



CuteCats.exe and the Arab Spring

Morgan Marquis-Boire

Disclaimer

Any views expressed in this talk are my own and not those of my employer.

This talk discusses work performed in my spare time analyzing malware I personally received. Analysis was published with the EFF and Citizen Lab, independently of Google.

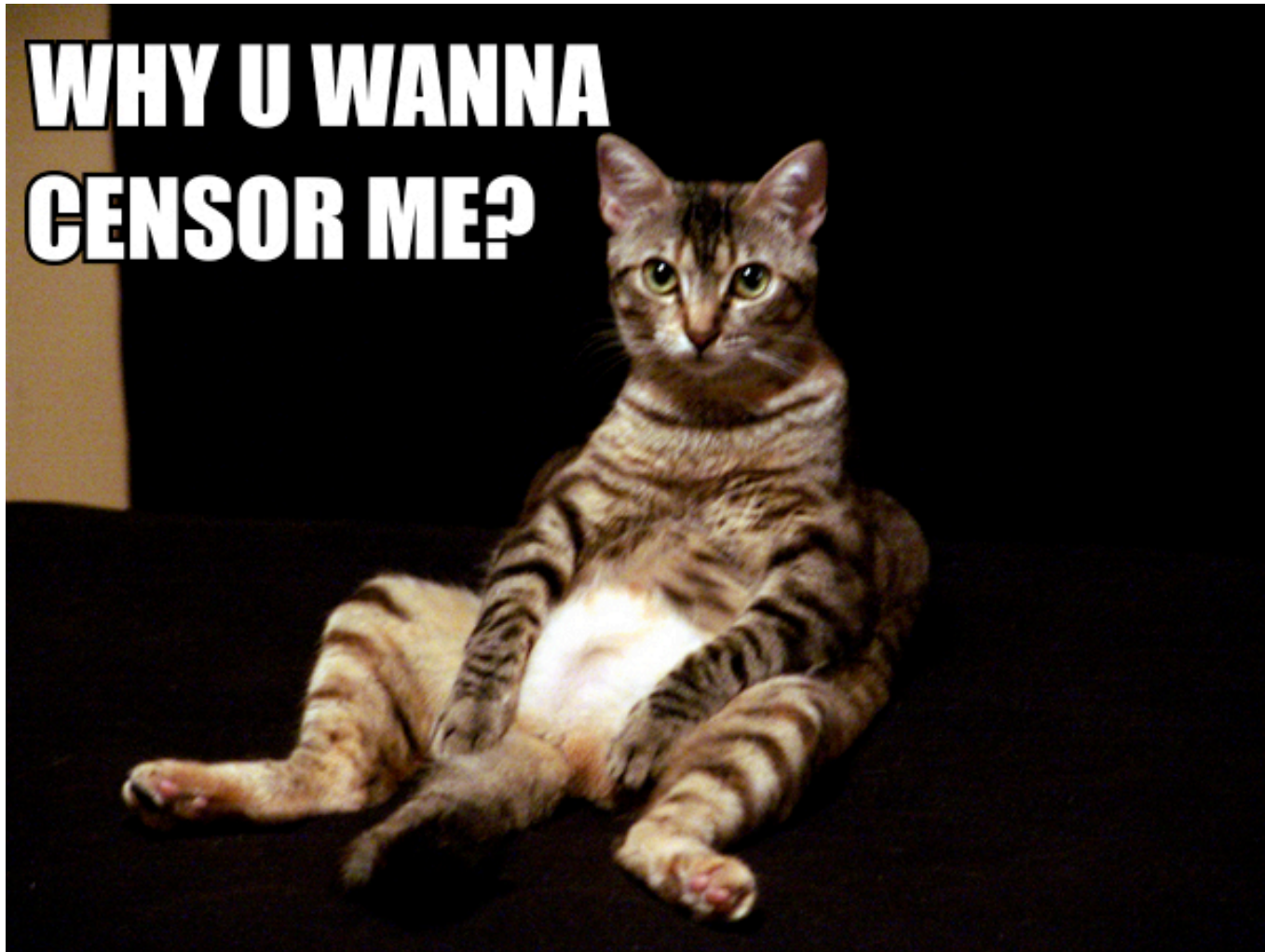
Cute Cats Theories

Ethan Zuckerman - The Cute Cat Theory of Digital Activism

*“Sufficiently usable read/write platforms
will attract porn and activists”*

(and lolcats)

Cute Cats Theories



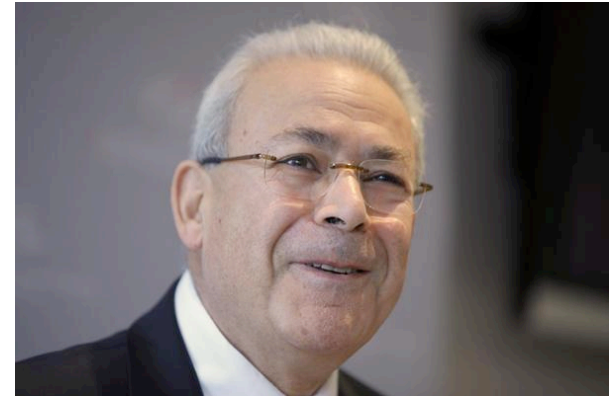
Cute Cats Theories

Morgan Marquis-Boire - The CuteCats.exe Theory of Digital Activism

“Once a platform attracts a critical mass of activists, it will be used to target them”



