

# Dissect

The open-source framework for large-scale  
host investigations

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# Incident Response (IR)

You're hacked, now what?

Year 2000:

- Look at processes (ps, lsof)
  - IRC bot (using BitchX)!
- cron jobs!
- .bash\_history
- auth.log / syslog / wtmp



# 10 years ago

Investigating at scale? Hard!

Sophisticated IOCs? Difficult!

Non-standard investigative material? Annoying!

Large teams? Chaos!

Result: home dirs full of tailor-made scripts



# Our goal

Size doesn't matter

No data beyond our reach

No actor beyond our reach

Team distribution doesn't matter



# Introducing Dissect

A decade of development and IR

Modular Python framework with libraries and analyst tooling

Complex IR with ease and efficiency

We love it, we hope you do too!

# Size doesn't matter

Shotgun approach in data collection

Streamlined data ingestion

Collect instead of interpret



# No data beyond our reach

Analyse any type of data a case throws at us

Easily extendable for new data sources

- No change required to existing artefact parsers

Flexibility creates opportunities

- E.g. hypervisor data acquisition

# No actor beyond our reach

Detect any technique an advanced threat actor throws at us

- Equation group, Turla, Lambert
- NTFS ACE persistence, post partition data, hidden filesystems

Possible without Dissect, but now effortlessly at scale from  
any source



# Team distribution doesn't matter

Uniform tooling, usage and output

Use different workflows, whatever suits your style

Easily allow different skill levels to work together

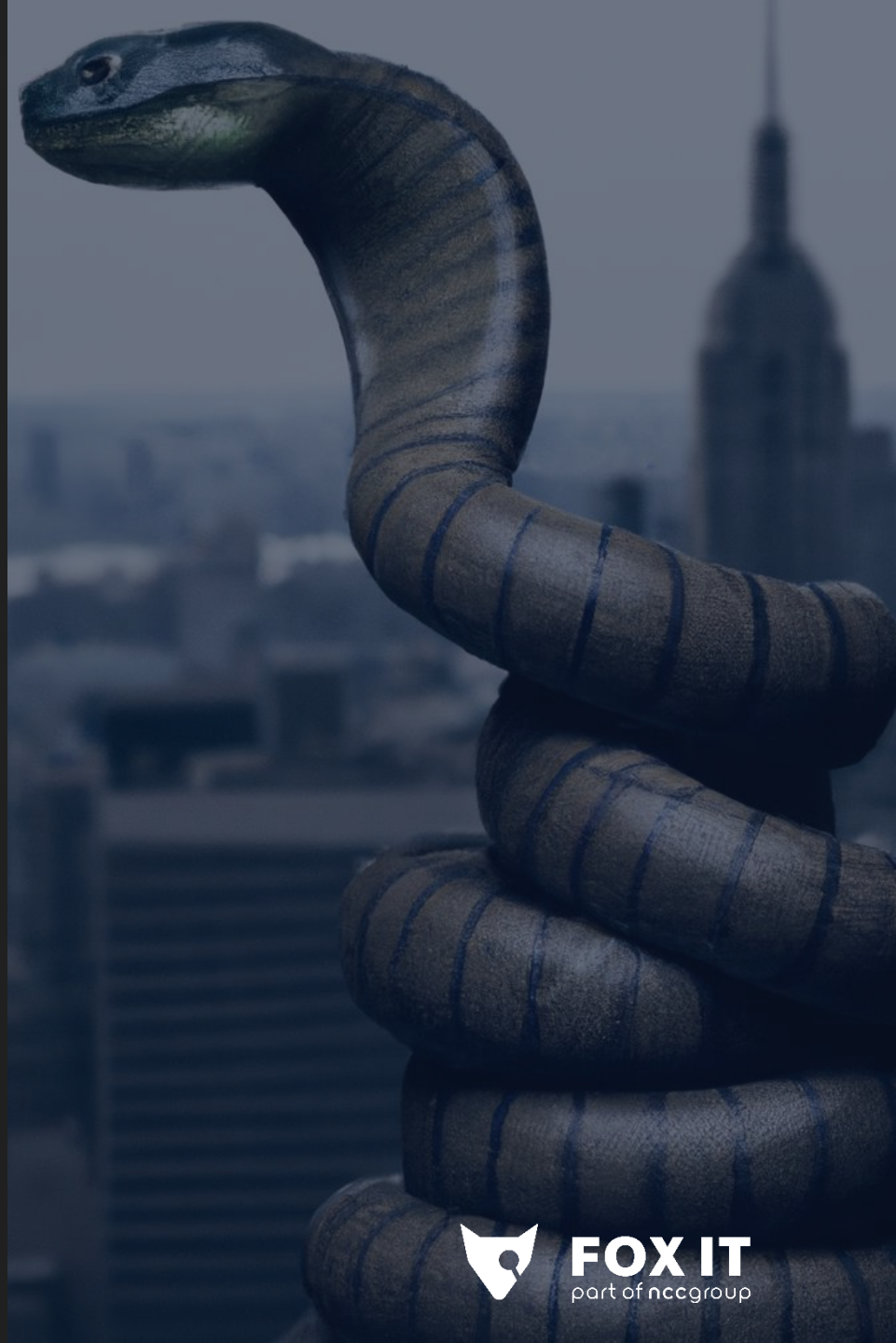
# The details: What makes it tick?

