



# **Kusza szálak: Miért nehéz a célzott támadások kivizsgálása?**

**Boldizsár Bencsáth PhD**

Budapest University of Technology and Economics  
Department of Networked Systems and Services  
Laboratory of Cryptography and System Security (**CrySyS Lab**)  
[www.crysys.hu](http://www.crysys.hu)

# CrySyS Lab - activities

---

- CrySyS Lab is a small research lab at BME Budapest, Hungary
- A handful of permanent members, PhD students and many undergrad students (incl. !SpamAndHex! Hacker team at CTF competitions)
- 09/2011 discovery, naming, and first analysis of **Duqu** malware
- 05/2012 published detailed technical analysis on **Flame** (sKyWIper) malware
- 02/2013 Together with Kaspersky Labs, we published information on the **MiniDuke** malware
- 03/2013 After the joint work with NSA HUN, we published results of investigations on the **TeamSpy** campaign
- Worked on **Gauss**, **Miniduke2 (CosmicDuke, M2O)**, **Turla/Snake/Uroburos -Worldcupsec/WipBot/Epic/TadjMakhal** and some other attacks



# Complexity

---

- Attacks are seemingly more and more complex
  - Maybe we are seeing more than the tip of the iceberg
  - Attackers work more and more – possible evidence that can be collected also grows
- More complexity – **more questions**
- **Harder** to store, handle, remember on all parts of the story
- More likely that investigators **miss** to identify interesting items
- Harder to **pinpoint** most **important** things
- More likely that multiple parties work on the same threat, but they only see a **partial picture**
- More **collaboration needed** to get the big picture

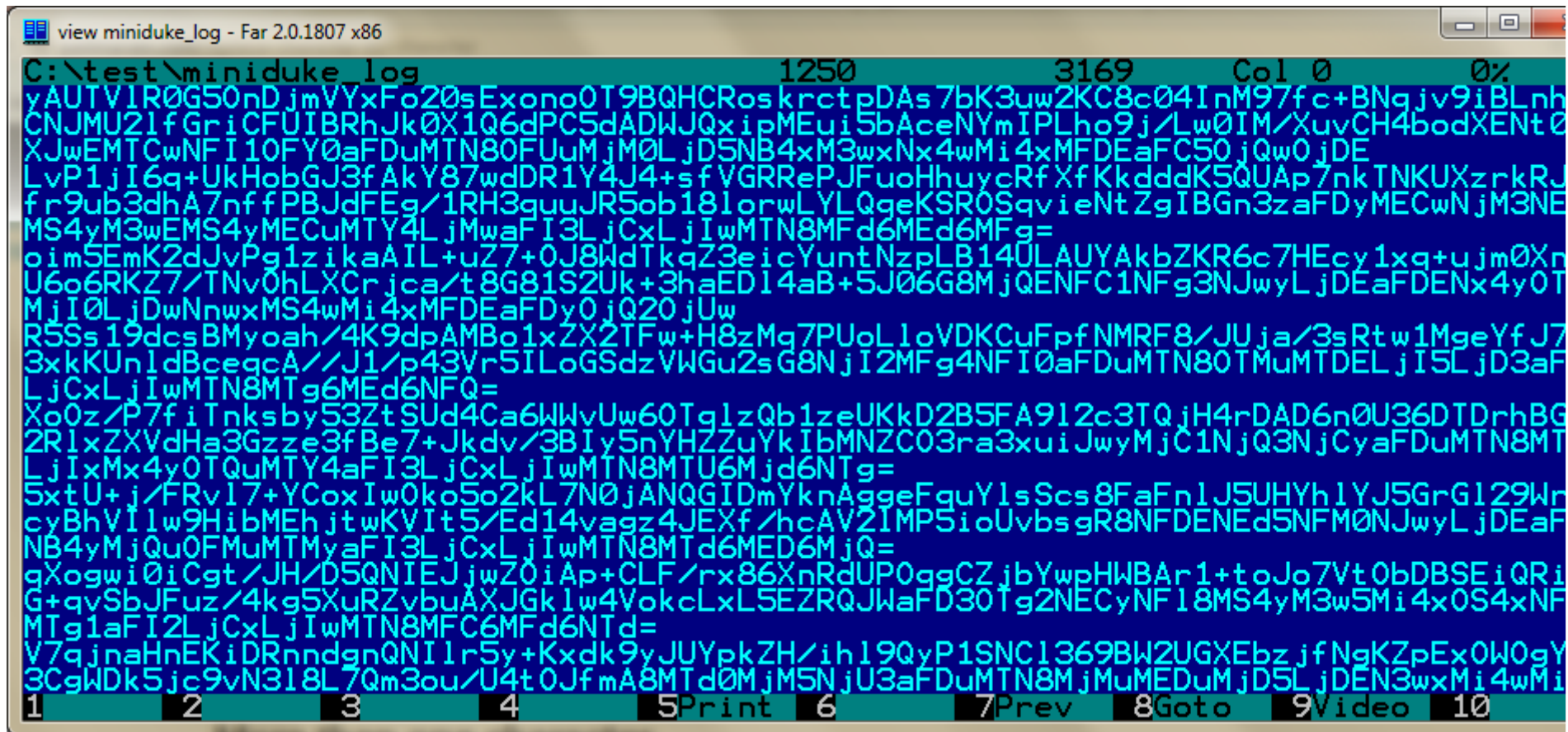
## Complexity 2.

