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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		Item	Percentage		Range of Prices
2009	2008		2009	2008	
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.)

The image shows a composite of three elements illustrating a propagation infrastructure:

- Twitter Search:** A browser window displaying search results for "Gulf oil ipad". The results are a list of tweets from various users, all containing the same promotional text: "Want a free IPAD? I just got mine. ENTER EMAIL HERE NOW! - http://tiny.cc/fv23j SATC2 Lee DeWyze Engels Gulf oil".
- Typing Challenge:** A dialog box titled "Allow access?" for the "Typing challenge" application. It explains that allowing access will let the application view profile information, photos, and friends' info. It includes a "Typing challenge" icon and a "Allow" button.
- Facebook Error:** A Facebook notification banner with the text "Some Errors Occured In Your Profile! Please activate this application to check out and correct the errors." and an "Activate" button.

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

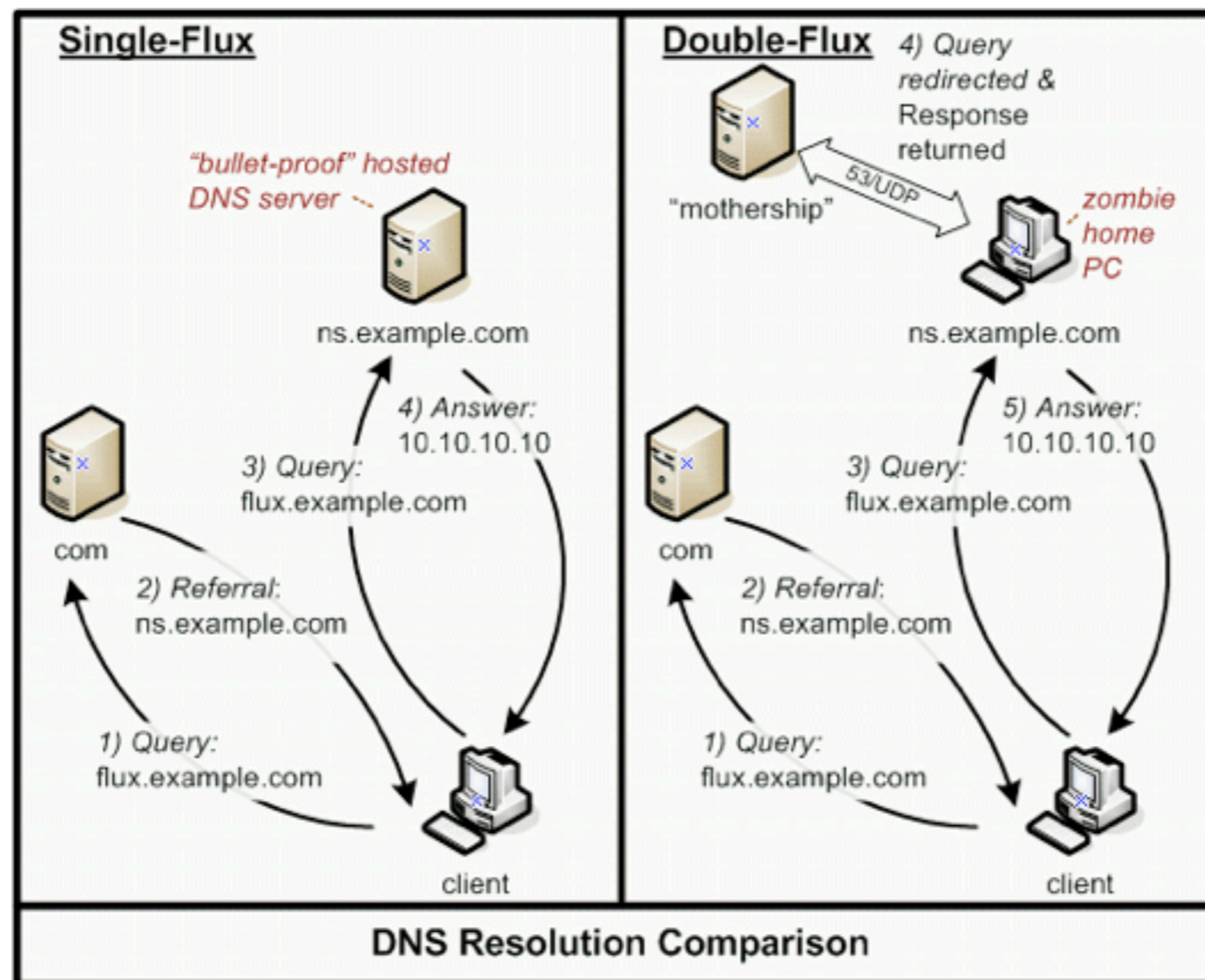
- **Get the victims to host** and spread the malware!
 - Cheap, highly distributed and **resilient**
 - Build a own network of robots, a so-called “**botnet**”
 - The victim hosts are controls by malware and **turned into "bots"**
 - Payload and malicious services are distributed across the botnet
 - 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”