Multiple abstraction layers

- Loader => Target
  - container/volume/fs implementation
    - abstract fs layer

Python `pathlib.Path` compatible implementation

- `TargetPath`



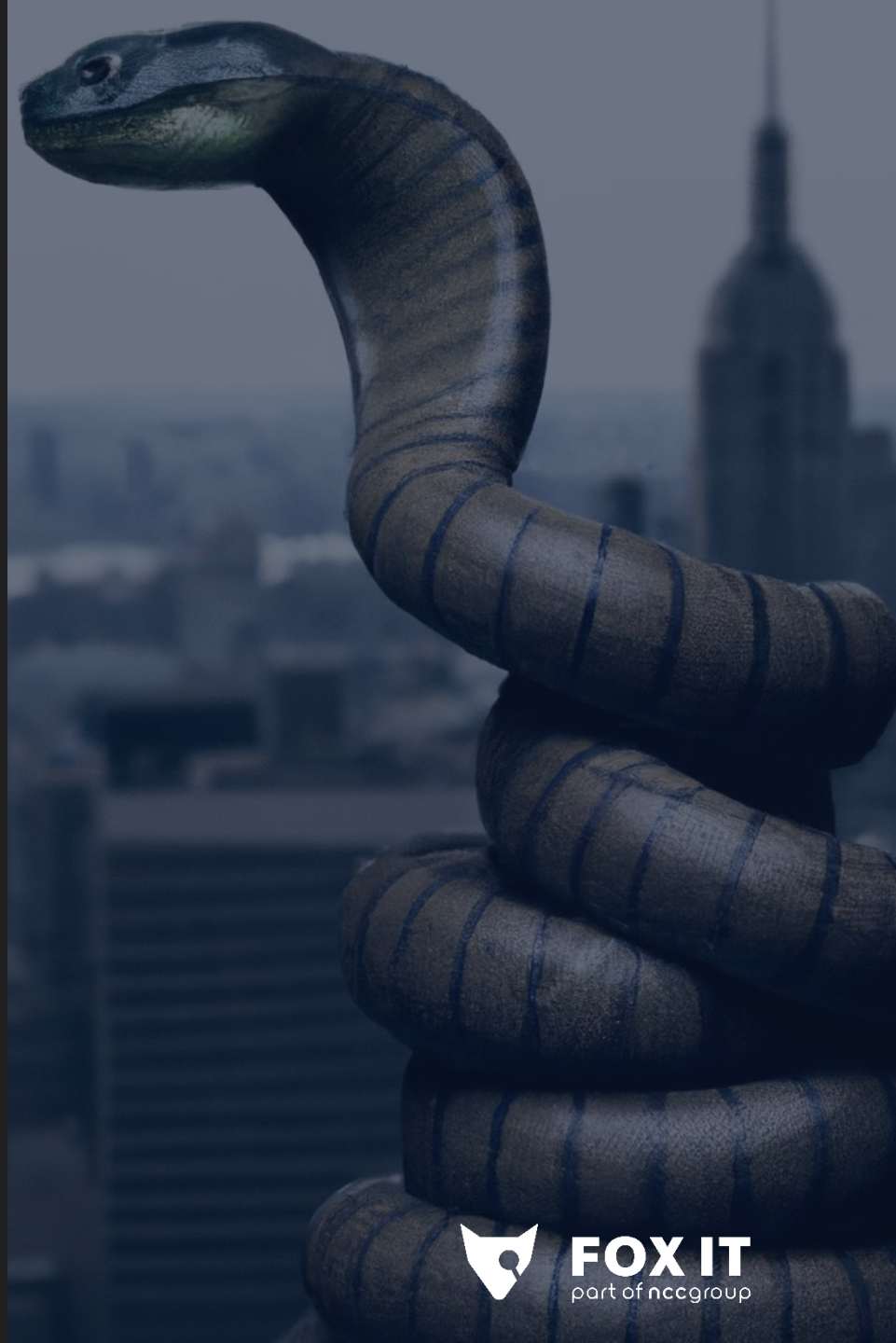
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Useful tool:

