

CAN MUGGLES DO MAGIC?

MALWARE ANALYSIS FOR POLICY PEOPLE

Hello
my name is

Mara



Washington, DC

OBSERVED IN THE WILD



MALWARE IMITATES LIFE

- Law and ethics in cyberspace
- Information sharing
- Cyber deterrence/cyber power
- Cybersecurity training and exercises
- Emerging opportunities, risks, threats, and vulnerabilities
- Security practices for government and industry
- Threat countermeasures



CCDCOE

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence
Centre of Excellence Tallinn, Estonia

Technically Co-Sponsored by



CyCon U.S. is jointly organized by the Army Cyber Institute at the United States Military Academy and the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, Estonia.

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“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 \leq really, *really* terrible idea

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.P.
White Tie*

Transition Center

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

- Group 74

TALOS

- APT28

MANDIANT

- Sofacy



- Fancy Bear



- Tsar Team



- Pawn Storm

iSIGHTPARTNERS

- 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]

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