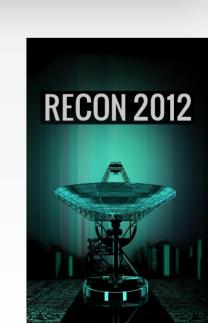
# Bootkit Threats: In Depth Reverse Engineering & Defense

**Eugene Rodionov Aleksandr Matrosov** 





#### **Outline of The Presentation**

- ✓ Bootkit technology
  - ✓ Why? How?
- ✓ Bootkit design principles
  - ✓ Architecture
  - ✓ Analysis instrumentation
- ✓ Rovnix bootkit in-depth analysis
  - ✓ Infected VBR analysis
  - ✓ Infection strategy
- ✓ Bootkit remediation techniques



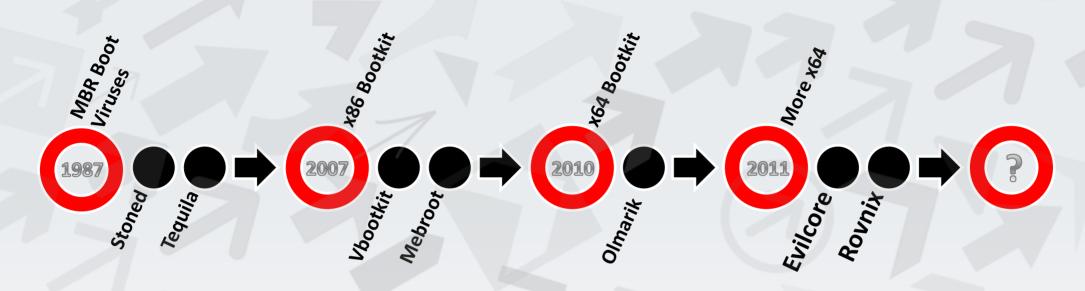


## **Bootkit technology**





#### **Bootkit evolution over time**



#### Bootkit PoC evolution:

- √ eEye Bootroot (2005)
- √ Vbootkit (2007)
- √ Vbootkit v2 (2009)
- √ Stoned Bootkit (2009)
- ✓ Evilcore x64 (2011)

#### **Bootkit Threats evolution:**

- √ Win32/Mebroot (2007)
- √ Win32/Mebratix (2008)
- √ Win32/Mebroot v2 (2009)
- √ Win64/Olmarik (2010/11)
- √Win64/Olmasco (2011)
- ✓ Win64/Rovnix (2011/2012)



## Why?

### Why there is a return to bootkit technology nowadays

- ✓ Microsoft kernel-mode code signing policy
  - loading unsigned kernel-mode driver
- ✓ High level of stealth
  - there are no malicious files in the file system
- ✓ High degree of survival
  - difficult to detect and remove
- ✓ Ability to disable security software
  - · the malware is launched before security software



### How?

## **Bootkits in the wild:**

- > Infecting:
  - ✓ MBR (Master Boot Record)
  - ✓ VBR (Volume Boot Record)

