

Cyber Security in a World with Professional Attackers

Todd Heberlein
Net Squared, Inc.
19 OCT 2012

ISSA Sacramento
<http://www.issa-sac.org/meetings/index.php?View=2012101901>

Overview

- Today's emerging threat environment
- We are failing
- Glowing Embers
- Crossing the air gap
- Thoughts on “Advanced Persistent Threats”
- Google, the APT you have

Today's Emerging Threat Environment

Five Most Famous (or Infamous) Pretexters

1. Kevin Mitnick

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Marshals Service

WANTED BY U.S. MARSHALS

NOTICE TO ARRESTING AGENCY: Inactive arrest, voidable warrant through National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
United States Marshals Service NCIC entry number: (NCIC) 0224440021.

NAME:MITNICK, KEVIN DAVID
AKA (S):MITNICK, KEVIN DAVID
 HEARILL, BRIAN ALLEN

DESCRIPTION:

Sex:MALE
Race:WHITE
Place of Birth:TAY BOTS, CALIFORNIA
Date (S) of Birth:08/06/63; 10/18/70
Height:5'11"
Weight:190
Eyes:BROWN
Hair:BROWN
Skin (S):LIGHT
Scars, Marks, Tattoos:NONE KNOWN
Social Security Number (S):550-39-5495
NCIC Fingerprint Classification:DQNGGNG30EPH19PM09

ADDRESS AND LOCALITY KNOWN TO RESIDE IN THE SAN JERONIMO VALLEY AREA OF CALIFORNIA AND
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

WANTED FOR: VIOLATION OF SUPERINTENDENT RELEASE
ORIGINAL CHARGES: POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; COMPUTER FRAUD
Warrant issued: CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
Warrant Number: 9312-1182-0254-C

DATE WARRANT ISSUED: NOVEMBER 10, 1992

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION: SUBJECT SUFFERS FROM A WEIGHT PROBLEM AND MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED
WEIGHT GAIN OR WEIGHT LOSS

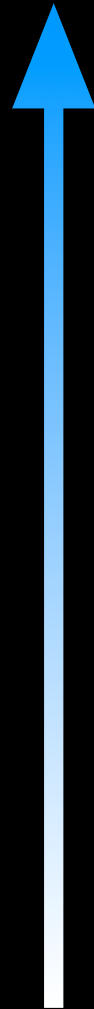


Yesterday's APT



Today's APT

Skills



Nation States

Cyber Militias

Cyber Espionage

Criminal Organizations

Hacker Groups

Hackers



Techniques
& Tools

When sophisticated organizations conduct attacks, at some point the attack is captured and analyzed

Google: **stuxnet analysis**
flame analysis
gauss malware analysis

These analyses create blueprints and teach techniques for building future threats

 **FEDBIZOPPS.GOV** Federal Business Opportunities 

Home Getting Started General Info Opportunities Agencies

Buyers: [Login](#) | [Register](#) Vendors: [Login](#) | [Register](#)

 **U.S. AIR FORCE**

Cyberspace Warfare Operations Capabilities (CWOC)
Solicitation Number: FA8707-12-R-0011
Agency: Department of the Air Force
Office: Air Force Materiel Command
Location: ESC - Electronic Systems Center

Technical Description: The ESC/HSJG Program Office is an organization focused on the development and sustainment of **Cyberspace Warfare Attack capabilities** that directly support Cyberspace Warfare capabilities for the operational Air Force.

★ FEDBIZOPPS.GOV Business Opportunities

Home Getting Started General Info

 **Plan X Proposers' Day Workshop**
Solicitation Number: DARPA-SN-12-51
Agency: Other Defense Agencies
Office: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
Location: Contracts Management Office

The objective of the Plan X program is to create revolutionary **technologies for understanding, planning, and managing cyberwarfare** in real-time, large-scale, and dynamic network environments.

★ FEDBIZOPPS.GOV Business Opportunities

Home Getting Started General Info

 **Plan X Proposers' Day Workshop**
Solicitation Number: DARPA-SN-12-51
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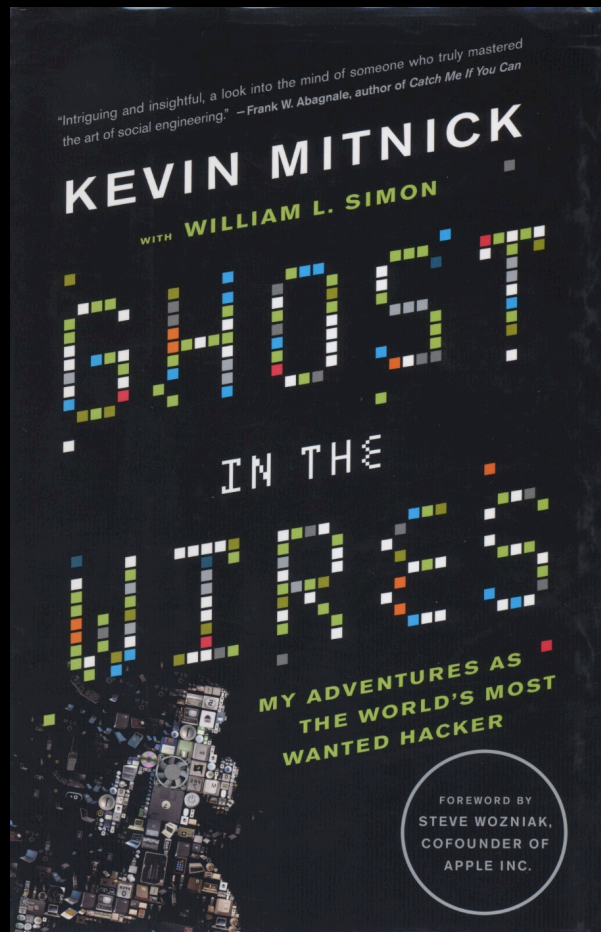
Please note that the Plan X Proposers' Day Workshop has been rescheduled to 15 and 16 October 2012, due to an unanticipated and **overwhelming response from industry and academia.**

Do you think business and national adversaries aren't doing the same thing?

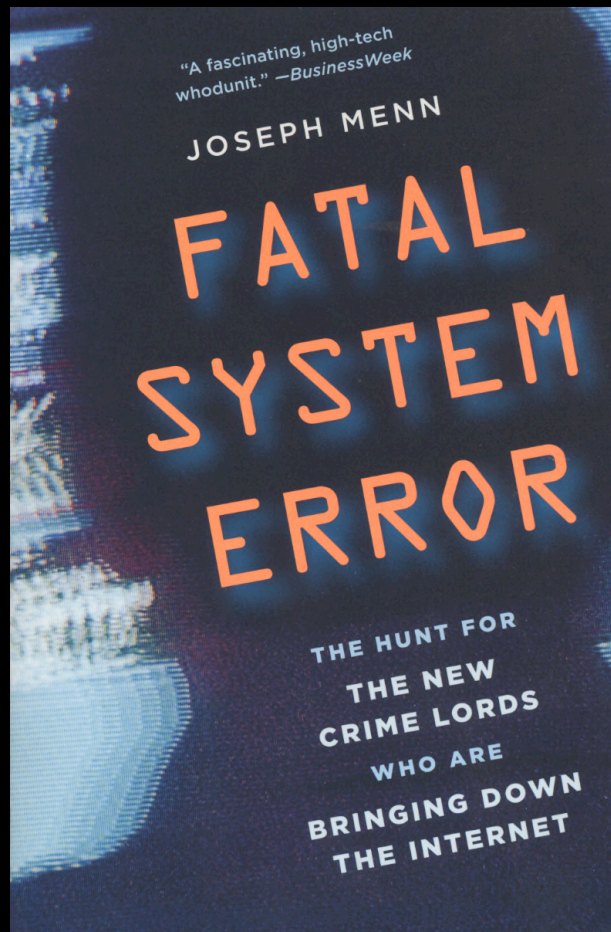
This is the reality that we need to prepare ourselves for.

What the most advanced nation states are capable of today
are what you should expect to see tomorrow

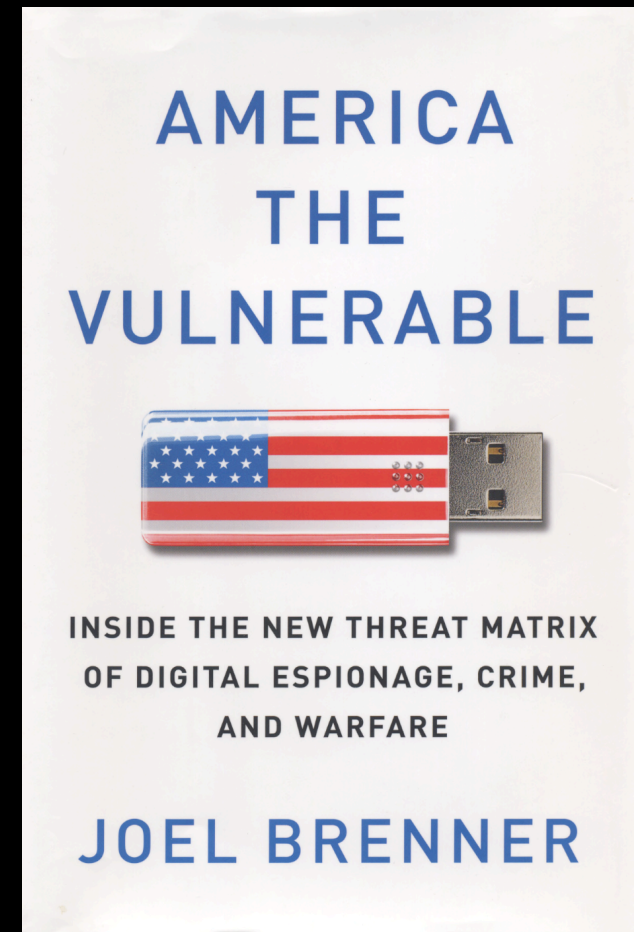
Recommended readings



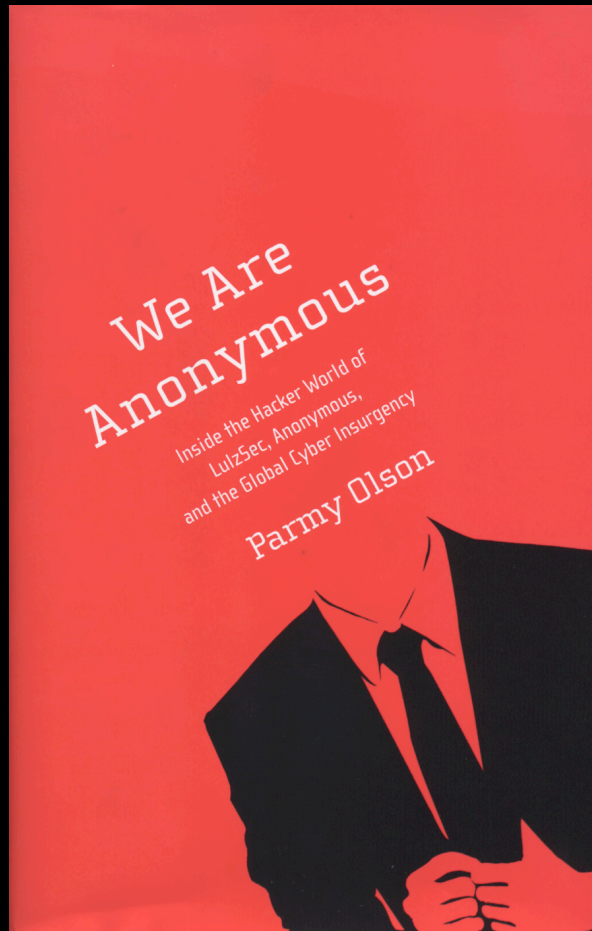
Hackers



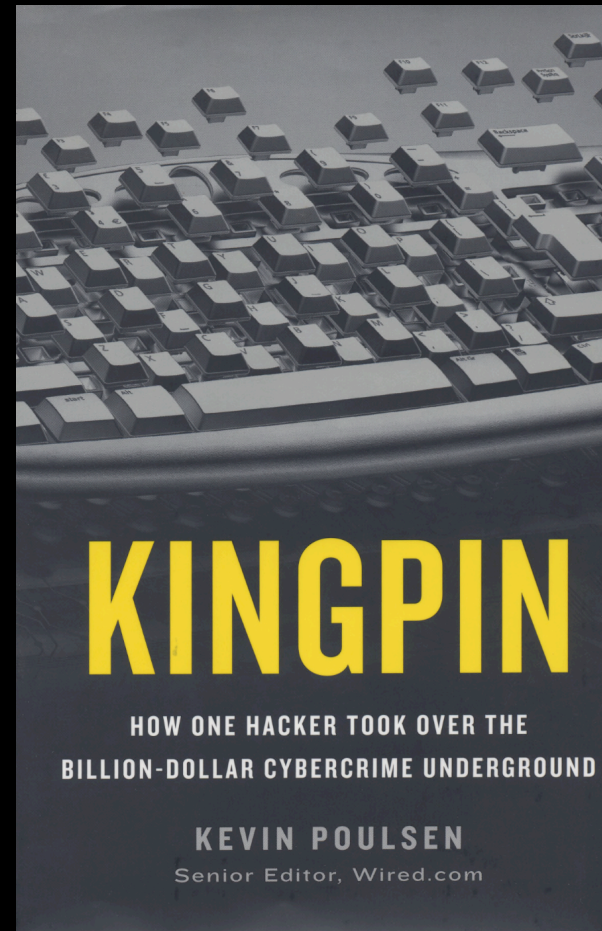
Cyber Crime



Cyber Warfare



Hackers



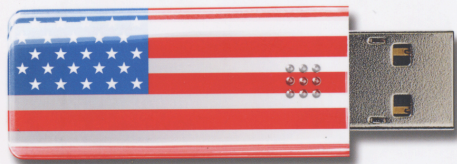
Cyber Crime

We are currently failing

“It’s the greatest transfer of wealth in history.”

– General Keith Alexander,
Commander, U.S. Cyber Command

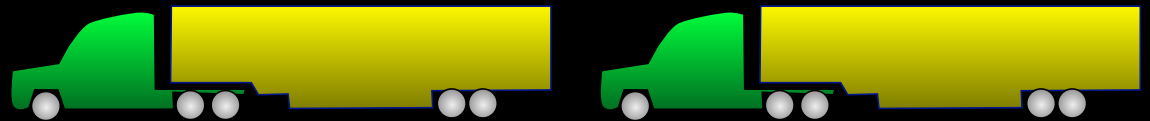
AMERICA THE VULNERABLE



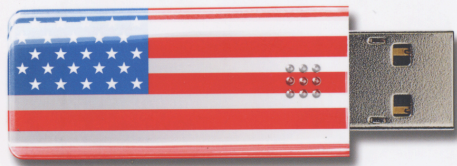
INSIDE THE NEW THREAT MATRIX
OF DIGITAL ESPIONAGE, CRIME,
AND WARFARE

JOEL BRENNER

In August 2006, Major General William Lord of the Air Force let the public in on the secret when he mentioned that massive heist of up to **twenty terabytes**.



