



CYBERSECURITY OF THE NEW DIGITAL CURRENCY ECOSYSTEM

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BITCOIN PRICE CHANGE IN LAST 12 MONTHS



SAME PERIOD DOW CHANGES



When there is a lot of money and it is tax free, dark industry will join

- Impacts on individual's life

- Ransomware;
- Mining without your knowledge;
 - Your P2P account
 - Your web browser
- ICO: to be or not to be;

- Impacts on Players of Cryptocurrency

- Directly hack into digital wallets;
- Manipulate price change in coins
 - Fork based attack;
 - Recent Binance attack;

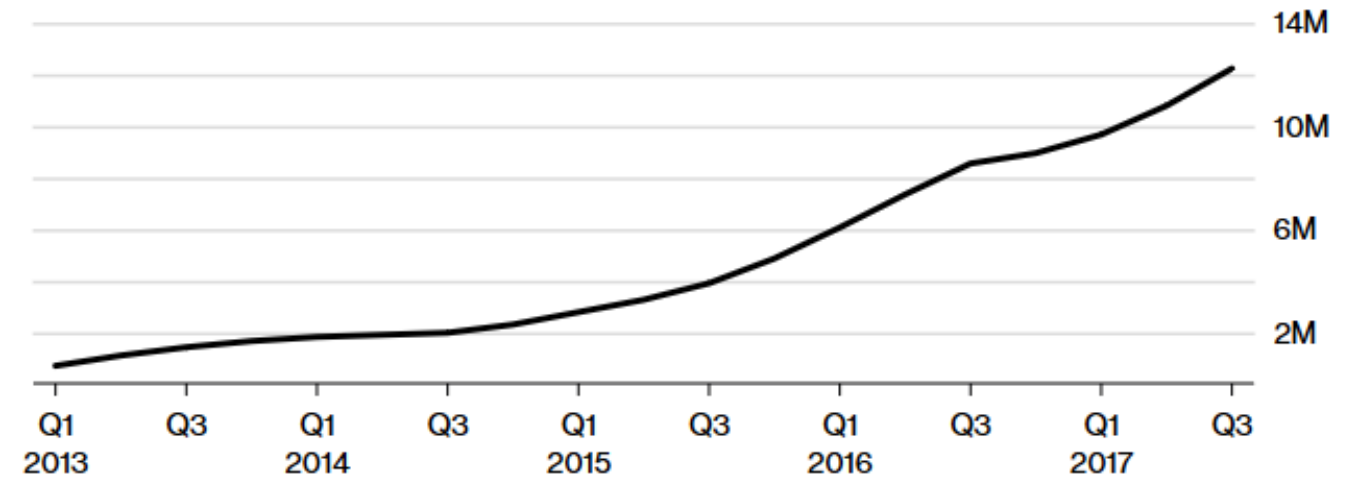


Ransomware using coins

- Let us re-examine properties of crypto-currency
 - Anonymity: untraceable;
 - Can cash-out: valuable;
 - Online: remote;
- Perfect for criminals!
 - Avg payout increases 70% in 2017;
 - \$Million case weekly;

