Note

These slides were presented on 12th September 2014 at 44CON.



Much of the content was provided in the talk and is not on the slides, please see the official 44CON recording (when available) or contact us for further information.

Automating extraction from malware & recent campaign analysis

44CON 2014 - Breakfast Briefing





Who am I?

- David Cannings @edeca
 - · Cyber Defence Operations at NCC Group
 - · Background in network analysis & reverse engineering.
- Day job involves managing incidents and ensuring we've got the tools & technology required to help our clients.
- Special thanks to Luke @NullMode_ for his collaboration.



CDO provides timely analysis, advice and supporting services to clients wishing to protect, detect and remediate cyber-attacks.



Today's talk

- · An overview of what we need to extract from malware.
- · Some information about different approaches.
- · A look at some recent targeted attack campaigns.
- Aimed at entry level reverse engineers please enjoy your breakfast if you are already a malware ninja (it's too early for kernel mode debugging!).



Background



- · We have a lot of malware samples.
- · We want to extract useful information from them.
- · We don't want to do this manually every time!
 - Automating basic tasks gives us time for fun stuff $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{G}}$
- · How can we do this flexibly & efficiently at large scale?



What is useful information?



· Any "indicators of compromise":

"an artifact observed on a network or in operating system that with high confidence indicates a computer intrusion" (Wikipedia)

- · Things we might find on an infected host
 - Filenames, registry keys, mutex values, named pipes, etc.
- · Things that might be present in the network capture
 - Domain names, user agents, request parameters, etc.



Summary: Technical data that we can go hunt for elsewhere.

How about strings?



How about strings?



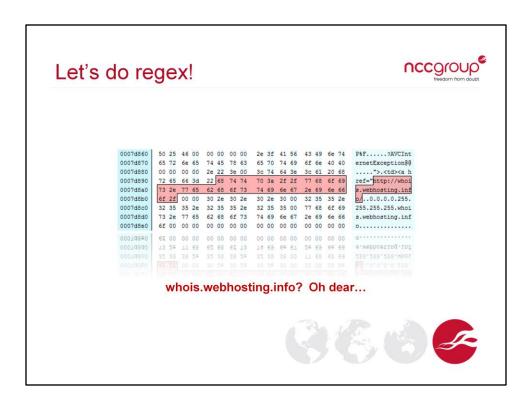
```
pAutoProxyOptions= WINHTTP_AUTOPROXY_OPTIONS ptr -34h
pProxyGonfig= WINHTTP_CURRENT_USER_IE_PROXY_CONFIG ptr -1Ch
pProxyInfo= WINHTTP_PROXY_INFO ptr -0Ch

push ebp
nov ebp, esp
sub esp, 330h
push esi
push edi
nov ecx, 9
nov esi, offset aWww_google_com;
"www.google.com.tw"
rep novsd
L6b Worsq
```

www.google.com.tw - super malicious!

(this is actually a sample of dyncalc)





Also note the highly suspicious 0.0.0.0 and 255.255.255, these should be filtered everywhere! \odot

Don't forget percent encoding..



http://%s:%d/ - How did those characters get there?



Who needs CRLs?



00044b40	55	1d	13	01	01	ff	04	08	30	06	01	01	ff	02	01	00	Uÿ0ÿ
00044b50	30	3f	06	03	55	1d	1f	04	38	30	36	30	34	a0	32	a0	0?U80604 2
00044b60	30	86	2e	68	74	74	70	3a	2f	2f	63	72	6c	2e	74	68	Ot.http://crl.th
00044570	61	77	74	65	2e	63	6f	6d	2f	54	68	61	77	74	65	54	awte.com/Thawtel
00044680	69	6d	65	73	74	61	6d	70	69	6e	67	43	41	2e	63	72	imestampingCA.cr
00044b90	6c	30	13	06	03	55	1d	25	04	0c	30	0a	06	08	2b	06	10U.%0+.
00044ba0	01	05	05	07	03	80	30	0e	06	03	55	1d	Of	01	01	ff	U
00044bb0	04	04	03	02	01	06	30	28	06	03	55	1d	11	04	21	30	0(!0
00044PP0	04	04	03	02	0.7	90	30	28	0.6	03	55	1d	11	04	21	30	0(U!
00044ba0	OI	05	0.5	0.3	03	08	30	00	06	03	55	Id	Of	OI	OJ	II	
00011930				0.6			Ţģ	25	04			0a	0.6		3p	0.6	00.%0+.

