

## 2007-09-09 Show Notes

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Intro</b></li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dragon*Con wrap up<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worked twice as many panels as intended</li><li>• Very proud of the audio we captured</li><li>• Podcast programming was excellent</li><li>• Missed the two or three EFF panels I wanted to attend</li><li>• Got to socialize with old and new friends, most important</li><li>• Drama, incidents were rare, the exception</li><li>• Crowding may have us thinking about not going next year</li></ul></li></ul>
06:16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Listener Feedback</b></li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• C.A. Sizemore on Medeco story<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes, lock smiths have known about many picking techniques before hackers, public</li><li>• In talking to TOOOL folks at ShmooCon, they still seemed to think Medeco did better than average</li><li>• Relying on a lock alone, regardless of brand, is foolish</li></ul></li></ul>
12:34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Security Alerts</b></li></ul>
12:54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tor used as bait for malware<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/boingboing/iBag/~3/153202221/beware-wolf-dressed.html">http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/boingboing/iBag/~3/153202221/beware-wolf-dressed.html</a></li><li>• As the Nick Matheson from the project suggests, this says more about Tor awareness than the spammers</li><li>• Spam warning of being surveilled</li><li>• Generated by storm worm, one of the biggest recent worms</li><li>• Suggests using Tor and provides links</li><li>• Email doesn't come from Tor authors</li><li>• Looks legit, through, with logo images</li><li>• Links do not go to Tor site</li><li>• Tor signs their packages, article has link on how to verify<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A lot of FOSS is signed</li><li>• Probably a good idea to look for signatures on all security related software</li></ul></li><li>• Same practice of not clicking unverified links is wise, here</li><li>• Always review link targets, suspect them if they do not match</li></ul></li></ul>
15:24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worm may rival top super computers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://rss.slashdot.org/~r/slashdot/eqWf/~3/153440965/article.pl">http://rss.slashdot.org/~r/slashdot/eqWf/~3/153440965/article.pl</a></li><li>• Storm worm has been coopting Windows boxes for three months unabated</li><li>• Consensus is it has built the largest botnet to date</li><li>• By node count alone, tops purpose built super computers</li></ul></li></ul>

## Offset

## Topic

- Observation suggests botnet may be as big as 50 million nodes
- Seems to idle at using about 2 million nodes
- Doesn't factor in power of individuals nodes
- Comparison is sensational for other reasons
- Super computers nodes must share data
- Botnet nodes can run much more independently
- How much performance would be lost due to lack of task coordination, message sharing?
- Regardless, gives a sense of scale to the attacks that have been and could be run
- I wonder if coordination channels might be more vulnerable at these larger scales?

18:07

### • News

18:22

- Computer & Communications Industry Association complains to FTC about copyright notices
  - CCIA calls content industry on copyright misinformation
    - <http://www.groklaw.net/article.php?story=20070831145639691>
    - Argument is that copyright warnings, anti-piracy warnings ignore fair use
    - Example statements are all or none in nature
    - Also contradicts copyright act in that facts, "accounts", and ideas are not copyrightable, specifically for MLB, NFL
    - In the case of DVD, consumers are forbidden from skipping notices
  - Copyright Alliance response
    - <http://yro.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=07/09/07/0047225&from=rss>
    - Main point is that fair use is not a right
      - This is correct
      - It is an affirmative defense
    - The opinion is a mere statement of fact but also oversimplifies the CCIA complaint
      - CCIA does explicitly state fair use as a right, in relief section
      - I believe this is a redaction, factually incorrect but speaks to allowances under fair use, others
      - Easier to say "fair use rights" than "allowances or defensible actions if infringement is pressed"
      - Cites other rights, not necessarily fair use, in the copyright act and case law
      - CA acting just as disingenuously as it claims CCIA is being, i.e. next point about pithy warnings
  - CCIA complaint provides a positive example
    - CA complains it is too wordy to address consumer rights
    - Paragraph 43 shows a simple reference to sections 107, 108 is sufficient
    - Not the only positive example, more follow that paragraph

- CA feels no harm is demonstrated
  - CCIA states largest harm is chilling effect
  - Relieve is oversight, assessment
  - Critical statement about rights holders not forcing consumers to waive rights through contractual means, including adhesion
  - That is, no click through or EULA style language for waiving rights
- Not seeking punitive, mildly injunctive
- Seeks to get rights holder involvement in education
- Of course the CA would object
- The more than key drive consumers to them for all needs, the better off they are
- The less money they would have to spend on enforcement
- Permission culture has reigned long enough
- Complaint has merit, despite the criticism
- The rights holders are usually careful enough to not go too far, to make just this argument, that harm is not material
- Some invalid DMCA takedown notices, though, show that the law is getting too thorny even for that tactic
- An explanation of why fair use is a right
  - <http://www.techdirt.com/article.php?sid=20070829/155106#c136>
  - A right is simply a legally justified claim
  - Other examples of non-fair use, but consumer rights
    - AHRA allows non-personal backups
    - Section 117 allows some backups
  - Also responds to fair use only being tested in court
  - Equates it to criminal charge, each case must be individually tested
  - Others have pointed out rights holder must act to press infringement
  - Fact that copyright is granted by default only means it doesn't dilute in absence of complaint, like trademark
- Jennifer Grannick on legality of iPhone unlocking
  - <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/archives/005418.php>
  - Granick fought for last year's cell phone unlocking exemption to DMCA
  - Successfully argued that cell phone locking has nothing to do with infringement
  - Exemption was narrow, though
    - Protects unlocking user only
    - Does not protect tool providers
  - Tool makers will have to argue
    - Garage door, ink cartridge may provide precedents
    - Purchase connotes permission by owner to operate device

