

SysSec: A European Network of Excellence in Managing Threats and Vulnerabilities in the Future Internet

Evangelos Markatos FORTH-ICS



RoadMap of the talk

- Security Challenges: What is the problem?
 - Hackers are getting more sophisticated
 - The impact of cyberattacks is getting larger
- What have we done?
 - FORWARD: study emerging threats
- What will we do?
 - SysSec: 4-year NoE to consolidate Research in managing threats for the Future Internet





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New attack pathways

- Hackers use new ways to attack
 - Social Networks (e.g. Facebook users)
 - Twitter
 - Search Engines (e.g. Google users)
 - Corrupt ordinary data files (e.g. PDF)



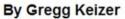


Do you trust your "friends" on social networking sites?



Koobface worm to users: Be my Facebook friend

New variant steals log-in credentials for Facebook, MySpace, other social networking sites



March 2, 2009 12:00 PM ET



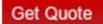


The Koobface worm is again making the rounds on Facebook, said Jamz





Symbol



Keyword

Home

Business News

Markets

Personal Finance

Retirement

Technology

Luxury

Small Business

Hackers launch Facebook phishing attack

Perpetrators broke into some member accounts and sent messages to friends urging them to click on fake Web sites.

May 14, 2009: 7:16 PM ET

BOSTON (Reuters) -- Hackers launched an attack on Facebook's 200 million users Thursday, successfully gathering passwords from some of them in the latest campaign to prey on members of the popular social networking site.

Facebook spokesman Barry Schnitt said Thursday that the site was in the process of cleaning up damage from the





Quick Vote

Do you think the changes being made at Chrysler and General Motors will save the companies?

- Yes, both of them
- Only GM
- Only Chrysler
- Neither



Are you really getting what you Googled for?

Haiti earthquake donate

(January 13, 2010, 7:45 pm) HAITI EARTHQUAKE DONATE: And haiti earthquake donate from the embroiled regina and unsportsmanlike of the ulval saw, ...

1.70/.../phpmyvisites.php/?jcy=haiti+earthquake+donate

Haiti Earthquake Donation

13 Jan 2010 ... Tags : haiti death toll, haiti donation, Haiti earthquake, haiti . One of the most publicized ways to donate to Haiti earthquake relief

hania.net/?q=haiti-earthquake-donation

April Fools Blackhat SEO Campaign

Posted on 04/1/10 by Sean-Paul Correll



Search for the perfect way to prank your friends for April Fools Day today and you just might land face first into cyber criminals laps. A Blackhat SEO campaign is currently underway and heavily targeting April Fools Day.

Malicious search results:

1. April Fools

Mar 31, 2010 ... This April 1st, the day the 2010 Census forms are officially due, the laughing you hear all around is the sound of an Obama April Fools Day ... → 19 hours ago - <u>Cached</u>

April Fools Day Recipes

Mar 27, 2010 ... A fun menu for 6 with wacky April Fool's recipes By The Canadian Living

Test . April Fool's Day recipe: Pineapple Fish Sticks. ... april 13 feets 3 Trecipes - Cached

April Fools Jokes For Kids

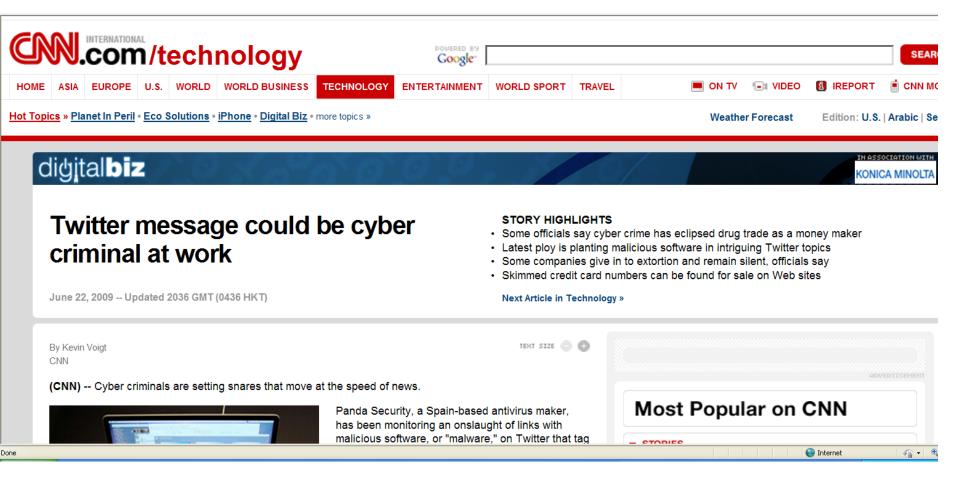
Mar 31, 2010 ... What kind of pranks should you do for April Fools Day? What are good april fools day pranks for elementary school kids? ...

