

How to protect your browser 0-day

Codenamed #IRONSQUIRREL

TS//SI//FVEY

FOUO//SI//FVEY

Zoltan Balazs – MRG Effitas

2017 November





Whoami?

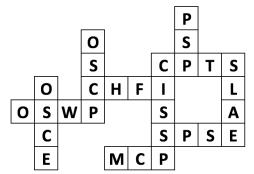


Zombie Browser Toolkit

https://github.com/Z6543/ZombieBrowserPack

HWFW Bypass tool

• Idea later(?) implemented by nation state attackers in Duqu 2 https://github.com/MRGEffitas/hwfwbypass



Malware Analysis Sandbox Tester tool

https://github.com/MRGEffitas/Sandbox_tester

Played with crappy IoT devices

https://jumpespjump.blogspot.hu/2015/09/how-i-hacked-my-ip-camera-and-found.html https://jumpespjump.blogspot.hu/2015/08/how-to-secure-your-home-against.html

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Introduction to ECDH / #IRONSQUIRREL

Attacker model

Why is this different/new

Defense/offense

Win Hacker Pschorr

Find Cyber on the slides



How did it all begin?

I had this "discussion" with nextgen/breach-detection vendors that their network appliance can be bypassed in a way that they can't even see an exploit happened or malware was delivered

They told me it is impossible

SCREW YOU GUYS



memegenerator.net

Why should you listen to this talk?

Exploit brokers and law enforcement

- Effective way to prevent the 0-day exploit code being leaked
- Pentesters/red team members
 - Bypass perimeter defenses, some host IDS

Blue team members, forensics investigators, exploit kit researchers

 How current defenses can be bypassed via #IRONSQUIRREL browser exploit delivery

Rest of you

• Learning about elliptic curve cryptography is always fun

Introduction to

Exploit kits, targeted attacks with 0-dayz

DH key agreement

ECDH key agreement

Encrypted browser exploit delivery

My idea implemented by the bad guys

Browser exploits, exploit kits

"An **exploit kit** is a software kit designed to run on web servers, with the purpose of identifying software vulnerabilities in client machines communicating with it, and discovering and **exploiting** vulnerabilities to upload and execute malicious code on the client."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exploit kit

Lost 0-day exploit => \$\$\$--

Targeting of Ahmed Mansoor with iOS Safari 0-day exploit

- http://www.5z8.info/malicious-cookie z2m5jd mydick
- iOS 0-day exploit
 - 100 000 USD 1 500 000 USD
- Mansoor still in prison 🕾

Tor browser 0-day exploit used by law enforcement on pedophile site

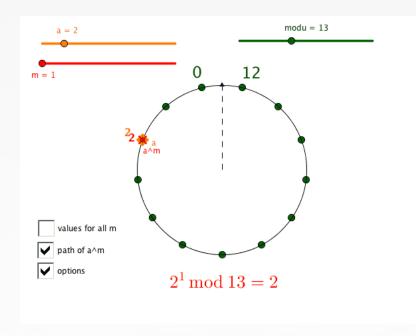
- http://www.5z8.info/twitterhack-u3o2ex-this-page-will-steal-all-of-your-personal-data
- Tor Browser 0-day: 30 000 USD

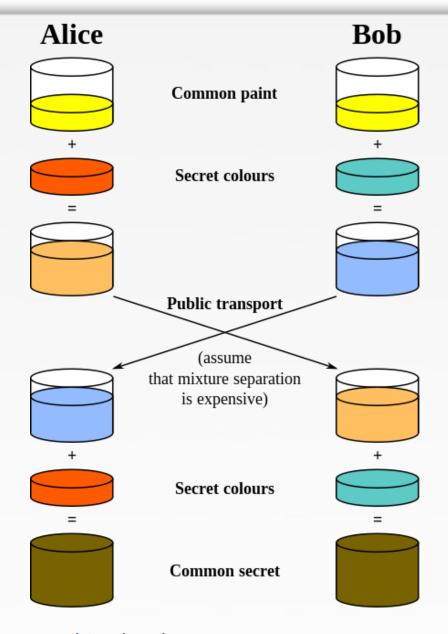
https://www.zerodium.com/program.html

Both exploit leaked, burnt



Diffie-Hellman key agreement - 1976



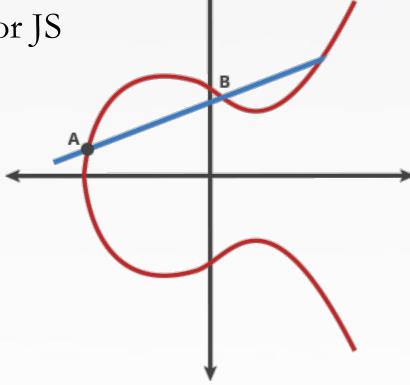


http://mathhombre.blogspot.hu/2014_05_01_archive.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diffie%E2%80%93Hellman_key_exchange <u>E</u>lliptic <u>C</u>urve based <u>D</u>iffie-<u>H</u>ellman (ECDH) key agreement

