

## **CME-711 (Stormworm)**

### **Analysis and Identification**

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#### **Historical Information**

On January 19, 2007 thousands of computers were infected when email inboxes were flooded with messages containing various subject lines. One of the subject lines read "230 dead as storm batters Europe". Europe was experiencing strong storms during the release of the stormworm malware. As time has passed, there have been subsequent releases and various other social engineering tactics used to spread this malware. One major round of attacks occurred in April 2007, and the latest round began just before the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 with such subject lines as "4th Of July Celebration" and "Independence Day Celebration.". At the time of this writing, PriveonLabs is still receiving samples of this heavily spammed malware.

#### **Current threat and analysis**

##### **Emails**

**Emails arrive with the following subject lines:**

You've received a postcard from a Class mate!  
You've received an ecard from a Mate!  
You've received a greeting card from a Class mate!  
Virus Activity Detected!  
Malware Alert!  
You've received an ecard from a Neighbour!  
You've received an ecard from a Worshipper!  
You've received an ecard from a Partner!  
You've received a greeting card from a School mate!  
You've received a postcard from a School friend!  
You've received a greeting card from a Neighbour!

## The Body of the emails can contain the following:

Hi. Class mate has sent you a postcard.  
See your card as often as you wish during the next 15 days.

### SEEING YOUR CARD

If your email software creates links to Web pages, click on your card's direct www address below while you are connected to the Internet:

<http://{removed}.96.122/?ed435601e5ee713076a3db573383e1a7a85955a>

Or copy and paste it into your browser's "Location" box (where Internet addresses go).

We hope you enjoy your awesome card.

Wishing you the best,  
Mailer-Daemon,  
egreetings.com

Hi. Partner has sent you an ecard.  
See your card as often as you wish during the next 15 days.

### SEEING YOUR CARD

If your email software creates links to Web pages, click on your card's direct www address below while you are connected to the Internet:

<http://{removed}.221.227/?c83715e8517a32e6b9ea>

Or copy and paste it into your browser's "Location" box (where Internet addresses go).

### PRIVACY

e-cards.com honors your privacy. Our home page and Card Pick Up have links to our Privacy Policy.

### TERMS OF USE

By accessing your card you agree we have no liability.  
If you don't know the person sending the card or don't wish to see the card,  
please disregard this Announcement.

We hope you enjoy your awesome card.

Wishing you the best,  
Webmaster,  
e-cards.com

Dear Customer,

Our robot has detected an abnormal activity from your IP adress on sending e-mails. Probably it is connected with the last epidemic of a worm which does not have official patches at the moment.

We recommend you to install this patch to remove worm files and stop email sending, otherwise your account will be blocked.

Mailer-Deamon



The code appears to be windows media player exploit (MS06-006).

