



# Botnets, Collective Defense, and Project MARS

Jeff Williams  
Principal Group Program Manager  
Microsoft Malware Protection Center

12 - 17 June 2011

23<sub>rd</sub>



Vienna

Annual **FIRST** Conference

# The Basics

## CHALLENGES

Many Malicious Actors

Many Motives

Similar Techniques

Shared Integrated Domain

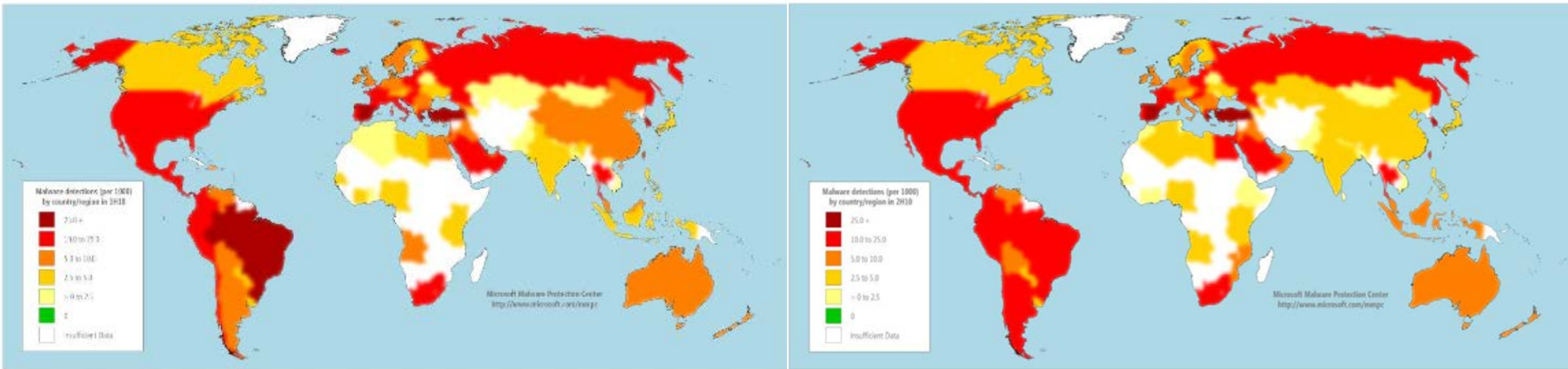
Speed of Attack

Consequences Hard to Predict

Worst Case Scenarios Alarming

## ATTRIBUTION

# A Picture of Health?



	Location	1Q2010	2Q10	3Q10	4Q10	Delta
1	United States	11,025,811	9,609,215	11,340,751	11,817,437	4.2% ▲
2	Brazil	2,026,578	2,354,709	2,985,999	2,922,695	-2.1% ▼
3	China	2,168,810	1,943,154	2,059,052	1,882,460	-8.6% ▼
4	France	1,943,841	1,510,857	1,601,786	1,794,953	12.1% ▲
5	United Kingdom	1,490,594	1,285,570	1,563,102	1,857,905	18.9% ▲
6	Spain	1,358,584	1,348,683	1,588,712	1,526,491	-3.9% ▼
7	Korea	962,624	1,015,173	1,070,163	1,678,368	56.8% ▲

