

The deep dive into  
the world of

MS  
 viruses

Ben Cartwright-Cox  
>>>@benjojo12<<<



Age of MS-DOS:



Age of Presenter:



Age of MS-DOS: (1988 for 4.0)



Age of Presenter: (1995 barely stable)



Аньюшай

What +

is

POS?



Marcin Wichary - CC BY 2.0



Nick Bair - CC BY-SA 2.0

- DOS is a upgrade from CP/M



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- DOS covers a wide range of vendors

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- Some of them had some compatibility with each other

- DOS is a upgrade from CP/M
- DOS covers a wide range of vendors
- Some of them had some compatibility with each other
- Meaning some DOS's shared malware with each other









TECHNO



# VX Heavens

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## Viruses don't harm, ignorance does!

*"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."*

Article 19 of "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"




**Welcome to VX Heavens!** This site is dedicated to providing information about *computer viruses* (or *virii*, as some would prefer) to anyone who is interested in this topic.

This site contains a massive, continuously updated collection of [magazines](#), virus samples, virus sources, polymorphic engines, virus generators, [virus writing tutorials](#), articles, books, news archives etc. Even [the viruses](#) for the platforms you've never heard of. We also offer free hosting for virus authors and groups.

Some of you might reasonably say that it is illegal to offer such content on the net. Or that this information can be misused by "malicious people". I only want to ask that person: *"Is ignorance a defence?"*

webmaster@vx.netlux.org

You can help us improve the site by [uploading new stuff](#), [making a donation](#), posting our [link](#) to your site, blog or forum, or [leaving a comment](#). Thank you!

   **What's new? (April 2010)**

29 + DL/PE: DTrash 1.0

29 + DL/PE: 451's Dirty Entry Point Engine (DEE 1.32)

28 + DL/MAG: The Scanner

28 + DL/GEN: WAH C# Worm Generator (WAH 1.0) by Retro

23 + LIB/EN: Z0mbie "The virmaking is dying"

*Friday, 23 March, the server has being seized by the police forces due to the criminal investigation (article 361-1 Criminal Code of Ukraine - the creation of the malicious programs with an intent to sell or spread them) based on someone's tip-off on "placement into the free access malicious software designed for the unauthorized breaking into computers, automated systems, computer networks".*

```
$ tar -tvf viruses-20070914.tar | wc -l  
66714
```

```
$ ls -alh viruses-20070914.tar  
6.6G viruses-20070914.tar
```

AMBULANCE

```
+-----+
|       |
|   Start   |
|       |
+-----+
```



```
+-----+
|       |
| Are payload |
| conditions met? |
|       |
+-----+
```



```
+-----+
|       |
| Hook Calls |
|   OR     |
| Infect Files |
|       |
+-----+
```



```
+-----+
|       |
| Display |
| Payload |
|       |
+-----+
```

```
+-----+
|Download / |
|Run infected|
|program    |
+-----+
```

```
+-----+
|Run new   |
|Files    |
+-----+
```

↓

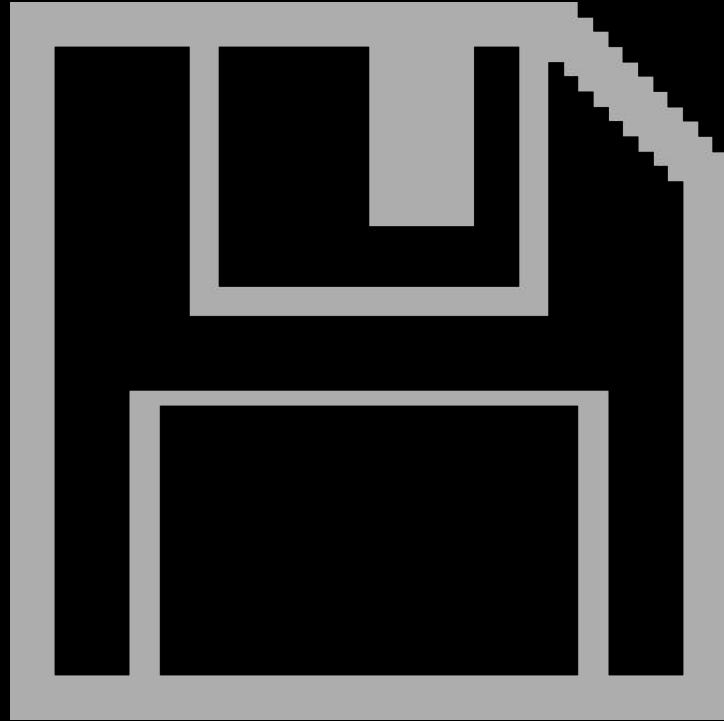
```
+-----+
|Those Files|
|become infected|
+-----+
```

