

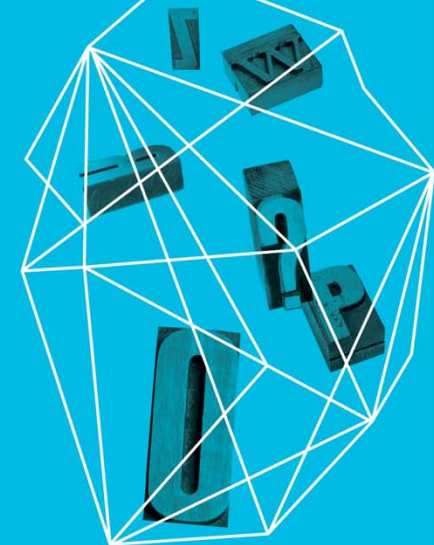
## Foolish Zebras: Log-tracking Your Riskiest Users to Find the Bad Guys

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Security in  
knowledge

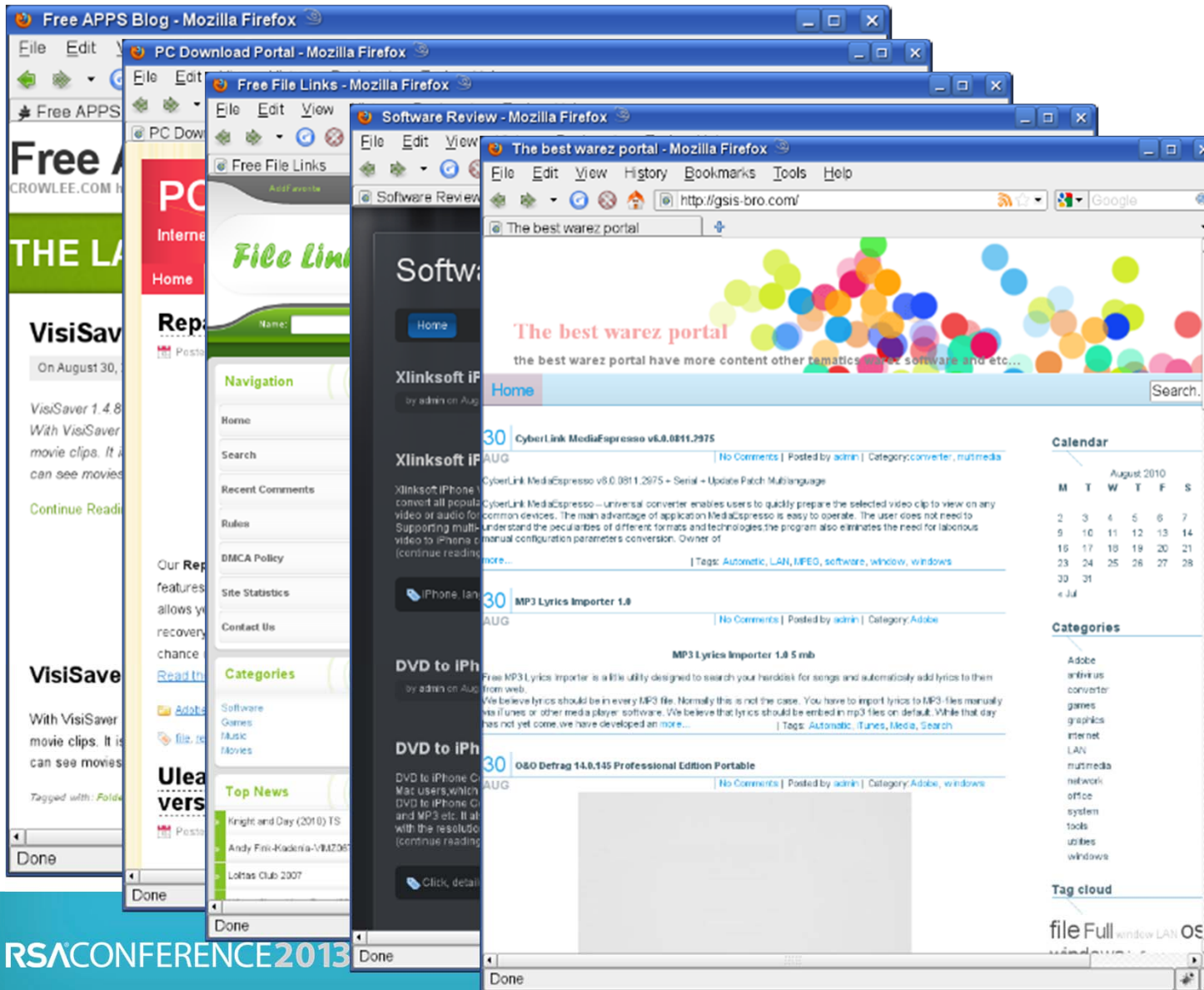


# — Outline

- ▶ The “zebra herd” principle
- ▶ What to do with your foolish zebras?
  - ▶ Get mad at them?
  - ▶ Make fun of them?
  - ▶ Enlist them as unwitting security researchers!
- ▶ How to identify them
- ▶ How to track them
  - ▶ And what you might find...



