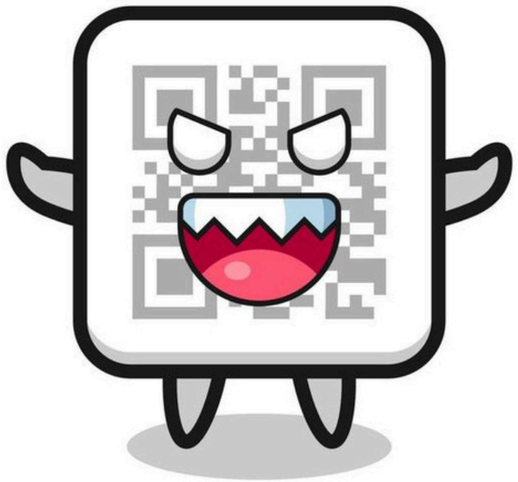
ISC2 CHAPTER | HO CHI MINH CITY

The Dangers of QR Codes (Quishing) & How to Prevent It



ISC2 Chapter Meeting 24/4/2025

Agenda

1. What is Quishing
2. How to Prevent it
3. Real Examples
4. Articles
5. Q&A

What is Quishing?

A phishing attack where hackers use QR codes to trick victims into opening malicious links

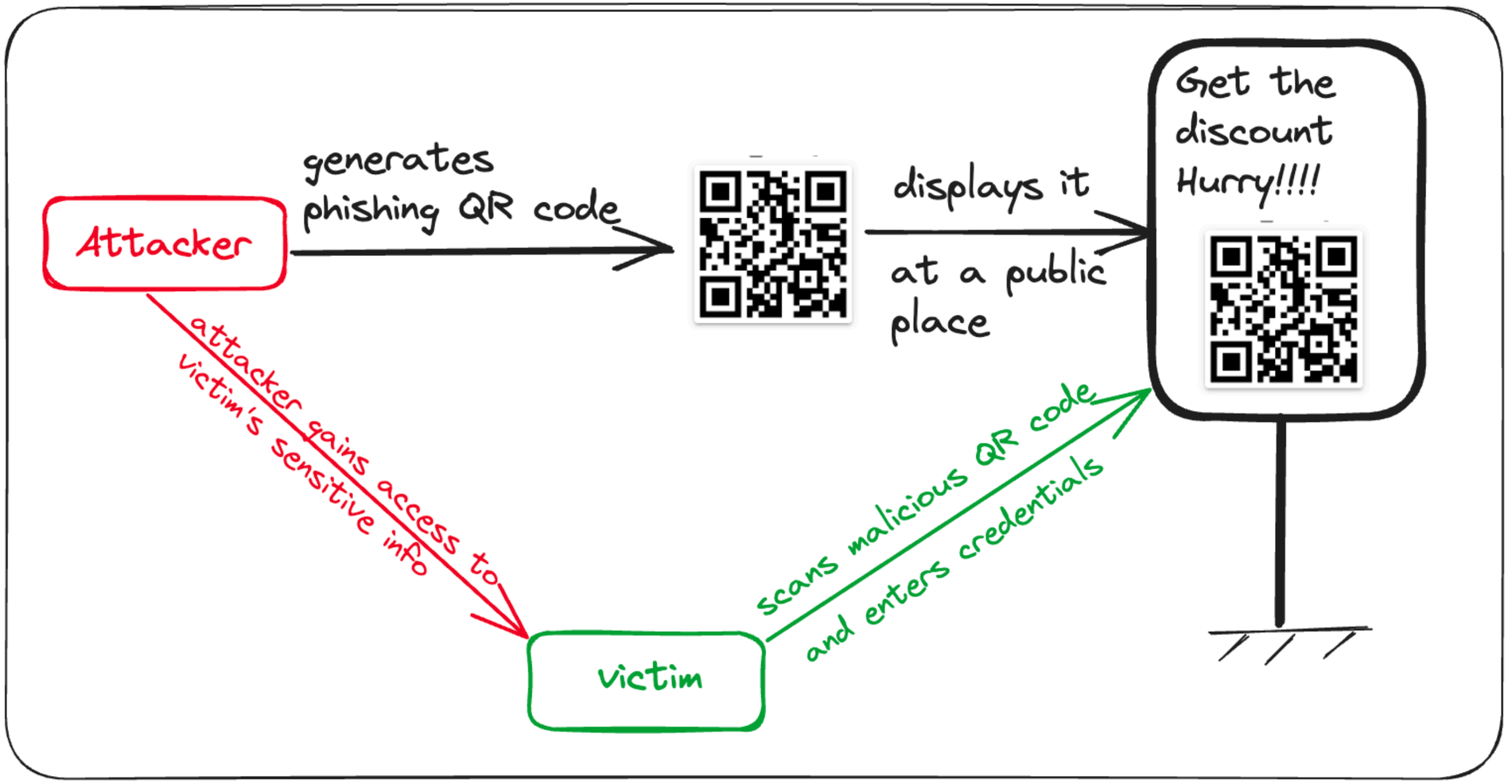
Why it works:

