

Threats to the 2008 Presidential Election

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Introduction



- Setting the stage...
 - It's impossible to predict the future; BUT we can
 - Speculate; and
 - Make educated guesses; and
 - Learn from past experiences
- Much of what we'll discuss:
 - Has been demonstrated before; BUT
 - Can be easily applied to the electoral system
- Our findings need to be grounded in fact
 - Our intent is not to appear alarmist or spread FUD
 - Not all threats are equal; rating will be required



Ranking of Threats





Elevated; No immediate detrimental impact however may lead to further more serious attacks.



High; A serious threat, causing midterm harm, immediate action should be taken.



Extreme; High severity and high impact threat. May undermine long term confidence and cause immediate damage.

The Internet and our Electoral System



- Internet increasingly relied on for voter communications
- Used extensively in 2004; overshadowed in 2008
- Important to understand the associated risks
- One need only examine current threats
 - Adware, Spyware, Malicious Code
 - Typo Squatting, SPAM, Phishing, Fraud, Identity Theft
 - Dissemination of misinformation
 - Invasion of privacy
- Emphasis will be on 2008 Election; but can apply anywhere
- Past studies have focused on voting machine security
- Our emphasis is on Internet-borne threats

Online Advocacy



- 2004 Election was a first:
 - First use of E-mail solicitation
 - Organizing of supporters
 - Online news sites
 - Party web sites
 - Political BLOGs
- Kerry campaign lead the way
 - John Kerry \$82MM
 - Howard Dean \$20MM
 - George Bush \$14MM
- 45% of Democrat donors received E-mail daily
- 70% of Online Donors forwarded emails to others

Clicking Into the Kerry Coffers for a One-Day Online Record

By GLEN JUSTICE

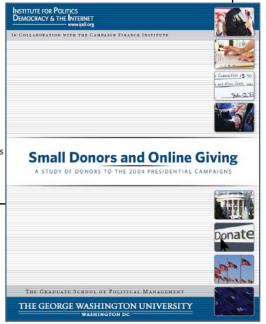
Published: July 2, 2004

W ASHINGTON, July 1 - <u>Senator John Kerry</u> collected more than \$34 million in June, including \$3 million raised online on Wednesday, setting a record for single-day Internet fund-raising and causing the campaign's computers to crash.

"There wasn't even any significant political event," Michael Meehan, a Kerry spokesman, said of the record online donations. "A lot of people predicted a slowdown, but in fact we've grown it. It's like the Wild West."

Mr. Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts, who has raised more than any challenger in presidential campaign history, brought his total for the election to about \$180 million, with a steady stream of mail, Internet and phone contributions as well as fund-raising events in Los Angeles, Aspen and elsewhere.

Mr. Kerry has raised more than \$44 million through mail and phone solicitations and more than \$56 million over the Internet this year.



Contributions in 2008



- Record online donations:
 - Obama \$28MM January
 - Clinton \$8MM Q3 2007

February 4 2008

Obama Sets Record With January Donations; Online Donations 88% Of Total

Michael Arrington 28 comments >>

Scoop: Clinton raised \$8 million online in 3Q

By Sarah Lai Stirland ☑ October 02, 2007 | 2:28:29 PM Categories: Election '08

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton raised about \$8 million online in the third quarter, said Clinton's Internet director Peter Daou.

That's an initial tally of the results, he said. The \$8 million came from online contributions submitted by Clinton supporters generated through e-mail solicitations and other initiatives.

That number is almost double the \$4.2 million that Clinton's campaign brought in online in the first quarter.

The \$8 million figure also exceeds the entire haul that several of her rivals reported for the entire quarter. For example, Clinton's fellow Democrats John Edwards reported raising a total of \$7 million for the third quarter and Bill Richardson's campaign on Sunday said it had raised \$5.2 million.

In all, Clinton's campaign raised a whopping \$27 million for the third quarter, the campaign announced through e-mail this morning. That's the same amount that Clinton raised in the second quarter.

LLAR

Rival Barack Obama's campaign reported raising at least \$20 million for the third quarter. His campaign topped Clinton's in fund raising in the second quarter with a total second quarter intake of \$32 million, just over a third of which was raised through online contributions.

Thursday the Barack Obama (who we have orsed as the Democratic candidate for ident) campaign announced a record-setting th in terms of donations - \$32 million in January e. That's the most ever raised by a candidate s still in a Primary race. And, his campaign told oday, \$28 million of that was raised online.

means Obama raised more money in January e than Howard Dean raised in his entire //2004 campaign (he raised a total of \$27 bn). Barack's \$28 million in online contributions

e from more than 250,000 contributors. 90% were under \$100. 40% were \$25 or less, and 00 people gave \$5 or \$10 to the campaign.





Confidence in a connected world.

Typo Squatting

Threat: Typo Squatting



Early 1990s was the wild west



- No precedence on domain name disputes
- Speculation and infringement ran rampant
- UDRP Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy
 - Created by ICANN in 1999
 - Implemented by WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
 - Provides a framework; but does not prevent infringement
- Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act
 - Took effect on November 29th, 1999
 - Provides a legal remedy and recovery of monetary damages
- Low cost of domain registration continues to drive infringement

Everyone wants to be Kevin Ham



 \$300MM Empire build on domain name speculation and typo squatting

The man who owns the Internet

Kevin Ham is the most powerful dotcom mogul you've never heard of, reports Business 2.0 Magazine. Here's how the master of Web domains built a \$300 million empire.

By Paul Sloan, Business 2.0 Magazine editor-at-large May 22 2007; 2:17 PM EDT BUSINESS 2.0

(Business 2.0 Magazine) -- Kevin Ham leans forward, sits up tall, closes his eyes, and begins to type -- into the air. He's seated along the rear wall of a packed ballroom in Las Vegas's Venetian Hotel. Up front, an auctioneer is running through a list of Internet domain names, building excitement the same way he might if vintage cars were on the block.

As names come up that interest Ham, he occasionally air-types. It's the ultimate gut check. Is the name one that people might enter directly into their Web browser, bypassing the search engine box entirely, as Ham wants? Is it better in plural or singular form? If it's a typo, is it a mistake a lot of people would make? Or does the name, like a stunning beachfront property, just feel like a winner?

When Ham wants a domain, he leans over and quietly instructs an associate to bid on his behalf. He likes wedding names, so his guy lifts the white paddle and snags Weddingcatering.com for \$10,000. Greeting.com is not nearly as good as the plural Greetings.com, but Ham grabs it anyway, for \$350,000.

Ham is a devout Christian, and he spends \$31,000 to add Christianrock.com to his collection, which already includes God.com and Satan.com. When it's all over, Ham strolls to the table near the exit and writes a check for \$650,000. It's a cheap afternoon.

Just a few years ago, most of the guys bidding in this room had never laid eyes on one another. Indeed, they rarely left their home



UPWARDLY MOBILE: Kevin Ham's kitchen-table business now inhabits the 27th floor of a skyscraper in Vancouver.

