





## Joint Internet Society, CITEL and ITU Workshop on Combating SPAM

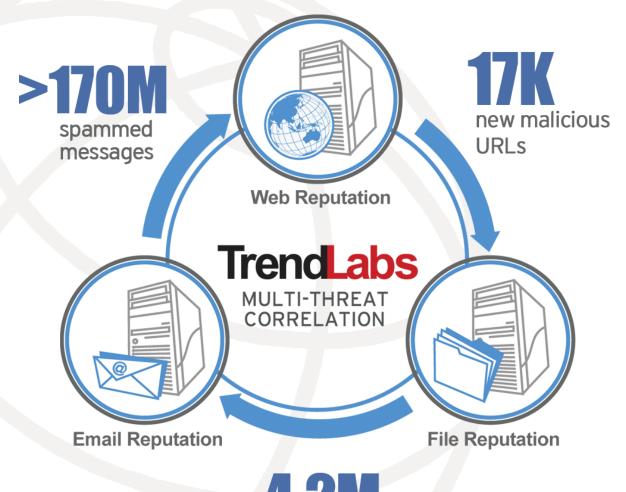
(Mendoza, Argentina, 7 October 2013)

## Rethinking Spam The Evolution of a Threat Vector

Paul J.S. Oliveria
Security Focus Lead, Trend Micro

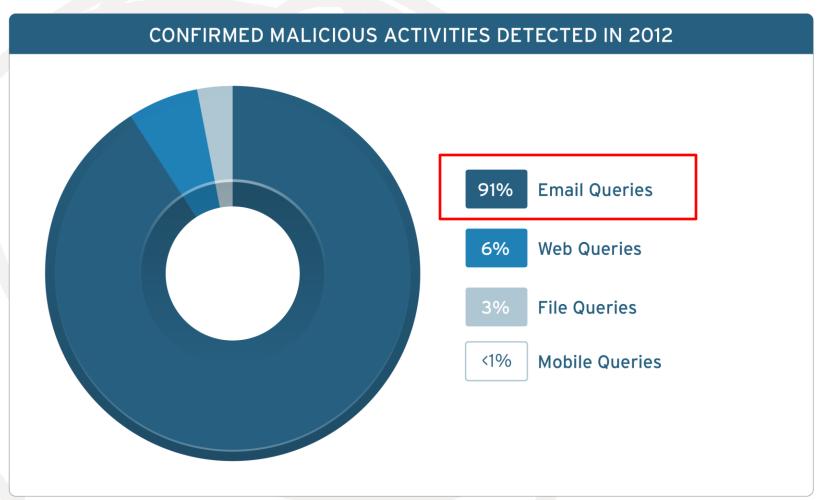
Paul Oliveria@trendmicro.com

## On a typical day, Trend Micro identifies...

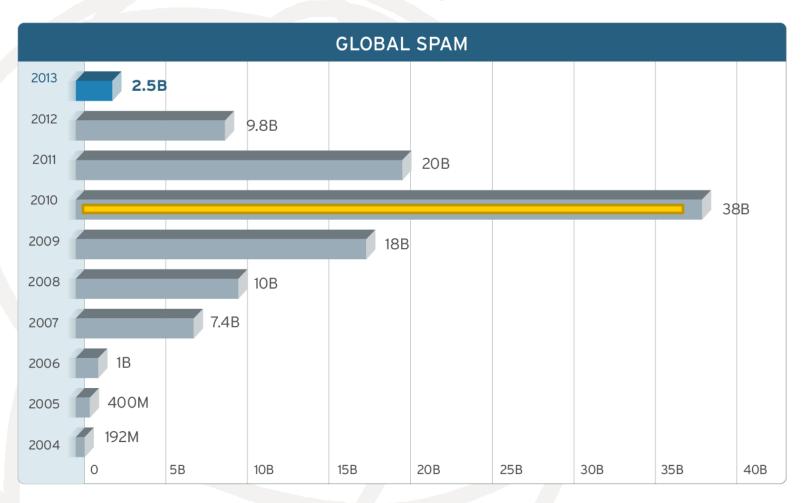


4.2M malicious files

## **Email is BULK of malicious** activities



## Massive impact of BOTNET TAKEDOWNS



#### **Spam is GLOBAL**

100%

#### 2012 TOP 10 SPAM-SENDING COUNTRIES India 13% Saudi Arabia 8% **United States** 6% South Korea 4% 5 Peru 4% Vietnam 4% Turkey 4% Brazil 4% 8 Russia 3% Indonesia 2% Others 49%

