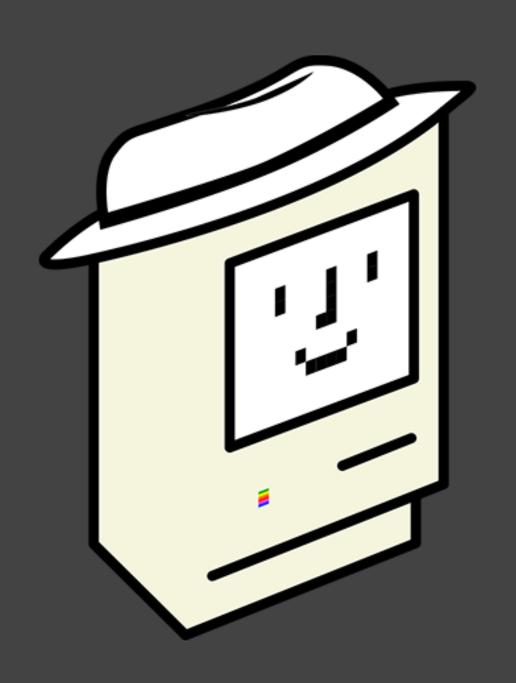
Incident Response on macOS



\$ whoami

Thomas Reed

@thomasareed

treed@malwarebytes.com

What are we talking about?

- ✓ Incident response!
 - Have access to the Mac
 - What was done?
 - How do you identify the threat elsewhere?
 - Assuming you don't have proactive data collection

- X Forensic collection
 - Need data for legal evidence
 - Not needed now, needs to stand up to time
 - Out of scope for this talk

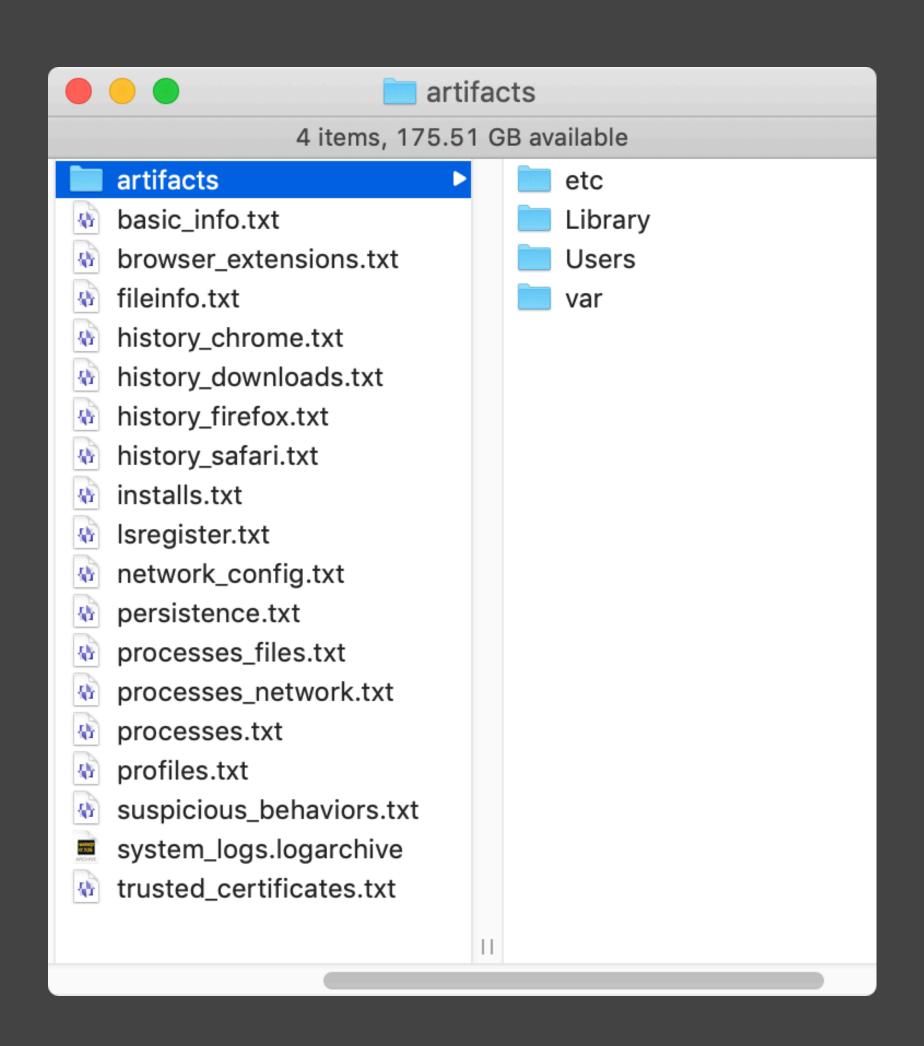
How do we collect IR data?