Example Disputes



Julia Roberts (juliaroberts.com)







Julia Fiona Roberts v. Russell Boyd

Case No. D2000-0210

7. Decision

The Panel concludes (a) that the domain name <juliaroberts.com> is identical to Complainant's common law trademark in her name "Julia Roberts," (b) that Respondent has no rights or legitimate interest in the domain name and (c) that Respondent registered and used the domain name in bad faith. Therefore, pursuant to paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the domain name <juliaroberts.com> be transferred to Complainant Julia Fiona Roberts.

1. The Parties

Claimant is Julia Fiona Roberts a United States citizen, with a principal place of business c/o Armstrong Hirsch Jackoway Tyerman & Wertheimer, 1888 Century Park East 18th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067 USA.

Respondent is Russell Boyd a United States citizen with a mailing address 189 Carter Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA

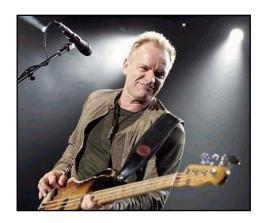


Example Disputes



Sting (www.sting.com)





WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Gordon Sumner, p/k/a Sting v Michael Urvan

Case No. D2000-0596

7. Decision

- 7.1 This Administrative Panel decides that the Complainant has not proven each of the three elements in paragraph 4(a) of the Uniform Policy in relation to the domain name the subject of the Complaint.
- 7.2 Pursuant to paragraph 4(i) of the Uniform Policy and paragraph 15 of the Uniform Rules, this Administrative Panel denies the request that the Registrar, Network Solutions, Inc, be required either to transfer to the Complainant, Gordon Sumner, p/k/a Sting, or to cancel, the domain name "sting.com".

1. The Parties

1.1 The Complainant is Gordon Sumner, professionally known as "Sting", a citizen of the United Kingdom who maintains a residence in the United States. The Respondent is Michael Urvan, of Marietta, Georgia, United States of America.

2008 Candidate Infringement



- Sought out to determine how widespread typo squatting was
- Identified candidates registered with FEC as of March 31/07
 - 19 Candidates had registered
 - Identified primary campaign site and registered domain name
 - Removed non-COM domains (to simplify analysis)
 - 17 Domains left

Candidate	Domain	Candidate	Domain
Joe Biden (Democrat)	joebiden.com	Duncun Hunter (Republican)	gohunter08.com
Sam Brownback (Republican)	brownback.com	John McCain (Republican)	johnmccain.com
Hillary Clinton (Democrat)	hillaryclinton.com	Barack Obama (Democrat)	barackobama.com
John Cox (Republican)	<u>cox2008.com</u>	Ron Paul (Republican)	ronpaul2008.com
Christopher Dodd (Democrat)	chrisdodd.com	Bill Richardson (Democrat)	richardsonforpresident.com
John Edwards (Democrat)	johnedwards.com	Mitt Romney (Republican)	mittromney.com
James Gilmore (Republican)	gilmoreforpresident.com	Tom Tancredo (Republican)	teamtancredo.com
Rudy Giuliani (Republican)	joinrudy2008.com	Tommy Thompson (Republican)	tommy2008.com
Mike Huckabee (Republican)	mikehuckabee.com		

Test Process



- Conducted two tests
 - Typo Squatting Analysis
 - Cousin Domain Analysis
- Created two applications
 - typo_gen allows generation of typos based on five common mistakes
 - typo_lookup performs DNS and WHOIS lookups of domains names
- Mistakes include:
 - Missing the first '.' delimiter:
 - Missing a character in the name (t):
 - Hitting a surrounding character (r):
 - Adding an additional character (t):
 - Reversing two characters (im):

wwwmittromney.com

www.mitromney.com

www.mitrromney.com

www.mitttromney.com

www.imttromney.com

Typo Squatting – August 2007



Domain Name	Registered	%	Example
barackobama.com	52 out of 160	33%	narackobama.com
hillaryclinton.com	58 out of 191	30%	hillaryclingon.com
johnedwards.com	34 out of 170	20%	hohnedwards.com
johnmccain.com	20 out of 137	15%	jhnmccain.com
mittromney.com	18 out of 123	15%	muttromney.com
joebiden.com	15 out of 125	12%	jobiden.com
chrisdodd.com	14 out of 145	10%	chrisdod.com
joinrudy2008.com	9 out of 173	5%	jionrudy2008.com
cox2008.com	3 out of 92	3%	<u>fox2008.com</u>
mikehuckabee.com	3 out of 167	2%	mikehukabee.com
ronpaul2008.com	11 out of 143	2%	ronpaul20008.com
gohunter08.com	1 out of 150	1%	ohunter08.com
richardsonforpresident.com	2 out of 340	1%	richardsonforpresiden.com
teamtancredo.com	1 out of 170	1%	teamtrancredo.com
tommy2008.com	1 out of 107	1%	tommyt2008.com
brownback.com	0 out of 134	0%	
gilmoreforpresident.com	0 out of 276	0%	

Typo Squatting – February 2008



Domain Name		Then	Now	%	Example
hillaryclinton.com		30%	79 out of 191	41%	hillaryclingon.com
barackobama.com		33%	47 out of 160	29%	narackobama.com
johnedwards.com	[X]	20%	42 out of 170	25%	hohnedwards.com
ronpaul2008.com		2%	26 out of 143	19%	ronpaul20008.com
johnmccain.com		15%	25 out of 137	18%	jhnmccain.com
mittromney.com		15%	19 out of 123	15%	muttromney.com
mikehuckabee.com		2%	17 out of 167	10%	mikehukabee.com
joinrudy2008.com	[X]	5%	12 out of 173	7%	jionrudy2008.com
joebiden.com	[X]	12%	6 out of 125	5%	jobiden.com
cox2008.com	[X]	3%	4 out of 92	4%	fox2008.com
chrisdodd.com	[XX]	10%	4 out of 145	3%	chrisdod.com
richardsonforpresident.com	[XX]	1%	4 out of 340	1%	richardsonforpresiden.com
tommy2008.com	[XXX]	1%	1 out of 107	1%	tommy2009.com
gohunter08.com		1%	0 out of 150	0%	
teamtancredo.com	[XXX]	1%	0 out of 170	0%	
brownback.com	[XXX]	0%	0 out of 134	0%	
gilmoreforpresident.com	[XXX]	0%	0 out of 276	0%	

[X] Continue to allow donations

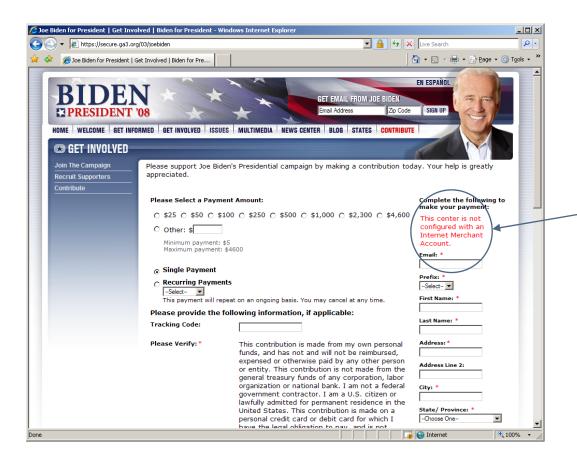
[XX] Donations to recover debt

[XXX] Abandoned

Threat: Web Site Abandonment







Complete the following to make your payment:

This center is not configured with an Internet Merchant Account.

