

F-SECURE LABS

<<< NEWS FROM THE LAB - Monday, July 15, 2013 >>>

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[Signed Mac Malware Using Right-to-Left Override Trick](#)

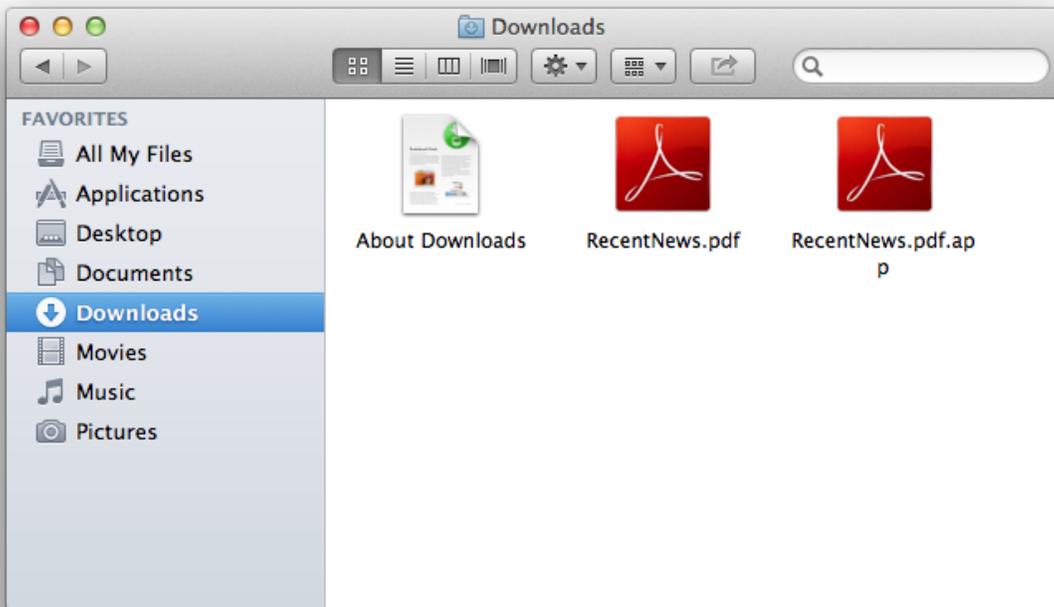
Posted by Brod @ 10:48 GMT

Right-to-left override (RLO) is a special character used in bi-directional text encoding system to mark the start of text that are to be displayed from right to left. It is commonly used by Windows malware such as Bredolab and the high-profile Mahdi trojan from last year to hide the real extension of executable files. Check out this Krebs on Security post for more details on the trick.

We've spotted a malware for Mac using the RLO trick. It was submitted to VirusTotal last Friday.

```
00000000: 50 4B 03 04-0A 00 00 00-00 00 5B 54-97 42 00 00 PK♥♦□ [TùB
00000010: 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 16 00-10 00 52 65 _ ▶ Re
00000020: 63 65 6E 74-4E 65 77 73-2E E2 80 AE-66 64 70 2E centNews.ΓÇ«fdp.
00000030: 61 70 70 2F-55 58 0C 00-B6 27 DC 51-9E 39 76 51 app/UX♀ ||' QR9vQ
00000040: F5 01 14 00-50 4B 03 04-0A 00 00 00-00 00 02 69 J@¶ PK♥♦□ ói
00000050: 89 42 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00-00 00 1F 00 ìB ▼
00000060: 10 00 52 65-63 65 6E 74-4E 65 77 73-2E E2 80 AE ▶ RecentNews.ΓÇ«
00000070: 66 64 70 2E-61 70 70 2F-43 6F 6E 74-65 6E 74 73 fdp.app/Contents
```

The objective here is not as convoluted as the one described in Kreb's post. Here it's simply to hide the real extension. The malware could have just used "Recent New.pdf.app". However OS X has already considered this and displays the real extension as a precaution.

