



Incident Response: from a Forensic Perspective

TURNING DIGITAL EVIDENCE INTO INTELLIGENCE™

NKU Cybersecurity Symposium
October 11, 2018





Agenda

1. Foundations
2. Preservation
3. Analysis
4. An Effective IR Plan

From Our Perspective

We are parachuted in to organizations to solve problems

- We are Electronic Evidence Experts
- Specialize in:
Digital Forensics & CyberSecurity
 - 19 Years in CyberSecurity
 - 17 Years in Digital Forensics
- Incident Response / Data Breach is a large percent of what we do.



Why?

Incident Response Planning



It's All Your Perspective

Operational

- What do we do?
- How do we get them outta here?
- Was this a career-altering event?

Leadership

- How do we know we got everything?
- How bad was the compromise...really?
- What got compromised...exactly?
- What are our legal obligations?

Attractive Environments

- What Makes YOUR Environment Attractive to an Attacker?

- Highly Confidential Intellectual Property?
- Credit Card Data?
- Other Financial Resources & Transactions?
- Personally Identifiable Information?
- Health Information?

Still think you're not a target?


- “...though there were initial questions as to why a foodbank would be targeted...[he] quickly came to learn that such hacks are perpetrated by robots who do not see information as having belonged to the food bank, but rather a vulnerable IP address.”


Cybersecurity

**INCREASE
IN BREACHES
IN 2013¹**

**ORGANIZATIONS
HAVE EXPERIENCED
AN APT ATTACK⁴**



**TRILLION
TOTAL GLOBE
IMPACT OF
CYBERCRIM**

 **7½ MONTHS**
IS THE AVERAGE TIME
**AN ADVANCED THREAT
GOES UNNOTICED ON
VICTIM'S NETWORK²**

**2.5
BILLION** 
**EXPOSED RECORDS AS
A RESULT OF A DATA BREACH
IN THE PAST 5 YEARS⁵**

Enterprises are under siege from

SOURCES: 1. 2014 Internet Security Threat Report, Volume 19, Symantec, April 2014; 2. M-Trends 2014: Attack the Security Gap, Mandiant, April 2014; 3. Increased Cyber Security Can Save Global Economy Trillions, McKinsey/World Economic Forum, January 2014; 4. ISACA's 2014 APT Study, ISACA, April 2014; 5. An Executive's Guide to 2013 Data Breach Trends, Risk Based Security/Open Security Foundation, February 2014; 6. ISACA's 2014 APT Study, ISACA, April 2014; 7. ISACA's 2014 APT Study, ISACA, April 2014; 8. Code.org, February 2014; 9. 2014 Cisco Annual Security Report, Cisco, January 2014; 10. Cybersecurity Skills Haves and Have Nots, ESG, March 2014

MAY 2014



Targeting



Recon



Compromise



Persistence



Exfiltration

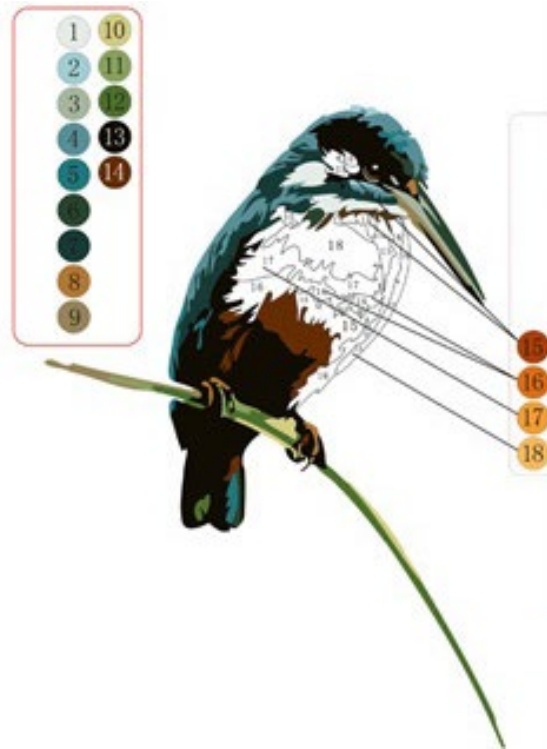




**BEING
BAD
AT ART**







Helpful Evidence

- Disk
- Logs
- RAM
- Configuration Settings
- Network Traffic
- Temporal Information



Importance of Preservation

- Change to 2013 HIPAA omnibus rule

[Incident] “is presumed to be a breach, unless the covered entity can demonstrate that there is a low probability that the PHI has been compromised”

- Expect others to follow

Case Study: That Shouldn't Be There!

