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CEBOLLA CHAN 3.0: A WINDOW INTO THE CHAOTIC SPANISH-LANGUAGE UNDERGROUND

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FLASHPOINT

Latin America in the News

PLOUTUS.D MALWARE VARIANT USED IN U.S.-BASED ATM JACKPOTTING ATTACKS

Ecuador Bank Says It Lost $12 Million in Swift 2015 Cyber Hack

U.S. Man Residing in Costa Rica Pleads Guilty for Role in Two Separate Multi-Million Dollar Fraud Schemes

UNDERSTANDING THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE UNDERGROUND

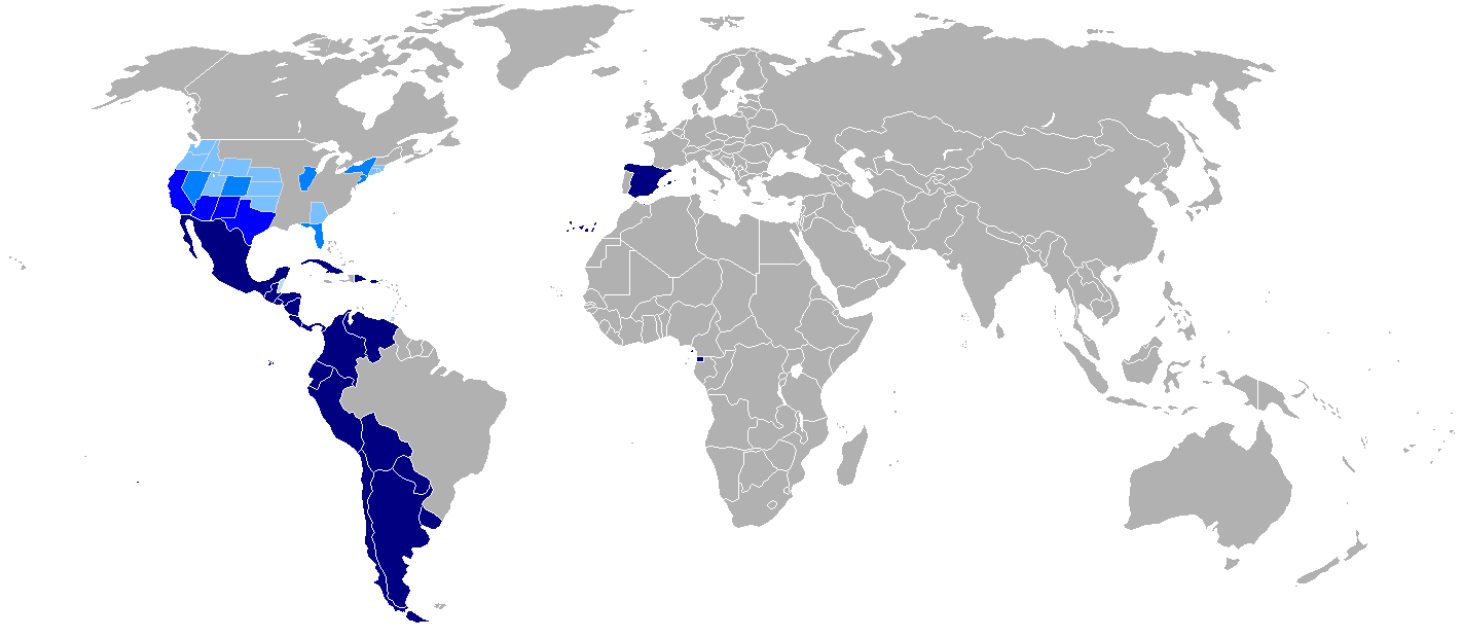
Spanish-Language Underground

State of Cybercrime in LATAM

- Growing cybercriminal communities
- Increased internet penetration in LATAM
- Low security awareness
- Weak or nonexistent cybercrime legislation

Spanish-Language Underground

The Spanish-Speaking World



Spanish-Language Underground

What is the “Underground”?

