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{
  "APT_Profile": [
    {
      "Name": "Midnight Blizzard (NOBELIUM/APT29)",
      "Aliases": ["UNC2452", "Cozy Bear"],
      "Country": "Russia",
      "Sponsor": "Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation (SVR)",
      "Initial_Identified": "Early 2018",
      "Characteristics": {
        "Strategies": [
          "Social engineering using credential theft phishing lures",
          "Exploitation of compromised small business Microsoft 365 tenants",
          "Use of Teams messages to elicit MFA approvals",
          "Compromise of valid accounts for advanced authentication compromise",
          "Diverse access methods: stolen credentials, supply chain attacks, exploiting on-premises to cloud",
          "Use of service providers' trust chains",
          "Exploitation of OAuth applications",
          "Token theft techniques"
        ],
        "Targets": [
          "Government entities",
          "Diplomatic entities",
          "Non-government organizations (NGOs)",
          "IT service providers",
          "Technology sectors",
          "Discrete manufacturing",
          "Media sectors"
        ],
        "Behavioral Patterns": [
          "Consistent and persistent operational targeting",
          "Use of Microsoft 365 and Azure environments for launching attacks",
          "Renaming compromised tenants to mimic legitimate technical support domains",
          "Lateral movement within cloud environments",
          "Information theft from compromised tenants",
          "Advanced malware use (FOGGYWEB, MAGICWEB, GraphicalProton)",

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    "Sophisticated evasion techniques using residential proxies",
    "Frequent use and abuse of OAuth applications for sustained access"
  ]
},
"Recent_Activities": [
  "Highly targeted social engineering attacks via Microsoft Teams (May 2023)",
  "Campaign utilizing compromised Microsoft 365 tenants for phishing (early 2023)",
  "Phishing campaigns targeting German political parties with ROOTSAW and WINELOADER malware (February)",
  "Compromising vulnerable JetBrains TeamCity servers to deploy GraphicalProton malware (September)"
]
}
],
"Recommendations": {
  "Detection_and_Response": [
    "Use log reviews and audit logging features like Microsoft Purview for anomaly detection",
    "Deploy Microsoft Sentinel with TI Mapping analytics",
    "Monitor Exchange Web Services (EWS) activities for unusual patterns",
    "Enable multifactor authentication (MFA) universally",
    "Restrict the creation and consent for OAuth applications",
    "Regularly audit and restrict service accounts"
  ],
  "Preventive_Measures": [
    "Educate users on identifying phishing attempts and the importance of verifying MFA prompts",
    "Deploy advanced threat detection solutions like Microsoft Defender and FortiEDR",
    "Implement robust network segmentation and zero-trust architectures",
    "Regularly update systems and software to patch known vulnerabilities",
    "Employ intrusion detection systems with real-time monitoring capabilities",
    "Enable Safe DLL Search Mode and audit for unauthorized scheduled tasks"
  ]
}
}
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