## **Advanced Cyber Threats**

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- 1) What are Advanced Cyber Threats?
- 2) Cyber Warfare
- 3) Advanced Cyber Threats
- 4) The Shift We Are Seeing
- 5) Who is a Target?
- 6) Repercussions

### 1) What are Advanced Cyber Threats

- New Attack Methodology
  - No longer smash and grab
  - Reconnaissance and Preparation involved
- New Generation of Attackers
  - No longer for Reputation and Recognition
  - After Financial Returns
- New Generation of Malware
  - Over the past 10 years Malware has become highly sophisticated

### 1) What are Advanced Cyber Threats

- Cyber Warfare
  - Countries making investment in Cyber Offensive Capabilities
  - Used for destabilization along with conventional Warfare
- Advanced Cyber Threats
  - No longer for reputation and recognition
  - After Financial Returns
  - Government, or Private backing

### 2) Cyber Warfare

- Russia-Georgia War (2008)
  - First example of Cyber Attack coinciding with conventional Warfare
  - Targets were Georgian Government Sites, as well as U.S. and British embassies
- Weaponizing the Net
  - 2007 McAfee Report stated approximately 120 countries trying to create weaponize Internet capabilities
  - 2009 Virtual Criminology Report stated U.S. China, Israel, France, and Russia have significantly increased their Cyber Armory.

- 3) Advanced Cyber Threats
  - Operation Aurora Incident (2009)
    - Infiltrated over 30 companies, including Google, and Adobe.
    - Google Honorably admitted to the attacks
  - GhostNet
    - Infiltrations discovered in embassies belonging to India, South Korea, Portugal, Germany, and over 10 more.
  - Russian Business Network
    - Originated as an Internet Service Provider
    - Provides a platform for launching attacks and malicious activity

- 4) The Shift We Are Seeing
  - Attacks with Purpose
    - Teams of Attackers with specific skills
      - Zeus Trojan creators
    - Tailored towards particular technology, or companies to maximize advantage & financial returns
  - Big Economy
    - Cyber Crime 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Economy on the Net
    - Well Funded, and Backed as much lower risk that conventional Crime
    - Much higher return on investments

### 5) Who is a Target

- Government Agencies
  - Targeted by Foreign Intelligence Services (FIS)
- Financial Industry
  - Targeted by Transnational Criminal Enterprises
  - •Organizations with IP
  - By FIS & Competitors to bypass Years & Millions of R&D

### 6) Repercussions

- Damage to Reputation
  - Loss of Customers or Partners Fall in Stock Price
  - Caused by Panic, or Data Loss
- Loss of Competitive Advantage
  - Years & Millions of R&D stolen by competitors
- Fines & Penalties
  - Imposed by Partners or Agencies
    - Over \$22 Million of which related to card brands, and settlements.

- 1) Current Solutions
- 2) Modern Malware
- 3) A Case Study, The "Operation Aurora" Incident
- 4) What's Missing from Conventional Solutions

### 1) Current Solutions

- Anti-virus
  - Reactive Solution
  - Matches signatures & patterns
  - Require update to signature database to capture only known Malware
- Firewalls
  - Relevant when attacks targeting specific network vulnerabilities
  - Now Malware can tunnel through HTTP
  - Next-Gen FW perform deep packet analysis, however still required knowledge of vulnerabilities

### 1) Current Solutions

- Web Gateways
  - Lists "known-bad" URLs
  - In case of Conficker, random newly generated sites were created for distribution of malicious payload.
- Network Intrusion Detection & Prevention Systems
  - Monitor network traffic to understand data transmission
  - Shift from IDS to IPS to capture patterns of threats
  - Rather than knowing Threat, required knowledge of vulnerability
  - No protection against Zero-day vulnerabilities

### 1) Current Solutions

- Heuristics & Behavior Analyzers
  - They are essentially "statistical guesses", based on correlations of various stats.
  - Step in right direction, however modern Malware shares a large set of behaviors with modern applications.
  - If rules, and heuristics are set too aggressively they will cause too many false positives
  - If not customized, and fine-tuned will allow targeted attacks to pass right through

### 2) Modern Malware

- How Modern Malware Operate
  - Designed and Built by highly skilled developers
  - Built with the mindset to accomplish a very specific goal
  - Understanding the Target system, and Zero-day vulnerabilities within their services
  - Gain access without being noticed
  - Maintain access over a period of time
  - Communicate with outside resources without creating network noise
  - Launched with the goal of extracting high value assets

- 3) A Case Study, The "Operation Aurora" Incident
  - Aurora utilized:
    - Social Engineering
    - Zero-day Vulnerabilities
    - The gaps created by conventional Security
    - Aurora Targeted:
    - Theft of email archives
    - Confidential data
    - A well-defined list of Enterprises

### 3) A Case Study, The "Operation Aurora" Incident

- How Aurora Operated:
  - Attacks began in 2009 using a zero-day IE 6.0 vulnerability
  - Would lure users to click a link, directing them to a malicious Web site.
  - Once system compromised, a Trojan was installed
  - Once installed the Trojan would communicate with the Command & Control for variety of commands
  - New payloads would allow for further compromise of the companies systems.