- QR codes hide the actual URL
- People trust QR codes in public places & emails
- Traditional email security tools don’t scan QR codes

How it Works

- Fake Emails – Attackers send QR codes in emails, pretending to be IT support, banks, or vendors
- Public Posters/Flyers – Malicious QR codes placed in public (e.g., parking meters, event flyers)
- Fake Login Pages – QR codes lead to credential-harvesting sites
- Payment Scams – Attackers replace real payment QR codes with fake ones

Attack Flow


Attacker
generates
phishing QR code
displays it
at a public
place
Get the
discount
Hurry!!!!
attacker gains access to
victim's sensitive info
Victim
scans malicious QR code
and enters credentials

Case

Microsoft Warns of Tax-Themed Email Attacks Using PDFs and QR Codes to Deliver Malware

- Microsoft warns of phishing emails using QR codes and tax themes to trick users into visiting fake Microsoft 365 login pages.
- Over 2,300 U.S. organizations were targeted, especially in IT, engineering, and consulting sectors.
- QR codes link to malware and credential theft, with attackers using trusted services to bypass security filters.

How to Prevent it

✅ Verify URLs before scanning – Hover over the QR code (some phone cameras show URLs)

✅ Use Secure QR Scanners – Apps that scan and display URLs before opening

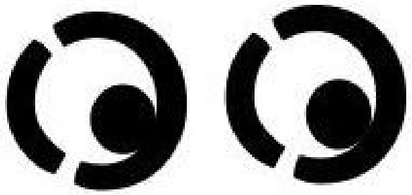
✅ Be Wary of Unsolicited QR Codes – Avoid scanning random codes in emails or public places

✅ Don’t Enter Credentials – If a QR code leads to a login page, go to the website manually

✅ Check for QR Code Tampering – Ensure stickers or overlays aren’t placed over real QR codes

Tools

- **ScanQR.org :**Secure QR Code Scanner.
- **LookyLoo:** A tool for analyzing the behavior of URLs (scan QR codes before visiting links)
- **VirusTotal**: Check if a URL is malicious



Tools

ScanQR

Scan QR code from image

Simply upload an image or take a photo of a QR code to reveal its content

Select QR Image

Screenshot 2025-04-04 135430

All image types allowed.

Built with the most used and secure Google's Zxing library.

