



Protect what you value.

Patching. Is it always with the best intentions?

Alex Hinchliffe

Virus researcher, McAfee Avert Labs

```
PUSH d9838c5c.00040300A    MOV DWORD PTR DS:[4031D0],EAX
PUSH 1                     PUSH EBX
PUSH 1F                   CALL <JMP.&kernel32.GetModuleHandleA>
CALL <JMP.&kernel32.CreateMutexA> MOV DWORD PTR DS:[4031CC],EAX
TEST EAX,                 PUSH d9838c5c.00040300B
JNZ d9838c                PUSH 6F
PUSH d9838c                PUSH EBX
PUSH 1                     CALL <JMP.&kernel32.FindResourceA>
PUSH EBX                  MOV ECX DS:[4031CC]
CALL <JMP.&kernel32.CreateFileA> ADD ECX DS:[EAX]
PUSH EBX                  PUSH EBX
PUSH 20                   PUSH ECX
PUSH 2                     PUSH EBX
PUSH EBX                  PUSH EBX
PUSH C0000000               PUSH EBX
PUSH d9838c5c.00040300E    PUSH DW_W FIR DS,[4031D0]
CALL <JMP.&kernel32.CreateFileA> CALL <JMP.&kernel32.WriteFile>
PUSH d9838c5c.00040300E    PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[4031D0]
CALL <JMP.&kernel32.CloseHandle> CALL <JMP.&kernel32.CloseHandle>
```

Agenda

- Development
- Good Intentions
- Bad Intentions
- Conclusions
- Remedial
- The future
- Questions



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Protect what you value.

Development

- Boot and Partition sectors
- Companion
- Startup batch and ini files; StartUp folder
- Execution precedence
- Registry
 - Reg run keys
 - Win32 services
 - BHOs
 - ApInit_DLLs
 - Winlogon shell
 - Image File Execution Options
- Autorun INF files
- Patching



Definitions

Patch (computer) *noun.*

A small piece of software that can be added to an existing application in order to make it work properly.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patch_\(computing\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patch_(computing))



Good intentions

- Software updates
- Microsoft Windows Update
- Patch Tuesday
- Exploit Wednesday
- 3rd party updates
 - WindizUpdate
 - AutoPatcher
- 3rd party patches
 - eEye
 - Determina



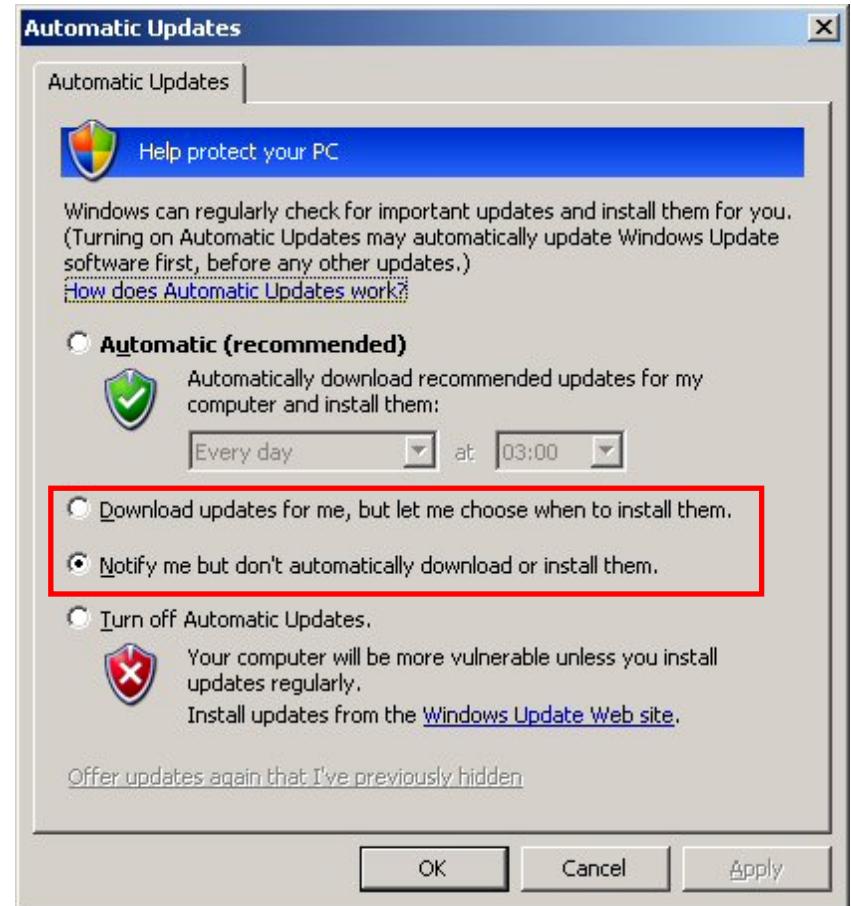
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Good intentions