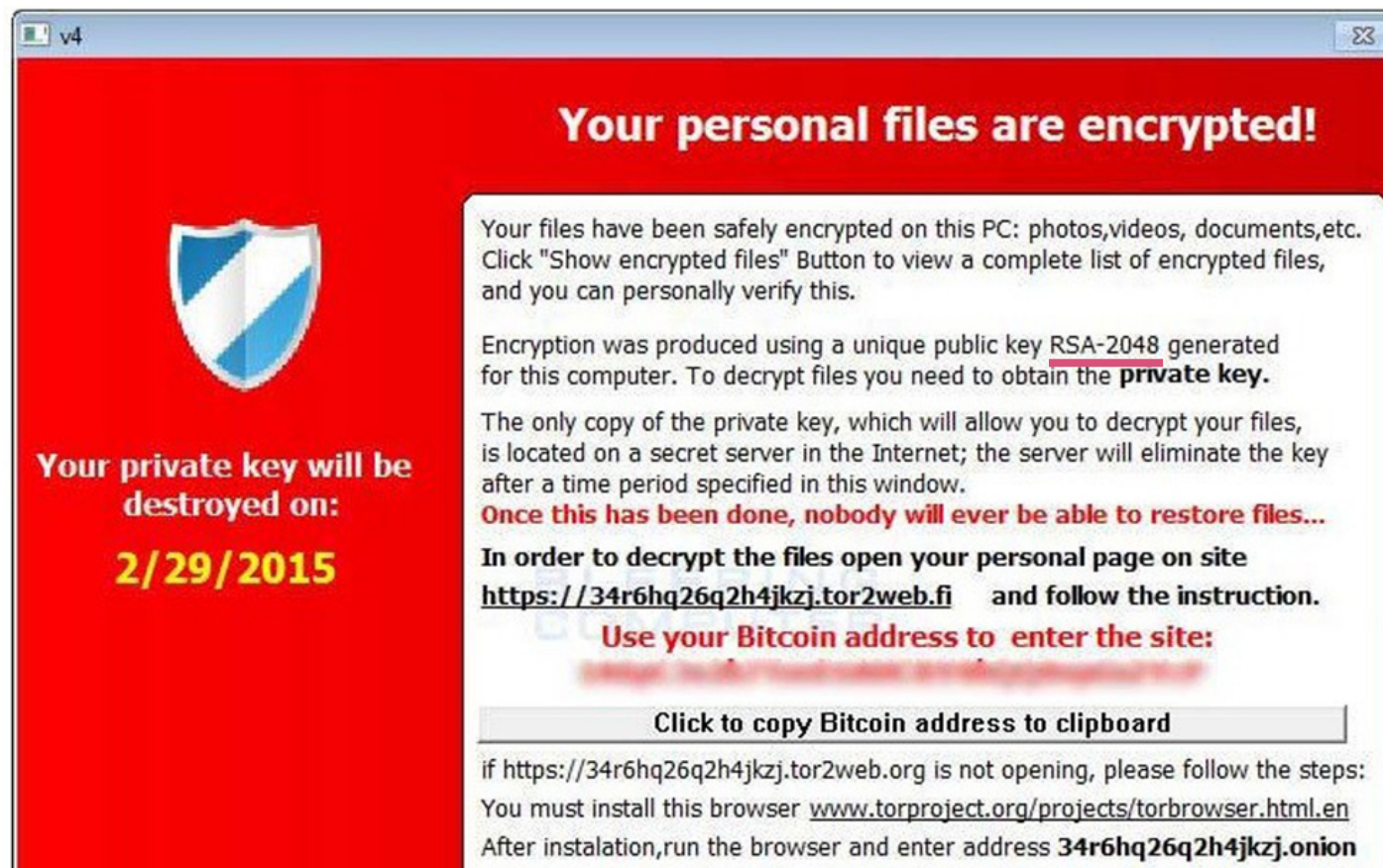
Frozen Computers

Ransomware incidents have soared in recent years, according to McAfee



Source: McAfee Inc.












Mining machines: who are the victims








- Using your computers for mining
 - Many high performance computing clusters/servers have been hacked for coin mining:
 - Top cyberthreat of 2018 based on Forbes: illicit cryptomining
 - Hackers exploit Jenkins servers, make \$3million (Feb/18): Russian nuclear scientists,
 - Now your personal computers are targets as well:
 - CBS's Showtime webpage exposed to have browser based mining software (Sep/17);
 - The justification is to avoid ads;
 - BitTorrent client side software compromised, 400,000 PC infected;

















- ICO (Initial Coin Offering): to be or not to be

- Many successful cases: ETH (100 times return), Augur Token (1 to 5 times profit)
- Many more cases of losses: too many pitfalls;

Name	
 SONDER	
 Cardstack	Hot
 Auctus	Hot
 Mainframe	Hot Whitelist
 Omnitude	Hot
 FogCoin	Hot
 OPEN Platform	

 Traceto	Hot
 Dfinity	Hot
 ClearCoin	Hot
 NEX	Neon Exchange
 Deedcoin ICO	Hot Presale
 NuCypher	
 Pikcio Chain	Presale Whitelist

 Datarius Cryptobank	
 Fr8 Network	Whitelist
 Sapien Network	Presale
 Cappasity	
 Thrive	
 Orchid Protocol	
 BelugaPay	Hot

 Keep network	Hot
 TrustedHealth	Presale
 Mattereum	
 Origin Protocol	Whitelist
 Signals Network	
 Galaxy eSolutions	
 Evermarkets	



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Crypto-currency ecosystem



- We need to secure
 - Computation: mining, exchange;
 - Transaction;
 - Storage;
 - Processing;