# Case Study: Botnets



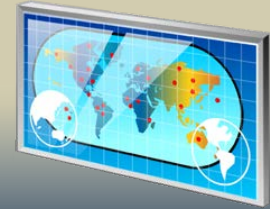
Cybercrime



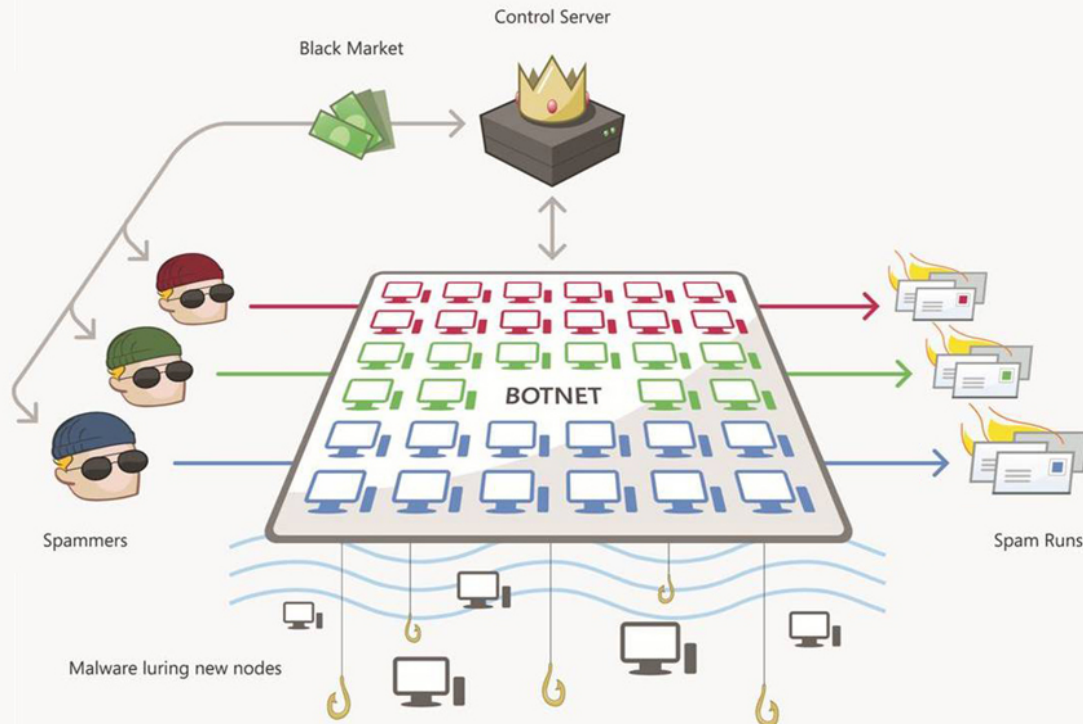
Economic Espionage



Military Espionage



Cyber Warfare



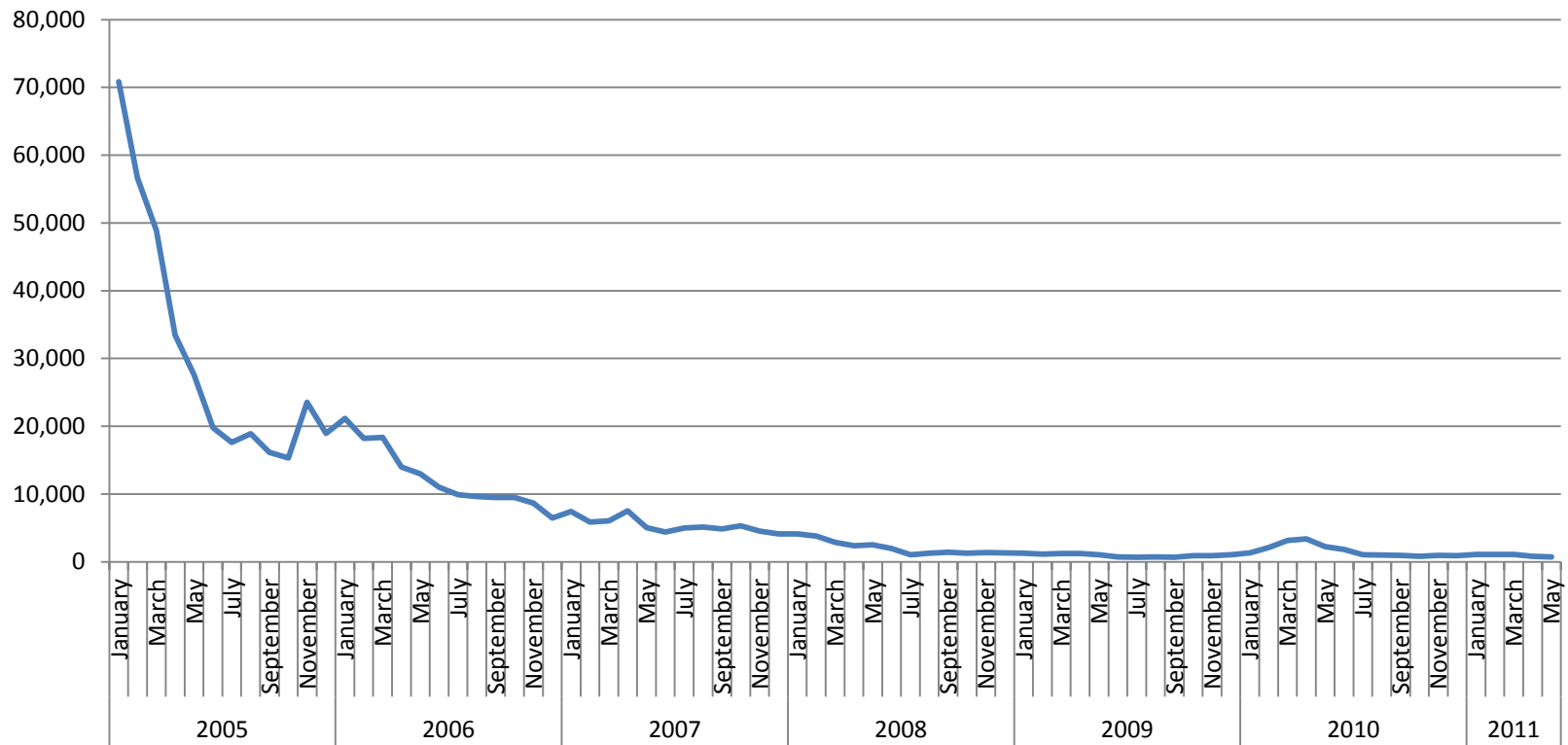
# The Maturity of Response Over Time

- Some historic examples
  - Blaster
  - Slammer
  - Zotob
  - WinFixer
  - Cutwail
  - Intercage & McColo de-peerings
  - Mariposa
- More Recent Examples
  - Bredolab
  - Waledac
  - Rustock
  - AFCore