---

- When to **publish** and what?
- Almost impossible to get “ALL” information before publishing
- More complex threat – most likely others will also find it
- Avoid publishing at all?
- Needs coordination of publishing
- Most important is to help victims (e.g. notification based on data)
- and be able to detect and prevent attacks somehow (e.g. based on information gathered)

# C&C data handling – example - Miniduke

- An example log of encrypted Miniduke logs



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "view miniduke\_log - Far 2.0.1807 x86". The main content is a large block of encrypted data, appearing as a dense stream of alphanumeric characters. The data is displayed in a monospaced font with a green background and white text. At the bottom of the terminal, there is a navigation bar with buttons labeled "1", "2", "3", "4", "5Print", "6", "7Prev", "8Goto", "9Video", and "10".

# Miniduke log decodes to sthg similar

---

1132034214|0.45|54.204.42.114|06.02.2014|01:26:22

115365341|0.45|114.65.14.141|06.02.2014|14:34:35

241543565|0.45|25.54.142.11|03.02.2014|15:26:45

4042361101|0.45|54.204.42.114|06.02.2014|11:32:23

2411346166|0.45|54.204.42.114|06.02.2014|06:25:32

2054243265|0.45|112.16.222.2|04.02.2014|10:21:13

1612151360|0.45|14.43.41.115|05.02.2014|12:15:32

2165026661|0.45|14.43.41.115|05.02.2014|12:26:32

- In many cases these IPs belong to DSL/broadband home users
- ISPs can help to identify or notify victims

# Sent to an ambassador - Uroburos

---

```
rem dir c:\
del /Q C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
rem del /Q C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\jar*.tmp
rem dir "C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\"
rem dir "C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\Adobe\acrobat\"
C:\windows\Temp\hpszscr10.exe a -ta20121119010101 C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\*NATO*.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpszscr10.exe a -ta20121119010101 C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\Polen*.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpszscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat "C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\Antici*.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpszscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\Estland*.msg"
C:\windows\Temp\hpszscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101 C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\OSZE*.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpszscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat "C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\Island*.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpszscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat "C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED\AppData\Local\Temp\EU*.msg"
...
```

# “Budapest\*.msg”

---

```
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpzscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\tZZZ5qy.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpzscr10.exe a -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\*gZZZZtgr.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpzscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\Norwegen*.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpzscr10.exe a -m5 -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\Polen*.msg"
rem C:\windows\Temp\hpzscr10.exe a -ta20121119010101
C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\DMR0867.dat
"C:\Users\REDACT~1.ED_\AppData\Local\Temp\Budapest*.msg"
```



# Complexity – lot of old data

---

- In some campaigns, gathered information is old
  - TeamSpy: years old dynamic IP addresses
  - Uroburos: same, lot of old information
- (nearly) impossible to find out owner of a dynamic address years ago
- Heat maps can be misleading if they are based on IP address only, e.g. no victim i.d. available
  - Victims with dynamic, changing IPs might be counted multiple times

# C&C communications

---

- We generally don't know full victim list
- But we know precious information to detect attacks or to find out victims in the past from logs

- IP address for communications 1.2.3.4
- DNS name (comm logs, passive DNS logs) e.g.
- URL scheme  
modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80B8A0BA&Session=11E19A6A733FBE59&DataID=1&FamilyID=1147A8FE6D7142E...

- Data formats, executable files, registry settings, other forensics evidence

Digging ISP logs might help

# Miniduke Twitter C&C redirection



# Account was later removed, tweet missing...

---

websites. Cookies help personalize Twitter content, tailor Twitter Ads, and improve your Twitter experience. By using our services, you agree to our [Cookie Use](#).

