

For Immediate Release

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'The third-generation Trojan: Stumbler'

WHAT: **Stumbler, a new trojan/malware.** The new Trojan/malware, named "Stumbler" by X-Force and "55808 Trojan" by Intrusec, is client capable of scanning and receiving network mapping data from similar clients and/or agents distributed across the Internet.

WHEN: **First reports of Stumbler surfaced around May 16th, 2003**

HOW: Each agent attempts to map IP addresses and open ports corresponding to each IP address by sending TCP SYN packets with a random destination port. The source IP and MAC addresses are spoofed, making the source of the packet very hard to locate. The Trojan or agent is designed to listen to these spoofed responses from other agents. When Stumbler determines that the connectivity has been lost, it exits and attempts to delete itself from the file system.

EFFECTS: Over time, Stumbler picks up scans from other installations of Trojans that have randomly selected a source address. The number of Trojans installed across the Internet continues to grow resulting in more spoofed packets being sent out by each Trojan. An indication that the Trojan has detected an open port is viewed by a reply to the Trojan; it will be written and saved into a file. These scanning capabilities are used for information gathering purposes only but it could be used as an effective platform for network mapping, Denial of Service attacks and command-and-control of bots and other types of distributed malware.

PREVENTING STUMBLER WITH ALPHASHIELD: AlphaShield does not respond to unsolicited TCP SYN packets or any kind of port scan. It renders the scanning and IP mapping capabilities of the Stumbler Trojan inoperable. AlphaShield's RPA Technology also does not allow any spoofed packets to enter through to the system even if the Trojan has installed itself on a computer. It is unable to receive information back from other agents or spoofed responses to its own scans. Since there is no connectivity available, Stumbler will exit and attempt to delete itself from the file system and your computer will be free from this malware.

About AlphaShield

AlphaShield Inc. is a global provider of Internet security and privacy solutions ensuring data integrity, Internet and network privacy protection for today's consumers. AlphaShield is committed to setting a new standard for security integrity by providing consumers who utilize "always on" broadband Internet access with an easy-to-use, completely secure Internet privacy protection device. Founded in June 2000, AlphaShield is headquartered in Burnaby, BC. For more information, please visit www.alphashield.com.