# Insecurity breeds at home

- Vulnerabilities in SOHO routers

Amrita Center for Cyber Security

Amrita University

# Small Office Home Office(SOHO) Routers



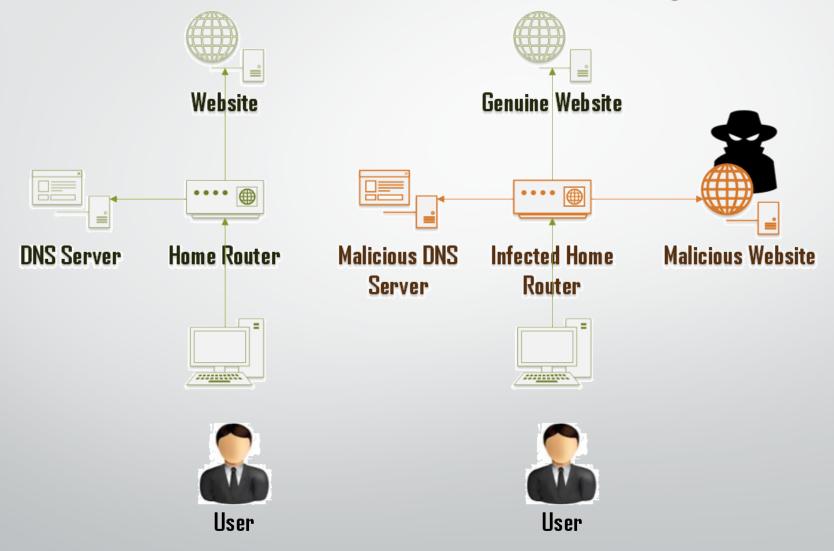
### Problem at hand

- No technology available to detect/prevent attacks on Cyber Physical Systems
- No mechanism to assure security of basic Internet connection @ home
- Serious risk created by widespread SOHO router pharming

# Small Office Home Office(SOHO) Routers

- Basic interface to Internet for home/small office networks
- Less cost, least secure
- Intended for novice users, designed with easy connectivity in mind
- Different vendors, same hardware

## **DNS** Based Phishing



## **DNS** Changer Malware

- First Surfaced in 2007, Phishing targeted at financial gain
- Affected 300,000 devices across Europe and Asia
- Redirecting DNS traffic to malicious servers in Estonia, New York and Chicago
- Common malwares involved TidServ, Alureon, TDSS, TDL4
- Most of these malwares exploit default passwords being used
- Countermeasures undertaken by the US FBI in 2012 under "Operation Ghost Click" confiscating rogue DNS server and shutting them down
- Report by Rob Thomas from Team Cymru suggests presence of new rogue servers and 78% of the traffic to these servers are from INDIA

## Methodology

- Monitor DNS traffic at ISP level to identify compromised routers as well as rogue DNS servers
  - Requires permission from ISPs and other authorities
  - Limited information on router level vulnerabilities
- Extract DNS information from vulnerable home routers
  - Running automated scripts to extract DNS settings information from routers online
  - Can collect detailed information on what vulnerabilities are there in each router
  - We are not exploiting just extracting ... We value Ethics...

## Methodology

#### Identification

- Scan for devices on the internet with known port(used by SOHO routers) open
- Extract headers and banners to look for signature of SOHO devices

