

Daniel Kaminsky, 42, Digital Paul Revere, Dies

By NICOLE PERLROTH

Daniel Kaminsky, a security researcher known for his discovery of a fundamental flaw in the fabric of the internet, died on Friday at his home in San Francisco. He was 42.

His aunt, Dr. Toby Maurer, said the cause was diabetic ketoacidosis, a condition that led to frequent hospitalizations in recent years.

In 2008, Mr. Kaminsky was widely hailed as a digital Paul Revere after he found a serious flaw in the internet's basic plumbing that could allow skilled coders to take over websites, siphon off bank credentials or even shut down the internet. Mr. Kaminsky alerted the Department of Homeland Security, executives at Microsoft and Cisco, and other internet security experts to the problem and helped spearhead a patch.

He was a respected practitioner of "penetration testing," the business of compromising the security of computer systems at the behest of owners who want to harden their systems from attack. It was a profession that his mother, Trudy Maurer, said he had first developed a knack for as a 4-year-old in San Francisco, after his father gave him a computer from Radio Shack. By age 5 he had taught himself to code.

His childhood paralleled the 1983 movie "War Games," in which a teenager, played by Matthew Broderick, unwittingly accesses a U.S. military supercomputer. When Daniel was 11, his mother said, she received an angry phone call from someone who identified himself as a network administrator for the Western United States. The administrator said someone at her residence was "monkeying around in territories where he shouldn't be monkeying around."

Without her knowledge, Daniel had been examining military websites. The administrator vowed to "punish" him by cutting off the family's internet access. Mrs. Maurer warned the administrator that if he made good on his threat, she would take out an advertisement in The San Francisco Chronicle denouncing the Pentagon's security.

"I will take out an ad that says, 'Your security is so crappy, even an 11-year-old can break it,'" she recalled telling the administrator, in an interview on Monday.

They settled on a compromise

punishment: three days without internet.

Nearly two decades after he lost his access to the internet, Mr. Kaminsky wound up saving it. What Mr. Kaminsky discovered in 2008 was a problem with the internet's basic address system, known as the Domain Name System, or DNS, a dynamic phone book that converts human-friendly web addresses like NYTimes.com and Google.com into their machine-friendly numeric counterparts. He found a way that thieves or spies could covertly manipulate DNS traffic so that a person typing the website for a bank would instead be redirected to an impostor site that could steal the user's account number and password.

Mr. Kaminsky's first call was to Paul Vixie, a longtime steward of the internet's DNS system. The usually unflappable Mr. Vixie recalled that his panic grew as he listened to Mr. Kaminsky's explanation.

"I realized we were looking down the gun barrel of history," Mr. Vixie recalled. "It meant everything in the digital universe was going to have to get patched."

Mr. Vixie asked Mr. Kaminsky if he had a fix in mind. "He said, 'We are going to get all the makers of DNS software to coordinate a fix, implement it at the same time and keep it a secret until I present my findings at Black Hat,'" Mr. Vixie said, referring to an annual hacking conference in Las Vegas.

Mr. Kaminsky, then the director of penetration testing at IOActive, a security firm based in Seattle, had developed a close working relationship with Microsoft. He and Mr. Vixie persuaded Microsoft to host a secret convention of the world's senior cybersecurity experts.

"I remember calling people and telling them, 'I'm not at liberty to tell you what it is, but there's this thing and you will need to get on a plane and meet us in this room at Microsoft on such-and-such date,'" Mr. Vixie said.

Over several days they cobbled together a solution in stealth, a fix that Mr. Vixie compared to dog excrement. But given the threat of internet apocalypse, he recalled it as being the best dog excrement "we could have ever come up with."

By the time Mr. Kaminsky took the stage at Black Hat that August, the web had been spared. Mr. Kaminsky, who typically donned a



CHESTER HIGGINS JR./THE NEW YORK TIMES

Daniel Kaminsky above in 2010. His discovery "meant everything in the digital universe was going to have to get patched." Mr. Kaminsky in 2008 at a forum on hacking.

T-shirt, shorts and flip flops, appeared onstage in a suit that his mother had bought for him. She had also requested that he wear closed-toed shoes. He complied, sort of — twirling onto the stage in roller skates.