### Submitting a sample to VirusTotal.com

| Antivirus         | Version        | Last Update | Result                  |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| AhnLab-V3         | 2007.7.14.0    | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| AntiVir           | 7.4.0.39       | 2007.07.13  | TR/Small.DBY.DB         |
| Authentium        | 4.93.8         | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| Avast             | 4.7.997.0      | 2007.07.13  | Win32:Tibs-BBA          |
| AVG               | 7.5.0.476      | 2007.07.13  | Downloader.Tibs.6.T     |
| BitDefender       | 7.2            | 2007.07.13  | Trojan.Peed.OQ          |
| CAT-QuickHeal     | 9.00           | 2007.07.13  | Trojan.Tibs.ab          |
| ClamAV            | devel-20070416 | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| DrWeb             | 4.33           | 2007.07.13  | Trojan.Packed.142       |
| eSafe             | 7.0.15.0       | 2007.07.10  | Suspicious Trojan/Worm  |
| eTrust-Vet        | 30.8.3783      | 2007.07.13  | Win32/Sintun            |
| Ewido             | 4.0            | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| FileAdvisor       | 1              | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| Fortinet          | 2.91.0.0       | 2007.07.13  | W32/Tibs.AB!tr          |
| F-Prot            | 4.3.2.48       | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| Ikarus            | T3.1.1.8       | 2007.07.13  | Packed.Win32.Tibs.ab    |
| Kaspersky         | 4.0.2.24       | 2007.07.13  | Packed.Win32.Tibs.ab    |
| McAfee            | 5074           | 2007.07.13  | W32/Nuwar@MM            |
| Microsoft         | 1.2704         | 2007.07.12  | Worm:Win32/Nuwar.JT.dr  |
| NOD32v2           | 2397           | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| Norman            | 5.80.02        | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| Panda             | 9.0.0.4        | 2007.07.13  | Suspicious file         |
| Sophos            | 4.19.0         | 2007.07.06  | Mal/Dorf-A              |
| Sunbelt           | 2.2.907.0      | 2007.07.12  | no virus found          |
| Symantec          | 10             | 2007.07.13  | Trojan.Packed.13        |
| TheHacker         | 6.1.6.146      | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| VBA32             | 3.12.0.2       | 2007.07.13  | no virus found          |
| VirusBuster       | 4.3.23:9       | 2007.07.13  | Trojan.Tibs.Gen!Pac.126 |
| Webwasher-Gateway | 6.0.1          | 2007.07.13  | Trojan.Small.DBY.DB     |

Additional information

File size: 136276 bytes

MD5: 780a91e551d5ab15e6bdcc37e9f80fa1

SHA1: 2410a7d1da64077cb07f294945b100da12b58f54

packers: Malware\_Prot.A

As you can see approximately 62% of the anti-malware vendors detected this threat. Let's take a closer look at ecard.exe

MD5: 780A91E551D5AB15E6BDCC37E9F80FA1  
SHA1: 2410A7D1DA64077CB07F294945B100DA12B58F54  
Size: 136276

```
***** PE Header
Signature: 00004550
Machine: 014C - Intel 386
Sub system: 0002 - Windows graphical user interface (GUI) subsystem
```

The PE header indicates that the code runs on the Intel i386 platform and the subsystem refers to the Windows Graphical user Interface. This tells you that this virus is designed to run in the Microsoft Windows platform.

Next, we further analyze the file by monitoring it with iDefense labs SysAnalyzer.

```
Monitored RegKeys
Registry Key      Value
-----
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services vdo_a18-32

Kernel31 Api Log
-----
***** Installing Hooks *****
71ab70df  RegOpenKeyExA (HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters)
71ab7cc4  RegOpenKeyExA (Protocol_Catalog9)
71ab737e  RegOpenKeyExA (0000000E)
71ab724d  RegOpenKeyExA (Catalog_Entries)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000001)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000002)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000003)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000004)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000005)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000006)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000007)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000008)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000009)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000010)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000011)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000012)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000013)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000014)
71ab78ea  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000015)
71ab2623  WaitForSingleObject(79c,0)
71ab83c6  RegOpenKeyExA (NameSpace_Catalog5)
71ab737e  RegOpenKeyExA (00000004)
71ab7f5b  RegOpenKeyExA (Catalog_Entries)
```

```

71ab80ef  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000001)
71ab80ef  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000002)
71ab80ef  RegOpenKeyExA (000000000003)
71ab2623  WaitForSingleObject(794,0)
71aa1afa  RegOpenKeyExA (HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Winsock2\Parameters)
71aa1996  GlobalAlloc()
7c80b689  ExitThread()
1508a2    LoadLibraryA(KERNEL32.dll)=7c800000
1508a2    LoadLibraryA(USER32.dll)=77d40000
1508a2    LoadLibraryA(ADVAPI32.dll)=77dd0000
40121d    CreateProcessA(w32tm.exe,/config /syncfromflags:manual
/ manualpeerlist:time.windows.com,time.nist.gov,0,(null))
7c816513  WaitForSingleObject(788,64)
77b44cd7  LoadLibraryA(VERSION.dll)=77c00000
7c819154  LoadLibraryA(advapi32.dll)=77dd0000
10001e25  LoadLibraryA(psapi.dll)=76bf0000
10001e66  GetCurrentProcessId()=860
76bf183b  ReadProcessMemory(h=2b8)
76bf185a  ReadProcessMemory(h=2b8)
76bf1878  ReadProcessMemory(h=2b8)
76bf17bb  ReadProcessMemory(h=2b8)
*****  Injecting C:\Program Files\SysAnalyzer\api_log.dll into new process
*****  OpenProcess Handle=2b8
*****  Remote Allocation base: 90000
*****  WriteProcessMemory=1 BufLen=28 BytesWritten:28
*****  LoadLibraryA=7c801d77
*****  CreateRemoteThread=7a0
401234    CreateProcessA(w32tm.exe,/config /update,0,(null))
76bf183b  ReadProcessMemory(h=774)
76bf185a  ReadProcessMemory(h=774)
76bf1878  ReadProcessMemory(h=774)
76bf17bb  ReadProcessMemory(h=774)
*****  OpenProcess Handle=774
*****  CreateRemoteThread=778
71ab2623  WaitForSingleObject(cc,0)
71ab2623  WaitForSingleObject(d4,0)
77c30218  WriteFile(h=7)
77c39d45  ExitProcess()
*****  Injected Process Terminated *****
7ca26a01  GetCurrentProcessId()=964

