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.

CONTENTS

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.

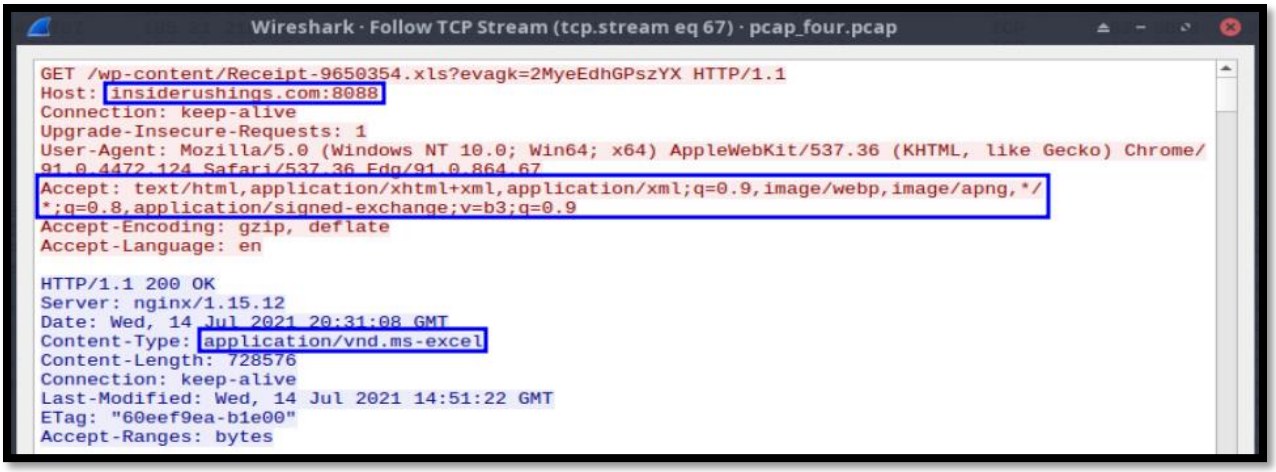

Figure 1

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.

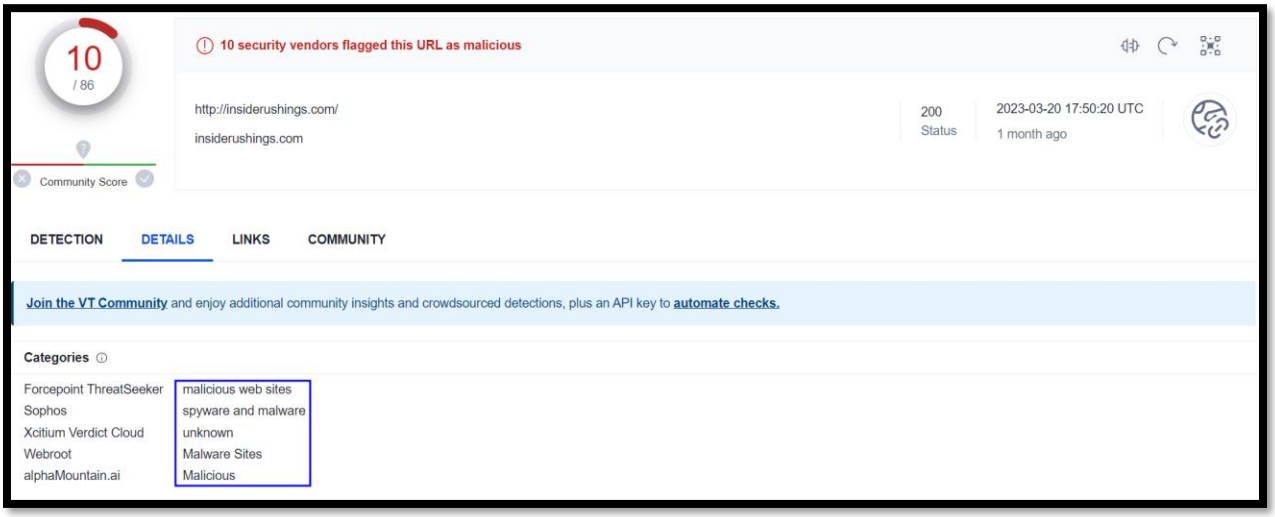

Figure 2

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.