Email: *

Web Site Abandonment



Tommy Thompson

Sam Brownback

Jim Gilmore

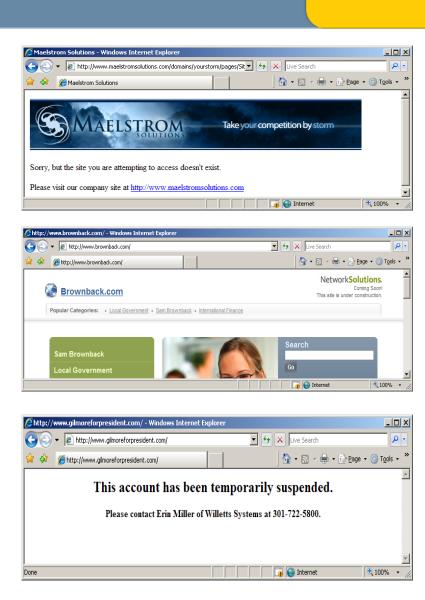
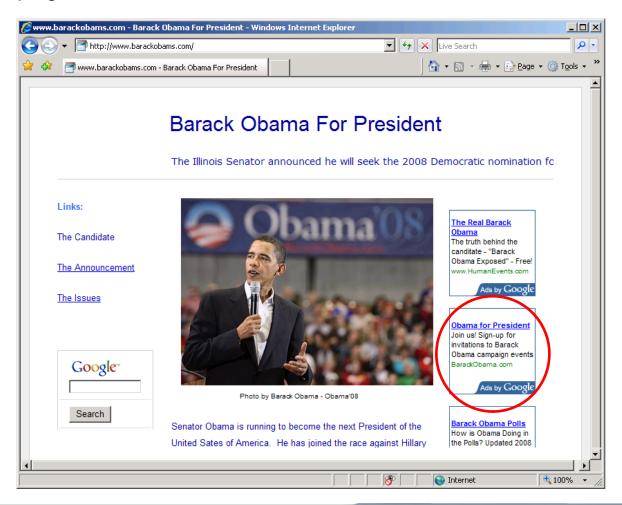




Figure 1. http://www.barackobams.com contains advertisements pointing to the candidate's legitimate campaign site.





• Figure 2. http://www.hillaryclingon.com has another meaning.





Figure 3. http://www.joinrudy20008.com redirects to a detractor's web site at http://rudy-urbanlegend.com (now gone).





Figure 4. August. http://www.muttromney.com points to detractors web site.

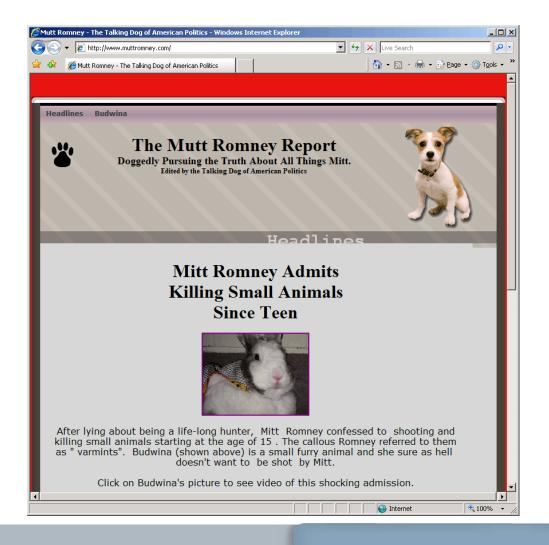
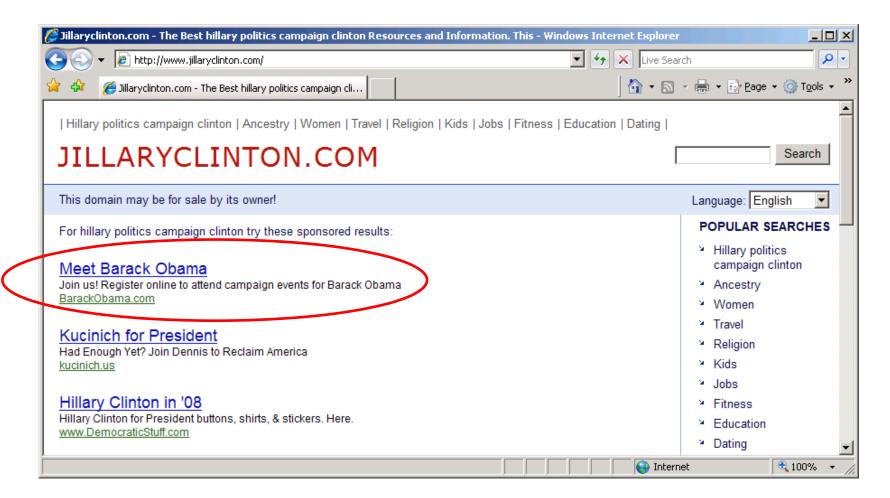




Figure 5. http://www.jillaryclinton.com displays advertisements directing visitors to rival web sites.





Confidence in a connected world.

All Your Typos Are Belong To Us

Proactive registration



We registered 124 typo domains to protect them; (\$800 at GoDaddy)

Mitt Romney

Barack Obama

Hillary Clinton

IMTTROMNEY.COM
JITTROMNEY.COM
KITTROMNEY.COM
MIFTROMNEY.COM
MIGTROMNEY.COM
MIITTROMNEY.COM
MIRTROMNEY.COM
MITFROMNEY.COM
MITGROMNEY.COM
MITRROMNEY.COM
MITRTOMNEY.COM
MITTOMNEY.COM
MITTEOMNEY.COM
MITTFOMNEY.COM
MITTORMNEY.COM
MITTRIMNEY.COM
MITTRKMNEY.COM
MITTRLMNEY.COM
MITTRMNEY.COM
MITTRMONEY.COM
MITTROJNEY.COM
MITTROKNEY.COM
MITTROMBEY.COM

MITTROMHEY.COM MITTROMJEY.COM MITTROMNDY.COM MITTROMNEEY.COM MITTROMNEG.COM MITTROMNEH.COM MITTROMNEU.COM MITTROMNEYY.COM MITTROMNNEY.COM MITTROMNSY.COM MITTROMNWY.COM MITTROMNYE.COM MITTRONEY.COM MITTRPMNEY.COM MITTRROMNEY.COM MITTTOMNEY.COM MITYROMNEY.COM MIYTROMNEY.COM MJTTROMNEY.COM MKTTROMNEY.COM MMITTROMNEY.COM MTITROMNEY.COM NITTROMNEY.COM