AMERICA THE VULNERABLE

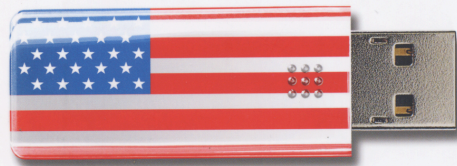


INSIDE THE NEW THREAT MATRIX
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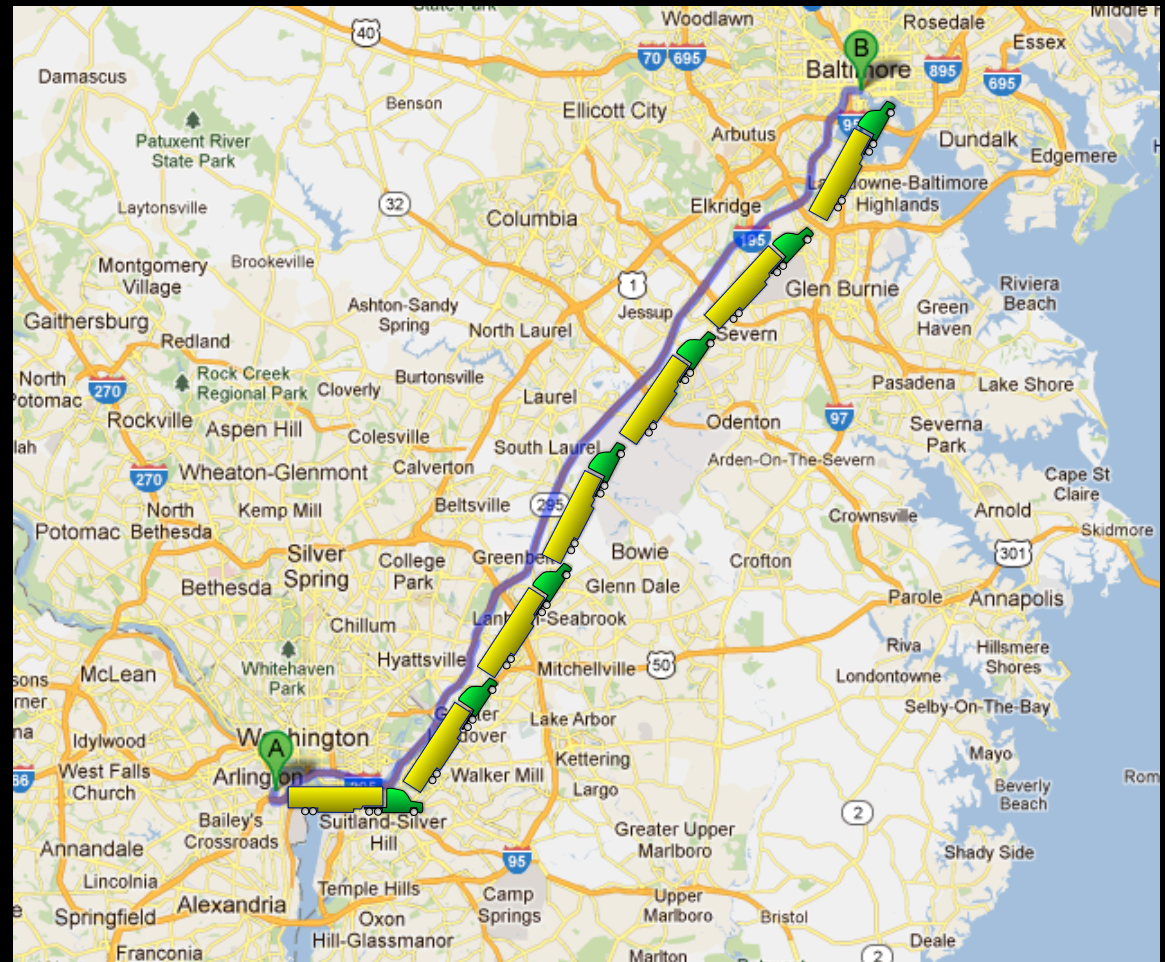


AMERICA THE VULNERABLE



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AND WARFARE

JOEL BRENNER



“It’s the greatest transfer of wealth in history.”

– General Keith Alexander,
Commander, U.S. Cyber Command

“There are two existential threats to the United States of America. One is the nuclear weapons that the Russians have. ... The other existential threat is cyber.”

– Admiral Mike Mullen, the former Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Market maturity: 20-25 years

Market size: \$70 Billion

Annual losses: \$200-1000 Billion

“stop spending on technology that doesn’t work. Investments in legacy security standbys (hello AV, firewalls et. al.) need to be tempered” and “Signature-based defenses don’t work anymore”

– Peter Kuper of In-Q-Tel

“Signature-based malware detection has been limping along on life support for years, yet vendors seem unwilling to aggressively invest in more-effective solutions, preferring to ‘tweak’ the existing paradigm”

– Gartner

“The security industry's going to have to think about selling solutions that actually work with this type of environment. ... Basically nothing that people have bought over the last 16 years is going to help”

– Alex Stamos of Isec Partners

Why is the cyber security market in chaos?
The rise of professional attackers

Professional attackers have broken the security industry's business model

Subscription model

Signatures have recurring value

Signatures deployed before most attacks

Detection is automated & binary

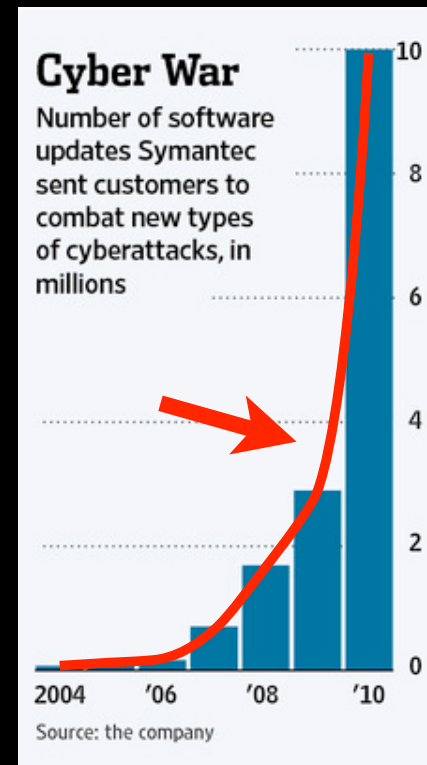
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE BUSINESS | DECEMBER 16, 2011

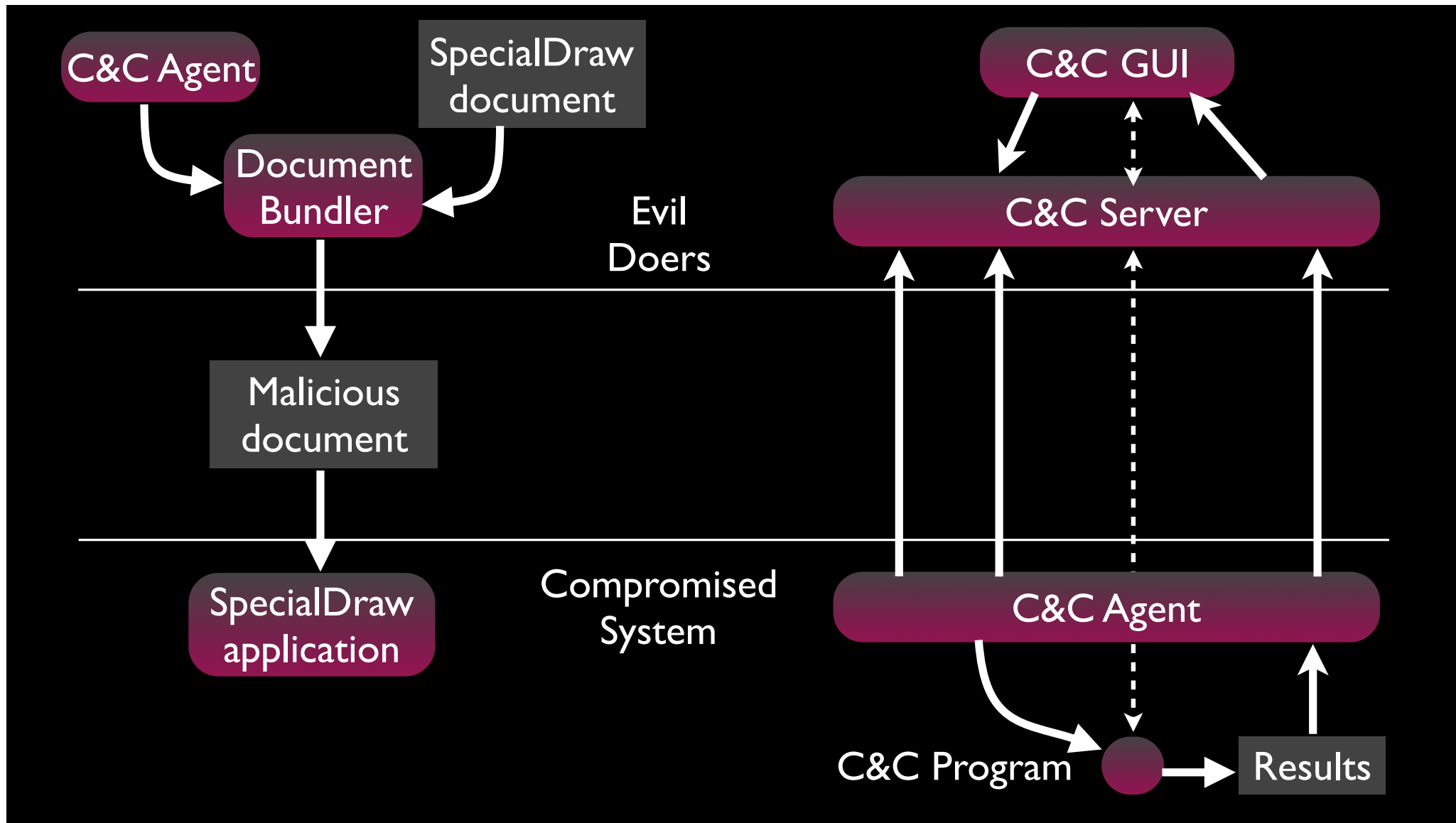
Will U.S. Businesses Finally Get Some Cybersecurity?

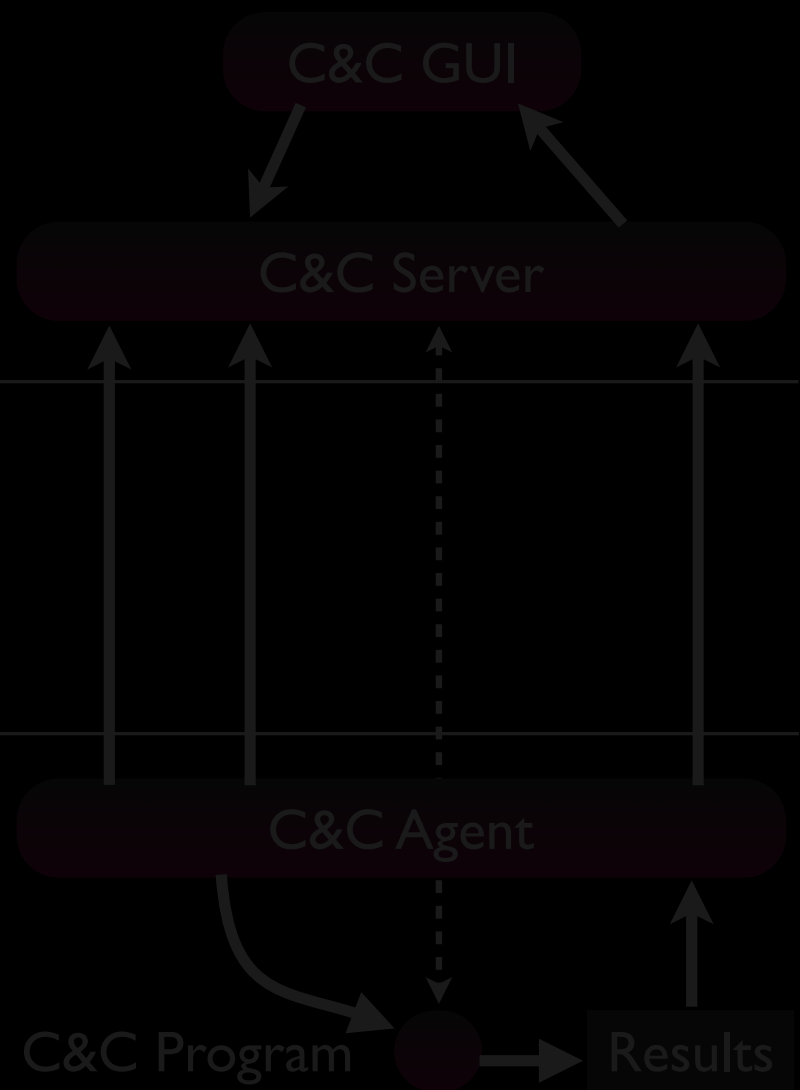
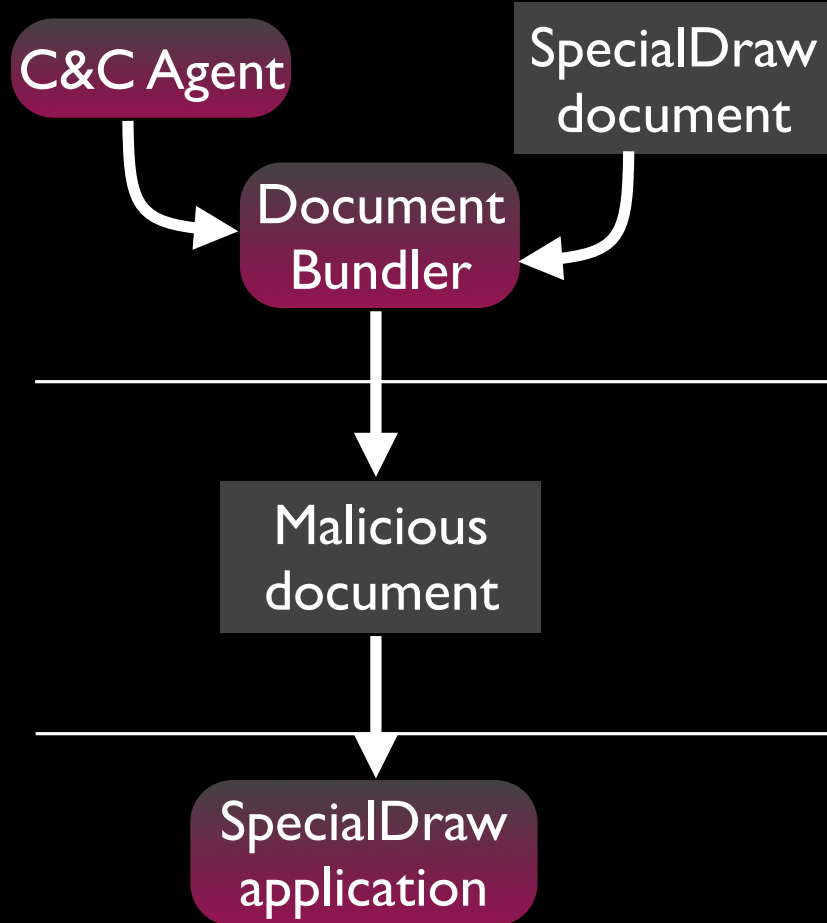
By JOHN BUSSEY

