Mar 27 2024

NETMANAGEIT

Intelligence Report

ASEAN Entities in the Spotlight: Chinese APT Group Targeting

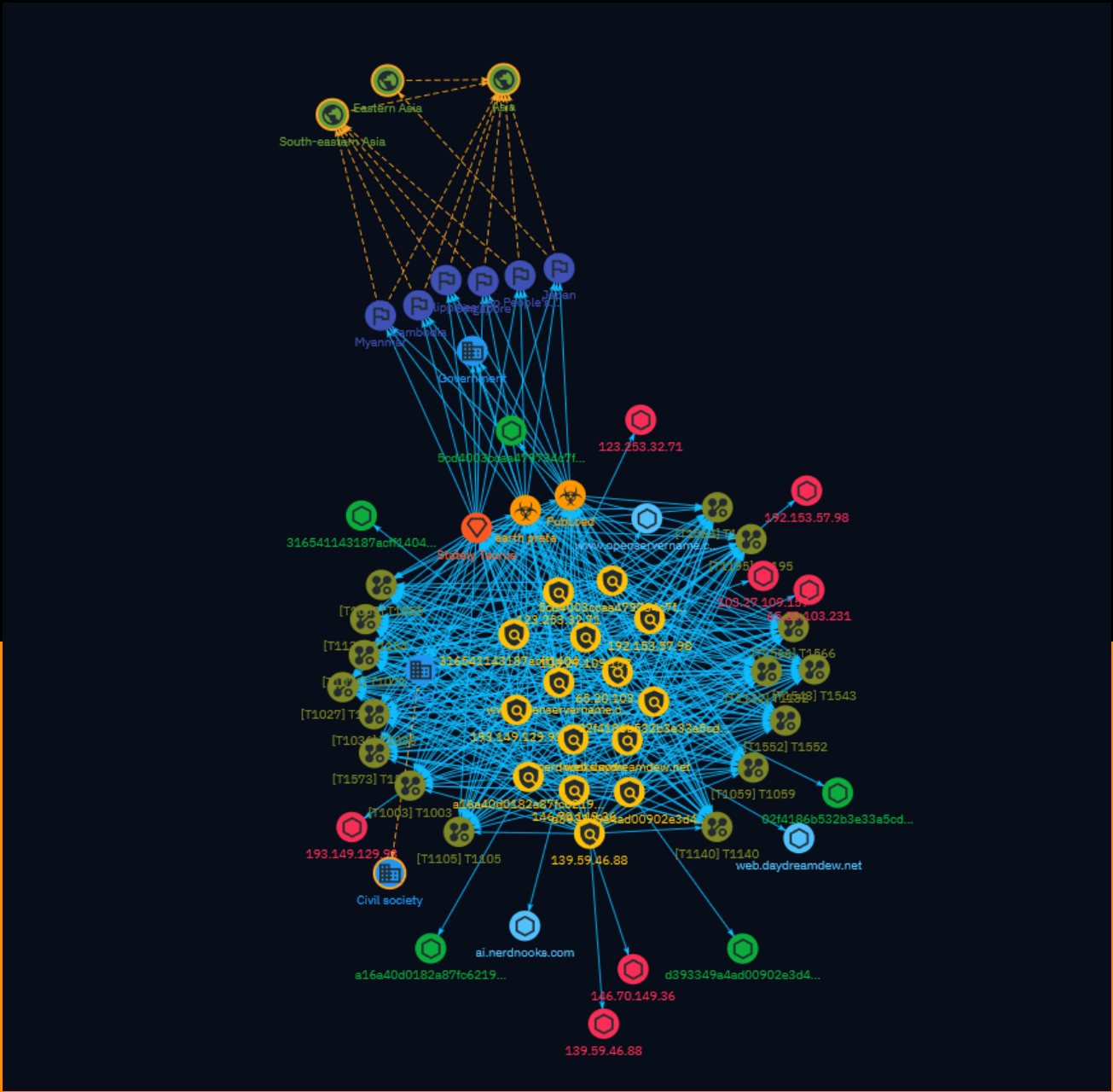

Table of contents

Overview

Entities

Observables

External References

Overview

Description

Unit 42 researchers identified two Chinese advanced persistent threat groups conducting cyberespionage against ASEAN entities. One group created malware targeting Myanmar, Philippines, Japan and Singapore during the ASEAN-Australia Summit in March 2024. The other group compromised an ASEAN entity and has targeted Southeast Asia governments. The activity demonstrates nation-state groups collecting intelligence of geopolitical interest in the region.