ABRACKOBAMA.COM **BAARACKOBAMA.COM BADACKOBAMA.COM** BAFACKOBAMA.COM **BARAACKOBAMA.COM** BARACIOBAMA.COM **BARACKBOAMA.COM BARACKIBAMA.COM** BARACKKBAMA.COM BARACKLBAMA.COM **BARACKOABMA.COM BARACKOBAAMA.COM BARACKOBAJA.COM** BARACKOBAKA.COM BARACKOBAMW.COM BARACKOBQMA.COM BARACKOBSMA.COM **BARACKOBWMA.COM** BARACKOBZMA.COM BARACKOGAMA.COM BARACKOHAMA.COM **BARACMOBAMA.COM** BARACOKBAMA.COM

BARACOOBAMA.COM **BARADKOBAMA.COM BARAFKOBAMA.COM** BARAVKOBAMA.COM **BARQCKOBAMA.COM** BARSCKOBAMA.COM **BARWCKOBAMA.COM BARZCKOBAMA.COM BQRACKOBAMA.COM** BSRACKOBAMA.COM BZRACKOBAMA.COM **GARACKOBAMA.COM** HARACKOBAMA.COM

HIKLARYCLINTON.COM HILKARYCLINTON.COM HILLAARYCLINTON.COM HILLARYCPINTON.COM HILLADYCLINTON.COM HILLAFYCLINTON.COM HILLARGCLINTON.COM HILLARHCLINTON.COM HILLARYCCLINTON.COM HILLAYRCLINTON.COM HILLARYCILNTON.COM HILLARYCKINTON.COM HILLARYCLIHTON.COM HILLARYCLIJTON.COM HILLARYCLINFON.COM HILLARYCLINOTN.COM HILLARYCLINTKN.COM HILLARYCLINTLN.COM HILLARYCLINTNO.COM HILLARYCLINTOH.COM HILLARYCLINTOJ.COM HILLARYCLINTONN.COM HILLARYCLJNTON.COM HILLARYCLKNTON.COM HILLARYCLNITON.COM

HILLARYCLUNTON.COM HILLARYCOINTON.COM HILLARYDLINTON.COM HILLARYFLINTON.COM HILLARYLCINTON.COM HILLARYXLINTON.COM HILLQRYCLINTON.COM HILLWRYCLINTON.COM HILLZRYCLINTON.COM **HILPARYCLINTON.COM** HIOLARYCLINTON.COM HIPLARYCLINTON.COM HJLLARYCLINTON.COM HKLLARYCLINTON.COM IHLLARYCLINTON.COM **UILLARYCLINTON.COM** YILLARYCLINTON.COM

Proactive registration



Owned since July, 2007; not one contact

Registrant:

Registered to prevent typo squatting 350 Ellis Street, Bldg A Mountain View, California 94043 United States

Registered through: GoDaddy.com, Inc. (http://www.godaddy.com)

Domain Name: IMTTROMNEY.COM

Created on: 26-Jul-07 Expires on: 26-Jul-08

Last Updated on: 26-Jul-07

Administrative Contact:

Friedrichs, Oliver oliver_friedrichs@symantec.com
Registered to prevent typo squatting
350 Ellis Street, Bldg A
Mountain View, California 94043
United States
6505270945 Fax --

• • •

Traffic Analysis



- Domains sat idle for ~6 months
- Began traffic forwarding in January
 - Using Apache, Virtual Domains and Redirect (302)
- Used WebLog Expert to analyze log files



- Filtered out Crawlers, Spiders and Bots
- Analysis of a 3 week period; FRI Jan 25 FRI Feb 15
- Limited amount of data; interesting nonetheless

Statistics - General

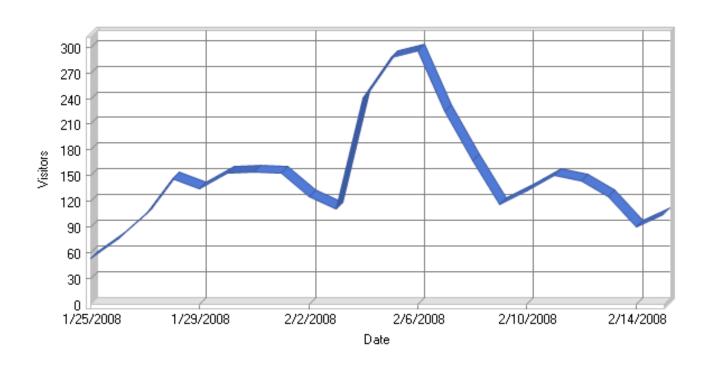


Hits	
Total Hits	4,605
Average Hits per Day	209
Average Hits per Visitor	1.40
Visitors	
Total Visitors	3,290
Average Visitors per Day	149
Total Unique IPs	2,529
Bandwidth	
Total Bandwidth	1.23 MB
Average Bandwidth per Day	57.41 KB
Average Bandwidth per Hit	280 B
Average Bandwidth per Visitor	393 B

Daily Visitors



- Peak of 300 visitors/day (~400 hits)
 - Increase on Super Tuesday

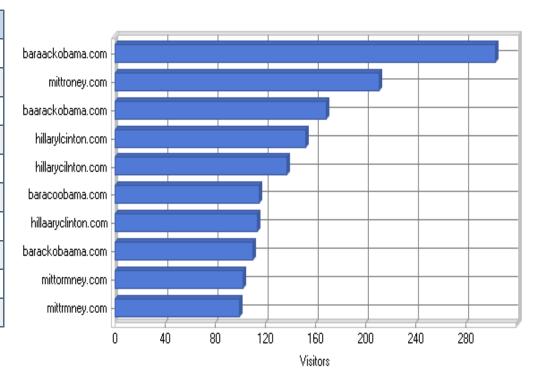


Typo Frequency Analysis



Duplicate and missing letters most common

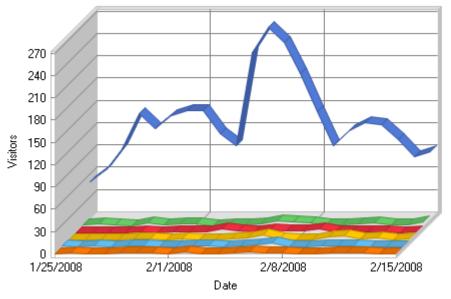
Virtual Domain	Visitors	Hits
baraackobama.com	304	411
mittroney.com	211	269
baarackobama.com	169	229
hillarylcinton.com	152	242
hillarycilnton.com	137	180
baracoobama.com	115	150
hillaaryclinton.com	114	146
barackobaama.com	110	142
mittormney.com	102	130
mittrmney.com	99	130



Origin Country Analysis



- United States not surprisingly at the top
- UAE is surprisingly third (???); however look at the drop after the US