It's fine, Thawte won't mind!











This is a small portion (!) of a regular expression from a Perl module.

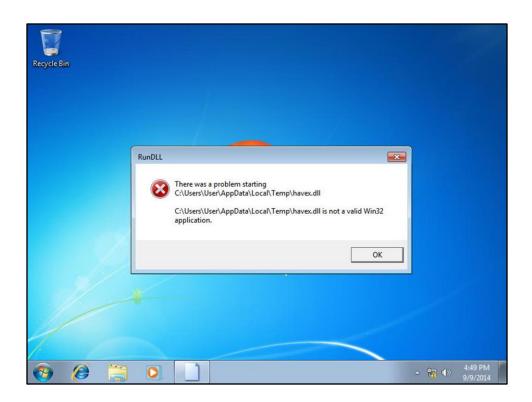


Summary

• Blind extraction of IP addresses or domains is not good enough







This is a random Havex DLL, thrown into Cuckoo with no proper configuration or entry point set.

Sandbox challenges



- · Some malware won't easily run:
 - · Broken executables
 - · DLL files, kernel drivers will need installing and might need supporting files.
- · Not the fastest method!
 - · Takes time to spin up the virtual machine in a known state.
 - · Some malware will wait before calling home.
- · What if the malware supports multiple command and control servers?
 - · Will we get the first? A random one? None of them?
- · Some malware will try to detect if it's running in a VM.



Sandboxes are great as a first quick analysis, BUT....

We might need to know the correct export to load a DLL, kernel drivers may need a usermode component. A lot of malware is dropped with a configuration file, if we don't have this then it won't necessarily run.



Let's improve / add to these techniques...



Aims



- · Needs to be fast
 - Near to real-time, to support large amounts of data.
- · Should understand the trojans we've analysed recently
 - · Havex (ENERGETIC BEAR).
 - · Sayad, MiniSayad (FLYING KITTEN).
 - Plus some that aren't currently public ©
- · Go further than just basic indicators of compromise
 - · Find encryption keys to decode network traffic.
 - Extract plugins, second stage implants etc.
- · Add value to what Cuckoo and VirusTotal already do well.



Similar things



- · Volatility plugins
 - Requires running the sample, which is slow (and some are broken).
 - · However sometimes memory analysis is the easiest / only way.
- Malware Config Extractor http://malwareconfig.com/
 - · Very good parsing of some remote access trojans.
 - No API? Can't really parse the output $\ensuremath{\otimes}$
 - · Sometimes it takes a long time or doesn't work.
- Lots of code (Perl, Python, C) scattered around for various malware.



Challenges



- · Identifying the malware
 - · How can we quickly decide if something is a piece of malware we know?
- · Locating the parts that are of interest
 - Where is the actual data we care about?
- · Extracting useful things from it
 - · How do we implement decoding, decryption etc. in a flexible way?
 - · How can we output this in a format which is usable?



What tools can help us?

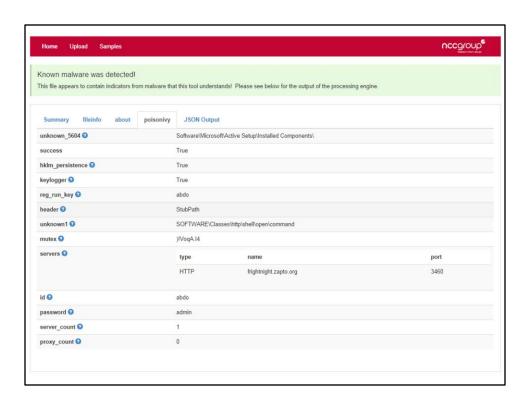


· If you take one thing away from this presentation, choose this...

