



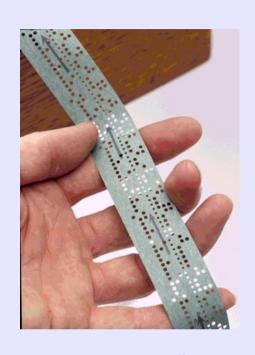


The biggest MISTAKES of the antivirus history



Introduction





István Csizmazia-Darab [Rambo]

http://antivirus.blog.hu



1979-1980: FÜTI, R20/R40 Computer operator

1981-1987: HUNGAROTON Records Inc., technical assistant, C64

1988-1990: Volán Tefu Inc., IBM PC-XT, programmer

1990-2000: ERŐTERV Inc., 286, 386, 486, programmer + network virus admin

2001-2003: 2F Ltd., F-Secure & Kaspersky support + Vírus Híradó editor in chief

2003-2005: IDG PC World, Online-editor, journalist, technical support

2006-2007: Virus Buster Ltd., Virus-analyst, Online-editor, journalist

2007-2014: Sicontact Ltd., IT security specialist, journalist



What will be discussed?



- Where we started?
- Players in the Computer economy (AVz, USERz, BGUYz, DEVELOPz)
- Who made the most crucial mistake?
- Conclusion or something like that





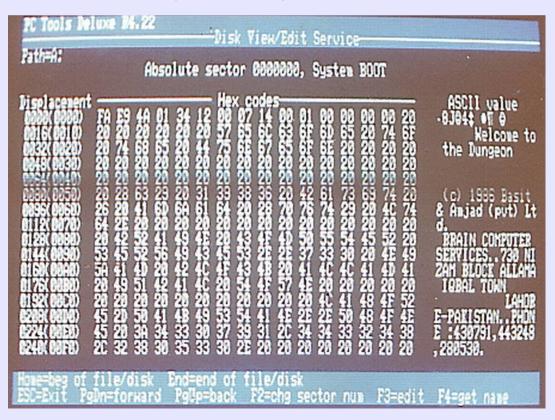


Where we started?

"Dwell on the past and you'll lose an eye; forget the past and you'll lose both eyes" Alexander Solzhenitsyn: The Gulag Archipelago

1986.

- Ronald Reagen is the President of the USA
- Super Bowl: Chicago d. New England (46-10)
- Wimbledon: Boris Becker d. Ivan Lendl (6-4 6-3 7-5)
- Brain virus (Pakistan): name, address, phone number :-)



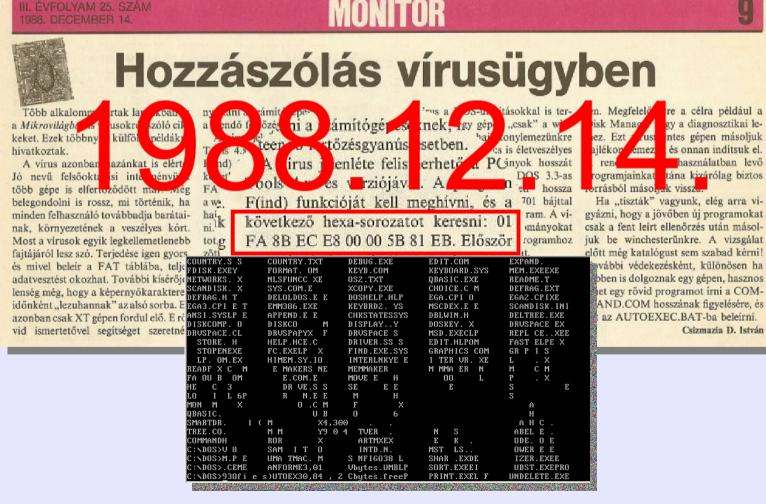




Where we started?



"VIRUSCAN version 0.3V19 can identify 19 major virus strains and numerous sub-varieties for each strain. The 19 viruses include the ten most common viruses which account for over 90% of all reported PC infections."



02.07.1989

- Pakistani Brain
- Jerusalem
- Alameda

re a célra például a

gy a diagnosztikai le-

ntes gépen másoljuk

és onnan indítsuk el.

tána kizárólag biztos

használatban levő

Csizmazia D. István

usi

- Cascade (1701)
- Ping Pong
- Stoned
- Lehigh
- Den Zuk
- Datacrime (1280)
- Fu Manchu



Where we started?