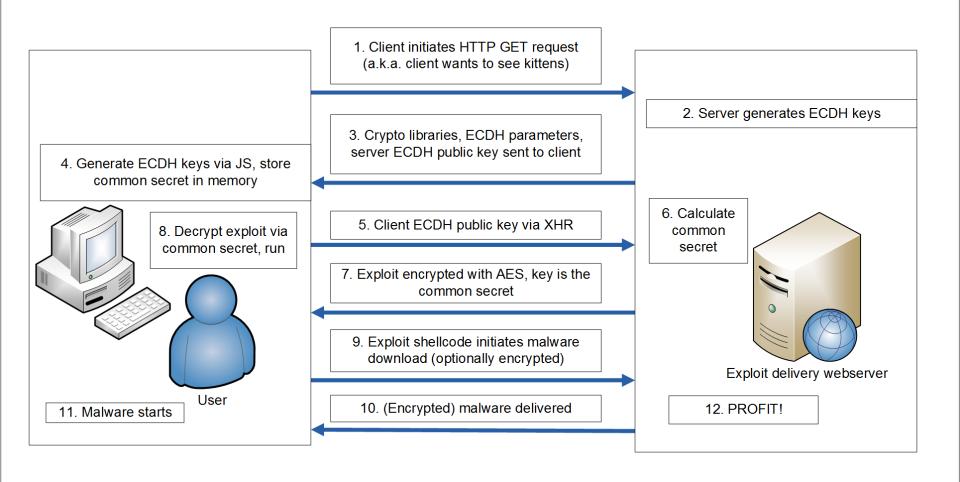
ECDH key agreement 5-10 times faster on same CPU [citation needed]

DH key agreement is too slow for JS

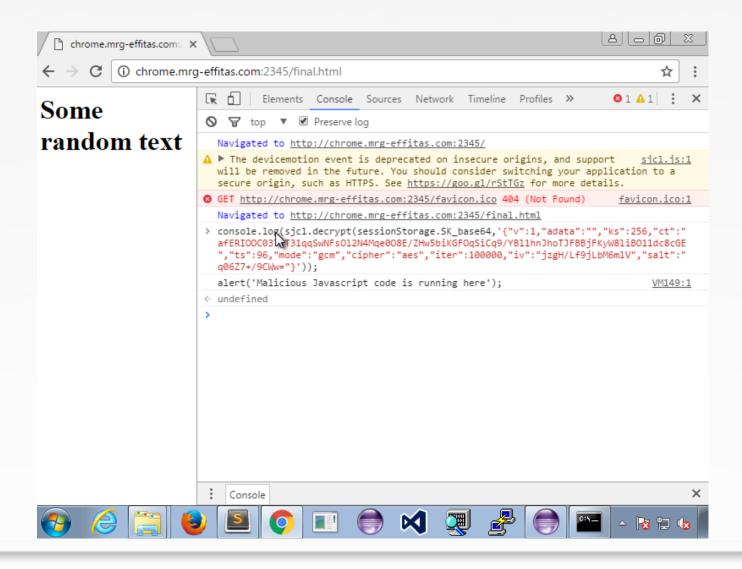
It is like you know the start and end position of the billiard ball on the table, but god knows the way it took to get there



#IRONSQUIRREL



Demo with test JavaScript in Chrome



Implementation details

Original Node.JS POC – 2 June, 2015 New Ruby POC compatible and tested with

- Edge
- IE11 (older IE just sucks, can't crypto)
- Firefox (Tor Browser)
- Chrome
- Opera
- Mobile Safari
- Mobile Chrome
- Android built-in browser

https://twitter.com/zh4ck/status/605754804472823808



Generic bypass of next-gen intrusion / threat / breach detection systems blog.mrgeffitas.com/generic-bypass ...

RETWEETS 3











DH implemented in exploit kits

FireEye analysis – Angler exploit kit

- "First" in-the-wild DH encrypted exploit
- Only shellcode was protected by encryption

https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2015/08/cve-2015-2419 inte.html

