Introduction to Crypto Jacking

Warren Finch PacNOG 23 - 3rd Dec 2018 Marshall Islands



Agenda

- Web based coin miners
- What is cryptojacking
- Are all cryptominers bad?
- Cryptomining malware
- Mitigation techniques



Timeline



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Timeline



https://arxiv.org/pdf/1803.02887.pdf - accessed 15th Nov 2018



Web based coin miners

Name	URL
Coinhive	https://coinhive.com
AuthedMine	https://authedmine.com
Coin-Have	https://coin-have.com
CoinImp	https://www.coinimp.com/
Minexmr.stream	https://minexmr.stream
JSECoin	https://jsecoin.com/
Adless	https://www.adless.io/
Crypto-loot	https://crypto-loot.com
GridCash	https://gridcash.net/
CryptoNoter	https://github.com/cryptonoter



https://alternativeto.net/software/coinhive/ - accessed 9th Nov 2018



Web based coin miners

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GridCash	https://gridcash.net/
CryptoNoter	https://github.com/cryptonoter

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		nentation FAQ About	I■ English Join our community Sign in	
	⊘ virustot			
	VIIUSLOL	31		
	URL: https://autho	admine.com/		
	Detection ratio: 4 / 68			
	Analysis date: 2018-10-25	05:49:06 UTC (2 weeks ago)	9 /3 (1)	
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	Fortinet	Malware site		
	Forcepoint ThreatSeeker	Suspicious si	Q Lookup - Co To Report C Rescan	
	ADMINUSLabs	Clean site	URL: https://authedmine.com/ Submission: On November 09 via manual (November 9th 2018, 12:48:05 am)	
	AegisLab WebGuard	Clean site	A Summary #HTTP 2 @Links 2 FBehaviour 🛕 💠 loCs 🖉 Similar	■DOM Content 服API
	AlienVault	Clean site	Summary	Screenshot 😽
	Antiy-AVL	Clean site	This website contacted 1 IPs in 1 countries across 1 domains to perform 2	A from its fideback too
	Avira (no cloud)	Clean site	HTTP transactions. The main IP is 217.182.164.13, located in France and belongs to OVH, FR.	And Aller an and Aller a Hanne and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and a for the Aller and Aller \$5,000 ft. Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and Aller and
	Baidu-International	Clean site	The main domain is authedmine.com. The TLS certificate was issued by COMODO RSA Domain Validation Secure S on October Bh 2018.	In some disease of the source
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			Domain created: October 11th 2017, 22:10:44 (UTC) Domain registrar: Key-Systems GmbH	Detected technolog G Nginx (Web Servers)
			Domain & IP information	Stats

https://alternativeto.net/software/coinhive/ - accessed 9th Nov 2018

IP/ASNs IP Detail (Sub)Domains Domain Tree Links

2 2 Requests Ad-blocked Mal

0% 1

What is Crypto Jacking



Steps

1. The threat actor compromises a website

2. Users connect to the compromised website and the cryptomining script executes

3. Users unknowingly start mining cryptocurrency on behalf of the threat actor

 Upon successfully adding a new block to the blockchain, the threat actor receives a reward in cryptocurrency coins

https://www.enisa.europa.eu/publications/info-notes/images info notes/cryptojacking.jpg



What is Crypto Jacking

- The unauthorized use of computing resources to mine cryptocurrencies.
- Using malicious tools designed to hijack vulnerable systems to mine for cryptocurrency in the background using crypto mining software without the consent or knowledge of the victims.
- The technique of hijacking browsers for mining cryptocurrency (without user consent).





https://www.stfx.ca/about/news/stfx-systems-update-0 - accessed 8th Nov 2018

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On Thursday, ITS, in consultation with security specialists, purposefully disabled all network systems in

response to what we learned to be to be an automated attack on our systems known as 'crytpocoin

mining.' The malicious software attempted to utilize StFX's collective computing power in order to create or

discover bitcoin for monetary gain. At this time, there is no evidence that any personal information within

discover bitcoin for monetary gain. At this time, there is no evidence that any personal information within

https://www.stfx.ca/about/news/stfx-systems-update-0 - accessed 8th Nov 2018

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Give hope.

just by being here

Unicef Australia tries in-browser cryptocurrency mining



By Ry Crozier Apr 30 2018 Powered by Coinhive's AuthedMine service.

