CyOps Lighthouse: Vidar Stealer

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The Darknet is home to many underground hacking forums. In these forums, cybercriminals talk freely: Sharing stories, tactics, success stories, and failures. Their conduct allows us to peek into the politics and ethics of those groups and actors, as they talk about recent activities.

CyOps Lighthouse aims to shed a light on those dark places. Apart from the underground forums, we will also provide information regarding ongoing ransomware groups' publications and worthy mentions from the last month.

Vidar Stealer – the attacker's perspective

Executive summary:

Vidar stealer is a malware that is offered for sale in the MAAS (Malware as a service) model.

It is present since 2018, and it is a variant of the "Arkei stealer".
Vidar is currently one of the top stealers that are available for sale and is responsible for a large sum of compromised credentials offered for sale on underground forums and marketplaces.

Analysis:

Vidar stealer works as a MAAS, but unlike other stealers where buyers need to set their C2 and operate from it, all Vidar admin operations are done via a dedicated website, that can be accessed either with a dedicated Onion address or a regular "Clearnet" website, when entering the main URL we are greeted with the following:

Who is Vidar

Hail to the Silent One!
Hail to Leathershod!
Hail to the Wolf Ripper!
Hail to the Far-Seer!
Hail to the Survivor of Old Times!
Hail to the Son of Odin!
Hail to Fenrir's Bane!

Vidar is a god from the Aesir family of gods. He is the son of the chief of those gods, Odin. Vidar was born to avenge his father.

In the Voluspa, it tells of a coming final battle where the gods will fight their enemies, the giants. One of the enemies is a wolf called Fenrir. This wolf will, according to the prediction, swallow Odin.

Odin is a clever fellow. Knowing his fate, he conspired to make some changes in the way things work in the future. He sought out the correct mother for this purpose, and created Vidar. It would be Vidar's job to destroy Fenrir.

Vidar grew quickly. His strength became as great as the strongest of the Aesir. He was a skilled warrior and learned his trade fast. But there is more to him.

Because he was born for the future, he had the gift of foresight. That is why he is called Vidar the Far-Seer. He knew the nature of the future, but he did not tell the things he saw. It is for this reason that he is called Vidar the Silent. He knows the patterns of the future and the likely outcome of things.