Anti-Dissident Campaign



**Anti-Dissident
Operations Discovered**

**Skype
[Deliver Malware]**

**Fake Facebook
Deliver Malware**

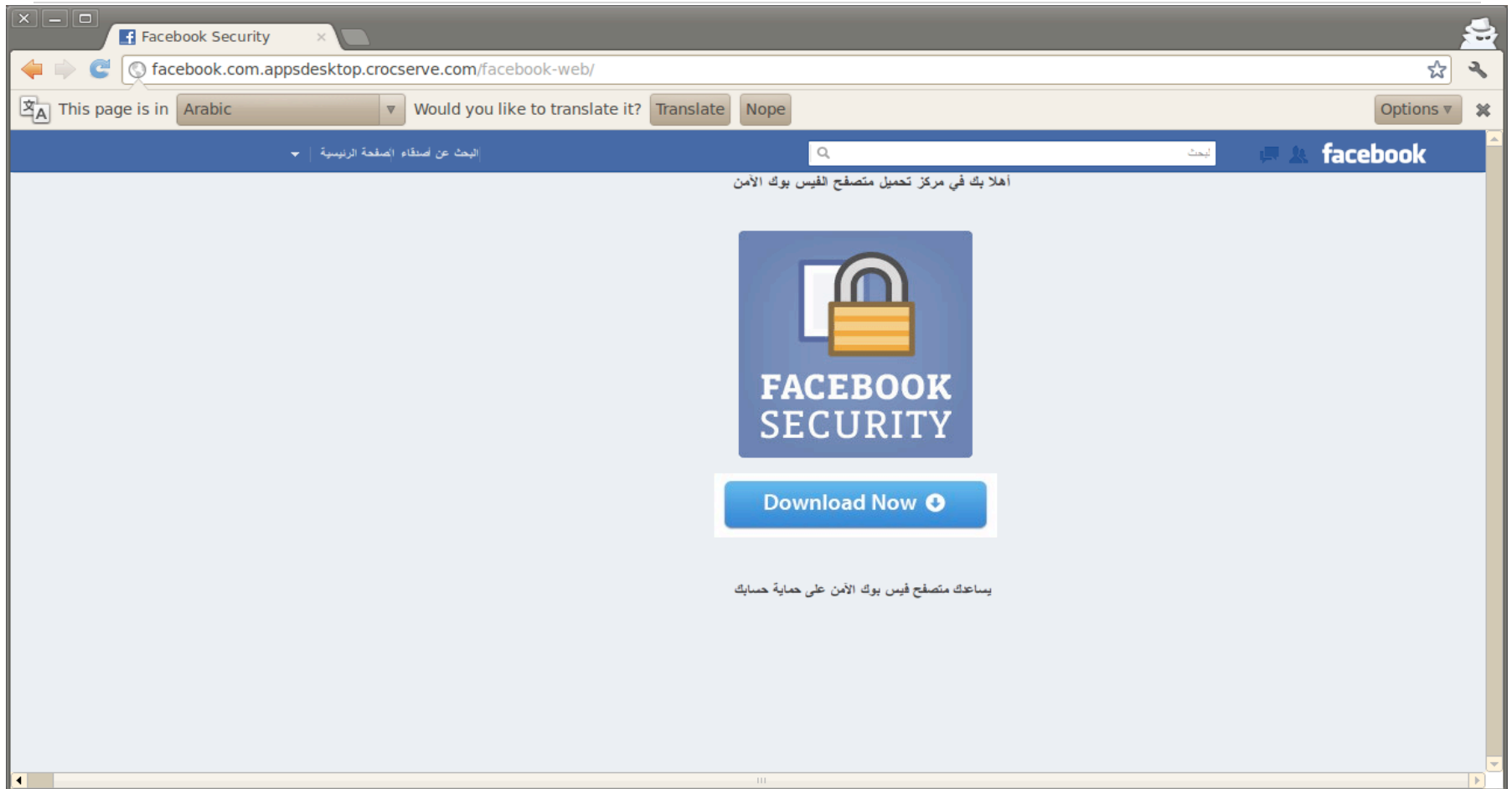
2012

**Fake Youtube
[Deliver Malware]
[Phishing]**

Civil Unrest Begins
January 26, 2011

CNN Reporting

Burhan Ghalion Facebook Hack



<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/new-wave-facebook-phishing-attacks-targets-syrian-activists>

Burhan Ghalioun Facebook Hack

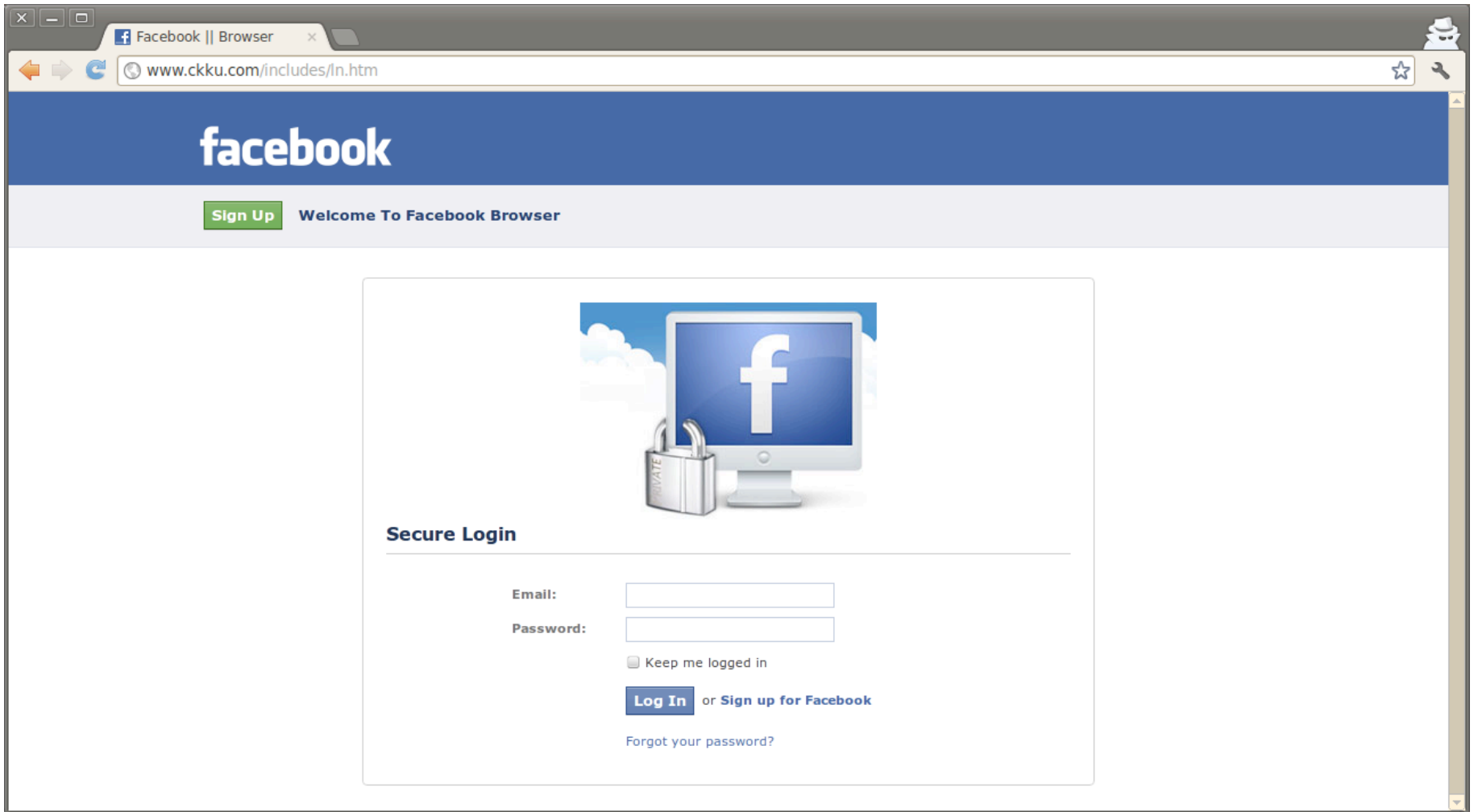
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `www.ckku.com/includes/?MD`. The page title is "Index of /includes/". Below the title is a table listing files and folders. Red arrows and text annotations highlight specific items:

