OS Security
Malware (Part II)

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Winter 2017/2018

Part II

Smartphone Malware

Evolution of Malware: From PC to Smartphone

- Larger attack surface for malware authors; easy-to-deploy attacks; many forms of attack vectors
- Motivation: 'low risk, high reward'
  - Various app markets: official (e.g. Google Play) and non-official (e.g. Pandaapp)
  - Decentralized: anyone can become an app developer; no proper vetting of new apps

Early days of smartphone malware

- Back in 2004, a group known as **29A** released `Cabir` - a malware (worm) for Symbian
  - Propagate via Bluetooth
  - Bluetooth was the most used technology to transfer information between 2 devices at the time
  - Countermeasure: simply turn Bluetooth off or switch it to the "invisible" mode
  - Bluetooth attack 2.0: BlueBorne (2017)
- Trojan, `Qdial`, targeting Symbian users, was released in same year
  - Malware sent text messages to premium rate services, for which the handset owner would be charged, thus making an income for the malware author.
- In 2005, a variant of `Cabir` was released - `Pbstealer`
  - It copied all the information from an infected device's address book and attempted to transmit it to any Bluetooth-enabled device within range.
  - Malware included the string: *":: Good artist copy, Great artist steal ::"*

Current state of smartphone malware

- All major smartphone platforms have been infected
  - iOS: `WireLurker` (2014), can install malicious third-party applications to an iOS device through an infected Mac via a USB connection
  - Windows Phone: Proof-of-concept for Windows Phone 8 presented at MalCon 2013; `FinSpy Mobile` spyware (2013)
  - Blackberry: Trojans use a technique referred to as 'BackStab'; steal unencrypted backups of phones from computers; does not require higher-level privileges or root access to the phone or computer
- Android OS - most infected platform to date

Popular Android Malware

- First proof-of-concept malware released in 2008.
  - Causes the phone to accept all incoming calls
  - Turns off the radio, preventing outgoing/incoming calls
  - Causes the phone to end all calls
  - Gathers sensitive information and sends it to the attacker
- `Mobile Spy` spyware, 2009
  - Monitored infected device via web browser, phone calls, text messages, photos, videos, GPS locations
  - Ran in 'stealth mode', no visible icon
- `DroidKungFu`, capable of root-level access on vulnerable Android devices and evade the detection of security software by encrypting its exploits using AES.
  - One of the exploits used was the `RageAgainstTheCage` (RATC) exploit.
  - Also known as *adb setuid exhaustion attack*
  - A race condition between RATC and adb-server
  - See https://thesnkchrmr.wordpress.com/2011/03/24/rageagainstthecage/ for more details about the exploit and its source code

Rootkits & Bootkits

- One of the first Android rootkit was presented at DEF CON 18 (2010)
- Rootkit was used to track location of smartphone's owner, read SMS and redirect calls
- A demo of a clickjacking rootkit targeting Android 4.0, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxpMPrqnxC0
- Bootkit, `Android.Oldboot` (2014) has the capability of reinstalling itself even after all of its working components have been deleted. Primary targets were rooted Android devices.

Bitcoin Mining malware

- In 2014, several malicious apps found on Google Play store were used in a large-scale crypto currency mining operation
- Contained a hidden crypto miner that stealthily exploit users' device for computational resources
- Malware was deployed through Wallpaper apps, with more than 500 downloads

Tools to analyze Android Malware

- Mobile Malware can be analyzed in 2 ways: *statically* and *dynamically*
- Static Analysis: Analyze suspicious app through reverse-engineering
- Dynamic Analysis: Execute the suspicious app in a controlled environment and monitor its behaviors
- Tools: IDA Pro, JD-Gui, Dex2Jar, Android SDK
- Countermeasures against Android malware:
  - There is no single solution!
  - Download apps from official markets only
  - Read permissions carefully before downloading and installing an app

