# **Zooming through BlueNoroff Indicators with Validin**

validin.com/blog/zooming\_through\_bluenoroff\_pivots/

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By: Kenneth Kinion

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general

Pivoting through recently-reported indicators to find BlueNoroffassociated domains In a recent blog post (<u>Inside the BlueNoroff Web3 macOS Intrusion Analysis</u>), the Huntress research team detailed a targeted intrusion against a Web3 (cryptocurrency) organization that they attributed with high confidence to BlueNoroff. BlueNoroff, also known as <u>APT38</u>, is a financially motivated subgroup of North Korea's Lazarus Group. This report highlights all stages of the attack chain including phishing lures, backdoors, and post-exploitation persistence intended to stealthily compromise victims in the Web3 space.

## **Investigating The Lure Domain**

We'll investigate the domain support[.]us05web-zoom[.]biz, which hosted a malicious "Zoom extension" sent to the victim over Telegram after joining a staged Zoom meeting. We'll start by looking at that domain's DNS history in Validin.



Figure. DNS history for the lure domain shows resolution to 8.8.8.8, Google's well-known public DNS resolver.

Notably, Validin shows that this domain resolved to 8.8.8.8 for most of our history except for a couple of days in late May (May 25 and 26). This is interesting because 8.8.8.8 is a very well-known public DNS resolver run by Google. Pointing domain names to benign or private IP space is a tactic that has been used by cyber criminals for a long time to attempt to hinder infra discovery.

Since this attack appears to be highly targeted, it's entirely possible that the domain resolved to a malicious, attacker-controlled IP address very briefly, possibly for as little as a few minutes.

Since 8.8.8.8 is benign and NOT attacker-controlled, we won't be able to pivot on the host connections to the domain. However, there are still many options for discovering related infrastructure in Validin from this point.

# **Pivoting from 8.8.8.8**

Using DNS to point malicious domain names to well-known IP addresses is itself a traceable behavior that can be tracked. Using Validin, we can pivot from 8.8.8.8 to find other domain names configured with similar behaviors.

At first glance, 8.8.8.8 doesn't appear to be easily pivotable because it has 10s of thousands of domain names pointing to it with DNS A records.



However, we can use Validin's range filter to break this down into smaller, workable chunks. We'll divide the search space in two ways:

- Time we'll set defined start and end dates that are 1 day apart to find only resolutions that happened yesterday.
- TLD we'll use a zone range filter to search the most likely TLDs for matches. We'll include .biz, .us, .com, and .space in our searches.

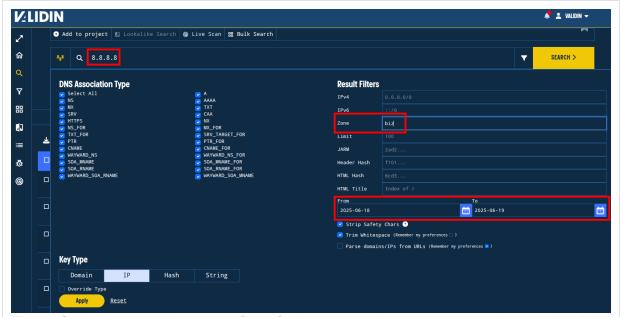


Figure. Setting zone and date range filters for the results to hone in on potentially related activity.

Applying this filtering technique to the .biz TLD, which is the TLD used to deliver the malicious "Zoom extension" to the victim, we are left with only 125 results. We can then apply table filters to search for keywords in this result set to identify potentially related domain names. For all of the TLDs we search, we'll filter for "zoom", "meet", "web", and "support" to look for domains that are similar to the original lure.

