

Analyzing Zeus, an Intriguing Trojan Botnet

Akiel Aries

September 2022

When messing with malware on your machine I figured I would either want to run it in a VM or make sure none of the prerequisites are enabled on the machine itself. This is where malware written in C or C++ thrive as languages like Python and Java need the run time and interpreter already installed to meet that prerequisite. For this assignment I decided to take a look at the Zeus Trojan malware pkg that initially gaining traction in the late 2000s when used to steal info from the US DOT. Trojans are known to be malware that behaves as legitimate programs. The bot would go on to infecting millions of computers and spawning any variants. The bot is aimed to target windows machines to extract banking in formations using keystroke logging. This form of attack is a common example of a man-in-the-middle attack. The malware pkg performs infection via phishing schemes or drive-by downloads and infected some of the largest companies such as Bank of America, Oracle, Cisco, Amazon, etc. The Trojan violates just about every principle in the CIA triad. Since confidential banking information was taken as well as money, confidentiality and integrity are both violated while availability remains in questions. Patches to the malware offered from cybersecurity consultants is known to eradicate it from the infected machine, however strains of the virus were spawned remaining a constant battle.