```

```

File: ecard.exe
Size: 136276 Bytes
MD5: 780A91E551D5AB15E6BDCC37E9F80FA1
Packer: File not found C:\Program Files\SysAnalyzer\peid.exe

```

```

File Properties: CompanyName
FileDescription
FileVersion
InternalName
LegalCopyright
OriginalFilename
ProductName

```

ProductVersion

Exploit Signatures:

---

Scanning for 19 signatures

\*\*\* Found: Anti-Vmware2

Scan Complete: 172Kb in 0.015 seconds

Urls

---

File: ecard\_dmp.exe\_

w32tm.exe

NTOSKRNL.EXE

Ascii Strings:

---

!This program cannot be run in DOS mode.

Rich

.text

`.rdata

@.data

/config /update

w32tm.exe

/config /syncfromflags:manual /manualpeerlist:time.windows.com,time.nist.gov

SeShutdownPrivilege

windev-

.sys

vdo\_

A8dK894Lm9#sF2i\$sOBq2X

K8JT6Hnjm\$#jui#WWhHHgG

CloseHandle

WriteFile

CreateFileA

CreateProcessA

GetLastError

GetCurrent

tProcess

DeleteFileA

GetFullPathNameA

Sleep

SetEvent

OpenEventA

SetCurrentDirectoryA

GetSystemDirectoryA

HeapAlloc

GetProcessHeap

HeapReAlloc

HeapFree

IstrlenA

GetSystemTimeAsFileTime

IstrcpynA

RtlUnwind

```

InterlockedExchange
VirtualQuery
KERNEL32.dll
ExitWindowsEx
wvsprintfA
USER32.dll
AdjustTokenPrivileges
LookupPrivilegeValueA
OpenProcessToken
StartServiceA
ChangeServiceConfigA
CreateServiceA
CloseServiceHandle
DeleteService
ControlService
OpenServiceA
EnumServicesStatusA
OpenSCManagerA
ADVAPI32.dll
?
NTOSKRNL.EXE
MmGetSystemRoutineAddress

```

One of the more interesting results of SysAnalyzer analysis is the inclusion of the “Found: Anti-Vmware2” common exploit signature. This lets us know that code will probably not execute in a Virtual Machine environment used by most researchers for analysis. We can also see that postcard.exe creates a process named w32tm.exe which syncs the system time with time.windows.com and time.nist.gov. The strings output indicates that a file(s) may be written and service created.