Symantec estimates about
55,000 new pieces of
malware are created each day



Glowing Embers Video







Human Errors Fuel Hacking as Test Shows Nothing Stops Idiocy

By Cliff Edwards, Olga Kharif and Michael Riley - Jun 27, 2011 11:48 AM PT

 ADD TO QUEUE

 Recommend 15

 Tweet 850

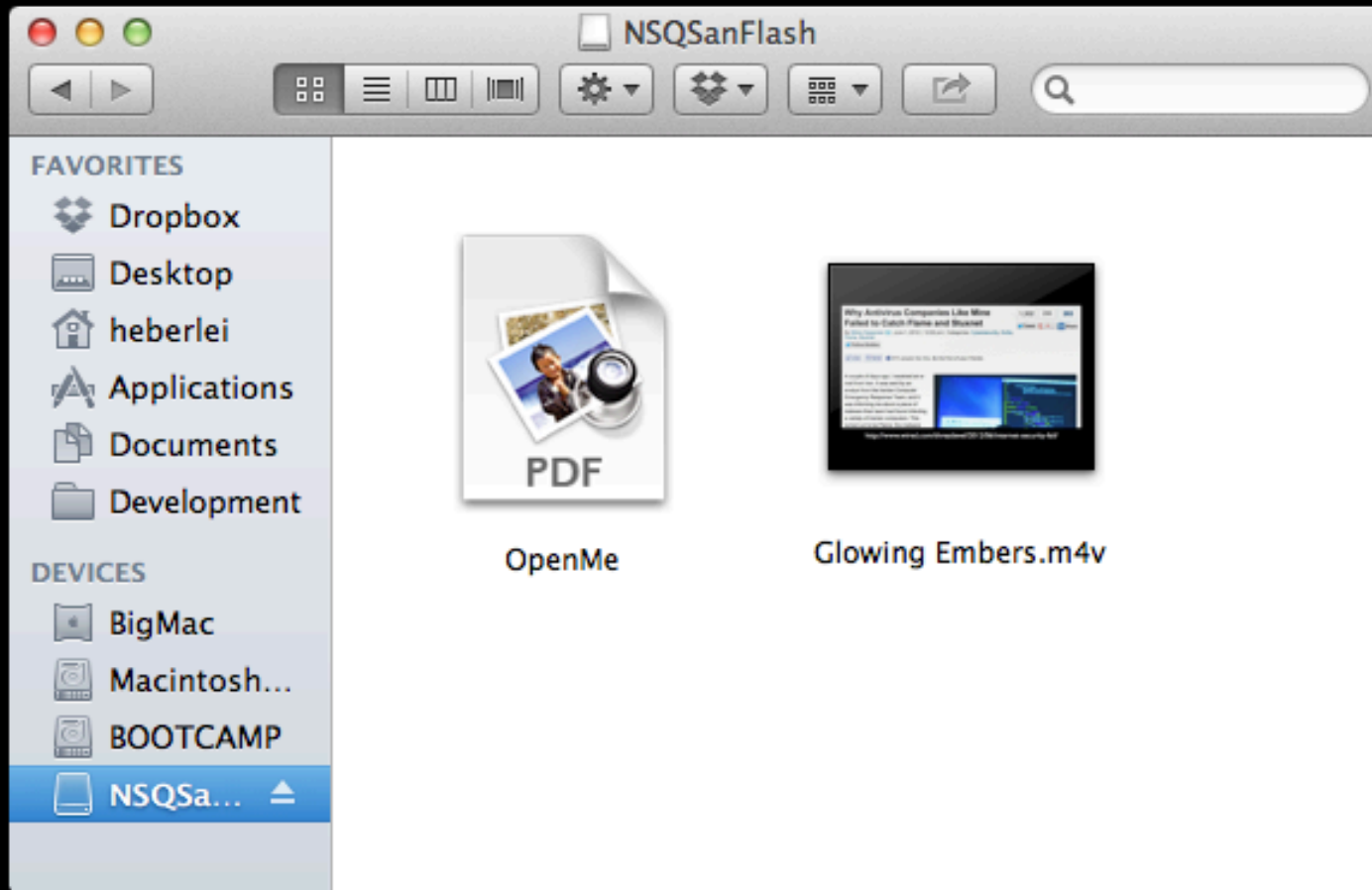
 Share 30

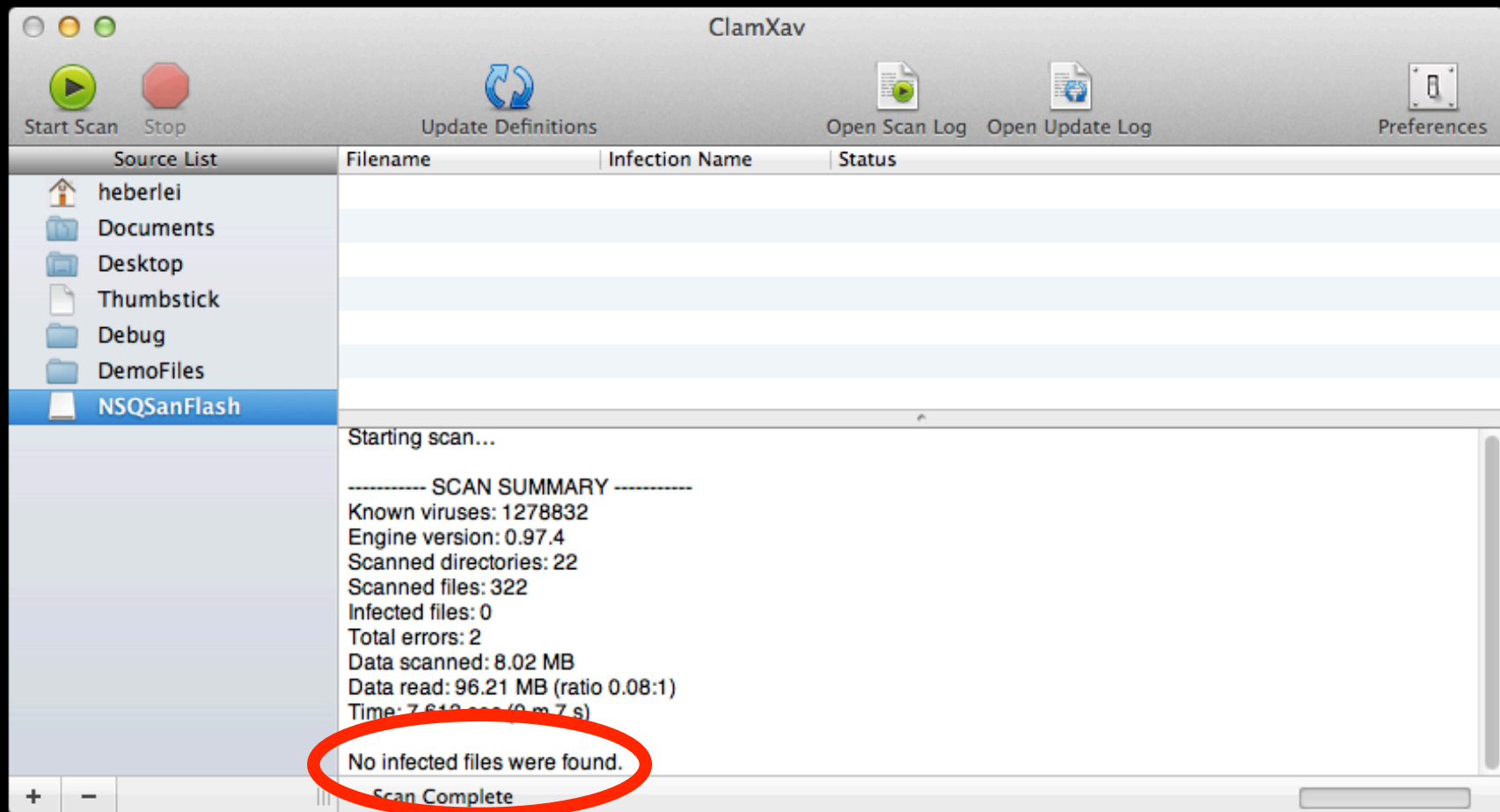
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security ran a test this year to see how hard it was for hackers to corrupt workers and gain access to computer systems. Not very, it turned out.

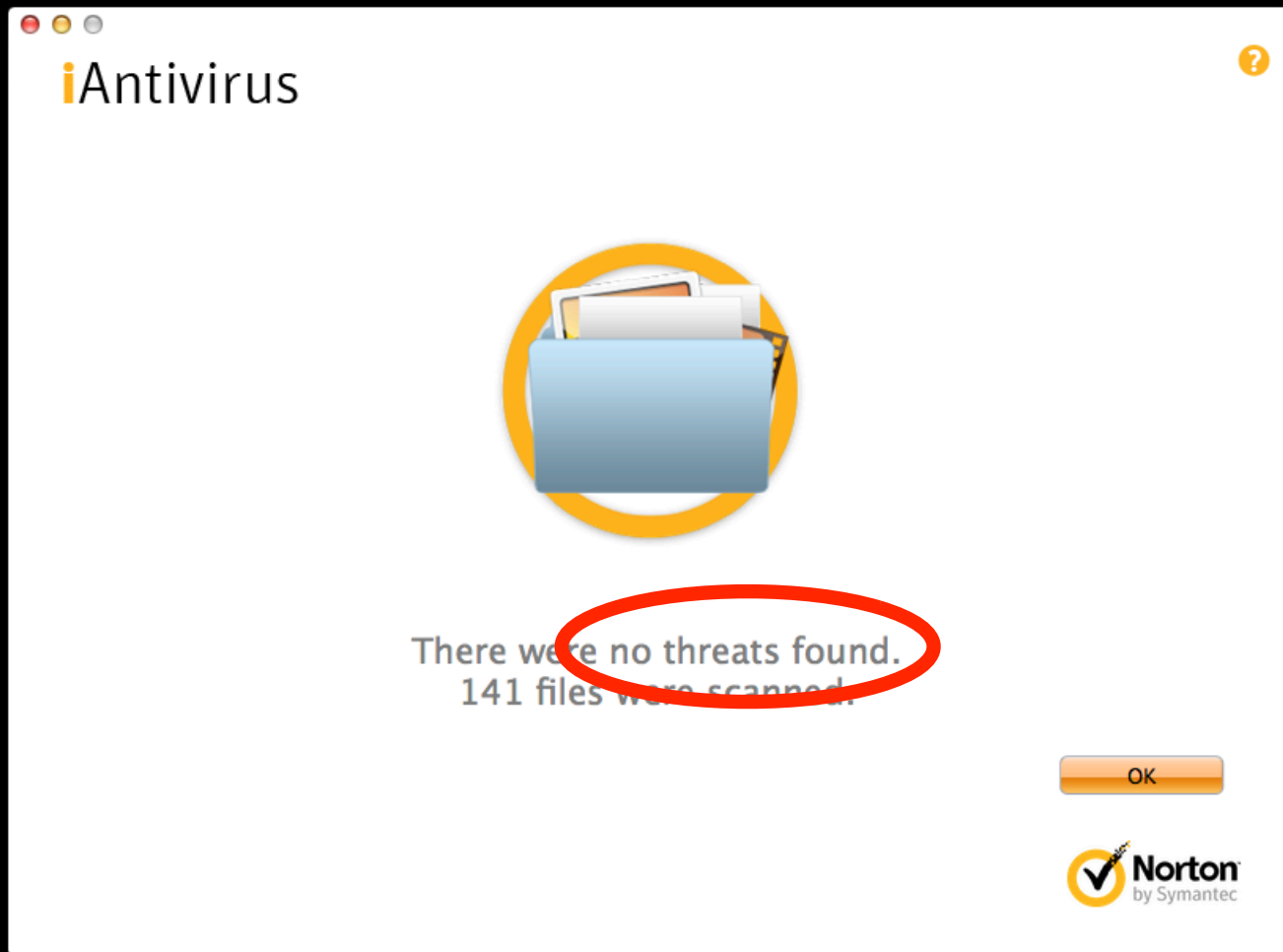
Staff secretly dropped computer discs and USB thumb drives in the parking lots of government buildings and private contractors. Of those who picked them up, **60 percent plugged the devices into office computers**, curious to see what they contained. If the drive or CD case **had an official logo, 90 percent were installed.**