- Windows Automatic Updates
- Automated levels
- Silent installs



Thursday 13th September:

<http://windowssecrets.com/2007/09/13/01-Microsoft-updates-Windows-without-users-consent>

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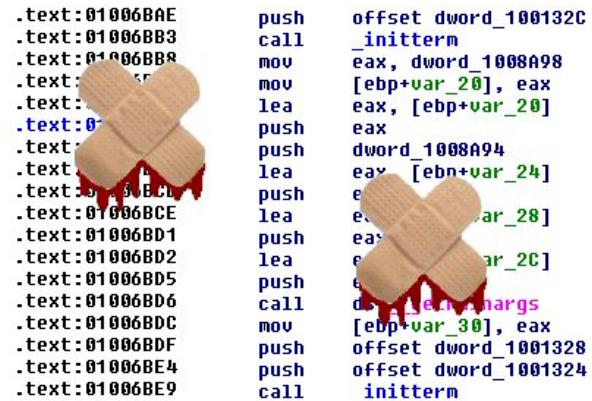
Bad intentions

- 4 examples
- Intentions
 - Data stealing
 - Destructive
- Targets
 - Popular applications / libraries
 - Runners
- Techniques
 - 2 types of import patches
 - 1 EP patch
 - 1 export patch

```

.text:01006BAE    push    offset dword_100132C
.text:01006BB3    call    _initterm
.text:01006BB8    mov     eax, dword_1008A98
.text:01006BC3    mov     [ebp+var_20], eax
.text:01006BC8    lea     eax, [ebp+var_20]
.text:01006BD3    push    eax
.text:01006BD8    push    dword_1008A94
.text:01006BDCE   lea     eax, [ebn+var_24]
.text:01006BDC1   push    eax
.text:01006BD6    lea     eax, [ebp+var_28]
.text:01006BD1    push    eax
.text:01006BD2    lea     eax, [ebp+var_2C]
.text:01006BD5    push    eax
.text:01006BD6    push    call    dword_1008A98
.text:01006BDC    mov     eax, [ebp+var_30]
.text:01006BDF    push    push    offset dword_1001328
.text:01006BE4    push    call    offset dword_1001324
.text:01006BE9    call    _initterm

```




Bad intentions cont ... case study 1

- PWS-Goldun
- Late 2006 / early 2007
- 1 variant
- Patches iexplore.exe
- Modifies imports



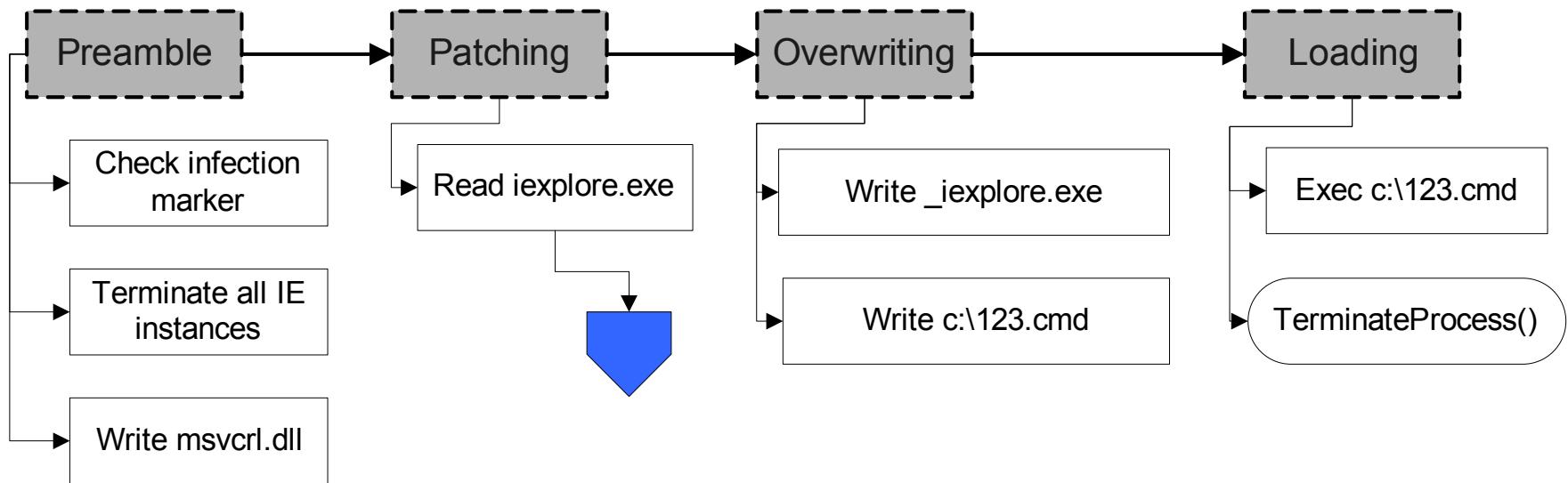
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Bad intentions cont ... PWS-Goldun



