



# Lecture 07: Malware

Professor Adam Bates  
CS 461 / ECE 422  
Fall 2019

# Goals for Today

- Learning Objectives:
  - Define malware in terms of means and motivates of attackers.
  - Identify and evaluate several examples of malware
- Announcements, etc:
  - Office hours all the time! M-F 5-7pm, 4405 Siebel
  - Prof Bates does not have office hours this week
  - MP1 is live!
    - Checkpoint #2: **Due Sept 18 at 6pm**



**Reminder:** Please put away devices at the start of class

# Malware: Definition and Goals



- "Malware" is short for malicious software and is typically used as a catch-all term to refer to any software designed to cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer network
- Encompasses computer viruses, worms, Trojans, ransomware, spyware, adware, Backdoors, Logic bombs, keyloggers, rootkits...



# Malware Prevalence

## Malware encounter rates by country:

| Country/Region   | 3Q15         | 4Q15         | 1Q16         | 2Q16         |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| United States    | 10.8%        | 12.5%        | 11.9%        | 12.0%        |
| China            | 14.9%        | 18.9%        | 19.1%        | 21.1%        |
| Brazil           | 29.2%        | 34.4%        | 29.9%        | 29.4%        |
| Russia           | 22.8%        | 28.7%        | 27.2%        | 24.9%        |
| India            | 36.5%        | 44.2%        | 35.4%        | 32.6%        |
| Turkey           | 32.6%        | 40.3%        | 34.8%        | 31.4%        |
| France           | 18.8%        | 19.4%        | 17.0%        | 15.3%        |
| Mexico           | 23.9%        | 28.5%        | 24.4%        | 23.8%        |
| United Kingdom   | 11.9%        | 13.9%        | 13.7%        | 11.5%        |
| Germany          | 12.2%        | 13.8%        | 13.0%        | 13.0%        |
| <i>Worldwide</i> | <i>17.8%</i> | <i>20.8%</i> | <i>18.3%</i> | <i>21.2%</i> |

Up-to-date, Interactive Info at <https://www.microsoft.com/securityinsights/Malware>



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| India          | 36.5% | 44.2% | 35.4% | 32.6% |
| Turkey         | 32.6% | 40.3% | 34.8% | 31.4% |
| France         | 18.8% | 19.4% | 17.0% | 15.3% |
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***Why isn't US leading in malware encounters?***

Up-to-date, Interactive Info at <https://www.microsoft.com/securityinsights/Malware>



# How does it manage to run?

- Buffer overflow in network-accessible vulnerable service
- Vulnerable client (e.g. browser) connects to remote system that sends over an attack (a driveby)
- Social engineering: trick user into running/installing
- “Autorun” functionality (esp. from plugging in USB device)
- Slipped into a system component (at manufacture; compromise of software provider; substituted via MITM)
- Attacker with local access downloads/runs it directly
  - Might include using a “local root” exploit for privileged access, aka privilege escalation

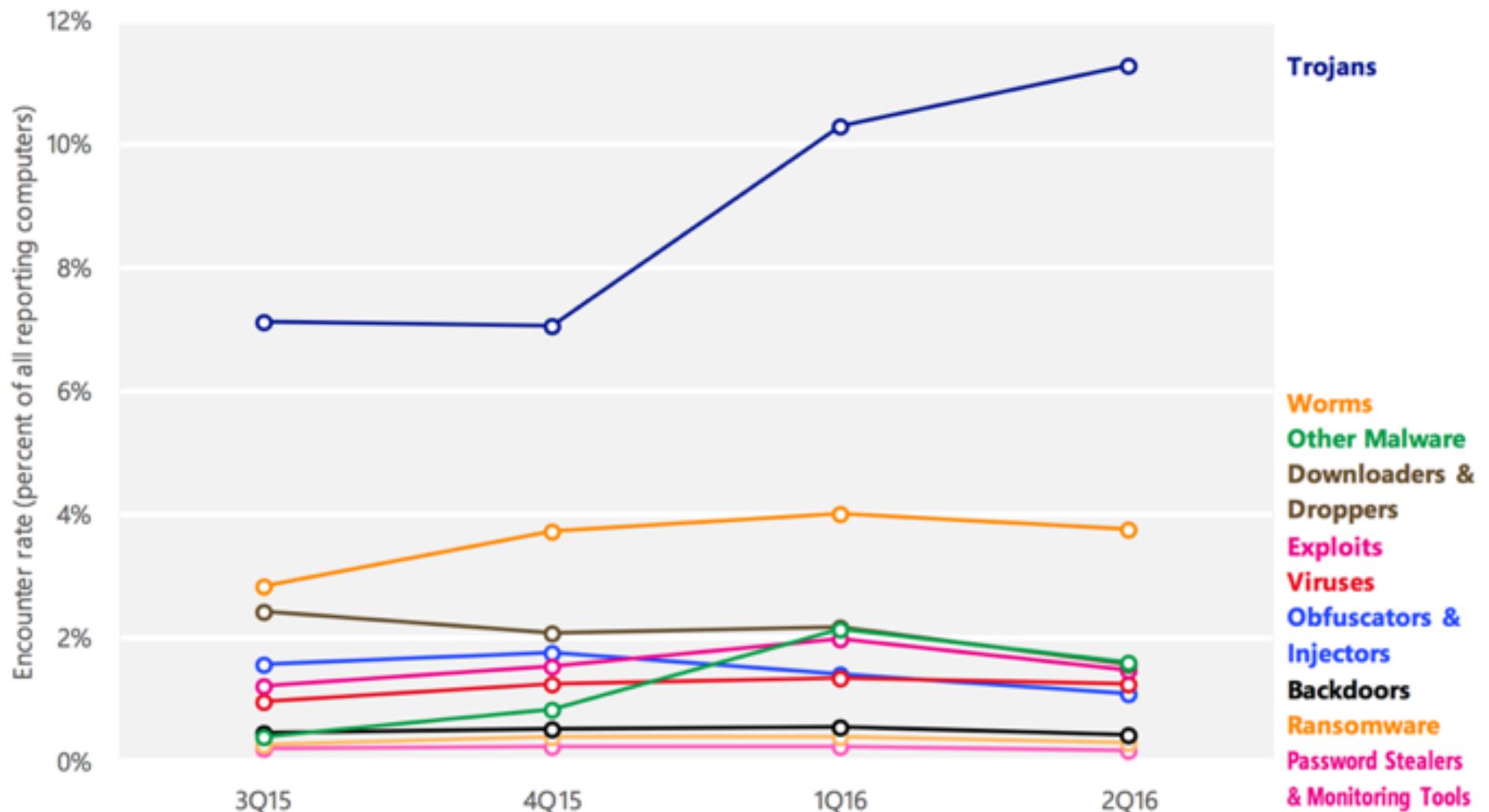


# What can Malware do?

- Pretty much anything
  - Payload generally decoupled from how manages to run
  - Only subject to permissions under which it runs
- Examples:
  - Brag or exhort or extort (pop up a message/display)
  - Trash files (just to be nasty)
  - Damage hardware (Stuxnet?)
  - Launch external activity (spam, click fraud, DoS)
  - Steal information (exfiltrate)
  - Keylogging; screen / audio / camera capture
    - Robbins v. Lower Merion School District
  - Encrypt files (ransomware)
  - Possibly delayed until condition occurs
    - “time bomb” / “logic bomb”

# Malware Prevalence

What are the most common types of malware?



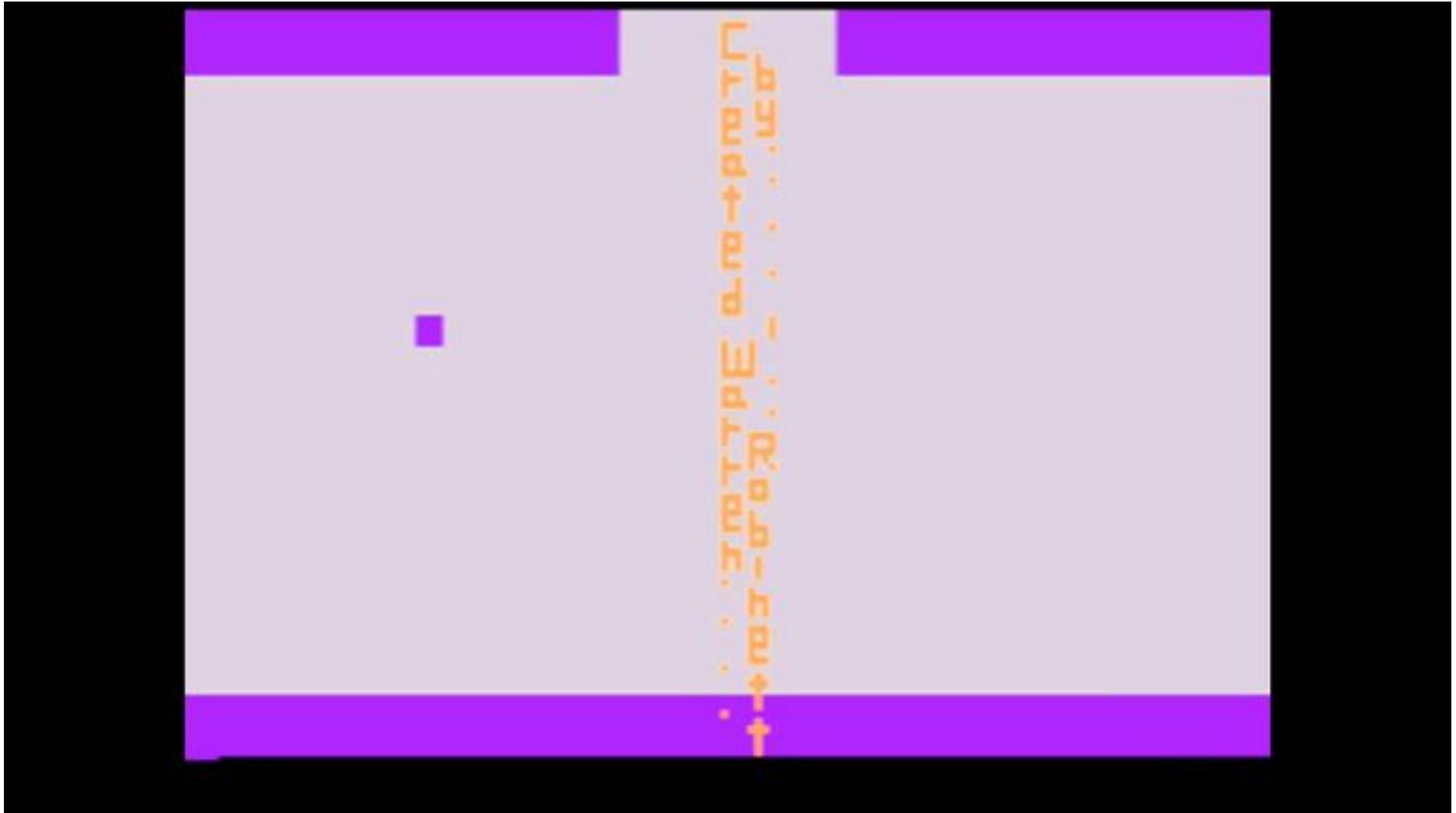


# Backdoors

- A backdoor, which is also sometimes called a trapdoor, is a hidden feature or command in a program that allows a user to perform actions he or she would not normally be allowed to do.
- When used in a normal way, this program performs completely as expected and advertised.
- But if the hidden feature is activated, the program does something unexpected, often in violation of security policies, such as performing a privilege escalation.
- Benign example: Easter Eggs in DVDs and software