Unicef Australia is turning to in-browser cryptocurrency mining as it searches for alternative ways to fund its causes.

The charity today unveiled the HopePage, which it said in a statement would "allow Australians to provide help and hope to vulnerable children by simply opening the page while they are online".

Examination of the page's source code shows it is powered by AuthedMine, an opt-in version of the Coinhive API which is used to mine the Monero cryptocurrency from within a browser.

Browser-based cryptocurrency mining itself isn't new, with its origins dating back to at least 2011.

Coinhive has only been around since September 2017. In that time, however, its service has been blocked by anti-malware and advertising tools.

https://www.itnews.com.au/news/unicef-australia-tries-in-browser-cryptocurrency-mining-489884 - accessed 9th Nov 2018





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okesperson for the National Cyber Security Centre said:		
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SC technical experts are examining data involving incidents of malware being used to		
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Categories -McAfee.com Authors



WebCobra Malware Uses Victims' Computers to Mine Cryptocurrency

By Kapil Khade and Xiaobing Lin on Nov 12, 2018

The authors thank their colleagues Oliver Devane and Deepak Setty for their help with this analysis.

McAfee Labs researchers have discovered new Russian malware, dubbed WebCobra, which harnesses victims' computing power to mine for cryptocurrencies.

Coin mining malware is difficult to detect. Once a machine is compromised, a malicious app runs silently in the background with just one sign: performance degradation. As the malware increases power consumption, the machine slows down, leaving the owner with a headache and an unwelcome bill, as the energy it takes to mine a single bitcoin can cost from \$531 to \$26,170, according to a recent report.

The increase in the value of cryptocurrencies has inspired cybercriminals to employ malware that steals machine resources to mine crypto coins without the victims' consent.

The following chart shows how the prevalence of miner malware follows changes in the price of Monero cryptocurrency.





Figure 1: The price of cryptocurrency Monero peaked at the beginning of 2018. The total samples of coin miner malware continue to grow. Source:

https://coinmarketcap.com/currencies/monero/ https://securingtomorrow.mcafee.com/other-blogs/mcafee-labs/webcobra-malware-uses-victims-computers-to-mine-cryptocurrency/ - accessed 15th Nov 2018





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Home > News > Security > Cryptojackers Found on Starbucks WiFi Network, GitHub, Pirate Streaming Sites

Cryptojackers Found on Starbucks WiFi Network, GitHub, Pirate **Streaming Sites**

Supply-chain attack on cryptocurrency exchange gate.io

Latest ESET research shows just how far attackers will go in order to steal bitcoin from customers of one specific virtual currency exchange

.

Matthieu Faou 6 Nov 2018 - 02:42PM

How much does The Pirate Bay's cryptocurrency miner make? f adverts turn off visitors, the torrent search engine is hoping CPU borrowing can make up the evenue

Share [Update on Wednesday, November 7] On November 6, StatCount Gate.io stopped using StatCounter analytics services to prevent fu (f) both websites can be browsed safely.

