

Transcript

Cybercrime: Rootkits

Narrator:

October, 2005, security expert Mikko Hypponen develops a new program designed to hunt out a type of malicious software called a root kit. Root kits are like a remote control for cyber attackers. They lie undetected in your PC and allow criminals to access its inner workings.

Hypponen gets a call from a client in the US, saying that they used his program and found a root kit on what was a new, supposedly clean computer. All he'd done was to play some music CDs on it. Days of cyber sleuthing finally reveal the source of this nasty bug, a CD by country duo Van Zant, published by Sony BMG, one of the biggest media companies in the world.

The root kit hid a virus that was undetectable to the antivirus programs of the day. It not only prevented you copying the CD. It would report back to Sony when you were listening to its tracks, and it hid other invading viruses as they infected the computer.