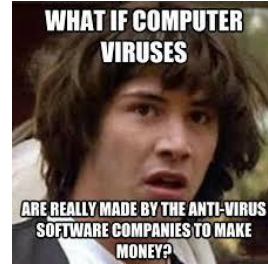


On modern malware threats and defenses against them



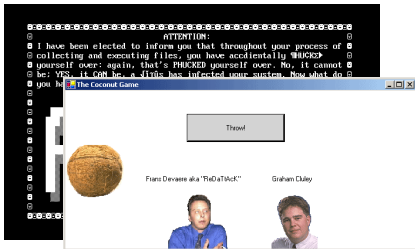
Nov 2015, UBC
Dmitry Samossenko, Director of Threat Research, SophosLabs

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The good old days...



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“Cyber weapons”

Nation-state cyber-espionage

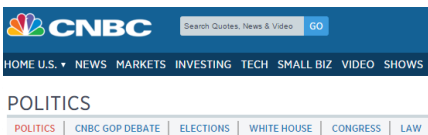
WHO?

Hacktivism

Financially motivated Cyber crime

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Cyber espionage, early days



US-China agree to not conduct cybertheft of intellectual property

Everett Rosenfeld with Reuters
Friday, 25 Sep 2015 11:30 PM ET

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APT – What does it mean?

Advanced Persistent Threat

A fancy name for targeted attacks
a.k.a. ATA – advanced targeted attacks

“...daily onslaught of digital assaults launched by attackers who are considered highly-skilled, determined and possessed of a long-term perspective on their mission” (Wikipedia)

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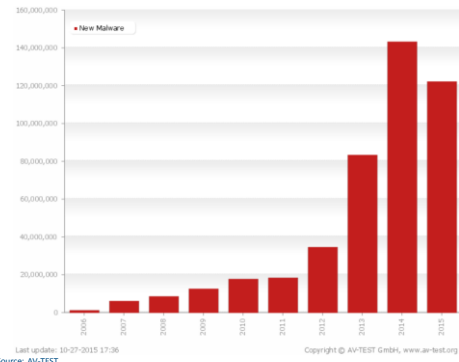
Potential targets for APTs and hackers?

By state-sponsored groups:

- Large corporations
- Government agencies
- Contractors (so, any company)
- Political activists

By hackers and financially motivated cybercriminals

- Retailers, banks, credit unions, online stores, casinos, ...
- ATMs
- Celebrities

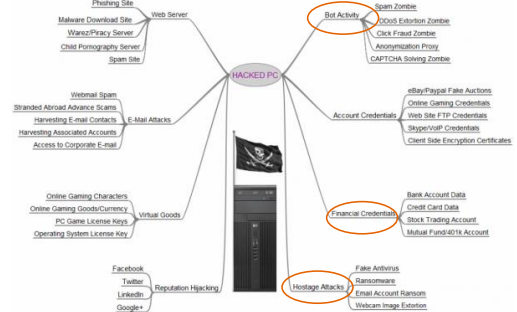


Malicious software

- Viruses = infecting files, self-propagates
- Worms = spreads through network holes, self-propagates
- Trojans = resident software with backdoor functionality, pretends to be legitimate, doesn't self-propagate



Malware monetization options



SOURCE: <http://krebsonsecurity.com/2012/10/the-scrap-value-of-a-hacked-pc-revisited/>

Botnets use

1. Email spam
 - "Grum" ~ 200,000 PCs
 - "Rustock" ~ 815,000 PCs
2. Web spam
3. DDoS
4. "Installs"
5. Information stealers



Banking malware

- Examples: Vawtrak, Dyreza, Dridex, Zeus
- Targeting banking institutions worldwide
- Steals account credentials on banking websites
- Initiates automatic money transfer
- "Web injects" (injecting DLL into browser process)
- Includes social engineering to
 - Deliver mobile component to bypass 2FA
 - Steal ATM PIN
- Vawtrack – Crimeware-as-a-Service model (steal to order)

