

Shmoocoon V Closing Plenary Session



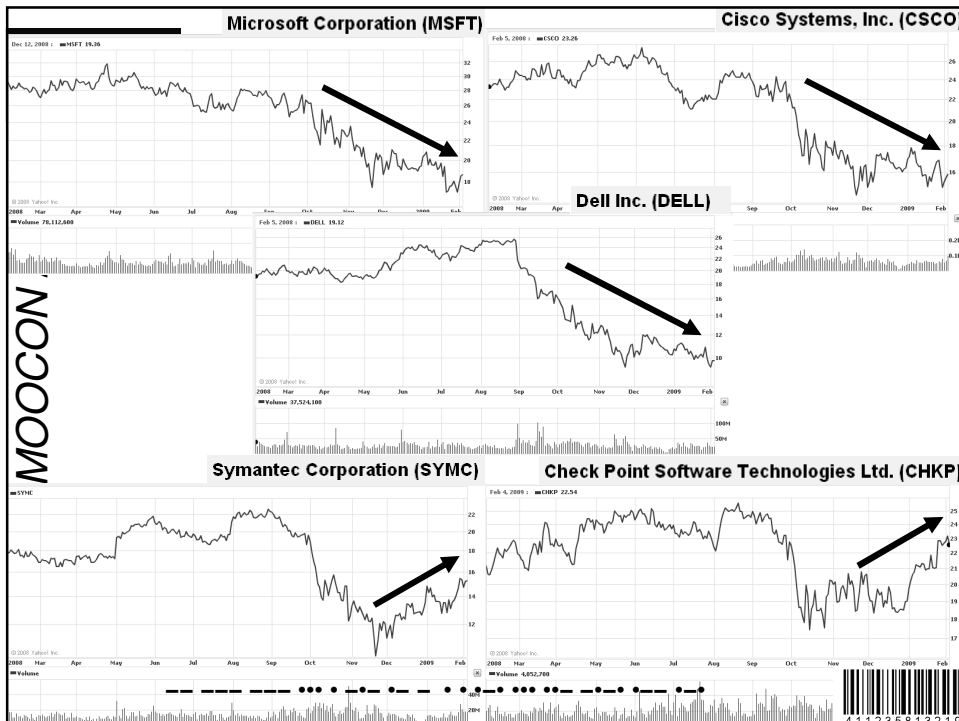
What's happening in the stock market?

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- Your net worth goes here
- Your self-esteem is next
- But wait ... there's MORE!

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Maybe Things Aren't That Bad After All

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- **Security spending holding steady**
 - Compliance is big
 - Threat increasing
 - Bad guys need more money too
 - Bosses usually don't get this, though
- **Expect new wave of regulation**
- **Many existing contracts**
- **If you know your stuff, you may be okay**
 - Shout to Ed Skoudis - InfoGuardians



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Options to avoid reality

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- **Go (back) to school**
 - + : Work on that “professional” thing
 - : May have to get up for classes before noon
- **Move back in with your parents**
- **Start your own consulting firm**
- **Apply for the job of Cyber Security Czar**



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U.S. Cyber Security Czar

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Don't Lose Momentum

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- Moore's Law
- G. Mark's corollary
 - “The half-life of security knowledge is 18 months”
 - Who was running Vista 18 months ago?
 - (Who's running it today?)
 - How old is your iPhone?
 - You have to dedicate yourself to lifelong learning

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Educational Opportunities

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- **Scholarship for Service**
 - Year-for-year payback as a Fed
 - Not so bad
 - Checks always seem to clear the bank
 - Get to play offense legally
 - Get those cool things called security clearances
- **Lots of schools with NSA-approved curriculum**
 - Google “CyberWATCH”



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When Approaching Job Market

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- **Hints for contact with the carbon network**
 - Use deodorant
 - Use references
- **Don't Expect Management to Understand Your Skillz**



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Remember Why You Are In This Career Field

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- It's not because of some high school guidance counselor
 - “Hey, you’ve got poor social skills and type fast – you should go into info security.”
- Your best asset is your brain
 - You like to solve hard problems and can think outside the box
 - “Hack” the bad economy and find solutions that escape others
 - Nothing says “1337” like a regular income



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There Will Always Be Work...

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- As long as there are stupid people
- Backed by scientific research:
 - “The most abundant resource in the universe is stupidity.”
 - Scott Adams, Dilbert author
 - “Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.”
 - Albert Einstein, smart dead guy



IDIOT OUTSIDE



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