# Foolish Zebra Story



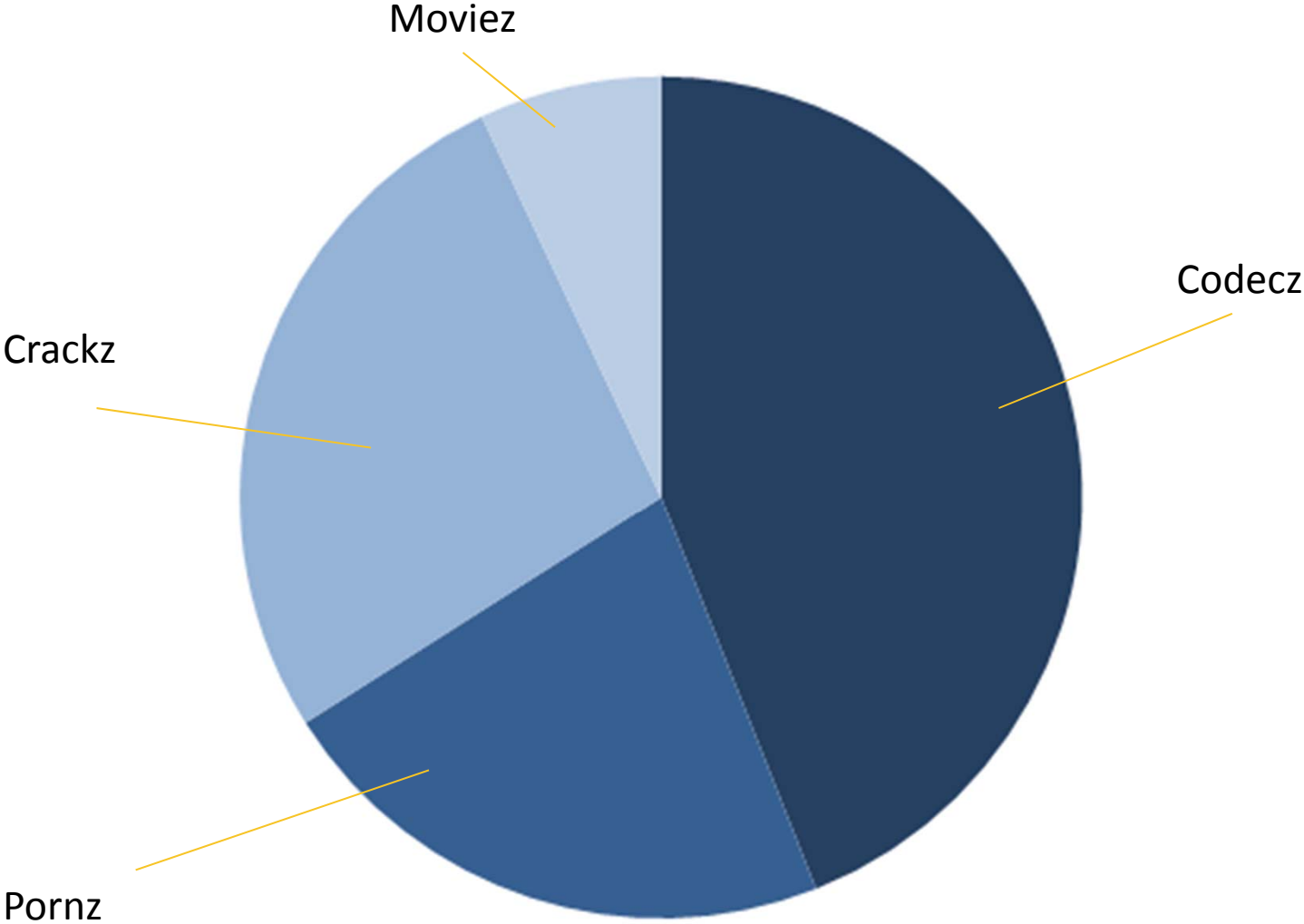
“Dangerous  
WareZ”  
Network

# — Foolish Zebra Story

- ▶ How to save a fence-busting zebra in spite of himself?
- ▶ Initial engineer reaction?
  - ▶ “We’ve got to build a better fence!”
- ▶ Wise researcher reaction?
  - ▶ “This noble zebra is sacrificing himself for the good of the herd!”
    - ▶ (Let’s radio-collar him and see where else he goes!)
    - ▶ (btw, our zebras are anonymous in the logs)



# Bonus Slide, Courtesy of "Dangerous Warez" Network



# Finding Your Foolish Zebras



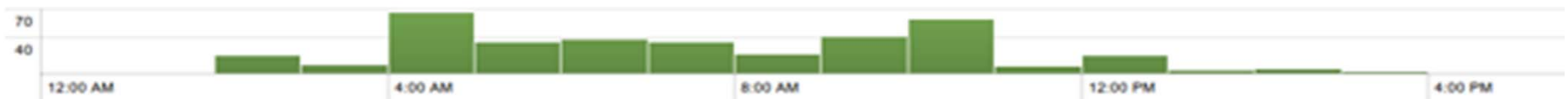
## — Finding Your Foolish Zebras

- ▶ Basic Idea #1 -- Behavior
  - ▶ Zebras with unusually high traffic
  - ▶ Zebras with unusual traffic patterns



# One-slide tutorial on traffic patterns

Normal:



Weird Intervals:



Steady/automated:





# — Finding Your Foolish Zebras

- ▶ Basic Idea #2 – Risky Areas
  - ▶ Identify areas of concern, and start looking there
    - ▶ (but zebras are ingenious, so don't just stick to one list!)
  - ▶ Security team brainstorming:
    - ▶ “If we were Bad Guys, where would we hide our traffic?”
  - ▶ Ask your security vendors/consultants for suggestions



# — Risky Areas in Web Traffic

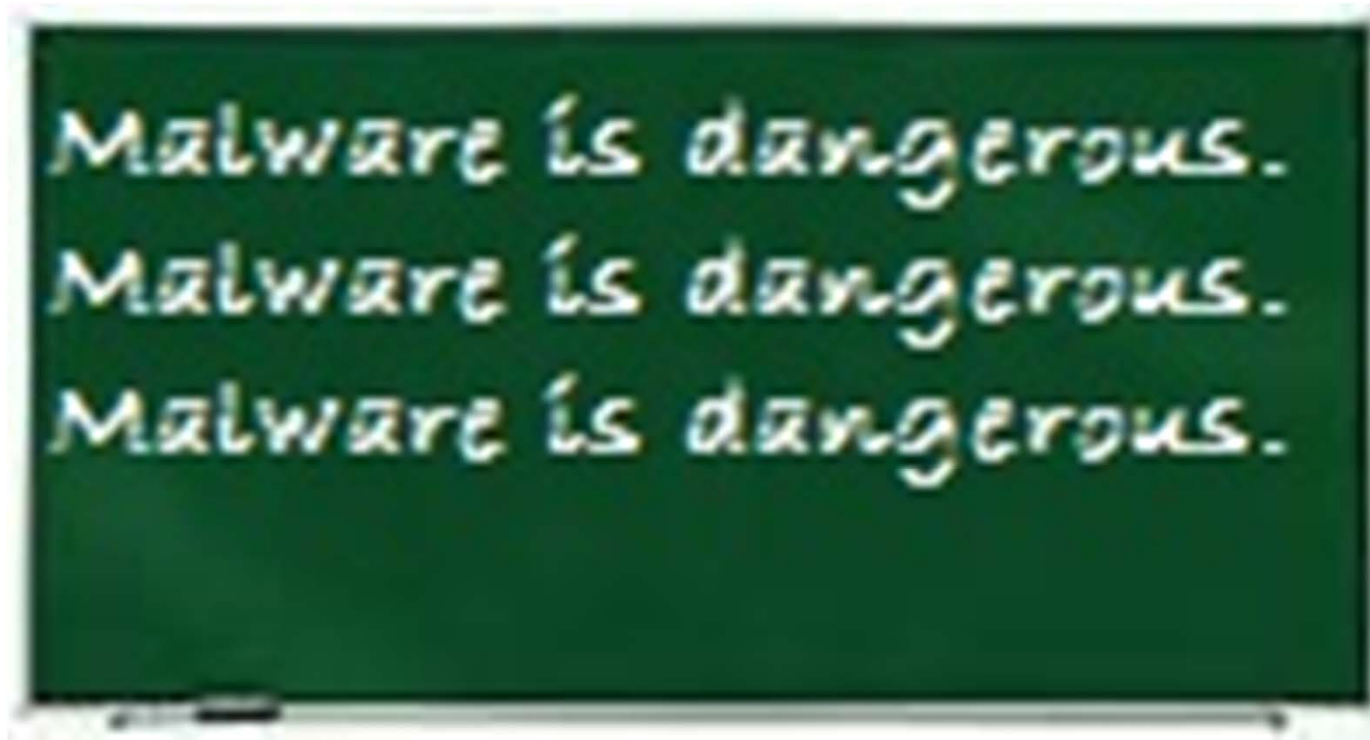
- ▶ We'll be looking at several areas...
- ▶ The Obvious:
  - ▶ Malware sites, Botnets, Suspicious...
- ▶ The Less-obvious:
  - ▶ Porn, Unrated, DynDNS...
- ▶ I will provide "Background Radiation" level estimates...
- ▶ ..."worry level" estimates...
- ▶ ...and "what you find" examples
- ▶ (you will of course need to set your own levels)



Into the bushes we go...