- `target-shell`



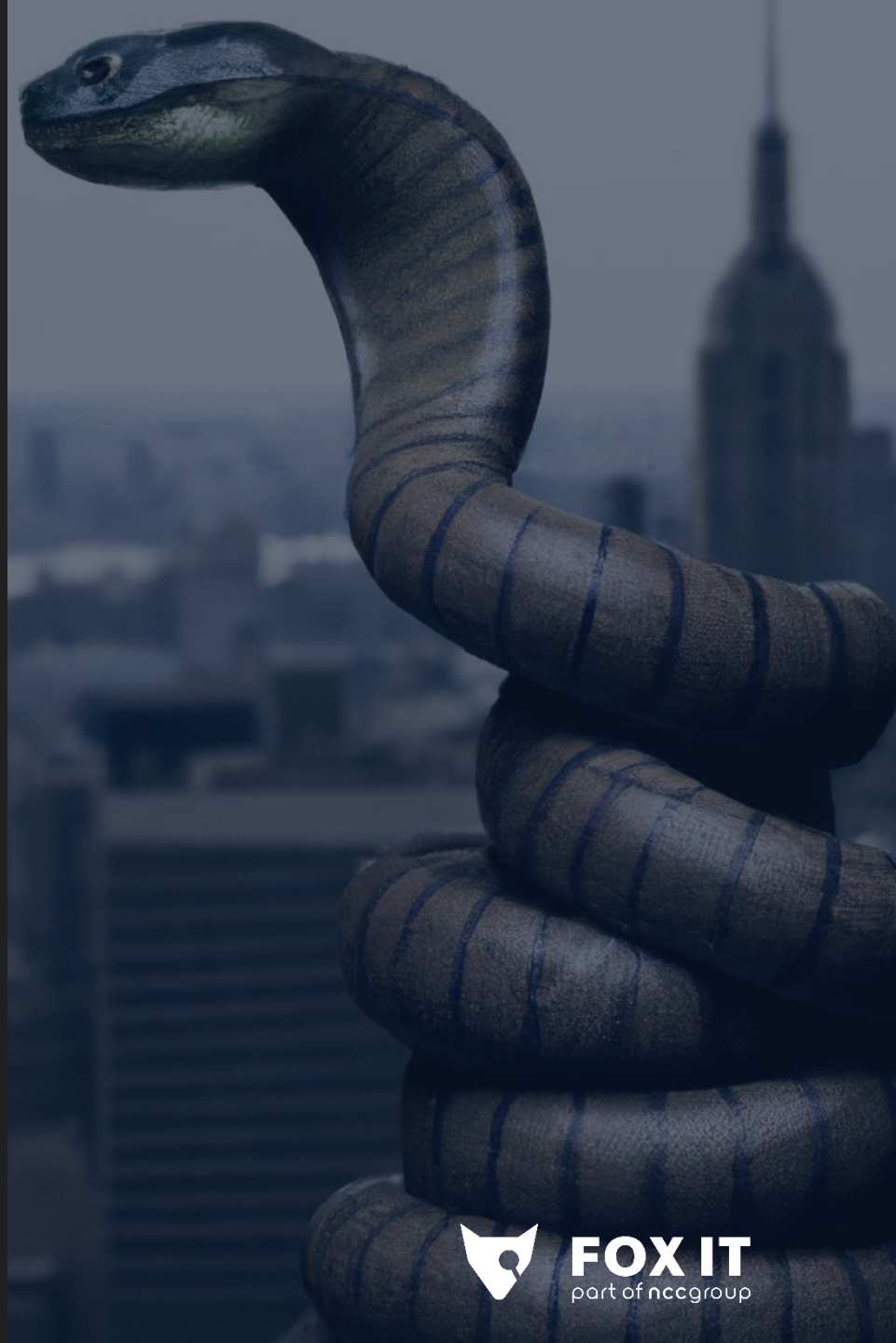
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Multiple abstraction layers