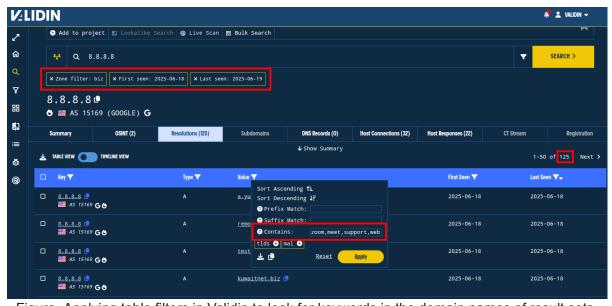
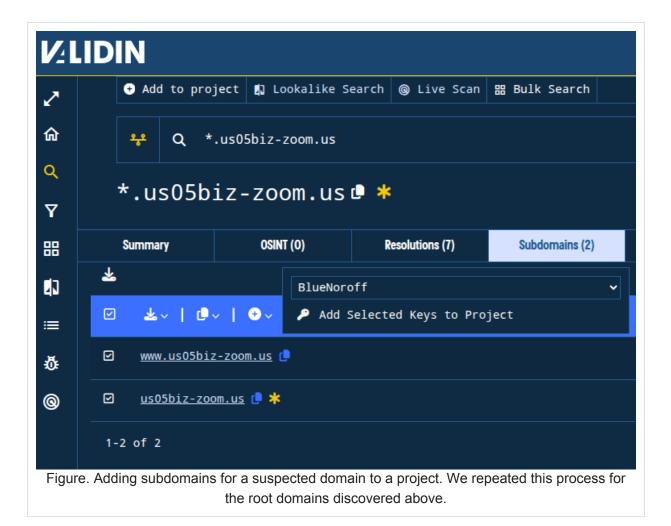


Figure. Applying table filters in Validin to look for keywords in the domain names of result sets.

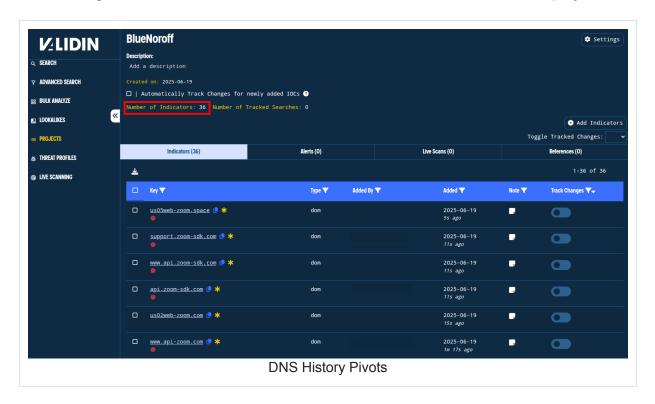
In the case of .biz, we only find one net-new domain: www[.]us05web-zoom[.]biz, which is a sibling subdomain of the original lure. However, applying this process through all of our suspected TLDs, you're able to quickly identify the following suspicious domain names among the results:

```
support[.]us05web-zoom[.]biz # The original lure domain
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]biz # Sibling domain of the original lure
zoom-sdk[.]com
hosting.us02web-zoom[.]com
api.us02web-zoom[.]com
support.us02web-zoom[.]com
www.us02web-zoom[.]com
test.ag-zoom[.]com
api-zoom[.]com
support-gmeet[.]com
www.us05web-zoom[.]space
support.us05web-zoom[.]space
officezoom[.]us
mediazoom[.]us
us05biz-zoom[.]us
us02www-zoom[.]us
web011zoom[.]us
extrazoom[.]us
us03www-zoom[.]us
zoom-sdk[.]us
```

I'll create a project called "BlueNoroff" and add all of these domains plus their subdomains, so we can track them as we pivot through the infrastructure and identify. Note that I didn't include likely false positives (popular domains with lengthy registration history) or domains that did not have similar naming patterns in the list above.



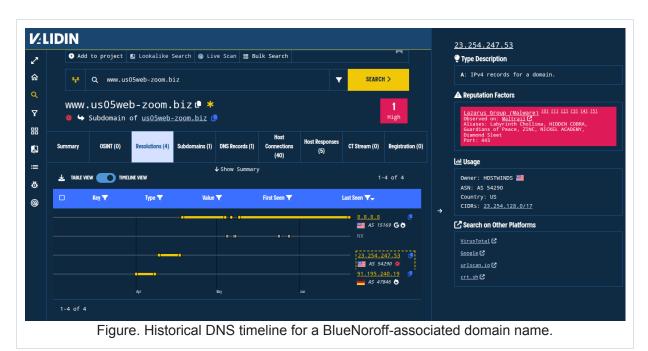
After including subdomains, we have 36 total candidate domain names in our project.



