


Threat Group Cards: A Threat Actor Encyclopedia

Archived: 2026-04-05 16:39:23 UTC

APT group: Suckfly

Names	Suckfly (<i>Symantec</i>) G0039 (<i>MITRE</i>)	
Country	 China	
Motivation	Information theft and espionage	
First seen	2014	
Description	<p>(Symantec) In March 2016, Symantec published a blog on Suckfly, an advanced cyberespionage group that conducted attacks against a number of South Korean organizations to steal digital certificates. Since then we have identified a number of attacks over a two-year period, beginning in April 2014, which we attribute to Suckfly. The attacks targeted high-profile targets, including government and commercial organizations. These attacks occurred in several different countries, but our investigation revealed that the primary targets were individuals and organizations primarily located in India.</p> <p>While there have been several Suckfly campaigns that infected organizations with the group’s custom malware Backdoor.Nidiran, the Indian targets show a greater amount of post-infection activity than targets in other regions. This suggests that these attacks were part of a planned operation against specific targets in India.</p>	
Observed	Sectors: Entertainment , Financial , Government , Healthcare , Media , Shipping and Logistics and E-commerce, Software development and Video game development. Countries: India .	
Tools used	gsecdump , Nidiran , smbscan , Windows Credentials Editor .	
Operations performed	Apr 2014	<p>The first known Suckfly campaign began in April of 2014. During our investigation of the campaign, we identified a number of global targets across several industries who were attacked in 2015. Many of the targets we identified were well known commercial organizations located in India.</p> <p><https://www.symantec.com/connect/blogs/indian-organizations-targeted-suckfly-attacks></p>

	Late 2015	<p>We discovered Suckfly, an advanced threat group, conducting targeted attacks using multiple stolen certificates, as well as hacktools and custom malware. The group had obtained the certificates through pre-attack operations before commencing targeted attacks against a number of government and commercial organizations spread across multiple continents over a two-year period. This type of activity and the malicious use of stolen certificates emphasizes the importance of safeguarding certificates to prevent them from being used maliciously.</p> <p><https://www.symantec.com/connect/blogs/suckfly-revealing-secret-life-your-code-signing-certificates></p>
MITRE ATT&CK		< https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G0039/ >

Last change to this card: 16 August 2025

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