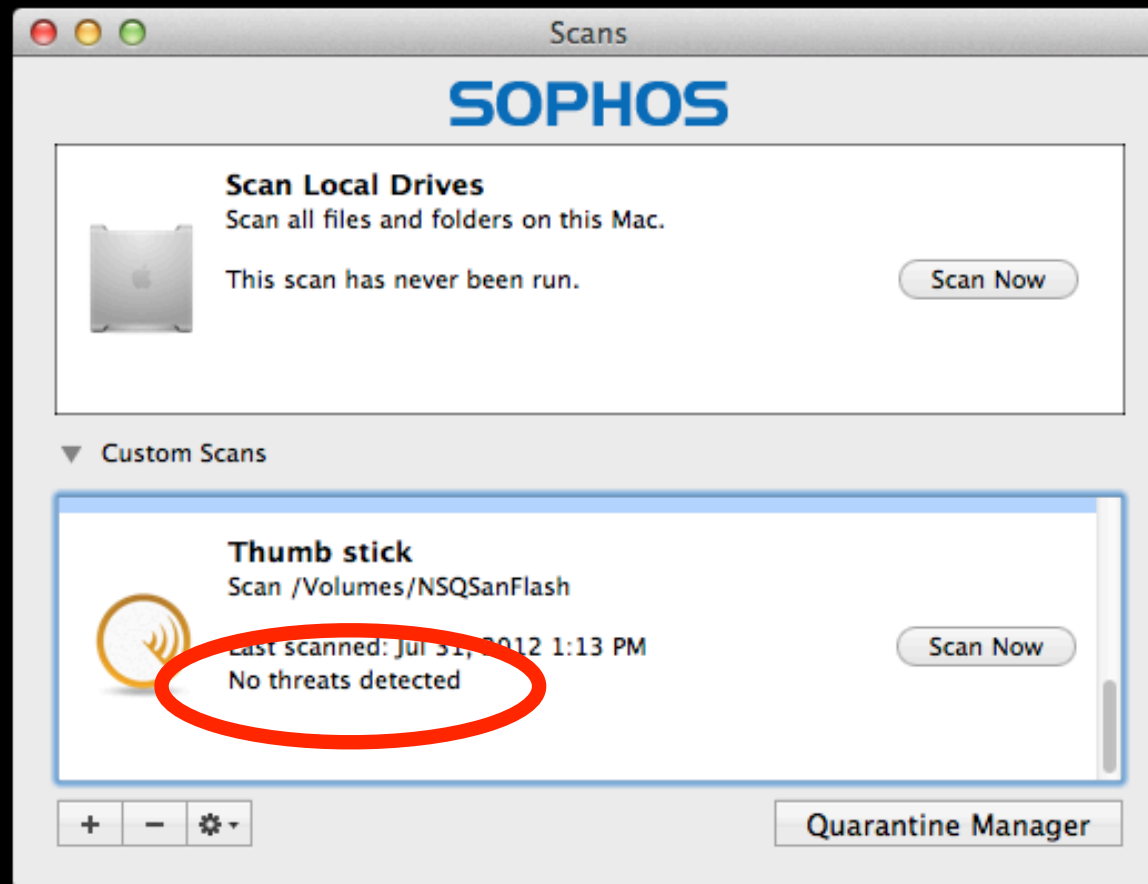
Demo

(PDF Trojan horse)










```

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    @autoreleasepool {

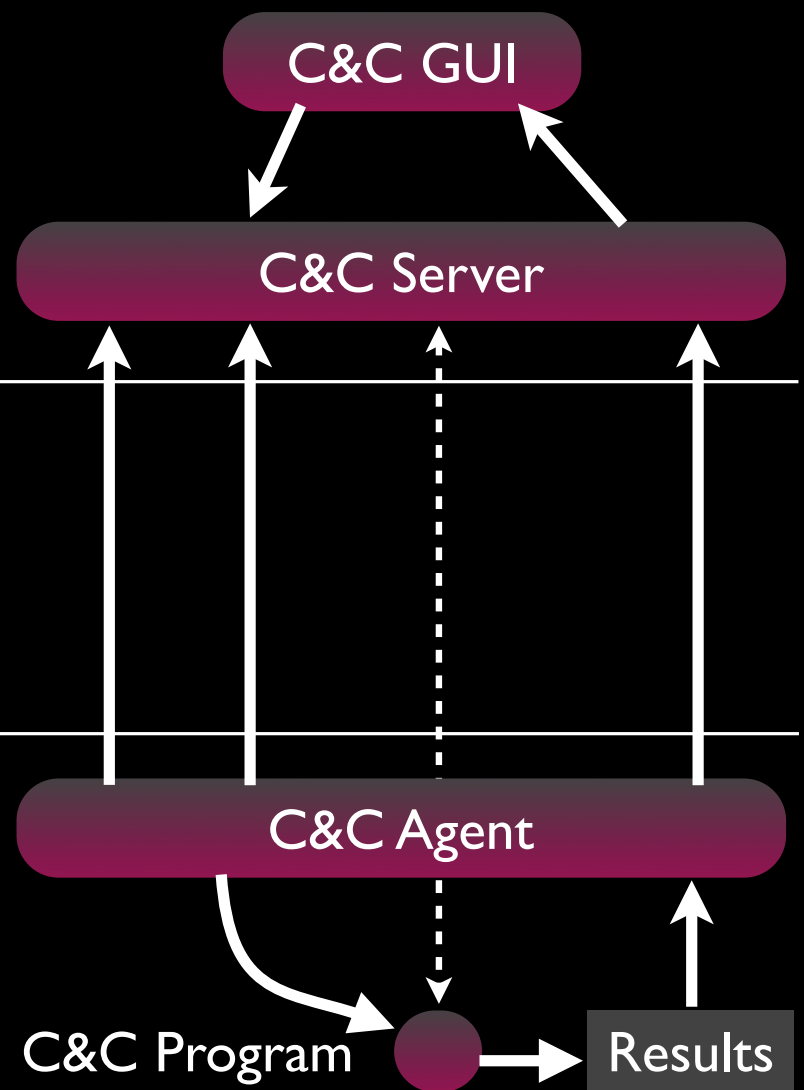
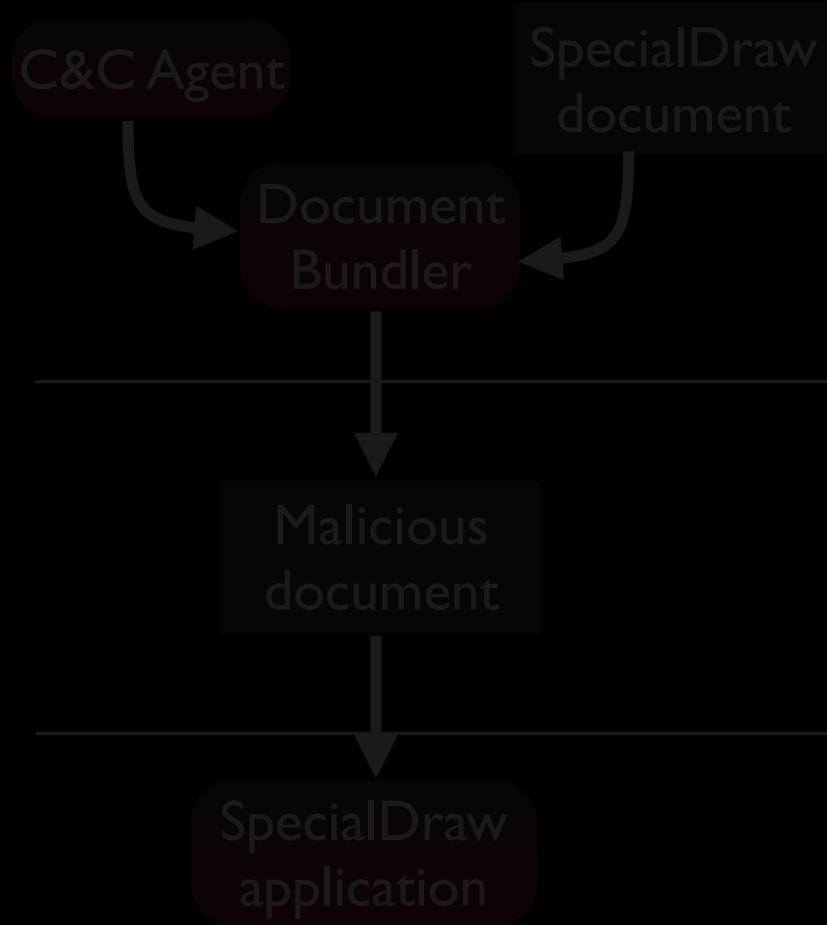
        /* Open embedded PDF File */
        NSBundle *myBundle = [NSBundle mainBundle];
        NSString *filepath = [NSString stringWithFormat:
                               @"%@/Contents/Resources/Aurora.pdf",
                               [myBundle bundlePath]];
        [[NSWorkspace sharedWorkspace] openFile:filepath];

        /* Do Trojan-y stuff */
        FILE* fp = fopen("/Users/heberlei/Demo/HelloWorld.txt", "w");
        if (fp != NULL) {
            fprintf(fp, "Free Kevin!");
            fclose(fp);
        }
    }
    exit(0);
    return NSApplicationMain(argc, (const char **)argv);
}

```

“Advanced” Attack ??

- OS is fully patched system
- Gatekeeper is on
- My three AV systems say everything is good
- Minutes to write



Net²

Research

Tools

Podcasts

Blogs

Research -> Google APT

The Advanced Persistent Threat You Have: Google Chrome

The Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) has become the watchword for cyber espionage damaging our national and economic security. Do you have APTs inside your organization right now? How can you be confident of your answer? I argue that you probably already have a "benign APT"

http://www.netsq.com/Documents_html/GoogleAPT/

Glowing Embers Summary

- Bypass firewalls via outbound web connections
- Bypass Network IPS with SSL connections plus payload encryption
- Bypass Anti-virus software
- Steal data, take screenshots, take pictures with the camera
- Install any new software modules
- Modify documents
- Self-destruct, secure deletes

Challenge: Write your own malware
(Trojan horse, C&C agent, ...)
and then scan it with Antivirus
software

Espionage in the 21st Century

Protecting Your Air Gap

Part I

Inspired by actual events

Defending a New Domain

The Pentagon's Cyberstrategy

By William J. Lynn III

September/October 2010



PRINT



EMAIL



SHARE



TEXT



PDF REPRINT

Summary: Right now, more than 100 foreign intelligence organizations are trying to hack into the digital networks that undergird U.S. military operations. The Pentagon recognizes the catastrophic threat posed by cyberwarfare, and is partnering with allied governments and private companies to prepare itself.

The flash drive's malicious computer code, placed there by a foreign intelligence agency, uploaded itself onto a network run by the **U.S. Central Command**. That code **spread undetected on both classified and unclassified systems**, establishing what amounted to a **digital beachhead**

Computer virus hits US Predator and Reaper drone fleet

By Noah Shachtman, wired.com | Published 28 days ago

But they're sure that the infection has hit both **classified** and **unclassified** machines at Creech. That raises the possibility, at least, that secret data may have been captured by the keylogger, and **then transmitted over the public internet** to someone outside the military chain of command.

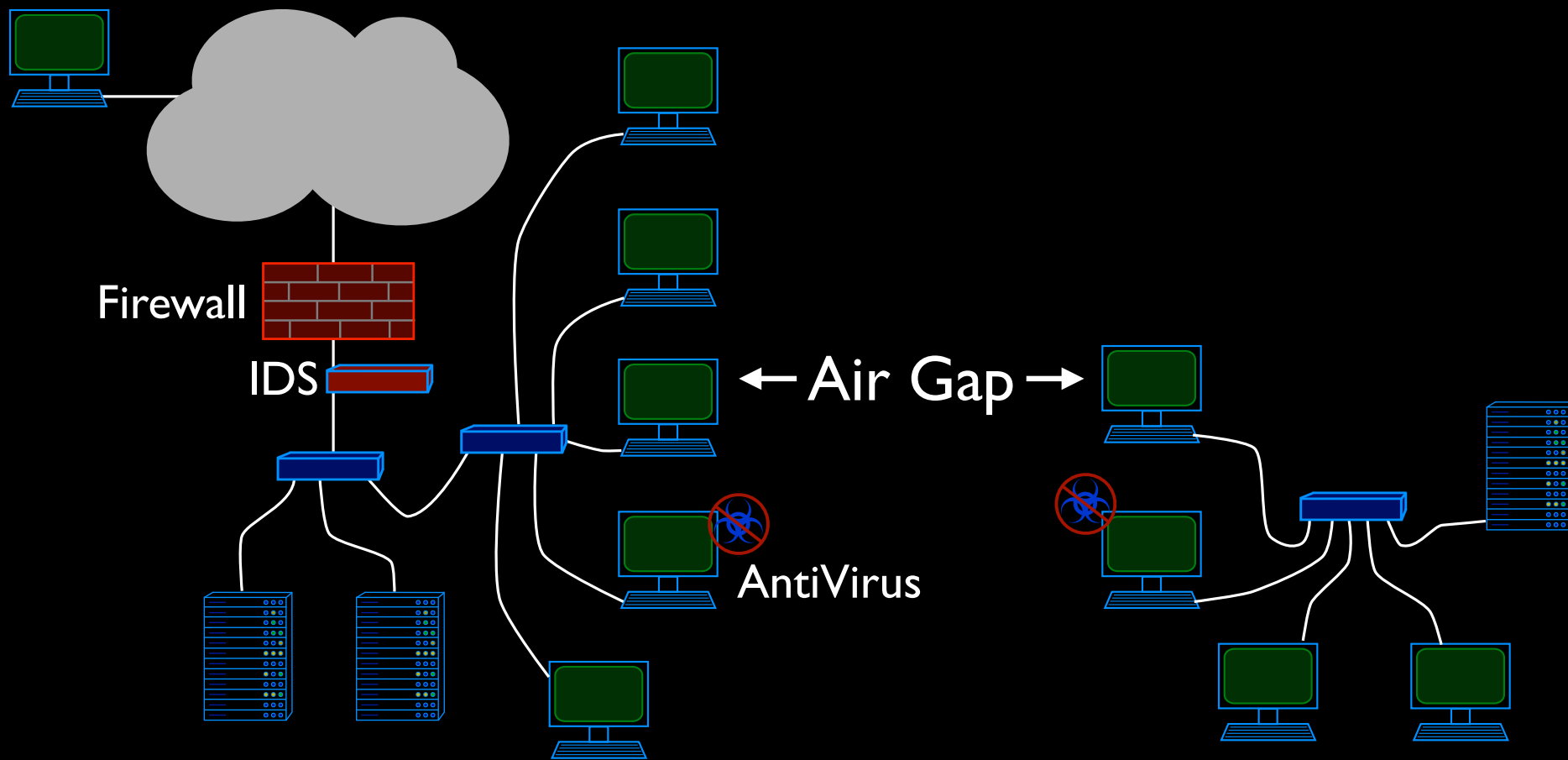
But time and time again, **the so-called "air gaps" between classified and public networks have been bridged**, largely through the use of discs and removable drives.