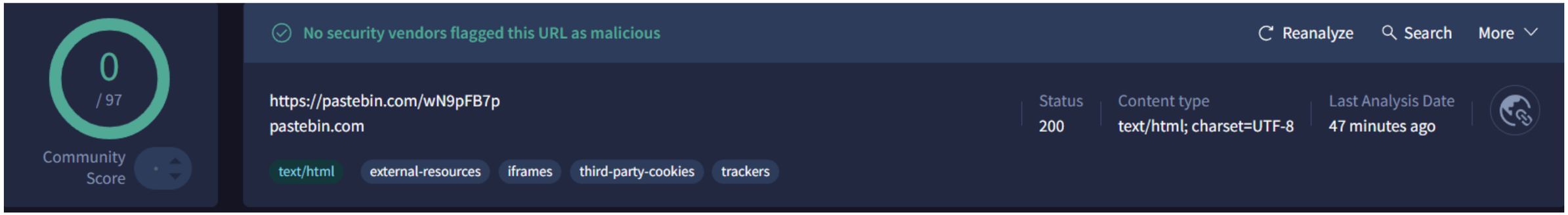
Scanned Data

https://pastebin.com/wN9pFB7p

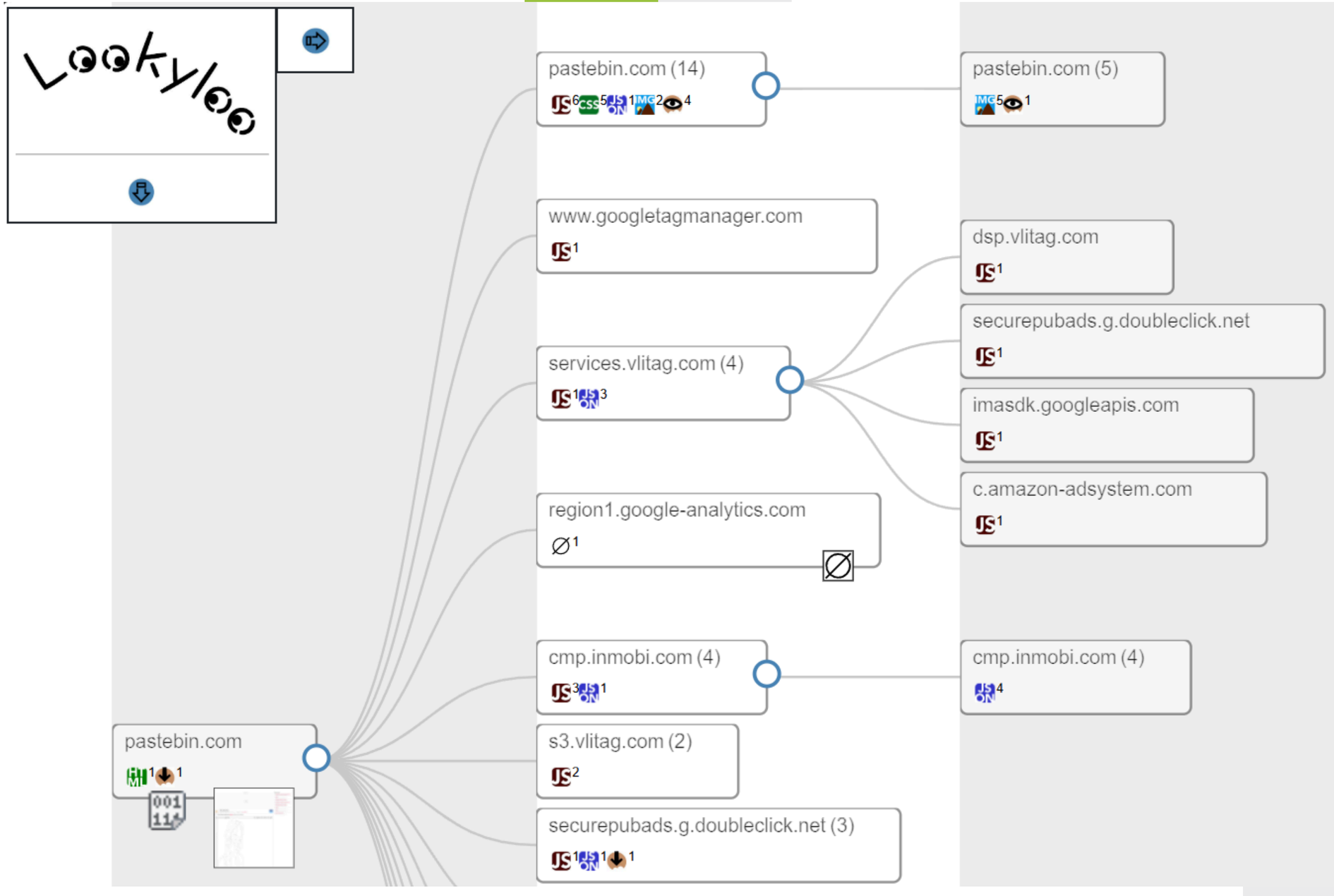
Copy Results

VIRUSTOTAL

Tools



Tools


Lookyloo
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www.googletagmanager.com
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securepubads.g.doubleclick.net
services.vlitag.com (4)
imasdk.googleapis.com
c.amazon-adsystem.com
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cmp.inmobi.com (4)
cmp.inmobi.com (4)
pastebin.com
s3.vlitag.com (2)
securepubads.g.doubleclick.net (3)

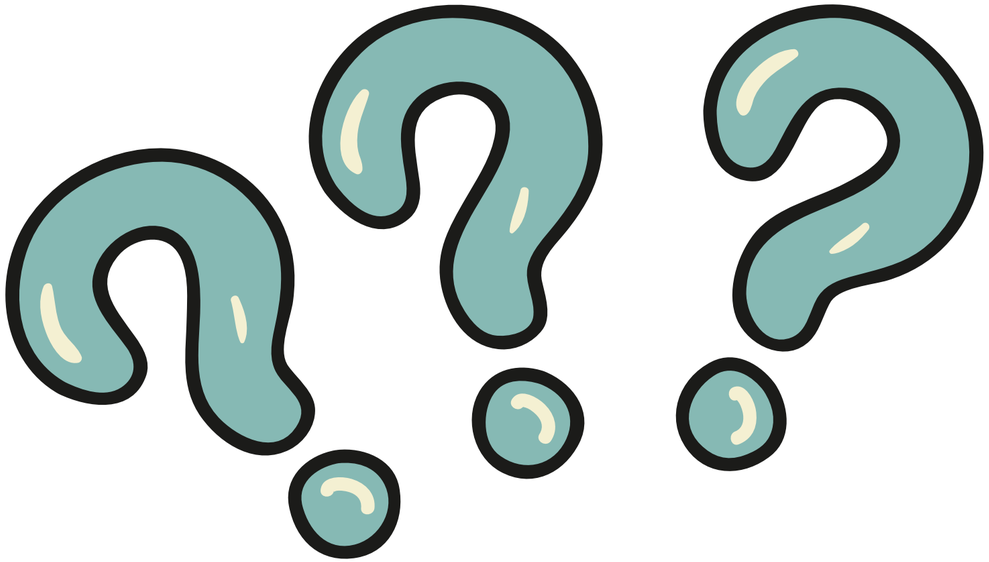
Useful Articles

What is Quishing- Malwarebytes

Quishing: A growing threat hiding in plain sight

Evolution of Sophisticated Phishing Tactics: The QR Code Phenomenon

Q &A
10 Minutes



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Closing/Networking

- Next Meeting Date: 29/05/25
- Connect With Us: https://isc2chapter.vn

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Thank You