←-----

```
+-----+
|Give others|
|infected Files|
+-----+
```

↑

















Original program code

+-----+  
|  
v

+-----+  
| | | Malware  
| !! | Original program code |  
| | | Infection  
+-----+

| | | ^  
| | | |  
+-----+

3 Byte Jump  
to end of File











# Int 21h Syscalls

0 - Terminate	2A - Get Date
1 - Keyboard input	2C - Get Time
2 - Display output	31 - TSR
3 - Wait for device input	40 - Write to File
...	41 - Delete File
9 - Print string	48 - Allocate RAM
F - Open File	4C - Exit with return code

```
[org 100h]
```

```
mov dx,msg
```

```
mov ah,9
```

```
int 21h
```

```
mov ah,4Ch
```

```
int 21h
```

```
msg db 'Hello, World!',0Dh,0Ah,'$'
```

# Int 21h Syscalls

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### Program Code

```
[org 100h]
mov dx,msg

mov ah,9
int 21h

mov ah,4Ch
int 21h
msg db 'hi!',0Dh,0Ah,'$'
```

### Interrupt Handler

```
cmp     ah,0x6c
ja      0x4260
cmp     ah,0x33
jb      0x42ab
je      0x4237
cmp     ah,0x64
ja      0x42ab
je      0x4251
```