- An arrow points to the `security` folder with the text "Directory of phishing website".
- An arrow points to the `FacebookWebBrowser.exe` file with the text "Malicious applications".
- An arrow points to the `re_files` folder with the text "Phishing website".

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory	20-Apr-2012 16:11	-	
security	20-Apr-2012 16:13	-	← Directory of phishing website
error_log	13-Apr-2012 01:31	24k	
js2	12-Apr-2012 16:56	-	
js	12-Apr-2012 14:30	-	
FacebookWebBrowser.exe	11-Apr-2012 14:05	40k	← Malicious applications
modules	11-Apr-2012 12:09	-	
javascript	11-Apr-2012 12:09	-	
functions	11-Apr-2012 12:09	-	
classes	11-Apr-2012 12:09	-	
boxes	11-Apr-2012 12:09	-	
Document.doc	10-Apr-2012 23:41	108k	
doc.txt	10-Apr-2012 22:00	8k	
d.doc	10-Apr-2012 21:41	76k	
in.htm	18-Mar-2012 07:52	20k	
re.htm	18-Mar-2012 07:52	24k	
re_files	18-Mar-2012 07:49	-	← Phishing website
in.htm	18-Mar-2012 07:48	16k	
login_files	18-Mar-2012 07:16	-	
connect.php	18-Mar-2012 01:24	8k	
languages	15-Mar-2012 21:37	-	

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/new-wave-facebook-phishing-attacks-targets-syrian-activists>

Burhan Ghalion Facebook Hack




Facebook || Browser

www.ckku.com/includes/ln.htm

facebook

Sign Up Welcome To Facebook Browser



Secure Login

Email:

Password:

Keep me logged in

Log In or [Sign up for Facebook](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

Burhan Ghalion Facebook Hack

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing the URL `www.ckku.com/includes/security/facebook.com.sec/go.htm`, which is circled in red. An arrow points from this URL to the text "Fake Facebook URL: www.ckku.com/includes/security/facebook.com.sec/go.htm". The page content features the Facebook logo and a login form with a padlock icon, indicating a security warning. The text "ادخل اسم المستخدم الخاص بك على فيس بوك" (Enter your Facebook username) is visible above the input field. The footer includes a list of languages and the text "Facebook © 2012".

Fake Facebook URL:
`www.ckku.com/includes/security/facebook.com.sec/go.htm`

ادخل اسم المستخدم الخاص بك على فيس بوك

اسم المستخدم :

متابعة

日本語 中文(简体) हिन्दी العربية Italiano Deutsch Français (France) Português (Brasil) Español English (US)

الهايف الحمول - البحث عن أصدقاء - المشاركات - أشخاص - الصفحات - حول فيس بوك - إعلاناتكم - إنشاء صفحة - المطورين - المهن - الخصوصية - الشروط - المساعدة

Facebook © 2012

Suicide Bombing and Phishing

Index of /ss
skype-calls.tk

Members' sign ... Golden Kim Tar ... Netflix dlshad Bahrain Blog Po... Inbox (25) - info...

عرض خاصة تسجيل الدفول شراء رصيد

الميزات Skype على الأسعار ملحقات شركة دعم بحث

مكالمة راجحة مع زوجته قبل الأجماع

المكالمة الأخيرة
لراجحة مع زوجته
يرجى النشر
قلتي القاعدة لكن
مووووووووووو؟؟
كتيبة كشف بشار

متابعه

قم بالمزيد. احصل على المزيد.
وفر المزيد.
تصل بالهواتف الأرضية
والهواتف المحمولة من
Skype.
رّد على المكالمات الهاتفية
على Skype باستخدام رقم
إنترنت.
دع الأصدقاء يتركون رسائل
بريد صوتي عندما تكون
مشغولاً.

Skype.com

Emotional Social Engineering



Revolución Siria 2011. España · 2,243 · الثورة السورية. اسبانيا like this
March 8 at 12:47pm · 🌐 Like

¡Volvemos a compartir con vosotros este video por el gran interés que tiene su DIFUSIÓN!!!
...TU OBLIGACIÓN ES DIFUNDIRLO!!!!

Este vídeo es uno de los más peligrosos que nos llega desde Siria. Muestra las torturas a las que son sometidos los heridos por parte de los médicos del hospital. "Ataban los penes de los hombres para impedirles orinar" "Realizaban las operaciones sin anestesia para que los heridos sufriesen más" "He visto como los medicos pegaban las cabezas de los pacientes en contra de la pared" "Les tapaban los ojos y les electrocutaban"

[See Translation](#)



Filtrado: Tortura de los heridos en el hospital militar de Homs - SIRIA (subtitulos español)
www.youtube.com

Este vídeo es uno de los más peligrosos que nos llega desde Siria. Muestra las torturas a las que son sometidos los heridos por parte de los médicos del hosp...

[Like](#) · [Comment](#)

👍 Ssham Freedom Freedom, Siria Libre, Geio Gio and 3 others like this.



