

Masquerading: Match Legitimate Resource Name or Location, Sub-technique T1036.005 - Enterprise

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[C0025 2016 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#)

During the [2016 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#), DLLs and EXEs with filenames associated with common electric power sector protocols were used to masquerade files. ^[2]

[G0018 admin@338](#)

[admin@338](#) actors used the following command to rename one of their tools to a benign file name: `ren "%temp%\upload" audiodg.exe` ^[3]

[G1024 Akira](#)

[Akira](#) has used legitimate names and locations for files to evade defenses. ^[4]

[S1074 ANDROMEDA](#)

[ANDROMEDA](#) has been installed to `C:\Temp\TrustedInstaller.exe` to mimic a legitimate Windows installer service. ^[5]

[S0622 AppleSeed](#)

[AppleSeed](#) has the ability to rename its payload to ESTCommon.dll to masquerade as a DLL belonging to ESTsecurity. ^[6]

[G0006 APT1](#)

The file name AcroRD32.exe, a legitimate process name for Adobe's Acrobat Reader, was used by [APT1](#) as a name for malware. ^{[7][8]}

[G0007 APT28](#)

[APT28](#) has changed extensions on files containing exfiltrated data to make them appear benign, and renamed a web shell instance to appear as a legitimate OWA page. ^[9]

[G0016 APT29](#)

[APT29](#) has renamed malicious DLLs with legitimate names to appear benign; they have also created an Azure AD certificate with a Common Name that matched the display name of the compromised service principal. ^{[10][11]}

[G0050 APT32](#)

[APT32](#) has renamed a NetCat binary to kb-10233.exe to masquerade as a Windows update. [APT32](#) has also renamed a Cobalt Strike beacon payload to install_flashplayers.exe. [\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

[G0087 APT39](#)

[APT39](#) has used malware disguised as Mozilla Firefox and a tool named mfevtpse.exe to proxy C2 communications, closely mimicking a legitimate McAfee file mfevtps.exe. [\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

[G0096 APT41](#)

[APT41](#) attempted to masquerade their files as popular anti-virus software. [\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

[G1044 APT42](#)

[APT42](#) has masqueraded the VINETHORN payload as a VPN application. [\[18\]](#)

[G1023 APT5](#)

[APT5](#) has named exfiltration archives to mimic Windows Updates at times using filenames with a KB<digits>.zip pattern. [\[19\]](#)

[G0143 Aquatic Panda](#)

[Aquatic Panda](#) renamed or moved malicious binaries to legitimate locations to evade defenses and blend into victim environments. [\[20\]](#)

[S0475 BackConfig](#)

[BackConfig](#) has hidden malicious payloads in %USERPROFILE%\Adobe\Driver\dwg\ and mimicked the legitimate DHCP service binary. [\[21\]](#)

[G0135 BackdoorDiplomacy](#)

[BackdoorDiplomacy](#) has dropped implants in folders named for legitimate software. [\[22\]](#)

[S0606 Bad Rabbit](#)

[Bad Rabbit](#) has masqueraded as a Flash Player installer through the executable file install_flash_player.exe. [\[23\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

[S0128 BADNEWS](#)

[BADNEWS](#) attempts to hide its payloads using legitimate filenames. [\[25\]](#)

[S0534 Bazar](#)

The [Bazar](#) loader has named malicious shortcuts "adobe" and mimicked communications software. [\[26\]](#)[\[27\]](#)[\[28\]](#)

[S0268 Bisonal](#)

[Bisonal](#) has renamed malicious code to `msacm32.dll` to hide within a legitimate library; earlier versions were disguised as `winhelp`.^[29]

[S1070 Black Basta](#)

The [Black Basta](#) dropper has mimicked an application for creating USB bootable drivers.^[30]

[S0520 BLINDINGCAN](#)

[BLINDINGCAN](#) has attempted to hide its payload by using legitimate file names such as "iconcache.db".^[31]

[G0108 Blue Mockingbird](#)

[Blue Mockingbird](#) has masqueraded their XMRIG payload name by naming it `wercplsupporte.dll` after the legitimate `wercplsupport.dll` file.^[32]

[G0060 BRONZE BUTLER](#)

[BRONZE BUTLER](#) has given malware the same name as an existing file on the file share server to cause users to unwittingly launch and install the malware on additional systems.^[33]

[S1063 Brute Ratel C4](#)

[Brute Ratel C4](#) has used a payload file named `OneDrive.update` to appear benign.^[34]

[S1039 Bumblebee](#)

[Bumblebee](#) has named component DLLs "RapportGP.dll" to match those used by the security company Trusteer.^[35]

[S0482 Bundlore](#)

[Bundlore](#) has disguised a malicious .app file as a Flash Player update.^[36]

[C0017 C0017](#)

