



CS155

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# Computer Security

Course overview

# Admin

- Course web site: <https://cs155.Stanford.edu>
- Profs: Dan Boneh and Zakir Durumeric
- Three programming projects (pairs) and two written homeworks
- **Project #1 is posted. Please attend section this Friday!**
- Use Piazza and Gradescope
- Automatic 72 hour extension
- No final exam this year

# Live lectures on Zoom

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a gallery view shows five participants: Dan Boneh, John Mitchell, Percy Liang, Oussama Khatib, and Kunle. The main content area shows a slide with the text "Lectures are recorded ... posted on canvas" and "Slides" in large font. A blue speech bubble with the text "ask questions" is positioned at the bottom of the slide. The right sidebar shows a list of 26 participants, with the "raise hand" icon circled in white. Below the participant list are reaction icons (yes, no, go slower, go faster, more) and an "Unmute Me" button. The bottom control bar includes icons for Unmute, Start Video, Invite, Participants, Share Screen, Chat, Record, and Reactions. The "Unmute" icon is circled in red. The chat window at the bottom right shows a "To: Everyone" dropdown and a text input field, both circled in white. A "Leave Meeting" button is visible in the bottom right corner of the control bar.

Lectures are recorded ... posted on canvas

## Slides

ask questions

Participants (26)

Search

- Dan Boneh (me)
- jm john mitchell (Host)
- e emma (Guest)
- OK Oussama Khatib (Guest)
- aw alexis wino

raise hand yes no go slower go faster more

Unmute Me

Chat

To: Everyone

Type message here...

Unmute Start Video Invite Participants Share Screen Chat Record Reactions Leave Meeting

# The computer security problem

- **Lots of buggy software**
- **Social engineering is very effective**
- **Money can be made from finding and exploiting vulns.**

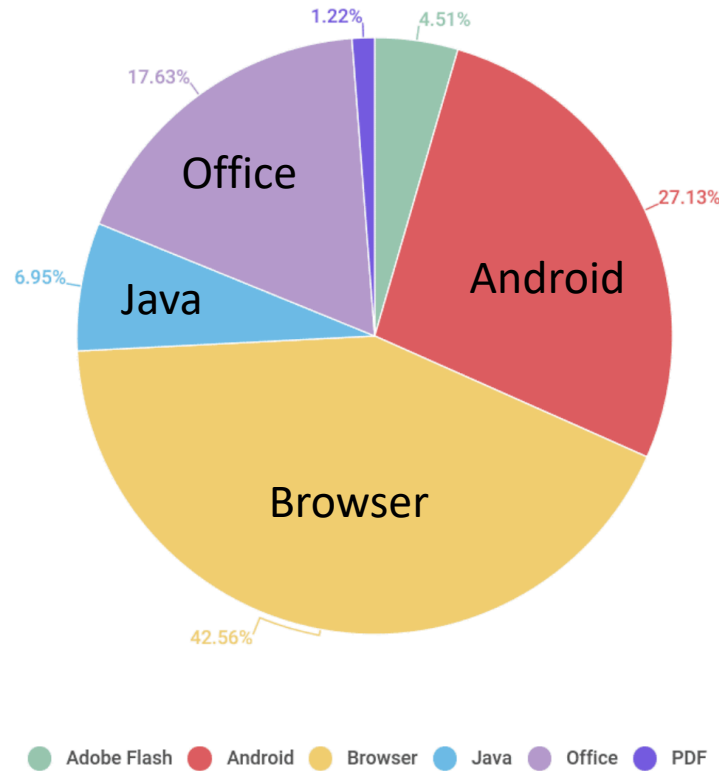
1. Marketplace for exploits
2. Marketplace for owned machines (PPI)
3. Many methods to profit from owned machines

current state of computer security

# Top 10 products by total number of “distinct” vulnerabilities in 2019

	Product Name	Vendor Name	Product Type	Number of Vulnerabilities
1	<a href="#">Android</a>	<a href="#">Google</a>	OS	<a href="#">414</a>
2	<a href="#">Debian Linux</a>	<a href="#">Debian</a>	OS	<a href="#">360</a>
3	<a href="#">Windows Server 2016</a>	<a href="#">Microsoft</a>	OS	<a href="#">357</a>
4	<a href="#">Windows 10</a>	<a href="#">Microsoft</a>	OS	<a href="#">357</a>
5	<a href="#">Windows Server 2019</a>	<a href="#">Microsoft</a>	OS	<a href="#">351</a>
6	<a href="#">Acrobat Reader Dc</a>	<a href="#">Adobe</a>	Application	<a href="#">342</a>
7	<a href="#">Acrobat Dc</a>	<a href="#">Adobe</a>	Application	<a href="#">342</a>
8	<a href="#">Cpanel</a>	<a href="#">Cpanel</a>	Application	<a href="#">321</a>
9	<a href="#">Windows 7</a>	<a href="#">Microsoft</a>	OS	<a href="#">250</a>
10	<a href="#">Windows Server 2008</a>	<a href="#">Microsoft</a>	OS	<a href="#">248</a>

