

EXHIBIT 4

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

OAKLAND DIVISION

FINJAN LLC., a Delaware Limited
Liability Company,

Plaintiff,

v.

QUALYS INC., a Delaware
Corporation,

Defendant.

Case No. 4:18-cv-07229-YGR (TSH)

Hon. Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers

**EXPERT REPORT OF NENAD
MEDVIDOVIĆ, PH.D.
[HC-AEO]**



Nenad Medvidovic, PH.D.

December 1, 2020

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES’ ONLY**E. Viruses and Malware**

73. Viruses and malware are harmful programs (or program fragments) that are downloaded or transferred by recordable media (i.e., floppy disk or USB flash drive) and installed on a user computer, often without their knowledge. The behavior of a virus or malware ranges from simply making a copy of itself, to annoying the user with strange computer problems, to invading the user’s privacy by stealing sensitive personal or private information, to using the user’s computer as a platform to attack other computers (as in denial-of-service attacks).

74. Once successfully installed on a target system, many viruses and malware programs will attempt to communicate with the person who deployed them by sending messages to that person indicating that they have been successfully deployed. Such messages come in many forms, and are often referred to as a “beacon.” The messages may also be inserted into messages that a server sends out. Some viruses and malware, once deployed, will “exfiltrate” data from the targeted system to their user. Others allow the user to gain access to the infected system, such as through a remote command shell interface that allows the user to perform actions within the system and to “pivot” to gain access to other servers and computers within the network.

75. To prevent these harmful programs from infecting a user’s computer, anti-malware tools can be installed and executed on a security gateway. For example, a security tool in a security gateway may intercept a virus or malware before it reaches the user’s computer.

76. Traditionally, an anti-virus software program compares a representation of the malware to the malware itself. This representation is often formed based on a pattern of bytes in the computer code that is unique to the virus program, and is called a “signature.” For example, a signature could be the bytes “08 201 251 A T M.” This six-byte sequence (three integers and three ASCII characters) may be present in a virus program but not observed in any other benign program (such as

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1 Microsoft Word). Therefore, by looking for this string, one might identify the
2 malware, without the risk of flagging benign programs as malicious.

3 77. A traditional anti-virus software program maintains a list of such
4 signatures, one for each malicious program that it can detect, and may be installed
5 on the security gateway. In this case, the anti-virus program looks for a particular
6 set of bytes in the representation of the code, and takes action based on whether or
7 not a match has been found. For example, a security gateway that identifies a mail
8 attachment as a virus may discard the message and notify the client that the message
9 was designed to damage the computer.

10 78. These signature-based approaches suffer from a number of problems.
11 First, the approaches only detect malware after the fact. These approaches do not
12 identify or block the vulnerabilities that were exploited to introduce the malware
13 into the system in the first place. Such vulnerabilities can often be exploited to
14 introduce any number of malware programs into a system until they are remediated.

15 79. Additionally, if a new malware threat is created, the anti-virus program
16 will not have a signature that detects this new malware until its list of signatures is
17 updated to include an identification of the new malware threat. During the period
18 between updates, the user is vulnerable to an infection until a signature is created
19 and distributed to the anti-virus tool. Therefore, this approach can only identify
20 previously known malware samples for which a signature has been developed and
21 added to the list of signatures. As the number of malware programs grows, the list
22 of signatures will also grow. Therefore, signature-based approaches are difficult to
23 manage (e.g., distributing large lists of signatures becomes complicated) and slow
24 (looking for all the signatures in every file downloaded can take a long time). In the
25 computer industry, using virus signatures to check files for viruses is called a
26 reactive technology, because the system has to be informed of a new malware
27 program in order to protect against a virus program infection. The bottom line is that
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1 signature-based anti-virus tools are only effective after a virus has been identified
2 and, therefore, after it has done its harm.

3 80. An alternative, more proactive, approach is to identify and close
4 vulnerabilities before malware is even introduced into a system. Because a large,
5 complex system often has many potential points of access it can have a large
6 number of potential vulnerabilities. It is important then to prioritize which potential
7 vulnerabilities are most likely to actually permit malware into the system, so that the
8 network operator can prioritize using the limited available resources to remediating
9 the most pressing vulnerabilities. One way to prioritize potential vulnerabilities is to
10 use a penetration testing tool that attempts to exploit potential vulnerabilities. When
11 a potential vulnerability is successfully exploited by the penetration testing tool,
12 then the vulnerability is validated and can be prioritized.

13 81. To understand how behavior might be leveraged in order to detect
14 viruses and malware, consider a scenario where a user inadvertently attempts to
15 download a malware program via an HTTP request. The security gateway intercepts
16 the program or webpage before it reaches the user’s computer. The content of this
17 malware program is then analyzed to determine which operations might be
18 performed. This analysis can be performed by analyzing the file itself to look at
19 operations within the file. These operations can then be compared to a security policy
20 to determine whether the operations might signal malicious behavior. If the
21 malware program is detected, the security gateway can block the program from ever
22 reaching the user’s computer.

F. Vulnerability Management

23
24 82. Vulnerability management refers to the concept within the computer
25 security field of identifying and remediating vulnerabilities. A vulnerability is a
26 weakness in security that is subject to being exploited, which is when malicious
27 software or a bad actor uses a vulnerability to harm or attack a computer or
28 network. To illustrate the concept by analogy to a non-computer context, a

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