CIRT Playbook Battle Card: **GSPBC-1084 - Persistence - Compromise Client Software Binary**

(P) Preparation

1. Patch asset vulnerabilities
2. Perform routine inspections of controls/weapons
3. Maintain Antivirus/EDR application updates
4. Create network segmentation
5. Log traffic between network segments
6. Incorporate threat intelligence
7. Perform routine inspections of asset backups
8. Conduct user security awareness training
9. Conduct response training (this PBC)
10. Ensure all application component binaries are signed by the correct application developers, and the services in use return trusted hashes [2]

(I) Identification

1. Monitor for:
    a. Newly created files that appear to modify software binaries to establish a persistent foothold within the system [3]
    b. Unexpected deletion of software binaries, with the purpose of maintaining persistence to systems [4]
    c. Unexpected changes that are not in line with scheduled work [5]
2. Investigate and clear ALL alerts associated with the impacted assets or accounts
3. Routinely check firewall, IDS, IPS, and SIEM logs for any unusual activity
4. Collect and analyze signing certificate metadata and make sure that software that executes within the environment is valid and safe [6]

(C) Containment

1. Inventory (enumerate & assess)
2. Detect | Deny | Disrupt | Degrade | Deceive | Destroy
3. Observe -> Orient -> Decide -> Act
4. Issue perimeter enforcement for known threat actor locations
5. Archive scanning related artifacts such as IP addresses, user agents, and requests
6. Determine the source and pathway of the attack
7. Fortify non-impacted critical assets

(E) Eradication

1. Close the attack vector by applying the Preparation steps listed above
2. Perform endpoint/AV scans on targeted systems
3. Reset any compromised passwords
4. Inspect ALL assets and user activity for IOC consistent with the attack profile
5. Inspect backups for IOC consistent with the attack profile PRIOR to system recovery
6. Patch asset vulnerabilities

(R) Recovery

1. Restore to the RPO (Recovery Point Objective) within the RTO (Recovery Time Objective)
2. Address any collateral damage by assessing exposed technologies
3. Resolve any related security incidents
4. Restore affected systems to their last clean backup

(L) Lessons/Opportunities

1. Perform routine cyber hygiene due diligence
2. Engage external cybersecurity-as-a-service providers and response professionals
3. Implement policy changes to reduce future risk
4. Utilize newly obtained threat signatures
5. Remember that data and events should not be viewed in isolation but as part of a chain of behavior that could lead to other activities

References:

1. https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1554/
2. https://attack.mitre.org/mitigations/M1045/
3. https://attack.mitre.org/datasources/DS0022/#File%20Creation
4. https://attack.mitre.org/datasources/DS0022/#File%20Deletion
5. https://attack.mitre.org/datasources/DS0022/#File%20Modification
6. https://attack.mitre.org/datasources/DS0022/#File%20Metadata

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