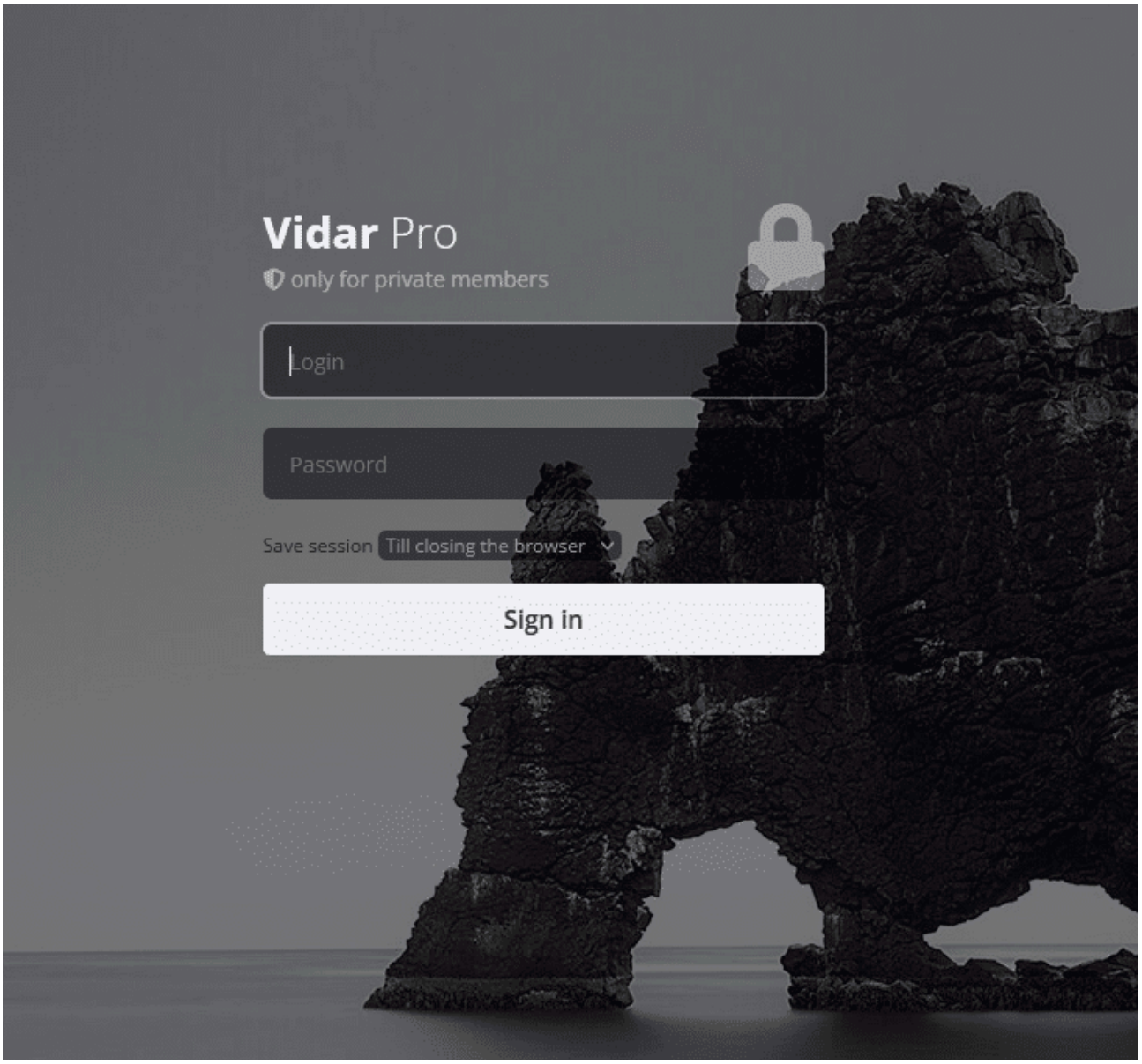
He knows that in the last battle, the wolf will swallow his father and that Vidar will but his great boot on the lower jaw of the wolf and use his hands to hold the upper jaw. From this position, he will tear the wolf apart, releasing a great wind from the beast's belly. There is speculation that this great wind is actually Odin making his escape.

This act of rending the wolf is why Vidar is called Wolf Ripper and Fenrir's Bane. His reinforced boot, for standing on the wolf's lower jaw, is why he is called Vidar Leathershod.

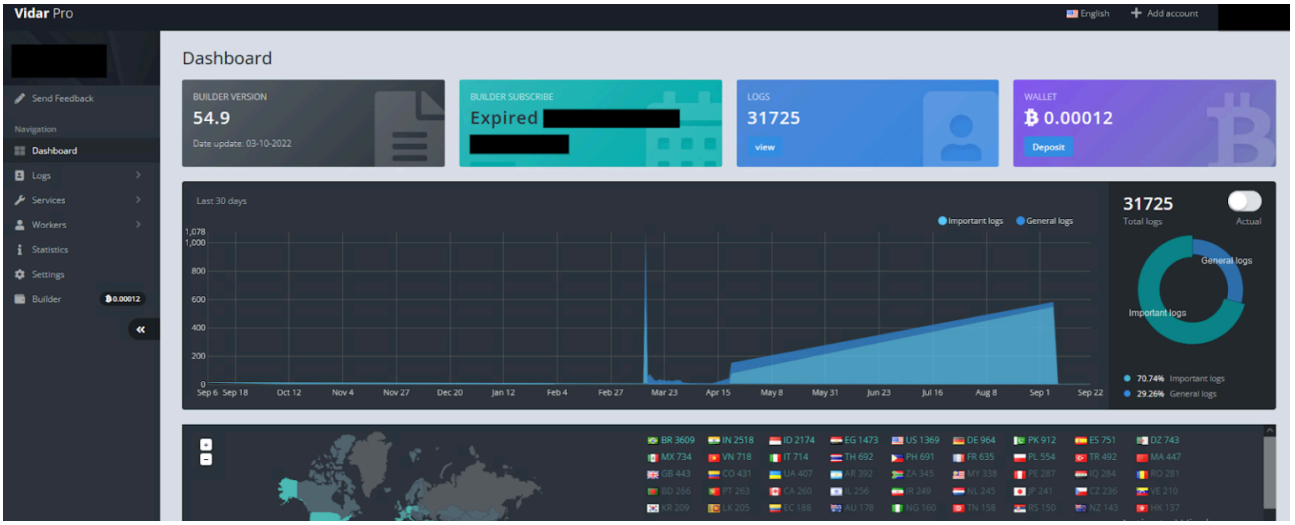
When the last battle is over, and the worlds are renewed, Vidar will be one of the surviving gods. He will be a Survivor of Old Times.