## **Proof of Concept Bootkits:**

Infecting UEFI



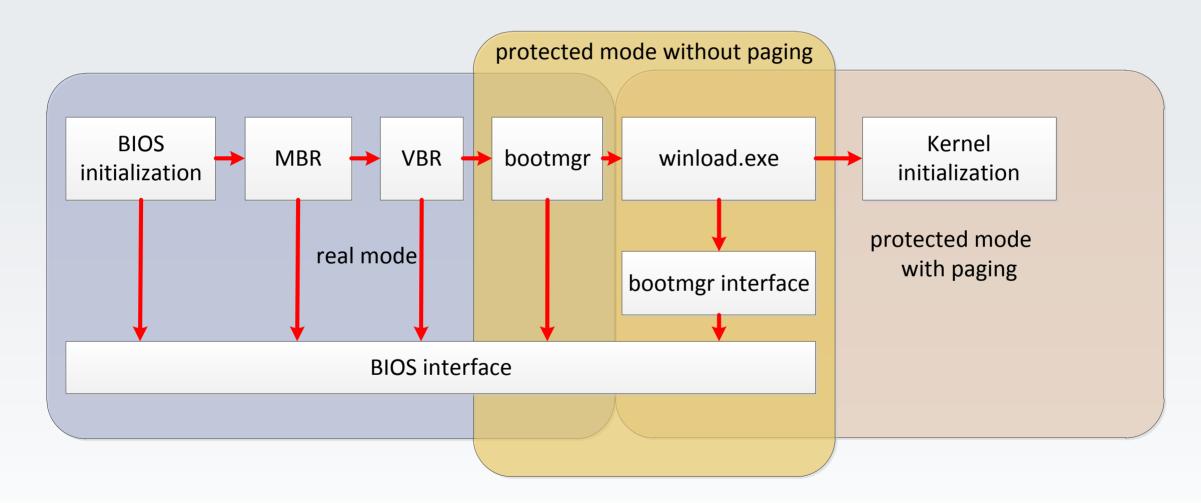
## Bootkit design principles





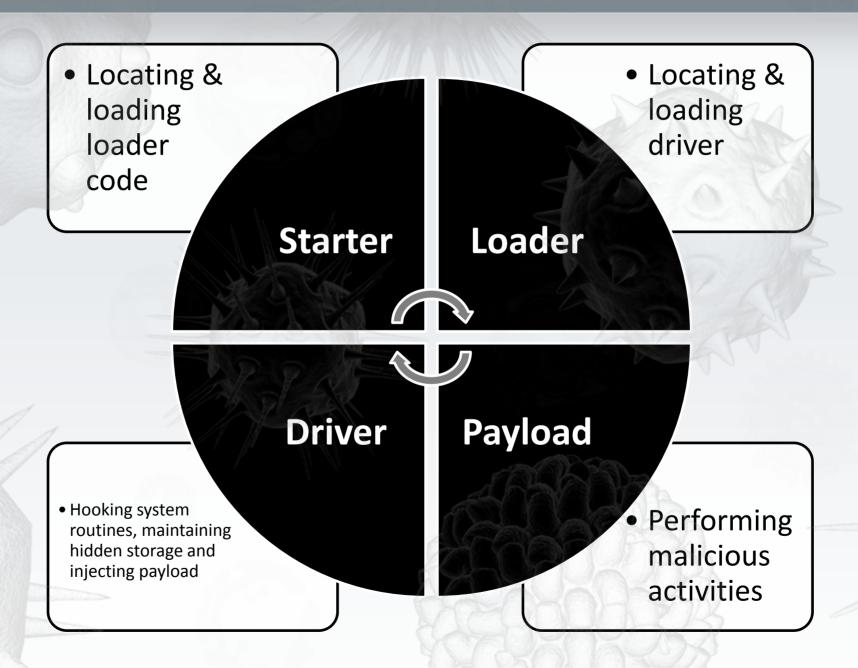
## **Boot process**

### **Description of OS boot process:**





## **Bootkit Architecture**

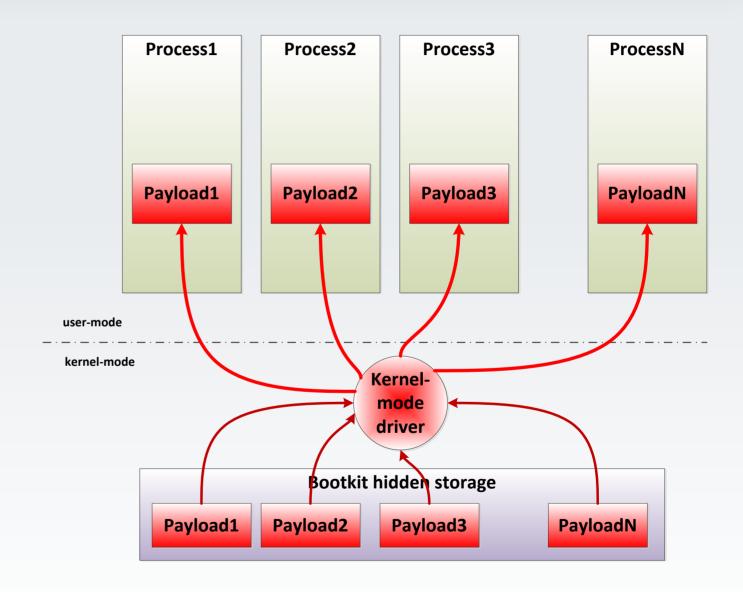




## Injecting Payload

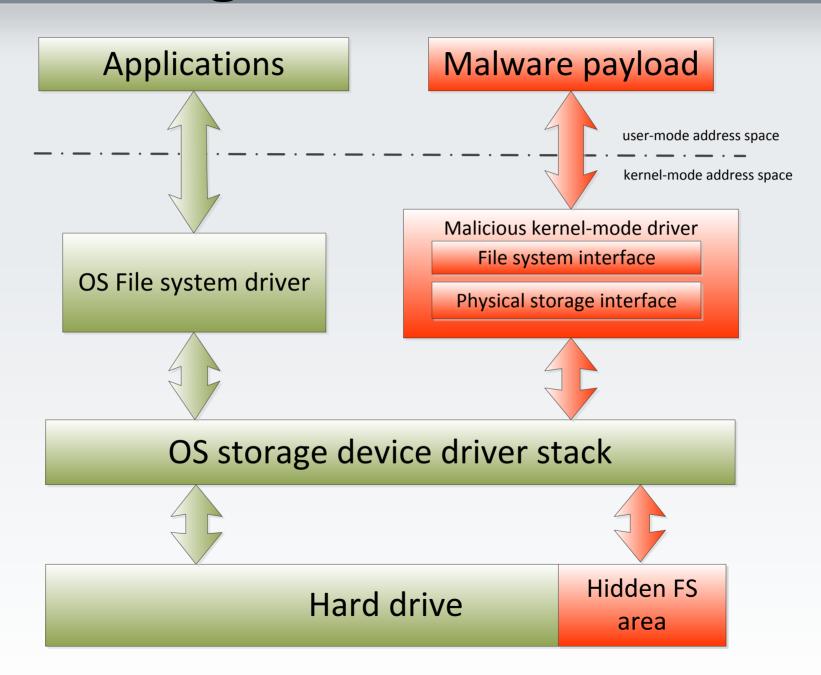
#### Injection approach

- ✓ APC routines
- ✓ Patching entry point of the executable





## Hidden Storage Architecture





## **Bootkit Analysis Instrumentation**





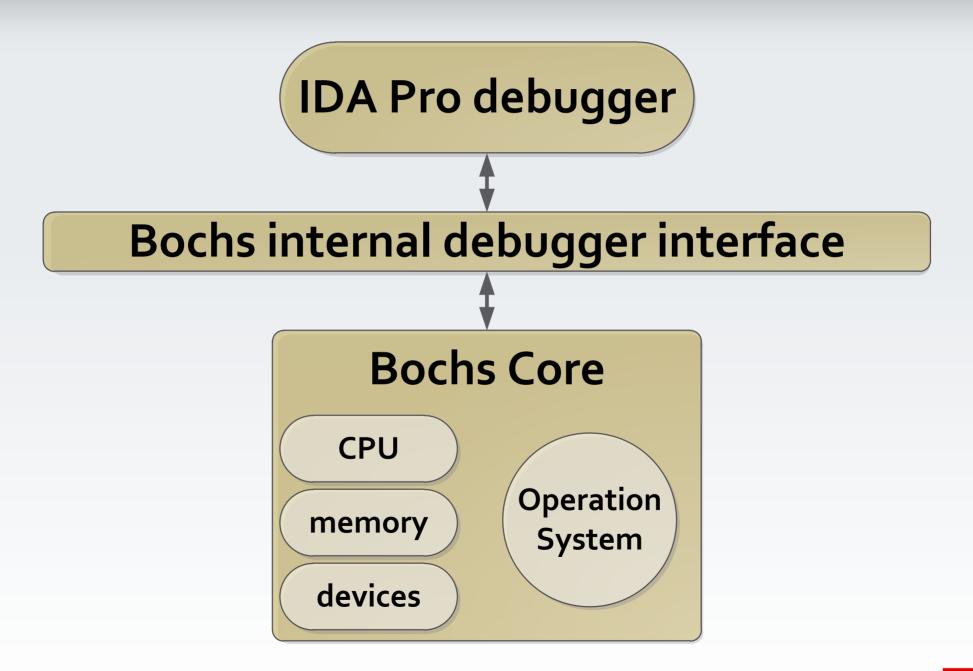
### **Debugging bootkit with Bochs**

#### ./configure --enable-debugger

⟨bochs:2⟩

```
Bochs for Windows - Console
                        Bochs x86 Emulator 2.5.1
              Built from SUN snapshot on January 6, 2012
                   Compiled on Jun 8 2012 at 14:28:34
                   1 Screen mode changed to
|000000000000i
                   I reading configuration from D:\images\Win7EnterpriseSp1x64\bochsrc251.bxrc
1000000000000e [
                   1 D:\images\Win7EnterpriseSp1x64\bochsrc251.bxrc:26: 'i440fxsupport' will be replaced by new 'pci' option.
000000000000e [
                   1 D:\images\Win7EnterpriseSp1x64\bochsrc251.bxrc:27: 'vga_update_interval' will be replaced by new 'vga: update_freg' option.
                   l Ignoring magic break points
|000000000000i
Next at t=0
(0) [0x000000000ffffffff0] f000:fff0 (unk. ctxt): jmp far f000:e05b
                                                                              ; ea5be000f0
Kbochs:1> help
h¦help – show list of debugger commands
hihelp command - show short command description
-* Debugger control -*
    help, q'quit'exit, set, instrument, show, trace, trace-reg,
   trace-mem, uldisasm, ldsym, slist
-* Execution control -*
    cloonticontinue, sistep, pininext, modebp, vmexitbp
-<del>×-</del> Breakpoint management -<del>×-</del>
    vblvbreak, lbllbreak, pblpbreaklblbreak, sb, sba, blist,
    bpe, bpd, didelidelete, watch, unwatch
-*- CPU and memory contents -*-
    x, xp, setpmem, crc, info,
    riregiregsiregisters, fpifpu, mmx, sse, sreg, dreg, creg,
page, set, ptime, print-stack, ?¦calc
-*- Working with bochs param tree -*-
    show "param", restore
```

