Malicious Codes (Malware)

Outline

- 1. What is a malware?
- 2. Common types of malware
- 3. How to detect & prevent them?

What is a malware?

- A malware is a set of instructions that run on your computer and make your system do something that an attacker wants it to do.
- Malware can be classified into several categories, depending on propagation and concealment.

What is a malware?

Propagation

- Virus: human-assisted propagation
- Worm: automatic propagation without human assistance

Concealment

- Rootkit: modifies operating system to hide its existence
- Trojan: provides desirable functionality but hides malicious operation
- Various types of payloads

Malware Goals



Data

- Company IP
- Personally Identifiable
 Information (PII)



Money

- Cryptocoins!
 - Financial Info



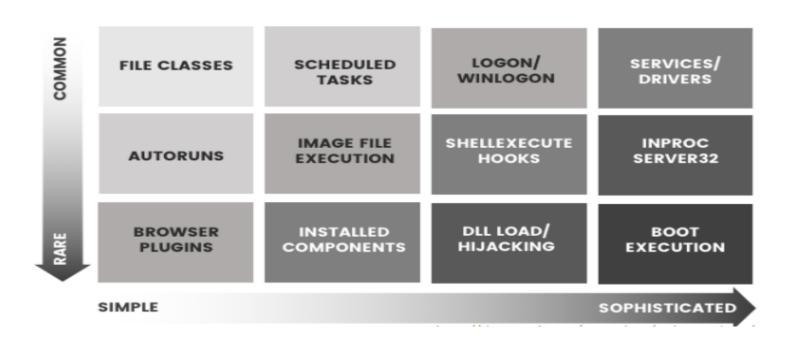
Damage

- Destroy Facilities
- Cause Harm

Delivery & Techniques



Delivery & Techniques



Malware Types

- Basic types:
 - Virus
 - Worms
 - Trojan Horse
- Several variants of the basic types exist:
 - Time Bomb
 - Logic Bomb
 - Keylogger
 - Rootkit
 - Adware
 - Spyware

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Keylogger



WannaCry Ransomware Screenshot:

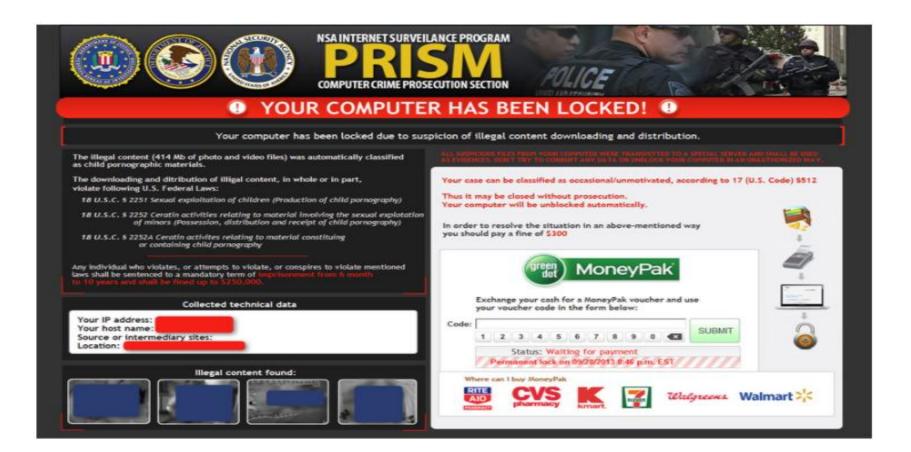


CryptoLocker Ransomware Screenshots:



Cryptowall Screenshot example:





-			_
() () () H	tp://localhost/shell/email_us-aspx	,O → C	A * 50
Address	Current :	C:\inetpub\wwwroot\shell\ Use Reset Form	^
Login	Do it :	Do it	
Command	Process : Command :	cmd.exe Execute	
Upload	File name : Save as : New File name :	Browse Is virtual path Upload	
Download	File name :	Download	
Upload Base64	Base64 File : File Path and Name :	O Is virtual path Upload	
Sql Server	Connection String : Query :	Standard Connection Sample Trusted Connectin Sample	
Change Creation Time	File name : From This File : New Time :	Get Set Set	~

Computer Virus

- *Virus*: a program that attaches copies of itself into other programs.
 - Propagates and performs some unwanted functions
 - Viruses are not programs
 - Definition from RFC 1135: A virus is a piece of code that inserts itself into a host [program], including operating systems, to propagate. It cannot run independently. It requires that its host program be run to activate it.

