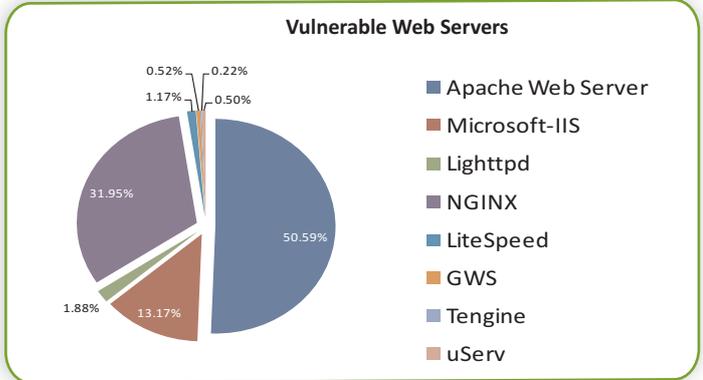




Malware Report

(July 2012)

growth in the last 3 months – as compared to 2011. Close to 40% of all targeted attacks have



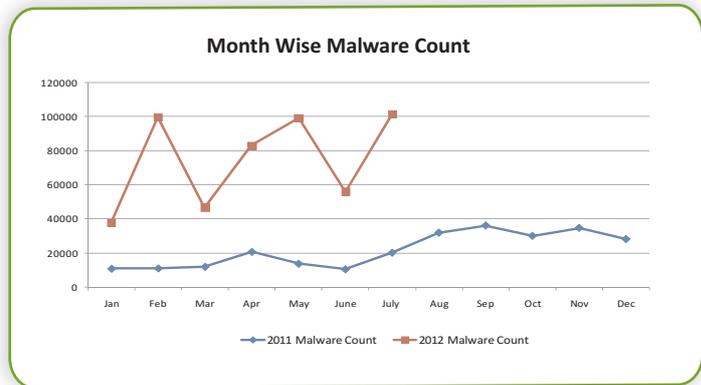
been directed towards businesses with less than 250 employees. This however hasn't diverted the growing trend in attacks towards large enterprises. Approximately 55% of businesses (large) are still bearing the brunt of targeted attacks.

In comparison to the month before, July has seen an upward trend in the overall number of malicious emails. At least 35% of all emails examined contained links to sites that were designed to automatically download and run malicious software. In addition, the distribution of EXEs have also increased by approximately 5% in comparison to June, also giving rise to infected zipped files. With that said, we are also seeing an increase in the distribution of files with hidden extensions.

There has also been an increase in malicious links in some of the most active locations in the world. Germany, France, Netherlands and Spain have all witnessed a relative increase in hosting and distributing malicious URLs. With that said, two of the still most trending worms within the United States and European countries include Sality and the Autorun virus. In total, both Sality and the Autorun virus sum up to a total 27% of infected computer both in the US and European countries. At 42.68%, US still tops the chart at hosting the maximum number of malicious URLs. In context to the European countries mentioned, four specific threats have contributed to the rise in malware infection rates. This would be EyeStye, Zbot (AKA. ZeuS), Infected Keygens & Blacole. Germany has

also witnessed the highest number of data stealing Trojans known to target users who use online banking services. In contrast, both Vulnerabilities and Exploits have played as a major contributing factor to the increasing malware trend worldwide. European countries have witnessed an increased number of generic tools such as 'Keygen.exe' – a tool that generates keys for illegally-obtained versions of various software products.

The threat landscape is dynamically changing and hackers are continuously probing deployed defences; trying to find new ways of penetrating organizations. This they achieve by deploying a wide range of vectors that require complex forms of social engineering. They achieve this by cleverly persuading employees to open up security loop holes within the corporate network. Well established hack tools such as rootkits, zero-day vulnerabilities and cross-site scripting are continually being worked upon and refined to evade detection. In contrast, Spam mails have definitely seen a decline over time with only 65% mails adding up to spam but they have grown increasingly authentic and effective at making



recipients click malicious links. It is therefore critical to update and apply patches on regular basis. Moreover, with the increasing number of threats it is critical to have a security suite installed and running at all times. As far as enterprises are concerned, being proactive and deploying real-time security measures will not only protect businesses from incurring severe losses but will also help in earning customer/employee confidence.





Disclaimer

The above report is based on malware URL collected for the month of July, 2012 and is a representation of the growth in malware infected URLs in the span of 1 month. The domains mentioned were found infected at the time of report creation. However, the domain/site/URL might be safe now as the infection may have been removed by the host. MicroWorld Technologies Inc. is not liable to any party for any direct, indirect, special or other consequential damages caused.

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