# Vulnerable applications being exploited

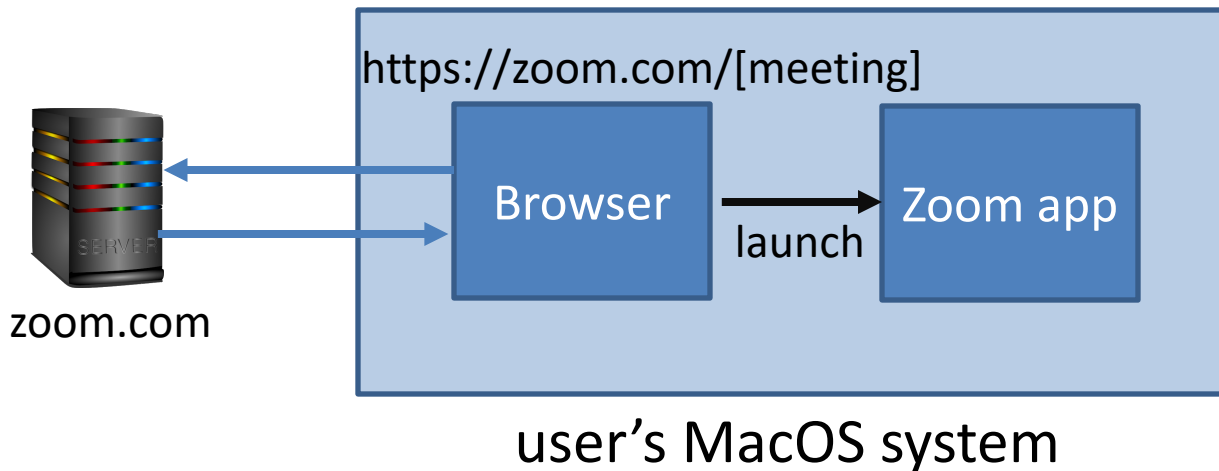


Source: Kaspersky Security Bulletin 2017

# Why so many security bugs? Case study: Zoom client

Users have an expectation of privacy. But:

- (1) Problems with crypto (Marczak and Scott-Railton, April 2020)
- (2) How **not** to save a user click (J. Leitschuh, July 2019)

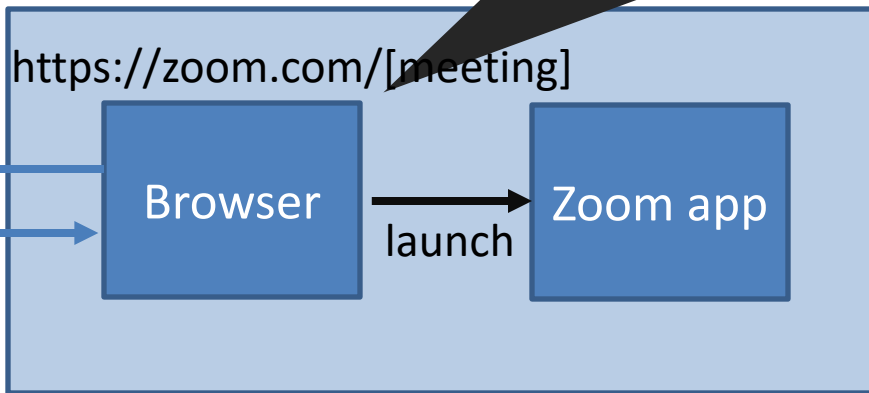
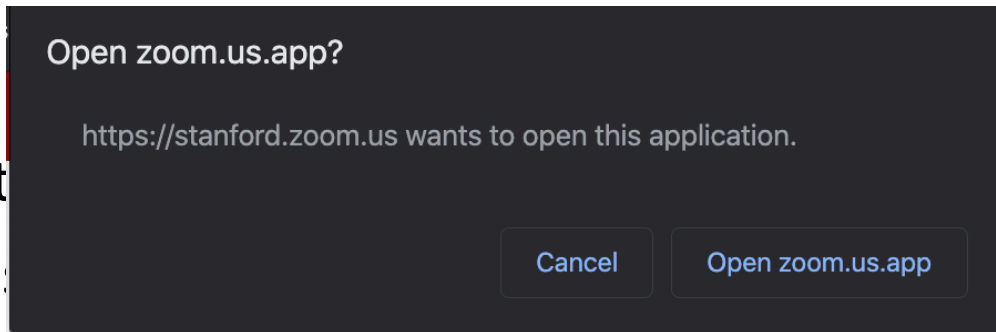


