Alexander Ticket

Note: This report has been sanitized for public sharing.

All internal IPs, hostnames, and Splunk URLs have been redacted or replaced with simulated values.

Report was originally prepared for Jira; internal console links are not publicly accessible. Query references shown for context

QRadar ID: `55292`

Description

ET WEB_SERVER Likely Malicious Request for `/proc/self/environ` — probe attempting to read process environment (possible LFI/CGI abuse or reconnaissance for environment disclosure)

Victim:

[internal web server] - redacted-domain.local

** Encoded log:**

"\/@fs\/proc\/self\/environ?raw??"

** Decoded log:**

"/@fs/proc/self/environ?raw??"

ATTACKER INFO:

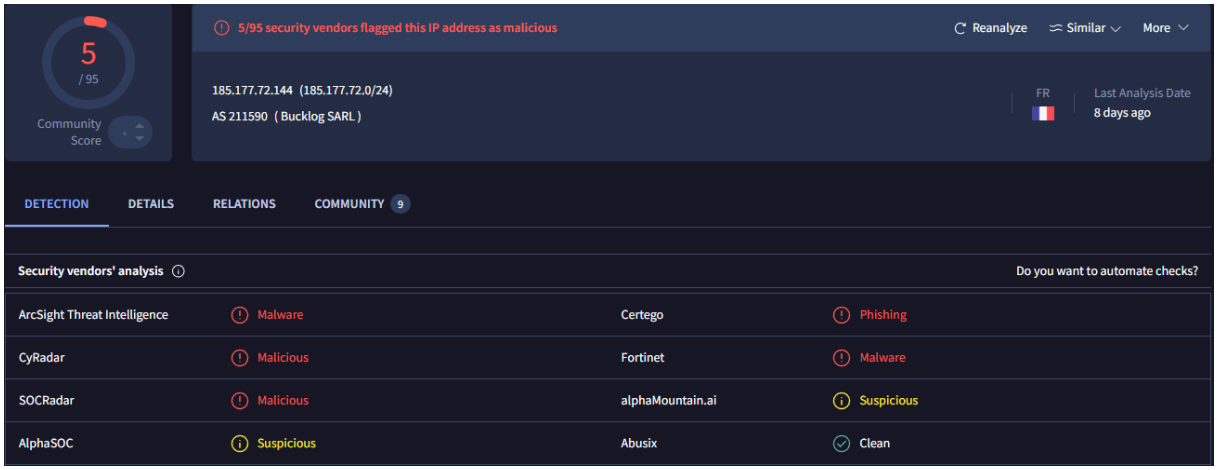
IP: `185.177.72.144` on port `59706`

User Agent: `""Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/91.0.4472.124 Safari/537.36"` — this string matches a desktop Chrome 91 on Windows 10, but User-Agent headers are trivially spoofable. Treat this UA as **not** proof of a human browser; automated scanners and exploit tools commonly impersonate popular browsers to blend in "

ANALYST INVESTIGATION:

Virus Total Result: **[here|https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/185.177.72.144]**

Security Vendors' Analysis from Virus Total: **5/95 security vendors flagged this IP address as malicious and 2 flagged as suspicious**



Talos Intelligence:

REPUTATION DETAILS:

Email Reputation: *Poor*

Web Reputation: *Questionable*

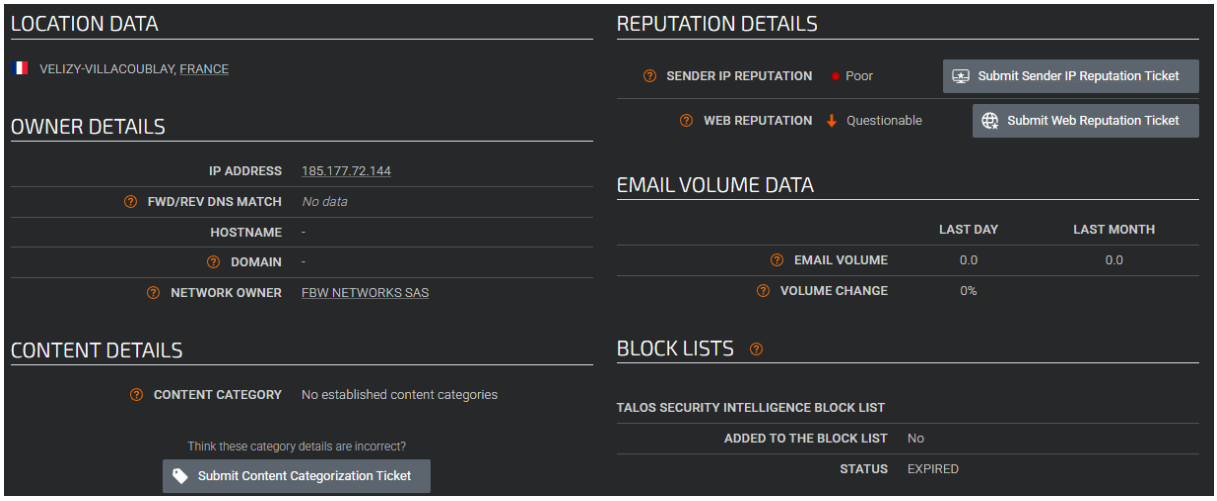
BLOCK LISTS:

Talos Security Intelligence Block List

Added to the Block List = No

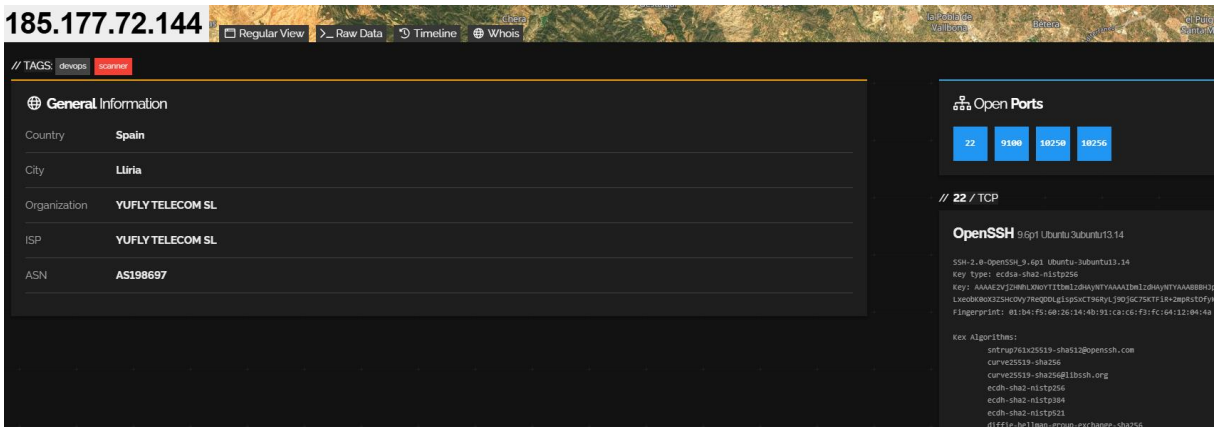
Status = EXPIRED

Talos Result:
[here|https://talosintelligence.com/reputation_center/lookup?search=185.177.72.144]

