

Command and Scripting Interpreter: Visual Basic, Sub-technique T1059.005 - Enterprise

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[C0028 2015 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#)

During the [2015 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#), [Sandworm Team](#) installed a VBA script called `vba_macro.exe`. This macro dropped `FONTCACHE.DAT`, the primary [BlackEnergy](#) implant; `rundll32.exe`, for executing the malware; `NTUSER.log`, an empty file; and `desktop.ini`, the default file used to determine folder displays on Windows machines. ^[7]

[C0025 2016 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#)

During the [2016 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#), [Sandworm Team](#) created VBScripts to run on an SSH server. ^[8]

[G0099 APT-C-36](#)

[APT-C-36](#) has embedded a VBScript within a malicious Word document which is executed upon the document opening. ^[9]

[G0050 APT32](#)

[APT32](#) has used macros, COM scriptlets, and VBS scripts. ^{[10][11]}

[G0064 APT33](#)

[APT33](#) has used VBScript to initiate the delivery of payloads. ^[12]

[G0067 APT37](#)

[APT37](#) executes shellcode and a VBA script to decode Base64 strings. ^[13]

[G0082 APT38](#)

[APT38](#) has used VBScript to execute commands and other operational tasks. ^{[14][15]}

[G0087 APT39](#)

[APT39](#) has utilized malicious VBS scripts in malware. ^[16]

[G1044 APT42](#)

[APT42](#) has used a VBScript to query anti-virus products. ^[17]

[S0373 Astaroth](#)

[Astaroth](#) has used malicious VBS e-mail attachments for execution. [\[18\]](#)

[S0414 BabyShark](#)

[BabyShark](#) can execute additional VisualBasic content. [\[19\]](#)

[S0475 BackConfig](#)

[BackConfig](#) has used VBS to install its downloader component and malicious documents with VBA macro code. [\[20\]](#)

[S0234 Bandook](#)

[Bandook](#) has used malicious VBA code against the target system. [\[21\]](#)

[S0268 Bisonal](#)

[Bisonal](#)'s dropper creates VBS scripts on the victim's machine. [\[22\]](#)[\[23\]](#)

[G0060 BRONZE BUTLER](#)

[BRONZE BUTLER](#) has used VBS and VBE scripts for execution. [\[24\]](#)[\[25\]](#)

[S1039 Bumblebee](#)

[Bumblebee](#) can create a Visual Basic script to enable persistence. [\[26\]](#)[\[27\]](#)

[C0011 C0011](#)

For [C0011](#), [Transparent Tribe](#) used malicious VBA macros within a lure document as part of the [Crimson](#) malware installation process onto a compromised host. [\[28\]](#)

[C0015 C0015](#)

During [C0015](#), the threat actors used a malicious HTA file that contained a mix of HTML and JavaScript/VBScript code. [\[29\]](#)

[S0631 Chaes](#)

[Chaes](#) has used VBScript to execute malicious code. [\[30\]](#)

[S1149 CHIMNEYSWEEP](#)

[CHIMNEYSWEEP](#) has executed a script named cln.vbs on compromised hosts. [\[31\]](#)

[G0080 Cobalt Group](#)

[Cobalt Group](#) has sent Word OLE compound documents with malicious obfuscated VBA macros that will run upon user execution. [\[32\]](#)[\[33\]](#)[\[34\]](#)[\[35\]](#)[\[36\]](#)[\[37\]](#)

[S0154 Cobalt Strike](#)

[Cobalt Strike](#) can use VBA to perform execution. [\[38\]](#)[\[39\]](#)[\[40\]](#)

[S0244 Connie](#)

[Connie](#) executes VBS scripts. [\[41\]](#)

[G0142 Confucius](#)

[Confucius](#) has used VBScript to execute malicious code. [\[42\]](#)

[G1052 Contagious Interview](#)

[Contagious Interview](#) has utilized Visual Basic scripts in the execution of their downloader malware targeting Windows devices including as script called update.vbs. [\[43\]](#)

