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	3.137122	1.901200	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.1? Tell 192.168.1.103
10	Runtop_	19:0d:db	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	3.137851	0.000729	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:20:78:d9:0d:db
11	AmbitMi	aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	3.138933	0.001082	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.103? Tell 192.168.1.1
12	AmbitMi	_12:9b:01	1 AmbitMic_aa:af:80	3.139347	0.000414	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:12:9b:01
13	AmbitMi	_aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	5.139359	2.000012	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80
14	AmbitMi	aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	5.141324	0.001965	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80
15	AmbitMi	aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	7.141748	2.000424	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.1? Tell 192.168.1.103
16	Runtop	d9:0d:db	AmbitMic aa:af:80	7.142461	0.000713	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:20:78:d9:0d:db
17	AmbitMi	aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	7.143711	0.001250	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.103? Tell 192.168.1.1
18	AmbitMi	12:9b:01	l AmbitMic_aa:af:80	7.143913	0.000202	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:12:9b:01
19	AmbitMi	aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	9.144139	2.000226	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80
20	AmbitMi	aa:af:80	AmbitMic 12:9b:01	9.146104	0.001965	ARP	64	192,168.1.1 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80 (duplicat

Detecting Man-in-the-Middle Attacks

No.	Source an.ni.ou	Destination UP.OU.UD	Time	Protocol	Size (B)	Info 192.100.1.100 is at 00.00>.aa.at.00
7	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	1.136550000	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80 (duplicate use of 192.168.1.103 detected!)
8	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	1.235922000	ICMP	64	Echo (ping) reply id=0xe77e, seq=256/1, ttl=150 (request in 5)
9	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	3.137122000	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.17 Tell 192.168.1.103
10	Runtop_d9:0d:db	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	3.137851000	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:20:78:d9:0d:db
-11	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	3.138933000	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.103? Tell 192.168.1.1 (duplicate use of 192.168.1.1 detected
12	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	3.139347000	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:12:9b:01 (duplicate use of 192.168.1.1 detected!)
13	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	5.139359000	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80
14	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	5.141324000	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80 (duplicate use of 192.168.1.103 detected!)
15	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	Runtop_d9:0d:db	7.141748000	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.1? Tell 192.168.1.103
16	Runtop_d9:0d:db	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	7.142461000	ARP	64	192.168.1.1 is at 00:20:78:d9:0d:db
17	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	7.143711000	ARP	64	Who has 192.168.1.103? Tell 192.168.1.1 (duplicate use of 192.168.1.1 detected
18	AmbitMic_12:9b:01	AmbitMic_aa:af:80	7.143913000	ARP	64	192.168.1.103 is at 00:d0:59:12:9b:01 (duplicate use of 192.168.1.1 detected!)

The device AmbitMic_aa:af:80 is attempting to trick the internet gateway (Runtop_d9:0d:db) into thinking it is the client while making the client (AmbitMic_aa:af:01) think it is the internet gateway

192,168,1,103 is at 00:d0:59:aa:af:80

Color Rule: (arp.opcode == 1) && !(eth.dst == ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)

AmbitMic aa:af:80

Runton d9:0d:db

Identifying Reconnaissance Scanning

No	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
246	6 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.190	ICMP	Echo (ping) request
246	7 12.0.20.190	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Echo (ping) reply
246	8 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.190	ICMP	Address mask request
246	9 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.190	ICMP	Timestamp request
247	0 12.0.20.190	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Timestamp reply
247	1 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.190	ICMP	Information request
247	2 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.190	ICMP	Echo (ping) request
247	3 12.0.20.190	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Echo (ping) reply
247	4 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.190	UDP	Source port: 1222 Destination port: 0
247	5 12.0.20.190	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Destination unreachable (Port unreachable)
247	6 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.191	ICMP	Echo (ping) request
247	7 12.0.20.191	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Echo (ping) reply
247	8 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.191	ICMP	Address mask request
247	9 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.191	ICMP	Timestamp request
248	0 12.0.20.191	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Timestamp reply
248	1 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.191	ICMP	Information request
248	2 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.191	ICMP	Echo (ping) request
248	3 12.0.20.191	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Echo (ping) reply
248	4 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.191	UDP	Source port: 1222 Destination port: 0
248	5 12.0.20.191	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Destination unreachable (Port unreachable)
248	6 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.192	ICMP	Echo (ping) request
248	7 12.0.20.192	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Echo (ping) reply
248	8 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.192	ICMP	Address mask request
248	9 12.0.21.21	12.0.20.192	ICMP	Timestamp request
249	0 12.0.20.192	12.0.21.21	ICMP	Timestamp reply

Color Rule: icmp.type >12 && icmp.type<19

Sample Color Rules for Suspicious Activity

Suspicious File transfers

frame matches "\.(?i)tar " or frame matches "MZ" or frame matches "\.(?i)exe"

Man-in-the-Middle

(arp.opcode == 1) && !(eth.dst == ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)

Reconnaissance or OS Fingerprinting Scan

icmp.type >12 && icmp.type<19

When All Else Fails...





Contact Information

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Merlion's Keep Consulting & Training

Packets Never Lie