1.1.1 Scattered Spider

¹ https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cybersecurity-investigators-worry-ransomware-attacks-may-worsen-as-young-hackers-in-us-work-with-russians-60-minutes-transcript/

 $^{^2\} https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/muddled-libra-evolution-to-cloud/$

 $^{^{3}\} https://therecord.media/scattered-spider-ransomware-attacks-hospitality-retail$

 $^{^4\} https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/unc3944-sms-phishing-sim-swapping-ransomware/$

 $^{^{5}\} https://krebsonsecurity.com/2024/06/alleged-boss-of-scattered-spider-hacking-group-arrested/$

Overall, Scattered Spider poses a low to medium threat to CLIENTHK as they are
known to mostly target United States organisations but have demonstrated interest
in critical infrastructures in the APAC region.

Goal orientation		
Motivation	Given the nature of some of the targets, particularly in terms of organisations the	
	threat actor has targeted in the past, as well as the modus operandi used, we assess	
	with high confidence that Scattered Spider is financially motivated.	
Intended effect	The primary intended effect is to conduct data theft and operational disruptions to	
	incite targets to transfer the ransom payment and in exchange they will decrypt and	
	not leak the data.	

Intent	
Target geography	Scattered Spider is observed to target various geographies, but around 84% of the known victims are companies located in USA ⁶ . Based on Scattered Spider's known victim list, we assess Scattered Spider to have a LOW intent to target Hong Kong.
Target sector	Given that the group is opportunistic, Scattered Spider is known to target all sectors. The group has been previously observed to target the financial sector and other critical infrastructures, we assess Scattered Spider to have a HIGH intent to target the Hong Kong financial sector.
Target areas	Scattered Spider is known to target and exfiltrate data from SaaS (software as a service)/CSP (cloud service provider) environments, such as Windows, Linux, Google Workspace, AzureAD, M365 and AWS environments ⁷ . Based on this, we assess Scattered Spider to have a HIGH intent to target CLIENTHK.
Intent score	Based on the above observations, we assess Scattered Spider to have a MEDIUM intent to target CLIENTHK.

Capability	
Resources	Considering that Scattered Spider's targets are most often large companies, they are expected to have a large budget from their ransom revenue. As an ex-affiliate of ALPHV/BlackCat, the threat actor is known to leverage ALPHV/BlackCat's ransomware. Based on the modus operandi of this threat actor and the scale of operation in comparison with other threat actors we have observed, we assess it is likely to have a MEDIUM level of resources.
Skills	Scattered Spider started as a SIM swapping group, but they have since upgraded their operations. Since 2023, they have been observed to leverage malwares, exploit vulnerabilities, and exfiltrate VPN and MFA enrollment data. Nevertheless, the threat actor's use of open-source tools and scripts are not highly innovative within the cyberattack space.
	Most notably, Scattered Spider is skilled in their social engineering skills. Unlike LockBit, BlackCat, and other ransomware groups, the group is comprised of English-speakers, so the threat actor group has been known to be skillful in conducting social engineering operations against employees in the United States, their most targeted geography.
	Based on this, we assess the threat actor group to have a MEDIUM level skillset.
Resolve	Given the extensive reconnaissance conducted to tailor their intrusion and subsequent activities, the group are assessed to be proactive in their approach to maximise their likelihood of success, evade detection and maintain persistent

⁶ https://www.group-ib.com/blog/0ktapus/

 $^{^{7}\} https://www.crowdstrike.com/blog/analysis-of-intrusion-campaign-targeting-telecom-and-bpo-companies/$

	access. However, it is known that the threat actor group immediately changes their target when their operations are disrupted before the extortion phase. ⁸ Based on this, we assess a MEDIUM degree of resolve against disruption and detection efforts.
Access to target	The threat actor group have a HIGH level of ability to access targeted critical systems such as business-critical virtual machines, and other critical systems through the deployment of tools to conduct remote desktop protocols (RDP). The threat actors operate with a rapid speed, accessing critical systems and exfiltrating significant amounts of data within a few days.
Risk sensitivity	Taking into consideration the criminal nature of this activity, we assess this threat actor is likely to have a LOW risk appetite and operations are predominantly carried out over the internet.
Capability score	Given the above observations and our understanding of the capability of other threat actors in this category, we assess that this threat actor has a MEDIUM level capability.

