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GRAPHICAL RENDERING OF MALICIOUS WEB PAGES

Abstract

A method for prevention of malware infection of a user device. A first request for a first web page is received from the user device. Transmitting, to a website associated with the requested first web page and in response to the first request a second request for the first web page. In response to the second request, receiving a first set of data associated with the first web page. Generating, based on a first set of data in the first domain format, a first set of graphical images representing respective portions of the first set of data in a second domain format. Transmitting, to the user device, the first set of graphical images with correlation data configured to enable a user to interact with the graphical images on the user device in a manner that is substantially the same as though the user device had received the first web page in the first domain format and the first web page had been rendered from the first domain format by a program operating on the user device.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application claims priority to and is a Continuation of the co-pending patent application Ser. No. 16/687,084, Attorney Docket Number ISOTECH-001.C1.CIP.C2, entitled “GRAPHICAL RENDERING OF MALICIOUS WEB PAGES,” with filing date Nov. 18, 2019, by Phillip J. Sobolewski and Mark Doyle, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, which is incorporated herein, in its entirety, by reference.

[0002] The application with Ser. No. 16/687,084 claims priority to and is a Continuation of the patent application Ser. No. 15/295,585, Attorney Docket Number ISOTECH-001.CON.CIP, entitled “CODE DOMAIN ISOLATION,” with filing date Oct. 17, 2016, now U.S. Issued U.S. Pat. No. 10,484,421, by Phillip J. Sobolewski and Mark Doyle, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, which is incorporated herein, in its entirety, by reference. [0003] The application with Ser. No. 15/295,585 claims priority to and is a Continuation-in-Part of the patent application Ser. No. 14/498,404, Attorney Docket Number ISOTECH-001.CON, entitled “CODE DOMAIN ISOLATION,” with filing date Sep. 26, 2014, now U.S. Issued U.S. Pat. No. 9,485,227, by Phillip J. Sobolewski and Mark Doyle, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, which is incorporated herein, in its entirety, by reference. [0004] The application with Ser. No. 14/498,404 claims priority to and is a continuation of the patent application Ser. No. 13/197,651, now U.S. Issued U.S. Pat. No. 8,875,273, Attorney Docket Number ISOTECH-001, entitled “CODE DOMAIN ISOLATION,” with filing date Aug. 3, 2011, by Phillip J. Sobolewski and Mark Doyle, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, which is incorporated herein, in its entirety, by reference. [0005] The application with Ser. No. 13/197,651 claims priority to the then co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application 61/459,748, Attorney Docket Number ISOTECH-001.PRO, entitled “METHOD FOR ISOLATING NETWORKS AND/OR SERVERS AND/OR HOST COMPUTERS FROM THE INTERNET AND/OR NETWORKS AND/OR OTHER SERVERS AND/OR HOST COMPUTERS AND/OR DEVICES USING GRAPHICS FOR THE PURPOSE OF VIRUS/MALWARE PROTECTION. THE “GRAPHICAL ISOLATION” IS PROVIDED VIA OPTICAL AND/OR ELECTRONIC AND/OR ELECTROMAGNETIC MEDIUM,” with filing date Dec. 17, 2010. The application with Ser. No. 13/197,651 incorporated the Provisional Patent Application 61/459,748 in its entirety by reference.

FIELD

[0006] Embodiments of the present invention relate generally to achieving code domain isolation.

BACKGROUND

[0007] The Internet has become the major source of information in almost all aspects of modern

life. As a result, most users of the Internet spend a portion of their online session time following hyperlinks from one web page to another in search of information. This practice is commonly known as “web surfing” and is a major activity that contributes to virus and malware infections of devices connected to the Internet. In some instances, web surfing is practiced by businesses in order to conduct their daily business.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of an example environment for achieving code domain isolation in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0009] FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of an example environment for achieving code domain isolation in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0010] FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram of an example environment for achieving code domain isolation in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0011] FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of an example computer system in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0012] FIG. 5 illustrates a flowchart of an example method for achieving code domain isolation in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0013] FIG. 6 illustrates a flowchart of an example method for achieving code domain isolation in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0014] FIG. 7 illustrates a flowchart of an example method for achieving code domain isolation in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0015] FIG. 8 illustrates a flowchart of an example method for achieving code domain isolation in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0016] The drawings referred to in this description of embodiments should be understood as not being drawn to scale except if specifically noted.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0017] Reference will now be made in detail to embodiments of the present technology, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. While the technology will be described in conjunction with various embodiment(s), it will be understood that they are not intended to limit the present technology to these embodiments. On the contrary, the present technology is intended to cover alternatives, modifications and equivalents, which may be included within the spirit and scope of the various embodiments as defined by the appended claims.

[0018] Furthermore, in the following description of embodiments, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present technology. However, the present technology may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well known methods, procedures, components, and circuits have not been described in detail as not to unnecessarily obscure aspects of the present embodiments.

[0019] Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussions, it is appreciated that throughout the present description of embodiments, discussions utilizing terms such as “receiving,” “changing,” “code” “capturing,” “preparing,” “correlating,” “displaying,” or the like, refer to the actions and processes of a computer system, or similar electronic computing device. The computer system or similar electronic computing device manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system's registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission, or display devices, including integrated circuits down to and including chip level firmware, assembler, and hardware based micro code.