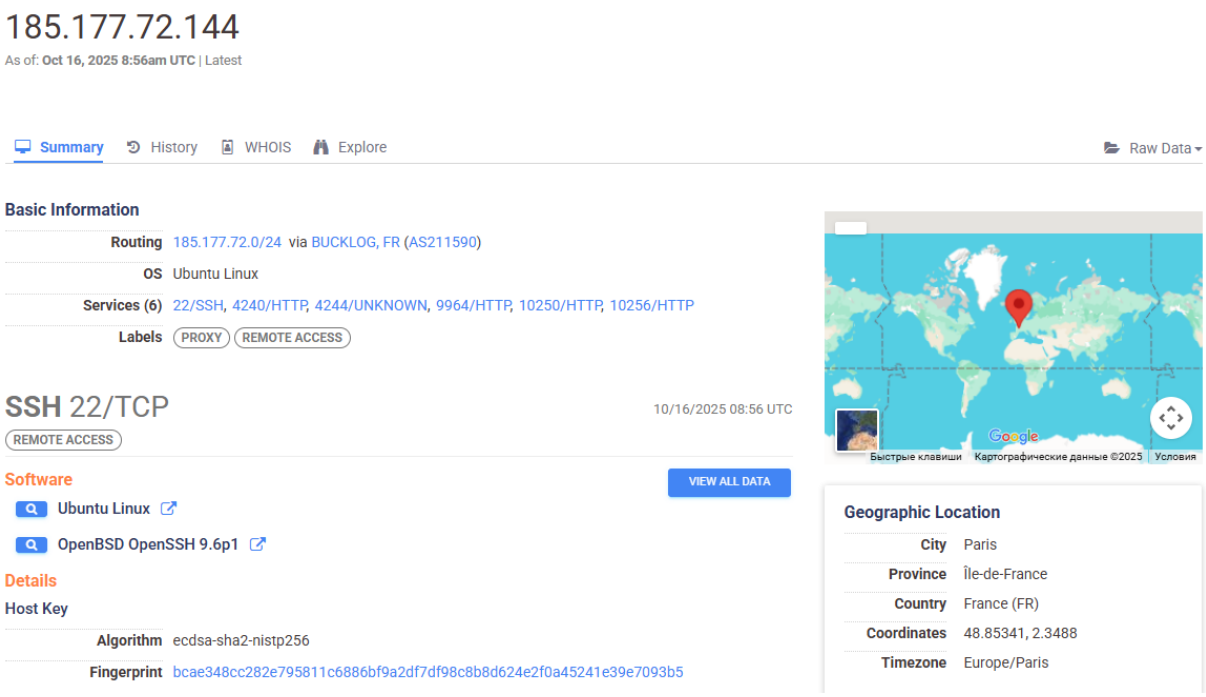


ShodanResult: **[here|https://www.shodan.io/host/185.177.72.144]**

Open Ports: 22, 9100, 10250, 10256

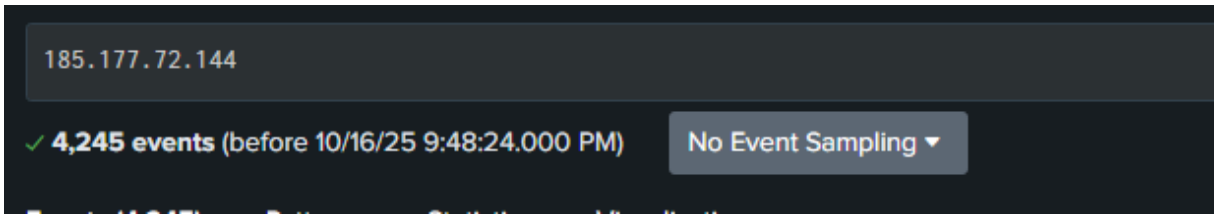


CensysResult: **[here**|https://search.censys.io/hosts/185.177.72.144]



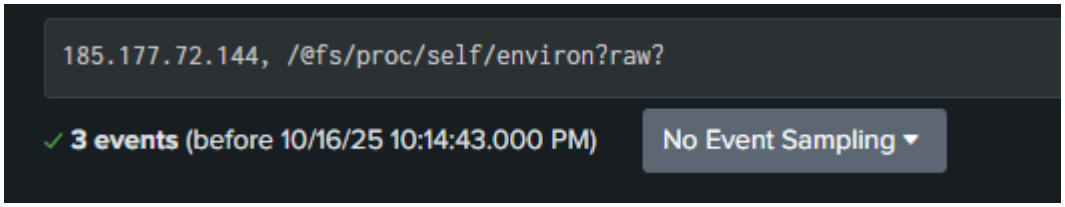
*Splunk Investigation:*A total of **4,245 events** were identified for source IP **185.177.72.144**.