July 1995

- 240 viruses alltogether (2014 >= 200 million uniq samples)
- VIRNET BBS, 300 baud modem
- Let's Nostalgia: Slovakian Antivirus Center www.sac.sk

```
>>>> VirusScanList Version: 1.23 - Date: 05-July-95 <<<<<
     ----> OFFICIAL Virus Help The Netherlands Release <-----
233. GVP-HS15.lha ? TR! Destroys many dirs and devices!
    HardDiskSpeeder v1.5 1460 PP Karaçic Trojan
                     1924 UP
234. SCANSYS.LHA
                       ? File Deleter!
                     10720 UP
    scansystem
235. lha170.lha
                    33323 FK! 1.70 version
236. trsi-mem.lha 3178 biomechanic TR!
                8584 Supposed to be a Schnelltro!
    Members.exe
                    ? FK! 1.62 version
237. LHA 1.62
238. DMSWB208.LHA
                     ? Contains DMS 2.06 TR!
                  45732 UP
    DmsWb 2.08
239. Bulletin-Trojan 77740 Changes many dirs
240. scansystem.lha
                        ? File Deleter! See '234.' also
Signed : Jan Hendrik Lots
```



Players in the Computer economy





I. AV labors and industry



II. Users



III. Bad guys

I just realized, but I don't care...



IV. OS and Application developers



Only the virus writers are responsible?





Let's take a tour, which participant made more foolish mistakes!



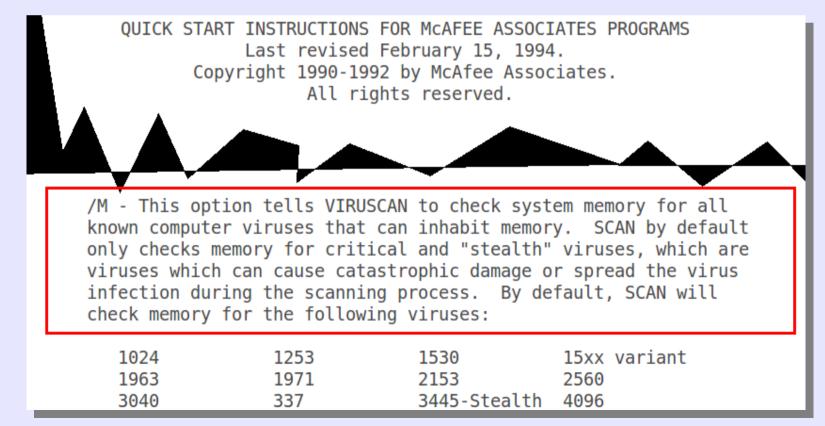


I. AV labors and industry



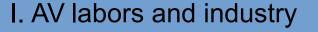
Unexpected changes to the default values

- 15.07.1994 McAfee VIRUSSCAN.EXE 1.17 version
- Suddenly checks ONLY the "common viruses???" in the memory by default
- We have to notice and manually override this option with "/M" command











The sky is blue, the plagiarist copies

- January 2010: about 50,000 samples/day
- Kaspersky suspects stolen detections
- Uploaded 10 clean samples ("Hello World" with Linux mingw crosscompiler) with fake virusnames to VirusTotal system
- "Trojan-Downloader.Win32.Zlob.bmwy",
 "Trojan-Spy.Win32.BZub.hrs" and "Trojan.Win32.KillWin.se" were born :-)
- After 10 days 12-14 additional AV vendors "detect" them
- 9 of them with the same name: a-squred, AntiVir, Antiy-AVL, Comodo, Fortinet, Ikarus, McAfee-GW-Edition, TheHacker, VBA32







I. AV labors and industry



SHA256: 0de6dfa1cc4a89c591a7d9fcbf241e4a25aadce63b187c37a18cf047c9f89772

Fájl neve: 5295d6d366c35594ab8b1ff5d67d8202

Észlelési

12 / 41

Vírusirtó	Eredmény	Utolsó frissítés
AntiVir	TR/Spy.BZub.hrs	20100129
Antiy-AVL	Trojan/Win32.BZub.gen	20100128
Comodo	TrojWare.Win32.Spy.BZub.hrs	20100130
F-Secure	Suspicious:W32/Riskware!Online	20100129
Fortinet	W32/BZub.HRS!tr	20100130
Ikarus	Trojan-Spy.Win32.BZub	20100130
Kaspersky	Trojan-Spy. Win32.BZub. hrs	20100130
McAfee-GW-Edition	Trojan.Spy.BZub.hrs	20100130
Symantec	Supicious.Insight	20100130
TheHacker	Trojan/Spy.BZub.hrs	20100130
VBA32	Trojan-Spy.Win32.BZub.hrs	20100129
a-squared	Trojan-Spy.Win32.BZub!IK	20100129

