



**TECHSUMMIT19**

BARRACUDA TECHNICAL SUMMIT

# Fighting Account Takeover

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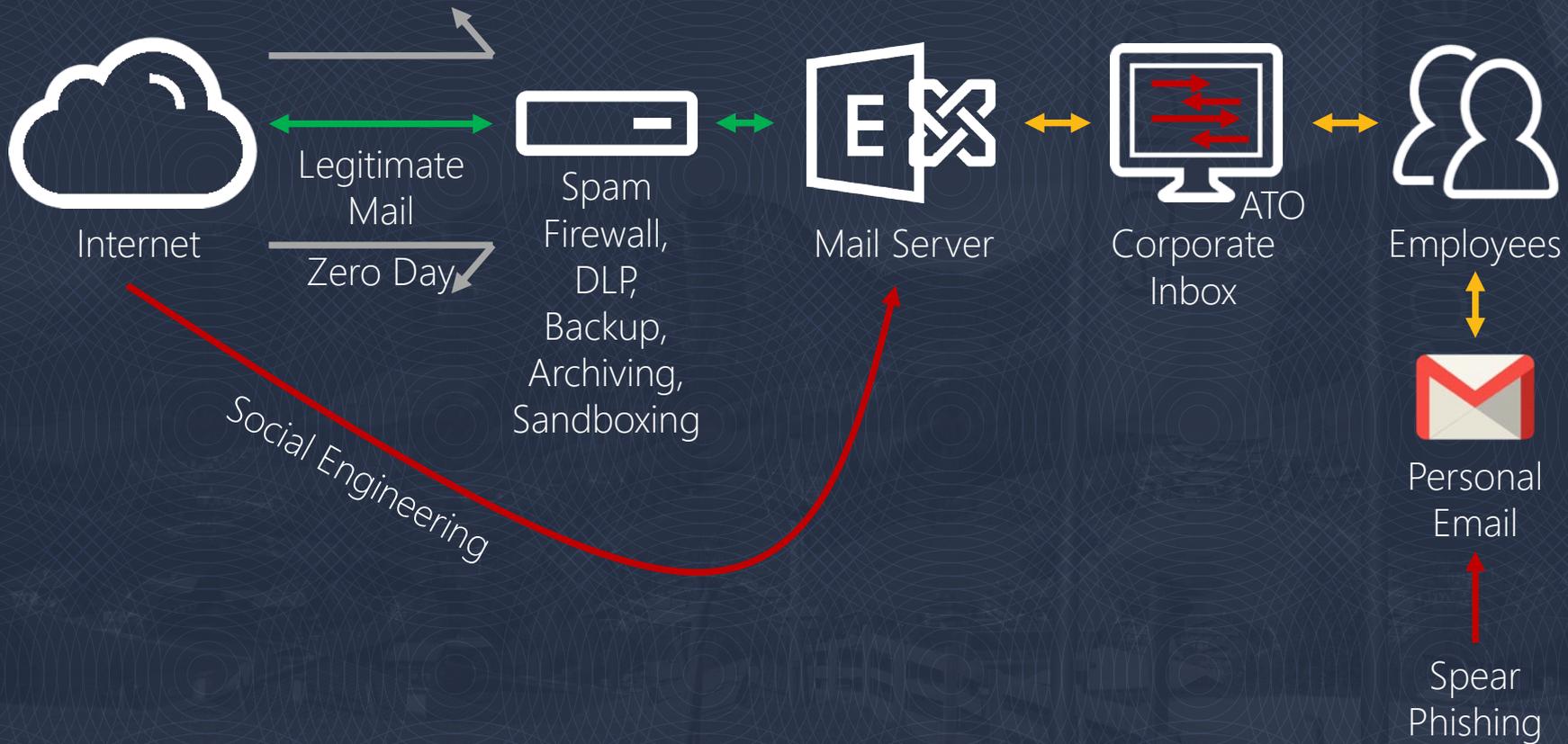
# Market context



# And it gets more complex every year



# Account takeover is the newest threat



Securing the gateway is still  
necessary, but **no longer sufficient**



What is ATO?



# Account takeover defined

What is account takeover (ATO)?

- Using stolen account credentials to commit fraud by taking over someone's identity

How can email accounts be used when taken over?

- Commit financial fraud
- Steal sensitive information
- Launch phishing campaigns



# Anatomy of ATO



Infiltration



Reconnaissance



Harvest  
Credentials



Monetization



# Step 1: infiltration



Infiltration



Reconnaissance



Harvest  
Credentials



Monetization



# Step 1: infiltration

Microsoft office365 Account

## Review recent activity

We detected some unusual activities on your Microsoft office365 Account. To help keep you safe, we required an extra security challenge.