After applying the key URI filter **`/@fs/proc/self/environ?raw?`**, the dataset was reduced to **3 events**, all returning **HTTP 403 (Forbidden)** responses — indicating the access attempts were blocked



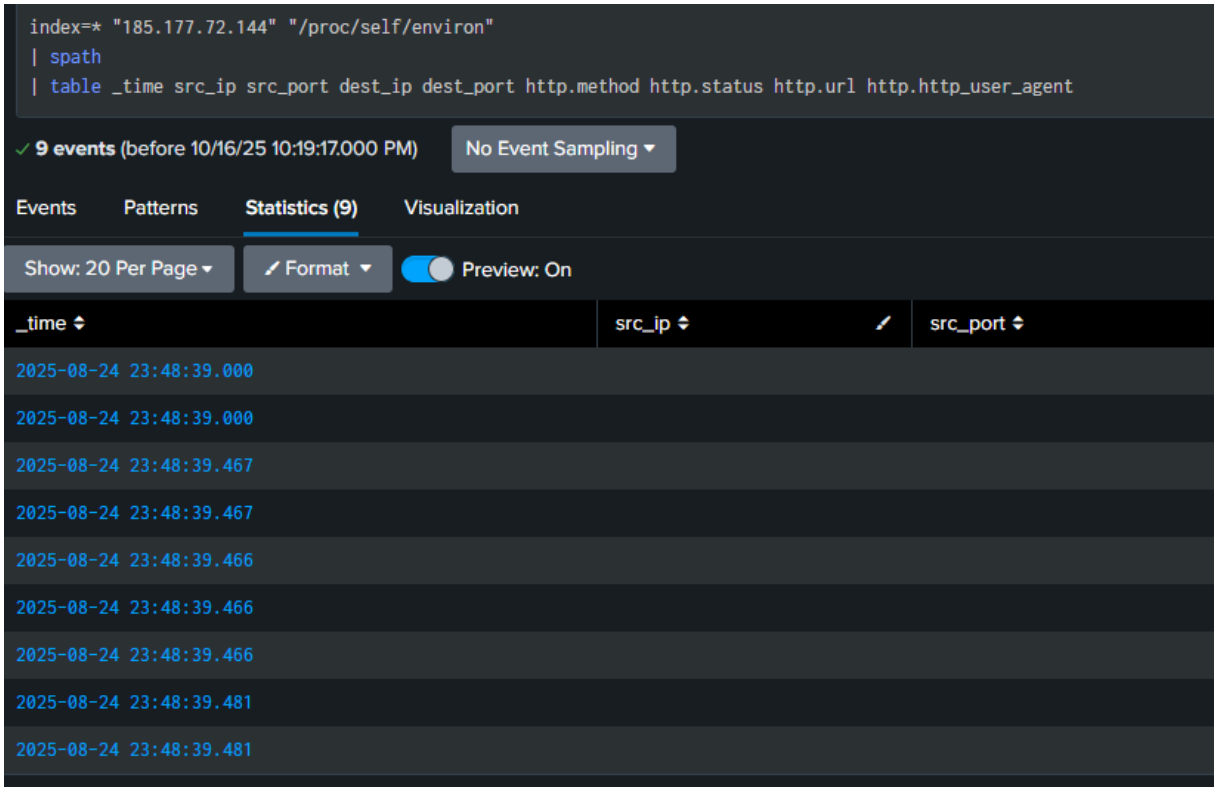
↑↑↑

Result 1: Splunk search — internal link (not accessible)



↑↑↑

Result 2: Splunk search — internal link (not accessible)



↑ ↑ ↑

Executed the query, to verify parsed fields. The search returned 9 events, all occurring within one second (*2025-08-24 23:48:39*).
Each request targeted `/@fs/proc/self/environ` and received HTTP 403, confirming automated probing with no successful access.

