

Security Trend

ASEC REPORT

VOL.53

May, 2014



AhnLab

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ASEC (AhnLab Security Emergency Response Center) is a global security response group consisting of virus analysts and security experts. This monthly report is published by ASEC and focuses on the most significant security threats and latest security technologies to guard against such threats. For further details, please visit AhnLab, Inc.'s homepage (www.ahnlab.com).

SECURITY TREND OF MAY 2014

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1

SECURITY STATISTICS

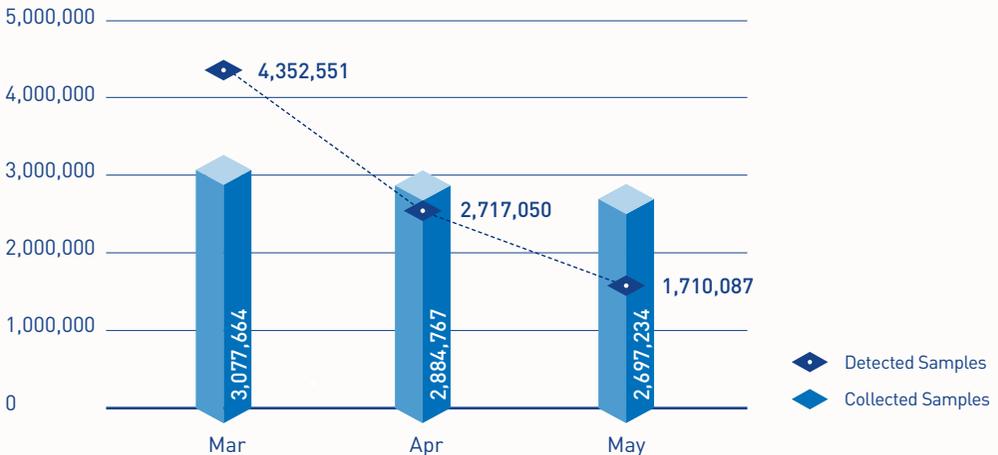
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SECURITY STATISTICS

01

Malware Statistics

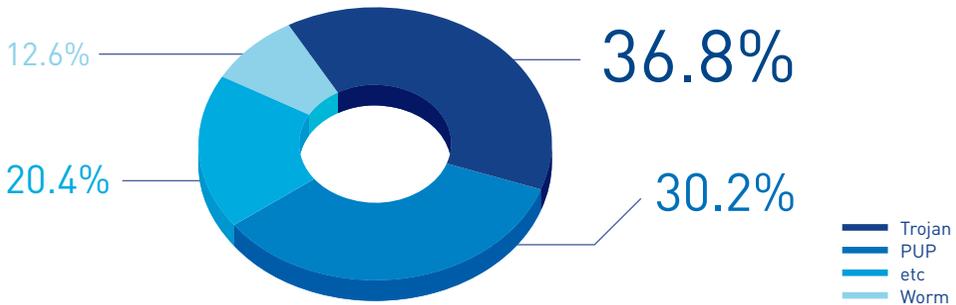
According to the ASEC (AhnLab Security Emergency Response Center), 1,710,187 malware were detected in May 2014. The number of detected malware decreased by 1,006,963 from 2,717,050 detected in the previous month as shown in Figure 1-1. A total of 2,697,234 malware samples were collected in May.



[Figure 1-1] Malware Trend

In Figure 1-1, “Detected Samples” refers to the number of malware detected by AhnLab products deployed by our customers. “Collected Samples” refers to the number of malware samples collected autonomously by AhnLab that were besides our products.

Figure 1-2 shows the prolific types of malware in May 2014. It appears that Trojans was the most distributed malware with 36.8% of the total. It was followed by PUP (30.2%) and Worm (12.6%).



[Figure 1-2] Proportion of Malware Type in May

Table 1-1 shows the Top 10 malware threats in May categorized by malicious code name. PUP/Win32.IntClient was the most frequently detected malware (148,164), followed by Trojan/Win32.Agent (87,720).

[Table 1-1] Top 10 Malware Threats in May (by malicious code name)