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PWS-Goldun – iexplore.exe patching

- Bound import RVA nulled
- Bound import size nulled
- All references of msrvct.dll → msrvcl.dll
- Why msrvct.dll?

c:\ Hiew: IEXPLORE-orig.EXE

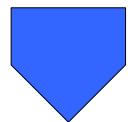
	↓FRO	-----	PE.00400000	Hiew 7.27 <(c)SEN
.00400000:	4D 5A 90 00-03 00 00 00-04 00 00 00-FF FF 00 00	↓ZÉ		♦
.00400010:	B8 00			
.00400020:	00 00			
.00400030:	00 00	237 _except_handler3	msrvct.dll	
.00400040:	0E 1F	253 GetCommandLineA	KERNEL32.dll	-
.00400050:	69 73	412 GetStartupInfoA	KERNEL32.dll	OL=!Th canno

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PWS-Goldun – msrvcl.dll payload

- NSPack packed
- Load msrvcl.dll library
 - _except_handler3
- GetModuleHandle: wininet.dll
 - InternetReadFile, HTTPSendRequestA, HTTPOpenRequestA, InternetConnectA
- GetModuleHandle: dnsapi.dll
 - DNSQuery_W
 - helpershosting.com
- Several threads requesting remote PHP scripts



PWS-Goldun – summary

- Mission
- Glorified downloader
- No registry modification
- No WFP watching



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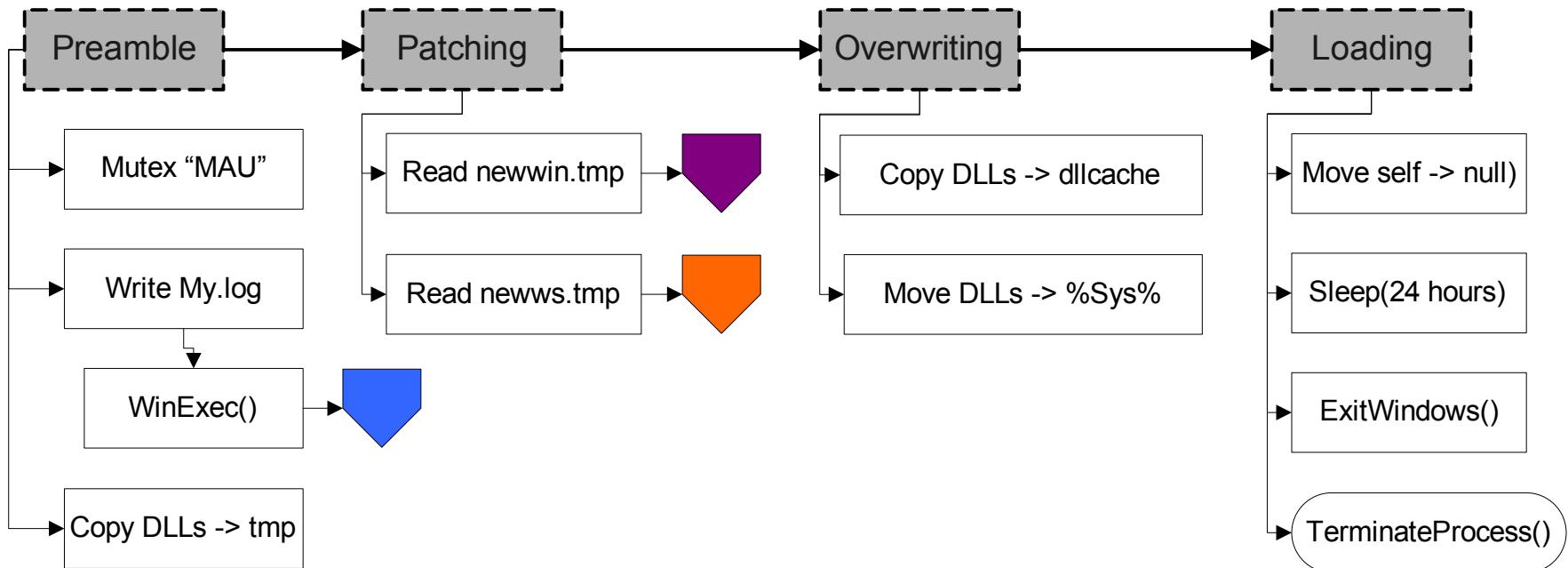
Protect what you value.