# Easter Eggs: Backdoors?



# Adventure (Atari 2600)

# Juniper's Surprising Announcement



- Problem: During an internal code review, two security issues were identified:
  1. Administrative Access (CVE-2015-7755) allows unauthorized remote administrative access to the device. Exploitation of this vulnerability can lead to complete compromise of the affected device.
  2. VPN Decryption (CVE-2015-7756) may allow a knowledgeable attacker who can monitor VPN traffic to decrypt that traffic. It is independent of the first issue.
- Affected devices and firmware:
  - Juniper's Secure Services Gateway firewall/VPN appliances
  - Various revisions of ScreenOS 6.2 and 6.3





# Juniper Backdoor

- Administrative access backdoor:

```

ROM:0013DBE8      STMF0      SP!, {R4-R8,R11,R12,LR,PC}
ROM:0013DBEC      SUB        R11, R12, #4
ROM:0013DBF0      SUB        SP, SP, #0x10
ROM:0013DBF4      MOU        R5, R8
ROM:0013DBF8      MOU        R6, #0
ROM:0013DBFC      MOU        R7, R6
ROM:0013DC00      MOU        R8, R6
ROM:0013DC04      LDR        R3, =dword_1E7FCF0
ROM:0013DC08      LDR        R12, [R3]
ROM:0013DC0C      CMP        R12, R6
ROM:0013DC10      BEQ        loc_13DC54
ROM:0013DC14      ADD        R0, R0, #0x6C
ROM:0013DC18      BL         sub_402438
ROM:0013DC1C      MOU        R4, R0
ROM:0013DC20      ADD        R0, R5, #0x80
ROM:0013DC24      BL         sub_402438
ROM:0013DC28      LDRH       R2, [R5,#0x68]
ROM:0013DC2C      ADD        R3, R5, #4
ROM:0013DC30      STR        R4, [SP,#0x30+var_30]
ROM:0013DC34      STR        R0, [SP,#0x30+var_2C]
ROM:0013DC38      LDRH       R12, [R5,#0x94]
ROM:0013DC3C      STR        R12, [SP,#0x30+var_28]
ROM:0013DC40      LDRH       R12, [R5,#0x96]
ROM:0013DC44      STR        R12, [SP,#0x30+var_24]
ROM:0013DC48      LDR        R0, =aSctUUUnSSipSDip ; ">>> %s(ct=%u, un='%s', :
ROM:0013DC4C      LDR        R1, =aAuth_admin_int ; "auth_admin_internal"
ROM:0013DC50      BL         sub_558810
ROM:0013DC54      ROM:0013DC54 loc_13DC54      ; CODE XREF: auth_admin_internal+2C↑j
ROM:0013DC54      ADD        R0, R5, #0x6C
ROM:0013DC58      BL         sub_147224
ROM:0013DC5C      MOU        R0, R0,LSL#16
ROM:0013DC60      MOUNE     R7, #1
ROM:0013DC64      BNE        loc_13DD88
ROM:0013DC68      LDRH       R12, [R5,#0x68]
ROM:0013DC6C      ADD        R12, R12, #0xFF00
ROM:0013DC70      ADD        R12, R12, #0xFE
ROM:0013DC74      MOU        R12, R12,LSL#16
ROM:0013DC78      CMP        R12, #0x200000
ROM:0013DC7C      BHI        loc_13DCB4
ROM:0013DC80      ADD        R4, R5, #4
ROM:0013DC84      MOU        R0, R4
ROM:0013DC88      BL         sub_14141C
ROM:0013DC8C      CMP        R0, #0
ROM:0013DC90      BLE        loc_13DCB4
ROM:0013DC94      MOU        R8, #1

```

Original

```

ROM:0013DBF0      STMF0      SP!, {R4-R8,R11,R12,LR,PC}
ROM:0013DBF4      SUB        R11, R12, #4
ROM:0013DBF8      SUB        SP, SP, #0x10
ROM:0013DBFC      MOU        R5, R8
ROM:0013DC00      MOU        R6, #0
ROM:0013DC04      MOU        R7, R6
ROM:0013DC08      MOU        R8, R6
ROM:0013DC0C      LDR        R3, =dword_1E7FCF0
ROM:0013DC10      LDR        R12, [R3]
ROM:0013DC14      CMP        R12, R6
ROM:0013DC18      BEQ        loc_13DC5C
ROM:0013DC1C      ADD        R0, R0, #0x6C
ROM:0013DC20      BL         sub_402B9C
ROM:0013DC24      MOU        R4, R0
ROM:0013DC28      ADD        R0, R5, #0x80
ROM:0013DC2C      BL         sub_402B9C
ROM:0013DC30      LDRH       R2, [R5,#0x68]
ROM:0013DC34      ADD        R3, R5, #4
ROM:0013DC38      STR        R4, [SP,#0x30+var_30]
ROM:0013DC3C      STR        R0, [SP,#0x30+var_2C]
ROM:0013DC40      LDRH       R12, [R5,#0x94]
ROM:0013DC44      STR        R12, [SP,#0x30+var_28]
ROM:0013DC48      LDRH       R12, [R5,#0x96]
ROM:0013DC50      ROM:0013DC50 loc_13DC5C      ; CODE XREF: auth_admin_internal+2C↑j
ROM:0013DC54      ADD        R0, R5, #0x44
ROM:0013DC58      LDR        R1, =aSUnSu ; "%% %s(un='%s') = %u"
ROM:0013DC60      BL         strcmp
ROM:0013DC64      CMP        R0, #0
ROM:0013DC68      BNE        loc_13DC78
ROM:0013DC70      MOU        R0, #0xFFFFFFFF
ROM:0013DC74      LDHDB      R11, {R4-R8,R11,SP,PC}
ROM:0013DC78      ROM:0013DC78 loc_13DC78      ; CODE XREF: auth_admin_internal+80↑j
ROM:0013DC78      ADD        R0, R5, #0x6C
ROM:0013DC7C      BL         sub_14724C
ROM:0013DC80      MOVS       R0, R0,LSL#16
ROM:0013DC84      MOUNE     R7, #1
ROM:0013DC88      BNE        loc_13DDFC
ROM:0013DC8C      LDRH       R12, [R5,#0x68]
ROM:0013DC90      ADD        R12, R12, #0xFF00

```

Modified

# Dual EC DRBG Timeline



Dual\_EC\_DRBG (Dual Elliptic Curve Deterministic Random Bit Generator) is an algorithm that was presented as a cryptographically secure pseudorandom number generator (CSPRNG) using methods in elliptic curve cryptography.

- Early 2000s: Created by the NSA and pushed towards standardization
- 2004: Published as part of ANSI x9.82 part 3 draft
- 2004: RSA makes Dual EC the default CSPRNG in BSAFE (for \$10MM)
- 2005: Standardized in NIST SP 800-90
- 2007: Shumow and Ferguson demonstrate a theoretical backdoor attack
- 2013: Snowden documents lead to renewed interest in Dual EC
- 2014: Practical attacks on TLS using Dual EC demonstrated
- 2014: NIST removes Dual EC from list of approved PRNGs
- 2016: Practical attacks on IKE using Dual EC (this work)

# Logic Bombs

- A logic bomb is a program that performs a malicious action as a result of a certain logic condition.
- The classic example of a logic bomb is a programmer coding up the software for the payroll system who puts in code that makes the program crash should it ever process two consecutive payrolls without paying him.
- Another classic example combines a logic bomb with a backdoor, where a programmer puts in a logic bomb that will crash the program on a certain date.





# The Omega Engineering Logic Bomb



- An example of a logic bomb that was actually triggered and caused damage is one that programmer Tim Lloyd was convicted of using on his former employer, Omega Engineering Corporation.
- On July 31, 1996, a logic bomb was triggered on the server for Omega Engineering's manufacturing operations, which ultimately cost the company millions of dollars in damages and led to it laying off many of its employees.

## A view into a network attack

Net administrator charged in \$10M "logic bomb" case.

By Ellen Messmer  
Bridgeport, Conn.

In one of the costliest reported acts of computer sabotage, an engineering company next month will prosecute its former network administrator for electronically destroying computer files that the company claims cost it about \$10 million in sales.

Omega Engineering, Inc. is set to go to trial against Timothy Lloyd, the chief network program designer, who the company said planted a LAN-based logic bomb that went off after his job was terminated. The logic bomb wiped

out all the files on the company's Novell, Inc. network-based servers.

What detonated the Omega bomb was not immediately clear.

Security experts said a logic bomb usually is a software program that, once activated by a specific date for example, eats through files or reformats hard drives. The bomber's intent is to hopelessly damage and erase data.