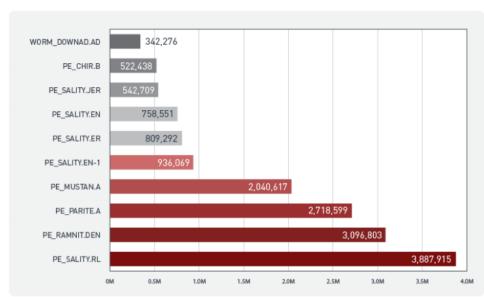
**TOTAL** 

	2012 TOP 10 SPAM LANGUAGES	
0	English	88.64%
2	Russian	2.03%
3	Italian	1.59%
4	Japanese	1.39%
6	Chinese	0.97%
6	German	0.61%
7	Portuguese	0.26%
8	Spanish	0.22%
9	Slovak	0.20%
10	French	0.09%
	Others	4.01%
	TOTAL	100%

#### LAR is not immune



Top 10 Malware in the Americas and the Caribbean in 2012



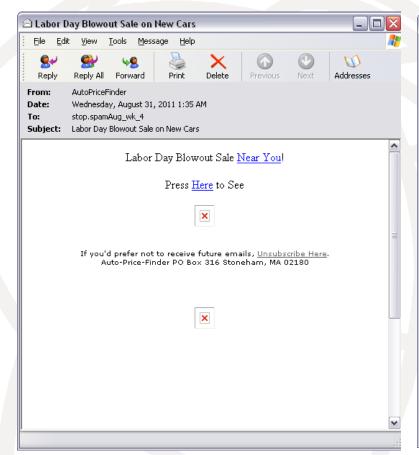
Source: Trend Micro™ Smart Protection Network™

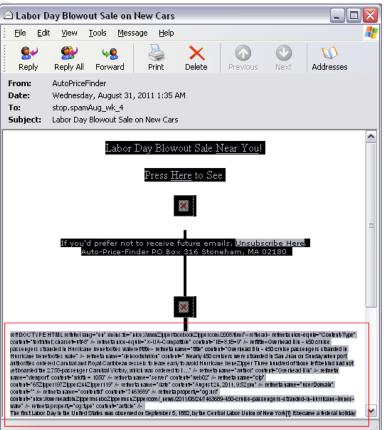
#### **Spamming as a Service (SaaS)**

OFFERING	PRICE	
Cheap email spamming service	US\$10 pero 1,000,000 emails	
• Expensive email spamming service using a customer database	US\$50-500 per 50,000-1,000,000 emails	
SMS spamming service	US\$3-150 per 100-10,000 text messages	
• ICQ spamming service	US\$3-20 per 50,000-1,000,000 messages	
• 1-hour ICQ flooding service	US\$2	
• 24-hour ICQ flooding service	US\$30	
• Email flooding service	US\$3 for 1,000 emails	
• 1-hour call flooding service (i.e., typically takes call center services down	US\$2-5	
• 1-day call flooding service	US\$20-50	
• 1-week call flooding service	US\$100	
SMS flooding service	US\$15 for 1,000 text messages	
Vkontante.ru account database	US\$5-10 for 500 accounts	
Mail.ru address database	US\$1.30-19.47 per 100-5,000 addresses	
Yandex.ru address database	US\$7-500 per 1,000-100,000 addresses	
Skype SMS spamming tool	US\$40	
• Email spamming and flooding tool	US\$40	

## SPAM TRENDS AND TECHNIQUES

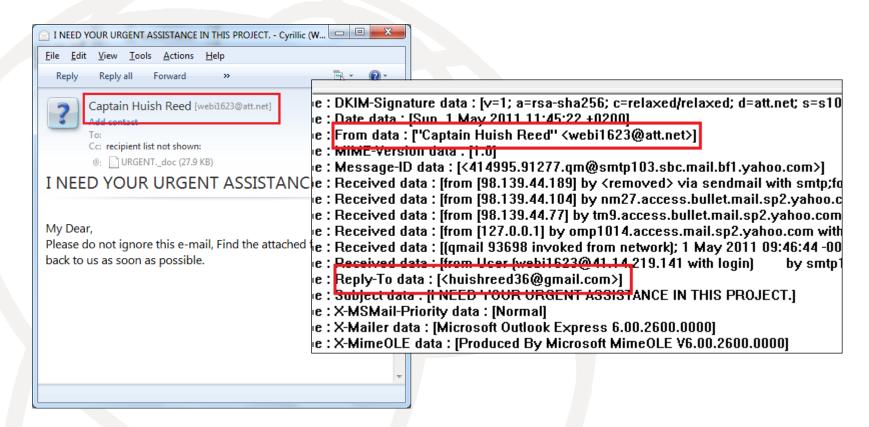
#### "Invisible Ink"





