

FORTINET®

OUTBREAK ALERTS



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 2022, **FortiGuard IPS** and **FortiGuard AV/Sandbox** blocked three trillion and six trillion known vulnerabilities, malware and 0-day attacks. Those encompassed several thousand varieties of *Remote Code Execution*, *Cross-Site Scripting*, *Elevation of Privilege*, *Denial of Service*, *Trojans*, *Exploits*. FortiGuard Labs alerted numerous critical threats throughout the year based on factors such as *proof-of-concept*, *attack vectors*, *dependencies*, and more. This annual report covers:

- More than two-dozen Outbreak Alerts on vulnerabilities, targeted attacks, ransomware, and OT.
- Highlights of older but commonly targeted CVEs, including classification of these vulnerabilities based on view of prevalence.
- Real-world data compiled by **FortiGuard** showing how these vulnerabilities are exploited in the wild.
- Context around the entire attack surface to understand the components that can aid in protection and response.



Figure 1: FortiGuard Outbreak Alerts released in 2022

SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAKS IN 2022

Given the enormous hits and varieties, let us focus on the significant ones:

VMWare Spring4Shell (CVE-2022-22965)

With a few thousand daily average device attack hits, Spring4Shell is a sizable outbreak. Spring4Shell is a popular Java lightweight open-source framework that allows simplification of the software development cycle of any Java-based enterprise applications. Unpatched versions of the framework are easily exploitable to a remote code execution via insufficient validation of user-supplied inputs. Read the full [Outbreak Alert](#).

Microsoft Exchange ProxyNotShell (CVE-2022-41040, CVE-2022-41082)

Microsoft Exchange has been on the top list of vulnerable applications with ten thousand daily attack hits. The vulnerability is due to insufficient sanitization when handling a malicious request. If the server is exploited, a remote attacker can disclose sensitive data or execute arbitrary code without the knowledge of the application. Read the full [Outbreak Report](#).

VMware Spring Cloud Function RCE (CVE-2022-22963)

Spring Framework is an open-source lightweight Java-based platform application development framework for creating high-performing, easily testable code. Spring Cloud provides developer tools to build distributed systems (e.g. configuration management, service discovery, etc). In Spring Cloud Function versions 3.1.6, and older versions, it is possible for an attacker to provide a specially crafted malicious configuration that may result in remote code execution and access to local resources. Read the full [Outbreak Report](#).

ABB TotalFlow Path Traversal (CVE-2022-0902)

Asea Brown Boveri (ABB), a Swiss industrial automation firm that develops flow computers, a purpose-built electronic instrument used by Energy sector manufacturers to interpret data and calculate gas flow rates. These devices are affected by a vulnerability that could allow hackers to cause prevent utilities from billing their customers. Read the full [Outbreak Report](#).

Hikvision IP Cameras Command Injection Vulnerability (CVE-2021-36260)

Hikvision is one of the leading providers of IoT sensor technologies such as IP cameras used in energy, educational and military sectors. Our FortiGuard telemetry detected a daily average of over a thousand. An attacker can exploit this vulnerability to launch a command injection attack by sending messages with malicious commands. . Read the full [Outbreak Report](#).

Hive Ransomware

Hive ransomware was first observed in June 2021. It has grown into one of the most prevalent ransomwares in the ransomware as a service (RaaS) ecosystem. The RaaS model has developers creating, maintaining, updating the malware, and affiliates conducting the ransomware attacks. According to FBI info the Hive gang has received up to \$100+ million in ransom payments from more than a thousand victims. Read the full [Outbreak Report](#).

Zerobot Attack

Zerobot is a Go-based botnet that spreads primarily through IoT and web application vulnerabilities. According to the FortiGuard Labs research, the most recent distribution of Zerobot introduces new features including DDoS attack option and ability to exploit Apache vulnerabilities. It contains modules for file replication, attacks for different protocols, and self-propagation. Read the full [Outbreak Report](#).

VULNERABILITY PROFILE SUMMARY FOR 2022

For the top vulnerability profile, the code execution was the most prevalent. Attackers focus on remote code execution because of the high impact of successful exploitation. Many other vulnerabilities in the top 10 are associated with websites such as accessing restricted directories, revealing sensitive information and user validation.

Some vulnerabilities were detected by more than 50,000 unique devices indicating widespread use by threat actors.