Propagation Infrastructure

► Solution 3

► Example of Fast Flux tracking with Zeus:

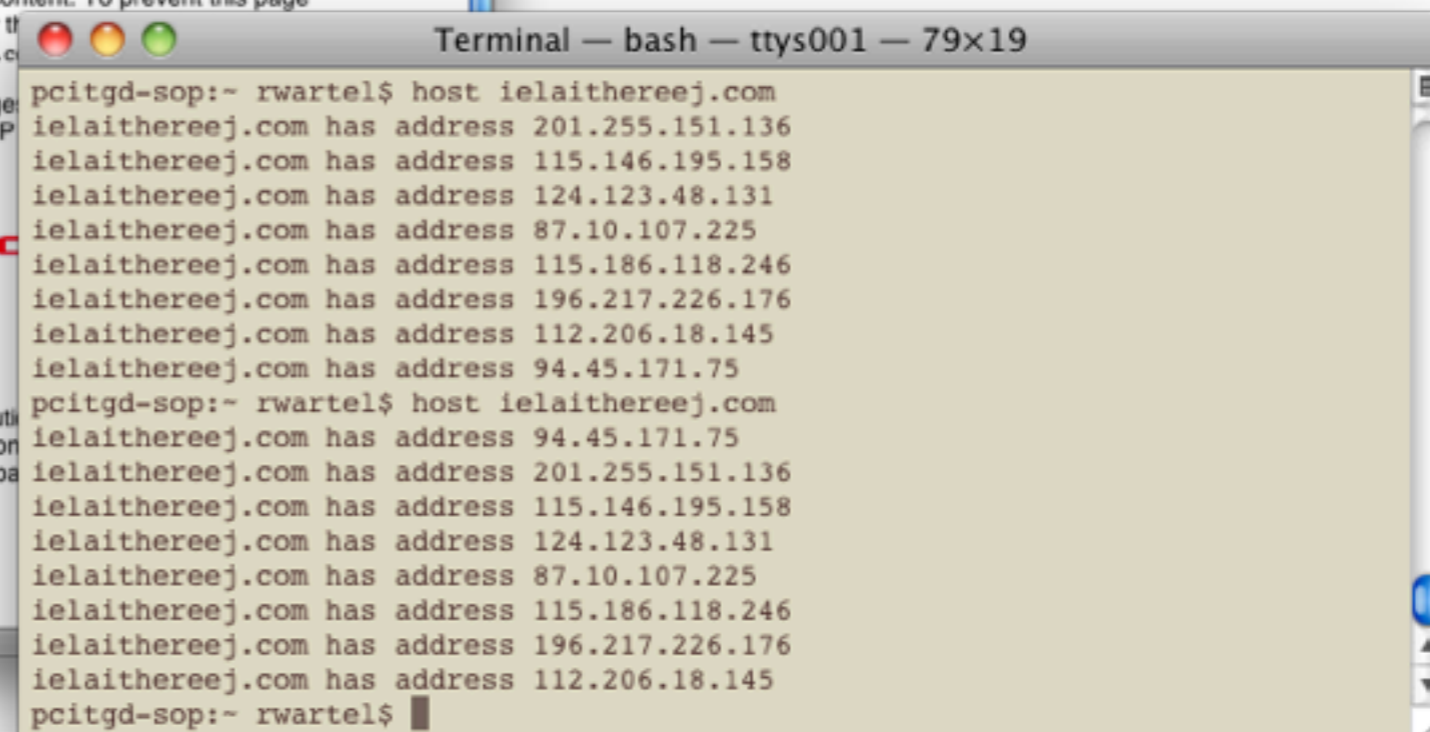
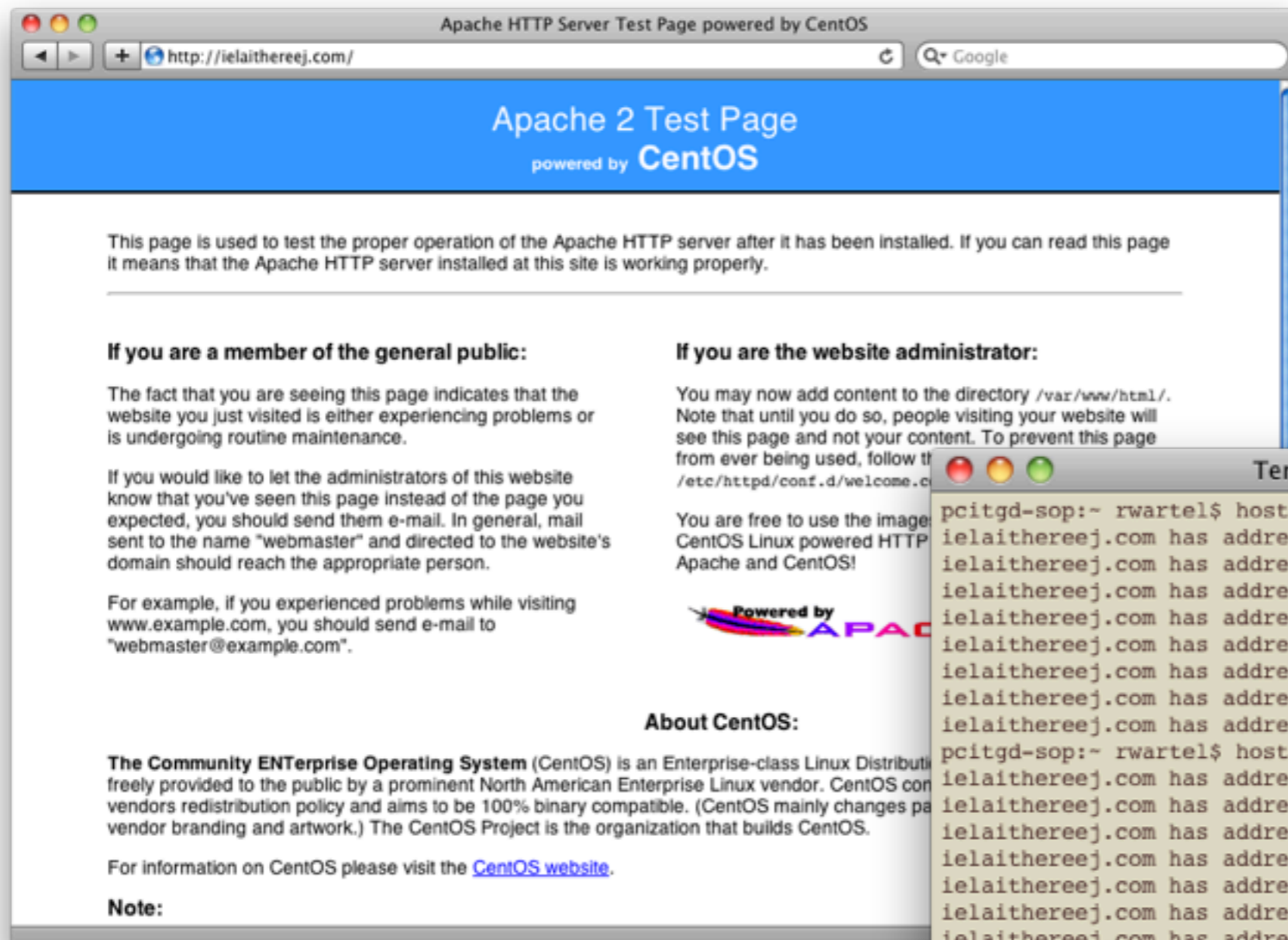
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus_%28trojan_horse%29
- **The Zeus botnet is targeting login credentials**
 - Facebook, Yahoo, Hi5, Metroflog, Sonico and Netlog etc.
 - Targeting **banking** sites as well
- The botnet is estimated to include **millions** of compromised computers
- As of October 28, 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
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:14	85.175.99.10		25490		16
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:13	82.131.233.62	82.131.233.62.pool.invitel.hu	12301		19
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:13	121.121.34.46		9534		15
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:11:13	178.160.84.39		35648		22
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:06:15	201.238.58.150		8048		68
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 16:06:09	79.114.224.60	79-114-224-60.rdsnet.ro	8708		72
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:56:12	186.99.182.172		27921		34
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:56:11	85.96.154.90	dsl.dynamic859615490.ttnet.net.tr	9121		33
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:56:11	87.10.107.225	host225-107-dynamic.10-87-r.retail.telecomitalia.i	3269		59
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:51:57	95.75.120.214		16232		17
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:51:20	117.194.160.254		9829		108
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:51:20	82.131.227.213	82.131.227.213.pool.invitel.hu	12301		19
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:46:31	92.41.90.213	92.41.90.213.sub.mbb.three.co.uk	21327		137
ielaiithereej.com	2010-05-27 15:46:21	94.232.121.253	ppp-94.232.121.253.dobroe.ru	42322		142



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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.