Rootkit revealer “revealed” some interesting information post mortem. You can see that there are now files and registry entries created that are hidden from the windows API. vdo\_6082-452f.sys has registry entries indicating that it is installed as a service. This means that the virus contains “rootkit” functionality. This makes detection difficult using common windows utilities such as task manager, process explorer, or tcpview.

```

HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Enum\Root\LEGACY_VDO_6082-452F      7/13/2007 4:14 PM 0 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Enum\Root\LEGACY_VDO_6082-452F\0000\Service      28 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Enum\Root\LEGACY_VDO_6082-452F\0000\DeviceDesc    28 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Services\vdo_6082-452f      7/13/2007 4:24 PM 0 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Services\vdo_6082-452f\ImagePath      84 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Services\vdo_6082-452f\DisplayName      28 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet002\Enum\Root\LEGACY_VDO_6082-452F      7/13/2007 4:14 PM 0 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet002\Enum\Root\LEGACY_VDO_6082-452F\0000\Service      28 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet002\Enum\Root\LEGACY_VDO_6082-452F\0000\DeviceDesc    28 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet002\Services\vdo_6082-452f      7/13/2007 4:24 PM 0 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet002\Services\vdo_6082-452f\ImagePath      84 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet002\Services\vdo_6082-452f\DisplayName      28 bytes  Hidden from Windows API.
C:\WINDOWS\system32\vdo_6082-452f.sys      7/13/2007 4:14 PM 152.50 KB Hidden from Windows API.
C:\WINDOWS\system32\vdo_g.ini      7/13/2007 4:14 PM 12.54 KB Hidden from Windows API.

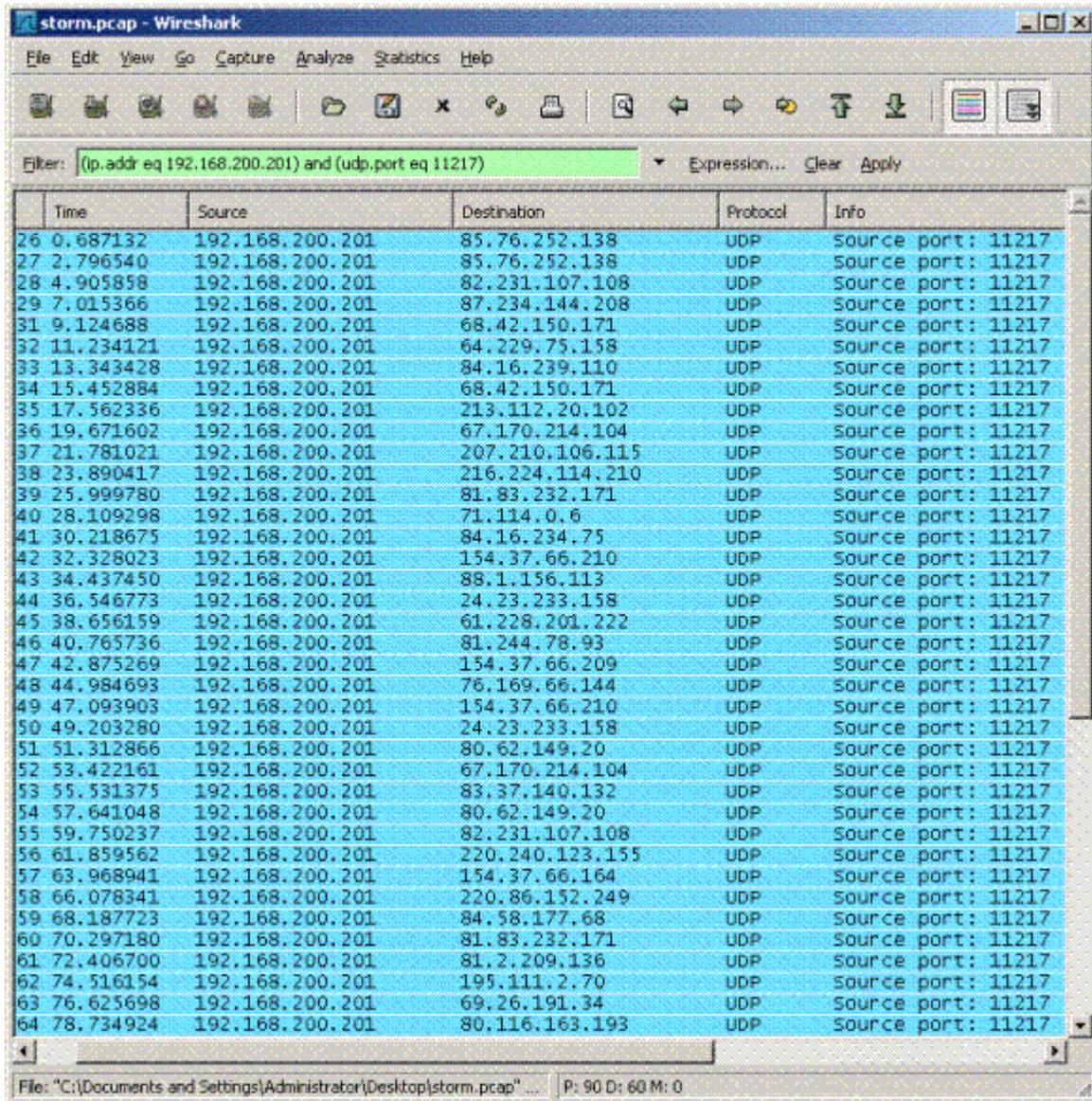
```