#### Information Extraction

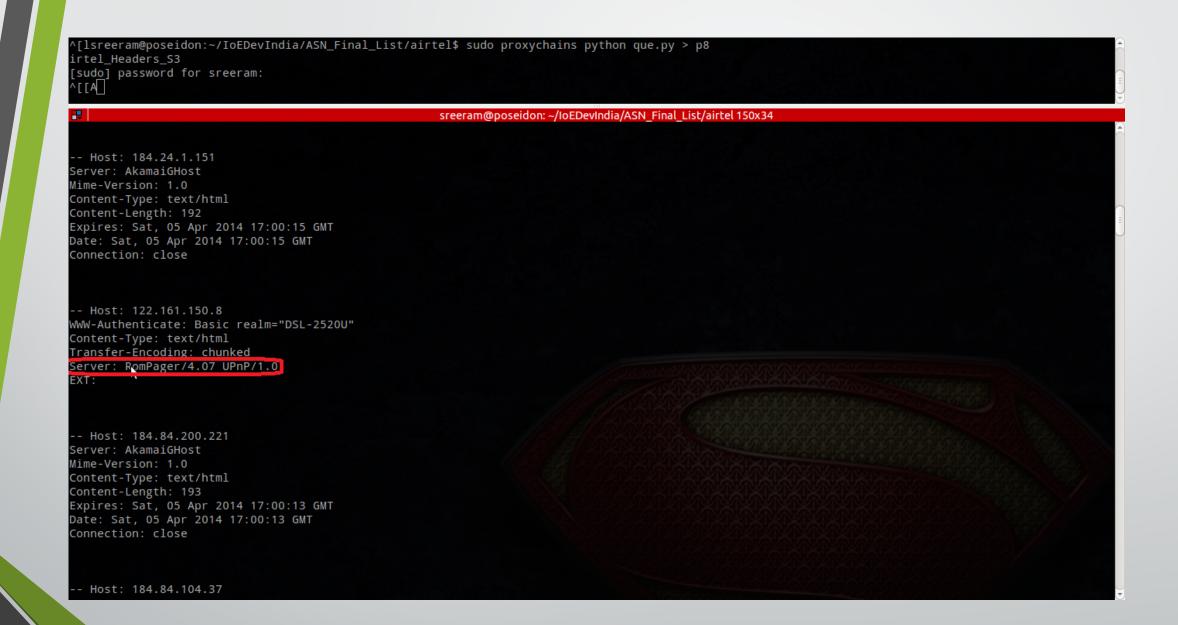
- Run the rom-0 exploit on the list of identified SOHO router IPs to extract password
- Run exploit script(automated telnet com) on vulnerable routers to extract DNS setting info and MAC address

#### **Data Analysis**

 Identify rogue DNS servers and services hosted by related malicious servers

## Identification

- Scan devices running RomPager HTTP server (HTTP header will reveal the server)
- Scan the list of RomPager IP for known open ports (making sure it is a SOHO device)