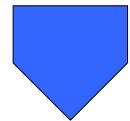
Bad intentions cont ... case study 2

- W32/Alvabrig
- Early 2007
- 3 variants
- Drops WFP-killing component
- Patches wininet.dll
- Patches ws2_32.dll



Bad intentions cont ... W32/Alvabrig





W32/Alvabrig – WFP payload

- My.log
- FSG 1.33 packed
- Enumerates processes for “winlogon.exe”
- OpenProcess (DUP_HANDLE)
- Loops DuplicateHandle (DUPLICATE_SAME_ACCESS)
 - String match for “WIN{NT,DOWS}\SYSTEM32”
- CloseHandle (local)
- DuplicateHandle (DUPLICATE_CLOSE_SOURCE)



W32/Alvabrig – wininet.dll patching



- Increases size of code
- Increases phys size of 1st section
- Increases phys offset of remaining sections
- Writes encrypted (^ 0x37A7B517) data & code into new space
- Loop export table matching function names with “Inte”
 - And (function names + 0xD) with “ctA0”
- InternetConnectA() function hijacked to call malcode

Number	Name	VirtSize	RVA	PhysSize	Offset	Flag
1	.text	000781A0	00001000	00078200	000000400	60000020
2	.data	00005D9C	0007A0000	00002800	00078600	C0000040
3	.rsrc	00011820	000800000	00011A00	0007AE00	40000040
4	.reloc	00004800	00092000	00004800	0008C800	42000040

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W32/Alvabrig – wininet.dll patching cont...

00401162	. 6A 00	PUSH 0	
00401164	. 6A 00	PUSH 0	
00401166	. 6A 00	PUSH 0	
00401168	. 6A 00	PUSH 0	
0040116A	. 6A 00	PUSH 0	
0040116C	. 6A 50	PUSH 50	
0040116E	. 68 E1104000	PUSH Foo.004010E1	
00401173	. 68 F0104000	PUSH Foo.004010F0	
00401178	. FF15 C9104000	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[4010C9]	
76279200	60	PUSHAD	
76279201	33DB	XOR EBX,EBX	
76279203	E8 00000000	CALL wininet.76279208	
76279208	5F	POP EDI	
76279209	8D87 50000000	LEA ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+50]	
7627920F	81C7 61000000	ADD EDI,61	
76279215	391E	CMP DWORD PTR DS:[ESI],EBX	
76279217	75 15	JNZ SHORT wininet.7627922E	
76279219	57	PUSH EDI	
7627921A	BA 17B5A737	MOV EDX,37A7B517	
7627921F	B9 67010000	MOV ECX,167	
76279224	8B07	MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI]	
76279226	33C2	XOR EAX,EDX	
76279228	AB	STOS DWORD PTR ES:[EDI]	
76279229	^E2 F9	LOOPD SHORT wininet.76279224	
7627922B	8906	MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ESI],EAX	
7627922D	5F	POP EDI	
7627922E	8B6C24 28	MOV EBP,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+28]	
76279232	8BCD	MOV ECX,EBP	
76279234	55	PUSH EBP	
76279235	817D 00 70747461	CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP],68747470	
7627923C	75 03	JNZ SHORT wininet.76279241	
7627923E	83C5 07	ADD EBP,7	
76279241	8A45 00	MOV AL,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP]	
76279244	AE	SCAS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI]	
76279245	75 08	JNZ SHORT wininet.7627924F	
76279247	45	INC EBP	
76279248	385D 00	CMP BYTE PTR SS:[EBP],BL	
7627924B	74 11	JE SHORT wininet.7627925E	
7627924D	^EB F2	JMP SHORT wininet.76279241	
7627924F	5D	POP EBP	
76279250	32C0	XOR AL,AL	
76279252	F2:AE	REPNE SCAS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI]	
76279254	3807	CMP BYTE PTR DS:[EDI],AL	
76279256	^75 DC	JNZ SHORT wininet.76279234	
76279258	61	PUFHD	
76279259	^E9 21D9F8FF	JMP wininet.76206B7F	
7627925E	5D	POP EBP	
7627925F	61	POPAD	
76279260	33C0	XOR EAX,EAX	