- Loader => Target
  - container/volume/fs implementation
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      - OS detection (plugin)

bsd  
bsd/ios  
bsd/openbsd  
bsd/osx  
bsd/freebsd

linux  
linux/fortigate  
linux/redhat  
linux/esxi  
linux/android  
linux/suse  
linux/debian  
linux/debian/vyos



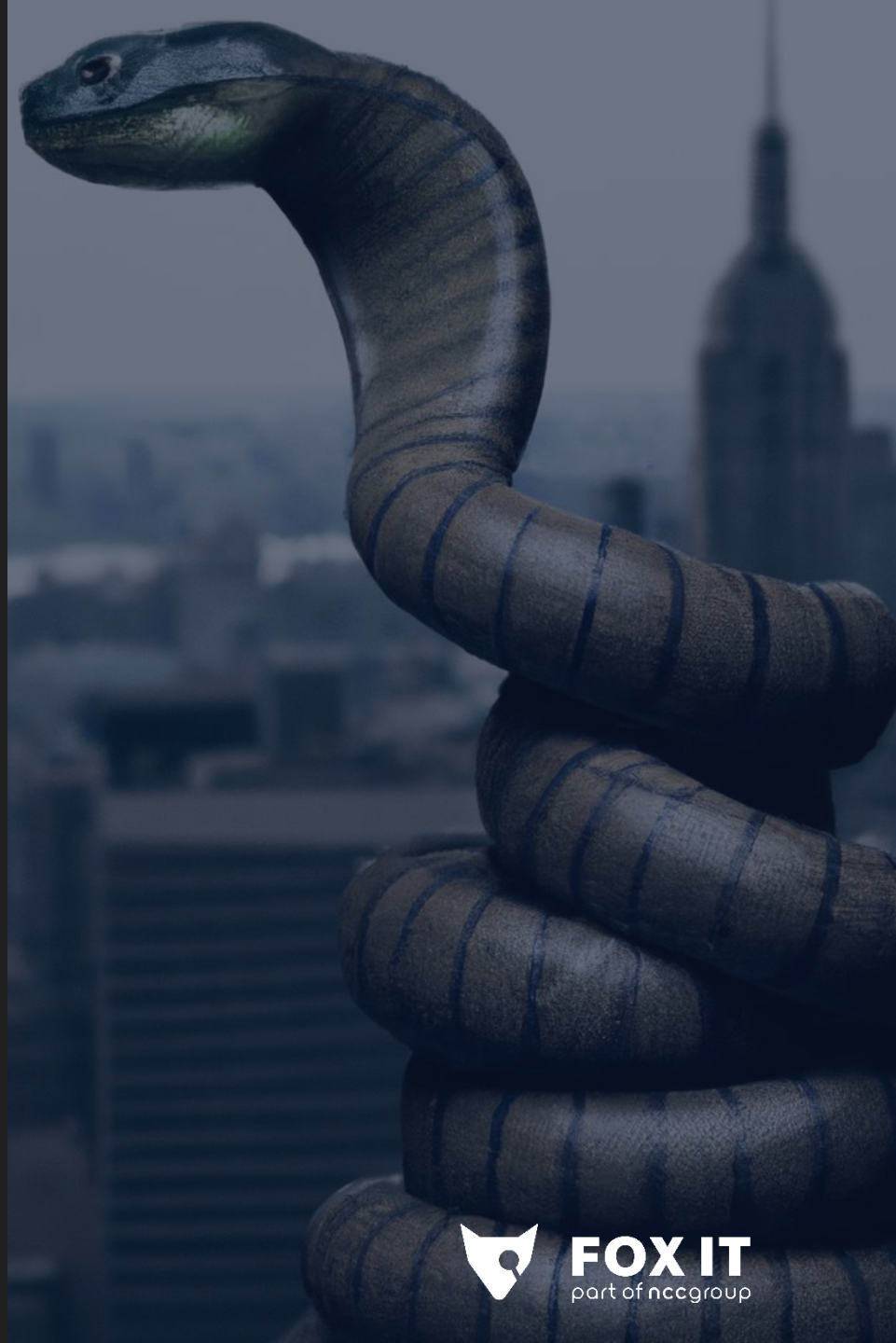
# The details: What makes it tick?