[S1014 DanBot](#)

[DanBot](#) can use a VBA macro embedded in an Excel file to drop the payload. [\[44\]](#)

[S1111 DarkGate](#)

[DarkGate](#) initial infection mechanisms include masquerading as pirated media that launches malicious VBScript on the victim. [\[45\]](#)

[S0695 Donut](#)

[Donut](#) can generate shellcode outputs that execute via VBScript. [\[46\]](#)

[G1006 Earth Lusca](#)

[Earth Lusca](#) used VBA scripts. [\[47\]](#)

[S0367 Emotet](#)

[Emotet](#) has sent Microsoft Word documents with embedded macros that will invoke scripts to download additional payloads. [\[48\]](#)[\[49\]](#)[\[50\]](#)[\[51\]](#)[\[52\]](#)

[S0343 Exaramel for Windows](#)

[Exaramel for Windows](#) has a command to execute VBS scripts on the victim's machine. [\[53\]](#)

[S0679 Ferocious](#)

[Ferocious](#) has the ability to use Visual Basic scripts for execution. [\[54\]](#)

[G1016 FIN13](#)

[FIN13](#) has used VBS scripts for code execution on compromised machines. [\[55\]](#)

[G0085 FIN4](#)

[FIN4](#) has used VBA macros to display a dialog box and collect victim credentials. [\[56\]](#)[\[57\]](#)

[G0046 FIN7](#)

[FIN7](#) used VBS scripts to help perform tasks on the victim's machine. [\[58\]](#)[\[59\]](#)[\[60\]](#)

[S0696 Flagpro](#)

[Flagpro](#) can execute malicious VBA macros embedded in .xlsm files. [\[61\]](#)

[C0001 Frankenstein](#)

During [Frankenstein](#), the threat actors used Word documents that prompted the victim to enable macros and run a Visual Basic script. [\[62\]](#)

[C0007 FunnyDream](#)

During [FunnyDream](#), the threat actors used a Visual Basic script to run remote commands. [\[63\]](#)

[G0047 Gamaredon Group](#)

[Gamaredon Group](#) has embedded malicious macros in document templates, which executed VBScript. [Gamaredon Group](#) has also delivered Microsoft Outlook VBA projects with embedded macros. [\[64\]](#)[\[65\]](#)[\[66\]](#)[\[67\]](#)[\[68\]](#)[\[69\]](#)
Additionally, [Gamaredon Group](#) has executed VBScript files using wscript.exe. [\[70\]](#)

[S0477 Goopy](#)

[Goopy](#) has the ability to use a Microsoft Outlook backdoor macro to communicate with its C2. [\[11\]](#)

[G0078 Gorgon Group](#)

[Gorgon Group](#) has used macros in [Spearphishing Attachments](#) as well as executed VBScripts on victim machines. [\[71\]](#)

[S0531 Grandoreiro](#)

[Grandoreiro](#) can use VBScript to execute malicious code. [\[18\]](#)[\[72\]](#)

[S0170 Helminth](#)

One version of [Helminth](#) consists of VBScript scripts. [\[73\]](#)

[G1001 HEXANE](#)

[HEXANE](#) has used a VisualBasic script named `MicrosoftUpdater.vbs` for execution of a PowerShell keylogger. ^[74]

[G0126 Higaisa](#)

[Higaisa](#) has used VBScript code on the victim's machine. ^[75]

[S0483 IcedID](#)

[IcedID](#) has used obfuscated VBA string expressions. ^[76]

[G0100 Inception](#)

[Inception](#) has used VBScript to execute malicious commands and payloads. ^{[77][78]}

[S1132 IPsec Helper](#)

[IPsec Helper](#) can run arbitrary Visual Basic scripts and commands passed to it. ^[79]

[S0528 Javali](#)

[Javali](#) has used embedded VBScript to download malicious payloads from C2. ^[18]

[S0389 JCry](#)