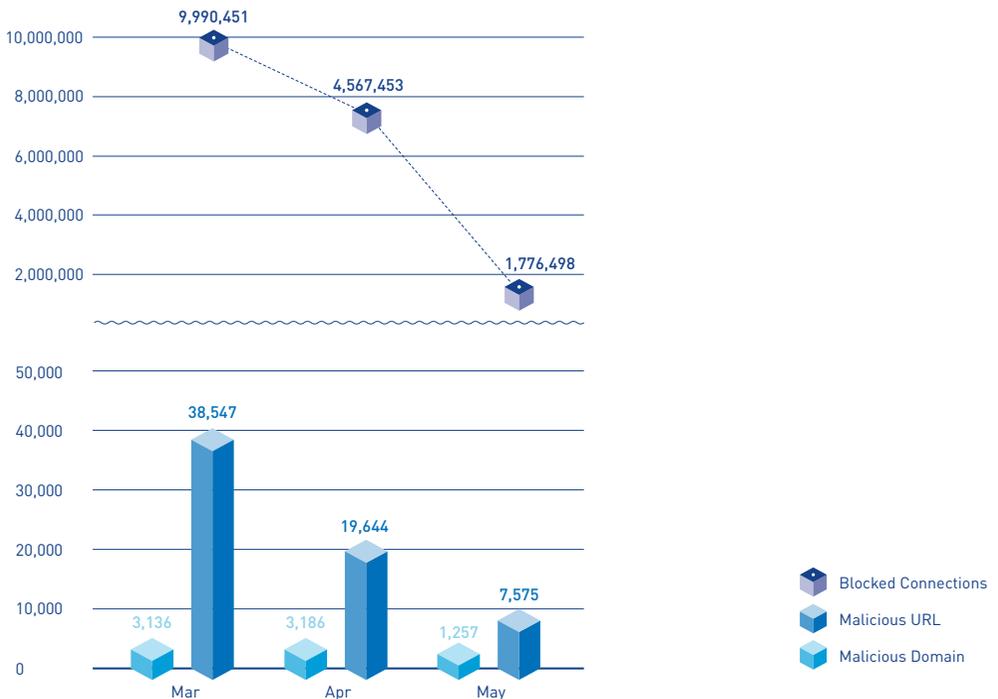
Rank	Malicious code name	No. of detection
1	PUP/Win32.IntClient	148,164
2	Trojan/Win32.Agent	87,720
3	PUP/Win32.GearExt	56,913
4	PUP/Win32.Kraddare	46,728
5	Trojan/Win32.Hupe	42,543
6	Trojan/Win32.OnlineGameHack	41,662
7	Trojan/Win32.Gen	38,430
8	ASD.Prevention	37,111
9	Unwanted/Win32.Agent	35,405
10	Trojan/Win32.Downloader	34,071

SECURITY STATISTICS

02

Web Security Statistics

In May 2014, a total of 7,575 domains and 1,257 URLs were comprised and used to distribute malware. In addition, 1,776,498 malicious domains and URLs were blocked. This figure is the number of blocked connections from PCs and other systems to the malicious website by AhnLab products deployed by our customers. Finding a large number of distributing malware via websites indicates that internet users need to be more cautious when accessing websites.



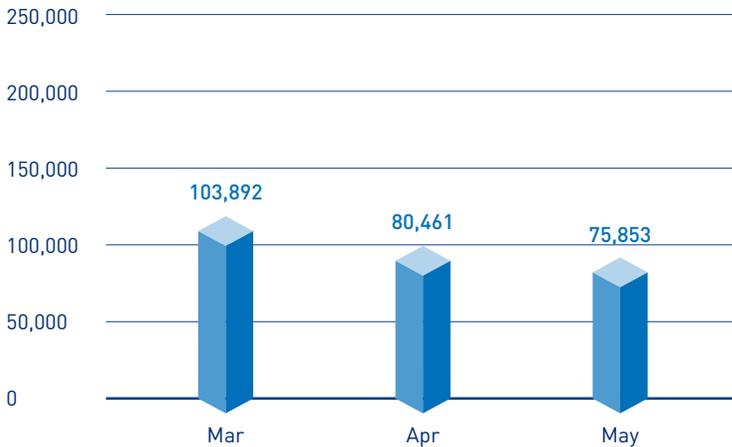
[Figure 1-3] Malicious Domains/URLs Trend

SECURITY STATISTICS

03

Mobile Malware Statistics

In May 2014, 75,853 mobile malware were detected as shown in Figure 1-4.



[Figure 1-4] Mobile Malware Trend

Table 1-2 shows the Top 10 mobile malware in May 2014 categorized by malicious code name. Malicious applications that were disguised as installation programs continue to be frequently detected, such as Android-Trojan/FakeInst. Thus, it is advised that users exercise caution when using mobile applications or the internet via mobile phones.

[Table 1-2] Top 10 Mobile Malware Threats in May (by malicious code name)

Rank	Malicious code name	No. of detection
1	Android-Trojan/FakeInst	18,801
2	Android-PUP/Dowgin	16,830
3	Android-PUP/Wapsx	4,625
4	Android-Trojan/Opfake	3,713
5	Android-Trojan/SMSAgent	1,685
6	Android-Trojan/Mseg	1,233
7	Android-Trojan/SmsSend	1,129
8	Android-PUP/SMSreg	1,094
9	Android-PUP/Kuguo	1,074
10	Android-PUP/Admogo	1,060



2

SECURITY ISSUE

Ransomware, the Kryptonite of PC files?

SECURITY ISSUE

Ransomware, the Kryptonite of PC files?

Ransomware limits the usability of user devices through several methods that coerce the user into paying a ransom.

A recently discovered ransomware called "CryptoWall" spread via email and currently encrypts the files of a great number of users, using it as a way to demand payment.

RSA-2048, and screen is displayed to the user as seen in Figure 2-1. The user is given a detailed explanation as to what the algorithm RSA-2048 is, its restoration method, and what the user needs to do in order to restore the files. Afterwards, the attacker demands payment for its services.