During [C0017](#), [APT41](#) used file names beginning with USERS, SYSUSER, and SYSLOG for [DEADEYE](#), and changed [KEYPLUG](#) file extensions from .vmp to .upx likely to avoid hunting detections.^[37]

[C0018 C0018](#)

For [C0018](#), the threat actors renamed a [Sliver](#) payload to `vmware_kb.exe`.^[38]

[C0032 C0032](#)

During the [C0032](#) campaign, [TEMP.Veles](#) renamed files to look like legitimate files, such as Windows update files or Schneider Electric application files.^[39]

[S0274 Calisto](#)

[Calisto](#)'s installation file is an unsigned DMG image under the guise of Intego's security solution for mac.^[40]

[S1237 CANONSTAGER](#)

[CANONSTAGER](#) has leveraged naming conventions of its malicious DLL to match legitimate services to include cnmpai.dll which matches the legitimate executable cnmpai.exe that is aligned with a Canon Ink Jet Printer Assistant Tool.^[41]

[G0008 Carbanak](#)

[Carbanak](#) has named malware "svchost.exe," which is the name of the Windows shared service host program.^[42]

[S0484 Carberp](#)

[Carberp](#) has masqueraded as Windows system file names, as well as "chkntfs.exe" and "syscron.exe".^{[43][44]}

[S0631 Chaes](#)

[Chaes](#) has used an unsigned, crafted DLL module named `hha.dll` that was designed to look like a legitimate 32-bit Windows DLL.^[45]

[S0144 ChChes](#)

[ChChes](#) copies itself to an .exe file with a filename that is likely intended to imitate Norton Antivirus but has several letters reversed (e.g. notron.exe).^[46]

[G0114 Chimera](#)

[Chimera](#) has renamed malware to GoogleUpdate.exe and WinRAR to jucheck.exe, RecordedTV.ms, teredo.tmp, update.exe, and msadcs1.exe.^[47]

[S1041 Chinoxy](#)

[Chinoxy](#) has used the name `eoffice.exe` in attempt to appear as a legitimate file.^[48]

[S1236 CLAIMLOADER](#)

[CLAIMLOADER](#) has imitated legitimate software directories through the creation and storage of the EXE and DLL in `C:\ProgramData\` and the use of legitimate looking names of software.^[49]

[S0625 Cuba](#)

[Cuba](#) has been disguised as legitimate 360 Total Security Antivirus and OpenVPN programs.^[50]

[S1153 Cuckoo Stealer](#)

[Cuckoo Stealer](#) has copied and renamed itself to DumpMediaSpotifyMusicConverter.^{[51][52]}

[S0687 Cyclops Blink](#)

[Cyclops Blink](#) can rename its running process to `[kworker:0/1]` to masquerade as a Linux kernel thread. [Cyclops Blink](#) has also named RC scripts used for persistence after WatchGuard artifacts. [\[53\]](#)

[S1014 DanBot](#)

[DanBot](#) files have been named `UltraVNC.exe` and `WINVNC.exe` to appear as legitimate VNC tools. [\[54\]](#)

[S0334 DarkComet](#)

[DarkComet](#) has dropped itself onto victim machines with file names such as `WinDefender.Exe` and `winupdate.exe` in an apparent attempt to masquerade as a legitimate file. [\[55\]](#)

[G0012 Darkhotel](#)

[Darkhotel](#) has used malware that is disguised as a Secure Shell (SSH) tool. [\[56\]](#)

[S0187 Daserf](#)

[Daserf](#) uses file and folder names related to legitimate programs in order to blend in, such as HP, Intel, Adobe, and perflogs. [\[57\]](#)

[S0600 Doki](#)

[Doki](#) has disguised a file as a Linux kernel module. [\[58\]](#)

[S0694 DRATzarus](#)

[DRATzarus](#) has been named `Flash.exe`, and its dropper has been named `IExplorer`. [\[59\]](#)

[S0567 Dtrack](#)

One of [Dtrack](#) can hide in replicas of legitimate programs like OllyDbg, 7-Zip, and FileZilla. [\[60\]](#)

[S1158 DUSTPAN](#)

[DUSTPAN](#) is often disguised as a legitimate Windows binary such as `w3wp.exe` or `conn.exe`. [\[61\]](#)

[G1006 Earth Lusca](#)

[Earth Lusca](#) used the command `move [file path] c:\windows\system32\spool\prtprocs\x64\spool.dll` to move and register a malicious DLL name as a Windows print processor, which eventually was loaded by the Print Spooler service. [\[62\]](#)

[S0605 EKANS](#)

[EKANS](#) has been disguised as `update.exe` to appear as a valid executable. [\[63\]](#)

[S0081 Elise](#)

If installing itself as a service fails, [Elise](#) instead writes itself as a file named svchost.exe saved in %APPDATA%\Microsoft\Network.^[64]