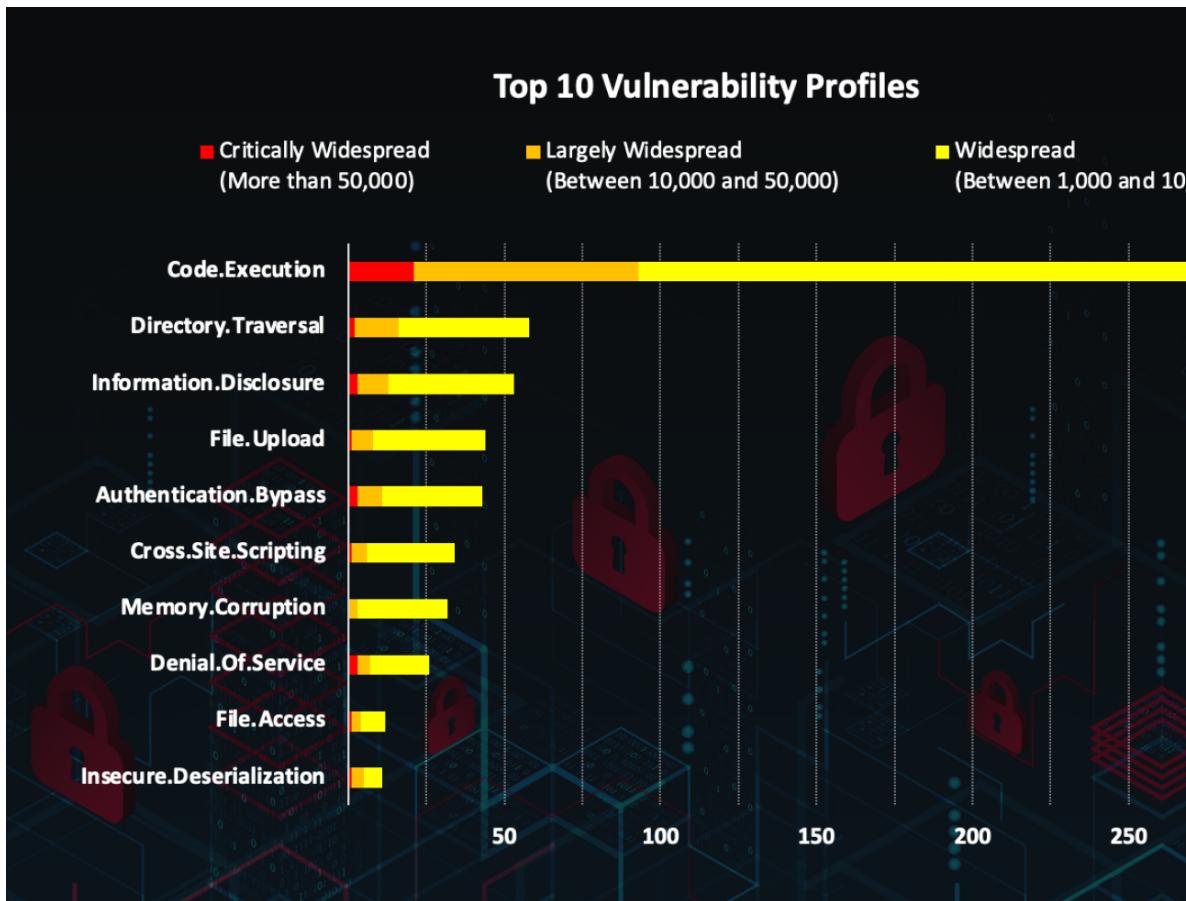


Figure 2: Active vulnerability count detected by at least 1,000 unique devices in a month.

Let's review the notable ones:

Apache.Log4j.Error.Log.Remote.Code.Execution

The Log4j2 is a Java-based logging utility that is part of the Apache Logging Services project. It is used by a vast number of companies worldwide, enabling logging in a wide set of popular applications. This specific vulnerability could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on the affected system. Refer to the [Threat Encyclopedia](#) entry for more info.