[JCry](#) has used VBS scripts. ^[80]

[S0283 jRAT](#)

[jRAT](#) has been distributed as HTA files with VBScript. ^[81]

[S0648 JSS Loader](#)

[JSS Loader](#) can download and execute VBScript files. ^[60]

[C0044 Juicy Mix](#)

During [Juicy Mix](#), [OilRig](#) used VBS droppers to deliver and establish persistence for the [Mango](#) backdoor. ^[82]

[S0585 Kertdown](#)

[Kertdown](#) can use a VBS base64 decoder function published by Motobit. ^[83]

[S0387 KeyBoy](#)

[KeyBoy](#) uses VBS scripts for installing files and performing execution. ^[84]

[G0094 Kimsuky](#)

[Kimsuky](#) has used Visual Basic to download malicious payloads.^{[85][86][87][88]} [Kimsuky](#) has also used malicious VBA macros within maldocs disguised as forms that trigger when a victim types any content into the lure.^[88]

[S0250 Koadic](#)

[Koadic](#) performs most of its operations using Windows Script Host (VBScript) and runs arbitrary shellcode.^[89]

[S0669 KOCTOPUS](#)

[KOCTOPUS](#) has used VBScript to call wscript to execute a PowerShell command.^[90]

[G0032 Lazarus Group](#)

[Lazarus Group](#) has used VBA and embedded macros in Word documents to execute malicious code.^{[91][92]}

[G0140 LazyScripter](#)

[LazyScripter](#) has used VBScript to execute malicious code.^[90]

[G0065 Leviathan](#)

[Leviathan](#) has used VBScript.^[93]

[S0447 Lokibot](#)

[Lokibot](#) has used VBS scripts and XLS macros for execution.^[94]

[S0582 LookBack](#)

[LookBack](#) has used VBA macros in Microsoft Word attachments to drop additional files to the host.^[95]

[S1142 LunarMail](#)

[LunarMail](#) has been installed using a VBA macro.^[96]

[G0095 Machete](#)

[Machete](#) has embedded malicious macros within spearphishing attachments to download additional files.^[97]

[G0059 Magic Hound](#)

[Magic Hound](#) malware has used VBS scripts for execution.^[98]

[G1026 Malteiro](#)

[Malteiro](#) has utilized a dropper containing malicious VBS scripts.^[99]

[S0530 Melcoz](#)

[Melcoz](#) can use VBS scripts to execute malicious DLLs.^[18]

[S0455 Metamorfo](#)

[Metamorfo](#) has used VBS code on victims' systems. [\[100\]](#)

[S1122 Mispadu](#)

[Mispadu](#)'s dropper uses VBS files to install payloads and perform execution. [\[99\]\[101\]](#)

[G0021 Molerats](#)

[Molerats](#) used various implants, including those built with VBScript, on target machines. [\[102\]\[103\]](#)

[G0069 MuddyWater](#)

[MuddyWater](#) has used VBScript files to execute its [POWERSTATS](#) payload, as well as macros. [\[104\]\[105\]\[106\]\[107\]\[108\]\[109\]\[110\]\[111\]\[112\]](#)

[G0129 Mustang Panda](#)

[Mustang Panda](#) has embedded VBScript components in LNK files to download additional files and automate collection. [\[113\]\[114\]\[115\]](#) [Mustang Panda](#) has also used VBA macros in maldocs to execute malicious DLLs. [\[116\]](#) [Mustang Panda](#) also utilized a VBS Script "autorun.vbs" that created persistence through saving the VBS Script in the startup directory which would cause it to run each time the machine was turned on. [\[117\]](#)

[S0228 NanHaiShu](#)

[NanHaiShu](#) executes additional VBScript code on the victim's machine. [\[118\]](#)

[S0336 NanoCore](#)

[NanoCore](#) uses VBS files. [\[119\]](#)

[S0198 NETWIRE](#)

[NETWIRE](#) has been executed through use of VBScripts. [\[120\]\[121\]](#)