Confidence

This value represents the confidence in the correctness of the data contained within this report.

100 / 100

Content

N/A

Indicator

Name
web.daydreamdew.net
Pattern Type
stix
Pattern
[hostname:value = 'web.daydreamdew.net']
Name
www.openservername.com
Pattern Type
stix
Pattern
[hostname:value = 'www.openservername.com']
Name
65.20.103.231

Description

ISP: The Constant Company, LLC **OS:** - ---------- Services: **80:** ``` HTTP/1.1 200 OK Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2024 01:45:34 GMT Server: Apache Last-Modified: Thu, 01 Feb 2024 07:21:12 GMT ETag: "44b-6104cd71214a1" Accept-Ranges: bytes Content-Length: 1099 Content-Type: text/html ``` ---------- **81:** ``` HTTP/1.1 200 OK Date: Sat, 23 Mar 2024 08:24:10 GMT Server: Apache Last-Modified: Thu, 01 Feb 2024 07:21:12 GMT ETag: "44b-6104cd71214a1" Accept-Ranges: bytes Content-Length: 1099 Content-Type: text/html ``` ---------- **135:** ``` ``` ---------- **445:** ``` ``` ---------- **3389:** ``` ``` ----------

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[ipv4-addr:value = '65.20.103.231']

Name

ai.nerdnooks.com

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[hostname:value = 'ai.nerdnooks.com']

Name

193.149.129.93

Description

ISP: BL Networks **OS:** - ---------- Services: **1433:** ``` ``` ---------- **3389:** ``` ``` ---------- **8081:** ``` \xa2]T\xff\xa1Z\xa0Y ``` ----------

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[ipv4-addr:value = '193.149.129.93']

Name

192.153.57.98

Description

ISP: BL Networks **OS:** - ---------- Services: **1433:** ``` ``` ---------- **3306:** ``` ``` ---------- **3389:** ``` ``` ----------

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[ipv4-addr:value = '192.153.57.98']

Name

146.70.149.36

Description

ISP: M247 Europe SRL **OS:** Windows Server 2012 R2 (build 6.3.9600) ---------- Services: **5985:** ``` HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found Content-Type: text/html; charset=us-ascii Server: Microsoft-HTTPAPI/2.0 Date: Wed, 20 Mar 2024 00:45:09 GMT Connection: close Content-Length: 315 WinRM NTLM Info: OS: Windows Server 2012 R2 OS Build: 6.3.9600 Target Name: WIN-25FFVSIPLS1 NetBIOS Domain Name: WIN-25FFVSIPLS1 NetBIOS Computer Name: WIN-25FFVSIPLS1 DNS Domain Name: WIN-25FFVSIPLS1 FQDN: WIN-25FFVSIPLS1 ``` ----------

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[ipv4-addr:value = '146.70.149.36']

Name

123.253.32.71

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[ipv4-addr:value = '123.253.32.71']

Name

d393349a4ad00902e3d415b622cf27987a0170a786ca3a1f991a521bff645318

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes.'SHA-256' = 'd393349a4ad00902e3d415b622cf27987a0170a786ca3a1f991a521bff645318']

Name

a16a40d0182a87fc6219693ac664286738329222983bd9e70b455f198e124ba2

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes.'SHA-256' = 'a16a40d0182a87fc6219693ac664286738329222983bd9e70b455f198e124ba2']

Name

5cd4003ccaa479734c7f5a01c8ff95891831a29d857757bbd7fe4294f3c5c126

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes.'SHA-256' = '5cd4003ccaa479734c7f5a01c8ff95891831a29d857757bbd7fe4294f3c5c126']

Name

139.59.46.88

Description

ISP: DigitalOcean, LLC **OS:** - ---------- Services: **445:** ``` ``` ---------- **1433:** ``` ``` ---------- **3306:** ``` ``` ---------- **3389:** ``` ``` ----------

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[ipv4-addr:value = '139.59.46.88']