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• How Aurora Operated:

## **FW & IPS Failed** $\longrightarrow$ • Attacks began in 2009 using a zero-day IE 6.0 vulnerability

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#### Web Gateway Failed

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### 4) What's Missing from Conventional Solutions

- A solution to provide security across all Threat Vectors
- A Dynamic Solution vs. Dynamic Attacks
- Protecting against Zero-day vulnerabilities on:
  - Network Layer
  - Application
  - Operating Systems
  - Accurate against Targeted Attacks
  - Not missing attacks
  - Low to 0 false-positives

- 1) Advantage Bad Guys!
- 2) Current Risks
- 3) Costs
- 4) The Real Risk

1) Advantage Bad Guys!

- Attackers have the luxury of responding to Security movements
- Build their attacks to take advantage of our weakness
- They only need to succeed once
- We need to succeed every time
- They need to find only 1 vulnerability
- We need to protect against every unknown vulnerability
- Not enough Security Professionals

### 2) Current Risks

- 11% of Worlds computers are part of an existing Botnet
- 23% of home computer become infected despite a security solution
- 72% of corporate networks with 100+ users are infected
- 66% of new Trojans are built for theft of Banking information
- According to PandaLabs approximately 90% of email traffic was Spam in 2009
- For the first time, in 2008 production of Malware was higher than legitimate software
- In 2009, 25 Million New Strains of Malware were created!
- Compared to roughly 15 Million in the previous 20 Years!

### 2) Current Risks

- Much more opportunity for Blackhats
- Entrepreneur have Angels, Blackhats now have Devils
- Attackers with specialized skills for hire
  - Highly Educated
  - In depth understanding of Networks, Applications, Operating systems, and at time internal knowledge
  - Low Barrier to Entry & High Rewards
  - Lack of International Cyber Laws, and very difficult to prove
  - Low Risk & High Rewards have resulted in a fertile Attack Landscape, with massive R&D resources
  - Zero-day vulnerabilities can be sold on the "Blackmarket" for targeted attacks

### 3) Costs

- Cyber Crime is currently costing roughly \$250 BILLION Globally per year.
- The average cost of Sophisticated Attack roughly \$6.6 Million
   per incident
- Over 50,000 new Malware programs are released on the Internet Daily!
- In 2009, The Pentagon spent over \$100 Million in 6-months, responding and recovering to Cyber Attacks
- In 2009 Cyber Attacks forced the Defense Department to take 1,500 machines off-line
- GhostNet infected machines in over 103 different countries, extracting data

### 4) The Real Risk

- Advanced Attacks are only starting to mature
- They are a new Methodology, Not a type of attack
- Attackers are willing to change constantly to take advantage of security solutions
- More resources are being provided for Cyber Criminals
- Much better information sharing than Security Companies
- Most current attacks are Proof of Concept
- The skills and technology for attacks available, ready for someone to pull the trigger
- Security Industry in Denial regarding current solutions

- 1) An Intervention for The Security Industry
- 2) Paradigm Shift
- 3) Security Needs to Adapt

### 1) An Intervention for The Security Industry

- Acceptance the need for truly new & unique technology
- Accepting "Reducing the Damage" is not the answer
- Based on a different infrastructure, not detect first, respond later
- The need to dynamically discover new vulnerabilities
- Using the R&D going into attacks, for a good cause

### 2) Paradigm Shift

- Building new adaptive technology, using combination or practices, from various fields of sciences, and mathematics
- Through creating new technology, we can lead to a new protection methodology
- Better information sharing platforms
- Viewing Enterprise Security spending as a long-term investment
- A few smaller companies really driving this required shift

### 3) Security Needs to Adapt

- Attackers won't wait for us to catch up
- Rather than gradual improvements to solutions, renaming heuristics to behavior, to reputation, there is a need for fundamental changes
- More international cooperation is required on all fronts
- Current solutions are designed for old technologies
- Technologies such as Cloud, and Virtualization won't be able to become fully adopted unless security concerns are remedied
- More Adaptive Security Solutions

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