# Early Examples: Blaster

- MS03-026
- Customer call downs
- Cleaner tool

MSBlast Detections

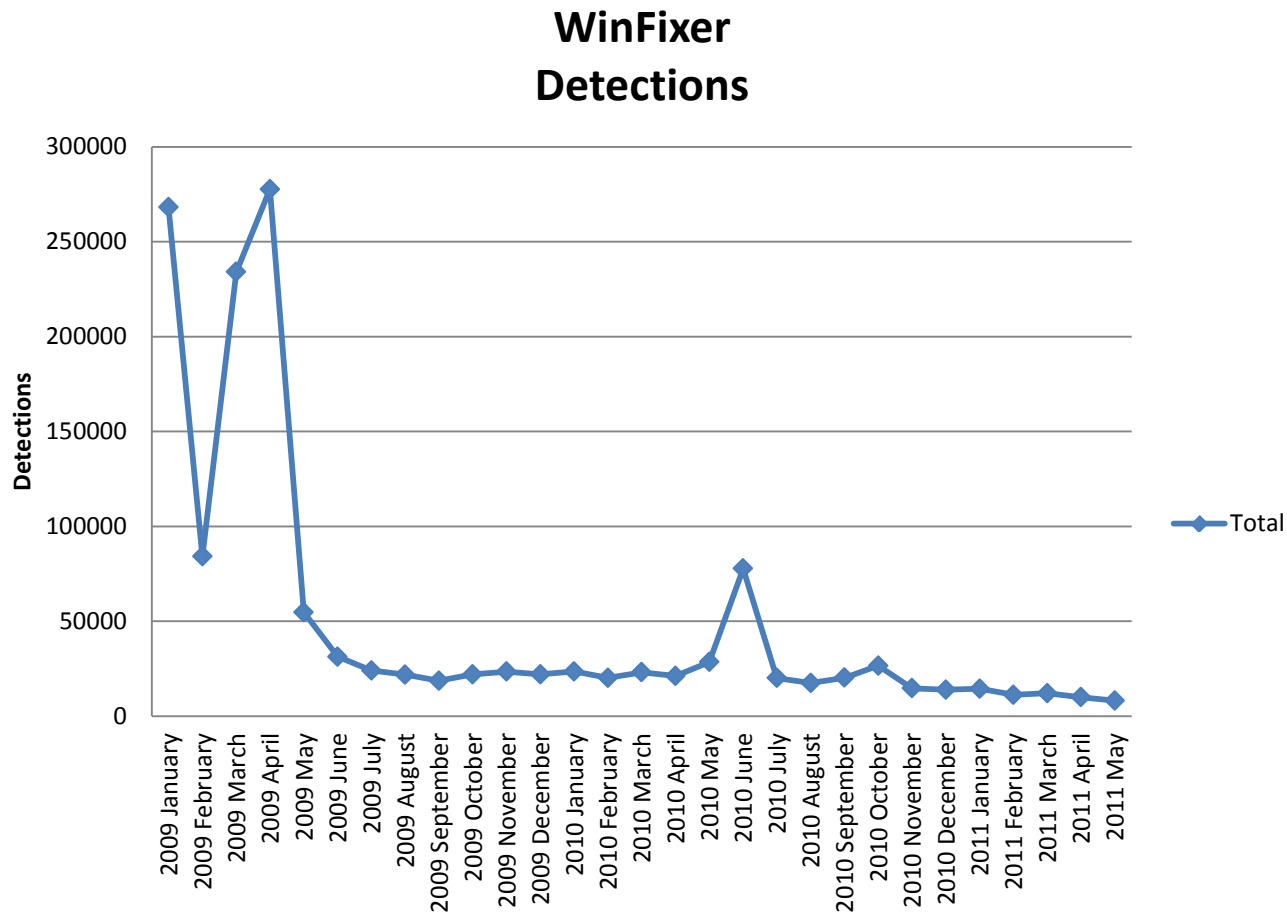


# Early Examples (con't)

- Slammer
  - Vuln patched in July 2002
  - Cross product vulnerability (SQL, MSDE)
  - Unthrottled (impacting response)
  - ISPs
- Zotob
  - actor attribution
  - foreign laws

# Early Examples: WinFixer

- Initial Microsoft investigation
- Referrals

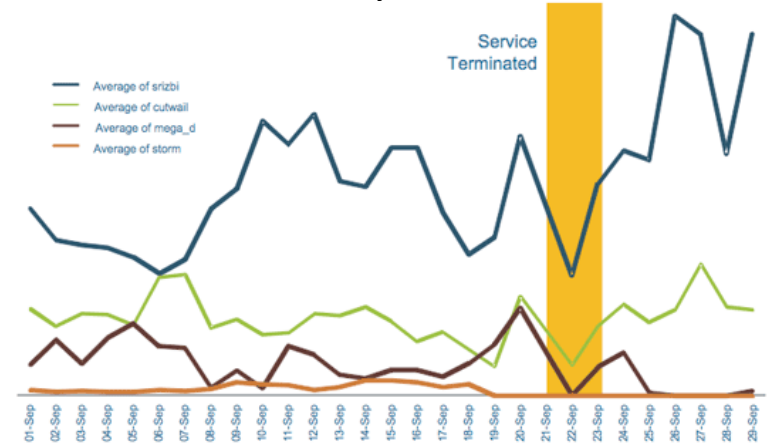




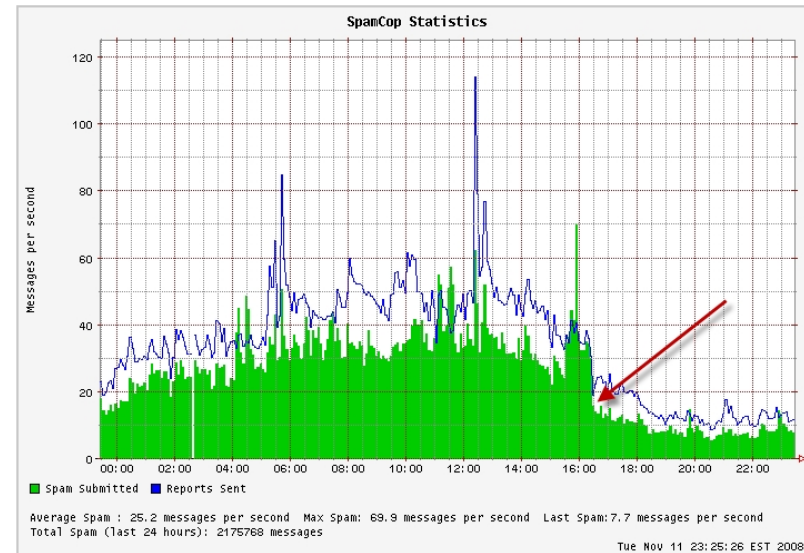
# De-Peering

- Atrivo/Intercage
  - Dropped offline
  - Re-peered
  - Dropped again
- McColo de-peering
  - Followed Intercage
  - 75% drop in spam
  - Srizbi connection
  - Rustock connection
  - Re-peered in 4 days

