

Section 1 – Introduction

This report presents a network traffic investigation based on the provided PCAP file and associated quiz questions. The objective is to identify the infected system, understand how the infection occurred, and determine the nature of the malware or attack involved.

The structure of this report is as follows:

Section 2 describes the tools and methodology used to analyse the PCAP and extract key indicators of compromise (IOCs).

Section 3 presents the main findings, drawing on the quiz answers and supporting evidence from the traffic analysis.

Section 4 concludes with prevention techniques, open challenges, and relevant references.

Section 2 – Methodology

Wireshark was used to investigate the PCAP. I filtered HTTP GET traffic to find the first malicious download and extracted the timestamp, domain, file name, and server headers. I exported the downloaded archive via Export Objects to confirm the embedded file. I then used DNS/TLS evidence and Conversations statistics to identify C2 IPs and map them to domains/Host headers. Lastly, I followed the SMTP TCP stream and decoded Base64 authentication data to obtain the required email and password details.

```
http.request
```

Expression 1. Filtering only HTTP request traffic

```
http.request.method == "GET"
```

Expression 2. Filtering only HTTP GET requests

```
ip.src==10.9.23.102 && dns
```

Expression 3. Filtering only the source IP from 10.9.23.102 and the DNS protocol traffic

```
ip.addr == 185.106.96.158 && http
```

Expression 4. Filtering only the source IP from 185.106.96.158 and the HTTP traffic

```
ip.addr == 185.125.204.174 && tcp.port == 8080
```

Expression 5. Filtering only the source IP from 185.125.204.174 and the port 8080 protocol traffic

```
ip.addr==10.9.23.102 && http.request.method=="POST"
```

Expression 6. Filtering only the source IP from the user computer and the HTTP POST traffic

```
ip.addr==10.9.23.102 && dns && frame contains "api"
```

Expression 7. Filtering only the source IP from the user computer, the DNS protocol traffic, and containing “api”

```
ip.addr==10.9.23.102 && smtp && frame contains "FROM"
```

Expression 8. Filtering only the source IP from the user computer, the SMTP protocol traffic, and containing “FROM”

Section 3 – Results

Infected system identification: The compromised host is the primary internal client observed initiating the earliest suspicious HTTP download and subsequent repeated C2 communications. Key identifiers captured include IP address [victim IP], MAC address [victim MAC] (from ARP/Ethernet headers), and (if present) hostname/user context from relevant traffic.

Initial infection & file transfer: At **2021-09-24 16:44:38** (Figure 1), the victim made an HTTP GET request to **attirenepal.com**, retrieving **documents.zip** (Figure 2&3).

No.	Time	▲ Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1628	2021-09-24 16:44:38.3890122	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
1735	2021-09-24 16:44:38.38904122	10.9.23.102	85.187.128.24	HTTP	514	GET /incident-consequatur/documents.zip HTTP/1.1
1779	2021-09-24 16:44:39.3189208	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
1834	2021-09-24 16:44:40.311221	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
1966	2021-09-24 16:44:41.312052	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3631	2021-09-24 16:45:52.7222842	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3632	2021-09-24 16:45:52.7222842	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3633	2021-09-24 16:45:52.9886232	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3634	2021-09-24 16:45:53.7189722	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3635	2021-09-24 16:45:55.8127462	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3640	2021-09-24 16:45:55.0085352	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3734	2021-09-24 16:45:58.7210492	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3737	2021-09-24 16:45:58.7210492	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3822	2021-09-24 16:46:10.3950082	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	281	POST /L1is0RwZ19/QosAxDixHtgfJMcGypGenpldwF5ewV9f3k= HTTP/1.1 Continuation
3988	2021-09-24 16:46:41.5997042	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	285	POST /L1is0RwZ19/QosAxDixHtgfJMcGypGenpldwF5ewV9f3k= HTTP/1.1 Continuation
3999	2021-09-24 16:46:41.6000042	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	280	POST /L1is0RwZ19/QosAxDixHtgfJMcGypGenpldwF5ewV9f3k= HTTP/1.1 Continuation
4005	2021-09-24 16:47:31.3184362	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	273	POST /L1is0RwZ19/QosAxDixHtgfJMcGypGenpldwF5ewV9f3k= HTTP/1.1 Continuation
4017	2021-09-24 16:47:56.7791302	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	290	POST /L1is0RwZ19/QosAxDixHtgfJMcGypGenpldwF5ewV9f3k= HTTP/1.1 Continuation
4027	2021-09-24 16:47:56.8067372	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	290	POST /L1is0RwZ19/QosAxDixHtgfJMcGypGenpldwF5ewV9f3k= HTTP/1.1 Continuation

Figure 1. First HTTP request

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1735	2021-09-24 16:44:38.9904127	10.9.23.102	85.187.128.24	HTTP	514	GET /incident-consequatur/documents.zip HTTP/1.1
4232	2021-09-24 16:53:24.9481872	10.9.23.102	104.83.124.33	HTTP	169	GET / HTTP/1.1
4243	2021-09-24 16:53:26.4230852	10.9.23.102	104.83.124.33	HTTP	169	GET / HTTP/1.1
6326	2021-09-24 16:55:08.5935622	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	306	GET /spfoo/cacerts.crl HTTP/1.1
6516	2021-09-24 16:55:11.0441122	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl
7179	2021-09-24 16:55:52.5313802	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl
10285	2021-09-24 16:56:49.6414552	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl
10479	2021-09-24 16:56:53.4840822	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl
10542	2021-09-24 16:56:58.6074632	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl
10643	2021-09-24 16:57:02.8772762	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl
13196	2021-09-24 16:57:15.2094402	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl
13216	2021-09-24 16:57:21.4034024	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscp/R_oapnmcnippfpgmhdahhhbbjjigcmgefkipdlaecdahcmagdhehdadaajhmkcgbpl