[G0049 OilRig](#)

[OilRig](#) has used VBScript macros for execution on compromised hosts. [\[122\]](#)

[S0264 OopsIE](#)

[OopsIE](#) creates and uses a VBScript as part of its persistent execution. [\[123\]\[124\]](#)

[C0012 Operation CuckooBees](#)

During [Operation CuckooBees](#), the threat actors executed an encoded VBScript file using `wscript` and wrote the decoded output to a text file. [\[125\]](#)

[C0022 Operation Dream Job](#)

During [Operation Dream Job](#), [Lazarus Group](#) executed a VBA written malicious macro after victims download malicious DOTM files; [Lazarus Group](#) also used Visual Basic macro code to extract a double Base64 encoded DLL implant. [\[126\]](#)[\[127\]](#)

[C0016 Operation Dust Storm](#)

During [Operation Dust Storm](#), the threat actors used Visual Basic scripts. [\[128\]](#)

[C0006 Operation Honeybee](#)

For [Operation Honeybee](#), the threat actors used a Visual Basic script embedded within a Word document to download an implant. [\[129\]](#)

[C0013 Operation Sharpshooter](#)

During [Operation Sharpshooter](#), the threat actors used a VBA macro to execute a simple downloader that installed [Rising Sun](#). [\[130\]](#)

[C0014 Operation Wocao](#)

During [Operation Wocao](#), threat actors used VBScript to conduct reconnaissance on targeted systems. [\[131\]](#)

[S0352 OSX_OCEANLOTUS.D](#)

[OSX_OCEANLOTUS.D](#) uses Word macros for execution. [\[132\]](#)

[C0042 Outer Space](#)

During [Outer Space](#), [OilRig](#) used VBS droppers to deploy malware. [\[82\]](#)

[G0040 Patchwork](#)

[Patchwork](#) used Visual Basic Scripts (VBS) on victim machines. [\[133\]](#)[\[134\]](#)

[S0428 PoetRAT](#)

[PoetRAT](#) has used Word documents with VBScripts to execute malicious activities. [\[135\]](#)[\[136\]](#)

[S0441 PowerShower](#)

[PowerShower](#) has the ability to save and execute VBScript. [\[77\]](#)

[S0223 POWERSTATS](#)

[POWERSTATS](#) can use VBScript (VBE) code for execution. [\[108\]](#)[\[137\]](#)

[S0147 Pteranodon](#)

[Pteranodon](#) can use a malicious VBS file for execution. [\[138\]](#)

[S0650 QakBot](#)

[QakBot](#) can use VBS to download and execute malicious files. [\[139\]](#)
[\[140\]](#)[\[141\]](#)[\[142\]](#)[\[143\]](#)[\[144\]](#)[\[145\]](#)

[S0269 QUADAGENT](#)

[QUADAGENT](#) uses VBScripts. [\[146\]](#)

[S0458 Ramsay](#)

[Ramsay](#) has included embedded Visual Basic scripts in malicious documents. [\[147\]](#)[\[148\]](#)

[G0075 Rancor](#)

[Rancor](#) has used VBS scripts as well as embedded macros for execution. [\[149\]](#)

[G1039 RedCurl](#)

[RedCurl](#) has used VBScript to run malicious files. [\[150\]](#)[\[151\]](#)

[S0375 Remexi](#)

[Remexi](#) uses AutoIt and VBS scripts throughout its execution process. [\[152\]](#)

[S0496 REvil](#)

[REvil](#) has used obfuscated VBA macros for execution. [\[153\]](#)[\[154\]](#)

[S0240 ROKRAT](#)

[ROKRAT](#) has used Visual Basic for execution. [\[155\]](#)

[S1018 Saint Bot](#)

[Saint Bot](#) has used `.vbs` scripts for execution. [\[156\]](#)

[G0034 Sandworm Team](#)

[Sandworm Team](#) has created VBScripts to run an SSH server. [\[157\]](#)[\[158\]](#)[\[159\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