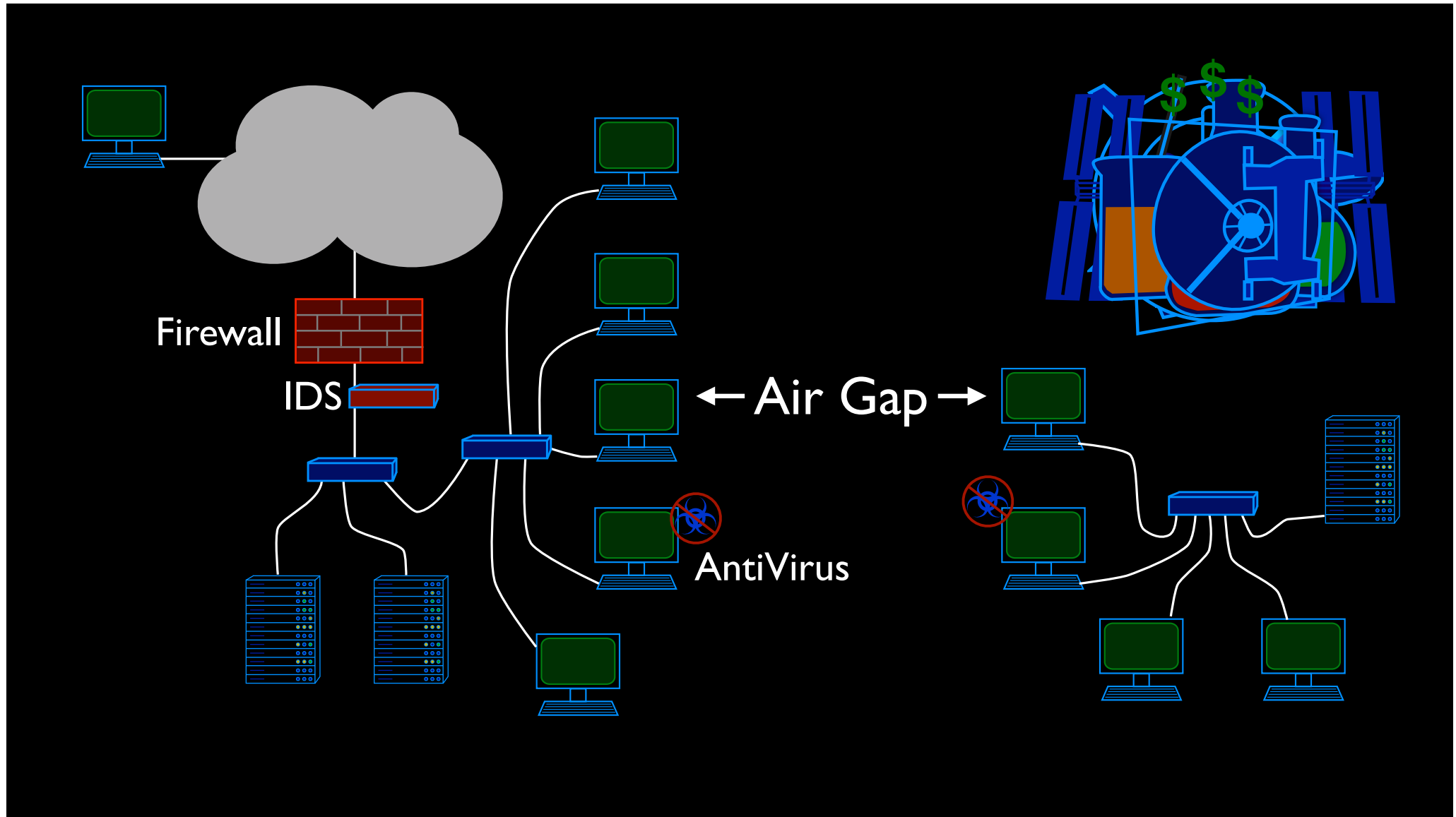
Firewall

IDS

← Air Gap →

AntiVirus



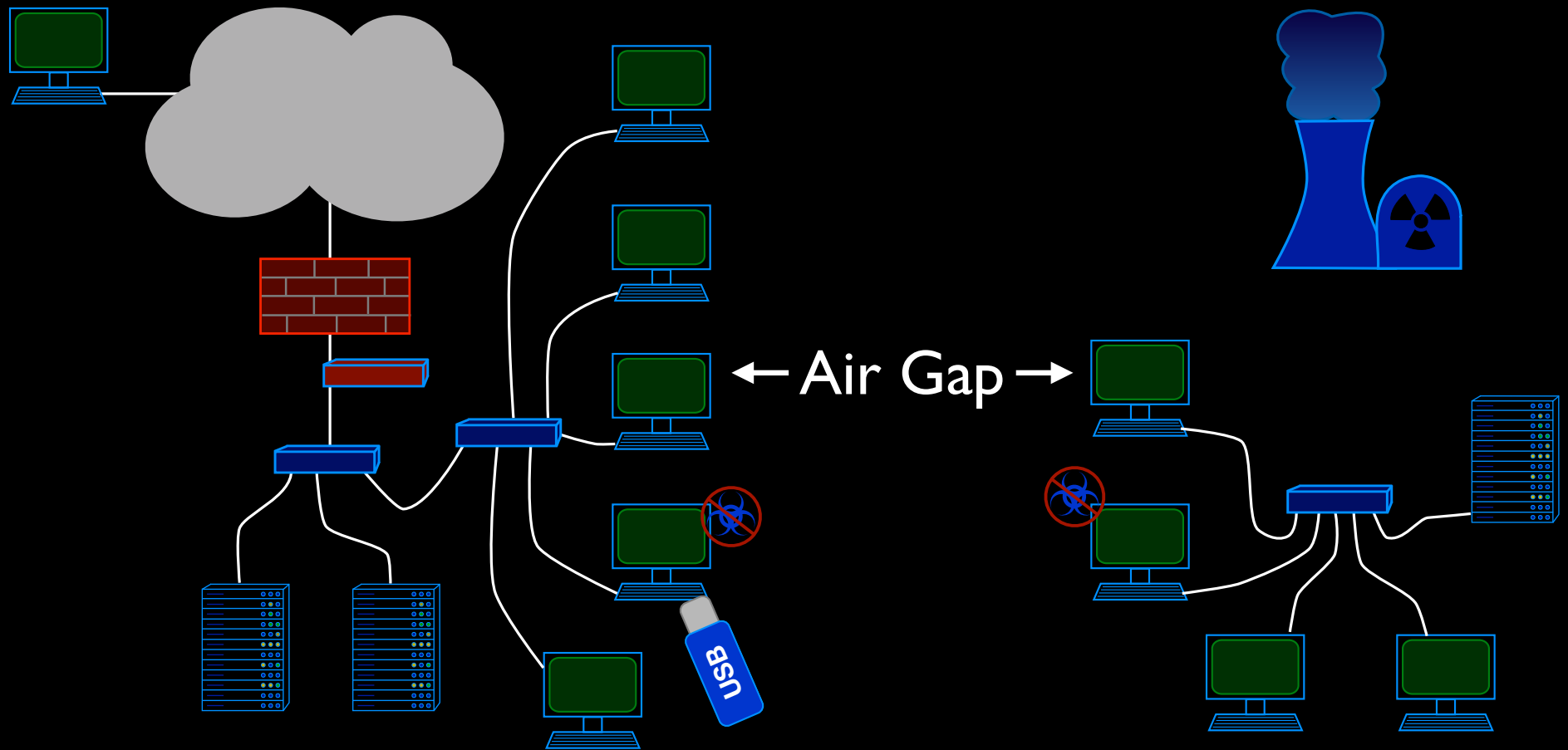


Are you safe?



Eric Byres of Byres Security has studied Stuxnet extensively. He told the AusCERT information security conference that even with an air gap separating the protected network from the outside world, **all manner of data still has to flow across that gap — including project data, software updates and patches, antivirus signatures and documentation.** "Even the best attempt to completely air-gap, I believe, is just an illusion. I really don't think air gaps are viable," he said.

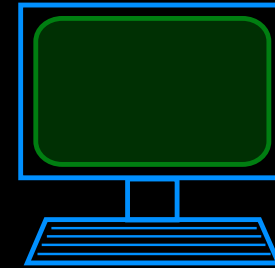
"Son of Stuxnet within a year: expert", ZDnet



Part 2

You are now infected

Hidden Stuff



find_stuff_apr

cloud_apr

usb_apr

mds

mdworker

Locum

fseventsd

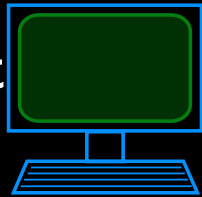
pbs

diskarbitrationd

quicklookd



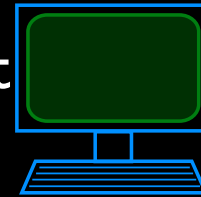
cloud_apt



usb_apt

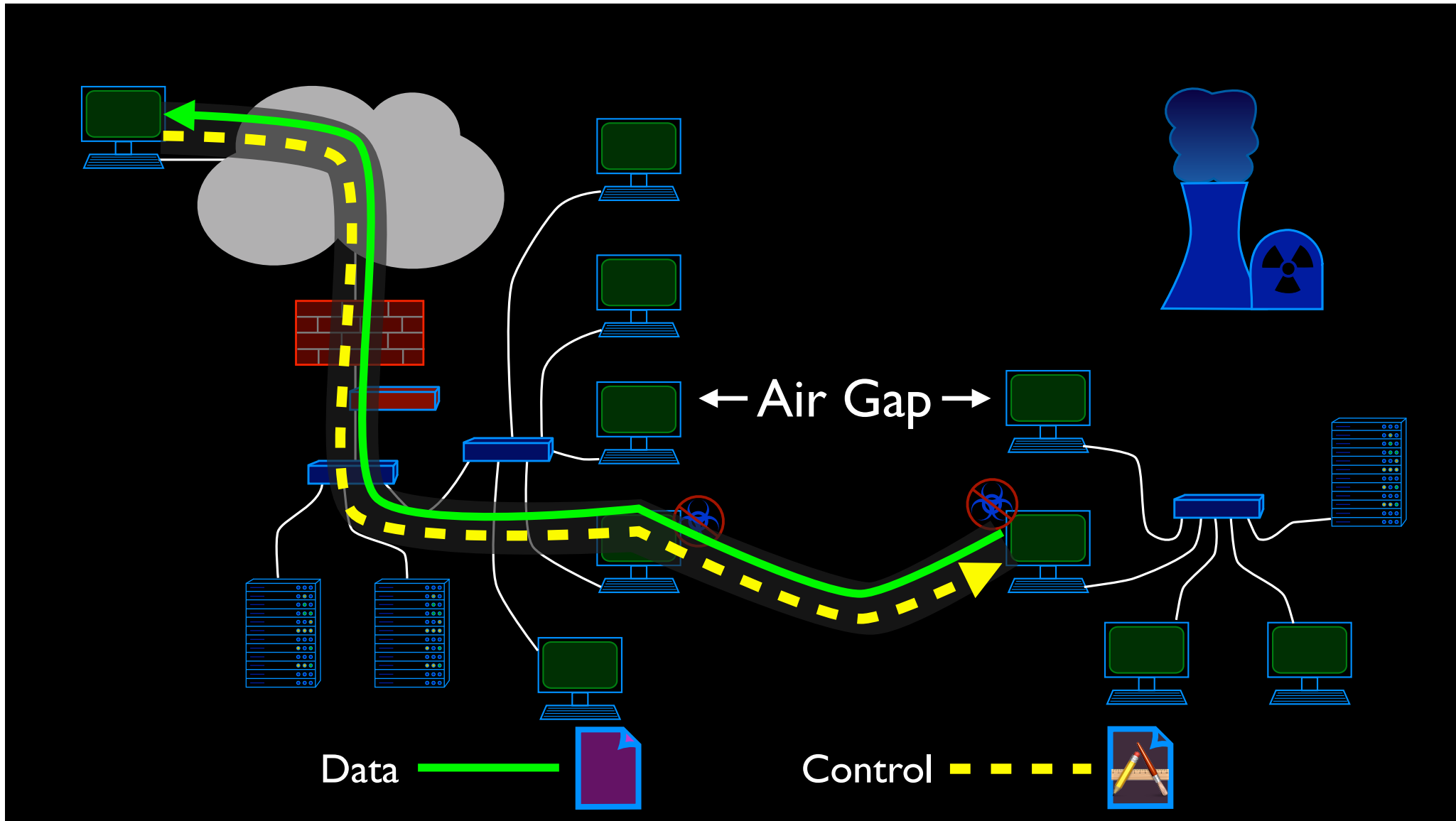


usb_apt

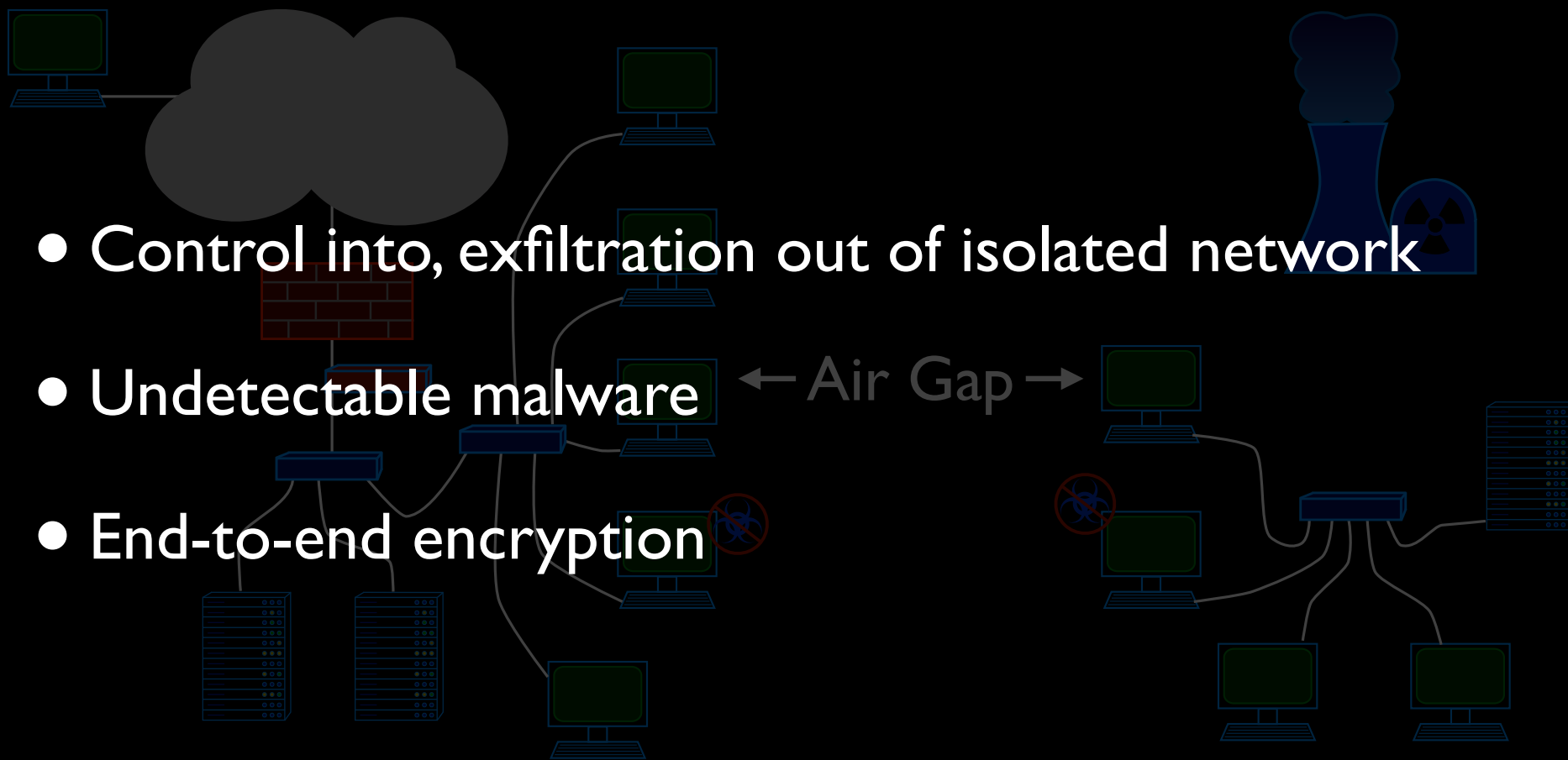


find_stuff_apt





- Control into, exfiltration out of isolated network
- Undetectable malware
- End-to-end encryption



Thoughts on “Advanced Persistent Threats”

Advanced Persistent Threat

Advanced Persistent Threat

Anything that gets past automated detection / prevention

The Facts Speak for Themselves

There is no such thing as perfect security. Attackers get smarter and change tactics all of the time. Companies who have made responsible and sustained investments in IT continue to be compromised.