### Call handler

```
cli
cld
retw
push   bp
iret
```

### Program Code

```
[org 100h]
mov dx,msg

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### Call handler

```
cli
cld
retw
push   bp
iret
```

<b>Syscall Op</b>	<b> </b>	<b>Syscall Name</b>
48		Get DOS version
61		Open file
66		Move file pointer
63		Read file or device (Read 2 bytes on handle 5)
62		Close file
48		Get DOS version
61		Open file
66		Move file pointer
63		Read file or device (Read 6800 bytes on handle 5)
66		Move file pointer
64		Write file or device (Write 6800 bytes on handle 5)
66		Move file pointer
64		Write file or device (Write 0 bytes on handle 5)
87		Get or set file date and time
62		Close file
48		Get DOS version
41		Parse filename
41		Parse filename
75		Execute program
9		Display string
76		Terminate with return code (Return code = '36')
64		Write file or device (Write 0 bytes on handle 1)

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AX: 0000 BX: DE00 CX: 929F DX: 0116  
SI: F918 DI: 0116 SP: 0A66 BP: 0A72  
CS: F000 DS: 0116 ES: 0040 SS: 0116

IP: 92BD EIP:000092BD

CS:IP: F000:92BD (0xF92BD)

SS:SP: 0116:0A66 (0x01BC6)

SS:BP: 0116:0A72 (0x01BD2)

AH = 09

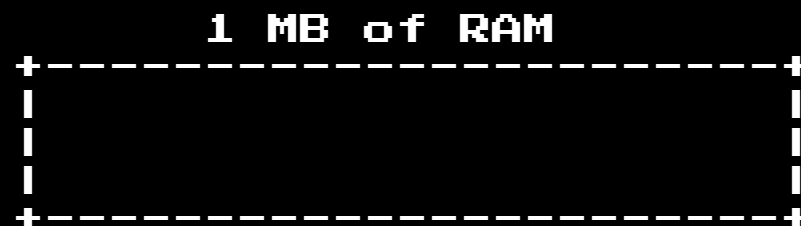
DS:DX = pointer to string ending in "\$"

# Memory Layouts



$$2^{16} = 64\text{KB}$$

20 bit  
+----->



$$2^{20} = 1\text{MB}$$

# Memory Layouts

16 BIT CPU



Segment:

CS, DS, SS, ES

"General" Use:

AX, BX, CX, DX, SP,  
BP, SI, DI



$$2^{16} = 65536$$

$$2^{16} = 65536$$

$$2^{20} = 1048576$$

$$2^{16} = 65536$$

$$2^{20} = 1048576$$

$$1048576 = 1\text{MiB}$$

# Memory Layouts

16 BIT CPU



Segment:

CS, DS, SS, ES

"General" Use:

AX, BX, CX, DX, SP,  
BP, SI, DI

A quick crash  
course in  
segment  
registers

DS

+

|

+

+

-

+

+

-

+

+

-

+

-

+

-

+

-

+

-

+

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+

-

+

-

+

-

+



DS

+

|

+-----+

+

v



DS:DX

+

|

+-----+

v

Hi



$DX$

+

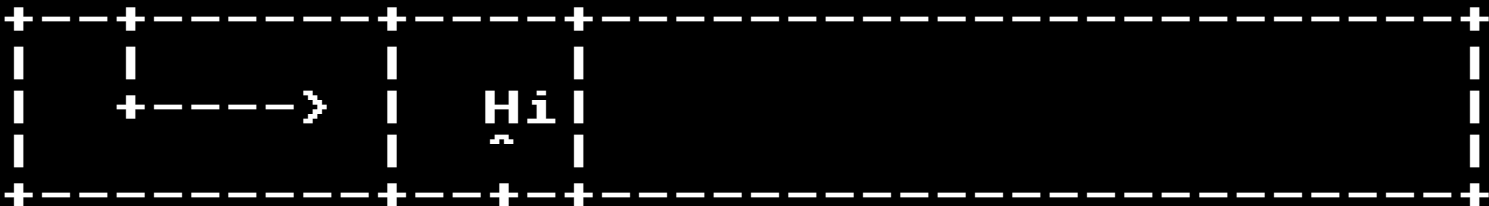
+

$H_i$

^

+

$DS$



DX

DX: 6  
DS: 100

ADDR: (100\*16)+6

→

Hi

^

DS

# 16 BIT CPU



Segment:

CS, DS, SS, ES

"General" Use:

AX, BX, CX, DX, SP,  
BP, SI, DI

## 32 BIT CPU



Segment:

CS, DS, SS, ES

"General" Use:

EAX, EBX, ECX, EDX,  
ESP, EBP, ESI, EDI

+ Some new ones

# 64 BIT CPU



Segment:

CS, DS, SS, ES

"General" Use:

RAX, RBX, RCX, RDX,  
RSP, RBP, RSI, RDI

+ Loads of new ones

# Tracing checklist

\* Breakpoint on Int 21 handler

# Tracing checklist

\* Breakpoint on Int 21 handler

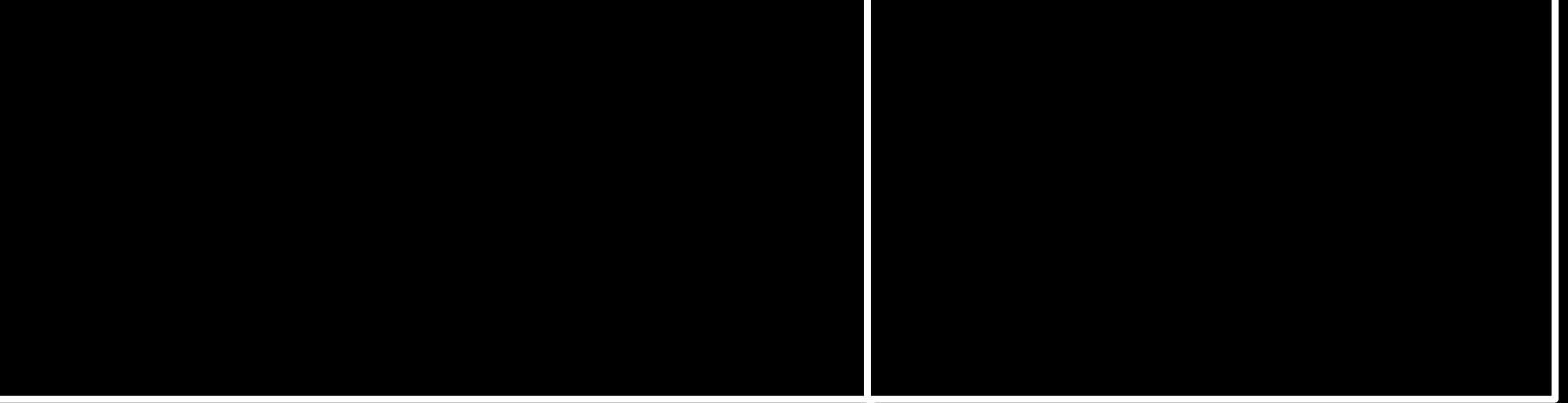
\* Save registers

# Tracing checklist

- \* Breakpoint on Int 21 handler
- \* Save registers
- \* Save 100 bytes from (DS \* 16 + DX)
- \* Also record the screen for quick analysis



Drumroll . . .



Syscall Op	Syscall Name
48	Get DOS version
42	Get date
255	UNKNOWN!
73	Release memory
72	Allocate memory
74	Reallocate memory
74	Reallocate memory
76	Terminate with return code

Syscall Op	Syscall Name
48	Get DOS version
<b>42</b>	<b>Get date</b>
255	UNKNOWN!
73	Release memory
72	Allocate memory
74	Reallocate memory
74	Reallocate memory
76	Terminate with return code

Int 21h  
AH = 2A (Get Date)

on return:  
AL = day of the week (0=Sunday)  
CX = year (1980-2099)  
DH = month (1-12)  
DL = day (1-31)

Int 21h  
AH = 2C (Get Time)

on return:  
CH = hour (0-23)  
CL = minutes (0-59)  
DH = seconds (0-59)  
DL = hundredths (0-99)