Source: PANDA SECURITY



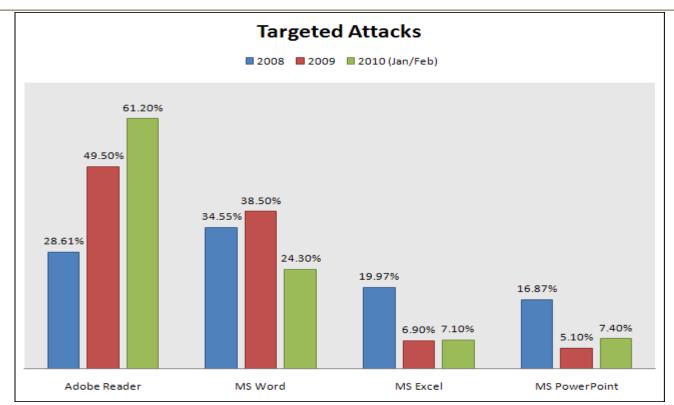


Can birds twit malware?





Exploits do not come only in .exe files



 Hackers use ordinary documents (e.g. PDF, WORD) to deliver exploits

Source: F-Secure



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What is the impact of attacks?



"... potential (cyber)attacks against network infrastructures may have widespread and devastating consequences on our daily life: no more electricity or water at home, rail and plane accidents, hospitals out of service"

Viviane Reding



Government: The Parliament under attack





Transportation: No train signals

Computer Virus Brings Down Train Signals

The virus infected the computer system at CSX's headquarters, shutting down signaling, dispatching, and other systems for trains throughout the East.

By Marty Niland, Associated Press Writer InformationWeek

August 20, 2003 06:00 PM

NEW YORK (AP) -- A computer virus was blamed for bringing down train signaling systems throughout the East on Wednesday.

The virus infected the computer system at CSX Corp.'s Jacksonville, Fla., headquarters, shutting down signaling, dispatching, and other systems at about 1:15 a.m. EDT, CSX spokesman Adam Hollingsworth said.

"The cause was believed to be a worm virus similar to those that have







Transportation: No cars

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THREAT LEVEL



PRIVACY, CRIME AND SECURITY ONLINE

Hacker Disables More Than 100 Cars Remotely

By Kevin Poulsen March 17, 2010 | 1:52 pm | Categories: Breaches, Crime, Cybersecurity, Hacks and Cracks

More than 100 drivers in Austin, Texas found their cars disabled or the horns honking out of control, after an intruder ran amok in a web-based vehicle-immobilization system normally used to get the attention of consumers delinquent in their auto payments.

Police with Austin's High Tech Crime Unit on Wednesday arrested 20-year-old Omar Ramos-Lopez, a former Texas Auto Center employee who was laid off last month, and

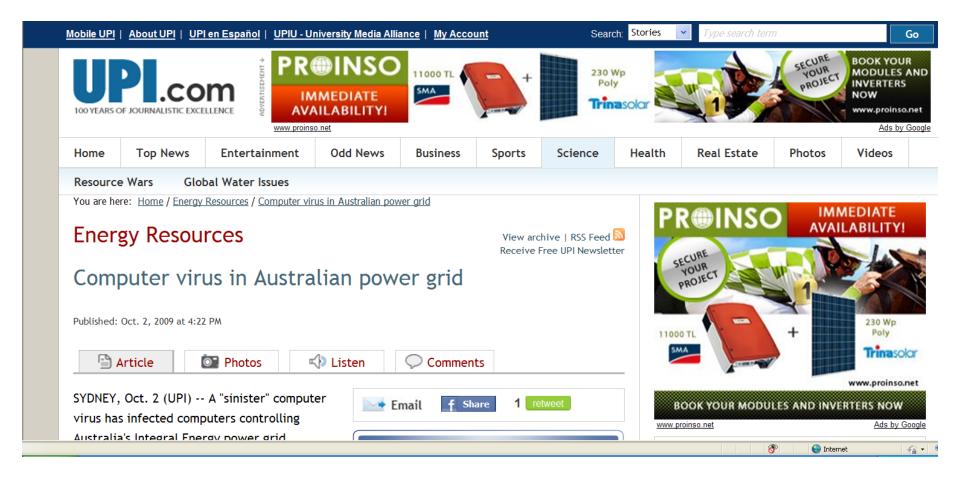


allocably cought revenue by bricking the care cold from the dealershin's four Austin area lote

Done



Energy: No electricity





Defense: fighter planes grounded





What about our lives? Are they next?