## **DNS History Pivots**

With 36 indicators in the BlueNoroff project, we can revisit the original domain name, support[.]us05web-zoom[.]biz, and pivot on other indicators directly tied to this domain (including the parent and sibling subdomains). We'll look for any indicators in those results that are already in our project from the previous pivots.

The sibling subdomain www[.]us05web-zoom[.]biz has interesting A record history: the IP address 23.254.247[.]53 has been associated with DPRK activity before, and Validin noted activity on the nearby IP 23.254.247[.]32 on X in November 2024.



Pivoting on 23.254.247[.]53 yields many additional Zoom-themed domain names in recent DNS history, including many that we already found due to recently pointing to 8.8.8.8. Our timeline shows a surge in related activity beginning in November 2024 and continuing into June. This timing is most distinct when sorting by "First Seen," descending.



Figure. Observing connections to previous pivots and many additional Zoom and meeting themed domain names from an IP pivot.

Filtering out domains first seen before November 1, 2024, there are 70 candidate domain names. We'll add all of those domains and the IP to the BlueNoroff project, which nets 61 new domains. Of those, 53 are not yet reported as associated to DPRK threat actors by Maltrail:

```
www[.]us03web-zoom[.]com
us03web-zoom[.]com
us05www-zoom[.]us
support[.]us06web-zoom[.]cc
www[.]us06web-zoom[.]cc
us05-zoom[.]uk
www[.]us07web-zoom[.]cc
support[.]us05web-zoom[.]ink
support[.]us05web-zoom[.]click
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]click
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]ink
support[.]us05web-zoom[.]forum
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]forum
www[.]us06web-zoom[.]xyz
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]uk
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]pro
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]cloud
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]xyz
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]site
www[.]newfromjune[.]site
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]store
www[.]venture-meeting[.]online
www[.]us05web-zoom[.]info
www[.]secure-meeting[.]cloud
www[.]secure-meeting[.]xyz
www[.]meeting-zone[.]team
www[.]online-conference[.]online
www[.]video-meeting[.]store
www[.]online-conference[.]store
www[.]meeting-hub[.]team
www[.]online-conference[.]pro
www[.]meet-client[.]xyz
www[.]online-conference[.]site
hostmaster[.]online-conference[.]site
www[.]online-conference[.]xyz
www[.]meetuphub[.]online
www[.]video-conference[.]cloud
www[.]video-conference[.]store
www[.]video-conference[.]pro
www[.]video-conference[.]site
nexologin[.]xyz
www[.]video-conference[.]xyz
www[.]team-meets[.]store
www[.]team-meets[.]cloud
www[.]team-meets[.]xyz
www[.]team-meets[.]site
www[.]room-meeting[.]online
www[.]team-meets[.]online
support[.]online-meets[.]store
7xvc[.]meetup-room[.]online
www[.]online-meets[.]store
```

#### **Host Connection Pivots**

Having identified an IP address that is likely controlled by the BlueNoroff threat actor, we can use Validin's host connections to discover additional fingerprints and connections that reveal additional candidate domain names and IP addresses.

Clicking on the "Host Connections" tab, we see 103 features and connections extracted from active host crawling by Validin over many months. We recently added a feature that makes it really easy to "peek" at connections (using the APIs) to see if they're worth pivoting. We'll use this to quickly look for HTTP, certificate, and host response features that appear likely to lead to more possible BlueNoroff infrastructure.

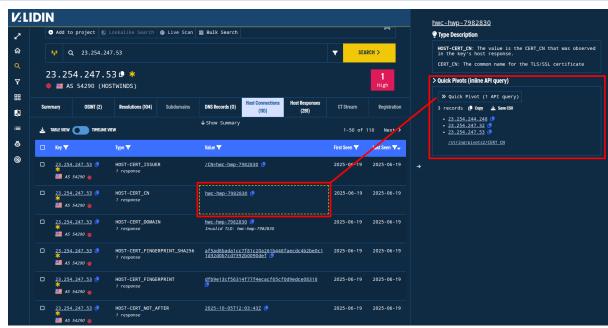


Figure. Clicking the "quick pivot" button makes an API request to pull up to 1000 related domains and IPs so you can quickly chase down pivoting leads without changing pages or opening new tabs.