And to avoid deactivation, Please review your recent activity and we'll help you take corrective action.

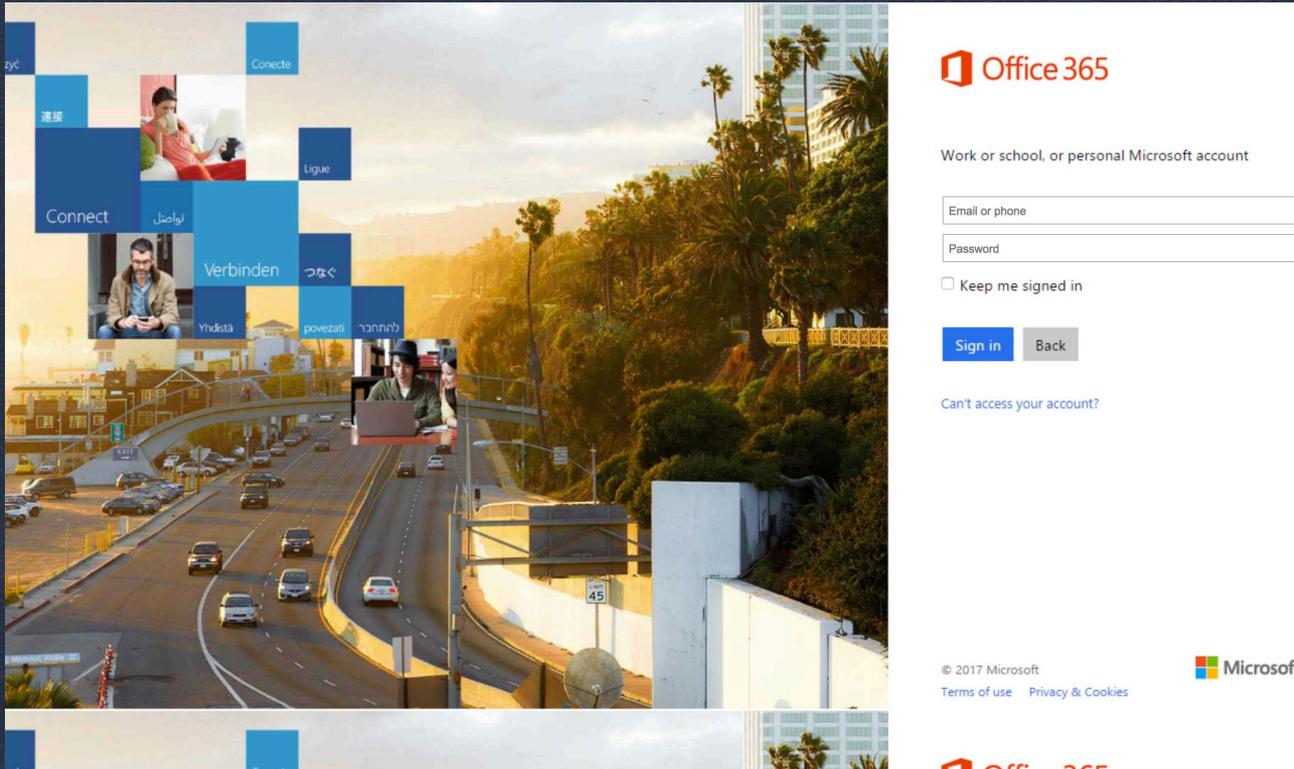
[Review recent activity](#)

To opt out or change where you receive security notifications, [click here](#).

Thanks,  
The Microsoft account team



# Step 1: infiltration



The image shows the Office 365 login page overlaid on a collage of images representing global connectivity. The collage includes a highway with cars, a person on a laptop, and various people in different settings. The word 'Connect' is written in multiple languages: English, Arabic (تواصل), Hebrew (חיבור), Japanese (つなぐ), and others. The login form on the right includes the Office 365 logo, a sign-in prompt, input fields for email/phone and password, a 'Keep me signed in' checkbox, and 'Sign in' and 'Back' buttons. A link for 'Can't access your account?' is also present. The footer contains copyright information for 2017 Microsoft and links to 'Terms of use' and 'Privacy & Cookies'.

Office 365

Work or school, or personal Microsoft account

Email or phone

Password

Keep me signed in

[Sign in](#) [Back](#)

[Can't access your account?](#)

© 2017 Microsoft  
[Terms of use](#) [Privacy & Cookies](#)

Microsoft



# Why does it work?

*LinkProtect cannot prevent these attacks  
since the links are **low volume** and  
**highly personalized***



# Signatures, packages, and other excuses

From: DocuSign <tischlerei-apelt@t-online.de>  
Reply to: DocuSign <tischlerei-apelt@t-online.de>  
Date: Jun 08, 2018  
Subject: File Received: You have a Document to Sign



You have a Document to Sign.