[G1003 Ember Bear](#)

[Ember Bear](#) has renamed tools to match legitimate utilities, such as renaming GOST tunneling instances to `java` in victim environments.^[65]

[S0171 Felismus](#)

[Felismus](#) has masqueraded as legitimate Adobe Content Management System files.^[66]

[G0137 Ferocious Kitten](#)

[Ferocious Kitten](#) has named malicious files `update.exe` and loaded them into the compromise host's "Public" folder.^[67]

[G1016 FIN13](#)

[FIN13](#) has masqueraded WAR files to look like legitimate packages such as, wsexample.war, wsexamples.com, examples.war, and exampl3s.war.^[68]

[G0046 FIN7](#)

[FIN7](#) has attempted to run Darkside ransomware with the filename sleep.exe.^[69] Additionally, [FIN7](#) has mimicked WsTaskLoad.exe, which is associated with the Wondershare software suite, by using a malicious executable under the same name.^[70]

[S0182 FinFisher](#)

[FinFisher](#) renames one of its .dll files to uxtheme.dll in an apparent attempt to masquerade as a legitimate file.^[71]
^[72]

[S0661 FoggyWeb](#)

[FoggyWeb](#) can be disguised as a Visual Studio file such as `Windows.Data.TimeZones.zh-PH.pri` to evade detection. Also, [FoggyWeb](#)'s loader can mimic a genuine `dll` file that carries out the same import functions as the legitimate Windows `version.dll` file.^[73]

[G0117 Fox Kitten](#)

[Fox Kitten](#) has named binaries and configuration files svchost and dllhost respectively to appear legitimate.^[74]

[S0410 Fysbis](#)

[Fysbis](#) has masqueraded as trusted software rsyncd and dbus-inotifier.^[75]

[G0047 Gamaredon Group](#)

[Gamaredon Group](#) has used legitimate process names to hide malware including `svchosst`.^[76] Additionally, [Gamaredon Group](#) disguised malicious ZIP archives as Office documents that are related to the invasion.^[77]

[S0666 Gelsemium](#)

[Gelsemium](#) has named malicious binaries `serv.exe`, `winprint.dll`, and `chrome_elf.dll` and has set its persistence in the Registry with the key value `Chrome Update` to appear legitimate.^[78]

[S1197 GoBear](#)

[GoBear](#) is installed through droppers masquerading as legitimate, signed software installers.^[79]

[S0493 GoldenSpy](#)

[GoldenSpy](#)'s setup file installs initial executables under the folder `%WinDir%\System32\PluginManager`.^[80]

[S0588 GoldMax](#)

[GoldMax](#) has used filenames that matched the system name, and appeared as a scheduled task impersonating systems management software within the corresponding ProgramData subfolder.^{[81][82]}

[S0477 Goopy](#)

[Goopy](#) has impersonated the legitimate `goopdate.dll`, which was dropped on the target system with a legitimate `GoogleUpdate.exe`.^[12]

[S0531 Grandoreiro](#)

[Grandoreiro](#) has named malicious browser extensions and update files to appear legitimate.^{[83][84]}

[S0690 Green Lambert](#)

[Green Lambert](#) has been disguised as a Growl help file.^{[85][86]}

[S0697 HermeticWiper](#)

[HermeticWiper](#) has used the name `postgresql.exe` to mask a malicious payload.^[87]

[S0698 HermeticWizard](#)

[HermeticWizard](#) has been named `exec_32.dll` to mimic a legitimate MS Outlook .dll.^[87]

[S1249 HexEval Loader](#)

[HexEval Loader](#) has masqueraded and typosquatted as legitimate code repository packages and projects.^{[88][89]}

[C0038 HomeLand Justice](#)

During [HomeLand Justice](#), threat actors renamed [ROADSWEEP](#) to `GoXML.exe` and [ZeroCleare](#) to `cl.exe`.^{[90][91]}

[S0070 HTTPBrowser](#)

[HTTPBrowser](#)'s installer contains a malicious file named navlu.dll to decrypt and run the RAT. navlu.dll is also the name of a legitimate Symantec DLL. [\[92\]](#)

[S1022 IceApple](#)

[IceApple](#) .NET assemblies have used `App_Web_` in their file names to appear legitimate. [\[93\]](#)

[S0483 IcedID](#)

[IcedID](#) has modified legitimate .dll files to include malicious code. [\[94\]](#)

[G1032 INC Ransom](#)

[INC Ransom](#) has named a [PsExec](#) executable winupd to mimic a legitimate Windows update file. [\[95\]\[96\]](#)

[G0119 Indrik Spider](#)

[Indrik Spider](#) used fake updates for FlashPlayer plugin and Google Chrome as initial infection vectors. [\[97\]](#)