Going down the list of connections, we note some highly relevant pivots:

- RDP certificate: The domain hwc-hwp-7982830 in an RDP certificate (port 3389) connects to two other previously-reported DPRK-associated IP addresses:
   23.254.244[.]248 and 23.254.247[.]32
- HTTP Certificate: A certificate with the SHA1 fingerprint 38eaff53184ebca9046c2f10161c664ceb10d0c1 also connects to the same two previously-reported DPRK-associated IP addresses 23.254.244[.]248 and 23.254.247[.]32 and was returned with many other drop-box and conferencethemed domains

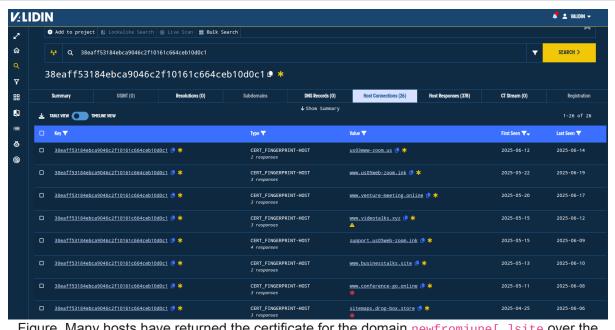


Figure. Many hosts have returned the certificate for the domain newfromjune[.]site over the last several months.

Additional indicators from the certificate pivots:

```
23[.]254[.]247[.]32
23[.]254[.]244[.]248
shared[.]drop-box[.]cloud
www[.]drop-box[.]cloud
backend[.]drop-box[.]store
api[.]drop-box[.]store
email[.]drop-box[.]store
admin[.]drop-box[.]store
demo[.]drop-box[.]store
www[.]demo[.]drop-box[.]store
app[.]drop-box[.]store
sitemaps[.]drop-box[.]store
dev[.]drop-box[.]store
www[.]drop-box[.]store
hostmaster[.]www[.]drop-box[.]store
www[.]businesstalks[.]site
em-oujuit78ytserve[.]com
em-oujuit78ytserve[.]net
www[.]videotalks[.]xyz
```

## **More DNS Pivots**

Pivoting on the IP address 23.254.247[.]32, which we connected through several host connection pivots and has been previously connected to DPRK threat activity, we find two additional domains:

• app.republicrypto[.]vc

• www[.]datatabletemplate[.]shop

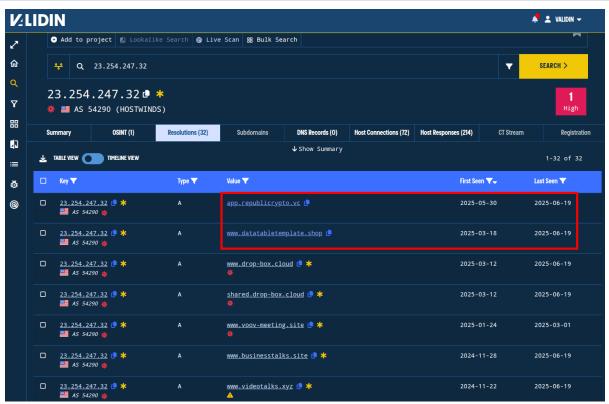


Figure. Domains tied to IP addresses associated with BlueNoroff through historical DNS pivots.

# **Registration Pivots**

We can continue to pivot and discover domains related to this campaign through registration pivots. For example, we can use registration time pivots to discover additional domains that are very likely associated with this campaign.

