Op EvilTraffic CSE CybSec ZLAB Malware Analysis Report – Exclusive, tens of thousands of compromised sites involved in a new massive malvertising campaign

securityaffairs.co/wordpress/68059/cyber-crime/eviltraffic-malvertising-campaign.html

January 22, 2018

January 22, 2018 By Pierluigi Paganini

Malware experts at CSE Cybsec uncovered a massive malvertising campaign dubbed EvilTraffic leveraging tens of thousands compromised websites. Crooks exploited some CMS vulnerabilities to upload and execute arbitrary PHP pages used to generate revenues via advertising.

In the last days of 2017, researchers at CSE Cybsec observed threat actors exploiting some CMS vulnerabilities to upload and execute arbitrary PHP pages used to generate revenues via advertising. The huge malvertising campaign was dubbed EvilTraffic

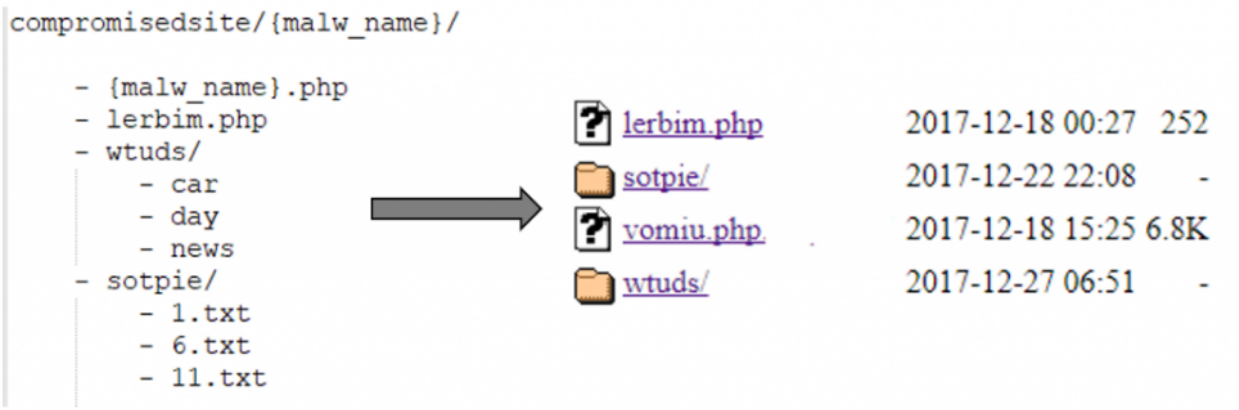
The compromised websites involved in the EvilTraffic campaign run various versions of the popular WordPress CMS. Once a website has been compromised, attackers will upload a "zip" file containing all the malicious files. Despite the "*zip*" file has different name for each infection, when it is uncompressed, the files contained in it have always the same structure. We have found some of these archives not used yet, so we analyzed their content.

The malicious files are inserted under a path referring probably different versions of the same malware ("vomiu", "blsnxw", "yrpowe", "hkfoeyw", "aqkei", "xbiret", "slvkty").

Under this folder there are:

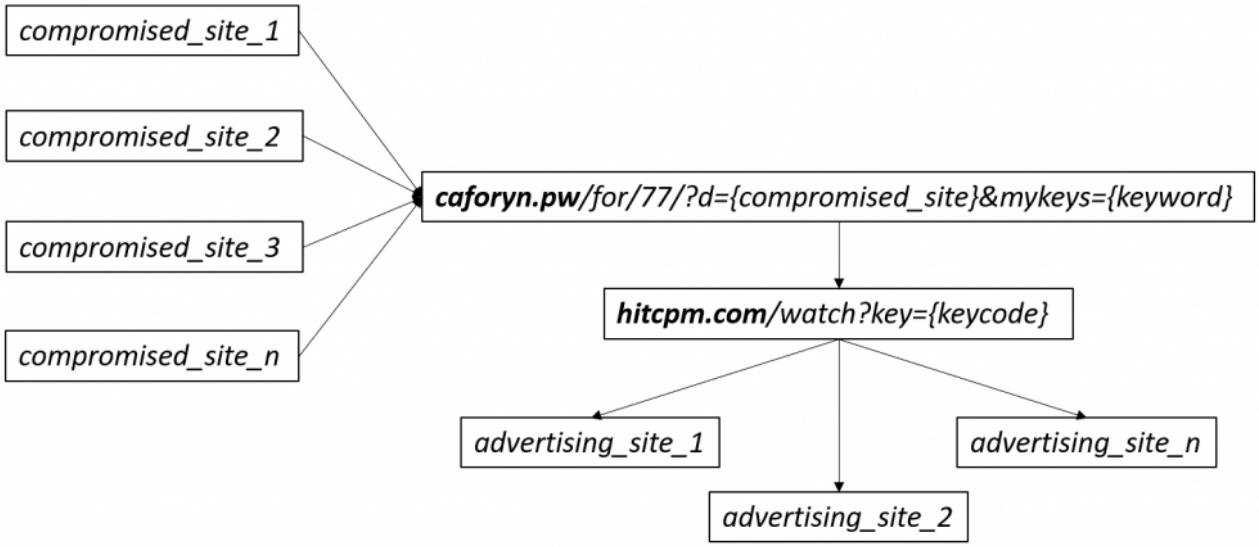
- a php file, called “lerbim.php”;
- a php file, that has the same name of the parent dir; it has initially *“.suspected”* extension and only in a second time, using “lerbim.php” file, it would be changed in *“.php”* file;
- two directories, called “wtuds” and “sotpie”, containing a series of files.