Overview of Achieving Code Domain Isolation

[0020] As a user employs a device to perform web surfing, the device becomes susceptible to virus and malware infiltrations. Various solutions exist to provide protection against such threat. One technique is to recognize and isolate, remove or block malicious code from infecting the device. Thus, virus protection software packages are very complex and must be updated on a frequent basis to keep up with the latest form of virus threat. As a result they are costly and require continued maintenance while remaining less than completely effective against the vast array of web based viruses and malware. Networks may use firewalls configured with virus software packages and complex rule sets that must be constantly updated to stay effective against the latest Internet based viruses and malware. The terms virus and malware as described herein refer to all forms of cyber-attacks against a computer.

[0021] In other words, for this technique of virus protection to work, the virus protection must be made aware of every potential virus and malware. Thus such virus protection techniques are only as good as their latest updates. However, there is always a threat that such virus protection and firewalls will not catch a particular virus or malware that may infect a computer by simply clicking a hyperlink to a web site.

[0022] Additionally, many forms of malware are accepted by virus protection software packages so that the user experience can be improved and ecommerce may be made more profitable. However, this view of malware is at the expense of the consumer in many cases. Malware as it exists on web sites is used for various reasons such as increasing and improving the user experience as well as tracking customer habits, likes, dislikes, political views, and sexual preferences. Such malware may be downloaded to a user device as “cookie” or other data when a website is visited by clicking on a hyperlink. In many cases federal privacy laws are being broken. Users may continue to use the web for gathering information and in most cases do so while knowing their web surfing habits are being tracked and recorded.

[0023] The present technology offers a solution that protects a device against virus and malware threats and does not require a prior knowledge of any potential virus or malware to provide successful protection. In various embodiments, the present technology employs methods and devices that use graphics or a visual representation of the data from web sites that allows the user to surf the Internet while remaining virus and malware free. These methods and devices put the user back in control of their web surfing experience by allowing them to choose how they want to interact with Web sites that they visit. This restores their privacy and protects their valuable hardware and software investment.

[0024] In one embodiment, the present technology operates to isolate a user device from the Internet for the purpose of virus and malware protection while web surfing. The user device may be a computer system or other computing device with networking capabilities. In one embodiment, the present technology uses CDI Code Domain Isolation (CDI) gateway. The CDI gateway may be a hardware device that is placed between an unsecure Internet connection and the user device. In one embodiment, the CDI gateway receives information related to a web site in a digital format. The CDI gateway then changes the information to an analog format and then back to a digital format. This digital-analog-digital change ensures that only data the user desires is received at the user device while malware and viruses are not received at the user device.

[0025] In one embodiment, the CDI gateway employs two computer systems, an unprotected embedded computer and a protected embedded computer. The unprotected embedded computer may navigate to a website and display the website on a display inside of the CDI gateway. The protected embedded computer may be associated with an image capturing device that captures an image of the display associated with the unprotected embedded computer. The captured image may then be converted to a digital format and correlated with a communication protocol to be received by the user device. For example, the captured image may be overlaid with a hypertext markup language (HTML) image map and then wrapped in a frame for compatibility with a browser. The

user device may then display the image in a browser. The HTML image map wrapped in a frame allows the user to interact with the image in a manner that is substantially the same as though the user were interacting with the web site without the CDI gateway. Importantly, in various embodiments of the present invention, no correlation occurs. In such embodiments, the first set of data is placed in the third domain format, for receipt by a user computer system, without requiring the use of correlated information.

[0026] The user device may send commands and information back to the protected embedded computer of the CDI gateway. In one embodiment, the protected embedded computer passes the commands and information to the unprotected embedded computer without changing or converting the commands and information. In one embodiment, the protected embedded computer receives the commands and information in a digital format and converts the commands and information to an analog format. The unprotected embedded computer may receive the commands and information in the analog format which it then changes back to a digital format and then interacts with the Internet based on the commands and information.

[0027] Thus the present technology allows a user to perform web surfing while completely blocking all viruses and malware from the user device by converting information related to the web surfing from digital to analog to digital. Such a technique may be referred to as code domain isolation or analog graphical isolation.

[0028] The following discussion will demonstrate various hardware, software, and firmware components that are used with and in devices and computer systems and integrated circuits used for achieving code domain isolation in various embodiments of the present technology. Furthermore, the devices, computer systems and their methods may include some, all, or none of the hardware, software, and firmware components discussed below.

Embodiments of Achieving Code Domain Isolation

[0029] With reference now to FIG. 1, a block diagram of an example environment for achieving code domain isolation shown in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

Environment **100** includes network **105**, gateway **110**, and device **115**. Environment **100** comprises components that may or may not be used with different embodiments of the present technology and should not be construed to limit the present technology.

[0030] FIG. 1 depicts network **105** which is a network of computing devices that communicate with each other over a protocol. It should be appreciated that network **105** may be the Internet or some other network. In one embodiment, network **105** is an unsecure network that provides information to device **115** that may include viruses or malware.

[0031] It should be appreciated that gateway **110** is a hardware device that may comprise various hardware components and may employ software and firmware in operation. In one embodiment, gateway **110** has communication ports that allow a connection to a network such as network **105** and a device such as device **115**. FIG. 1 depicts gateway **110** as being an independent hardware device. In one embodiment, gateway **110** is not a single device, but is distributed over two or more devices. In one embodiment, gateway **110** is considered part of device **115**. In one embodiment, gateway **110** may comprise a modem for an Internet connection, a router, a wireless router and/or an integrated circuit chip. It should be appreciated that gateway **110** may be connected to more than one user devices and more than one network. Gateway **110** may also employ other components common to computing devices such as, processors, random access memory, storage mediums, power sources, etc. In one embodiment, gateway **110** is a CDI gateway and has the same capabilities as those described for a CDI gateway.

