XPROBE

Building Efficient Network Discovery Tools

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Outline

- Introduction
- Some motivating stories: real-life attacks
- Efficient network mapping with "Lazy Scan" mode
- Layer 7 extensions
- Scripting Extensions
- Data Mining and Experimental Data sharing network

Introducing presenter

Fyodor.Y



- Interests:
 - Intelligence collection/analysis
 - Network discovery and network protocols
 - A

Attack Trends

China vs. Taiwan

briefs of cyber "wars"

關於CNET、ZDNet、MSN等知名網站的網頁疑遭轉址 攻擊一事,資安專家表示,該事件有可能是新型態的網 路攻擊手法。

2009/03/05 20:36:03

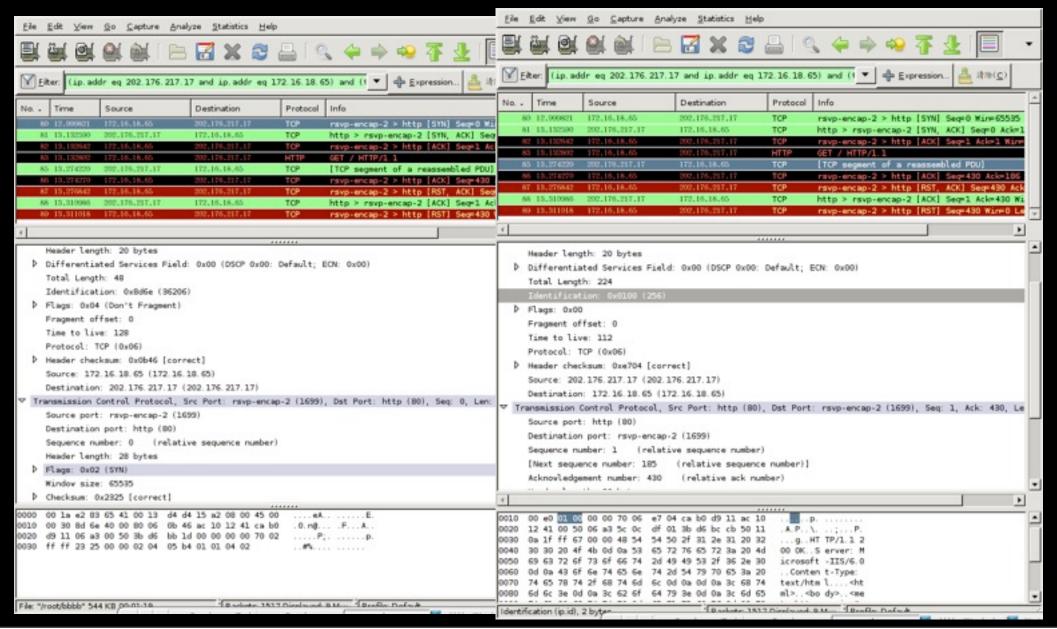
「就微軟的追查結果來看,CNET與MSN網站遭網頁轉

Mystic redirects (2009/03/05)

Attack observations

 Large number of users were redirected to malware-infected servers, while trying to visit legimate web sites hosted outside of Taiwan island (i.e. zdnet, msn.com, etc)

Traces



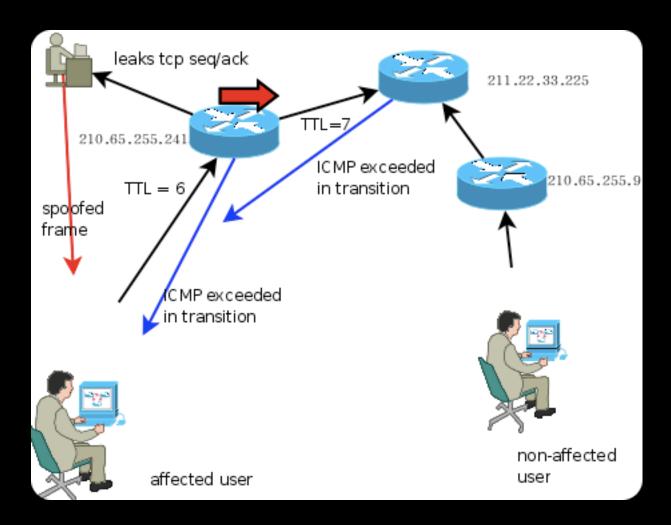
Guess..

 A node was compromised somewhere enroute. TCP connections were non-blindly hijacked...

Tracing "ghost" node(s)

some "spaghetti" to quickly discover the node

Discovered attack scenario



Lesson learnt

- Large number of target nodes are to be probed in order to identify potential 'enroute' attacks.
- We need a high-performance network discovery tool, capable of operating at Layer7
- we need automated tracing capability

more stuff @L7...

```
morozec ~ • nc www.ebay.com 80
CONNECT 61.222.2.251:22 HTTP/1.0
```

HTTP/1.0 200 Connection established Proxy-agent: CacheFlow-Proxy/1.0

SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_4.3

(echo -e "CONNECT 192.168.8 □ Connection established CacheFlow-Proxy/1.0 Authorised access only

This system is the property of

Motivation

we need more application-level probes

And..

 we could actually correlate L7 data with network probing results

but ..

we need to minimize network load, because
 L7 might mean "lots of traffic"

Also..