100%

of victims have up-to-date anti-virus software



94%

of breaches are reported by third parties



416

median number of days advanced attackers are on the network before being detected



100%

of breaches involved stolen credentials



<http://www.mandiant.com/threat-landscape/>

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<http://www.mandiant.com/threat-landscape/>

Advanced Persistent Threat

1: Relentless until successful

Not a crime of opportunity

2: Long-lived

No longer a smash and grab

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Median number of days before discovery:
416

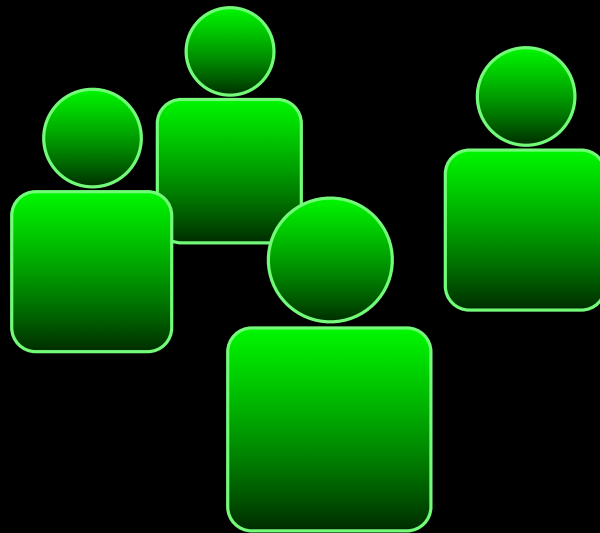
<http://www.mandiant.com/threat-landscape/>

Advanced Persistent Threat

A Threat is like **Soylent Green**

Advanced Persistent Threat

It's made of people



Advanced Persistent Threat



“Although patching is effective against this [‘fileless’ bot] and similar **threats**, ...”

http://www.securelist.com/en/analysis/204792231/IT_Threat_Evolution_Q1_2012

Advanced Persistent Threat

New Microsoft Malware Protection Center Threat Report Published: EyeStye



Tim Rains – Microsoft 20 Jul 2012 10:48 AM



0

“Four specific families of **threats** contributed to the steep rise in the malware infection rates ...”

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/security/archive/2012/07/20/new-microsoft-malware-protection-center-threat-report-published-eyesty.aspx>

Government
People

POTUS

Cyber Command

Hunters, large security service

Storm Centers

Enterprise CTO, CSO

Network administrator

System administrator

User

Threat
is

Where you
stand

Software



Google, the APT, from the audit trail perspective

Audit Explorer Tutorial Videos

<http://www.netsq.com/Tools/AuditExplorer/Videos/>

The Advanced Persistent Threat You Have: Google Chrome

<http://www.netsq.com/Research/Single.php?stuff=papers&num=23>


The Making of "The Advanced Persistent Threat You Have: Google Chrome"


<http://www.netsq.com/Research/Single.php?stuff=papers&num=24>


Why Google Update


- C&C agent that wakes up periodically and checks for new commands
- Blends in with normal traffic
- Downloads commands and executes them
- Modifies security-critical software on your system
- Gets rid of the evidence
- If you can't analyze this, can you analyze real APTs?


Dashboard


Notables


Filters

Shells

Files

Network

Proc Tree

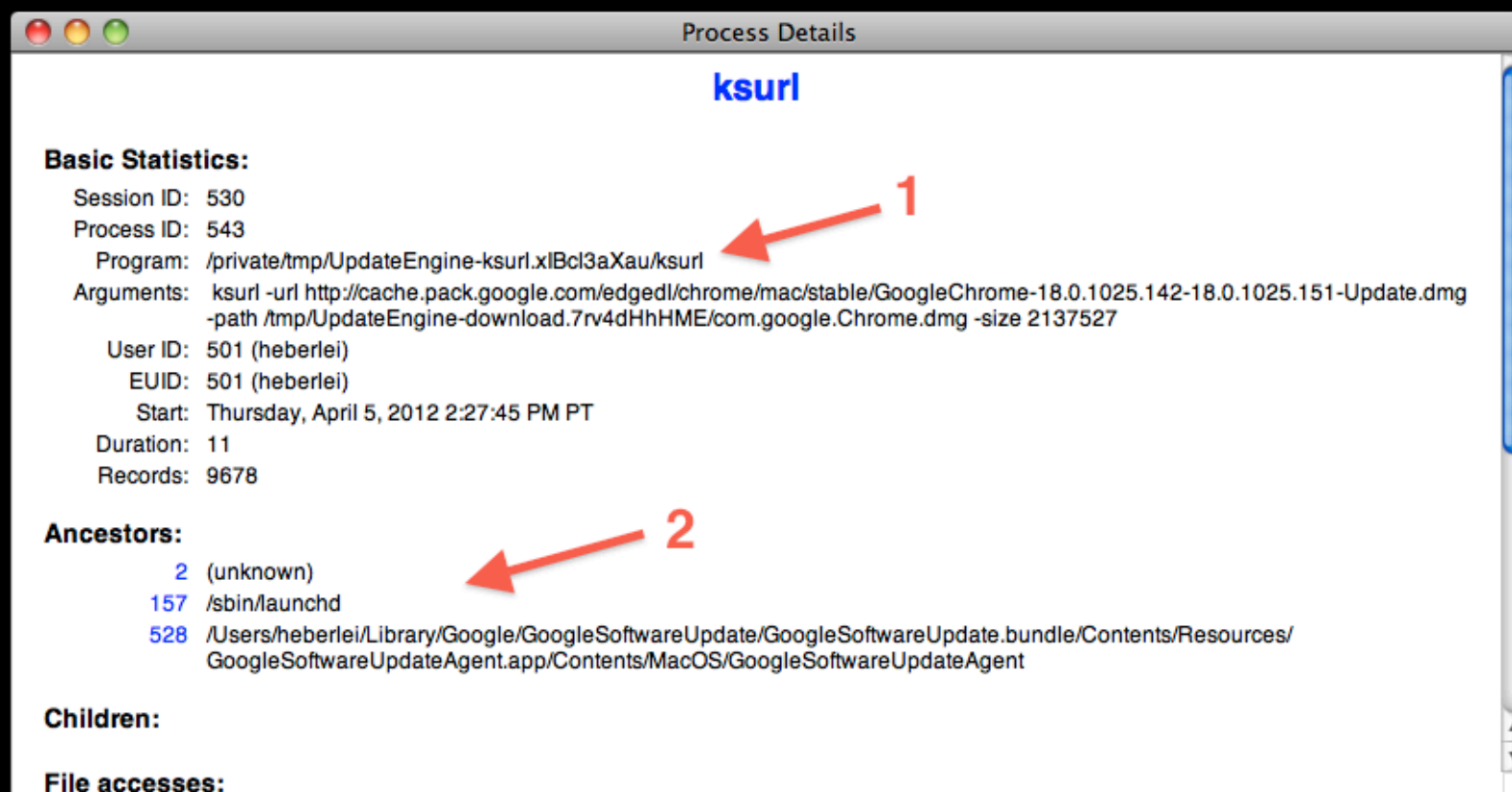
Proc List

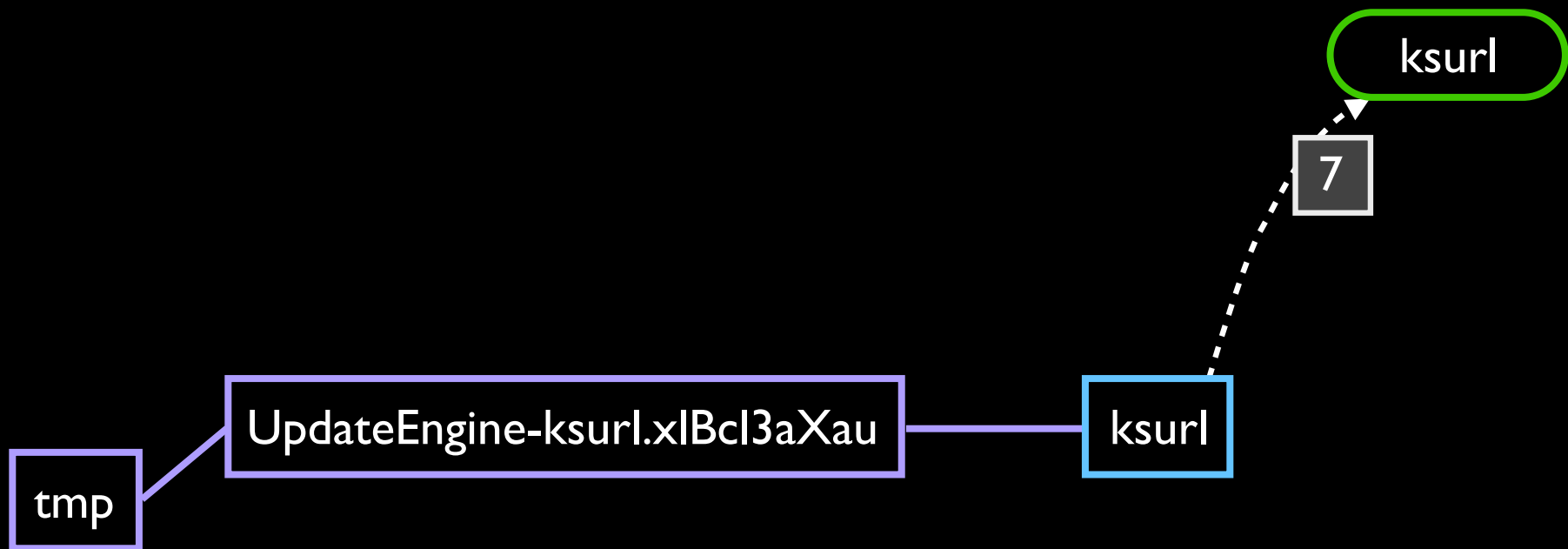
Filters:

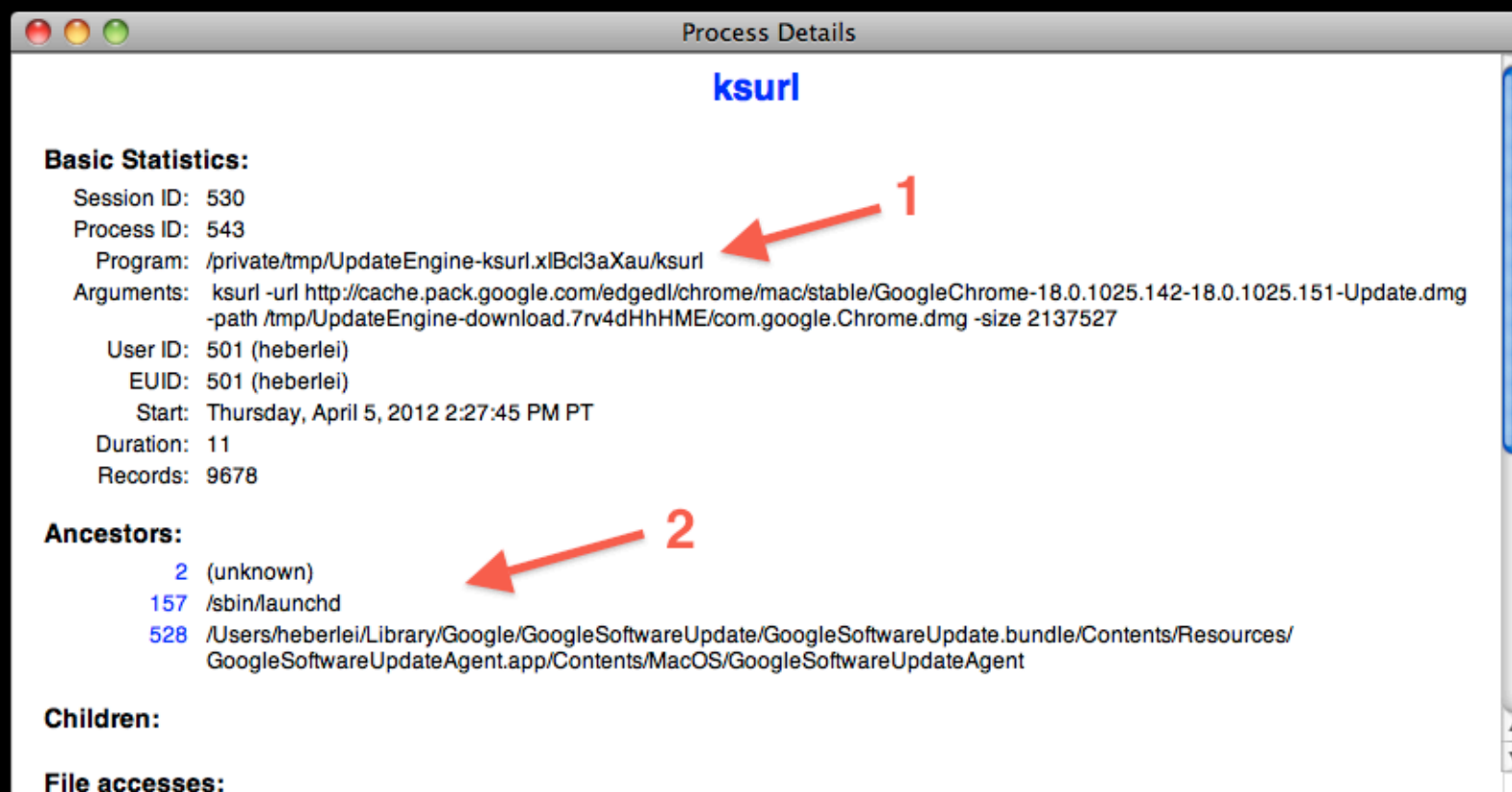
Count	Warning	Description
2	1	Any Connections
5	1	Google Update
1	1	Apple Update
1	1	Apple Install
1	1	Applications Executable Change