To get a better look at these files, and since they were hidden from the windows API, we boot the system using a bart PE disk. A look at the file vdo\_g.ini revealed the following information.

(...removed some peers to save space...)

```
[config]
[local]
uport=11217
[peers]
003964D3640550573F800125725481EF=5326859A123900
004982069E5DB75721B54CFF33A26170=5955FC93123900
00A1836AE91D076BC265F9735204714F=451AAE831EBF00
01EA8F6782B0BF0A924E507C87446D5B=D9932317198900
0204635EA60FAC36D4E434AB91FE3162=D5608B6C4C9800
0370DC8B37B3B63A34256656A0E26CD0=9A2542D21EBF00
0380EEF83FEFB7059EF969C51A90C29E=9A2542751EBF00
0380EEF88E038931BA0C0057ECD0ED2C=9A2542D21EBF00
F63C699D886487A8950E570D294EDFE1=9A2542D11EBF00
F63EDCCBDCAF1A1E79DEC78C8666B552=58BF0F50468500
FD6A5500DC3ED6A4E8398E3580A974FA=48249272325D00
FDD38B10A859838455DF59392B3C3F71=51398792233800
FF9B63E22AB088EE458F1586A34CFA06=5102D18814B200
[blacklist]
```

The file contains the peer list and a port number of "11217". I powered up the system again and booted off of the infected windows installation. On the closed network where analysis was conducted, I used the Wireshark sniffer to perform packet analysis on the network. It was very clear that the system was trying to communicate with a range of internet hosts on source port 11217. This was the port number from the aforementioned vdo\_g.ini file that was added to the system by the virus.



storm.pcap - Wireshark

Filter: (ip.addr eq 192.168.200.201) and (udp.port eq 11217)