- Post-infection toolkits
 - PICT
 - https://github.com/thomasareed/pict
 - OSXCollector
 - https://yelp.github.io/osxcollector/
 - AutoMacTC
 - https://github.com/CrowdStrike/automactc

- Proactive toolkits
 - Venator
 - https://github.com/richiercyrus/Venator
 - osquery
 - https://osquery.io

PICT data collection

- Lots of data files to sort through
 - Machine info
 - File listing
 - Browser histories
 - Install history
 - Process listing/info
 - Persistence
 - Suspicious behaviors
 - etc...



basic_info.txt

- Collection time
- Uptime
- Basic config info
- System and hardware info
- User list & logins

Collected by user thomas on 2 Jul 2019 @ 21:11:40 UTC (local 2 Jul 2019 @ 17:11:40)

Uptime: 17:11 up 28 days, 7:54, 2 users, load

averages: 3.02 2.97 2.58

Hostname: test.local

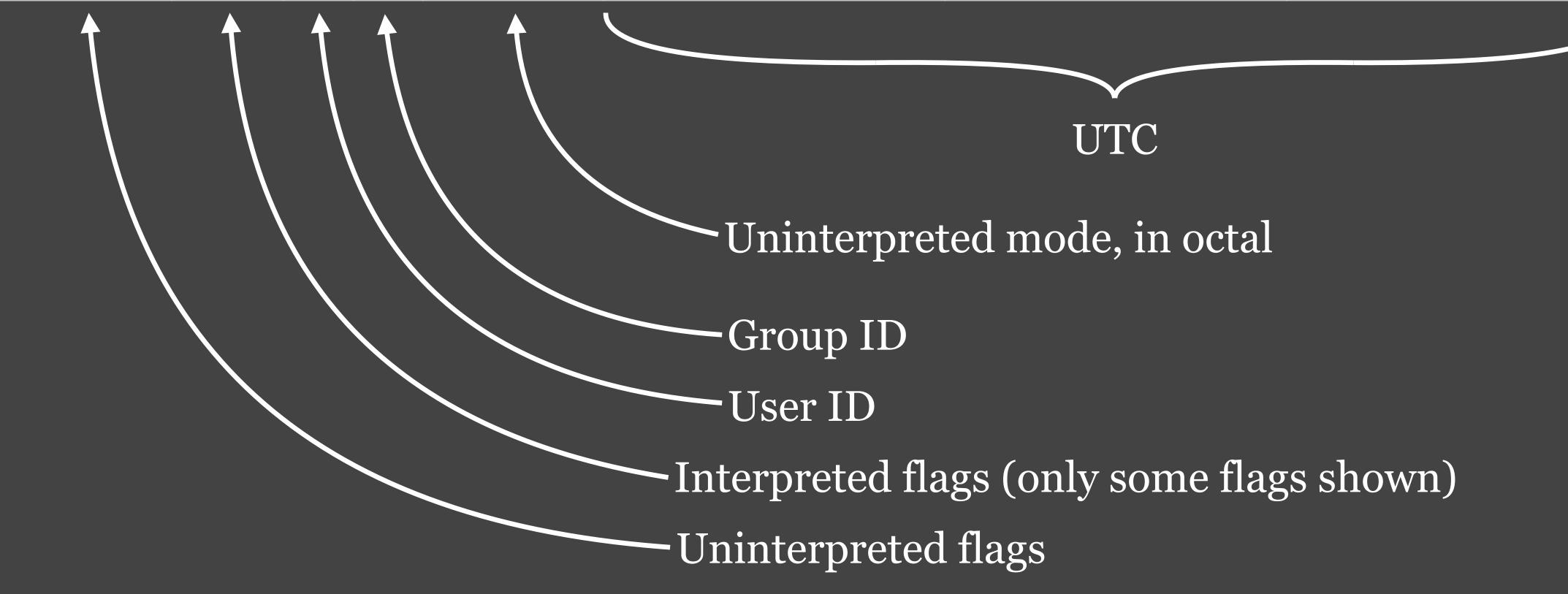
System policy security: assessments enabled

System Integrity Protection status: enabled.

