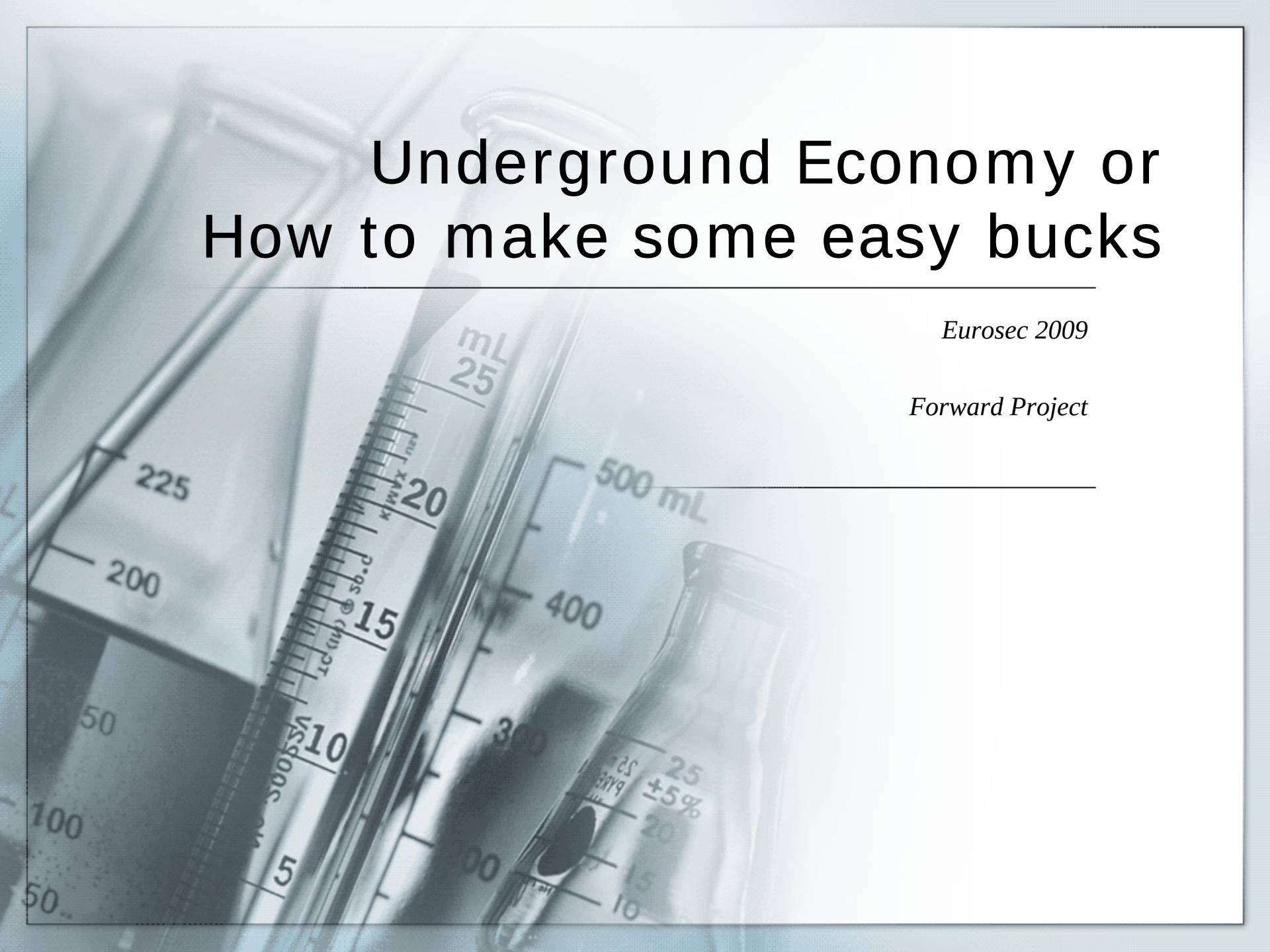
Underground Economy or How to make some easy bucks

Eurosec 2009

Forward Project



Main Motivation

- Moving from “Hack for Fun” to “Hack for Profit”
- Targeted areas change with the objectives.

- How and where can obtained data/information be sold to interested parties?

- Traditional fraud mechanisms combined with technological knowledge led to a well-established underground economy.

Now, the goal is:

Klikparty, 2007

Post-Fraud action: What now?

- An example: Compromised Data includes
  - Credit Card + Information (CVC, Balance, etc..)
  - Bank account, Address, etc
  - Infected Machine.
- In earlier days (1980 ~ 2000)
  - Success was just bragged with
  - Machine brought down/formatted
- Now
  - Log to CC - IRC Channel, announce the information
  - “Rent” a money drop, that takes 50% but empties the CC and bank account for you.
  - Launder the money and go to Hawaii

Trends in the Underground

- **New propagation vectors**
  - From mail to social networks
  - Spam-advertising fraudulent offers
- **New communication domains**
  - IRC, Web pages
  - IM (ICQ, MSN, etc.)
  - E-Mail (Nigerian Scam)
- **Advanced Bot nets**
  - Strong cryptography
  - Hidden channel communication
  - Very low interaction → Stealthy

Solution Approaches

- Surveillance of underground Channels
  - IRC, Web Forums, etc..
- Understanding the internal structure
  - Who buys what?
  - Payment?
  - Critical Systems?
- Disrupting possible weak links
  - From a Web Page to the advertising Spam Mail
  - Spam the scammers (involves human interaction)