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Computer Security Day
10 June 2010, Council Chamber and http://cern.ch/SecDay

Breaking into a computer : attack techniques and tools

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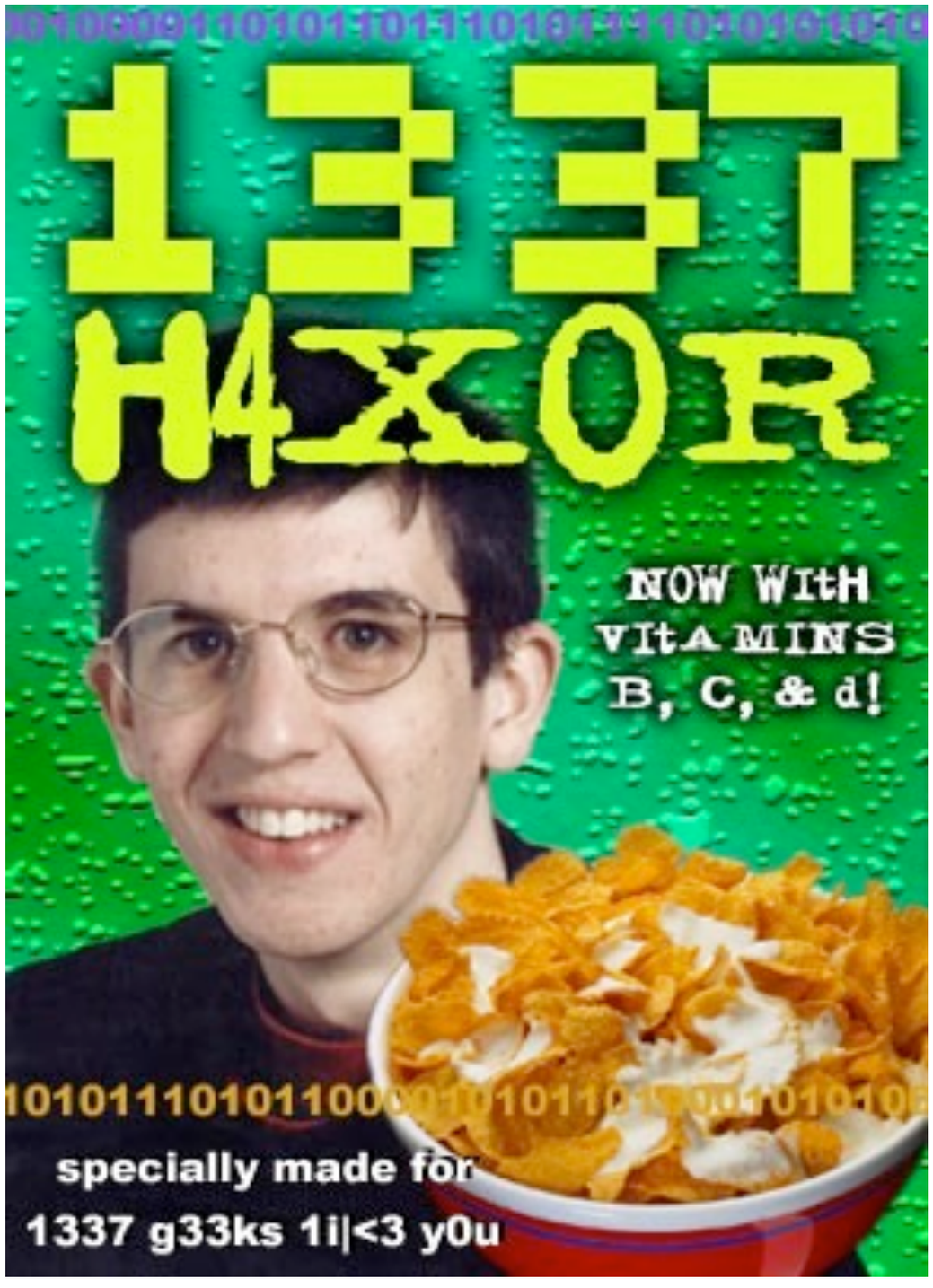
Outline

- Underground market
- Exploits and payloads
- Propagation infrastructures
- Popular for-profit malware
- Malware: interfaces and functionalities
- Linux rootkits

Perception

►Common perception of a “hacker”



Reality

►In reality, attackers may rather look like:

Underground Market

- **Main motive behind most security attacks is money**

Overall Rank 2009	2008	Item	Percentage 2009	2008	Range of Prices
1	1	Credit card information	19%	32%	$0.85–$30
2	2	Bank account credentials	19%	19%	$15–$850
3	3	Email accounts	7%	5%	$1–$20
4	4	Email addresses	7%	5%	$1.70/MB–$15/MB
5	9	Shell scripts	6%	3%	$2–$5
6	6	Full identities	5%	4%	$0.70–$20
7	13	Credit card dumps	5%	2%	$4–$150
8	7	Mailers	4%	3%	$4–$10
9	8	Cash-out services	4%	3%	$0–$600 plus 50%–60%
10	12	Website administration credentials	4%	3%	$2–$30

Goods and services advertised on underground economy servers
Source: Symantec

- **Objective: collect marketable information**
- **Needs: exploits + payloads, propagation infrastructure**

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Exploits, payload and propagation infrastructure

Exploits

- **Exploit: software exploiting a security vulnerability**
  - Objective: gain (some) remote control over the victim's host
  - Exploits can be purchased on the underground markets
    - Public/private vulnerabilities
      - "0 day exploits" are best but most expensive
      - Some claim there are governments willing to pay as high as $1 million for a single vulnerability
    - Potential impact, privileges gained, portability, ease of use

Rank	BID	Vulnerabilities
1	36299	Microsoft Windows SMB2 '_Smb2ValidateProviderCallback()' Remote Code Execution
2	35759	Adobe Reader and Flash Player Remote Code Execution
3	33627	Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 Uninitialized Memory Code Execution
4	35558	Microsoft Windows 'MPEG2TuneRequest' ActiveX Control Remote Code Execution
5	34169	Adobe Reader Collab 'getIcon()' JavaScript Method Remote Code Execution

Top attacked vulnerabilities, 2009
Source: Symantec

- Once the attacker has an exploit, a payload needs to be added

Malicious Payload

- **The payload performs the malicious work**
  - Objectives:
    - Alter system's behavior
      - e.g. add popups, fake search bars, send spam with host is idle, etc.
    - Collect data without the consent of the victim
      - e.g. keylogger

- The payload may be a framework multiple purposes:
  - Dynamically pull payload on demand
  - Auto update mechanisms built-in
  - Eliminate competitors' "products"
  - Patch the system to protect it from competitors