O.1111000 O.101100
Canada
United Arab Emirates
Germany
United Kingdom
Japan

United States

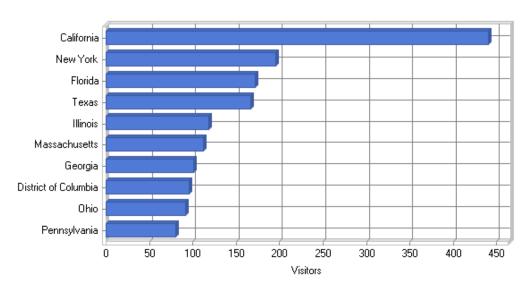
Country	Visitors	Hits
United States	2,931	4,124
Canada	58	86
United Arab Emirates	36	48
Germany	31	40
United Kingdom	20	26

Origin State and City Analysis



California top state, San Diego top city

State	Visitors	Hits
California	440	622
New York	195	268
Florida	172	237
Texas	167	336
Illinois	118	158

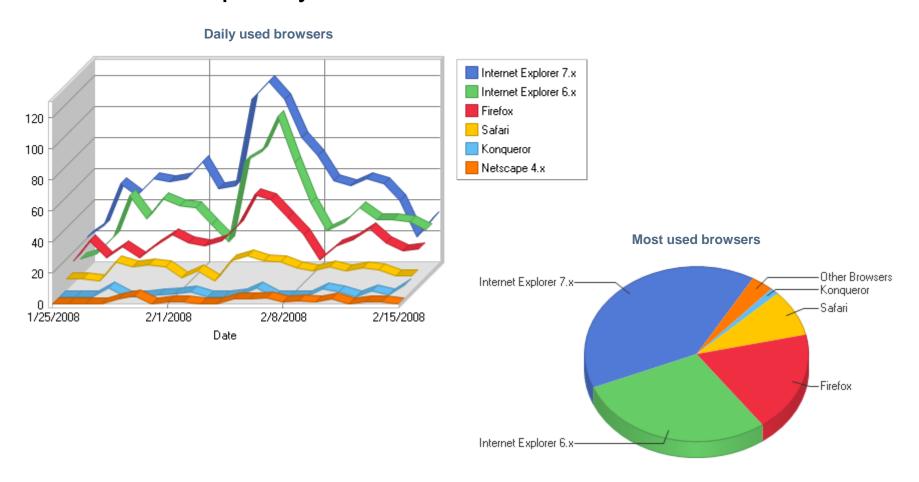


City	Visitors	Hits
San Diego, CA	103	109
Washington, DC	96	116
New York, NY	50	76
Chicago, IL	49	66
Dallas, TX	44	148

Browser Frequency Analysis



IE7 most frequently seen browser; but IE6 not far behind

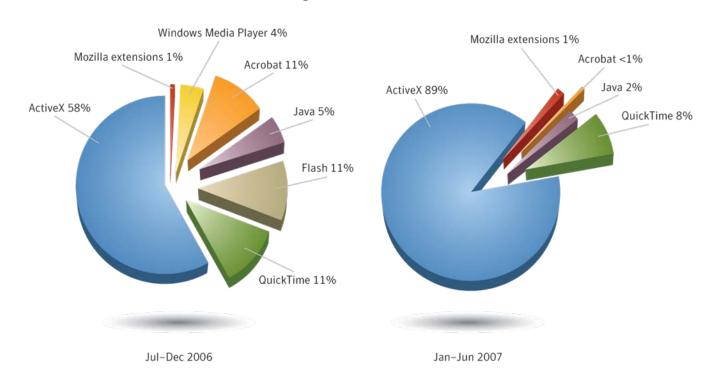


Browser plug-in vulnerabilities



- ▶ In the first half of 2007, 237 browser plug-ins vulnerabilities seen
- ▶ 89% affect ActiveX components for IE

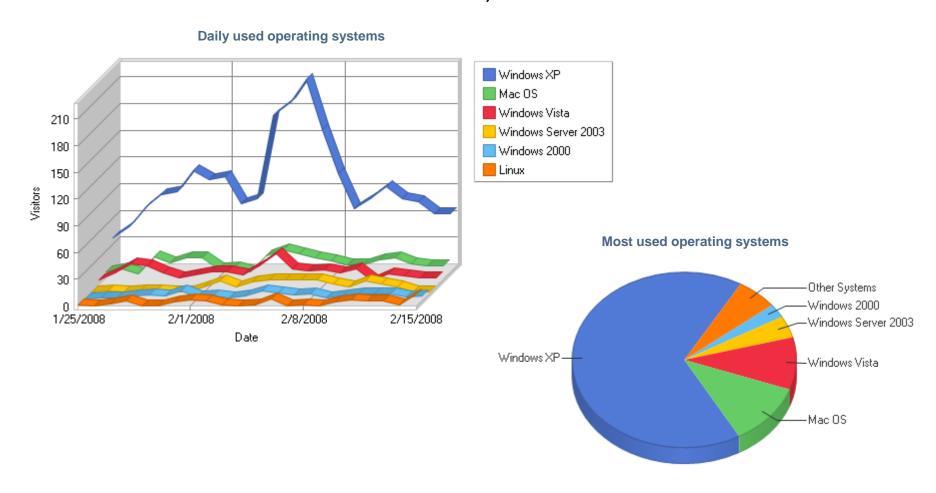
Percentage of vulnerabilities



Operating System Frequency Analysis



Windows XP most common OS; Mac OS second



UAE Analysis



- Why is UAE third on our list?
- Top single IP ranked by visitor count

Host	Country	Visitors	Hits
213.42.21.59	United Arab Emirates	30	41
74.52.245.146	United States	21	122
38.100.41.113	United States	20	21
38.105.83.12	United States	16	16
38.100.41.105	United States	15	16

inetnum:	213.42.0.0 -
	213.42.255.255
org:	ORG-ETC1-RIPE
netname:	AE-EMIRNET-990929
descr:	Emirates
	Telecommunications
	Corporation
country:	AE
admin-c:	AH1223-RIPE
tech-c:	SAS88-RIPE
tech-c:	SAN30-RIPE
tech-c:	SMA3-RIPE
status:	ALLOCATED PA
mnt-by:	RIPE-NCC-HM-MNT
mnt-lower:	ETISALAT-MNT
mnt-routes:	ETISALAT-MNT
source:	RIPE # Filtered
source:	RIPE # Filtered

What do the logs show?



41 hits; all to <u>www.baracoobama.com</u>; identical over 15 days

```
213.42.21.59 - - [03/Feb/2008:09:39:18 -0800] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 302 294 "-" "Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1; SIMBAR Enabled; SIMBAR={319150ED-A86D-4032-A7A3-EAA4CB78B217})" baracoobama.com
```

- What is SIMBAR? The Simple Toolbar Search
 - Direct marketing Adware application; user is infected
- Is it driving this traffic? Who knows...
- Traffic is odd, likely automated, and unknown to the user
- Possible typo in the advertisement target?