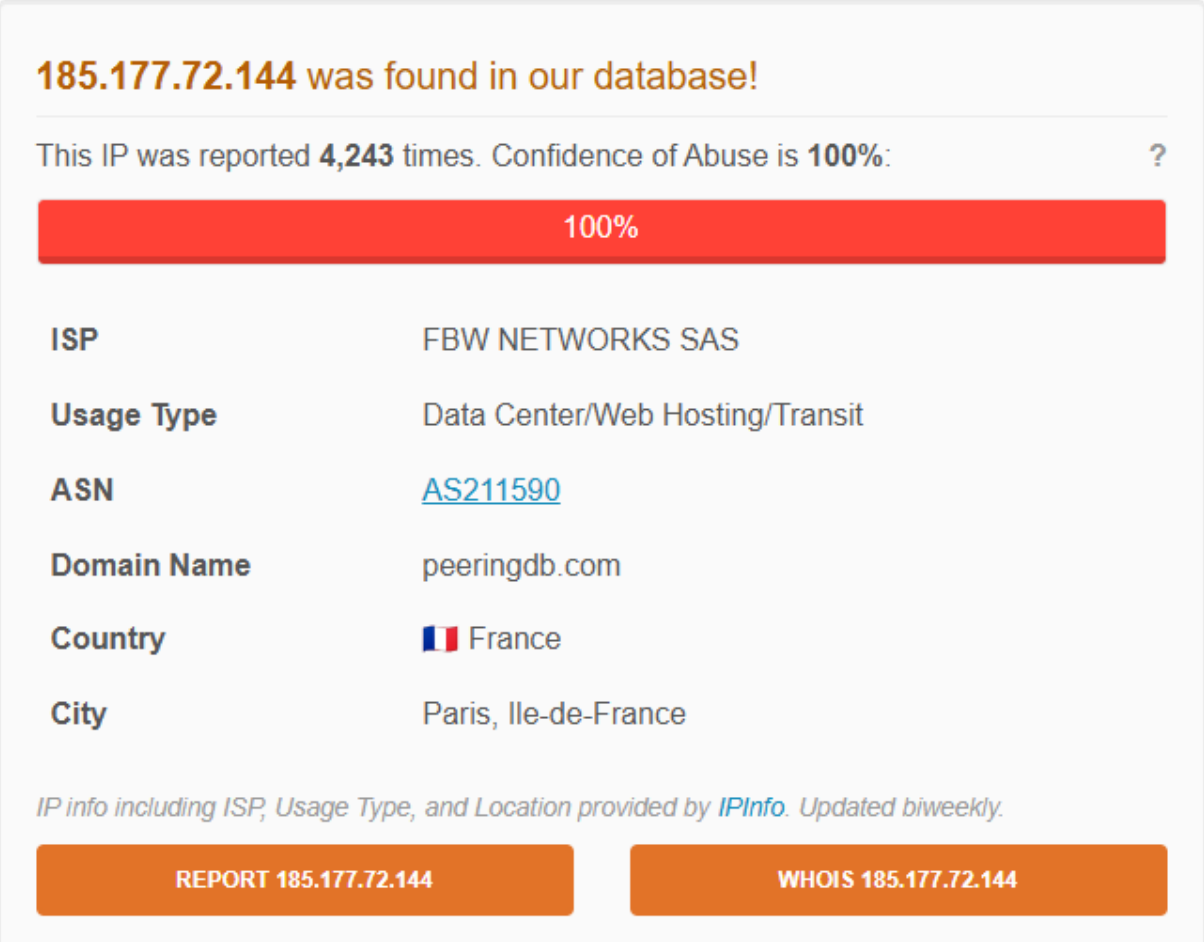
Result 3: Splunk search — internal link (not accessible)

