Beijing authorities arrest 9 in internet malware scheme

Beijing police have arrested nine suspects in a cross-border internet browser hijacking case.

Malware called "Fireball" was developed by a company located in Beijing's Haidian district to hijack browsers and profit from commissions on internet advertising by redirecting traffic, according to the Haidian sub-bureau of the municipal Public Security Bureau on Monday.

The company gained 80 million yuan (US\$12 million) last year from the malware, which was bundled with legitimate software provided to users, the sub-bureau said.

The suspects are charged with the crime of sabotaging a computer system, it said.

The malware mainly targeted overseas users.

Zhao Leiluo, deputy head of the sub-bureau, said the company was set up in 2015 and registered in Haidian district. The malware targeted the overseas users in an attempt to avoid supervision in China, he said.

The crime should be punished regardless of borders, Zhao said, adding that the enforcement action demonstrates the determination of police to curtail the practice.

Wang Jingjun, deputy head of the internet security division of the subbureau, said the suspects confessed to the crime. The malware they developed was first detected by an overseas computer lab.

Beijing Huorong Network Technology Co reported the malware to the police and assisted them in obtaining key evidence after it was discovered by security company Check Point Software Technologies based in San Carlos, California, near Silicon Valley.

According to Check Point, more than 250 million computers worldwide have been infected by Fireball.

More than 140 suspects involved in internet hijacking have been busted since March. Around 130 cases of criminal cyberattacks were stopped in the same period, the authorities said.

Health body sets up Q/A for public

[unable to retrieve full-text content] China's top health authority has opened an account on Zhihu to share healthcare information and policy details with a wide audience.

Monorail prototype unveiled



A prototype of a mounted monorail train is tested at CRRC Qingdao Sifang.[Provided to China Daily]

Chinese rail car manufacturer CRRC Qingdao Sifang has unveiled a prototype of a mounted monorail train with a maximum operating speed of 70 kilometers per hour, the fastest of its kind in China.

Driven by a high-efficiency magnet motor, the experimental train runs along an overhead monorail.

The mounted monorail train is a rising new mode of transportation featuring light weight, moderate speed and low manufacturing cost.

Liu Yuwen, deputy head of the company's technology center, said the train can comprise three or five cars, with a passenger capacity of 300 to 510 people.

"The train has a strong climbing ability, with a maximum rise of 100 meters

over a distance of 1,000 meters," Liu said. "The mounted monorail system is suitable for passenger transport in scenic areas, mountainous regions and urban areas where road traffic is heavy."

The train is built to the strictest European safety standards, with various safety devices, including a whole-train monitoring system that can help passengers escape in the event of danger.

The company, based in Qingdao, Shandong Province, is undertaking China's first overhead monorail project in Hancheng, Shaanxi Province. The construction of the line, which is designed to stretch 55 kilometers, began in November.

Wang Mengshu, a railway expert and academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering in Beijing, applauded the breakthrough.

"Mounted monorail does not rely on land facilities, and is even immune from bad weather such as a big snowfall or frost. It should be an important part of China's urban transportation network," Wang said.

Moreover, it costs only about one-third of what a subway costs. Building one kilometer of subway or light rail generally costs 500 to 800 million yuan (US\$74 million to 118 million).

China plans to complete more than 2,500 kilometers of rail transportation in major cities during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), at an estimated cost of 1 trillion yuan.

"If one-fifth of the investment is put into mounted monorail projects, loads of money will be saved," Wang said.

<u>Public opinion solicited on express</u> <u>delivery regulation</u>

China has started to solicit public opinion on a provisional regulation on express delivery services, the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council announced Monday.

The regulation said that courier companies should establish management systems for waybills and electronic data, regularly destroy waybills, and are prohibited from selling, leaking or illegally providing customers' personal information.

Those who violate these rules will face a fine of up to 100,000 yuan (about 14,830 U.S. dollars) and have their license revoked, according to the regulation.

Companies who have leaked or are suspecting of leaking customers' information should report the situation to local postal administration departments, the regulation said.

The public may visit the official website (chinalaw.gov.cn) to submit their opinion before Aug. 25.

Sun Zhengcai under investigation

The former secretary of Chongqing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Sun Zhengcai is under investigation for "serious discipline violation" by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC, according to a decision by the CPC Central Committee.

It was announced on July 15 that Chen Min'er had been appointed to replace Sun.

The decision fully reflected the CPC Central Committee's clear attitude towards and strong determination in the Party's strict self-governance, and that everyone is equal before the law, reads a commentary to be published Tuesday on People's Daily, the CPC's flagship newspaper.

The commentary reviewed the practices of the strict Party governance in the term of the 18th CPC Central Committee, including the investigation into graft cases of Zhou Yongkang, Bo Xilai, Xu Caihou, Guo Boxiong, Ling Jihua, and Su Rong, and ensuing punishment on them.

The handling of these cases demonstrated that all are equal before discipline, that nobody has the privilege of not observing it and that no exception — no matter how high or low his or her current or past official rank is — will be allowed in anti-graft crackdowns, the article says.

Investigation into Sun's case serves as a warning for all Party members, it says, adding that senior officials must practice strict self-discipline, conform firmly to the CPC Central Committee and CPC party constitution as well as party discipline, and set examples for cadres at all levels.