• Time is another player. We want to be able to monitor network fluctuations in time

So, the Xprobe

now "NG"

Xprobe

- The historical note:
 - Xprobe project started as remote fingngerprinting tool to probe remote systems using ICMP protocol queries.
 - Other protocols support was added later.
 Fuzzy fingerprinting mechanism was introduced to improve precision

Further motivation

- Exploring other protocols running on the top of IP
- Bulk scanning
- Probing "en-route" systems
- Migrating to IPv6
- Honeypots/Nets
- Improving precision by cross-correlation over time

On the top of IP

- SCTP/Sigtrans gateways
- IPv4 to IPv6 gateways

• ...

"en route" findings

- Caching systems, transparent proxies etc.
- L7 switches
- Reactive IDS/IPS
- Application Firewalls
- Active spoofing attacks ...

Honeypots

- Virtual Machines
- Virtual Networks
- Incomplete Services

Bulk Scanning

- Probing "en-route" devices by large-range scans
- IPv6

Data cross-correlation

 Currently correlating data between L7 and network layers.

Current Improvements

Minimizing Network Load

- Information Gain metrics
- "Lazy-Mode" execution
- "Target" driven execution
- New Scan engine (in progress)

Improving Precision

Cross correlation between L7 and below

Improving Usability

Language Extensions: Python (xprobepy)

Information Gain

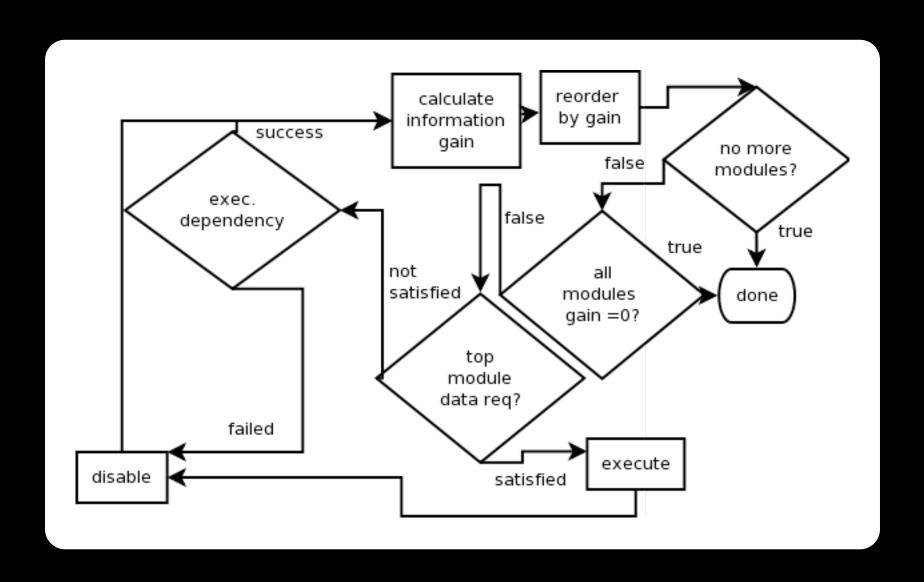
Information gain

 A "score" calculated for a probe, characterizing how much "information" the probe is going to bring

Benefits

- Highest information gain probes are executed first
- "0" information gain probes are not executed (unless are part of dependency)
- Possible to optimally minimize network overhead by executing "top X"/target

