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## **Defending Airports Against Emerging Ransomware Attacks**

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Security Technical Solutions Architect Cisco Systems **Advanced Persistent Threats** 

# Attack landscape constantly evolving

Supply chain attacks

**Unpatched Software** 

Spyware/Malware

Wiper Attacks

**Phishing** 

Man in the Middle

**DDoS** 

Data/IP Theft

Malvertising

**Drive by Downloads** 

Rogue Software

Botnets

Cryptomining

Credential compromise

Ransomware

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Cleveland Hopkins Airport affected by ransomware attack

Cyber attack led to Bristol Airport blank screens

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport has been target of more cyber attacks, but security upgrades blocked them

Louisville Regional Airport Authority grounded by ransomware attack

Airports are ill-equipped to deal with a major cyber attack, says consultancy firm

Kolkata: 4,000 flyers stranded as cyber attack led to delay of 30 flights

The World's Busiest Airport Shuts off Wi-Fi Amid a Ransomware Attack

Ukraine govt, banks & airports hit by mass ransomware attack

Ukraine says to review cyber defences after airport targeted from Russia

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### **Aviation Cybersecurity: Major Challenges**



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#### Key assets supporting the daily airport operation

- IT and Communications including internal and external infrastructure:
  - Internal: Lan, VPN, IT equipment, Mobile network and apps, passenger WIFI, SOC, Flight Display Systems.
  - GPS, cloud-based data, Network Security Management, WAN, Air to satellite communication systems, GIS, etc.
- **Airline / Airside Operations:** including among others air traffic management, flight tracking systems, departure control systems, airfield lighting and runway control and monitoring, cargo processing, aircraft re-fuelling, etc.
- **Landside Operations:** including the landside operations systems control center, fuel management, lighting detection systems, parking management systems, etc.
- Safety and Security: access control systems, authentication systems, baggage screening and handling systems, surveillance systems, passenger screening, perimeter intrusion detection, emergency response, firefighting, etc.

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#### Key assets supporting the daily airport operation – cont.

- Customer Ancillary Services: Cashpoint terminals, mobile payments, point of sales (PoS), duty free, catering, etc.
- Facilities and Maintenance: airport vehicle maintenance, building management and control systems, energy management systems, lifts and escalators, SCADA (utilities, roads, ancillary areas), environmental management systems, etc.
- Passenger Management Systems: kiosk devices, e-ticketing, electronic visual information display systems, passenger check-in and boarding, central reservation systems, etc.
- Staff Management: staff records management, authentication systems, mobility-enabled applications.

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#### Taxonomy of threats to the cyber security of Smart airports



Configuration errors

Operator/user errors

Loss of hardware

Non compliance with policies or procedures



#### THIRD PARTY FAILURES

Internet service provider

Cloud service provider (SaaS / PaaS / SaaS)

Utilities (power / gas / water)

Remote maintenance provider

Security testing companies

#### THREATS



#### MALICIOUS ACTIONS

Denial of Service attacks

Exploitation of (known or unknown) software vulnerabilities

Misuse of authority / authorisation

Network/interception attacks

Social attacks

Tampering with devices

Breach of physical access controls / administrative controls

Malicious software on IT assets (including passenger and staff devices)

Physical attacks on airport assets



#### SYSTEM FAILURES

Failures of devices or systems
Failures or disruptions of communication links

(communication networks)

Failures of parts of devices

Failures or disruptions of main supply

Failures or disruptions of the power supply

Malfunctions of parts of devices

Malfunctions of devices or systems

Failures of hardware

Software bugs



#### **NATURAL PHENOMENA**

Earthquakes

Floods

Solar flare

Volcano explosion

Nuclear incident

Pandemic (e.g. ebola)

Industrial actions (e.g. strikes)