[S0259 InnaputRAT](#)

[InnaputRAT](#) variants have attempted to appear legitimate by using the file names SafeApp.exe and NeutralApp.exe. [\[98\]](#)

[S0260 InvisiMole](#)

[InvisiMole](#) has disguised its droppers as legitimate software or documents, matching their original names and locations, and saved its files as mpr.dll in the Windows folder. [\[99\]\[100\]](#)

[S0015 Ixeshe](#)

[Ixesh](#)e has used registry values and file names associated with Adobe software, such as AcroRd32.exe. [\[101\]](#)

[S1203 J-magic](#)

[J-magic](#) can rename itself as "[nfsiod 0]" to masquerade as the local Network File System (NFS) asynchronous I/O server. [\[102\]](#)

[C0050 J-magic Campaign](#)

During the [J-magic Campaign](#), threat actors used the name "JunoscriptService" to masquerade malware as the Junos automation scripting service. [\[102\]](#)

[G0004 Ke3chang](#)

[Ke3chang](#) has dropped their malware into legitimate installed software paths including:

```
C:\ProgramFiles\Realtek\Audio\HDA\AERTSr.exe , C:\Program Files (x86)\Foxit Software\Foxit
```

Reader\FoxitRdr64.exe , C:\Program Files (x86)\Adobe\Flash Player\AddIns\airappinstaller\airappinstall.exe , and C:\Program Files (x86)\Adobe\Acrobat Reader DC\Reader\AcroRd64.exe .[\[103\]](#)

[S0526 KGH_SPY](#)

[KGH_SPY](#) has masqueraded as a legitimate Windows tool.[\[104\]](#)

[G0094 Kimsuky](#)

[Kimsuky](#) has renamed malware to legitimate names such as ESTCommon.dll or patch.dll .[\[105\]](#) [Kimsuky](#) has also disguised payloads using legitimate file names including a PowerShell payload named chrome.ps1.[\[106\]](#)

[S0669 KOCTOPUS](#)

[KOCTOPUS](#) has been disguised as legitimate software programs associated with the travel and airline industries.[\[107\]](#)

[S0356 KONNI](#)

[KONNI](#) has created a shortcut called "Anti virus service.lnk" in an apparent attempt to masquerade as a legitimate file.[\[108\]](#)

[S1160 Latrodectus](#)

[Latrodectus](#) has been packed to appear as a component to Bitdefender's kernel-mode driver, TRUFOS.SYS.[\[109\]](#)

[G0032 Lazarus Group](#)

[Lazarus Group](#) has renamed malicious code to disguise it as Microsoft's narrator and other legitimate files.[\[110\]](#)
[\[111\]](#)

[S0395 LightNeuron](#)

[LightNeuron](#) has used filenames associated with Exchange and Outlook for binary and configuration files, such as winmail.dat .[\[112\]](#)

[S0582 LookBack](#)

[LookBack](#) has a C2 proxy tool that masquerades as GUP.exe , which is software used by Notepad++.[\[113\]](#)

[G1014 LuminousMoth](#)

[LuminousMoth](#) has disguised their exfiltration malware as ZoomVideoApp.exe .[\[114\]](#)

[S0409 Machete](#)

[Machete](#) renamed payloads to masquerade as legitimate Google Chrome, Java, Dropbox, Adobe Reader and Python executables. [\[115\]](#)[\[116\]](#)

[G0095 Machete](#)

[Machete's Machete](#) MSI installer has masqueraded as a legitimate Adobe Acrobat Reader installer. [\[117\]](#)

[G0059 Magic Hound](#)

[Magic Hound](#) has used `dlhhost.exe` to mask Fast Reverse Proxy (FRP) and `MicrosoftOutLookUpdater.exe` for Plink. [\[118\]](#)[\[119\]](#)[\[120\]](#)

[S1182 MagicRAT](#)

[MagicRAT](#) stores configuration data in files and file paths mimicking legitimate operating system resources. [\[121\]](#)

[S0652 MarkiRAT](#)

[MarkiRAT](#) can masquerade as `update.exe` and `svehost.exe`; it has also mimicked legitimate Telegram and Chrome files. [\[67\]](#)

[S0500 MCMD](#)

[MCMD](#) has been named `Readme.txt` to appear legitimate. [\[122\]](#)

[S0459 MechaFlounder](#)

[MechaFlounder](#) has been downloaded as a file named `lsass.exe`, which matches the legitimate Windows file. [\[123\]](#)

[G0045 menuPass](#)

[menuPass](#) has been seen changing malicious files to appear legitimate. [\[124\]](#)

[S0455 Metamorfo](#)

[Metamorfo](#) has disguised an MSI file as the Adobe Acrobat Reader Installer and has masqueraded payloads as OneDrive, WhatsApp, or Spotify, for example. [\[125\]](#)[\[126\]](#)