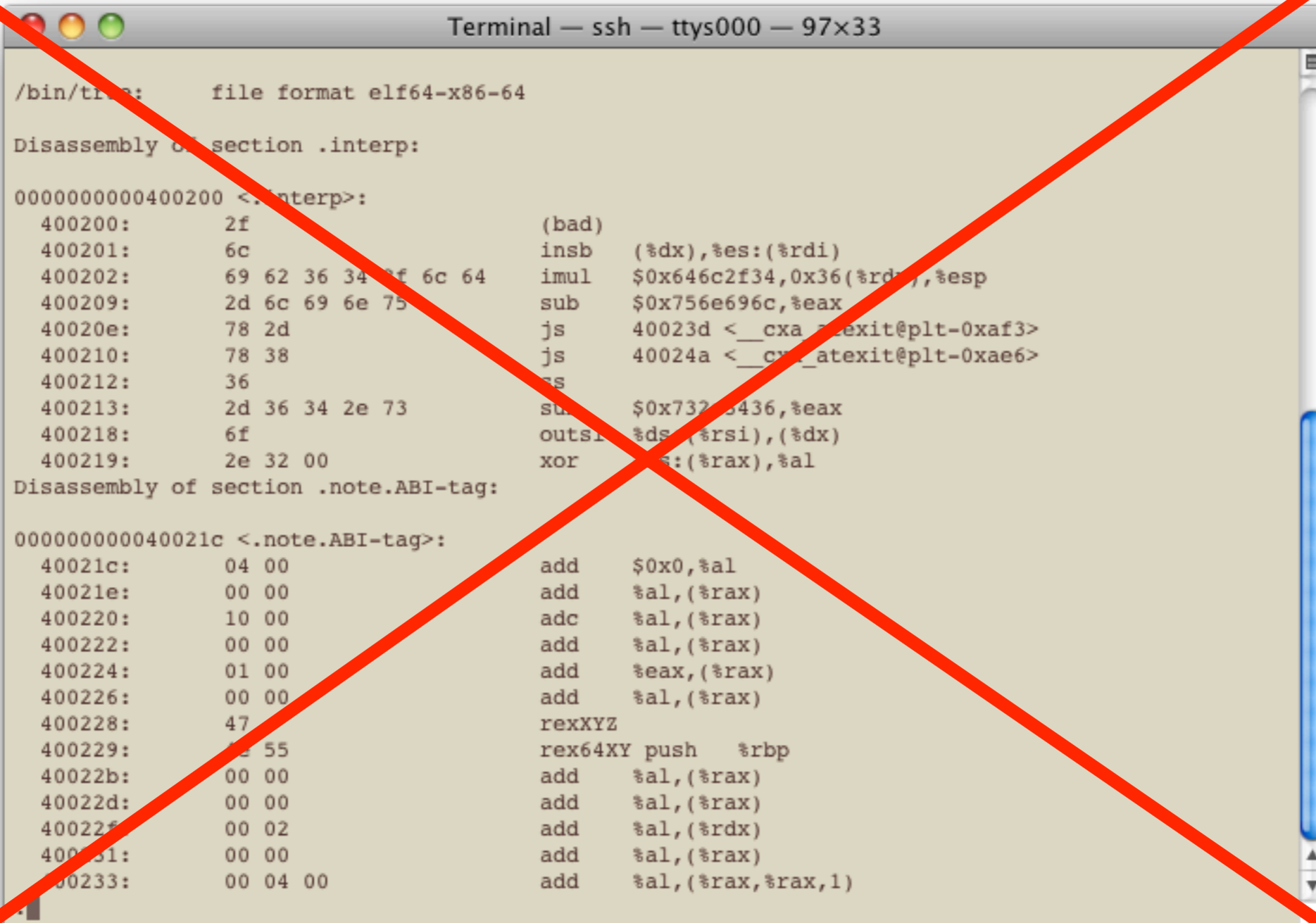
▶ A closer look on the actual tools

- ▶ **Easy** to use
- ▶ **Enable automated attacks**
- ▶ **Very sophisticated**



Malware Interfaces

► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



```
Terminal — ssh — ttys000 — 97x33

/bin/tls: file format elf64-x86-64

Disassembly of section .interp:

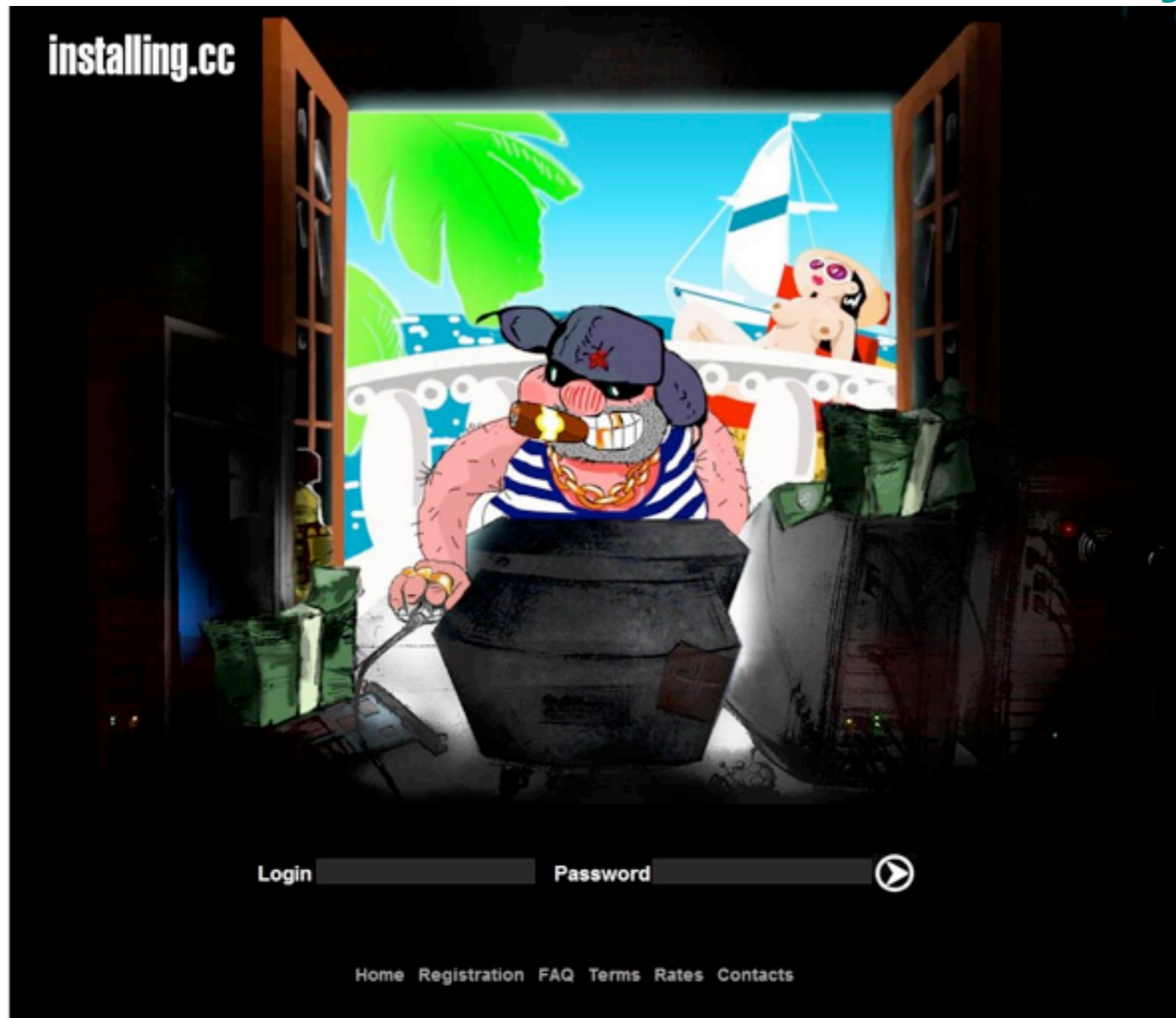
0000000000400200 <.interp>:
400200: 2f (bad)
400201: 6c insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
400202: 69 62 36 34 2f 6c 64 imul $0x646c2f34,0x36(%rdi),%esp
400209: 2d 6c 69 6e 75 sub $0x756e696c,%eax
40020e: 78 2d js 40023d <__cxa_atexit@plt-0xaf3>
400210: 78 38 js 40024a <__cxa_atexit@plt-0xae6>
400212: 36 cs
400213: 2d 36 34 2e 73 sub $0x732e3436,%eax
400218: 6f outsd %ds,(%rsi),(%dx)
400219: 2e 32 00 xor %es:(%rax),%al

Disassembly of section .note.ABI-tag:

000000000040021c <.note.ABI-tag>:
40021c: 04 00 add $0x0,%al
40021e: 00 00 add %al,(%rax)
400220: 10 00 adc %al,(%rax)
400222: 00 00 add %al,(%rax)
400224: 01 00 add %eax,(%rax)
400226: 00 00 add %al,(%rax)
400228: 47 rexXYZ
400229: 55 rex64XY push %rbp
40022b: 00 00 add %al,(%rax)
40022d: 00 00 add %al,(%rax)
40022f: 00 02 add %al,(%rdx)
400231: 00 00 add %al,(%rax)
400233: 00 04 00 add %al,(%rax,%rax,1)
```

