

# At a Glance

Foreword .....	liv
Acknowledgments .....	xix
Introduction .....	xxx

## Part I Malware

1 Malware Propagation .....	7
2 Malware Functionality .....	41

## Part II Rootkits

3 User-Mode Rootkits .....	77
4 Kernel-Mode Rootkits .....	109
5 Virtual Rootkits .....	161
6 The Future of Rootkits .....	187

## Part III Prevention Technologies

7 Antivirus .....	203
8 Host Protection Systems .....	221
9 Host-Based Intrusion Prevention .....	233
10 Rootkit Detection .....	249

11 General Security Practices ..... 289

Appendix System Integrity Analysis: Building Your Own Rootkit Detector 299

Index ..... 337

At a Glance

Malware	
1	Malware Propagation ..... 7
2	Malware Functionality ..... 41

  

Rootkits	
3	User-Mode Rootkits ..... 77
4	Kernel-Mode Rootkits ..... 109
5	Virtual Rootkits ..... 161
6	The Future of Rootkits ..... 187

  

Prevention Technologies	
7	Antivirus ..... 203
8	Host Protection Systems ..... 221
9	Host-Based Intrusion Prevention ..... 233
10	Rootkit Detection ..... 249

# Contents

Foreword	xvii
Acknowledgments	xix
Introduction	xxi

## Part I Malware

CASE STUDY: Please Review This Before Our Quarterly Meeting	2
<b>1 Malware Propagation</b>	<b>7</b>
Malware Is Still King	8
The Spread of Malware	8
Why They Want Your Workstation	8
Intent Is Hard to Detect	9
It's a Business	10
Significant Malware Propagation Techniques	10
Social Engineering	11
File Execution	13
Modern Malware Propagation Techniques	16
StormWorm	16
Metamorphism	19
Obfuscation	20
Dynamic Domain Name Services	24
Fast Flux	24
Malware Propagation Injection Vectors	26
Email	26
Malicious Websites	29
Phishing	32
Peer-to-Peer (P2P)	35
Worms	38
Summary	40

<b>2</b>	<b>Malware Functionality</b>	<b>41</b>
	What Malware Does Once It's Installed	42
	Pop-ups	42
	Search Engine Redirection	46
	Data Theft	53
	Click Fraud	54
	Identity Theft	57
	Keylogging	61
	Malware Behaviors	65
	Identifying Installed Malware	68
	Typical Install Locations	68
	Installing on Local Drives	69
	Modifying Timestamps	69
	Affecting Processes	69
	Disabling Services	70
	Modifying the Windows Registry	70
	Summary	71

## Part II Rootkits

	<b>CASE STUDY: The Invisible Rootkit That Steals Your Bank Account Data</b>	<b>74</b>
	Disk Access	75
	Firewall Bypassing	75
	Backdoor Communication	75
	Intent	76
	Presence and Significance	76
<b>3</b>	<b>User-Mode Rootkits</b>	<b>77</b>
	Rootkits	79
	Timeline	80
	Major Features of Rootkits	81
	Types of Rootkits	83
	User-Mode Rootkits	83
	What Are User-Mode Rootkits?	83
	Background Technologies	84
	Injection Techniques	87
	Hooking Techniques	98
	User-Mode Rootkit Examples	100
	Summary	108
<b>4</b>	<b>Kernel-Mode Rootkits</b>	<b>109</b>
	Ground Level: x86 Architecture Basics	110
	Instruction Set Architectures and the Operating System	111
	Protection Rings	112

Bridging the Rings	113
Kernel Mode: The Digital Wild West	113
The Target: Windows Kernel Components	114
The Win32 Subsystem	114
What Are These APIs Anyway?	116
The Concierge: NTDLL.DLL	116
Functionality by Committee: The Windows Executive (NTOSKRNL.EXE)	117
The Windows Kernel (NTOSKRNL.EXE)	117
Device Drivers	118
The Windows Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL)	118
Kernel Driver Concepts	119
Kernel-Mode Driver Architecture	119
Gross Anatomy: A Skeleton Driver	121
WDF, KMDF, and UMDF	122
Kernel-Mode Rootkits	122
What Are Kernel-Mode Rootkits?	123
Challenges Faced by Kernel-Mode Rootkits	123
Methods and Techniques	126
Kernel-Mode Rootkit Samples	145
Klog by Clandestiny	145
AFX by Aphex	148
FU and FUTO by Jamie Butler, Peter Silberman, and C.H.A.O.S	151
Shadow Walker by Sherri Sparks and Jamie Butler	152
He4Hook by He4 Team	155
Sebek by The HoneyNet Project	158
Summary	159
Summary of Countermeasures	159
<b>5 Virtual Rootkits</b>	<b>161</b>
Overview of Virtual Machine Technology	162
Types of Virtual Machines	163
The Hypervisor	164
Virtualization Strategies	166
Virtual Memory Management	166
Virtual Machine Isolation	167
Virtual Machine Rootkit Techniques	167
Rootkits in the Matrix: How Did We Get Here?!	167
What Is a Virtual Rootkit?	168
Types of Virtual Rootkits	169
Detecting the Virtual Environment	170
Escaping the Virtual Environment	177
Hijacking the Hypervisor	178
Virtual Rootkit Samples	179
Summary	185

<b>6</b>	<b>The Future of Rootkits</b> .....	<b>187</b>
	Increases in Complexity and Stealth .....	188
	Custom Rootkits .....	195
	Digitally Signed Rootkits .....	196
	Summary .....	196