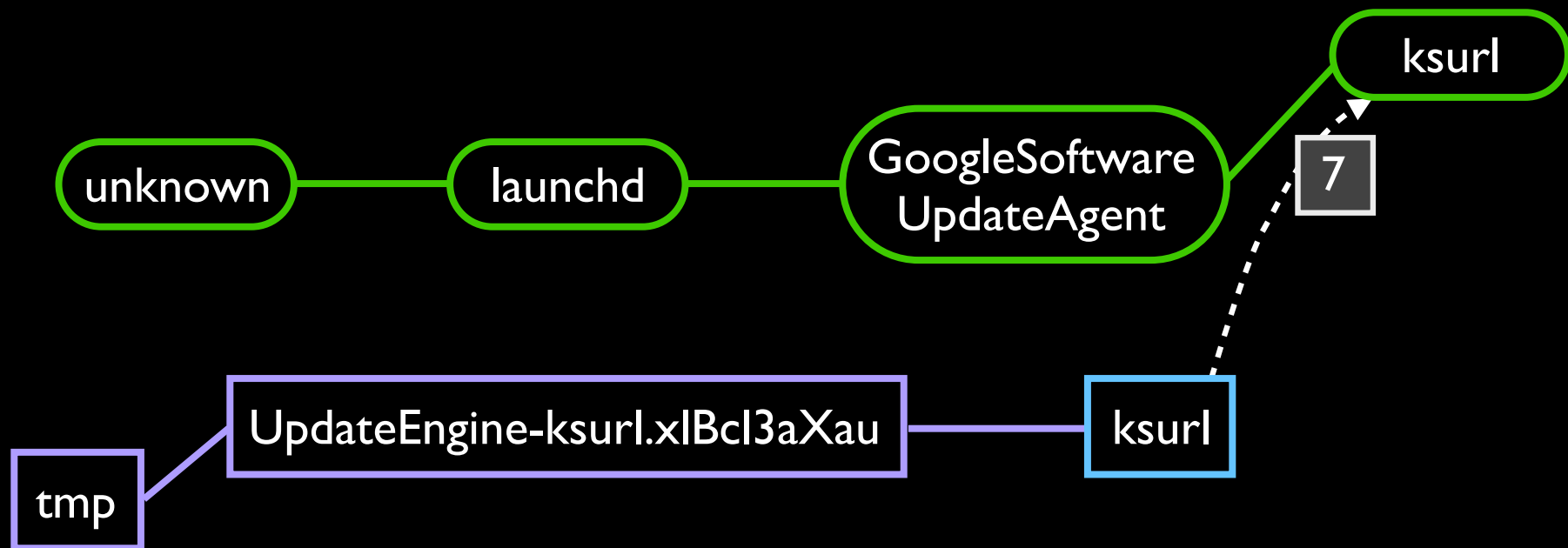
Matches:

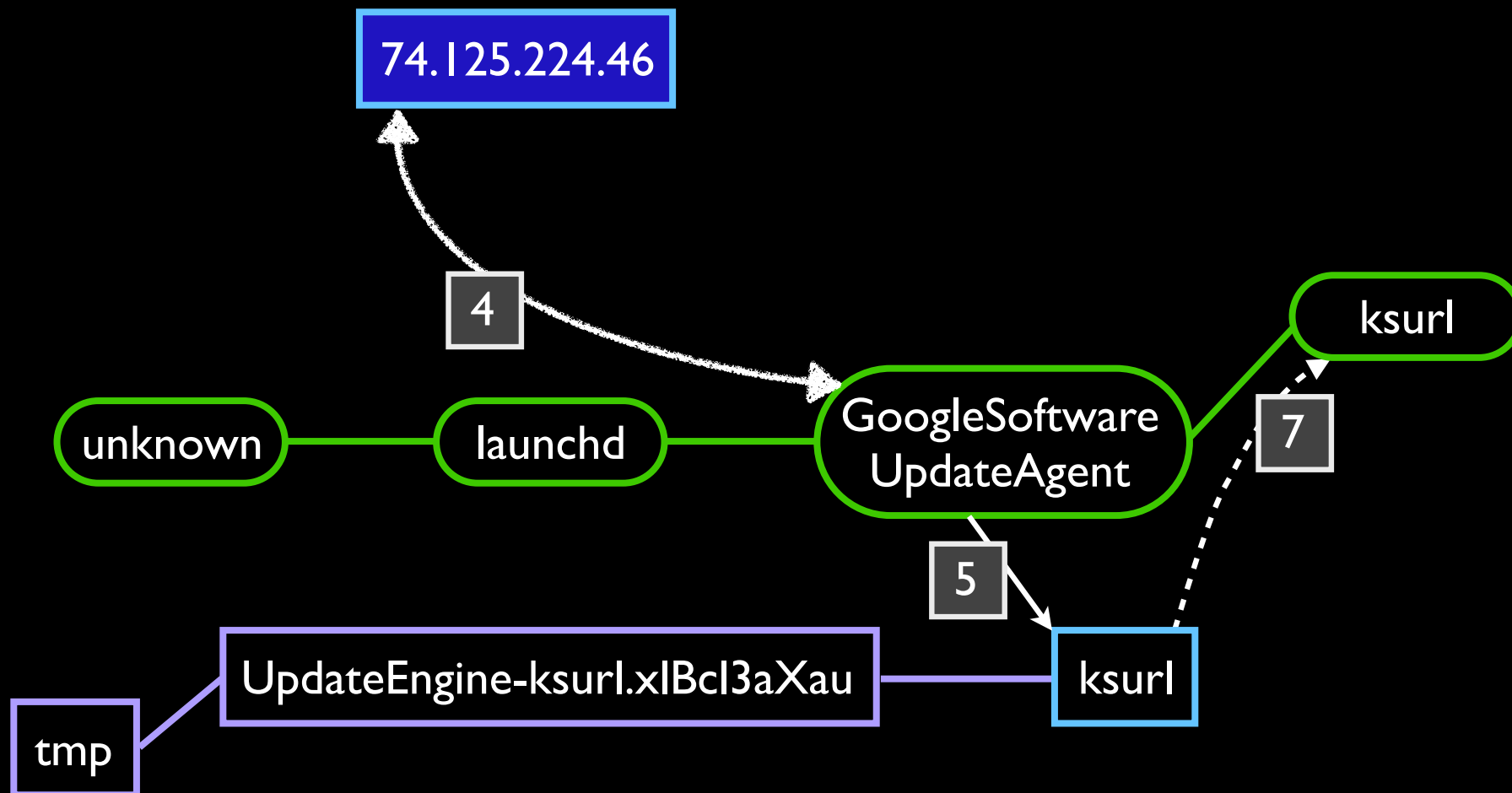
Session	User	Program
530	heberlei	ksurl -url http://cache.pack.google.com/edgedl/chrome/mac/stable/GoogleChrome-18.0.1025.14...
530	heberlei	ksurl -url http://cache.pack.google.com/edgedl/chrome/mac/stable/GoogleChrome-18.0.1025.14...

