

# Prepare against Ransomware

Prof. Claudio Cilli, Ph.D., CISA, CISM, CRISC, CGEIT University of Rome, Italy

# Cyber Attack



- The Prussian philosopher Karl von Clauswitz observed:
   "Every age has its own kind of war, its own limiting conditions and its own peculiar preconceptions."
- We live in an age of TECHNOLOGY focused warfare







### How ransomware works

Recent poll on ransomware



44% of businesses infected

60% had backups

65% paid the ransom

Average ransom sum €540

Loss of business productivity comes on top, exceeding ransom



### Ransomware Evolution

Misleading Applications

Rogue/Fake Antivirus

Ransomwar e

2008-2014

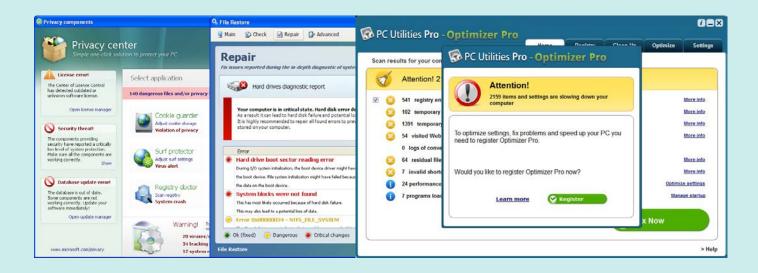
2010-2014

Crypto Ransomwar e

2013-



# Misleading Applications





# Rogue/Fake Antivirus





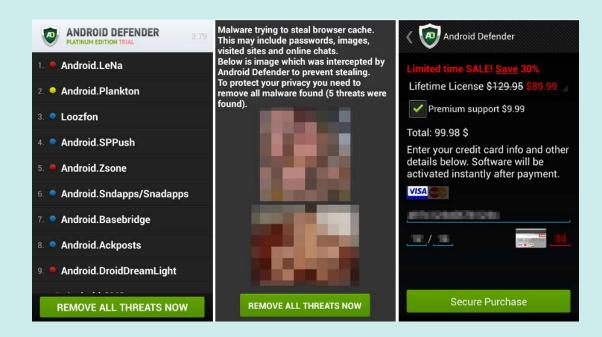
# Rogue/Fake Antivirus





**Rome Chapter** 

# Rogue/Fake Antivirus (Android)





# (Browser) Locker Ransomware





### Locker Ransomware







# Locker Ransomware (Android)









# Ransomware (AIDS / PC Cyborg) (1989)



#### Dear Customer:

It is time to pay for your software lease from PC Cyborg Corporation.
Complete the INVOICE and attach payment for the lease option of your choice.
If you don't use the printed INVOICE, then be sure to refer to the important
reference numbers below in all correspondence. In return you will receive:

a renewal software package with easy-to-follow, complete instructions;
 an automatic, self-installing diskette that anyone can apply in minutes.

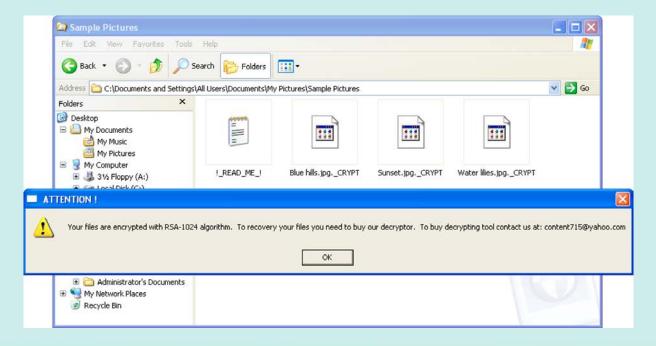
Important reference numbers: A5599796-2695577-

The price of 365 user applications is US\$189. The price of a lease for the lifetime of your hard disk is US\$378. You must enclose a bankers draft, cashier's check or international money order payable to PC CYBORG CORPORATION for the full amount of \$189 or \$378 with your order. Include your name, company, address, city, state, country, zip or postal code. Mail your order to PC Cyborg Corporation, P.O. Box 87-17-44, Panama 7, Panama.

