Network Activity Report

Date: 2023-05-11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 14, 2021, an intrusion was detected in the company's internal network. The host, operating on Windows 10 with an IP address of 172.16.1.239, presented symptoms of a bad actor on the machine. This was found by communication with malicious sites and malicious files downloaded to the machine. The intruders appear to have exploited vulnerabilities across multiple protocols and ports, with suspicious interactions involving several external IP addresses. The immediate removal of the malware and reinforcement of security measures are recommended to maintain the network's integrity and security.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

The initial indication of an intrusion was observed in the communication between the host at 172.16.1.239 and the external IP 207.244.250.103, as seen in Figure 1. The involvement of other external IPs, namely 185.21.216.153, 72.11.131.199, and 45.145.55.170, was also recorded. A suspicious URL was accessed, which has been flagged for malware on VirusTotal (Figure 2).

In Figure 3, the TCP stream between 172.16.1.239 and 185.21.216.153 over ports 59831 and 8088 shows a GET request for "/templates/file6.bin" over HTTP/1.1, potentially creating a bin file for the attacker. This was followed by a connection to another flagged URL on VirusTotal, as shown in Figure 4.

Further anomalies were detected in the TCP stream between 172.16.1.239 and 81.17.23.125 over ports 443 and 60168, which should have been secure. A questionable request for XHTML and XML applications was accepted, and potentially malicious HTML code was identified (Figure 5).

A subsequent GET request for favicon.ico was detected in the TCP stream between 172.16.1.239 and 81.17.23.125 over ports 443 and 60167 (Figure 7). This was followed by extensive exchanges of encrypted data between 172.16.1.239 and 202.29.60.34 through ports 443 and 59873 (Figures 8 and 9). VirusTotal reports for these IPs indicate possible connections with bot networks.

The machine downloads an exe and a Excel file, then it seems to be communicating with a command and control server.

```
Wireshark · Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 67) · pcap_four.pcap

GET /wp-content/Receipt-9650354.xls?evagk=2MyeEdhGPszYX HTTP/1.1

Host: insiderushings.com:8088
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/
91.0 4472 124 Safari/537 36 Edg/91.0 864.67

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,image/apng,*/
*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9

Accept-Encoding: gzlp, deflate
Accept-Language: en

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: nginx/1.15.12
Date: Wed, 14 Jul 2021 20:31:08 GMT
Content-Type: application/vnd.ms-excel
Connection: keep-alive
Last-Modified: Wed, 14 Jul 2021 14:51:22 GMT
ETag: "60eef9ea-ble00"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
```

Figure 1

The above TCP Stream is the first time the IP Address of 207.244.250.103 in the packet capture appears. It is using a susceptible protocol and port number. The boxed URL is reported on virustotal for malware as can be seen in Figure 2. The second box is the accepted GET requested from the malicious URL in box 1. The third box shows it was through a Microsoft Excel file.



Figure 2

This is the virustotal report on the site of interest for Figure 1. It reports the categories of the site are the following: malicious websites, spyware and malware, unknown, Malware Sites, and Malicious.

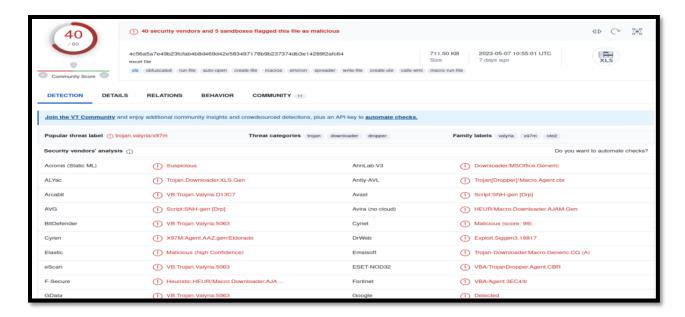


Figure 3

The above virustotal report is based on the file that was downloaded in Figure 1. As can be seen above this is a malicious trojan file that is downloaded through an excel file.