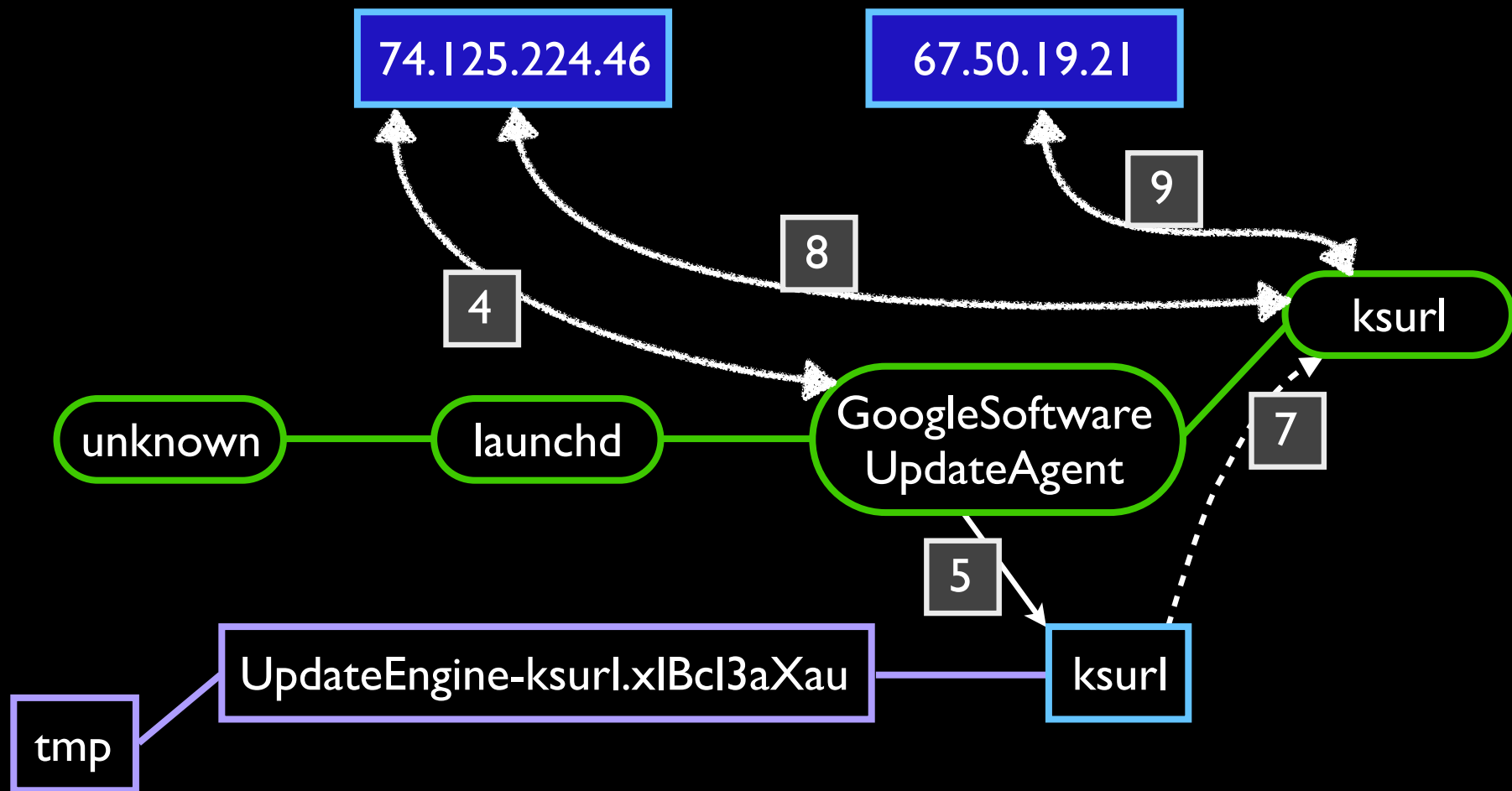


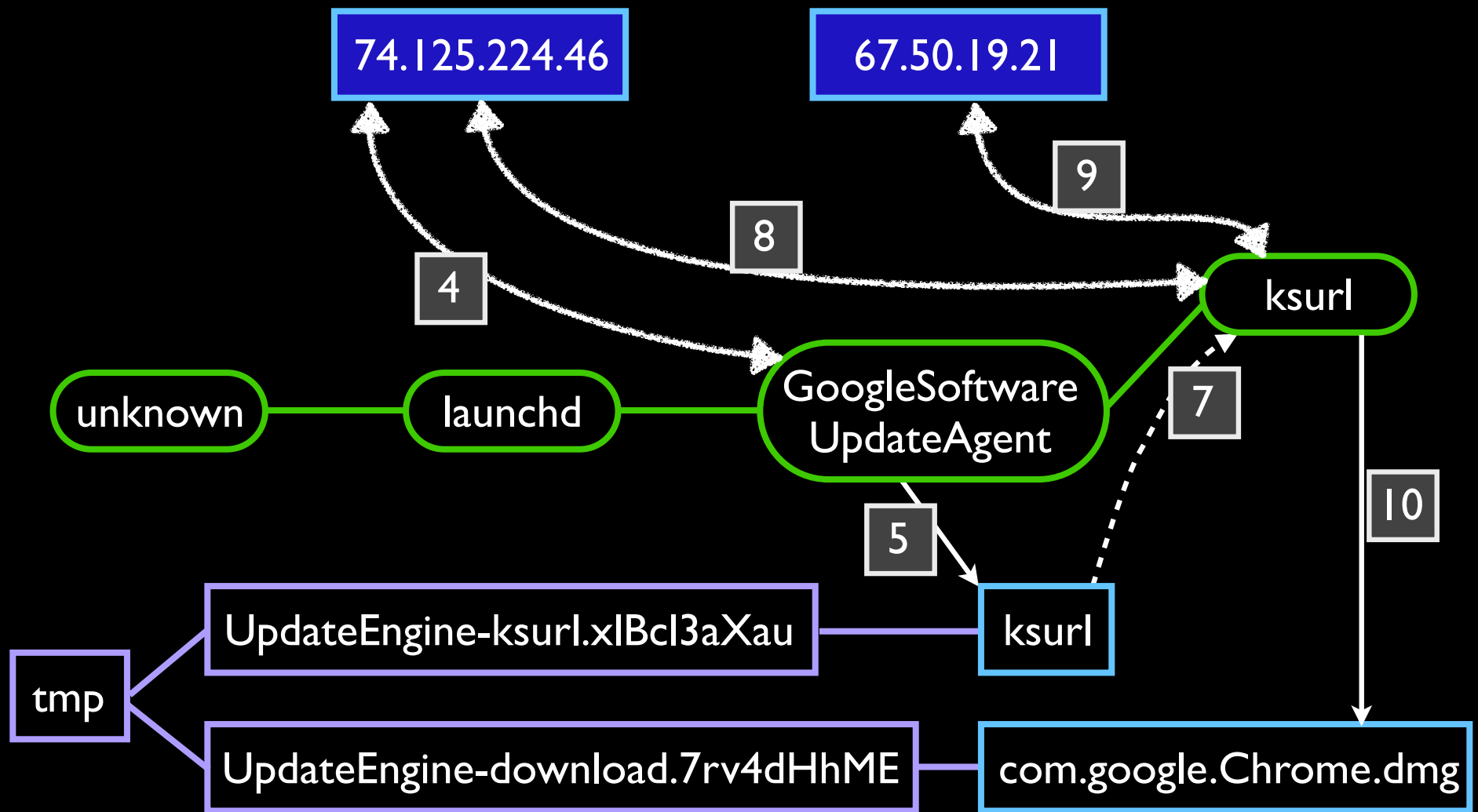


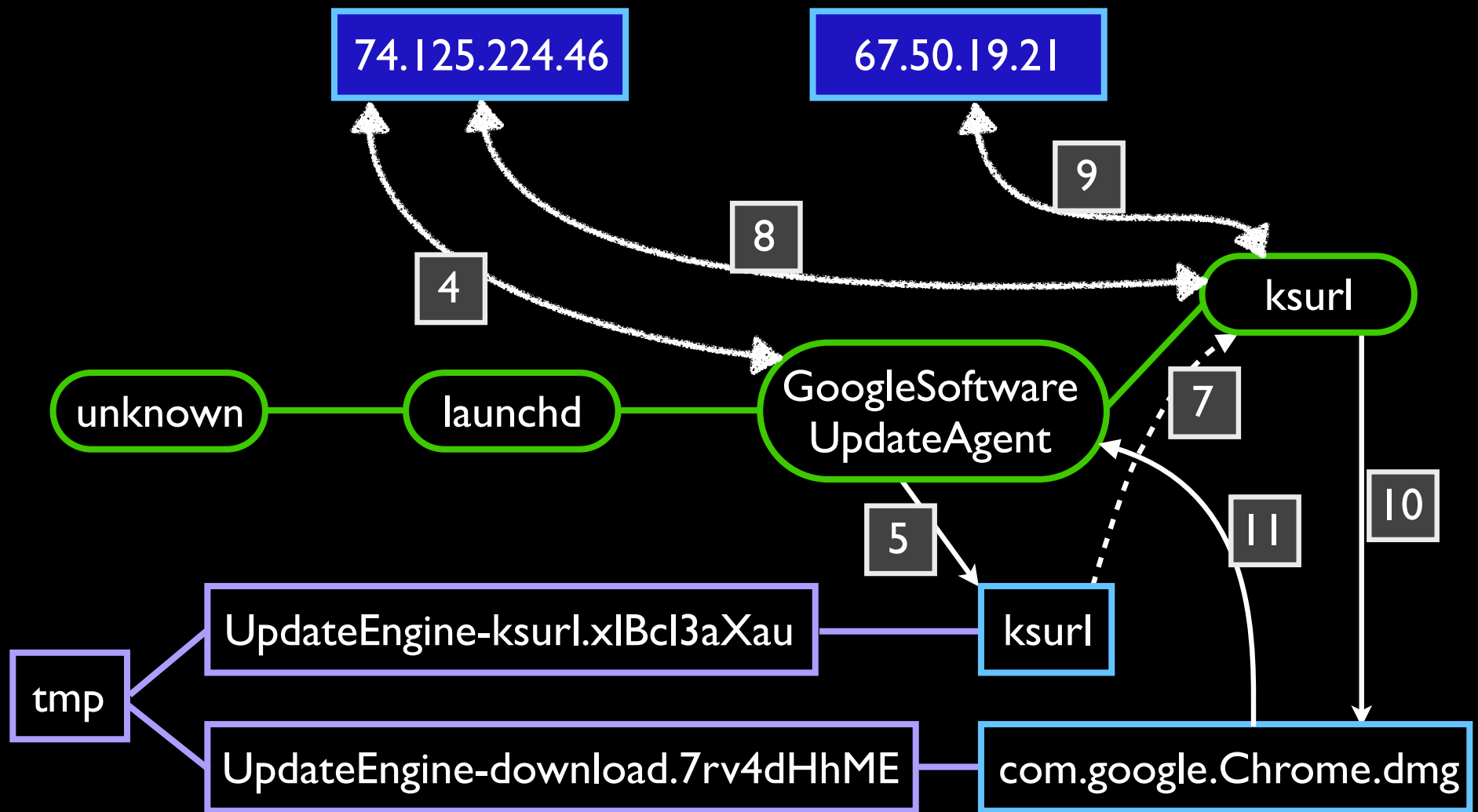


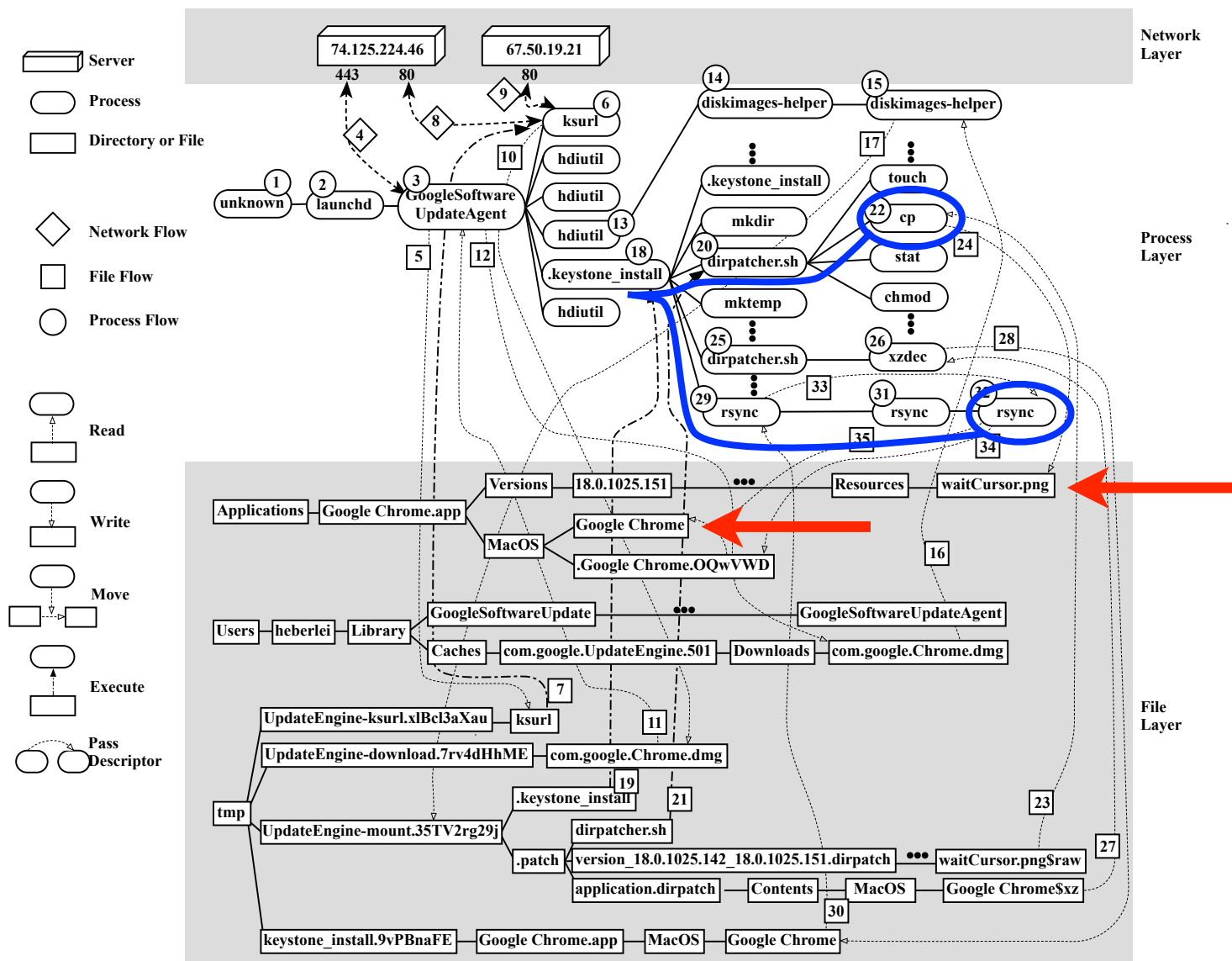


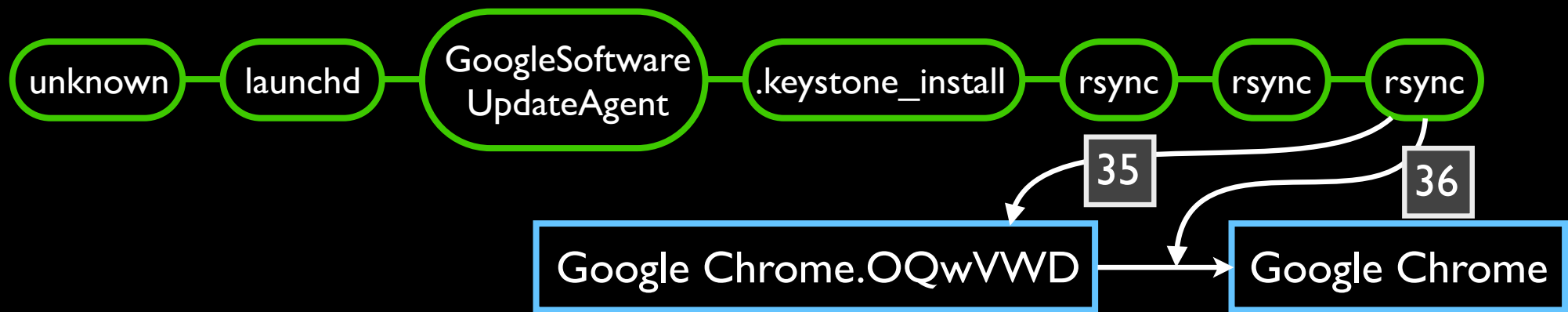








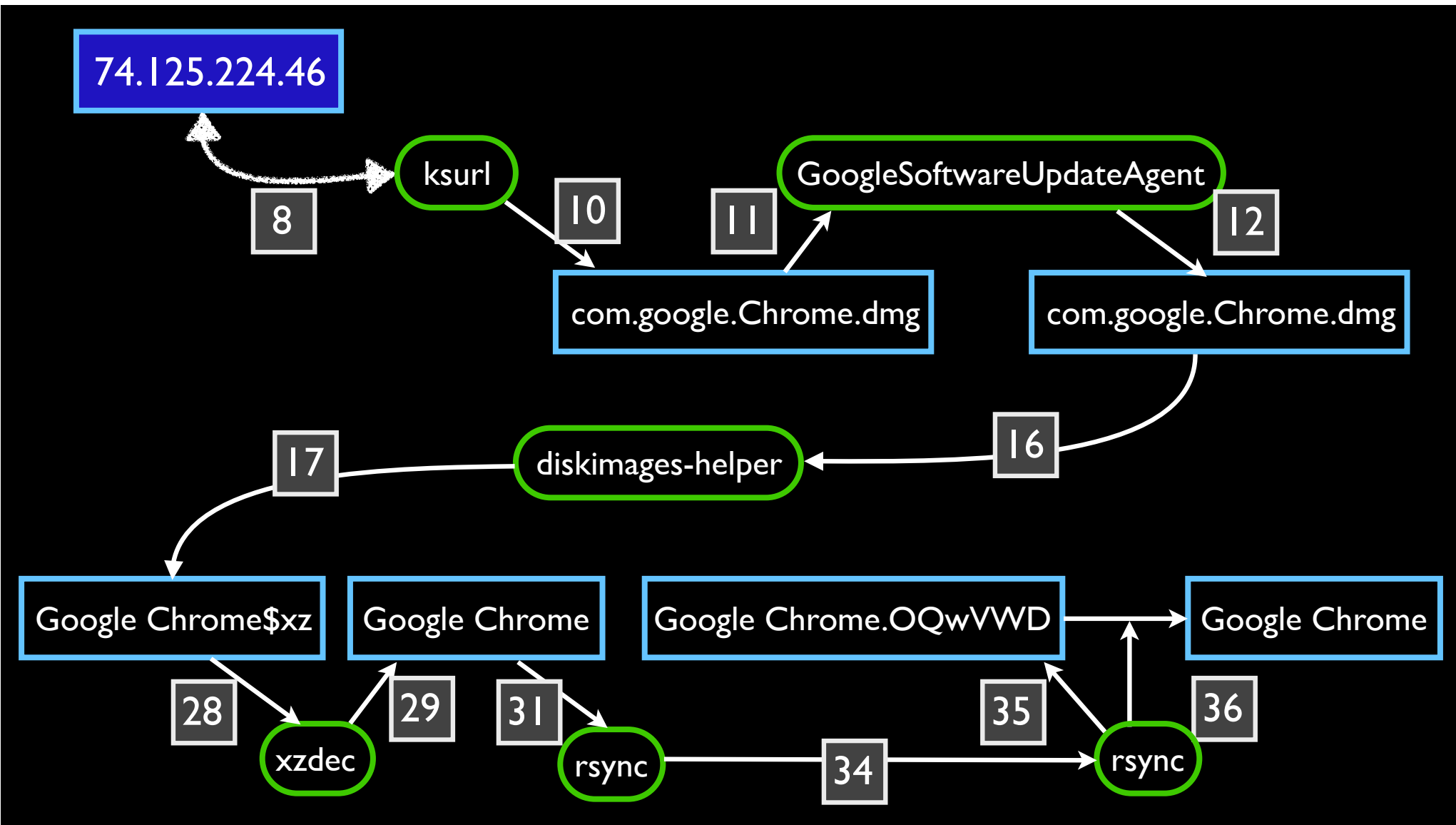




unknown

From boot to file creation

Google Chrome



74.125.224.46

From network to file placement

Google Chrome

Conclusions

- Today's emerging threat environment includes professional attackers
- We are failing because our tools, data source, and concepts of operations don't match the threat of professional attackers
- "Glowing Embers" shows a way to establish a C&C agent
- "Crossing the air gap" shows nothing is safe
- "Advanced Persistent Threats" captures the key concepts
- "Google, the APT you have" lets you practice for real APTs

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email: LTH@NetSQ.com

email: todd_heberlein@mac.com