Figure 2. HTTP GET request that discovers document.zip

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info	Mark/Unmark Selected	Ctrl+M	
1735	56.248525	19.9.23.102	85.187.128.24	HTTP	514	/incident-consequatur/documents.zip HT	Ignore/Unignore Selected	Ctrl+D	
4232	582.286309	19.9.23.102	184.83.124.33	HTTP	169	GET / HTTP/1.1	Set/Inset Time Reference	Ctrl+T	
4243	583.681198	19.9.23.102	184.83.124.33	HTTP	169	GET / HTTP/1.1	Time Shift...	Ctrl+Shift+T	
6326	685.85175	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	306	GET /spfooh/cacerts.crl	Packet Comments	iебдchnaiabjh1lgfpbaekecehеmaidjobapddig	
5166	688.302225	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig	Edit Resolved Name	iебдchnaiabjh1lgfpbaekecehеmaidjobapddig	
7179	729.789443	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig	Apply as Filter	iебдchnaiabjh1lgfpbaekecehеmaidjobapddig	
10678	760.742195	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig	Prepare as Filter	iебдchnaiabjh1lgfpbaekecehеmaidjobapddig	
10679	765.742195	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig	Conversation Filter	iебдchnaiabjh1lgfpbaekecehеmaidjobapddig	
10642	795.865576	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig	Colorize Conversation	iебдchnaiabjh1lgfpbaekecehеmaidjobapddig	
16643	800.15359	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig	SCTP	iебдchnaiabjh1lgfpbaekecehеmaidjobapddig	
13196	812.587553	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig	Follow	HTTP Stream	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+H
13216	816.668457	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig		TCP Stream	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+I
13230	823.380593	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig		Raw	
13329	828.295112	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig			
13324	832.689997	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig			
13396	842.597493	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig			
13405	847.527575	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig			
13416	852.927935	19.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	GET /gscr/R/oapnlpmcnipgfpfmgdahhhbjjig			

Figure 3. Select TCP Stream to view the dedicated traffic from GET /incident-consequatur/documents.zip HTTP/1.1

Exporting HTTP objects confirmed the archive contained **chart-1530076591.xls** (Figures 4 & 5). The malicious web server responded with Server: **LiteSpeed with PHP/7.2.34** (Figure 6), indicating the attacker-controlled infrastructure delivering the initial payload.

Figure 4. TCP Stream for /incident-consequatur/documents.zip

```
l: must-revalidate, post-check=0, pre-check=0
ic
oding: chunked
4 Sep 2021 16:44:06 GMT
Speed
port-security: max-age=63072000; includeSubDomains
ons: SAMEORIGIN
pe-options: nosniff

[REDACTED]

18S.a.../..... chart-1530076591.xls!T .....Ma..Maux...
4.g...X.`H4..Q1.#...n.i.....sfY.....8.s.y.<.
.[....]
OB....>...x.?..a..;..p....40.tn.gsc?..'^..
@.h..<..MX.B.+.....x7&....g.!..Hkjkj..h7ox..1....~..w;.
..G<....n=.....@p...../N..[.....[.1..#.....C
..t....f.bxt.....Zo..;..f.g....s....N.".....kl....
n....$..S...Pb..O;..C.wk.....(w...w....N.Gv..v.....J...
.....,..S.]...j....~..~....#R.....d/.)Q.AK..{G
'p..n.....^*....t.3.;.....$. HR.... $b..d.@.
```

Figure 5. chart-1530076591.xls inside the stream

```

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Connection: Keep-Alive
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
x-powered-by: PHP/7.2.34
set-cookie: PHPSESSID=ue638a4b99bd63f8f7b0ca7e3b6f14c; path=/
content-description: File Transfer
content-type: application/octet-stream
content-disposition: attachment; filename=documents.zip
content-transfer-encoding: binary
expires: 0
cache-control: must-revalidate, post-check=0, pre-check=0
pragma: public
transfer-encoding: chunked
date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 16:44:06 GMT
server: LiteSpeed
strict-transport-security: max-age=63072000; includeSubDomains
x-frame-options: SAMEORIGIN
x-content-type-options: nosniff

```

Figure 6. Web server and version

Additional download infrastructure: Within 16:45:11–16:45:30 UTC, additional domains contacted by the victim were **finejewels.com.au**, **thietbiagt.com**, and **new.americold.com**, as shown via DNS/TLS evidence (Figure 7). For the first domain, the TLS certificate issuer (CA) was **GoDaddy** (Figure 8).

2427 2021-09-24 16:45:11.840716Z 10.9.23.102 148.72.192.206 TLSv1.2 247 Client Hello (SNI=finejewels.com.au)
2646 2021-09-24 16:45:17.228469Z 10.9.23.102 13.69.109.131 TLSv1.2 242 Client Hello (SNI=self.events.data.microsoft.com)
2999 2021-09-24 16:45:20.389994Z 10.9.23.102 28.54.36.229 TLSv1.2 238 Client Hello (SNI=client.wns.windows.com)
3009 2021-09-24 16:45:21.314012Z 10.9.23.102 210.245.90.247 TLSv1.2 244 Client Hello (SNI=thietbiagt.com)
3229 2021-09-24 16:45:25.731116Z 10.9.23.102 148.72.53.144 TLSv1.2 247 Client Hello (SNI=new.americold.com)

Figure 7. DNS traffic



Figure 8. CA issuer

C2 activity (Cobalt Strike): Using Statistics → Conversations, two C2 candidate servers were identified: **185.125.204.174** (Port 8080) and **185.106.96.158** (Port 80) (Figures 9 & 10 & 11).