[0032] In one embodiment, gateway **110** is employed by a corporation or other enterprise and is physically placed between a gateway router and a local area network to provide isolation from the public Internet. In one embodiment, gateway **110** is placed between a residential router and a personal computer. In either of these scenarios, gateway **110** allows device **115** to employ cloud computing performed in network **105**.

[0033] FIG. 1 depicts device **115** which is a computing device. It should be appreciated that device **115** may be a computer system, a desktop computer, a laptop or notebook, a netbook, a handheld device, a tablet, or any other computing device with network capabilities. In one embodiment, device **115** is able to operate browser software commonly associated with web surfing. Device **115** may connect and communicate with gateway **110** using a wired or wireless connection as well as many standard well known protocols. For example, gateway **110** and device **115** may employ an Ethernet cable. In one embodiment, device **115** employs browser software that is well known in the art for web surfing and accesses websites on the Internet by first accessing gateway **110** which acts as an intermediary for all data passed between network **105** and device **115**.

[0034] With reference now to FIG. 2, a block diagram of an example environment for achieving code domain isolation shown in accordance with embodiments of the present technology. Environment **200** includes network **105**, gateway **110**, device **115**, first embedded computer **205**, first interface **210**, second embedded computer **215**, and second interface **220**. Environment **200** comprises components that may or may not be used with different embodiments of the present technology and should not be construed to limit the present technology. In the present application, in various embodiments, first and second embedded computers **205** and **215** are comprised of processors. In other embodiments, first and second embedded computers **205** and **215** are comprised of processors and additional hardware and software. As will be further described below, in one embodiment of the present invention, the first embedded computer is a virtual machine. In one such embodiment, the first and second embedded computers reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized first embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, the same physical machine on which the second embedded computer physically resides.

[0035] In another embodiment of the present invention, wherein the first embedded computer is a virtual machine, the first and second embedded computers do not reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized first embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, a physical machine which is different from the physical machine on which the second embedded computer physically resides.

[0036] In another embodiment of the present invention, the second embedded computer is a virtual machine. In one such embodiment, the first and second embedded computers reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized second embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, the same physical machine on which the first embedded computer physically resides.

[0037] In another embodiment of the present invention, wherein the second embedded computer is a virtual machine, the first and second embedded computers do not reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized second embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, a physical machine which is different from the physical machine on which the first embedded computer physically resides.

[0038] In other embodiments, both the first and second embedded computers are virtual machines. In one such embodiment, the first and second virtualized embedded computers reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, both the virtualized first embedded computer and the virtualized second embedded computer are hosted by, and reside on, the same physical machine.

[0039] In another embodiment, in which both the first and second embedded computers are virtual machines, the first and second virtualized embedded computers do not reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized first embedded computer and the virtualized second embedded computer are hosted by, and reside on, separate physical machines. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized second embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, a physical machine which is different from the physical machine on which the virtualized first embedded computer resides and is hosted.

[0040] It should be appreciated that network **105**, gateway **110**, and device **115** of FIG. 2 have all the same capabilities as those described for network **105**, gateway **110**, and device **115** of FIG. 1. [0041] In one embodiment, first embedded computer **205** and second embedded computer **215** of gateway **110** are computer systems that each employ a processor for manipulating electronic digital data. First embedded computer **205** may be an unprotected embedded computer connected with network **105** and may have the ability to perform web surfing, but is not directly connected with device **115**. In one embodiment, second embedded computer **215** is a protected embedded computer that does not directly connect with network **105**, but does directly connect with device **115**. In one embodiment, first embedded computer **205** only sends communication to second embedded computer **215** through interface **210** and second embedded computer **215** only send communication to first embedded computer **205** through second interface **220**. In one embodiment of the present invention, the first and second embedded computers are co-located on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the first and second embedded computers physically reside within the same physical machine.

[0042] In another embodiment of the present invention, the first and second embedded computers are separately located from each other. That is, in one such embodiment, the first embedded computer resides on a physical machine which is different from the physical machine on which the second embedded computer physically resides.

[0043] In another embodiment of the present invention, the first embedded computer is a virtual machine. In one such embodiment, the first and second embedded computers reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized first embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, the same physical machine on which the second embedded computer physically resides.

[0044] In another embodiment of the present invention, wherein the first embedded computer is a virtual machine, the first and second embedded computers do not reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized first embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, a physical machine which is different from the physical machine on which the second embedded computer physically resides.

[0045] In another embodiment of the present invention, the second embedded computer is a virtual machine. In one such embodiment, the first and second embedded computers reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized second embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, the same physical machine on which the first embedded computer physically resides.

[0046] In another embodiment of the present invention, wherein the second embedded computer is a virtual machine, the first and second embedded computers do not reside on the same physical machine. That is, in one such embodiment, the virtualized second embedded computer is hosted by, and resides on, a physical machine which is different from the physical machine on which the first embedded computer physically resides.

[0047] In one embodiment, first embedded computer **205** employs firmware to carry out operations. First embedded computer **205** may have a storage medium to store such firmware and the storage medium is flashable such that new firmware or updates may be implemented. In one embodiment, the firmware on first embedded computer **205** is reset and memory associated with first embedded computer **205** is flushed to eliminate any digital code received by first embedded computer **205** over network **105**. Such a reset could be performed automatically on a periodic basis or after each hyperlink download. Such a reset would cause first embedded computer **205** to reload a browser used for web surfing. Thus the reset would prevent attempts to install viruses or malware on first embedded computer **205**.

