CAN MUGGLES DO MAGIC?

# MALWARE ANALYSIS FOR POLICY PEOPLE

# Hello my name is

Mara

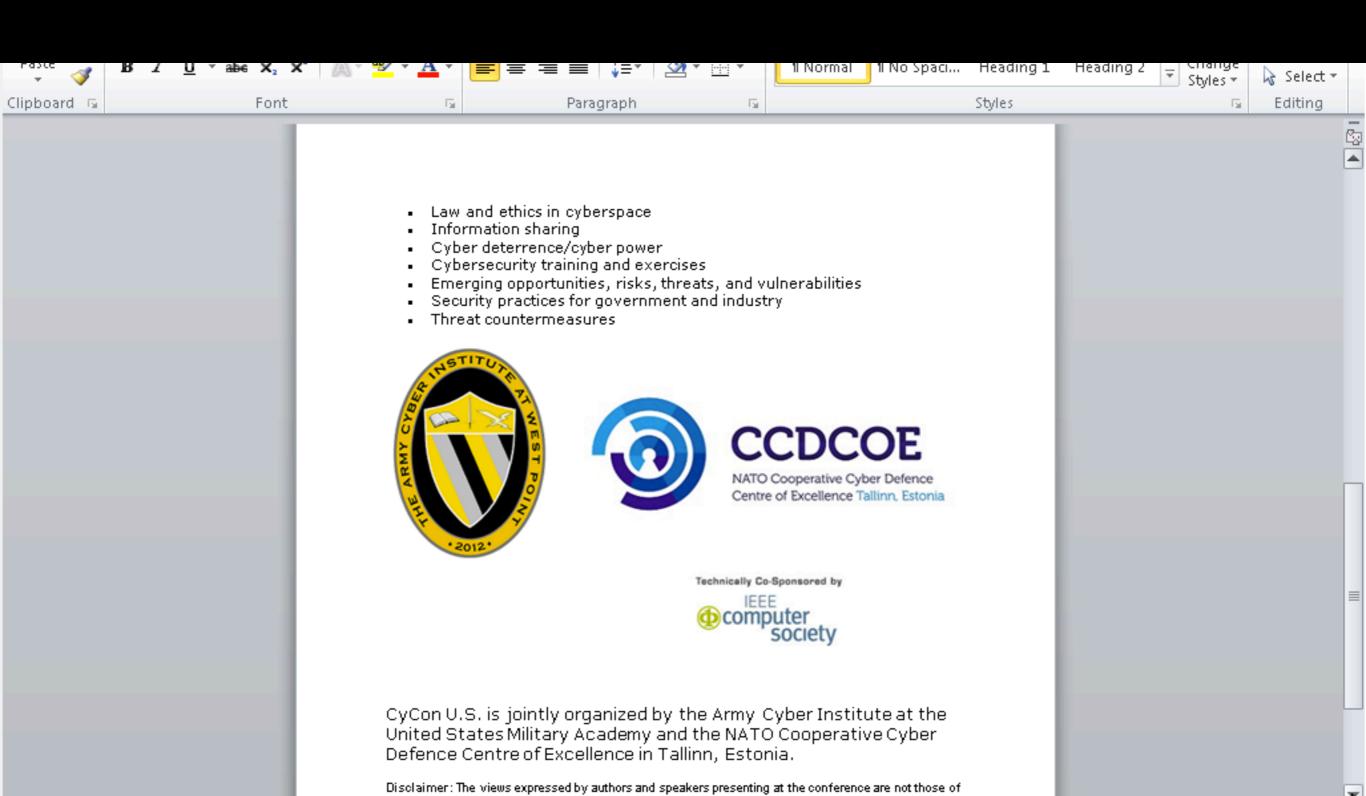


Washington, DC

#### OBSERVED IN THE WILD



#### MALWARE IMITATES LIFE



"All offensive problems are technical problems, and all defensive problems are political problems."

- THOMAS DULLIEN [HALVAR FLAKE], BLACKHAT ASIA 2017.



BAD IDEAS IN CYBER POLICY

## A BRIEF HISTORY



- Export controls (cryptography, "intrusion software")
- 'Hacking back,' a.k.a. cyber letters of marque and reprisal, a.k.a. cyber privateers
- Cyber-as-armed-conflict <= really, really terrible idea</li>

**POLICY** 

# HOW DOES IT WORK?



The Ambassador of the United States of America requests the pleasure of your company

# PROTOCOL FOR THE MODERN DIPLOMAT

R.S.V.L. White Tie

Transition Genter

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- Démarche (strongly-worded letter)
- Economic penalties (i.e. trade)
- Targeted sanctions (e.g. against individuals or entities)

#### CURRENT STATE OF 'CYBER' DOCTRINE

## GAPING ABYSS



#### WHY DOESN'T THIS WORK?

- Open-source / industry analysis is fragmented
- Analysis lacks rigour
- Confidence is 100 or 0
- Weak third-party attribution

- Talos Group 74
- APT28 MANDIANT
- Sofacy



Fancy Bear



Tsar Team





Sednit



GRIZZLY STEPPE (APT28 + APT29)





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"The technology is only interesting insofar as it answers policy questions."

-JEFFREY LEWIS (@ARMSCONTROLWONK)

#### INTERESTING STUFF

- Attribution: let's talk about confidence
  - Verification in arms control is a mosaic of imperfect technical indicators whose strengths + limits are generally agreed
- Intent : what can we infer from design?
  - What does it mean when anatomically correct ransomware is observed to function as a wiper?
  - Modularity / ease of code re-use super interesting

#### MOAR INTERESTING STUFF

[your thoughts here]

### CONTACT

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