[S0084 Mis-Type](#)

[Mis-Type](#) saves itself as a file named `msdtc.exe`, which is also the name of the legitimate Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator service binary. [\[127\]](#)[\[128\]](#)

[S0083 Misdad](#)

[Misdad](#) saves itself as a file named `msdtc.exe`, which is also the name of the legitimate Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator service binary. [\[127\]](#)[\[128\]](#)

[G0069 MuddyWater](#)

[MuddyWater](#) has disguised malicious executables and used filenames and Registry key names associated with Windows Defender. [\[129\]](#)[\[130\]](#)[\[131\]](#)

[G0129 Mustang Panda](#)

[Mustang Panda](#) has used names like `adobeupdate.dat` and `PotPlayerDB.dat` to disguise [PlugX](#), and a file named `OneDrive.exe` to load a [Cobalt Strike](#) payload. [\[132\]](#) [Mustang Panda](#) has also masqueraded legitimate browser plugin updates to include `AdobePlugins.exe`. [\[41\]](#)

[G1020 Mustard Tempest](#)

[Mustard Tempest](#) has used the filename `AutoUpdater.js` to mimic legitimate update files and has also used the Cyrillic homoglyph characters `С` (`0xd0a1`) and `а` (`0xd0b0`), to produce the filename `Chrome.Update.zip`. [\[133\]](#)
[\[134\]](#)

[G0019 Naikon](#)

[Naikon](#) has disguised malicious programs as Google Chrome, Adobe, and VMware executables. [\[135\]](#)

[S0630 Nebulae](#)

[Nebulae](#) uses functions named `StartUserModeBrowserInjection` and `StopUserModeBrowserInjection` indicating that it's trying to imitate `chrome_frame_helper.dll`. [\[135\]](#)

[S0198 NETWIRE](#)

[NETWIRE](#) has masqueraded as legitimate software including TeamViewer and macOS Finder. [\[136\]](#)

[S1090 NightClub](#)

[NightClub](#) has chosen file names to appear legitimate including `EsetUpdate-0117583943.exe` for its dropper. [\[137\]](#)

[S1100 Ninja](#)

[Ninja](#) has used legitimate looking filenames for its loader including `update.dll` and `x64.dll`. [\[138\]](#)

[S0353 NOKKI](#)

[NOKKI](#) is written to `%LOCALAPPDATA%\MicroSoft Updatea\svServiceUpdate.exe` prior being executed in a new process in an apparent attempt to masquerade as a legitimate folder and file. [\[139\]](#)

[S0340 Octopus](#)

[Octopus](#) has been disguised as legitimate programs, such as Java and Telegram Messenger. [\[140\]](#)[\[141\]](#)

[G0049 OilRig](#)

[OilRig](#) has named a downloaded copy of the Plink tunneling utility as `\ProgramData\Adobe.exe`. [\[142\]](#)

[S0138 OLDBAIT](#)

[OLDBAIT](#) installs itself in `%ALLUSERPROFILE%\Application Data\Microsoft\MediaPlayer\updatewindws.exe` ; the directory name is missing a space and the file name is missing the letter "o."[\[143\]](#)

[C0012 Operation CuckooBees](#)

During [Operation CuckooBees](#), the threat actors renamed a malicious executable to `rundll32.exe` to allow it to blend in with other Windows system files.[\[144\]](#)

[C0006 Operation Honeybee](#)

During [Operation Honeybee](#), the threat actors used a legitimate Windows executable and secure directory for their payloads to bypass UAC.[\[145\]](#)

[C0013 Operation Sharpshooter](#)

During [Operation Sharpshooter](#), threat actors installed [Rising Sun](#) in the Startup folder and disguised it as `mssync.exe` .[\[146\]](#)

[C0014 Operation Wocao](#)

During [Operation Wocao](#), the threat actors renamed some tools and executables to appear as legitimate programs.[\[147\]](#)

[S0402 OSX/Shlayer](#)

[OSX/Shlayer](#) can masquerade as a Flash Player update.[\[148\]\[149\]](#)

[S1017 OutSteel](#)

[OutSteel](#) attempts to download and execute [Saint Bot](#) to a statically-defined location attempting to mimic svchost: `%TEMP%\svjhost.exe` .[\[150\]](#)

[S0072 OwaAuth](#)

[OwaAuth](#) uses the filename owaauth.dll, which is a legitimate file that normally resides in `%ProgramFiles%\Microsoft\Exchange Server\ClientAccess\Owa\Auth\` ; the malicious file by the same name is saved in `%ProgramFiles%\Microsoft\Exchange Server\ClientAccess\Owa\bin\` .[\[151\]](#)

[G0040 Patchwork](#)