Name

316541143187acff1404b98659c6d9c8566107bd652310705214777f03ea10c8

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes.'SHA-256' = '316541143187acff1404b98659c6d9c8566107bd652310705214777f03ea10c8']

Name

02f4186b532b3e33a5cd6d9a39d9469b8d9c12df7cb45dba6dcab912b03e3cb8

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes.'SHA-256' = '02f4186b532b3e33a5cd6d9a39d9469b8d9c12df7cb45dba6dcab912b03e3cb8']

Name

103.27.109.157

Description

ISP: TOPWAY GLOBAL LIMITED **OS:** - ------------------------- Services: **3389:** ```
Remote Desktop Protocol
\x03\x00\x00\x13\x0e\xd0\x00\x00\x124\x00\x02\x0f\x08\x00\x02\x00\x00\x00 ```
------------------ **3389:** ```
\x0b\x12\x7f\x15\x00@\x10\x05L\x96\x9d\x00\x04\xd0\x04\xd0\x00\x01\x00\x02\x00\
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Pattern Type

stix

Pattern
[ipv4-addr:value = '103.27.109.157']

Malware

Name
earth preta

Name
PubLoad

Intrusion-Set

Name
Stately Taurus

Attack-Pattern

Name
T1134
ID
T1134
Description
Adversaries may modify access tokens to operate under a different user or system security context to perform actions and bypass access controls. Windows uses access tokens to determine the ownership of a running process. A user can manipulate access tokens to make a running process appear as though it is the child of a different process or belongs to someone other than the user that started the process. When this occurs, the process also takes on the security context associated with the new token. An adversary can use built-in Windows API functions to copy access tokens from existing processes; this is known as token stealing. These token can then be applied to an existing process (i.e. [Token Impersonation/Theft](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1134/001)) or used to spawn a new process (i.e. [Create Process with Token](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1134/002)). An adversary must already be in a privileged user context (i.e. administrator) to steal a token. However, adversaries commonly use token stealing to elevate their security context from the administrator level to the SYSTEM level. An adversary can then use a token to authenticate to a remote system as the account for that token if the account has appropriate permissions on the remote system.(Citation: Pentestlab Token Manipulation) Any standard user can use the `runas` command, and the Windows API functions, to create impersonation tokens; it does not require access to an administrator account. There are also other mechanisms, such as Active Directory fields, that can be used to modify access tokens.

Name

T1132

ID

T1132

Description

Adversaries may encode data to make the content of command and control traffic more difficult to detect. Command and control (C2) information can be encoded using a standard data encoding system. Use of data encoding may adhere to existing protocol specifications and includes use of ASCII, Unicode, Base64, MIME, or other binary-to-text and character encoding systems.(Citation: Wikipedia Binary-to-text Encoding) (Citation: Wikipedia Character Encoding) Some data encoding systems may also result in data compression, such as gzip.

Name

T1573

ID

T1573

Description

Adversaries may employ a known encryption algorithm to conceal command and control traffic rather than relying on any inherent protections provided by a communication protocol. Despite the use of a secure algorithm, these implementations may be vulnerable to reverse engineering if secret keys are encoded and/or generated within malware samples/configuration files.

Name

T1064

ID

T1064

Description

This technique has been deprecated. Please use [Command and Scripting Interpreter](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059) where appropriate. Adversaries may use scripts to aid in operations and perform multiple actions that would otherwise be manual. Scripting is useful for speeding up operational tasks and reducing the time required to gain access to critical resources. Some scripting languages may be used to bypass process monitoring mechanisms by directly interacting with the operating system at an API level instead of calling other programs. Common scripting languages for Windows include VBScript and [PowerShell](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1086) but could also be in the form of command-line batch scripts. Scripts can be embedded inside Office documents as macros that can be set to execute when files used in [Spearphishing Attachment](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1193) and other types of spearphishing are opened. Malicious embedded macros are an alternative means of execution than software exploitation through [Exploitation for Client Execution](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1203), where adversaries will rely on macros being allowed or that the user will accept to activate them. Many popular offensive frameworks exist which use forms of scripting for security testers and adversaries alike. Metasploit (Citation: Metasploit_Ref), Veil (Citation: Veil_Ref), and PowerSploit (Citation: Powersploit) are three examples that are popular among penetration testers for exploit and post-compromise operations and include many features for evading defenses. Some adversaries are known to use PowerShell. (Citation: Alperovitch 2014)