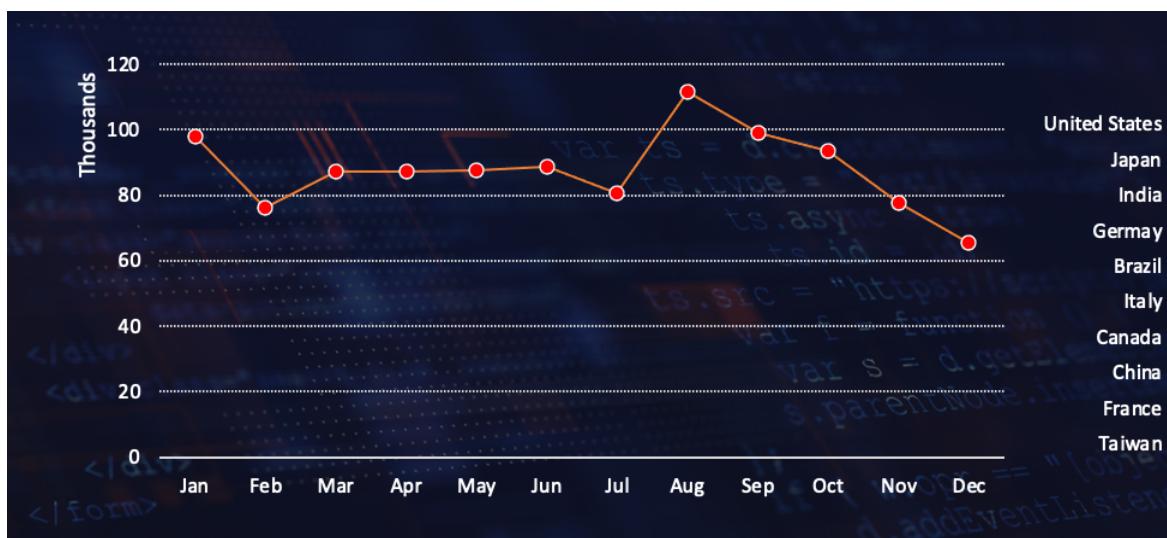


Figure 3: Device hits for Apache.Log4j.Error.Log.Remote.Code.Execution and the locations of the attack.

MS.Windows.CVE-2020-1381.Privilege.Elevation

This vulnerability is a privilege escalation vulnerability in Microsoft Windows, exploitable using crafted file. It has been publicly disclosed for more than two years and it remains to be in the top 10 most exploited vulnerabilities. This means that the attackers since there are hundreds of vulnerable devices and it can leverage their privilege escalation to gain full control over the system. Read the full [IPS Threat](#) and [Endpoint](#) Encyclopedia entries for more info.

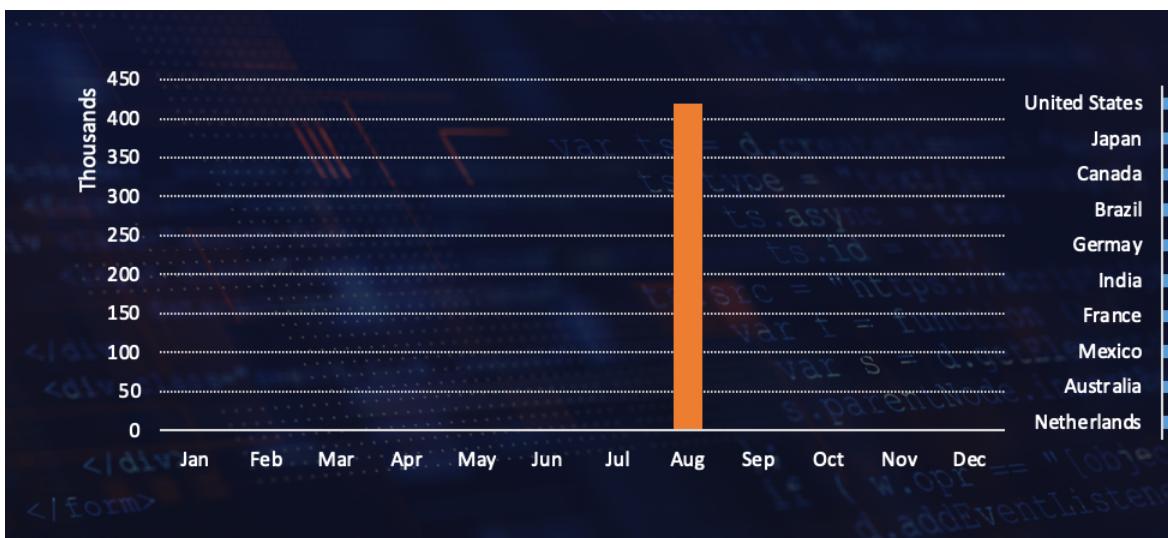


Figure 4: Device hits for MS.Windows.CVE-2020-1381.Privilege.Elevation and the locations of the attacks

Apache.HTTP.Server.cgi-bin.Path.Traversal

This indicates an attack attempt to exploit a path traversal vulnerability in Apache HTTP Server. The Apache HTTP Server vulnerability is due to a path normalization error. Successful exploitation can lead to information disclosure or remote code execution. Read the full [Threat Encyclopedia](#) entry for more info.