"[Logic bombs] can be as simple as a script that runs a bunch of delete commands," said Chris Byrnes, vice president for servers and systems management strategy

[See Bomb, page 16](#)



# The Omega Bomb Code



- The Logic Behind the Omega Engineering Time Bomb included the following strings:
- 7/30/96
  - Event that triggered the bomb
- F:
  - Focused attention to volume F, which had critical files
- F:\LOGIN\LOGIN 12345
  - Login a fictitious user, 12345 (the back door)
- CD \PUBLIC
  - Moves to the public folder of programs
- FIX.EXE /Y F:\\*.\*
  - Run a program, called FIX, which actually deletes everything
- PURGE F:\ALL
  - Prevent recovery of the deleted files

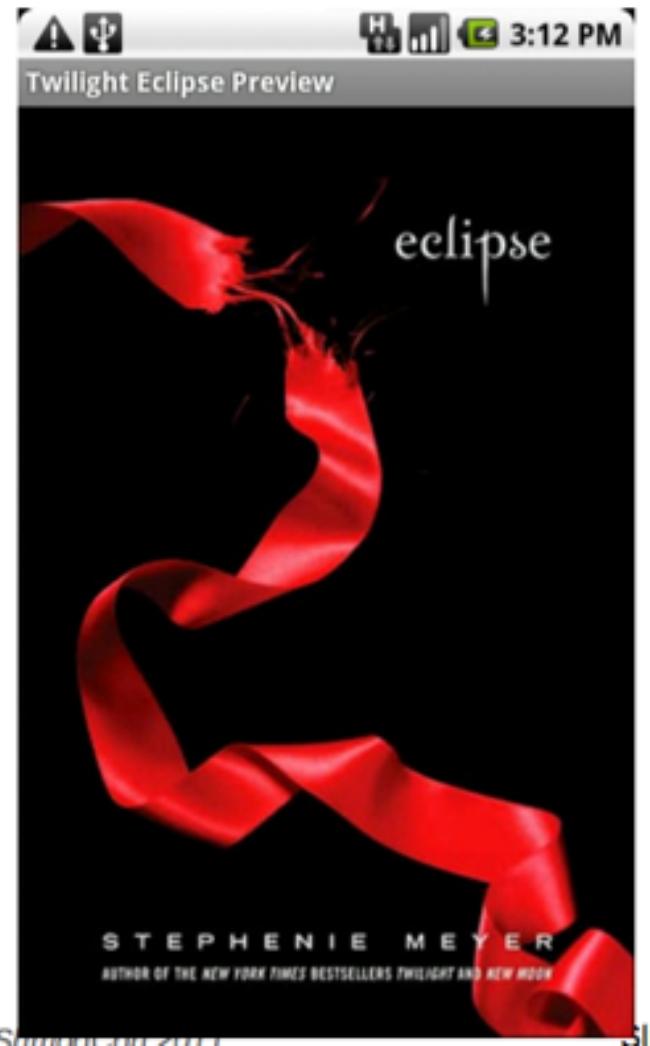
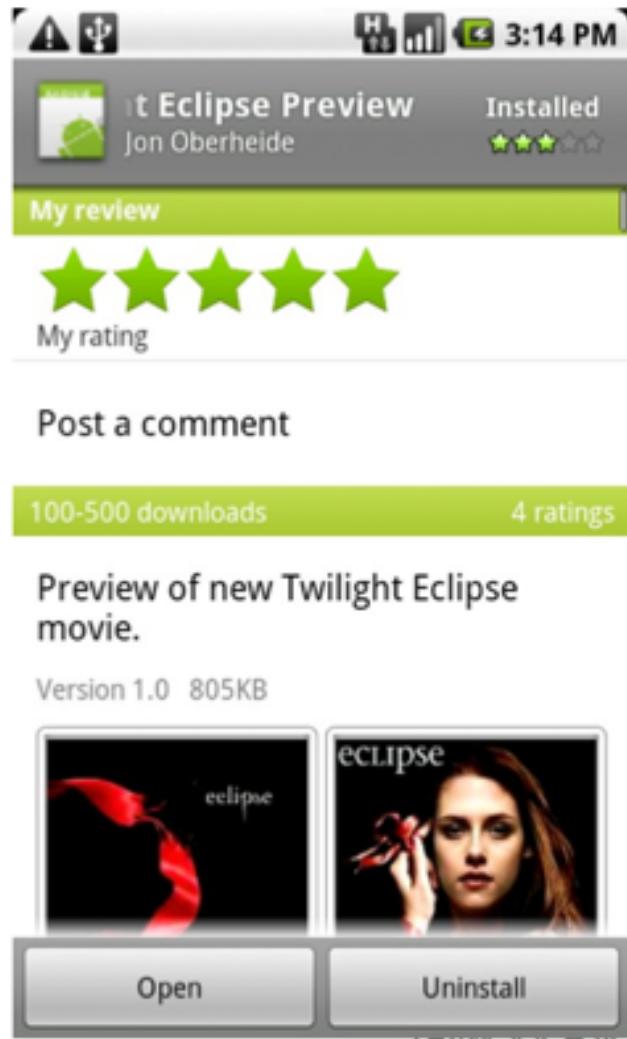
# Trojan Horse

- Software that appears to perform a desirable function but is actually designed to perform undisclosed malicious functions
  - Spyware: installed by legitimate looking programs, then provides remote access to the computer, such as logging keys or sending back documents
  - Adware: shows popup ads
  - Ransomware: encrypts data and requires payment to decrypt





# Android Trojan Horse



# Android Trojan Horse

**Comments**

---

**Andy** 6/16/2010      

Defective

---

**Jaime** 6/16/2010      

Loads but you can't see any other photos

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[Read all comments](#)

- Still, 200+ downloads in under 24 hours
- With a legit-looking app/game, you could collect quite an install base for Rootstrap



# Repackaging

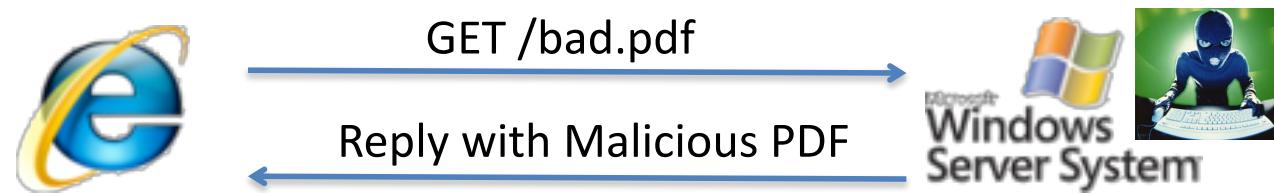
- Repackaging apps is pervasive on 3rd party android markets; trojans are common.

The screenshot shows the Android Market interface. At the top, it says "Android Market" with a green bar below it labeled "Apps by Rovio Mobile Ltd.". There are navigation links for "Apps", "Music", "Books", "Movies", and "My Library", along with a search bar. Below this, there's a link to "Visit Website for Rovio Mobile Ltd." The main area displays a grid of twelve app icons, each with a title, developer name (Rovio Mobile Ltd.), a brief description, and an "INSTALL" button. The apps listed are:

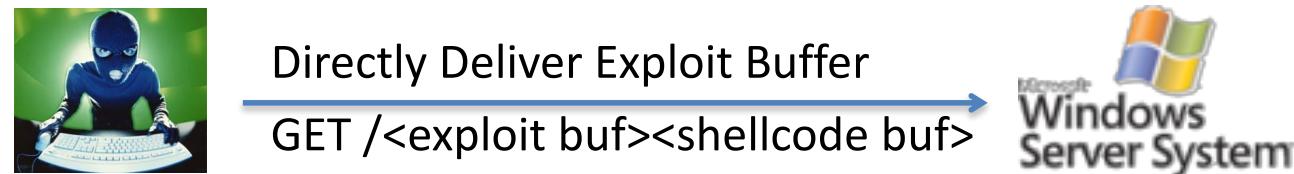
- Angry Chicken
- Very Hungry Cat
- Crazy Penguin Catapult
- Ebloons TD 4
- Jetpack Joyride
- Madden NFL 12
- Catch The Candy
- Touch Grind
- Batman Arkham City Lockdown
- Chuzzle
- Rope N Fly
- Cartoon Wars 2 Heroes

# Code Injection Exploits

- Client software exploit (e.g. PDF, Flash, MSWord, etc.)

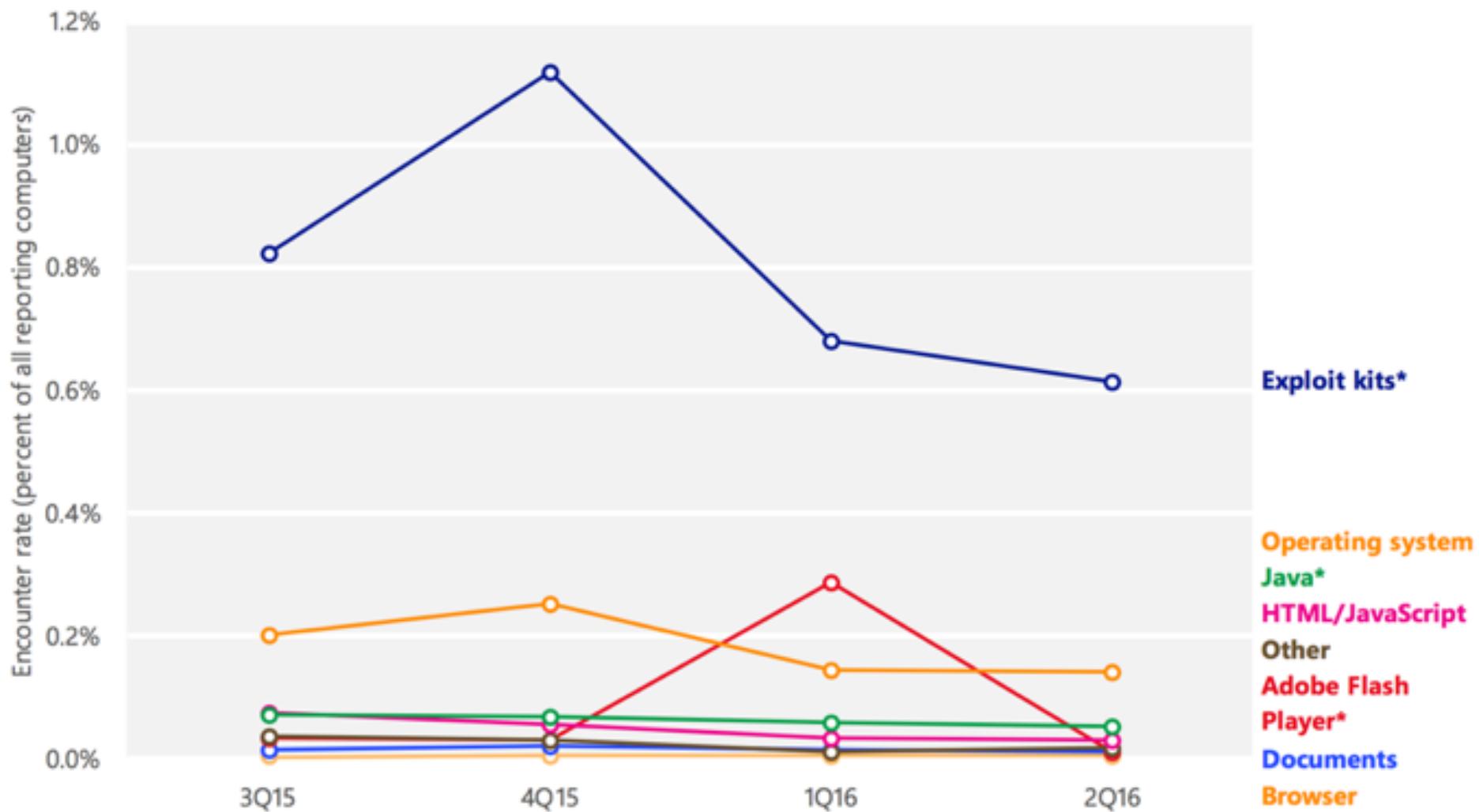


- Network-based exploit (HTTP, File, RPC servers, etc.)