### **Debugging bootkit with Bochs**







## Rovnix Reverse Engineering



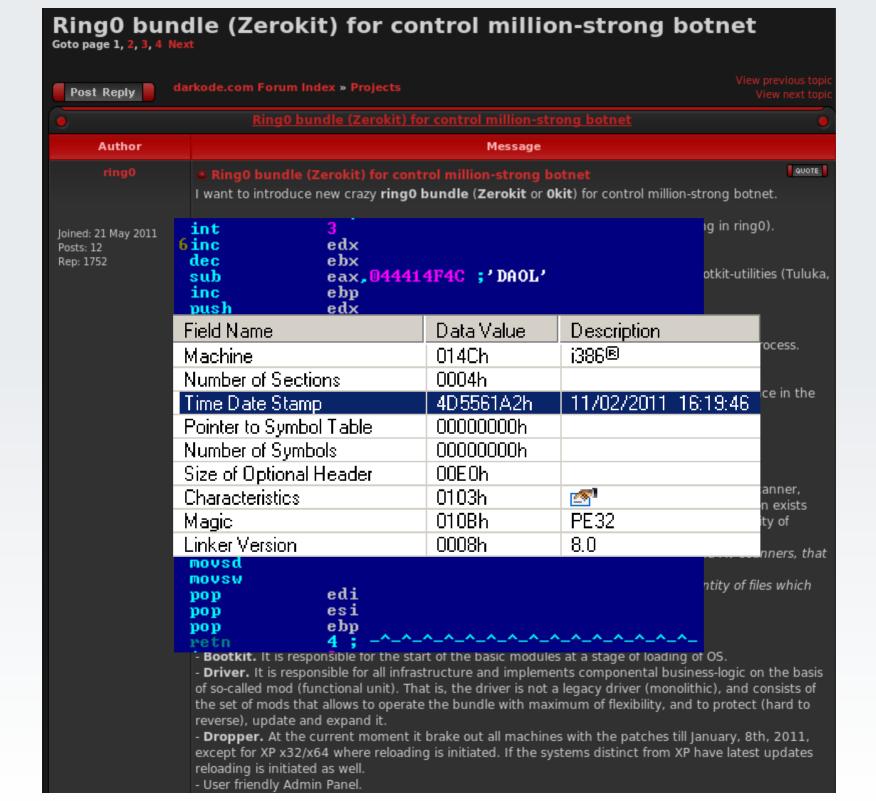


#### RingO bundle (Zerokit) for control million-strong botnet Goto page 1, 2, 3, 4 Next darkode.com Forum Index » Projects Post Reply Author QUOTE I want to introduce new crazy ring0 bundle (Zerokit or 0kit) for control million-strong botnet. Breaking down all nowadays-existing firewall with full network blocking (bypassing in ring0). Joined: 21 May 2011 Posts: 12 Existence of the bundle is not detected by any of the antiviruses (the list Rep: 1752 aphp), antirootkit-utilities (Tuluka, GMER, RKU, RootkitRevealer) also see nothing. Features: Start of \*.exe, \*.dll (\*.dll is in a pre-alpha stage) and shellcodes in a context of the chosen process. Start of files from a disk and from the memory\* (start from memory is in a pre-alpha stage). - Start of files with specified priveleges: CurrentUser and NT SYSTEM/AUTHORITY. - Granting the protected storehouse\*\* for off-site (your) ring3-solutions for permanent existence in the system without need of crypt. - Survivability of the bundle, down to a reinstallation of the system. All the components are stored outside of a file system and are invisible to OS. - Intuitively clear interface of admin-panel. - Protection against the abstraction of Admin Panel. - Impossibility of detection of the bundle in the working system by any of known AV/rootkit scanner, owing to the use of author's technologies of concealment. The unique opportunity of detection exists only at loading with livecd or scanning of a disk from the other computer. Thus the opportunity of detection is also extremely improbable, as own algorithms of a mutation are used. \* Start of a file from the memory allows to bypass all modern proactive protection and AV-scanners, that is, there is no necessity to crypt a file. \*\* Protected storehouse is the original ciphered file system in which the certain quantity of files which will be started from the memory at each start of the OS can be stored. The bundle consists of: - Bootkit. It is responsible for the start of the basic modules at a stage of loading of OS. - Driver. It is responsible for all infrastructure and implements componental business-logic on the basis of so-called mod (functional unit). That is, the driver is not a legacy driver (monolithic), and consists of the set of mods that allows to operate the bundle with maximum of flexibility, and to protect (hard to reverse), update and expand it. - Dropper. At the current moment it brake out all machines with the patches till January, 8th, 2011, except for XP x32/x64 where reloading is initiated. If the systems distinct from XP have latest updates reloading is initiated as well. - User friendly Admin Panel















## Interesting Carberp sample (October 2011)

```
IsWow64Process@4.
UBR.
\PHYSICALDRIUEO
\PHYSICALDRIUEO•
BKSETUP: Payload of Zu bytes successfully written at sector Zx.
\Device\HarddiskO\Partitionzu•
\Device\HarddiskO\Partitionzu•
BKSETUP_x04x: BK setup dll version 2.1.
BKSETUP_x04x: Attached to a 32-bit process at 0xxx.
BKSETUP_x04x: Detached from a 32-bit process.
{ x 08 X - x 04 X - x 04 X - x 04 X - x 08 X x 04 X } •
IsWow64Process.
KERNEL32.DLL.
open•
zlu.bat•
028 0 e
attrib -r -s -hz1
:klabel
del 21
if exist %1 goto klabel
del 20
Software\Classes\CLSID\.
BKSETUP: Failed generating program key name.
BKSETUP: Already installed.
BKSETUP: OS not supported.
BKSETUP: Not enough privileges to complete installation.
BKSETUP: No joined payload found.
BKSETUP: Installation failed because of unknown reason.
BKSETUP: Successfully installed.
BKSETUP: Version: 1.0
BKSETUP: Started as win32 process 0xxx.
BKSETUP: Process 0xxx finished with status xu.
BKSETUP: Version: 1.0
BKSETUP: Started as win32 process 0xxx
BKSETUP: Process 0xxx finished with status xu
```



### **Interesting Carberp sample (October 2011)**

Total bots: 2831

Sort

Status Step Alias

Other

step	info	status	data
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
1	infa	false	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
		FALSE	00:00:00-00-00 00:00:00
		FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
3	BkInstall0 GetLastError = 0	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
1	IsUserAdmin	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
6	BkInstall	FALSE	0000-00-00 00:00:00
	6 6 1 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 1 6	6 BkInstall 1 infa 6 BkInstall 7 BkInstall 8 BkInstall 9 BkInstall	6 BkInstall FALSE 1 Infa false 6 BkInstall FALSE 7 FALSE 7 FALSE 7 FALSE 7 FALSE

```
BKSETUP: Successfully installed.
BKSETUP: Version: 1.0
BKSETUP: Started as win32 process 0xxx.
BKSETUP: Process 0xxx finished with status xu.
BKSETUP: Version: 1.0
BKSETUP: Started as win32 process 0xxx
BKSETUP: Process 0xxx finished with status xu
```



## Rovnix Kit Hidden File Systems Comparison

functionality	Rovnix.A	Carberp with bootkit	Rovnix.B
VBR modification			
polymorphic VBR	<b>X</b>		
Malware driver storage			
Driver encryption algorithm	custom (ROR + XOR)	custom (ROR + XOR)	custom (ROR + XOR)
Hidden file system		FAT16 modification	FAT16 modification
File system encryption algorithm		RC6 modification	RC6 modification