Four Phases of a Virus

The virus is activated to perform the function for which it was created



- The virus is idle
- Not all viruses

have this stage

3. Triggering Phase



2. Propagation Phase

the virus places an identical copy of itself into other programs of into certain system areas

The function is performed
The function may be harmless or damaging

Virus Types

- Parasitic virus ký sinh:
 - Attaches itself to a file and replicates when the infected program is executed
 - most common form

- Memory resident virus:
 - lodged in main memory as part of a resident system program
 - Virus may infect every program that executes

Virus Types

- Boot Sector Viruses:
 - Infects the boot record and spreads when system is booted
 - Gains control of machine before the virus detection tools
 - Very hard to notice

- Macro Virus:
 - virus is part of the macro associated with a document

Virus Types

- Stealth virus
 - A form of virus explicitly designed to hide from detection by antivirus software

- Polymorphic virus:
 - A virus that mutates with every infection making detection by the "signature" of the virus difficult

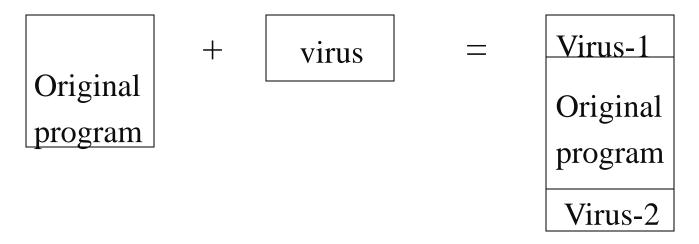
Mutate: đột biến

How Viruses Append



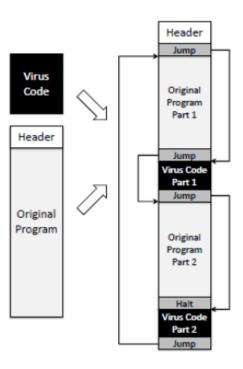
Virus appended to program

How Viruses Append



Virus surrounding a program

How Viruses Append



Virus integrated into program

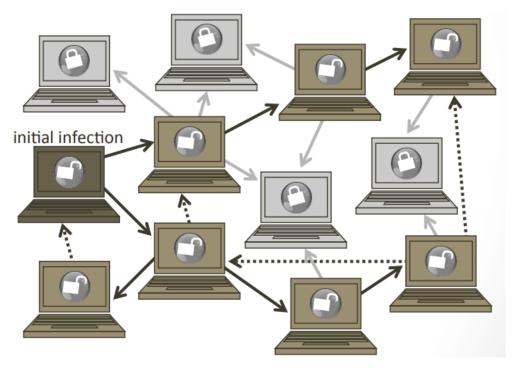
Computer Worms



- A computer worm is a malware program that spreads copies of itself without the need to inject itself in other programs, and usually without human interaction.
- In most cases, a computer worm will carry a malicious payload, such as deleting files or installing a backdoor.

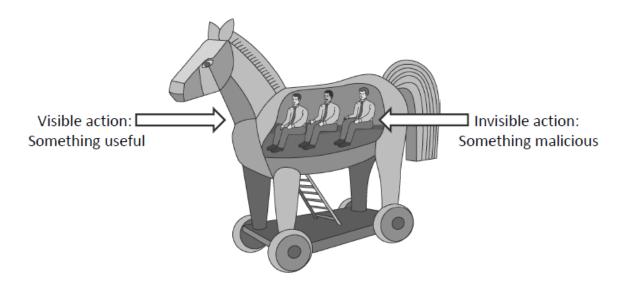
Worm Propagation

Worm propagation by finding and infecting vulnerable hosts



Trojan Horses

 A Trojan horse is a malware program that appears to perform some useful tasks, but which also does something with negative consequences.