DNS analysis linked **185.106.96.158** (Port 80) to **survmeter.live** (Figure 12), and the Host/SNI value observed for this infrastructure was **ocsp.verisign.com** (Figure 13).

For **185.125.204.174**, HTTP POST traffic revealed an association with **securitybusinpuff.com** (Figure 14).

Address A	Port A	Address B	Port B	Packets	Bytes
10.9.23.102	63557	23.111.114.52	65400	18,002	16 MB
10.9.23.102	63555	104.83.84.137	443	9,074	10 MB
10.9.23.102	63465	185.125.204.174	8080	1,375	1 MB
10.9.23.102	63507	185.106.96.158	80	1,074	997 kB
10.9.23.102	63439	136.232.34.70	443	1,002	990 kB
10.9.23.102	63571	136.232.34.70	443	953	911 kB

Figure 9. TCP stream statistics in order of packets

drb_ra
4 years ago

Cobalt Strike Server Found
C2: HTTPS @ 185[.]125[.]204[.]174:4444
C2 Server: securitybusinpuff[.]com,/jquery-3[.]3[.]1[.]min[.]js,185[.]125[.]204[.]174,/jquery-3[.]3[.]1[.]min[.]js
POST URI: /jquery-3[.]3[.]2[.]min[.]js
Country: N/A
ASN: Hydra Communications Ltd
#c2 #cobaltstrike

Figure 10. Virustotal review (1)

drb_ra
4 years ago

Cobalt Strike Server Found
C2: HTTPS @ 185[.]106[.]96[.]158:8888
C2 Server: survmeter[.]live/gscp[.]R/185[.]106[.]96[.]158./gscp[.]R/
POST URI: /suprrq/sa/
Country: United States
ASN: DediPath
Host Header: ocsp[.]verisign[.]com
#c2 #cobaltstrike

Figure 11. Virustotal review (2)

ip.addr == 185.106.96.158 && http			
No.	Time	Source	Destin
+ 6326	2021-09-24 16:55:08.593562Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	survmeter.live
+ 6505	2021-09-24 16:55:10.600344Z	survmeter.live	DESKT
6516	2021-09-24 16:55:11.044112Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	surv
6524	2021-09-24 16:55:11.290931Z	survmeter.live	DESK1
7179	2021-09-24 16:55:52.531330Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	surv
7181	2021-09-24 16:55:52.831411Z	survmeter.live	DESK1

Figure 12. Domain linked to 185.106.96.158

ip.addr == 185.106.96.158 && http			
No.	Time	Source	Destination
→ 6326	2021-09-24 16:55:08.593562Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
← 6505	2021-09-24 16:55:10.600344Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
6516	2021-09-24 16:55:11.044112Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
6524	2021-09-24 16:55:11.290931Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
7179	2021-09-24 16:55:52.531330Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
7181	2021-09-24 16:55:52.831411Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
10285	2021-09-24 16:56:49.641455Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
10291	2021-09-24 16:56:49.892169Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
10479	2021-09-24 16:56:53.484082Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
10487	2021-09-24 16:56:53.726722Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
10542	2021-09-24 16:56:58.607463Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
10550	2021-09-24 16:56:58.864872Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
10643	2021-09-24 16:57:02.877276Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
12145	2021-09-24 16:57:09.344753Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
12436	2021-09-24 16:57:10.251419Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
12954	2021-09-24 16:57:10.555165Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
13196	2021-09-24 16:57:13.329440Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
13198	2021-09-24 16:57:15.574022Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
13205	2021-09-24 16:57:15.825481Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
13207	2021-09-24 16:57:16.188305Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102
13216	2021-09-24 16:57:21.410344Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158
13218	2021-09-24 16:57:21.740566Z	185.106.96.158	10.9.23.102


```

▶ Frame 6326: Packet, 306 bytes on wire (2448 bits), 306 bytes captured (2448 bits)
▶ Ethernet II, Src: HewlettPacka_1c:47:ae (00:08:02:1c:47:ae), Dst: Netgear_b6:93
▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.9.23.102, Dst: 185.106.96.158
▶ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 63447, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 306
▼ Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  ▶ GET /spfooh/cacerts.crl HTTP/1.1\r\n
    Host: ocsp.verisign.com\r\n
    User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/91.0.4453.113 Safari/537.36\r\n
    Connection: Close\r\n
    Cache-Control: no-cache\r\n
  \r\n
  [Response in frame: 6505]
  [Full request URI: http://ocsp.verisign.com/spfooh/cacerts.crl]

```

Figure 13. Request URL for 185.106.96.158

ip.addr == 185.125.204.174 && tcp.port == 8080				
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Proto
→ 4216	2021-09-24 16:53:24.084722Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	securitybusinbuff.com	TCP
← 4217	2021-09-24 16:53:24.246485Z	securitybusinbuff.com	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	TCP
4218	2021-09-24 16:53:24.246766Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	securitybusinbuff.com	TCP
4219	2021-09-24 16:53:24.251794Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	securitybusinbuff.com	TCP
4220	2021-09-24 16:53:24.2521887Z	securitybusinbuff.com	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	TCP
4221	2021-09-24 16:53:24.425150Z	securitybusinbuff.com	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	TCP
4222	2021-09-24 16:53:24.425395Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	securitybusinbuff.com	TCP