> On November 3, attackers successfully breached StatCount used by many webmasters to gather statistics on their visit so, webmasters usually add an external JavaScript tag incor www.statcounter[.]com/counter/counter.js - into each we

Dirate Bar

What happened? The Pirate Bay recently discovered that the website was testing out a cryptocurrency miner to generate platform, attackers can inject JavaScript code in all websites revenue from users, but can enough be made to keep the website afloat without advertisements? The initial phase of the cryptojacking campaign reportedly hacked 72,000 MikroTik routers in

services online are faced with the constant issue of generating enough cash to support user traffic, as well a ter for operators, developers, and any other staff on-hand



Cryptocurrency-mining Malware Targets Linux Systems, Uses Rootkit for Stealth



Over 200,000 MikroTik Routers Compromised in Cryptojacking Campaign

August 03, 2018

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Security researchers uncovered a cryptojacking campaign — where attackers hijack systems to conduct cryptocurrency mining - that injects a malicious version of Coinhive, a web-based cryptocurrency miner, by exploiting a vulnerability in MikroTik routers. Here's what you need to know about this threat:

now also spreading outside the country.

Brazil. As of this writing, over 200,000 MikroTik routers have already been compromised.

While the majority of the routers were in Brazil, researchers also noted that the attacks are





Share Fraud and More: How Criminals Monetize Hacked Cellphones and IoT Devices for Telecom Fraud

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Rootkit for Stealth

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National Cyber Security Awareness Month: The Enterprise's Safety Online Is Evervone's Business

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Start browser in headless mode

chrome --headless --disable-gpu --remote-debuggingport=9222 --user-agent='user-agent=Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/60.0.3112.113 Safari/537.36' 'https://coinhive.com/media/miner.html?autostart=1&key=GoI 0WOEe2JFj22Aj3JqYVcTt98LArmUX'

https://steemit.com/mining/@ttox/headless-browser-mining - accessed 9th Nov 2018





Cryptomining malware

- Leaked EternalBlue and DoublePulsar exploits are used to infect vulnerable windows servers and PCs.
- Oracle's WebLogic Server (CVE-2017-10271) flaw was also used to deliver miners onto servers.
- Malware families distributed via malicious spam attachments, now have a coin miner module.
- Android and Mac users are infected by trojanised apps laced with mining code.



Crypto-mining malware detections in 2017



https://blog.trendmicro.com/trendlabs-security-intelligence/cryptocurrency-mining-malware-2018-new-menace/ - accessed 9th Nov 2018



Crypto-mining malware detections in 2018



Source: McAfee Labs, 2018.



Source: McAfee Labs, 2018.

https://www.mcafee.com/enterprise/en-us/assets/reports/rp-quarterly-threats-sep-2018.pdf - accessed 9th Nov 2018



Javascript – Coinhive

```
<script src="https://coinhive.com/lib/coinhive.min.js"></script>
<script>
var miner = new CoinHive.User('SITE_KEY', 'john-doe');
miner.start();
</script>
```

```
var miner = new CoinHive.User('YOUR_SITE_KEY', 'john-doe', {
    threads: 4,
    throttle: 0.8,
    forceASMJS: false,
    theme: 'dark',
    language: 'auto'
});
```

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https://coinhive.com - accessed 9th Nov 2018



Javascript – AuthedMine captcha

```
<form action="?" method="post">

<!-- other form fields -->

<script src="https://authedmine.com/lib/captcha.min.js" async></script>

<div class="coinhive-captcha" data-hashes="1024" data-key="SITE_KEY">

<div class="coinhive-captcha" data-hashes="1024" data-key="SITE_KEY">

<em>Loading Captcha...<br>

If it doesn't load, please disable Adblock!</em>

</div>

<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>

</form>
```







Locating sites with a coinhive script

https://publicwww.com/websites/"coinhive.min.js"/

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accessed 9th Nov 2018



Locating devices with a coinhive script

https://www.shodan.io/search?query=coinhive.min.js

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accessed 9th Nov 2018



Locating devices with a coinhive script

https://www.shodan.io/search?query=coinhive.min.js

TOP OPERATING SYSTEMS	
Linux 3.x	1
TOP PRODUCTS	
MikroTik http proxy	35
Apache httpd	8
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accessed 9th Nov 2018





Locating devices with a coinhive script

https://www.shodan.io/search?query=coinhive.min.js

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Locating sites with a miner script

