

Dear Jo and Sean,

This is a note that I should've written to you and Jo years ago. I apologize for not doing so; let me tell you a story:

I have known Adam Shostack for over a quarter century. Just like a lot of people he is not 100% good nor evil, but I'm not here to sing his praises. I'm here to talk about his evil side.

Let me make one thing very clear: **Jo, you were not in any condition to consent to anything.** I was at that party at DEFCON. You had consumed enough alcohol to make you a prime target for Shostack.

I have seen him do this before. In university, I was at a party where people were drinking heavily and Shostack was not: he just watched the way a wolf would watch. I remember it like it was yesterday, a girl went to leave the party and he pounced to 'walk her to her room' and it was very clear to me what was happening. I intervened and he backed off.

I did not witness his interaction with Jo but she would definitely be a target for someone the likes of him. If I had, I would have intervened or done something to keep Jo safe.

I am ashamed that I did not speak up sooner. This all happened before the #metoo Movement but that doesn't excuse my lack of speaking out, nor does it excuse my collaboration with obfuscating the truth.

The day that the website was launched was also the day that I was helping Shostack handle the media launch of his book. It was also a day when it was going to be announced that he was going to head-up a major project on behalf of Google, Microsoft and all the big tech players.

I was in auto-pilot and helping someone turned into crisis management within a span of a few minutes of the website going live. I was not thinking about anything that had happened years ago or reflecting on my moral choices that I should've made in terms of whom I was associated with. I shielded Shostack from the press and anyone who tried to ask him questions about the website. I advised him to remain silent to ensure a short news cycle (you cannot have an ongoing news cycle of 'she said he said' without one of the other parties talking).

I protected the guilty instead of administering oxygen to the party who needed it. Once the dust had cleared, I cut off all communication with Shostack and haven't spoken with him since.

Spending a couple of months in a coma and then recovering from an aneurysm gives one time to have the brain reboot and to reset one's moral compass.

I'm sorry Jo & Sean that you did not get to have your time in the court of public opinion.