Logic/Time Bomb

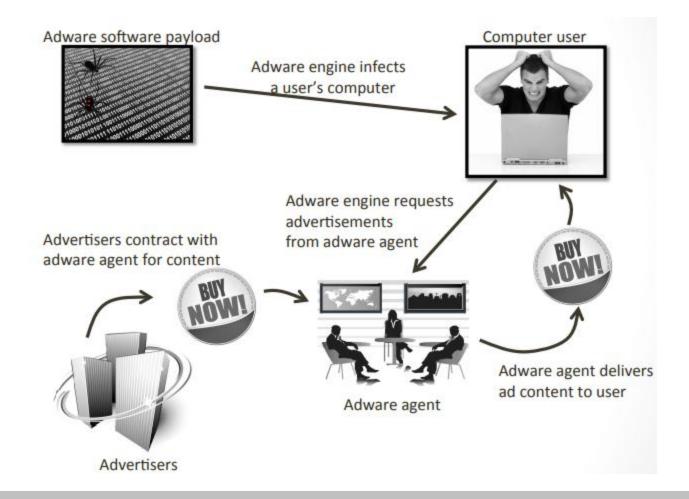
- programmed threats that lie dormant for an extended period of time until they are triggered
 - When triggered, malicious code is executed



Rootkit

• **Rootkit:** Rootkits are designed to conceal certain objects or activities in your system. Often their main purpose is to prevent malicious programs being detected – in order to extend the period in which programs can run on an infected computer

Adware



Spyware



 Spyware engine infects a user's computer.

Spyware process collects keystrokes, passwords, and screen captures.



Spyware data collection agent

Computer user

 Spyware process periodically sends collected data to spyware data collection agent.

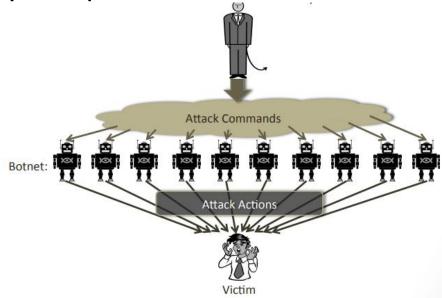
passwords, credit card numbers, and other information that can be sold on the black market.

Software which sends information to its

creators about a user's activities (e.g.,

Malware Zombies

 Malware can turn a computer into a zombie, which is a machine that is controlled externally to perform malicious attacks, usually as a part of a botnet.



Where does Malicious Code Hide?

- 1. Email
- 2. Web Content
- 3. Legitimate Sites
- 4. File Downloads

....

How to detect & prevention them

- A detection system may detect suspicious activities.
- A prevention system must identify and stop
 malicious attacks before they do damage and have
 a chance to infect a system.

Malware Countermeasures

Signatures

Find a string that can identity the virus

Heuristics Analysis -

- Useful to identify new and "zero day" malware
- Analyze program behavior (network access, file open, attempt to delete file, attempt to modify the boot sector,...)
- Heuristic methods can trigger false alarms

Sandbox analysis

- Running the executable in a VM
- Observe it (file activity, network, memory,...)

White/Black listing

Signatures

- Scan compare the analyzed object with a database of signatures
- A signature is a virus fingerprint (E.g., a string with a sequence of instructions specific for each virus)
- A file is infected if there is a signature inside its code (Fast pattern matching techniques to search for signatures)
- All the signatures together create the malware database that usually is proprietary

Antivirus Approaches

- Detection
 - determine infection and locate the virus
- Identification
 - identify the specific virus
- Removal
 - remove the virus from all infected systems, so the disease cannot spread further
- Recovery
 - restore the system to its original state

Preventing Virus Infection

Prevention:

- Good source of software installed
- Isolated testing phase
- Use virus detectors

Limit damage:

Make and retain backup copies important resources

Preventing Malicious Attacks on the Internet

- Up-to-date
- Install a firewall
- Scanning systems

Malware analysis

- There are two fundamental approaches to malware analysis
 - Static analysis, which involves examining and analyzing the malware without executing it
 - Dynamic analysis, which involves executing the malware on the system and analyzing it.

Q&A