FASM test app

ASCII "www.google.com"

start of patched malcode

ESI = start of encrypted data

patched
InternetConnectA()

EDX = xor key
ECX = counter
EAX = each DWORD to decrypt

decryption loop

EDI = nth array element
EBP = requested URL www.google.com

foo.004010E1
CMP against http

skip 7 bytes if http exists
AL = First byte of requested URL
compare byte by byte against nth element's URL

jump to return if URLs match

loop to next element

jump to real function

return code = 0



W32/Alvabrig – wininet.dll patching cont...

File: wininet.urls.txt

```

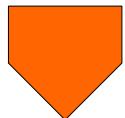
0 00000000|Hiew 7.27 <c>SEN
customer.symantec.com
liveupdate.symantec.com
liveupdate.symantecliveupdate.com
securityresponse.symantec.com
symantec.com
update.symantec.com
updates.symantec.com
www.symantec.com
www.norton.com
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www.mcafee.com
dispatch.mcafee.com
download.mcafee.com
metalhead2005.info
nai.com
pla-update.nai.com
networkassociates.com
www.nai.com
www.networkassociates.com
secure.nai.com
sophos.com
www.sophos.com
trendmicro.com
www.trendmicro.com
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www.microsoft.com
www.softnut.info
www.r-secure.com
r-secure.com

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customer.symantec.com
liveupdate.symantec.com
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securityresponse.symantec.com
symantec.com
update.symantec.com
updates.symantec.com
www.symantec.com
www.norton.com
norton.com
maste.mcafee.com
mcafee.com
rads.mcafee.com
www.mcafee.com
dispatch.mcafee.com
download.mcafee.com
metalhead2005.info
nai.com
pla-update.nai.com
networkassociates.com
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www.ca.com
my-etrust.com
www.my-etrust.com
ca.com
www.microsoft.com
www.softnut.info
www.r-secure.com
r-secure.com

```

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W32/Alvabrig – ws2_32.dll patching

- Increases size of code
- Increases phys size of 1st section
- Increases phys offset of remaining sections
- Write code into new space
- Loop export table matching function names with “conn”
 - And (function names + 0x4) with “ect”
- connect() function hijacked to call malcode



W32/Alvabrig – ws2_32.dll payload

0040132A	. 6A 10	PUSH 10	AddrLen = 10 (16.)
0040132C	. 68 90124000	PUSH connect.00401290	pSockAddr = connect.00401290
00401331	. FF35 8C124000	PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[40128C]	Socket = 0
00401337	. FF15 A0104000	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&ws2_32.connect>]	connect
0040133D	. 83F8 00	CMP EAX,0	
00401340	.~ 75 00	JNZ SHORT connect.00401342	

FASM test app

71AC1600	\$ 8B4424 08	MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]	start of patched malcode
71AC1604	. 8B40 04	MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+4]	EAX = requested IP address
71AC1607	. E8 00000000	CALL ws2_32.71AC160C	
71AC160C	\$ 5A	POP EDX	
71AC160D	. 8D92 1F000000	LEA EDX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDX+1F]	EDX = hard-coded IP
71AC1613	. 33C9	XOR ECX,ECX	
71AC1615	> 3902	CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EDX],EAX	
71AC1617	.~ 74 0C	JE SHORT ws2_32.71AC1625	jump to return if IPs match
71AC1619	. 83C2 04	ADD EDX,4	
71AC161C	. 390A	CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EDX],ECX	
71AC161E	.^ 75 F5	JNZ SHORT ws2_32.71AC1615	
71AC1620	.^ E9 3828FFFF	JMP ws2_32.71AB3E5D	jump to real function
71AC1625	> 33C0	XOR EAX,EAX	
71AC1627	. 48	DEC EAX	EAX = -1
71AC1628	. C2 0C00	RETN 0C	

patched
connect()