## — Category of Interest: Malware



# — Category of Interest: Malware

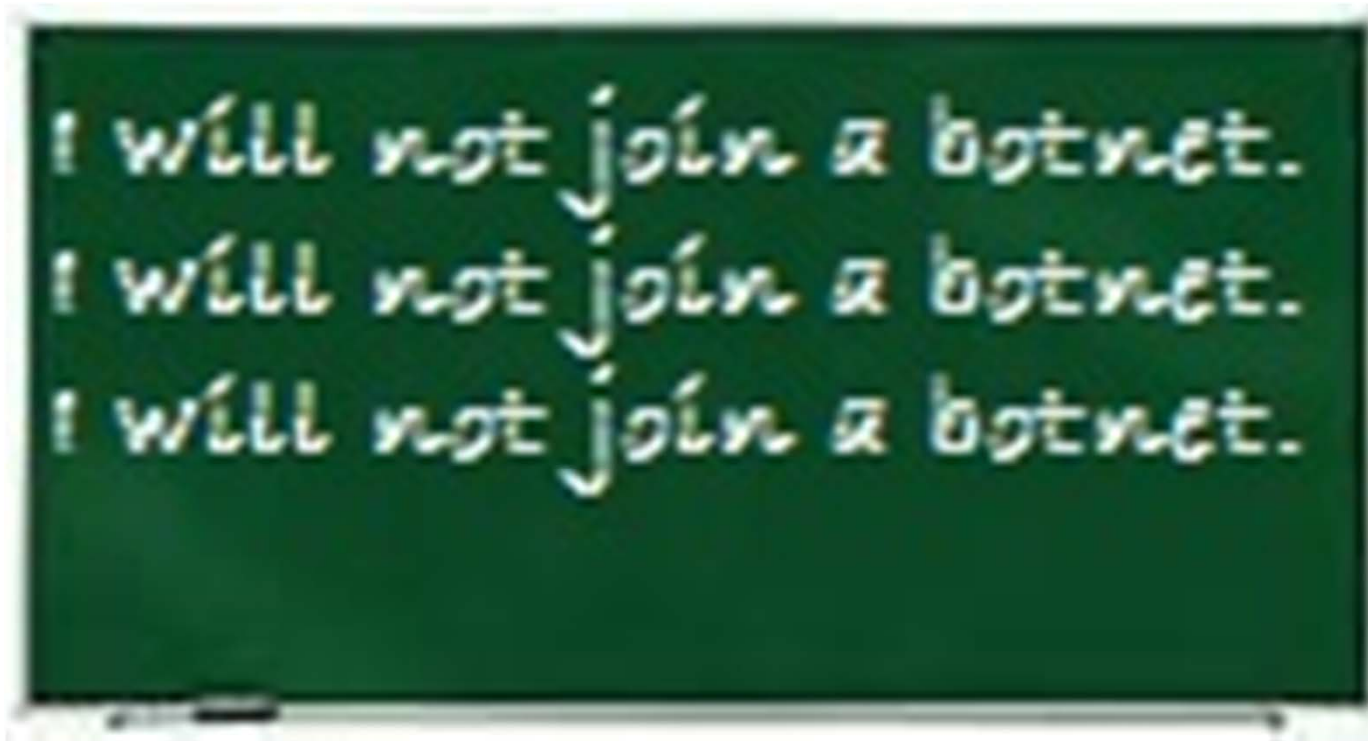
- ▶ What's in it?
  - ▶ Payload hosts, Exkits, "Ecosystem" (relay) sites...
- ▶ Why is it interesting?
  - ▶ (ok, this one's obvious)
- ▶ What's the "Background Radiation" Level? (1-2)
  - ▶ Only 785 K9'ers had even 1 hit the day I checked
- ▶ What's the "Worry" level?
  - ▶ 104 had 3-5 hits; 17 had >5 hits



# — Zebra Tracking: Malware

- Looked at 9 users with >6 hits
- Most had all hits on 1 attempted visit to a site
  - (1 was spread across 5 visits)
- 1 “scripter” to disable
- 4 looked unscathed (they visited, we blocked)
- But 4 of the 9 looked like they’d been compromised
  - 1 was surfing porn
  - Good stuff to investigate in their other traffic
  - e.g. *suncurrentlytransitstheconstellationoflibrafromoctober.info*
    - Great example of cluster hard to find in whole haystack

## — Category of Interest: Botnets



# — Category of Interest: Botnet

- ▶ What's in it?
  - ▶ Botnet C&Cs, other "Malicious Outbound Traffic"...
- ▶ Why is it interesting?
  - ▶ Presumably, the best indicator of infection...
- ▶ What's the "Background Radiation" Level?
  - ▶ 1-2 hits/day for a single surfer
- ▶ What's the "Worry" level?
  - ▶ 3 and up
  - ▶ (and bigger "spikes": 25-230 hits for most foolish zebras)