Name

T1059

ID

T1059

Description

Adversaries may abuse command and script interpreters to execute commands, scripts, or binaries. These interfaces and languages provide ways of interacting with computer systems and are a common feature across many different platforms. Most systems come with some built-in command-line interface and scripting capabilities, for example, macOS and Linux distributions include some flavor of [Unix Shell](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/004) while Windows installations include the [Windows Command Shell](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/003) and [PowerShell](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/001). There are also cross-platform interpreters such as [Python](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/006), as well as those commonly associated with client applications such as [JavaScript](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/007) and [Visual Basic](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/005). Adversaries may abuse these technologies in various ways as a means of executing arbitrary commands. Commands and scripts can be embedded in [Initial Access](https://attack.mitre.org/tactics/TA0001) payloads delivered to victims as lure documents or as secondary payloads downloaded from an existing C2. Adversaries may also execute commands through interactive terminals/shells, as well as utilize various [Remote Services](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1021) in order to achieve remote Execution. (Citation: Powershell Remote Commands)(Citation: Cisco IOS Software Integrity Assurance - Command History)(Citation: Remote Shell Execution in Python)

Name

T1027

ID

T1027

Description

Adversaries may attempt to make an executable or file difficult to discover or analyze by encrypting, encoding, or otherwise obfuscating its contents on the system or in transit. This is common behavior that can be used across different platforms and the network to evade defenses. Payloads may be compressed, archived, or encrypted in order to avoid detection. These payloads may be used during Initial Access or later to mitigate detection. Sometimes a user's action may be required to open and [Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1140) for [User Execution](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1204). The user may also be required to input a password to open a password protected compressed/encrypted file that was provided by the adversary. (Citation: Volexity PowerDuke November 2016) Adversaries may also use compressed or

archived scripts, such as JavaScript. Portions of files can also be encoded to hide the plain-text strings that would otherwise help defenders with discovery. (Citation: Linux/Cdorked.A We Live Security Analysis) Payloads may also be split into separate, seemingly benign files that only reveal malicious functionality when reassembled. (Citation: Carbon Black Obfuscation Sept 2016) Adversaries may also abuse [Command Obfuscation](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1027/010) to obscure commands executed from payloads or directly via [Command and Scripting Interpreter](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059). Environment variables, aliases, characters, and other platform/language specific semantics can be used to evade signature based detections and application control mechanisms. (Citation: FireEye Obfuscation June 2017) (Citation: FireEye Revoke-Obfuscation July 2017)(Citation: PaloAlto EncodedCommand March 2017)

Name

T1566

ID

T1566

Description

Adversaries may send phishing messages to gain access to victim systems. All forms of phishing are electronically delivered social engineering. Phishing can be targeted, known as spearphishing. In spearphishing, a specific individual, company, or industry will be targeted by the adversary. More generally, adversaries can conduct non-targeted phishing, such as in mass malware spam campaigns. Adversaries may send victims emails containing malicious attachments or links, typically to execute malicious code on victim systems. Phishing may also be conducted via third-party services, like social media platforms. Phishing may also involve social engineering techniques, such as posing as a trusted source, as well as evasive techniques such as removing or manipulating emails or metadata/headers from compromised accounts being abused to send messages (e.g., [Email Hiding Rules](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1564/008)).(Citation: Microsoft OAuth Spam 2022)(Citation: Palo Alto Unit 42 VBA Infostealer 2014) Another way to accomplish this is by forging or spoofing(Citation: Proofpoint-spoof) the identity of the sender which can be used to fool both the human recipient as well as automated security tools.(Citation: cyberproof-double-bounce) Victims may also receive phishing messages that instruct them to call a phone number where they are directed to visit a malicious URL, download malware,(Citation: sygnia Luna Month)(Citation: CISA Remote Monitoring and Management Software) or install adversary-accessible remote management tools onto

their computer (i.e., [User Execution](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1204)).(Citation: Unit42 Luna Moth)