Security Fix Data



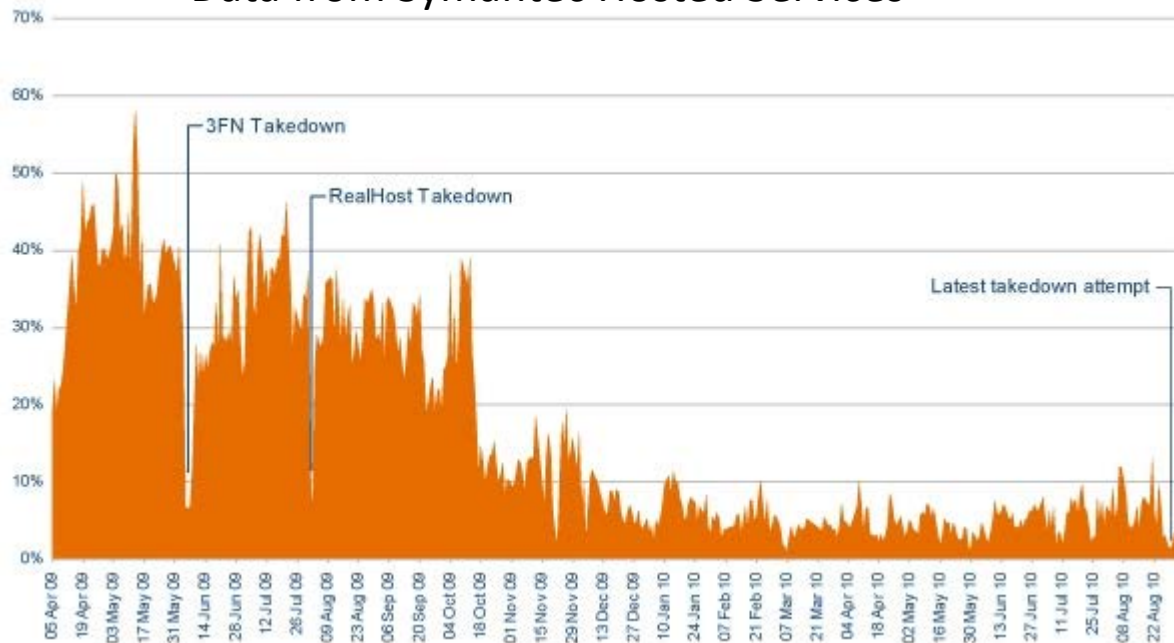
SpamCop Data



# Cutwail

- Prolific spam bot responsible for more than 45% of all spam at its peak (~75 billion msgs/day).
- Disrupted by McColo depeering
- 20 out of 33 C&C Servers disabled by cooperative hosters
- Resurged with 7% of total spam and up to 30x as many infected hosts.

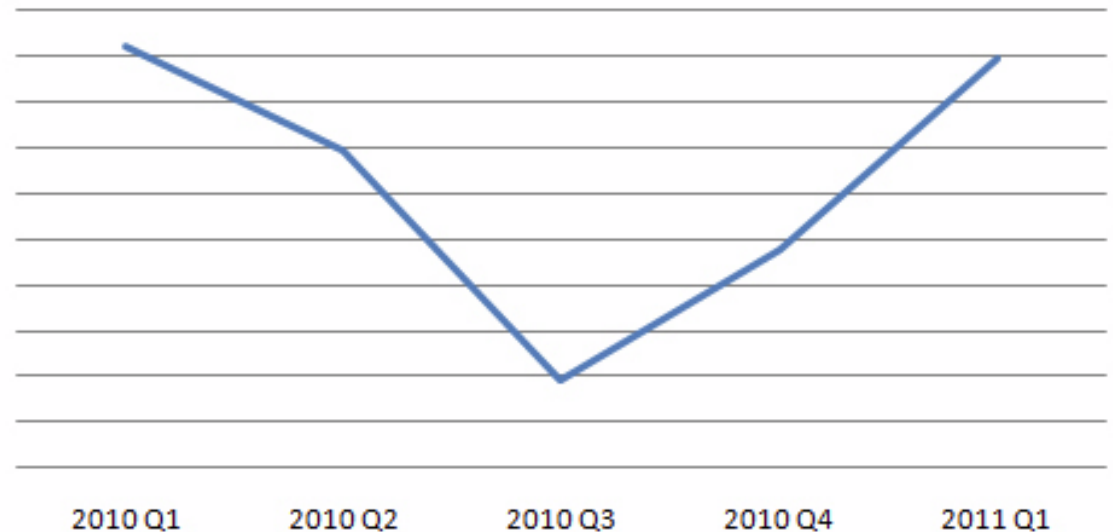
Data from Symantec Hosted Services



# Mariposa

- Mariposa
  - Industry partnership with LE and Academia
  - Hostler participation in the investigation
  - Multiple arrests
  - C&C reactivation within 60 days

Data from Trend Micro



Feels quite a lot like this...



# Plays Well With Others

- Operation Bot Roast
  - Industry/LE partnerships
  - Broad scale actor attribution
  - Prosecutions of Soloway, Brewer, Ancheta, Downey, Walker and Goldstein
- Operation Bot Roast II
  - Additional indictments on DDoS, Fraud, Wiretap\* and other charges
  - Discovery exposes \$20+ million in economic losses
- Conficker Working Group
  - Domain control
  - Registrar partnership
  - Intel sharing between industry, academia and law enforcement

# Better Together

- Waledac
  - Takedown of C&C
  - Legal precedent
- Bredolab
  - Command & Control seizure
  - Notification
  - Arrest
- Rustock
  - Takedown
  - Confiscation of hardware for forensic analysis
  - Cleanup
- Afcore
  - Takedown
  - Shutdown command
  - Coordinated response