```
+-----+
| Run Sample |
+-----+
```

+----->

```
+-----+
| Wait for |
| date/time |
| request  |
+-----+
```

~  
|

|  
v

```
+-----+
| Observe  |
| syscall  |
| changes  |
+-----+
```

<-----

```
+-----+
| Inject   |
| test value |
| instead  |
+-----+
```

Done! <--+

```
+-----+
| (15 seconds) |
| Run Sample   |
+-----+
```

+----->

```
+-----+
| Wait for    |
| date/time   |
| request     |
+-----+
```

~  
|

|  
v

```
+-----+
| Observe    |
| syscall    |
| changes    |
+-----+
```

<-----

```
+-----+
| Inject     |
| test value |
| instead    |
+-----+
```

Done! <--+

OR



We want to know where here is



### Program Code

```

+-----+
| [org 100h]                               |
| mov dx,msg                               |
|                                           |
| mov ah,9                                 |
| int 21h                                  |
|                                           |
| mov ah,4Ch                               |
| int 21h                                  |
| msg db 'hi!',0Dh,0Ah,'$'                |
+-----+

```

We are here



### Interrupt Handler

```

+-----+
| cmp    ah,0x6c                            |
| ja     0x4260                              |
| cmp    ah,0x33                            |
| jb     0x42ab                              |
| je     0x4237                              |
| cmp    ah,0x64                            |
| ja     0x42ab                              |
| je     0x4251                              |
+-----+