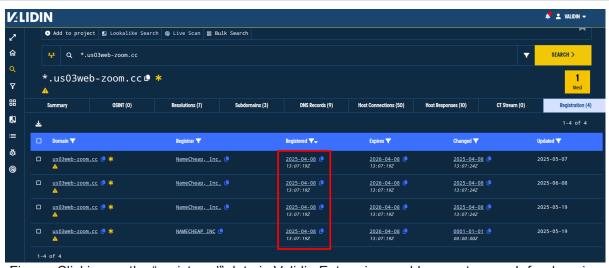


Figure. Clicking on the "registered" date in Validin Enterprise enables you to search for domains registered at the same second as a given domain.

Through registration pivots, we can find clusters of domains with similar naming conventions that are registered on the same registrar at the same time. This pivoting technique allows us to track domains registered in clusters and can find domains registered by the same individual or organization even without additional identifying information like name or email address.

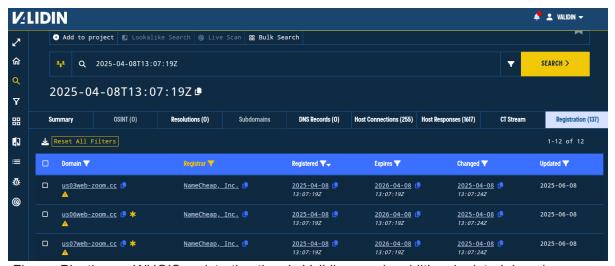


Figure. Pivoting on WHOIS registration time in Validin reveals additional related domain names.

#### Conclusion

Through repeating the pivoting and validation process with the DNS, host connection, and registration pivots described above, we can find nearly 200 domains, with hundreds of subdomains, from the single starting domain that are likely related to the BlueNoroff "fake Zoom extension" campaign. Additionally, we've identified features that can be used to proactively track this threat. This capability provides advance notification for anyone concerned about this threat.

Ready to elevate your threat hunting, threat attribution, and incident response efforts? Whether you're an individual analyst or part of a larger enterprise team, Validin offers solutions that meet your needs. Individual users can <u>create a free account and self-upgrade</u> to access more advanced features and data.

Part of a team? Contact us today to explore our enterprise options and discover how Validin can power your organizations with powerful tools and unparalleled data. Let Validin help you work smarter, faster, and more effectively in the fight against cyber threats.

#### **Indicators**

BlueNoroff-associated E2LDs:

us03web-zoom[.]cc us06web-zoom[.]cc us07web-zoom[.]cc us-playground[.]vc republicrypto[.]vc app-center[.]download mzweb3[.]fund video-conference[.]cloud secure-meeting[.]cloud us05web-zoom[.]cloud online-meets[.]cloud team-meets[.]cloud deliverypost[.]cloud drop-box[.]cloud us05web-zoom[.]space meetuphub[.]online online-conference[.]online venture-meeting[.]online room-meeting[.]online bizmeeting[.]online meetup-room[.]online conference-go[.]online online-meets[.]online team-meets[.]online web-meet[.]online bizmeet[.]online meet-client[.]online online-conference[.]store video-conference[.]store video-meeting[.]store us05web-zoom[.]store online-meets[.]store team-meets[.]store drop-box[.]store online-conference[.]site video-conference[.]site newfromjune[.]site us05web-zoom[.]site businesstalks[.]site online-meets[.]site team-meets[.]site downloadcenter[.]website hanagroup[.]live bizmeeting[.]org bizmeet[.]org us05web-zoom[.]click us05web-zoom[.]ink re7[.]network str8fire-team[.]network us05-zoom[.]uk us05web-zoom[.]uk playgroundvc[.]capital

playgroundventures[.]capital meeting-hub[.]team mediaprime[.]team meeting-zone[.]team support-google[.]co[.]im rxamia[.]com xn--rxamia[.]com synternetlab[.]com capitalviabtc[.]com twosigma-vc[.]com doc-send[.]com doc-bridge[.]com em-oujuit78ytserve[.]com zm-meeting[.]com zoom-sdk[.]com zmwebsdk[.]com hartmanmcapital[.]com vipocapital[.]com picwe-team[.]com us02web-zoom[.]com us03web-zoom[.]com api-zoom[.]com jp-zoom[.]com web01zoom[.]com twosigmacap[.]com dunamuventures[.]com globiscapitals[.]com calystiabusiness[.]com fronterixbusiness[.]com bizwebmeet[.]com support-gmeet[.]com zoom-support[.]com daiwa-v[.]com us05web-zoom[.]forum support-google[.]co[.]in mythicaigames[.]foundation mythicalgames[.]foundation superstatefund[.]co globiscapital[.]co bizmeeting[.]video rwa-team[.]video webzoom[.]video hanagroup[.]video webmeet[.]video onlinemeet[.]video openfort[.]video us05web-zoom[.]info web3fund[.]io baiduweb[.]pro online-conference[.]pro video-conference[.]pro us05web-zoom[.]pro