<https://www.sophos.com/en-us/medialibrary/PDFs/technical%20papers/sophos-vawtrak-international-crimeware-as-a-service-tpna.pdf>

Targeted attacks on banks and merchants

- Infecting bank networks directly (Carbanak)
- Infecting Point-of-Sale devices, memory "scraping" (*BlackPos, Alina, PoSeidon, FindPOS, FighterPOS, PunKey, NitlovePOS and MalumPOS*)
 - Target
 - Home Depot
 - P.F. Chang



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Target's breach



- **40 million** – The number of credit and debit cards thieves stole from Target
- **46** – The [percentage drop in profits at Target](#) in the fourth quarter of 2013, compared with the year before.
- **200 million** – Estimated dollar cost to credit unions and community banks for [reissuing 21.8 million cards](#) – about half of the total stolen in the Target breach.
- **18.00 – 35.70** - The median price range (in dollars) per card stolen from Target and resold on the black market
- **1 million – 3 million** – The estimated number of cards stolen from Target that were successfully sold on the black market and used for fraud
- **53.7 million** – The income that hackers likely generated from the sale of 2 million cards stolen from Target).

14 Source: KrebsOnSecurity.com, Forbes.com

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Scareware / FakeAV

Used to be #1 threat 3 years ago

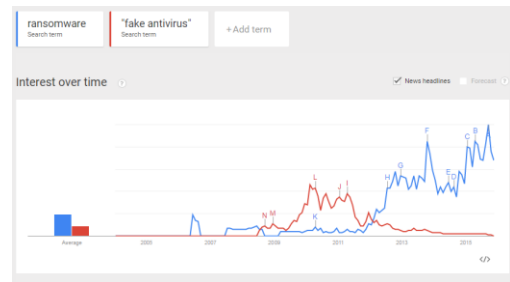
- Fake anti-virus
- Fake anti-spyware
- System "optimizers"



Videos at <http://youtube.com/SophosLabs>

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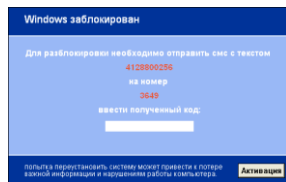
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Ransomware

- Encrypts documents or
- ...blocks screen/mouse/keyboard access
- Demands money to unlock/decrypt (SMS, e-currency, prepaid cards, Bitcoins)



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Your computer is locked!

Stop Online Piracy Automatic Protection System

If you see a warning txt or warning screen, it means your IP address was included in S.O.P.A. Black List.

One or more of the following items were made from your PC:
 1. Downloading or distributing audio or video files protected by Copyright Law.
 2. Downloading or distributing illegal content (child porn, phishing software, etc.)
 3. Downloading or distributing Software protected by Copyright Law.

As a result of these infringements based on Stop Online Piracy Act (H.R. 3261) you PC and files are now blocked. You can remove you IP from black list and unlock PC and files by paying a fine of \$20 (USA and Canada) / 200EUR (via Western Union to other Countries)

STEP 1: Buy a moneyPak prepaid voucher for the amount of \$200 at the nearest store.

STEP 2: Enter your prepaid voucher number and your email address in the fields below then click PAY and you will be prompted to enter the unlock code. OR Send an e-mail at UNLOCK@STOPPIRACY.COM indicate your ID in the message title and provide moneyPak prepaid voucher number.

STEP 3: Check your e-mail. In 24 hours we will send your Unlock code once payment is verified. Then enter your unlock code that you received by email from us and click UNLOCK. Your computer will not back to the ordinary state.

Your identification number: 1643
Your IP address: [REDACTED]

Q: How can I make sure that you can really decipher my files?
A: You can send one ciphered file or email UNLOCK@STOPPIRACY.COM indicate your ID and IP address in the message title, in the response message you receive the deciphered file.

