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Hooking Candiru

Another Mercenary Spyware Vendor Comes into Focus

By Bill Marczak, John Scott-Railton, Kristin Berdan, Bahr Abdul Razzak, and Ron Deibert

July 15, 2021

2. Finding Candiru's Malware In The Wild

Using telemetry data from Team Cymru, along with assistance from civil society partners, the Citizen Lab was able to identify a computer that we suspected contained a persistent Candiru infection. We contacted the owner of the computer, a politically active individual in Western Europe, and arranged for the computer's hard drive to be imaged. We ultimately extracted a copy of Candiru's spyware from the disk image.

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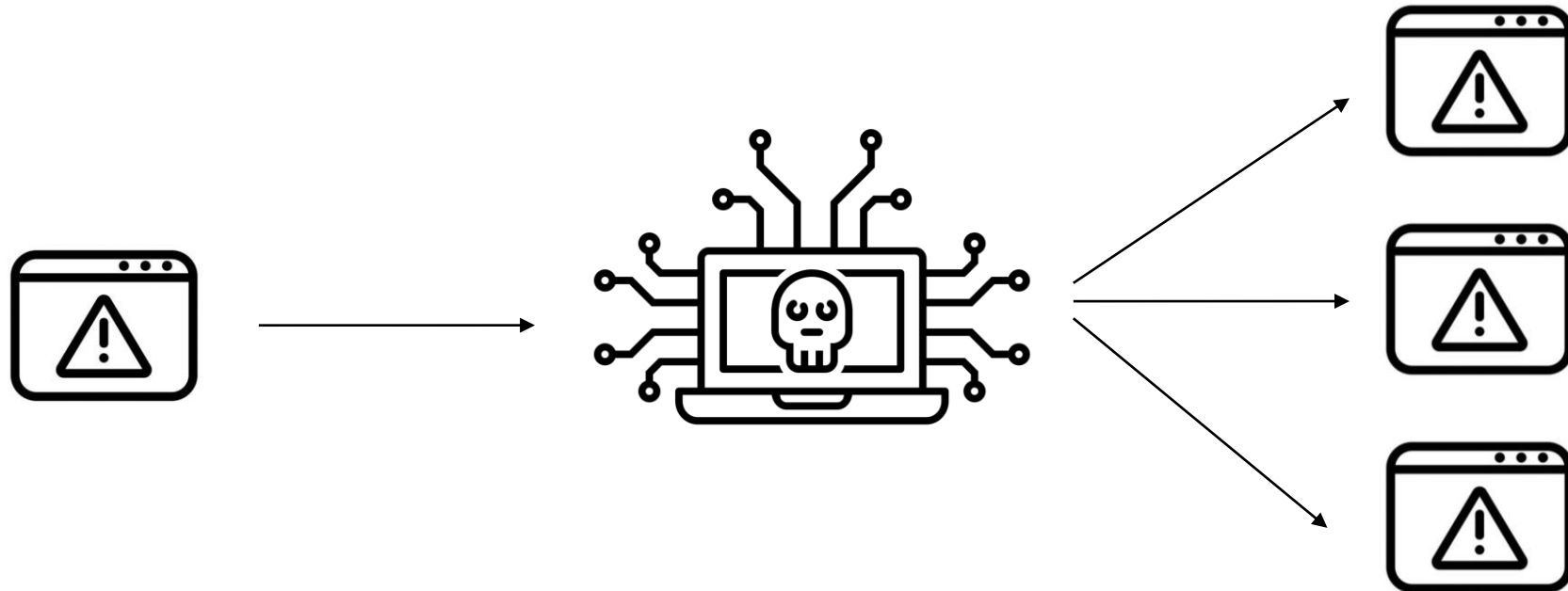
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Date flow start	Duration	Proto	Src IP Addr:Port		Dst IP Addr:Port	Packets	Bytes	Flows
2010-09-01 00:00:00.459	0.000	UDP	127.0.0.1:24920	->	192.168.0.1:22126	1	46	1
2010-09-01 00:00:00.363	0.000	UDP	192.168.0.1:22126	->	127.0.0.1:24920	1	80	1