- Forums & marketplaces on Tor
- Password protected sites
- Private communications groups
  - Messaging applications
  - Social platforms

Spanish-Language Underground

The obvious…

- Security
- Anonymity

And the less apparent…

- Exchange of ideas
- Supply chains
- Partnerships & mentorships
- Sense of community

Spanish-Language Cybercrime

- Malicious insiders
- Call centers
- Phishing
- Online carding

Comparisons to Other Linguistic Communities

Spanish-Language

- Malicious insiders
- Call centers
- Phishing
- Online carding

Russian-Language

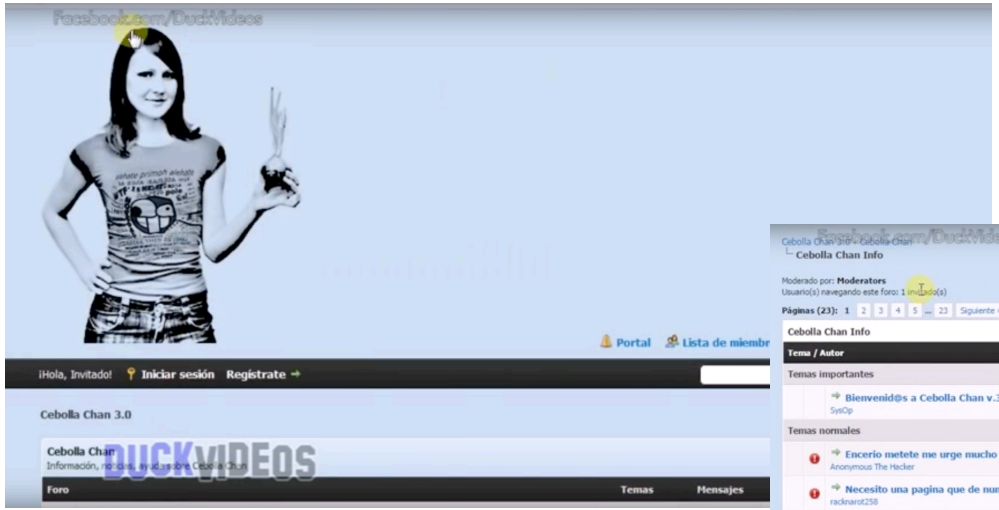
- Malware
- Network compromises
- Account takeover
- Online carding

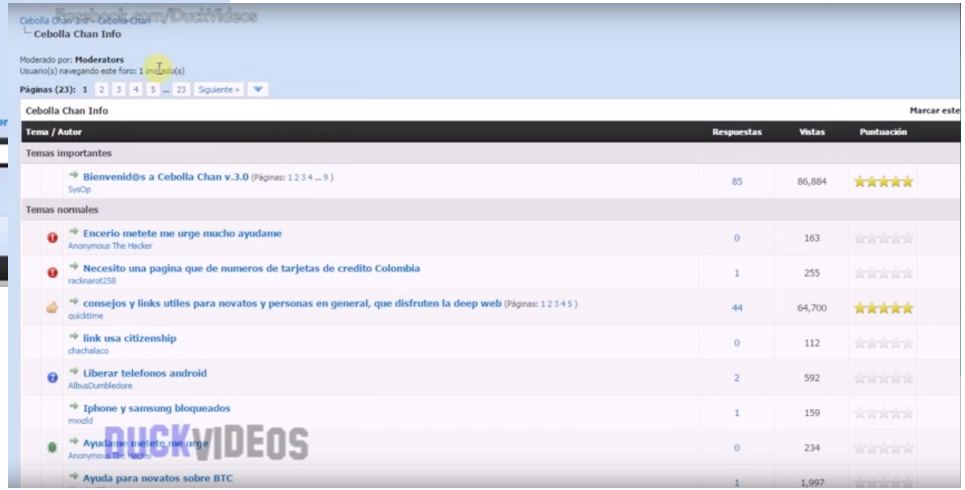
English-Language

- Malicious insiders
- DDoS Booter for hire
- Refund fraud
- In-store carding

CEBOLLA CHAN 3.0

Cebolla Chan 3.0





Cebolla Chan 3.0

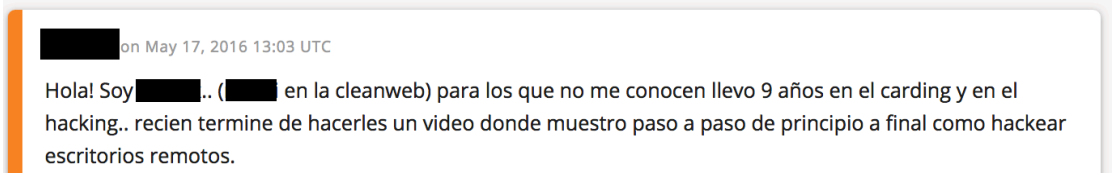
Cebolla Chan 3.0 Stats

- October 2014 – September 2016; March 2018 – Present
- 135,000 posts
- 22,000 active members