When his talk was complete, Mr. Kaminsky was approached by a stranger in the crowd. It was the administrator who had kicked Mr. Kaminsky off the internet years earlier. Now he wanted to thank Mr. Kaminsky and to ask for an introduction to "the meanest mother he ever met."

Daniel Kaminsky was born in San Francisco on Feb. 7, 1979. His mother, now retired, was the chief executive of a medical company. His father, Marshall Kaminsky, is a retired accountant in Chicago. (The parents' marriage ended in divorce.) His stepfather, Randy Howell, was a data engineer consultant for the computer security software company McAfee, based in Santa Clara.

Daniel attended St. Ignatius High School in San Francisco and Santa Clara University and afterward worked for the tech companies Cisco and Avaya in addition to IOActive.

While the DNS fix was Mr. Kaminsky's most celebrated contribution to internet security, it was hardly his only one. In 2005, after researchers discovered Sony



JAE C. HONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

BMG was covertly installing software on PCs to combat music piracy, Sony executives played down the move. Mr. Kaminsky forced the issue into public awareness after discovering that Sony's software had infected more than 568,000 computers.

"He did things because they were the right thing to do, not because they would elicit financial gain," his mother, Mrs. Maurer, said.

(When a reporter asked Mr. Kaminsky why he did not exploit the DNS flaw to become immensely wealthy, he said that doing so would have been morally wrong, and that he did not want his mother to have to visit him in prison.)

Silicon Valley's giants sought Mr. Kaminsky's expertise and often tried to recruit him with lucrative offers to serve as their chief information security officer. He politely declined, preferring the quiet yeoman's work of internet security.

In a community known for its biting, sometimes misogynistic discourse on Twitter, Mr. Kaminsky stood out for his empathy. He disdained Twitter pile-ons and served as a mentor to journalists and aspiring hackers. He would often foot a hotel or travel bill to Black Hat for those who could not afford it. When one protégé broke up with her boyfriend, Mr. Kaminsky bought her a plane ticket to go see the young man, believing they were meant to be. (They married.)

He was outspoken when privacy and security were on the line. After the F.B.I. tried to force Apple, in federal court, to weaken the encryption of its iPhones in 2015, James B. Comey, who was then the F.B.I. director, testified to Congress in 2016 that he was not asking for a backdoor, but for Apple to "take the vicious guard dog away and let us pick the lock."

"I am that vicious guard dog, and that used to be a compliment," Mr. Kaminsky told The New York Times at the time. "The question

Discovering a flaw that exposed websites to being taken over.

for Mr. Comey is: What is the policy of the United States right now? Is it to make things more secure or to make them less secure?"

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a group that promotes civil liberties, said in a tweet on Saturday that Mr. Kaminsky had been a "friend of freedom and embodiment of the true hacker spirit." Jeff Moss, the founder of the DefCon and Black Hat hacking conferences, suggested that Mr. Kaminsky be inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kaminsky's generosity extended to his many side projects. When a friend struggled with color blindness, he developed the DanKam, a mobile app that uses a phone's camera to decipher colors otherwise indecipherable to the colorblind. When his grandmother Raia Maurer, now 97, experienced hearing loss, he refocused his efforts on hearing-aid technology.

And when his aunt, a dermatologist, told him that she could no longer treat under-resourced patients for AIDS-related skin diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and Rohingya refugee camps, Mr. Kaminsky helped develop telemedicine tools for the National Institutes of Health and AMPATH, a health project led by Indiana University that he sought to bring to San Francisco during the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to his mother, father and grandmother, Mr. Kaminsky is survived by his sister, Angie Roberts, and his stepfather.

Security was always Mr. Kaminsky's lifework, most recently as the chief scientist at White Ops, a security company he helped found; it was recently renamed HUMAN. He was not above criticizing his own industry. In a 2016 keynote address at Black Hat, he said the industry had fallen far short of expectations. "Everybody looks busy, but the house still burns," he said, before pitching the cyber equivalent of the Manhattan Project.

"The internet was never designed to be secure," Mr. Kaminsky recalled in a 2016 interview. "The internet was designed to move pictures of cats. We are very good at moving pictures of cats." But, he added: "We didn't think you'd be moving trillions of dollars onto this. What are we going to do? And here's the answer: Some of us got to go out and fix it."

