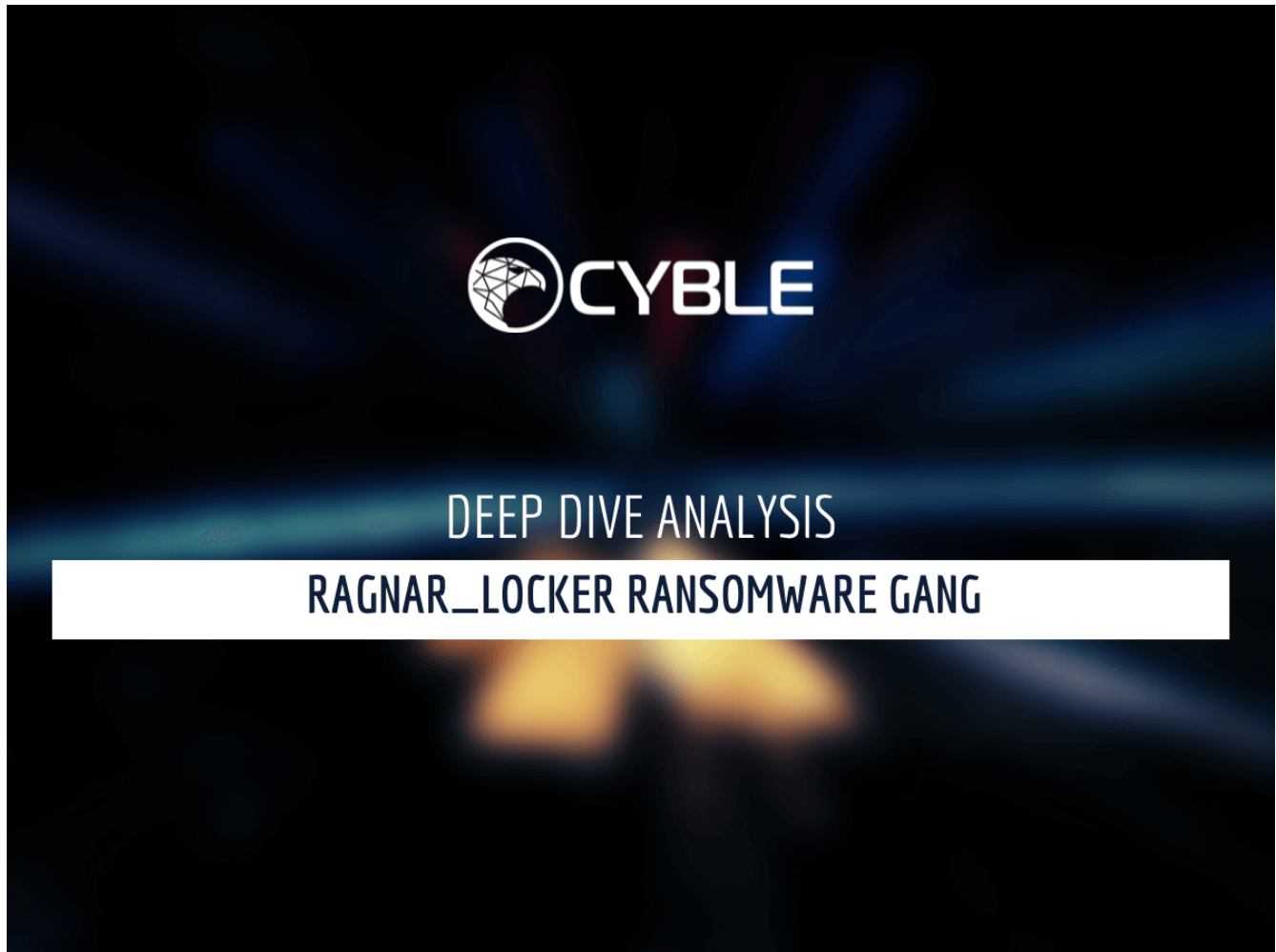


Deep dive into Ragnar_locker Ransomware Gang

blog.cyble.com/2022/01/20/deep-dive-into-ragnar-locker-ransomware-gang/

January 20, 2022



Organizations worldwide face a multi-pronged threat from Ransomware groups at a greater frequency than recorded before. As the organizations' primary danger remains losing access to their systems and data, the threat of Ransomware groups leaking the data if their ransom requests are not met or the victim reaches out to law enforcement authorities has been raising more concern.

Cyble Research Labs has analyzed and published information about the most prominent and active ransomware groups in the past and provided recommendations to prevent such incidents. This blog is a deep dive into one of the most active Ransomware groups, Ragnar_Locker, how they operate, their capabilities, and how to secure yourself/your organization from them.