An example of this structure is shown in the following figure:



The main purpose of the “malware” used in the EvilTraffic campaign is to trigger a redirecting chain through at least two servers which generate advertising traffic.

The file “{malw_name}.php” becomes the core of all this context: if it is contacted by the user through the web browser, it redirects the flow first to “caforyn.pw” and then to “hitcpm.com”, which acts as a dispatcher to different sites registered to this revenue chain.



These sites could be used by attackers to offer commercial services that aim to increase traffic for their customers, but this traffic is generated in an illegal way by compromising websites. The sites could host also fraudulent pages which pretend to download suspicious stuff (i.e. Toolbars, browser extensions or fake antivirus) or steal sensitive data (i.e. credit card information).

In order to increase the visibility of the web, the compromised sites must have a good page-rank on search engines. So, the malware performs SEO Poisoning by leveraging on wordlist containing the trending searched words

The population of the compromised site with the wordlists and their relative query results is triggered contacting the main PHP using a specific User-Agent on a path *"{malw_name}/{malw_name}.php?vm={keyword}"*.

Researchers from CSE CybSec ZLab discovered roughly 18.100 compromised websites.

While researchers were analyzing the EvilTraffic malvertising campaign, they realized that most of the compromised websites used in the first weeks of the attacks have been cleaned up in the last days. just in one week, the number of compromised websites dropped from around 35k to 18k.

According to Alexa Traffic Rank, hitcpm.com is ranked number 132 in the world and 0.2367% of global Internet users visit it. Below are reported some traffic statistics related to hitcpm.com provided by hypestat.com

Daily Unique Visitors	**1,183,500**
Monthly Unique Visitors	35,505,000
Pages per visit	1.41
Daily Pageviews	1,668,735

The analysis of the traffic shows an exponential increase in the traffic during October 2017.

Experts discovered that crooks behind the Operation EvilTraffic used a malicious software to hijack traffic, it acts as brows a browser hijacker. The malware is distributed via various methods, such as:

- Attachment of junk mail
- Downloading freeware program via unreliable site
- Open torrent files and click on malicious links
- By playing online games
- By visiting compromised websites

The main purpose of the malware is to hijack web browsers changing browser settings such as DNS, settings, homepage etc. in order to redirect as more traffic as possible to the dispatcher site.

Further technical details about this campaign, including IoCs, are available in the report titled:

"***Tens of thousands of compromised*** web sites ***involved in new massive malvertising campaign***"

You can download the full ZLAB Malware Analysis Report at the following URL:

http://csecybsec.com/download/zlab/20180121_CSE_Massive_Malvertising_Report.pdf

Pierluigi Paganini

(Security Affairs – malvertising campaign, EvilTraffic)

Black SeoEvilTrafficHackingmalvertising campaignmalwareWordpress

Share On

You might also like

Experts believe that Russian Gamaredon APT could fuel a new round of DDoS attacks

May 28, 2022 By Pierluigi Paganini

There you can buy or download for free private and compromising data of your competitors. We public schemes, drawings, technologies, political and military secrets, accounting reports and clients databases. All this things were gathered from the largest worldwide companies, conglomerates and concerns with every activity. We gather data using vunlerability in their IT infrastructure. in their IT infrastructure.

Industrial spy team processes huge massives every day to devide you results. You can fid it in their portal:

http://[redacted]

(Tor browser required)

We can save your time gaining your own goals or goals of your company.With our information you could refuse partnership with unscrupulous partner, reveal dirty secrets of your competitors and enemies and earn millions dollars using insider information.

"He who owns the information, owns the world"

Nathan Mayer Rothschild

The strange link between Industrial Spy and the Cuba ransomware operation

May 28, 2022 By Pierluigi Paganini

Back to top

- Home
- Cyber Crime
- Cyber warfare

- APT
- Data Breach
- Deep Web
- Digital ID
- Hacking
- Hacktivism
- Intelligence
- Internet of Things
- Laws and regulations
- Malware
- Mobile
- Reports
- Security
- Social Networks
- Terrorism
- ICS-SCADA
- EXTENDED COOKIE POLICY
- Contact me