- Press conference in Moscow, AMTSO dissociates, the TheRegister criticizes



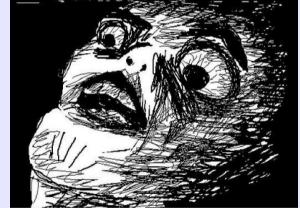


I. AV labors and industry



Strange testing conditions

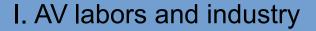
- 08.09.2009: NSS Labs published its review analysis of the Endpoint Security Test
- Strange testing conditions but was not published
- There is no relationship with the manufacturers, therefore they couldn't check and correct the problems
- The conclusions of the test didn't base on the test results
- You can buy the detailed test results for 2000 USD
- Unorthodox method ;-) You can determine the test methodology for 5000 USD :-/
- 2010. Excluded from the AMTSO



Since correcting this error, many interesting and valuable researches have been made









Summary

The NSS Labs Endpoint Security test (see above) was challenged by Sophos, AVG and Panda Security. The following conclusions were reached by the Review Analysis Committee, which compared AMTSO's Fundamental Principles of Testing to the above report. Principle 9, which relates to active contact points, was evaluated through interviews with the testing organization and the challenging organizations.

The principles and results are as follows:

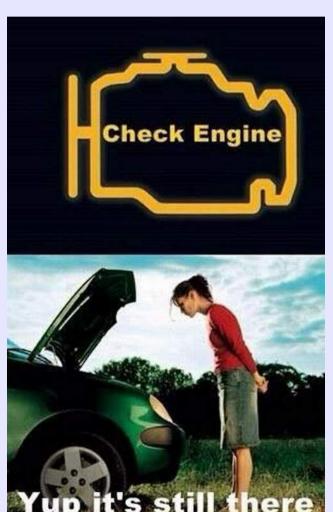
- 1. Testing must not endanger public.
- 2. Testing must be unbiased.
- ? 3. Testing should be reasonably open and transparent.
 - 4. The effectiveness and performance of anti-malware products must be measured in a balanced way.
 - 5. Testers must take reasonable care to validate whether test samples or test cases have been accurately classified as malicious, innocent or invalid.
- x 6. Testing methodology must be consistent with the testing purpose.
- 7. The conclusions of the test must be based on the test results.
 - 8. Test results should be statistically valid.
 - Vendors, testers and publishers must have an active contact point for testing-related correspondence.







Neglect Servers updates

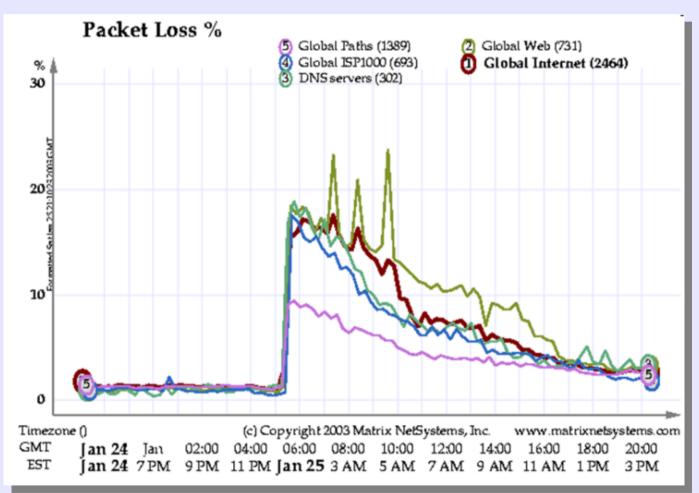


- 01.25.2003: SQL Slammer/Zaphire worm
- MS SQL Server 2000 vulnerability buffer overflow
- The patch was issued in 2002 :-)
- WoooW! Importance of Security updates
- "Flashworm", no infected file, just in memory
- The AV-s there was no chance