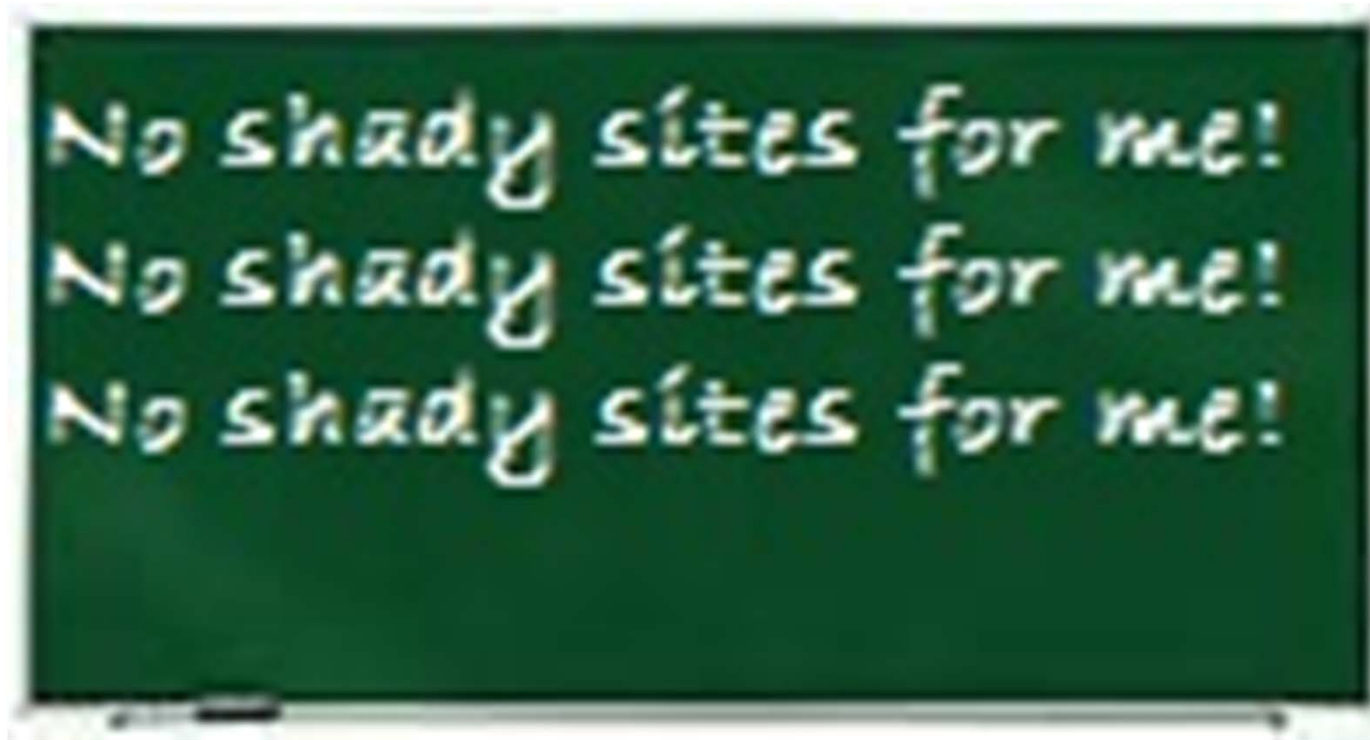


# — Zebra Tracking: Botnet

Tip: don't drill in immediately; skim for patterns

- e.g., 10 of top 11 hitters on 12/30 had same site:
  - *ulroyjwchn.cm* (a domain du jour for TDSS botnet)
  - So it occurred a lot, all the way down the list...
- Therefore, the zebra that didn't is automatically more interesting
  - 212.117.177.20 (more shady than malicious)
- A set of junk-domain botnet traffic in the 15-60 hitters
- A set of Conficker sinkhole IPs (5-20 hitter range)
- Unique: *getwinupdates.ru* (quick check: little info, so go deeper)
  - (and then keep an eye on this workstation going forward)

## — Category of Interest: Suspicious



# — Category of Interest: Suspicious

- ▶ What's in it?
  - ▶ Sites that are “up to something”
  - ▶ Significantly elevated risk areas
  - ▶ Stuff not yet confirmed as malicious
- ▶ Why is it interesting?
  - ▶ The most interesting 1% of the “coolest 5%”
- ▶ What's the “Background Radiation” Level? (1-4)
  - ▶ 5985 users had 1-4; 246 had 5-10
- ▶ What's the “Worry” level?
  - ▶ 50 had more than 10 hits



