

School of Electronics And Computer Science

ELEC6050 MEng Group Design Project

Project Specification And Plan

Title: Trending Terms Malware Crawler

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Customer: Team Cymru (<http://www.team-cymru.org>)

Project Specification:

The system should ascertain trending search keywords by searching Google Trends, Twitter's trending topics for a specific WOEID (Where On Earth ID), RSS feeds such as tabloids.

Each of these keywords found can then be used to determine a set of relevant website URLs. To do this a set of search engines, such as the search engine aggregator <http://dogpile.co.uk>, are queried with each of the keywords found.

The URLs discovered should then be dispatched to a distributed set of workers using a Task Queue. Each of these workers then download and examine the documents referred to by each of the URLs.

Care must be made to ensure that these robot workers look like humans browsing the web: techniques such as using a wide range of IP addresses, emulating the Referer and UserAgent request headers and even running instances of actual browsers, such as Firefox and Chrome. Research should be made into how existing malware distribution networks evade detection, so as to counter those systems.

The results of these workers should be stored in a database so as to be later retrieved by a web application reporting system to be displayed to the end user.