Intrusion Detection & Prevention

- ▶ Two kinds of intrusion detection systems (IDS):
  - ▶ Network-based IDS (NIDS)
  - ▶ Host-based IDS (HIDS)
    - ▶ Special kind of HIDS: antivirus software (AV)
    - ▶ AV is typically more generally anti-malware software (aka virus scanners, malware scanners)
- ▶ Some systems have additional capabilities to *prevent* intrusion
- ▶ Those systems are called intrusion prevention systems (IPS), again:
  - ▶ Network-based IPS (NIPS)
  - ▶ Host-based IPS (HIPS)
- ▶ IDS/IPS tool: SNORT (more on this later)

Network-based intrusion detection system

- ▶ NIDS monitors traffic on its network segment as a data source
- ▶ This is achieved by placing the network interface in *promiscuous mode* to capture all traffic that crosses its network segment
- ▶ Different detection methods:
    - ▶ Signature-based detection: Signatures are attack patterns predetermined and pre-configured. This detection method monitors the network traffic and compares it with the pre-configured signatures so as to find a match.
    - ▶ Anomaly-based detection: This method of detection creates a baseline on average network conditions. Once a baseline has been created, the system intermittently samples network traffic on the basis of statistical analysis and compares the sample to the created baseline.
    - ▶ Protocol state analysis detection: This type of detection method identifies deviations of protocol states by comparing observed events with predefined profiles

Signature-based detection

- Only works for known attacks
- Packets can be matched against three different types of signatures:
  - String signatures: look for a text string that indicates a possible attack. For example: "cat "+ +" > /.rhosts" might cause a UNIX system to become extremely vulnerable to network attack
  - Port signatures: monitor connection attempts to well-known, frequently attacked ports. Examples of these ports include telnet (TCP port 23), FTP (TCP port 21/20), SUNRPC (TCP/UDP port 111), and IMAP (TCP port 143)
  - Header signatures: watch for suspicious combinations in packet headers. For example:s a TCP packet with both the SYN and FIN flags set, signifying that the requester wishes to start and stop a connection at the same time

Host-based intrusion detection system

- ▶ HIDS goes beyond malware scanning (although there may be some overlap)
- ▶ Typically register certain resources with the IDS, those resources are monitored
- ▶ Examples of resources: system files, Windows registry entries, network ports
- ▶ Idea: remember state of resource, detect modifications
- ▶ Typically store hash values of resources
- ▶ Crucial to protect the table of hashes!
- ▶ Additionally, analyze log files (e.g., /var/log/syslog)
- ▶ For log-file analysis, two possibilities:
  - ▶ Signature-based intrusion detection
  - ▶ Behavior-based intrusion detection
- ▶ Problem of signature-based IDS: same as with AV
- ▶ Problem of behavior-based IDS: hard to obtain good detection rate at low false-positive rate in highly dynamic systems

SNORT

- Can be used for network intrusion detection and prevention
- Free and open source
- Uses a simple rules-description language to create rules
- Snort rules are divided into 2 logical sections: rule header and rule options
  - The rule header contains the rule's action (e.g., log, alert, drop), protocol, source and destination IP addresses and netmasks, and the source and destination ports information
  - The rule option section contains alert messages and information on which parts of the packet should be inspected to determine if the rule action should be taken.
- action proto src_ip src_port direction dst_ip dst_port (options)
- Example: `log tcp any :1024 -> 192.168.1.0/24 500:`
- Log tcp traffic from priveleged ports less than or equal to 1024 going to ports greater than or equal to 500

Recover after intrusion

- Easy situation: download a file from the Internet, AV complains.
  ⇒ Don't run/open file, but stop download (or delete file).
- Hard situation: AV complains about *old* files or IDS reports intrusion
- AV software typically offers to "remove the virus/worm/trojan"
- Question: Is that enough?
- There is only one responsible answer: **No.**
- Once a system has been compromised, you don't know what else is broken
- Only reasonable recovery from intrusion:
    - Isolate the system (to prevent further damage)
    - Analyze what was compromised and how (forensics)
    - Restore to a clean state (reinstall, restore clean data backup)