# Waledac- Operation b49

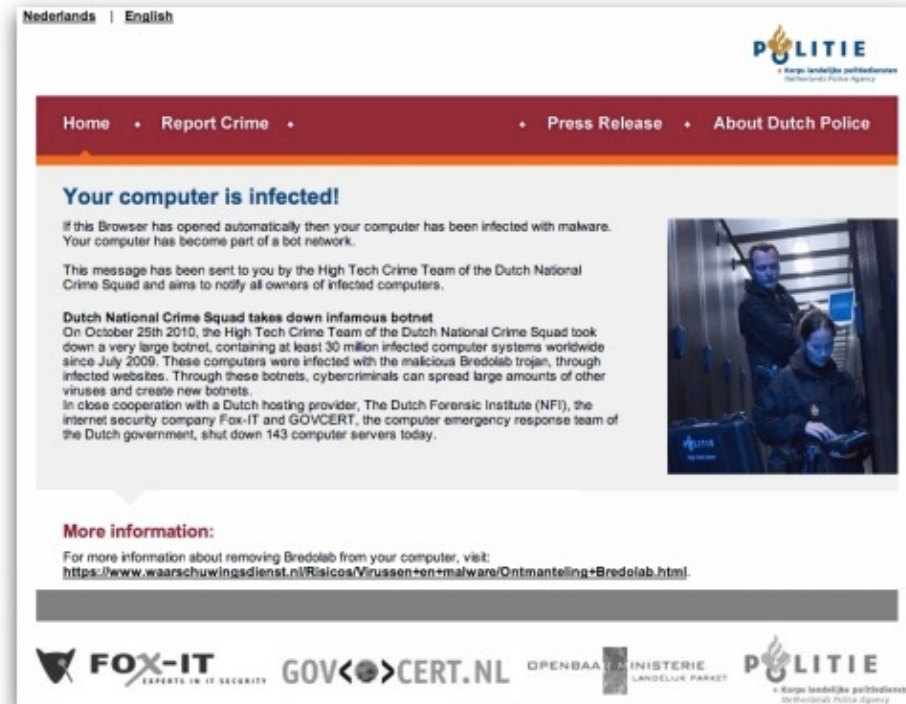
- Novel combination of technical and legal measures.
  - Ex parte TRO after demonstrating damages
  - Partnership with Verisign for domain control of C&C
  - Notification phase
  - Permanent ownership of domains granted after 90 days following outreach to domain owners

- Takedown of C&C
- Legal precedent
- ISP Partnerships



# Bredolab

- Coordinated effort involving
  - Dutch High Tech Crime Unit (THTC)
  - Dutch hosting provider LeaseWeb
  - Internet security consultancy FoxIT
  - GOVCERT.NL
  - International law enforcement
- Arrest of suspect in Armenia
- Notification



The screenshot shows a notification email from the Dutch National Crime Squad. The header includes the language options 'Nederlands | English' and the 'POLITIE' logo. The main heading is 'Your computer is infected!'. The text explains that the user's computer has been infected with malware and is part of a bot network. It mentions that the message was sent by the High Tech Crime Team of the Dutch National Crime Squad. A sub-heading reads 'Dutch National Crime Squad takes down infamous botnet', followed by a paragraph detailing the takedown of a large botnet on October 25th, 2010, involving 30 million infected computers. It also mentions cooperation with Fox-IT and GOVCERT. At the bottom, there is a 'More information:' section with a link to a website for removing Bredolab malware. The footer contains logos for FOX-IT, GOVCERT.NL, OPENBAAR MINISTRIE LANDELIJK PARKET, and POLITIE.

Nederlands | English

**POLITIE**  
Korps landelijke politiediensten  
Dutch National Police Agency

Home • Report Crime • Press Release • About Dutch Police

### Your computer is infected!


If this Browser has opened automatically then your computer has been infected with malware. Your computer has become part of a bot network.

This message has been sent to you by the High Tech Crime Team of the Dutch National Crime Squad and aims to notify all owners of infected computers.

#### Dutch National Crime Squad takes down infamous botnet

On October 25th 2010, the High Tech Crime Team of the Dutch National Crime Squad took down a very large botnet, containing at least 30 million infected computer systems worldwide since July 2009. These computers were infected with the malicious Bredolab trojan, through infected websites. Through these botnets, cybercriminals can spread large amounts of other viruses and create new botnets.

In close cooperation with a Dutch hosting provider, The Dutch Forensic Institute (NFI), the internet security company Fox-IT and GOVCERT, the computer emergency response team of the Dutch government, shut down 143 computer servers today.



**More information:**

For more information about removing Bredolab from your computer, visit:  
<https://www.waarschuwingsdienst.nl/Risico's/Virussen+en+malware/Ontmanteling+Bredolab.html>.

**FOX-IT** EXPERTS IN IT SECURITY

**GOVCERT.NL**

OPENBAAR MINISTRIE LANDELIJK PARKET

**POLITIE**  
Korps landelijke politiediensten  
Dutch National Police Agency



# Rustock- Operation b107

- Waledac was a proving ground for us
  - Our success in Operation b49 showed us we could take on larger, more complex threats.
  - We also knew what we could do better in terms of remediation and partnership.
- New legal approach
  - Trademark infringement
    - Microsoft
    - Pfizer's declaration for the court
    - Lanham Act
- Takedown
  - Ex parte TRO,
  - Coordination with US Marshal Service to seize physical evidence from five hosting providers in seven cities.
  - Confiscation of hardware for forensic analysis
- Cleanup
  - 1.2 Million unique IP addresses
  - Safety Scanner
  - SNDS
  - ISPs and CERTs worldwide

