# Cyber Security Landscape and Challenges

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# **Evolution of Threats**

• Before era of modern crypto (World War II ...)

- Break secret messages during transmission
- Primarily the domain of nation states
- Modern cryptography has all but eliminated this threat

• Modern era

- Focus shifts from altering messages to breaking endsystems that store and process these messages
- Several culprits
  - Software vulnerabilities
  - Human errors
    - Carelessness or lack of awareness on the part of users
    - Operator errors
  - Emergence of cybercrime and related activities

# **Evolution of Modern Threats**

### First generation

- break into high-value systems (e.g., banks) through proprietary networks
- criminal elements as well as rogue nations

### Second generation

- Malware that spreads due to information sharing
  - Viruses and worms
- Perpetrated by hackers as a "hobby"
- Third generation
  - Malware that spreads via the Internet
  - Email viruses and Internet worms
  - Still, no evidence of organized or criminal elements

# Internet-based threats (3<sup>rd</sup> generation +)

Initial entry: Software exploit or stealing passwords

- Increasingly, this step needs some level of user trust
  Spam, phishing, ...
- In some cases, esp. on servers, damage may be effected by the exploit itself
  - More common: exploit installs base for future operation

• Bots, Trojans, spyware, ...

Goals

Steal confidential information

• Passwords, bank accounts, credit card #s, ...

- Deface property
- Distribute malware

### 4<sup>th</sup> generation: Commercialization of malware

- Hacking for profit, not just fun/fame
  - Thriving black market for exploits and other services
  - Specialization at all levels of cybercriminal enterprise
    - Exploit development, C&C software, Botnet rentals, ...
- "Bot"-centric model for cyber crime
  - Relay spam (e-mail scan, phishing)
  - Extortion (using DDoS or targeted attacks)
  - Stealing confidential data (e.g., passwords, trade secrets, IP, ...)
- Focus on stealth and obfuscation
  - Rootkits and other cloaking techniques
  - Evasion: match behavior of benign software
  - Anti-analysis techniques
    - Sophisticated packing and metamorphism
    - Detect execution within analysis environment

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# Current (5<sup>th?</sup>) Generation

### Major increase in targeted attacks



Source: Symantec Threat Report 2013

# Current (5<sup>th?</sup>) Generation

- Major increase in targeted attacks
- Advances in exploit development to overcome security improvements on recent OSes
- Sophisticated social engineering techniques
  - Gain user's trust so that he/she may grant the level of access needed for the exploit and/or malware operation
  - Leverage social media
    - Tendency of people to share a lot of personal information
    - Tendency to trust "friends"

# Spam

- Spam volumes hold steady
  - After falling from a high of 6T to about 1T/month
- Expands to social networks
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, ...



# Phishing

### New types of phishing

New Phishing URLs

- Watering hole
- Clone phishing
- Tabnapping

#### Top 5 Activity for Malware Destination by Geography

Country	1 in
Netherlands	1 in 108
Luxembourg	1 in 144
United Kingdom	1 in 163
South Africa	1 in 178
Germany	1 in 196

Source: Internet Security Threat Report 2013, Symantec



Source: McAfee Threats Report: First Quarter 2013

### **Botnets & DDOS**

### Botnets now include mobile devices

### Android botnets

http://mobile.slashdot.org/story/13/01/19/0735259/android-botnet-infects-1-million-plus-phones

### DDoS used as a diversion

http://www.ic3.gov/media/2012/FraudAlertFinancialInstitutionEmployeeCredentialsTargeted.pdf



# Web Vulnerabilities

#### Scanned Websites with Vulnerabilities

A critical vulnerability is one which, if exploited, may allow malicious code to be run without user interaction, potentially resulting in a data breach and further compromise of visitors to the affected websites.



#### Percentage of Vulnerabilities Which Were Critical



### Zero Day Exploits ...



### Ransomware ...



### Data Leaks ...