Threat: E-mail Squatting



One of the most concerning attacks

Level 4: Extreme

- What is it? Redirection of E-mail
 - MX record addition (trivial)
- Mail client auto-complete minimizes risk somewhat
 - But type-in still extremely common
- Conducted a strictly controlled experiment
- Strict requirements:
 - No interception of E-mail
 - No invasion of privacy; exposure of private communications
 - No disruption of E-mail transmission
- Reconfigured MX records for 124 domains for 24 hour period
- Configured Linux system w/iptables to LOG port 25
- Monitored resulting events for 24 hour period

E-mail Squatting Analysis



- Resulting connection attempts:
 - 1121 total connection attempts
 - 12 distinct IP addresses
 - 7 distinct top level domains
- Would have been easy to intercept
 - smtp-sink
 - Or redirect to intended recipient
- What would we see?
 - SPAM?
 - Information requests, questions?
 - Organizational E-mails?
 - Internal campaign communications?
 - Strategy?

yahoo.com google.com hotmail.com ex.dslextreme.net rsys1.com tierra.net administaff.com

Even more scary...



Typos of two different defense contractors

Domain Only: No MX Record

Registrant:

Private WHOIS FOR XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.COM

Privacy Protection

(XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.COM@privatewhois.in)

B-304, Florida, Y-11, Shastrinagar,

Lokhandwala Complex,

Andheri (West)

Mumbai

Maharashtra,400053

IN

Tel. +91.02226300138

Fax. +91.02226311820

Creation Date: 03-Jul-2000 Expiration Date: 03-Jul-2008

Domain + Valid MX Record

Administrative Contact:

wen zhiqiang

beijing dongfang tonglian technology.,LTD.

beijing

beijing Beijing 100000

China

tel: 86 010 66707800

fax: 86 010 66706599

dftl@pc8000.com

Technical Contact:

wen zhiqiang

beijingdongfangtongliankejiyouxiangongsi

yuquanlu

beijin Beijing 100039

China

tel: 86 010 66707800 fax: 86 010 66706599

dftl@pc8000.com



Confidence in a connected world.

Profit Motivated Phishing

Event oriented Phishing

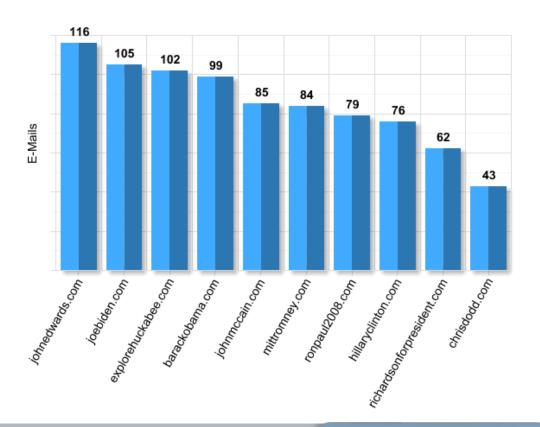


- Profit-motivated event-based Phishing is not new
- Has been seen in the past on numerous occasions
- Surrounding significant events world-wide
 - Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004
 - Hurricane Katrina in 2005
 - 2006 and 2010 FIFA World Cup
- Brazil sees even shorter term examples

Campaign E-mail Use Analysis



- Registered for each candidates E-mail campaign in August
 - 941 E-mail messages received over 6 months (Aug Feb)
 - 17 campaigns tracked; 167 distinct email addresses seen



Threat: Inconsistent Sources



John McCain



Hillary Clinton

From: "Ace Smith, Hillary Clinton for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Ace Smith, Hillary for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Maisha Everhart, Hillary Clinton for President" <meverhart@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Mather Martin, Hillary for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Michael Trujillo, Hillary Clinton for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Miguel Espinoza, Hillary Clinton for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Mike Trujillo, Hillary Clinton for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Patti Solis Doyle, Hillary Clinton for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Patti Solis Doyle, Hillary for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: "Team California, Hillary for President" <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: Bill Clinton <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: Chelsea Clinton <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: Hillary Clinton <club44oakland@hillaryclinton.com> From: Hillary Clinton <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: Hillary Clinton for President <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: John Grisham <info@hillaryclinton.com> From: Rob Reiner <info@hillaryclinton.com>

Threat: Sender ID / SPF Usage



- Validates that the originating IP can send mail for domain specified in:
 - HELO command
 - MAIL FROM command
- Participants publish TXT records which specific allowed mail servers

hillaryclinton.com: v=spf1

ip4:129.41.77.122 ip4:69.25.50.0/24

ip4:69.63.150.0/23 ip4:72.3.248.0/24

ip4:72.3.141.0/24 ip4:72.3.251.0/24

ip4:129.41.98.182 include:mxlogic.net

include:**spf.postini.com** include:cpoint.net

ip4:68.166.167.85 ip4:216.185.23.48/28 -all

tommy2008.com: v=spf1 +all [BAD]



Domain Name	SPF Record?
barackobama.com	Yes
brownback.com	No
chrisdodd.com	No
cox2008.com	No
mikehuckabee.com	Yes
gilmoreforpresident.com	No
gohunter08.com	No
hillaryclinton.com	Yes
joebiden.com	No
johnedwards.com	Yes
johnmccain.com	Yes
joinrudy2008.com	Yes
mittromney.com	No
richardsonforpresident.com	No
ronpaul2008.com	Yes
teamtancredo.com	No
tommy2008.com	Yes

Threat: Confusing Donation Links



Donation sites:

Level 2: Elevated

- All candidates
- All use SSL
- Use of third parties
- Why change TLD?
- Use DNS correctly

Domain Name	Redirects To
barackobama.com	https://donate.barackobama.com
brownback.com	https://www.campaigncontribution.com (gone)
chrisdodd.com	https://salsa.wiredforchange.com
cox2008.com	https://www.completecampaigns.com
mikehuckabee.com	https://www.mikehuckabee.com
gilmoreforpresident.com	https://www.gilmoreforpresident.com
gohunter08.com	https://contribute.gohunter08.com
hillaryclinton.com	https://contribute.hillaryclinton.com
joebiden.com	https://secure.ga3.org
johnedwards.com	https://secure.actblue.com (changed now)
johnmccain.com	https://www.johnmccain.com
joinrudy2008.com	https://www.joinrudy2008.com
mittromney.com	https://www.mittromney.com
richardsonforpresident.com	https://secure.richardsonforpresident.com
ronpaul2008.com	https://www.ronpaul2008.com
teamtancredo.com	https://www.campaigncontribution.com (gone)
tommy2008.com	https://secure.yourpatriot.com (gone)