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3. Mapping Candiru's Command & Control Infrastructure

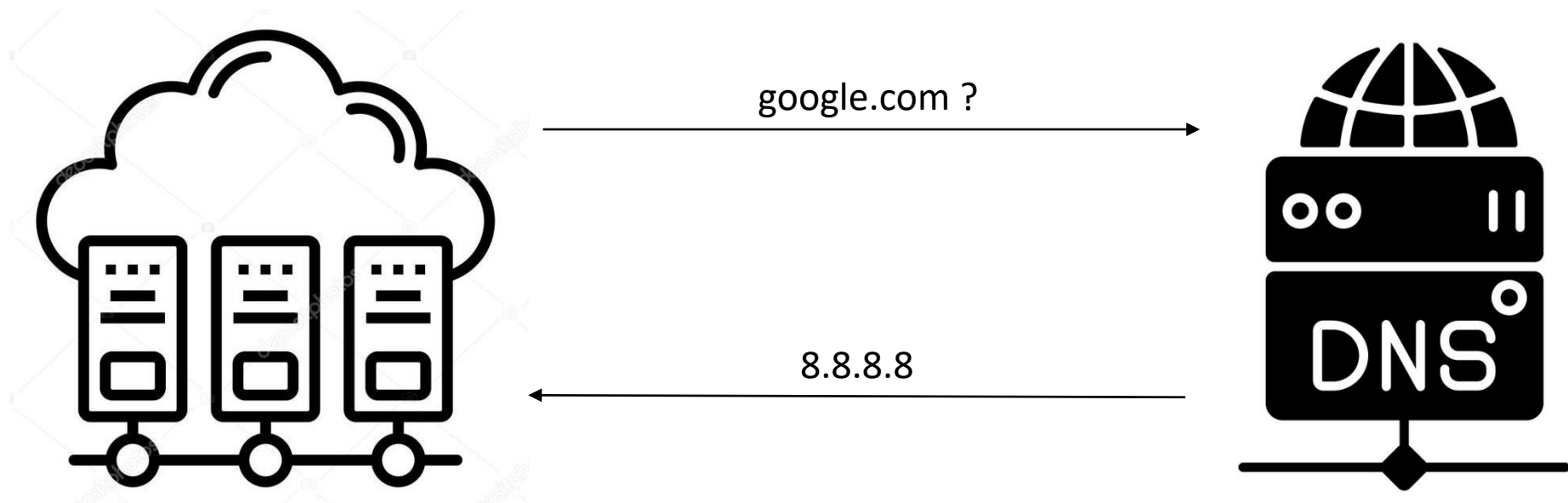
To identify the websites used by Candiru's spyware, we developed four fingerprints and a new Internet scanning technique. We searched historical data from [Censys](#) and conducted our own scans in 2021. This led us to identify at least 764 domain names that we assess with moderate-high confidence to be used by Candiru and its customers. Examination of the domain names indicates a likely interest in targets in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

Additionally, based on our analysis of Internet scanning data, we believe that there are Candiru systems operated from Saudi Arabia, Israel, UAE, Hungary, and Indonesia, among other countries.

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Theme	Example Domains	Masquerading as
International Media	cnn24-7[.]online	CNN
	dw-arabic[.]com	Deutsche Welle
	euro-news[.]online	Euronews
	rasef22[.]com	Raseef22
	france-24[.]news	France 24
Advocacy Organizations	amnestyreports[.]com	Amnesty International
	blacklivesmatters[.]info	Black Lives Matter movement
	refugeeinternational[.]org	Refugees International
Gender Studies	womanstudies[.]co	Academic theme
	genderconference[.]org	Academic conference
Tech Companies	cortanaupdates[.]com	Microsoft
	googlplay[.]store	Google
	apple-updates[.]online	Apple
	amazon-cz[.]eu	Amazon
	drpbx-update[.]net	Dropbox

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Cooperação

Telemetria de tráfego de rede

Histórico de registros de domínios