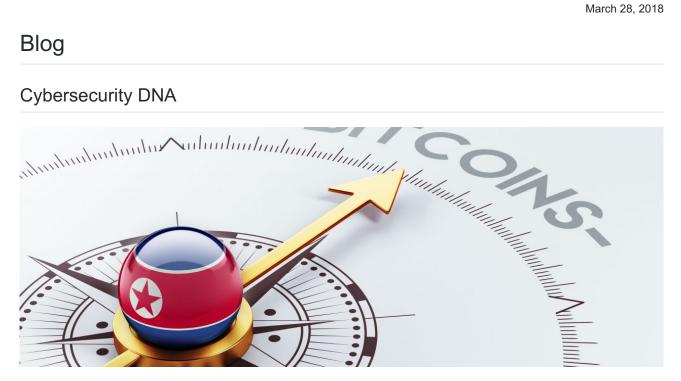
# Lazarus Group Targets More Cryptocurrency Exchanges and FinTech Companies

intezer.com/lazarus-group-targets-more-cryptocurrency-exchanges-and-fintech-companies/

March 28, 2018



# Introduction

Cyber attacks from the Lazarus Group, a threat actor associated with North Korea, has not slowed down and their malware toolset continues to evolve. A few months ago, we published a general research of the Lazarus Group and the Blockbuster campaign including code reuse and similarities throughout their malware up until the latest news regarding targeting bitcoin and cryptocurrency exchanges. In recent attacks, the Lazarus Group has been spreading malicious documents with a RAT embedded inside that gets executed through a VBA macro. These malicious documents contained a job description for different positions in various industries.

Through our research, we came across a new malicious document where we have found changes and a continuation to their campaign targeting potential cryptocurrency exchanges, FinTech, financial companies, and others who might be involved with cryptocurrencies. The malicious document came embedded with an upgraded and revamped version of a RAT they have added to their arsenal.

# **Infection Vector**

The malicious document's original creation name is "Investment Proposal.doc" and attempts to impersonate an employee of an Australia based law firm for commercial and financial services

named Holley Nethercote. The document states that they have evaluated several cryptocurrencies and they have put together an investment proposal aimed at FinTech, financial, and other companies who might be interested in taking an investment. As can be seen in the photos of the document below, the document is of very low quality, meaning there are inconsistencies and typos everywhere in a document supposedly from a law firm.



# INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

by



#### ABSTRACT

We analyzed and evaluated 10+ crypto currencies, the most circulated in the last four years, and expressed out company profile and investment proposal.

### Kate Harris

Director at HOLLEY NETHERCOTE

The first page contains a basic description of what the investment proposal involves. Take note of the name "Kate Harris," a director from Holley Nethercote, by whom the document was

# □ ABOUT [HOLLEY NETHERCOTE]



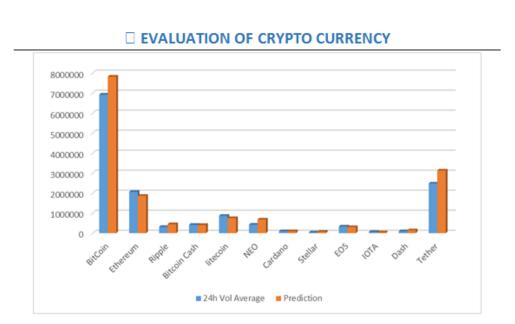
Established in 1995 by
Grant Holley and Tim
Nethercote, Holley
Nethercote Commercial &
Financial Services Lawyers
is a commercial law firm
with offices in Melbourne
and Sydney, with a
particular focus on the
financial services industry.
We provide legal support to
financial services providers
ranging from startup