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online-meets[.]pro
onlinemeet[.]pro
bizmeet[.]pro
communicationhub[.]vip
webmeet[.]vip
newfromjune[.]shop
datatabletemplate[.]shop
usweb01[.]us
usweb02[.]us
webus02[.]us
usweb005[.]us
ukweb05[.]us
webus05[.]us
ukweb06[.]us
ukweb07[.]us
webus07[.]us
ukweb08[.]us
usweb08[.]us
webus08[.]us
usweb09[.]us
webus09[.]us
us001web[.]us
uk03web[.]us
us004web[.]us
sg05web[.]us
hk05web[.]us
su05web[.]us
uk06web[.]us
uk07web[.]us
zoomhub[.]us
communicationhub[.]us
web3fund[.]us
webmeetoffice[.]us
support-google[.]us
zoom-tech[.]us
webmeetapi[.]us
zoom-sdk[.]us
zoomsdk[.]us
web001-zoom[.]us
usweb-zoom[.]us
ae-zoom[.]us
pre-zoom[.]us
cn-zoom[.]us
en-zoom[.]us
in-zoom[.]us
cr-zoom[.]us
er-zoom[.]us
as-zoom[.]us
business-zoom[.]us
support-zoom[.]us
bu-zoom[.]us
us02www-zoom[.]us
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us03www-zoom[.]us
us05www-zoom[.]us
biz-zoom[.]us
us05biz-zoom[.]us
web001zoom[.]us
web011zoom[.]us
web031zoom[.]us
web041zoom[.]us
web071zoom[.]us
web091zoom[.]us
web02zoom[.]us
web06zoom[.]us
mediazoom[.]us
extrazoom[.]us
officezoom[.]us
sidezoom[.]us
interzoom[.]us
twosigmaventures[.]us
innerteams[.]us
techevent[.]us
support-google[.]ws
em-oujuit78ytserve[.]net
saisoncapital[.]net
webmeet[.]icu
aleslosev[.]workers[.]dev
us05web-zoom[.]biz
online-conference[.]xyz
video-conference[.]xyz
secure-meeting[.]xyz
room-meeting[.]xyz
boolnetwork[.]xyz
laserdigital[.]xyz
openfort-team[.]xyz
us05web-zoom[.]xyz
us06web-zoom[.]xyz
nexologin[.]xyz
videotalks[.]xyz
team-meets[.]xyz
team-meet[.]xyz
businessmeet[.]xyz
zoom-client[.]xyz
meet-client[.]xyz
```

IP Addresses that have been associated with BlueNoroff-associated domains within the last 6 months:

```
104.168.143[.]111
147.79.103[.]251
216.107.137[.]53
23.254.164[.]232
23.254.204[.]184
23.254.244[.]248
23.254.247[.]32
23.254.247[.]53
38.110.228[.]112
38.146.28[.]252
45.42.40[.]200
45.42.40[.]208
5.230.251[.]49
5.230.252[.]157
5.230.44[.]79
5.230.54[.]23
5.230.78[.]47
```

### HTTP Feature Hashes that were useful pivots:

# banner\_0\_hash
083ca76e08cca8d8ebd337b836c9c8fb

# body SHA1 hash
23c501daff7991f82a93d94a4f14bd68fb5f61d9

# Certificate SHA1 hash
38eaff53184ebca9046c2f10161c664ceb10d0c1

# class\_0\_hash (HTML template fingerprint)
a945fc4a05f84c84ecb4ec7c24458e64

# header\_hash

f200fb4fc2acba3276aa