CVE-2015-2419 – Internet Explorer Double-Free in Angler EK

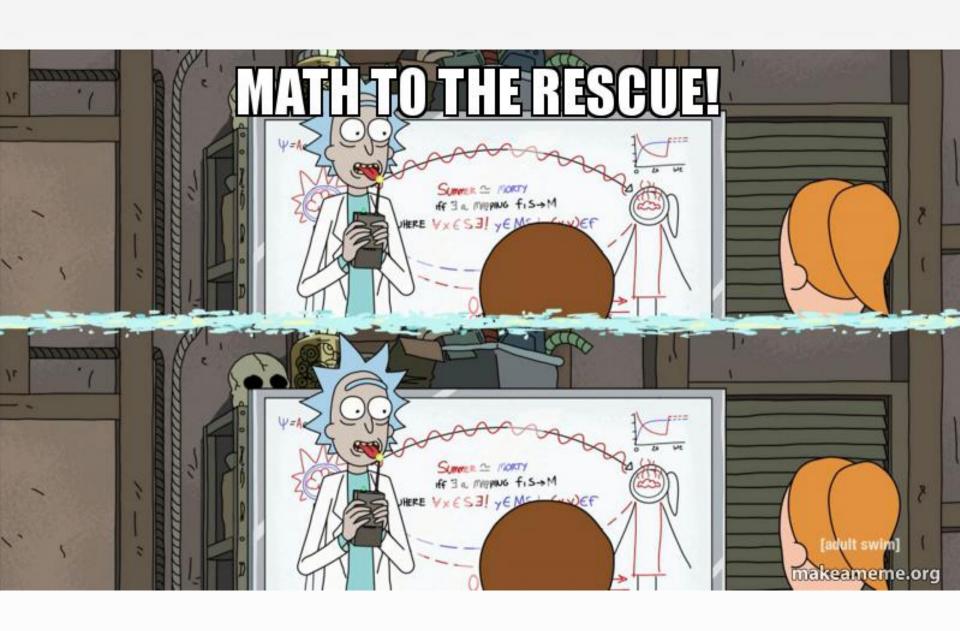
August 10, 2015 | by Sudeep Singh, Dan Caselden

The Angler Exploit Kit (EK) recently added support for an Internet Explorer (IE) vulnerability (CVE-2015-2419) that was patched in July 2015. Quickly exploiting recently patched vulnerabilities is standard for Angler EK authors, but the target has been Adobe Flash Player since the second half of 2014. The exploitation of CVE-2015-2419 marks the second departure from Flash exploits for Angler (the first being the inclusion of CVE-2015-1671 in Silverlight). This may be the result of Adobe's recent exploit mitigations in Flash Player that prevent attackers from using Vector (and similar) objects to develop their control over corrupted Flash processes. To date, Angler will deliver Flash, IE, and/or Silverlight exploits depending upon the target's environment.

Angler also added a new obfuscation to its IE exploit. The landing page fetches a stub of keys and data necessary to run the exploit from the server each time it executes. The stub of information is only sent to victims that broadcast vulnerable browsers, and is protected with XTEA over a homebrew Diffie-Hellman.

IE Exploit Delivery Protection using Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange "You might think this is coincidental, but I assure you it is not ..."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeDq GwQkDk8



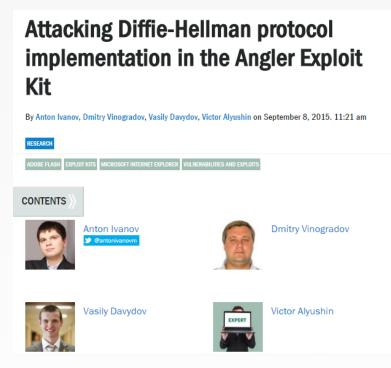
DH implemented in exploit kits

"Several days ago analysts found the usage of the Diffie-Hellman cryptographic protocol in the Angler Exploit Kit, ... that is the first known case of its usage in an exploit kit."

Weakness demonstrations

- Use of DH instead of ECDH
- Short keys suspected to be factorized

2017 May: Astrum/Stegano exploit kit back with DH exploit delivery



https://securelist.com/blog/research/72097/attacking-diffie-hellman-protocol-implementation-in-the-angler-exploit-kit/

CAN'T USE ECDH CRYPTO ON IE10 OR LOWER

DH IS TOO SLOW, GENERATED KEY IS CRACKABLE

Attacker model

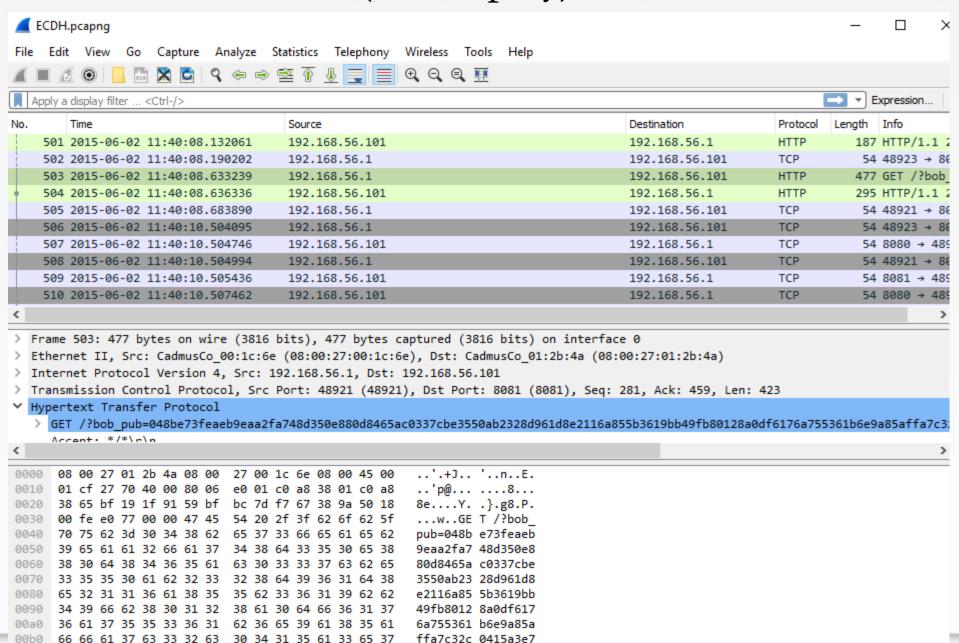
Who is my attacker?