Figure 4

TCP Stream of 172.16.1.239 and 185.21.216.153 over ports 59831 and 8088. In the first box, an HTTP request sent from the source IP is a GET request for the resource "/templates/file6.bin" over HTTP/1.1. Creating a file bin for the bad actor. The second box is a URL for a flagged URL on Virustotal as can be seen in Figure 4. In the third box it shows "MZ @ This Program cannot be run in DOS Mode" which means it downloaded an exe file.

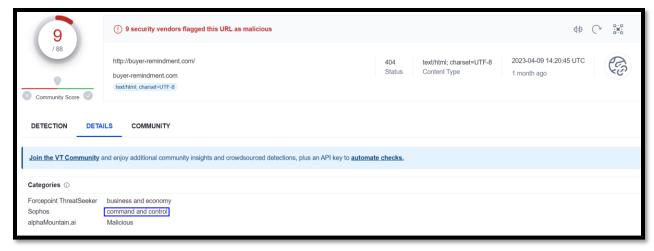


Figure 5

This is the virustotal report on the site of interest in Figure 3 it is reported as malware. It listed categories are; business and economy, command and control, and Malicious.

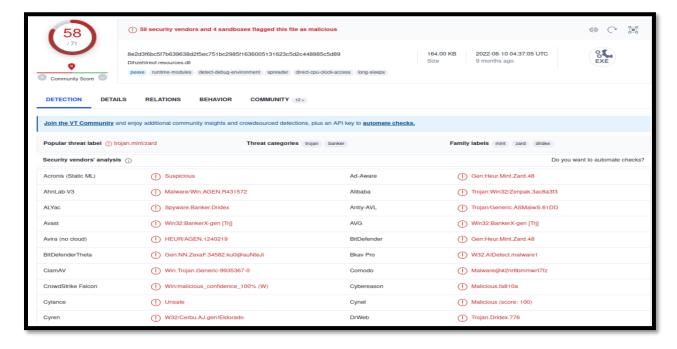


Figure 6

The above virustoal report is from the exported file that was downloaded in Figure 4. This file is heavily flagged for malicious activity. This file is a trojan for executing commands on a system.



Figure 7

TCP Stream of 172.16.1.239 and 81.17.23.125 over ports 443 and 60168. Note 443 should be a secure port. In the first box the name of the internal desktop. The second box, it shows the accepted request for an XHTML and XML application.

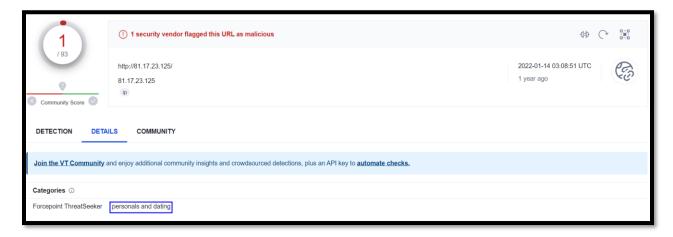


Figure 7

This shows the virustotal report for the IP address of $\sim 81.17.23.128\sim$.

Figure 8

This is TCP Stream of 172.16.1.239 and 81.17.23.125 over ports 443 and 60167. The first box shows a GET request for favicon.ico. Favicon.ico can be used as malware that can infiltrate systems, trigger spam redirects, generate hacking warnings, cause block listings by search authorities, and create spam-filled folders.