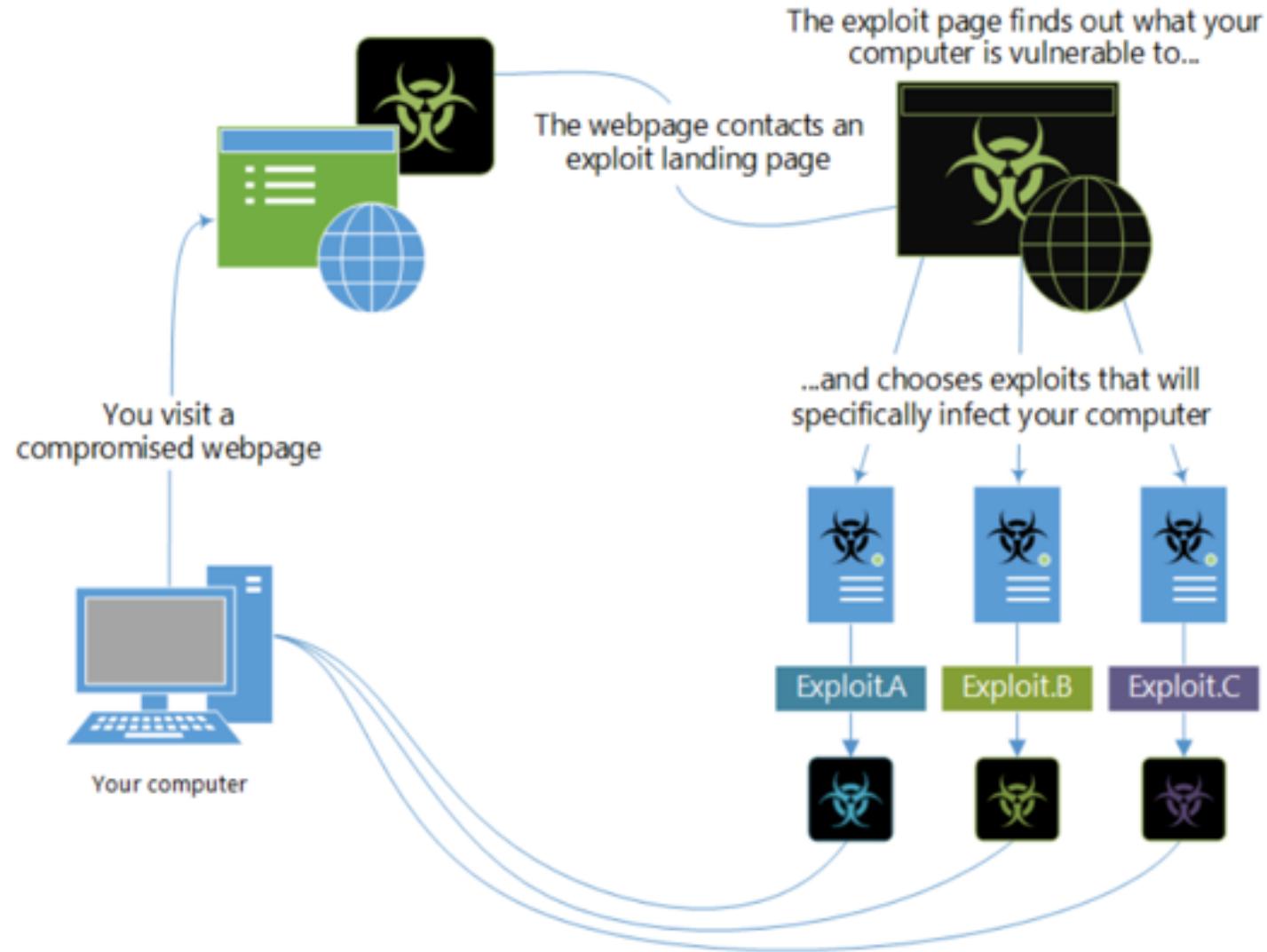
# Code Injection Exploits

What are the vulnerabilities being exploited?



# Exploit Kits

## How a typical exploit kit works:





# Malware that Automatically Propagates

- Virus = code that propagates (**replicates**) across systems by arranging to have itself *eventually executed*, creating anew additional instance
  - Generally infects by altering stored code
  - Typically with the help of a user
- Worm = code that self-propagates/replicates across systems by arranging to have itself *immediately executed* (creating new addl. instance)
  - Generally infects by altering running code
  - No user intervention required
- (Note: line between these isn't always so crisp; plus some malware incorporates both styles)

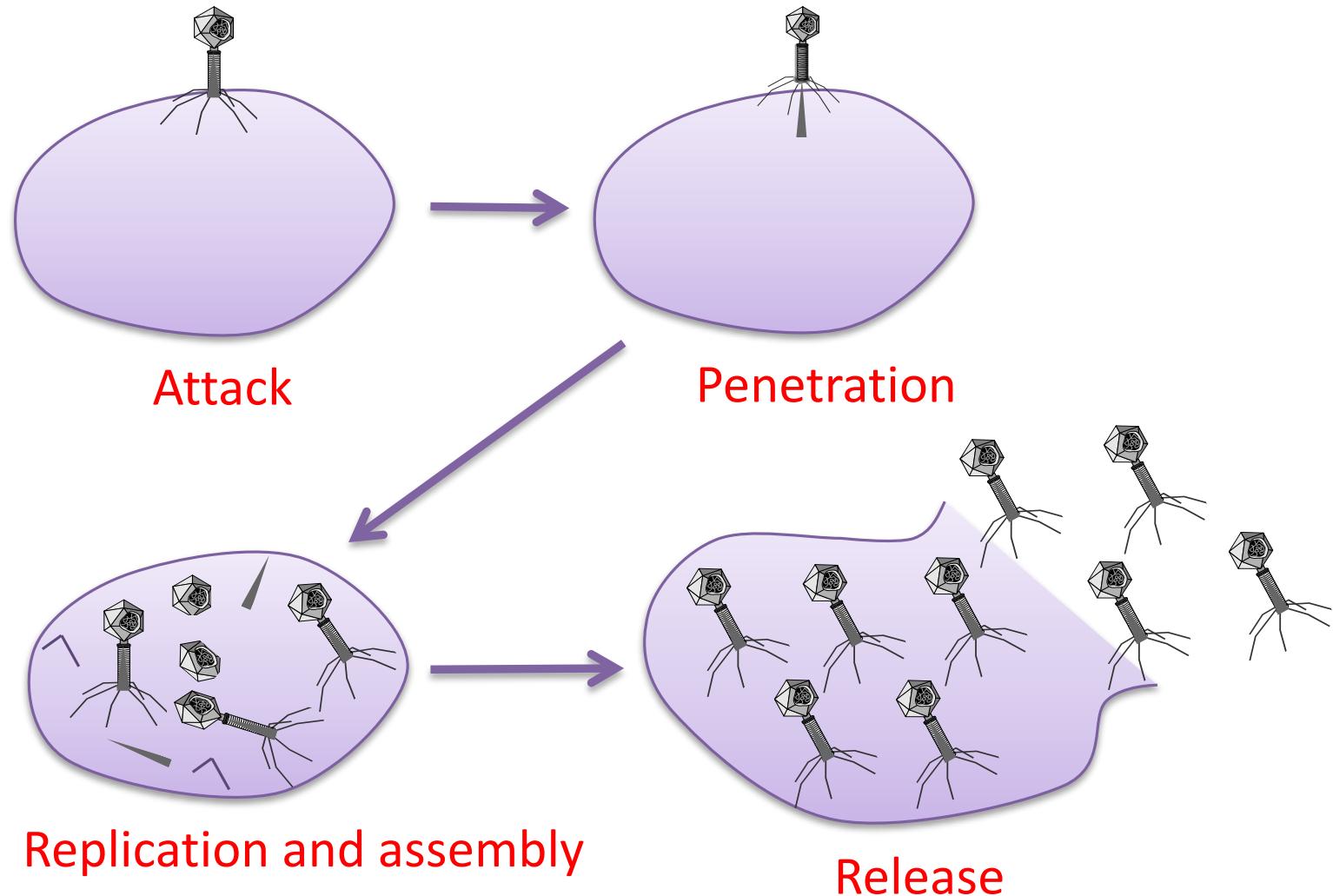


# Computer Viruses

- A **computer virus** is computer code that can replicate itself by modifying other files or programs to insert code that is capable of further replication.
- This self-replication property is what distinguishes computer viruses from other kinds of malware, such as logic bombs.
- Another distinguishing property of a virus is that replication requires some type of **user assistance**, such as clicking on an email attachment or sharing a USB drive.