## Results for QAxADkA



No people results for QAxADkA.

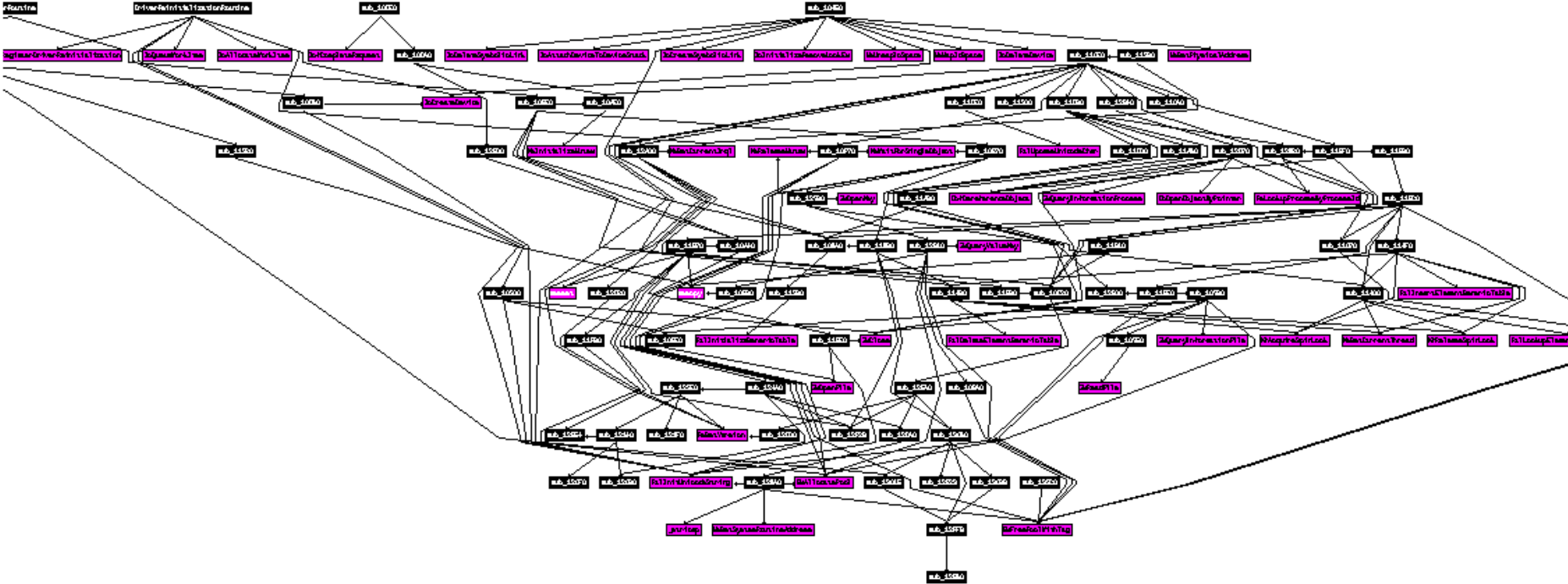
# Cooperation

---

- Cooperation with IPSs might help to find other victims
- To identify and notify victims
- To seize C&C servers or get information on the attack
- Example on twitter: other C&Cs might be identified by cooperation with providers

