

Cybercrime, the Easy Way



Peter Silva, 2010-18-01

The [Dummies series](#) is a great collection of 'How to' instructions on a wide array of topics and while they have not published a 'Cybercrime for Dummies®' booklet (and don't think they will), [DYI Cybercrime Kits](#) are helping drive Internet attacks. Gone are the days when you had to visit a dark alley to get a crook's cookbook. You don't need to be an expert or tied to some sophisticated crime ring but now you can infect, spam, phish and generate other dastardly deeds with the best of them. Similar to downloading and using [iTunes](#), [P2P applications](#), [IM services](#), [Skype](#) and others to accomplish those specific tasks, you can get a Cybercrime toolkit to go with your [black ski mask](#), [getaway car](#) and [evil lair hideout](#). You don't really need any technical knowledge since all you do is install the program, tell it what you want, customize the message, send the infection and wait for the program to tell you when you've hit gold. The early 'hacking' sites like [www.2600.com](#) or [www.LOpht.com](#) use to allow you to download your favorite virus to send to friends. Granted, many organizations used their malicious code to test their own systems and they've since become more industry friendly and still provide great insight into the 'black-hat'ing' community. I've even used [LOphtcrack](#) several times over the years. Remember, downloading a root kit isn't necessarily a crime, it's what you do with it that might be.

The initial data breach numbers for 2010 are already staggering. In just a couple weeks, around 1,233,432 records have already been breached according to [Privacy Rights Clearinghouse](#) – that's an average of over 68,000 a day. During 2009, Panda Labs saw a 77% increase in banking theft Trojans compared to 2008 which directly corresponded with the increase in available kits. As this trend continues, the 'Kids with Kits' will be competing with the 'Established Mobs' for your passwords, money, identity and any other valuable items/info to sell or use themselves.

Certainly, users need to be extra vigilant when receiving suspicious emails with 'Click Here:' boldly pronounced and organizations need to realize that their systems will be poked, prodded and tapped even more this year. On the web facing front, deploying a Web Application Firewall, like [BIG-IP ASM](#), not only protects against the typical, well known attacks like SQL Injection, DoS, Brute Force and [Web Scraping](#); but can also help with identifying that bad-boy with [IP Geolocation](#) and ASM has always helped to keep you [compliant](#). [BIG-IP GTM v10.1](#), with the new [DNSSEC feature](#), secures your web property against [DNS Cache Poisoning](#) and other malicious redirects. The [FirePass SSL VPN](#) and other [BIG-IP products](#) offer [End Point inspection](#) to ensure that the requesting host abides by your security policy prior to gaining access and Encryption to keep the traffic secure. The [BIG-IP MSM](#) takes a bite out of unwanted [spam](#). Even [BIG-IP LTM](#) with it's virtualization capabilities among other security features provides some network firewall functionality and with [BIG-IP PSM](#), you get powerful security services for HTTP(s), SMTP, and FTP at [BIG-IP](#) speeds.

Now that it's gotten easier for anyone to become a cybercriminal, your defenses must be also be easy and quick to deploy. F5's [BIG-IP](#) systems give you the control, power and ease of use to thwart both the organized crime syndicates and those rookies just getting into the game.

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