* Raw Data:*

<168>suricata[8969]: {"timestamp":"2025-08-24T22:48:39.481713-0400","flow_id":2021455601025622,"in_iface":"eth0","event_type":"alert","src_ip":"185.177.72.144","src_port":59706,"

dest_ip":" [internal web server]*","dest_port":80,"proto":"TCP","tx_id":7,"alert":{"action":"allowed","gid":1,"signature_id":2012230,"rev":4,"signature":"ET WEB_SERVER Likely Malicious Request for \/proc\/self\/environ","category":"Web Application Attack","severity":1},"http":{"hostname":"* [internal web server]*","url":"\/@fs\/proc\/self\/environ?raw??","http_user_agent":"Mozilla\/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit\/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome\/91.0.4472.124 Safari\/537.36","http_content_type":"text\/html","http_method":"GET","protocol":"HTTP\/1.1","status":403,"length":279}}*

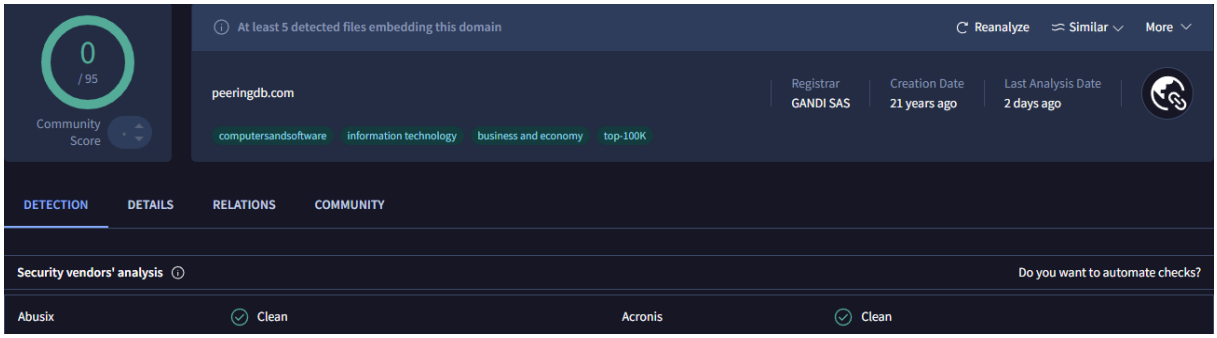
Additional Findings:



This IP address has been reported a total of **4,243** times from 830 distinct sources. 185.177.72.144 was first reported on May 27th 2025, and the most recent report was **5 hours ago**.

ResultAbuseIPDB: **[here|https://www.abuseipdb.com/check/185.177.72.144]**

The domain `peeringdb.com` associated with this ASN was checked on **VirusTotal** — **0/95 security vendors** flagged it as malicious or suspicious, indicating **no direct compromise** linked to the domain itself.



[here|https://www.virustotal.com/gui/domain/peeringdb.com/detection]

ANALYST ASSESSMENT

Summary:
Suricata triggered `ET WEB_SERVER Likely Malicious Request for /proc/self/environ` from source **185.177.72.144** against [internal web server] **(**redacted-domain.local**)**. Splunk shows **4,245** total events from this IP. Applying the URI filter for `"/@fs/proc/self/environ?raw?"` produced **3 matching events** in the basic search; an additional parsed-check using `spath` surfaced **9 raw occurrences** with identical timestamps (likely duplicate/raw vs parsed indexing differences). All observed attempts returned **HTTP 403 (Forbidden)** — no successful disclosure observed.

Attack details:

Source: 185.177.72.144 (src port 59706) → **Destination:** [internal web server]
Targeted path: `/@fs/proc/self/environ?raw??` (attempt to read `/proc/self/environ`)

Events: 3 (filtered) / 9 (parsed raw occurrences) — burst within one second (2025-08-24 23:48:39).
HTTP method / status: GET — all responses **403** (no access).

User-Agent: `Mozilla/5.0 (...) Chrome/91.0.4472.124` (spoofable; not proof of human).
Suricata signature: `ET WEB_SERVER Likely Malicious Request for /proc/self/environ` (sid:2012230 rev:4).

Path breakdown / what it means:

- `/CFIDE/` — ColdFusion administrative/utility components commonly probed by attackers.
- `componentutils` — frequently targeted ColdFusion component; existence may allow remote actions or information disclosure if vulnerable.
- Observed requests appear to be **probes** to detect presence of ColdFusion endpoints; 404 responses indicate the path was not present/accessible.