Press ENTER to continue



# Crypto-Ransomware (Gpcode) (2005)





# Crypto-Ransomware (Cryptolocker) (2013)





# 200 Crypto-Ransomware Families

.CryptoHasYou., 777, 7ev3n, 7h9r, 8lock8, Alfa Ransomware, Alma Ransomware, Alpha Ransomware, AMBA, Apocalypse, ApocalypseVM, AutoLocky, BadBlock, BaksoCrypt, Bandarchor, Bart, BitCryptor, BitStak, BlackShades Crypter, Blocatto, Booyah, Brazilian, BrLock, Browlock, Bucbi, BuyUnlockCode, Cerber, Chimera, CoinVault, Coverton, Cryaki, Crybola, CryFile, CryLocker, CrypMIC, Crypren, Crypt38, Cryptear, CryptFile2, CryptInfinite, CryptoBit, CryptoDefense, CryptoFinancial, CryptoFortress, CryptoGraphic Locker, CryptoHost, CryptoJoker, CryptoLocker, Cryptolocker 2.0, CryptoMix, CryptoRoger, CryptoShocker, CryptoTorLocker2015, CryptoWall 1, CryptoWall 2, CryptoWall 3, CryptoWall 4, CryptXXX, CryptXXX 2.0, CryptXXX 3.0, CryptXXX 3.1, CTB-Faker, CTB-Locker WEB. CuteRansomware, DeCrypt Protect, DEDCryptor, DetoxCrypto, DirtyDecrypt, DMALocker, DMALocker 3.0, Domino, EDA2 / HiddenTear, EduCrypt, El-Polocker, Enigma, FairWare, Fakben, Fantom, Fonco, Fsociety, Fury, GhostCrypt, Globe, GNL Locker, Gomasom, Goopic, Gopher, Harasom, Herbst, Hi Buddyl, Hitler, HolyCrypt, HydraCrypt, iLock, iLockLight, International Police Association, JagerDecryptor, Jeiphoos, Jigsaw, Job Crypter, KeRanger, KeyBTC, KEYHolder, KimcilWare, Korean, Kozv.Jozv, KratosCrvpt, KryptoLocker, LeChiffre, Linux, Encoder, Locker, Locky, Lortok, LowLevel04, Mabouia, Magic, MaktubLocker, MIRCOP, MireWare, Mischa, MM Locker, Mobef, NanoLocker, Nemucod, NoobCrypt, Nullbyte, ODCODC, Offline ransomware, OMG! Ransomware, Operation Global III, PadCrypt, Pclock, Petya, PizzaCrypts, PokemonGO, PowerWare, PowerWorm, PRISM, R980, RAA encryptor, Radamant, Rakhni., Rannoh, Ransom32, RansomLock, Rector, RektLocker, RemindMe, Rokku, Samas-Samsam, Sanction, Satana, Scraper, Serpico, Shark, ShinoLocker, Shuiin, Simple Encoder, SkidLocker / Pompous, Smrss32, SNSLocker, Sport, Stampado, Strictor, Surprise, SynoLocker, SZFLocker, TeslaCrypt 0.x - 2.2.0, TeslaCrypt 3.0+, TeslaCrypt 4.1A, TeslaCrypt 4.2, Threat Finder, TorrentLocker, TowerWeb, Toxcrypt, Troldesh, TrueCrypter, Turkish Ransom, UmbreCrypt, Ungluk, Unlock92, VaultCrypt, VenusLocker, Virlock, Virus-Encoder, WildFire Locker, Xorist, XRTN, Zcrypt, **Zepto**, Zimbra, Zlader / Russian, Zyklon



# Crypto-Ransomware (Targets)



**OS Disk** 



Local Disk(s)



Connected Device(s) (USB) (e.g. Backup Disk)



Mapped Network Drive(s) (e.g. NAS / File Servers)



Other Accessible Folders / Shared Local Network (e.g. NAS / File Servers)