FinTech businesses through to global financial institutions. We also act for medium and large non-financial services companies. We provide expert and practical legal services in the areas of: Financial services law (including credit), licensing and related issues Financial Technology (FinTech) issues covering new payment methods, e-wallets, block chain, peer-to-peer lending, digital/robo advice, equity crowd-funding and other automated payments companies Anti-Money Laundering, Counter-Terrorism Financing, sanctions and financial crimes Privacy and cyber-resilience Transactional banking services Capital raising Debt recovery Intellectual property, including copyright and trademarks Employment law for employers Contracts Litigation and commercial dispute resolution, including assistance in handling disputes in all courts and tribunals, including the Financial Ombudsman Services (FOS) and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Complaints Tribunal (VCAT) Trade practices (Competition and Consumer Law) Franchising Sale of business Other general business legal matters (e.g. leases, insolvency) In conjunction with our associated business Compact - Compliance & Training (www.ccct.com.au), we have helped a wide array of businesses obtain and vary Australian Financial Services (AFS) and Australian Credit (AC) licenses, including start-up companies, ex-authorized representatives, and multinational companies entering the Australian market. We also offer expert advice in matters relating to AFS & AC license holders, including conducting AFS & AC licensee reviews of financial services legal documentation. For more information about Holley Nethercote Commercial & Financial Services Lawyers, please check out our website, which contains detailed information, blogs and pictures - www.hnlaw.com.au.

The second page is a general description of the company Holley Nethercote which is directly taken from the first page of a PDF on the company's <u>website</u>.



The third page is a list of their employees and staff as can also be found on their <a href="website">website</a>. Remember Kate Harris, the director, from before? Shockingly enough, she does not exist on this list.



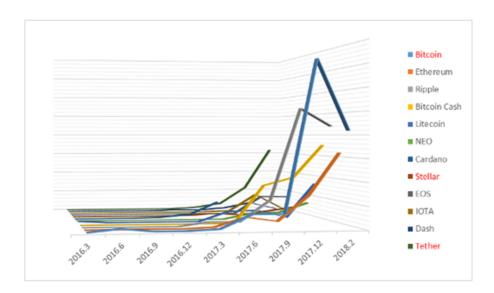
Bitcoin and other crypto currencies have seen a significant value increase in the recent past.

The advent of <u>Bitcoin</u> and its stellar rise over the last few years has investors pouring their money into crypto currencies by the millions. Crypto currencies and block chain projects achieved impressive returns, as well as dramatic declines. On Feb. 9, 2018, <u>Bitcoin's</u> value was \$8700, about half of its Dec. 2017 high of \$19300; nonetheless, it's still worth about six times as much as it was one year prior.

Out company evaluated the worldwide crypto currency rankings and the value of the crypto currency in the future.

The fourth page contains a chart of various cryptocurrencies and random values associated with them. The interesting point here is the date of a Bitcoin price that it mentions from February 9th, 2018 which helps us put on a timeline of when this malicious document was originally created.





# ☐ WHAT [HOLLEY NETHERCOTE | WANTS

We are going to invest in the crypto currency exchanges that have been newly established or want to invest by considering the future leaps of the company.

We are looking to invest in your company based on your detailed information of your activity in recent years.

Before proceeding with the investment, we would appreciate if you can inform us of the amount of investment required by your company through the appropriate route.

In the current situation, out company can invest \$50 million.

This investment is a result of a detailed information of your company's activity over recent years.

If your company is willing to accept the investment of our company as much as possible, we will make investment with low investment rate.

If you agree with our offer or have any questions, please contact the person in charge.

The fifth page states how they would like to invest \$50M in the company that received this document and contains some typos like "out" instead of "our" and other grammatical errors.

# **SINVESTMENT PROPOSAL**

**GRANT HOLLEY** 

Level 22, 140 William Street

Melbourne VIC Australia 3000

HOLLEY NETHERCOTE (https://hnlaw.com.au/)

CONTACT: grant.holley@hotmail.com

DEAR SIR;

### URGENT INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

WE HAVE FIFTY MILLION U.S. DOLLARS WHICH WE GOT FROM OVER INFLATED CONTRACT FROM COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SERVICE CONTRACT AWARDED TO FOREIGN CONTRACTORS IN THE WORLD.

WE ARE SEEKING YOUR ASSISANCE AND PERMISSION TO REMIT THIS AMOUNT INTO YOUR ACCOUNT.

YOUR COMMISSION IS THIRTY PERCENT OF THE MONEY.

PLEASE NOTIFY ME YOUR ACCEPTANCE TO DO THIS USINESS URGENTLY.

THE MEN INVOLVED ARE MEN IN GOVERNMENT.

MORE DETAILS WILL BE SENT TO YOU BY CONTACT AS SOON AS WE HEAR FROM YOU.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNICATION IN THIS MATTER, MAY WE HAVE YOUR CONTACT.