## Multiple abstraction layers

- Loader => Target
  - container/volume/fs implementation
    - abstract fs layer
      - OS detection (plugin)
      - Plugins

## Analysis plugins written on top

- Write once, run anywhere
- Internal: e.g. registry hive abstraction
- External: extract useful data to a structured format



A fox character is shown in a VR environment, wearing a VR headset and holding a laptop. The scene is set inside a tent with a blue and white striped pattern. The fox is looking at the laptop screen. The overall lighting is dim and blue-toned.

# Demo



**FOX IT**  
part of nccgroup



(v3.1) stefan.dereuver@lwp5 ~/fef/t \$



(v3.1) stefan.dereuver@lwp5 ~/fef \$

```
17 ssh — /Users/user ⌘1 user@srt-shell:/tmp/first (ssh) — /Users/user ⌘2 +
[root@esxi7:~] uname -a
VMkernel esxi7.internet.vm 7.0.3 #1 SMP Release build-19482537 Mar 11 2022 06:46:38 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 ESXi
[root@esxi7:~] esxcli vm process list
Fedora VM 1
  World ID: 138059
  Process ID: 0
  VMX Cartel ID: 138058
  UUID: 56 4d 30 ae 6f dc 47 e6-03 1a d1 c7 41 ba df 47
  Display Name: Fedora VM 1
  Config File: /vmfs/volumes/62040e57-bdf59d00-0840-000c29ed0202/Fedora VM 1/Fedora VM 1.vmx

Fedora VM 2
  World ID: 138064
  Process ID: 0
  VMX Cartel ID: 138057
  UUID: 56 4d dd 51 8d ed eb 13-53 f6 7f cb 94 08 56 ad
  Display Name: Fedora VM 2
  Config File: /vmfs/volumes/62040e57-bdf59d00-0840-000c29ed0202/Fedora VM 2/Fedora VM 2.vmx
[root@esxi7:~] /scratch/first_680dd9.lin -o /scratch/out/ --children --no-parent
```



# Why open-source?

For a more secure society

We've depended on great open-source tools

Time to give back to the community

Encouraging contributions

# Summary

Size doesn't matter

No data beyond our reach

No actor beyond our reach

Faster and easier investigations benefits both analysts and clients

```
$ pip install dissect
```

Want to contribute?  
Submit a PR at <https://github.com/fox-it>

```
$ pip install dissect
```

# Documentation

<https://docs.dissect.tools/>

# Try for yourself

<https://try.dissect.tools/>

Want to contribute?

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**FOX IT**  
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# Thank you!

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If you have any questions, please contact us at  
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