Exhibit SS

HOME BUSINESS ▾ MARKETS ▾ WORLD ▾ POLITICS ▾ TECH ▾ OPINION ▾ BREAKINGVIEWS ▾ MONEY ▾ LIFE ▾ PICTURES ▾ VIDEO

Mon Mar 7, 2016 7:29pm EST

Related: TECH

# Mac ransomware caught before large number of computers infected

BY JIM FINKLE
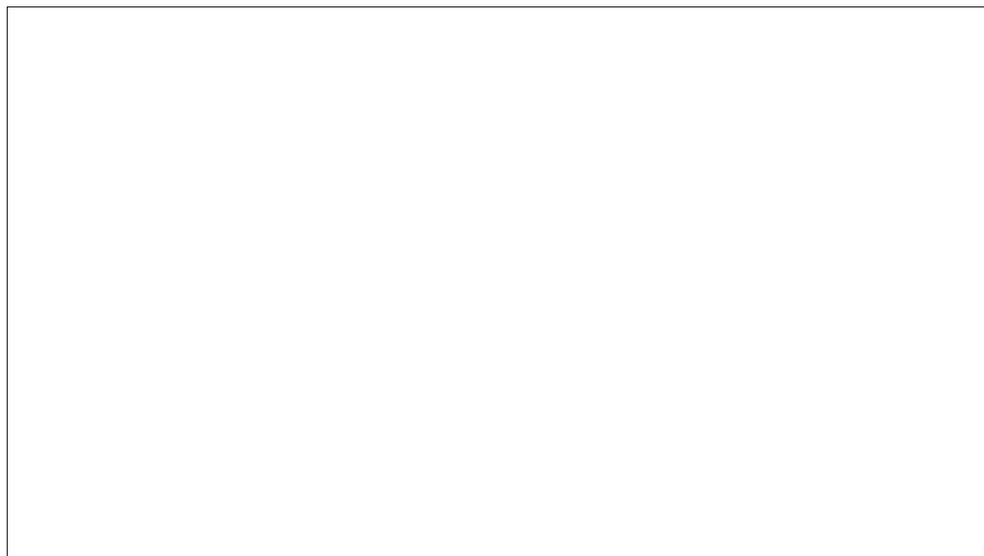
The first known ransomware attack on Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) Mac computers, which was discovered over the weekend, was downloaded more than 6,000 times before the threat was contained, according to a developer whose product was tainted with the malicious software.

Hackers infected Macs with the "KeRanger" ransomware through a tainted copy of Transmission, a popular program for transferring data through the BitTorrent peer-to-peer file sharing network.

So-called ransomware is a type of malicious software that restricts access to a computer system in some way and demands the user pay a ransom to the malware operators to
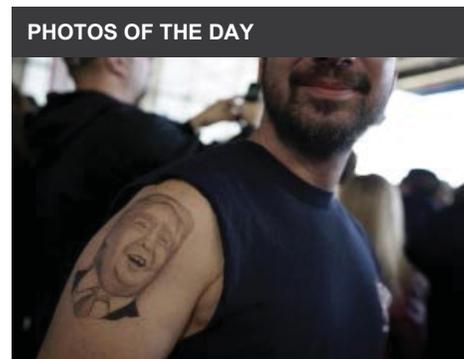
remove the restriction.

KeRanger, which locks data on Macs so users cannot access it, was downloaded about 6,500 times before Apple and developers were able to thwart the threat, said John Clay, a representative for the open-source Transmission project.

That is small compared to the number of ransomware attacks on computers running Microsoft Corp's (MSFT.O) Windows operating system. Cyber security firm Symantec Corp (SYMC.O) observed some 8.8 million attacks in 2014 alone.

RELATED COVERAGE

› Amazon to restore encryption to Fire tablets after complaints

---

Still, cyber security experts said they expect to see more attacks on Macs as the KeRanger hackers and other groups look for new ways to infect Mac computers.

"It's a small number but these things always start small and ramp up huge," said Fidelis Cybersecurity threat systems manager John Bambenek. "There's a lot of Mac users out there and a lot of money to be made."

Symantec, which sells anti-virus software for Macs, warned on its blog that "Mac users should not be complacent." The post offered tips on protecting against ransomware. (symc.ly/1puolix)

The Transmission project provided few details about how the attack was launched.

"The normal disk image (was) replaced by the compromised one" after the project's main server was hacked, said Clay.

He added that "security on the server has since been increased" and that the group was in "frequent contact" with Apple as well as Palo Alto Networks, which discovered the ransomware on Friday and immediately notified Apple and Transmission.

RELATED COVERAGE

› Apple case exposes ongoing government rift over encryption policy

---

An Apple representative said the company quickly took steps over the weekend to prevent further infections by revoking a digital certificate that enabled the rogue software to install on Macs.

Transmission responded by removing the malicious 2.90 version of its software from its website (www.transmissionbt.com). On Sunday, it released version 2.92, which its website says automatically removes the ransomware from infected Macs.

Forbes earlier reported on the number of KeRanger downloads, citing Clay.

(Reporting by Jim Finkle; Editing by Cynthia Osterman and Bill Rigby)

An Apple iPhone is pictured next to the logo of Apple in Bordeaux, southwestern France, February 26, 2016.
REUTERS/REGIS DUVIGNAU

More from Reuters

- **Polish minister says foul play behind president's jet crash** | *13 Mar*

- **A Hail Mary heave to block Trump's nomination** | *14 Mar*

- **Exclusive: Chinese hackers behind U.S. ransomware attacks - security firms** | *14 Mar*

- **Donald Trump is right about defense spending – and that should scare you** | *2 Mar*

- **Saudis walk out of Arab League meeting after Iraqi minister's comments** | *11 Mar*

Sponsored Financial Content ☑ (?)

- **Protect your retirement income with these five rules.** *Fidelity Investments*

- **Donald Trump's Advice For Paying Off Mortgage (It's Genius!)** *Bills.com*

- **Peter Schiff: China Aims "Financial Nuke" at America** *Wall Street Daily*

- **Could Washington Go Broke? Analyst warns: "U.S. can't pay its debts."** *Money and Markets*

- **Did Mark Cuban just pass on the next Apple?** *The Motley Fool*

From The Web   Sponsored Links by Taboola ▷

Are you a strategic thinker? Test your skills with millions of
Sparta - Free Online Game

The Stunning Evolution of Millennials: They've Become
The Huffington Post | Wealthfront

Why This Shirt Company Is Causing so Many Guys to
Proper Cloth