[S1178 ShrinkLocker](#)

[ShrinkLocker](#) is a VisualBasic script (VBS) object that calls multiple other operating system functions during execution. [\[160\]](#)[\[161\]](#)

[S0589 Sibot](#)

[Sibot](#) executes commands using VBScript. [\[162\]](#)

[G1008 SideCopy](#)

[SideCopy](#) has sent Microsoft Office Publisher documents to victims that have embedded malicious macros that execute an hta file via calling `mshta.exe`. [\[163\]](#)

[G0121 Sidewinder](#)

[Sidewinder](#) has used VBScript to drop and execute malware loaders. [\[164\]](#)

[G0091 Silence](#)

[Silence](#) has used VBS scripts. [\[165\]](#)

[S0226 Smoke Loader](#)

[Smoke Loader](#) adds a Visual Basic script in the Startup folder to deploy the payload. [\[166\]](#)

[S1086 Snip3](#)

[Snip3](#) can use visual basic scripts for first-stage execution. [\[167\]](#)[\[168\]](#)

[C0024 SolarWinds Compromise](#)

For the [SolarWinds Compromise](#), [APT29](#) wrote malware such as [Sibot](#) in Visual Basic. [\[169\]](#)

[S1030 Squirrelwaffle](#)

[Squirrelwaffle](#) has used malicious VBA macros in Microsoft Word documents and Excel spreadsheets that execute an `AutoOpen` subroutine. [\[170\]](#)[\[171\]](#)

[S1037 STARWHALE](#)

[STARWHALE](#) can use the VBScript function `GetRef` as part of its persistence mechanism. [\[172\]](#)

[S0380 StoneDrill](#)

[StoneDrill](#) has several VBS scripts used throughout the malware's lifecycle. [\[173\]](#)

[S0559 SUNBURST](#)

[SUNBURST](#) used VBScripts to initiate the execution of payloads. [\[174\]](#)

[S1064 SVCReady](#)

[SVCReady](#) has used VBA macros to execute shellcode. [\[175\]](#)

[G1018 TA2541](#)

[TA2541](#) has used VBS files to execute or establish persistence for additional payloads, often using file names consistent with email themes or mimicking system functionality. [\[176\]](#)[\[177\]](#)

[G0062 TA459](#)

[TA459](#) has a VBScript for execution. [\[178\]](#)

[G0092 TA505](#)

[TA505](#) has used VBS for code execution. [\[179\]](#)[\[180\]](#)[\[181\]](#)[\[182\]](#)

[S1193 TAMECAT](#)

[TAMECAT](#) has used VBScript to query anti-virus products. [\[17\]](#)

[G0134 Transparent Tribe](#)

[Transparent Tribe](#) has crafted VBS-based malicious documents. [\[183\]](#)[\[184\]](#)

[G0010 Turla](#)

[Turla](#) has used VBS scripts throughout its operations. [\[185\]](#)

[S0263 TYPEFRAME](#)

[TYPEFRAME](#) has used a malicious Word document for delivery with VBA macros for execution. [\[186\]](#)

[S0386 Ursnif](#)

[Ursnif](#) droppers have used VBA macros to download and execute the malware's full executable payload. [\[187\]](#)

[S0442 VBShower](#)

[VBShower](#) has the ability to execute VBScript files. [\[188\]](#)

[S0689 WhisperGate](#)

[WhisperGate](#) can use a Visual Basic script to exclude the `C:\` drive from Windows Defender. [\[189\]](#)[\[190\]](#)

[G0112 Windshift](#)

[Windshift](#) has used Visual Basic 6 (VB6) payloads. [\[191\]](#)

[G0090 WIRTE](#)

[WIRTE](#) has used VBScript in its operations. [\[192\]](#)

[S0341 Xbash](#)

[Xbash](#) can execute malicious VBScript payloads on the victim's machine. [\[193\]](#)

Source: <https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/005>