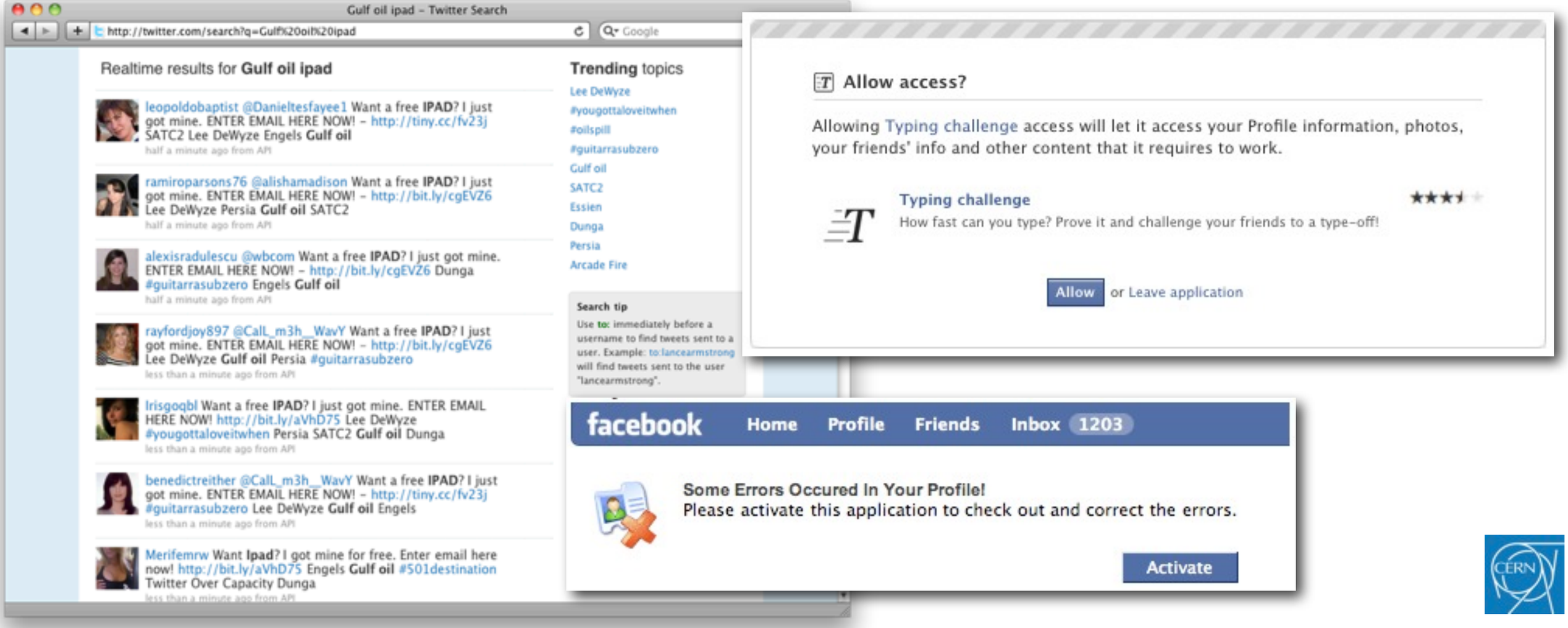
Propagation Infrastructure

- **To propagate the malware to more victims, a strong computing infrastructure is need:**
  - Hosting for the malicious payloads, rogue websites, etc.
  - Bandwidth to send spam, etc.

- **Significant challenges**
  - Must be very resilient!
  - Must scale to the number of victims
  - Must be customisable to adapt to the needs of customers
  - Must be cheap, to maximise profit

Propagation Infrastructure

- **Solution 1**
  - Enjoy existing services widely used by the victims:
    - P2P networks ("Bond_23_Unreleased_2011_[HDRips.4.iPod]")
    - Social networks: Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.
    - Inject malware via ads on large websites (BBC, etc.)



Propagation Infrastructure

▶ Solution 2

- Become the Internet Service Provider:
  - Much more difficult to be taken off line, "bulletproof hosting"
  - Manage its own pool of IP addresses
  - Accreditation removal may be complex and time consuming
- Legal complexity ensures stable operations (for a while)
  - ISP may be settled in countries with relaxed Internet laws
  - International ramification does help
  - Sell the service to other underground companies
    - Actual crime is not committed by the ISP itself
- Popular examples:
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intercage
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Business_Network

Propagation Infrastructure

▶ Solution 3

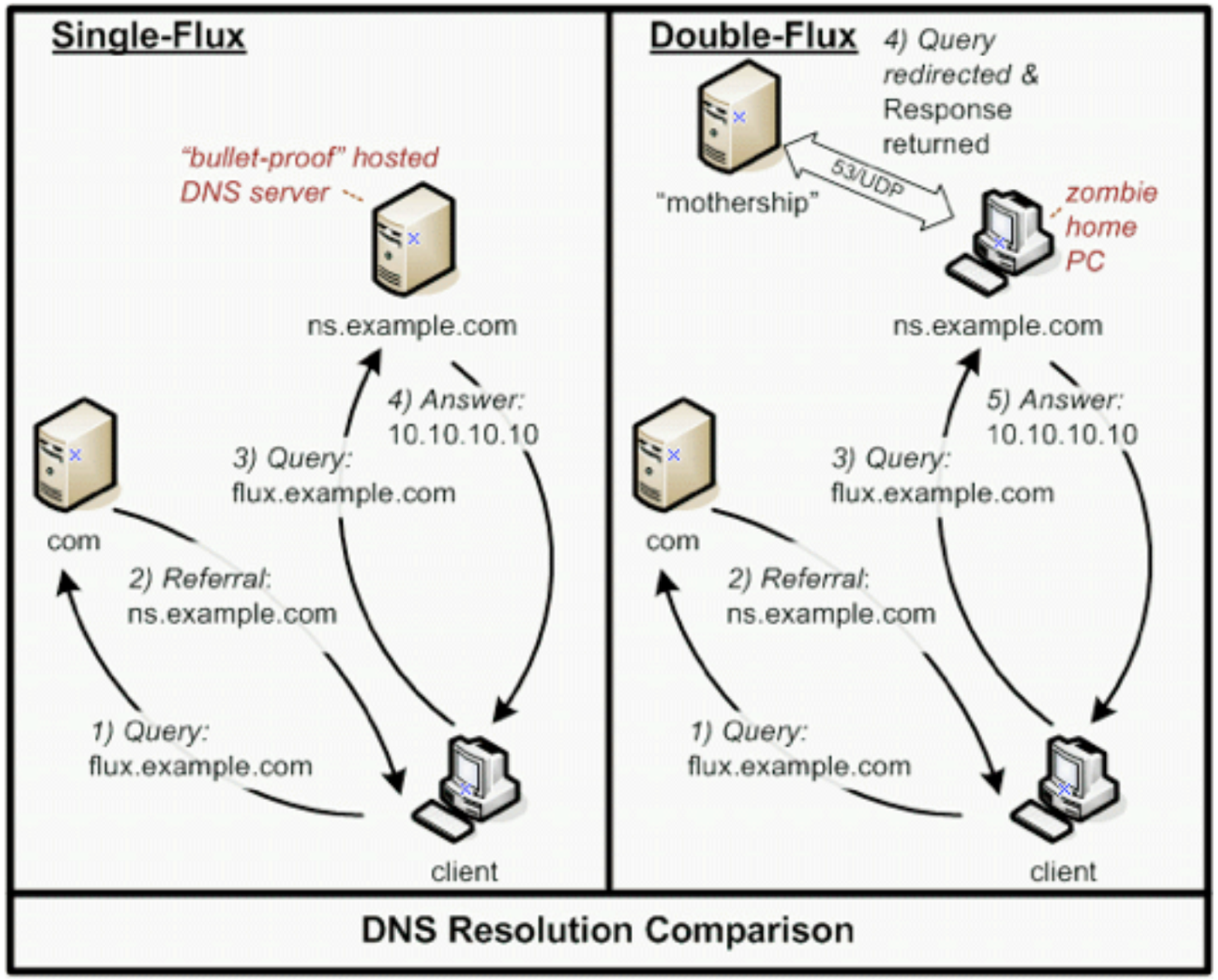
- Get the victims to host and spread the malware!
  - Cheap, highly distributed and resilient
  - Build a own network of robots, a so-called "botnet"
    - The victim hosts are controls by malware and turned into "bots"
    - Payload and malicious services are distributed across the botnet
      - Control via IRC, P2P, etc.
- "Fast Flux" is a common design to turn bots (victims) into:
  - Rogue DNS servers
  - Reverse proxies for rogue websites
  - Malicious domains needed to run the infrastructure
- Bots are "selected" to offer a load-balanced + resilient service:
  - Selection based on availability, bandwidth, performance, etc.
  - Short time-to-live, rapid turn over of the bots