FileVault status: FileVault is On.

fileinfo.txt

Raw Flags	Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0x8000	hidden	0	0	40755	2019-06-12T 11:18:01	2019-06-12T 11:18:01	2019-06-12T 11:50:53	/Volumes



Persistence

- persistence.txt
 - Login items
 - launchd
 - kexts
 - etc
- browser_extensions.txt
 - Safari, Chrome, Firefox

- artifacts
 - launch agent & daemon plists
 - browser extensions
 - common abusable scripts
 - .bash_profile, etc

Browser histories

- Safari, Chrome, Firefox
- "Quarantine events"
- All are fairly similar SQLite databases

history_visits

HISTOLA ATSTER										
id	history_item	visit_time								
366059	28	580825726.140156								
	history_items									
	id	url								

https://apple.com

Install history

- Only tracked for macOS installer packages
- Logged in a couple different ways



Process info

- ps
 - process ID, parent process ID
 - path to command + arguments
- lsof
 - files being accessed
 - network connections open

- COMMAND PID NODE NAME
- ZoomOpene 19952 TCP localhost:19421 (LISTEN)

Suspicious behavior

- Processes running from suspicious locations (eg, /tmp)
- Hidden processes
- launchd plists with scripts as the program
- processes pretending to belong to Apple
- suspicious sudoers or hosts changes
- etc

IR examples

Wirenet

- aka NetWire, aka NetWeird
- backdoor
- prior to last year, hadn't been seen since 2014
- dropped as one of two payloads by the Firefox o-day attack on Coinbase and other cryptocurrency companies

On Fri, Jun 7, 2019 at 2:15 AM Gregory Harris <grh37@cam.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear

My name is Gregory Harris. I'm one of the Adam Smith Prize Organizers.

Each year we update the team of independent specialists who could assess the quality of the competing projects: http://people.ds.cam.ac.uk/grh37/awards/Adam_Smith_Prize

Our colleagues have recommended you as an experienced specialist in this field.

We need your assistance in evaluating several projects for Adam Smith Prize.

Looking forward to receiving your reply.

Best regards, Gregory Harris

GREGORY HARRIS

Research Grants Administrator at University of Cambridge

+442038076714

grh37@cam.ac.uk

people.ds.cam.ac.uk/grh37/awards/Adam_Smith_Prize

Adam Smith Prize Organizational Committee



- suspicious_behaviors.txt
 - Process with PID 529 running from a hidden folder
 - Launch agent named com.mac.host.plist
 - Are these related? 😲

/Users/test/Library/LaunchAgents/

com.mac.host.plist

- /Users/test/Library/LaunchAgents/com.mac.host.plist
 - Responsible for launching the Finder process

```
<dict>
   <key>Label</key>
    <string>com.mac.host</string>
    <key>ProgramArguments</key>
    <array>
        <string>/Users/
test/.defaults/Finder.app/Contents/
MacOS/Finder
    </array>
    <key>RunAtLoad</key>
    <true/>
    <key>KeepAlive</key>
    <false/>
</dict>
```

- fileinfo.txt
 - both Finder.app and com.mac.host.plist created June 29, 2019 @ 20:26:17

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	501	20	40755	2019-06-29T 20:26:17	2019-06-29T 20:26:17	2019-06-29T 20:29:29	/Users/test/.defaults/ Finder.app
0	501	20	100750	2019-06-29T 20:26:17	2019-06-29T 20:26:17	2019-06-29T 20:29:29	/Users/test/Library/ LaunchAgents/ com.mac.host.plist

- processes_network.txt
 - Finder process has a network connection open to 89.34.111.113

```
COMMAND PID USER FD TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME

Finder 529 test 3u IPv4 0x2888275a1e50e0d5 0t0 TCP 192.168.1.13:49219->89.34.111.113:https (ESTABLISHED)
```

system_logs.logarchive

log show --start "2019-06-29 20:26:15+0000" --end "2019-06-29 20:26:20+0000" --timezone "00:00:00" --info --archive system_logs.logarchive

- fileinfo.txt
 - ~/Downloads/Finder.app created June 29, 2019 @ 20:24:09

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
O	501	20	40755	2019-06-29T 20:24:09	2019-06-29T 20:24:09	2019-06-29T 20:29:31	/Users/test/Downloads/ Finder.app