- The reverse engineer (RE), who tries to reverse the precious 0-day exploit
- The nextgen/breach-detection system

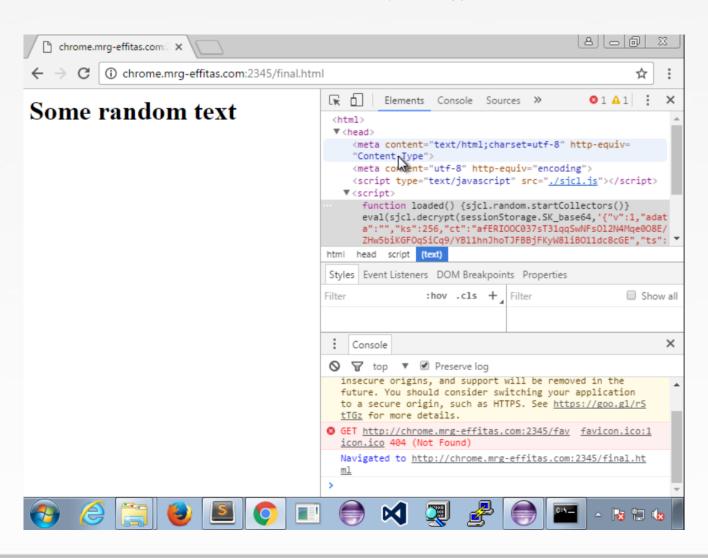
What is the capability of the attacker?

See next slides

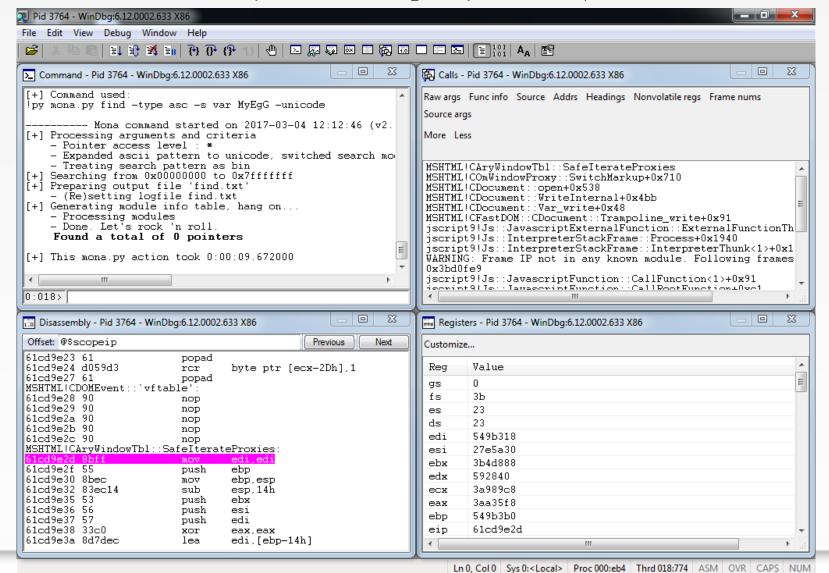
RE can record (and replay) network traffic



RE can debug in browser – JavaScript level Has access to DOM in browser



RE can debug the browser – Assembly level This is not always trivial – e.g. if you can't jailbreak iOS



Network forensics

When checking IRONSQUIRREL network traffic, you see

- Bunch of crypto libraries
- Public key exchange
- Encrypted blobs
 - Without the shared key, you can't do much
 - Unless you have a kick-ass quantum computer
 - Attackers: just use quantum resistant key exchange

Debugging in browser is possible – but I will recommend some tricks to make this harder

Why is this different, new?

Protecting the browser exploit code was so far obfuscation only

- It was encryption with keys known to the attacker
- Now, it is encryption with keys not know to the attacker

Why is this different then SSL/TLS?

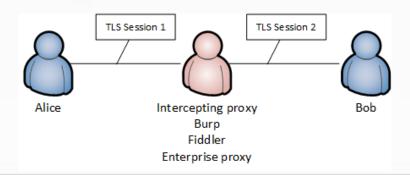
How does this affect exploit replay?