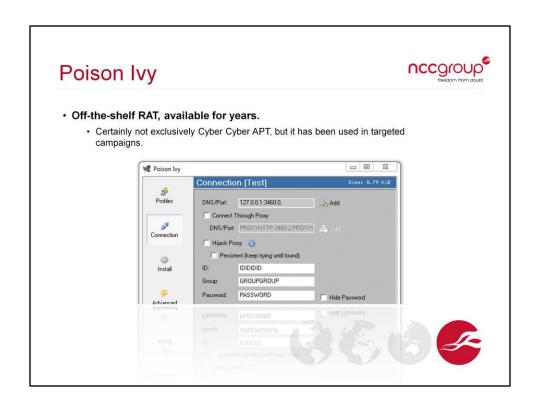
http://pythonarsenal.erpscan.com/

- We could automate IDA, but it's slow because of the depth the auto analyser goes to (and expensive!).
- Instead we have used Yara, pefile and Capstone (all from within Python).





Thanks to Luke!



```
rule claim {
  description = "Generic rule to match Poison Ivy samples"
 strings:
  // Start of config marker
   $config = { 0F 04 08 00 53 74 75 62 50 61 74 68 }
   // This is common in many non-obfuscated, non-packed Poison Ivy samples.
   // It will at least catch low hanging fruit.
   0 b8 00 08 40 00 mov eax, 0x400800
   5 ff d0
                    call eax
   7 6a 00
                     push 0
   9 e8 00 00 00 00 call 0xe
  $ep = { B8 00 ?? 40 00 FF D0 6A 00 E8 00 00 00 00 }
 condition:
   any of them
```

Introduce why Yara is so good at this. Multi-threaded, decent engine written in C with bindings for Python.

Poison Ivy



- · Configuration is very nicely structured.
- · Best way to work it out is to play with it!
 - Generate a number of samples, use known values to speed up the process (e.g. set the mutex to MUTEXMUTEX123, then look for this).

```
00001820 04 08 00 53 74 75 62 50 61 74 68 18 04 28 00 53 ...StubPath..(.S
        4f 46 54 57 41 52 45 5c 43 6c 61 73 73 65 73 5c OFTWARE\Classes\
00001840 68 74 74 70 5c 73 68 65 6c 6c 5c 6f 70 65 6e 5c http\shell\open\
00001850
        63 6f 6d 6d 61 6e 64 56 04 35 00 53 6f 66 74 77 commandV.5.Softw
00001880
        6c 6c 65 64 20 43 6f 6d 70 6f 6e 65 6e 74 73 5c
                                                    11ed Components\
00001890
        fa 0a 0b 00 50 6f 6b 65 6d 6f 6e 59 6f 6c 6f 90 ú...PokemonYolo
000018a0
        01 11 00 0d 32 35 2e 31 33 34 2e 31 30 35 2e 39
                                                    ....25.134.105.9
000018d0 00 29 21 56 6f 71 41 2e 49 34 fa 03 01 00 01 00 .)!VoqA.14ú....
000018e0 00 d5 00 c5 00 55 8b ec 8b 75 08 80 be f7 03 00 .Õ.Â.Ucicu.€%+..
```

(or cheat & see:

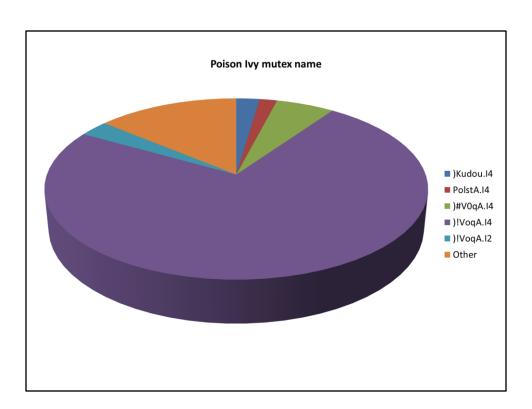
http://blog.conixsecurity.fr/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Poison-Ivy-RAT-conf-comms.pdf for an excellent paper!)