#### **Rovnix Architecture**

#### **Dropper**

Infected VBR

Kernel-mode driver x86

Payload x86

Kernel-mode driver x64

Payload x64

Signature Payload RVA Decompressed Flags size



## Installation Into the System

**Check administrative privileges** 

**Check OS version** 

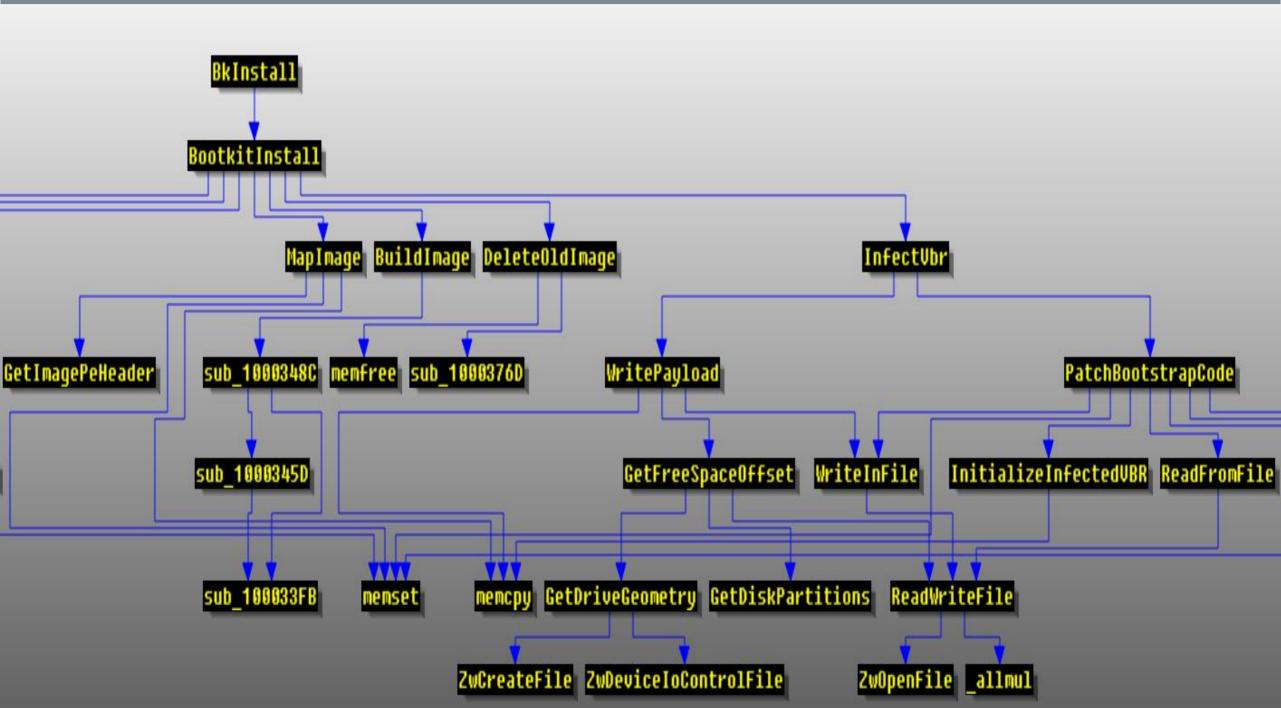
Locate free space on the hard drive to store kernel-mode driver & hidden FS image

Store the driver & hidden FS image in the located area.

Overwrite bootstrap code of the active partition with malicious one

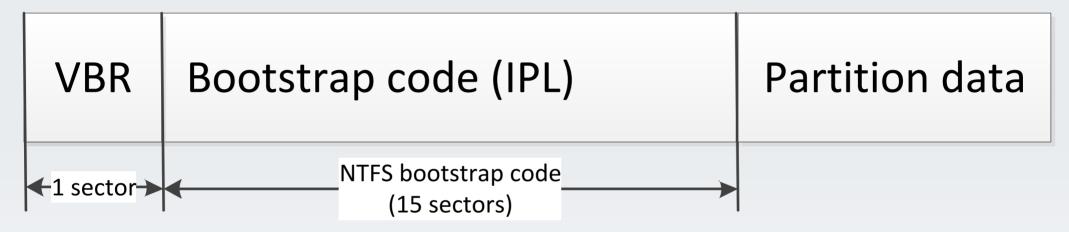


## Callgraph of Bootkit Installation Routine

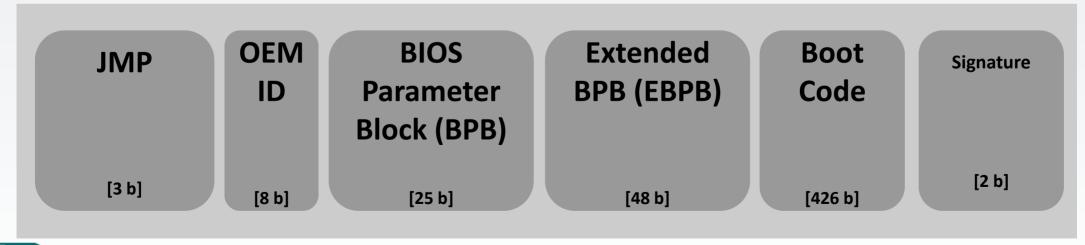


## **VBR Code Information**

VBR is responsible for loading OS boot components (bootmgr, BCD, etc.).

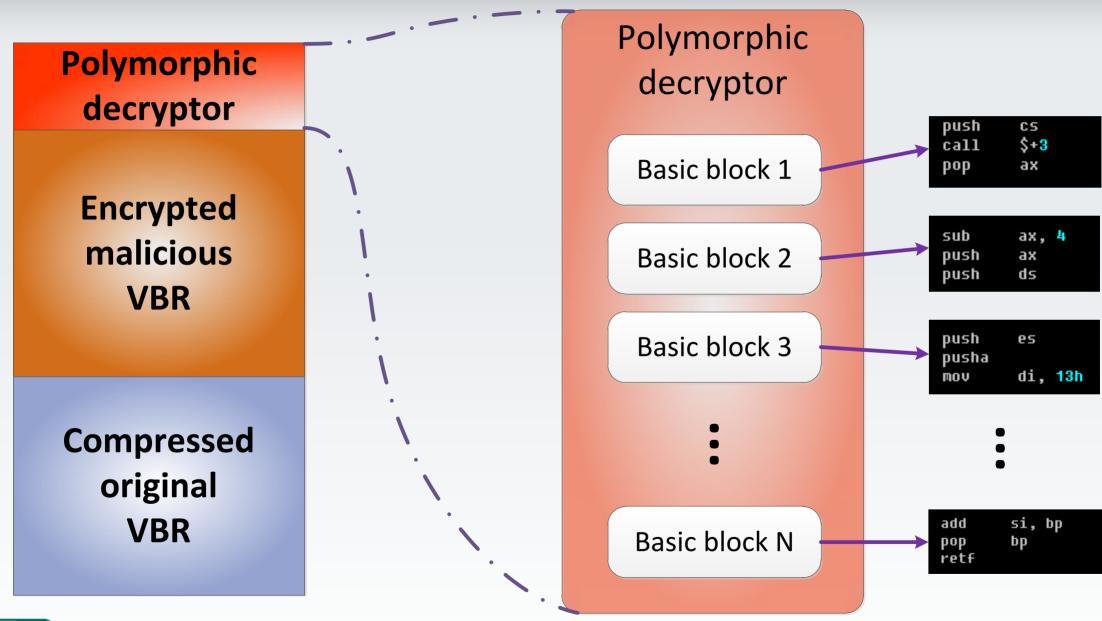


NTFS Boot Sector (Volume Boot Record)





