Watering Hole Attacks:
Detect End-User Compromise
Before the Damage is Done



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About AlienVault

AlienVault has unified the security products, intelligence and community essential for mid-sized businesses to defend against today's modern threats





Agenda

- How Watering Hole attacks work
- What attackers do next to infiltrate the network
- Why detecting these attacks is tricky
- Demo: How to detect Watering Hole attacks with AlienVault USM

Watering Hole Attack in 4 Easy Steps

1. Determine target group

- Attacker identifies websites to target based on observation or guessing
- Compromises a well-known, legitimate site to avoid blacklist issues

2. Identify vulnerabilities on those websites

Test web servers, ad servers, web apps, etc for vulnerabilities to exploit

3. Inject threat into website

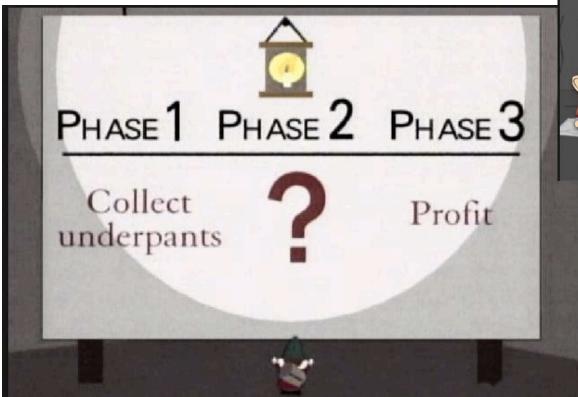
For example, inject HTML or JavaScript to redirect victims to sites hosting malware

4. Sit in the tall grass and wait for targets

- Redirected from compromised site
- Eventually compromised by download of malware
- Even more effective with e-mail spear-phishing campaign



What happens next?





No seriously, what happens next??

- Grab credentials of current user
- → Browse the domain
- Exfiltrate data

How do you detect this?

Tricky to detect because...

- Firewall won't catch it
 - Attack is executed via an existing, permitted session
- Anti-virus is unlikely to catch it
 - 82,000 new malware variants released every day*
- Won't leave a trace in the system logs
 - Occurs through a web-browser which doesn't result in any log entries

So, what will catch it?

Network Intrusion Detection and effective correlation



AlienVault USM™



Asset Discovery

- Active Network Scanning
- Passive Network Scanning
- Asset Inventory
- Host-based Software Inventory

Vulnerability Assessment

- Network Vulnerability Testing
- Remediation Verification

Threat Detection

- Network IDS
- Host IDS
- Wireless IDS
- File Integrity Monitoring

Behavioral Monitoring

- Log Collection
- Netflow Analysis
- Service Availability Monitoring

Security Intelligence

- SIEM Event Correlation
- Incident Response

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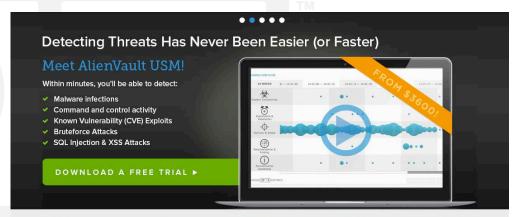
Now Lets See It In Action

ALIEN VAULT

Thank You! Any Questions?

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- Try Our Product Sandbox http://www.alienvault.com/live-demo-site













More Questions? Email Hello@AlienVault.com