Method / Indicators:

- **HTTP method:** `GET` — passive probing attempt to access `/proc/self/environ` and read environment variables.
- **User-Agent:** `Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/91.0.4472.124 Safari/537.36` — matches a legitimate Chrome 91 browser on Windows 10, but User-Agent strings are trivially spoofable. Treat as likely automated scanner traffic rather than human browsing.
- **Timing/volume:** High overall activity (**4,245 events** from the same IP), but only **3 direct hits** to `/@fs/proc/self/environ?raw?` (and 9 raw duplicates in parsed view).This selective, high-frequency pattern within one second is typical of **automated reconnaissance tools** probing for environment disclosure or Local File Inclusion (LFI) vulnerabilities.

Threat Intelligence enrichment :

AbuseIPDB: 185.177.72.144 — reported **~4,243** times (830 reporters); high historical abuse.

VirusTotal (IP): multiple vendors flagging (as recorded in ticket: 5/95 flagged; 2 suspicious).

ASN / Domain: ASN `AS211590` (FBW NETWORKS SAS); domain `peeringdb.com` associated with ASN — domain checked on VirusTotal: **0/95** detections (no malicious flags for the domain itself).

Shodan / Censys: host shows open services (e.g., 22, 9100, 10250, 10256) — increases attack surface.

TI posture: discordant (IP has many abuse reports; associated domain appears clean). Treat IP as **high-risk** while the domain itself is not flagged.

Detection context:

- Pattern (many events from same IP; 3–9 rapid hits to the same sensitive path) is consistent with **automated reconnaissance / scripted probing** for environment disclosure or CGI misconfiguration.

- All attempts returned 403 — **no evidence of successful disclosure or exploitation** in observed telemetry.

- Discrepancy between "3" and "9" is likely due to search semantics (literal-filter vs parsed/raw extraction); both are included in ticket as supporting evidence.

Impact if successful :

Reading `/proc/self/environ` could reveal environment variables (API keys, credentials, paths) leading to data leakage, RCE via crafted CGI handlers, webshell insertion, or follow-on compromise and lateral movement.

attacker could obtain environment secrets → credential leakage → possible RCE / follow-on compromise

Mini Attack Visualization:

[Attacker 185.177.72.144 probes target — [internal web server]**]**

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[Connection made from src port 59706 → dest [internal web server]]

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[Automated HTTP GET requests sent to `"/@fs/proc/self/environ?raw??"`]

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[Requests attempt to read `/proc/self/environ` (environment variables disclosure probe)]

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[Burst behavior: 3–9 identical requests observed within one second (2025-08-24 23:48:39)]

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[Server response: HTTP 403 (Forbidden) to every request — no file contents returned]

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[Probe failed — no environment disclosure, no command execution, no webshell or payload observed]

ACTION

1. **Host Verification** – [internal web server]

Confirm host ownership and business use (redacted-domain.local).
Ensure no exposed `/proc` or CGI handlers are accessible.

2. Evidence Preservation
Export Suricata alert and 3–9 Splunk events (CSV/JSON).
Save access/error logs around *2025-08-24 23:48:39 UTC-4*.

3. Containment
Block or rate-limit **185.177.72.144** for 24–72 h via firewall/WAF.
Add IP/ASN 211590 to watchlist and monitor for recurrence.

4. Web Server & WAF Hardening
Block access to `/proc` and `@fs` paths.
Add WAF rule for `/proc/self/environ` and encoded variants.
Throttle repeated identical requests from a single IP.

5. Logging & Detection
Verify full request/headers logging.
Enable proper JSON field extraction in Splunk (`src_ip`, `http.url`, `status`).
Create saved search for future hits on `/@fs/proc/self/environ`.

6. Threat Hunting
Search last 30–90 days for similar URIs or related IPs in ASN 211590.

7. Escalation
Notify system owner; escalate to IR if any **non-403** responses or abnormal outbound activity appear.