Figure 14. Domain linked to 185.125.204.174

Post-infection beaconing traffic was primarily directed to **maldivehost.net** (Figure 15), with the victim sending data beginning with **zLlisQRWZI9** (Figure 16). The first packet from the victim to the C2 server had a frame length of **281** bytes (Figure 16). Server-side response headers from **maldivehost.net** indicated Server: **Apache/2.4.49 (cPanel) OpenSSL/1.1.1l mod_bwlimited/1.4** (Figure 17), which further supports that this domain was attacker-controlled and actively responding to client beacons.

ip.addr==10.9.23.102 && http.request.method=="POST"			
No.	Time	Source	Destination
3822	2021-09-24 16:46:16.395000Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
3908	2021-09-24 16:46:41.509097Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
3996	2021-09-24 16:47:06.571342Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4006	2021-09-24 16:47:31.584345Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4017	2021-09-24 16:47:56.779130Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4027	2021-09-24 16:48:21.805873Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4037	2021-09-24 16:48:46.850457Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4046	2021-09-24 16:49:11.959706Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4090	2021-09-24 16:49:37.041462Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4099	2021-09-24 16:50:02.211046Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4109	2021-09-24 16:50:27.298936Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net
4118	2021-09-24 16:50:52.281257Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net

Figure 15. Post-infection beaconing traffic

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
3822	2021-09-24 16:46:16.395000Z	DESKTOP-T0JC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net	HTTP	281	POST /zLiisQRWZI9/QOsaaDixzHtgfj
3908	2021-09-24 16:46:41.5090077	DESKTOP-T0JC6RB.goingfortune.com	maldivehost.net	HTTP	285	POST /zLiisQRWZI9/AsKsKy@SP8R113

Figure 16. Post-infection beaconing traffic

Wireshark · Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 111) · cw1.pcap

```
POST /zLiisQRWZI9/LjI+JSooJQ4lBiwyAhR7KngvHgopKBhFfntkcmJ9eGR6fH0= HTTP/1.1
Host: maldividehost.net
Content-Length: 112

Dw8YBxsEGmYFAAEJfR4NQkMmLTYqZDk5KyQmOyRGQg1xEBo4Lzk/EyYrMi1hOT8vIyM7IhcNPzsOKjguFxgkLSIiJCxFRgwFAgIIDQUZGBoFD0JF

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 16:47:55 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.49 (cPanel) OpenSSL/1.1.11 mod_bwlimited/1.4
X-Powered-By: PHP/5.6.40
Content-Length: 302
Strict-Transport-Security: ...max-age=15552000...
Connection: close
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

[REDACTED]

eXp7QUVQCQ0FBfn15eX1/eXp8e0JBQ0JGQnpzeWJ+eXtLeH1lf3xBRUJDQUELDhkAGAAbZwIDBQh8GQ5GQiCqNS5lOD4oICc6I0VGCHAXGTwuODgQiiozKmI9Pi4kID
QDBQsJBBgF6QE0Q0JBRUJDQUEBBAQ0QUVQfBAQQEDkFfQkNBQQEEBA5BRUJDQUCQUNCRkJGQEJFRUZHQUVGQuDGrkZCQEZRURJDQUCQUNCRkJGQEJFRUZHQUVGQ
```

Figure 17. Server header

Final exfiltration/check-in: The malware performed an external IP check via DNS at **2021-09-24 17:00:04**, querying **api.ipify.org** (Figure 18). SMTP traffic showed the first MAIL FROM address as **farshin@mailfa.com** (Figure 19). Following the same TCP stream, the password was transmitted using AUTH LOGIN (Base64), and the password associated with ho3ein.sharifi's password is **13691369** (Figures 20 & 21).

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
990	2021-09-24 16:44:22.274695Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	goingfortune-dc.goingfort...	DNS	73	Standard query 0x26b2 A api.msn.com
993	2021-09-24 16:44:22.419852Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	goingfortune-dc.goingfort...	DNS	186	Standard query response 0x26b2 A api.msn.com CNAME api...
24147	2021-09-24 17:00:04.093354Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	goingfortune-dc.goingfort...	DNS	73	Standard query 0xc92c A api.ipify.org
24149	2021-09-24 17:00:04.233864Z	goingfortune-dc.goingfortune.com	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	DNS	299	Standard query response 0xc92c A api.ipify.org CNAME n...
25279	2021-09-24 17:00:04.174080Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	goingfortune-dc.goingfort...	DNS	73	Standard query 0x8e0d A api.ipify.org
25281	2021-09-24 17:00:04.324491Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	goingfortune-dc.goingfort...	DNS	299	Standard query response 0x8e0d A api.ipify.org CNAME n...
26756	2021-09-24 17:02:17.477261Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	goingfortune-dc.goingfort...	DNS	73	Standard query 0x8d97 A api.ipify.org
26763	2021-09-24 17:02:17.634232Z	goingfortune-dc.goingfortune.com	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	DNS	299	Standard query response 0x8d97 A api.ipify.org CNAME n...
27836	2021-09-24 17:02:35.839648Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	goingfortune-dc.goingfort...	DNS	73	Standard query 0x5250 A api.ipify.org
27838	2021-09-24 17:02:35.995693Z	goingfortune-dc.goingfortune.com	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfort...	DNS	299	Standard query response 0x5250 A api.ipify.org CNAME n...