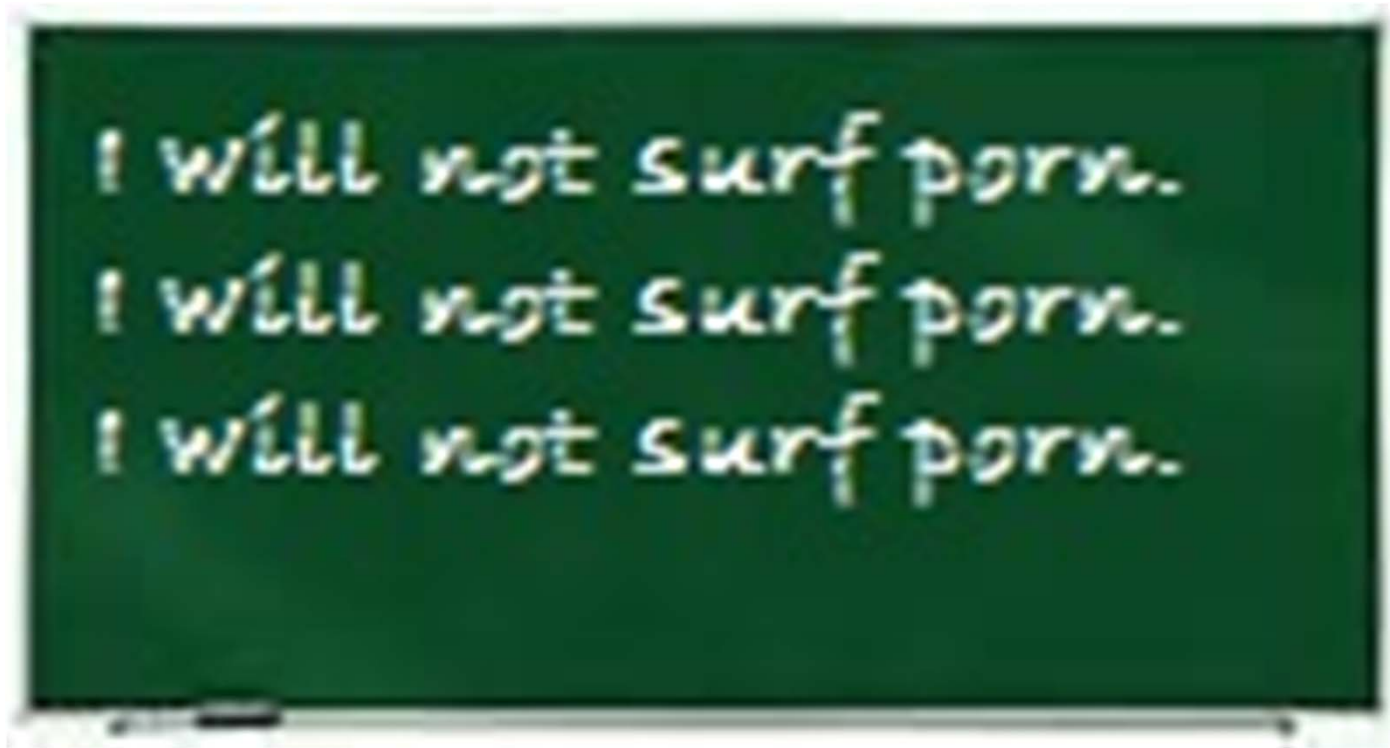
# — Zebra Tracking: Suspicious

- I looked at 10 users with 30+ hits
  - 30 hitter, all to one domain:
    - *www.kindergarten.com.php53-28.dfw1-2.websitetestlink.com*
    - (that many dots is usually a phish; this isn't)
  - 37 hitter, all to one domain:
    - *xx.com*
  - 65 hitter, to an apparently parked domain with weird name (\*)
  - 375 hitter: mix of legit, maybe legit, and shady .RU sites
  - 391 hitter: random-ish/botnet-ish domains, never resolving (\*)
  - 663 hitter: short-but-ugly domain names, never resolving (\*)
- \* no "Botnet" traffic, but these are still bots!

(Further) into the bushes  
we go...



## — Category of Interest: Porn



# — Category of Interest: Porn

- ▶ What's in it?
  - ▶ The stuff beyond merely "adult"
- ▶ Why is it interesting?
  - ▶ Well-established lure for spam & malware
- ▶ What's the "Background Radiation" Level? (1-3)
  - ▶ 83% of K9ers had <4 hits the day I checked
- ▶ What's the "Worry" level?
  - ▶ Someone above that (4+) is looking for it