Propagation Infrastructure

▶ Solution 3

▶ Fast Flux:

- "Both the DNS A record sets and the authoritative NS records for a malicious domain are continually changed in a round robin manner"



http://www.honeynet.org/papers/ff/

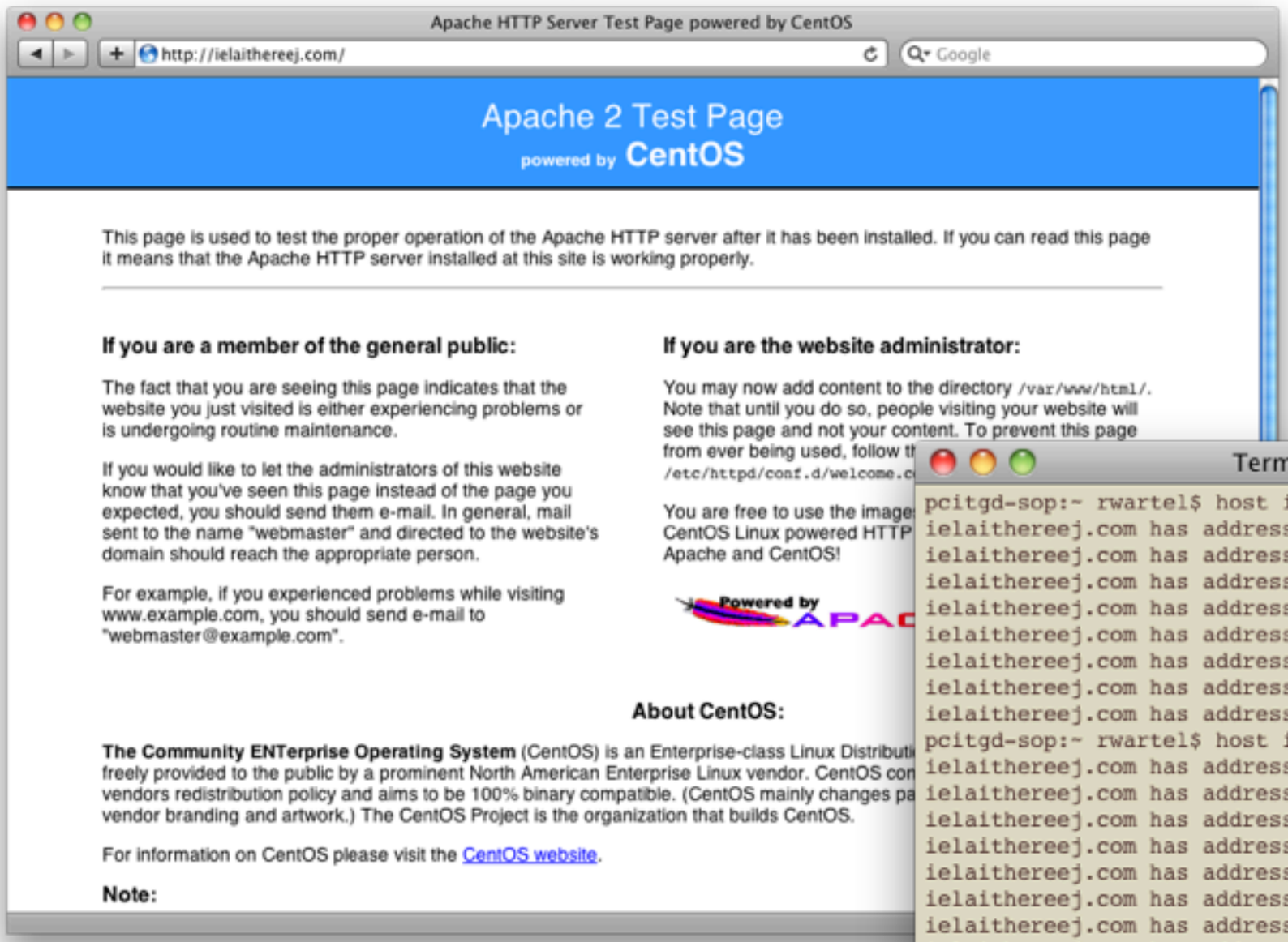
Propagation Infrastructure

- **Solution 3**
  - Example of Fast Flux tracking with Zeus:
    - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus_%28trojan_horse%29
    - The Zeus botnet is targeting login credentials
      - Facebook, Yahoo, Hi5, Metroflog, Sonico and Netlog etc.
      - Targeting banking sites as well
    - The botnet is estimated to include millions of compromised computers
    - As of October 28, 2009 Zeus has sent out over 1.5 million phishing messages on Facebook.