CONTACT ME URGENTLY THROUGH THE EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE.

PLEASE TREAT AS MOST CONFIDENTIAL, ALL REPLIES STRICTLY THROUGH ABOVE EMAIL ADDRESS.

THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

YOURS FAITHFULLY.

The sixth page is a very poorly written document supposedly signed by the CEO of Holley Nethercote involving the investment proposition. It also contains various typos and grammatical errors with the general flow not making sense.

☐ Contact Information
Name: Grant Holley
Address: Melbourne Level 22, 140 William Street Melbourne VIC Australia 3000
Primary Contact: grant.holley@hotmail.com
Role of Primary Contact: Business Mail
Phone Number: +447482967842 (UK)
Email Address: grant.holley@hotmail.com
Name: Kate Harris
Director at Holley <u>Nethercote</u>
Q&A: hnlaw.kate@hotmail.com

The seventh and last page contains some fake contact information including a phone number from the UK that is from an online service that allows you to receive an SMS through the website.

# **Technical Details**

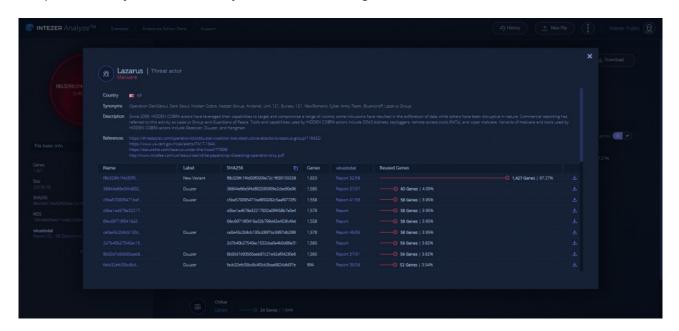
Upon launching the document, an obfuscated VBA macro is executed to drop and execute an embedded remote access tool.

COST DESCRIPTION FOR PROPERTY AND ASSOCIATION FOR PROPERTY PROPERTY FOR PROPERTY PRO

## (embedded VBA macro)

The embedded RAT is dropped to and executed from *%USERPROFILE%\RuntimeBroker.exe*. More evidence besides the date in the content of the document, pointing to this malware out in February is that we can also see the compilation timestamp is from February 14, 2018 and the upload date was on March 2, 2018.

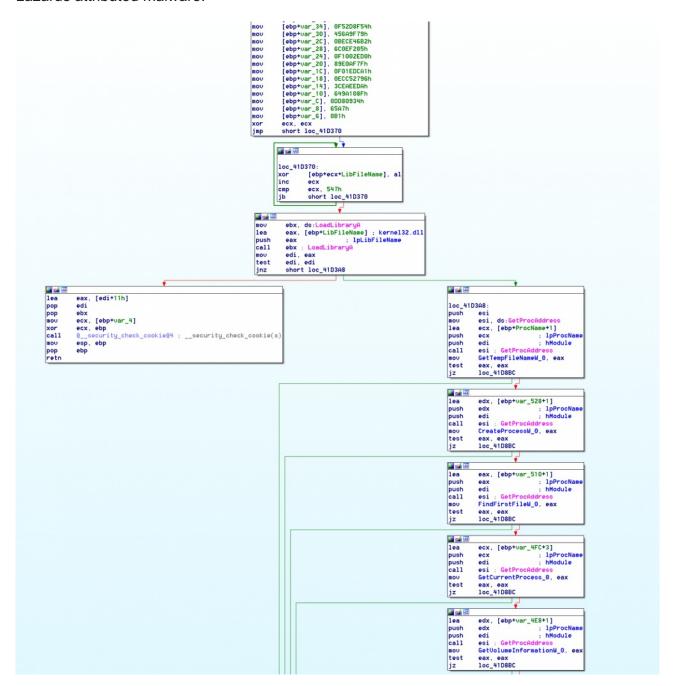
After uploading the RAT to Intezer Analyze<sup>™</sup>, we found 4% of the code to have been used in previous malware attributed to the Lazarus group, but 85% of the code base is completely unique. This says to us that they made some changes to their code.



(https://analyze.intezer.com/#/analyses/ffb3993e-d646-42ad-8449-104d751cc17b)

The first code that gets executed within the RAT first decrypts a locally created, XOR encrypted buffer of names of modules and imports that it resolves via *GetProcAddress*. Resolving the binary's own imports in this manner is very common in many of the previous

Lazarus attributed malware.