Fires

Shortage of fuel

Space debris & meteorites

Dangerous chemical incidents

enisa: Securina Smart Airports





#### Ransomware



Malicious Software



Encrypts
Critical Data



Demands Payment

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#### Ransomware





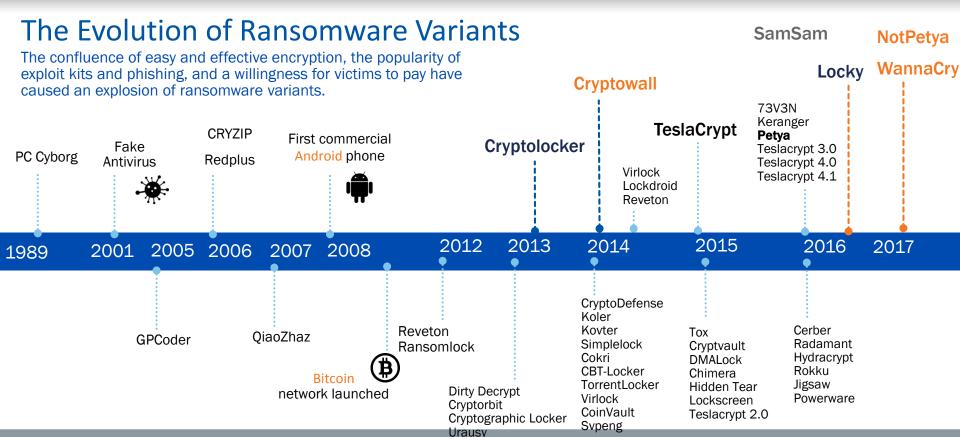
- Ransomware has changed the game from stealthy undetected access to extortion.
- Ransomware uses traditional malware attack vectors such as phishing emails, known vulnerabilities, and exploit kits to deliver the ransomware to a desktop.
- Ransomware communications include command and control (C2) callback methods for obtaining encryption keys and payment messaging are mostly using DNS.



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Phishing or Spam

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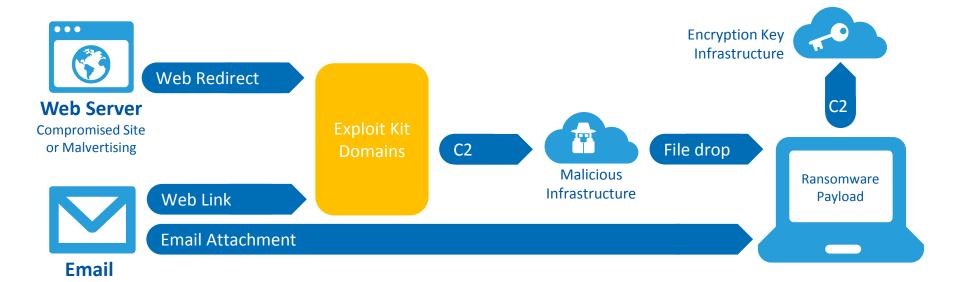
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75 YEARS OF THE WORLD

#### Ransomware Email and Web Delivery





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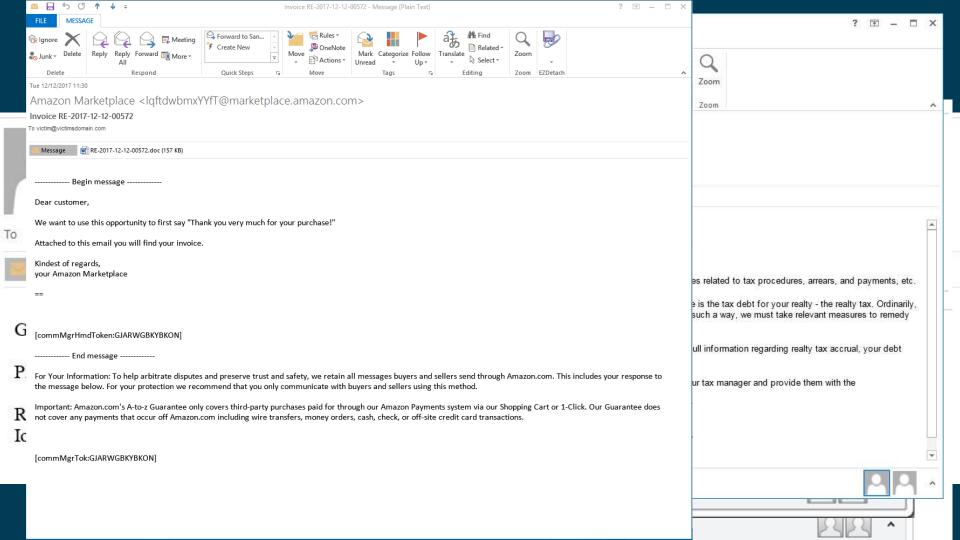
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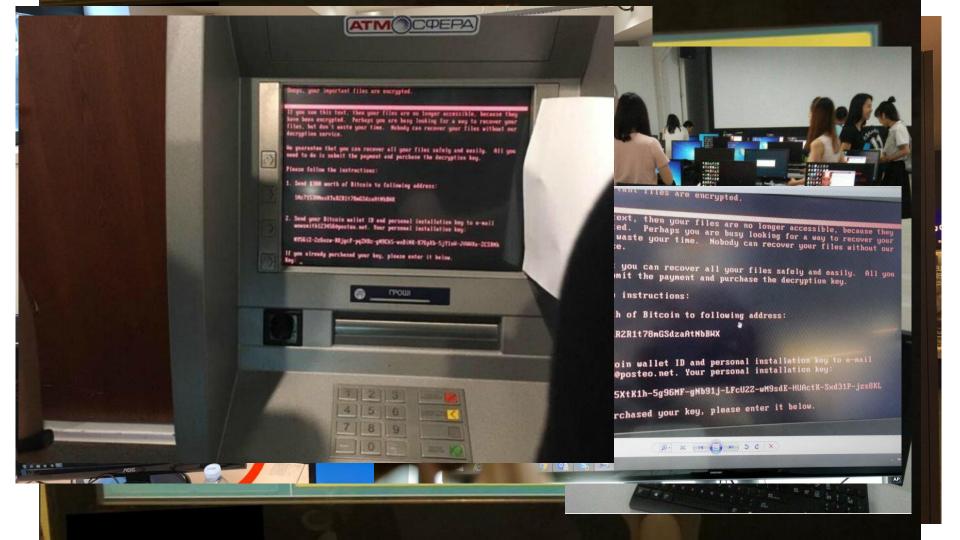