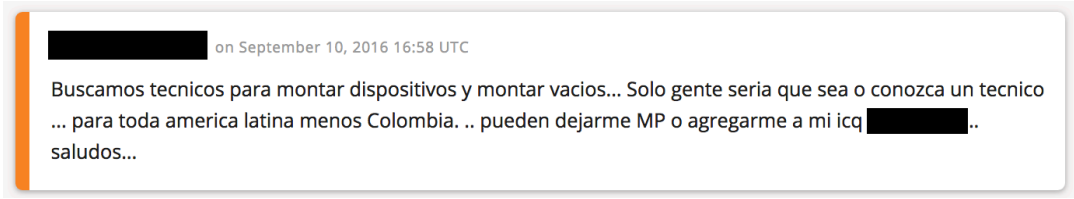
Cebolla Chan 3.0

Chatter on Cebolla Chan

- High-level activity
  - Tutorials on cybercrime
  - Recruitment of insiders
  - Sale of compromised information
- Low-level activity
  - Conspiracy theories



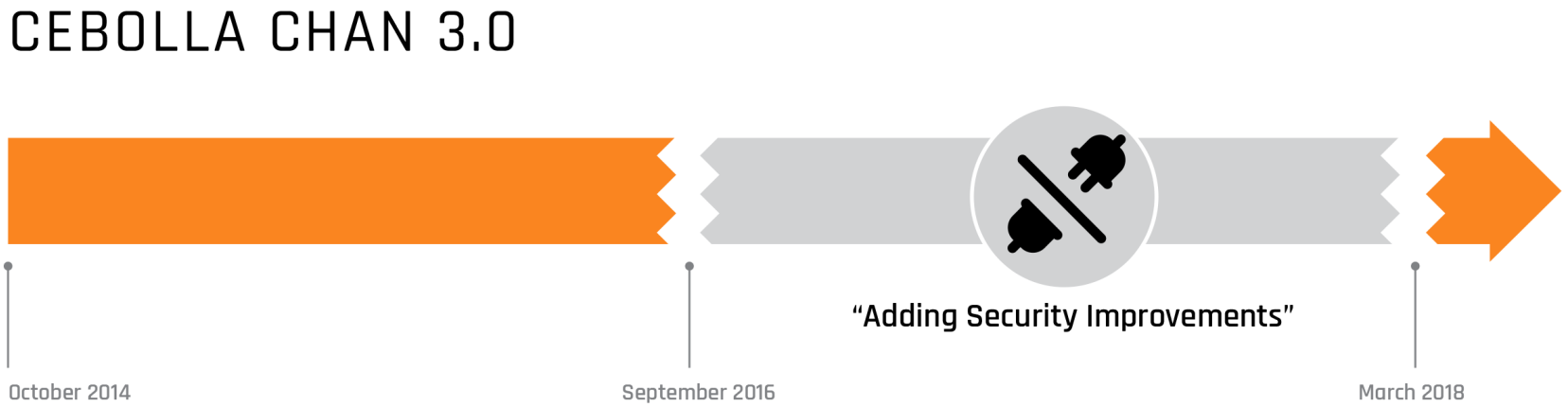
Tutorial on compromising RDP servers



Seeking technicians to compromise ATMs

Cebolla Chan 3.0

Timeline of Activity

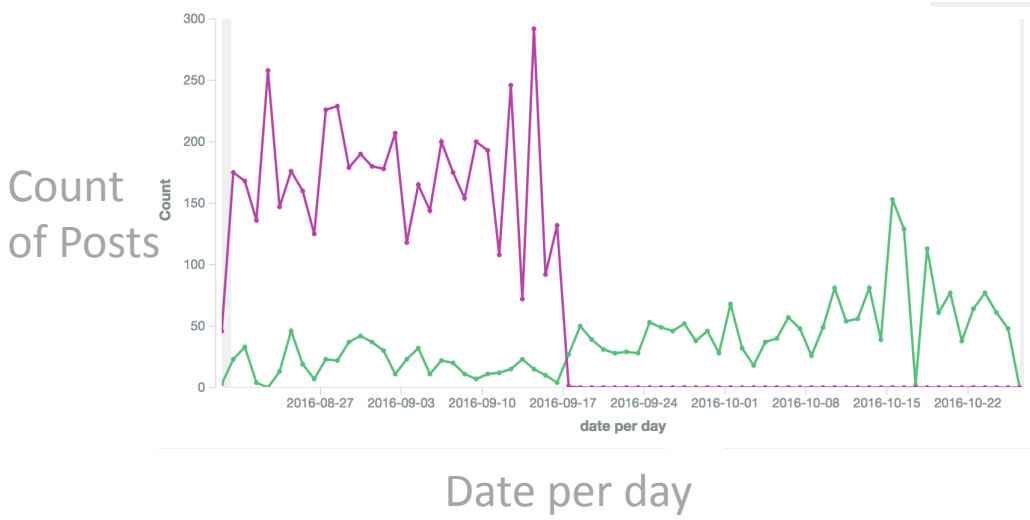