Charles Strum, 73, Versatile Editor for The Times

By RICHARD SANDOMIR

Charles Strum, a longtime senior editor at The New York Times who earned a reputation for unflappability under deadline pressure in roles that included overseeing the paper's nighttime news operations, its obituaries desk and its New Jersey bureau, died on Tuesday in Middlebury, Vt. He was 73.

His death, in the hospice suite of a nursing home, was caused by glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, his son, Alec, said. He lived nearby in Weybridge, Vt.

Mr. Strum, who was known as Chuck, had worked at three New York-area newspapers before arriving at The Times in 1979. Over the next 35 years, his positions included assistant metropolitan editor, New Jersey bureau chief, editor of the New Jersey weekly section, deputy national editor, obituaries editor and associate managing editor.

He was known as a deft editor who elevated reporters' writing without imposing his will on it, leavened tense moments in a

newsroom with his wry sense of humor and offered a calm voice to harried reporters in the field.

"When you hear the name Chuck Strum in the Times newsroom (or in D.C., where I work)," the Times domestic correspondent Sheryl Gay Stolberg wrote on Facebook recently, "you know what follows is going to be the most thoughtful appraisal of your work, smart questions, and most of all an understanding of the importance of tone in a story."

In 2007, as an associate managing editor, Mr. Strum answered readers' online questions about his job. When asked about his responsibilities, he wrote in part:

"My mission, as I see it, is to look at the big picture. My deskmates, and other colleagues in various departments, are great at what they do; that is, I don't need to do their jobs for them, or stand over them while they work. I tend to suggest, sometimes noodge. Sometimes noodge a little more. Less often, but certainly when I need to, I'll insist that something be reworked or refined or, on rare occasions, even held out of the pa-

per."

Charles Laurence Strum was born on Jan. 28, 1948, in Manhattan to Emmanuel and Dorothy (Doloboff) Strum. His father was a lawyer, his mother a homemaker.

After graduating from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in history, he started his newspaper career as a reporter for The Hudson Dispatch in Union City, N.J.

He left The Dispatch after a year to join The Record of Bergen County, N.J., where he was a reporter and editor until 1976. At his next stop, Newsday, on Long Island, he was an assistant news editor until 1979. He was hired by The Times that year as a copy editor.

"He loved writing but grew to love editing and supporting reporters," his wife, Rebecca Strum, said by phone. "He was at a place with many giant egos, and he didn't have one."

Mr. Strum collaborated with five Times reporters on the book "Outrage: The Story Behind the Tawana Brawley Hoax" (1990),



EARL WILSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Charles Strum in 2012. Mr. Strum spent 35 years at The Times.

about the 1987 case in which a Black teenager claimed to have been kidnapped, gang-raped and further defiled by white racists. Mr. Strum acted as the internal editor for the book, which was reported by Robert D. McFadden, Ralph Blumenthal, E.R. Shipp, M.A. Farber and Craig Wolf and written by Mr. McFadden.

After his stint as New Jersey bureau chief, Mr. Strum continued to

write for The Times occasionally, often flashing his characteristic wit. One article, in 2000, was about taking a French immersion class.

"Mercifully, this was not like high school, where teenagers wince from embarrassment," he wrote. "I felt no trace of the angst of my sophomore year, when my teacher — a humorless woman who looked like Howdy Doody with a gray wig and spoke French

A deft editor known for a wry sense of humor and calm voice.

with an Indiana twang — aimed her intolerance up and down the rows like a machine-gunner."

He married Rebecca Ware, known as Becky, in 1970. In addition to her and their son, he is survived by their daughter, Kate Strum, as well as twin daughters, Sara and Mary Lee Kenney, from a relationship with Nancy Kenney, a former Times staff editor.

After retiring from The Times in 2014, Mr. Strum worked for three years as an editor at The Marshall Project, the nonprofit journalism site that covers criminal justice.

"Some editors edited stories; Chuck edited writers," said Bill Keller, the former executive editor of The Times who was The Marshall Project's founding editor in chief. "He made them better. At the start, being a start-up, we had some writers who had more promise than practice. Chuck didn't just fix their stories, he helped them grow."

Deaths

Blackman, Martin
Dauer, John
Furse, Jane
Grant, Philip

Karmitz, Ronald
Lassalle, Nancy
Rowe, Leslie
Schwartz, Susan

Toker, Franklin
Wines, Gul

BLACKMAN—Martin.