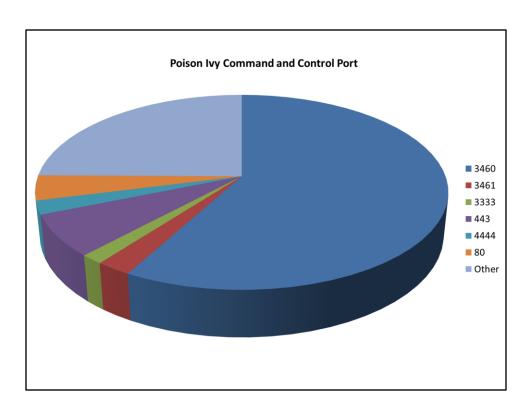


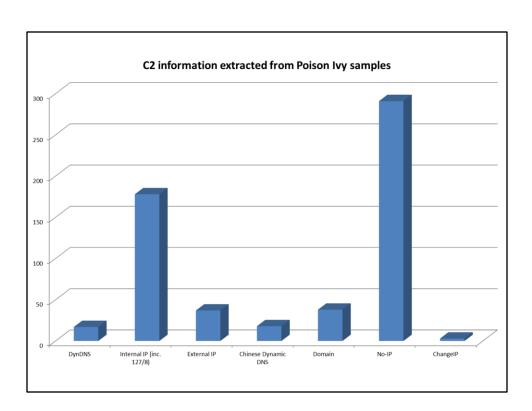


Compare and contrast with targeted samples that FireEye wrote about (our samples are a random set, **not** targeted). Are they very different?

Remember that the purpose of this is to <u>automate the boring parts</u>, not replace a reverse engineer. Let's do 80% by magic, then let skilled analysts loose on the 20%.









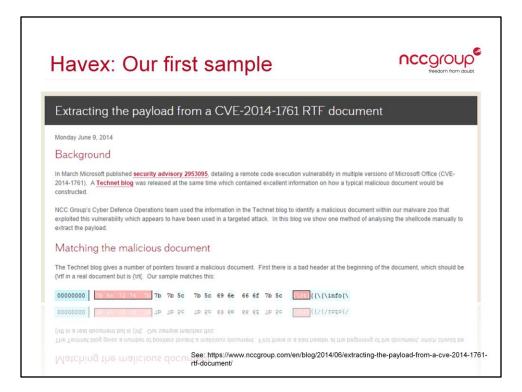
How about cyber cyber APT?





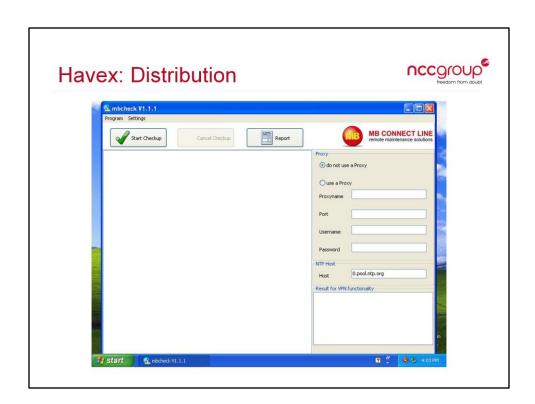


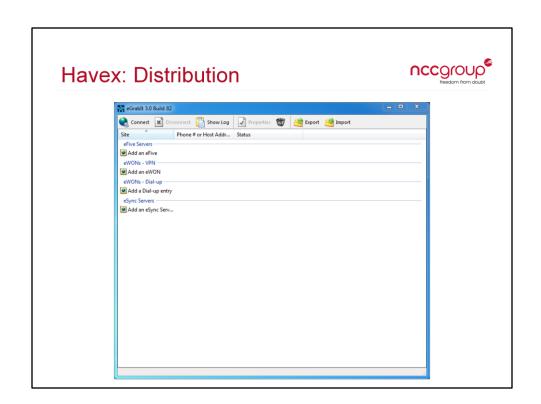




Havex: Identifying more samples rule claim { meta: description = "Matches generic strings from the havex RAT family" strings: \$xor_key1 = "MTMxMjMxMg==" wide ascii \$generic_bzip = "This is a bug in bzip2/libbzip2, %s." \$generic_bzip_ver = "1.0.6, 6-Sept-2010" \$generic_copyright = "Copyright (c) 1992-2004 by P.J. Plauger, licensed by Dinkumware, Ltd" condition: \$xor_key1 and 1 of (\$generic*) }

This is a **very basic rule** for havex. It is not a good rule for finding new samples, but it's OK at detecting the main implant component. It's not the only rule used within the MICE framework.