- 90% of PCs were infected in the first10 minutes
- It caused a damage of 750 million USD



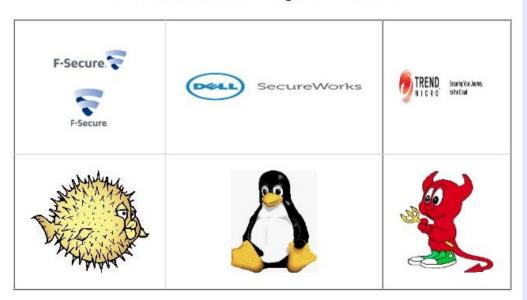




Neglect Desktop updates

- 2007. Win32/Conficker network worm
- Microsoft Windows MS08-067 security bulletin
- Exploits RPC (Remote Procedure Call)
- Contacts with remote servers
- Modifies local HOSTS file blocks AV webpages
- Still in Virus top10 in 2014

Conficker Eye Chart













PEBKAC

- Sept 2008 Republican Senator Sarah Palin's Yahoo! mailbox was hacked and published
- NOT a virus, not a spyware, not a real hack, but a request new password trick
- The place and date of her birth was very easy to find out by searching with Google
- The "secret" security question: Where she met with her husband - in high school



- Do not protect our secrets with public information!
- 01.06.2009 Weak Password Brings 'Happiness' to Twitter Hacker (Obama, FoxNews, etc.)







Capital bug in the GPCode



- 2008. GPCode an old file encryptor ransom malware
- with strong, 1024 bit RSA encryption
- in the first PoC version it used simple deletion after encoding
- no overwriting, no wiping
- security specialist published it
- after a few weeks the bad guys corrected the mistake







A plan without brain

- April 2014.: Bitcoin miner malware on the Google Play
- Bitcoin miner malware is a good idea on PCs, it generates significant revenue
- in a 2 mill. network 58,000 USD/day, 1.7 million USD/month (416 mHUF/month)
- But is it worth to run a zombinetwork on a weak Android hardware? (No :-)
- due to serious battery problems the trojan can only run in connected mode
- Checks the battery level in every 5th seconds
- Battery over 50% + connected to power + active screen turned off = Bitcoin

mining

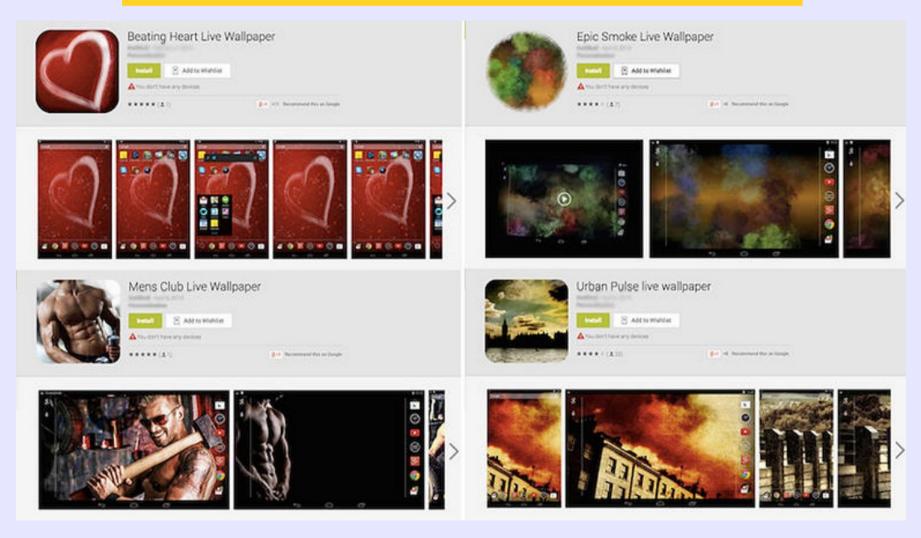
- being detected due to the rapid warming and the shortened battery time
- Dodgy, but the author certainly did not think it through
- bad and VERY SLOW idea :-)