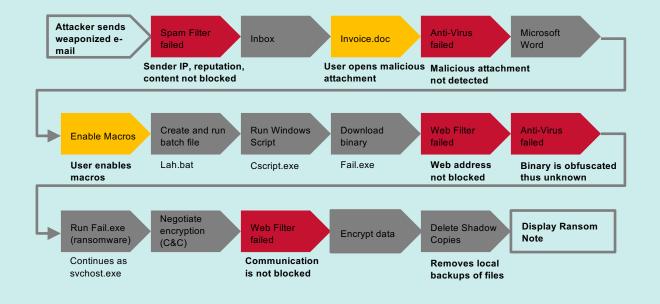
Dropbox



OneDrive

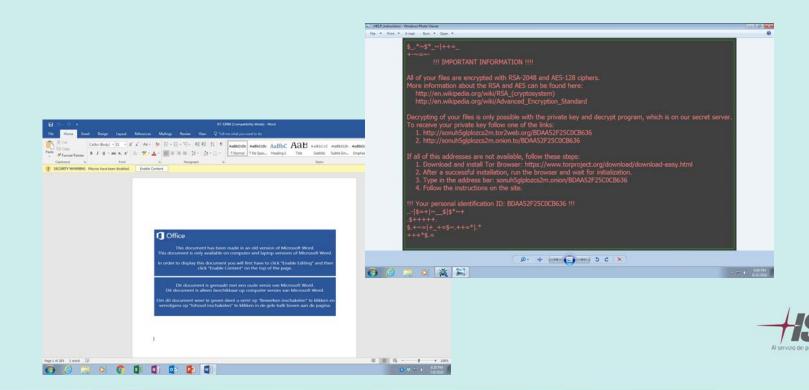


# Social Engineering Flow (Locky ransomware, .doc)





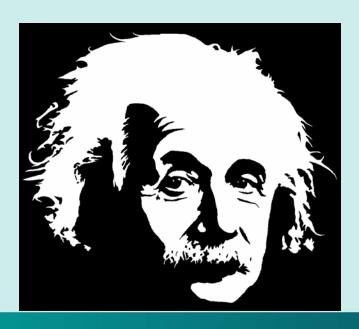
# Social Engineering Flow (Locky ransomware, .docm)



Rome Chapter

# **Security Overview**

### Today's approach to IT Security is Falling Behind



"Two things are infinite: The universe and human stupidity, and I'm not so sure about the former"