## Rovnix Polymorphic VBR





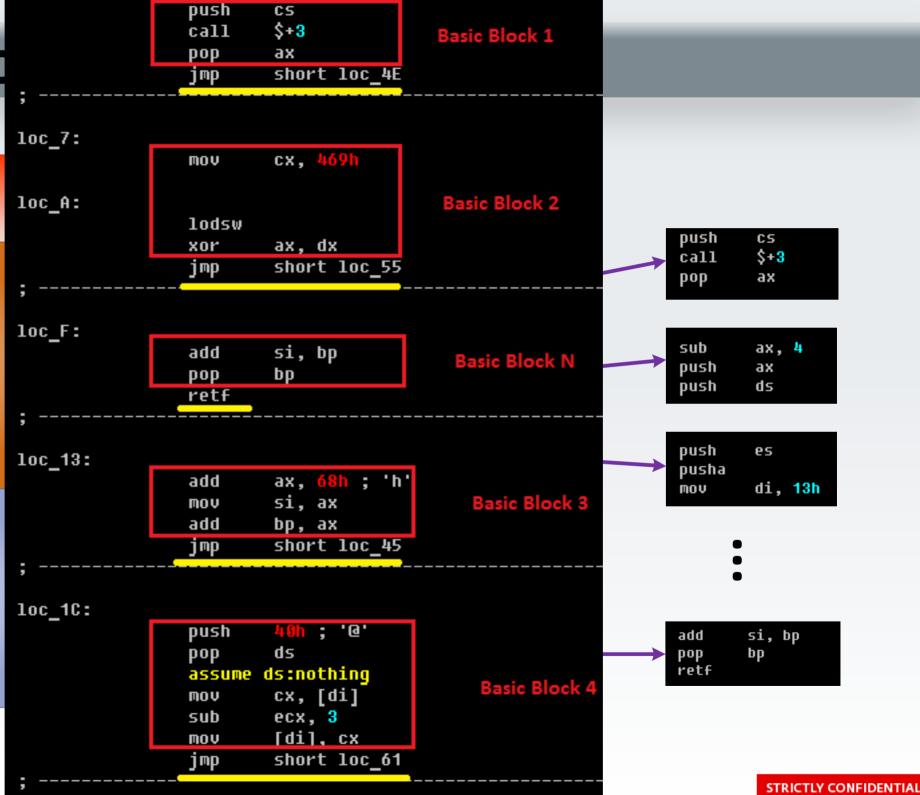
## Rovnix Pd

## **Polymorphic** decryptor

Encrypted malicious VBR

Compressed original VBR





## Decrypted VBR code

#### **Hook BIOS int 13h handler**

intercept hard drive I/O requests

patch bootmgr system module



#### **Hook BIOS** int 15h handler

intercept memory map requests

protect its memory location



**Decompress & Restore Original VBR** 

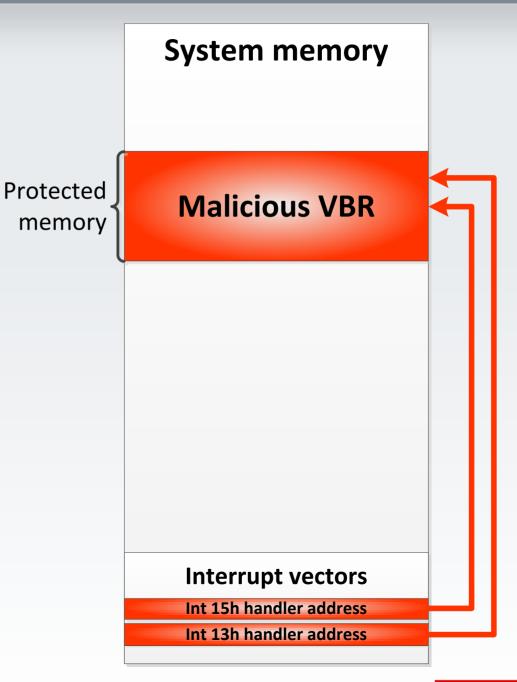
continue normal boot process



## Hooking BIOS int 15h Handler

Used by operating system to query system address map.

Abused by malicious VBR to protect its memory region from allocation by OS





## To be able to survive processor execution mode switching the malware:

- ✓ detects execution mode switching operation in bootmgr
- ✓ patches bootmgr right before switching into protected mode
- ✓ copies itself over the last half of IDT (which isn't used by OS)



## To be al switc

- √ detects
- patches
- √ copies

```
jb
                              short loc 2A2
                      pushf
                      pushad
                              ch, 42h; 'B'
                      CMP
                      xchq
                              ax, cx
                              short loc 27F
                      jnz
                              cx, [si+2]
                      mov
     1oc 27F:
                      push
                              CS
                      pop
                              ds
                              cx, 9
                      sh1
                              di, bx
                      mov
                      cld
     loc 287:
                              al, OFh
                                               ; look for constant in bootmgr
                      mov
                      repne scasb
                              short loc 29F
                      jcxz
                              eax, es:[di]
                              eax, ODB87C022h; mov cr0, eax
87 DI
                      cmp
                              short loc_287
                      jnz
                              bp, 168h
                      MOV
                      call
                      db 1Fh
                                               ; patch bootmgr
      loc_29F:
                      popad
                      popf
     loc_2A2:
                              di
                      pop
                              bχ
                      pop
                      pop
                              es
                              ds
                      retf
```

#### ution mode

ootmgr ected mode used by OS)



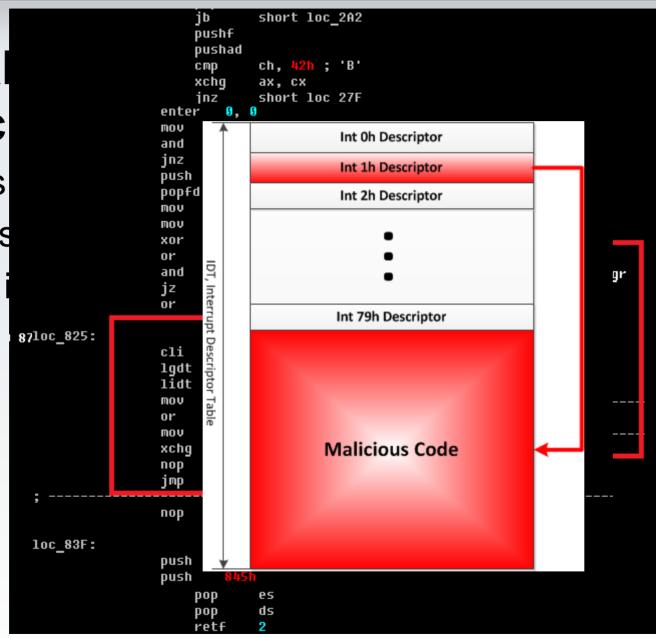
To be able to survive processor execution mode

switch enter mov ax, ds:word 1510 ax, ax and jnz locret 86F √ detects e large 🛭 push h bootmgr popfd ds:word 1510, 1 mov eax, ds:dword 1514 ✓ patches I mov rotected mode edx, edx edx, 1 and eax, 80000000h ✓ copies its n't used by OS) įΖ 1oc 825 edx. 80000000h ; CODE XREF: seq000:081A1j loc 825: cli lqdt fword ptr ds:byte 1500 lidt fword ptr ds:byte 1508 eax, cr0 mov : or eax 80000001h or eax. edx ; switch into PM cr0, eax MOV xchq bx, bx nop jmp short loc\_83F nop loc 83F: ; CODE XREF: seg000:083C1j push push