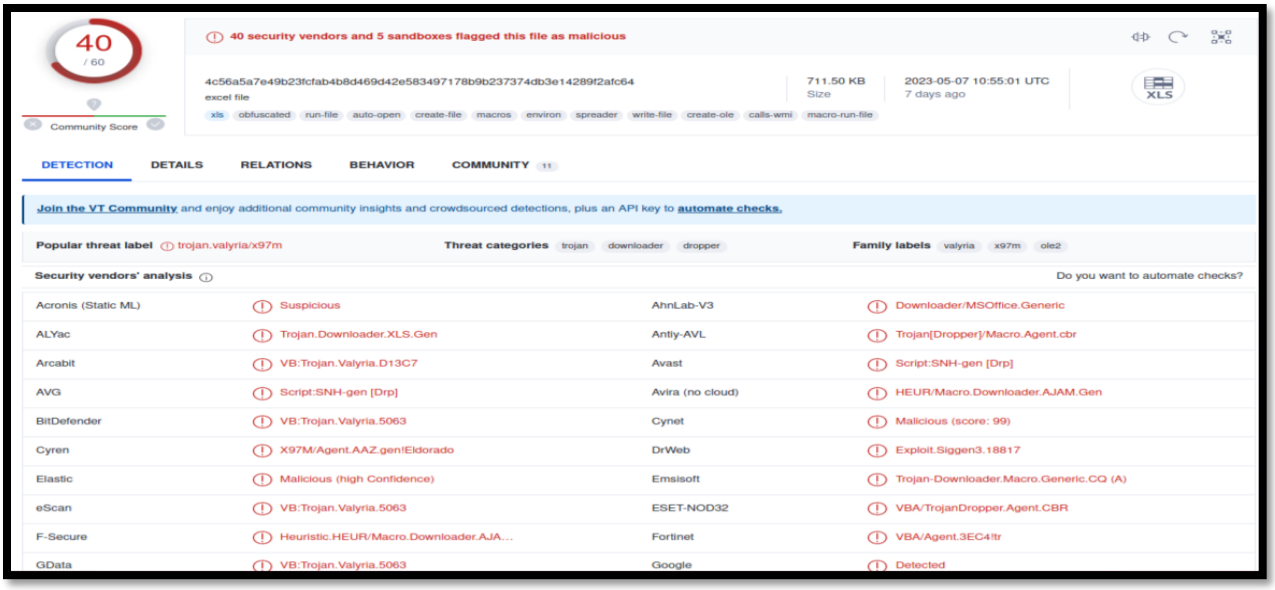

Figure 3

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.

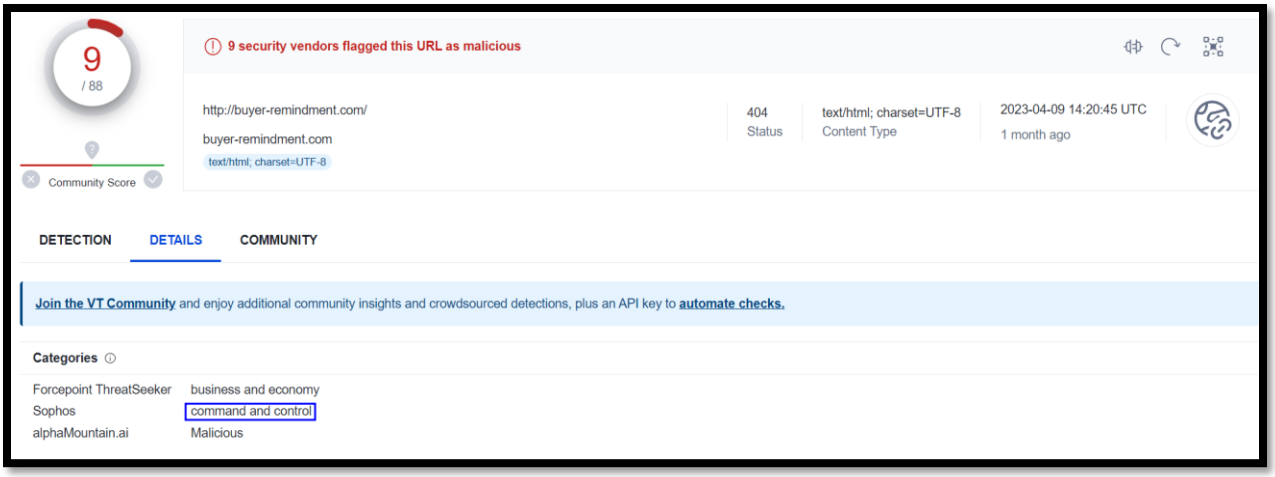

Figure 5

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.