[Patchwork](#) installed its payload in the startup programs folder as "Baidu Software Update." The group also adds its second stage payload to the startup programs as "Net Monitor."[\[152\]](#) They have also dropped [QuasarRAT](#) binaries as files named `microsoft_network.exe` and `crome.exe`.[\[153\]](#)

[S1050 PcShare](#)

[PcShare](#) has been named `wuauclt.exe` to appear as the legitimate Windows Update AutoUpdate Client. [\[48\]](#)

[S0587 Penguin](#)

[Penguin](#) has mimicked the Cron binary to hide itself on compromised systems. [\[154\]](#)

[S0501 PipeMon](#)

[PipeMon](#) modules are stored on disk with seemingly benign names including use of a file extension associated with a popular word processor. [\[155\]](#)

[S0013 PlugX](#)

[PlugX](#) has been disguised as legitimate Adobe and PotPlayer files. [\[156\]](#) [PlugX](#) has also imitated legitimate software directories and file names through the creation and storage of a legitimate EXE and the malicious DLLs. [\[157\]\[158\]\[159\]\[160\]](#)

[G0033 Poseidon Group](#)

[Poseidon Group](#) tools attempt to spoof anti-virus processes as a means of self-defense. [\[161\]](#)

[S1046 PowGoop](#)

[PowGoop](#) has used a DLL named Goopdate.dll to impersonate a legitimate Google update file. [\[162\]](#)

[G0056 PROMETHIUM](#)

[PROMETHIUM](#) has disguised malicious installer files by bundling them with legitimate software installers. [\[163\]](#)
[\[164\]](#)

[S1228 PUBLISH](#)

[PUBLISH](#) has renamed malicious files to mimic legitimate file names such as adobe_wf.exe. [\[165\]](#)

[S0196 PUNCHBUGGY](#)

[PUNCHBUGGY](#) mimics filenames from %SYSTEM%\System32 to hide DLLs in %WINDIR% and/or %TEMP%. [\[166\]\[167\]](#)

[S1032 PyDCrypt](#)

[PyDCrypt](#) has dropped [DCSrv](#) under the `svchost.exe` name to disk. [\[168\]](#)

[S0583 Pysa](#)

[Pysa](#) has executed a malicious executable by naming it svchost.exe. [\[169\]](#)

[S0269 QUADAGENT](#)

[QUADAGENT](#) used the PowerShell filenames `Office365DCOMCheck.ps1` and `SystemDiskClean.ps1`. [\[170\]](#)

[S1084 QUIETEXIT](#)

[QUIETEXIT](#) has attempted to change its name to `cron` upon startup. During incident response, [QUIETEXIT](#) samples have been identified that were renamed to blend in with other legitimate files. [\[171\]](#)

[S0565 Raindrop](#)

[Raindrop](#) was installed under names that resembled legitimate Windows file and directory names. [\[172\]\[173\]](#)

[S0629 RainyDay](#)

[RainyDay](#) has used names to mimic legitimate software including "vmtoolsd.exe" to spoof Vmtools. [\[135\]](#)

[S0458 Ramsay](#)

[Ramsay](#) has masqueraded as a 7zip installer. [\[174\]\[175\]](#)

[S0495 RDAT](#)

[RDAT](#) has masqueraded as VMware.exe. [\[176\]](#)

[G1039 RedCurl](#)

[RedCurl](#) mimicked legitimate file names and scheduled tasks, e.g. `MicrosoftCurrentupdatesCheck` and `MdMMaintenanceTask` to mask malicious files and scheduled tasks. [\[177\]\[178\]](#)

[C0056 RedPenguin](#)

During [RedPenguin](#), [UNC3886](#) created multiple strains of malware using names to mimic legitimate binaries such as `appid`, `to`, `irad`, `lmpad`, `jdosd`, and `oemd`. [\[179\]](#)

[S0125 Remsec](#)

The [Remsec](#) loader implements itself with the name Security Support Provider, a legitimate Windows function. Various [Remsec](#).exe files mimic legitimate file names used by Microsoft, Symantec, Kaspersky, Hewlett-Packard, and VMWare. [Remsec](#) also disguised malicious modules using similar filenames as custom network encryption software on victims. [\[180\]\[181\]](#)

[S0496 REvil](#)

[REvil](#) can mimic the names of known executables. [\[182\]](#)

[G0106 Rocke](#)

[Rocke](#) has used shell scripts which download mining executables and saves them with the filename "java". [\[183\]](#)

[S1078 RotaJakiro](#)

[RotaJakiro](#) has used the filename `systemd-daemon` in an attempt to appear legitimate. [\[184\]](#)

[S0446 Ryuk](#)

[Ryuk](#) has constructed legitimate appearing installation folder paths by calling `GetWindowsDirectoryW` and then inserting a null byte at the fourth character of the path. For Windows Vista or higher, the path would appear as `C:\Users\Public`. [\[185\]](#)