# What is social engineering?





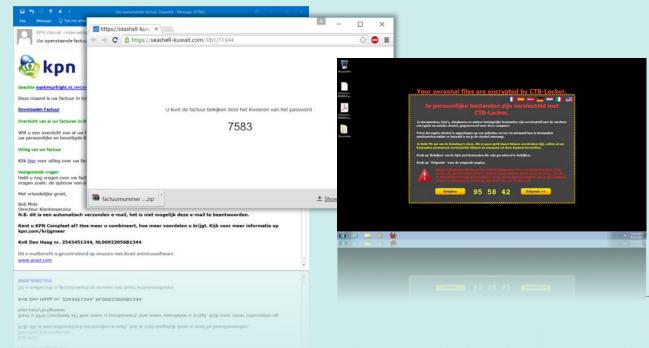
# Social Engineering Example







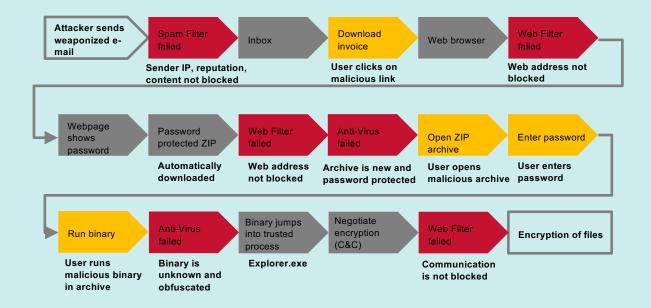
# Social Engineering Example





Rome Chapter

# Social Engineering Flow (CTB-Locker ransomware)



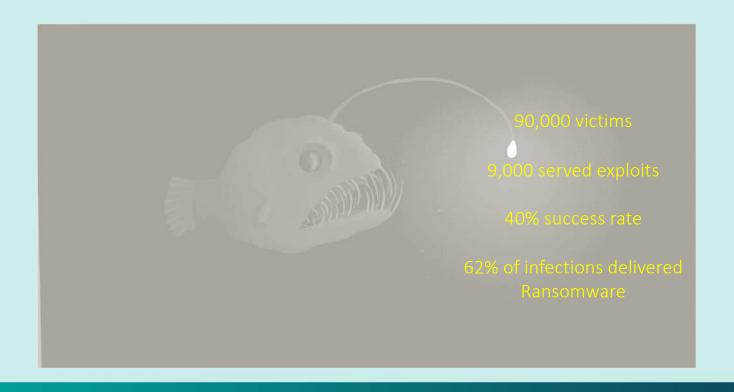


# Comparison: Spam vs Exploit Kits Why email?



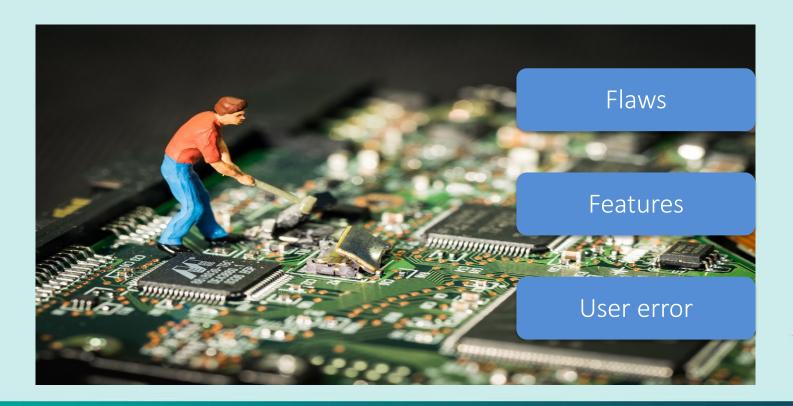


# Comparison: Spam vs Exploit Kits Angler revenue in a day





# Understanding vulnerabilities





### New tricks

- Use of other accepted file extensions (e.g. .WSF, .WSH, .HTA, .PUB files)
  - Bypasses filters that proactively block known dangerous (ZIP) attachments (containing e.g. .EXE, .PDF.EXE, .JS, .DOCM as extension)
- Use of a .DLL file (payload) instead of an .EXE (e.g. Locky/Zepto)
  - In-memory attack; exploit attack delivers no files on the disk
  - Bypasses sandbox, signature and 'math-based, next-gen' products
- Use of other active content in weaponized documents (no macros)
  - e.g. RAA Ransomware
- Use of only trusted binaries, part of the OS (no new code on machine)
  - Bypasses application whitelisting, signature & 'math-based, next-gen' products
- Manipulate timestamp, create extension-less copy, encrypt copy and delete original
  - Cripple / shake off behavior-based monitoring
- Multi-language support by attackers, to help victims pay the ransom
  - Including chat support



# Cerber crypto-ransomware

- Ransomware-as-a-service
- Localized e-mail and chat support
- Audio warning





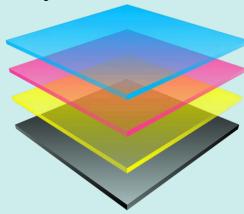


# Synchronized Security

#### As a minimum you should:

- Deploy antivirus protection
- Block spam
- Use a sandboxing solution
- Block risky file extensions (javascript, vbscript, chm etc...)
- Password protect archive files
- Use URL filtering (block access to C&C servers)
- Use HTTPS filtering
- Use HIPS (host intrusion prevention service) & other signature-less technologies
- Activate your client firewalls
- Use a whitelisting solution

#### **Enhancing layered security**





# Reducing the threat

"Additional Steps"

Education

Encrypt Company Data

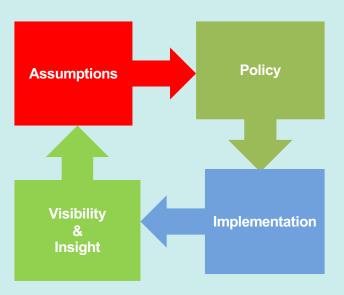
Use Security
Analysis Tools





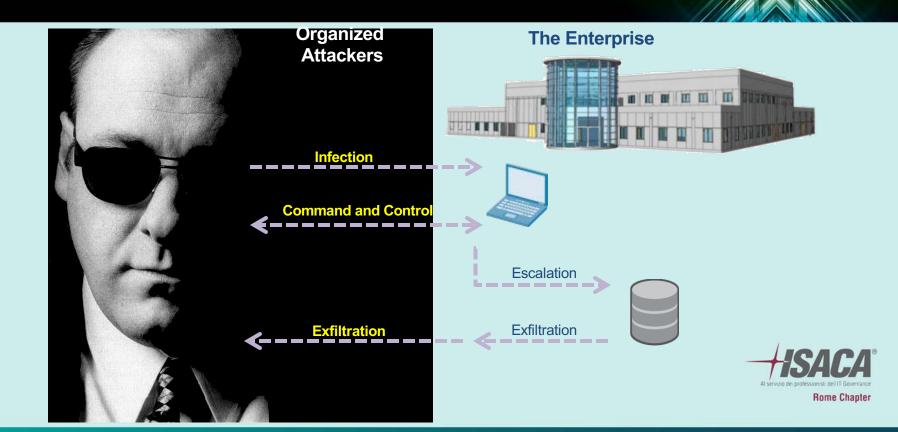
# Security from Policy to Application

- What assumptions drive your security policy?
- Does your current security implementation adequately reflect that policy?
- Doss your current security implementation provide the visibility and insight needed to shape your policy?