## Offset

## Topic

32:51

- Primarily arguing against DMCA language on making, distributing tools capable of infringement
- Issue is complicated by ToS and contracts
  - Contracts, ToS do not apply to tool makers
  - Damages are usually less than statutory ones
- She sees the iPhone as a lever to make more people care about these issues
- It is more likely that consumer demand will bring this argument into the courts
- Cites breaking of AT&T monopoly as positive example
  - Allowed any device to be attached to phone system
  - Resulted in increased competition, innovation
- Unfortunately, cell carriers also have opportunity to learn from this history
- I am also hopeful but all parties are better armed
- New high level language, Vala, that compiles to C
  - <http://feeds.arstechnica.com/~r/arstechnica/journals/openended/~3/151382969/vala-high-level-programming-with-less-fat>
  - Loaded with sugary features similar to most newer, dynamic languages
  - Compiling to C brings certain benefits
    - Not really a dynamic language, no VM or interpreter so potentially faster
    - Also means compatible with other C libraries
    - May be called from other C programs
    - Use of GObject system means also highly compatible with Gnome and GTK programs
  - New version released this past week
  - Increases compatibility with more environments through new bindings
  - In particular now can be used on Nokia N800 smart phone and similar devices
  - Like many new projects, documentation is biggest weak area
  - Author suggests could become prime language for Gnome development
  - Comparison to C# is not accidental, could lower bar to entry for Gnome
  - Might yield more, better programs for that platform
  - May just yield more programs, with median quality going down

36:09

- Molecular memory research
  - <http://feeds.arstechnica.com/~r/arstechnica/BAaf/~3/151463017/20070902-shifting-atoms-in-single-molecule-memory.html>
  - Motivated by pressure to shrink elements
  - As die sizes decrease, problems increase

## Offset

## Topic

- Manufacturer gets more expensive, higher energy tolerances
- Start to incur interference from small scale quantum effects
- Same issues that motivated the neural network, nanocomputer research from last news show
- In the case of memory, research is on single molecules that can chemically switch between on and off
- Compounds that work well in lab have not been robust enough for real world
- Previous attempts shifted structure of molecule
- New approach moves hydrogen atoms without changing structurally
- Also, can be measured by changes in electrical conduction
- Still requires massive chilling
- Achieved 90% accuracy in switching, would need to do better
- Far more details in the article about how these molecules behave
- While this exact technique may not make it into real computers, suggests new ways size barrier may be broken
- Didn't talk about error correction at all, either, critical to memory in particular

40:16

- **tail -f**

40:35

- HR 811 e-voting reform bill coming to floor vote
  - <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/archives/005421.php>
  - Supporters back for what it does, despite other improvements possible
  - Would ban direct electronic reporting without paper trail
  - Would also mandate security audits
  - Originally had source code access provision but was diluted in the face of industry opposition
  - Would be better than today's systems, regardless
  - <http://www.freedom-to-tinker.com/?p=1195>
  - Legislates results, allows choice in implementation
  - Compromises on existing, weak paper trails
  - Secure, durable must be implement where there are none
  - Existing paper systems can be phased out by 2010
- HR 811 pushed back
  - <http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/techliberation/~3/153940205/042771.php>
  - Two dissenting committee members
  - Disagree because bill doesn't go far enough
  - Sacrifice short term improvements for larger changes
  - As long as the short term does no harm, why stall the bill?
  - I think Tim Lee is being naive, I doubt this will ever be done correctly with a single bill, regardless of deadlines
- DoJ blasts net neutrality

42:05

## Offset

## Topic

- [http://feeds.wired.com/~r/wired/topheadlines/~3/153191840/INTERNET\\_FEES\\_JUSTICE\\_DEPARTMENT](http://feeds.wired.com/~r/wired/topheadlines/~3/153191840/INTERNET_FEES_JUSTICE_DEPARTMENT)
- Pretty much mouthing the telcos' arguments verbatim
- Overlooks that customers already pay for differentiated products
- What telcos want is to charge twice for bandwidth, at either end
- Overlooks consumer confusion, why two similar services run very differently, because of discrimination, not because of wire speeds
- Why is the DoJ commenting on net neutrality?
  - <http://techdirt.com/articles/20070907/000225.shtml>
  - Nominally because of their antitrust responsibilities
  - There is no merger or monopoly, so why?
  - Worse, why make these statements and not act when line sharing regulations were dismantled?
  - DoJ overlooking subsidies and heavy regulations

46:21

## • **Outro**

- Contact me
  - Email to [feedback@thecommandline.net](mailto:feedback@thecommandline.net)
  - Web site at <http://thecommandline.net/>
  - IM to [command.line@skype](mailto:command.line@skype)
  - Listener comment line is 360-252-7284
  - del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"
  - <http://twitter.com/cmdln>
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