## To be al switc

- ✓ detects
- ✓ patches
- √ copies



#### ution mode

ootmgr ected mode used by OS)



## Loading Kernel-mode Driver

#### To be able to load unsigned kernel-mode driver Rovnix:

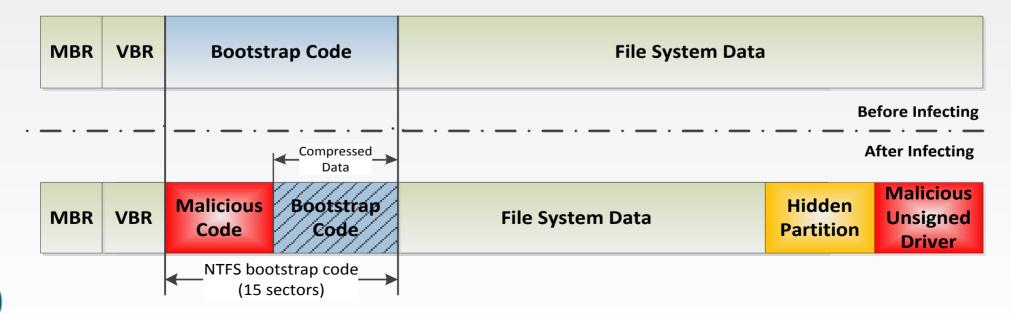
- Waits until kernel-mode memory manager is properly initialized:
  - ✓ Sets up hardware breakpoint
- Allocates memory buffer in kernel-mode address space to store the driver:
  - ✓ Calls BIAllocateAlignedDescriptor system routine to allocate memory buffer
- Inserts corresponding structure in BootDriverList of KeLoaderBlock.
  - ✓ The driver receives control during boot start drivers initialization





# **Hidden Storage Layout**

- Rovnix bootkit employs modification of FAT16 for hidden partition
- Hidden partition & kernel-mode driver are written either:
  - ✓ before first partition on the disk if there is more than 2000 (1 Mb) free sectors
  - ✓ In the end of the hard drive otherwise



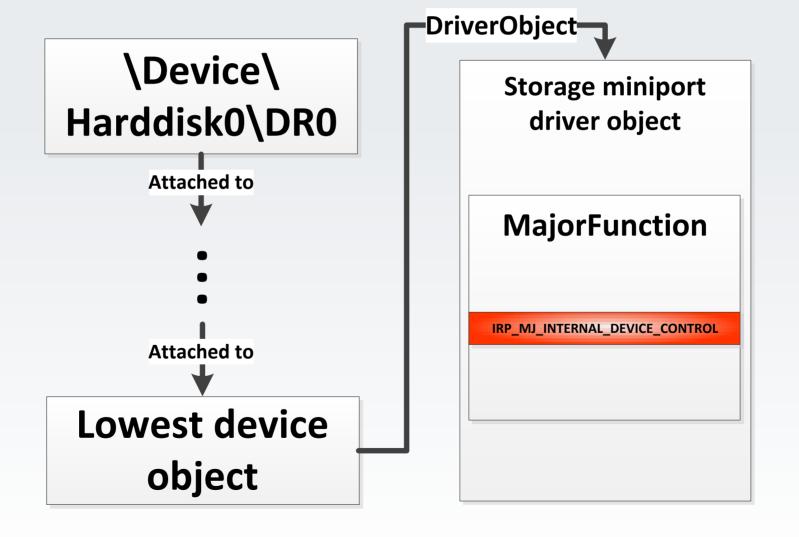


```
if ( STartPartitionLeast <= 0x7D0 )
  v12 = DiskGeometry->Cylinders.LowPart * DiskGeometry->TracksPerCylinder * DiskGeometry->SectorsPerTrack
      - EndPartition:
  if ( v12 \le 0x700 )
    *( QWORD *)&a2->ParttionHiddenStart = (unsigned int)(DiskGeometry->Cylinders.LowPart
                                                       * DiskGeometry->TracksPerCylinder
                                                       * DiskGeometry->SectorsPerTrack)
                                        - 0x7D0i64;
    a2->ParttionHiddenSize = 2000;
    a2->BytesPerSector = DiskGeometry->BytesPerSector;
    result = 0;
  else
    a2->ParttionHiddenStart = EndPartition + 1;
    a2->PartitionHiddenXXX = 0;
    a2->ParttionHiddenSize = v12 - 1;
    a2->BytesPerSector = DiskGeometry->BytesPerSector;
    result = 0;
else
  a2->PartitionHiddenXXX = 0;
  a2->ParttionHiddenStart = 1;
  a2->ParttionHiddenSize = STartPartitionLeast - 1;
  a2->BytesPerSector = DiskGeometry->BytesPerSector;
  result = 0:
return result;
```

eset

### Self-defense Mechanisms

To be able to protect VBR & Hidden file system Rovnix bootkit hooks IRP MJ INTERNAL DEVICE CONTROL handler:





### Self-defense Mechanisms

```
int stdcall NewIrpMjInternalHandler(unsigned int DeviceObject, PIRP Irp)
 PDEVICE OBJECT DeviceObject; // ebx@1
 PIRP Irp; // esi@1
 UCHAR ScsiCommand; // al@2
 int Status; // edi@7
 unsigned int64 Lba; // [sp+Ch] [bp-Ch]@2
 PVOID pTransferBuffer; // [sp+14h] [bp-4h]@2
  DeviceObject = (PDEVICE OBJECT)DeviceObject;
 Irp = Irp;
 if ( (PDEVICE OBJECT)DeviceObject != Dr@DeviceObject )
   return OriginalIrmMjInternalHandler( DeviceObject, Irp);
 ScsiCommand = GetSrbParameters( Irp, ( int64 *)&Lba, (int *)&DeviceObject, &pTransferBuffer, (DWORD *)& Irp);
 if ( ScsiCommand == 0x2A || ScsiCommand == 0x3B )// SCSI write commands
   if ( !CheckSrbParams(Lba, DeviceObject) )
     return OriginalIrmMjInternalHandler( DeviceObject, Irp);
   Status = STATUS ACCESS DENIED; // return STATUS ACCESS DENIED
   Irp->IoStatus.Status = STATUS ACCESS DENIED;
   IofCompleteRequest(Irp, 0);
 else
                                               // SCSI read commands
   if ( ScsiCommand != 0x28 && ScsiCommand != 0x3C || !CheckSrbParams(Lba, DeviceObject) )
     return OriginalIrmMjInternalHandler( DeviceObject, Irp);
   Status = SetCompletionRoutine( DeviceObject, Irp, Lba, SHIDWORD(Lba), DeviceObject, (int)pTransferBuffer, (int) Irp);
 if ( Status == STATUS REQUEST NOT ACCEPTED )
   return OriginalIrmMjInternalHandler( DeviceObject, Irp);
 return Status;
```

# Hidden File System Reader



ESET Hidden File System Reader

1.0.0.0 beta (Jun 9 2012 13:40:43)

Copyright (c) 1992-2012 ESET, spol. s r.o. All rights reserved.