Propagation Infrastructure

▶ Solution 3

- ▶ Example malicious URLs:
  - http://ielaithereej.com/bin/aiphaipi.bin (Zeus v2 + config file)



Propagation Infrastructure

▶ Solution 3

- Example of Fast Flux tracking:

The 40 newest bots assigned to the domain **ielaithereej.com**:

Domain	Dateadded (UTC)	IP address	Hostname	AS number	Country	Counter
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:14	85.175.99.10		25490		16
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:13	82.131.233.62	82.131.233.62.pool.invitel.hu	12301		19
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:13	121.121.34.46		9534		15
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:13	178.160.84.39		35648		22
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:06:15	201.238.58.150		8048		68
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:06:09	79.114.224.60	79-114-224-60.rdsnet.ro	8708		72
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:56:12	186.99.182.172		27921		34
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:56:11	85.96.154.90	dsl.dynamic859615490.ttnet.net.tr	9121		33
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:56:11	87.10.107.225	host225-107-dynamic.10-87-r.retail.telecomitalia.i	3269		59
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:51:57	95.75.120.214		16232		17
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:51:20	117.194.160.254		9829		108
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:51:20	82.131.227.213	82.131.227.213.pool.invitel.hu	12301		19
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:46:31	92.41.90.213	92.41.90.213.sub.mbb.three.co.uk	21327		137
ielaithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:46:21	94.232.121.253	ppp-94.232.121.253.dobroe.ru	42322		142

http://dnsbl.abuse.ch/fastfluxtracker.php

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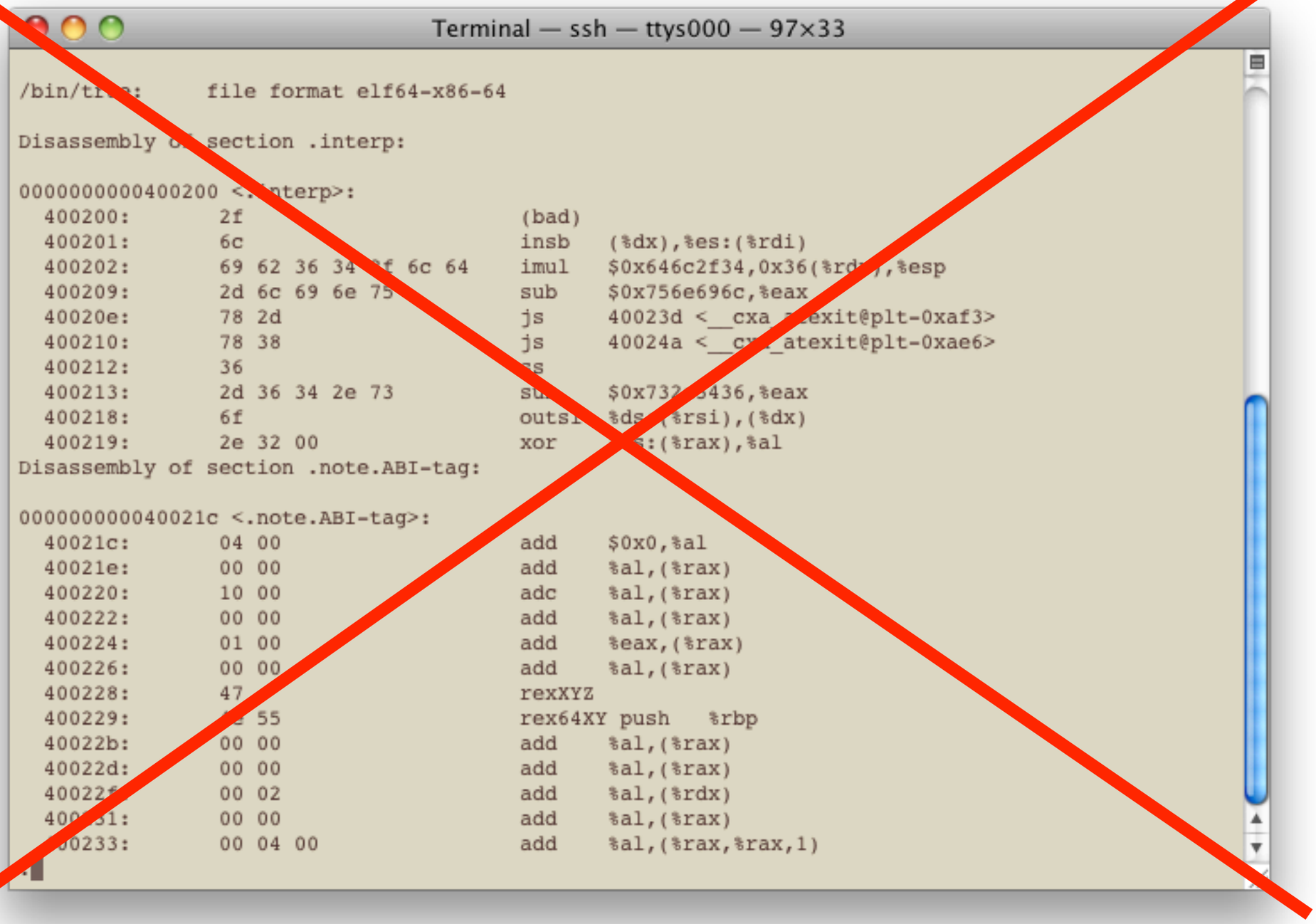
Popular for-profit malware

Malware business

- **Malware infrastructure has become more sophisticated:**
  - Malicious software developers: provide exploits and tools
  - Bot herders: maintain and rent the bot infrastructure
  - Money mules: turn "dirty" money into real currencies
  - Malware hosting, etc.
  - Coordination via Internet forums, IRC, IM, etc.
- **A closer look on the actual tools**
  - Easy to use
  - Enable automated attacks
  - Very sophisticated