[REVIEW DOCUMENT](#)



# Signatures, packages, and other excuses

From: UPS US <facturacion@sedicosa.com.mx>  
Reply to:  
Date: Jun 11, 2018  
Subject: Your UPS Invoice is Ready

---

Scheduled Delivery Date: **Monday, 06/11/2018**

Shipment Details

---

Tracking Number: [7X92672595380050](#)



# Signatures, packages, and other excuses



A document was shared with you by a contact in your address book. Use the urls below to access your file.

[Preview](#) or [Download](#)



# Commonly impersonated web services

Enterprise

Google

 Dropbox

 Microsoft

DocuSign<sup>®</sup>

Consumer



facebook

NETFLIX



# Infiltration has many forms

## Weakness

## Method

Password reuse across services

Password repository breach  
(*Yahoo, Slack, LinkedIn, etc.*)

Weak passwords

Brute force attack

Endpoint exposure to malware

Browser credential theft

Social trust

Emails, text and voice impersonations



# Step 2: reconnaissance



Infiltration



Reconnaissance



Harvest  
Credentials



Monetization



# Step 2: Reconnaissance

## Method

- Sign in (oftentimes via VPN)
- Forwarding rules to external account
- Cleanup of traces

## Common objectives

- Study org hierarchy, identify who has access to systems
- Learn signatures, email style
- Real-time transaction data



# Step 3: harvest credentials



Infiltration



Reconnaissance



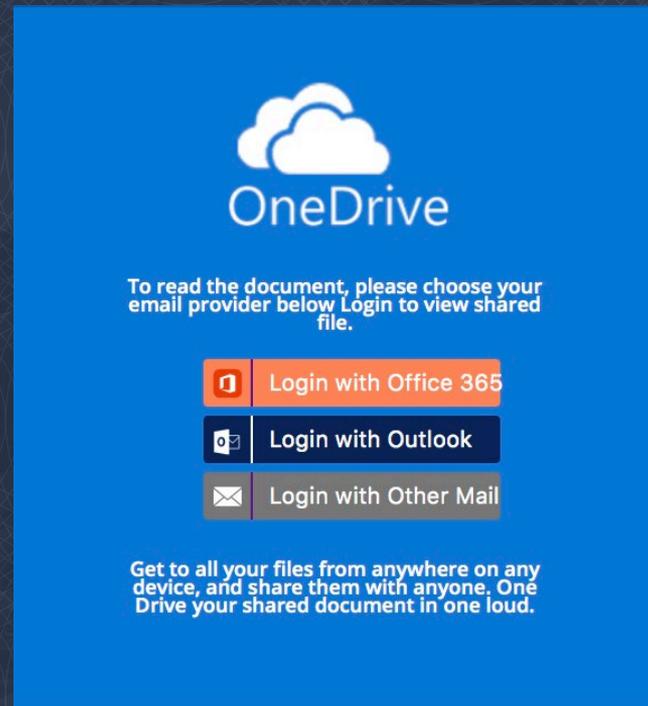
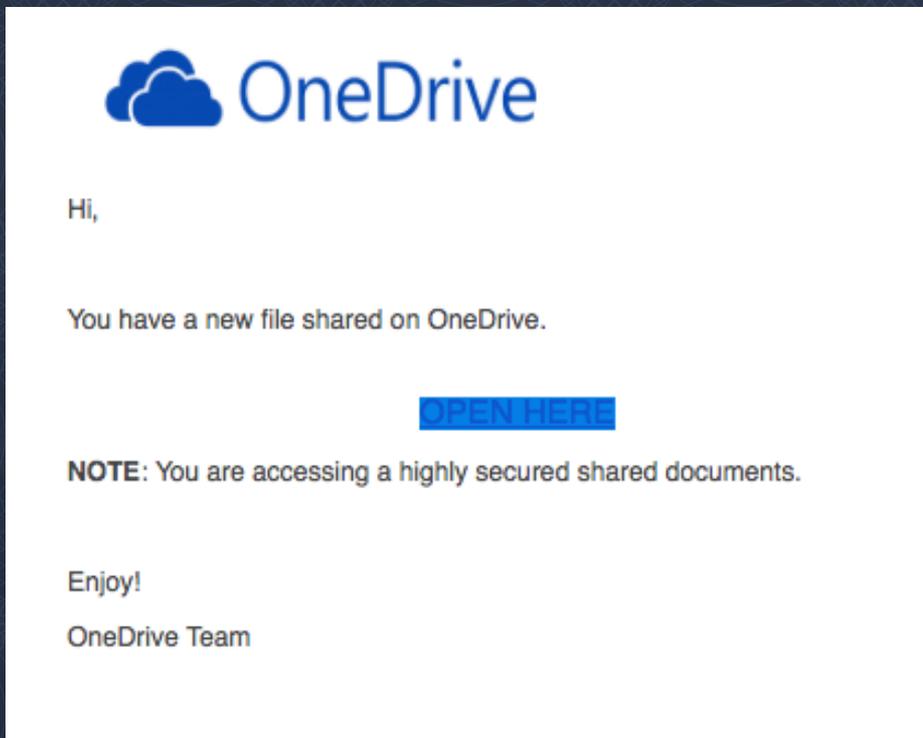
Harvest  
Credentials