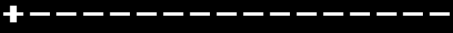
```

### Call handler

```

+-----+
| cli                                       |
| cld                                       |
| retw                                     |
| push  bp                                 |
| iret                                     |
+-----+

```



IP      CS  
+      +  
|      |  
v      v

```
+-----+ [ STACK ] +-----+  
010A 1294 7246 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000  
0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
```

Located at SS:SP

# Tracing checklist

- \* Breakpoint on Int 21 handler
- \* Save registers
- \* Save 100 bytes from (DS \* 16 + DX)
- \* Also record the screen for quick analysis
- \* Grab 4 bytes from SS:SP

# Tracing checklist

- \* Breakpoint on Int 21 handler
- \* Save registers
- \* Save 100 bytes from (DS \* 16 + DX)
- \* Also record the screen for quick analysis
- \* Grab 4 bytes from SS:SP
- \* Grab 100 bytes from the return address

```
0x12b69:    cmp    dl, 0x1e
0x12b6c:    je    0x12b70
0x12b6e:    jmp    0x12bb9
0x12b70:    mov    ah, 0x4e
0x12b72:    mov    cx, 7
0x12b75:    lea   dx, word ptr [bp + 0x508]
0x12b79:    int    0x21
0x12b7b:    jae   0x12b7f
0x12b7d:    jmp    0x12b9c
0x12b7f:    mov    ax, 0x3d02
0x12b82:    lea   dx, word ptr [bp + 0x55e]
0x12b86:    int    0x21
0x12b88:    xchg  ax, bx
0x12b89:    mov    ah, 0x40
0x12b8b:    mov    cx, 0x71
0x12b8e:    lea   dx, word ptr [bp + 0x2b5]
0x12b92:    int    0x21
0x12b94:    mov    ah, 0x3e
0x12b96:    int    0x21
0x12b98:    mov    ah, 0x4f
```

```
0x12b69:    cmp    dl, 0x1e
0x12b6c:    je    0x12b70
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0x12b70:    mov    ah, 0x4e
0x12b72:    mov    cx, 7
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0x12b79:    int   0x21
0x12b7b:    jae   0x12b7f
0x12b7d:    jmp   0x12b9c
0x12b7f:    mov    ax, 0x3d02
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0x12b98:    mov    ah, 0x4f
```

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CH = hour (0-23)  
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Int 21h  
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CH = hour (0-23)  
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0x1e = 30

DL = Day of Month

```
0x12b69:    cmp    dl, 0x1e
0x12b6c:    je    0x12b70
0x12b6e:    jmp   0x12bb9
```

0x1e = 30  
DL = Day of Month

```
0x12b69:    cmp    dl, 0x1e  
0x12b6c:    je    0x12b70  
0x12b6e:    jmp    0x12bb9
```

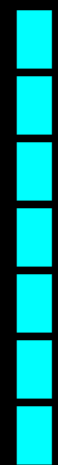
```
If ($dayOfMonth == 30) {  
    Goto 0x12b70;  
} else {  
    Goto 0x12bb9;  
}
```

17500

0



All Samples



Invoke DOS



Returns to shell



Touch Files



Check date/time

< - 4700



The world's worst  
x86 emulator

# BenX86

- \* 16 bit only

- \* **Any** pointer memory access ends emulation

- \* Fake stack, push = nop, pop = end of emulation

- \* 80~ opcodes implemented (Most of them are jumps)

- \* Logs every opcode that is ran

- \* Can be run with just a x86 code snippet and a register snapshot

# BenX86

- \* All days from 1980 to 2005 (9125 days) can be tested in ~100ms
- \* Most programs have 3~ code paths based on dates
- \* That yields us...

17k  
samples

10k date/time  
variations















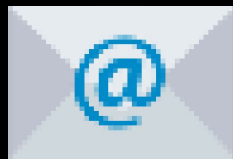






# Thank you

Questions / Corrections?



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I'm on the hunt of a  
europe based job from  
April 2019