- In a browser open <u>https://publicwww.com/</u>
- Search for common terms used by miners
 - Coinhive = "coinhive.min.js"
 - AuthedMine = authedmine && "captcha.min.js"
 - A JavaScript malware = "navigator['hardwareConcurrency']"
 - Deobfuscated JavaScript = "[\"(k" "\\x43\\x72\\x79\\x70\\x74\\x6f\\x6e\\x69\\x67\\x68\\x74\\x57\\x41\\x53\ \x4d\\x57\\x72\\x61\\x70\\x70\\x65\\x72" snipexp:|(var _0x[0-z]{4}=)]

https://badpackets.net/how-to-find-cryptojacking-malware/ accessed 9th Nov 2018



Locating sites with a miner script

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https://badpackets.net/how-to-find-cryptojacking-malware/ accessed 9th Nov 2018



Cryptomining in action

- Unicef Australia using a web browser.
 - <u>https://www.thehopepage.org</u>
- Test if browser will allow cryptojacking
 - <u>https://cryptojackingtest.com</u>
- Wandera's fake iOS battery checker for iPhone.
 - <u>https://ios11battery.xyz/</u>



Cryptomining in action



https://www.thehopepage.org



Processes: 57 CPU Usage: 73% Physical Memory: 219 Processes: 57 CPU Usage: 64% Physical Memory: 219



Chrome Task Manager

- Open the Chrome Task Manager by using the Shift+ESC keyboard combination
- Or from the Chrome menu, then More Tools, and then Chrome Task Manager.
 Task Manager.

ask		Memory footprint	CPU	Network	Process ID
0	Browser	34,568K	0.0	0	3828
*	GPU Process	15 <mark>1,092</mark> K	4.7	0	2816
	Tab: The Hopepage	184,740K	96.7		4748
0	Subframe: https://doubleclick.net/	19,636K	0.0	0	1876
	Subframe: https://authedmine.com/	21,584K	0.0	0	4676
					End process

End user protection

- Use the Task Manager (Windows) or Activity Monitor (Mac OS X)
- Disable JavaScript in the browser
- Browser extensions like "No Coin" are available on Google Chrome and Firefox. Opera has it enabled by default.
- Install third-party malware detection and anti-virus software
- Update and patch software





Network protection

- Check vendor advisories and recommendations
- Update firewall rules
- Update Intrusion Detection System (IDS) rules
- Update and Patch all systems
- Block known crypto miner domains
 - <u>https://gitlab.com/ZeroDot1/CoinBlockerLists</u>
 - <u>https://zerodot1.gitlab.io/CoinBlockerListsWeb/downloads.html</u>
 - <u>http://iplists.firehol.org</u>





Network protection

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- Snort rules dealing with cryptomining:
 - Blocking incoming clients, including downloads of miners:
 - 44692-44693, 45265-45268, 45809-45810, 45949-45952, 46365-46366, 46370-46372
 - Malware variants specifically known to mine crypto-currency:
 - 20035, 20057, 26395, 28399, 28410-28411, 29493-29494, 29666, 30551-30552, 31271-31273, 31531-31533,32013, 33149, 43467-43468, 44895-44899, 45468-45473, 45548, 45826-45827, 46238-46240
 - Identification and blocking of protocols used by cryptocurrency workers:
 - 26437, 40840-40842, 45417, 45549-45550, 45825, 45955

https://www.talosintelligence.com/resources/59 - accessed 9th Nov 2018



ISP Snort Rules

• If the number is

- less than 100000, it is a SourceFire rule
- between 1000000 and 2000000, it is a snort community rule.
- between 2000000 and 3000000 it comes from emergingthreats.net
 - alert tcp \$EXTERNAL_NET \$FILE_DATA_PORTS -> \$HOME_NET any
 - 2 ⊡ (msg: "INDICATOR-OBFUSCATION CoinHive cryptocurrency mining attempt";
 - flow:to_client,established; file_data; content:"decodeURIComponent"; 3
 - 5
 - fast_pattern:only; content:"function"; nocase; content:"function"; within:50; nocase; content:"split"; within:200; content:"charCodeAt"; within:200; content:"push"; within:200; content:"charAt"; within:200; 6
 - metadata:policy max-detect-ips drop, service ftp-data, service http, service imap, service pop3;
 - classtype:misc-attack; sid:44692; rev:1;) 8