# Duqu – jminet7 driver structure

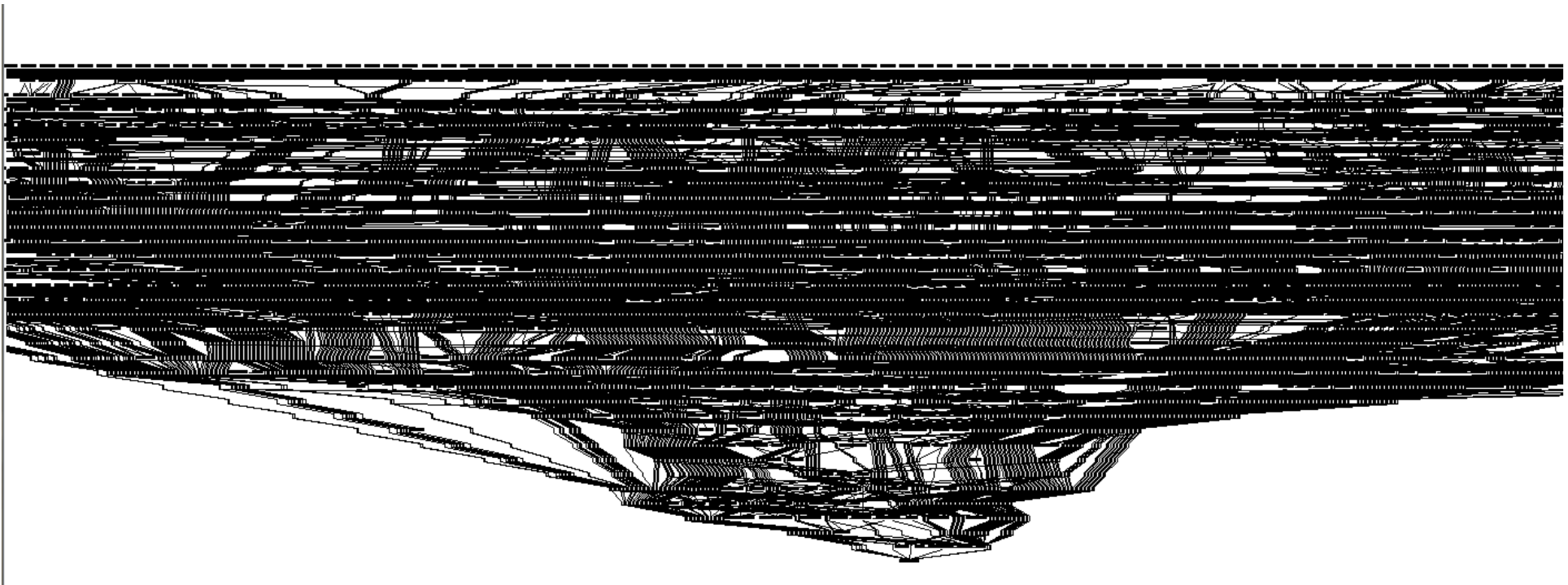
- Code complexity on a picture



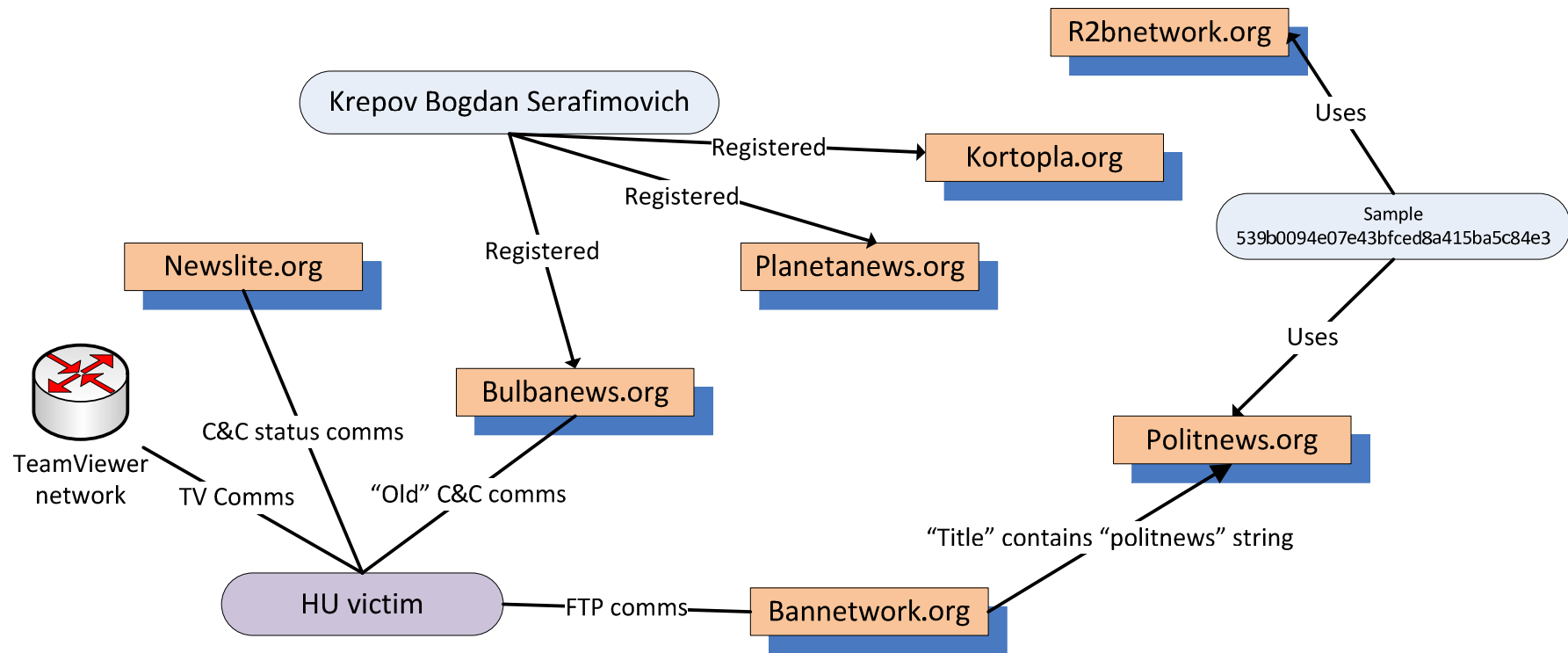
# Browse32 module of Flame

---

- Flame Suicide module, Browse32 is 450k large

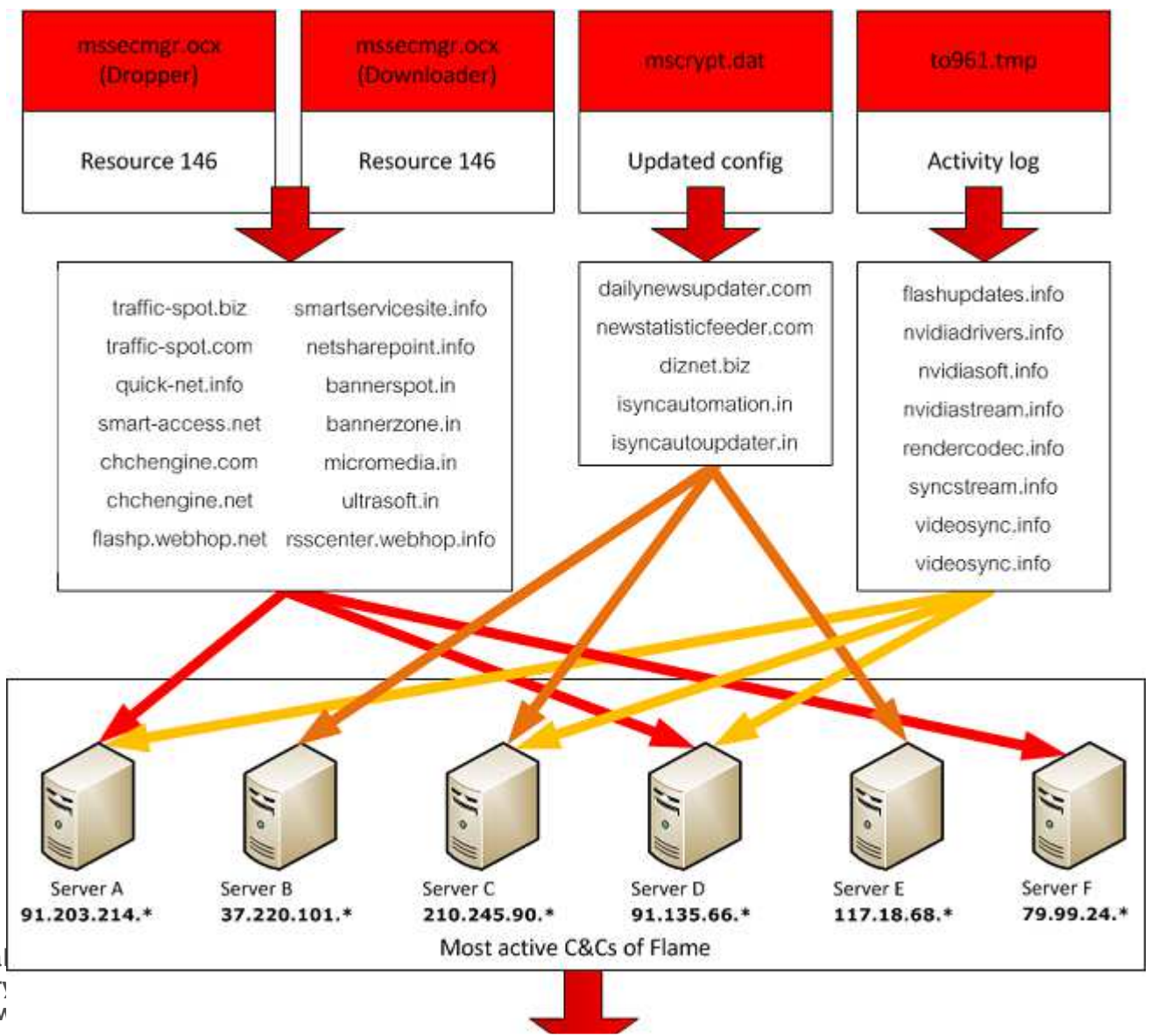


# Mapping an ATP by domains – sample info from TeamSpy





# Depicting C&C comms of flame – from Kaspersky Lab



# What's your name?

---

- APT names/identifiers became problematic. Let's see the latest example:
  - Turla Uroburos Snake (Agent.BTZ)
  - WorldCupSec Epic Wipbot Tadjmakhal
  - Tavdig
  - Pfinet
  - Turla Dragon / Faking Dragon
  - Sofacy?
- All related to a complex series of attacks
- How to identify/name then my lonely sample?
- How these components relate to each other?
- How many attackers, developers are behind?
- How to pick name for the next attack?

# Very complex campaigns

- At least 198 domains, IP addresses relate to Uroburos/Turla/Snake
- Not counting Epic, etc.
- Also hundreds of hosts: Red October, Flame, Mask, Energetic Bear (Crouching Yeti), etc.

175	press.thir
176	saddlewo
177	voyagez-i
