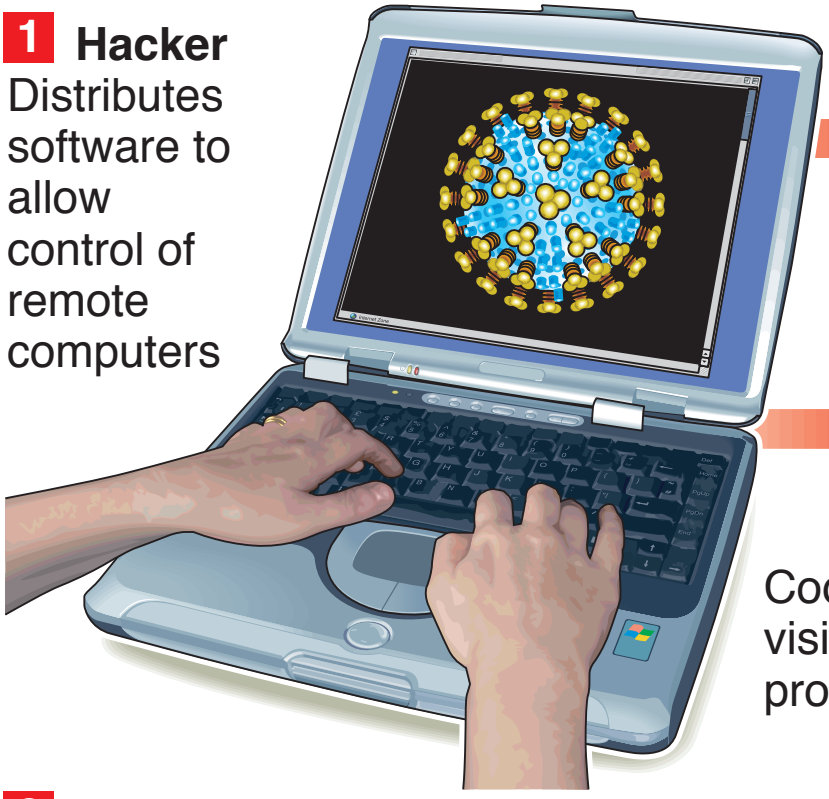
Government computers controlled by "botnet"

One of the largest networks of hacked computers, affecting 1.9 million PCs including 77 government owned domains in the U.S. and elsewhere, has been uncovered. Operated by a Ukraine-based gang of six cybercriminals, the scam makes up to $190,000 per day by renting out zombie computers

1 Hacker Distributes software to allow control of remote computers



Email

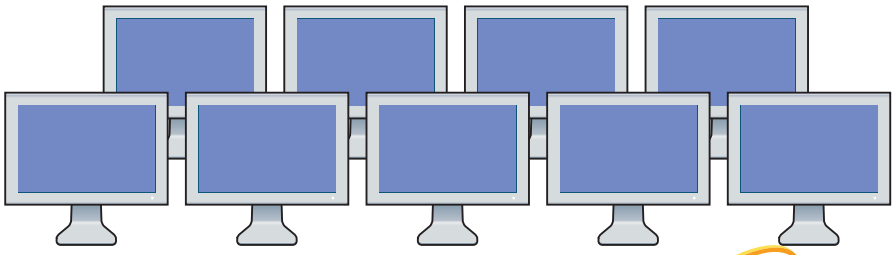
User opens attachment containing malicious code

Trojan

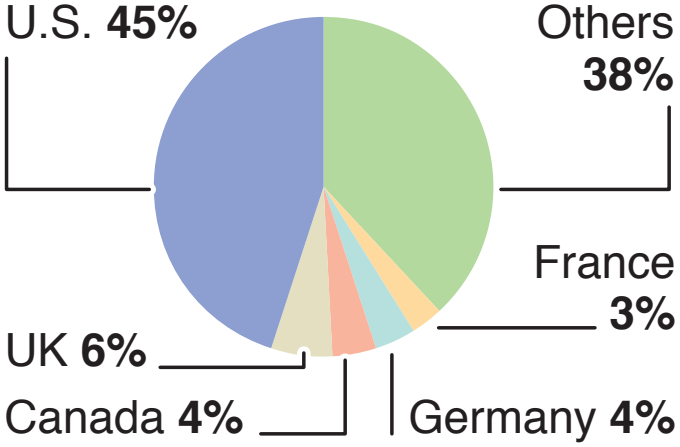
User downloads malicious code masquerading as harmless file, e.g. from filesharing site

Code communicates with other computers, visits websites or takes over other processes without user involvement

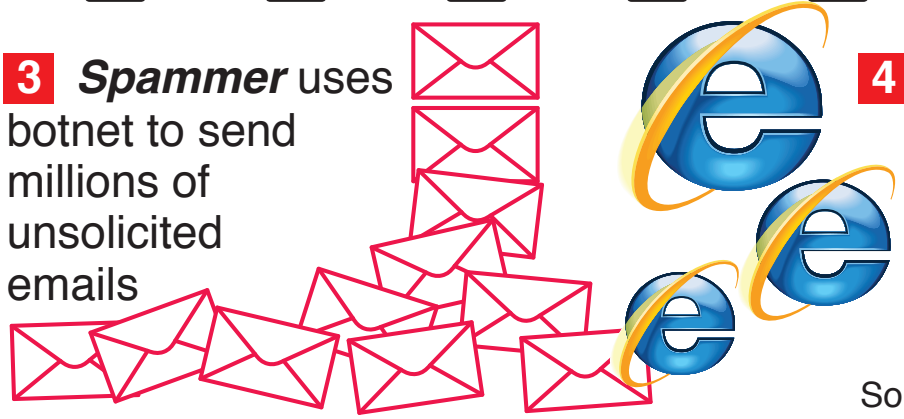
2 Each infected PC forms part of hackers' robot network or ***botnet.*** Hacker sells access to botnet at $10-100 per computer



GLOBAL SPREAD



3 ***Spammer*** uses botnet to send millions of unsolicited emails



4 … or ***cybercriminal*** blackmails website owner with threat of ***Denial of Service*** attacks – in which website is brought to standstill by huge number of co-ordinated requests from botnet

Source: Finjan