# Computer Viruses

Computer viruses share some properties with biological viruses:



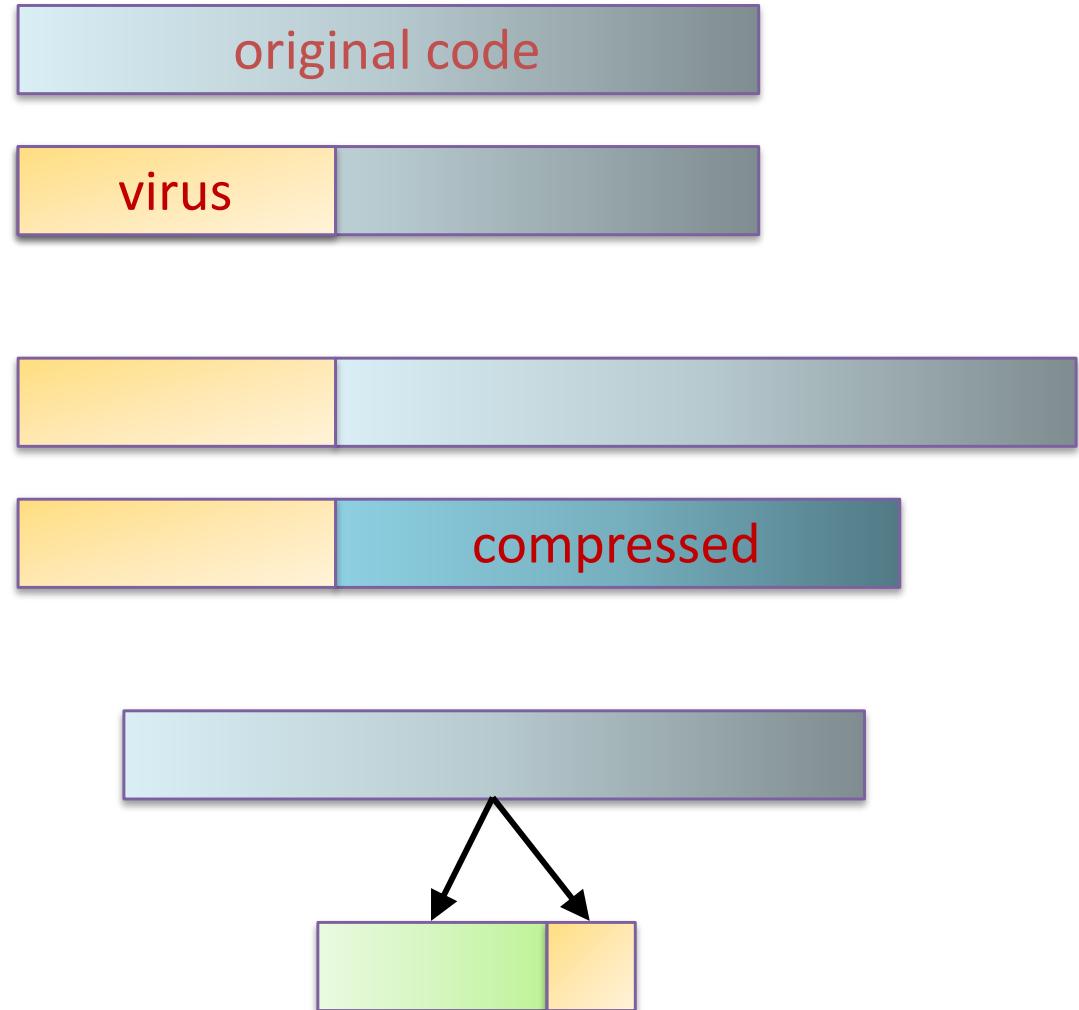


# Virus Phases

- **Dormant phase.** During this phase, the virus just exists—the virus is laying low and avoiding detection.
- **Propagation phase.** During this phase, the virus is replicating itself, infecting new files on new systems.
- **Triggering phase.** In this phase, some logical condition causes the virus to move from a dormant or propagation phase to perform its intended action.
- **Action phase.** In this phase, the virus performs the malicious action that it was designed to perform, called **payload**.
  - This action could include something seemingly innocent, like displaying a silly picture on a computer's screen, or something quite malicious, such as deleting all essential files on the hard drive.

# Infection Types

- Overwriting
  - Destroys original code
- Pre-pending
  - Keeps original code, possibly compressed
- Infection of libraries
  - Allows virus to be memory resident
  - E.g., kernel32.dll
- Macro viruses
  - Infects MS Office documents
  - Often installs in main document template





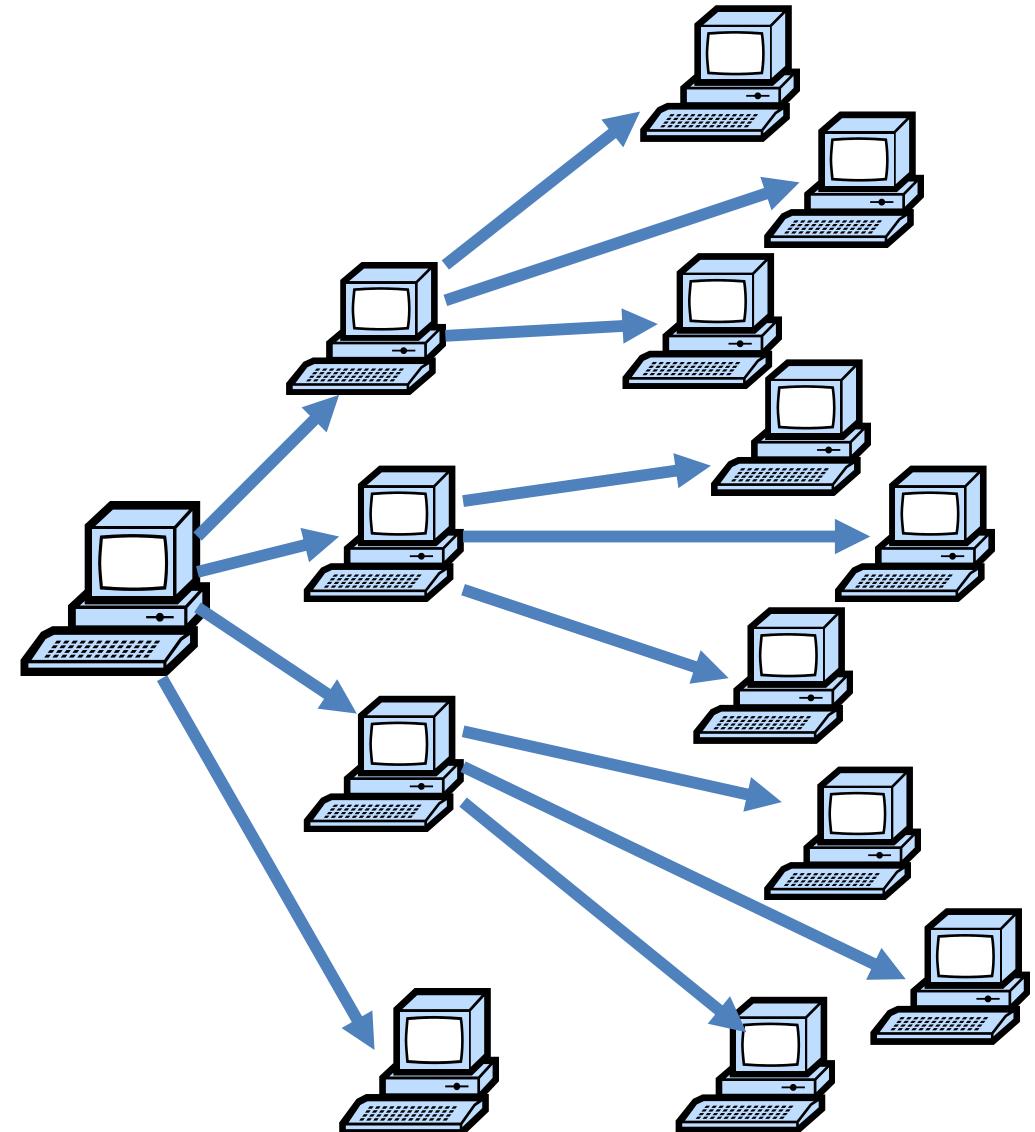
# Worms (Preview)

- A worm is code that self-propagates/replicates across systems by arranging to have itself immediately executed
  - Generally infects machines by altering running code
  - No user intervention required

# Work Propagation

Worms can potentially spread quickly because they parallelize the process of propagating/replicating.

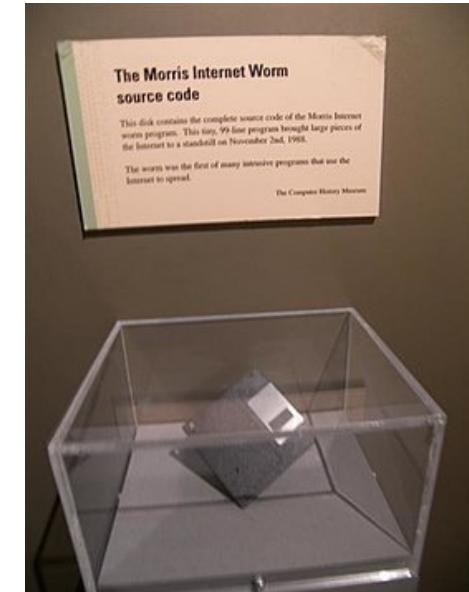
Same holds for viruses, but they often spread more slowly since they require some sort of user action to trigger each propagation.





# Morris Worm

- Used the Internet to infect a large number of machines in 1988
- Three Propagation Vectors
  - sendmail bug
    - default configuration allowed debug access
    - well known for several years, but not fixed
  - fingerd: finger adam@cs
    - fingerd allocated fixed size buffer on stack
    - copied string into buffer without checking length
    - encode virus into string!
  - dictionary attack on weak passwords
  - Used infected machines to find/infect others





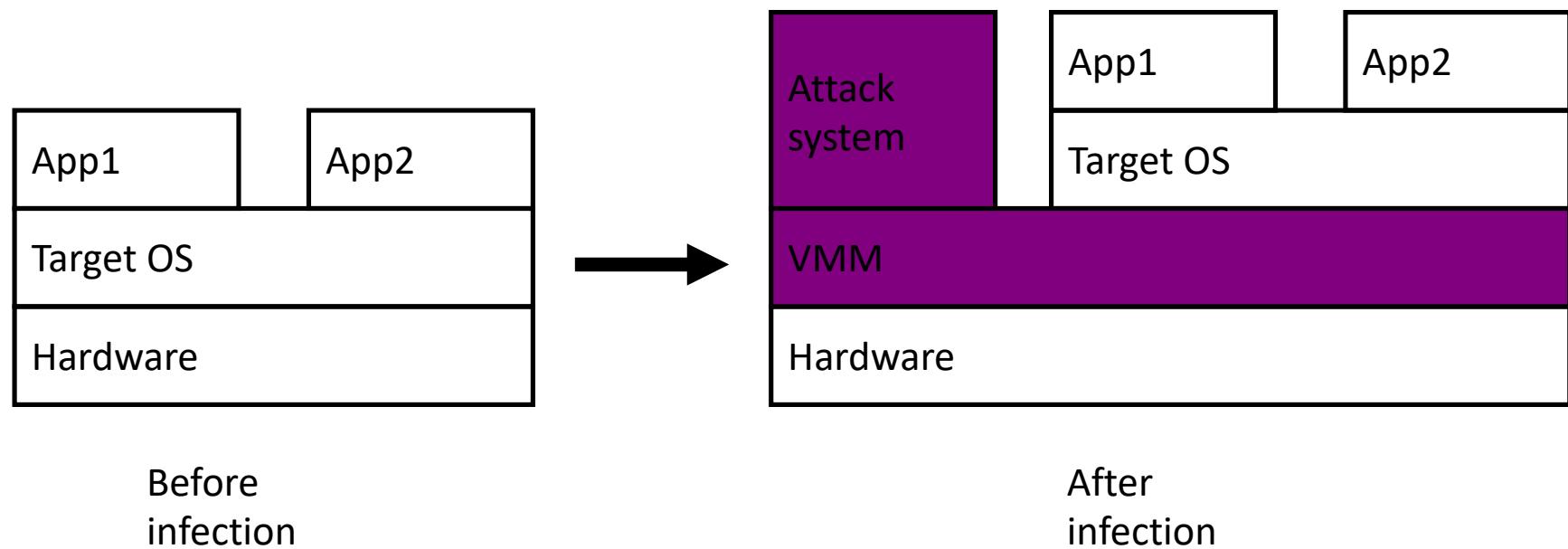
# Rootkits

- A rootkit modifies the operating system to hide its existence
  - E.g., modifies file system exploration utilities
  - Hard to detect using software that relies on the OS itself
- Operation:
  - Intercept system calls for listing files, processes, etc.
  - Filter out malware's files and processes
  - Example: Magic prefix -- \$sys\$filename
  - Diagram:

Applications --> System Call ---> (Rootkit) --> Kernel  
<-- Results --- If call is from rootkit application (e.g. \$sys\$rootkit.exe), don't filter!
- RootkitRevealer
  - By Bryce Cogswell and Mark Russinovich (Sysinternals)
  - Two scans of file system
  - **High-level scan** using the Windows API
  - **Raw scan** using disk access methods
  - Discrepancy reveals presence of rootkit
  - Could be defeated by rootkit that intercepts and modifies results of raw scan operations

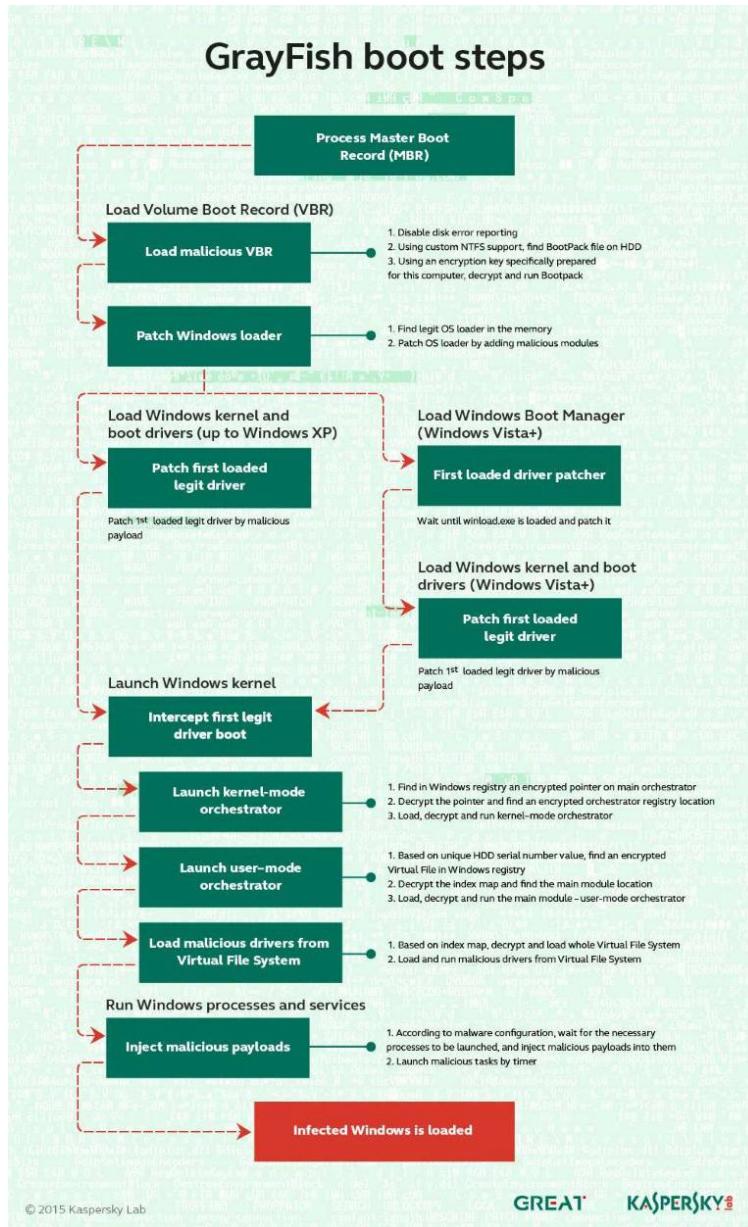


# Virtual Machine Based Rootkits





# Equation Group Rootkits



© 2015 Kaspersky Lab

GREAT KASPERSKY

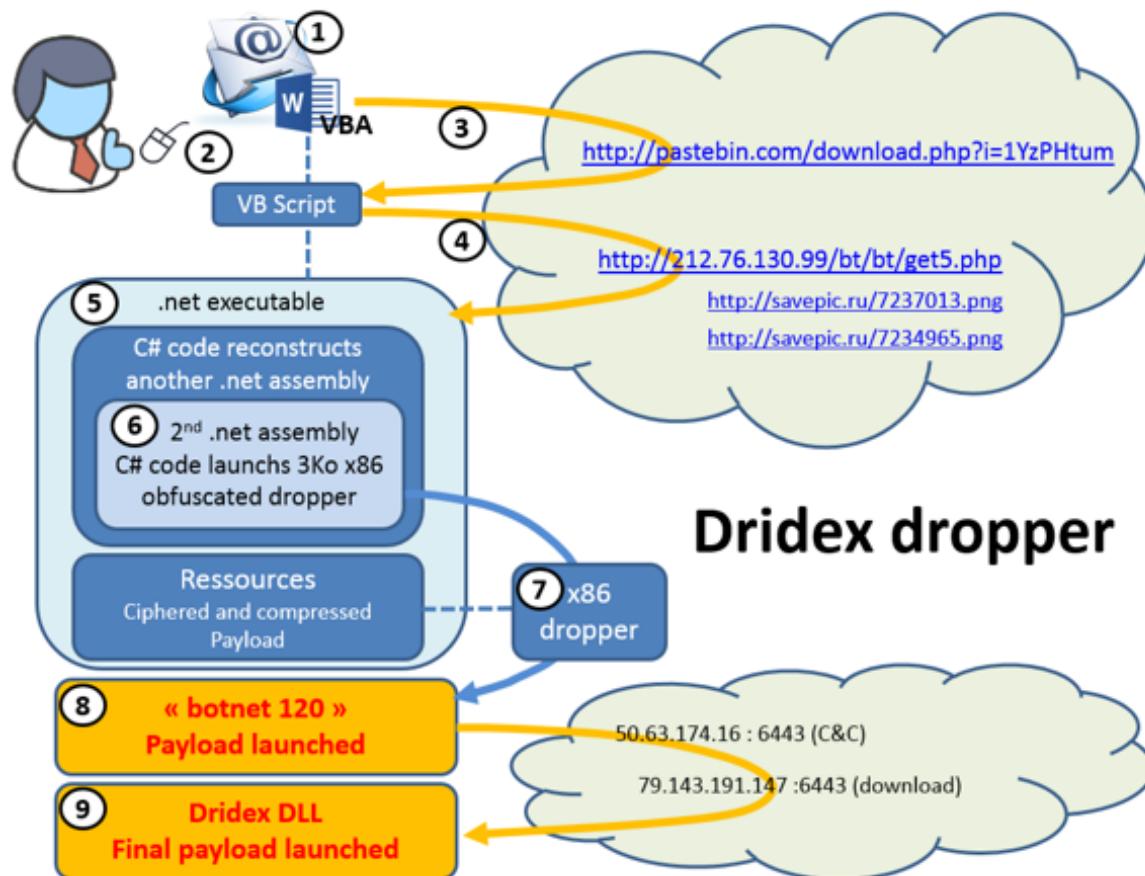


# Ransomware



# Droppers

Method of exploit and malware are often fully decoupled:



Facilitates black market economy, exploit-as-a-service.