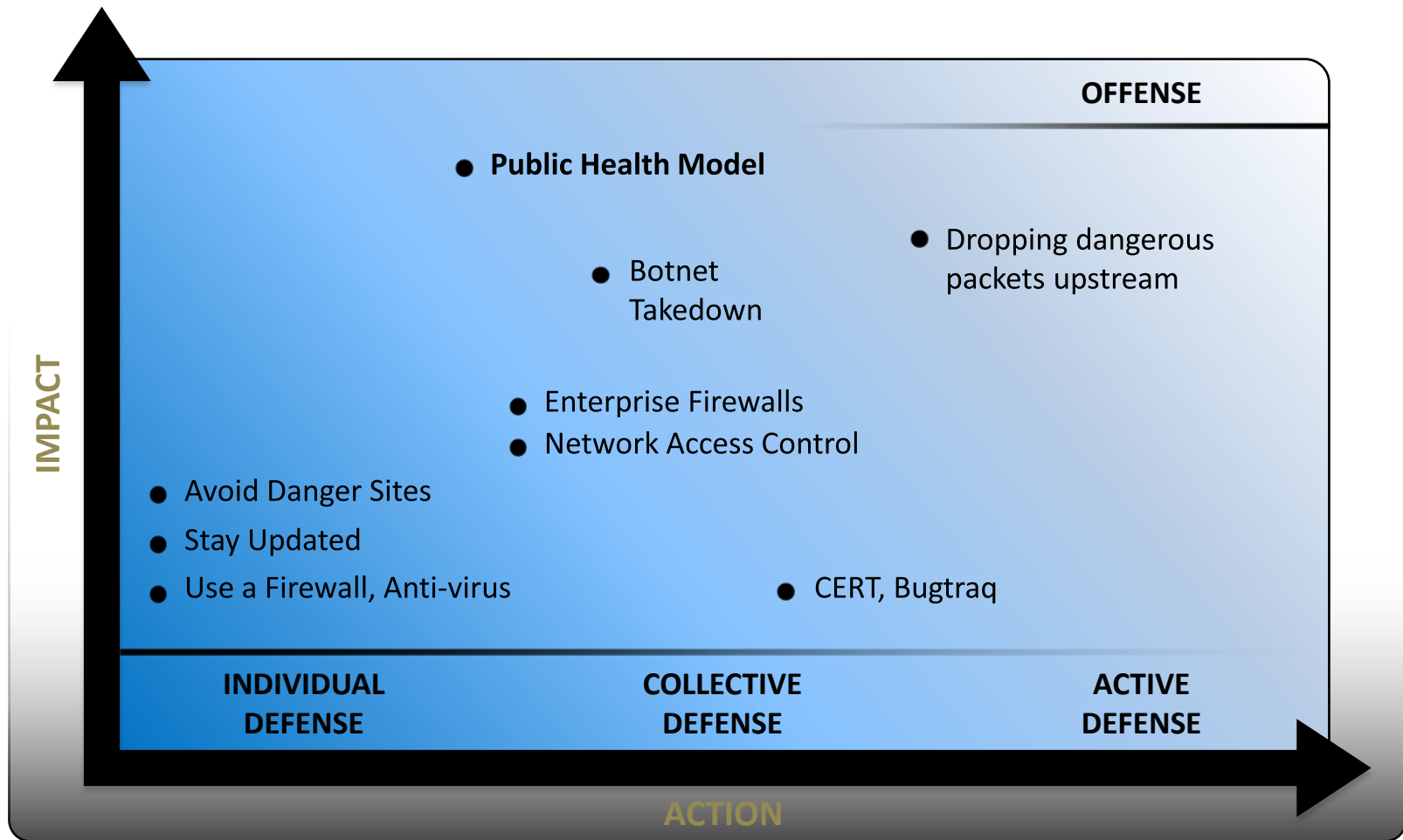


# Afcore

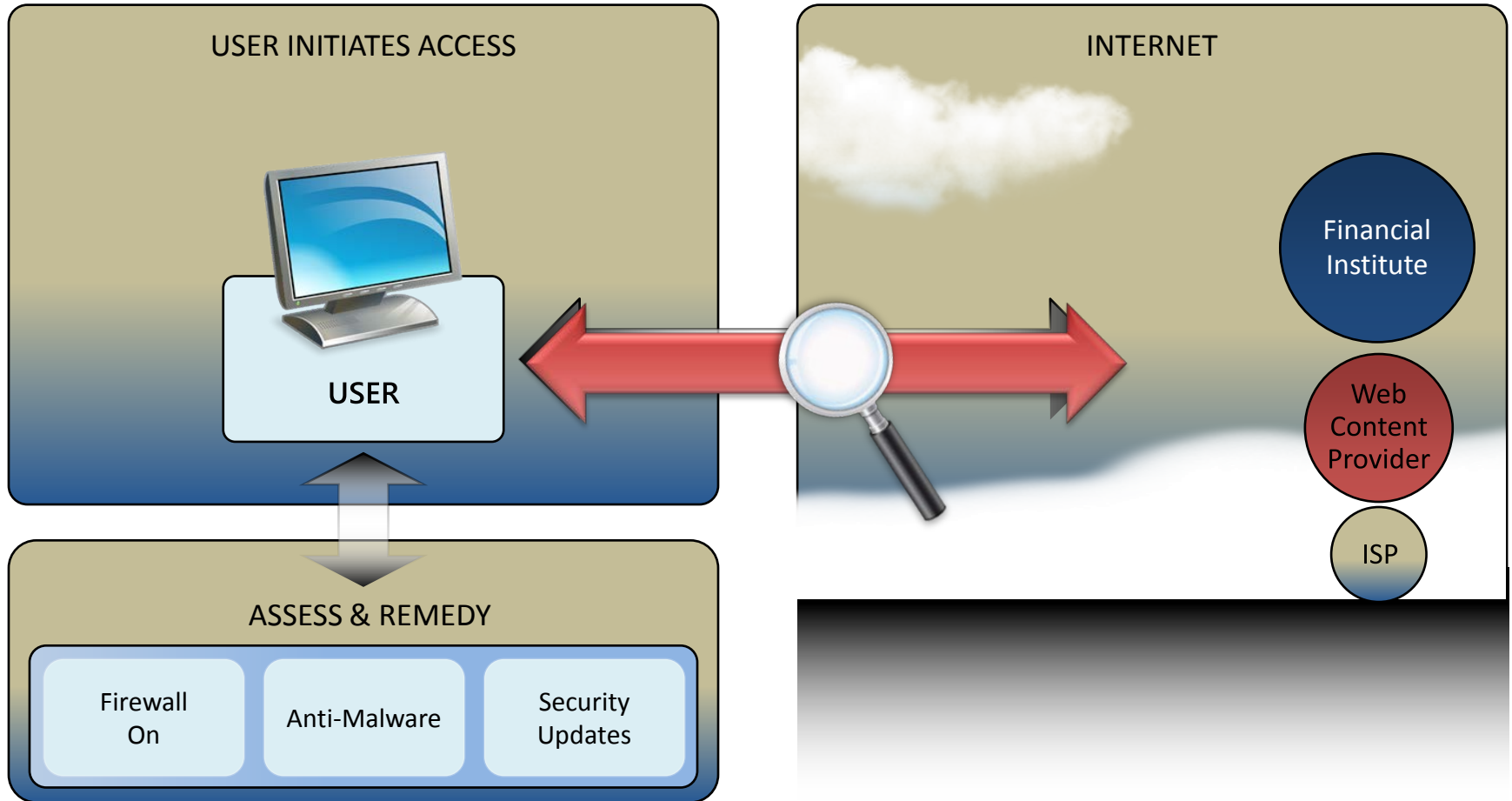
- Another example of the combination legal/technical approach
  - Temporary restraining order
  - Seize control of C&C servers
  - Coordinate the release of MSRT with the takedown
  - *Issue a command to unload the bot from memory*
  - Gather consent from victims
  - Remediate
- Partnership with law enforcement
  - Additional variants released just before MSRT release and more updates as the takedown was happening
  - Additional release of MSRT for a broad cleaning of the ecosystem.



