Case Study:

Investigate a Suspicious File Hash

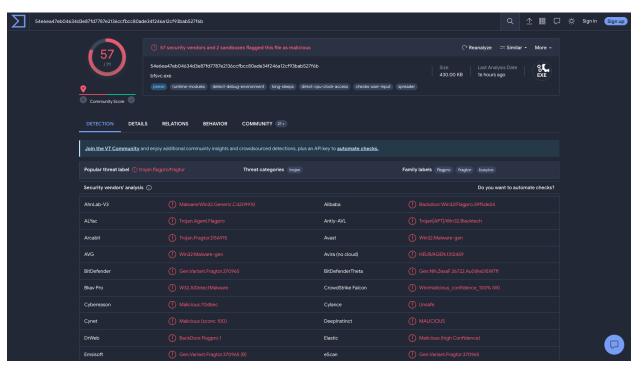
Scenario:

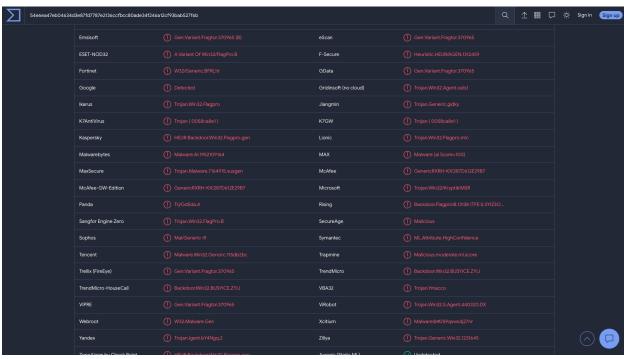
You are a level one security operations center (SOC) analyst at a financial services company. You have received an alert about a suspicious file being downloaded on an employee's computer.

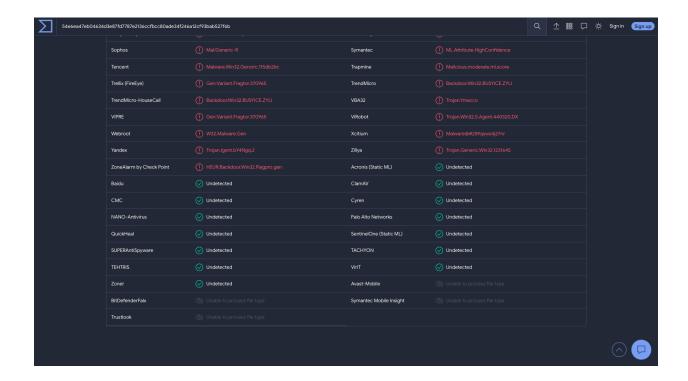
You investigate this alert and discover that the employee received an email containing an attachment. The attachment was a password-protected spreadsheet file. The spreadsheet's password was provided in the email. The employee downloaded the file, then entered the password to open the file. When the employee opened the file, a malicious payload was then executed on their computer.

You retrieve the malicious file and create a SHA256 hash of the file. You might recall from a previous course that a hash function is an algorithm that produces a code that can't be decrypted. Hashing is a cryptographic method used to uniquely identify malware, acting as the file's unique fingerprint.

Now that you have the file hash, you will use VirusTotal to uncover additional loCs that are associated with the file.







The file hash has been reported as malicious by over 50 vendors. Upon further investigation, this file hash is known as the malware Flagpro, which has been commonly used by the advanced threat actor BlackTech.

