

Protocol Tunneling, Technique T1572 - Enterprise

Archived: 2026-04-05 13:40:38 UTC

[C0034 2022 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#)

During the [2022 Ukraine Electric Power Attack](#), [Sandworm Team](#) deployed the GOGETTER tunneler software to establish a "Yamux" TLS-based C2 channel with an external server(s).^[4]

[S1063 Brute Ratel C4](#)

[Brute Ratel C4](#) can use DNS over HTTPS for C2.^{[5][6]}

[C0027 C0027](#)

During [C0027](#), [Scattered Spider](#) used SSH tunneling in targeted environments.^[7]

[C0032 C0032](#)

During the [C0032](#) campaign, [TEMP.Veles](#) used encrypted SSH-based PLINK tunnels to transfer tools and enable RDP connections throughout the environment.^[8]

[G0114 Chimera](#)

[Chimera](#) has encapsulated [Cobalt Strike](#)'s C2 protocol in DNS and HTTPS.^[9]

[G1021 Cinnamon Tempest](#)

[Cinnamon Tempest](#) has used the Iox and NPS proxy and tunneling tools in combination create multiple connections through a single tunnel.^[10]

[G0080 Cobalt Group](#)

[Cobalt Group](#) has used the Plink utility to create SSH tunnels.^{[11][12][13]}

[S0154 Cobalt Strike](#)

[Cobalt Strike](#) uses a custom command and control protocol that is encapsulated in HTTP, HTTPS, or DNS. In addition, it conducts peer-to-peer communication over Windows named pipes encapsulated in the SMB protocol. All protocols use their standard assigned ports.^{[14][15]}

[C0004 CostaRicto](#)

During [CostaRicto](#), the threat actors set up remote SSH tunneling into the victim's environment from a malicious domain.^[16]

[C0029 Cutting Edge](#)

During [Cutting Edge](#), threat actors used Iodine to tunnel IPv4 traffic over DNS. [\[17\]](#)

[S0687 Cyclops Blink](#)

[Cyclops Blink](#) can use DNS over HTTPS (DoH) to resolve C2 nodes. [\[18\]](#)

[S0038 Duqu](#)

[Duqu](#) uses a custom command and control protocol that communicates over commonly used ports, and is frequently encapsulated by application layer protocols. [\[19\]](#)

[G1003 Ember Bear](#)

[Ember Bear](#) has used ProxyChains to tunnel protocols to internal networks. [\[20\]](#)

[G1016 FIN13](#)

[FIN13](#) has utilized web shells and Java tools for tunneling capabilities to and from compromised assets. [\[21\]](#)

[G0037 FIN6](#)

[FIN6](#) used the Plink command-line utility to create SSH tunnels to C2 servers. [\[22\]](#)

[G0046 FIN7](#)

[FIN7](#) has tunneled C2 traffic via OpenSSH. [\[23\]](#)

[S0173 FLIPSIDE](#)

[FLIPSIDE](#) uses RDP to tunnel traffic from a victim environment. [\[24\]](#)

[G0117 Fox Kitten](#)

[Fox Kitten](#) has used protocol tunneling for communication and RDP activity on compromised hosts through the use of open source tools such as [ngrok](#) and custom tool SSHMinion. [\[25\]\[26\]\[27\]](#)

[S1144 FRP](#)

[FRP](#) can tunnel SSH and Unix Domain Socket communications over TCP between external nodes and exposed resources behind firewalls or NAT. [\[28\]](#)

[S1044 FunnyDream](#)

[FunnyDream](#) can connect to HTTP proxies via TCP to create a tunnel to C2. [\[29\]](#)

[S1027 Heyoka Backdoor](#)

[Heyoka Backdoor](#) can use spoofed DNS requests to create a bidirectional tunnel between a compromised host and its C2 servers. [\[30\]](#)

[S0604 Industroyer](#)

[Industroyer](#) attempts to perform an HTTP CONNECT via an internal proxy to establish a tunnel. [\[31\]](#)

[S1020 Kevin](#)

[Kevin](#) can use a custom protocol tunneled through DNS or HTTP. [\[32\]](#)

[G0065 Leviathan](#)

[Leviathan](#) has used protocol tunneling to further conceal C2 communications and infrastructure. [\[33\]](#)

[S1141 LunarWeb](#)

[LunarWeb](#) can run a custom binary protocol under HTTPS for C2. [\[34\]](#)

[G0059 Magic Hound](#)

[Magic Hound](#) has used Plink to tunnel RDP over SSH. [\[35\]](#)

[S1015 Milan](#)

[Milan](#) can use a custom protocol tunneled through DNS or HTTP. [\[32\]](#)

[G0129 Mustang Panda](#)

[Mustang Panda](#) has leveraged OpenSSH (sshd.exe) to execute commands, transfer files and spread across the environment communicating over SMB port 445. [\[36\]](#)

[S0699 Mythic](#)

[Mythic](#) can use SOCKS proxies to tunnel traffic through another protocol. [\[37\]](#)

[S1189 Neo-reGeorg](#)

[Neo-reGeorg](#) can tunnel data in and out of targeted networks. [\[38\]](#)

[S0508 ngrok](#)

[ngrok](#) can tunnel RDP and other services securely over internet connections. [\[39\]\[40\]\[41\]\[42\]](#)

[G0049 OilRig](#)

[OilRig](#) has used the Plink utility and other tools to create tunnels to C2 servers. [\[43\]\[44\]\[45\]\[46\]](#)

[S0650 QakBot](#)

The [QakBot](#) proxy module can encapsulate SOCKS5 protocol within its own proxy protocol. [\[47\]](#)

[S1187 reGeorg](#)

[reGeorg](#) can tunnel TCP sessions including RDP, SSH, and SMB through HTTP. [\[48\]](#)[\[49\]](#)[\[50\]](#)

[G1045 Salt Typhoon](#)

[Salt Typhoon](#) has modified device configurations to create and use Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE) tunnels. [\[51\]](#)

[G1015 Scattered Spider](#)

[Scattered Spider](#) has installed protocol-tunneling tools on VMware vCenter and adversary-controlled VMs, including Teleport.sh, Chisel (configured to communicate with trycloudflare[.]com subdomains), MobaXterm, ngrok, Pinggy, and Teleport. [\[52\]](#)[\[53\]](#)

[C0058 SharePoint ToolShell Exploitation](#)

During [SharePoint ToolShell Exploitation](#), threat actors utilized [ngrok](#) tunnels to deliver PowerShell payloads. [\[54\]](#)

[S0022 Uroburos](#)

[Uroburos](#) has the ability to communicate over custom communications methodologies that ride over common network protocols including raw TCP and UDP sockets, HTTP, SMTP, and DNS. [\[55\]](#)

Source: <https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1572>