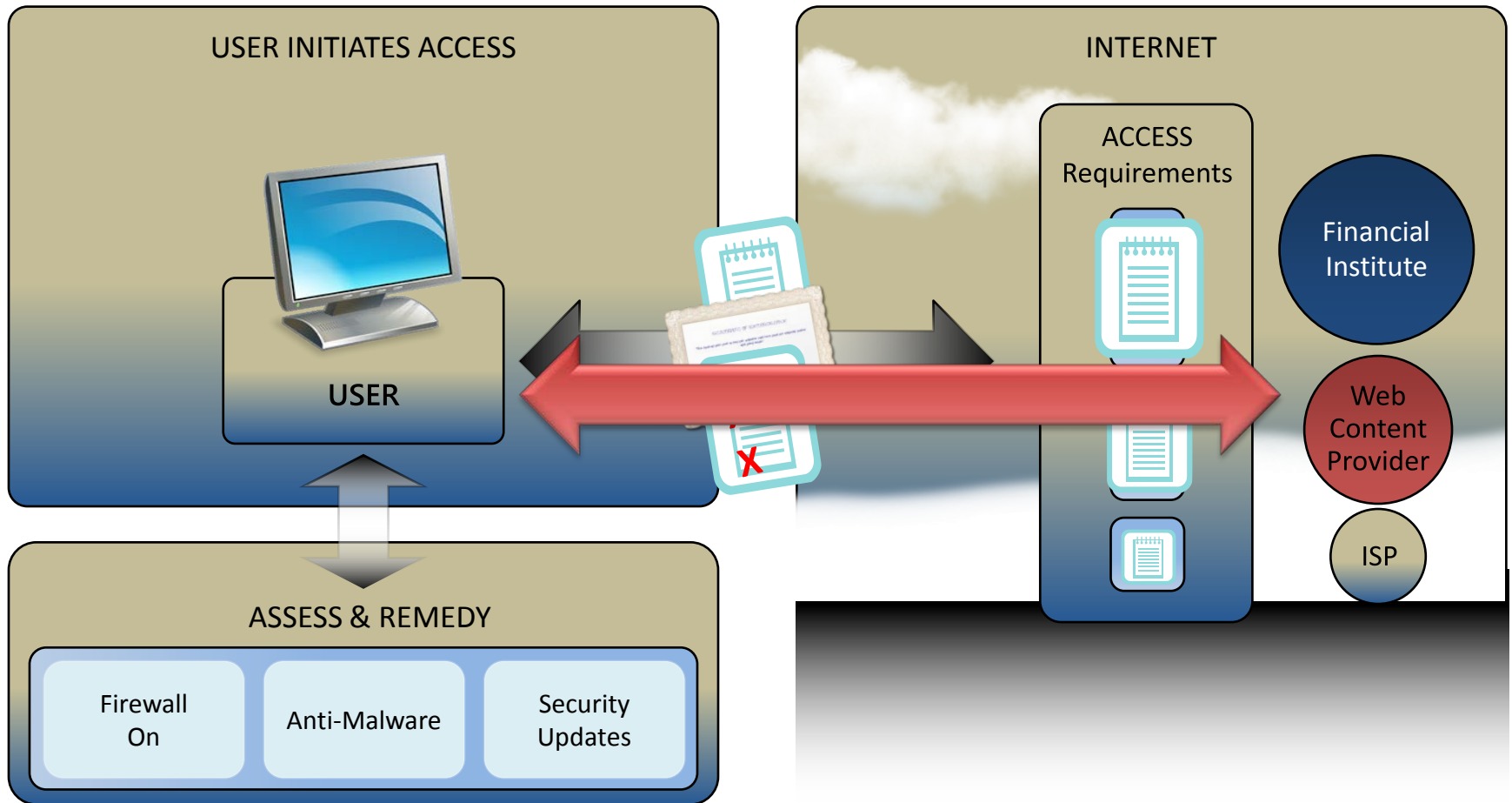
# Defenses Against Cyber Threat



# Internet Health Model: Observing Symptoms



# Internet Health Model: Promoting Wellness



# Building a Collective Defense



The International Telecommunications Union's Botnet Mitigation Tool Kit

Japan's Cyber Clean Center

France's Signal Spam

Germany's Anti-Botnet Advisory Center

Microsoft Active Response for Security

# Helping our Common Customers

## Operation b49 Feb 2010

**Target:** *Waledac*

**Cleanup Goal:** Build relationships and processes to reach customers

### ISP Results

ISP	Reduction
1	97%
2	96%
3	93%
4	78%
5	82%
6	66%

### Status

~22,000 infected IPs remaining  
~70% reduction world wide

## Operation b107 March 2011

**Target:** *Rustock*

**Cleanup Goal:** Disinfect systems before attackers regain control

### Enhancements:

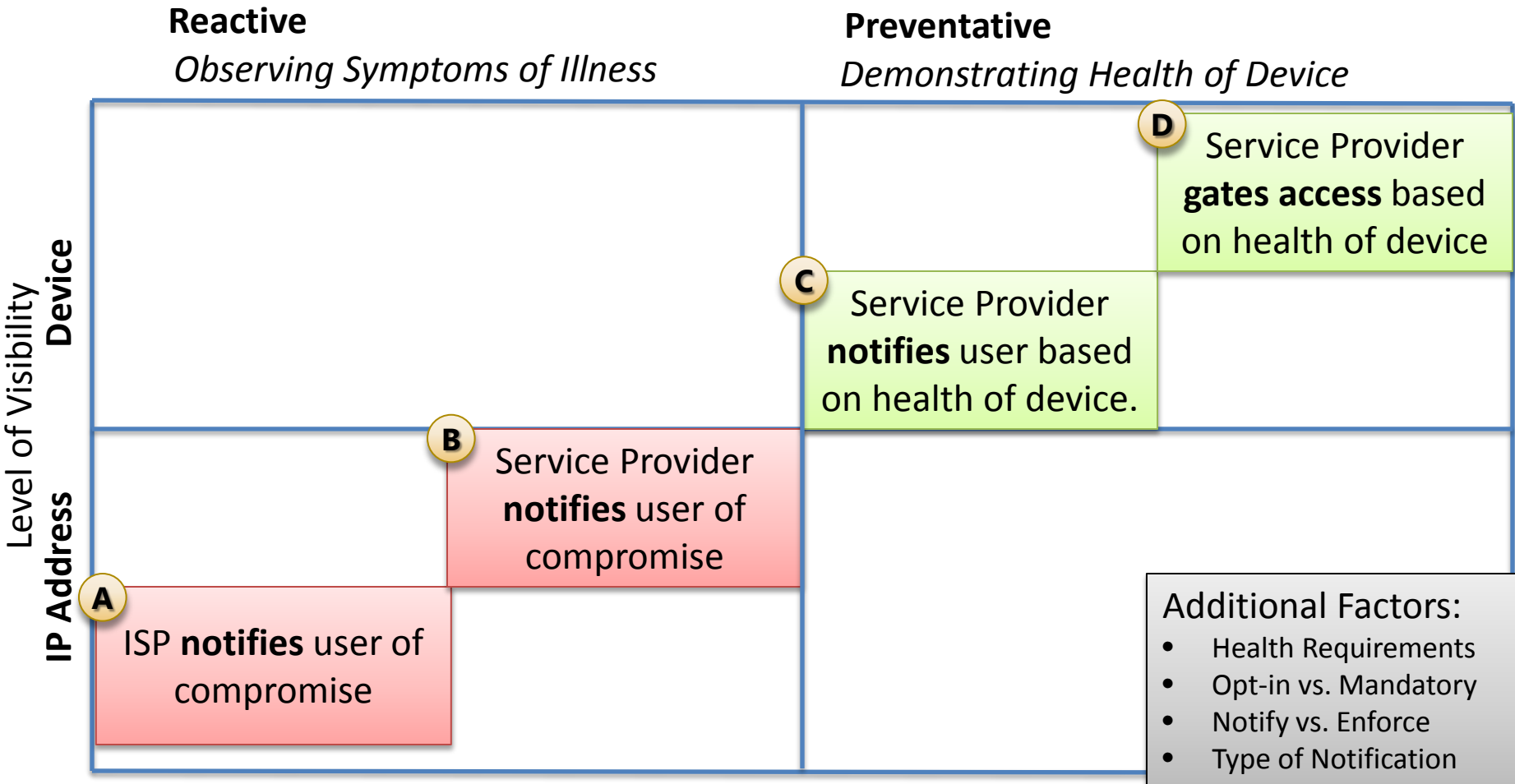
- Expanded Partners
- Removal Tools
- Updated support site

### Status

1.2m Unique IP addresses observed in first 7 days following the takedown

# ISP Based Remediation Efforts

*Vision: Improve and maintain the health of endpoints connected to the network to create confident customers and grow the information society.*





# Rustock Progress

## Remediation phase

- Directed engagement with ISPs and CERTs
- Delivery of Tools
- Ongoing delivery of IP Data & Timestamps for infected systems
- Legal agreements allowing for redistribution of the Microsoft Safety Scanner in a walled garden

## Additional investigation

- Forensic analysis of C&C hard drives
- Involved parties identified
  - Hoster
- Webmoney
- Notification

## Additional collateral

ISP	Reduction	Country	Reduction
1	69%	1	81%
2	56%	2	69%
3	51%	3	68%
4	49%	4	67%
5	49%	5	66%
6	45%	6	64%
7	34%	7	56%
8	32%	8	54%
9	32%	9	54%
10	31%	10	53%