Paqui García no puedo verlo, pero lo comparto, ánimo
[See Translation](#)
March 8 at 1:32pm · 🔄 2



Mohammed Sarwa http://l0gin1.cixx6.com/photo-php=/426519_333998546633128_3314_04610225855_1082043_158875083/login/facebook/ar/?i=247881
عاجل وخطير.. قفيديو مسرب من احد رجال الامن والشبيحه .. انتقام شبيحة الاسد من احرار ونساء بابا عمرو في المعتقل وتبادل لاغتصاب احدي الحرائر في المعتقل من كلاب الاسد .. يرجى النشر يا احرار
http://l0gin1.cixx6.com/photo-php=/426519_333998546633128_3314_04610225855_1082043_158875083/login/facebook/ar/?i=247881
[See Translation](#)
March 8 at 3:49pm · 🔄 1

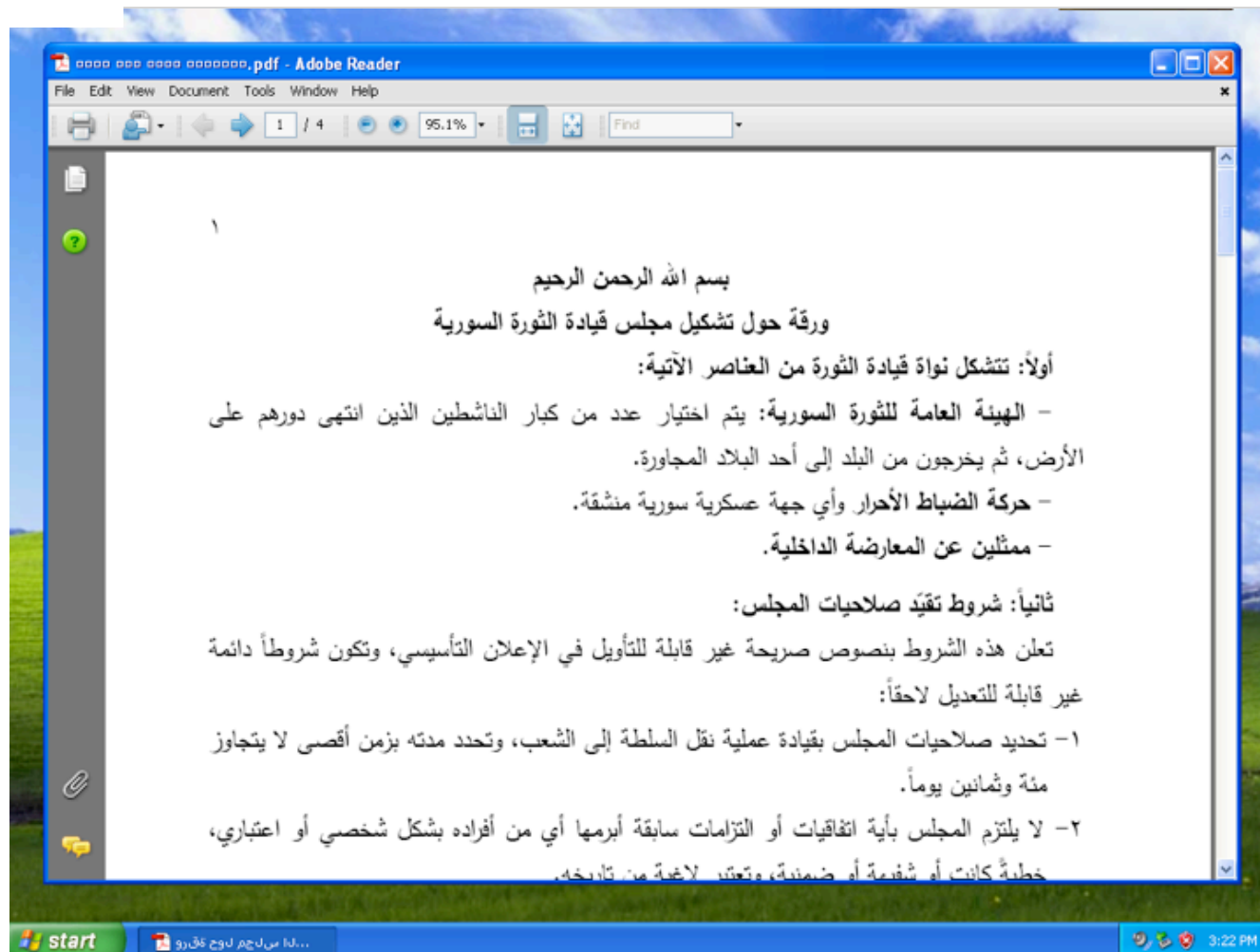
<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/pro-syrian-government-hackers-target-syrian-activists-facebook-phishing-attack>

Fake YouTube Phishing

The screenshot shows a browser window with the address bar displaying "youtube.com.watch.u-losxgbydy.wankbook.net". The page layout mimics YouTube, with a search bar, navigation links, and a video player. The video player shows a video titled "عملية نوعية للجيش الحر بالصوت والصورة دقة عالية" (High quality operation of the Free Army by sound and image) with 60,038 views. A pop-up window for "Adobe Flash Player Update" is displayed over the video player, indicating that the content requires a newer version of the player. The left sidebar contains a list of related videos, including "عملية نوعية للضابط رياض الأسد من الجيش السوري الحر" (High quality operation of the Free Syrian Army) and "اروع فيديو يمكن ان تراه في حياتك" (The best video you can see in your life). The bottom of the page shows a taskbar with "setup.exe" and a "Show all downloads..." link.