# Why so many security bugs? Case study: Zoom client

Users have an expectation

(1) Problems with crypt

(2) How **not** to save a u



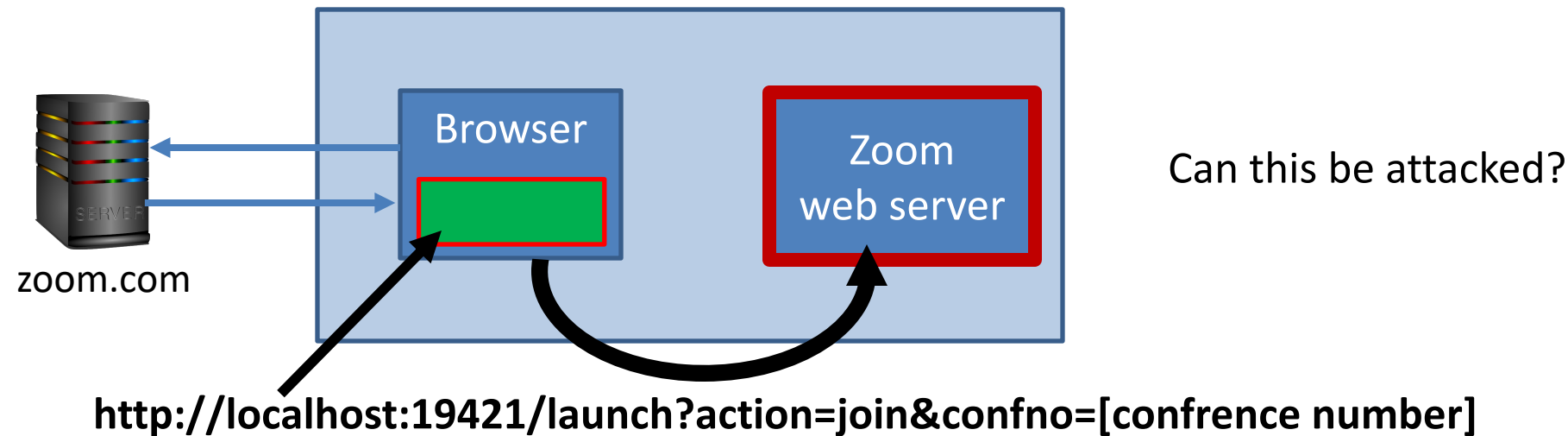
Can we bypass the security dialog?



# Why so many security bugs? Case study: Zoom client

Local Zoom web server listens on port **localhost:19421**

- **To launch app:** web page from zoom.com tells browser to send an HTTP request to the local web server
- Web requests do not require a dialog ...



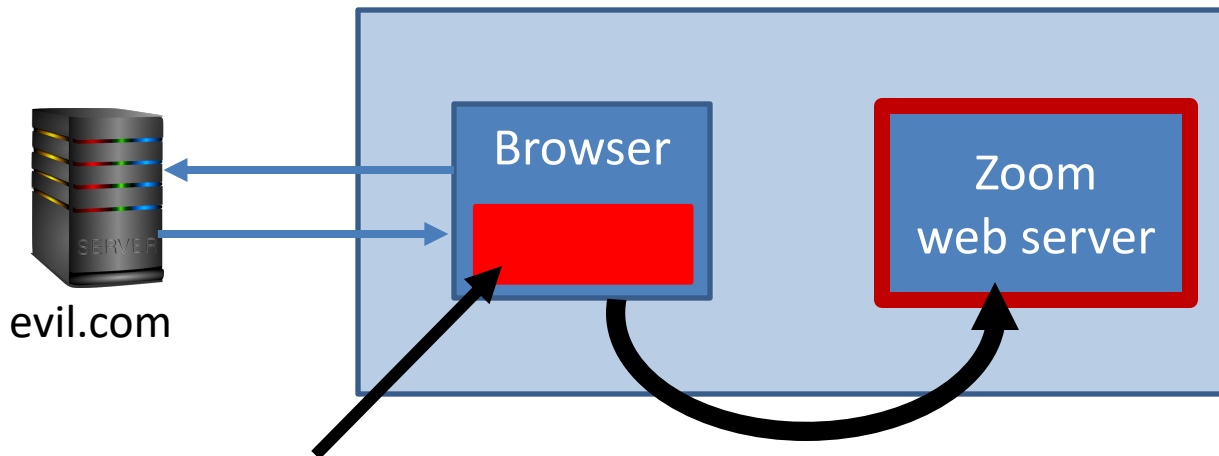
# The problem [J. Leitschuh, July 2019]

**Any web site** can send a request to the local web server

- Joins users to conference w/o user's knowledge!

What happened next? Responsible disclosure, 90 days (CVE-2019-13450).

- Fixed by Zoom. Web server removed by Apple's MRT tool.



[http://localhost:19421/launch?action=join&confno=\[conference number\]](http://localhost:19421/launch?action=join&confno=[conference number])

# Why so many security bugs? Case study: Zoom client

Users have an expectation of privacy. But:

(1) Problems with crypto (Marczak and Scott-Railton, April 2020)

(2) How not to save a user click (J. Leitschuh, July 2019)

(3) Disable MacOS hardened runtime (P. Wardle, April 2020)

Defends against code injection, library hijacking,  
and process memory space tampering.

Once user gives Zoom access to camera and mic,  
MacOS ensures that entire application code does not change

# What happens if protection is disabled?

```
> codesign -d --entitlements :- ~/Applications/zoom.us.app/  
Executable=/Users/dabo/Applications/zoom.us.app/Contents/MacOS/zoom.us  
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>  
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/  
PropertyList-1.0.dtd">  
<plist version="1.0">  
<dict>  
  <key>com.apple.security.automation.apple-events</key>  
  <true/>  
  <key>com.apple.security.device.audio-input</key>  
  <true/>  
  <key>com.apple.security.device.camera</key>  
  <true/>  
  <key>com.apple.security.cs.disable-library-validation</key>  
  <true/>  
</dict>  
</plist>
```

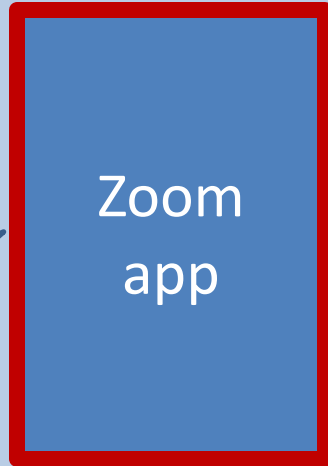
requires user  
approval

Can this be abused?