Bitcoin miner malware on the Google Play







Capital bug in the SimpLocker

- June 2014: Simplocker, the first encryption ransom malware on Android
- Reads the entire contents of the SD card, and then encrypts the data
- Restores only after the ransom was paid
- AES encoded files
- Encrypts all jpeg, jpg, png, bmp, gif, pdf, doc, docx, txt, avi, mkv, 3gp and mp4 files
- Demands ransom in Hrivnya (Ukrainian currency) in Russian language
- The C&C server registered via TOR .onion domain
- No Cryptolocker-like field for entering a payment code
- The remote C&C server will wait for the actual payment to unlock your device
- Fortunately, encryption did not happen to be perfect
- The decoding passwords were stored as fixed constants :-)









```
AesCrypt: decrypt()
    public void decrypt(String paramString1, String paramString2)
       throws Exception
 3
       FileInputStream localFileInputStream = new FileInputStream(paramSt
       FileOutputStream localFileOutputStream = new FileOutputStream(para
       this.cipher.init(2, this.key, this.spec);
       CipherInputStream localCipherInputStream = new CipherInputStream(l
       byte[] arrayOfByte = new byte[8];
 8
 9
       while (true)
10
11
         int i = localCipherInputStream.read(arrayOfByte);
12
         if (i == -1)
13
           localFileOutputStream.flush();
14
15
           localFileOutputStream.close();
16
           localCipherInputStream.close();
17
           return:
18
         localFileOutputStream.write(arrayOfByte, 0, i);
20
```

Lines 4 and 5 create variables used for the file input and output. Line 6 initialises the cipher (to encrypt data). Line 7 is where the encryption occurs and line 19 writes the encrypted bytes to the output file.

- The AV vendors offer decryption tools, scripts
- July 2014: SimpLocker 2.0 ZIP, 7z and RAR

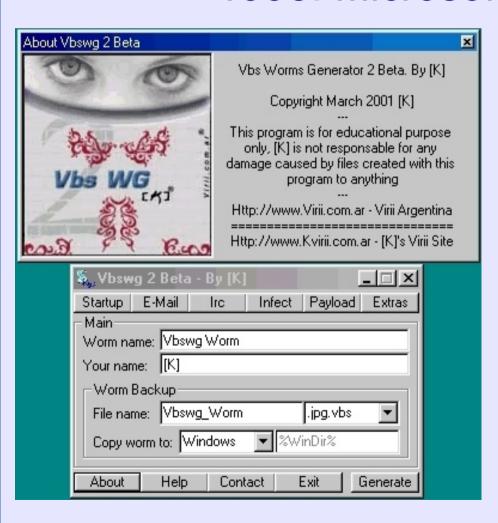








1995. Microsoft – Macro viruses I.



- 1995, the first macro viruses on Office 95
- The auto macros ran by default until 2000
- "Shifted" method, and was left open for 6 years
- The MS did not help, did not share the file structure info with AV vendors
- They had to debug and analyze office structure
- Easy way to make a lot of new variants
- Mass appearance of VBS Wormgenerator kits









1997. Microsoft - Macro viruses II.

- Only a few dozen detections in the macro protection of Office 97 pack
- Unfortunately it was missing in the beta version, there was no protection at all :-(
- Initial macros were written in Word Basic, later made by Visual Basic for Applications
- They AUTOMATICALLY converted all WB macros into VBA macros in the Office documents
- previously there was only one macro virus version for example Wazzu.A
- But "thanks" for the autoconversion, a huge amount of minor versions were born because of the different languages alone
- The number of macro viruses increased sharply :- O

(The "Pros" and "Cons" of WordBasic Virus Upconversion - by Vesselin Bontchev)

The Meat Grinder virus - Thanks to Kermit the Frog, and Kermit the Protocol

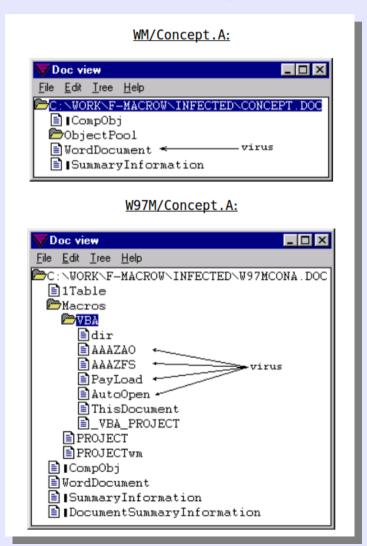




IV. OS and Application developers



2014. Microsoft – Macro viruses III.



EPILOGUE

- Summer of 2014: Malicous macros came back, ex. Office files spam
- "invoice", "parcel delivery", "court summon", etc.
- "please switch on the running of Macros" trick :-)
- from June to July the proportion of VBS worms increased from 6% to 28% (Sophos Lab)