[S0085 S-Type](#)

[S-Type](#) may save itself as a file named `msdtc.exe`, which is also the name of the legitimate Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator service binary. [\[127\]](#)[\[128\]](#)

[S1018 Saint Bot](#)

[Saint Bot](#) has been disguised as a legitimate executable, including as Windows SDK. [\[186\]](#)

[S1099 Samurai](#)

[Samurai](#) has created the directory `%COMMONPROGRAMFILES%\Microsoft Shared\wmi\` to contain DLLs for loading successive stages. [\[187\]](#)

[G0034 Sandworm Team](#)

[Sandworm Team](#) has avoided detection by naming a malicious binary `explorer.exe`. [\[188\]](#)[\[189\]](#)

[S1019 Shark](#)

[Shark](#) binaries have been named `audioddg.pdb` and `Winlangdb.pdb` in order to appear legitimate. [\[54\]](#)

[S0445 ShimRatReporter](#)

[ShimRatReporter](#) spoofed itself as `AlphaZawgyl_font.exe`, a specialized Unicode font. [\[190\]](#)

[S0589 Sibot](#)

[Sibot](#) has downloaded a DLL to the `C:\windows\system32\drivers\` folder and renamed it with a `.sys` extension. [\[81\]](#)

[G1008 SideCopy](#)

[SideCopy](#) has used a legitimate DLL file name, `Duser.dll` to disguise a malicious remote access tool. [\[191\]](#)

[G0121 Sidewinder](#)

[Sidewinder](#) has named malicious files `rekeywiz.exe` to match the name of a legitimate Windows executable. [\[192\]](#)

[G0091 Silence](#)

[Silence](#) has named its backdoor "WINWORD.exe".^[193]

[S0468 Skidmap](#)

[Skidmap](#) has created a fake `rm` binary to replace the legitimate Linux binary.^[194]

[S0533 SLOTHFULMEDIA](#)

[SLOTHFULMEDIA](#) has mimicked the names of known executables, such as `mediaplayer.exe`.^[195]

[S1035 Small Sieve](#)

[Small Sieve](#) can use variations of Microsoft and Outlook spellings, such as "Microsift", in its file names to avoid detection.^[196]

[S1124 SocGholish](#)

[SocGholish](#) has been named `AutoUpdater.js` to mimic legitimate update files.^[134]

[C0024 SolarWinds Compromise](#)

During the [SolarWinds Compromise](#), [APT29](#) renamed software and DLLs with legitimate names to appear benign.^{[197][198]}

[G0054 Sowbug](#)

[Sowbug](#) named its tools to masquerade as Windows or Adobe Reader software, such as by using the file name `adobecms.exe` and the directory `CSIDL_APPDATA\microsoft\security`.^[199]

[S0058 SslMM](#)

To establish persistence, [SslMM](#) identifies the Start Menu Startup directory and drops a link to its own executable disguised as an "Office Start," "Yahoo Talk," "MSN Gaming Zone," or "MSN Talk" shortcut.^[200]

[S0188 Starloader](#)

[Starloader](#) has masqueraded as legitimate software update packages such as Adobe Acrobat Reader and Intel.^[199]

[S1238 STATICPLUGIN](#)

[STATICPLUGIN](#) has leveraged naming conventions that match legitimate services to include `AdobePlugins.exe`.^[41]

[G1046 Storm-1811](#)

[Storm-1811](#) has disguised [Cobalt Strike](#) installers as a malicious DLL masquerading as part of a legitimate 7zip installation package.^[201]

[S1183 StrelaStealer](#)

[StrelaStealer](#) payloads have tailored filenames to include names identical to the name of the targeted organization or company.^[202]

[S1034 StrifeWater](#)

[StrifeWater](#) has been named `calc.exe` to appear as a legitimate calculator program.^[203]

[S0491 StrongPity](#)

[StrongPity](#) has been bundled with legitimate software installation files for disguise.^[163]

[S1042 SUGARDUMP](#)

[SUGARDUMP](#) has been named `CrashReporter.exe` to appear as a legitimate Mozilla executable.^[204]

[S0559 SUNBURST](#)

[SUNBURST](#) created VBScripts that were named after existing services or folders to blend into legitimate activities.^[173]

[S0562 SUNSPOT](#)

[SUNSPOT](#) was identified on disk with a filename of `taskhostsvc.exe` and it created an encrypted log file at `C:\Windows\Temp\vmware-vmdmp.log`.^[205]

[S0578 SUPERNOVA](#)

[SUPERNOVA](#) has masqueraded as a legitimate SolarWinds DLL.^{[206][207]}

[G1018 TA2541](#)

[TA2541](#) has used file names to mimic legitimate Windows files or system functionality.^[208]