IRONSQUIRREL exploit delivery VS exploit kits using SSL/TLS

If you control the client (the analysis machine), TLS MiTM is trivial

Deep Packet Inspection

- TLS MiTM at enterprises
- TLS MiTM with intercept proxies like Burp or Fiddler at home or your lab



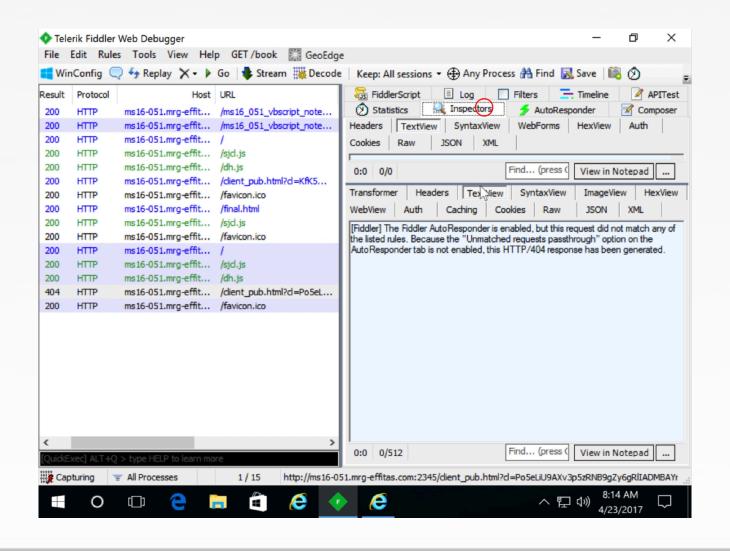
Traditional browser exploits forensics

Reproducible exploit replay with Fiddler or similar SSL/TLS exploit delivery can be replayed if MiTM is possible

IRONSQUIRREL exploit delivery cannot be replayed

- The client will generate different public/private key
- Client will send different public key to replay server
- Replay server either sends the encrypted data with the old key, or can't generate new ECDH key thus fails to replay

Exploit replay with and without IRONSQUIRREL





Astrum EK replay broken

Result	Protocol	Host	LIDI	Comments	Body	Content-Type
200	НТТР	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/s_u1w_/gl089yt3p-eh-zby1dru3h_0sz8h-fpfy8evte5xm1/cwi06y	Astrum Exploit Kit	4,066	text/html;charset=UTF-8
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ky3ai7qw-ezr947i5ub9rsf9f0c1wl8xdbmyd7gtlnu50r325p_1yeo8?q=eyJnIjoieDg2IiwiYiI6IjUu	Astrum Exploit Kit	3,869	text/html;charset=UTF-8
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/aoheprazfjtlxrsjhoi/3755417082/i/gzohiswl916/698385664/mesp/79u7gd5_svuey	Astrum Exploit Kit	19,914	application/x-shockwave-flash
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=fl%20cr	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	oxamqjtprng/1629277540/qy75spcwe2dv12f5/2540393886/5kmghnc/q.gif?p=FUNYzJxoima	Astrum Exploit Kit	52,211	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=fl%20hd	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_jfqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=f1	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/xjoaoprjuzd/1904034186/rov1toas564mzej/2265635184/3r2tlid5ubsi/d9px.gif	Astrum Exploit Kit	7,258	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/sxzpgabcvwmgr/2510716582/4gu5v4c_b016108c/9/1674700380/ncgczl4le_j5vbo.gif	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=sp1	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=dt	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=sp2	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=jsb	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=sc	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
Result	Protocol	Host	URL	Comments	Body	Content-Type
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/s_u1w_/gl089yt3p-eh-zby1dru3h_0sz8h-fpfy8evte5xm1/cwi06y	Astrum Exploit Kit	4,066	text/html;charset=UTF-8
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ky3ai7qw-ezr947i5ub9rsf9f0c1wl8xdbmyd7gtlnu50r325p_1yeo8?q=eyJnIjoieDg2IiwiYiI6IjUu	Astrum Exploit Kit	3,869	text/html;charset=UTF-8
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/aoheprazfjtlxrsjhoi/3755417082/i/gzohiswl916/698385664/mesp/79u7gd5_svuey	Astrum Exploit Kit	19,914	application/x-shockwave-flash
200	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/ngrcpxr/930292396/0qgzems5hn8vxy1_ifqb/3238312534/6ih24qv3rf_he6.gif?a=fl%20cr	Astrum Exploit Kit	42	image/gif
200	НТТР	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	oxamqjtprng/1629277540/qy75spcwe2dv12f5/2540393886/5kmghnc/q.gif?p=TwajBZHE6aB	Astrum Exploit Kit	52,211	image/gif
502	HTTP	define.predatorhuntingusa.com	/mudizbyo/3594307092/jq12p_xcf9ij2v/541810414/b2xh7.gif?g=fl%20cr%20dec%20err	Failed Decrypt	166	text/html

Fun fact: even if exploit is not 0-day, other threat groups can't steal your exploit code

http://blog.trendmicro.com/trendlabs-security-intelligence/astrum-exploit-kit-abuses-diffie-hellman-key-exchange/

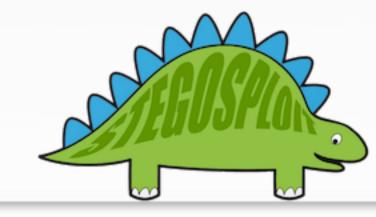
IRONSQUIRREL exploit delivery VS Stegosploit

"Stegosploit creates a new way to **encode** "drive-by" browser exploits and deliver them through image files" ... "image based exploit delivery - Steganography and Polyglots"

Stegosploit is good at hiding your exploit. But it is replayable, thus easy to analyse once recorded/identified

http://stegosploit.info/

It is possible to combine Stegosploit with IRONSQUIRREL



IRONSQUIRREL exploit delivery VS Heartbleed

TLS Heartbeet can be sent either

- In clear-text before handshake finished
- Encrypted, after handshake

It is harder to create IDS signatures for the encrypted payload.