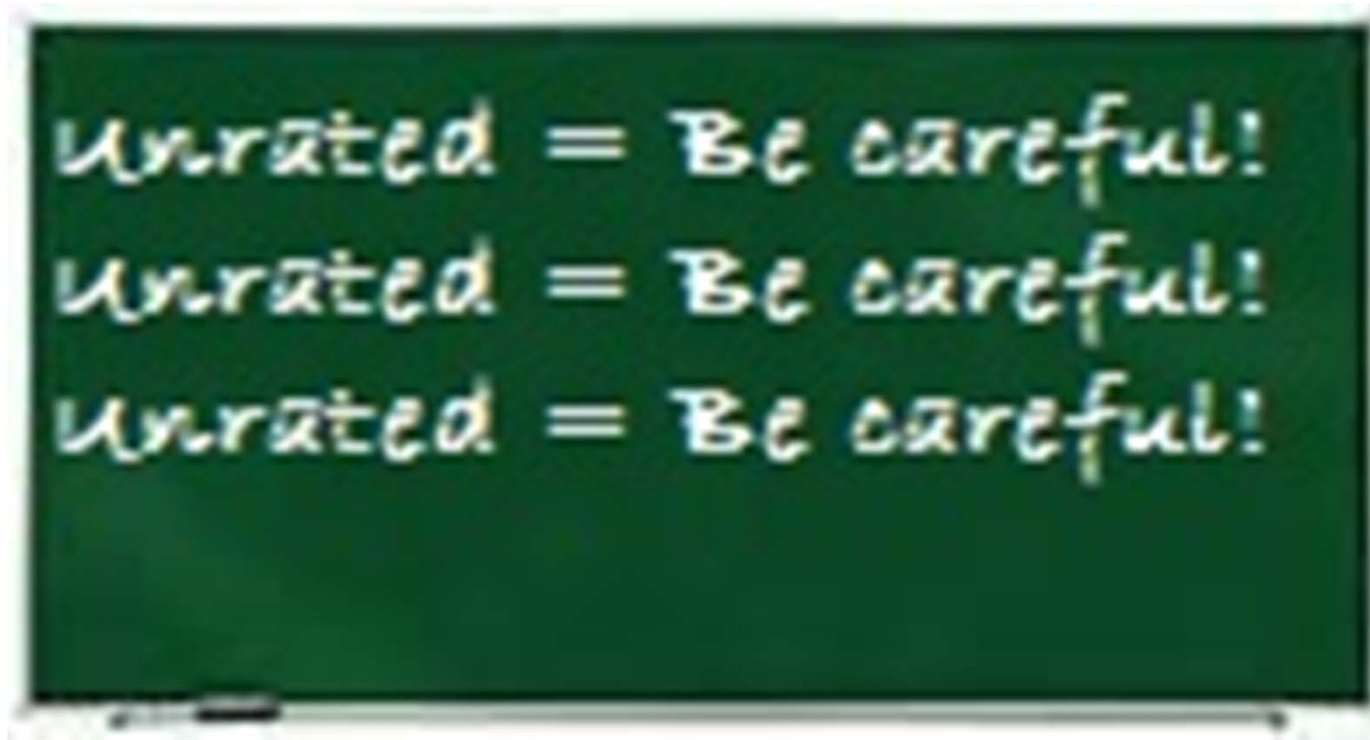


## — Zebra Tracking: Porn

- Most high-count users were trying to find gaps
  - (and ended up showing me where the fence needed repair...)
- One, however, led to something more interesting:
  - 2 huge “shady-search” networks
  - Looked like paid-affiliate type traffic
  - Averaged >5K hits a day, across >50 domains
  - Traffic coming in faster than humans click
    - Definitely shady traffic herding...
- Again, easier to see when tracking one zebra



## — Category of Interest: Unrated



# — Category of Interest: Unrated

- ▶ What's in it?
  - ▶ New and/or small sites we haven't gotten to yet
- ▶ Why is it interesting?
  - ▶ (Me: "The coolest 5% of the Web!")
- ▶ What's the "Background Radiation" Level? (1-5)
  - ▶ 150K+ users had at least one; 127,734 of them had 1-5
- ▶ What's the "Worry" level? (~ 100-200)
  - ▶ 570 users had 100+, 196 users had 200+, had 300+



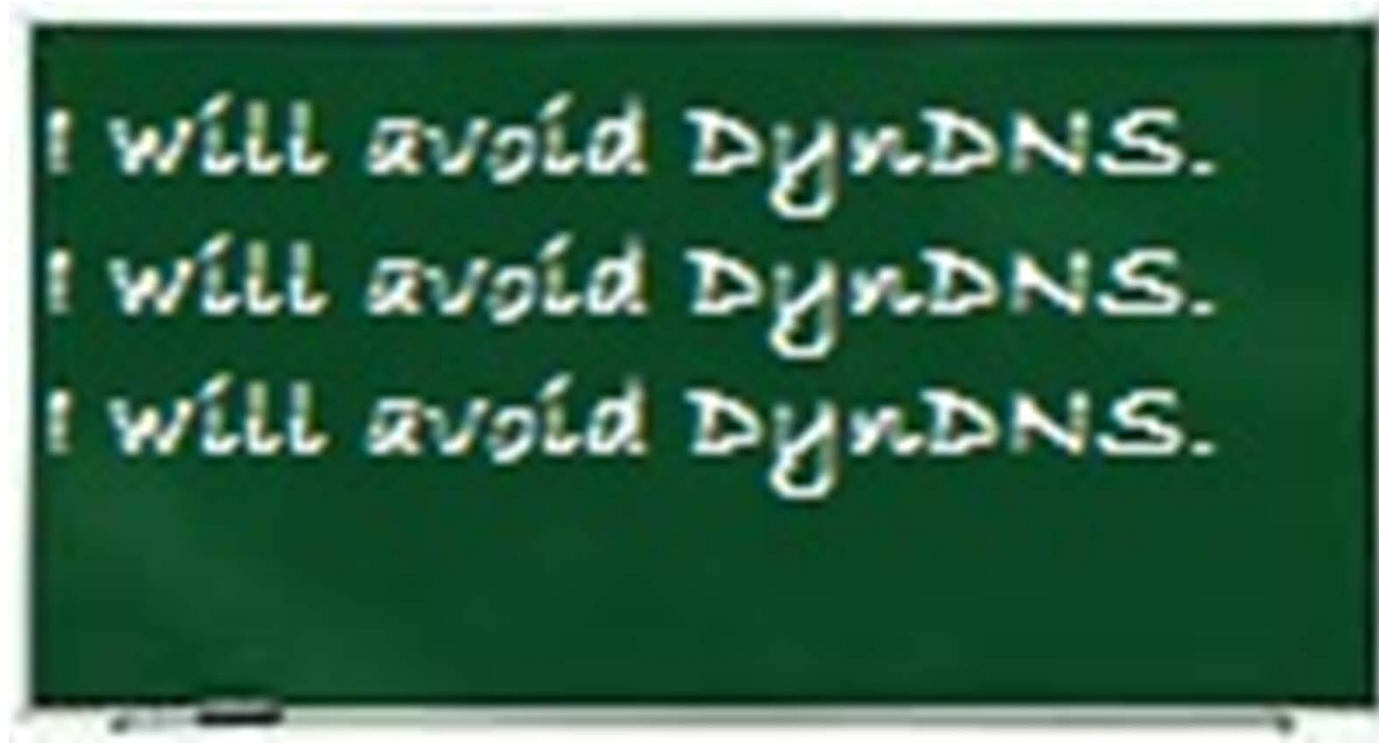
# — Zebra Tracking: Unrated

- 166 hitter:
  - 2 big ad networks (possibly shady)
  - 1 big relay/tracker network (definitely shady)
- 167 hitter:
  - Porn network (not HTML; Flash video servers)
  - And a shady traffic-driver network
- Then, big hitters: 1557, 1688, 1893, 1921, 1985...
  - 24.119.44.224:8008/machine0-1356049769225?machine=Middleton%2FLibrary%2FDesktop%2FPublicGen4-DTP+%5BWindows+7+Pro+%2C+x86%5D+DF&inuse=2&version=3.11/
  - All at “Middleton Library” running some kind of ancient tech-support package (“SimpleHelp”) that kept phoning home...