Q: Where can I purchase a MoneyPak?
A: MoneyPak can be purchased at thousands of stores nationwide, including major retailers such as the Best, Walgreens, CVS/pharmacy, H&M, Kmart, Krieger and Hodge.

Q: How do I buy a MoneyPak at the store?
A: Pick up a MoneyPak from the Prepaid Product Section or Green Card display and take to the register. The cashier will collect your cash and load it onto the MoneyPak.

Q: What if I don't have possibility to purchase prepaid voucher?
A: You can send money in amount of 200EUR by WesternUnion as alternative option.

WARNING! If you don't pay the fine within 72 HOURS at the amount of 200.00 USD, all your computer data will be erased.

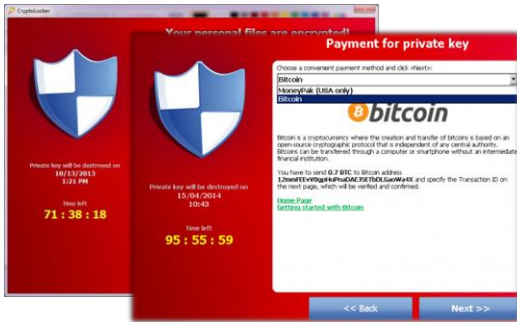
If you have any questions please contact us unlock@stopasystem.com

We accept only MoneyPak prepaid vouchers. Visit for information: <http://www.moneyPak.com>

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CryptoLocker



19 SOPHOS



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The end?

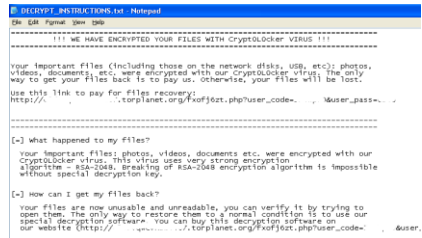
Operation Tovar – July 2014:

Russian Evgeniy Bogachev, aka "lucky12345" and "slavik", was charged by the US FBI of being the ringleader of the gang behind Gameover Zeus and Cryptolocker

- Earnings estimate - \$3M

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TorrentLocker



22 SOPHOS

CTB-Locker



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"Threat Finder"



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Web-based attacks

> 100 000 new malicious pages every day

80% belong to legitimate sites



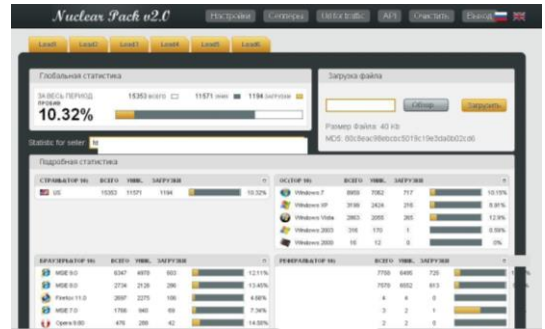
Myth: I'm a safe surfer

Do you ever visit these sites?



Exploit kits/packs

- Cheap (\$50/month)
- Easy to use
- 'Silent' infection of victims

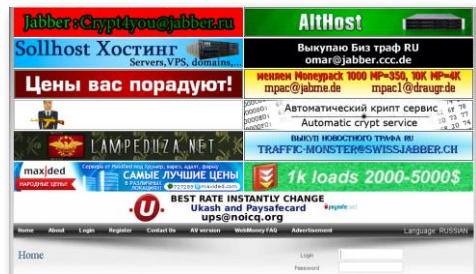


Website infections

Not just Apache

- Linux trojans
- FTP account hacking
- cPanel exploits
- SQL Injections
- Vulnerable webservers, CMS (Wordpress, Drupal, ...), PHP, ...
- "Shellshock"!!!

Arms Race ...