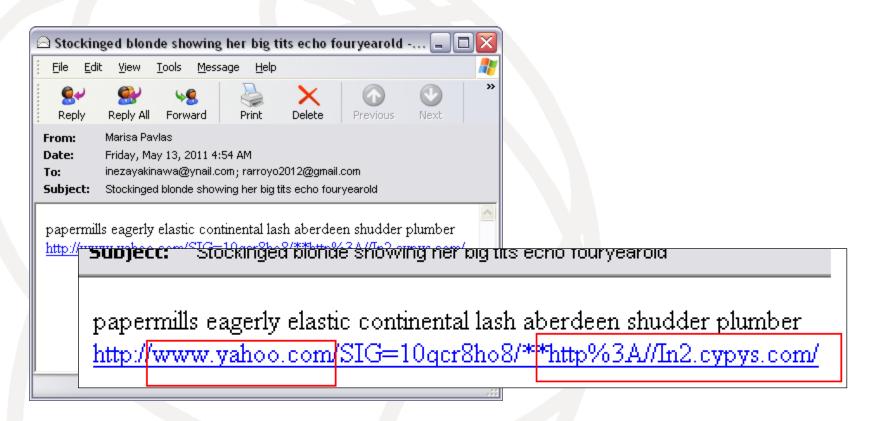
Concealment via HTTP formatting

#### Forging header info



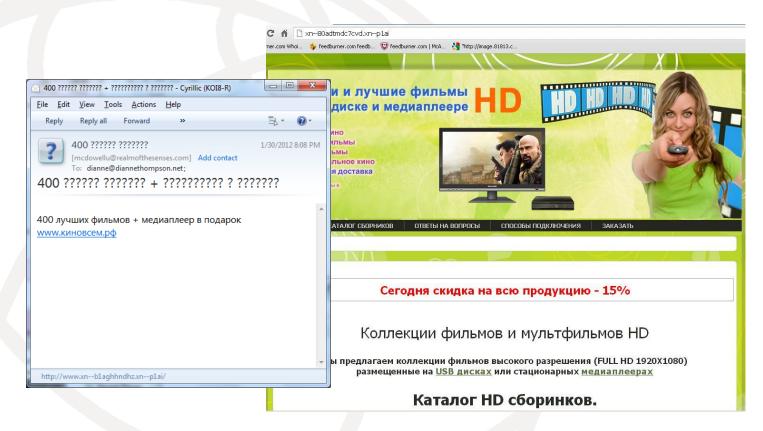
Adding fake header info to hide original source