Wirenet timeline

2019-06-29 @ 20:24:09 ~/Downloads/Finder.app created 2019-06-29 @ 20:29:14 PICT data gathered connection to 89.34.111.113 open

```
2019-06-29 @ 20:26:20

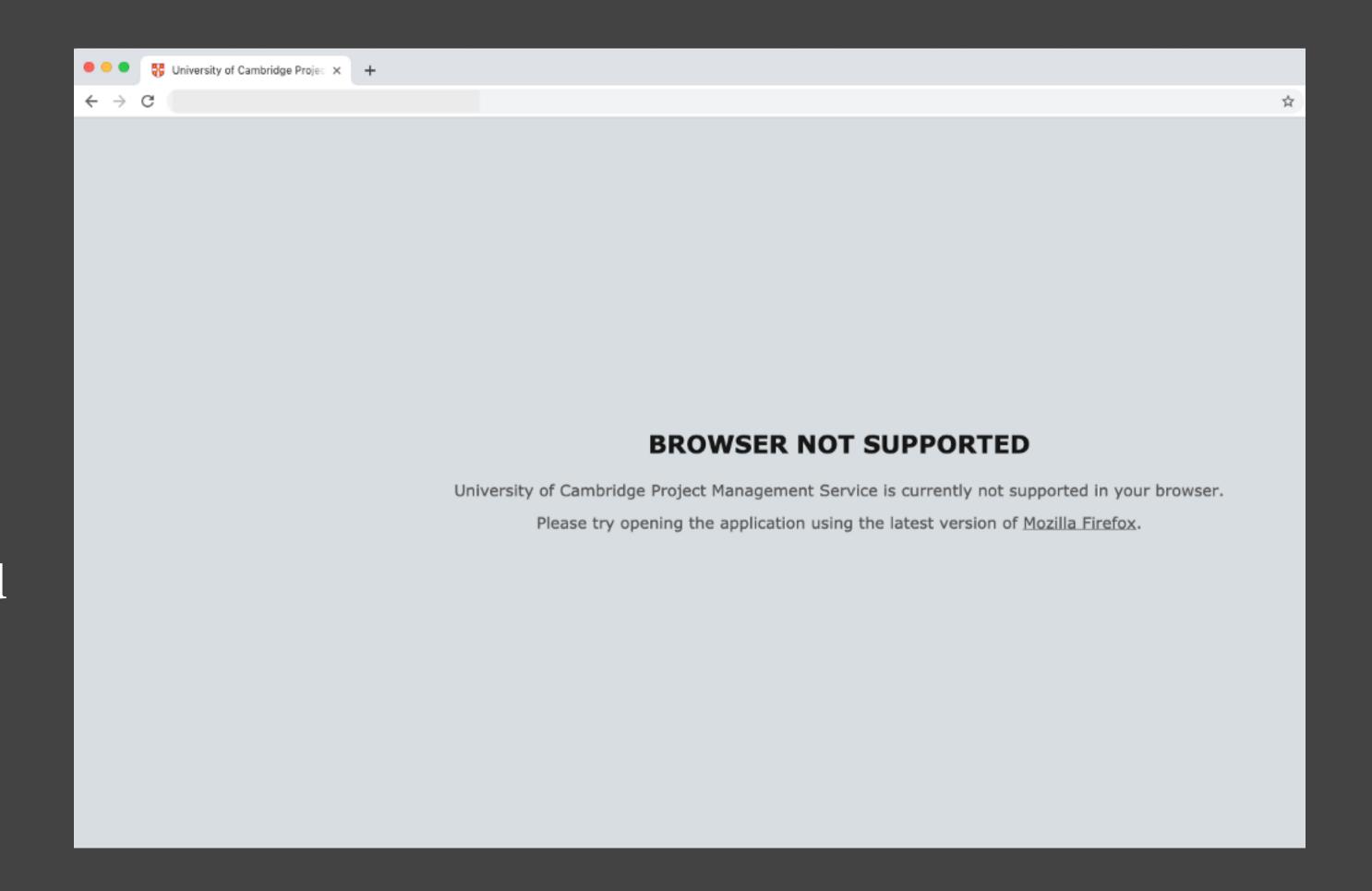
~/Downloads/Finder.app launched

~/.defaults/Finder.app created

~/Library/LaunchAgents/com.mac.host.plist created
```

Mokes

- backdoor
- prior to the end of June, hadn't been seen since 2016
- dropped as second of two payloads by the Firefox o-day attack on Coinbase and other cryptocurrency companies



- persistence.txt
 - What is ~/Library/LaunchAgents/storeaccountd.plist?