- EDX points to address of a hard-coded IP address

218 18F3 46 4B

- Returns -1 (fail) if matched



W32/Alvabrig – ws2_32.dll payload cont...

WHOIS

OrgName: Broadwing Communications Services Inc.
OrgID: BWNG
NetName: BROADWING-NET
NameServer: NS3.BROADWING.NET
NameServer: NS4.BROADWING.NET

CustName:
216.143.70.75
Address:
City:
StateProv:
PostalCode:
Country:

McAfee [pla-update.nai.com]

5000 Headquarters Dr
Plano
TX
75024
US



W32/Alvabrig – summary

- Mission
- Glorified hosts infector or DNS changer
- Indirect registry modification



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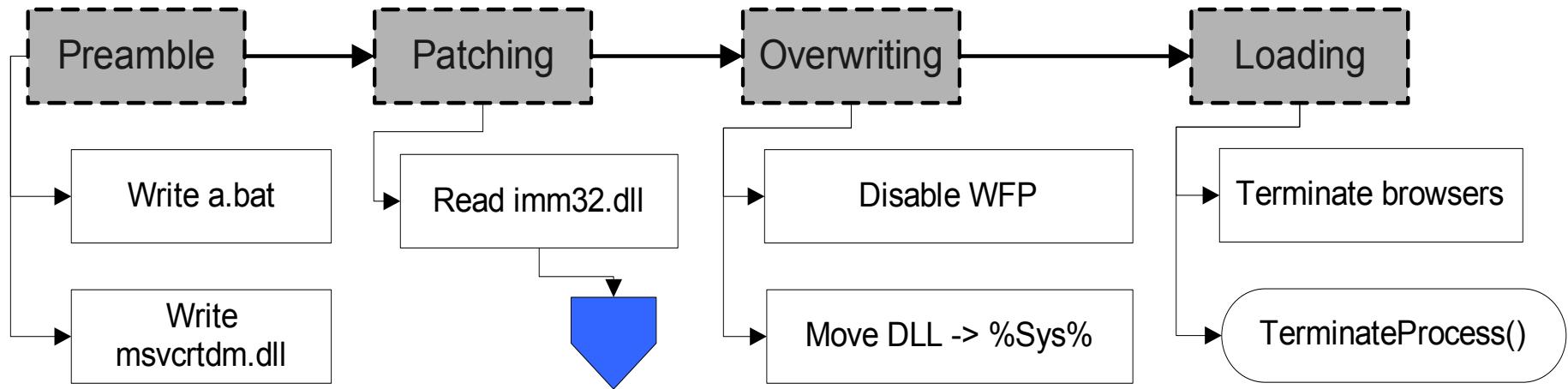
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Bad intentions cont ... case study 3

- W32/Crimea
- July 2007
- 1 variant
- Kills WFP via SFC mechanism
- Patches imm32.dll



Bad intentions cont ... W32/Crimea



Bad intentions cont ... imm32.dll patching

- Increases image size
- Increases number of sections
- Nulls bound import RVA
- Nulls bound import size
- Adds section “.rdata”