Rena, their three children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Gary DeBode, President; Doug Seeserman, CEO; Kevin Leopold, Philanthropic Relationship Officer

BLACKMAN—Martin.

The Palm Beach Country Club expresses its profound sorrow at the passing of our long-standing member Martin Blackman and extends our deepest sympathies to his wife Rena, his daughter Loren Howley and Paul Brown, his sons William A. Blackman, Peter F. Blackman and Jeffrey D. Peterson, his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other members of his family. Robert A. Schloger, President Michael Margolis, Secretary

DAUER—John, Jr.

Awarded by the natural world and all things beautiful, frightening and puzzling, your curiosity and magical spirit enchanted the young, old and all who knew you. A bright shining star with an infectious smile and wild imagination, you filled our lives with laughter, love and mystery. We cannot imagine our days ahead without you, but you will live in our hearts and souls forever. Our love and sympathy to Patti, John III, Paiton, Viktoria, August, Stellan and the entire family. Thank you for sharing John with us for 40+ years.

Jill Ken, Kiva, Zach, Meredith, Eloise, Wolf, India, Wylder

Deaths

FURSE—Jane Friedman. The Silurians Press Club mourns the passing of an outstanding member Jane Friedman Furse.

GRANT—Philip, 96, of Woods Hole, MA and Washington, DC. Husband and father, both great-grand. Lover of Roses. Biologist. New York Times subscriber since 1937. "Open up the windows wide."

KARMITZ—Ronald.

Nancy was my friend who taught me to mourn the sudden loss of our dear son-in-law and step-brother, Ronnie. He epitomized being a loving and caring husband, father, brother, son, and friend. Ronnie will always be remembered for his kindness and his generosity by all who knew him. We share the grief of his untimely passing to all those who knew and loved him.

The Lieberfarb family: Warren, Gail, Monte, Kathleen, James, Bonnie, Rosie, Lois Weiss and Uriah Lovely Colors

LASSALLE—Nancy.

Nancy was a friend and colleague. From 1954 to the present, she unequivocally devoted her love and devotion to forwarding the objectives of Lincoln Kirstein and George Balanchine. Her friendship gave me support, courage and love.

LASSALLE—Nancy.

The George Balanchine Trust has much to be thankful for with regard to the support of Nancy. Her commitment to George Balanchine's ballets, and their dissemination worldwide, was of the utmost importance to her. Her support made this endeavor possible.

The Trustees of The George Balanchine Trust

Deaths

LASSALLE—Nancy. New York City Ballet and the School of American Ballet mourn the passing of a singular advocate, supporter, and partner. Nancy Bernstein Lassalle discovered her lifelong home at age 14 when she enrolled in Lincoln Kirstein and George Balanchine's fledgling school in 1941 and never left. Instantly impressed and inspired by Kirstein's brilliance and Balanchine's artistic genius, Nancy found her life's purpose in championing and advancing their dreams for the remainder of her long life; taking on many mantles—author, editor, educator, photographer, curator, fundraiser, philanthropist—in service to their vision for the School and Company. A founding member of both NYCB and SAB's Advisory Council of supporters in 1975, she also regularly provided key organizational and fundraising support for both School and Company, notably spearheading NYCB's first ever gala in 1962 for the premiere of Balanchine's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Her passionate belief in education was critical to the development of the School and Company Department in the 1960s and in her last decade her support was pivotal to the establishment and design of SAB's Cultural Program. As a witness to ballet history in the making, Nancy was a champion for dance scholarship—documenting, recording, and preserving NYCB and SAB's history through work with Dance Index, Ballet Society, Ekins Press, the New York Public Library for the Per-

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forming Arts, and in numerous exhibits and publications documenting SAB and NYCB history. In the decades following the passings of Balanchine and Kirstein, Nancy served as a guardian of their legacy and ideals, ensuring that those carrying on in their wake would never lose sight of their original vision, and acting as a vital link between past and present. She served on NYCB's board until 1992 and SAB's until 2008, and as a Director Emerita for both organizations she remained an ever-present family member and continued to live her life in service to our founders. NYCB and SAB's Boards, teachers, dancers, musicians, staff members, and students send our heartfelt condolences to Nancy's children, Philip, Honor and Diana, and all of her grandchildren. Nancy's life and work have touched all of us and we will miss her greatly.

