SE Labs

On-Demand Malware Detection Certification

Methodology: On-Demand Malware Detection

This methodology is designed to test the ability of anti-malware products to detect malicious code without error. To pass this certification test a product must classify all malicious code used in the test as being unwanted, using unambiguous terms including, but not exclusively restricted to, 'malware', 'virus', 'exploit', 'threat' and 'Trojan'. It must also not misclassify legitimate software as being malicious.

In an effort to use recent and prevalent threats the malicious code used in the test is obtained from the Anti-Malware Testing Standards Organization (AMTSO), through its Real-Time Threat List (RTTL) system. The sample selection comprises the 250 most recent, prevalent and verified threats.

Threat selection is made automatically via a query to the RTTL system, which is submitted without any intended bias towards or against any vendor involved in any test conducted by SE Labs Ltd. The details of this query are available in each test's Test Details document.

The test includes checks for false positives, using 1,000 standard Microsoft files commonly found on Windows systems.

In order to detect significant reliance on third-party multi-scanner engines each piece of malicious code is altered in such a way as to preserve its nature but to change its appearance. The new code is scanned. Products must detect all such files as being malicious. Hashes of the new code are submitted to VirusTotal, which should not detect them as being malicious.

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