[S0586 TAINTEDESCRIBE](#)

The [TAINTEDESCRIBE](#) main executable has disguised itself as Microsoft's Narrator.^[110]

[S1011 Tarrask](#)

[Tarrask](#) has masqueraded as executable files such as `winupdate.exe`, `date.exe`, or `win.exe`.^[209]

[G0139 TeamTNT](#)

[TeamTNT](#) has replaced `.dockerd` and `.dockerenv` with their own scripts and cryptocurrency mining software.^[210]

[S0560 TEARDROP](#)

[TEARDROP](#) files had names that resembled legitimate Window file and directory names.^{[211][173]}

[S0595 ThiefQuest](#)

[ThiefQuest](#) prepends a copy of itself to the beginning of an executable file while maintaining the name of the executable. [\[212\]](#)[\[213\]](#)

[S0665 ThreatNeedle](#)

[ThreatNeedle](#) chooses its payload creation path from a randomly selected service name from netsh. [\[214\]](#)

[S0668 TinyTurla](#)

[TinyTurla](#) has been deployed as `w64time.dll` to appear legitimate. [\[215\]](#)

[G1022 ToddyCat](#)

[ToddyCat](#) has used the name `debug.exe` for malware components. [\[187\]](#)

[S1239 TONESHELL](#)

[TONESHELL](#) has renamed malicious files to mimic legitimate file names and file extensions. [\[165\]](#) [TONESHELL](#) has also masqueraded as legitimate file names to include LogMeIn.dll. [\[216\]](#)

[S1201 TRANSLATEXT](#)

[TRANSLATEXT](#) has been named `GoogleTranslate.crx` to masquerade as a legitimate Chrome extension. [\[217\]](#)

[G0134 Transparent Tribe](#)

[Transparent Tribe](#) can mimic legitimate Windows directories by using the same icons and names. [\[218\]](#)

[C0030 Triton Safety Instrumented System Attack](#)

In the [Triton Safety Instrumented System Attack](#), [TEMP.Veles](#) renamed files to look like legitimate files, such as Windows update files or Schneider Electric application files.

[S1196 Troll Stealer](#)

[Troll Stealer](#) is typically installed via a dropper file that masquerades as a legitimate security program installation file. [\[219\]](#)[\[79\]](#)

[G0081 Tropic Trooper](#)

[Tropic Trooper](#) has hidden payloads in Flash directories and fake installer files. [\[220\]](#)

[G0010 Turla](#)

[Turla](#) has named components of [LunarWeb](#) to mimic Zabbix agent logs. [\[221\]](#)

[S0386 Ursnif](#)

[Ursnif](#) has used strings from legitimate system files and existing folders for its file, folder, and Registry entry names. [\[222\]](#)

[S0136 USBStealer](#)

[USBStealer](#) mimics a legitimate Russian program called USB Disk Security. [\[223\]](#)

[G1047 Velvet Ant](#)

[Velvet Ant](#) used a malicious DLL, `iviewers.dll`, that mimics the legitimate "OLE/COM Object Viewer" within Windows. [\[224\]](#)

[S1217 VIRTUALPITA](#)

[VIRTUALPITA](#) samples have been found in `/usr/libexec/setconf/ksmd` and `/usr/bin/ksmd`, named to spoof the legitimate Kernel Same-Page Merging Daemon binary. [\[225\]](#)

[G1017 Volt Typhoon](#)

[Volt Typhoon](#) has used legitimate looking filenames for compressed copies of the ntds.dit database and used names including `cisco_up.exe`, `cl64.exe`, `vm3dservice.exe`, `watchdogd.exe`, `Win.exe`, `WmiPreSV.exe`, and `WmiPrvSE.exe` for the Earthworm and Fast Reverse Proxy tools. [\[226\]](#)[\[227\]](#)[\[228\]](#)

[G0107 Whitefly](#)

[Whitefly](#) has named the malicious DLL the same name as DLLs belonging to legitimate software from various security vendors. [\[229\]](#)

[S0141 Winnti for Windows](#)

A [Winnti for Windows](#) implant file was named `ASPNET_FILTER.DLL`, mimicking the legitimate ASP.NET ISAPI filter DLL with the same name. [\[230\]](#)

[G0090 WIRTE](#)

[WIRTE](#) has named a first stage dropper `Kaspersky Update Agent` in order to appear legitimate. [\[231\]](#)

[S1248 XORIndex Loader](#)

[XORIndex Loader](#) has leveraged legitimate package names to mimic frequently utilized tools to entice victims to download and execute malicious payloads. [\[232\]](#)

[S0086 ZLib](#)

[ZLib](#) mimics the resource version information of legitimate Realtek Semiconductor, Nvidia, or Synaptics modules. [\[127\]](#)

Source: <https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1036/005>