Ragnar_locker ransomware was first observed in late 2019, targeting multiple high-profile targets on Windows platforms. Ragnar_locker also uses the double extortion technique for financial gain like most notorious ransomware gangs.

This group targets several countries worldwide, as shown in the figure below.

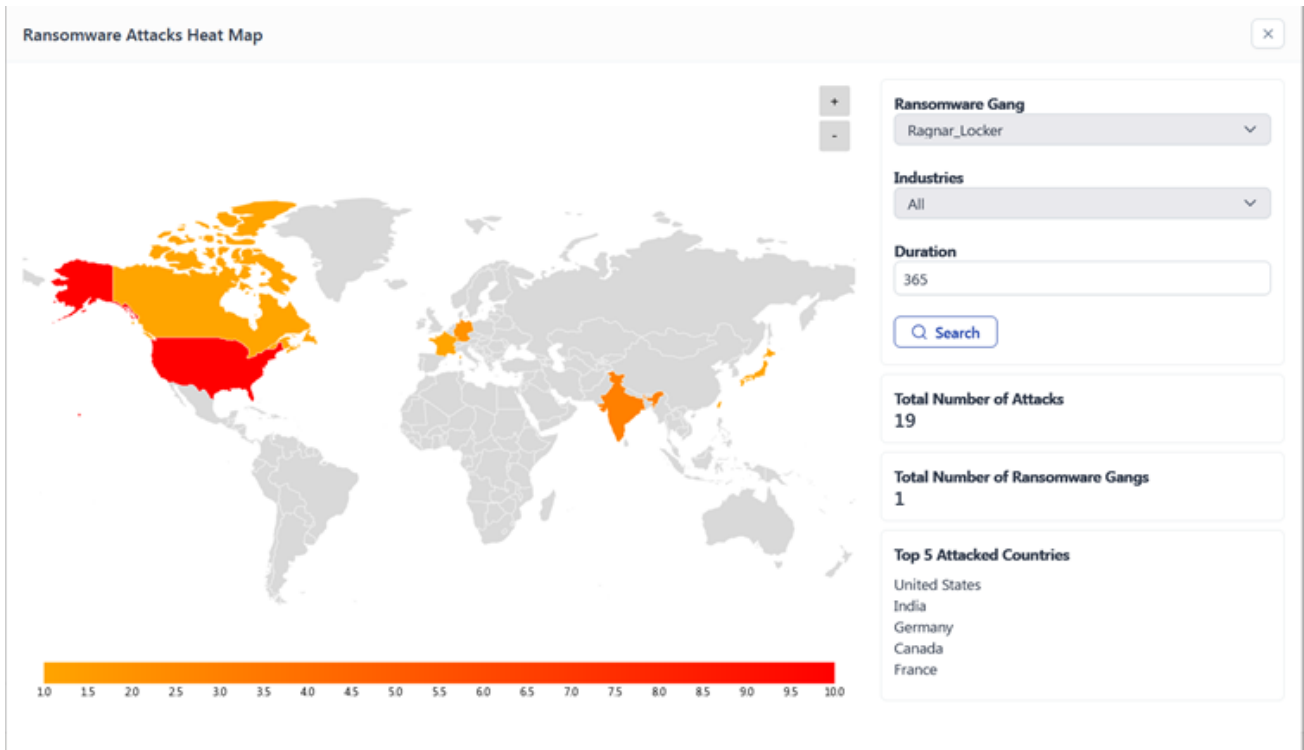


Figure 1 Ragnar_locker Ransomware Victim Details

Technical Analysis

Based on static analysis, we found that the malicious file is a 32-bit Graphical User Interface (GUI) based binary, as shown in Figure 2.