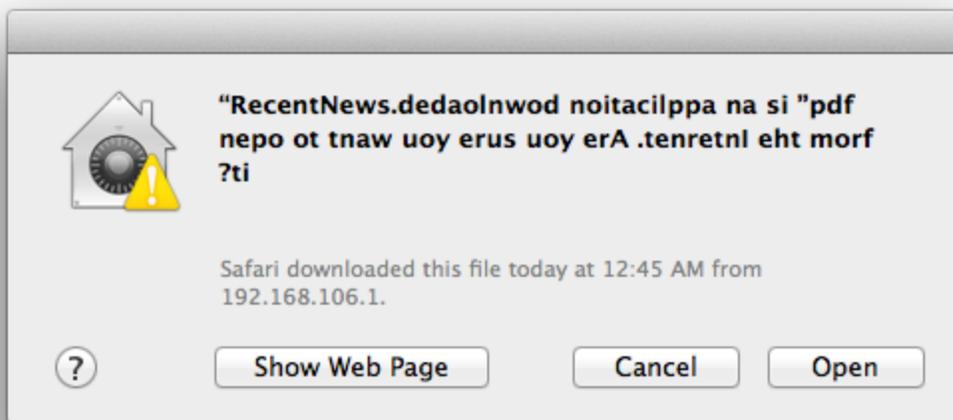


```
joe — bash — 80x24
Last login: Mon Jul 15 00:43:39 on console
Joes-Mac:~ joe$ ls -l Downloads/
total 0
drwx-----  3 joe  staff  102 Aug 21  2012 About Downloads.lpdf
drwxr-xr-x@  3 joe  staff  102 Apr 23  00:34 RecentNews.pdf.app
drwxr-xr-x@  3 joe  staff  102 Apr 23  00:34 RecentNews.?fdp.app
Joes-Mac:~ joe$
```

The malware is written in Python and it uses py2app for distribution. Just like [Hackback](#), it's signed with an Apple Developer ID.

```
joe — bash — 80x24
Last login: Mon Jul 15 00:47:20 on ttys000
Joes-Mac:~ joe$ codesign -dvvv /Users/joe/Downloads/RecentNews.ppa.pdf
Executable=/Users/joe/Downloads/RecentNews.rellatsni/S0caM/stnetnoC/ppa.pdf
Identifier=org.pythonmac.unspecified.installer
Format=bundle with Mach-0 universal (i386 x86_64)
CodeDirectory v=20100 size=344 flags=0x0(none) hashes=10+3 location=embedded
Hash type=sha1 size=20
CDHash=ee045a751fb61e33b353b0c91796cc3d4e8fc37b
Signature size=8510
Authority=Developer ID Application: Gladys Brady
Authority=Developer ID Certification Authority
Authority=Apple Root CA
Timestamp=Apr 23, 2013 2:34:48 AM
Info.plist entries=21
Sealed Resources rules=4 files=21
Internal requirements count=1 size=196
Joes-Mac:~ joe$
```

However, because of the RLO character, the usual file quarantine notification from OS X will be backwards just like the Krebs case.



The malware drops and open a decoy document on execution.



Then it creates a cron job for its launch point and a hidden folder in the home directory of the infected user to store its components.

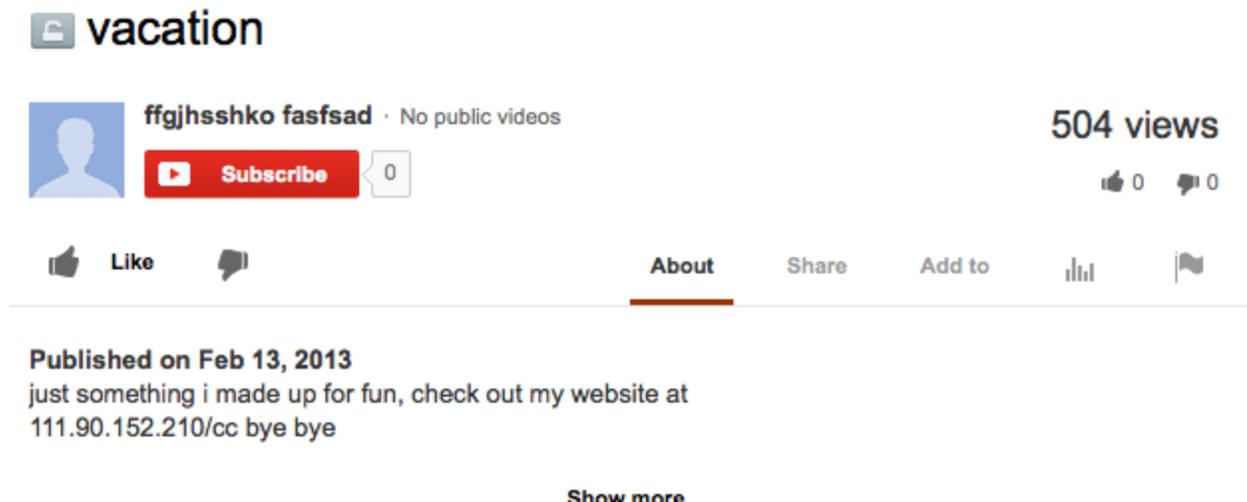
```
joe — bash — 80x24
Last login: Mon Jul 15 00:49:34 on ttys000
You have mail.
Joes-Mac:~ joe$ crontab -l
* * * * * python ~/.t/runner.pyc
Joes-Mac:~ joe$ ls -l ~/.t
total 8144
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff   4556 Jul 15 00:50 StarterCmdExec.pyc
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff   7210 Jul 15 00:50 StarterNetUtils.pyc
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff   2083 Jul 15 00:50 StarterRec.pyc
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff   2470 Jul 15 00:50 StarterScreenShots.pyc
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff   3616 Jul 15 00:50 StarterSettings.pyc
-rwxrwxrwx  1 joe  staff  65700 Jul 15 00:50 mt
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff   1283 Jul 15 00:50 runner.pyc
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff    116 Jul 15 00:50 runner.sh
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff     79 Jul 15 00:50 settings.ini
-rwxrwxrwx  1 joe  staff 4048088 Jul 15 00:50 sox
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff   1523 Jul 15 00:50 starter.pyc
-rwxr-xr-x  1 joe  staff     6 Jul 15 00:50 v
Joes-Mac:~ joe$
```