Online donation forms



A sample form from one candidate's web site

	Click here to contribute by mail	
CONTACT INFORMATION	SELECT A TYPE AND AMOUNT	
First Name:	● One-time contribution C Recurring monthly (what's this?)	
Last Name:	C \$10 C \$50 C \$250 C \$1000 C \$4600	
Address:	C \$25 C \$100 C \$500 C \$2300 C Other \$	
City:		
State:	CREDIT CARD INFORMATION	
Zip:	Card Number:	
Phone:	Expiration:	
Email:	Security Code: (what's this?)	
EMPLOYMENT	CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY	
To comply with Federal law, we must use best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the nam	By checking this box, I confirm that the following statements a true and accurate:	
mailing address, occupation and name of emplo of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 i	oyer 1. This contribution is made from my own funds, and not thos	
an election cycle.	of another. 2. This contribution is not made from the general treasury	
If not employed, enter "none"	funds of a corporation, labor organization or national bank. 3. I am not a Federal government contractor.	
Employer:	4. I am not a foreign national who lacks permanent resident	
Occupation:	status in the United States. 5. I am at least 18 years of age.	
	This contribution is made on a personal credit or debit card	
	for which I have the legal obligation to pay, and is made neither on a corporate or business entity card nor on the card of another.	

Threat: Election Phishing



Seen during the 2004 Presidential Election



- Targeted Kerry-Edwards Campaign
 - Online campaign contribution site
 - 1-900 number based; \$1.99 per minute; perpetrators never caught
- Over 1,000 Phishing campaigns per day today



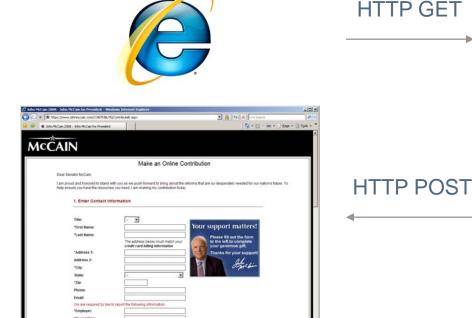
Threat: Diversion of Contributions



Submission of donations to an opponent



- Numerous venues for diversion:
 - Phishing, Typo Squatting, Malicious Code



Diversion of Campaign Contributions



- Multiple problems with current donation pages
- Designed simple to drive donations
 - No login required
 - No CAPTCHA, additional user interaction required
 - Most are single page submission forms
 - Provide instant credit card verification

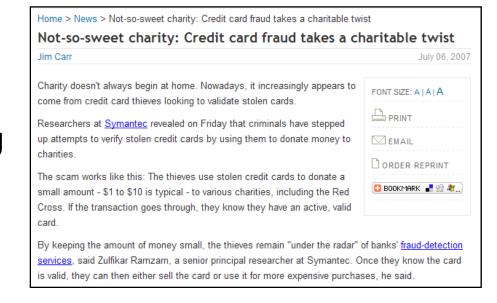
Threat: Contribution DOS



 Processing of credit cards may provide unexpected benefit



- Small transactions used by thieves
- First seen in early 2007
 - Online charity web sites
 - All contributions not helpful
- Attackers disrupt fundraising
 - Submit random contributions
 - Thousands of credit cards
- Significant burden & dilution
 - Impossible to differentiate



Contribution DOS



- It's already happened; November 2007
 - Only \$3000
 - Frost Bank
 - 500 stolen credit cards
 - \$5-\$10 contributions
 - Quickly refunded

Identity Thieves Contribute To Ron Paul Presidential Fund

Updated: Nov 2, 2007 09:15 PM PDT



Credit card thieves donating money to a presidential campaign is becoming an increasingly familiar form of identity theft, but there may be nothing law enforcement can do about it.

For Jaye Ruffino it started when she tried to pay a bill with her check card but was unable to, because the bank put a hold on it.



"I told them this doesn't make any sense, because this isn't a credit card, it's a check card, and I've got plenty of money in there, so what's the problem?" Ruffino said.

A customer service representative told her there was a suspicious \$5 charge to her account.

"She said, 'Somebody by the name of Ron Paul has been trying to take \$5 out of your account using this number," Ruffino said.

Ron Paul 2008



Confidence in a connected world.

Malicious Code Security Risks

Threat: Adware



In its truest form, likely not to pose a dire risk

Level 2: Elevated

- However, it's installation provides strategic placement
- Allows for manipulation of user's Internet experience
 - Displaying unwanted or unexpected ads
 - Innocuous form: Pop-ups or advertisements
 - Deceptive: Replacing one candidate for another
- Techniques frequently used by
 - 180solution's Hotbar
 - The Gator Corporation's Gator
 - WhenU's Save
- Impact may minimal; minor influence on undecided voters

Threat: Spyware



 The Gallup Organization has been collecting and tracking voter disposition since 1935 GALLUP POLL



- Well known organization; willing contributors
- Spyware, conversely provides a new mechanism
 - Relatively easy mass accumulation of data
 - Potential for many detailed behaviors to be tracked
 - Potential to be done so without voters knowledge
 - Monitoring of web sites visited; news read; mailing list memberships; party affiliation; emails
- Even when clearly defined in EULA; nobody reads it
 - WhenU's license agreement 45 pages long

Threat: Browser Data Leakage



Undesired leakage of browser history



- Tracking of Internet sites visited by user
- Donation sites that have visited
- Popular news articles that may have been read

https://www.indiana.edu/~phishing/browser-recon/

- The CSS :visited pseudo-class can be used to report on visited sites
- Below, the #foo attribute sets a background property based on history

Threat: Malicious Code



Another of the more concerning attacks



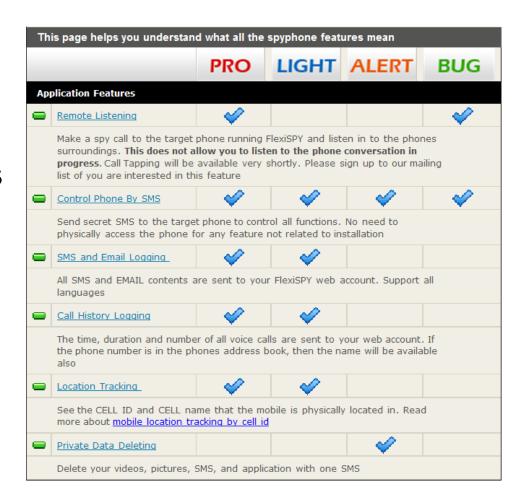
- Widespread infection of the general populace
- Targeted, calculated infection of key individuals
- Widespread politically targeted malicious code may cause
 - Confusion, loss of confidence, widespread damage
 - Data theft, invasion of privacy, logging of keystrokes
- Targeted attacks can target
 - Campaign staff, candidates themselves, candidates families
 - Carefully, well-placed key logger may he detrimental consequences
 - Monitoring of communications:
 - Web site access
 - Draft speeches
 - Strategy

Threat: Monitoring of Communications



- FlexiSpy
- Sold by Bangkok, Thailand software company Vervata
- Remote listening
 - When phone not in use
- Recording of conversations
 - While phone in use
- Remote storage using phone's data connection
- Multiple platforms:
 - Windows Mobile
 - Symbian OS
 - Blackberry





