The snooping dragon:

social-malware surveillance of the Tibetan movement

History

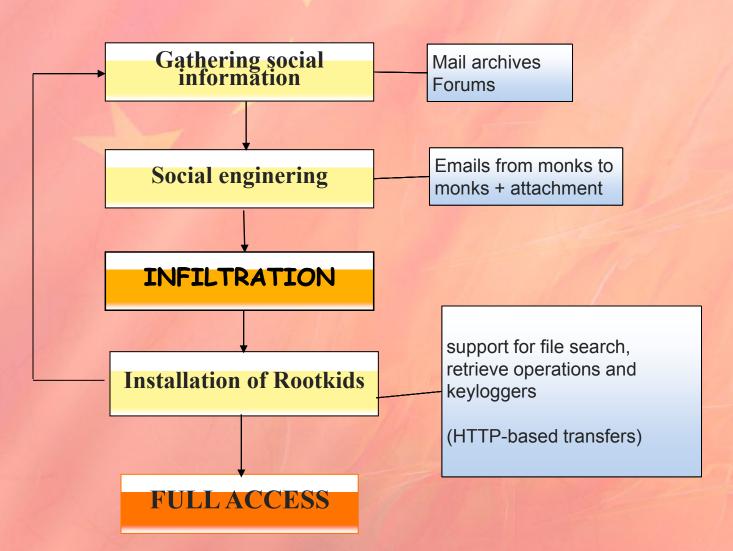
- Chinese invasion in 1950
- Uprising in 1959 Dalai Lama escaped
- OHHDL (Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)
- Diplomatic and foreign meetings, Refugees
- IT (emails, web, forums, documents, DB)
- Secret contents

The attack

Suspicion and Help from ONI-Asia

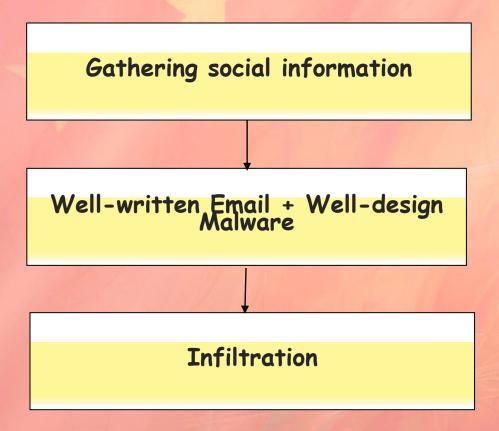
- Investigation:
 - connections to mail server from IPs in China an Hongkong)
 - suspicious file transfers
 - fraud emails with infected attachments

Assumptive Progression



Social Malware

From Social Phishing



Amaters!!!

- 1st mistake:
 - No operational security
 - No proxy, no anonymisers
 - Direct connections from Xinjiang Provice
- 2nd mistake:
 - Exposure



Analysis

 The attack carried out by governmental entities but possibly by motivated individual

Required skills:

Programing + Social Skills

Today good-quality malware available on the Internet:

Lamas or Llamas?

- Tibetan Security Model
 - users trusted will work sensibly
 - Sensitive files on local filesystem
 - No separation of sensitive and risky activities
- Capable Administrators



Countermeasures

- System of information clasification
- Use of systems with solid MAC support (SELinux, Trusted Solaris etc.)
- Operational security
- Red Team
- REALITY: expensive with high administrative cost. Many companies will not adopt.

Authors' Predictions

- Social response to the threat will be slow
- Users will be advised to work sensitivly without exactely specifing how
- Avoiding Redresses 'wicked' contract terms
- Firms will not change their security models
- Hackers adopting social malware will have lovely times next few years.



Thank you for your attention