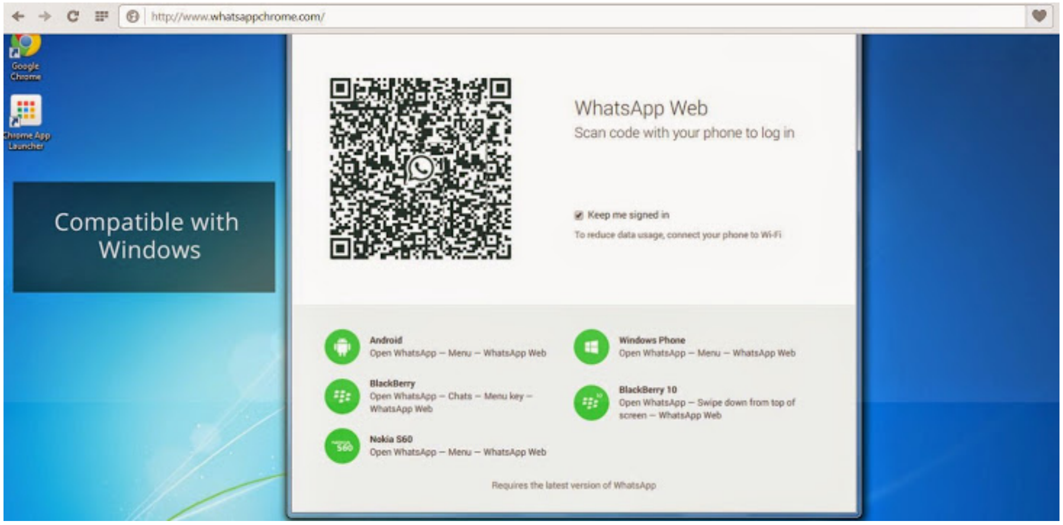
The Hacker News™
Security in a serious way

Beware of Fake 'WhatsApp Web' Spreading Banking Trojan

Saturday, February 07, 2015 Swati Khandelwal



WhatsApp Web
Scan code with your phone to log in

☑ Keep me signed in
To reduce data usage, connect your phone to Wi-Fi

Android
Open WhatsApp – Menu – WhatsApp Web

Windows Phone
Open WhatsApp – Menu – WhatsApp Web

BlackBerry
Open WhatsApp – Chats – Menu key – WhatsApp Web

BlackBerry 10
Open WhatsApp – Swipe down from top of screen – WhatsApp Web

Nokia S60
Open WhatsApp – Menu – WhatsApp Web

Requires the latest version of WhatsApp

Cybercriminals are known to take advantage of everything that captures public attention in order to spread malware, and the recently launched web client of the most popular WhatsApp messaging application seems to be their next target.

Last month, the messaging giant WhatsApp, with 700 million users worldwide, finally launched its web client to the public. The feature is called "*WhatsApp Web*," which gives its users the ability to read and send messages directly from their web browsers.

FAKE WHATSAPP WEB SPREADING BANKING TROJANS
However, malicious hackers have taken the advantage of the latest WhatsApp Web and have started fooling users all over the world with fake downloads masquerading as a desktop variant of the WhatsApp mobile application.

Security researchers at Kaspersky Labs have spotted a seemingly genuine WhatsApp Web for Windows in spam campaign available for fake download that actually spreads financial malware Trojans to the systems worldwide.

> "*Fake downloads appeared in several languages and countries, and now there is a real product out there the fraudsters have returned to their old attacks, dressed them up in new clothes and sent them on the prowl for new victims*," wrote Fabio Assolini from Kaspersky Lab.

APP MASQUERADE EXACTLY AS LEGITIMATE
Researchers found a number of malicious domains registered by the cybercriminals to host their malware. Some of them were already in use and others were waiting for command from the criminals. One such domain, *whatsappcdesktop.com.br*, was found to be distributing Brazilian banking Trojan.

Assolini also explained that the firm has discovered some cases where unsuspecting users have been fooled to install a suspicious Google Chrome extension shown as a simple messaging app, but in real has nothing to do with WhatsApp:

HACKERS GOAL - VICTIMS' MOBILE NUMBERS
The researchers also spotted many other promising but unofficial desktop versions of the fake Whatsapp Web

Popular Stories

Facebook Employees can Access your Account without Password

'FREAK' — New SSL/TLS Vulnerability Explained

Record-breaking 1Tbps Speed achieved Over 5G Mobile Connection

offered to Arabic and Spanish language speakers as the legitimate version of the popular messaging application.

The main objective is to get the mobile phone number of the victims. In some cases, the attackers requested victims to enter and submit their mobile number in an attempt to download the fake Whatsapp Web client.

Once submitted, the attacker would be able to run spam campaigns or make the victims unknowingly subscribe to premium-rate services.

BE CAREFUL AND FOLLOW RECOMMENDATION
A single unwanted message could lead you to harmful pages hosting malware that can infect your phones and carry out malicious things even without your knowledge.

It is almost impossible to get rid of unwanted messages, however it is safer to access WhatsApp on the web from the official website located at ***https://web.whatsapp.com***. So, users are recommended to refuse imitations and suspicious applications.

Late last month, a 17-year-old security researcher discovered a couple of **security holes in the WhatsApp Web client** that may expose profile pictures of WhatsApp Web users. However, that was no surprise as these types of small security and implementation flaws could be expected at this time, but one thing is guaranteed that the app will not lead you to any Malware.

Subscribe to Quick News Updates

Email address

Banking Trojan, Chrome, Malware, Whatsapp, Whatsapp For Desktop, WhatsApp For Web, Whatsapp Web

Follow 'Swati Khandelwal' on Google+, Twitter or LinkedIn or Contact via Email.

LATEST STORIES

Drones Spying on Cell Phone Users for Advertisers

CASPER Surveillance Malware Linked to French Government

Angler Exploit Kit Uses Domain Shadowing technique to Evade Detection

Android Wear App for iPhone and iPad compatibility may Launch Soon

'FREAK' — New SSL/TLS Vulnerability Explained

MongoDB phpMoAdmin GUI Tool Zero-day Vulnerability Puts Websites at Risk

Vulnerability Exposes Thousands of GoPRO Users' Wireless Passwords

Signal 2.0 — Free iPhone App for Encrypted Calls and Texts

COMMENTS

Seagate NAS Zero-Day Vulnerability allows Unauthorized Root Access Remotely

Tor Browser 4.0.4 Released

Windows? NO, Linux and Mac OS X Most Vulnerable Operating System In 2014

Samsung Galaxy S6 and Galaxy S6 Edge — 8 Things You Should Know

MongoDB phpMoAdmin GUI Tool Zero-day Vulnerability Puts Websites at Risk

Vulnerability Exposes Thousands of GoPRO Users' Wireless Passwords

Tails 1.3 Released, Introduces 'Electrum Bitcoin Wallet'

LIKE Us on Facebook