So where's the config?





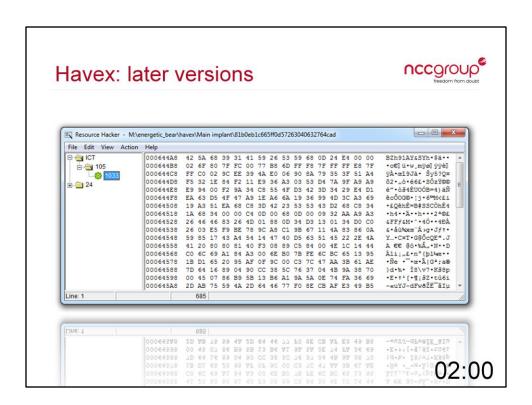


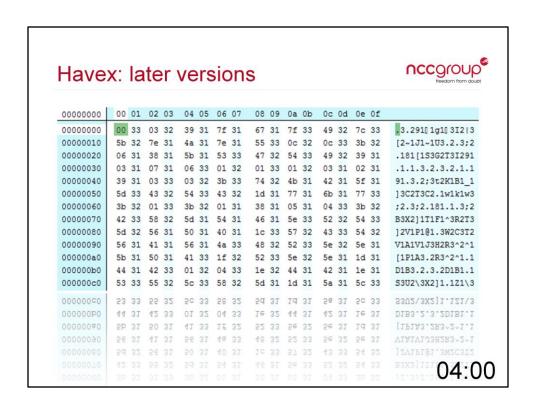


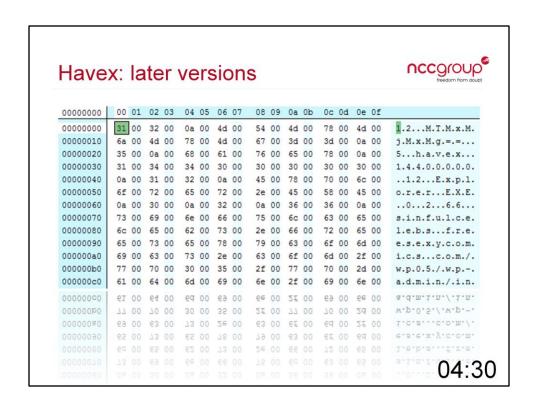
Havex: early versions



```
.rdata:1004E448 aPekanin_freeva:
.rdata:1004E448 aPekanin_freeva:
.rdata:1004E448 aPekanin_freeva:
.rdata:1004E448 aPekanin_freeva:
.rdata:1004E448 aBekanin_freeva:
.rdata:1004E448 aBadallweil_co:
.rdata:1004E480 aBadallweil_co:
.rdata:1004E518 aShwandukani_me:
.rdata:1004E518 unicode 0, <a href="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinjunce/examples/access.php?id="mailto:com/cms/tinju
```