# Keylogging and Password Stealing

blink182, asdfasdf, startrek, password, nintendo, athur  
cocacola, ilovegod, footballi, emanuel, danielle, bill  
http://77.81.229.38/p/gate.php, YUIPWDFILE0YUIPKDFILE0Y  
CryptAcquireCertificatePrivateKey, MsicGetComponentPath  
";g=0, Content-Length: N/a, Content-Encoding: binary, U  
Software\Far\Plugins\FTP\Hosts, Software\Far2\Plugins\F  
Software\Far\SavedDialogHistory\FTPHost, Software\Far2\  
Manager\SavedDialogHistory\FTPHost, wcx\_ftp.ini, \GHISL  
Software\Ghisler\Total Commander, \Ipswitch, \Ipswitch\  
Home\QCToolbar, Software\GlobalSCAPE\CuteFTP 6 Professi  
Software\GlobalSCAPE\CuteFTP 7 Professional\QCToolbar,  
Software\GlobalSCAPE\CuteFTP 8 Professional\QCToolbar,  
Lite, \CuteFTP, Software\FlashFXP\3, Software\FlashFXP,  
\Sites.dat, \Quick.dat, \History.dat, \FlashFXP\3, \Fla  
\filezilla.xml, Software\FileZilla Client, Install\_Dir,  
Server.Port, ServerType, Last Server Host, Last Server  
Type, FTP Navigator, FTP Commander, \BulletProof Softwa  
Software\BulletProof FTP Client\Main, Software\BPFTP\Bu  
Favorites.dat, History.dat, addrbk.dat, quick.dat, \Tur  
CredentialCheck, Software\Sota\FFFTP\Options, HostAdrs,  
Software\FTPhare\COREFTP\Sites, profiles.xml, Software\  
Explorer\Profiles, PasswordType, InitialPath, FtpSite.x  
Software\VanDyke\SecureFX, UltraFXP, \sites.xml, \FTP Ru  
bitkinex.ds, Software\ExpanDrive\Sessions, \ExpanDrive,  
\_Password, Software\NCH Software\ClassicFTP\FTPAccounts  
Software\Fling\Accounts, Software\FTPClient\Sites, Soft  
\SharedSettings.ccs, \SharedSettings.sqlite, \SharedSet  
sites.ini, \Leapware\LeapFTP, SOFTWARE\Leapware, Remote  
NDSites.ini, \NetDrive, RootDirectory, Software\South\_R  
\_Software\Opera Software, Last Directory3, Last Install  
wiseftp.ini, FTPVoyager.ftp, FTPVoyager.qc, \RhinoSoft.  
prefs.js, signons.txt, signons2.txt, signons3.txt, SELE  
SeaMonkey, \Mozilla\SeaMonkey\, \Flock\Browser\, \Mozil  
Favorites.dat, sites.db, servers.xml, \FTPGetter, ESTdb  
Passwords, http://www.facebook.com/, Microsoft\_winInet  
\_nd\weburl, SiteServer\_Nd\Remote Directory, SiteServer\_N  
DeLuxeFTP, sites.xml, Login Data, () CONSTRAINT, \Googl  
\Bronium, \Nichrome, \RockMelt, K-Meleon, \K-Meleon, \E  
site.dat, LastPassword, LastAddress, LastUser, LastPort  
FTP++, Link\shell\open\command, Connections.txt, sites.i  
full address:::, .TERMSRV, sites.xml, SOFTWARE\Robo-FT  
InitialDirectory, ServerType, Software\LiniasFTP\Site Ma  
NppFTP.xml, \Notepad++, Software\CoffeeCup Software, FT  
destination port, FTP destination catalog, FTP profiles  
ServerList.xml, NexusFile, ftpsite.ini, FastStone Brow  
Computing\WinZip\FTP, Software\Nico Mak Computing\Winzi  
NovaFTP.db, \INSoftware\NovaFTP, .oeaccount, <POP3\_Pass  
\Microsoft\Windows Live Mail, Software\Microsoft\Window  
Software\RimArts\B2\Settings, DataDirBak, Mailbox.ini,  
\Poconail, Software\IncrediMail, Technology, PopServer,  
account.cfg, account.cfn, \BatNail, \The Bat!, Software\K1\The Bat!, working directory, ProgramDir, SMTP Email Address, SMTP  
Server, SMTP User Name, NNTP Email Address, NNTP User Name, NNTP Server, IMAP Server, HTTP User, HTTP Server URL, IMAP User,  
HTTPMail Server, SMTP User, POP3 Port, SMTP Port, IMAP Port, IMAP Password2, NNTP Password2, SMTP Password2, POP3 Password, IMAP  
Password, NNTP Password, HTTP Password, SMTP Password, Identities, Software\Microsoft\Office\Outlook\ONI Account  
Manager\Accounts, \Accounts, identification, identitymgr, inetcomm server passwords, outlook account manager passwords,  
identities, Thunderbird, \Thunderbird, FastTrack, Client Hash, STATUS-IMPORT-OK, YCreateToolhelp32Snapshot, CoTaskMemFree,  
yInternetCrackUrlA, {InternetCreateUrlA, 6inet\_addr, "gethostbyname, "connect, &closesocket, Gsetsockopt, !NSAStartup,  
alnloadUserProfile

## Logged Passwords List

Title: MSN Messenger

Time: Wednesday, 07-30-2003 17:47:06

UserName: William\_21492@hotmail.com Password: pass21492

Title: Yahoo! Messenger

Time: Wednesday, 07-30-2003 17:48:02

UserName: jerry83 Password: malibuca

Title: Yahoo! Mail - The best free web-based email! - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Time: Wednesday, 07-30-2003 17:53:

keystrokes:

jerry83

malibuca

yes you are right, hope you consider

Title: America Online

Time: Wednesday, 07-30-2003 17:58:

UserName: JAMES Password: purple

## Remote Password Stealer 2.7 Full



[Passwords Stealer](#)

Uninstall

Typed

`ctrl>+8 <alt>+<ctrl>+8`

View PWs

E-mail

fly@anywhere.com

Test Email

Clear Log

Exit

Hide

OK



# Botnets (Preview)

- Collection of compromised machines (bots) under (unified) control of an attacker (botmaster)
- Method of compromise decoupled from method of control
  - Launch a worm / virus / drive-by infection / etc.
- Upon infection, new bot “*phones home*” to rendezvous w/ botnet *command-and-control (C&C)*
- Lots of ways to architect C&C:
  - Star topology; hierarchical; peer-to-peer
  - Encrypted/stealthy communication
- Botmaster uses C&C to push out commands and updates



# Example C&C Messages

1. Activation (report from bot to botmaster)
2. Email address harvests
3. Spamming instructions
4. Delivery reports
5. DDoS instructions
6. *FastFlux* instructions (rapidly changing DNS)
7. HTTP proxy instructions
8. Sniffed passwords report
9. IFRAME injection/report

From the “Storm”  
botnet circa 2008

# Potentially Unwanted Programs (PUPs)



- Legitimate technologies such as commercial, shareware, freeware, or open source products may provide a value or benefit to a user
  - Notification
  - Consent
  - Control
- Distribution
- Installation
- Run-Time Behaviors
- Uninstall





# Potentially Unwanted Programs (PUPs)

- Legitimate free versions of software can be bundled with unwanted programs
  - No legitimate purpose
  - Can be bundled with other software
  - Can be distributed via advertisements
  - Installed without user consent
  - Run automatically
  - Uninstallable
- 
- 



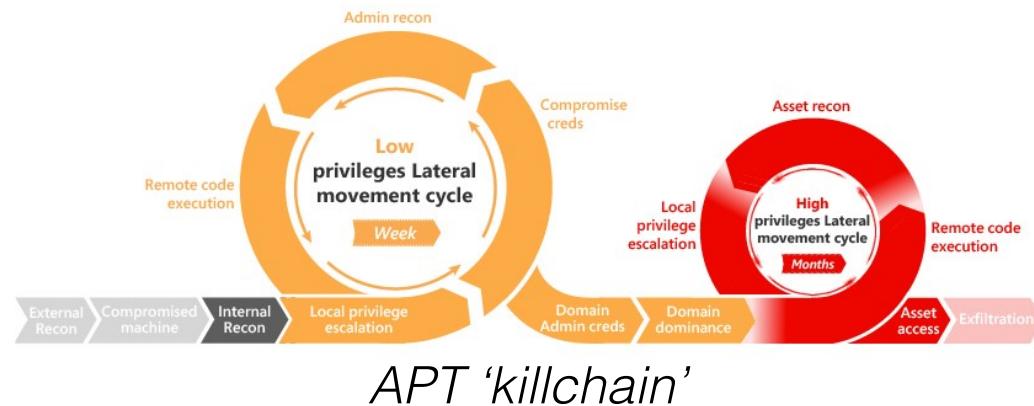
# Adam's take

- Malware is... not always that interesting.
  - Scale is extraordinary, but attacker means are often technically uninteresting
  - Attacker aims are often pretty basic (i.e., \$\$\$)
  - Black market economy analysis is cool, tho...
- *What about the sophisticated attackers? What are they up to?*





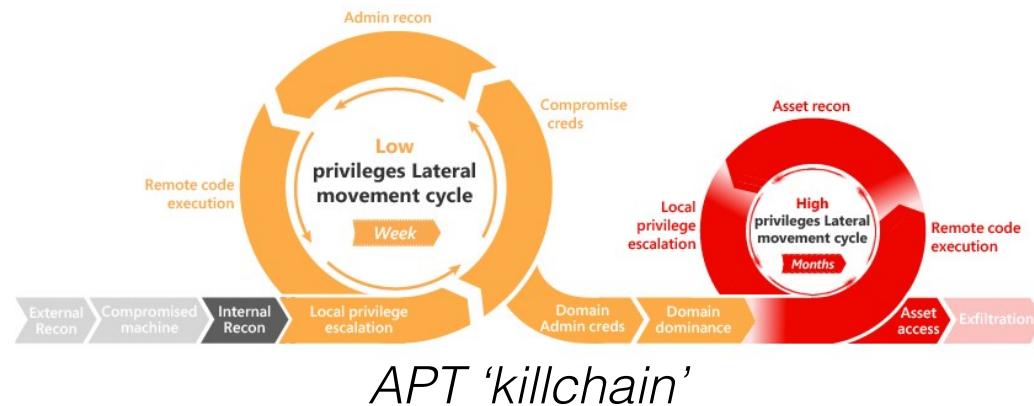
# Advanced Persistent Threats



- APT's leverage enhanced 'malware' toolkits in pursuit of larger strategic objectives
- Advanced — variety of intrusion methods, custom malware (many 0-days), attacks tailored to specific target
- Persistent — attacks target over extended period of time, stealthily takes down layers of defense
- Threat — not a matter of 'if,' but 'when'



# Advanced Persistent Threats



- Goals (e.g.)
  - Steal IP
  - Compromise security infrastructure
  - Damage physical assets
- Techniques (e.g.)
  - *everything*
- Source
  - Often state sponsored; resources effectively limitless.



# MITRE ATT&CK Matrix

APT ‘killchain’ describes tactics; means are limitless:

| Name                 | Description   |
|----------------------|---|
| Initial Access       | The adversary is trying to get into your network.                                   |
| Execution            | The adversary is trying to run malicious code.                                      |
| Persistence          | The adversary is trying to maintain their foothold.                                 |
| Privilege Escalation | The adversary is trying to gain higher-level permissions.                           |
| Defense Evasion      | The adversary is trying to avoid being detected.                                    |
| Credential Access    | The adversary is trying to steal account names and passwords.                       |
| Discovery            | The adversary is trying to figure out your environment.                             |
| Lateral Movement     | The adversary is trying to move through your environment.                           |
| Collection           | The adversary is trying to gather data of interest to their goal.                   |
| Command and Control  | The adversary is trying to communicate with compromised systems to control them.    |
| Exfiltration         | The adversary is trying to steal data.  |
| Impact               | The adversary is trying to manipulate, interrupt, or destroy your systems and data. |

...