Figure 18. A DNS query occurred for the domain used by the malware

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
28576	2021-09-24 17:02:46.778017Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	mailfa.com	SMTP	86	C: MAIL FROM:<farshin@mailfa.com>
28804	2021-09-24 17:02:49.113592Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	mailfa.com	SMTP	93	C: MAIL FROM:<ho3ein.sharifi@mailfa.com>
39905	2021-09-24 17:03:30.417353Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	smtplib.cultura.com.br	SMTP	112	C: MAIL FROM:<cristianodummer@cultura.com.br> BODY=8BITMIME
46434	2021-09-24 17:03:59.533638Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	mail.tanriverdinakliyat...	SMTP	95	C: MAIL FROM:<info@tanriverdinakliyat.com>
67162	2021-09-24 17:04:45.764101Z	DESKTOP-IOJC6RB.goingfortune.com	mail.aebarcelo.com	SMTP	181	C: MAIL FROM:<roser@aebarcelo.com> BODY=8BITMIME

Figure 19. SMTP traffic

```
Wireshark - Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 387) - cw1.pcap

220 mail.mailfa.com
EHLO localhost
250-mail.mailfa.com
250-SIZE 30000000
250 AUTH LOGIN
AUTH LOGIN
334 VXNlcm5hbWU6
aG8zZW1uLnNoYXJpZm1AbWFpbGZhLmNvbQ==
334 UGFzc3dvcmQ6
4TM2OTFzljk=
235 authenticated.
MAIL FROM:<ho3ein.sharifi@mailfa.com>
550 Your SMTP Service is disable please check by your mailservice provider.
```

Figure 20. Packet content

Input
jUGFzc3dvcmQ6
MTM2OTEzNjk=

Output
Password:13691369

Figure 21. BASE64 decryption

Section 4 – Conclusion and References

The investigation successfully identified the infected system, reconstructed the initial infection vector, and characterised the C2 infrastructure and final exfiltration behaviour observed in the PCAP. The combination of protocol filtering, conversation analysis, and correlation with the quiz questions enabled a coherent incident narrative from initial compromise to attacker objectives.

To prevent similar incidents in the future, organisations should enforce secure web gateways, robust endpoint protection, and strict email filtering, as well as monitor network traffic for abnormal HTTP/HTTPS patterns and known malicious domains. Implementation of network intrusion detection systems (NIDS), regular patching, least-privilege access, and multi-factor authentication can further reduce the risk of successful compromise and lateral movement.

Open challenges remain around detecting encrypted C2 traffic, identifying zero-day malware, and distinguishing benign from malicious use of legitimate cloud and web services. Continued improvement of threat intelligence integration, behavioural analytics, and incident response processes is essential for enhancing situational awareness and resilience.

Reference

1. Palo Alto Networks Unit 42:
Unit 42. (n.d.). Using Wireshark display filter expressions. Palo Alto Networks.
<https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/using-wireshark-display-filter-expressions/>

2. Wireshark User's Guide:
Wireshark Foundation. (2019). Wireshark user's guide (Version 4.7.0).
https://www.wireshark.org/docs/wsug_html_chunked/

Appendix

Part 1: Initial Infection & File Transfer

- When did the initial malicious HTTP connection occur? (Provide the date and time in yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss format).

Ans:

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1628	2021-09-24 16:44:38.3090102	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
1735	2021-09-24 16:44:38.990412Z	10.9.23.102	85.187.128.24	HTTP	514	GET /incident-consequatur/documents.zip HTTP/1.1
1779	2021-09-24 16:44:39.310920Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
1834	2021-09-24 16:44:40.311221Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
1966	2021-09-24 16:44:41.312053Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	215	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3631	2021-09-24 16:45:52.722204Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3632	2021-09-24 16:45:52.776068Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3633	2021-09-24 16:45:52.986232Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3634	2021-09-24 16:45:53.089180Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3635	2021-09-24 16:45:55.812740Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3640	2021-09-24 16:45:56.000935Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3734	2021-09-24 16:45:58.721049Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3737	2021-09-24 16:45:58.813363Z	10.9.23.102	239.255.255.250	SSDP	179	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
3822	2021-09-24 16:46:02.395080Z	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	281	POST /L1lisQRWZ19/QsQs0d1xHtgefjMgGyp6enpldF5ewV9f3k= HTTP/1.1 Continuation
3908	2021-09-24 16:46:41.509097Z	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	285	POST /L1lisQRWZ19/A5kSkx0sPRB11jESe5g9K6fGyZH1/Xp6e0== HTTP/1.1 Continuation
3996	2021-09-24 16:47:06.571342Z	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	285	POST /L1lisQRWZ19/TXWNqgnhKz//DAlA5dgB10h6fGyZH1/Xp6e0== HTTP/1.1 Continuation
4006	2021-09-24 16:47:31.588445Z	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	273	POST /L1lisQRWZ19/0kKAAbInx9RnpsZXvheX1fX95 HTTP/1.1 Continuation
4017	2021-09-24 16:47:56.779130Z	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	293	POST /L1lisQRWZ19/J1+3SqoJ01lbiw/AhR7KngvHgopKBhfFnTkcJ9e0R6fH0= HTTP/1.1 Continuation
4037	2021-09-24 16:48:51.006977Z	10.9.23.102	208.91.128.6	HTTP	980	POST /+T1..abwrrta/umwmc-AAL-awv.EEMuA/TTTDE7e...mUWV1/.../... HTTP/1.1 Continuation

1735 2021-09-24 16:44:38.990412Z 10.9.23.102 85.187.128.24 HTTP 514
GET /incident-consequatur/documents.zip HTTP/1.1

UTC Arrival Time: Sep 24, 2021 16:44:38.309010000 UTC

2021-09-24 16:44:38

- What is the name of the compressed file that the victim downloaded?