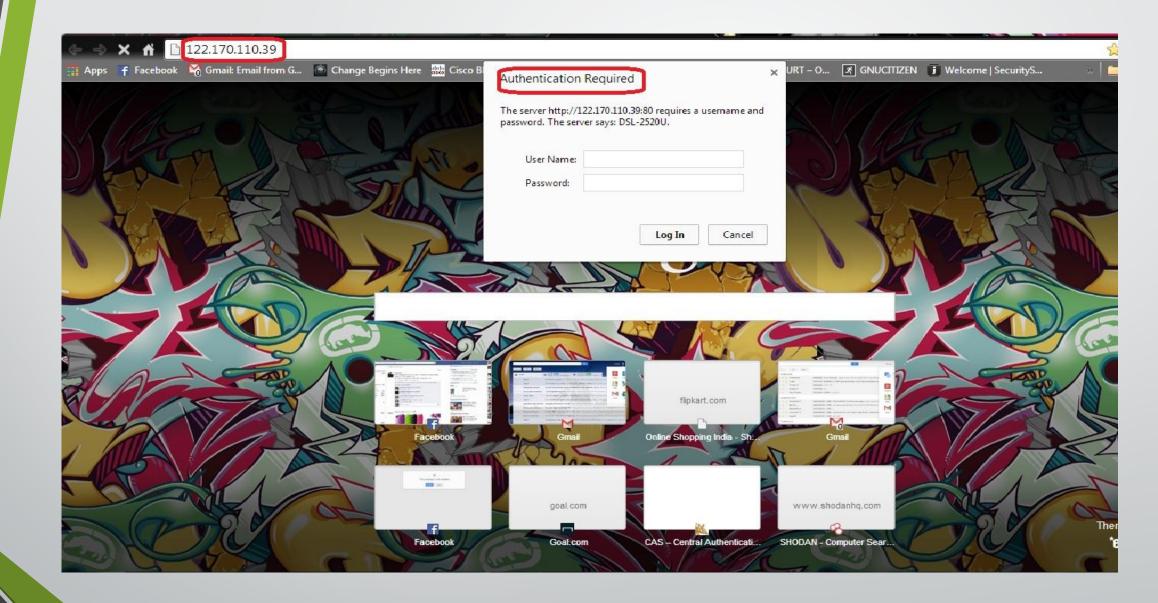


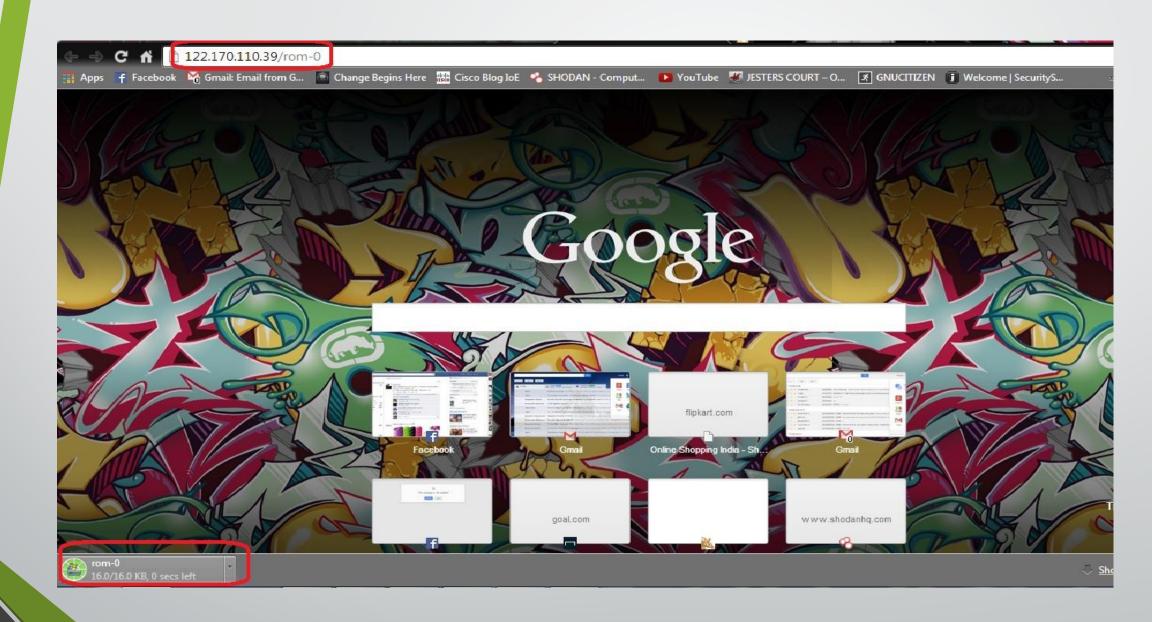
## Security of SOHO Routers

- Designed for easy connectivity not security
- Vulnerabilities listed at both firmware level as well as at user interface
- Common Vulnerabilities (44 CVEs listed for ZyXel hardware alone)
  - Rom-0 Vulnerability
  - Cross Site Scripting (XSS)
  - Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
  - Denial of Service (DoS)

## Rom-0 Vulnerability

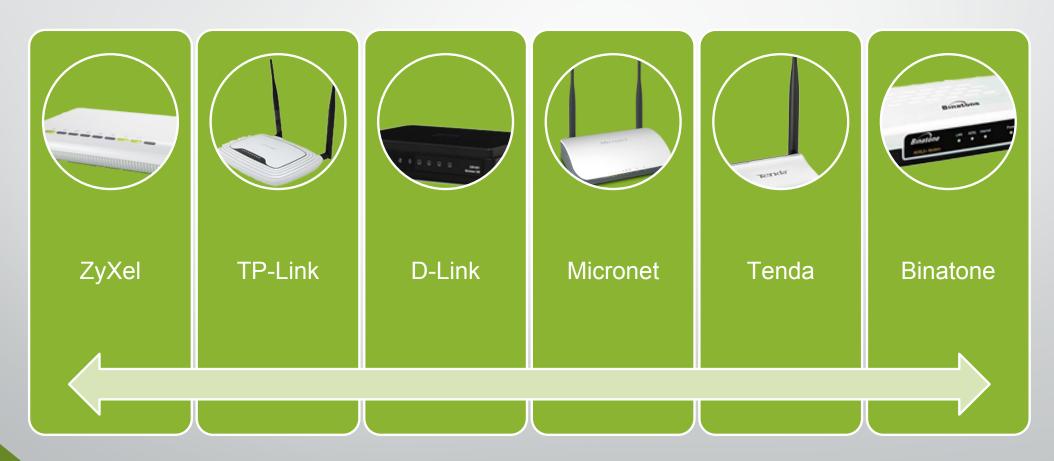
- Attackers can download the backup configuration file(rom-0) without authentication
- Attack URL : http://<ip>/rom-0
- Reverse Engineer Rom-0 file to extract configuration file
- First line of the rom-0 file contains the admin password of the router
- Found in ZyNOS OS running RomPager HTTP server