An ode to Vidar, son of Odin and the god of vengeance.

Once we add the “Login” prompt to the URL, we can see Vidar’s operator login page:

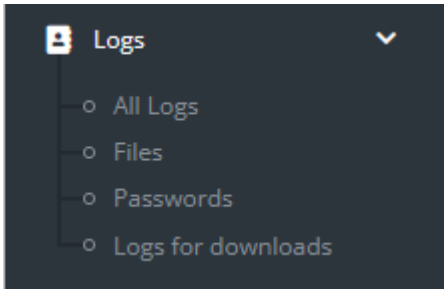


Upon successful login, we will be greeted with the main Vidar panel:

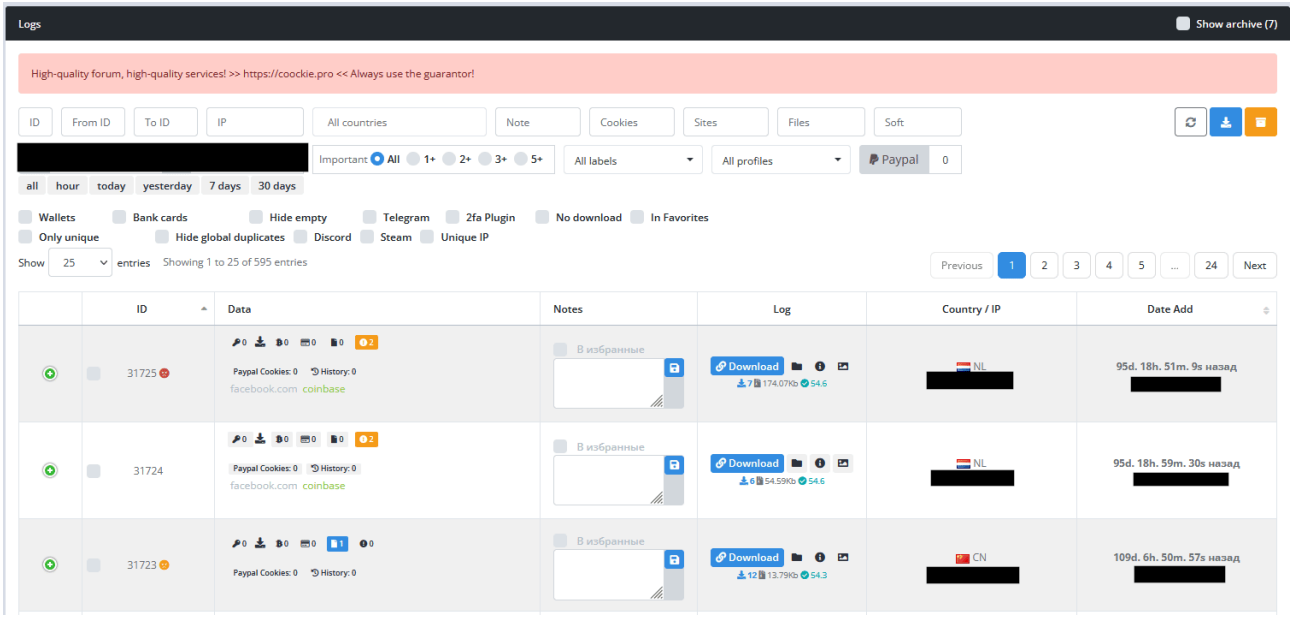


The default login will show us the “Dashboard”, a summary of all the operations taken by the operator, the number of infected machines, geolocation, Builder version (Updates automatically), the current funds available at the crypto wallet, and all the stealers’ options and possibilities on the left.