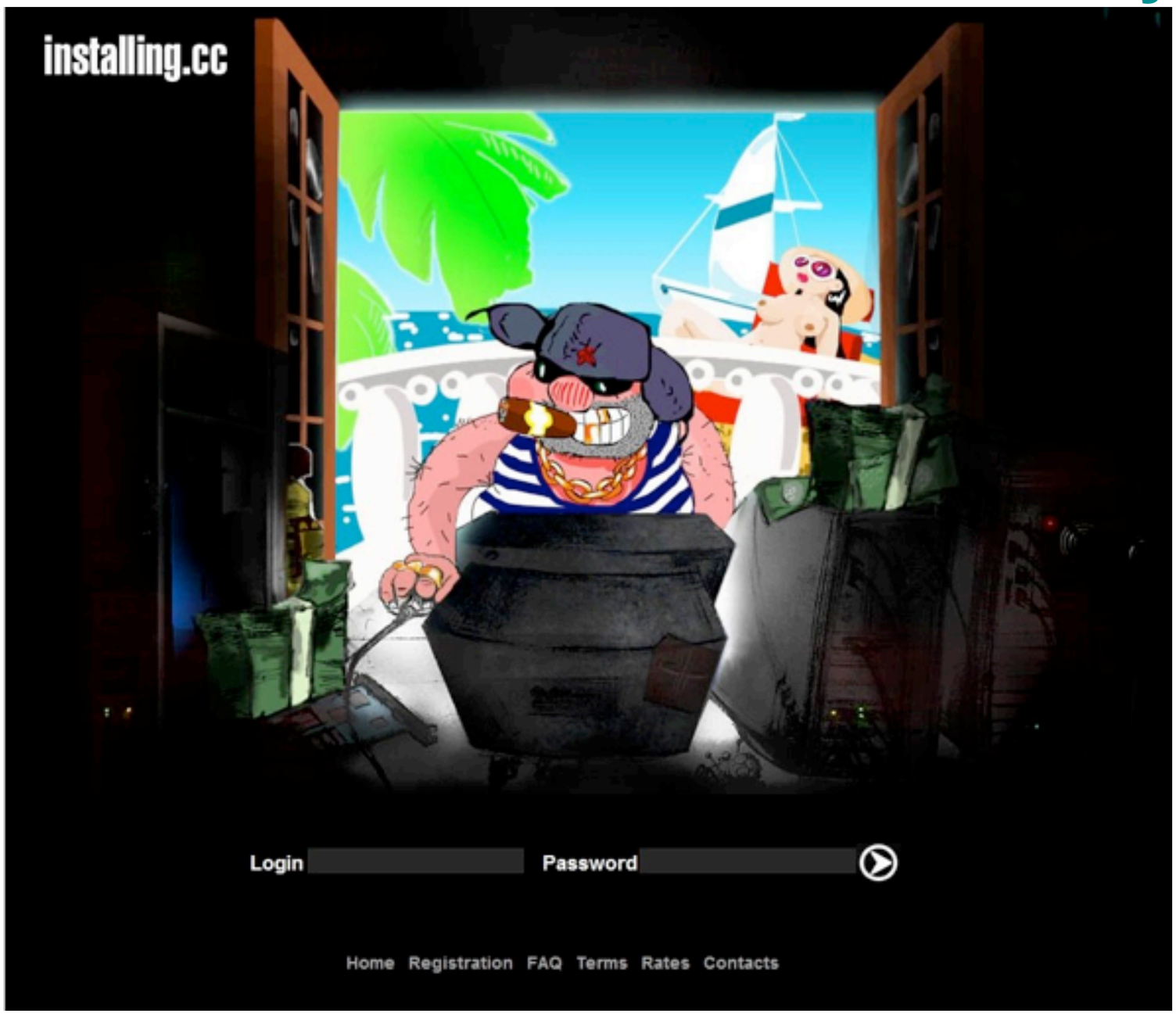
Malware Interfaces

- **Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use**



Malware Interfaces

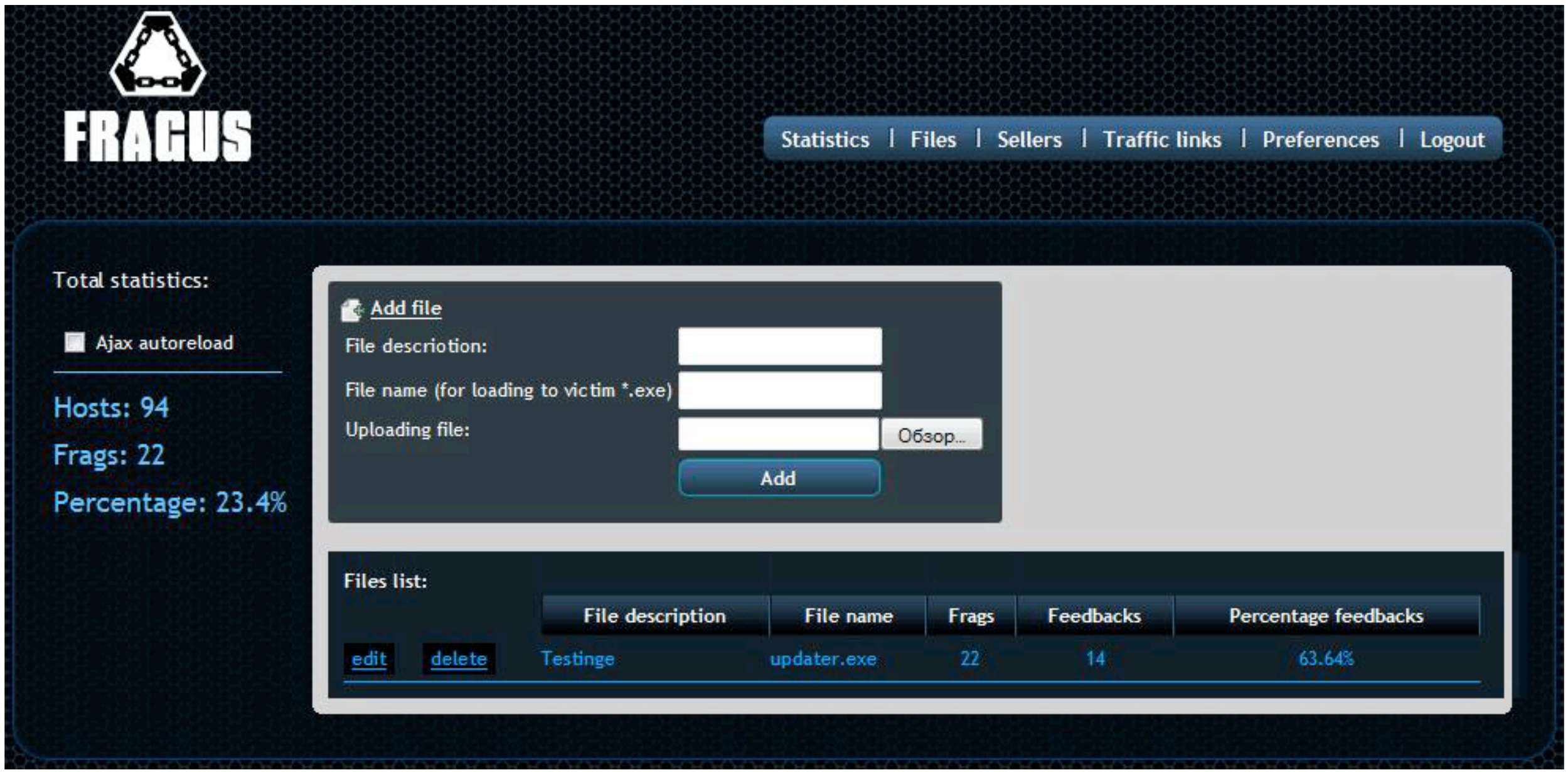
►Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