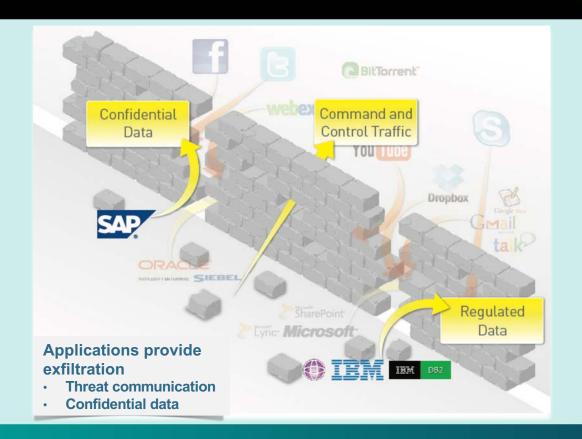




# Security Perimeter Paradigm



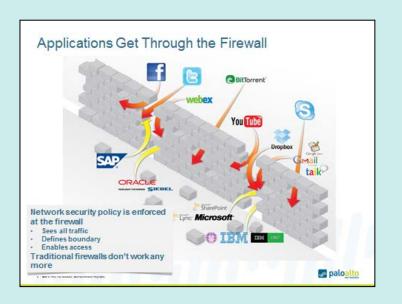
# Is there Malware inside your network today?





# **Application Visibility**

- Reduce attack surface
- Identify Applications that circumvent security policy
- Full traffic visibility that provides insight to drive policy
- Identify and inspect unknown traffic





# Be suspicious

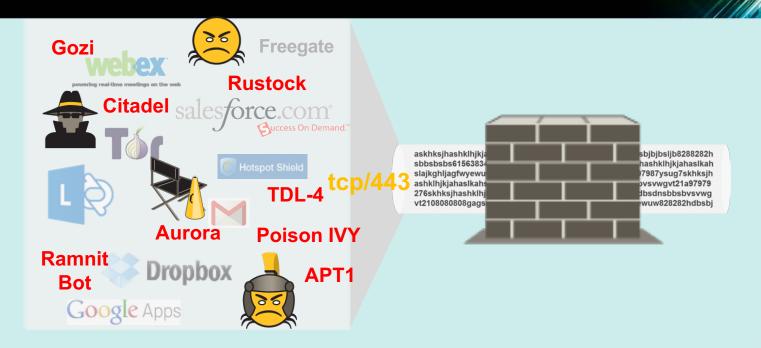
- Do NOT Trust, always verify all access
- Base security policy on users and their roles, not IP addresses.
- For groups of users, tie access to specific groups of applications
- Limit the amount of exfiltration via network segmentation

10.0.0.207 10.0.0.211 10.0.0.232 10.0.0.230 10.0.0.239 10.0.0.242 10.0.0.225 10.0.0.209 10.0.0.217 10.0.0.232 10.0.0.221





# SSL/Port 443: The Universal Firewall Bypass



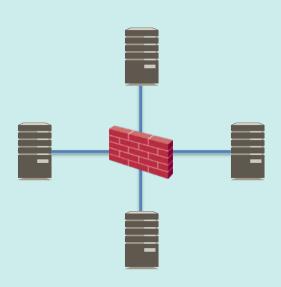
Al servizio dei professionisti dell'IT Governance
Rome Chapter

Challenge: Is SSL used to protect data and privacy, or to mask malicious actions?

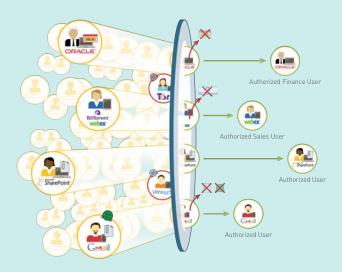
# Evolution of Network Segmentation & Datacenter Security

Packet Filtering, ACL's, IP/Port-based firewalling for known traffic?