[0048] In one embodiment, first embedded computer **205** is configured to receive a first set of data in a first domain format and change it to a second domain format which is sent to second embedded computer **215** over first interface **210**. Second embedded computer **215** then captures the first set of

data in the second domain format and changes the first set of data to a third domain format. The first set of data may then be sent or transmitted to device **115**. In one embodiment, the first and third domain formats are digital and the second domain format is analog. In one embodiment, gateway **110** uses a digital-to-analog-to-digital process to remove all digital based computer code artifacts from the web page before sending it to the browser of the protected computer.

[0049] Importantly, for purposes of the present application, the term “first domain format” refers to code/data in the pre-execution state. That is, the code/data as it is initially received from a source and prior to execution of the processes of the present invention.

[0050] For purposes of the present application, the term “second domain format”, refers to code/data in the post-execution state, and wherein the code/data includes all information/intelligence/output created as a result of the execution of at least some of the processes of the present invention. This post-execution information/intelligence/output can take any form to include, but is not limited to, code/data, visual, audible, mechanical, kinetic, non-kinetic, static or dynamic system state and/or machinery state information.

[0051] For purposes of the present application, the term “third domain format”, refers to information/intelligence/output of second domain format post-execution code/data formatted for use by a particular computer system or user device. It should further be understood that the computer system and/or user device may have any form/format necessary to accomplish a desired goal with the code/data in the third domain format.

[0052] For purposes of the present application, the term “changing said first set of data to a second domain format”, refers to the process of executing data/code in the first domain format (pre-execution state) to change it to the second domain format (post-execution state to include all information/intelligence/output created as a result of execution). Additionally, for purposes of the present application, the term “capturing said first set of data in said second domain format”, refers to the extraction of all information/intelligence/output created as a result of execution of first domain format code/data by any means necessary to include, but not limited to, the transfer of code/data, visual, audible, mechanical, kinetic, non-kinetic, static or dynamic system state and/or machinery state information/intelligence/output.

[0053] As a further point of clarification, in the present application, the code/data can take the form of, but is not limited to, standard browser rendering objects, such as the “rendering tree” or the Document Object Model (DOM) of post-execution browser code which the particular computer system or user device can use to locally generate pixels on a display screen using the paint process of the local browser. Also, in the present application, the term “changing said first set of data in said second domain format to a third domain format”, refers to formatting the extracted information/intelligence/output of the second domain format (which can take the form of, but not limited to, code/data, visual, audible, mechanical, kinetic, non-kinetic, static or dynamic system state and/or machinery state information) for use by a particular computer system or user device (having any form/format to accomplish a desired goal).

[0054] In the present application, the term “code domain” refers to a location where any type of computer/CPU/processor code/data is executed. This location includes, but is not limited to, for example, a processor-accessible memory space of any form or format. This location further includes, but is not limited to, for example, static or dynamic random access memory (RAM), hardware-based code/data execution environments or virtualized code/data execution environments such as highly dynamic and temporary virtual machines or cloud computing environments, or client devices and/or applications, or within executing applications or programs. These code/data execution environments exist, for example, in any form of code/data carrying media capable of storing and/or executing computer code/data.

[0055] Additionally, for purposes of the present application, the term “code domain isolation”, refers to isolation between two or more code domains as defined above. In the present application, two or more code domains are deemed to be isolated when code/data executing in a specific code

domain cannot affect, or have an effect, on another code domain. This includes code/data that exists in a code domain in a pre-execution state, executing state (while executing), and a post-execution state.

[0056] In one embodiment, second embedded computer **215** correlates the first set of data in the third domain format with a communication protocol to generate correlated information. For example, correlated information may comprise an image overlaid with a hypertext markup language (HTML) image map and wrapped in a frame for compatibility with a browser at device **115**. In one embodiment, the HTML frames are linked or embedded as HTML streaming media, with an HTML map overlay, to allow viewing via the browser running on device **115**.

[0057] Although second embedded computer **215** correlates the first set of data in the third domain format with a communication protocol to generate correlated information in the present embodiment, in various embodiments of the present invention, the first set of data in the third domain format is not correlated with a communication protocol. In such “non-correlated” embodiments, the first set of data is placed in the third domain format, for use by a user computer system, without requiring the use of correlated information as described above.

[0058] Referring again to a “correlated” embodiment, the user can now view the processed web page frames in real time as a streaming media feed and follow hyperlinks by clicking anywhere in the streaming media frame. In one embodiment, the user's mouse click location in the browser on device **115** will be detected by the layered HTML map and sent back to a browser running on first embedded computer **205** for execution. This process may be described as graphic based browsing of web sites.

[0059] It should be appreciated that first interface **210** may include various embodiments for sending data from first embedded computer **205** to second embedded computer **215**. In one embodiment, first interface **210** comprises dual port memory where first embedded computer **205** places the web page display into video memory that is accessible by the second embedded computer **215** where it is converted to a graphical image with correlated information and transmitted or sent to device **115**. The use of interfaces digitally isolates first embedded computer **205** and second embedded computer **215** from one another.

[0060] In one embodiment, first interface **210** employs a copper monitor interface such as a video graphics array connector (VGA), a super VGA connector, etc. In one embodiment, first interface **210** employs optical drivers and receivers for electronic isolation of the digital code. In one embodiment, first interface **210** employs an optical interface or display, an image receiving device and an air gap. It should be appreciated that second interface **220** is able to employ interfaces similar to first interface **210**.

[0061] First interface **210** and second interface **220** are not required to be the same as one another, but may employ different techniques and hardware from one another. In one embodiment, gateway **110** employs first interface **210** but does not employ a second interface **220**. For example, the user of device **115** may receive data at device **115**, but then directly inputs commands and data into first embedded computer **205** using input devices such as a keyboard and mouse. In one embodiment, second interface **220** does not convert or change digital commands and data from second embedded computer **215** but simply passes the digital commands and data directly to first embedded computer **205**.