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/fake-youtube-site-targets-syrian-activists-malware>

Fake Revolutionary Plans



<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/campaign-targeting-syrian-activists-escalates-with-new-surveillance-malware>

Zero-Hour Plan for Aleppo

0_Aleppo plan.pdf ☆

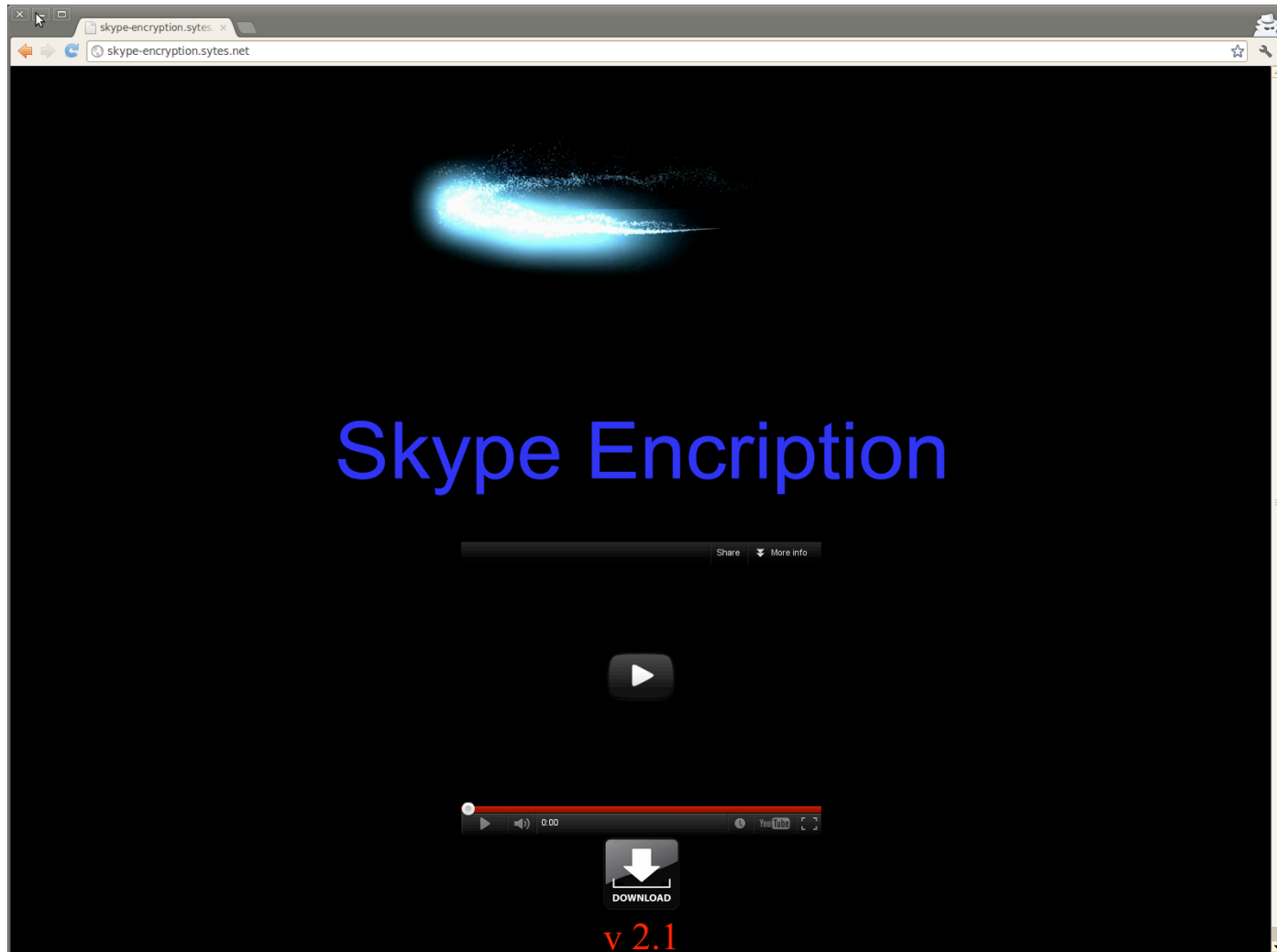
File Edit View Help

Comments



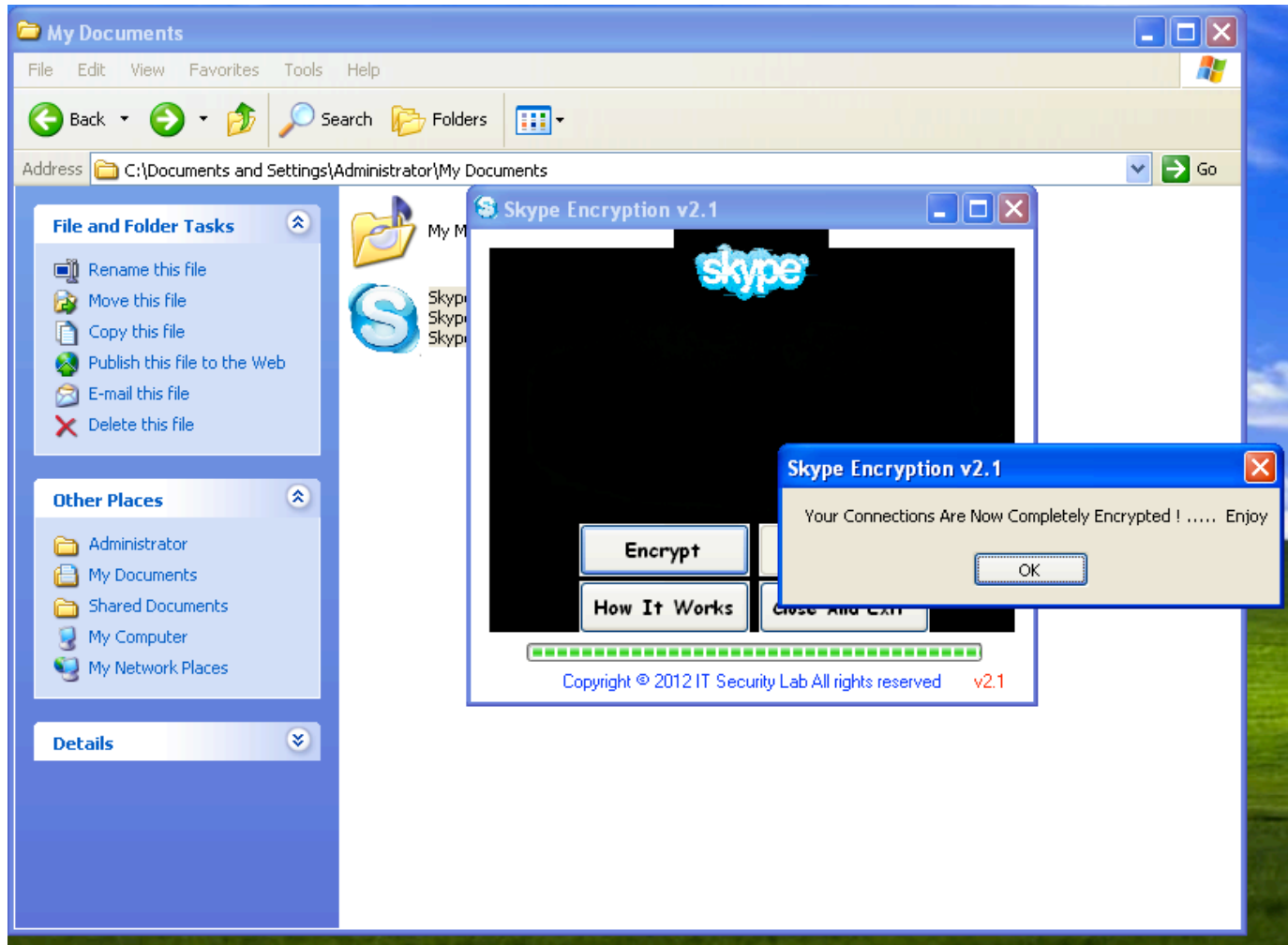
<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/trojan-hidden-fake-revolutionary-documents-targets-syrian-activists>