Next, the RAT creates a shortcut of itself to %USERPROFILE%\Start

Menu\Programs\Startup\RuntimeBroker.Ink in order to maintain persistence and sets the
attributes of itself using SetFileAttributesW to HIDDEN | SYSTEM | NORMAL. Inside of the
function that is used for setting up the persistence, we can find a call to a function that is
responsible for decrypting a buffer containing multiple wide strings used throughout the binary.

```
[enh.on _ic], onioserii
III V
        [ebp+var_48], 7C53BE3Eh
mov
        [ebp+var_44], 0F8FE3A8Ah
mov
        [ebp+var_40], 7465B627h
mov
        [ebp+var_3C], 0F0FD32B4h
mov
        [ebp+var_38], 6C49AE29h
mov
        [ebp+var_34], 0E8E92ABCh
mov
        [ebp+var_30], 0E4CE6656h
mov
mov
        [ebp+var_2C], 0E0CD624Eh
        [ebp+var_28], 5CBD9E71h
mov
```

```
[epp+var_z4], busbsiHuch
                mov
                        [ebp+var_20], 54999635h
                mov
                        [ebp+var_1C], 0D00612C5h
                mov
                        [ebp+var_18], 4C9A8E4Eh
                mov
                        [ebp+var_14], 0C8550ACBh
                mov
                        [ebp+var_10], 0C4C84649h
                mov
                        [ebp+var_C], 0C0BA4246h
                mov
                        [ebp+var_8], 7E0Dh
                mov
                mov
                        al, 19h
               xor
                        ecx, ecx
                        short loc_41DC60
                jmp
             <u>...</u> 🚅
             loc_41DC60:
             xor
                     byte ptr [ebp+ecx+var_174], al
             add
                     al, 57h
             inc
                     ecx
             xor
                     al, bl
             cmp
                     ecx, 16Eh
             jb
                     short loc_41DC60
                a
                mov
                         eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                lea
                         eax, [ebp+eax×2+var_174]
                sub
                         esi, eax
                   🜃 🚅
                   loc_41DC80:
                   movzx
                           ecx, word ptr [eax]
                   mov
                           [esi+eax], cx
                   add
                           eax, 2
                   test
                           cx, cx
                   jnz
                           short loc_41DC80
II 🕍 🖼
mov
        ecx, [ebp+var_4]
pop
        esi
xor
        ecx, ebp
mov
        eax, 0FFFFFF67h
pop
        @__security_check_cookie@4 ; __security_check_cookie(x)
call
mov
        esp, ebp
pop
        ebp
retn
sub_41D900 endp
```

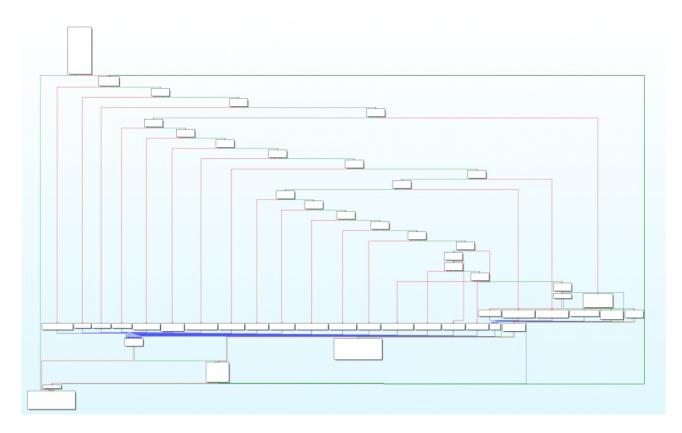
As can be seen in the function, it uses a very basic decryption routine to decrypt the locally stored buffer. The decrypted buffer is as follows:

The parameter to the function responsible for decrypting this buffer is an offset to grab a string from this decrypted buffer by multiplying it by two, since these are wide strings.

Strangely enough, a lot of these strings are not used anywhere in the binary. By the strings, you can see there is an intention of including a simple anti-VM technique to detect VirtualBox. There is also one more function located within the binary, responsible for the same functionality with a different buffer containing different strings.