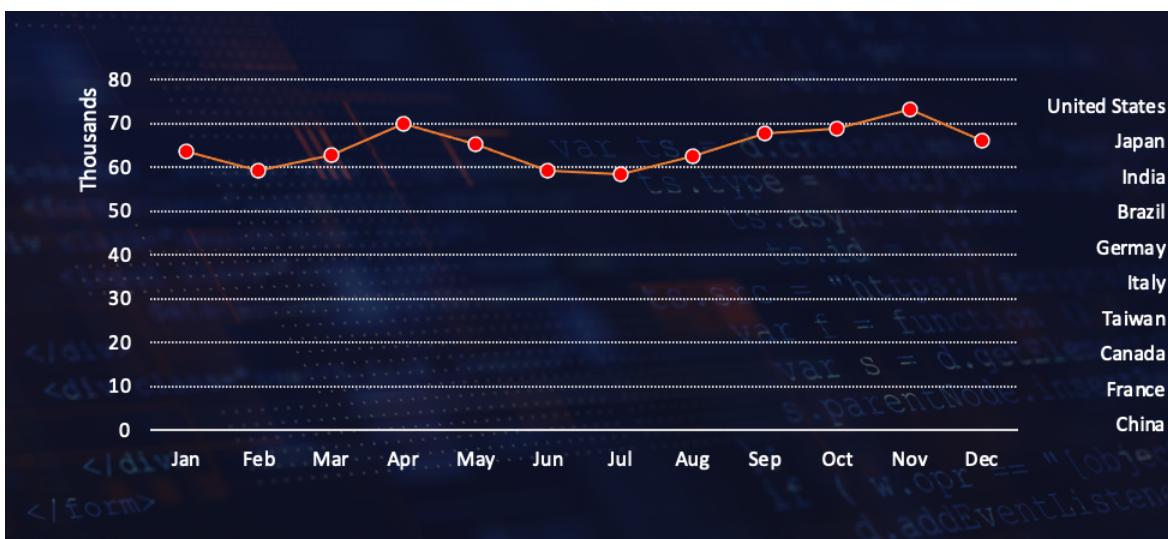


Figure 5: Device hits for Apache.HTTP.Server.cgi-bin.Path.Traversal and the locations of the attacks

Linux.Kernel.TCP.SACK.Panic.DoS

This vulnerability is due to an error in the Linux kernel when it handles specially crafted TCP packets. The Linux Kernel vulnerability is due to a race condition between the handling of the segment size. A remote attacker may be able to exploit this to cause a denial of service condition on a targeted system. Read the full [Threat Encyclopedia](#) entry for more info.



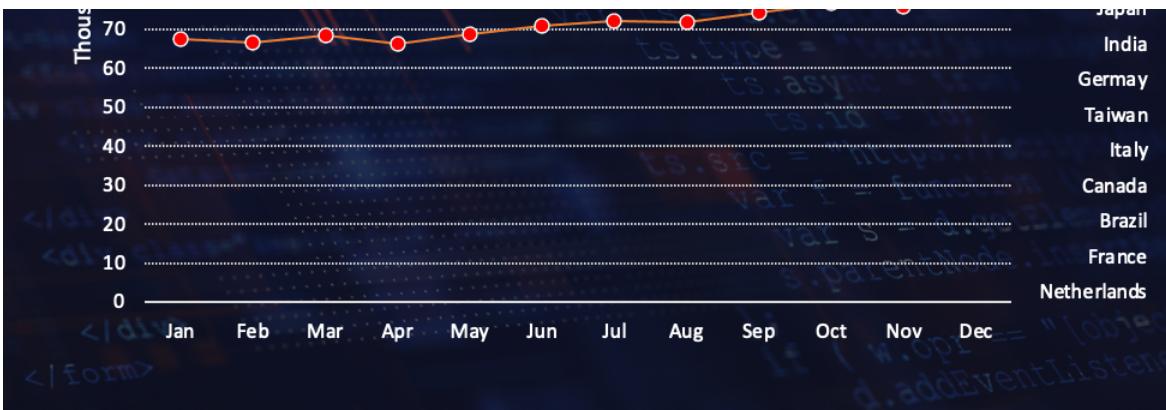


Figure 6: Device hits for Linux.Kernel.TCP.SACK.Panic.DoS and the locations of the attacks blocked.

MALWARE PROFILE SUMMARY FOR 2022

FortiGuard Labs observed an average of over 500 million total malware detections per month in 2022. In September, there was increased activity due to regionally-focused MSIL/Packer attacks. In addition, nearly 1.5 million monthly 0-day attacks were detected by FortiSandbox. Microsoft Windows executable file type was the most common vehicle for malware attacks followed by Microsoft Office file type.