THE INTER-CEBOLLA CHAN 3.0 PERIOD

Inter-Cebolla Chan 3.0 Period

Migration of Users to Other Forums

- Former members of Cebolla Chan 3.0 discuss what happened
- Use status from Cebolla Chan 3.0 to establish reputation in new communities
- Links are shared to new forums



Inter-Cebolla Chan 3.0 Period

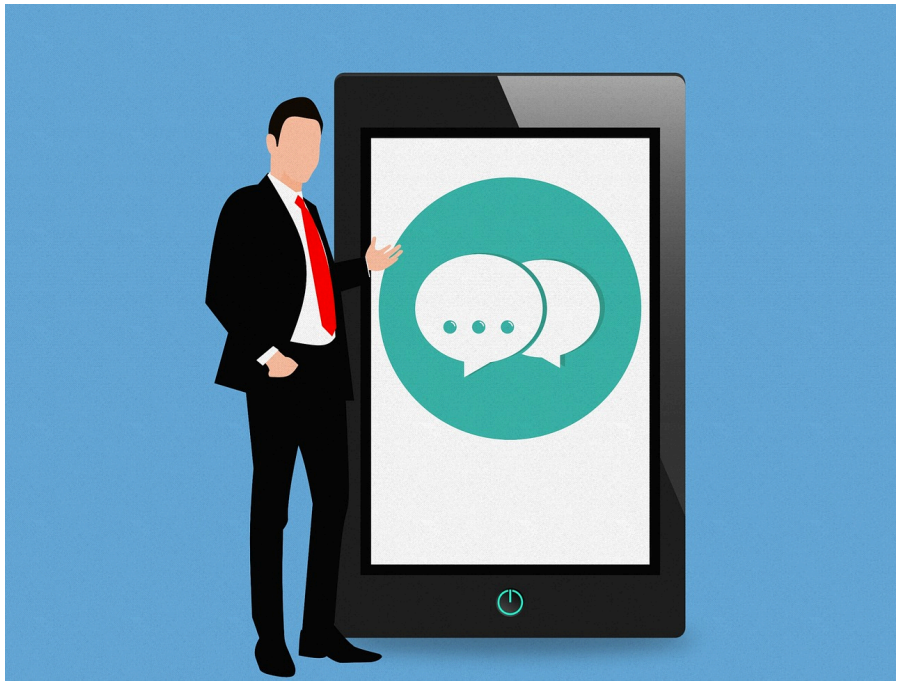
New “Cebolla Chans”

- Emergence of new “Cebolla Chans”
- At least five Cebolla Chan spin-offs
- Gain many followers very quickly