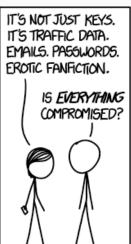
Heartbleed exploit uses encryption as part of the protocol.

IRONSQUIRREL exploit delivery uses encryption as an additional module to

make reversing harder









Defense and offense

Prevention and detection on the network level
Analysis on the endpoint
How to make endpoint analysis (a lot) harder

Anti-analysis improvements

One-time URLs (URL is dead after one use) Implemented

• In Law Enforcement mode, use one-time URL per logged in user!

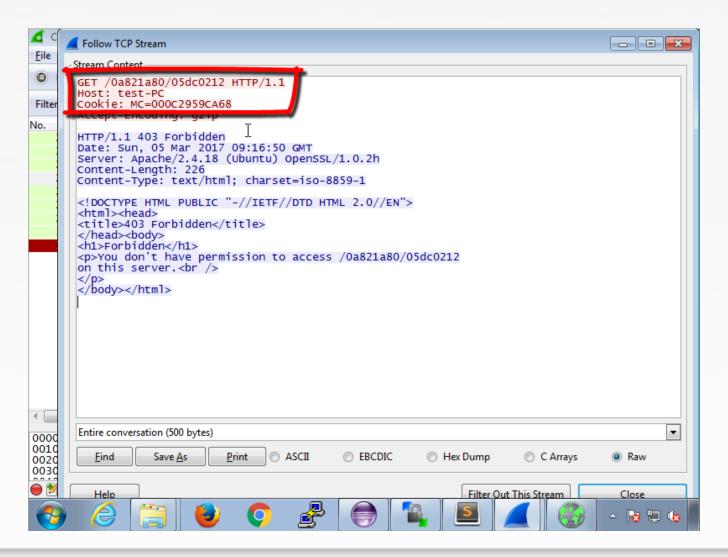
Time-limits to prevent manual debugging

Remove full DOM after exploit runs

Implemented

Implemented

Case study – Tor browser exploit



Prevent the IRONSQUIRREL exploit attacks via network defenses

IRONSQUIRREL specific blocking/detection

- Detection of (EC)DH encrypted traffic
- Will lead to False Positives (FP)

Non IRONSQUIRREL specific blocking/detection

- Block uncategorized/new domains
- Domain white-listing

Web ISOLATION

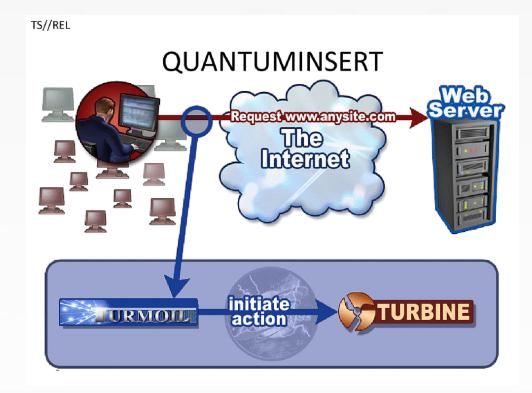
Web Isolation is

- Something like a proxy
- Code runs on a remote server
- Rendered data is forwarded to client browser
- Exploit code "runs" on remote server
- Tested, it blocked Firefox and IE exploits
 - If you have Chrome 0-day targeting Linux, let me know

Delivery method improvements

To bypass uncategorized/new domain prevention/detection

- Use of watering hole
- Quantum insert techniques
 - Warning, might not be available in your attacker capability



Analyze IRONSQUIRREL exploits on the endpoint

Log the shared key and/or client private key

"Fix" the random generator – generate same client private keys always

"Hook" the JS code to immediately return with the same client secret key

Remote debugging iOS Safari on OS X

Detailed JS execution Tracelog

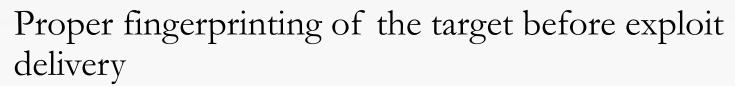
- https://github.com/szimeus/evalyzer
 - --> check out this great project!