Threat: Ransomware



A new twist: Taking Intimidation Online



- Personally sensitive or legally questionable data collection
- Recording of private conversations, video
- Pictures, browser history, documents
- Copy written materials: music, movies, books
- Data encrypting threats
 - Trojan.GPCoder
 - Encrypts data, erasing the original until a fee is paid
 - Your data for your vote?
 - Obvious logistical issues with actual deployment

Threat: Malicious Code Laced SPAM



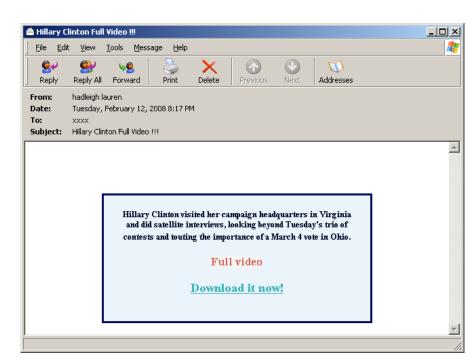
- SPAM pointing to malicious code has already been seen
 - Tuesday, February 12th
- Hillary Clinton video link
 - Installs a downloader
 - Downloads Trojan.Srizbi
- Kernel Mode Rookit
 - Hides Registry, Files, Network
 - Downloads configuration files in order to send SPAM

netname: RBNET

descr: RBusiness Network

admin-c: RNR4-RIPE





http://www.google.com/pagead/iclk?sa= I&ai=RwGGv&num=96249&adurl=http:/ /*********.com/modelo1/susy/rdown.p hp?PNDcx



Confidence in a connected world.

Cognitive Attacks, Voter Deception and Intimidation

Threat: Misinformation Attacks



Potential attacks are plenty



- We've discussed typo domains, Phishing, SPAM as lures
- All three can be used to spread misinformation
- Misinformation may include
 - Decision to drop out of a race
 - A fake scandal, legal or health issues
 - Subtle information; seemingly legitimate (change in position)
 - Push polling
- Campaign site security plays a critical role
 - Server vulnerabilities; SQL injection
 - Cross Site Scripting (XSS); IT outsourcing
 - E-mail policies and standards

Threat: Cross Site Scripting



Cross Site Scripting Vulnerabilities



- Mitt Romney's web site at the end of January
- Allowed injection of arbitrary information into campaign web site

http://www.mittromney.com/index.jsp?do=search&q=%3Cscript%3Ealert%28%22Oops%21%22%29%3C%2Fscript%3E

Easy to redirect visitors to an opponent or display arbitrary content

Threat: Deception and Intimidation



Deceptive practices common in traditional communications



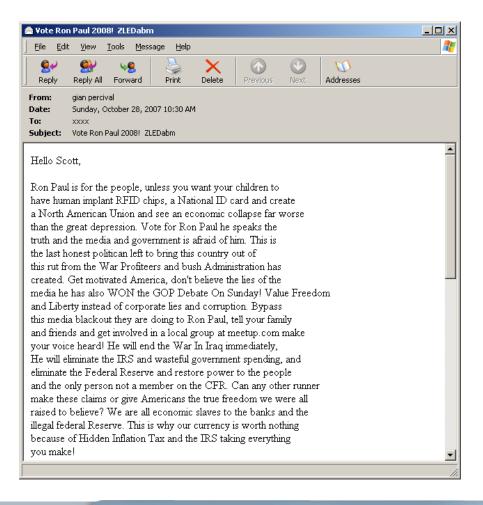
- Numerous documented cases for previous elections
- 2006: 14,000 Latino voters in Orange County
 - Misleading letters warning them that it is illegal for immigrants to vote in the election, and that doing so may result in incarceration and deportation
- 2004: College students in Pittsburgh
 - Petitioners for medical marijuana and auto insurance rates
 - Gathered signatures resulting change to party affiliation and polling location
- Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007
- Policy is important; however one need only look at SPAM
- Pump and Dump scams have proven successful
 - 2006: One surge attributed to a Bot network, operated by Russian fraudsters
 - 70,000 computers across 166 countries were organized
 - Can be directed to send any form of email, including disinformation

Threat: Election SPAM



- Examples have already been seen in the wild
- 120,000 message observed by Symantec







Confidence in a connected world.

Federal Election Commission

Federal Election Commission



Created to:

- Track campaign contributions
- Enforce federal regulations

In 1975, Congress created the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to administer and enforce the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) - the statute that governs the financing of federal elections. The duties of the FEC, which is an independent regulatory agency, are to disclose campaign finance information, to enforce the provisions of the law such as the limits and prohibitions on contributions, and to oversee the public funding of Presidential elections.

http://www.fec.gov/about.shtml

FEC Obligations



The FEC must:

- Maintain and provide to the public a full record of all campaign contributions (over \$200)
- Posted on most web websites that accept contributions

We are required by federal law to collect and report to the Federal Election Commission the name, mailing address, occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in an election cycle. These records are available to the public. However, they cannot be used by other organizations for fundraising. We also make a note of your telephone number and email address, which helps us to contact you quickly if follow-up on your contribution is necessary under Federal election law.

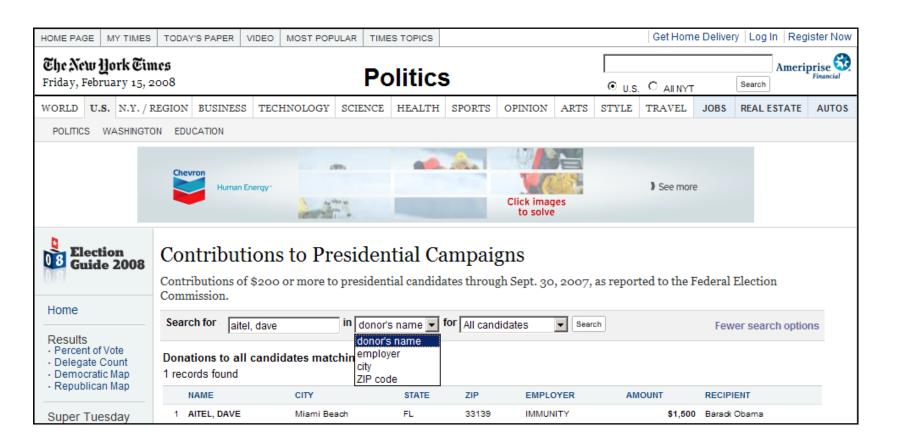
Threat: Public FEC Databases



Raw data freely available via FTP: <u>ftp.fec.gov</u>



Used by many web sites to provide donor searches



Conclusion



- Who is likely to participate in these attacks?
- Threats may sow fear among potential contributors
 - Undermine faith in online donations
- Threats can be combined to increase sophistication
- Risks cross technical, social, and psychological boundaries
- Campaigns need to proactively protect themselves



Questions?