WARZONE 1 - TIER 1 SECURTIY ANALYST L1 - MSSP (MANAGED SECURITY SERVICE PROVIDER) - PRE-REPORT NOTES - BRIM | NTWORKMINER | WIRESHARK

INFORMATION:

IDS/IPS ALERTS WHERE RECIEVED: POTENTIALLY BAD TRAFFIC & MALWARE COMMAND & CONTROL ACTIVITY DETECTED. SOC 1 ANALYST: TRIAGE.

SCOPE:

THE INVESTIGATION FOCUSED ON IDS/IPS ALERTS FLAGGED AS POTENTIALLY MALICIOUS TRAFFIC AND COMMAND-AND-CONTROL (C2) ACTIVITY. THE PRIMARY DATA SOURCE WAS A PCAP FILE NAMED ZONE1.PCAP, WHICH CONTAINED A TOTAL OF 1,808 NETWORK FLOWS RECORDED ON OCTOBER 5TH, 2021. ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED USING BRIM, NETWORKMINER, AND WIRESHARK TO IDENTIFY SUSPICIOUS CONNECTIONS, MALWARE ARTIFACTS, AND ASSOCIATED ADVERSARY INFRASTRUCTURE. THE SCOPE WAS LIMITED TO TRAFFIC PRESENT IN THE PCAP FILE AND DID NOT INCLUDE HOST-BASED FORENSICS OR ENDPOINT TELEMETRY.

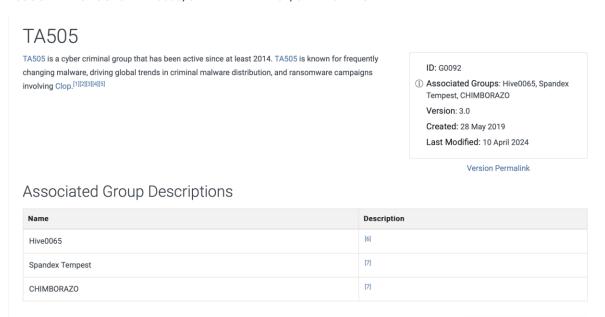
INVESTIGATION:

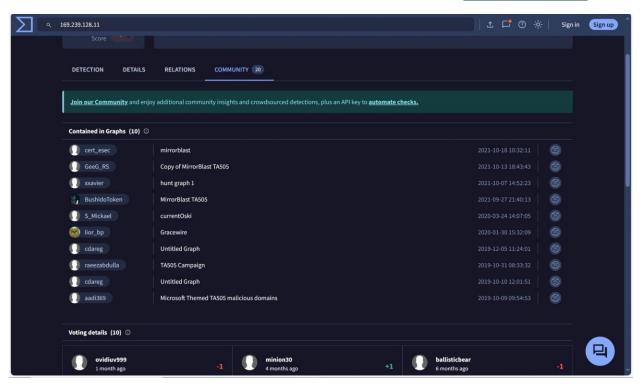
-THE SIGNATURE DETECTED FROM THE MALWARE COMMAND & CONTROL ACTIVITY WAS: "ET MALWARE MIRRORBLAST CNC ACTIVITY M3". SOURCE IP ADDRESS 172[.]16[.]1[.]102 PORT: 53269. DESTINATION IP ADDRESS 169[.]239[.]128[.]11 PORT: 80 ON 10/05/2021 @ 22:43:17.787. THE DESTINATION IP ADDRESS IS ASSOCIATED WITH A COMPANY CALLED 'ZAPPIE HOST LLC'. ZAPPIE HOST IS A BUSINESS GRADE LINUX & WINDOWS SSD VPS SERVER PROVIDER. ZAPPIE IS LOCATED IN NEW ZEALAND BUT THE IP ADDRESS 169[.]239[.]128[.]11 IS ORIGINATING FROM SOUTH AFRICA (ZA) ACCORDING TO VIRUS TOTAL.