Evasion Techniques

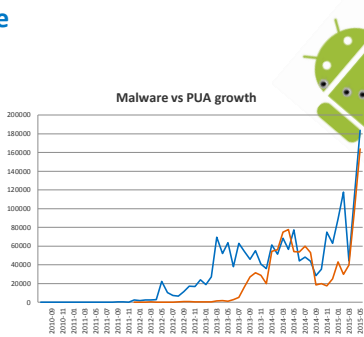
Everything is a moving target

- Binaries repackaged every 20 min (!) and AV tested
+ server side polymorphism
- 100s of payload domains created daily
- 10,000s of new infected websites stealing legitimate traffic or used as payload or CnC servers



Android malware

- Information stealers
- SMS senders
- Phishing
- Privilege escalation
- Zeus for Android
- Fake AV
- Ransomware
- Adware
- Spyware



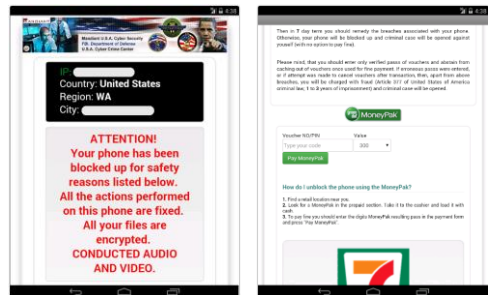
Android environment

- Platform popularity (70% of new smartphone sales)
- Adding applications to Google Play is easy
- Google screening using Bouncer and "Verify application"
- Alternative Android application markets
- Forums and file sharing sites
- "Cracked" and repackaged apps
- Android app landscape similar to Windows

Android FakeAV demo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8NDgLmziLk>

Android Ransomware



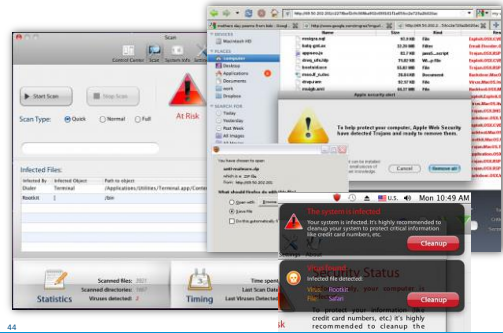
Mac malware?



43 Source: Google Trends: <http://www.google.ca/trends/explore?geo=us&cat=malware&time=2005&timeend=2016>

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Scareware for Macs



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October 2014 – OSX/iWorm

- Spreads through illegal software downloads (torrents)
- Turns your Mac into a “bot”

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OSX malware?

- Commercial keyloggers
- Toolbars and browser extensions
- “Bundleware”
- Adware
- Search result substitution
- Ad-theft

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iOS malware?

Yes, for “jailbroken” devices

- YiSpecter (Oct 4, 2015. Uses “private” APIs, signed with enterprise certificates)
- WireLurker (infects via USB through “enterprise” provisioning)
- XCodeGhost (modifies Xcode development environment)

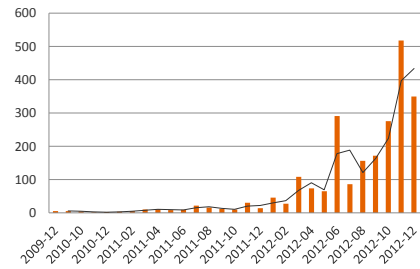


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Linux malware

- ELF
- PHP
- Perl
- Shell

Linux samples by month



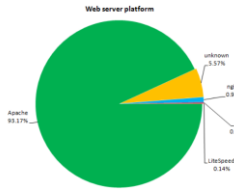
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Why Linux?

Apache is powering 93% of web servers, globally

1. Linux Web servers is the perfect "launch pad" for malware and exploits targeting Windows
2. A Linux "botnet" is a perfect platform for spam and DDOS

Combine this with a common belief that Unix/Linux 'is safe' and needs no AV. The result is -- highly effective malware spreading on Unix/Linux, and going unnoticed for a long time



Linux malware example: Troj/Apmod

- Installs itself as an Apache module which inspect outgoing HTTP content
- Injects JavaScript code into every page served
- The JavaScript writes an <IFRAME> to the page
- The <IFRAME> points to a malicious/compromised site

We call it the "web traffic hijacking"

Cybercrime pays...