Processing... Please wait.

#### "Rovnix.b\_Driver" file system found:

- payload.sys
- vbr

"Rovnix.b\_FS" file system found:

- BOOT.SYS

md5: 063E50BC2269F5D3858D53BB0C15527E

md5: C1DD3EB02DA9FE9AF1C09E5EF0964451

md5: 7FB1F36BFF3B6BE3FA4D7C1B4CCE5E61

File system(s) successfully exported!



## Hidden File System Reader



ESET Hidden File System Reader

# final version will be ta (JRn) | 20 2 13:40:43) | eased

"Rovnix.b\_Driver" file system found:

- payload.sys
- ubr

"Rovnix.b\_FS" file system found:

- BOOT.SYS

Processing...



C2269F5D3858D53BB0C15527E

102DA9FE9AF1C09E5EF0964451

md5: 7FB1F36BFF3B6BE3FA4D7C1B4CCE5E61

File system(s) successfully exported!





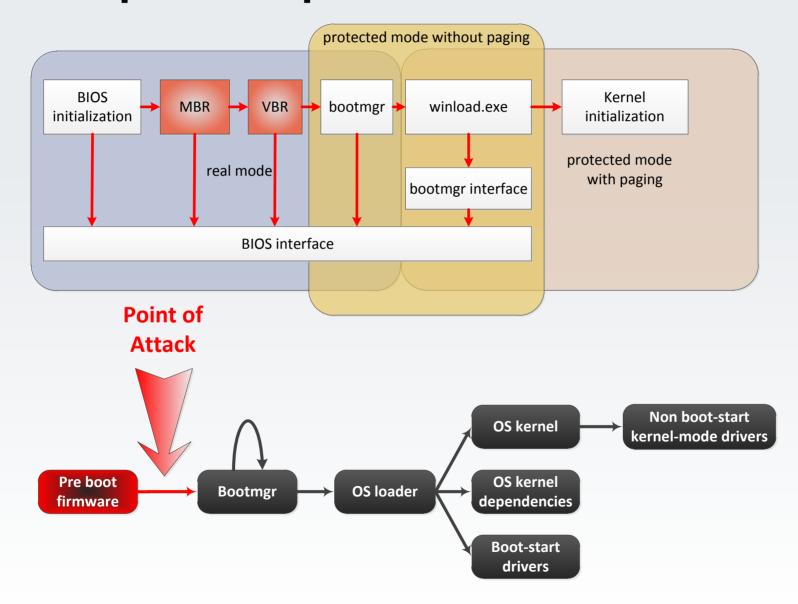
## **Bootkit countermeasures**





# **Problem Description**

### ✓ Untrusted platform problem:

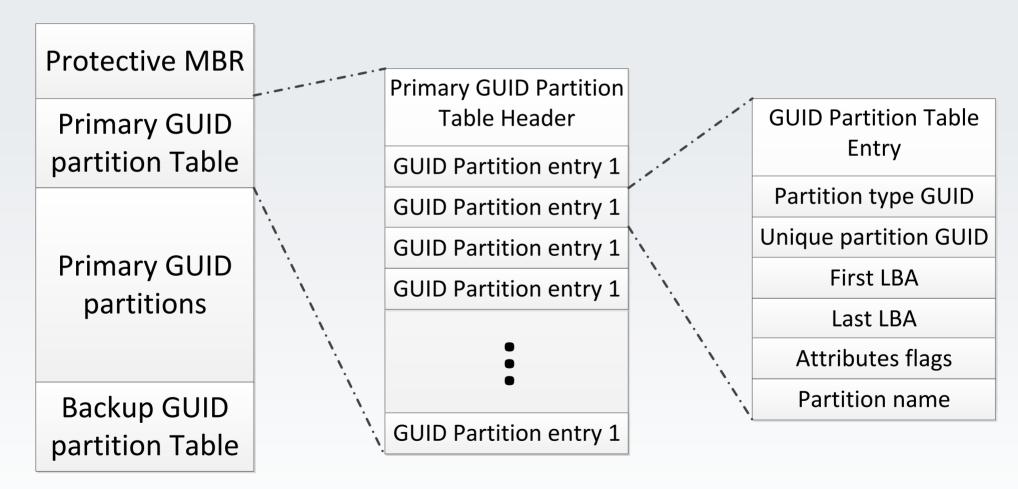




### Bootkits & GPT Disks

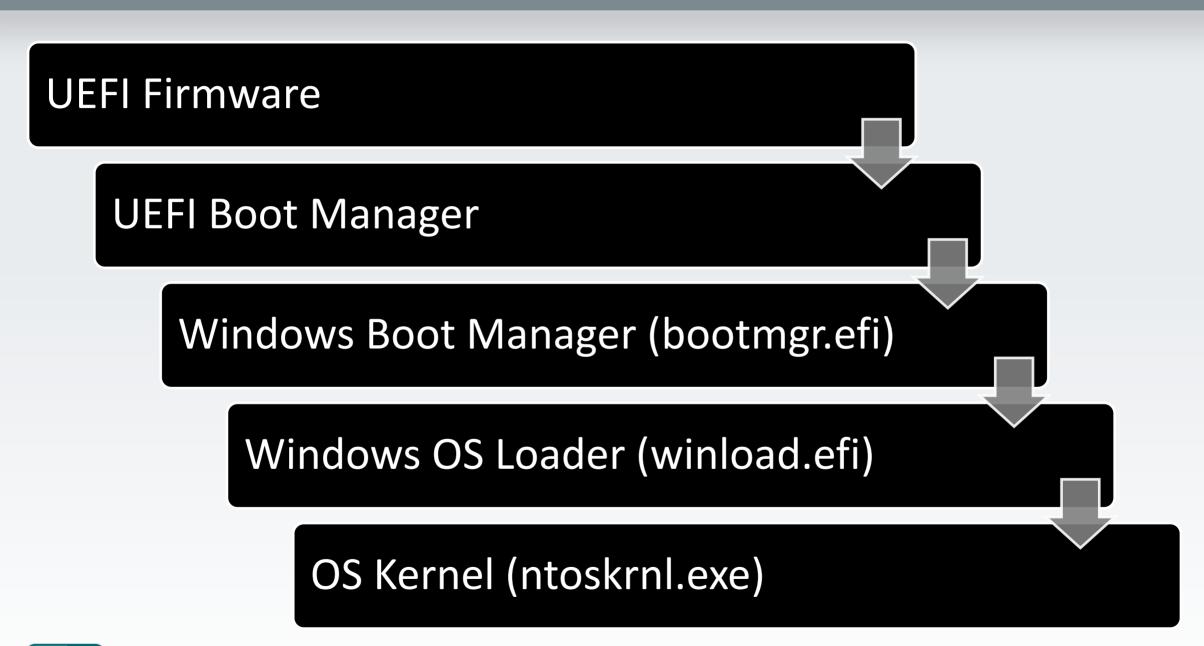
#### There is no MBR & VBR code which is executed in GPT disks