Modus Operandi	
Reconnaissance	Scattered Spider first collects information on open-source intelligence such as LinkedIn and previously compromised data to identify administrative users of the organization and uncover information on the SaaS and CSP that the organization uses. ⁹ The threat actor is also known to sometimes purchase employees' credentials and/or session tokens in criminal underground markets. ¹⁰
Preparation	The threat actor prepares their infiltration by generating phishing sites with lookalike domains. These malicious domain names commonly uses the format of [organization name]-[service].com, where services include SSO, helpdesk and HR. Scattered Spider has been observed to register their domains via Porkbun, Namecheap, Metaregistrar, and Hosting Concepts, and host the domains on Digital Ocean infrastructure and a large content delivery network (CDN) service. These domains are short-lived for the purpose of the initial access phase, so they are very quickly taken down before defenders can investigate. ¹¹
	 Poortry¹² - malware that can be used to terminate a security software running on a Windows device Stonestop¹³ - Windows userland utility that acts as a loader and installer for Poortry and also instructs Poortry on what actions to perform. Tools commonly deployed: ADRecon¹⁴ - obtain victim domain account credentials

 $^{^{8}\} https://www.crowdstrike.com/blog/analysis-of-intrusion-campaign-targeting-telecom-and-bpo-companies/$

⁹ https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cybersecurity-investigators-worry-ransomware-attacks-may-worsen-as-young-hackers-in-us-work-with-russians-60-minutes-transcript/

 $^{^{10}\,}https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/blog/2023/10/25/octo-tempest-crosses-boundaries-to-facilitate-extortion-encryption-and-destruction/encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-en$

 $^{^{11}\,} https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/muddled-libra-evolution-to-cloud/$

 $^{^{12}\,}https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/malicious-windows-kernel-drivers-used-in-blackcat-ransomware-attacks/$

 $^{^{13}\} https://www.sentinelone.com/labs/driving-through-defenses-targeted-attacks-leverage-signed-malicious-microsoft-drivers/$

 $^{^{14}\} https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=ADRecon$

- AnyDesk¹⁵ legitimate system for remote control, file transfer, and VPN functionality that can be used as a backdoor tool
- DCSync¹⁶ malware that mimics the behaviour of Domain Controller (DC) to act as a credential stealer
- FiveTran¹7 legitimate system for transfering data that can be used as a information stealer
- FleetDeck¹⁸ legitimate system for managing computers remotely that can be used as a backdoor tool
- gosecretsdump¹⁹ open-source module that can be used as a credential stealer
- Govmomi²⁰ library that interacts with VMware vSphere APIs (ESXi and/or vCenter Server) and can be used to obtain victim account credentials
- Hekatomb²¹ python script that connects to Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory that can be used to steal credentials
- Impacket²² open-source collection of modules for constructing and manipulating network protocols that can be used as a credential and information stealer
- LaZagne²³ post-exploitation, open-source tool that can be used to steal stored passwords on a system
- LummaC2²⁴ subscription-based information stealer focused on cryptocurrency wallets and sensitive information such as login credentials
- Mimikatz²⁵ credential stealer, keylogger tool for Windows
- ngrok²⁶ legitimate reverse proxy tool that reveals local servers behind Network Address Translations (NATs) and firewalls to the public internet; can be used as a backdoor and tunneling tool
- PingCastle²⁷ obtain victim domain account credentials
- ProcDump²⁸ free Microsoft tool that can be used as a credential stealer
- PsExec²⁹ free Microsoft tool that can be used for remote code execution
- Pulseway³⁰ remote monitoring and management (RMM) software that can be used as a backdoor tool
- Pure Storage FlashArray³¹ legitimate Windows PowerShell SDK that can be used to obtain victim account credentials

¹⁵ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=AnyDesk

https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=DCSync

¹⁷ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=FiveTran

¹⁸ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=FleetDeck

¹⁹ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=gosecretsdump

²⁰ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Govmomi

²¹ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Hekatomb

²² https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Impacket

²³ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=LaZagne

²⁴ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=LummaC2

²⁵ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Mimikatz&n=1

²⁶ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Ngrok

²⁷ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=PingCastle

²⁸ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=ProcDump

²⁹ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=PsExec&n=1

³⁰ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Pulseway

³¹ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Pure%20Storage%20FlashArray