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

The screenshot shows the FRAGUS botnet management interface. At the top left is the FRAGUS logo, a triangle with a chain link. To the right is a navigation menu with links for Statistics, Files, Sellers, Traffic links, Preferences, and Logout. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section, titled 'Total statistics:', shows a checkbox for 'Ajax autoreload' and three statistics: Hosts: 94, Frags: 22, and Percentage: 23.4%. Below this is a form for adding a new file. The form has three input fields: 'File description:', 'File name (for loading to victim *.exe)', and 'Uploading file:'. There is an 'Add' button and a 'Обзор...' button next to the 'Uploading file:' field. The bottom section, titled 'Files list:', shows a table with columns for File description, File name, Frags, Feedbacks, and Percentage feedbacks. The table contains one entry: 'Testinge' with file name 'updater.exe', 22 frags, 14 feedbacks, and 63.64% feedbacks. There are 'edit' and 'delete' buttons for each entry.

FRAGUS

Statistics | Files | Sellers | Traffic links | Preferences | Logout

Total statistics:

Ajax autoreload

Hosts: 94
Frags: 22
Percentage: 23.4%

Add file

File description:

File name (for loading to victim *.exe)

Uploading file: Обзор...

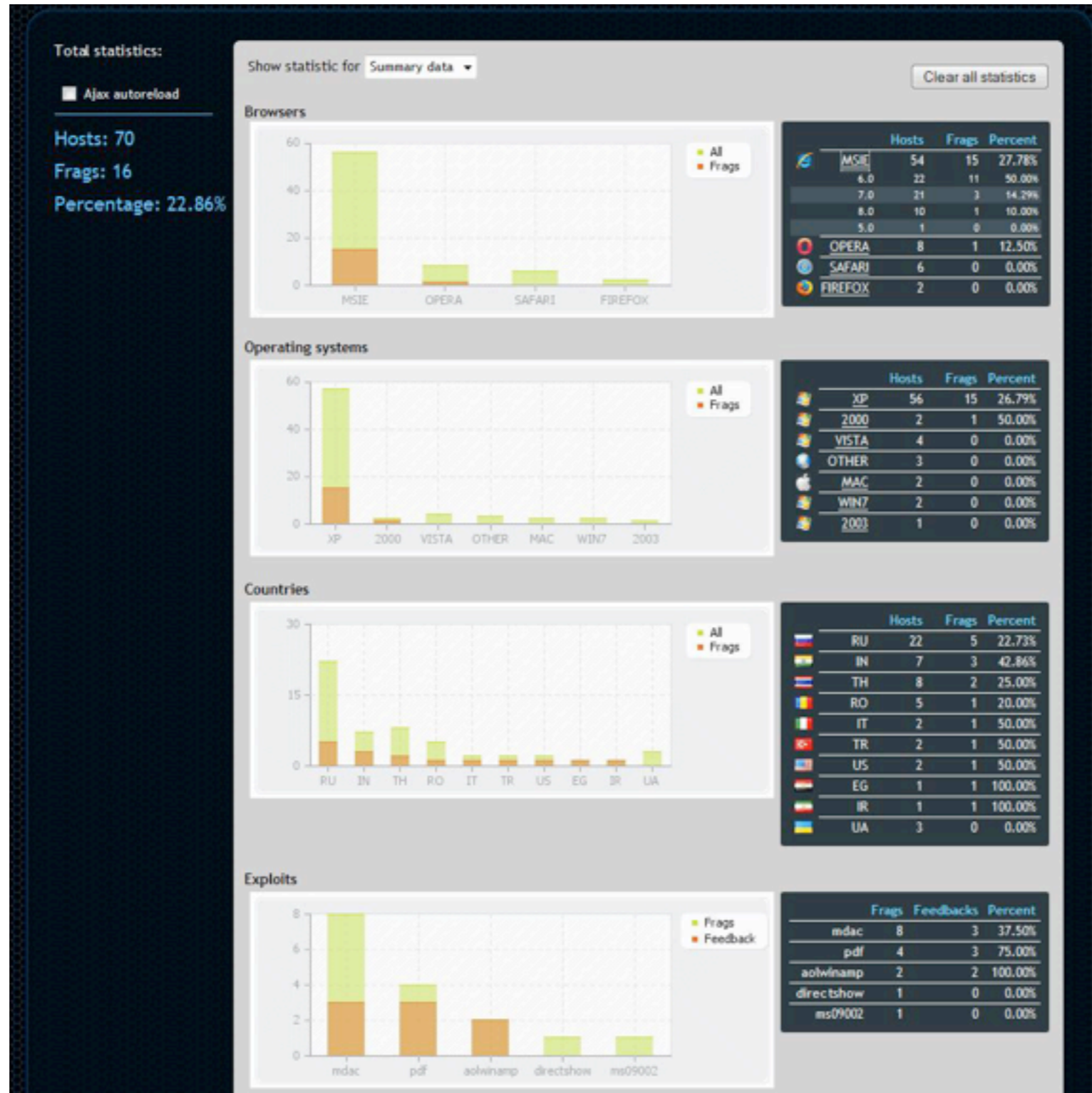
Add

Files list:

	File description	File name	Frags	Feedbacks	Percentage feedbacks
edit delete	Testinge	updater.exe	22	14	63.64%

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	all	buda	3	enabled	http://[redacted]/main/?t=6	edit delete show stat disable pack stat clear stat

on/off

Create new thread (options from default thread)

ZeuEsta 7.0 Administration Panel

Exploit Stats

mdac
xml
pdf
snap
op9
embed

0
0
0
0
0

Bot Stats

CP :: Summary statistics

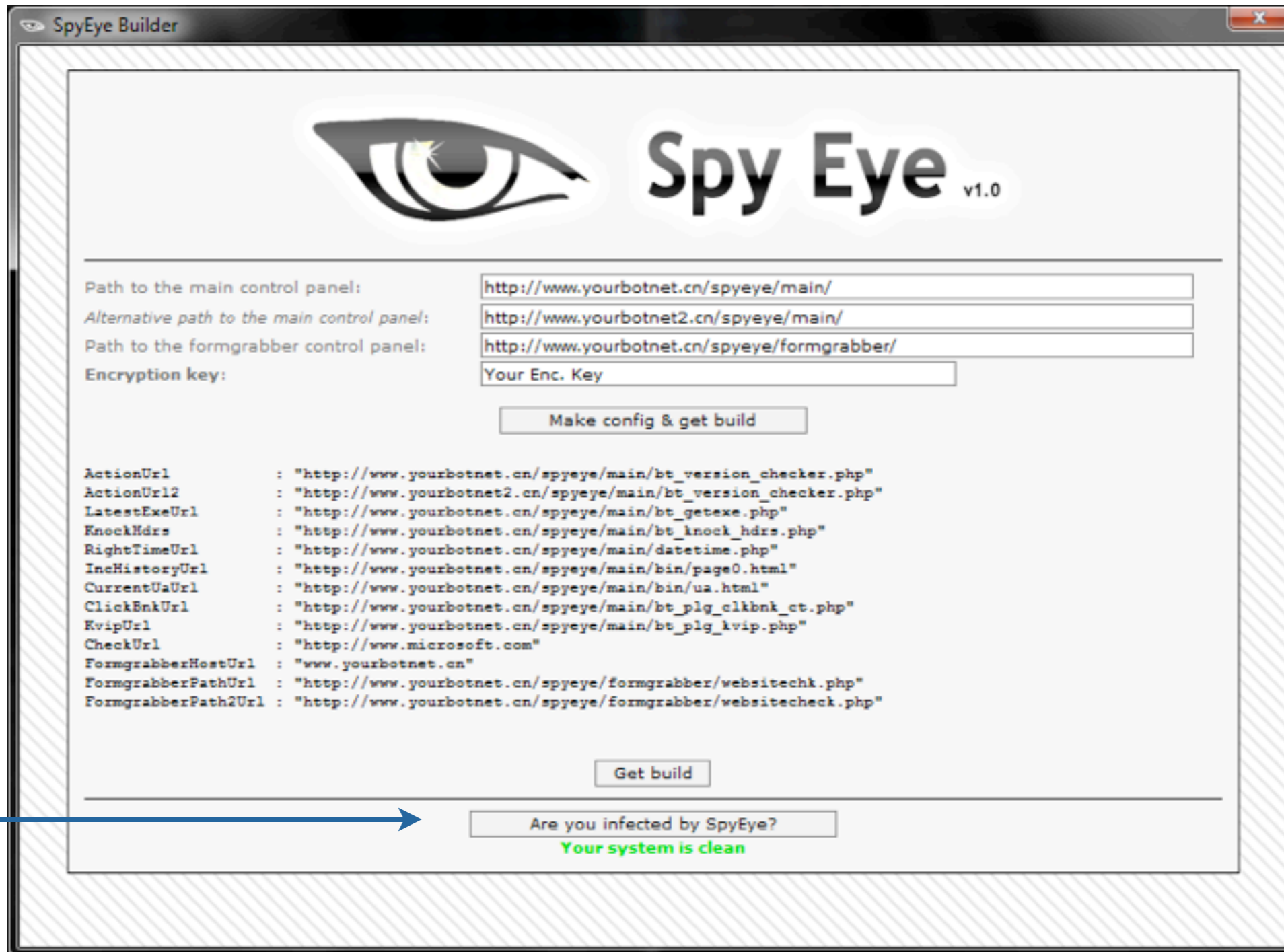
Information:	Current user: admin GMT date: 10.07.2009 GMT time: 00:09:11
Statistics:	→ Summary OS
Botnet:	