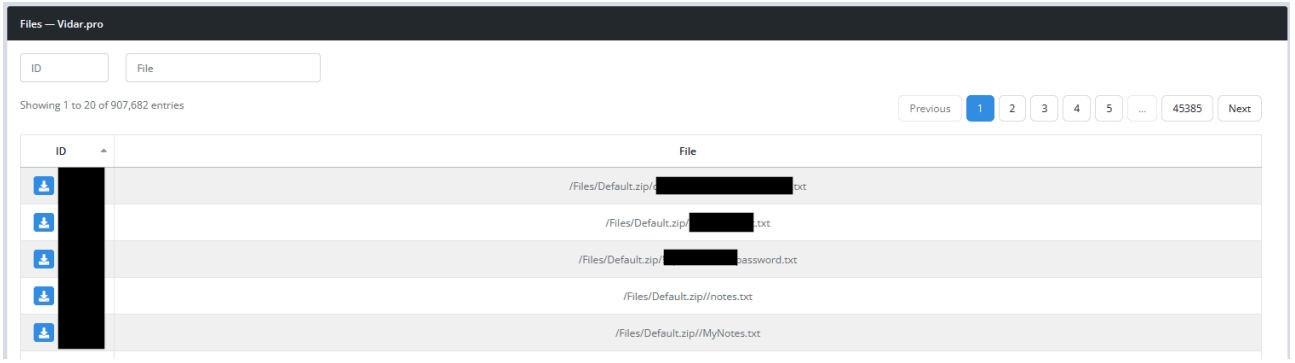
The “Logs” section is divided into several subcategories:



“All logs” is like the dashboard, it will show all logs in a given timeframe, with emphasis on the log contents:



“Files” will show all files that were exfiltrated by the stealer:



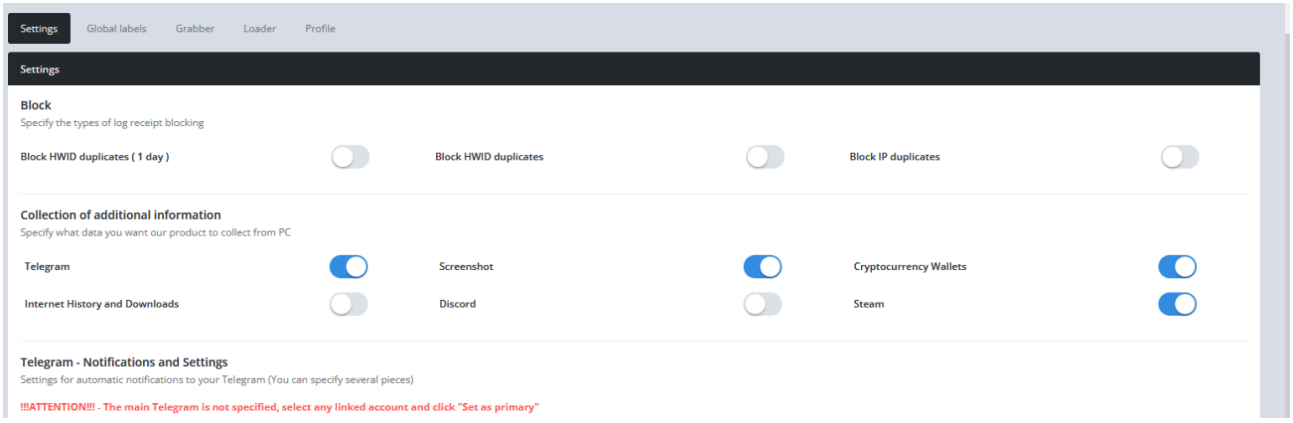
“Passwords” is self-explanatory, and “Logs for download” will show all logs that are ready for download.

As Vidar aims to be a “One stop shop”, it also provides the operators with a “Services” panel, where they can filter and sign in directly to any SMTP/Banking/Cpanels/WordPress websites that were found in the logs.