[0062] In one embodiment, first embedded computer **205** runs browser software that is remotely controlled by second embedded computer **215** through a unidirectional command stream received via second interface **220**. In one embodiment, the remote control of the browser on first embedded computer **205** is accomplished across the analog data path inside gateway **110** thus providing complete isolation between first embedded computer **205** and second embedded computer **215**. This isolation prevents any code based viruses and malware from passing from first embedded computer **205** to second embedded computer **215**.

[0063] The browser commands are graphically or visually embedded in a picture frame at second

embedded computer **215** so that they can pass through an analog based air gap to first embedded computer **205** preserving isolation between first embedded computer **205** and second embedded computer **215**.

[0064] In one embodiment, second embedded computer **215** converts the commands from device **115** and embeds them in an image by color encoding, as a series of picture frame edge pixels to form a binary code representing a browser command, or a combination of color encoding and a series of picture frame edge pixels. The binary code is translated into a browser command via a simple lookup table. The color encoding or a series of picture frame edge pixels can be displayed by a display associated with second embedded computer **215** and then captured by an image capturing device associated with first embedded computer **205**.

[0065] With reference now to FIG. **3**, a block diagram of an example environment for achieving code domain isolation shown in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

Environment **300** includes network **105**, gateway **110**, device **115**, first embedded computer **205**, second embedded computer **215**, first display **305**, air gap **325**, first image capture device **310**, second image capture device **320**, air gap **330**, and second display **315**. Environment **300** comprises components that may or may not be used with different embodiments of the present technology and should not be construed to limit the present technology.

[0066] It should be appreciated that network **105**, gateway **110**, and device **115** of FIG. **3** have all the same capabilities as those described for network **105**, gateway **110**, and device **115** of FIG. **1**.

[0067] First display **305** may be a standard display associated with computers such as liquid crystal display (LCD). In one embodiment, first display **305** is a high resolution miniature display housed inside gateway **110** and may not be seen unless an outer housing of gateway **110** is opened. First display **305** is associated with first embedded computer **205** and is not directly connected to second embedded computer **215**. First display **305** may be separated from first image capture device **310** by air gap **325** which is a distance between first display **305** and first image capture device **310** that is filled with air. Air gap **325** ensures that no digital code is passed from first embedded computer **205** to second embedded computer **215**. First image capture device **310** is associated with second embedded computer **215** and is an image capturing device such as a camera, a digital camera, a video camera, an array of optical sensors, a charge couple device (CCD), etc.

[0068] First embedded computer **205** converts a digital code by receiving the digital code as data associated with a computing device on network **105** such as a web site. First embedded computer **205** then converts the digital code to an analog format by displaying an image or graphic on first display **305**. This analog image is then captured by first image capture device **310** as an analog image which is then converted to digital code by second embedded computer **215**. This procedure may be repeated regularly. Thus first display **305** may display a series of images and first image capture device **310** may capture a series of images. In turn, second embedded computer **215** then sends a series of images to device **115** in a stream of data.

[0069] Second display **315** is associated with second embedded computer **215** and is not directly connected with first embedded computer **205**. Second image capture device **320** is associated with first embedded computer **205** and is not directly connected with second embedded computer **215**. Second display **315** and second image capture device **320** are separated by air gap **330**. It should be appreciated that that gateway **110** may employ first display **305** and first image capture device **310** while not employing second image capture device **320** and second display **315**. First display **305** and first image capture device **310** have capabilities and perform similar to second image capture device **320** and second display **315**. Thus first embedded computer **205** and second embedded computer **215** can communicate with one another in a purely analog format. This ensures that viruses and malware are not passed from first embedded computer **205** to second embedded computer **215** and onto device **115** or visa versa.

[0070] The present technology may employ techniques to encrypt the analog data captured by first image capture device **310** or second image capture device **320**. One technique may be referred to as

purposeful optical misalignment (POM).

[0071] In one embodiment, purposeful optical misalignment is implemented by introducing misalignment within the miniaturized high-resolution camera-display pairs. This misalignment provides a raster effect and prevents any virus that may be embedded in a graphic file from traversing the optical air gap by distorting the one-to-one, or pixel-to-pixel correspondence that could exist between a perfectly aligned camera-display pair. Such a misalignment can be randomly created by manufacturing gateway **110** under conditions that allow variance in the placement of first display **305** and first image capture device **310**. In one embodiment, the misalignment may be based on preselected values and is not random.

[0072] In one embodiment, gateway **110** can be manufactured such that the degree of misalignment between first display **305** and first image capture device **310** changes during operation. For example, first display **305**, first image capture device **310** or both may be mechanically moved relative to one another. The movement or adjustments may be made in real-time or at periodic intervals. The movements may be random or preselected. Such movements may change the distance associated with air gap **325**. Second display **315** and second image capture device **320** may similarly be misaligned.

[0073] Another technique for analog encryption may be referred to as pixel scaling. Pixel scaling is implemented by ensuring that the number of pixels contained in the miniature display and in the video frame of the miniature camera are not the same. In one embodiment, first display **305** may be fixed with a resolution that is intentionally different than the resolution employed by first image capture device **310** for capturing images. In one embodiment, the resolutions used by first display **305** and first image capture device **310** are electronically changed. The changes in resolution may be made at regular or random intervals and may change to resolution to randomly selected values or preselected values.

[0074] In one embodiment, pixel scaling is also performed by adjusting the distance associated with air gap **325** or air gap **330** in a real time random fashion or at intervals. This adjustment could be interleaved between random numbers of video frames by using a blanking circuit controlled by a random number source. These scaling and misalignment processes may be accomplished with high-resolution optical equipment and therefore will not noticeably affect the output of the device as all web pages are at much lower resolutions.