-																	
Ī	2E	7A	69	70	00	50	50	2E	50	56	42	6F	78	4D	69	6E	.zip.NN.NUBoxMin
																	iRdrDN.WTSGetAct
																	iveConsoleSessio
																	nId.SeTobPrivile
																	ge.SeAssignPrima
																	ryTokenPrivilege
	50	72	69	76	69	60	65	67	65	99	12	99	B4	C8	5E	24	Privilege.#.네트를
	00	53	65	49	6E	63	72	65	61	73	65	51	75	6F	74	61	ryTokenPrivileg .SeIncreaseQuot Privilege.‡.† <u>~</u> :

Following all of this, the RAT then creates a backdoor which then waits to receive commands from the various C&C servers.



The C&C handler used to follow a pattern of command IDs but it appears to have changed to random command values and contains commands with new functionality. Their handler is able to handle 22 different commands and the descriptions of each can be found in the chart below.

# Command Functionality ID

0xF4004A	Execute cmd.exe and output results to temp file or retrieve CD via GetCurrentDirectoryW. Cmd.exe /c " <cmd> &gt; <temp file="">" 2&gt;&amp;1</temp></cmd>							
0x460017	460017 Collect various information about the hard drive such as the space and volume information							
0x7C00E6	Collect various information about the computer such as the computer name, username, host name, and more.							
0x6400E5	x6400E5 Creates new process via CreateProcessW							
0xBE007B	Collect data about running processes by traversing the process list via CreateToolhelpSnapshot32 related APIs							
0x8500AF	Terminates a process by name							
0xC004B	Gets specific file(s) data such as filenames, times, and attributes							
0xD7007C	Collects a file and sends it to the C&C							
0x3300E2	Zips file(s) to temp and sends archive to C&C							
0x9D00B0	Write a file received from the server							
0x200DF	Write a 5mb file with random bytes							

0x2E0016	Deletes files
0x6C00AE	Overwrites entire file(s) contents with 0xCC and then deletes the file
0xFD0013	Recursively traverse directory collecting file information
0x3C00AB	Checks if socket write access is valid to a given address
0x4B00E3	Sets file(s) time via SetFileTime
0xE50012	Configuration
0x5400AC	Updates socket configuration
0x1B00E1	Renames file and sets attributes
0x750077	Elevate process privileges
0xCC0010	Inject code received by server into process
0x150014	Pong response to ping

The binary uses wolfSSL to encrypt the network traffic containing two different certificates and one private key. The certificates are stored in a local buffer of a function located within the binary.

----BEGIN CERTIFICATE----

MIIDYjCCAkqgAwIBAgIIAT8TuSzaBG4wDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQAwZjELMAkGA1UE
BhMCVVMxGTAXBgNVBAoMEEdsb2JhbFNpZ24gbnYtc2ExPDA6BgNVBAMMM0dsb2Jh
bFNpZ24gT3JnYW5pemF0aW9uIFZhbGlkYXRpb24gQ0EgLSBTSEEyNTYgLSBHMjAi
GA8yMDE3MDkyNDA3MDMz0FoYDzIwMTkwMjA3MDcwMzM4WjBmMQswCQYDVQQGEwJV
UzEZMBcGA1UECgwQR2xvYmFsU2lnbiBudi1zYTE8MDoGA1UEAwwzR2xvYmFsU2ln
biBPcmdhbml6YXRpb24gVmFsaWRhdGlvbiBDQSAtIFNIQTI1NiAtIEcyMIIBIjAN
BgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAA0CAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEAvwzKLRSyHoRCW804H0ryTXUQ8bY1
n9/KfQ0Y06zeA2buKvHYsH1uB1QLEJghTYDLEiDnzE/eRX3Jcncy6sqQu2lSEAMv
qPOVxfGLYlYb72dvpBBBla0Km+0lwLDScHZQMFuo6Agsf02nonqN0CkcrMft8nyV
sJWCfUlcOM13Je+9gHVT1Dw9ymNbnxW10x0TLxnRPNt2Osy4fcnlwtfaQG/YIdxz
G0ItU5z+Gvx9q3o2P5jehHwFZ85qFDiHqfGMtWjLaH9xICv1oGP1Vi+jJtK3b7Fa
F9c4mQj+k1hv/sMTSQgWC6dNZwBSMWcjTpjtUUUduQTZC+zYKLNLve02eQIDAQAB
oxAwDjAMBgNVHRMEBTADAQH/MA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBCwUAA4IBAQA261N1CtZuZ4Mf