				pc	ap_four.pcap			
e Ed	it View Go C	apture Analyze Stati	istics Telephony	Wireless Tools Help	24-11000-1100-20			
7 (100)		FD 19 10	/ > 1	>1 🔲 🗐 😘				
1			\ / / I	/ <u> </u>				
tcp.st	ream eq 113							× === -
ilter B	Buttons Preferences Label: Enter a description for the filter button			Filter: http			○ Cancel ✓ OK	
	Comment: Enter a comment for the filter button							<u>Genter</u>
	Time	Source	Source Port	Destination	Destination Port	Protocol	Length Info	
	7 1118.794183	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP	66 59873 - 443 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=655	35 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS
539	8 1119.212799	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	66 443 - 59873 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ac	k=1 Win=29200 Len=0
	9 1119.213076	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP	54 59873 - 443 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 W	in=262144 Len=0
	0 1119.213407	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TLSv1.2		
	1 1119.580145	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	54 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=326	
546	2 1119.580808	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TLSv1.2		
	3 1119.581817	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP	54 59873 - 443 [ACK] Seq=326 Ack=1	
	4 1119.582307	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TLSv1.2	105 Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted H	andshake Message
	5 1119.583758	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TLSv1.2		
	6 1120.032018	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	54 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=110 Ack=6	
	7 1121.056088	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=110 Ack=6	95 Win=31360 Len=13E
	8 1121.056107	202.29.60.34	443 443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=1492 Ack=	605 Win=31360 Len=13
	9 1121.056115			172.16.1.239 172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		605 Win=31360 Len=13
	0 1121.056261	202.29.60.34	443 443	172.16.1.239	59873 59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=4256 Ack= 1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=5638 Ack=	605 Win=31360 Len=13 605 Win=31360 Len=13
	2 1121.056581	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873 59873	TCP		605 Win=31360 Len=13
	3 1121.056702	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		605 Win=31360 Len=13
	4 1121.056870	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP		638 Win=262144 Len=6
	5 1121.050870	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		605 Win=31360 Len=13
	6 1121.057014	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
541	7 1121.057128	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	8 1121.058274	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP		3930 Win=262144 Len=
	9 1121.465754	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	0 1121.465774	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TLSv1.2		
	1 1121.465781	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	2 1121.466214	202,29,60,34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	3 1121.466229	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	4 1121.466236	202,29,60,34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	5 1121.466307	202,29,60,34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seg=22222 Ack	=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	6 1121,466431	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP		8076 Win=262144 Len=
542	7 1121.466668	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=23604 Ack	=605 Win=31360 Len=1
542	8 1121.466683	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=24986 Ack	=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	9 1121.467014	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	0 1121.467214	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
543	1 1121.467239	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	2 1121.467453	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	3 1121.467463	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TLSv1.2		
	4 1121.467575	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP		0514 Win=262144 Len=
	5 1121.467686	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	6 1121.467873	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	7 1121.468007	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=36042 Ack	=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	8 1121.468069	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP	1436 443 - 59873 [ACK] Seq=37424 Ack	=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	9 1121.468358	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
	0 1121.468484	202.29.60.34	443	172.16.1.239	59873	TCP		=605 Win=31360 Len=1
544	1 1121.468646	172.16.1.239	59873	202.29.60.34	443	TCP	54 59873 - 443 [ACK] Seq=605 Ack=4	0188 Win=262144 Len=

Figure 9

This is TCP Stream 113, it contains the IP address 172.16.1.239 and 202.29.60.34 through ports 443 and 59873. This stream

consists of 700 exchanges of encrypted data. The packets can be seen in Figure 9.



Figure 10

The encrypted packet inside TCP Stream 113.



Figure 11

This is a virustotal report of the IP address found within Figures 7 and 8. It's reported with categories of bot networks.

RECOMMENDED CLEAN UP AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The affected host with the IP address 172.16.1.239 should be isolated and disconnected from the network to prevent further infection or data exfiltration. Any suspicious files or registry entries associated with the favicon.ico malware should be identified and deleted. The antivirus software should be updated and configured to scan for this malware's signatures.

Firewall rules should be tightened to block connections to the malicious domains and IP addresses identified in this report.

Network traffic should be closely monitored for unusual activity, particularly any communication involving the flagged IPs.

Users should be educated on safe browsing practices, with an emphasis on the importance of avoiding suspicious links and downloading unknown files. With these strategies, the malware can be removed, the host cleaned, and future infections prevented to ensure the network's security and integrity.

Contributing Analysts:

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