# The impact

[Wardle, 4/2020]

dynamic libraries loaded at Zoom startup



User approved access to camera & mic

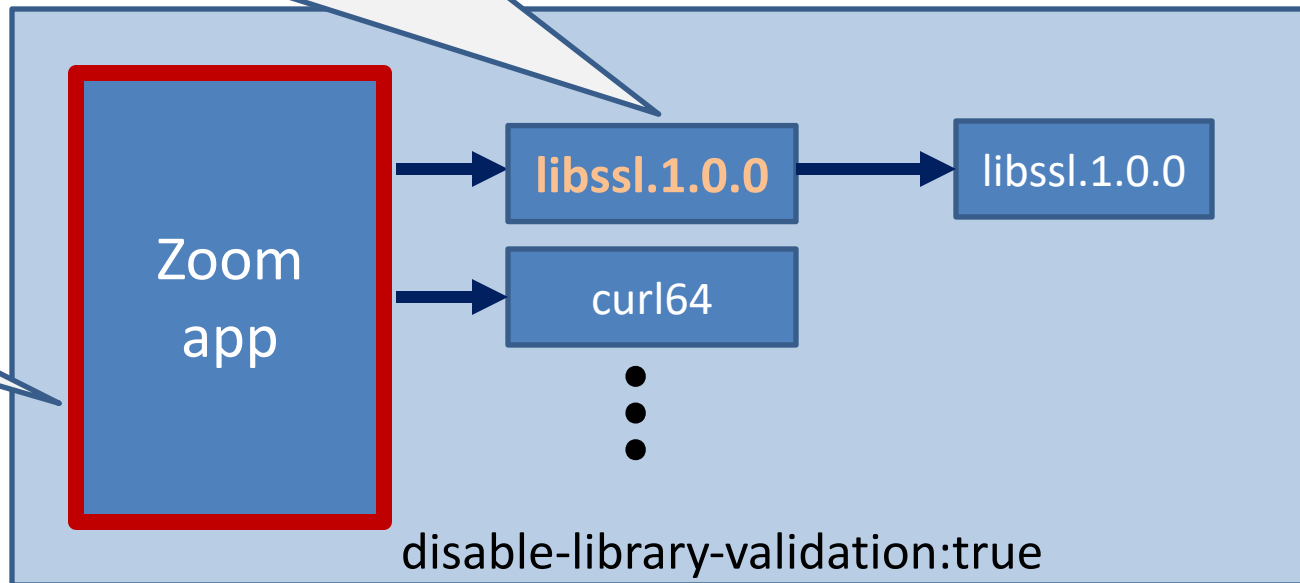
user's MacOS system

# The impact

[Wardle, 4/2020]

Attacker installs malware library that proxies libssl.  
⇒ has access to camera & mic

hardened runtime  
does not notify user  
of change to libssl!



user's MacOS system

# Goals for this course

- Understand exploit techniques
  - Learn to defend and prevent common exploits
- Understand the available security tools
- Learn to architect secure systems

# This course

Part 1: **basics** (architecting for security)

- Securing apps, OS, and legacy code:  
sandboxing, access control, and security testing

Part 2: **Web security** (defending against a web attacker)

- Building robust web sites, understand the browser security model

Part 3: **network security** (defending against a network attacker)

- Monitoring and architecting secure networks.

Part 4: **securing mobile applications**



Don't try this at home !



# Introduction

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What motivates  
attackers?

... economics

# Why compromise systems?

## 1. IP address and bandwidth stealing

Attacker's goal: look like a random Internet user

Use the IP address of infected machine or phone for:

- **Spam** (e.g. the storm botnet)

Spamalytics: 1:12M pharma spams leads to purchase

1:260K greeting card spams leads to infection

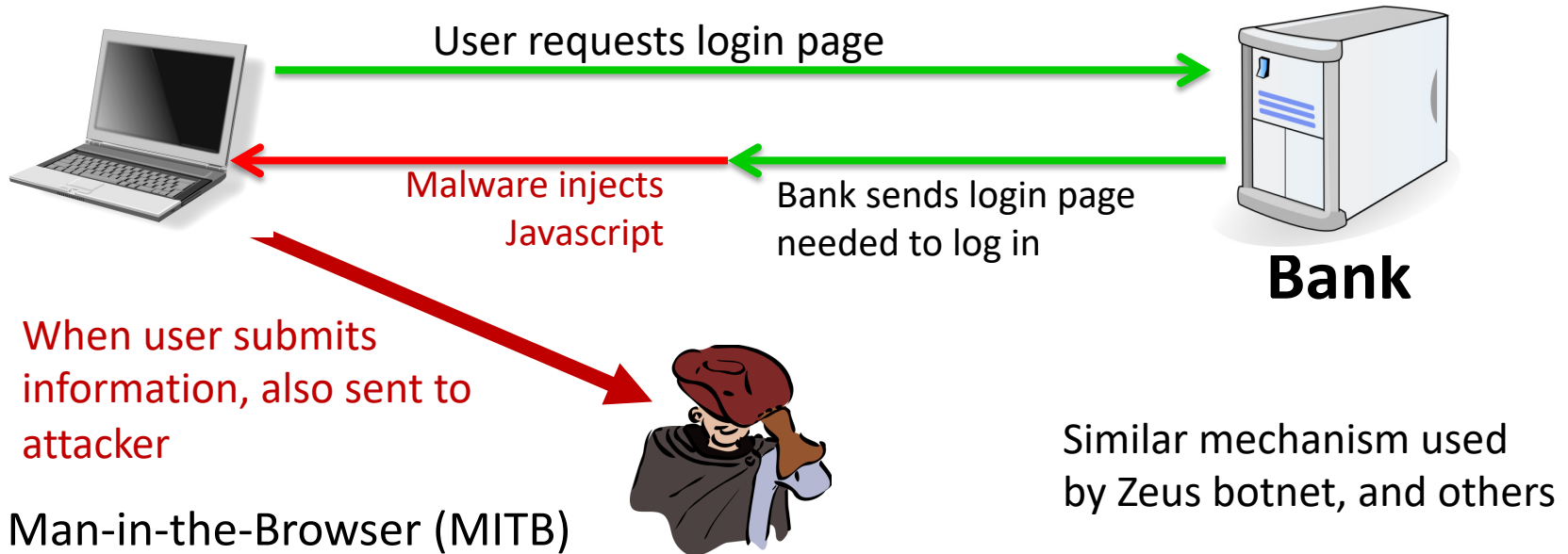
- **Denial of Service:** Services: 1 hour (20\$), 24 hours (100\$)
- **Click fraud** (e.g. Clickbot.a)