Encryption... can haz?

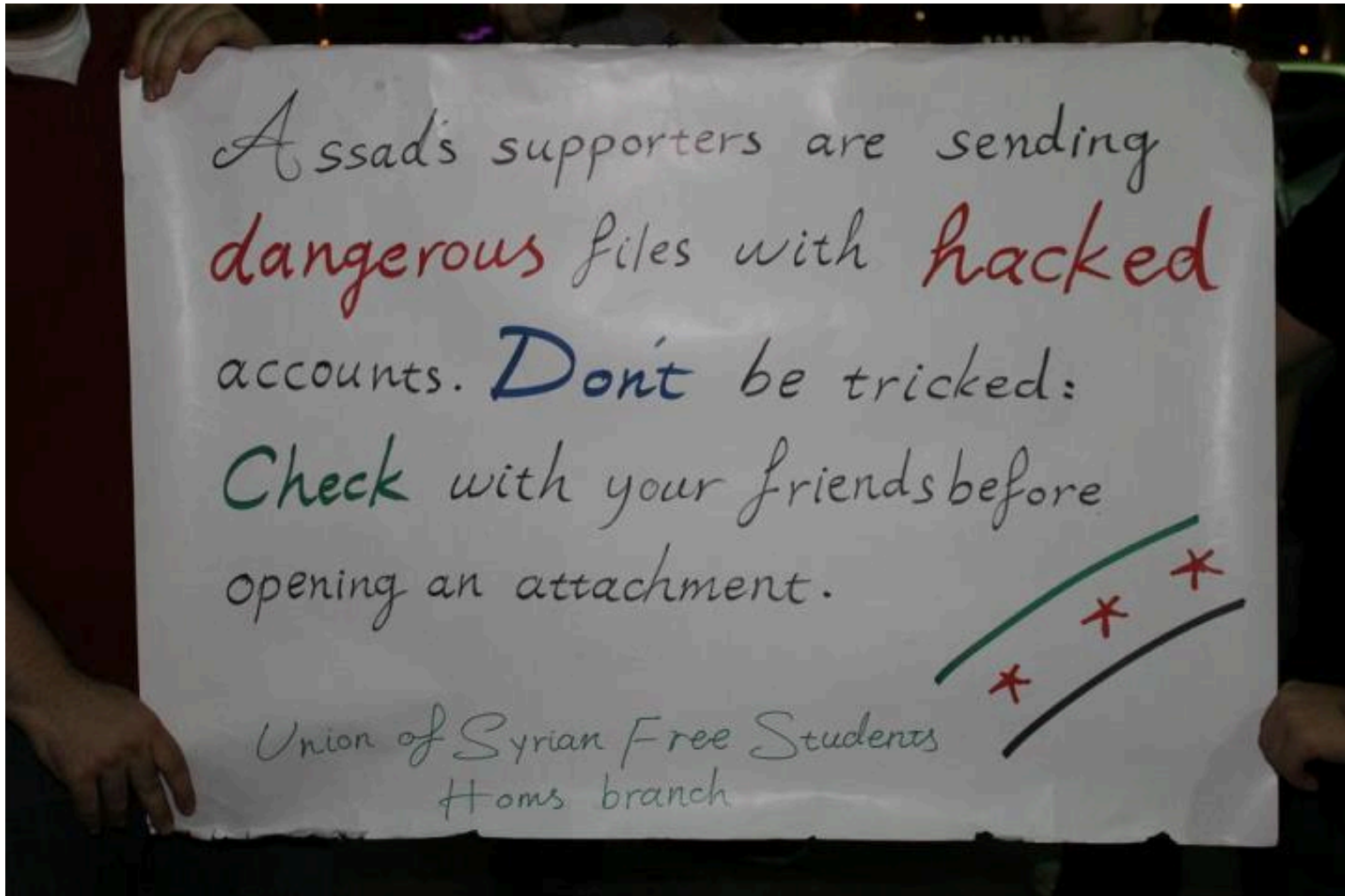


<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/fake-skype-encryption-tool-targeted-syrian-activists-promises-security-delivers>