- Financial services company is informed of client list indexed by Google
- Contains SSN, DOB...
- Loss of major client as a result of disclosure
- But, there's a silver lining...

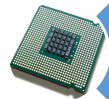
Preservation

Your Key to Digital Time Travel



Evidence Volatility

- Rate at which evidence disappears



Registers, Cache



Memory, Routing Tables, Process Tables



Temporary Files



Disk & Other “permanent” storage

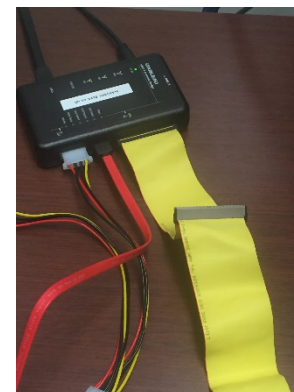


Logging & Monitoring Data



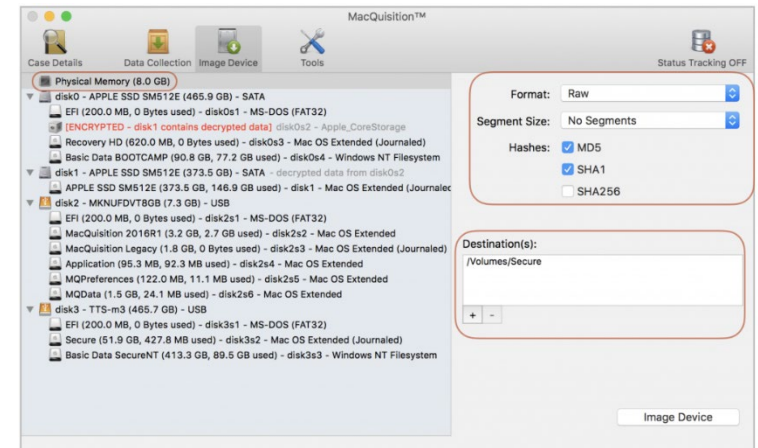
Archives

Evidence Preservation



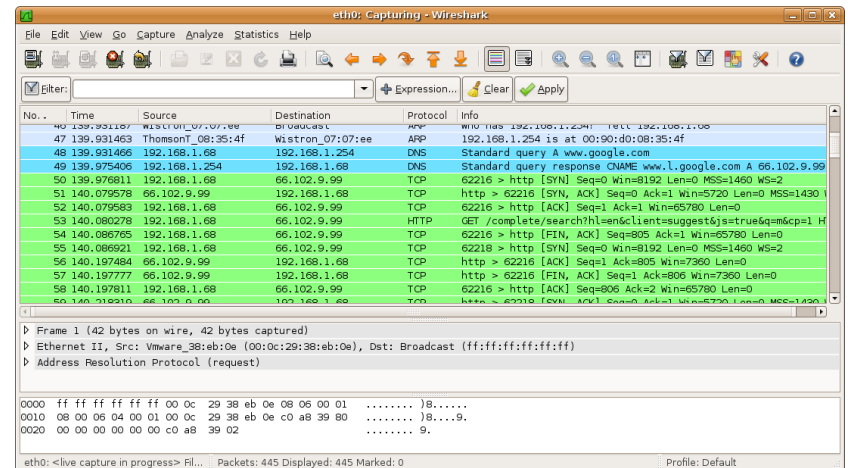
RAM Preservation

- FTK Imager
- Magnet Forensics Ram Capture
- Belkasoft Live RAM Capturer
- Mandiant Memoryze
- DumpIt
- MacQuisition
- Recon for Mac
- LiME