Сумма, USD						
Loader	Сетаты	Покупки	Покупки	Возвраты	Рефералы	Прибыль
37943	19989	667	29853.86	-436.72	0.00	29417.14
39895	19722	74	5420.64	0.00	0.00	5420.64
41687						
38055	7	COUNTRY	INSTALLS	PINS	AMOUNT	CONVERSION
39164	1	Austria (14)	529	13	1100	2.08%
29964	2	Sweden (221)	1066	87	5400	5.07%
13297	3	France (84)	2998	113	11200	3.74%
18055	4	Italy (118)	272	1	100	0.37%
29647	5	Portugal (193)	283	1	100	0.35%
30457	6	Spain (217)	1604	26	2450	1.53%
33815	7	Poland (191)	1462	16	1600	1.09%
Load	8	Netherlands (176)	1427	72	6650	4.66%
	9	Finland (77)	1			0%
	10	Belgium (21)	401	7	700	1.75%
	11	Germany (94)	5376	167	14450	2.69%
	Total		15419	503	43750	2.84%

Fake anti-virus profitability

Statistics from topsale2.ru

User stats for period 2009-03-01 - 2009-03-15											
Date	Visits	Buy page	Loads	Sales	Ratio (Uniq/Sales)	Ratio (Loads/Sales)	Ch-backs	Refunds	Referrals	Sales	Money
2009-03-01	15817	492	7980	37	1:427	1:215	0	1	0.00	1078.92	1078.92
2009-03-02	14013	400	6000	20	1:700	1:300	0	2	0.00	779.22	779.22
2009-03-03	9949	253	3500	10	1:350	1:350	0	2	0.00	569.43	569.43
2009-03-04	11765	298	4000	10	1:400	1:400	0	0	0.00	359.64	359.64
2009-03-05	7504	173	2000	10	1:200	1:200	0	0	0.00	59.94	59.94
2009-03-06	3023	106	1000	5	1:200	1:200	0	1	0.00	209.79	209.79
2009-03-07	2370	113	500	5	1:500	1:500	0	1	0.00	239.76	239.76
2009-03-08	8841	278	2000	2	1:1000	1:1000	0	1	0.00	689.31	689.31
2009-03-09	10936	358	4748	10	1:4748	1:4748	0	4	0.00	59.94	59.94
2009-03-10	12331	375	5016	10	1:5016	1:5016	0	2	0.00	482.05	482.05
2009-03-11	5384	194	3684	10	1:3684	1:3684	0	0	0.00	388.31	388.31
Total:	101933	305	3750	305	1:3750	1:3750	0	14	0	4916.31	4916.31
			5050		dp322	\$75,631.26					
			3886		iamthevip	\$61,552.63					
			4048		dp32	\$58,160.20					

Date	Orders
01	30
02	74
03	216
04	193
05	231
06	191
07	189
08	78
09	99
10	128
11	52
12	7
Average sales per day	124

This affiliate used 66 unique domains referencing his Affid

- 124 orders per day
- Average sale = \$160
- 40% commission

124*160 = \$19840 * 40% = **\$7936/day**

What can be done?

- Awareness
- Security measures
- Legal actions

Legal actions and takedown efforts

Takedown highlights

- Nov 2009 – “Mega-D” (30-35% of spam). Arrested
- Feb 2010 – “Mariposa” botnet, 12M PCs. Arrested.
- Mar 2010 – “Zeus” botnet. Arrested
- Oct 2010 – “Bredolab” botnet, 30M PCs!
- Sep 2011 – “Kelihos” botnet
- Mar 2011 – “Rustock” botnet. On the run.
- ...
- Nov 2012 – “Nitol”
- Jan 2013 – Zeus botmaster arrested
- June 2014 - Operation “Tovar”
- Sept 2015 – Arrests tied to Citadel and Dridex