# We're Not Done Yet...



# Call to Action

- Solve hard problems in customer notification and remediation
  - Scam proof communications
  - Reliable cleaning tools
- Create next generation collective defenses
  - Device health technologies to prevent infections
  - Definition and measurement of healthy devices
- Share intelligence about infected nodes within an ASN with the ASN owner
  - Provide tools for remediation.
- Leverage SNDS

# Whack-a-Mole 2.0



One more thing...

# Resources

- <http://support.microsoft.com/botnets>
- <http://www.microsoft.com/security/scanner/en-gb/default.aspx>
- <http://www.microsoft.com/av>
- <http://blogs.technet.com/mmpc>
- <http://www.microsoft.com/sir>
- <http://blogs.technet.com/ecostrat>
- <http://postmaster.live.com/snds>
  
- Facebook
  - Microsoft Malware Protection Center
  - Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit
  
- Twitter
  - @MicrosoftDCU
  - @msftmmpc
  - @jwill\_ms

The Microsoft logo is displayed in white, bold, italicized sans-serif font against a solid blue rectangular background. The word "Microsoft" is followed by a registered trademark symbol (®).

Be what's next.™

© 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft, Windows, Windows Vista and other product names are or may be registered trademarks and/or trademarks in the U.S. and/or other countries. The information herein is for informational purposes only and represents the current view of Microsoft Corporation as of the date of this presentation. Because Microsoft must respond to changing market conditions, it should not be interpreted to be a commitment on the part of Microsoft, and Microsoft cannot guarantee the accuracy of any information provided after the date of this presentation.  
MICROSOFT MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, AS TO THE INFORMATION IN THIS PRESENTATION.