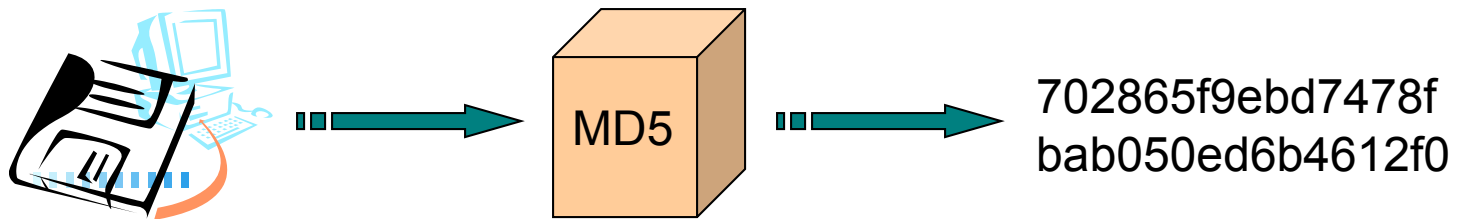
Network Traffic

- WireShark
- TCPDump



Authenticate

- Our Methodology
 - MD5 Hash – Digital Fingerprint



Authentication

- Authenticate:
 - Prove “no change”
 - Prove Clones ARE the Same
- Method
 - MD5 Hash (digital fingerprint)
 - Industry-standard, industry-recognized
 - 128-bit
 - 1 in 1×10^{38} chance for deceiving
 - 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
 - DNA Evidence is 1 in 1,000,000,000



Analysis

RAM Analysis

- What you can expect to find:
 - Encryption Keys (AES, RSA)
 - Passwords (Plaintext and encrypted)
 - Running processes
 - Keywords
 - Configuration settings
 - Malware, Rootkits, Worms

Case Study – What card would you like to use?

- Client provides shopping cart services for numerous clients
- Attacker used vulnerability to gain access
- Attempted to email credit card and other personally identifiable information (PII)

FileSystem Analysis

- What you can expect to find:
 - Evidence of persistence
 - Malware
 - Temporal data
 - Time-stomped MACE dates
 - Log files

Traffic Analysis

- Virtualization
 - Open Ports & Listeners
 - Processes
 - File, Registry & Memory Monitoring
- SandBox
 - Beaconsing
 - Ingress/Egress traffic analysis

Effective IR Plans

The 6 Ps

IR Plan Basics

- Who has lead responsibility
 - PR
 - IT
 - Legal
- 24x7 contact information
 - How to proceed if unreachable
- Update Cadence
- Prioritization of IT assets
- Preservation steps

IR Plan Basics

- Understand the criteria for notification
- Procedures for notifying LE or other organizations

Best Practices for Victim Response and Reporting of Cyber Incidents. US DOJ Cybersecurity Unit. April 2015.

Protect and Monitor

- Educate your users – repeatedly
- Collect and monitor logs
- Conduct periodic audits
 - Your environment and those connected to you



The Response

- Follow your plan
 - You do have one, right?!

The Response – Plan B

- Strike a balance between remediation and preservation
 - IT wants to remediate
 - Legal and IR team want and need to preserve
- Involve investigation team right away
- Understand the type of data on the compromised devices
 - Is the data encrypted?

The Response – Plan B

- Understand the genesis of the attack
- Understand what data was compromised
- Attempt to determine where the data went
 - Difficult when attack is from unknown entities

The Response – Plan B

- Create a signature of the threatening files
 - Scan environment to reveal additional infections



IR - Expected Time Frame

- IR team is usually on site same day or next day
 - However, this is dependent on up front planning
- “Bleeding” of data stopped in hours
 - May depend on appetite for shutting down internet connection

IR - Expected Time Frame

- Days to weeks to determine:
 - How incident occurred
 - What data was leaked
 - Where data went
- Again, heavily dependent on up front work

Conclusion

- Start with the **end in mind**.
- Up front planning is essential to achieving a proper and expedient response with **manageable costs**
- Ensure you're capturing, saving and managing data **long enough**.
- IR team needs to be consulted immediately **before** any **clean-up** occurs
- Proper preparations for any attack can give your company an advantage

Q&A

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