178	www.arsh
179	www.britr
180	www.justl
181	www.kids
182	www.radi
183	adobes3.
184	31.7.61.1
185	sanky.spc
186	easycoun
187	cnews.se
188	radioazer
189	cqcount.s
190	laboutiqu
191	legalsilen
192	image.ser
193	candybag
194	avg-upda
195	newsforu
196	newswee
197	bgl.servet
198	newswee
199	
200	



- At least 236 samples under different names just for Uruburos

	B	C
230	f3ace6dd0fb54caa4d59d894b62c	cryptoapi.dll 197f33ab4d66e9d47fa95659111a3c5ed76527c5f88dde98932036077 2ecfa.exe msmount32x.exe exe_x86.exe
231	f40c0316b1bd1a0ebb1222840f9e	224e054fa704544e406eb5f651aa5489 [redacted] Ultra3.sys mfe-6546227_sys mfe-6546227_sys A0009547.sys b24faec08f3ec818c0380145a3332512 [redacted] Ultra3.sy PH 3.0 MS_V98 V564 bw02 - RTC07 fdisk_32.sys f4f192004df1a4723cb9a8b4a9eb2fbf Ultra3.sys B24faec08f3ec818c0380145a3332512 [redacted] A0009547.sys b24faec08f3ec818c0380145a3332512 [redacted] Ultra3.sy PH 3.0 MS_V98 V564 bw02 - RTC07 fdisk_32.sys f4f192004df1a4723cb9a8b [redacted] Ultra3.sys
232	f4f192004df1a4723cb9a8b4a9eb	B24faec08f3ec818c0380145a333251284 [redacted]
233	f582f3617dccdee8e7b79e6cc0e	