Layer 1-4 Stateful Firewall



Port-hopping applications, Malware, Mobile Users – Different entry points into DC? Layer 7 "Next Generation" Appliance





### Modern Attacks Are Coordinated



1

# Bait the end-user

End-user lured to a dangerous application or website containing malicious content 2

#### **Exploit**

Infected content exploits the end-user, often without their knowledge 3

# Download Backdoor

Secondary payload is downloaded in the background . Malware installed 4

# Establish Back-Channe

Malware establishes an outbound connection to the attacker for ongoing control 5

# Explore & Steal

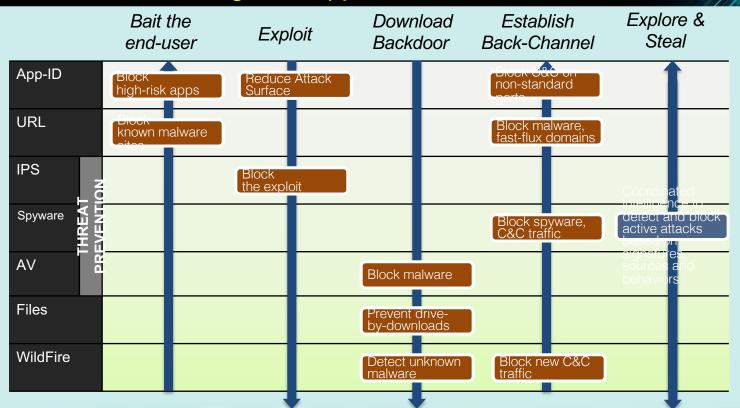
Remote attacker has control inside the network and escalates the attack





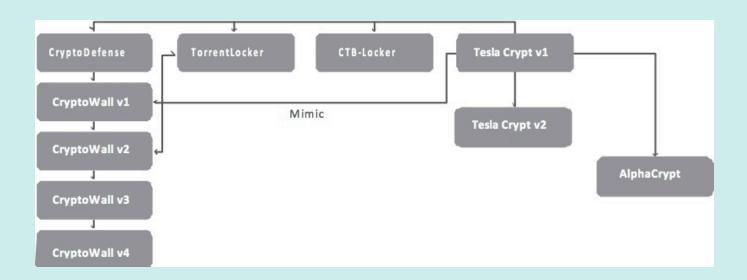
### **Coordinated Threat Prevention**

### An Integrated Approach to Threat Prevention



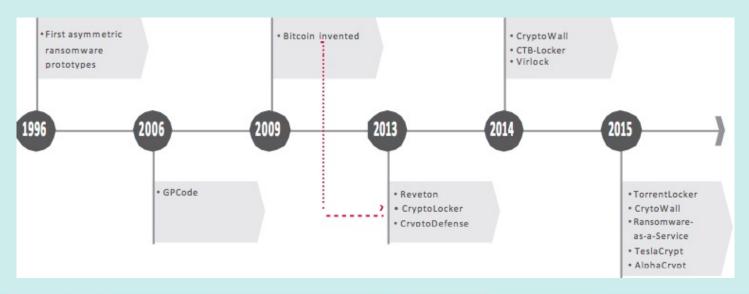


- Cryptolocker first appeared in 2013. It seems its authors gained about 27 million dollars in bitcoin
- Today with its numerous variations Cryptolocker is considered one of the greatest web danger





Ransomware and spyware are successful because they exploit some weaknesses of human nature, mainly the natural tendency to give confidence to those we know or we think to know and not believing that these things can really happen





#### Antivirus

 Even if the traditional virus no longer represent a significant threat (and not the most severe), it is good to have always active and constantly-updated the antivirus software

#### Personal firewall

 A personal firewall is a program installed on an ordinary personal computer (PC) that controls incoming and outgoing communications from the PC, allowing or prohibiting certain types of communication based on rules or security policies set by the user in the configuration phase

**Together** they constitute the main line of defense of our system





### The main characteristics a personal firewall must have (\*)

- Block or alert the user about all unauthorized inbound or outbound connection attempts
- Allows the user to control which programs can and cannot access the local network and/or Internet and provide the user with information about an application that makes a connection attempt
- Hide the computer from port scans by not responding to unsolicited network traffic
- Monitor applications that are listening for incoming connections
- Monitor and regulate all incoming and outgoing Internet users
- Prevent unwanted network traffic from locally installed applications
- Provide information about the destination server with which an application is attempting to communicate
- Track recent incoming events, outgoing events, and intrusion events to see who has accessed or tried to access your computer.