✓ Bootkits in-the-wild aren't applicable to GPT disks





## **Bootkits & GPT Disks**





## Windows 8 Security Features

## Security enhancements introduced in Windows 8:

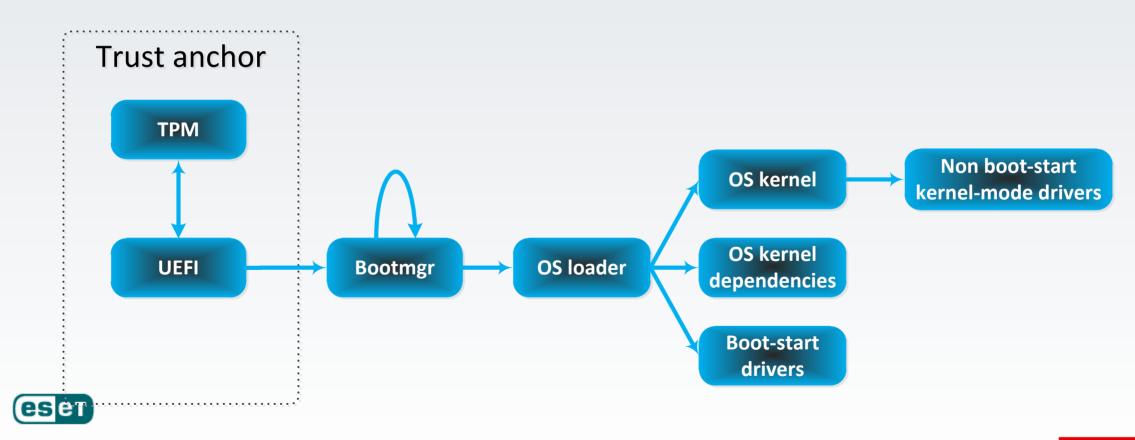
- Secure boot technology
  - ✓ Employing UEFI secure boot in conjunction with TPM
- Early anti-malware launch module
  - ✓ Allows antimalware software start before any other thirdparty components



### **Secure Boot**

### Secure boot prevents running an unknown OS loader:

- ✓ UEFI will verify OS loader
- ✓ The key for verification is stored inside TPM



## Early antimalware launch module

Antimalware component receives control before any other third-party software at boot time.





### Conclusion

- ✓ Bootkit technology allows malware to load unsigned kernel-mode driver and achieve high degree of stealth in the system
- ✓ The main target of bootkit infection are MBR & VBR
- ✓ Rovnix is a first known bootkit infecting VBR
- ✓ The most interesting features of the latest modification of Rovnix bootkit are:
  - ✓ Polymorphic infected VBR
  - ✓ Hidden Storage
- ✓ There are additional security features introduced in Windows 8 OS:
  - ✓ Early antimalware launch module
  - ✓ Secure Boot



### References

✓ Rovnix Reloaded: new step of evolution

http://blog.eset.com/2012/02/22/rovnix-reloaded-new-step-of-evolution

✓ TDL4 reloaded: Purple Haze all in my brain

http://blog.eset.com/2012/02/02/tdl4-reloaded-purple-haze-all-in-my-brain

✓ Bootkit Threat Evolution in 2011

http://blog.eset.com/2012/01/03/bootkit-threat-evolution-in-2011-2

✓ The Evolution of TDL: Conquering x64

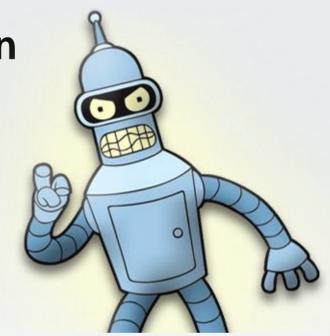
http://go.eset.com/us/resources/white-papers/The\_Evolution\_of\_TDL.pdf



http://www.virusbtn.com/conference/vb2011/abstracts/LastMinute1.xml

✓ King of Spam: Festi botnet analysis

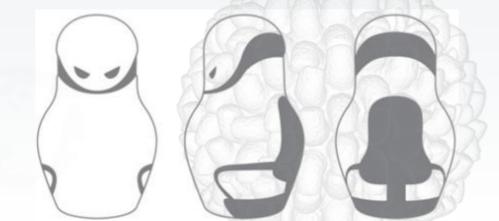
http://blog.eset.com/2012/05/11/king-of-spam-festi-botnet-analysis



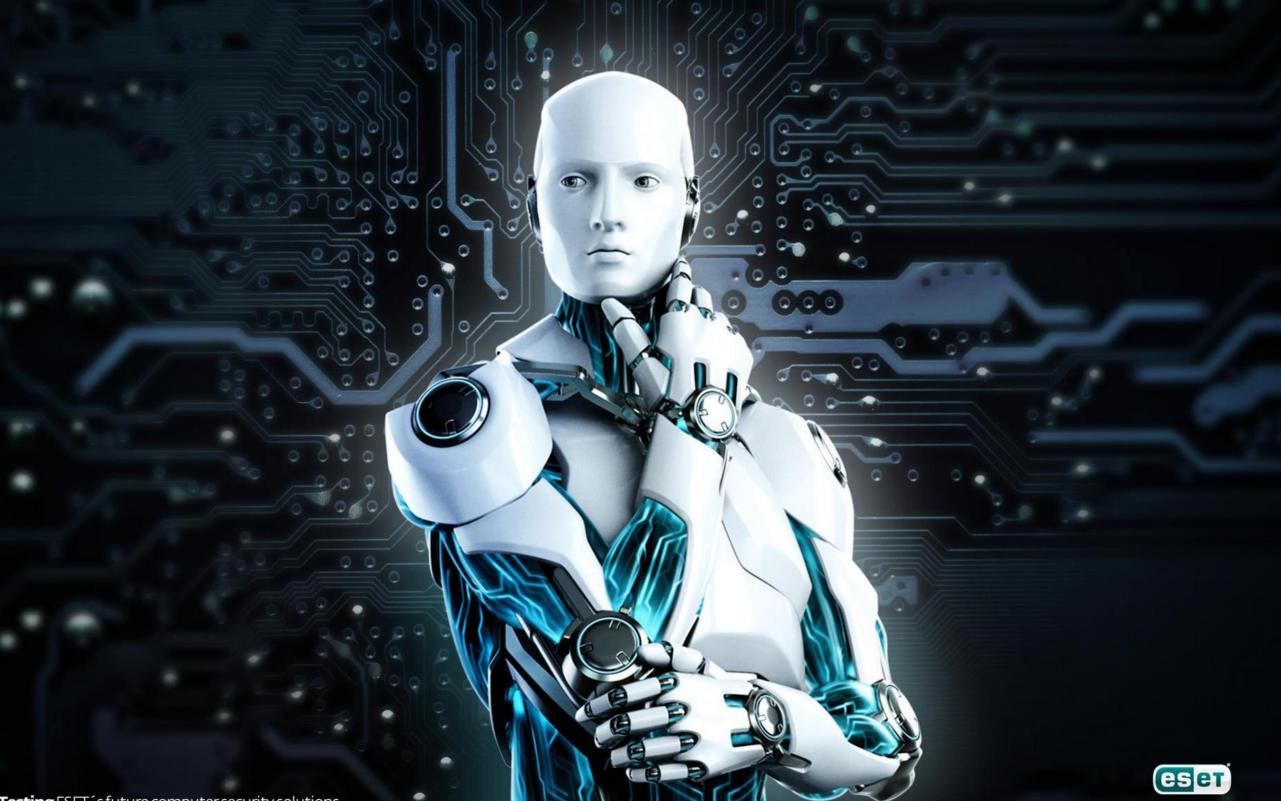


Moscow, Russia 19-20 November

cfp@zeronights.ru







## Thank you for your attention!

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