grep -Hrn '44692' /etc/snort/rules grep -Hrn '29666' /etc/snort/rules grep -Hrn '45549' /etc/snort/rules



Update Snort

- mkdir ~/Downloads/snort
- cd ~/Downloads/snort
- wget http://192.168.30.1/Exercises/snortrules-snapshot-2983.tar.gz
- tar xvf snortrules-snapshot-2983.tar.gz
- sudo mv etc /etc/snort
- sudo mv rules /etc/snort/rules
- sudo service snort restart



Confirm if site is on block list



@GelosSnake

HOME

SLACK MALSCANBOT

COINBLOCKERLISTS

MENTIONS

MINERVA

0 in 🎔 🗟 🖂



23 Aug 2018 on cryptominers • coinblockerlist • malware • cryptohacking • coinhive • monero

CoinBlockerLists - Search



• xmr • coinminers

https://malware-research.org/coinblockerlists/

CoinBlockerLists is a great initiative by ZeroDot. It is a well-maintained project with cryptojacking and cryptominers related domains and IPs. The list has been used in many projects, protecting users and machines from CPU take over attacks all over the world. The list is freely available here.

I've been using this list a lot. Therefore, I've created an API based on AWS serverless technology to make the list much more accessible to access and search.

If you would like to know more about the list you can read about it on the official website and my BsidesSF - Rise of Coinminers talk.

Feel free to use the below search bar to look if any domain or IP is on the list:

moonbit.co.in	Check
---------------	-------

domain found in coinblockerlist.





The source code of the API, client and this search code can be found here.

GhostMiner

 <u>https://github.com/MinervaLabsResearch/BlogPosts/tree/m</u> <u>aster/MinerKiller</u>
 MINERVA Approach | Product | Use Cases | Resources | Blog | Company | Partners

MinervaLabsResearch / BlogPosts		• Watch	10 🖈 Star	29	Fork 9
↔ Code ① Issues 0 ۩ Pull requests 0 III Proj	ects 0 III Insights				
Branch: master BlogPosts / MinerKiller /			Create new file	Find file	History
G4IB1t Erroneous newline fix			Latest com	mit dc13c3a	on May 3
MinerKiller.ps1 Error	neous newline fix			7 mc	onths ago
README.md Upd	ate README.md			8 mc	onths ago
README.md					

This script was extracted from a cryptomining malware. it can be used as a resource for IOCs or as a base for your own PowerShell script to remove miners during incident response. We added some comments to dlarify the code.



GhostMiner: Cryptomining Malware Goes Fileless

March 22, 2018 | Asaf Aprozper and Gal Bitensky



Cybercriminals are increasingly relying on malicious cryptominers as a way of making money online, often shifting from using ransomware or diversifying revenue streams.

Though in late 2017 these activities were relatively niche, as illustrated by the case of the WaterMiner, 2018 has shown the use of increasingly aggressive tactics to deploy malicious miners, including the use of advanced exploit kits.