Name

T1105

ID

T1105

Description

Adversaries may transfer tools or other files from an external system into a compromised environment. Tools or files may be copied from an external adversary-controlled system to the victim network through the command and control channel or through alternate protocols such as [ftp](https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0095). Once present, adversaries may also transfer/spread tools between victim devices within a compromised environment (i.e. [Lateral Tool Transfer](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1570)). On Windows, adversaries may use various utilities to download tools, such as `copy`, `finger`, [certutil](https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0160), and [PowerShell](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/001) commands such as `IEX(New-Object Net.WebClient).downloadString()` and `Invoke-WebRequest`. On Linux and macOS systems, a variety of utilities also exist, such as `curl`, `scp`, `sftp`, `tftp`, `rsync`, `finger`, and `wget`. (Citation: t1105_lolbas) Adversaries may also abuse installers and package managers, such as `yum` or `winget`, to download tools to victim hosts. Files can also be transferred using various [Web Service](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1102)s as well as native or otherwise present tools on the victim system.(Citation: PTSecurity Cobalt Dec 2016) In some cases, adversaries may be able to leverage services that sync between a web-based and an on-premises client, such as Dropbox or OneDrive, to transfer files onto victim systems. For example, by compromising a cloud account and logging into the service's web portal, an adversary may be able to trigger an automatic syncing process that transfers the file onto the victim's machine.(Citation: Dropbox Malware Sync)

Name

T1055

ID

T1055

Description

Adversaries may inject code into processes in order to evade process-based defenses as well as possibly elevate privileges. Process injection is a method of executing arbitrary code in the address space of a separate live process. Running code in the context of another process may allow access to the process's memory, system/network resources, and possibly elevated privileges. Execution via process injection may also evade detection from security products since the execution is masked under a legitimate process. There are many different ways to inject code into a process, many of which abuse legitimate functionalities. These implementations exist for every major OS but are typically platform specific. More sophisticated samples may perform multiple process injections to segment modules and further evade detection, utilizing named pipes or other inter-process communication (IPC) mechanisms as a communication channel.

Name

T1552

ID

T1552

Description

Adversaries may search compromised systems to find and obtain insecurely stored credentials. These credentials can be stored and/or misplaced in many locations on a system, including plaintext files (e.g. [Bash History](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1552/003)), operating system or application-specific repositories (e.g. [Credentials in Registry](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1552/002)), or other specialized files/artifacts (e.g. [Private Keys](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1552/004)).

Name

T1036

ID

T1036

Description

Adversaries may attempt to manipulate features of their artifacts to make them appear legitimate or benign to users and/or security tools. Masquerading occurs when the name or location of an object, legitimate or malicious, is manipulated or abused for the sake of evading defenses and observation. This may include manipulating file metadata, tricking users into misidentifying the file type, and giving legitimate task or service names. Renaming abusable system utilities to evade security monitoring is also a form of [Masquerading](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1036).(Citation: LOLBAS Main Site) Masquerading may also include the use of [Proxy](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1090) or VPNs to disguise IP addresses, which can allow adversaries to blend in with normal network traffic and bypass conditional access policies or anti-abuse protections.

Name

T1195

ID

T1195

Description

Adversaries may manipulate products or product delivery mechanisms prior to receipt by a final consumer for the purpose of data or system compromise. Supply chain compromise can take place at any stage of the supply chain including: * Manipulation of development tools * Manipulation of a development environment * Manipulation of source code repositories (public or private) * Manipulation of source code in open-source dependencies * Manipulation of software update/distribution mechanisms * Compromised/infected system images (multiple cases of removable media infected at the factory)(Citation: IBM Storwize)(Citation: Schneider Electric USB Malware) * Replacement of legitimate software with modified versions * Sales of modified/counterfeit products to legitimate distributors * Shipment interdiction While supply chain compromise can impact any component of hardware or software, adversaries looking to gain execution have often focused on malicious additions to legitimate software in software distribution or update

channels.(Citation: Avast CCleaner3 2018)(Citation: Microsoft Dofoil 2018)(Citation: Command Five SK 2011) Targeting may be specific to a desired victim set or malicious software may be distributed to a broad set of consumers but only move on to additional tactics on specific victims.(Citation: Symantec Elderwood Sept 2012)(Citation: Avast CCleaner3 2018)(Citation: Command Five SK 2011) Popular open source projects that are used as dependencies in many applications may also be targeted as a means to add malicious code to users of the dependency.(Citation: Trendmicro NPM Compromise)

