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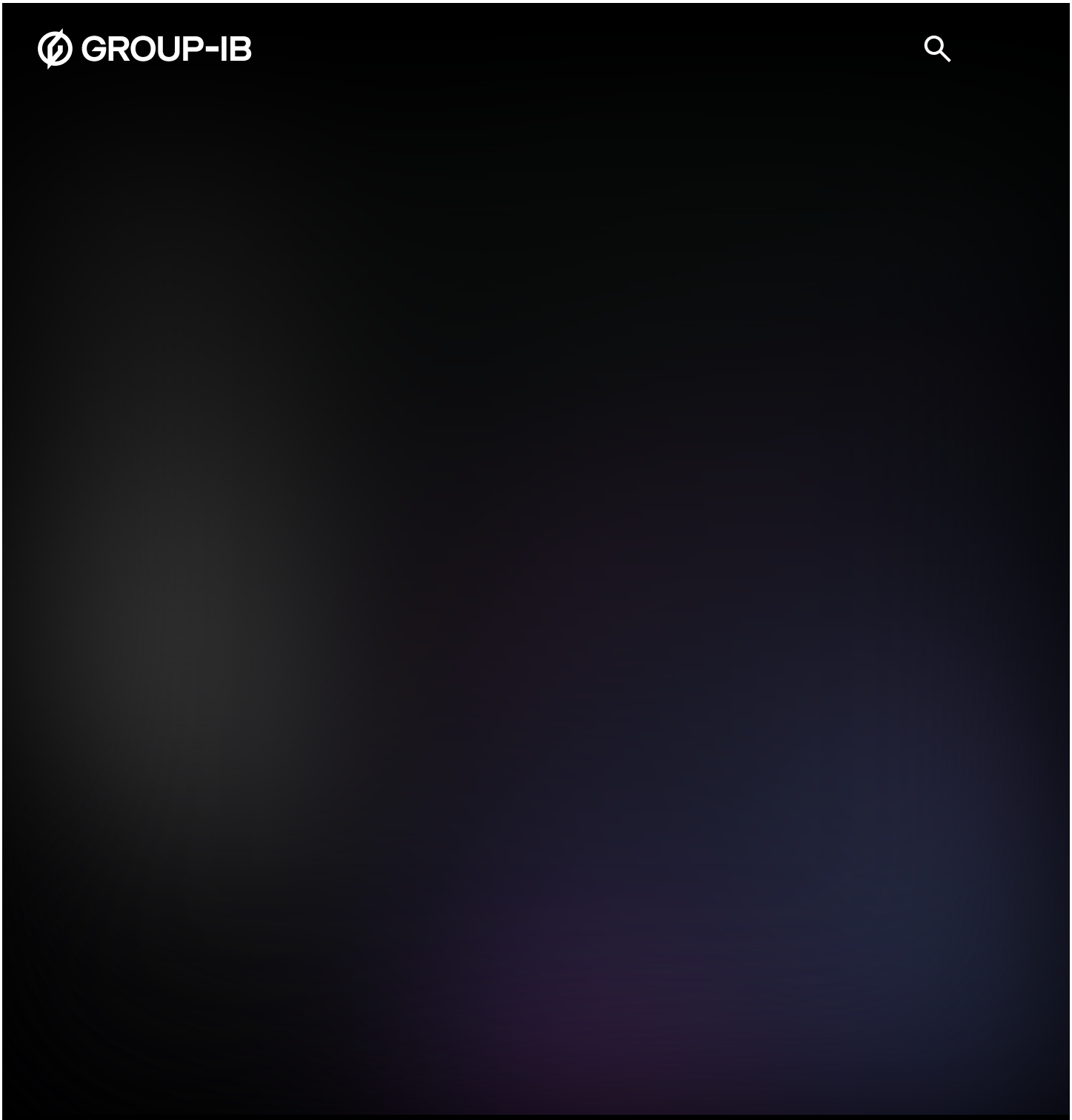

Old Snake, New Skin: Analysis of SideWinder

APT activity in 2021

Group-IB Threat Intelligence team uncovered a previously undocumented spear phishing campaign carried out by **APT SideWinder** between June and November 2021. The new threat report details how SideWinder, also known as Rattlesnake, Hardcore Nationalist (HN2), and T-APT4, attempted to target dozens of government organizations in the Asia-Pacific over a period of 6 months. Delve into the group's entire arsenal, network infrastructure, as well as its TTPs (Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures).

Download report

Key highlights from SideWinder's prolific 2021 campaign

61	identified targets in the government, military, financial, law enforcement, and political sectors
5 countries (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka)	where SideWinder carried out its 2021 phishing campaign
Phishing mimicking cryptocurrency	indicates the group's growing interest in the crypto industry

BabyElephant and SideWinder	are most likely the same or closely related APTs
Successful 2020 attack on the Maldivian government	attributed to SideWinder by Group-IB
Telegram	has been used by SideWinder as a channel for receiving the results of the malware's commands

Background

The Group-IB Threat Intelligence team's monitoring of state-sponsored threat actors' activity revealed some tools belonging to **SideWinder** that had not been described in the public domain before. In addition to detailing the functionality and techniques employed in **SideWinder's new tools**, the report describes the phishing part of the group's 2021 operations based on backup archives obtained by Group-IB.

The archives contained several phishing projects designed to target government, military, and law agencies in **South and East Asia**, among which were fake websites imitating **the Central Bank of Myanmar** and more.

Despite its long history, **SideWinder** continues to be one of the most active state-sponsored hacker groups that pose a threat to governments in the **Asia-Pacific region**. The techniques and tools described in this report are currently used by the group and therefore relevant.

In This Report

Timeline

The Group-IB team was able to reconstruct an approximate timeline of SideWinder's phishing operations.

New tools

Group-IB malware analysts revealed some tools used by SideWinder that were previously unstated in the public domain.

YARA rules

The new report contains YARA rules for hunting the group and a table with the group's TTPs (Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures) mapped to the MITRE ATT&CK® matrix, providing all the information companies and organizations needed to update their security controls to detect SideWinder.

Advanced protection against cyber threats

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