Monetization



# Step 3: Harvest credentials



# Step 4: monetization



Infiltration



Reconnaissance



Harvest  
Credentials



Monetization



# Step 4: Monetization

Common: sell credentials downstream

- Carried out on dark web
- Sold to attackers that specialize in advanced techniques
- High value orgs/executives command higher price
  - More access
  - More authority to execute transactions



# Monetizing credentials has many forms

Techniques employed by sophisticated hacker groups

- Phishing campaigns targeting other orgs
- CEO fraud
- Spam campaigns
- Leverage information for fraud against customers/partners
  - e.g. real-estate wire fraud



# External phishing campaigns

"Trusted" sender from  
a compromised account

The screenshot shows an email interface with the following details:

- From:** Microsoft Outlook <ajohnson@school.k12.ga.us>
- Reply to:**
- Date:** Mar 27, 2018
- Subject:** Scanned Document Notification

A green banner below the header reads: "This message is from a trusted sender."

The main body of the email contains the following text:

OneDrive  
**You have a secured message**

Some one uploaded a Pdf file on our secure server for your view only.

At the bottom, there is a blue button with the text "View Now".

Link does not point  
to Microsoft



# CEO fraud

From: Jane Johnson <jjohnson@corp.com>

Real email address of CEO

To: Michael Blake <michael.blake@corp.com>

Subject: Request

Body: Hey Michael,

Are you in the office, I need to process a bank transfer for me. Give me a quick reply when you can get it done.

Regards,

Jane Johnson

CEO, Corp Corporation

Cell: 408-292-2020



Why traditional email security  
can't protect you



# Traditional email security fails at every step



Infiltration



Reconnaissance



Credentials



Monetization



# Infiltration bypasses traditional approach

Most email security relies on volume / blacklisting

- IP
- Sender
- Link
- Domain
- Text

Attackers have developed counter-measures

- Zero-day links
- Malicious pages hosted on legitimate domains
- Targeted campaigns
- ATO emails seem "trusted"



# Failing against recon/harvesting/monetization

Only inspects emails from external sources

Cannot track signals that indicate a compromised account

- Internal emails
- Anomalous Forwarding rules
- Unusual cleanup and side effects

Cannot pull back emails after delivery



# So how do we fix this?

Multi-factor authentication

Password manager

Resilient process

AI to prevent, detect and remediate ATO

Security awareness training



API architecture enables  
ATO protection



# Sentinel offers a complete solution

**Prevent** infiltration using AI that detects impersonations



Infiltration

**Detect** reconnaissance and harvesting by observing behavioral, text and link anomalies



Reconnaissance



Harvest  
Credentials



Monetization

**Remediate** using APIs to discover and delete harvesting/monetization and prevent "viral" ATO / brand abuse



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**Remediate** using APIs to discover and delete harvesting/monetization and prevent "viral" ATO / brand abuse



# ATO remediation checklist

Change password

Disconnect all active sessions

Remove rules from Outlook

Delete all internal phishing emails

Submit phishing email

Scan computer using AV

Notify internal employees

Notify external recipients

**Lock down account**

**Prevent future attacks  
and clean up collateral damage**

**Communication**





# Where Sentinel fits in

Change password

Disconnect all active sessions

Remove rules from Outlook

Delete all internal phishing emails

Submit phishing email

Scan computer using AV

Notify internal employees

Notify external recipients

**Automation via AI and APIs**

**Reporting and visibility**



Moving forward



# Next Steps

Evaluate the types of risks your organization is exposed

Think about where you are in your journey

Run a free Email Threat Scan to test your defenses

- [scan.barracudanetworks.com](https://scan.barracudanetworks.com)

***Don't let Account Takeover  
derail your organization!***





# Thank you

 Barracuda<sup>®</sup>

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