[0075] In one embodiment, gateway **110** may operate to filter or convert some web pages and not others. For example, a list of safe web sites may be established. Such a safe list may comprise web sites that are known to a user to not contain viruses or malware. Or a user may simply desire a website not to be converted or filtered by gateway **110**. An example of a safe web site may be a web site hosted by a bank and employed by a user to accomplish financial transactions.

Operation

[0076] More generally, embodiments in accordance with the present invention are directed toward achieving code domain isolation. Such methods can be implemented at devices as described above that are configured to achieve code domain isolation.

[0077] FIG. **5** is a flowchart illustrating process **500** for achieving code domain isolation, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. In one embodiment, process **500** is carried out, at least in part, by processors and electrical components under the control of computer readable and computer executable instructions stored on a computer-usable storage medium. The computer readable and computer executable instructions reside, for example, in data storage features such as computer usable volatile and non-volatile memory and are non-transitory. However, the non-transitory computer readable and computer executable instructions may reside in any type of computer-usable storage medium. In one embodiment, process **500** is performed by devices and components in FIGS. **1-3**.

[0078] In one embodiment, process **500** is used to achieve code domain isolation. It should be appreciated that the steps of process **500** may not need to be executed in the order they are listed in.

Additionally, embodiments of the present technology do not require that all of the steps of process **500** be executed to achieve code domain isolation. At **502**, in one embodiment, a first set of data is received in a first domain format. In one embodiment, the first set of data in the first domain format is in a protocol associated with data exchanged on the Internet.

[0079] At **504**, the first set of data is changed to a second domain format. In one embodiment, the first set of data is changed to an analog format (i.e. the second domain format) by displaying the data as a graphic or image on an optical interface such as a display. In one embodiment, changing the data to the second domain format removes digital code from first set of data.

[0080] The changing of the first set of data to a third domain format converts the first set of data into a graphical image. In one embodiment, the changing of the first set of data to a second domain format occurs via an analog monitor interface that is composed of a copper material. In one embodiment, the changing of the first set of data to a second domain format occurs via an optical driver and the capturing the first set of data in the second domain format occurs via an optical receiver.

[0081] At **506**, the first set of data in the second domain format is captured. In one embodiment, the data is captured using an image capturing device.

[0082] At **508**, the first set of data in the second domain format is changed to a third domain format. In one embodiment, the first domain format and the third domain format are digital and the second domain format is analog.

[0083] At **510**, the first set of data in the third domain format is prepared for receipt by a user computer system.

[0084] At **512**, the first set of data in the third domain format is correlated with a communication protocol to generate correlated information.

[0085] At **514**, the first set of data in the third domain format and the correlated information are prepared for receipt by a user computer system. In one embodiment, the first set of data in the third domain format and the correlated information comprise an image overlaid with a hypertext markup language image map and wrapped in a frame for compatibility with a browser at the user computer system.

[0086] At **516**, a second set of data is received from the user computer system based on mouse click locations associated with an image wherein the image is displayed using the first set of data in the third domain format.

[0087] FIG. **6** is a flowchart illustrating process **600** for achieving code domain isolation, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. In one embodiment, process **600** is carried out, at least in part, by processors and electrical components under the control of computer readable and computer executable instructions stored on a computer-usable storage medium. The computer readable and computer executable instructions reside, for example, in data storage features such as computer usable volatile and non-volatile memory and are non-transitory. However, the non-transitory computer readable and computer executable instructions may reside in any type of computer-usable storage medium. In one embodiment, process **600** is performed by devices and components in FIGS. **1-3**.

[0088] In one embodiment, process **600** is used to achieve code domain isolation. It should be appreciated that the steps of process **600** may not need to be executed in the order they are listed in. Additionally, embodiments of the present technology do not require that all of the steps of process **600** be executed to achieve code domain isolation. At **602**, in one embodiment, a first set of data is received at a first embedded computer.

[0089] At **604**, graphical data related to the first set of data is displayed on a first display. For example, the first set of data may be displayed on first display **305** or second display **315** of FIG. **3**.

[0090] At **606**, the graphical data is captured as a second set of data via an image capturing device. The image capturing device may be first image capture device **310** or second image capture device **320** of FIG. **3**.

[0091] At **608**, the second set of data is correlated with a communication protocol at a second embedded computer to generate correlated information.

[0092] At **610**, the second set of data and the correlated information are prepared for receipt by a user computer system. The user computer system may be device **115** of FIG. **1**.

[0093] At **612**, a third set of data is received from said user computer system based on mouse click locations associated with an image wherein said image is based on said second set of data and said correlated information. In one embodiment, the second set of data and the correlated information comprise an image overlaid with a hypertext markup language image map and wrapped in a frame for compatibility with a browser at the user computer system.

[0094] FIG. **7** is a flowchart illustrating process **700** for achieving code domain isolation, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. In one embodiment, process **700** is carried out, at least in part, by processors and electrical components under the control of computer readable and computer executable instructions stored on a computer-usable storage medium. The computer readable and computer executable instructions reside, for example, in data storage features such as computer usable volatile and non-volatile memory and are non-transitory. However, the non-transitory computer readable and computer executable instructions may reside in any type of computer-usable storage medium. In one embodiment, process **700** is performed by devices and components in FIGS. **1-3**.