If a PC containing important business or personal documents should become infected by CryptoWall, it can lead to serious consequences. In this way, malware creators are taking advantage of users' willingness to restore files even at monetary cost.

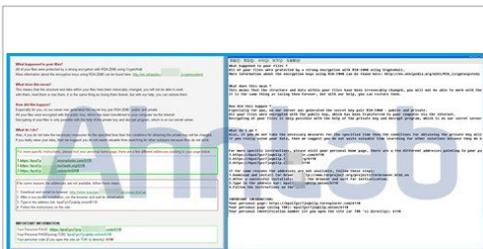


Figure 2-1 | Screen appearing upon a CryptoWall infection

When infected by CryptoWall, several extension files (*.doc, *.docx, *.xls, *.ppt, *.psd, *.pdf, *.eps, *.ai, *.cdr, *.jpg, etc.) are encrypted through the algorithm

A CryptoWall infection creates the three files shown in Figure 2-2 in the path of every encrypted file.



Figure 2-2 | Files created upon infection

These three files created the same message as the one displayed when infected.

Opening a file encrypted by the malware will display a pop-up message indicating that the file is compromised. Even if the file opens, it will be filled with scrambled text, as shown in Figure 2-3.

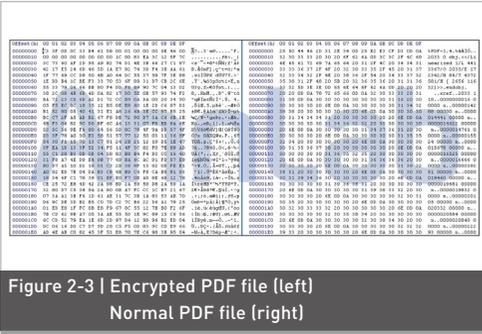


Figure 2-3 | Encrypted PDF file (left)
Normal PDF file (right)

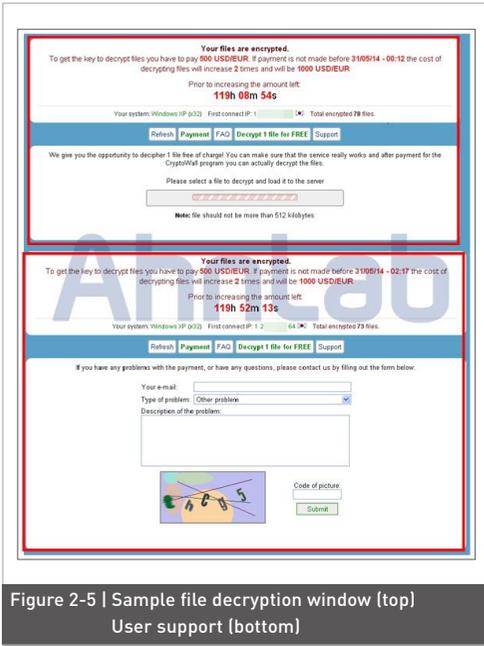
Unlike normal PDF files, all data in an infected file is encrypted by the algorithm RSA-2048. Therefore, the file cannot be read without a decryption key.



Figure 2-4 | Page demanding Bitcoin payment

Like most ransomware, the CryptoWall increases the ransom demanded if it is not paid within an indicated period. It also displays a message to the user saying that the decryption key will be deleted, thus making the infected file permanently unrecoverable. This interferes with a user's rational judgment and induces payment. Also, setting a deadline for payment effectively invokes a sense of urgency in the user

As reassurance, a single encrypted file is decrypted to show the user that decryption of all files is indeed possible if a payment of \$500 is made.



encrypted files by ransomware unless a ransom is paid. In the meantime, it is not guaranteed that all files will be restored even if the user pays the ransom. Thus, the best measure is for users to take precautions for their files in their PCs before being unexpectedly encrypted by ransomware. For example, it is recommended to back up important documents and files as a preventive measure. You can use the user file backup function in Windows to minimize damage. Even after a CryptoWall infection, encrypted files can be restored if a restore point has been set or if they have been backed up.

As can be seen in Figure 2-5, CryptoWall comes with a user support function that allows communication between the user (buyer) and attacker (seller). It appears that the attacker tries to reassure the user and persuade him or her to make payment by providing a detailed explanation and decrypting one file as a sample. Security researchers at the ASEC (AhnLab Security Security Emergency Response Center) attempted to contact the attacker through this function, but received no response.

It seems almost impossible to restore the



In order to successfully restore backed up files, it is critical that the files are not backed up to the local disk where Windows is installed, but to another storage device. A local disk is not displayed in the path

where a backup file is to be saved, and the user is able to designate the file or folder to be backed up on a local disk.

Backed up files can be restored by overwriting them onto the original files or saving them to a path different from the original one. AhnLab has verified that files backed up this way can be restored to a designated path and successfully executed.

V3 detects the relevant malware as follows.

< Malicious code name in V3 products >

Trojan/Win32.Agent (2013.05.07.00)

AhnLab

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