ROWE—Leslie.



Leslie Rowe, died peacefully in Delray, Florida on April 24, 2021 at the age of 99. Born in Torquay, England on August 31, 1921, Leslie was the son of Samuel Alfred Percy Rowe and Beatrice Butts. He attended both Torquay Grammar School and South Devon Technical College and gained the College of Preceptors certification prior to service dur-

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ing World War II with the RAF in meteorology. From 1946 until retirement, Leslie worked for over fifty years in middle and upper management positions in book publishing at E.P. Dutton and Company, Inc., Doubleday Publishing Co., G.P. Putnam and Company, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, Inc., Harper and Row Publishers, Holt Rinehart and Winston, CBS, Inc., Henry Holt and Company, Paragon House, and Newmarket Press. His career path included several roles: bookshop manager, manager of a school and library department, editor, and national sales manager. In 15 years at Holt, Rinehart and Winston, CBS, Inc. he earned an Outstanding Achievement Award. Among many editorial achievements, he served as editor in publication of Lucien K. Truscott's memoir Command Missions, now considered a classic which stood the test of time, about World War II, plus other notable authors. Leslie was a person of extraordinary intellect who had a great passion for literature and the written word. He took joy in his work and always brought a great sense of enthusiasm, love and humor to everything he did. Leslie is survived by his children John Hosen Rowe, Pamela Rowe, and Robert Rowe and was preceded in death by Lesley Ware Stoner. His family as well as his many friends will miss his love of life and will treasure his memory. Funeral services will be held at Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut on April 30, 2021 at 11:30am. In lieu of flowers, please also consider a donation in his name to Reading Is Fundamental.

Deaths

SCHWARTZ—Susan Ruth, of Maplewood, NJ passed peacefully on April 27, 2021. For complete obituary please refer to website: www.menorachapels atmillburn.com

TOKER—Franklin K., Ph.D.

Age 76; died on April 27. Graduate of McGill, Oberlin and Harvard. Professor emeritus of art and architectural history at the University of Pittsburgh. Directed Duomo excavation in Florence 1969-1974. Author of 10 books most notably Follingwater Rising. Husband of Suzanne, father of three and grandfather of six.

WINES—Gul Seden.



Died on April 21 at the age of 88, across the street from the Film Forum in NYC. Born in Ankara and raised in Istanbul, Turkey, Gul dreamed of a life in theater. After graduating American College for Girls, Gul studied speech, language (she spoke five) and television production at Syracuse University where she met her former artist/architect husband James Wines. Together they traveled Europe and lived in Rome. Gul finally moved to NYC in 1962, where she worked as a producer for RAI, the Italian Broadcasting Company. She covered the Apollo moon shots and inter-

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viewed contemporary cultural icons like Orson Welles and Robert Rauschenberg. She ultimately became Vice President of Television Programs. Gul longed for a day when "human beings would be respectful and kind to each other regardless of color, creed or culture." She is survived by her sister Nur Cornat and daughter Suzan Wines. Donations may be made to the New York Foundling Hospital.

In Memoriam

KRIEGER—Neil R., Ph.D. 1941-2020. Devoted scientist, entrepreneur, husband and father; and coiner of the word "orbisculute."

MANNING—Rosina M.

Not a day goes by that you are not in my thoughts; especially today on what would have been your 100th birthday. Your courage, ambition, determination, selflessness, and most of all unconditional love are constant reminders to me of what makes a life well lived.

Love you always, Robert

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF DEATHS MAY BE TELEPHONED FROM WITHIN N.Y.C. TO (212) 556-3800, OR OUTSIDE N.Y.C. TO TOLL FREE 1-800-458-5522; OR SUBMITTED ONLINE AT ADVERTISING.NYTIMES.COM (SELECT "IN MEMORIAM") FOR THE FOLLOWING EDITIONS: Sunday (until 4:30 P.M. the day before Tuesday through Saturday editions, until 5:00 P.M. on Friday for Sunday's Nationwide Edition, until 12:45 P.M. Saturday for Sunday's New York Region edition, until 2:00 P.M. Sunday for Monday's editions. Photos may be submitted by noon the day prior to publication Tuesday through Friday. Photos for Saturday, Sunday and Monday must be submitted by 12 noon on Friday.