Zeus botnet rental and loading

Malware Interfaces

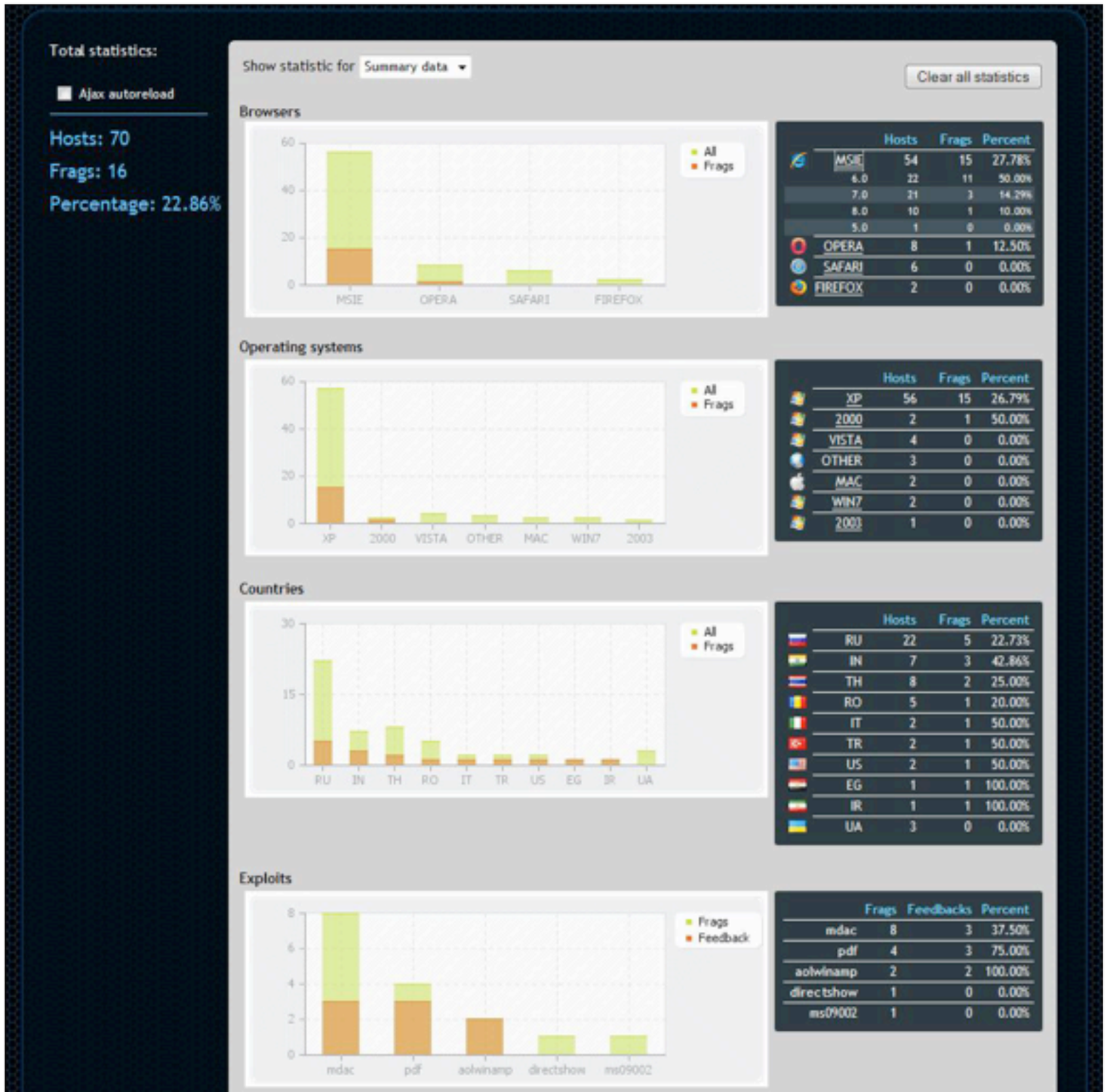
▶ Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