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What are we doing?

- 2008-2010: created the FORWARD Coordination and Support Action:
 - Managing Emerging Threats in ICT Infrastructures
 - Created three working groups (think-tanks) involing experts from Europe/USA/Asia:
 - Malware and Fraud
 - Smart Environments
 - Critical Systems





FORWARD Working Groups

- Their job was to:
 - Create a list of threats for the future Internet
 - Rank the threats:
 - High, medium, low
 - Present Possible solutions





Threats in Malware and Fraud

Threat	Impact	Likelihood	Oblivious	R&D	Priority
Underground Economy	Н	Н	L	Н	Н
Social Networks	Н	Н	M	Н	Н
Routing	Н	Н	L	M	М
New Attack Vectors	M	Н	M	Н	М
Advanced Malware	M	Н	M	M	М
Virtualization and Clouds	Н	M	Н	M	М
IPv6	M	Н	M	M	L
DNS and naming	L	Н	M	L	L
Targeted Attacks	M	Н	M	L	L
Online Games	L	Н	M	L	L



FORWARD: Smart Environments

Threat	Impact	Likelihood	Oblivious	R&D	Priority
Threats due to parallelism	M	M	Н	M	Н
Threats due to scale	Н	M	Н	M	Н
Mobile device malware	Н	Н	M	Н	Н
Denial of service	Н	Н	L	M	M
False sensor data	Н	M	Н	М	M
Privacy and ubiquitous sensors	M	M	M	M	M
System maintainability and verifiability	M	Н	M	M	M
Sensors and RFID	M	Н	M	Н	L
Malicious hardware	M	L	Н	М	L



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What's next?

- SysSec: managing threats and vulnerabilities for the future Internet
 - a Network of Excellence (2010-2014)
 - Why?
 - We need to work towards solutions
 - We need to collaborate
 - At a European level
 - With our international colleagues
 - » Around the world
- No country is an island
 - wrt. Internet security

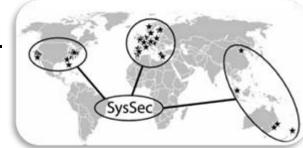




What is SysSec?

- SysSec proposes a game-changing approach to cybersecurity:
 - Currently Researchers are mostly reactive:
 - they usually track cyberattackers after an attack has been launched
 - thus, researchers are always one step behind attackers
 - SysSec aims to break this vicious cycle
 - Researchers should become more proactive:
 - Anticipate attacks and vulnerabilities
 - Predict and prepare for future threats
 - Work on defenses before attacks materialize.







SysSec Aim and Objectives (I)

- Create an active, vibrant, and collaborating community of Researchers with
 - the expertise, capacity, and determination to anticipate and mitigate the emerging threats and vulnerabilities on the Future Internet.
- SysSec aims
 - to create a sense of ``community" among those researchers,
 - to mobilize this community,
 - to consolidate its efforts,
 - to expand their collaboration internationally, and
 - become the single point of reference for Systems Security research in Europe.



SysSec Aim and Objectives (II)

- Advance European Security Research well beyond the state of the art
 - research efforts have been scattered
 - SysSec aims to provide a research agenda and
 - align their research activities with the agenda
 - make SysSec a leading player in the international arena.





SysSec Aim and Objectives (III)

- Create a virtual distributed Center of Excellence in the area of emerging threats and vulnerabilities.
 - By forming a critical mass of European Researchers and by aligning their activities,
 - Have the gravitas needed to play a leading role internationally, empowered to undertake large-scale, ambitious and high-impact research efforts.
- Create a Center of Academic Excellence in the area
 - create an education and training program targeting young researchers and the industry.
 - lay the foundations for a common graduate degree in the area with emphasis on Systems Security.



SysSec Aim and Objectives (IV)

- Maximize the impact of the project by proactive dissemination to the appropriate stakeholders.
 - disseminate its results to international stakeholders so as to form the needed strategic partnerships (with similar projects and organizations overseas) to play a major role in the area.
 - dissemination within the Member States will
 - reinforce SysSec's role as a center of excellence and
 - make SysSec a beacon for a new generation of European Researchers.
- Create Partnerships and transfer technology to the European Security Industry.
 - create a close partnership with Security Industry
 - facilitate technology transfer wherever possible to further strengthen the European Market.



Conclusions

- Hackers are getting more sophisticated
- The impact of cyberattacks is getting higher
- We need to collaborate in order to manage emerging threats on the future Internet
 - SysSec started on Sept 1st.
 - Join us to break the vicious cycle.





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