cH57R84whQSqqY9tqjwwulavMAzdBlz3RqsnAqdL5C6jeEfJmxmymH4Jz6kqJbCh H1LVp6ToJ+lYA0QoCxkMqe6jCWE5K8QefM/kx8WhR0JTdHHUKjFXFmon/fIJUAxo SesxW3+YPeY7zzBUIjh0lYMhiyvXMDIML09zewR2nfi3aAa+APwAulTjm46dbH4K cn7jc8I0t954R5jakc0AhtSZUHlPqKKHZy19iDfpcoFA7L/WuiNkfYPvN6eaxAvA b3dxfi8N

----END CERTIFICATE----

----BEGIN CERTIFICATE----

MIIDgTCCAmmgAwIBAgIIAUyTG93zLTEwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQAwZjELMAkGA1UE BhMCVVMxGTAXBqNVBAoMEEdsb2JhbFNpZ24qbnYtc2ExPDA6BqNVBAMMM0dsb2Jh bFNpZ24qT3JnYW5pemF0aW9uIFZhbGlkYXRpb24qQ0EqLSBTSEEyNTYqLSBHMjAi GA8yMDE3MDkyNDA3MDUyMVoYDzIwMTkwMjA3MDcwNTIxWjCBljELMAkGA1UEBhMC VVMxEDAOBgNVBAgMB05ld1lvcmsxEzARBgNVBAcMClJpdmVyIFZpZXcxIzAhBgNV BAOMGldpa21tZWRpYSBGb3VuZGF0aW9uLCBJbmMuMRgwFgYDVQQDDA8qLndpa21w ZWRpYS5vcmcxITAfBgkqhkiG9w0BCQEWEmluZm9Ad2lraXBlZGlhLm9yZzCCASIw DQYJKoZIhvcNAQEBBQADqqEPADCCAQoCqqEBAMMD0Sv+OaQyRTtTyIQrKnx0mr2q K1IHR9amNrIHMo7Quml7xsNEntSBSP0taKKLZ7uhdcg2LErSG/eLus8N+e/s8YEe e5sDR5q/Zcx/ZSRppugUiVvkNPfFsBST9Wd70np44QFWVpGmE0KN0jxAnEzv0Ybf N1EbDKE79fGjSjXk4c6W3xt+v06X0BDogAgwga8gC0MUxXRntDKCb42GwohAmTaD uh5AciIX11JlJHOwzu8Zza7/eGx7wBID1E5yDVBt06M7o5lencjZDIWz2YrZVCbb bfqsu/8lTMTRefRx04ZAGBOwY7VyTjDEl4SGLVYv1xX3f8Cu9fxb5fuhutMCAwEA ATANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsFAAOCAQEAGjef4dfuIkF7MdfLs4x5KqzM4/5+h11S+SWS ojTaAuH2++1pGgVV4vfGB9QVxoTDkcp5wWjw184x+P19Fjio+ucUUOmFmD7BERXX V4NZMv/TwucAbRIb6/FRv13Koigi05tIhXesownpbMZq7p6I9P9GAd/Uu7XCMTP0 UHpuTtNoI+tjwwBhZK0XXp50RdHKWbXfLXQgiCXLPJntKdrRnUzJpXvYQzTeZKxf dQmjS8QN8IFtvBuprb3qrAhm/wV+ueerTcM/wyBOu/7qq0J7CsjztqtomIHYAbpi