Ans:

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1735	2021-09-24 16:44:38.990412Z	10.9.23.102	85.187.128.24	HTTP	514	GET /incident-consequatur/documents.zip HTTP/1.1
4232	2021-09-24 16:53:24.948187Z	10.9.23.102	104.83.124.33	HTTP	169	GET / HTTP/1.1
4243	2021-09-24 16:53:26.423085Z	10.9.23.102	104.83.124.33	HTTP	169	GET / HTTP/1.1
6326	2021-09-24 16:55:08.593562Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	306	/spfooh/cacerts.crl HTTP/1.1
6516	2021-09-24 16:55:11.044112Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp
7179	2021-09-24 16:55:52.531330Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp
10285	2021-09-24 16:56:49.641452Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp
10479	2021-09-24 16:56:53.484082Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp
10542	2021-09-24 16:56:58.607463Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp
10643	2021-09-24 16:57:02.877276Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp
13196	2021-09-24 16:57:15.329440Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp
13216	2021-09-24 16:57:21.418344Z	10.9.23.102	185.106.96.158	HTTP	569	/gscp.R/oapnlpmcnipgfpgmhdahhbbhjigcmfgekipdlacgedhacmaghdehcdaajhnkogblp

[Full request URI: <http://attirenepal.com/incidunt-consequatur/documents.zip>]

documents.zip

- Which domain hosted the malicious compressed file?

Ans:

attirenepal.com

4. What is the name of the file located inside the compressed archive?

Ans:

```
ragma: public
transfer-encoding: chunked
date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 16:44:06 GMT
server: LiteSpeed
strict-transport-security: max-age=63072000; includeSubDomains
x-frame-options: SAMEORIGIN
x-content-type-options: nosniff

0000
K.....d85.a.../.....chart-1530076591.xlsUT    ...Ma..Maux.....[w\...>.[
.5.. .c.4.4.g...X.^H4..Ql.#..n.I...^.....sfY.....8.s.y..<.).sfgv..j.....+h
...8.U~....[...
....K,...h.0B....>...x.?..a...;..p....40.tn.gsc?..'^..
<....^/X..@.h..<..MX.B.+.....x7&....g..!.Hkjkj..h7ox..1.....w;.).8r..s....kp....fT..
Q`>..f.8.N...G<....n=....@p...../N..[....[.1..#.....C
....$tF....t..f.bxt.....Zo..;..f.g...=s....N.".....kl...na`.....p.[....
.D.l1..../...n...$.S...Pb..O;..C.wk.....(w.w....N.Gv..v.....J...$.>.6..~T....K..p..$.
.X.....b..b..z.....,S.]...j....~....#R.....d/.)Q.AK..{G.:+..
....",8.,y7R... ,8.....v/m.....f..I..Yp..n.....*....t.3..;.....$.
...f0;..z.A.....v....V0h...NO;....^O;..w.!....6...0.@t.*9..<U.C.@49A....p...."1Q.D.   b.
...M .. 7_ - " ... o   ^ ..  " .. f'  a
```

chart-1530076591.xls

5. Identify the specific web server software (Server header) running on the malicious IP address that served the compressed file.

Ans:

```
transfer-encoding: chunked
date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 16:44:06 GMT
server: LiteSpeed
strict-transport-security: max-age=63072000; includeSubDomains
x-frame-options: SAMEORIGIN
x-content-type-options: nosniff

10000
PK.....d85.a.../.....chart-1530076591.xlsUT
..5.. .c.4.4.g...X.^H4..Ql.#..n.I...^.....sfY...
...8.U~....[...
....K,...h.0B....>...x.?..a...;..p....40.tn.gsc?..'^..
Q`>..f.8.N...G<....n=....@p...../N..[....[.1.
....$tF....t..f.bxt.....Zo..;..f.g...=s....N.
..D.l1..../...n...$.S...Pb..O;..C.wk.....(w.w...
:X.....b..b..z.....,S.]...j....~....#R.....d/.)Q.AK..{G.:+..
....",8.,y7R... ,8.....v/m.....f..I..Yp..n.....*....t.3..;.....$.
...f0;..z.A.....v....V0h...NO;....^O;..w.!....6...0.@t.*9..<U.C.@49A....p...."1Q.D.   b.
...M .. 7_ - " ... o   ^ ..  " .. f'  a
```

client pkt(s), 148 server pkt(s), 1 turn(s).

Entire conversation (199 kB) Show

ind: server

LiteSpeed

6. What is the version number of the web server identified in the previous question?

Ans:

PHP/7.2.34

7. Identify the three additional domains that were involved in downloading malicious files to the victim host.

Hint: Inspect HTTPS traffic and focus on the time window between 16:45:11 and 16:45:30. Note this range is in UTC, not BST.

Ans:

2427 2021-09-24 16:45:11.840716Z 10.9.23.102	148.72.192.206	TLSv1.2	247 Client Hello (SNI=finejewels.com.au)
2646 2021-09-24 16:45:17.228469Z 10.9.23.102	13.69.109.131	TLSv1.2	242 Client Hello (SNI=self.events.data.microsoft.com)
2909 2021-09-24 16:45:20.389994Z 10.9.23.102	20.54.36.229	TLSv1.2	238 Client Hello (SNI=client.wns.windows.com)
3009 2021-09-24 16:45:21.314012Z 10.9.23.102	210.245.90.247	TLSv1.2	244 Client Hello (SNI=thietbiagt.com)
3229 2021-09-24 16:45:25.731116Z 10.9.23.102	148.72.53.144	TLSv1.2	247 Client Hello (SNI=new.americold.com)