Introducing SophosLabs

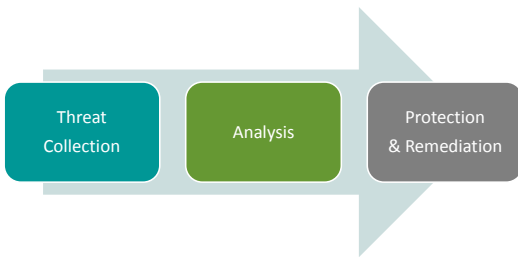
One global team -- UK, Canada, Australia, Hungary, India

>100 researchers & engineers

- Threat research
- Systems development
- Content QA

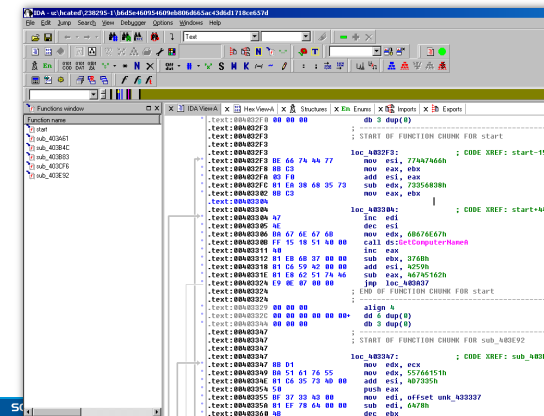
Expertise:

- Malware
- Email spam



What we're seeing

150,000	Suspicious URLs seen and analyzed each day from 70 sources	300,000	of previously unseen files received each day within SophosLabs, 3 every second!
5 million	Spam email messages per day seen by our 80 spam feeds across 20 countries	600 million	of "Live Protection" file lookup events added to Hadoop clusters for analysis every day



... across all the platforms and threat types

- Email spam
- Malicious software
- Adware
- Application control



- Windows (32/64)
- Android
- Linux
- OS X

... and browsers!

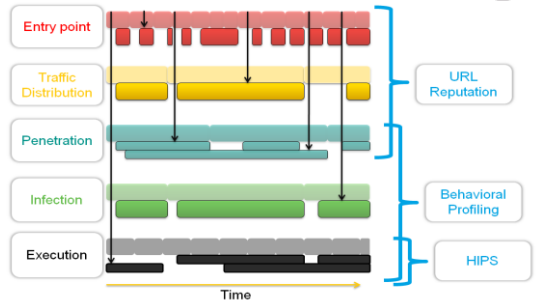


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Layered protection

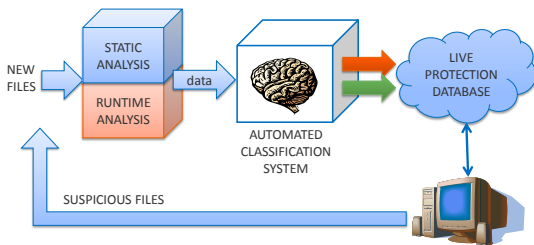
Stop attacks and breaches



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Automating Live Protection ("cloud")



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Runtime (Dynamic) File Analysis

Aka "Sandbox"



- VM-based system for sample execution
- Extracts behavioral characteristics
 - Process creation
 - API calls
 - Network traffic
 - ...
- Generates **malware index** (measure of "maliciousness")

Want to try one? Go to <http://malwr.com>

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URL Analysis

Website URLs

- URL Patterns
- Domain age
- Popularity
- Location
- Network reputation
- Scan results from various content engines (AS, AV, MM)
- Sources
- Manual analysis

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Automation is key

- "Big data" problems
- Fast turn around time
- Anti-anti-anti-* techniques

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The adversaries are...

1. Highly motivated and determined
2. Well organized
3. Well equipped

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The threats are...

1. More complex
2. More diverse
3. More targeted

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Thank you!

Twitter:
@samosseiko

Blogs:
<http://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/>
<http://blogs.sophos.com/>

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