- /Users/test/Library/LaunchAgents/ storeaccountd.plist
 - launches ~/Library/App Store/storeaccountd

- processes.txt
 - storeaccountd has PID 495
 - parent PID = 1 = launchd
 - launched at 5:34 PM (local time, not UTC)

- basic_info.txt
 - process launched at 5:34 PM local time
 - 2019-06-29 17:35:01 local time == 2019-06-29 21:35:01 UTC
 - process launched at 21:34:?? UTC

```
Collected by user test on 29 Jun 2019 @ 21:35:01 UTC (local 29 Jun 2019 @ 17:35:01)
Uptime: 17:35 up 45 mins, 2 users, load averages: 1.08 1.31 1.25
```

- fileinfo.txt
 - storeaccountd, storeaccountd.plist created 2019-06-29 @ 21:34:01

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	501	20	100555	2019-06-29T 21:34:01	2019-06-29T 21:34:01	2019-06-29T 21:34:01	/Users/test/Library/App Store/storeaccountd
0	501	20	100644	2019-06-29T 21:34:31	2019-06-29T 21:34:31	2019-06-29T 21:35:41	/Users/test/Library/ LaunchAgents/ storeaccountd.plist

- processes_network.txt
 - storeaccountd has attempted to connect with 185.49.69.210, but has not received a response

```
COMMAND PID USER FD TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME storeacco 495 test 25u IPv4 0x9ddae8da804e137b 0t0 TCP 192.168.1.13:49224->185.49.69.210:http (SYN_SENT) storeacco 495 test 28u IPv4 0x9ddae8da7ac74ab3 0t0 UDP *:*
```

- processes_files.txt
 - storeaccountd has a zero-byte file open for read/write
 - (This is a marker file, used by the malware to identify which variant is installed)

```
COMMAND PID USER FD TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME storeacco 495 test 11u REG 1,4 0 928151 /Users/test/Library/Application Support/72769f032fd8c672bcb1a3e21a55726a
```

- fileinfo.txt
 - 72769f032fd8c672bcb1a3e21a55726a created 2019-06-29 @ 21:34:21

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	501	20	100644	2019-06-29T 21:34:21	2019-06-29T 21:34:21	2019-06-29T 21:34:21	/Users/test/Library/ Application Support/ 72769f032fd8c672bcb1a3e 21a55726a

• system_logs.logarchive

• log show --start "2019-06-29 21:33:55+0000" --end "2019-06-29 21:34:05+0000" --timezone "00:00:00" --info --archive system_logs.logarchive

- fileinfo.txt
 - ~/mac created 2019-06-29 @ 21:32:48

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	501	20	100755	2019-06-29T 21:32:48	2019-06-29T 21:32:53	2019-06-29T 21:34:10	/Users/test/mac

Mokes timeline

2019-06-29 @ 21:32:48 ~/mac created

2019-06-29 @ 21:35:01 PICT data gathered connection to 185.49.69.210 waiting for response

2019-06-29 @ 21:33:55 ~/mac launched

2019-06-29 @ 21:34:01 ~/Library/App Store/storeaccountd created ~/Library/LaunchAgents/storeaccount.plist created storeaccountd launched

2019-06-29 @ 21:34:21 marker file created

BirdMiner

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

```
QEMU - (Press ctrl + alt + g to release Mouse)
Booting Core 9.0
Running Linux Kernel 4.14.10-tinycore64.
Checking boot options... Done.
Starting udev daemon for hotplug support... Done.
Waiting as requested... 5
Scanning hard disk partitions to create /etc/fstab
Setting Language to C Done.
Possible swap partition(s) enabled.
Loading extensions...^[[C Done.
Setting keymap to us Done.
Restoring backup files from /mnt/sda1/tce/mydata.tgz -
Done.
Setting hostname to box Done.
login[3781]: root login on 'tty1'
box login:
```

BirdMiner walkthrough

- persistence.txt
 - Three weird-looking launch daemons

BirdMiner walkthrough

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

```
<dict>
 <key>Label</key>
 <string>com.Tang.plist
 <key>ProgramArguments</key>
  <array>
    <string>/usr/local/bin/Augean/
string>
  </array>
 <key>RunAtLoad</key>
  <true/>
 <key>KeepAlive</key>
  <true/>
</dict>
```

- processes.txt
 - 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 root 848 1 7:36AM 0:00.00 /bin/bash /Library/Application Support/Per/Aht root 850 1 7:36AM 0:00.00 /bin/bash /Library/Application Support/Q/Fulgora root 1332 1 7:39AM 0:00.00 /bin/bash /usr/local/bin/Augean
```

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