<https://attack.mitre.org/>



# MITRE ATT&CK Matrix

APT ‘killchain’ describes tactics; means are limitless:

| Initial Access                      | Execution                         | Persistence                            | Privilege Escalation                   | Defense Evasion                         | Credential Access                      | Discovery                              | Lateral Movement                    | Collection                         | Command and Control                   | Exfiltration                                  | Impact                        |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Drive-by Compromise                 | AppleScript                       | .bash_profile and bashrc               | Access Token Manipulation              | Access Token Manipulation               | Account Manipulation                   | Account Discovery                      | AppleScript                         | Audio Capture                      | Commonly Used Port                    | Automated Exfiltration                        | Data Destruction              |
| Exploit Public-Facing Application   | CMSTP                             | Accessibility Features                 | Accessibility Features                 | Binary Padding                          | Bash History                           | Application Window Discovery           | Application Deployment Software     | Automated Collection               | Communication Through Removable Media | Data Compressed                               | Data Encrypted for Impact     |
| External Remote Services            | Command-Line Interface            | Account Manipulation                   | AppCert DLLs                           | BITS Jobs                               | Brute Force                            | Browser Bookmark Discovery             | Distributed Component Object Model  | Clipboard Data                     | Connection Proxy                      | Data Encrypted                                | Defacement                    |
| Hardware Additions                  | Compiled HTML File                | AppCert DLLs                           | AppInit DLLs                           | Bypass User Account Control             | Credential Dumping                     | Domain Trust Discovery                 | Exploitation of Remote Services     | Data from Information Repositories | Custom Command and Control Protocol   | Data Transfer Size Limits                     | Disk Content Wipe             |
| Replication Through Removable Media | Control Panel Items               | AppInit DLLs                           | Application Shimming                   | Clear Command History                   | Credentials in Files                   | File and Directory Discovery           | Logon Scripts                       | Data from Local System             | Custom Cryptographic Protocol         | Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol        | Disk Structure Wipe           |
| Spearphishing Attachment            | Dynamic Data Exchange             | Application Shimming                   | Bypass User Account Control            | CMSTP                                   | Credentials in Registry                | Network Service Scanning               | Pass the Hash                       | Data from Network Shared Drive     | Data Encoding                         | Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel | Endpoint Denial of Service    |
| Spearphishing Link                  | Execution through API             | Authentication Package                 | DLL Search Order Hijacking             | Code Signing                            | Exploitation for Credential Access     | Network Share Discovery                | Pass the Ticket                     | Data from Removable Media          | Data Obfuscation                      | Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium        | Firmware Corruption           |
| Spearphishing via Service           | Execution through Module Load     | BITS Jobs                              | Dylib Hijacking                        | Compile After Delivery                  | Forced Authentication                  | Network Sniffing                       | Remote Desktop Protocol             | Data Staged                        | Domain Fronting                       | Exfiltration Over Physical Medium             | Inhibit System Recovery       |
| Supply Chain Compromise             | Exploitation for Client Execution | Bootkit                                | Exploitation for Privilege Escalation  | Compiled HTML File                      | Hooking                                | Password Policy Discovery              | Remote File Copy                    | Email Collection                   | Domain Generation Algorithms          | Scheduled Transfer                            | Network Denial of Service     |
| Trusted Relationship                | Graphical User Interface          | Browser Extensions                     | Extra Window Memory Injection          | Component Firmware                      | Input Capture                          | Peripheral Device Discovery            | Remote Services                     | Input Capture                      | Fallback Channels                     |   | Resource Hijacking            |
| Valid Accounts                      | InstallUtil                       | Change Default File Association        | File System Permissions Weakness       | Component Object Model Hijacking        | Input Prompt                           | Permission Groups Discovery            | Replication Through Removable Media | Man in the Browser                 | Multi-hop Proxy                       |   | Runtime Data Manipulation     |
|                                     | Launchctl                         | Component Firmware                     | Hooking                                | Control Panel Items                     | Kerberoasting                          | Process Discovery                      | Shared Webroot                      | Screen Capture                     | Multi-Stage Channels                  |   | Service Stop                  |
|                                     | Local Job Scheduling              | Component Object Model Hijacking       | Image File Execution Options Injection | DCShadow                                | Keychain                               | Query Registry                         | SSH Hijacking                       | Video Capture                      | Multiband Communication               |   | Stored Data Manipulation      |
|                                     | LSASS Driver                      | Create Account                         | Launch Daemon                          | Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information | LLMNR/NBT-NS Poisoning and Relay       | Remote System Discovery                | Taint Shared Content                |                                    | Multilayer Encryption                 |   | Transmitted Data Manipulation |
|                                     | Mehta                             | DLL Search Order Hijacking             | New Service                            | Disabling Security Tools                | Network Sniffing                       | Security Software Discovery            | Third-party Software                |                                    |                                       | Port Knocking                                 |                               |
|                                     | PowerShell                        | Dylib Hijacking                        | Path Interception                      | DLL Search Order Hijacking              | Password Filter DLL                    | System Information Discovery           | Windows Admin Shares                |                                    |                                       | Remote Access Tools                           |                               |
|                                     | Regsvcs/Regasm                    | External Remote Services               | Plist Modification                     | DLL Side-Loading                        | Private Keys                           | System Network Configuration Discovery | Windows Remote Management           |                                    |                                       | Remote File Copy                              |                               |
|                                     | Regev32                           | File System Permissions Weakness       | Port Monitors                          | Execution Guardrails                    | Securityd Memory                       | System Network Connections Discovery   |                                     |                                    |                                       | Standard Application Layer Protocol           |                               |
|                                     | Rundll32                          | Hidden Files and Directories           | Process Injection                      | Exploitation for Defense Evasion        | Two-Factor Authentication Interception | System Owner/User Discovery            |                                     |                                    |                                       | Standard Cryptographic Protocol               |                               |
|                                     | Scheduled Task                    | Hooking                                | Scheduled Task                         | Extra Window Memory Injection           |  | System Service Discovery               |                                     |                                    |                                       | Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol       |                               |
|                                     | Scripting                         | Hypervisor                             | Service Registry Permissions Weakness  | File Deletion                           |  | System Time Discovery                  |                                     |                                    |                                       | Uncommonly Used Port                          |                               |
|                                     | Service Execution                 | Image File Execution Options Injection | Setuid and Setgid                      | File Permissions Modification           |  | Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion         |                                     |                                    |                                       | Web Service                                   |                               |

...

<https://attack.mitre.org/>



# Stuxnet

- Initially spread by infected USB flash drives
- Worm spreads quickly through Windows networks
- From Windows machine, attacked specific microcontrollers
- Incorporated 4 0-day exploits!
- Speculation: a US/Israel collaboration to target Iran
  - Reportedly ruined 1/5 of Iran's nuclear centrifuges
- Read more here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuxnet>



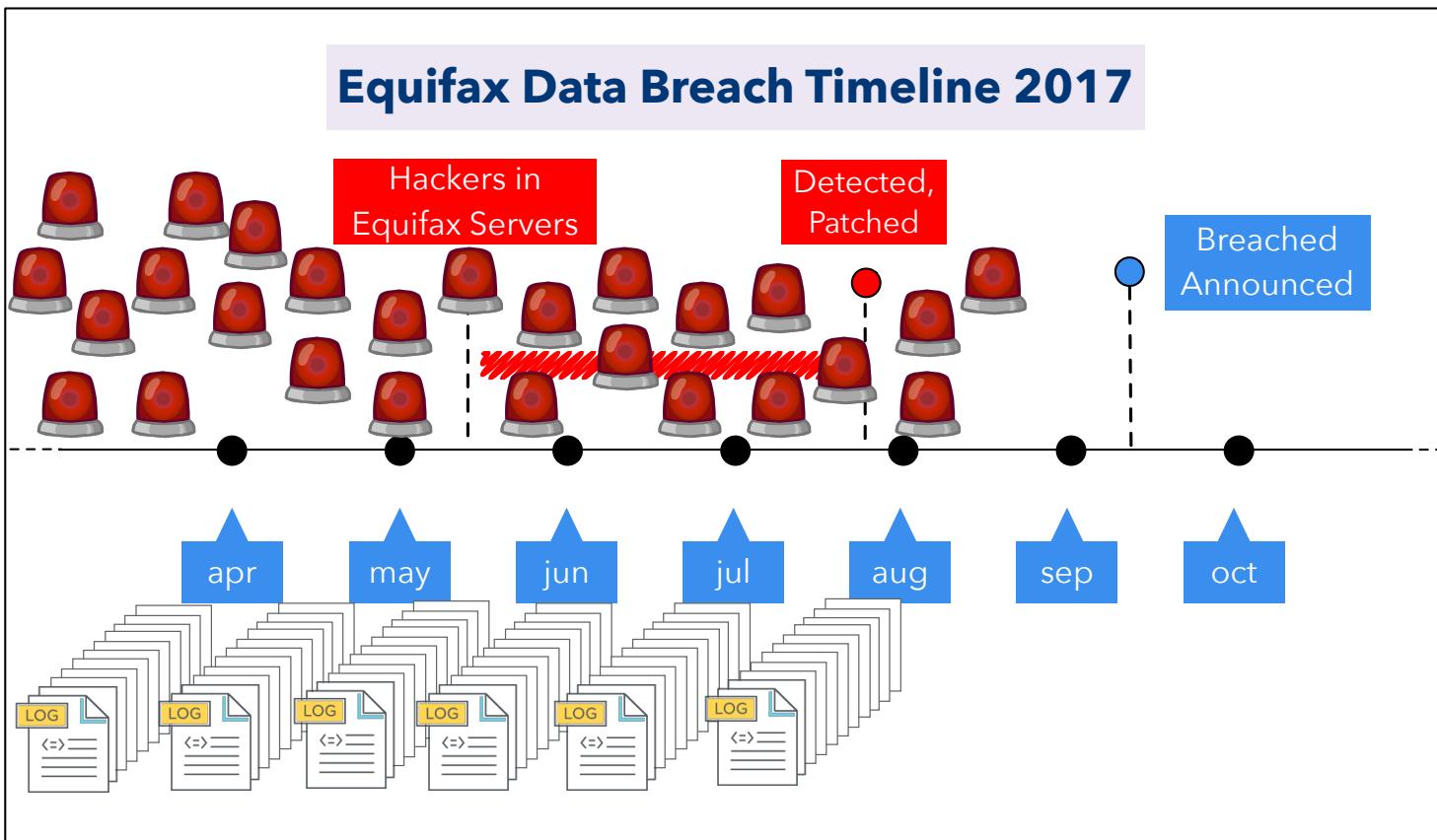
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# Advanced Persistent Threats

## Q: Why are we so bad at thwarting system intrusions?



- Tens of thousands of alerts per week!
- 60-80% are false alarms!
- 10-40 minutes is required to investigate 1 alert!
- More than 70% of alerts are ignored!

*How do I tell  
if we're really  
under attack??*





# To Learn More...

- Books
  - Stallings and Brown, Chapter 6
  - Pfleeger and Pfleeger, Chapter 3
  - Goodrich and Tamassia, Chapter 4
  - Anderson, Chapter 21
  - Easttom, Chapter 5
- Papers
  - Manufacturing Compromise: The Emergence of Exploit-as-a-Service - Grier
  - Abusing File Processing in Malware Detectors for Fun and Profit - Jana