- RedLine³² malware that collects credentials stored in browsers, email applications, and cryptocurrency wallet data³³
- Rsocx³⁴ Socks5 proxy server that can be used as a tunneling tool
- RustDesk³⁵ open-source remote control for self-hosting that can be used as a backdoor tool
- ScreenConnect³⁶ legitimate remote administration tool that can be used to connect to and conduct lateral movement in target environments³⁷
- SharpHound³⁸ malware used to identify different attack paths and obtain victim credentials and informations
- Socat³⁹ command line based utility that can be used as a tunneling tool on Linux
- Spidey Bot⁴⁰ credential and information stealer that collects stored passwords and other data from VPN, internet browsers, email clients, gaming software, and cryptocurrency
- Splashtop⁴¹ legitimate remote access and support software that can be used as a backdoor tool
- Stealc⁴² malware that steals information from web browsers, browser extensions, cryptocurrency applications, and email messaging softwares
- TacticalRMM⁴³ RMM software that can be used as a backdoor tool
- Tailscale⁴⁴ legitimate software that connects devices and development environments, can be used as a backdoor tool
- TightVNC⁴⁵ legitimate, free, and open source remote desktop software for accessing and controlling computers over a network that can be used as a backdoor tool
- VIDAR⁴⁶ malware that steals information and credentials on 2FA Software and Tor Browser
- WinRAR47 legitimate data compression tool for Windows
- WsTunnel⁴⁸ tunneling tool that bypass firewalls and proxies
- Living off the Land⁴⁹ collection of binaries, scripts, and libraries for attackers to share.

Infiltration

The group collects admin credentials to the company's SaaS and CSP by sending lure messages targeting employees' cellphones, urging them to update account

³² https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=RedLine

³³ https://cofense.com/blog/luxury-hotels-remain-target-of-social-engineering-attack/

³⁴ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Rsocx

³⁵ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=RustDesk

³⁶ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=ScreenConnect

³⁷ https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0591/

³⁸ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=SharpHound

³⁹ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Socat

⁴⁰ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Spidey%20Bot

⁴¹ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Splashtop

⁴² https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Stealc

⁴³ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=TacticalRMM

⁴⁴ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Tailscale

⁴⁵ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=TightVNC

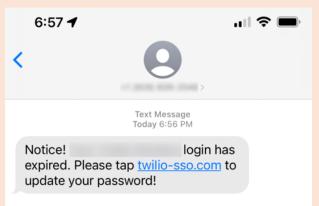
 $^{^{46}\} https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=VIDAR$

⁴⁷ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=WinRAR

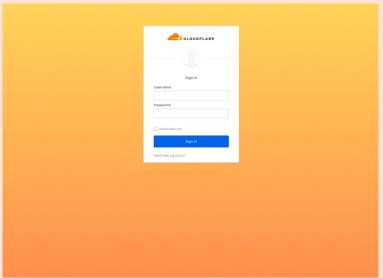
⁴⁸ https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=WsTunnel

 $^{^{49}\} https://apt.etda.or.th/cgi-bin/listgroups.cgi?t=Living\%20off\%20the\%20Land$

information or reauthenticate to corporate applications through links to spoofed corporate domains. The group uses numerous phishing sites that emulate familiar login pages designed to capture credentials and OTP/2FA codes before they expire. These credentials and OTP/2FA codes are then immediately sent to the threat actors via the messaging service Telegram. Since OTP/2FA codes expire very quickly, the threat actor most likely continuously monitors Telegram and uses the credentials as soon as they received them.



Scattered Spider's messages towards Twilio employees. Note that the threat actor matches employee's names with their numbers and uses domains related to their company's name. 52



Scattered Spider's phishing site for Cloudfare

Scattered Spider is known to use the acquired usernames, passwords, and personally identifiable information (PII) to conduct SIM swaps on compromised users. 53

Scattered Spider uses the information they have on the adminstrative users and SaaS/CSP environments to manipulate help desk agents into resetting both passwords and MFA on the same call. Their attacks are persistent, aiming to wear