# Why compromise systems?

## 2. Steal user credentials

keylog for banking passwords, corporate passwords, gaming pwds

Example: SilentBanker (and many like it)



# Lots of financial malware

1 Trojan-Spy.Win32.Zbot

2 Trojan.Win32.Nymaim

3 Trojan.Win32.Neurevt

4 SpyEye

5 Trojan-Banker.Win32.Gozi

6 Emotet

7 Caphaw

8 Trickster

9 Cridex/Dridex

10 Backdoor.Win32.Shiz

- records banking passwords via keylogger
- spread via spam email and hacked web sites
- maintains access to PC for future installs

# Similar attacks on mobile devices

**Example:** FinSpy.

- Works on **iOS and Android** (and Windows)
- once installed: collects contacts, call history, geolocation, texts, messages in encrypted chat apps, ...
- How installed?
  - Android pre-2017: links in SMS / links in E-mail
  - iOS and Android post 2017: physical access

# Why own machines: 3. Ransomware

	Name	% of attacked users**
1	WannaCry	7.71
2	Locky	6.70
3	Cerber	5.89
4	Jaff	2.58
5	Cryrar/ACCDFISA	2.20
6	Spora	2.19
7	Purgen/GlobelImposter	2.11
8	Shade	2.06
9	Crysis	1.25
10	CryptoWall	1.13

a worldwide problem

- Worm spreads via a vuln. in SMB (port 445)
- Apr. 14, 2017: Eternalblue vuln. released by ShadowBrokers
- May 12, 2017: Worm detected (3 weeks to weaponize)

# WannaCry ransomware



Payment will be raised on

5/15/2017 16:50:06

Time Left

02:23:34:22

Your files will be lost on

5/19/2017 16:50:06

Time Left

06:23:34:22

[About bitcoin](#)

[How to buy bitcoins?](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## Ooops, your files have been encrypted!

English

### What Happened to My Computer?

Your important files are encrypted.

Many of your documents, photos, videos, databases and other files are no longer accessible because they have been encrypted. Maybe you are busy looking for a way to recover your files, but do not waste your time. Nobody can recover your files without our decryption service.

### Can I Recover My Files?

Sure. We guarantee that you can recover all your files safely and easily. But you have not so enough time.

You can decrypt some of your files for free. Try now by clicking <Decrypt>.

But if you want to decrypt all your files, you need to pay.

You only have 3 days to submit the payment. After that the price will be doubled.

Also, if you don't pay in 7 days, you won't be able to recover your files forever.

We will have free events for users who are so poor that they couldn't pay in 6 months.

### How Do I Pay?

Payment is accepted in Bitcoin only. For more information, click <About bitcoin>.

Please check the current price of Bitcoin and buy some bitcoins. For more information, click <How to buy bitcoins>.

And send the correct amount to the address specified in this window.

After your payment, click <Check Payment>. Best time to check payment is from 11:00am GMT from Monday to Friday.



Send \$300 worth of bitcoin to this address:

115p7UMMngo1pMvvpHijcRdfJNXj6LrLn

Copy

Check Payment

Decrypt



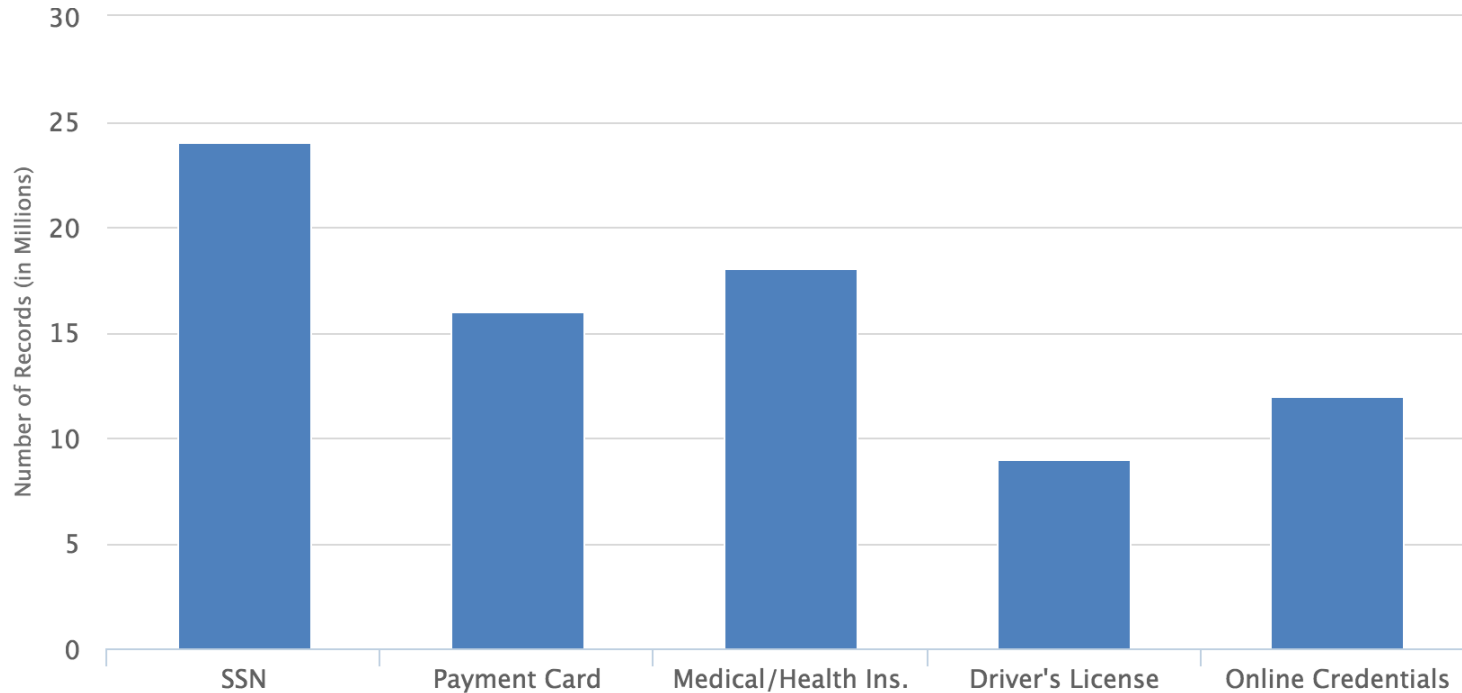
# Server-side attacks

- **Data theft:** credit card numbers, intellectual property
  - Example: Equifax (July 2017),  $\approx$  143M “customer” data impacted
    - Exploited known vulnerability in Apache Struts (RCE)
  - Many many similar attacks since 2000
- **Political motivation:**
  - DNC, Tunisia Facebook (Feb. 2011), GitHub (Mar. 2015)
- **Infect visiting users**

# Infecting visiting users. Example: Mpack

- PHP-based tools installed on compromised web sites
  - Embedded as an iframe on infected page
  - Infects browsers that visit site
- Features
  - management console provides stats on infection rates
  - Sold for several 100\$
  - Customer care can be purchased, one-year support contract
- Impact: 500,000 infected sites (compromised via SQL injection)
  - Several defenses: e.g. Google safe browsing

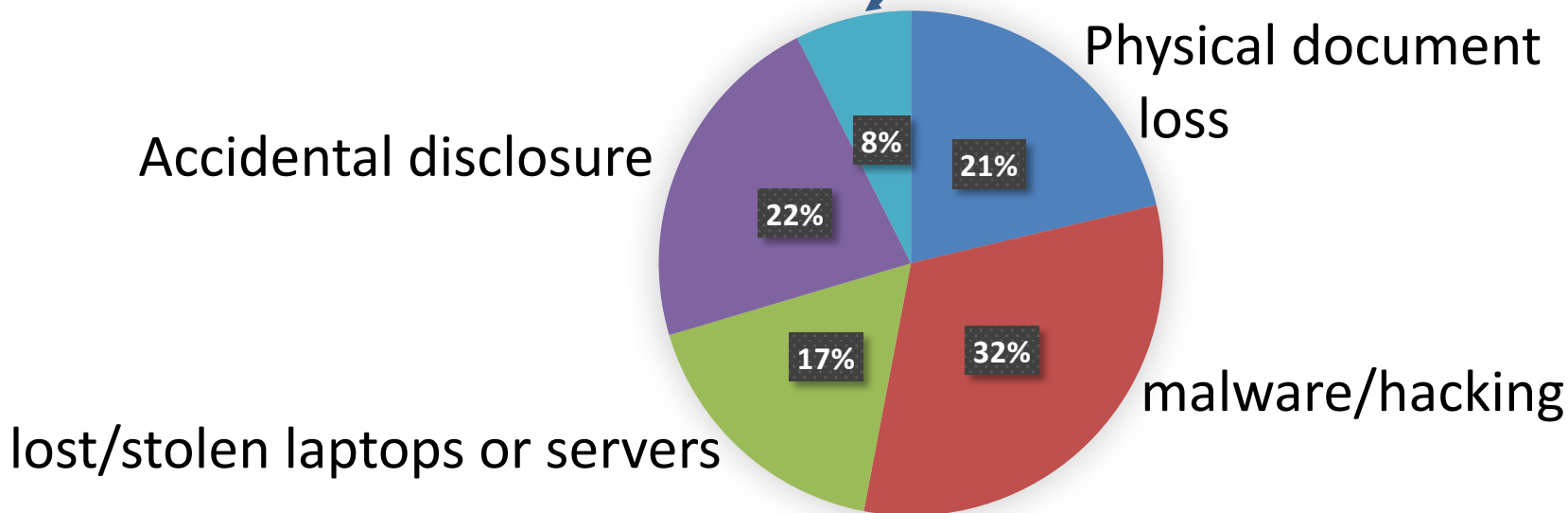
# Data theft: what is stolen (2012-2015)



Source: California breach notification report, 2015

# How companies lose customer data

insider misuse/attack



How do we have this data?