## URL redirection using popular sites



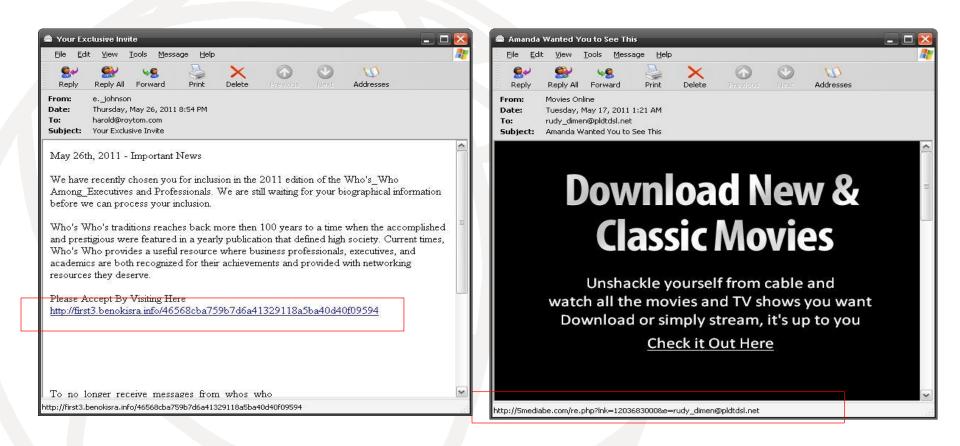
Inclusion of popular sites in links

## Obfuscating URLs ("Punycoded" URLs)



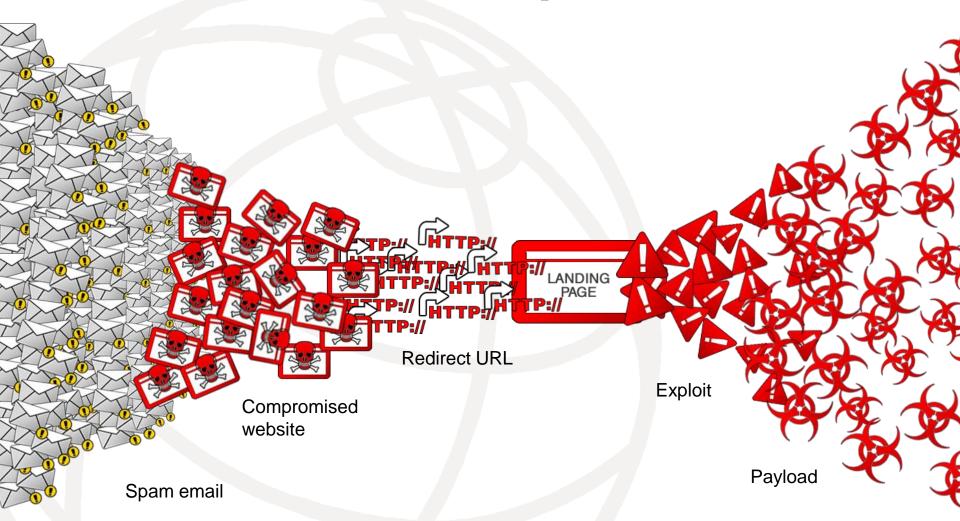
Converting Unicode characters to ACII characters

#### Web bugs

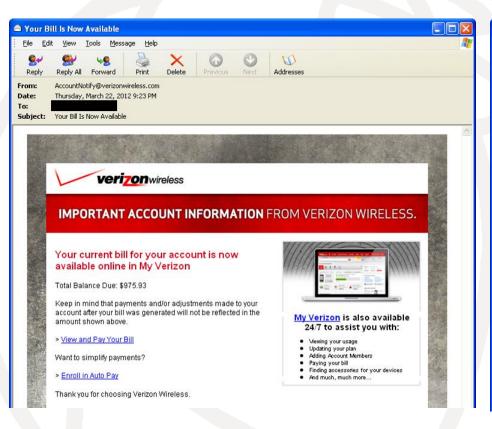


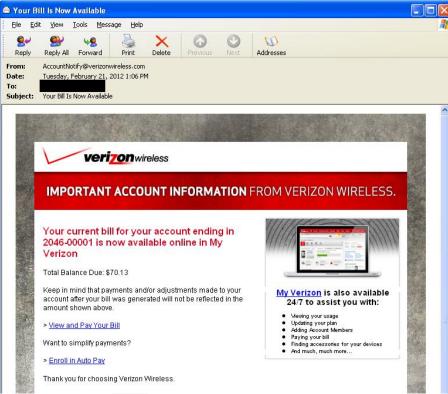
Tracking IDs to check active addresses

#### **Blackhole Exploit Kit**



#### **Real or Not Real?**

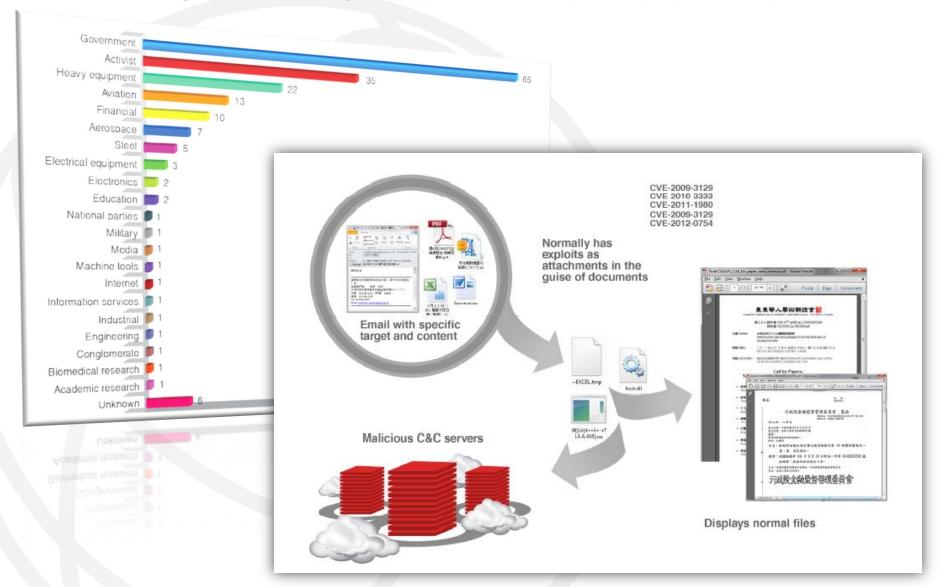




Phish: http://moriahfoundation.org/DRk5XAM2/index.html

Legit: https://nbillpay.verizonwireless.com/vzw/accountholder/mybill/BillingSummary.action

## Spear-phishing email: most favored APT attack bait



#### Conclusion

- The number of spam will continue to decrease as solutions become "basic"
- The number of traditional spam will decrease as new vectors emerge
- Threat actors will design highly targeted attacks using <u>customized</u> <u>spam</u>
- Spam will <u>still be "sexy"</u> for cybercriminals

# Maraming Salamat Po!