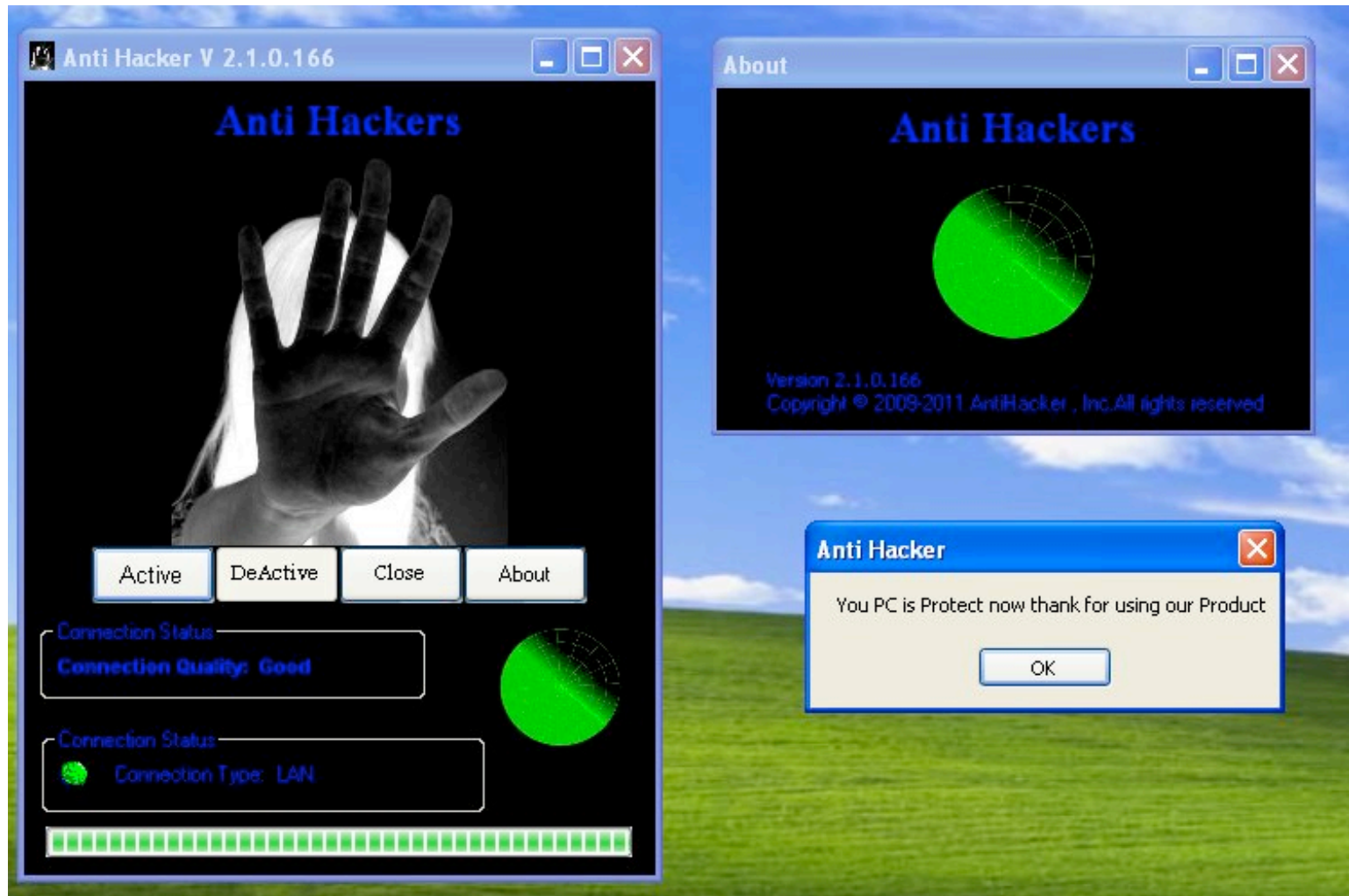
Encryption... can haz?



Warning!



Anti-Hacker.exe



<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/syrian-malware-post>

Tools & Actors



<https://citizenlab.org/2012/06/syrian-activists-targeted-with-blackshades-spy-software/>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/how-find-syrian-government-malware-your-computer-and-remove-it/>

<http://www.wired.com/wiredenterprise/2012/07/dark-comet-syrian-spy-tool/>

Group 1 - Alosh

Domains:

alosh66.no-ip.info

alosh66.myftp.org

alosh66.servecounterstrike.net

alosh66.linkpc.net

Distinguishing feature:

Predictable C2 domain naming convention.

Tools:

Dark Comet RAT

BlackShades RAT

Group 1 - Alosh

Attacks:

March - Fake You Tube Website

- * You Tube Credential Phishing

- * DarkComet RAT

June / July / August - Skype Phishing

- * BlackShades RAT (4 different variants)

Group 2 - Meroo

Domain:

meroo.no-ip.org

Distinguishing feature:

Repeated use of 216.6.0.28 as C2.

Tools:

Dark Comet RAT

Xtreme RAT

Group 2 - Meroo

Duration:

November 2011 - June 2012

Distinct Campaigns

Zero Hour plan for city of Aleppo

Plans for a revolutionary high council

Skype Encryption Application

Anti-Hacker Tool

and many more...

17 Dark Comet samples connecting to 216.6.0.28

1 Xtreme Sample connecting to 216.6.0.28

Libya



gadaffigooglemaps.exe



Pro-Regime Electronic Actors - Libya

Duration:

2011

Campaigns

Tactical Social Engineering against military operations rooms.

