

# CYBER WITHIN

*The Security Awareness Story  
(and guide)  
For Employees*

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# Part 1

## *The Story*

# Chapter 1

## You're Hired

Roxy, a young college graduate, was eager to make her way in the world. With tens of thousands in student loans to repay and a wedding to finance, she desperately wanted to land a decent-paying job right out of school. Her fiancé kissed her goodbye one beautiful Monday morning and wished her luck on her interview for a data-entry position. As she drove to the interview, she attempted to recall every paper she wrote in school about business and leadership. She thought the interview panel would certainly ask about working in teams, organizational management, and building data models—all subjects she studied in school. She was particularly excited that her first interview was with the YNS Group, which was her top choice as a place to start her new career. Not only was it one of the most well-regarded companies in the area, but it also had a reputation for investing in employee training programs and promoting from within.

As Roxy drove into the parking lot, she took in the dozens of rows of cars lined up in front of the huge mirrored glass building. It seemed to reach right into the sky. She thought about what it would be like to make it through the ranks to a senior-level position with the company. She suddenly felt butterflies in her stomach and began doubting her ability to make a good impression. After she parked her car and started walking toward the building, she happened to kick a small USB thumb drive that had been lying on the steps to the main entrance.

When Roxy picked up the drive, she noticed what appeared to be an engraving that matched the initials of the company's chief technical officer. It read: W.O.Y. for William Oscar Young. She remembered him

from a presentation he gave at her university. Roxy was impressed by his speech and even shook his hand afterwards. All of a sudden, Roxy was no longer nervous. She was almost sure that recovering this device would endear her to the interview team. Then Roxy started thinking about all the possible company secrets and sensitive documents she may have saved the YNS Group by keeping the thumb drive from getting into the wrong hands.

After asking the secretary for directions to the interview area, Roxy sat patiently waiting. Instead of practicing her bio or thinking about how she would respond to tough questions, she wondered if the USB thumb drive in her pocket did indeed belong to the CTO. Ten minutes later, a tall, much older man walked up and asked if she was Roxy. The man introduced himself as Doug Barnes, senior director of human resources, and escorted her to the interview room.

As Roxy entered the room, she was taken by surprise. Not only did she see a long mahogany table with crystal, water-filled pitchers and elegant chairs, but sitting in front of her were two department managers and the CTO, William Young, who apparently stepped in briefly to ask one of the managers an important question. Roxy wasn't sure if she should mention the USB thumb drive, and was left speechless as the CTO said hello on his way out of the room. The introductions to the department managers and seeing William were a bit much for Roxy to handle, so she interviewed without mentioning the thumb drive.

The interview went surprisingly well and Roxy was offered the position on the spot. Despite her inexperience, the managers were impressed with Roxy's personality, ambition and knowledge of the company. Roxy accepted without hesitation and asked if she could start as soon as possible. After she and her new supervisor, Ralph, agreed she would start the next day, they went on a tour of the office and signed the initial paperwork. Since the normal in-processing area was being renovated, Roxy was taken to an office near the director's area. Roxy used the internal portal and a temporary password to fill out the new-hire paperwork online. Since most of the forms were electronic, Roxy asked if she could save her copies electronically as opposed to printing hard copies

of everything. When Ralph told her this would be fine, Roxy suddenly remembered the USB thumb drive in her pocket. "Rats!" Roxy said to herself. She felt she missed her opportunity to make a great impression on the CTO. She thought if she went back to give it to him now, it might appear inappropriate or out of order since she had not mentioned it earlier. Roxy decided instead to use the thumb drive to download her personnel files. She thought she could take the drive home, save her files, and anonymously mail the drive to William. "Besides," she rationalized to herself, "I already have the job."

Roxy pulled the drive out of her pocket and inserted it into the computer she was using. The computer suddenly became very slow, so slow it seemed the files weren't copying anymore. The cursor froze in one area and the keyboard didn't allow her to use any of the function keys. She waited a few minutes but the computer failed to respond to any commands. She was just about to reboot when she suddenly heard the sound of numerous phones ringing. She quickly realized they were helpdesk phones ringing at the IT support area around the corner. In just a few minutes time it sounded as if the number of calls increased a hundred times. She got up and peeked around the corner. From there, she overheard people in the halls asking if each other's computers were working. It dawned on Roxy that *she* might have damaged the network. The USB thumb drive might have downloaded a virus that may be spreading from computer to computer like wildfire! Just as she turned her head to look back at her monitor, a message slowly scrolled from the top of the screen. It read:

*You and your network are now Own3d by Team W.O.Y.*

*Thanks for using our thumb drive and giving us access to your company's trade secrets.*

*Regards,*

*W.O.Y (We Own You!)*

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