VirusTotal

- Create a free account
- <u>https://www.virustotal.com</u>

Ø

Hunting

Desktop

{}

Yara

Intelligence

-

Browsers

Contact us



https://www.virustotal.com/learn/watch/

Mobile





VirusTotal

- Use the search feature to find information about a threat
- Search term
 - fba937ffc0291601_sdat.exe

Virustotal

SHA256:	fba937ffc	0291601b7b03548da	c94ef6f321077b96ec561c9f59	5fb71fc50ccb		
File name:	138_08_3	31_2017_22_44_17_	1.exe.malware.MRG			
Detection ra	atio: 51 / 65					🖲 0 🕕 0
Analysis da	te: 2017-09-	08 22:11:38 UTC (1	vear, 2 months ago) View late	st		
Analysis	Q File detail	X Relationships	Additional information	Comments	Votes	Behavioural information
Antivirus			Result			Update
Ad-Aware			Trojan.GenericKD.5911302			20170908
AegisLab			Troj. Script Agentic			20170908
AhnLab-V3			Trojan/Win32.Dynamer.C195	57727		20170908
ALYac			Trojan.GenericKD.5911302			20170908
Antiy-AVL			Trojan/Script.Agent			20170908
Arcabit			Trojan.Generic.D5A3306			20170908
Avast			Win32:Malware-gen			20170908
AVG			Win32:Malware-gen			20170908
Avira (no cloud)		TR/VB.Agent.gbloe			20170908
A1 A			Tesian Win22 ConscielDT			20470008

https://www.virustotal.com/en/file/fba937ffc0291601b7b03548dac94ef6f321077b96ec561c9f595fb71fc50ccb/analysis/1504908698/





YARA – pattern matching for Malware

yara

The pattern matching swiss knife for malware researchers (and everyone else)

{} YARA in a nutshell

YARA is a tool aimed at (but not limited to) helping malware researchers to identify and classify malware samples. With YARA you can create descriptions of malware families (or whatever you want to describe) based on textual or binary patterns. Each description, a.k.a rule, consists of a set of strings and a boolean expression which determine its logic. Let's see an example:



The above rule is telling YARA that any file containing one of the three strings must be reported as silent_banker. This is just a simple example, more complex and powerful rules can be created by using wildcards, case-insensitive strings, regular expressions, special operators and many other features that you'll find explained in YARA's documentation. xmrig.yar

1	rule xmrig
2	{
3	strings:
4	<pre>\$a1 = "stratum+tcp"</pre>
5	condition:
6	\$a1
7	}

https://virustotal.github.io/vara/ - accessed 16th Nov 2018





- <u>https://isc.sans.edu/forums/diary/Cryptominer+Delivered+Though</u> +Compromized+JavaScript+File/23870/
- <u>https://isc.sans.org/forums/diary/Crypto+Mining+in+a+Windows+</u> <u>Headless+Browser/24078/</u>
- <u>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-9th-november-2018</u>
- <u>https://blog.talosintelligence.com/2018/07/blocking-</u> cryptomining.html
- <u>https://tools.cisco.com/security/center/viewAlert.x?alertId=56836</u>

- <u>https://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/us/security/news/cybercrime-and-digital-threats/security-101-the-impact-of-cryptocurrency-mining-malware</u>
- <u>https://blog.trendmicro.com/trendlabs-security-</u> intelligence/cryptocurrency-mining-malware-2018-new-menace/
- <u>https://www.androidsage.com/2018/07/27/how-to-block-crypto-</u> mining-on-android-windows-linux-macos-and-ios-devices/
- <u>https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/the-internet-is-</u> rife-with-in-browser-miners-and-its-getting-worse-each-day/

- <u>https://badpackets.net/how-to-find-cryptojacking-malware/</u>
- <u>https://null-byte.wonderhowto.com/how-to/inject-coinhive-miners-into-public-wi-fi-hotspots-0182250/</u>
- <u>https://blogs.cisco.com/security/cryptojacking-hijacking-your-computer-resources</u>
- <u>https://www.enisa.europa.eu/publications/info-notes/cryptojacking-cryptomining-in-the-browser</u>
- <u>https://99bitcoins.com/webmining-monetize-your-website-</u> <u>through-user-browsers/</u>



- https://arxiv.org/pdf/1803.02887.pdf
- <u>https://malware-research.org/bsidessf-rise-of-coinminers/</u>





Any questions?