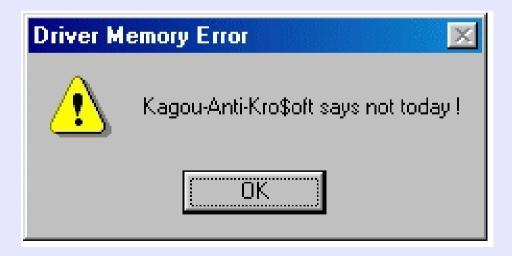






1999. MS Outlook Express quick preview

- 1999. KAK worm infected PCs via Outlook Express automatic mail preview
- It ran the Javascript code without opening the the mail
- 2004. After 6 years, the XP SP2 put an end to it



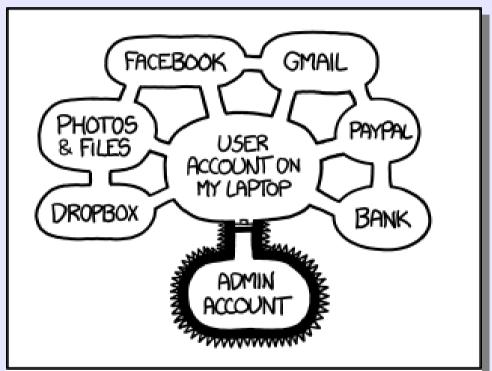




IV. OS and Application developers



2001. Microsoft - Admin rights



IF SOMEONE STEALS MY LAPTOP WHILE I'M LOGGED IN, THEY CAN READ MY EMAIL, TAKE MY MONEY, AND IMPERSONATE ME TO MY FRIENDS, BUT AT LEAST THEY CAN'T INSTALL DRIVERS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

- 2001. XP admin rights by default
- Vista (2007) introduced UAC
- It was left open for 6 years
- DropMyRights utility









2001. Microsoft – hidden file extensions



- 2001. XP hide extensions for known file types by default
- 2014. Windows 8 also hides them
- It's a bad idea ex. malwares
- LOVELETTER 2000: "Love-letter-for-you.TXT.VBS"
- Kournikova worm Februray 2001: "AnnaKournikova.jpg.vbs"
- Also recommended on OS X
 Macintosh









2007. Microsoft - Autorun





- Fixing autorun could have prevented it, if MS had cared as much as about WGA (Windows Genuine Advantage)
- February 2011. MS finally issued the Autorun disabling fix
- It had been vulnerable for 5 years
- "It has been injured the user comfort…"
- Still, many users have not updated yet Ex. illegal Windows copies, laziness, etc.









2013. Microsoft - JAVA



- 2013. Need to disable Java plugin on Windows due to critical exploits
- Disabling works perfectly in Firefox, Opera, Safari and Chrome
- In Internet Explorer, disabling Java didn't switch it off
- Need a special registry Workaround (CERT)
- JAVA is important for CIB bank,
 CITI bank, Adobe Creative Suite
 5.5, a CrashPlan PRO online
 secure backup, LibreOffice, etc.





IV. OS and Application developers



November 2005 - SONY rootkit



- Rootkit copy protection (XCP) on the Van Zant music CD disc
- It generated unknown network Traffic to Sony servers
- It reported, who, when and from which IP address played the album
- Later different malwares could hide in the rootkit's hidden folder
- Accidentally revealed (Mark Russinovich, Winternals)
- First denied, but finally withdrawn