finejewels.com.au

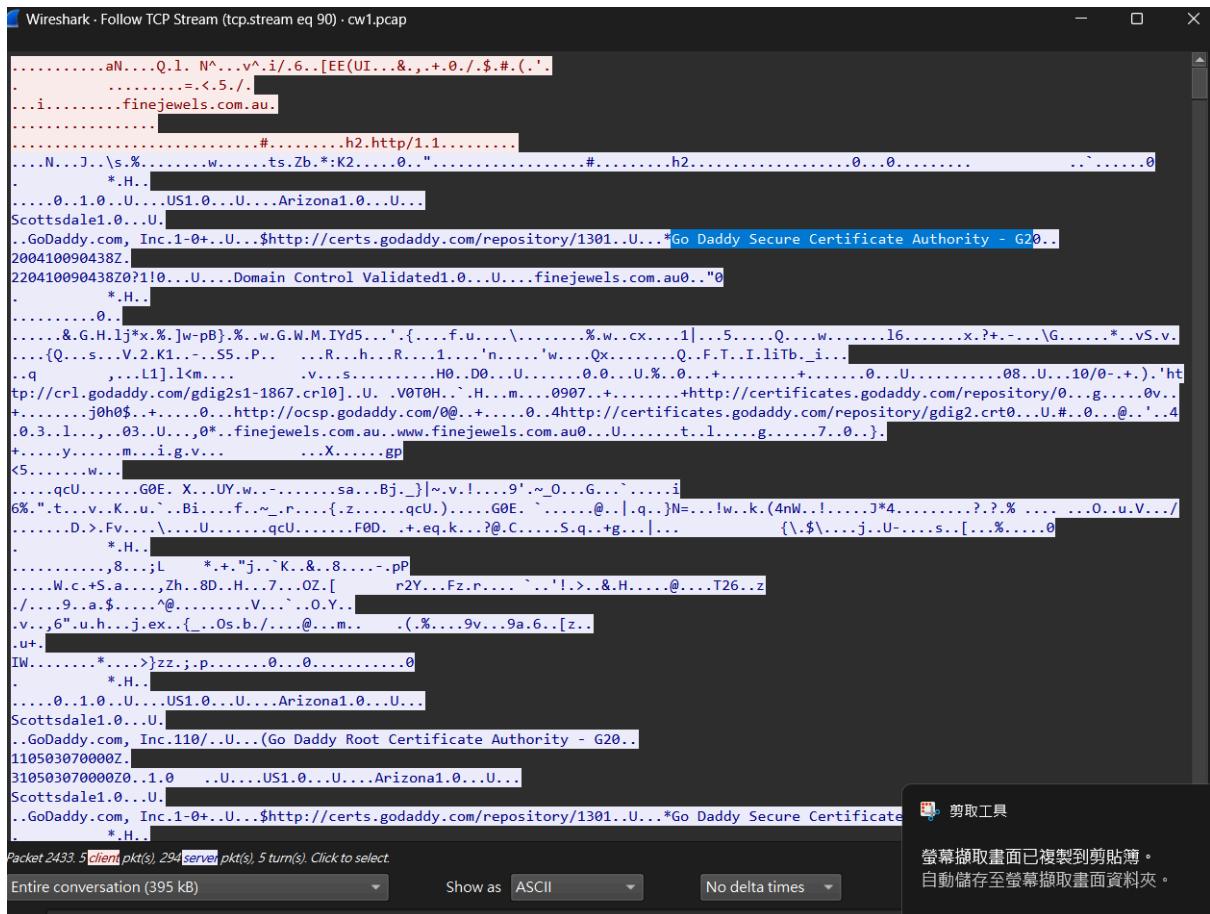
thietbiagt.com

new.americold.com

Part 2: Command and Control (C2) Activity

8. Which Certificate Authority (CA) issued the SSL certificate for the first domain identified in question 7?

Ans:



GoDaddy

9. What are the two IP addresses of the Cobalt Strike servers? (Provide them in sequential order).

Hint: Inspect the Conversations menu option

Ans:

Address A	Port A	Address B	Port B	Packets	Bytes ▾
10.9.23.102	63557	23.111.114.52	65400	18,002	16 MB
10.9.23.102	63555	104.83.84.137	443	9,074	10 MB
10.9.23.102	63465	185.125.204.174	8080	1,375	1 MB
10.9.23.102	63507	185.106.96.158	80	1,074	997 kB
10.9.23.102	63439	136.232.34.70	443	1,002	990 kB
10.9.23.102	63571	136.232.34.70	443	953	911 kB

Virustotal

This screenshot shows the Virustotal interface for the IP address 185.106.96.158. The analysis report indicates that the IP carried out Apache Log4j RCE attempt(s) (also known as CVE-2021-44228 or Log4Shell). The report details findings from Cobalt Strike, including C2 information, POST URI, Country, ASN, Host Header, and hashtags.

drb_ra 4 years ago

Cobalt Strike Server Found
C2: HTTPS @ 185[.]106[.]96[.]158:8888
C2 Server: survmeter[.]live/gscp[.]R/185[.]106[.]96[.]158/gscp[.]R/
POST URI: /supprq/sa/
Country: United States
ASN: DediPath
Host Header: ocsp[.]verisign[.]com
#c2 #cobaltstrike

This screenshot shows the Virustotal interface for the IP address 185.125.204.174. The analysis report indicates that the IP carried out Apache Log4j RCE attempt(s) (also known as CVE-2021-44228 or Log4Shell). The report details findings from Cobalt Strike, including C2 information, POST URI, Country, ASN, and hashtags.

drb_ra 4 years ago

Cobalt Strike Server Found
C2: HTTPS @ 185[.]125[.]204[.]174:4444
C2 Server: securitybusinpufff[.]com/jquery-3[.]3[.]1[.]min[.]js,185[.]125[.]204[.]174/jquery-3[.]3[.]1[.]min[.]js
POST URI: /jquery-3[.]3[.]2[.]min[.]js
Country: N/A
ASN: Hydra Communications Ltd
#c2 #cobaltstrike

185.106.96.158

185.125.204.174

10.What is the value of the Host header for the first Cobalt Strike IP address?