## — Zebra Tracking: Unrated

- 201 hitter
  - (also found a lot of Botnet traffic, so worth digging deeper)
- 929 hitter (game traffic for “smeet”)
- 1208 hitter (game traffic for “holo.ws”)
  - (we had both parent game sites rated, but not these servers)
- 2369 hitter (*ssprovide.com*)
  - (this was only user to hit this; definite botnet-type traffic)

## — Category of Interest: DynDNS



# — Category of Interest: DynDNS

- ▶ What's in it?
  - ▶ "Hosts" allow free subdomains to point anywhere
- ▶ Why is it interesting?
  - ▶ Even easier to set up than a free host
    - ▶ (and you control your server; free hosts may scan for malware, etc.)
  - ▶ These have been used in a **\*lot\*** of APT attacks
- ▶ What's the "Background Radiation" Level? (1-3ish)
  - ▶ 8804 K9'ers had at least one hit, 1110 had  $\geq 4$  hits
- ▶ What's the "Worry" level?
  - ▶ Probably 3-4 and up
    - ▶ (but sometimes much higher is normal)



# — Zebra Tracking: DynDNS

- General Observations:
  - If you have foolish Russian zebras, I pity you...
    - (ucoz.net family: borderline DynDNS, used like CDNs for free sites)
    - Some zebras have >100 hits on these
    - Most surfing movies, games, and porn
    - Lot of Suspicious and shady-looking sites
  - Also, lots of traffic to *checkip.dyndns.org* (need to filter these)
  - Overall, about 10% of high-hitters had “interesting” traffic
    - (after filtering *ucoz* and *checkip*, it’s much better)

# — Zebra Tracking: DynDNS

- Interesting finds:
  - One zebra: *drirgbqjrgdg.rr.nu*, *hwpdgbqjrgdg.athissite.com*, etc.
    - (tons of Mac Flashback traffic)
  - Another zebra: lots to *olvvkos.no-ip.info*
    - (looks like spam or traffic-driver network, but if he's the only one...)
    - And, no "Botnet" traffic, so this was the only infection indicator
  - Another zebra: mixed in with the *ucoz* stuff...
    - ...was *reffer.chickenkiller.com* (another "standout")
      - (*chickenkiller.com* has been around for years)
    - Quickly found 4 IP's: shady *.info* sites
      - 140+ sites in a week; ~ 6000 hits
      - Some ties to existing malware networks



# — Zebra Tracking: DynDNS

- More Interesting Finds:
  - *www1.j3z84ydz34n39.zyns.com* (another “standout” from ucoz)
    - Led to shady porn network
  - *adnanrao.zapto.org* (another oddball)
    - Hiding behind “under construction” page; log shows odd-port traffic
    - Found phishing pages (Western Union, some Forex site)
    - Pakistan IP; nothing else shady in user's traffic
    - But these appeared in stretches of “heartbeat” traffic
      - (so wasn't part of normal surfing)
    - And, we show 13 K9 users with that traffic
      - (so it looks like they're infected with something...)

# — Zebra Tracking: DynDNS

- Still More Interesting Finds:
  - Mixed in with ucoz stuff:
    - *downplay769.dyndns-office.com, fruitarian752.dyndns-free.com...*
    - Led to big tracker/relay network
    - Multiple IP's and DynDNS hosts
  - Again, mixed in with ucoz stuff: *74kfnudh35.dyndns.info...*
    - Lots of sites on that server; looks like a traffic-driver network
  - Interesting: a Spanish user, with very clean traffic...
    - ...Facebook, Youtube, Skype, AV updates, K9 checks...
    - ...no mystery IPs, no shady trackers, no Suspicious or Unrated!
    - But, two weirdos: *mitoslinares.no-ip.org, blondres.dyndns.org*
    - Not obviously evil, but only this license saw them
    - (and during e-mail use) so keep an eye on that computer!

## — Other Categories of Interest

- ▶ Spam
- ▶ Placeholders
- ▶ Adult
- ▶ Hacking (Warez)
- ▶ Gambling
- ▶ Open/Mixed Content
- ▶ Online Storage
- ▶ ... //watch the blog this year for more data!



So go home and get to  
work!

# — Action Slide

- ▶ Summary of general principles:
  - ▶ Identify your foolish zebras to reduce the “haystack size”
    - ▶ By areas of concern (e.g., Web site categories)
      - ▶ Ask yourself where Bad Guys might hide stuff; look there
    - ▶ By behavior (look for outliers)
    - ▶ Ask your security vendors and consultants for ideas!
  - ▶ Then, do quick initial survey of the mini-haystack
    - ▶ What is “normal abnormal”? (e.g., phone-home sites du jour)
      - ▶ (spend some time here)
    - ▶ What is “abnormal abnormal”? (i.e., different from the du jour stuff)
      - ▶ (spend more time here; potential advanced attacks)
- ▶ Radio-collar your foolish zebras (check them regularly!)

?

## Questions



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