| Time         | Source          | Destination     | Protocol | Info               |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|
| 26 0.687132  | 192.168.200.201 | 85.76.252.138   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 27 2.796540  | 192.168.200.201 | 85.76.252.138   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 28 4.905858  | 192.168.200.201 | 82.231.107.108  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 29 7.015366  | 192.168.200.201 | 87.234.144.208  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 31 9.124688  | 192.168.200.201 | 68.42.150.171   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 32 11.234121 | 192.168.200.201 | 64.229.75.158   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 33 13.343428 | 192.168.200.201 | 84.16.239.110   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 34 15.452884 | 192.168.200.201 | 68.42.150.171   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 35 17.562336 | 192.168.200.201 | 213.112.20.102  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 36 19.671602 | 192.168.200.201 | 67.170.214.104  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 37 21.781021 | 192.168.200.201 | 207.210.106.115 | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 38 23.890417 | 192.168.200.201 | 216.224.114.210 | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 39 25.999780 | 192.168.200.201 | 81.83.232.171   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 40 28.109298 | 192.168.200.201 | 71.114.0.6      | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 41 30.218675 | 192.168.200.201 | 84.16.234.75    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 42 32.328023 | 192.168.200.201 | 154.37.66.210   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 43 34.437450 | 192.168.200.201 | 88.1.156.113    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 44 36.546773 | 192.168.200.201 | 24.23.233.158   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 45 38.656159 | 192.168.200.201 | 61.228.201.222  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 46 40.765736 | 192.168.200.201 | 81.244.78.93    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 47 42.875269 | 192.168.200.201 | 154.37.66.209   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 48 44.984693 | 192.168.200.201 | 76.169.66.144   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 49 47.093903 | 192.168.200.201 | 154.37.66.210   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 50 49.203280 | 192.168.200.201 | 24.23.233.158   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 51 51.312866 | 192.168.200.201 | 80.62.149.20    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 52 53.422161 | 192.168.200.201 | 67.170.214.104  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 53 55.531375 | 192.168.200.201 | 83.37.140.132   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 54 57.641048 | 192.168.200.201 | 80.62.149.20    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 55 59.750237 | 192.168.200.201 | 82.231.107.108  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 56 61.859562 | 192.168.200.201 | 220.240.123.155 | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 57 63.968941 | 192.168.200.201 | 154.37.66.164   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 58 66.078341 | 192.168.200.201 | 220.86.152.249  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 59 68.187723 | 192.168.200.201 | 84.58.177.68    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 60 70.297180 | 192.168.200.201 | 81.83.232.171   | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 61 72.406700 | 192.168.200.201 | 81.2.209.136    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 62 74.516154 | 192.168.200.201 | 195.111.2.70    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 63 76.625698 | 192.168.200.201 | 69.26.191.34    | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |
| 64 78.734924 | 192.168.200.201 | 80.116.163.193  | UDP      | Source port: 11217 |

File: "C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\storm.pcap" ... P: 90 D: 60 M: 0

These hosts are part of a peer network made up of compromised systems (Botnet). I decided to use Domain Dossier to do a service scan on the infected hosts. Thanks Domain Dossier! (<http://centralops.net/co/DomainDossier.aspx>)

```
HTTP/1.1 403 Forbidden
Server: nginx/0.5.17
```

```
lookup failed 66.148.74.35
```

```
Could not find a domain name corresponding to this IP address.
```

```
Service scan
```

```
FTP - 21 Error: TimedOut
```

```
SMTP - 25 Error: TimedOut
```

```
HTTP - 80 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

```
Server: nginx/0.5.11
```

```
Date: Mon, 09 Jul 2007 09:25:21 GMT
```

```
Content-Type: text/html
```

```
Content-Length: 151
```

```
Last-Modified: Thu, 08 Feb 2007 19:27:40 GMT
```

```
Connection: close
```

```
Accept-Ranges: bytes
```

```
POP3 - 110 Error: TimedOut
```

```
IMAP - 143 Error: TimedOut
```

```
canonical name 216.255.189.214-custblock.intercage.com.
```

```
aliases
```

```
addresses 216.255.189.214
```

```
Service scan
```

```
FTP - 21 Error: TimedOut
```

```
SMTP - 25 Error: TimedOut
```

```
HTTP - 80 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

```
Server: nginx/0.5.12
```

```
Date: Mon, 09 Jul 2007 17:25:55 GMT
```

```
Content-Type: text/html
```

```
Content-Length: 151
```

```
Last-Modified: Fri, 30 Mar 2007 14:29:35 GMT
```

```
Connection: close
```

```
Accept-Ranges: bytes
```

```
POP3 - 110 Error: TimedOut
```

```
IMAP - 143 Error: TimedOut
```