## Part III Prevention Technologies

	<b>CASE STUDY: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing</b> .....	<b>200</b>
	Scareware .....	200
	Fakeware .....	200
	Look of Authenticity .....	200
	Countermeasures .....	201
<b>7</b>	<b>Antivirus</b> .....	<b>203</b>
	Now and Then: The Evolution of Antivirus Technology .....	204
	The Virus Landscape .....	205
	Definition of a Virus .....	205
	Classification .....	206
	Simple Viruses .....	208
	Complex Viruses .....	210
	Antivirus—Core Features and Techniques .....	212
	Manual or “On-Demand” Scanning .....	212
	Real-Time or “On-Access” Scanning .....	212
	Signature-Based Detection .....	213
	Anomaly/Heuristic-Based Detection .....	214
	A Critical Look at the Role of Antivirus Technology .....	215
	Where Antivirus Excels .....	216
	Top Performers in the Antivirus Industry .....	216
	Challenges for Antivirus .....	216
	The Future of the Antivirus Industry .....	219
	Summary and Countermeasures .....	219
<b>8</b>	<b>Host Protection Systems</b> .....	<b>221</b>
	Personal Firewall Capabilities .....	222
	Personal Firewall Limitations .....	223
	Pop-Up Blockers .....	225
	Chrome .....	225
	Firefox .....	226
	Microsoft Edge .....	226
	Safari .....	226
	Example Generic Pop-Up Blocker Code .....	228
	Summary .....	231

<b>9</b>	<b>Host-Based Intrusion Prevention</b> .....	<b>233</b>
	HIPS Architectures .....	234
	Growing Past Intrusion Detection .....	237
	Behavioral vs. Signature .....	238
	Behavioral Based .....	239
	Signature Based .....	240
	Anti-Detection Evasion Techniques .....	241
	How Do You Detect Intent? .....	245
	HIPS and the Future of Security .....	246
	Summary .....	247
<b>10</b>	<b>Rootkit Detection</b> .....	<b>249</b>
	The Rootkit Author's Paradox .....	250
	A Quick History .....	251
	Details on Detection Methods .....	254
	System Service Descriptor Table Hooking .....	254
	IRP Hooking .....	255
	Inline Hooking .....	256
	Interrupt Descriptor Table Hooks .....	256
	Direct Kernel Object Manipulation .....	256
	IAT Hooking .....	256
	Legacy DOS or Direct Disk Access Hooking .....	257
	Windows Anti-Rootkit Features .....	257
	Software-Based Rootkit Detection .....	258
	Live Detection vs. Offline Detection .....	259
	System Virginty Verifier .....	260
	IceSword and DarkSpy .....	261
	RootkitRevealer .....	262
	F-Secure's BlackLight Technology .....	264
	Rootkit Unhooker .....	265
	GMER .....	266
	Helios and Helios Lite .....	268
	McAfee Rootkit Detective and RootkitRemover .....	271
	TDSSKiller .....	272
	Bitdefender Rootkit Remover .....	274
	Trend Micro Rootkit Buster .....	275
	Malwarebytes Anti-Rootkit .....	275
	Avast aswMBR .....	275
	Commercial Rootkit Detection Tools .....	276
	Offline Detection Using Memory Analysis: The Evolution of Memory Forensics .....	277
	Virtual Rootkit Detection .....	285
	Hardware-Based Rootkit Detection .....	286
	Summary .....	287

<b>11</b>	<b>General Security Practices</b> .....	<b>289</b>
	End-User Education .....	290
	Security Awareness Training Programs .....	290
	Defense-in-Depth .....	293
	System Hardening .....	295
	Automatic Updates .....	295
	Virtualization .....	296
	Baked-In Security (from the Beginning) .....	297
	Summary .....	297
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>System Integrity Analysis: Building Your Own Rootkit Detector</b> .....	<b>299</b>
	What Is System Integrity Analysis? .....	301
	The Two Ps of Integrity Analysis .....	303
	Pointer Validation: Detecting SSDT Hooks .....	305
	Patch/Detour Detection in the SSDT .....	310
	The Two Ps for Detecting IRP Hooks .....	323
	The Two Ps for Detecting IAT Hooks .....	327
	Our Third Technique: Detecting DKOM .....	327
	Sample Rootkit Detection Utility .....	335
	<b>Index</b> .....	<b>337</b>
	Windows Anti-Rootkit Features .....	212
	Software-Based Rootkit Detection .....	212
	Live Detection vs. Offline Detection .....	212
	System Integrity Verifier .....	212
	Icedigger and DarkSpy .....	212
	RootkitRevealer .....	212
	F-Secure's BlackLight Technology .....	212
	Rootkit Unhooker .....	212
	GMBR .....	212
	Hells and Helios Lite .....	219
	McAfee Rootkit Detector and RootkitRemover .....	219
	TDSSKiller .....	222
	BlasterX Rootkit Remover .....	222
	Trend Micro Rootkit Buster .....	222
	Malwarebytes Anti-Rootkit .....	222
	Avast! sAwMBR .....	222
	Commented Rootkit Detection Tools .....	222
	Online Detection Using Memory Analysis: The Evolution of Memory .....	222
	Forensics .....	222
	Virtual Rootkit Detection .....	222
	Hardware-Based Rootkit Detection .....	222
	Summary .....	222