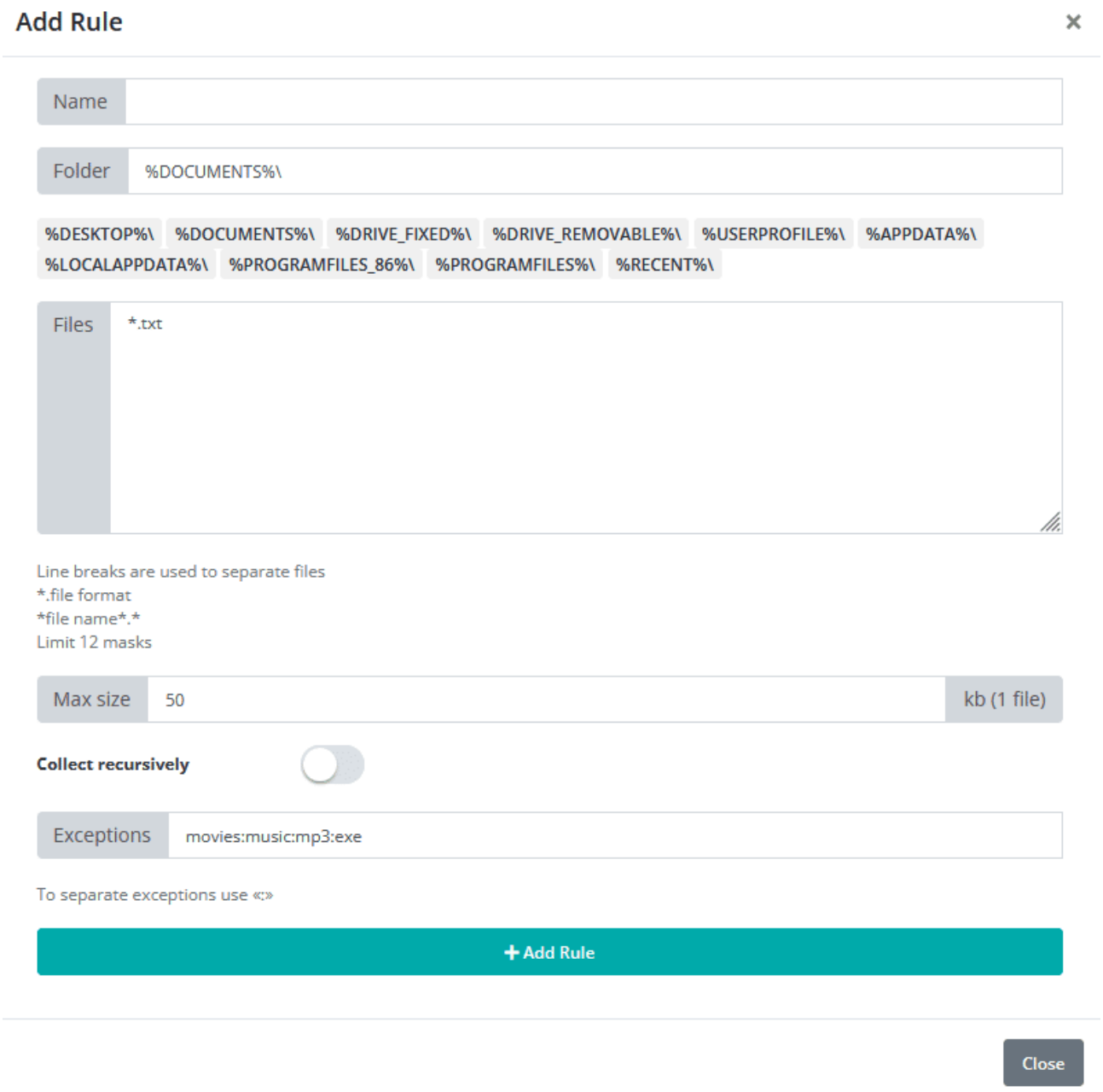
Moving over the “Workers” (Active bots) and “Statistics”, the settings panel is one of the most important assets of an operator.

Under the main page, an operator can decide what assets to target on the infected host, as well as set rules for “Grabber” – file exfiltration module, or “Loader” – set a rule for a follow-up activity on infected hosts.