-INFORMATION I OBSERVED WHILE ON VIRUS TOTAL INDICATES THAT THE IP ADDRESS 169[.]239[.]128[.]11 IS CONNECTED TO THE THREAT GROUP 'TA505'. TA505 IS KNOWN FOR FREQUENTLY CHANGING MALWARE, DRIVING GLOBAL TRENDS IN CRIMINIAL MALWARE DISTRIBUTION, AND RANSOMWARE CAMPAIGNS INVOLING CLOPS. ASSOCIATED GROUPS: HIVE0065, SPANDEX TEMPEST, CHIMBORAZO.

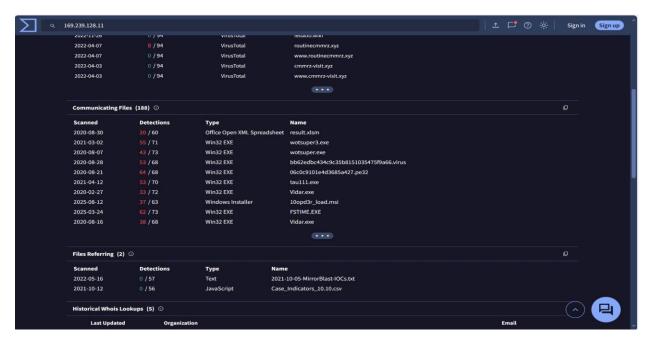




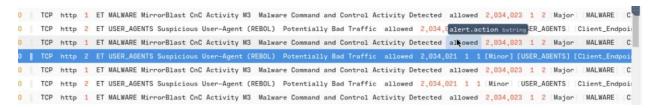
-MALWARE FAMILY: MIRRORBLAST: METHOD: WEAPONIZED EXCEL DOCUMENTS. PAYLOAD: THE MALICIOUS EXCEL MACROS WOULD DOWNLOAD & EXECUTE OTHER MALICIOUS FILES INCLUDING THE MALWARE MIRRORBLAST.



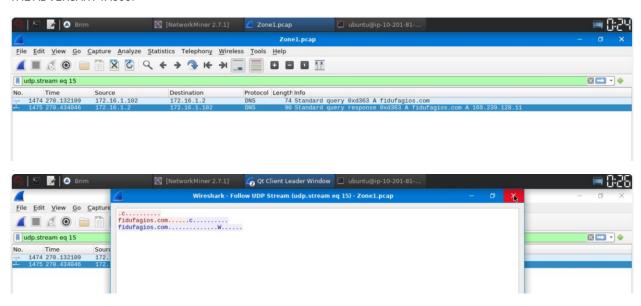
-IN THE COMMUNICATING FILES SECTION IN VIRUS TOTAL I OBSERVED TWO FILES OF INTEREST: WIN32.EXE & WINDOWS INSTALLER.



-I OBSERVED THAT THE ADVERSARY USED THE USER-AGENT 'REBOL VIEW 2.7.8.3.1'. A REPORT FROM 2021 ON REBOL EXPLOIT NOTED THE USER AGENT STRING 'REBOL VIEW 2.7.8.3.1' USED IN A MALICIOUS HTTP REQUEST.



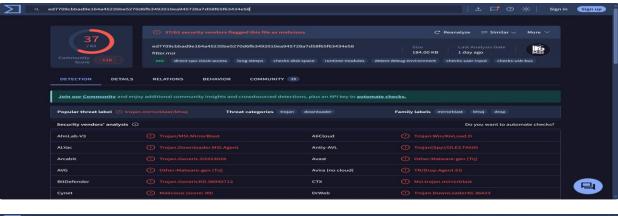
-THE IP ADDRESS: 169.239.128.11 CONNECTS TO FIDUFAGIOS[.]COM WHICH ACTS AS A C2 SERVER CONTROLED BY THE ADVERSARY TA505.

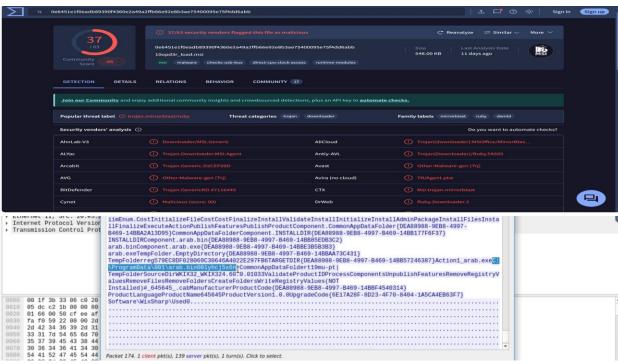


-I OBSERVED THE ADVERSARY CONNECTED TO TWO OTHER IP ADDRESS: 192[.]36[.]27[.]92 & 185[.]10[.]68[.]235.