Crypto-currency ecosystem

Bitcoin

Bytecoin

Gigabyte coin





Real world financial system

Directly hack into your digital wallets

- NiceHash, a crypto mining service company, was hacked in December 2017
 - Hackers emptied the entire contents of digital wallets, about \$63 million;
- One server of CoinPouch was hacked in November 2017
 - About \$675,000 worth of Verge coin impacted;
- Inputs.io, a bitcoin web wallet, was hacked in January 2018
 - 4100 BTC stolen;



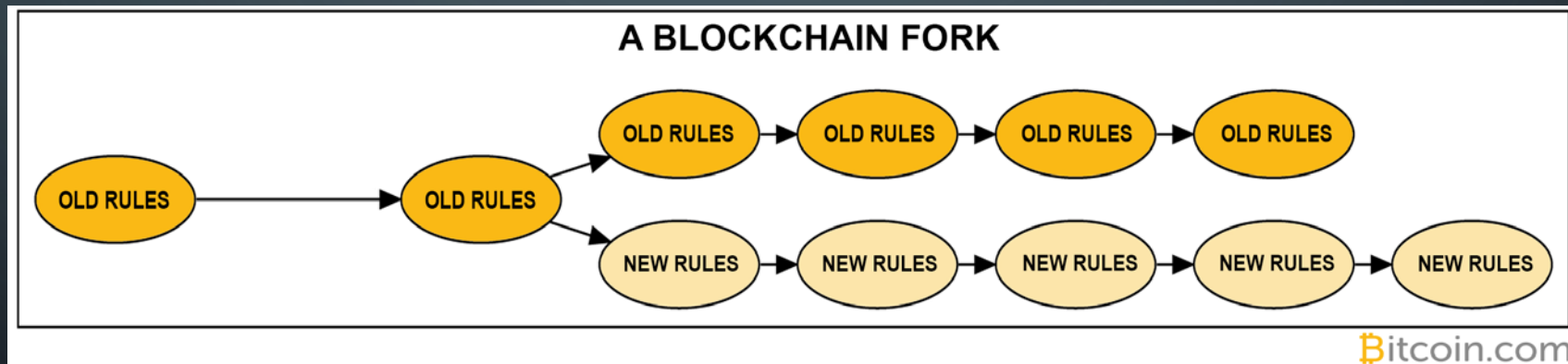
Manipulating price of crypto-currency: more fun

- Attacks caused by different views (fork)
 - Blockchain is about unanimous view of the world: what has happened and what has not;
 - If two groups of machines have different views, a fork happened;
 - On March 11, 2013, starting from block 225430, the blockchain literally split into two for 6 hours;
- Short term forks: duplicate or conflicting transactions;
- Long term forks: fluctuation in price;



Manipulating price of crypto-currency: more fun

- Short term forks: duplicate or conflicting transactions:
 - Attackers can double spend her/his bitcoin in different forks, both of which could commit;
 - Fake block attacks: lead to drastic changes in bitcoin price and allow profit through shorting;



Manipulating price of crypto-currency: more fun

- Last example: March 7th 2018, Binance attack
 - Hack into Binance system, the 2nd largest digital currency exchange system (through API of certain group of users);
 - Control user accounts;
 - Exchange almost all other coins for BTC;
 - Other users notice the transactions, panic, exchange for bitcoins as well: many coin price crashes;
 - Hacker chooses one type of digital currency, VIA, and spend 10,000 BT to buy VIA, so the price of VIA increases 100 times in a short period of time (\$0.000225 to \$0.025);
 - Then what?



Manipulating price of crypto-currency: more fun

- Last example: March 7th 2018, Binance attack
 - If you think the hackers will sell VIA under their control and cash-out, you are only 50% correct 😊
 - Binance notices the abnormal conditions, stops any cash-out (31 accounts try to cash out but were blocked);
 - Hackers are prepared for this:
 - they short many types of coins on other markets (probably including BTC);
 - Some 2nd or 3rd level markets allow 20 times or even 100 times leverage;
 - BTC price drops 10% in 1 hour;



Manipulating price of crypto-currency: more fun

- Is that true? Should we blame hackers?
 - What is the role of exchange software system?
 - Do you remember the Mt.Gox case in 2014?



Last thoughts

- Crypto-currency is built upon math and software system:
 - We can prove the safety of math (Maybe);
 - We cannot really guarantee the safety of software systems;
- No authority: your freedom and risk;
- We cannot use centralized approach to manage decentralized crypto-currency;
- Who is controlling the computation power?