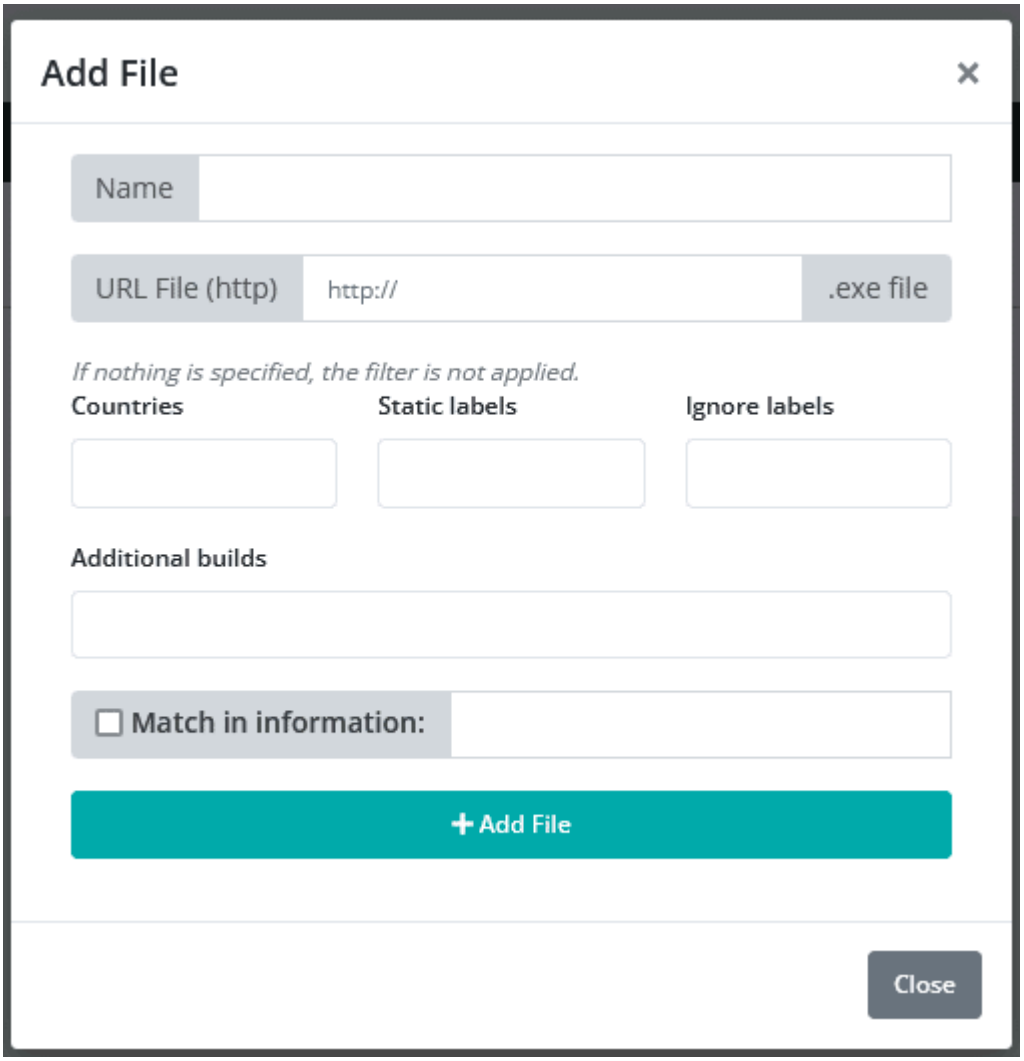
Settings:



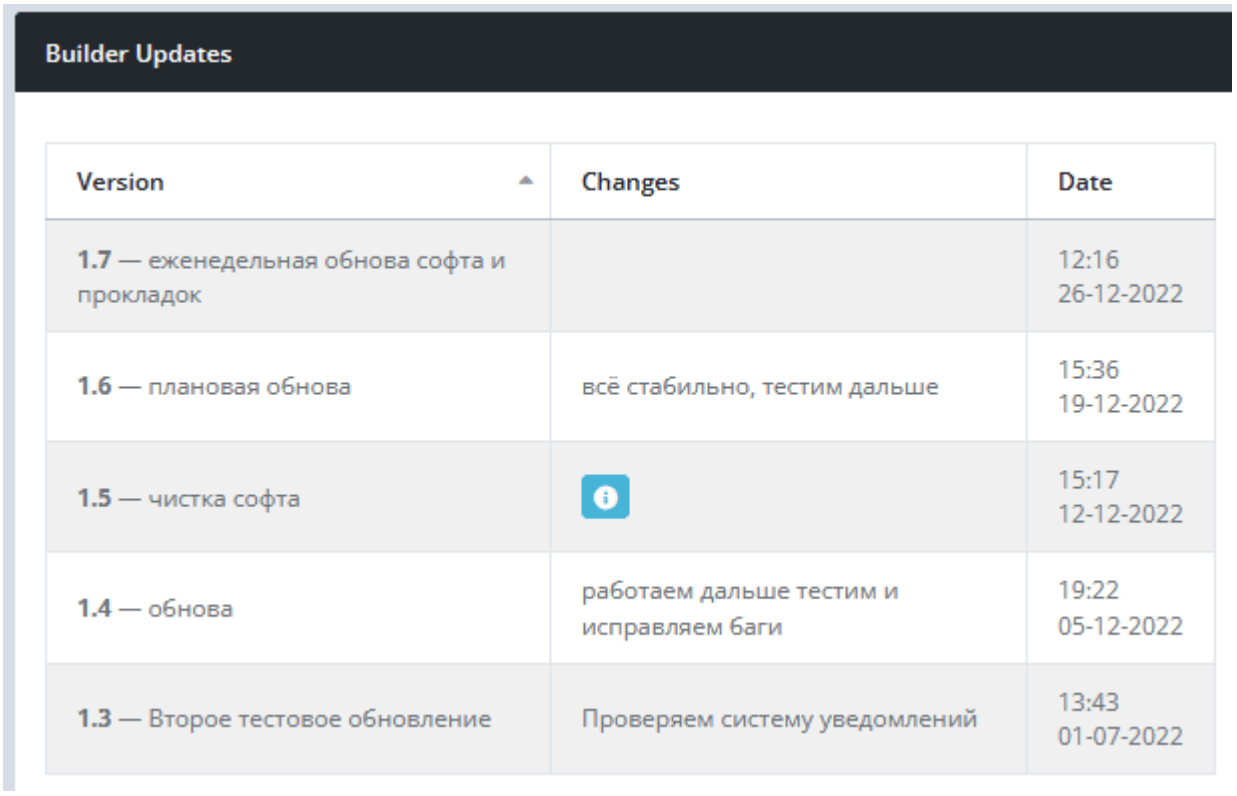
Grabber (Specify files type, max size, and folders to exfiltrate data):


Add Rule
Name
Folder
%DOCUMENTS%\
%DESKTOP%\
%DOCUMENTS%\
%DRIVE_FIXED%\
%DRIVE_REMOVABLE%\
%USERPROFILE%\
%APPDATA%\
%LOCALAPPDATA%\
%PROGRAMFILES_86%\
%PROGRAMFILES%\
%RECENT%\
Files
*.txt
Line breaks are used to separate files
*.file format
file name.*
Limit 12 masks
Max size
50
kb (1 file)
Collect recursively
Exceptions
movies:music:mp3:exe
To separate exceptions use «:»
+ Add Rule
Close