Fragus botnet rental and loading

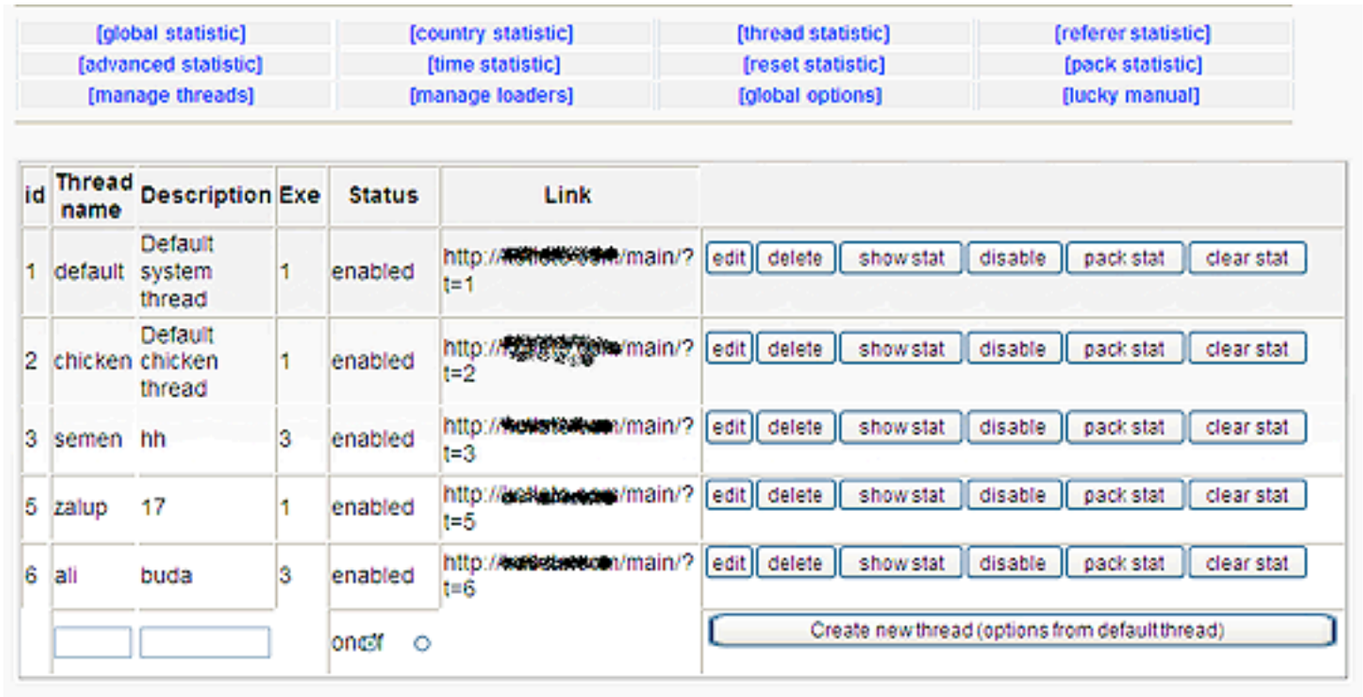
Malware Interfaces

► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



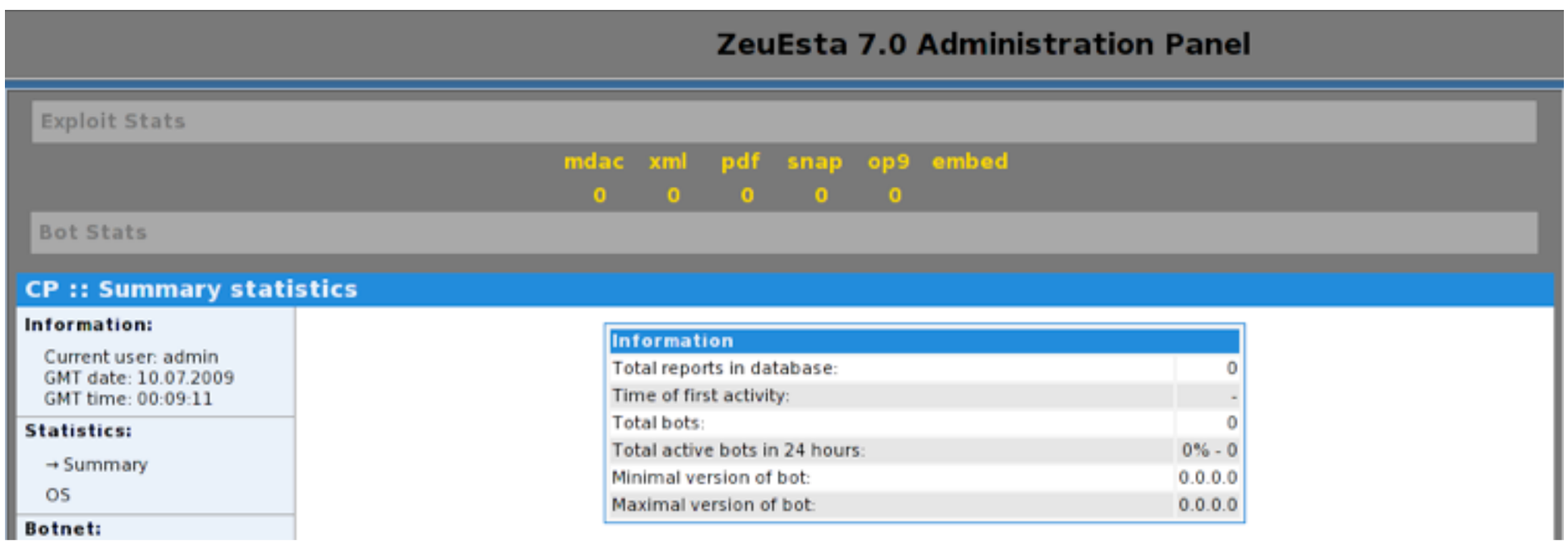
Malware Interfaces

▶ Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



[global statistic]	[country statistic]	[thread statistic]	[referer statistic]
[advanced statistic]	[time statistic]	[reset statistic]	[pack statistic]
[manage threads]	[manage loaders]	[global options]	[lucky manual]

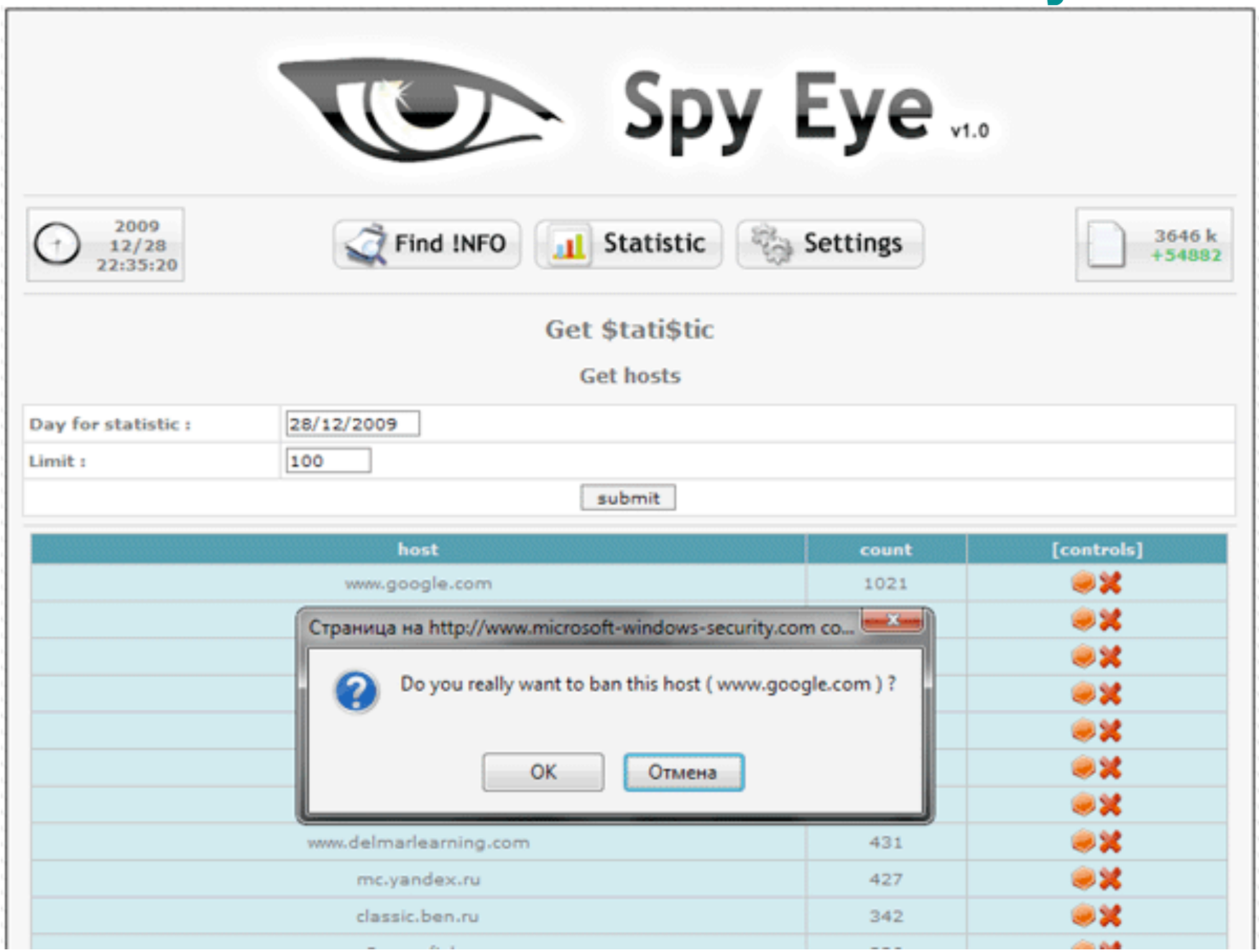
id	Thread name	Description	Exe	Status	Link	
1	default	Default system thread	1	enabled	http://[redacted]/main/?t=1	edit delete show stat disable pack stat clear stat
2	chicken	Default chicken thread	1	enabled	http://[redacted]/main/?t=2	edit delete show stat disable pack stat clear stat
3	semen	hh	3	enabled	http://[redacted]/main/?t=3	edit delete show stat disable pack stat clear stat
5	zalup	17	1	enabled	http://[redacted]/main/?t=5	edit delete show stat disable pack stat clear stat
6	ali	buda	3	enabled	http://[redacted]/main/?t=6	edit delete show stat disable pack stat clear stat
				oncdf ○		Create new thread (options from default thread)