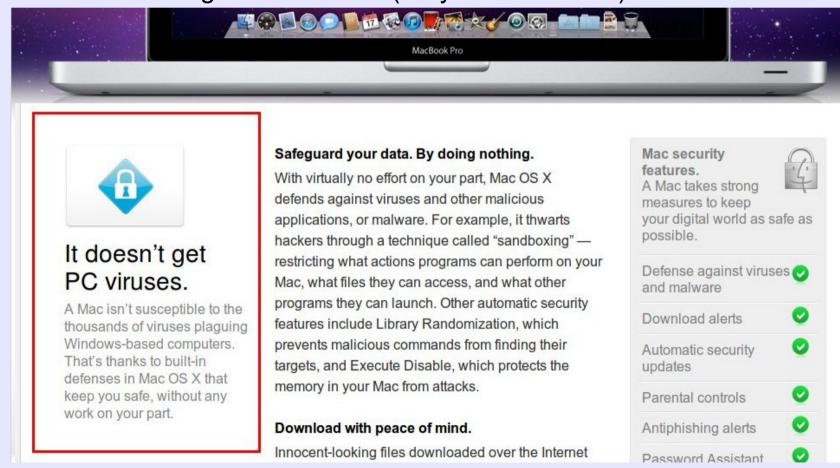






OS X is Inherently a Safer Operating System

Why you'll love a Mac: www.apple.com 2011 - "It doesn't get PC viruses" (Wayback Machine)





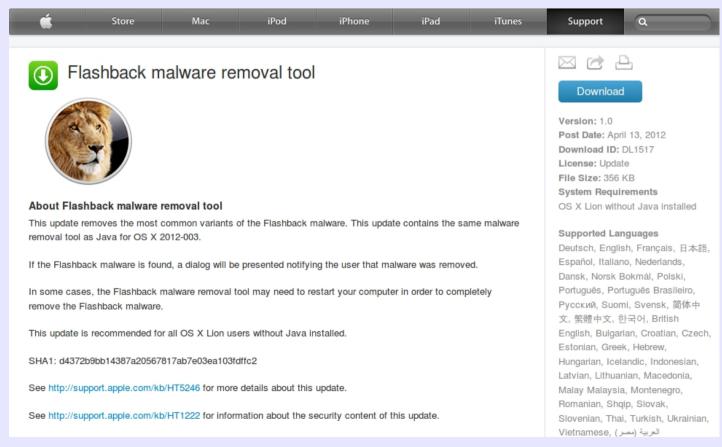






OS X is Inherently a Safer Operating System

- March 2012 Flashback botnet on OS X 600,000 infected zombie Macintosh (Java)
- 13.04.2012 Flashback malware removal tool Apple security update
- 26.09.2014 Mac.BackDoor.iWorm 17,000 botnet, Reddit C&C











OS X is Inherently a Safer Operating System

Why you'll love a Mac: www.apple.com 2012 - "It's built to be safe"



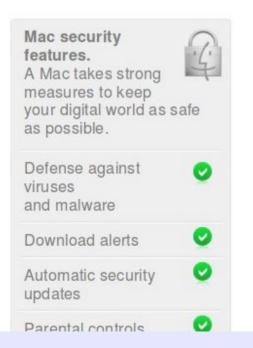


It's built to be safe.

Built-in defenses in OS X keep you safe from unknowingly downloading malicious software on your Mac.

Safety. Built right in.

OS X is designed with powerful, advanced technologies that work hard to keep your Mac safe. For example, it thwarts hackers through a technique called "sandboxing" — restricting what actions programs can perform on your Mac, what files they can access, and what other programs they can launch. With FileVault 2, your data is safe and secure — even if it falls into the wrong hands. FileVault 2 encrypts the entire drive on your Mac, protecting your data with XTS-AES 128 encryption. Initial encryption is fast and unobtrusive. It can also encrypt any removable drive, helping you secure







IV. OS and Application developers



OS X is Inherently a Safer Operating System

June 2012 - OS X Mountain Lion 10.8

- Automatic daily security updates
- Gatekeeper execution prevention technology

May 2013

- OSX/KitM.A trojan
- social engineering: please install me :-)
- valid Apple Developer ID associated with the name Rajender Kumar
- bypasses Apple's Gatekeeper
- If it passes Gatekeeper on first run, it will continue to run and never be queried again by Gatekeeper







IV. OS and Application developers



2008. Adobe Reader JavaScript



- 2008. The very first appearance of a Malicious JavaScript in a PDF file
- Allegedly the JS is necessary and useful in PDF interactive forms
- 2014. The JS is still on by default
- This has also been for 6 years





Conclusion



We may find eventually a new Award, something like Darwin Award. "Who messed up the most?"

- the OS developers could patch the known vulnerabilities much quicker ex. OpenSSL, ShellShock, etc.
- the users could understand that the security awareness and the patch management are just as important as using AV
- the AV industry could make more effort to improve proactive capabilities

but the Bad Guys don't need to fix their dysfunctional ideas and defective codes ;-)







Thank you for your attention!



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Security awareness rulez:-)