Evalyzer MS16-051 demo

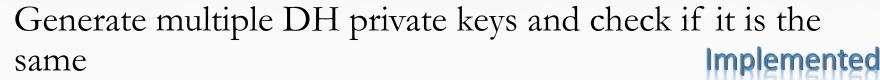
```
_ D X
C:\Program Files\Debugging Tools for Windows (x86)\ntsd.exe
*** ERROR: Symbol file could not be found. Defaulted to export symbol
s for C:\Windows\system32\vm3dum 10.dll -
Couldn't resolve error at 'rto'
0:020> .foreach /s (exc "epr sbo sov gp ii av") {sxe ${exc}}
0:020> sxe -c ".logclose" -h epr
0:020> bu jscript9!Js::ScriptContext::IsInEvalMap ".echo EVAL(dyn)----
-;.printf \"%mu\", poi(esp+0x18);.echo;g"
0:020> bu MSHTML!CHTMLoad::Write ".echo DOCUMENT.WRITE(dyn)----;.prin
tf \"%mu\",poi(esp+0x4);.echo;g"
0:020> g
EVAL(dyn)-----
var x = "Hello World! :)"
DOCUMENT.WRITE(dyn)-----
<script type="text/vbscript">
        Dim aw
        Dim plunge(32)
        Dim y(32)
        prefix = "%u4141%u4141"
        d = prefix & "%u0016%u4141%u4141%u4141%u4242%u4242"
                                                                 ▲ 
★ 
□ 
(*)
```

Anti-analysis improvements

Detect debug window (client-side protection 🟵) https://github.com/zswang/jdetects



Code obfuscation – effective against MiTM *









^{*} http://blog.trendmicro.com/trendlabs-security-intelligence/how-exploit-kit-operators-are-misusing-diffie-hellman-key-exchange/

Anti-analysis improvements

Adding lot of junk code to DoS the analysis environment



Use eval equivalent functions like SetTimeout, new Function(), ... to bypass default Evalyzer



https://www.slideshare.net/x00mario/in-the-dom-no-one-will-hear-you-scream

Conclusion of the RE attacker

Determined RE engineer can restore exploit from a memory dump

Determined attacker can put breakpoints on DEP related VirtualProtects or use Guard Pages, and reverse the vulnerability *

But it can delay the analysis/discovery of the exploit by days/weeks/months if the attacker implements my suggestions

^{*} Windows only method

Conclusion of the RE attacker



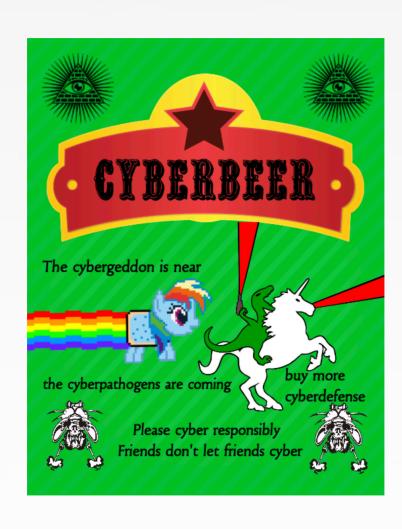
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^{*} Windows only method

Hacker and Cyber Pschorr (limited edition!)





Chain the IRONSQUIRREL exploit to malware execution

Encrypted malware payload delivery Target aware malware payload



- Gauss https://kasperskycontenthub.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/vlpdfs/kaspersky-lab-gauss.pdf
- Ebowla https://github.com/Genetic-Malware/Ebowla

All the "anti" stuff

- Anti-debug
- Anti-memory forensics
- Anti-disassemble
- Anti-sandbox
- Anti-dump
- Anti-trace

RESEARCHERS SEEK HELP CRACKING GAUSS MYSTERY PAYLOAD

	5C 00 44 00 74 00 73 00	6F 00 63 00 75 00 6D 00 20 00 61 00 6E 00 64 00	
20 00 53 00 73 00 5C 00	65 00 74 00 68 00 6F 00	74 00 69 00 6E 00 67 00 68 00 6E 00 5C 00 4C 00	.S.e.t.t.i.n.g.
	61 00 6C 00	20 00 53 00 65 00 74 00	o.c.a.lS.e.t.
70 00 6C 00	69 00 63 00	73 00 5C 00 41 00 70 00 61 00 74 00 69 00 6F 00	p.1.i.c.a.t.i.o.
6F 00 6F 00	67 00 6C 00	74 00 61 00 5C 00 47 00 65 00 5C 00 43 00 68 00	o.o.g.l.e.\.C.h.
72 00 6F 00 6C 00 69 00	6D 00 65 00 63 00 61 00	5C 00 41 00 70 00 70 00 74 00 69 00 6F 00 6E 00	1.i.c.a.t.i.o.n.
7E 00 64 00 E8 77 C0 35	69 00 72 00 CC 03 73 23	31 00 97 48 6C AA 22 5F 6D 51	~.d.i.r.1Hl."_ .w.5s#mQ

A string pair from the Gauss malware. Image courtesy of Kaspersky Lab

Current Metasploit integration level

Pre-alpha (a.k.a non-existent) version 0.0

- Run Metasploit with (fake) victim
- Extract HTML file (now the exploit is static)
- Put extracted HTML into exploit folder
- Run IRONSQUIRREL with the HTML file

Need help!