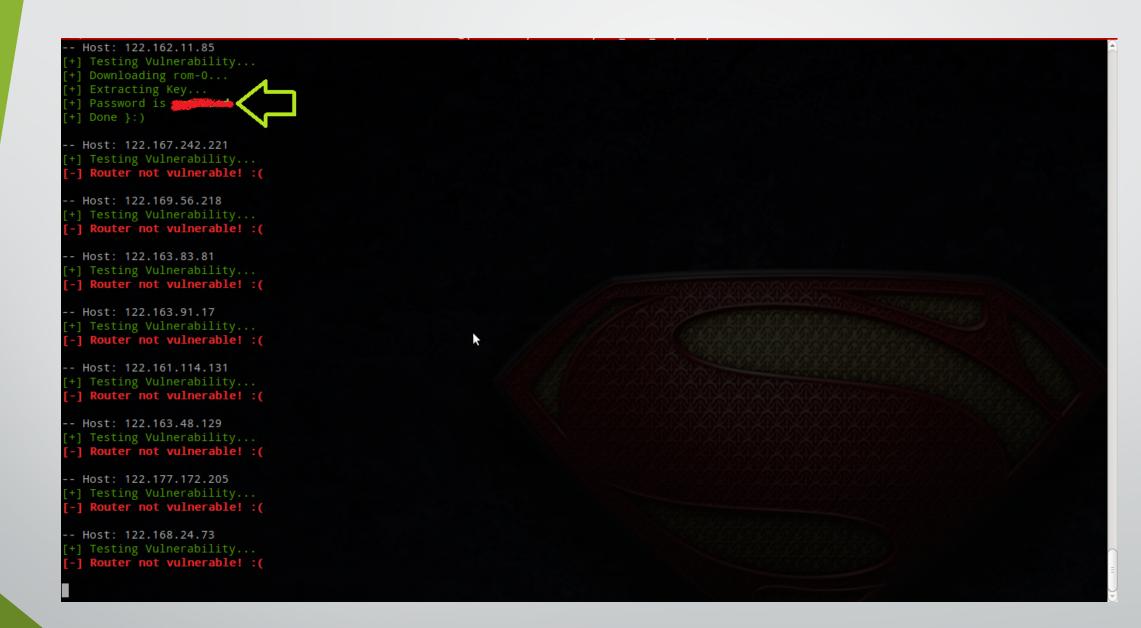
## Rom-0 Vulnerability

### **Vulnerable Router Models**



## Information Extraction

- Extracting Password
  - Scan the identified router IP list to check for rom-0 vulnerability
  - If vulnerable, download rom-0 file
  - Reverse engineer the file rom-0 file to extract the config file
  - First line of rom-0 file holds the admin password
- Extract DNS settings
  - ZyNOS devices has telnet access from external network
  - An automated telnet script can be used to extract DNS settings and MAC address of the router



## Results & Findings

- What we found ...
  - Scanned 11,24,682 Unique IP in the Entire Indian ASN space running HTTP services
  - Identified 9,0733 devices running HTTP service
  - Identified 1,4209 devices with matching SOHO router signature
  - Identified and exploited 4515 routers running vulnerable ZyNOS firmware
  - 17% of routers forward DNS traffic to legitimate DNS servers
  - 556 routers redirects to known malicious DNS servers

## Data in Google Maps



## Results & Finding

- Why these many vulnerabilities ...
  - Lack of security protocols followed during design by low end router manufacturers
  - Lack of Initiative form the part of ISPs
  - Lack of awareness from the part of users

# Thank You...