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Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 1:02 PM
To: Joichi Ito
Cc: jeffrey E.
Subject: epiphany of the day: the market for algo trading strategies are just like the one for exploits

I had this feeling for a while but today I bumped into this: <https://www.quantopian.com/> essentially you go there, submit your algo trading strategy and then if you beat the returns of the other contestants you get \$100k.

Now at first I wasn't sure the parallel would hold but then I realized that for most non institutional investors (eg: the engineer good at signal processing), the trading fees make most of these strategies unprofitable. Hence their only chance of making money out of their work is either to go work for an institutional investor OR use stuff like quantopian.

In the exploitation world it used to be the case that you would just go ahead and use them because you'd never get caught/nobody cared, these days you only use them if you're either a criminal or a nation-state hence why there are similar competitions.

The interesting questions (both ways), consequences are:

1) In cyber-sec there's also a market for vulnerabilities (essentially the building blocks of exploits), can there be a market for the equivalent in finance? and if so, what would that be? submission of statistical correlation between stocks/currencies/etc etc?

2) In security the actors are becoming more and more a commodity, is that going to happen in finance as well?

3) In security bugs/exploits are countered by software vendors, whereas in finance strategies are rendered useless by the 'efficiency' of the market. What are the commonalities/differences? I can think of many..

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