Inter-Cebolla Chan 3.0 Period

New Platforms

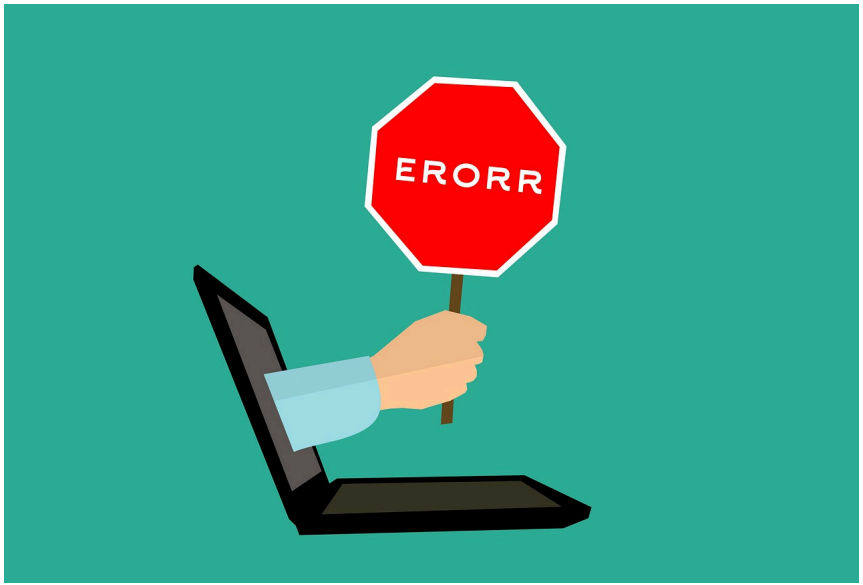
- Other communications platforms continue to gain popularity
- Better for mobile communications



Spanish-Language Underground

Instability is rampant

- A carding forum has gone offline and changed domain three times in one year
- New iteration of Cebolla Chan run by scammers
- Major darkweb forum loses all user information
- Cebolla Chan 3.0 reemerges after 1.5 years



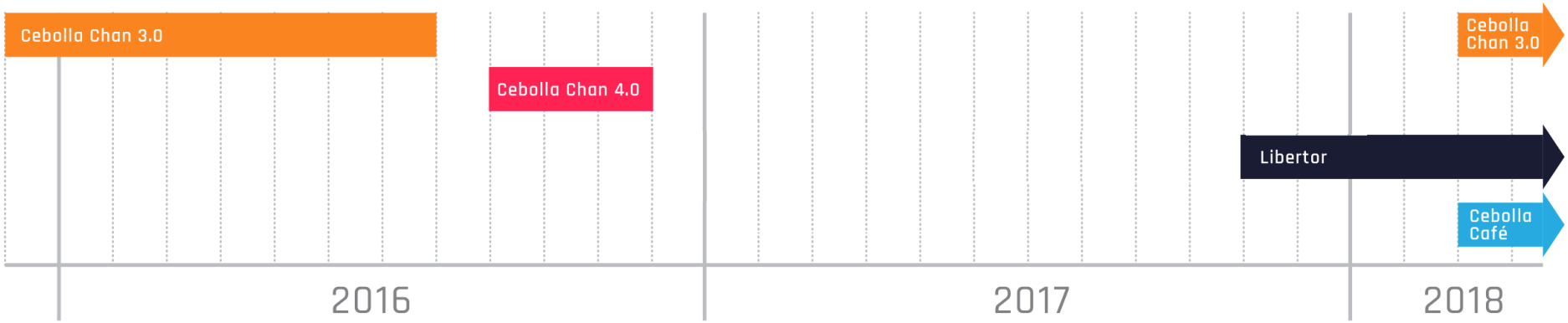
Spanish-Language Underground

The Underground as a Hydra

- Spanish-language underground is unstable and unpredictable
- Multiple forums and communication platforms keep it alive
- To seriously disrupt this arena, multiple platforms must disappear at once

Persistence

ACTOR MIGRATION AS COMMUNITIES DISAPPEAR & APPEAR



Key Takeaways

- Understand your exposure to Spanish-language cybercrime
  - Review threat exposure to partners and subsidiaries in the region
  - Take inventory of servers and other infrastructure
  - Monitor web traffic from Spanish-speaking countries
- Combat low security awareness
  - Implement rigorous security training for all employees
  - Embed security analysts with your partners in the region
- Gain visibility into Spanish-language underground
  - Monitor and respond to changes in the underground
  - Identify the threat actors targeting your organization
  - Hire Spanish-speakers to ensure accurate understanding of threats

QUESTIONS?

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