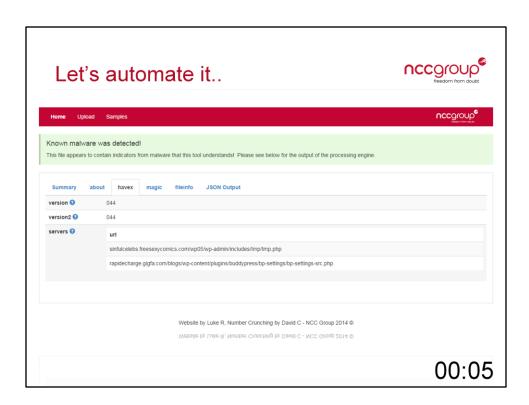


Havex: later versions



```
MTMxMjMxMg==
havex
14400000
12
Explorer.EXE
66
sinfulcelebs.freesexycomics.com/wp05/wp-admin/includes/tmp/tmp.php
rapidecharge.gigfa.com/blogs/wp-content/plugins/buddypress/bp-settings/bp-
settings-src.php
AATXn+MiwLu+xCoMG7SqY1uQxAk1qLdyoED9LxIVQr2Z/gsrHIsgTvK9AusdFo+9\\
fzAxf1zXj42880+kUmktmVb5HSYi8T27Q54eQ4ZLUFKPKZstgHcwPVHGdwpmmRmk
09fL3KGd9SqR60Mv7QtJ4VwGDqrz0ja+M14SI7e60C4qDQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
(snip..)
```

05:00



```
Havex: version
8D 4D CC
                           lea
                                    ecx, [ebp+0E0h+var_114]
                                    byte ptr [ebp+0E0h+var_E4], 14h
C6 45 FC 14
                           MOV
E8 B0 9E FF FF
                                    sub_1000272A
                           call
68 BC 7A 05 10
                                    offset a020_0
                                                       ; "020"
                           push
                                    ecx, [ebp+0E0h+var_9C]
sub_10001362
8D 4D 44
                           lea
E8 DB 8A FF FF
                           call
                          push offset a020 0 ; "020"
lea ecx, [ebp+0E0h+var_9C]
call sub_10001362
E8 DB 8A FF FF
8D 4D 44
```

It's also possible to extract this from various strings, but this is a nice example of using Yara, pefile and, optionally, Capstone.

Havex: version



```
rule version {
    meta:
        description = "Finds CALL/PUSH/LEA sequence, iterate results to find
version"

strings:
    $version = { E8 ?? ?? FF FF 68 ?? ?? ?? [0-1] 8D [2-5] }

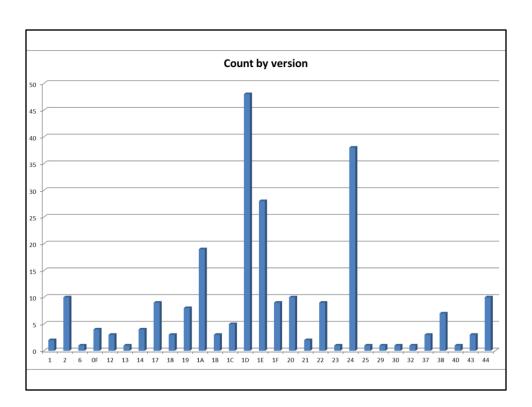
condition:
    any of them
}
```









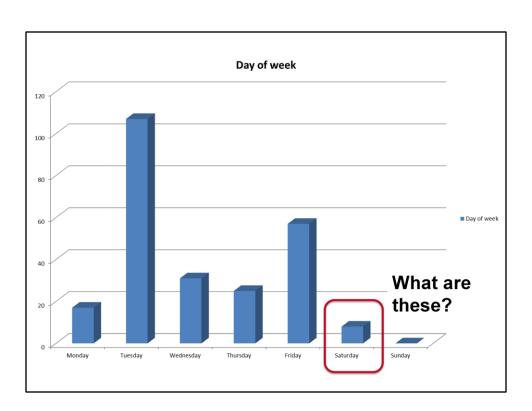


Recent campaigns



- · What's the oldest sample?
 - 2nd June 2011
- · What's the newest sample?
 - 7th May 2014
- · How many unique beacon URLs are there?
 - 167 including some that only appear once (why is that?)





Unusual dates



- Saturday December 3rd 2011
 - Russian Parliamentary Elections held on Sunday 4th December 2011.
- Saturday June 9th 2012
 - Russian public holiday on Monday June 11th compensated by June 9th.
 - BP forced to sell 50% stake in Joint Venture to Russian oligarchs.

(Disclaimer: Plenty of other things happened in the world on these days, but these 8 samples potentially relate to interesting stuff)



Next steps



- · Create some Maltego transforms
- Take the output and automagically create indicators of compromise (e.g. OpenIOC format)
- · Integrate with Volatility support to assist with difficult malware.
 - Makes some unpacking tasks much more simple.
- · Interested? See us on the NCC Group stand today!