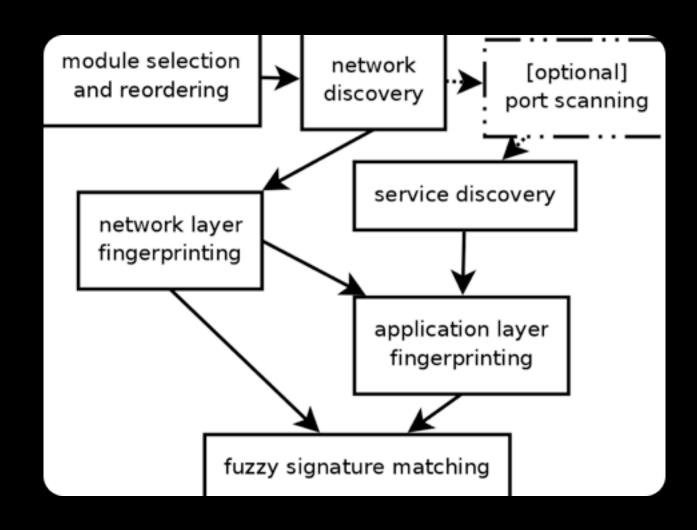
Algorithm



Lazy scan and target-driven execution

discovery process optimizations

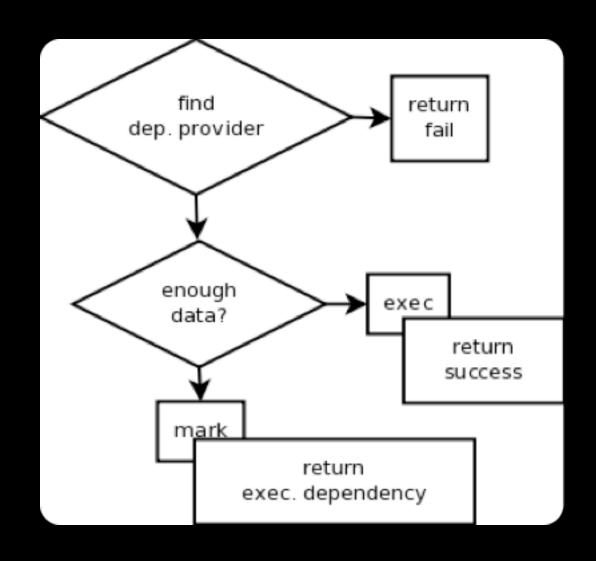
Architecture, briefly..



Data dependency chains

• Each module is characterized with type of data it "requires" and "provides"

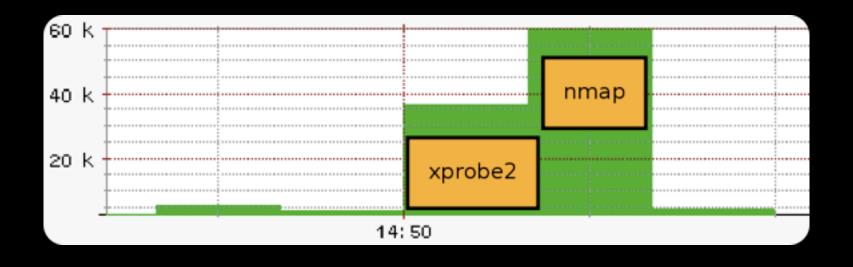
Data Dependency based execution



No "portscan" per se

- This technically makes port scanning "AS IS" unnecessary
- Significally reduces tool "noise" on the wire

Wire "noise" rough comparision



Benefits of Data Chaining

- Probe focused execution (by specifying "intended" probe)
- Restrictions can be set:
 - no more than X queries/target
 - use only "normalized" packets

Negative impact

 You still may not know about certain ports and applications running on the target system.

Application level

Application level

- Improving fingerprinting precision
- "en-route" interaction
- Honeypots

L7 fingerprinting

 Underlying OS can be probed via L7 tests and correlated with other data

Test type	Usable Protocol	Test
Directory Separator	HTTP	Win/Unx
New line characters	HTTP	Win/Unx
Special/reserved filenames	HTTP	Win/Unx
Root directory	FTP	Win/Unx
Special characters (EOF,EOL		
Filesystem limitations	HTTP, FTP	
Filesystem illegal characters	HTTP, FTP	
Case sensitivity	HTTP, FTP	Win/Unx
Special filenames handling	HTTP, FTP	Win/Unx
Special files in directory	HTTP, FTP	Win/Unx
Binary file fingerprinting	FTP	Win/Unx

Honeypots

VM tricks

 Possible to identify VMs (not all) by TCP stream analysis

Network level tricks

Analyzing MAC addresses, when available

Application Level Tricks

 We can probe for incomplete implementations of L7 protocols

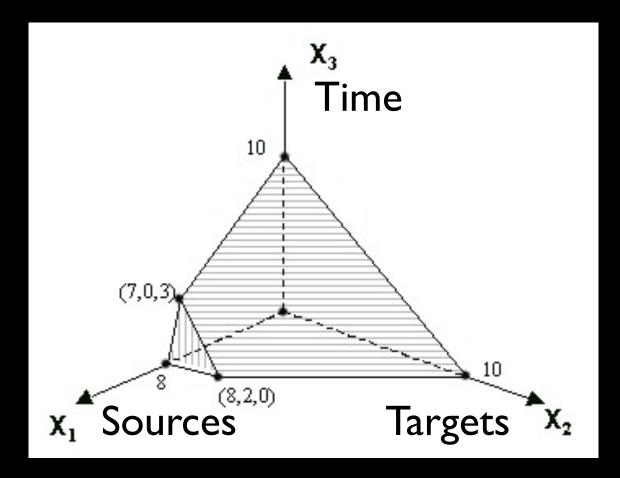
Current Developments

Work in progress

- Language bindings
- L7 modules
- new engine
- en-route modules

Future Plans

 By designing distributed data sharing network it'd be possible to collect Multidimensional data



IPv6 Action plan

- Local node discovery: straightforward (multicast)
- Remote segments: DNS, text file parsing, "educated" guessing, search engine, beforementioned networking capability

Availability

http://xprobe.sourceforge.net
(git push in a couple of days)
http://github.com/fygrave/xprobepy
(due Mid of July)

Questions

if you have no questions, feel free to throw your shoe ;-)
jk

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