Information	
Total reports in database:	0
Time of first activity:	-
Total bots:	0
Total active bots in 24 hours:	0% - 0
Minimal version of bot:	0.0.0.0
Maximal version of bot:	0.0.0.0



Malware Interfaces

► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



Don't get infected by your own malware

Malware Interfaces

► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use



Malware Interfaces

► Modern malware can be convenient and easy to use

Path to the main control panel:

Alternative path to the main control panel:

Path to the formgrabber control panel:

Encryption key:

Connector interval (sec):

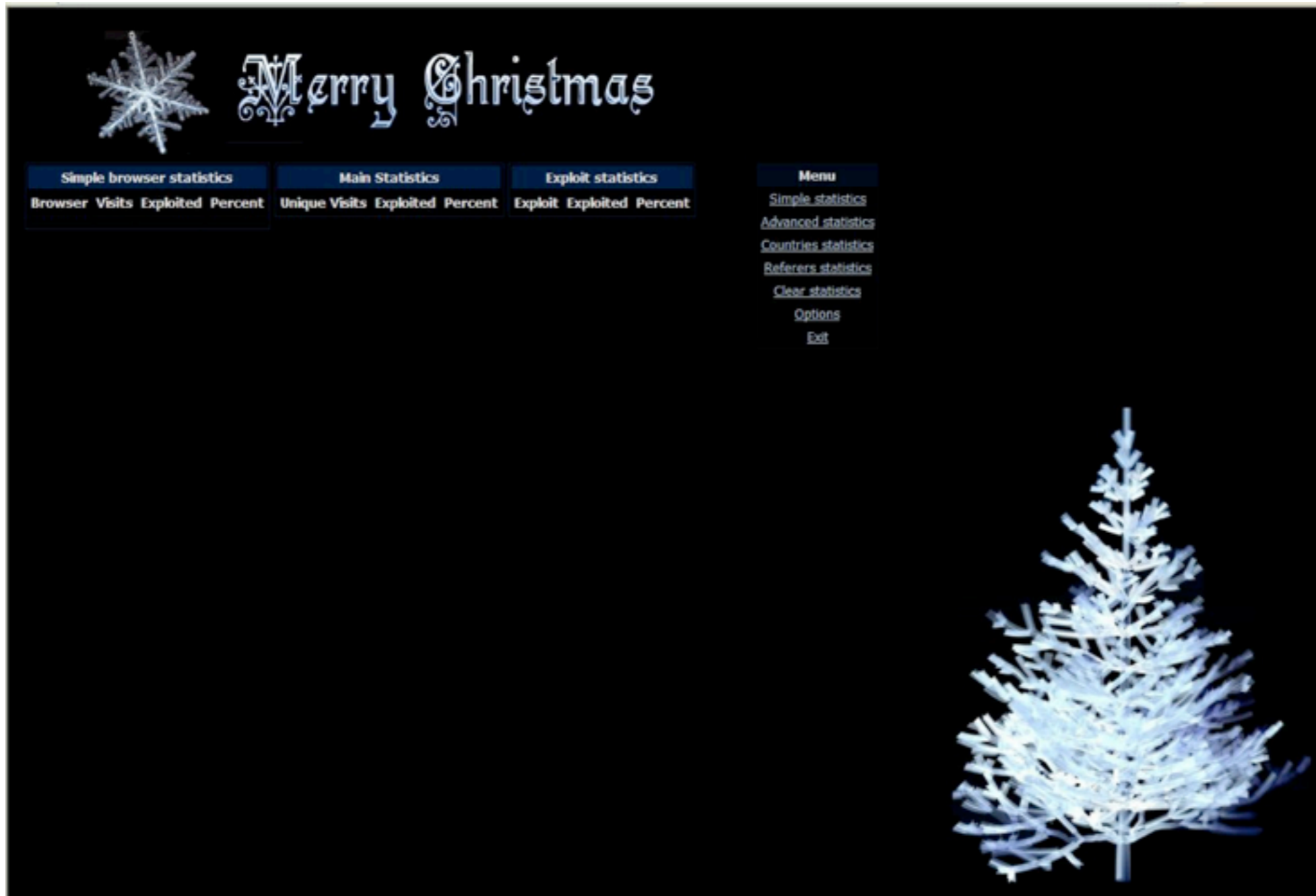
Compress build by UPX v3.04w:

Kill Zeus:

Kill competitors easily

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