[0095] In one embodiment, process **700** is used to achieve code domain isolation. Process **700** may be carried out in conjunction with steps from either process **500** or process **600**. It should be appreciated that the steps of process **700** may not need to be executed in the order they are listed in. Additionally, embodiments of the present technology do not require that all of the steps of process **700** be executed to achieve code domain isolation. At **702**, in one embodiment, the first set of data in the second domain format is displayed via an optical interface such that the first set of data in the second domain format is misaligned with an image capturing device.

[0096] At **704**, the captured first set of data in the second domain format using the image capturing device operates such that the first set of data in the second domain format is captured misaligned from first set of data in the second domain format displayed via the optical interface.

[0097] In one embodiment, the optical interface is misaligned with the image capturing device based on a difference in a number of pixel used by the optical interface and the image capturing device. In one embodiment, the optical interface is misaligned with the image capturing device based on a difference in a resolution used by the optical interface and the image capturing device.

[0098] At **706**, a degree of misalignment between the optical interface and the image capturing device is periodically changed. In one embodiment, the periodically changing the degree of misalignment is achieved by changing a distance between the optical interface and the image capturing device.

[0099] FIG. **8** is a flowchart illustrating process **800** for achieving code domain isolation, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Importantly, in the embodiment described in process **800**, code domain isolation is achieved without requiring the physical displaying of an image on a conventional graphic display device. Instead, as will be described in detail below, a rendered image (rather than being displayed on a display device) is stored in memory, for example, video memory. The stored rendered image is then subsequently accessed at the memory location at which it was stored. In such an embodiment, there is no need to access or capture an image from a display device.

[0100] In one embodiment of process **800**, the changing of the first set of data to a second domain format occurs, in part, by placing the image of the first set of data into memory such as, for example, video memory. In such an embodiment, there is no requirement to graphically display the image of the first set of data in the first domain format on a conventional graphic display device.

[0101] In one embodiment, process **800** is carried out, at least in part, by processors and electrical components under the control of computer readable and computer executable instructions stored on

a computer-usable storage medium. The computer readable and computer executable instructions reside, for example, in data storage features such as computer usable volatile and non-volatile memory and are non-transitory. However, the non-transitory computer readable and computer executable instructions may reside in any type of computer-usable storage medium. In one embodiment, process **800** is performed by devices and components in FIGS. **1-3**.

[0102] In one embodiment, process **800** is used to achieve code domain isolation. It should be appreciated that the steps of process **800** may not need to be executed in the order they are listed in. Additionally, embodiments of the present technology do not require that all of the steps of process **800** be executed to achieve code domain isolation. At **802**, in one embodiment, a first set of data is received in a first domain format. In one embodiment, the first set of data in the first domain format is in a protocol associated with data exchanged on the Internet.

[0103] At **804**, graphical data related to the first set of data is generated. For example, image data corresponding to an image of the first set of data is generated. In so doing, the first set of data is changed to a second domain format. In one embodiment, the first set of data is changed to the second domain format by representing the first set of data as a graphic or image using an optical interface such as a camera to capture an image of the first set of data when received in the first domain format. In one embodiment, changing the data to the second domain format removes potentially malicious digital code from first set of data. The image data (corresponding to the first set of data in the second domain format) is then stored in memory such as, for example, video memory. In such an embodiment, there is no requirement to graphically display the image of the first set of data on a conventional graphic display device.

[0104] At **806**, the first set of data in the second domain format is captured. In one embodiment, the data is captured by accessing the image data stored in the video memory.

[0105] At **808** and **810**, the first set of data in the second domain format is changed to a third domain format, and the first set of data in the third format is prepared such that the first set of data is in the third domain format is in condition for receipt by a user computer system. In an embodiment in which no correlation occurs, the first set of data is placed in the third domain format and prepared without requiring the use of correlated information. In an embodiment in which correlation occurs, embodiments of the present invention correlate the first set of data in the third domain format with a communication protocol to generate correlated information. For example, correlated information may comprise an image overlaid with a hypertext markup language (HTML) image map and wrapped in a frame for compatibility with a browser at device **115**. In one embodiment, the HTML frames are linked or embedded as HTML streaming media, with an HTML map overlay, to allow viewing via the browser running on device **115**.

[0106] At **812**, a second set of data is received from the user computer system based on user-selected locations associated with an image wherein the image is displayed using the first set of data in the third domain format.

[0107] Although the subject matter is described in a language specific to structural features and/or methodological acts, it is to be understood that the subject matter defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the specific features or acts described above. Rather, the specific features and acts described above are disclosed as example forms of implementing the claims.

Example Computer System Environment

[0108] With reference now to FIG. **4**, portions of the technology for providing a communication composed of computer-readable and computer-executable instructions that reside, for example, in computer-usable media of a computer system. That is, FIG. **4** illustrates one example of a type of computer that can be used to implement embodiments of the present technology. For example, computing devices on network **105** or device **115** may be an example of the computer system illustrated in FIG. **4** used in accordance with the present technology. Additionally, first embedded computer **205** or second embedded computer **215** may be depicted by the example computer system of FIG. **4**. However, first embedded computer **205** and second embedded computer **215** may

not comprise all the components depicted in FIG. 4 such as I/O device **420** and may share some components such as a power source.

[0109] FIG. 4 illustrates an example computer system **400** used in accordance with embodiments of the present technology. It is appreciated that system **400** of FIG. 4 is an example only and that the present technology can operate on or within a number of different computer systems including general purpose networked computer systems, embedded computer systems, routers, switches, server devices, user devices, various intermediate devices/artifacts, stand alone computer systems, mobile phones, personal data assistants, integrated circuit chips, televisions and the like. As shown in FIG. 4, computer system **400** of FIG. 4 is well adapted to having peripheral computer readable media **402** such as, for example, a floppy disk, a compact disc, and the like coupled thereto.