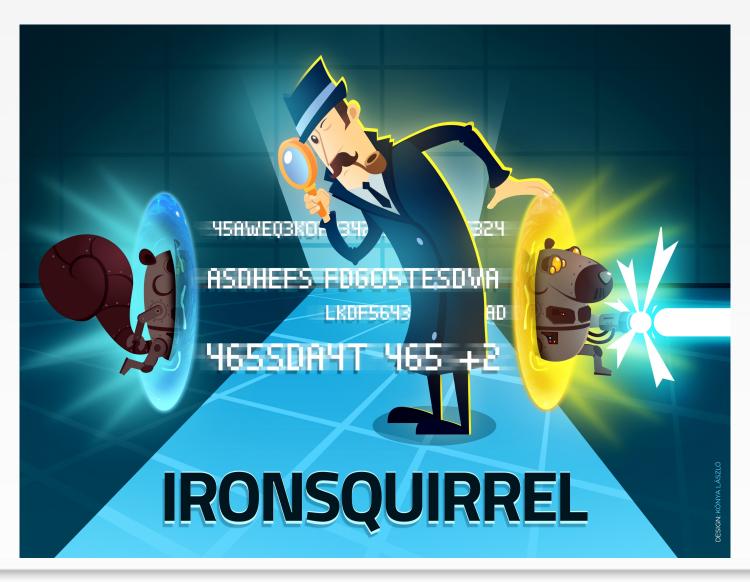
Is there a logo???

This is not a vulnerability

Logos are lame

So the logical answer is that there is no logo

Hell yeah I made a logo ©

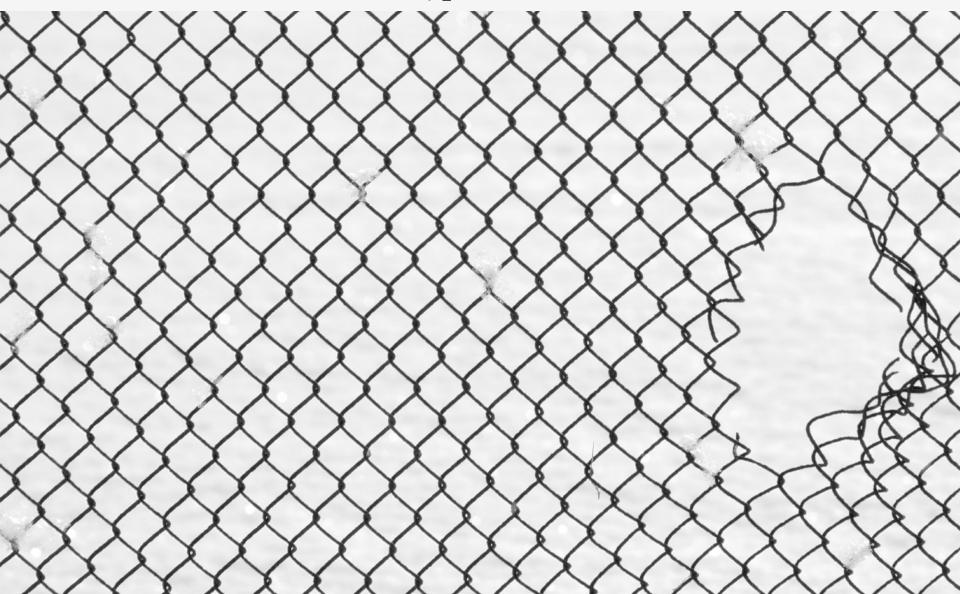


Code publish



Perimeter security is dying

Mobile devices and encryption trends



Conclusion

IRONSQUIRREL could have prevented the leak of the iOS Safari 0-day

IRONSQUIRREL could have prevented (or significantly delay) the leak of the Tor Browser 0-day

IRONSQUIRREL with one-time exploits can make RE a nightmare

IRONSQUIRREL does not deal with endpoint exploit protections (EMET)

OPSEC is important

Ethical dilemmas

Why do I help the "bad" guys?

Who are the bad guys?

- Neither offense nor defense is bad by itself
 - I consider the FBI being the good guys if they are catching the pedophiles
- It is all about evolution
 - Have better defense or offense than the others to survive

I agree that the current laws are not prepared for law enforcement hacking of Tor users

What happens if we don't prepare our defenses against these attacks?

Hack the planet!

https://github.com/MRGEffitas/Ironsquirrel

zoltan.balazs@mrg-effitas.com

https://hu.linkedin.com/in/zbalazs

Twitter - @zh4ck

www.slideshare.net/bz98

HACKERSULI !!!1!

Greetz to @CrySySLab, @SpamAndHex, @midnite_runr,@buherator, @sghctoma, @zmadarassy, @DavidSzili, @xoreipeip, @theevilbit, @molnar_g, Szimeus

https://JumpESPJump.blogspot.com