We can see these hosts are running the following versions of nginx.

```
nginx 0.5.12
```

```
nginx 0.5.17
```

According to the Nginx English wiki "Nginx ("engine x") is a high-performance HTTP server and reverse proxy, as well as an IMAP/POP3/SMTP proxy server. Nginx was written by Igor Sysoev for Rambler.ru"

Version 0.5.17 made up the majority of IP addresses that I ran across. If we look at the change log for nginx, it can give us a timeline of when a modification to the host may have been conducted. There was a three month period between the

original attack and the April attack. There was another three month period between the April attack and the July attack. It will be interesting to see if an October timeframe attack occurs and if nginx version from July will make up the majority of attacks. If so, maybe the systems are not being updated. Could it be that the infected systems are just being used as long as possible with the components from the initial infection?

**Created table of the NGINX change log located at <http://nginx.net/CHANGES-0.5>**

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| nginx 0.5.27 | 09 Jul 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.26 | 17 Jun 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.25 | 11 Jun 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.24 | 06 Jun 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.23 | 04 Jun 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.22 | 29 May 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.21 | 28 May 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.20 | 07 May 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.19 | 24 Apr 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.18 | 19 Apr 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.17 | 02 Apr 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.16 | 26 Mar 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.15 | 19 Mar 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.14 | 23 Feb 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.13 | 19 Feb 2007 |
| nginx 0.5.12 | 12 Feb 2007 |

## Conclusion

Stormworm has been very successful at infecting systems. Many malware researchers have stated that there is nothing new in this malware. While I concede that this may be the case, this malware utilizes social engineering which is succeeding in manipulating victims into following the links. It uses the browser as an attack vector to infect the system. If that fails, the author(s) have contingency plan of simply allowing the victim to run the executable. Upon execution, the malware tries to evade analysis by preventing execution from within a virtual machine. It also installs as a service using rootkit functionality. This makes it difficult for average users and many IT professionals to detect. There may not be anything new to see here, but putting all of these capabilities together makes this malware very successful at gaining victims.

The transition of the Stormworm botnet moving away from the typical IRC command and control server and going with a peer network reflects the malware author(s) determination at protecting this network. The traditional approach of the IRC server for command and control purposes left the botnet vulnerable as security professionals could work to take down the IRC server essentially cutting the head off of the botnet. The storm worm author(s) new approach of using a peer network creates a requirement to take down all infected hosts. There are many factors that make this approach very difficult, if not impossible. The Stormworm is likely to survive for quite some time to come.

## Solution

Priveon can teach you how Cisco Security Agent can prevent systems from being infected. Organizations can also use egress filtering to identify infected hosts on the network. An example of this technique has been previously demonstrated by Priveon's analysis of the BlackWorm ([MARS: Analysis and Identification of BlackWorm \(632.02 KB 1-31-2006\)](#)).

**Please visit [www.Priveon.com](http://www.Priveon.com) for more information.**

More information on the storm worm can be found in the following locations. I have also included sites that I may have referenced in my research.

<http://www.securityfocus.com/print/news/11473>  
<http://nginx.net/CHANGES-0.5>  
<http://www.auscert.org.au/render.html?it=7813>  
<http://blog.trendmicro.com/postcards-or-patches3f/>  
<http://blog.trendmicro.com/nuwar-at-it-again/>  
<http://isc.sans.org/diary.html?storyid=3063&rss>  
<http://wiki.codemongers.com/Nginx>  
<http://www.securityfocus.com/news/11442/1>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storm\\_Worm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storm_Worm)  
<http://labs.odefense.com/software/malcode.php>  
<http://cme.mitre.org/>