[0110] System **400** of FIG. 4 includes an address/data bus **404** for communicating information, and a processor **406A** coupled to bus **404** for processing information and instructions. As depicted in FIG. 4, system **400** is also well suited to a multi-processor environment in which a plurality of processors **406A**, **406B**, and **406C** are present. Conversely, system **400** is also well suited to having a single processor such as, for example, processor **406A**. Processors **406A**, **406B**, and **406C** may be any of various types of microprocessors. System **400** also includes data storage features such as a computer usable volatile memory **408**, e.g. random access memory (RAM), coupled to bus **404** for storing information and instructions for processors **406A**, **406B**, and **406C**.

[0111] System **400** also includes computer usable non-volatile memory **410**, e.g. read only memory (ROM), coupled to bus **404** for storing static information and instructions for processors **406A**, **406B**, and **406C**. Also present in system **400** is a data storage unit **412** (e.g., a magnetic or optical disk and disk drive) coupled to bus **404** for storing information and instructions. System **400** also includes an optional alpha-numeric input device **414** including alphanumeric and function keys coupled to bus **404** for communicating information and command selections to processor **406A** or processors **406A**, **406B**, and **406C**. System **400** also includes an optional cursor control device **416** coupled to bus **404** for communicating user input information and command selections to processor **406A** or processors **406A**, **406B**, and **406C**. System **400** of the present embodiment also includes an optional display device **418** coupled to bus **404** for displaying information.

[0112] Referring still to FIG. 4, optional display device **418** of FIG. 4 may be a liquid crystal device, cathode ray tube, plasma display device or other display device suitable for creating graphic images and alpha-numeric characters recognizable to a user. Optional cursor control device **416** allows the computer user to dynamically signal the movement of a visible symbol (cursor) on a display screen of display device **418**. Many implementations of cursor control device **416** are known in the art including a trackball, mouse, touch pad, joystick or special keys on alpha-numeric input device **414** capable of signaling movement of a given direction or manner of displacement. Alternatively, it will be appreciated that a cursor can be directed and/or activated via input from alpha-numeric input device **414** using special keys and key sequence commands.

[0113] System **400** is also well suited to having a cursor directed by other means such as, for example, voice commands. System **400** also includes an I/O device **420** for coupling system **400** with external entities. For example, in one embodiment, I/O device **420** is a modem for enabling wired or wireless communications between system **400** and an external network such as, but not limited to, the Internet. A more detailed discussion of the present technology is found below.

[0114] Referring still to FIG. 4, various other components are depicted for system **400**.

Specifically, when present, an operating system **422**, applications **424**, modules **426**, and data **428** are shown as typically residing in one or some combination of computer usable volatile memory **408**, e.g. random access memory (RAM), and data storage unit **412**. However, it is appreciated that in some embodiments, operating system **422** may be stored in other locations such as on a network or on a flash drive; and that further, operating system **422** may be accessed from a remote location via, for example, a coupling to the internet. In one embodiment, the present technology, for example, is stored as an application **424** or module **426** in memory locations within RAM **408** and

memory areas within data storage unit **412**. The present technology may be applied to one or more elements of described system **400**. For example, a method of modifying user interface **225A** of device **115A** may be applied to operating system **422**, applications **424**, modules **426**, and/or data **428**.

[0115] System **400** also includes one or more signal generating and receiving device(s) **430** coupled with bus **404** for enabling system **400** to interface with other electronic devices and computer systems. Signal generating and receiving device(s) **430** of the present embodiment may include wired serial adaptors, modems, and network adaptors, wireless modems, and wireless network adaptors, and other such communication technology. The signal generating and receiving device(s) **430** may work in conjunction with one or more communication interface(s) **432** for coupling information to and/or from system **400**. Communication interface **432** may include a serial port, parallel port, Universal Serial Bus (USB), Ethernet port, antenna, or other input/output interface. Communication interface **432** may physically, electrically, optically, or wirelessly (e.g. via radio frequency) couple system **400** with another device, such as a cellular telephone, radio, or computer system.

[0116] The computing system **400** is only one example of a suitable computing environment and is not intended to suggest any limitation as to the scope of use or functionality of the present technology. Neither should the computing environment **400** be interpreted as having any dependency or requirement relating to any one or combination of components illustrated in the example computing system **400**.

[0117] The present technology may be described in the general context of computer-executable instructions, such as program modules, being executed by a computer. Generally, program modules include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, etc., that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. The present technology may also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote computer-storage media including memory-storage devices.

Claims

1. A method, performed by an intermediate device, for prevention of malware infection of a user device, the method comprising: receiving, from a browser operating on the user device, a first request for a first web page associated with an Internet web site, the browser being capable of rendering the first web page; transmitting, to a website associated with the requested first web page and in response to the first request, a second request for the first web page; receiving, responsive to the second request, a first set of data associated with the first web page, the first set of data being in a code domain format; generating, based on the first set of data in the code domain format, a first set of images, the first set of images representing only all the renderable data of the first set of data in an image format, said generating of said first set of images performed without knowledge of a location or a presence of said malware infection, or code corresponding to said malware infection, within said first set of data in said code domain format, wherein said generating of said first set of images is performed without requiring a malware detection process; and transmitting, to the browser, in place of the first web page, the first set of images with correlation data configured to enable a user to interact with the first set of images on the user device in a manner that is substantially the same as though the user device had received the first web page in the code domain format and the first web page had been rendered from the code domain format by the browser, wherein said method, performed by said intermediate device, for said prevention of said malware infection of said user device is entirely accomplished via code isolation.