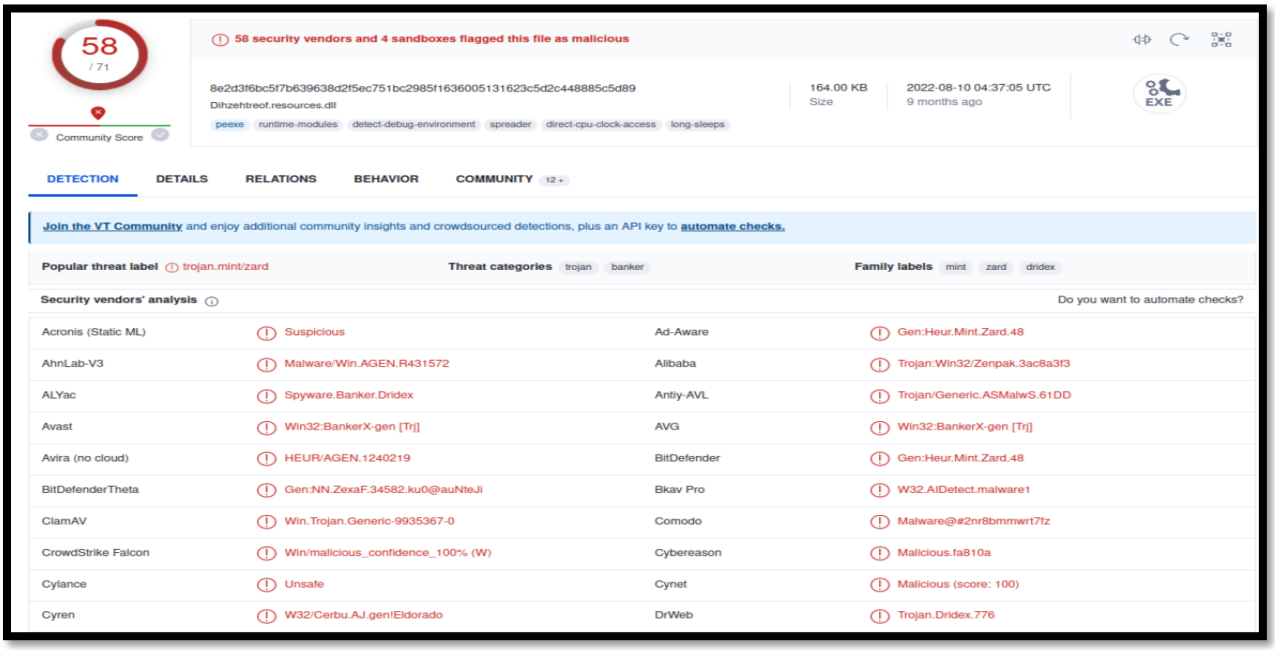

Figure 6

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.

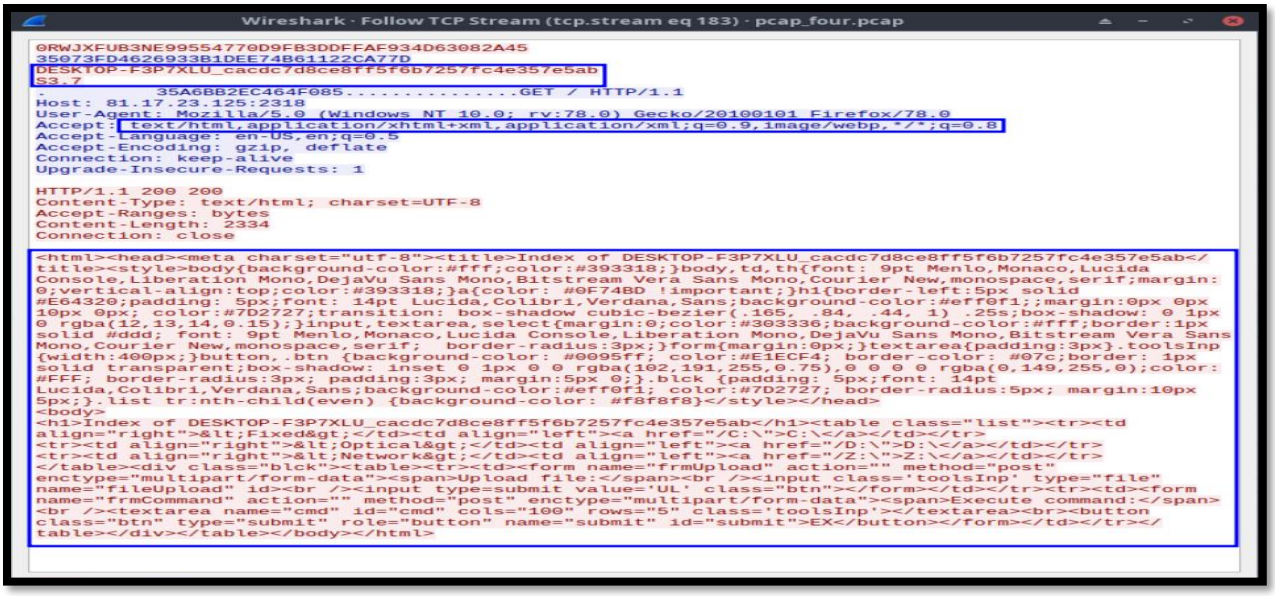

Figure 7

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 ~81.17.23.128~.