Name

T1140

ID

T1140

Description

Adversaries may use [Obfuscated Files or Information](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1027) to hide artifacts of an intrusion from analysis. They may require separate mechanisms to decode or deobfuscate that information depending on how they intend to use it. Methods for doing that include built-in functionality of malware or by using utilities present on the system. One such example is the use of [certutil](https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0160) to decode a remote access tool portable executable file that has been hidden inside a certificate file.(Citation: Malwarebytes Targeted Attack against Saudi Arabia) Another example is using the Windows `copy /b` command to reassemble binary fragments into a malicious payload.(Citation: Carbon Black Obfuscation Sept 2016) Sometimes a user's action may be required to open it for deobfuscation or decryption as part of [User Execution](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1204). The user may also be required to input a password to open a password protected compressed/encrypted file that was provided by the adversary. (Citation: Volexity PowerDuke November 2016)

Name

T1071

ID

T1071

Description

Adversaries may communicate using OSI application layer protocols to avoid detection/network filtering by blending in with existing traffic. Commands to the remote system, and often the results of those commands, will be embedded within the protocol traffic between the client and server. Adversaries may utilize many different protocols, including those used for web browsing, transferring files, electronic mail, or DNS. For connections that occur internally within an enclave (such as those between a proxy or pivot node and other nodes), commonly used protocols are SMB, SSH, or RDP.

Name

T1543

ID

T1543

Description

Adversaries may create or modify system-level processes to repeatedly execute malicious payloads as part of persistence. When operating systems boot up, they can start processes that perform background system functions. On Windows and Linux, these system processes are referred to as services.(Citation: TechNet Services) On macOS, launchd processes known as [Launch Daemon](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1543/004) and [Launch Agent](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1543/001) are run to finish system initialization and load user specific parameters.(Citation: AppleDocs Launch Agent Daemons) Adversaries may install new services, daemons, or agents that can be configured to execute at startup or a repeatable interval in order to establish persistence. Similarly, adversaries may modify existing services, daemons, or agents to achieve the same effect. Services, daemons, or agents may be created with administrator privileges but executed under root/SYSTEM privileges. Adversaries may leverage this functionality to create or modify system processes in order to escalate privileges.(Citation: OSX Malware Detection)

Name

T1003

ID

T1003

Description

Adversaries may attempt to dump credentials to obtain account login and credential material, normally in the form of a hash or a clear text password, from the operating system and software. Credentials can then be used to perform [Lateral Movement](https://attack.mitre.org/tactics/TA0008) and access restricted information. Several of the tools mentioned in associated sub-techniques may be used by both adversaries and professional security testers. Additional custom tools likely exist as well.

Country

Name
Philippines
Name
Singapore
Name
Myanmar
Name
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Name
Cambodia
Name
Japan

Region

Name
South-eastern Asia
Name
Eastern Asia
Name
Asia

Sector

Name

NGO

Description

A legally constituted non-commercial organization created by natural or legal persons with no participation or representation of any government.

Name

Civil society

Description

The general public and all non-governmental entities, or individuals independent of governments, which may be linked by interests or activities aiming at promoting the interests and the will of citizens.

Name

Government

Description

Civilian government institutions and administrations of the executive and legislative branches. The diplomatic and judicial branches are not included.

Hostname

Value
www.openservername.com
web.daydreamdew.net
ai.nerdnooks.com

IPv4-Addr

Value
65.20.103.231
193.149.129.93
192.153.57.98
146.70.149.36
139.59.46.88
123.253.32.71
103.27.109.157

StixFile

Value
d393349a4ad00902e3d415b622cf27987a0170a786ca3a1f991a521bff645318
a16a40d0182a87fc6219693ac664286738329222983bd9e70b455f198e124ba2
5cd4003ccaa479734c7f5a01c8ff95891831a29d857757bbd7fe4294f3c5c126
316541143187acff1404b98659c6d9c8566107bd652310705214777f03ea10c8
02f4186b532b3e33a5cd6d9a39d9469b8d9c12df7cb45dba6dcab912b03e3cb8

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