Rome Chapter

Personal Firewall blocks and prevents hacking attempt or attack from hackers

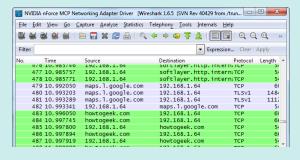
- Utilizing a public Wi-Fi access service or worse going to an Internet Cafe is dangerous even accessing to protected web which make use of SSL
- There're several serious problems when using a public Wi-Fi network:
  - The open nature of the network facilitates snooping (interceptions)
  - Compromised machines could be connected
  - Even more alarming the hotspot itself could be dangerous

Never use a public Wi-Fi network for online banking or any other confidential activity!



#### Snooping

- When connecting to an open Wi-Fi network as in a bar or in an airport, the network is generally not encrypted - in fact it is not necessary to enter a personal password upon connection. The traffic is thus clearly visible to all
- Software as Firesheep or Wireshark allow you to easily view web sessions of other users and capture and analyze network traffic



#### **Protections**

- Only connect to sites that use cryptography
- The browser extension "HTTPS
   Everywhere" can help to force the
   routing of the connection toward the
   protected pages when available
- 3. Use a reliable VPN (fee)



#### Compromised devices

- To the public network can be connected compromised devices which may start attacks against our system
- The presence of viruses, spyware and other malicious software is constant in public Wi-Fi networks



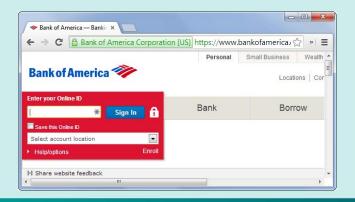
#### **Protections**

- Select the option "public network" when you connect
- 2. Verify that our computer is up to date
- 3. Enable the internal Personal Firewall (at least the Windows internal, if we don't have bought one more reliable)



#### Malicious hotspot

- This may be due to the fact that the hotspot system has been compromised
- We may be connected to a false network (honeypots). If you are connecting to a Wi-Fi "public", you cannot be completely certain that the network is the legitimate one and not a created in art by an attacker
- Software like sslstrip can intercept transparently HTTP sessions
- WiFi Pineapple is an easy-to-use device that allows you to achieve this type of attack



#### **Protections**

- 1. Do not perform online banking or treat sensitive data, even if the sites use Encryption HTTP
- 2. Use a reliable VPN (not fee)



# Secure Messaging

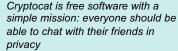
- Even if messaging services such as WhatsApp and iMessage after many insistence by users – to use encryption to protect the conversations, they are still insecure in other ways
  - WhatsApp, for example, maintains the metadata relating to our conversations (that include date, time-stamp, and phone numbers involved), and share user information with its parent application Facebook



Ricochet is a different approach to instant messaging that doesn't trust anyone in protecting your privacy

- Eliminate metadata. Nobody knows who you are, who you talk to, or what you say
- Stay anonymous
- Share what you want, without sharing your identity and location
- Nobody in the middle. There are no servers to monitor, censor, or hack
- Safe by default. Security isn't secure until it's automatic and easy to use

#### Chat with your friends, securely



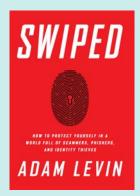
- Open source. All Cryptocat software is published transparently
- Encrypted by default. Every message is encrypted, always
- Forward secure. Chats are safe even if your keys are stolen
- Multiple devices. Devices receive messages even when offline
- File sharing. Securely share files with friends.



#### Safe use of social media

- "I was just doing it to tease her, basically." It was a harmless tweet. A girl named Brooklyn from Prosper, Texas, sent a picture to her friend Alanna in reply to one of many tweets about a cute boy Alanna had seen while shopping at a big-box store in nearby Frisco. Then something fundamentally unknowable happened: the mysterious Internet phenomenon of going viral. ... In the world of Big Data, with mobile, Internet-connected cameras in every pocket, we are always just a few clicks away from being everywhere. The young man whose picture went viral got a real-life taste of that fact when his total lack of privacy became apparent; he became an Internet sensation by doing nothing but bagging products at the checkout counter.
- Adam Levin, "Swiped", ed. Public Affairs, NY, 2015







# Help to protect our online identity

Apply these privacy settings to control what the most popular websites in the world know us:

#### **Facebook**

Facebook has a tendency to constantly change privacy settings without informing the users (Https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jun/29/facebook-privacy-secret-profile-exposed). These simple elements lock our data and will guide us toward a safer navigation!