```
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
```

- 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 qemu has accel=hvf, any good macOS front-ends? : qemu_kvm

https://www.reddit.com/r/qemu.../now_that_qemu_has_accelhvf_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 : gemu 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] qemu 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 guests, 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
```

- processes_network.txt
 - 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) 0 870 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 modified 2019-06-29 @ 11:36:14
 - 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 11:36:14	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	2019-06-29T 11:37:08	/Library/Application Support/Per/Aht
0	0	80	100700	2019-06-29T 11:36:14	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	2019-06-29T 11:36:57	/Library/Application Support/Q/Fulgora

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

Raw Flags	UID	GID	Mode (oct)	Created	Modified	Accessed	Path
0	0	80	100700	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	2019-06-29T 11:38:35	/Library/Application Support/Per/Stercorarius
0	0	80	100700	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	2019-06-29T 11:39:06	2019-06-29T 11:38:36	/Library/Application Support/Q/Canchi

- installs.txt
 - 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
```

- history_safari.txt
 - 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&oe=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/
```

- history_downloads.txt
 - 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 PICT data gathered connected to 185.193.126.159

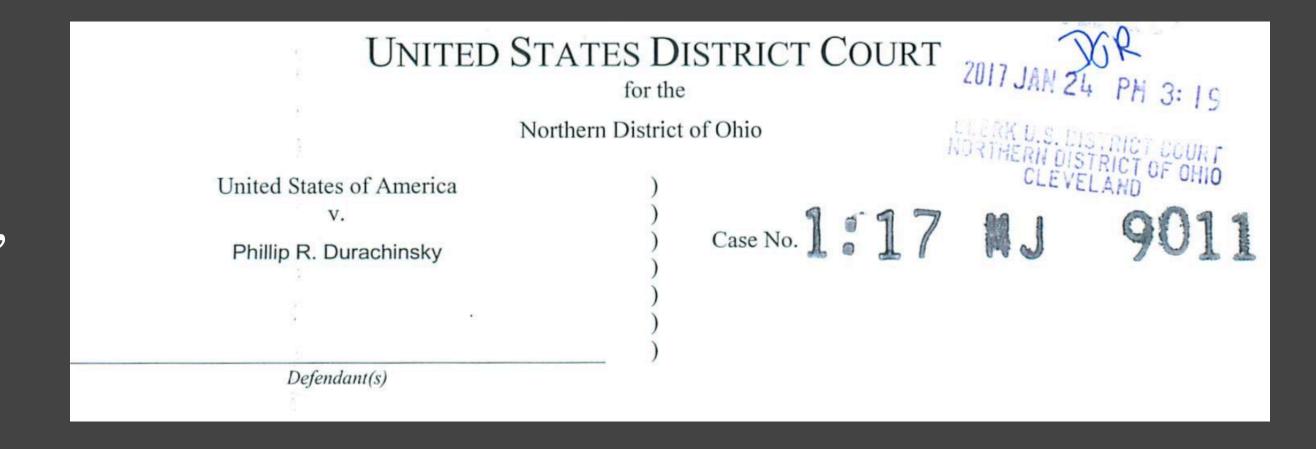
2019-06-29 @ 11:36:15 ValhallaVintageVerb installed

> 2019-06-29 11:36:14 Aht, Fulgora created & launched.

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

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



- suspicious_behaviors.txt
 - 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

```
<dict>
   <key>KeepAlive</key>
   <true/>
  <key>Label</key>
   <string>com.client.client
  <key>ProgramArguments</key>
   <array>
      <string>/Users/test/.client</
string>
   </array>
   <key>RunAtLoad</key>
   <true/>
   <key>NSUIElement</key>
  <string>1</string>
</dict>
```

- processes.txt
 - Shows no matches for "client"
- persistence.txt
 - .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.callserv
icesd
- 0  com.apple.DwellControl
```

- processes.txt
 - Java was launched with PID 536
 - Is .client a shell script that runs Java? 😌

```
USER PID PPID STARTED TIME COMMAND test 536 1 3:41PM 0:00.07 java
```

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

COMMAND perl5.18	PID 536	USER test	FD txt	TYPE REG	DEVICE 1,4			NAME /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

- history_*.txt, installs.txt, /Library/Receipts/InstallHistory.plist
 - A whole lot of nuthin'!
 - It doesn't look like this was downloaded/installed by the user

- /Users/test/.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
```

```
• 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
```

• 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.

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

Questions?

slides ->