LuckySploit and ZeuEsta Exploit Kit

Malware Interfaces

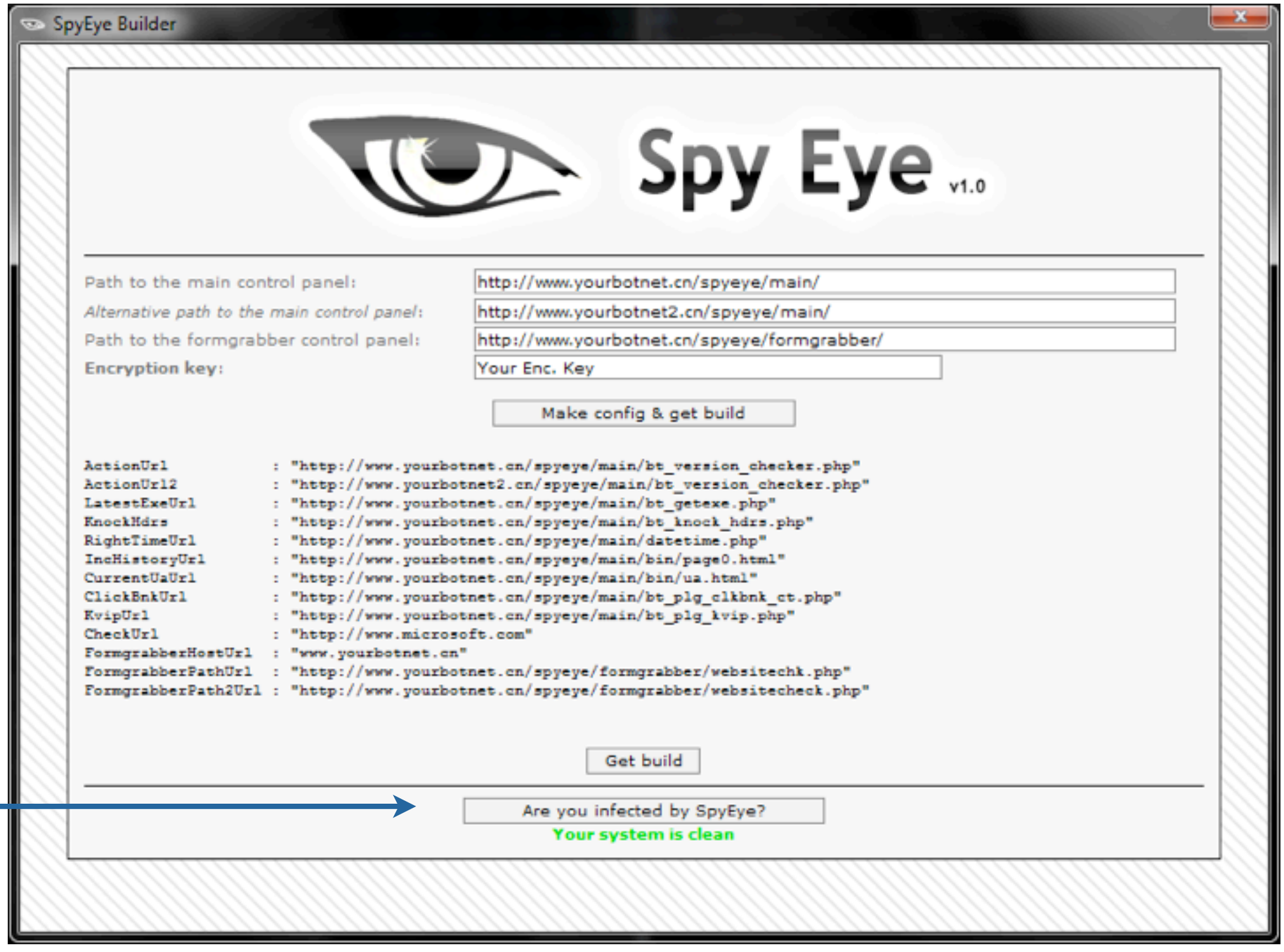
► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



Spy Eye botnet control

Malware Interfaces

▶ Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



Don't get infected by your own malware

Spy Eye botnet control

Malware Interfaces

▶ Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use

Spy Eye botnet control

Malware Interfaces

► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use

Kill competitors easily

Spy Eye botnet control

Malware Interfaces

► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use

A botnet control screen featuring a Christmas theme

Malware Interfaces

- **Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use**
  - Neon Exploit System v2.0.5 ($ 400)
    - "Among the modules of exploits that are preinstalled and preconfigured include: IE7 MC, PDF collab, PDF util.printf, PDF foxit reader, MDAC, Snapshot and Flash 9."
  - Eleonore Exploits Pack v1.2 ($ 700 - $ 1500)
    - "MDAC, MS009-02, Telnet - Opera, Font tags - FireFox, PDF collab.getIcon, PDF Util.Printf, PDF collab.collectEmailInfo, DirectX DirectShow and Spreadsheet."
  - Limbo Trojan Kit ($ 300)
  - ElFiesta v3 ($ 800)
  - Unique Sploits Pack v2.1 ($ 750)
  - YES Exploit System v2.0.1 ($800)

  etc.

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Linux rootkits

Rootkits

▶ A lookout at the state of Linux rootkits

- ▶ Rootkit: "Designed to hide or obscure the fact that a system has been compromised." (Wikipedia)
- ▶ Set of software to maintain malicious access to a compromised host

▶ Rootkit: first generation

- ▶ Change binaries (ps, ls, netstat, lsof, ssh) or libraries (ld.so.preload, etc.)
- ▶ *Pros*: kernel independent
- ▶ *Cons*: need to be compiled for the target platform, easy to detect
- ▶ *How to detect*: check system binaries against trusted instances
  - Tripwire, rpm -V, etc.

Rootkits

- **Rootkit: second generation**
  - Kernel level rootkits
    - Modify kernel structures (syscall table, IDT, etc.)
  - Malicious codes is loaded directly in the kernel
    - Loadable Kernel Modules
    - Direct /dev/mem access (patch kernel on-the-fly)

- *Pros*: difficult to detect, usually includes backdoor features
- *Cons*: LKM can be disabled, /dev/{k,}mem access now restricted
- *How to detect*: search for known patterns, or known bugs.
  - rkhunter, chkrootkit, Samhain, etc.

Rootkits

- **Rootkit: new trends**
  - Filesystem, network stack level rootkits
    - Often used as additional features
  - Hypervisor rootkit
  - Debug register based rootkit
    - Seen in the wild early 2010...

- **Conclusion: Root account compromised == “game over”**

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What to do when it is too late?

Dealing with a security incident

- **Procedure to deal with a compromised system**
  - Contact the CERN security team at Computer.Security@cern.ch
  - Don't panic:
  - Disconnect, but leave "on" (if applicable):
  - Contact the Security Team at Computer.Security@cern.ch
  - Don't touch anymore: wait for instructions
- **The response will be commensurate to the risk, e.g.:**
  - Compromised Windows laptop
    - Data will be backed up
    - Upon system reinstallation, auto-update + antivirus installed
  - Multi-users Linux system
    - The cause of the problem must be understood to prevent reoccurrence
    - Dedicated incident response procedure followed
    - System reinstalled from scratch

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Thank you

“Just because you can, does not mean you should.”

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Questions and discussion