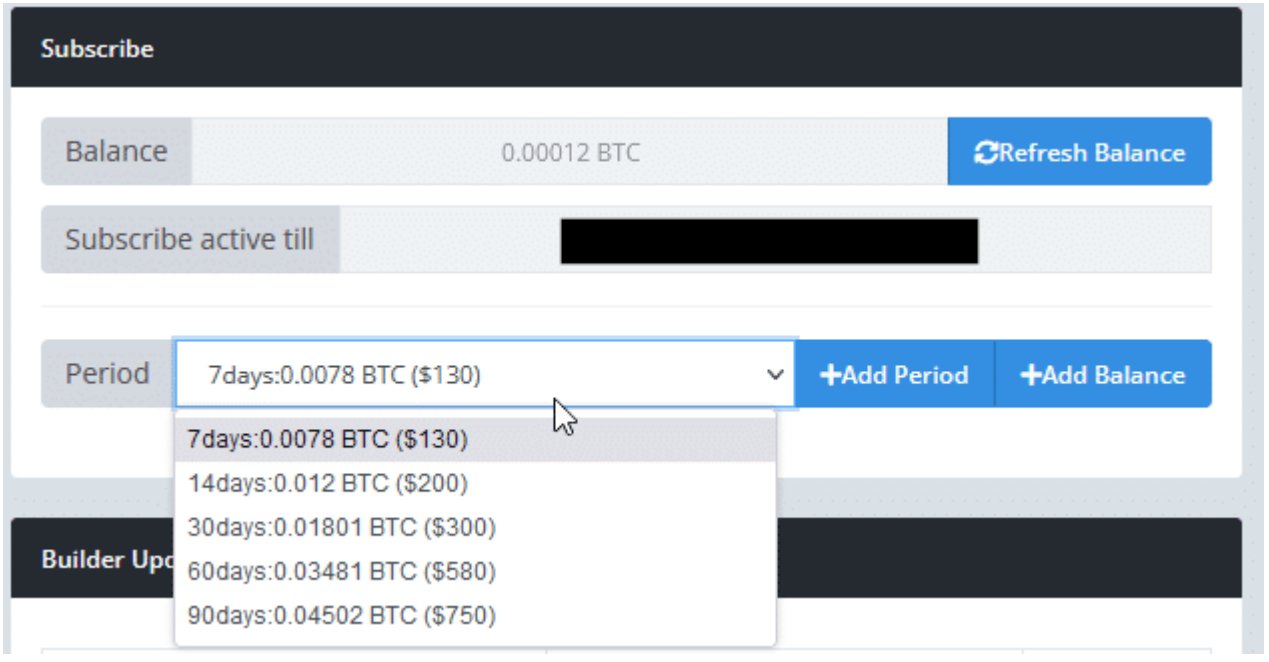
Loader:



The “Builder” tab related to creating an executable from the panel, can be adjusted to set multiple running campaigns with different targets in mind, it also includes all the “Builder updates” – any constant updates that are pushed by the Vidar team:



The builder tab is also where operators activate their subscription, according to the required timeframe:

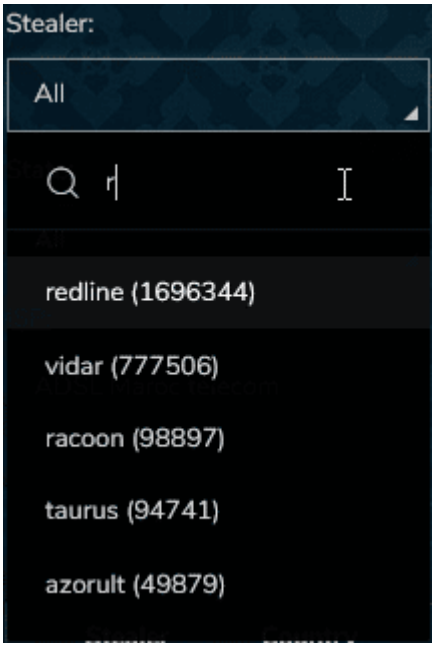


Conclusion:

Vidar is among the top info stealers on the MAAS market.

It offers multiple “Follow up” activities as seen above, and all in the same Operator panel, this makes their pricing a bit higher than other info stealers, but as the operation is going for a long period, Vidar has already amassed a reputation of a reliable malware.

As we noticed in May 2022, Vidar is also one of the main sources for info stealer logs on underground markets like “Russian Marketplace”:



Vidar, like other info stealers, is not “just” a stealer, it is responsible for most compromised credentials offered on the darknet and can also be used as a loader for Ransomware to follow up after a successful infection.

We strongly believe that unless an OPSEC mistake was to happen from the Vidar team, they will remain a top threat to reckon with in 2023.

Source: https://www.cynet.com/blog/cyops-lighthouse-vidar-stealer/