Implant

BlackShades RAT

Command and Control

lyone.no-ip.biz

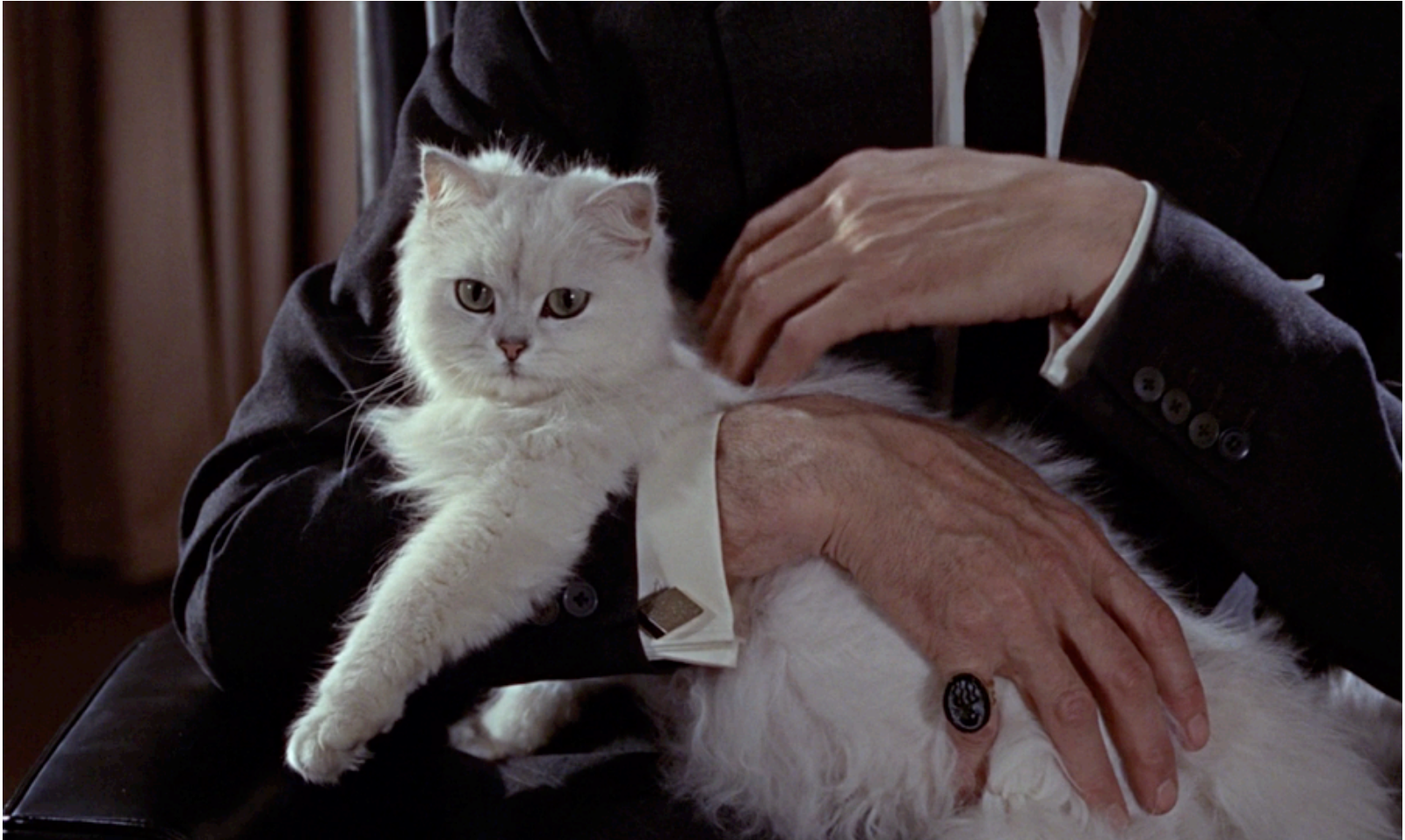
Bahrain



Activists Targeted



From Bahrain with love...



From Bahrain with love...

```
00003960 47 4e 55 20 4d 50 3a 20 43 61 6e 6e 6f 74 20 61 |GNU MP: Cannot a|
00003970 6c 6c 6f 63 61 74 65 20 6d 65 6d 6f 72 79 20 28 |llocate memory (|
00003980 73 69 7a 65 3d 25 75 29 0a 00 00 00 47 4e 55 20 |size=%u)...GNU |
00003990 4d 50 3a 20 43 61 6e 6e 6f 74 20 72 65 61 6c 6c |MP: Cannot reall|
000039a0 6f 63 61 74 65 20 6d 65 6d 6f 72 79 20 28 6f 6c |ocate memory (ol|
000039b0 64 5f 73 69 7a 65 3d 25 75 20 6e 65 77 5f 73 69 |d_size=%u new_si|
000039c0 7a 65 3d 25 75 29 0a 00 79 3a 5c 6c 73 76 6e 5f |ze=%u)..y:\lsvn |
000039d0 62 72 61 6e 63 68 65 73 5c 66 69 6e 73 70 79 76 |branches\finspyv|
000039e0 34 2e 30 31 5c 66 69 6e 73 70 79 76 32 5c 73 72 |4.01\finspyv2\sr|
000039f0 63 5c 6c 69 62 73 5c 6c 69 62 67 6d 70 5c 6d 70 |c\libs\libgmp\mp|
00003a00 6e 2d 74 64 69 76 5f 71 72 2e 63 00 63 20 3d 3d |n-tdiv_qr.c.c ==|
00003a10 20 30 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 02 03 03 04 04 04 04 |0.....|
```


From Bahrain with love...



More details

<https://citizenlab.org/2012/07/from-bahrain-with-love-finfishers-spy-kit-exposed/>

Response / Notification

Notification

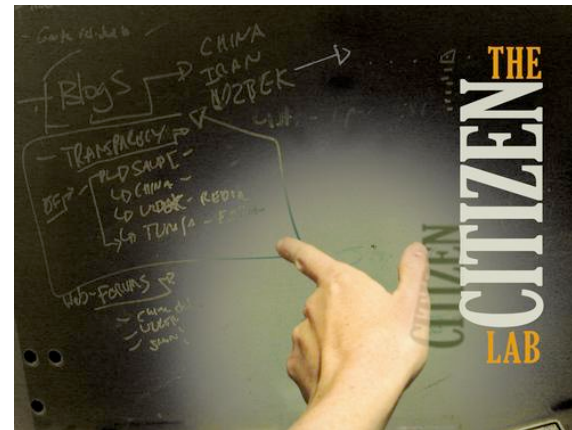


ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION
DEFENDING YOUR RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Blog Posts

Education

Open to ideas...



Posts

Bahrain (FinFisher):

<https://citizenlab.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/09-2012-frombahrainwithlove.pdf>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-25/cyber-attacks-on-activists-traced-to-finfisher-spyware-of-gamma.html>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-08-08/finfisher-spyware-reach-found-on-five-continent-report.html>

Syria:

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/how-find-syrian-government-malware-your-computer-and-remove-it>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/fake-youtube-site-targets-syrian-activists-malware>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/pro-syrian-government-hackers-target-syrian-activists-facebook-phishing-attack>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/campaign-targeting-syrian-activists-escalates-with-new-surveillance-malware>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/new-wave-facebook-phishing-attacks-targets-syrian-activists>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/fake-skype-encryption-tool-targeted-syrian-activists-promises-security-delivers>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/trojan-hidden-fake-revolutionary-documents-targets-syrian-activists>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/06/darkshades-rat-and-syrian-malware>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/new-blackshades-malware>

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/syrian-malware-post>

<https://citizenlab.org/2012/06/syrian-activists-targeted-with-blackshades-spy-software/>

Iran:

<http://citizenlab.org/2012/05/iranian-anti-censorship-software-simurgh-circulated-with-malicious-backdoor-2/>

Thanks

Eva Galperin & EFF

John Scott-Railton

Collin Anderson

Citizen Lab

Telecomix

Privacy International

Google Security Team

and Kdotcdot.

Questions