⁵⁰ https://blog.cloudflare.com/2022-07-sms-phishing-attacks/

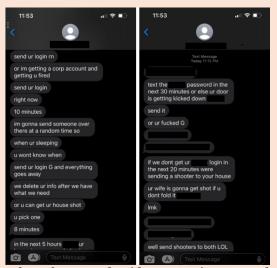
⁵¹ https://www.group-ib.com/blog/0ktapus/

 $^{^{52}\} https://www.twilio.com/en-us/blog/august-2022-social-engineering-attack$

⁵³ https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa23-320a

down the defenses of help desk agents over extended call durations.⁵⁴ The group is also known to call employees to socially engineer them to install a Remote Monitoring and Management (RMM) utility, navigate to the phishing sites, or remove their FIDO2 token.⁵⁵

Scattered Spider has once relied on using personal information, such as home addresses and family names, along with physical threats to force individual employees to share corporate credentials, as seen in the screenshots below.



Screenshot of Scattered Spider contacting an employee.

Entrenchment

Once Scattered Spider obtains initial access, they often spend significant time searching through internal documentation, resources, and chat logs to find information that could help them escalate privileges and maintain presence within the victim environments.⁵⁶

The threat actor has been observed to add a federated identity provider to the victim's SSO system and activate automatic account linking. This allowed them to sign into any account with a matching SSO attribute. This privilege escalation technique maintains their access even when passwords changed. The threat actor group also exploited already installed endpoint detection and response (EDR) tools, leveraging their remote-shell and command execution capabilities to further elevate access. ⁵⁷

Scattered Spider has been observed to exploit known vulnerabilities to elevate privileges. This suggests the group leverages publicly released Proof—of—Concepts (PoC) or acquires vulnerability exploits via dark web hacking forums.

Vulnerability exploits:

The vulnerabilities known to have been used by this threat actor include:

• CVE-2015-2291⁵⁸ – Intel Ethernet diagnostics driver for Windows (iqvw64.sys) has a vulnerability that allows local users to cause a denial of service or possibly execute arbitrary code with kernel privileges.

⁵⁴ https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/muddled-libra/

 $^{^{55}\} https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/blog/2023/10/25/octo-tempest-crosses-boundaries-to-facilitate-extortion-encryption-and-destruction/encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-encryption-and-destruction-encryption-en$

⁵⁶ https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/unc3944-sms-phishing-sim-swapping-ransomware/

⁵⁷ https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa23-320a

⁵⁸ https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2015-2291

CVE-2021-35464⁵⁹ - ForgeRock AM server before version 7.0 has a vulnerability in its jato.pageSession parameter that allows remote code execution without authentication. The threat actor is known to use various tactics to evade security monitoring. They accessed victims from the same local area by leveraging commercial residential proxy services. The threat actors also consistently used legitimate software, including a variety of remote access tools downloaded directly from vendor websites. 60 Additionally, the threat actors often installed multiple remote monitoring and management (RMM) tools during their intrusions, such as AnyDesk, Splashtop, FleetDeck, RustDesk, and Tactical RMM, to ensure they maintained backdoor access even if one of their methods were discovered.⁶¹ Also, lateral movement within the target environment was often facilitated through remote desktop protocol (RDP) connections from compromised computers to minimize external network artifacts in logs, which avoids alerting the defenders.⁶² Additionally, Scattered Spider leverages POORTRY and STONESTOP, two malwares, to terminate a security software on Windows and avoid being detected by defenders. 63 To monitor if their activities have been detected, Scattered Spider is also known to search the victim's collaboration tools, such as Slack, Microsoft Teams, and Microsoft Exchange, for emails or conversations about the intrusion and any security response. They also join incident remediation and response calls, likely to understand how the security teams are hunting for them and develop new ways to maintain access in response to the victim's defenses. To support this, the threat actor sometimes create new identities within the environment and backstop them with fake social media profiles. 64 Compromise Scattered Spider most often created unmanaged virtual machines within the victims' own environments, from which they launched their attacks. In some cases, they even created internet-accessible virtual machines in the victim's cloud environment. When deploying ransomware, the threat actors is known to specifically target business-critical virtual machines and other systems, likely in an attempt to maximize the impact on the victim.65 Exploitation The threat actor will encrypt data for impact and inhibit system recovery, blocking user access to the network, until ransom requests are met. MITRE ATT&CK Phishing: Spearphishing Link – T1566.002 **Techniques** Phishing: Spearphishing Voice - T1566.004 deployed External Remote Services - T1133 Exploit Public-Facing Application - T1190 Command and Scripting Interpreter - T1059 Exploitation for Privilege Escalation - T1068 Access Token Manipulation: Token Impersonation/Theft - T1134.001 Masquerading: Match Legitimate Name or Location – T1036.005 Subvert Trust Controls: Code Signing - T1553.002 Input Capture: GUI Input Capture - T1056.002