Hint: Apply a filter to isolate DNS queries.

Ans:

ocsp.verisign.com

11.What is the domain name associated with the first Cobalt Strike IP address?

Hint: Take a closer look at HTTPS (443)

Ans:

survmeter.live

12.What is the domain name associated with the second Cobalt Strike IP address?

Hint: Apply a filter to capture HTTP POST requests.

Ans:

securitybusinpuff.com

13.What is the domain name used for the post-infection traffic?

Ans:

maldivehost.net

14.What are the first eleven characters of the data the victim host sends to the malicious domain identified in the previous question?

Ans:

zLIisQRWZI9

15.What was the length of the first packet the victim sent to the C2 server?

Ans:

281

16.What was the Server header value for the malicious domain from question 13?

Ans:

Apache/2.4.49 (cPanel) OpenSSL/1.1.1l mod_bwlimited/1.4

Part 3: Final Exfiltration/Check-in

17.What was the date and time (in yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss UTC format) when the DNS query occurred for the domain used by the malware to check the victim's external IP address?

Ans:

2021-09-24 17:00:04

18.What was the domain name in the DNS query from the previous question?

Ans:

api.ipify.org

19.What was the first email address observed in the SMTP traffic in the pcap file (the MAIL FROM address)?

Ans:

28576 2021-09-24 17:02:46.778017Z 10.9.23.102 185.4.29.135 SMTP 86 C:
MAIL FROM:<farshin@mailfa.com>

farshin@mailfa.com

20.Follow the stream from Q19. What is ho3ein.sharifi's password?

Ans:

220 mail.mailfa.com

EHLO localhost

250-mail.mailfa.com

250-SIZE 30000000

250 AUTH LOGIN

AUTH LOGIN

334 VXNlcmt5hbWU6

ZmFyc2hpbkBtYWlsZmEuY29t

334 UGFzc3dvcmQ6

ZGluYWlpdA==

235 authenticated.

MAIL FROM:<farshin@mailfa.com>

550 Your SMTP Service is disable please check by your mailservice provider.

Due to the communication using BASE64, which is decryptable, the password was found in the decrypt output.

Password:**13691369**

Student Declaration of AI Tool use in this Assessment

Please indicate your level of usage of generative AI for this assessment - please tick the appropriate category(s).

If the “Assisted Work” or “Partnered Work” category is selected, please expand on the usage and in which elements of the assignment the usage refers to.

Solo Work	S1 - Generative AI tools have not been used for this assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assisted Work	A1 – Idea Generation and Problem Exploration Used to generate project ideas, explore different approaches to solving a problem, or suggest features for software or systems. Students must critically assess AI-generated suggestions and ensure their own intellectual contributions are central.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A2 - Planning & Structuring Projects AI may help outline the structure of reports, documentation and projects. The final structure and implementation must be the student’s own work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A3 – Code Architecture AI tools maybe used to help outline code architecture (e.g. suggesting class hierarchies or module breakdowns). The final code structure must be the student’s own work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A4 – Research Assistance Used to locate and summarise relevant articles, academic papers, technical documentation, or online resources (e.g. Stack Overflow, GitHub discussions). The interpretation and integration of research into the assignment remain the student’s responsibility.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A5 - Language Refinement Used to check grammar, refine language, improve sentence structure in documentation not code. AI should be used only to provide suggestions for improvement. Students must ensure that the documentation accurately reflects the code and is technically correct.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>A6 – Code Review</p> <p>AI tools can be used to check comments within the code and to suggest improvements to code readability, structure or syntax. AI should be used only to provide suggestions for improvement. Students must ensure that the code accurately reflects their knowledge and is technically correct.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A7 - Code Generation for Learning Purposes</p> <p>Used to generate example code snippets to understand syntax, explore alternative implementations, or learn new programming paradigms. Students must not submit AI-generated code as their own and must be able to explain how it works.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A8 - Technical Guidance & Debugging Support</p> <p>AI tools can be used to explain algorithms, programming concepts, or debugging strategies. Students may also help interpret error messages or suggest possible fixes. However, students must write, test, and debug their own code independently and understand all solutions submitted.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A9 - Testing and Validation Support</p> <p>AI may assist in generating test cases, validating outputs, or suggesting edge cases for software testing. Students are responsible for designing comprehensive test plans and interpreting test results.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A10 - Data Analysis and Visualization Guidance</p> <p>AI tools can help suggest ways to analyse datasets or visualize results (e.g. recommending chart types or statistical methods). Students must perform the analysis themselves and understand the implications of the results.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A11 - Other uses not listed above</p> <p>Please specify:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Partnered Work	<p>P1 - Generative AI tool usage has been used integrally for this assessment</p> <p>Students can adopt approaches that are compliant with instructions in the assessment brief.</p> <p>Please Specify:</p> <p>The analysis of pcap file to verify the answer of own finding</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<p>Please provide details of AI usage and which elements of the coursework this relates to:</p> <p>30%, pcap analysis</p>
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<p>I understand that the ownership and responsibility for the academic integrity of this submitted assessment falls with me, the student.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>I confirm that all details provided above are an accurate description of how AI was used for this assessment.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>