- THE ADVERSARIES MADE A CONNECTION TO 185[.]10[.]68[.]235 & DOWNLOADED 'FILTER.MSI' MIMICING A MICROSOFT WINDOWS INSTALLER TO DOWNLOAD & INSTALL TWO MORE FILES INTO THE SAME DIRECTORY C:\PROGRAMDATA\001\ARAB.BIN - C:\PROGRAMDATA\001\ARAB.EXE. THE ADVERSARIES ALSO CONNECTED TO 192[.]36[.]27[.]92 & DOWNLOADED 100PD3R_LOAD.MSI AKA MIRRORBLAST A MALWARE LINKED TO PHISHING CAMPAIGN DATA EXFILTRATION. FURTHER FILES WHERE DOWNLOADED: C:\PROGRADATA\LOCAL\GOOGLE\REBOLVIEW-278-3-1.EXE - C:\PROGRAMDATA\LOCAL\GOOGLE\EXEMPLE.RB





CONCLUSION:

THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE PCAP FILE 'ZONE1.PCAP' CONFIRMED SUSPICIOUS NETWORK ACTIVITY CONSISTENT WITH MALWARE COMMAND AND CONTROL (C2) TRAFFIC. THE ALERT "ET MALWARE MIRRORBLAST CNC ACTIVITY M3" WAS VALIDATED, LINKING THE INCIDENT TO THE THREAT GROUP TA505, A WELL-KNOWN THREAT ACTOR ASSOCIATED WITH GLOBAL MALWARE DISTRIBUTION AND RANSOMWARE CAMPAIGNS.

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE THE USE OF THE IP ADDRESS 169[.]239[.]128[.]11, HOSTED BY ZAPPIE HOST LLC AND GEOLOCATED TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH WAS OBSERVED ACTING AS A C2 SERVER FOR THE ADVERSARY. THE USER-AGENT STRING "REBOL VIEW 2.7.8.3.1" WAS OBSERVED IN CONNECTIONS, MATCHING KNOWN MALICIOUS INDICATORS LINKED TO REBOL EXPLOITATION.

THE ADVERSARY ALSO UTILIZED SECONDARY INFRASTRUCTURE AT 185[.]10[.]68[.]235 AND 192[.]36[.]27[.]92 TO DELIVER ADDITIONAL MALICIOUS PAYLOADS, INCLUDING FILTER.MSI AND 100PD3R_LOAD.MSI, WHICH FURTHER DROPPED EXECUTABLES AND BINARIES INTO SYSTEM DIRECTORIES. OBSERVED MALICIOUS FILES INCLUDE ARAB.BIN, ARAB.EXE, REBOL-VIEW-278-3-1.EXE, AND EXEMPLE.RB.

BASED ON THE TRAFFIC ANALYSIS, SIGNATURE ALERTS, AND FILE OBSERVATIONS, THIS INCIDENT IS CONFIRMED AS A COMPROMISE EVENT INVOLVING MIRRORBLAST MALWARE FAMILY.

THE PRIMARY INFECTION VECTOR APPEARS TO BE WEAPONIZED EXCEL DOCUMENTS LEADING TO PAYLOAD EXECUTION AND FOLLOW-UP C2 COMMUNICATIONS.

THE INCIDENT POSES A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF DATA EXFILTRATION, LATERAL MOVEMENT, AND FOLLOW-ON RANSOMWARE DEPLOYMENT, GIVEN TA505'S HISTORY WITH CLOP AND RELATED CAMPAIGNS. IMMEDIATE REMEDIATION, INCLUDING ISOLATION OF THE AFFECTED HOST (172[.]16[.]1[.]102), BLOCKING THE MALICIOUS IP ADDRESSES, AND SCANNING FOR INDICATORS OF COMPROMISE (IOCS), IS RECOMMENDED.