# Introduction

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## The Marketplace for Vulnerabilities

# Marketplace for Vulnerabilities

## **Option 1:** bug bounty programs (many)

- Google Vulnerability Reward Program: up to \$31,337
- Microsoft Bounty Program: up to \$100K
- Apple Bug Bounty program: up to \$200K
- Stanford bug bounty program: up to \$1K
- Pwn2Own competition: \$15K

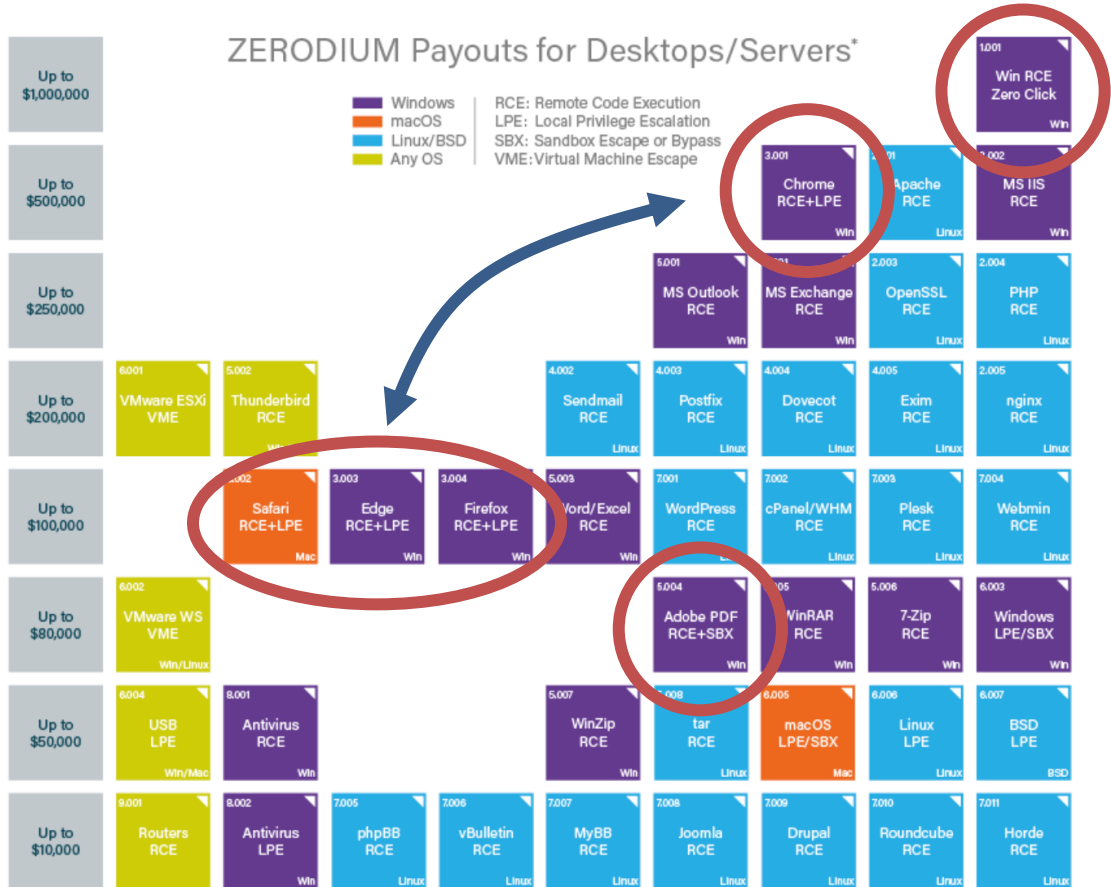
## **Option 2:**

- Zerodium: up to \$2M for iOS, \$2.5M for Android (2019)
- ... many others

# Marketplace for Vulnerabilities

RCE: remote code execution  
LPE: local privilege escalation  
SBX: sandbox escape