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.

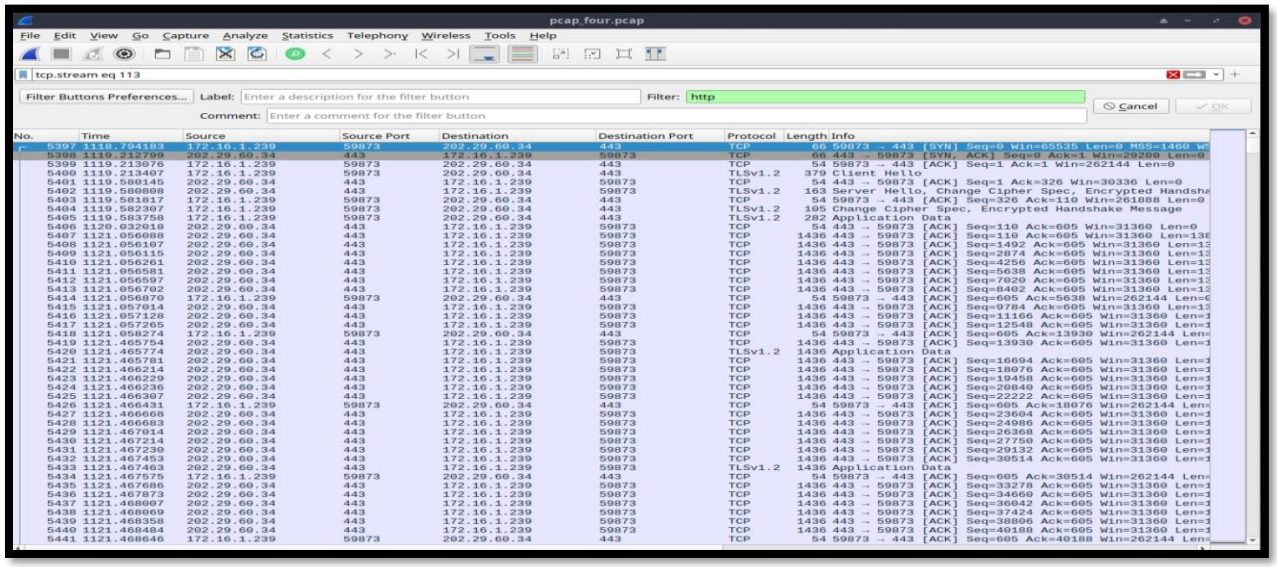

Figure 9

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.

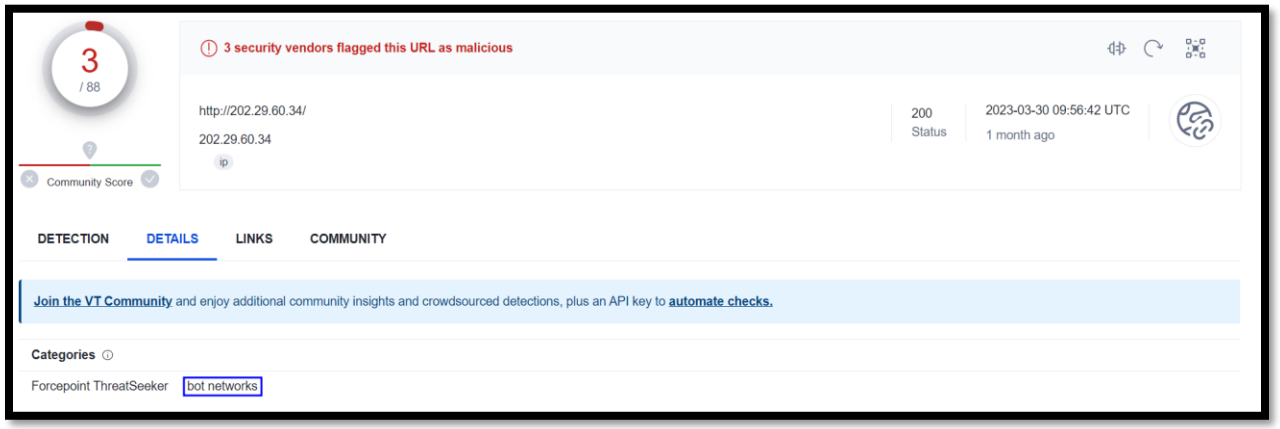

Figure 11

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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