x5pf3b6mzKG72ibnaKgL29wur5Cs+8in9d8/k0xgTpWbzZc35A==
----END CERTIFICATE----

----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY----

MIIEpAIBAAKCAQEAwwPRK/45pDJF01PIhCsqfHSavaoqUgdH1qY2sgcyjtC6aXvG w0Se1IFI/S1oootnu6F1yDYsStIb94u6zw357+zxgR57mwNHmr91zH91JGmm6BSJ W+Q098WwFJP1Z3s6enjhAVZWkaYTQo3SPECcTO/Rht83URsMoTv18aNKNeThzpbf G36/TpfQE0ioCDCBryALQxTFdGe0MoJvjYbCiECZNo06HkByIhfXUmUkc7D07xnN rv94bHvAEqPUTnINUG07ozujmV6dyNkMhbPZit1UJttt+qy7/yVMxNF59HHThkAY E7BjtXJOMMSXhIYtVi/XFfd/wK71/Fvl+6G60wIDAQABAoIBAQCi5thfEHFkCJ4u bdFtHoXSCrGMR84sUWqqEp5T3pFMHW3qWXvyd6rZxtmKq9jhFuRjJv+1bBNZu001 yHIXLgyfb+VZP3ZvSbERwlouFikN3reO3EDVou7gHqH0vpfbhm0WFM2YCWAtMHac PM3mi05HknkLWgDiX18RfH35CLcgBokqXf0AqyLh8L08JKleJg4fAC3+IZpTW23T K6uUgmhDNtj2L8Yi/LVBXQ0zYOqkfX7oS1WRVtNcV48f1Bcvqt7pnqj0z4pMjqDk VnOyz0+GxWk88yQgi1yWDPprEjuaZ8HfxpaypdWSDZsJQmgkEEXUUOQXOUjQNYuU bRHej8pZAoGBAOokp/lpM+lx3FJ9iCEoL0neunIW6cxHeogNlFeEWBY6gbA/os+m bB6wBikAj+d3dqzbysfZXps/JpBSrvw4kAAUu7QPWJTnL2p+HE9BIdQxWR90ihqN p1dsItj19H4yphDLZKVVA4emJwWMw9e2J7JNujDaR49U0z2LhI2UmFilAoGBANU4 G80PxZMMRwtvNZLFsI1GyJIYj/WACvfvof6AubUqusoYsF2lB9CTjdicBBzUYo6m JoEB/86KKmM0NUCgbYDeiSNqV02ebg2TTlaQC22dc4sMric93k7wqsVseGdslFKc N2dsLe+7r9+mkDzER8+Nlp6YqbSfxaZQ3LPw+3QXAoGAXoMJYr26fKK/QnT1fBzS ackEDYV+Pj0kEsMYe/Mp8180dmxZdeRBhGmdMvPNIquwNbpKsjz12Vi2Yk9d3uWe CspTsiz3nrNrClt5ZexukU6SIPb8/Bbt03YM4ux/smkTa3g0WkZktF63JaBadTpL 78c8Pvf9JrggxJkKmn0+wxkCgYEAukSTFKw0GTtfkWCs97TWgQU2UVM96GXcry7c YT7Jfbh/h/A7mw0CKTf0ck4R1bHBDAegmZFKjX/sec/x0bXphexi99p9vGRNIjw0 8tZR9YfYmcARIF0PKf1b4q7ZHNkhVm38hNBf7RAVHBqh58Q9S9fQnmqVzyLJA3ue

42AB/C8CgYAR0EvPG2e5nxB1R4ZlrjHCxjCsWQZQ2Q+1cAb38NPIYnyo2m72IT/T
f1/qiqs/2Spe81HSwjA34y2jdQ0eTSE01VdwXIm/cuxKbmjVzRh0M06M0kWP5pZA
62P5GYY6Ud2JS7Dz+Z9dKJU4vjWrylznk1M0oUVdEzllQkahn831vw==
----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----

## Conclusion

As we can see, the Blockbuster campaign and the Lazarus group are still active and have shown a continued interest in cryptocurrencies and companies surrounding cryptocurrency. Numerous exchanges are believed to have been hacked by the Lazarus group and there has been a significant amount of money stolen by doing so. Since their efforts have been so successful, it does not look like they will slow down anytime soon with these types of targets.

# **loCs**

Malicious Document – 6b424d75445b3dabfb9b20895d0a1ce1430066ce7f3fcd87aa41fa32260ff92d

RAT - <u>f8b329fc1f4d50f5509a72c1f630155538f4d2c6e49b80ce4841fada6547c4bd</u>

# C&Cs

182.56.5.227

222.122.31.115

66.99.86.8

210.61.8.12

62.215.99.90

# By Jay Rosenberg

Jay Rosenberg is a self-taught reverse engineer from a very young age (12 years old), specializing in Reverse Engineering and Malware Analysis. Currently working as a Senior Security Researcher in Intezer.





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