The malware connects to the following pages to obtain the address of its command and control server:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZZ3tTTBiTs>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ky4M9kxUM7Y>
- <http://hjdullink.nl/images/re.php>

It parses for the address in the string "just something i made up for fun, check out my website at (address) bye bye".

The YouTube page look like this:



Doing a Google search for the string reveals that there are other sites being abused besides those mentioned above.

[last vacation - YouTube](#)



www.youtube.com/watch?v=ky4M9kxUM7Y

13.2.2013 - Lataaja: sauidhiahdo uiahduia

just something i made up for fun, check out my website at

111.90.152.210/cc bye ... **just something i made up ...**

Lisää videoita haulla "[just something i made up for fun, check ...](#) »

[saudhiahdo uiahduia - YouTube](#)

www.youtube.com/.../UC7aa1chD1d6snXZMuWkx-4... ▾ [Käännä tämä sivu](#)

just something i made up for fun, check out my website at 111.90.152.210/cc bye

bye. YouTube home. Language: English; Country: Worldwide; Safety: Off. Help.

[lopez+vacation on Veengle](#)

www.veengle.com/s/lopez%2Bvacation/10.html - [Käännä tämä sivu](#)

Views: 452 0:26 Wed, 13 Feb 2013 10:51:07. **just something i made up for fun, check out my website at** 111.90.152.210/cc bye bye. Tags: Howto Howto.

[last vacation - vidds!](#)

vidds.net/v/en/last-vacation_E4U4Y2U4Y2K4Q435O343U3.html ▾

Video information. Author: sauidhiahdo uiahduia from Youtube, **Just something i made up for fun check out my website at** bye bye ...

The malware then continuously takes screen shots and records audio (using a third party software called SoX) and uploads them to the command and control server. It also continuously polls the command and control server for commands to execute.

The malware is detected by F-Secure as Backdoor:Python/Janicab.A.

Updated to add:

Here are the stats from one of the YouTube videos being used as a C&C locater:

vacation



ffgjhsshko fasfsad · No public videos

Subscribe 0

504 views

0 0

Like

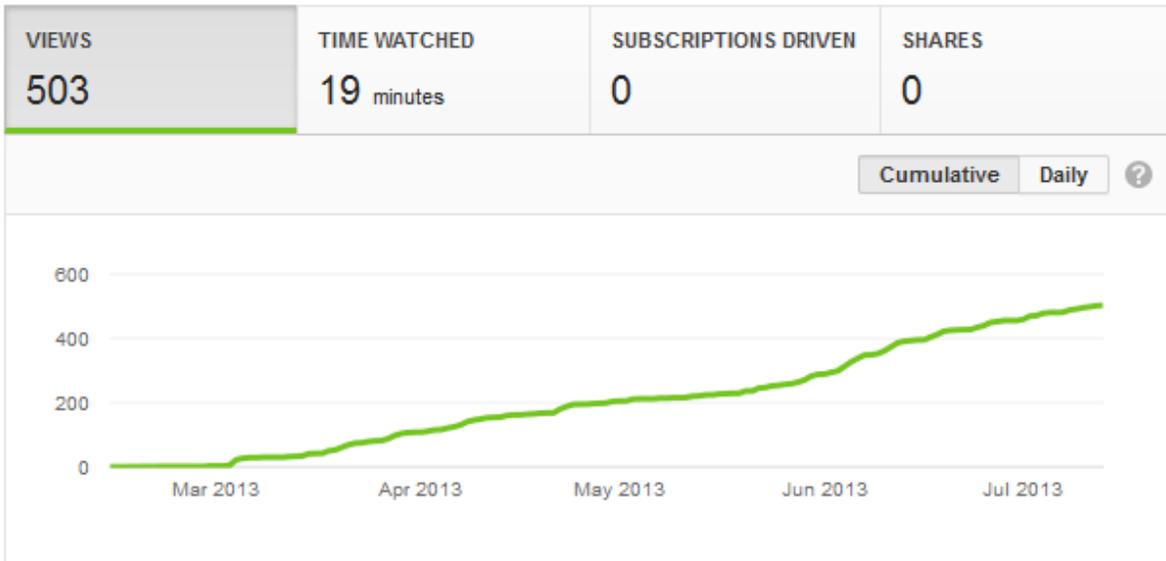
About

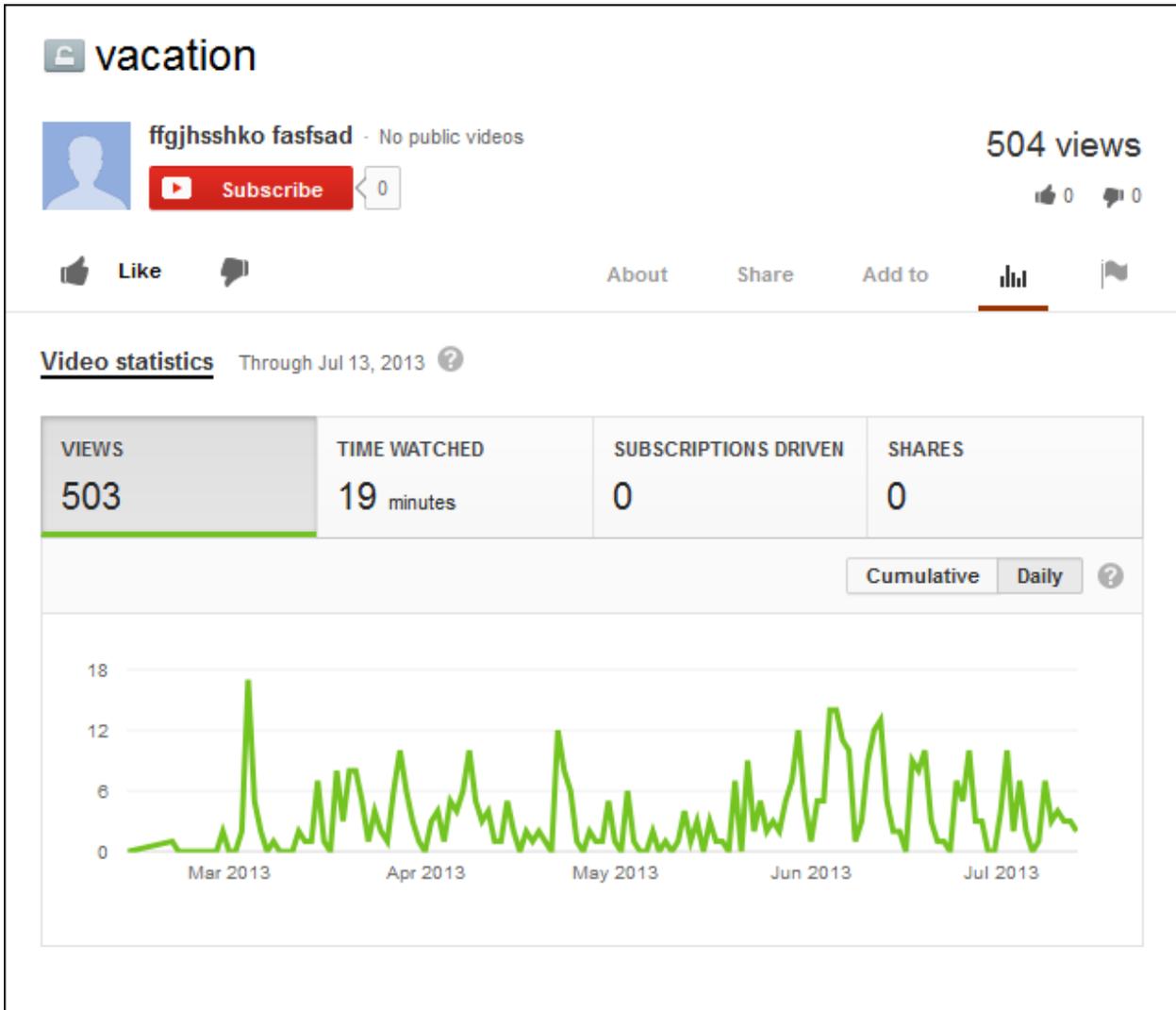
Share

Add to



Video statistics Through Jul 13, 2013





The videos predate the Janicab.A binary by at least a month. Based on the stats, it seems likely there are earlier variants in the wild.