- 1. Exit the targeted advertising(https://www.facebook.com/ads/preferences/edit/).
  - Between memes and status (which we denote as 'like')(it's alarming to see how many things Mark Zuccurberg knows about us!
- 2. Carry out the privacy checkup(https://www.facebook.com/about/basics)
  - It is a reliable tool to check the privacy settings of Facebook, especially if we are at the beginning of the
    journey of customization. With this process, made up of three steps, you can control who can see our post
    and which applications have access to the data of our profile.
- 3. Spend a little time with the control panel
  - Do not make mistakes: the checkup tool is not robust like the entire Privacy Settings & Tools panel of Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/settings? tab=privacy). It can be a little difficult at the beginning, but it is worth spending five minutes to become familiar with it.



# Help to protect our online identity

#### Google

The company, whose name is synonymous with "research", was notable for its share of the security problems (https://www.thrillist.com/news/nation/gooligan-malware-hack-13 million-google-account) and delays in fixing them. Better check if our email account has been violated (Https://haveibeenpwned.com/) because one of their recent security flaws.

- 4. Complete the Google Security Checkup (https://myaccount.google.com/privacycheckup)
  - The checkup of Google Security offers a great way to verify that recovery information is current and that applications and web sites linked to our account are those that still you still use and trust.
- 5. Review the settings on advertising (https://myaccount.google.com/intro/privacy#ads/)
  - The settings on the ads in Google does not offer the possibility to disable them as in Facebook. But allow you to deactivate the customization.
- 6. "Let's take control" of privacy settings (https://privacy.google.com/take-control.html)
  - The Google privacy settings page of Google is as a glossary of the individual setup pages on privacy. From
    the history of the YouTube videos you have watched, to tracking with your mobile phone on maps, this is the
    best place to start the block of private data that we share with Google.



# Help to protect our online identity

#### Amazon

Last year, a security breach (http://www.dailydot.com/debug/amazon-hack-80000-passwords-usernames/) made the information more than 80,000 customers of Amazon compromised. From here the hope that the data users are ultra secure in the near future made of "delivery-drones"...

#### 7. Keep the list(s) of secret desires

Surprise! If we were already aware, it is good to know that the wish list at Amazon is public for all, unless we hide it. Fortunately this can be accomplished easily in the List Manager of Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/side/manage/ref=cm\_wl\_mng\_lists\_nojs).

#### 8. Bring your own identity

- There is a bit of work to do for the privacy if we left the parameters of our profile on Amazon as default:
  - 1. Edit our profile (https://www.amazon.com/profile) so that the public reviews do not bring our full name;
  - 2. Go to 'edit privacy settings' (https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AGBUQJ4BEKOGSC266MXRVQZAI5XQ/edit\_pu blic\_activity\_settings#)'and verify the data that we wish to share: by someone to all.

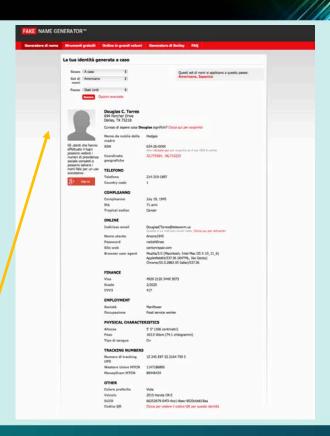


# Real identity?

 Remember to always treat personal data as if they were money, because someone else is making money from them

Privacy is a value, protect our online data!

By the way: it is really necessary to always provide our real data?!





# Awareness & Training

- Human factor is the weakest link of the security chain
  - Implementation of virus protection, firewalls, and content filtering technologies may help to control risk factors;
  - Careless or superficial user behavior compromises network security
  - User training is a key measure for network security strategy





Personnel awareness contributes to:

- safety and privacy of corporate information
- use of the Internet and the associated risks: dialer, Trojan horses, spyware, ransomware, etc.



# Thanks for your attention!