Hex View: imm32.dll

	imm32.dll	↓FRO	PE.763AA000	Hiew 7.2
.763AA000:	6D 73 76 63-72 74 64 6D-2E 64 6C 6C		msvcrtdm.dll	E
.763AA010:	78 46 75 6E-63 00 0D A0-01 00 00 00-00 00 00		xFunc	Já Ø C+ D+ P+
.763AA020:	01 00 FF FF-FF FF FF FF-FF FF 44 1B-01 00 00		Ø	D+ Ø P+
.763AA030:	00 00 80 1C-01 00 FF FF-FF FF FF FF		Ø	C+ Ø P+
.763AA040:	01 00 00 11-00 00 C0 1C-01 00 FF FF-FF FF FF		Ø	Ø L+ Z+ H+ R+ P+
.763AA050:	FF FF 5A 1B-01 00 40 11-00 00 80 1D-01 00 FF FF		Ø	Ø C+ Ø
.763AA060:	FF FF FF FF-FF FF 68 1B-01 00 00 12-00 00 D0 1D		Ø	Ø H+ Ø t Ø
.763AA070:	01 00 FF FF-FF FF FF FF-FF FF 72 1B-01 00 50 12		Ø	Ø r+ Ø P+ á
.763AA080:	00 00 16 A0-01 00 FF FF-FF FF FF FF-FF FF 00 A0		Ø	Ø -á Ø á
.763AA090:	01 00 16 A0-01 00 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00		Ø	Ø -á Ø
.763AA0A0:	00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00			
.763AA0B0:	00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00			

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Bad intentions cont ... msvcrt.dll payload

- Browser termination ensures loading
- Waits until...



- <http://realcrimea.info>



W32/Crimea – summary

- Mission
- Glorified, cross-browser BHO
- No registry modification



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Conclusions

- Why Patch?

- Hook into system
- Hard for repair
- Avoids registry

- What to Patch?

- System libraries
- Popular applications
- High probability of execution

- When to Patch?

- WFP isn't looking
- Closing applications

- How to Patch?

- Existing code sections
- Imports / Exports



Why cont...?

Autoruns [LAPDOWS\burton] - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com				
File	Entry	Options	User	Help
Autorun Entry	Description	Publisher	Image Path	
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server\Wds\rdpwd\StartupPrograms				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rdclip RDP Clip Monitor	Microsoft Corporation	c:\windows\system32\rdclip.exe		
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Userinit				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C:\WINDOWS... Userinit Logon Application	Microsoft Corporation	c:\windows\system32\userinit.exe		
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Shell				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explorer.exe Windows Explorer	Microsoft Corporation	c:\windows\explorer.exe		
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BluetoothAuth... Bluetooth Control Panel Ap...	Microsoft Corporation	c:\windows\system32\bthprops.cpl		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IntelWireless Intel Framework MFC Applic...	Intel Corporation	c:\program files\intel\wireless\bin\ifrmewrk.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IntelZeroConfig ZeroCfgSvc MFC Application	Intel Corporation	c:\program files\intel\wireless\bin\zcfgsvc.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McAfeeFireTray McAfee Desktop Firewall Tr...	Networks Associates Tech...	c:\program files\network associates\mcafee desktop firewall for windows xp\firet		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McAfeeUpdate... Common User Interface	Network Associates, Inc.	c:\program files\network associates\common framework\updaterui.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Network Assoc... TalkBack Monitor	Network Associates, Inc.	c:\program files\common files\network associates\talkback\tbmon.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NvCplDaemon NVIDIA Display Properties ...	NVIDIA Corporation	c:\windows\system32\ncvcpl.dll		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NVHotkey NVIDIA Hotkey Service, Ve...	NVIDIA Corporation	c:\windows\system32\nvhotkey.dll		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nwiz NVIDIA nView Wizard, Vers...	NVIDIA Corporation	c:\windows\system32\nwiz.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGSHAVE Shaving Registry	FUJI PHOTO FILM CO., LTD.	c:\program files\regshave\regshave.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SigmatelSysTr... Sigmatel Audio system tray ...	SigmaTel, Inc.	c:\windows\stsystra.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VMware hqtray VMware Host Network Acc...	VMware, Inc.	c:\program files\vmware\vmware workstation\hqtray.exe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vmware-tray VMware Tray Process	VMware, Inc.	c:\program files\vmware\vmware workstation\vmware-tray.exe		
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H/PC Connecti... ActiveSync Connection Ma...	Microsoft Corporation	c:\program files\microsoft activesync\wcescomm.exe		
<input type="button" value="◀"/> <input type="button" value="▶"/>				
Ready.				

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Protect what you value.

Remedial – problems

- Repairing files
 - In use
 - Protected
 - Deleting now-critical components



- System integrity
 - After patching
 - After AV repair of patching



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Remedial – solutions

- Interrogation of clean files
- Integrity checking
- Monitoring the patchers



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The future

- More patching malware
- Greater sophistication
- Vista and WRP
- Vienna in 2010?



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Questions

Thanks for your attention!



alex@avertlabs.com