234	f7a709904cb7abb4b90418ee3b5	browser.dll  mididef.exe
235	fdccbd6f02eabbdea18591cc30e	Mididef 0b9ddf8b221f38ad4f4a5b7b7448 [redacted] ff92689f875d2e7baf2a2e106e71 [redacted] OLEAUT32.dl OLEAUT32.DLL e37e143a73fc5d926263fdca80ce7e2277615422c49f017194a91d69a 8a542
236	ff92689f875d2e7baf2a2e106e71	oleaut32.dll
237		
238		
239		

# International law and collaboration – case study

---

- A “Flame” C&C server was a VS in .nl
- The computer was maintained by a .de company
- The VS was resold by a .uk company
- The .uk company was founded and ran by Hungarians
- Attackers might be e.g. from .il (not sure)
- Victims probably from .ir, Sudan, .il etc.
- So who’s law system is applicable for seizing it?

---

# Any questions?

0x34E574F7 1C21 8E76 5ABA E98C 1400 F82E 3BBE CCF0 34E5 74F7  
0x20667F5A A3A5 63E2 4605 6856 11A9 DCE6 E51B 50D9 2066 7F5A

Dr. Bencsáth Boldizsár  
adjunktus  
BME HIT CrySyS Lab  
[bencsath@crysys.hit.bme.hu](mailto:bencsath@crysys.hit.bme.hu)



Laboratory of Cryptography and System Security  
CrySyS Adat- és Rendszerbiztonság Laboratórium  
[www.crysys.hu](http://www.crysys.hu)