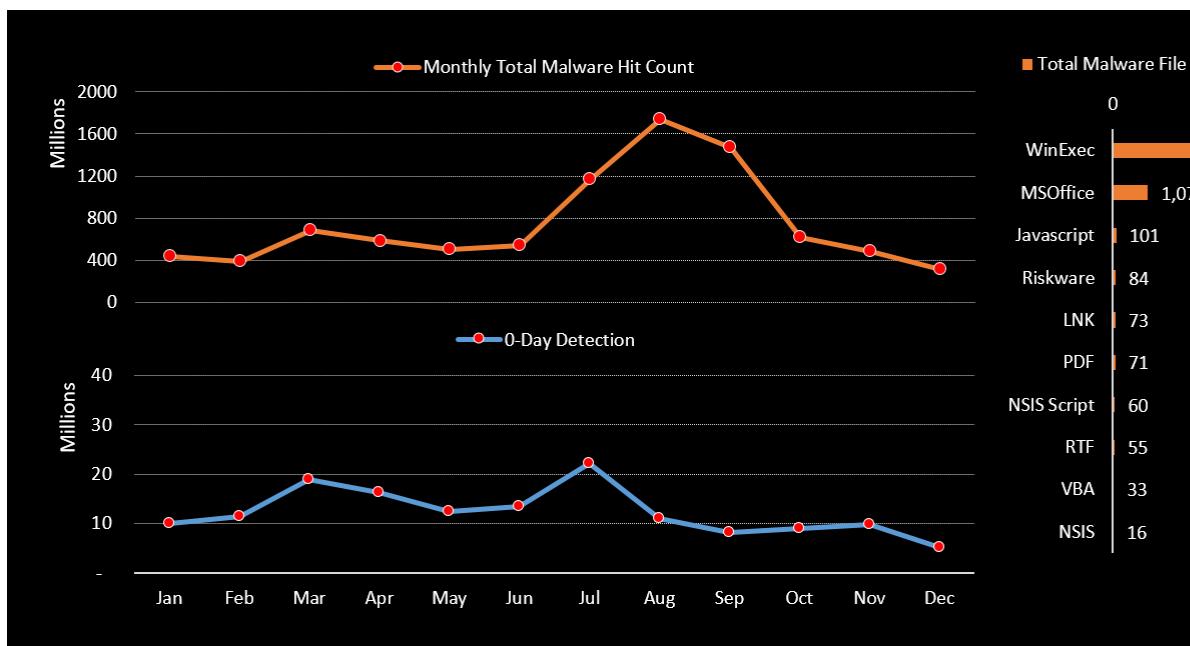


Figure 7: Overall Monthly Malware hit count, file type and country distribution.

Let's review the notable ones:

MSIL/Packer

The MSIL/Packer.VWH!tr and MSIL/Packer.VZX!tr were regionally widespread in Columbia with over 2.5 billion total detections. This malware used a Windows DLL program based on .NET and performed multiple encryptions. Read the full [Threat Encyclopedia](#) entry for more info.





Figure 8: Monthly detection hit count of MSIL/Packer.

MSEExcel/Exploits

Microsoft Excel exploits remained popular with more than 500 million detection hit count. The two vulnerabilities targeted were CVE-2017-11882 and CVE-2018-0798, which both are 5. Given its presence and year round, many endpoints are presumed to be still vulnerable. The malware uses stack buffer overflow vulnerability to run malicious shellcode which in turn will allow the malware to download the next malicious payload. For more info, here are the [MSOffice/CVE_2017_11882](#) and [MSEExcel/CVE_2018_0798.BOR!exploit](#).



Figure 9: Monthly detection hit count of malware targeting CVE-2017-11882.



Figure 10: Monthly detection hit count of malware targeting CVE-2018-0798.

CONCLUSION

Attacks on open source and common vulnerabilities accelerated throughout 2022, becoming more widespread for all types of organization. Targeted attacks are becoming easier as attackers gain awareness of the industry, plus commonly used devices (IoT), or other malpractices adopted during the work-from-anywhere era. Zero trust of endpoints combined with automated insights to attacks and industry trends are keys for success.

ABOUT FORTIGUARD OUTBREAK ALERTS

Given the volume of active threats, evolving methods for exploiting systems and increasing damage to operations, today's SOC teams require automation and dynamic services to succeed. FortiGuard Labs [Outbreak Alerts](#) provide a unique analysis of the threat landscape throughout the year. FortiGuard Services provide solutions to cover the complete attack surfaces, identify outbreaks and automatically mitigate impacts and investigate suspected compromises.

Learn more about [FortiGuard Outbreak Alerts](#)



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