

# Ranum's Rants #1

- Co-dependence
  - A mechanism whereby a person takes responsibility for actions of others and helps one avoid facing problems directly in order to preserve stability in a family relationship.
    - (from the web dictionary)
    - Alcoholics frequently show signs of co-dependence
    - So do security practitioners

# What's really sad

- Security practitioners are always bending over backwards to try to make things convenient for executives
  - let's be honest: it's not because we *really* respect them
  - it's not because we *really* think that they can't handle it, either
  - it's because we *know* that they are just lazy bastards

# Think about it

- Most senior executives
  - can figure out a spreadsheet
  - can calculate the alternative minimum tax on their options exercise per options-grant in .4 seconds flat

# More importantly

- What about being “Chief Technology Officer” means that it’s acceptable to be *stupid* about technology?!?
- Here’s what we should do: if your CTO forgets his hard drive encryption key, he’s just failed an IQ test: tell the board of directors “this guy is too stupid to remember his dog’s name.”

# Here's the truth

- They do not care and they will not care
- Security will always be ***exactly as bad as it can be, and no worse***

# But here's what's going to happen

- The next generation of executives is going to be the Internet age kids
  - They don't play golf
  - They don't take Gartner reports seriously
  - They have a blackberry surgically implanted in their cochlea
- If *they* don't take security seriously - consider the possibility that they understand the problem just fine