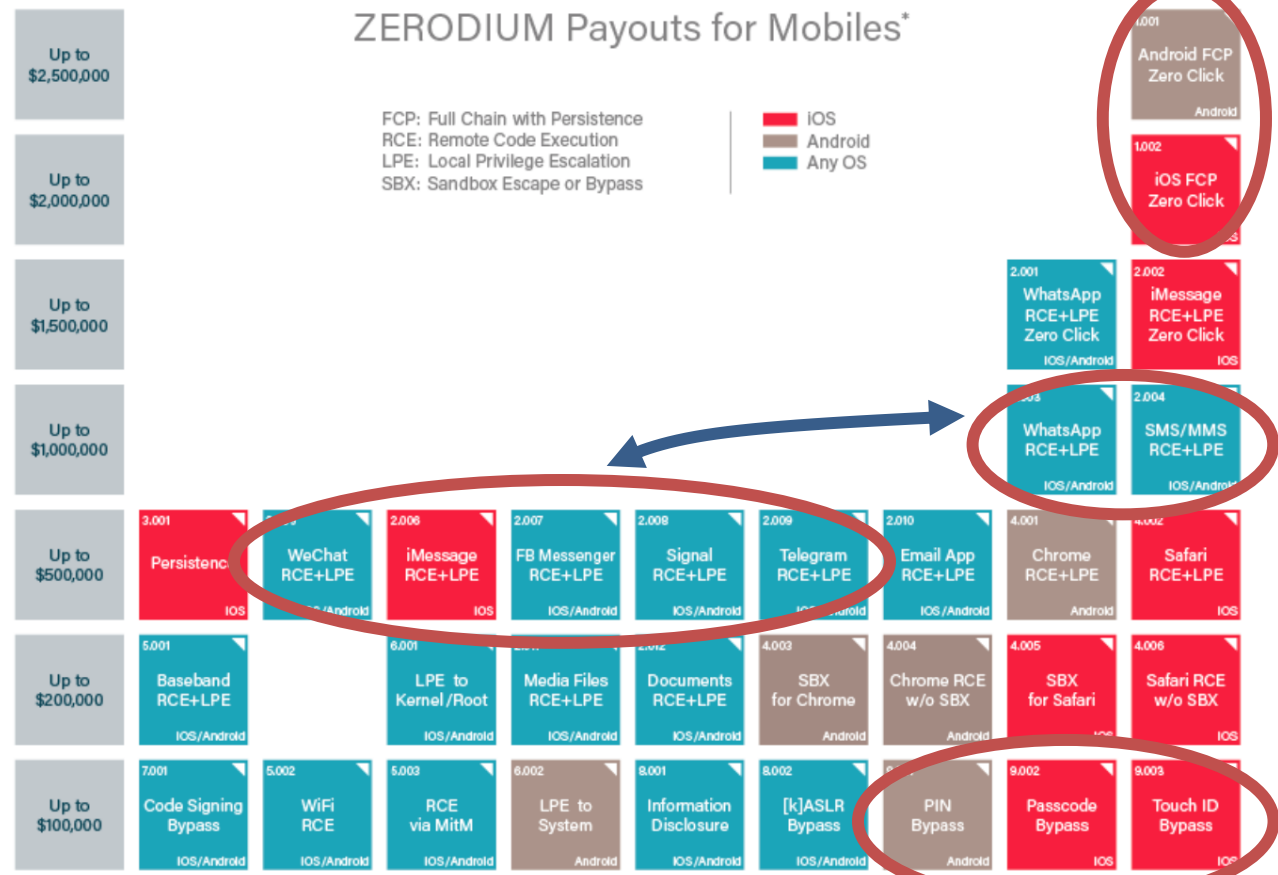
Source: Zerodium payouts



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# Marketplace for Vulnerabilities

RCE: remote code execution  
 LPE: local privilege escalation  
 SBX: sandbox escape



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# Why buy 0days?

## How the acquired security research is used by ZERODIUM?

ZERODIUM extensively tests, analyzes, validates, and documents all acquired vulnerability research and reports it, along with protective measures and security recommendations, solely to its clients subscribing to the [ZERODIUM Zero-Day Research Feed](#).

## Who are ZERODIUM's customers?

ZERODIUM customers are government organizations (mostly from Europe and North America) in need of advanced zero-day exploits and cybersecurity capabilities.

<https://zerodium.com/faq.html>

# Ken Thompson's clever Trojan

Turing award lecture

(CACM Aug. 1984)

What code can we trust?

# What code can we trust?

Can we trust the “login” program in a Linux distribution? (e.g. Ubuntu)

- No! the login program may have a backdoor
  - records my password as I type it
- **Solution: recompile login program from source code**

Can we trust the login source code?

- No! but we can inspect the code, then recompile

# Can we trust the compiler?

No! Example malicious compiler code:

```
compile(s) {  
    if (match(s, "login-program")) {  
        compile("login-backdoor");  
        return  
    }  
    /* regular compilation */  
}
```

# What to do?

**Solution:** inspect compiler source code,  
then recompile the compiler

**Problem: C compiler is itself written in C, compiles itself**

What if compiler binary has a backdoor?

# Thompson's clever backdoor

Attack step 1: change compiler source code:

```
compile(s) {  
    if (match(s, "login-program")) {  
        compile("login-backdoor");  
        return  
    }  
    if (match(s, "compiler-program")) {  
        compile("compiler-backdoor");  
        return  
    }  
    /* regular compilation */  
}
```

(\*)

# Thompson's clever backdoor

## Attack step 2:

- Compile modified compiler  $\Rightarrow$  compiler binary
- Restore compiler source to original state

Now: inspecting compiler source reveals nothing unusual

... but compiling compiler gives a corrupt compiler binary

Complication: compiler-backdoor needs to include all of (\*)

# What can we trust?

I order a laptop by mail. When it arrives, what can I trust on it?

- Applications and/or operating system may be backdoored  
⇒ solution: reinstall OS and applications
- How to reinstall? Can't trust OS to reinstall the OS.  
⇒ Boot *Tails* from a USB drive (Debian)
- Need to trust pre-boot BIOS,UEFI code. Can we trust it?  
⇒ No! (e.g. ShadowHammer operation in 2018)
- Can we trust the motherboard? Software updates?



# So, what can we trust?

Sadly, nothing ... anything can be compromised

- but then we can't make progress

## **Trusted Computing Base (TCB)**

- Assume some minimal part of the system is not compromised
- Then build a secure environment on top of that

will see how during the course.

Next time: control hijacking vulnerabilities

**THE END**