#### Ransomware and DNS

NAME*	Encryption Key				Payment MSG
	DNS	IP	NO C2	TOR	PAYMENT
Locky					DNS
SamSam					DNS (TOR)
TeslaCrypt	•				DNS
CryptoWall	•				DNS
TorrentLocker	•				DNS
PadCrypt					DNS (TOR)
CTB-Locker					DNS
FAKBEN	•				DNS (TOR)
PayCrypt	•				DNS
KeyRanger					DNS



Doops, your important files are encrypted. If you see this text, then your files are no longer accessible, because they have been encrypted. Perhaps you are busy looking for a way to recover your files, but don't waste your time. Nobody can recover your files without our Att decryption service. The We guarantee that you can recover all your files safely and easily. All you need to do is submit the payment and purchase the decryption key. Please follow the instructions: 1. Send \$300 worth of Bitcoin to following address: 1Mz? 2. Send your Bitcoin wallet ID and personal installation key to e-mail wowsmith123456@posteo.net. Your personal installation key: 1AQ eGS WCY Njjh If you already purchased your key, please enter it below.







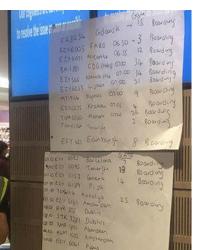












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#### Capabilities needed to break the kill chain



 Threat intelligence – Knowledge of existing Ransomware and communication vectors



E-mail security – Block
 Ransomware attachments and links



 Web Security – Block web communication to infected sites and files



 DNS Security - Break the Command & Control call back



 Client Security – Inspect files for Ransomware and Virus's, quarantine and remove



Segment infrastructure –
 Authenticate access, separate traffic based on role and policy



 Intrusion Prevention - Block attacks, exploitation and intelligence gathering



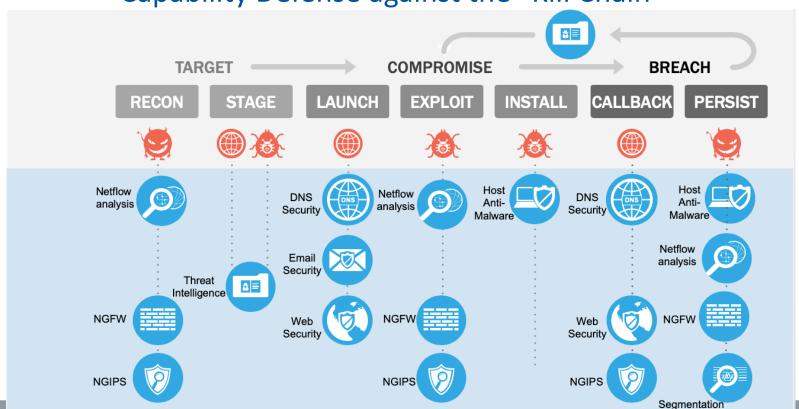
 Monitor Infrastructure communications – Identify and alert on abnormal traffic flows

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#### Capability Defense against the "Kill Chain"







## Final thoughts

- Commercial airlines and other transportation providers present a tempting target for cybercriminals
- As technology adoption evolves in the civil aviation industry, it
  will have to invest in smarter, safer digital infrastructure that
  leverages machine learning, integrated cyber security
  architecture, and threat intelligence to thwart attacks and
  ensure that its critical systems are protected and always
  available.

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# Questions?

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