⁵⁹ https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2021-35464

 $^{^{60}\,}https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/unc3944-sms-phishing-sim-swapping-ransomware/$

⁶¹ https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/muddled-libra/

⁶² https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/muddled-libra/

 $^{^{63}\} https://www.sentinelone.com/labs/driving-through-defenses-targeted-attacks-leverage-signed-malicious-microsoft-drivers/$

⁶⁴ https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa23-320a

 $^{^{65}}$ https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/unc3944-sms-phishing-sim-swapping-ransomware/

- Remote Services: Remote Desktop Protocol T1021.001
- Remote Services: Cloud Services T1021.007
- Exploitation of Remote Services T1210
- Resource Hijacking T1496
- Gather Victim Identity Information: Credentials T1589.001
- Gather Victim Identity Information: Email Addresses T1589.002
- Gather Victim Identity Information: Employee Names T1589.003
- Phishing for Information: Spearphishing Service T1598.001
- Phishing for Information: Spearphishing Voice T1598.004
- Acquire Infrastructure: Domains T1583.001
- Establish Accounts: Social Media Accounts T1585.001
- Establish Accounts: Email Accounts T1585.002
- Phishing (Mobile) T1660
- Trusted Relationship T1199
- Serverless Execution –T1648
- User Execution: Malicious Link T1204.001
- Modify Authentication Process: Multi-Factor Authentication T1556.006
- Valid Accounts: Default Accounts T1078.001
- Valid Accounts: Domain Accounts T1078.002
- Valid Accounts: Cloud Accounts T1078.004
- Domain Policy Modification: Domain Trust Modification T1484.002
- Modify Cloud Compute Infrastructure: Create Cloud Instance T1578.002
- Forge Web Credentials T1606
- Multi-Factor Authentication Request Generation T1621
- Unsecured Credentials: Credentials in Files T1552.001
- Unsecured Credentials: Private Keys T1552.004
- Browser Information Discovery T1217
- Cloud Service Dashboard T1538
- File and Directory Discovery T1083
- Remote System Discovery T1018
- Steal Web Session Cookie T1539
- Data from Information Repositories: Sharepoint T1213.002
- Data from Information Repositories: Code Repositories T1213.003
- Email Collection: Local Email Collection T1114.001
- Email Collection: Remote Email Collection T1114.002
- Data from Cloud Storage T1530
- Remote Access Software T1219
- Data Encrypted for Impact T1486
- Exfiltration Over Web Service: Exfiltration to Cloud Storage T1567.002
- Financial Theft T1657
- Account Discovery: Email Account T1087.003
- Account Discovery: Cloud Account T1087.004
- Account Manipulation: Additional Cloud Credentials T1098.001
- Account Manipulation: Additional Cloud Roles T1098.003
- Account Manipulation: Device Registration T1098.005
- Acquire Access T1650
- Compromise Accounts: Cloud Accounts T1586.003
- Impersonation T1656
- Ingress Tool Transfer T1105

 Net 	work Serv	ice Discov	ery – T1046
-------------------------	-----------	------------	-------------

- OS Credential Dumping: DCSync T1003.006
- Permission Groups Discovery: Cloud Groups T1069.003
- Web Service T1102
- Windows Management Instrumentation T1047
- Gather Victim Network Information: Domain Properties T1590.001
- Gather Victim Org Information: Identify Roles T1591.004
- Obtain Capabilities: Malware T1588.001
- Obtain Capabilities: Tool T1588.002
- Obtain Capabilities: Vulnerabilities T1588.006
- Protocol Tunneling T1572
- Proxy T1090
- Search Open Websites/Domains T1593
- Search Victim-Owned Websites T1594

Activity	
Activity score	This threat actor is VERY ACTIVE .