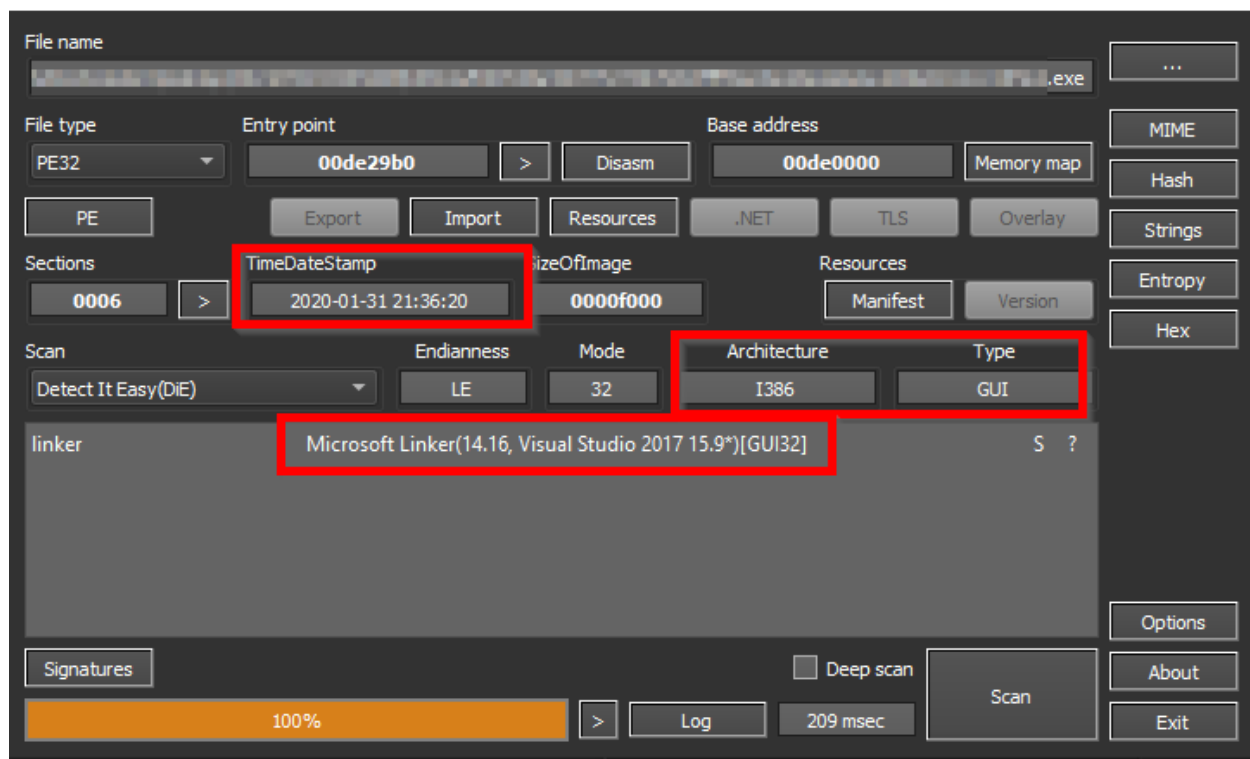


Figure 2

2 Static File Details of Ragnar_locker Ransomware

After execution, Ragnar Ransomware initially searches for system details using *GetLocaleInfoW()* API, which extracts the system's default language. After identifying the system language, it compares this with a hardcoded list of languages present in the Ransomware binary, as shown in the figure below.

```

00451F90 - 68 A0000000 PUSH 0A0
00451F95 - 8985 24FFFFFF MOV [LOCAL.55],EAX
00451F9B - 8D85 58FFFFFF LEA EAX, [LOCAL.106]
00451FA1 - 50          PUSH EAX
00451FA2 - 68 01100000 PUSH 1001
00451FA7 - 68 00080000 PUSH 800
00451FAC - FF15 E8804500 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetLocaleInfoW]
00451FB2 - 8B1D 20814500 MOV EBX,DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.TerminateProcess]
00451FB8 - 8DB5 F8FFFFFF LEA ESI, [LOCAL.66]
00451FBE - BF 0C000000 MOV EDI,0C
00451FC3 > FF36      PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[ESI]
00451FC5 - 8D85 58FFFFFF LEA EAX, [LOCAL.106]
00451FCB - 50          PUSH EAX
00451FCC - FF15 6C804500 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.lstrcpmW]
00451FD2 - 85C0      TEST EAX,EAX
00451FD4 - 75 0E     JNZ SHORT 123.00451FE4
00451FD6 - 68 9A020000 PUSH 29A
00451FDB - FF15 28814500 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetCurrentProcess]
00451FE1 - 50          PUSH EAX
00451FE2 - FFD3     CALL EBX
00451FE4 > 83C6 04   ADD ESI,4
00451FE7 - 83EF 01   SUB EDI,1
00451FEA - 75 D7     JNZ SHORT 123.00451FC2
00451FEC - 5F       POP EDI
00451FED - 5E       POP ESI
00451FEE - 5B       POP EBX
00451FEF - 8BE5     MOV ESP,EBP
00451FF1 - 5D       POP EBP
00451FF2 - C3       RETN
00451FF3 - CC       INT3
  
```

Figure 3 Ragnar_locker Ransomware Language Check

If the identified system language is present in the hardcoded list, the Ransomware terminates its execution using the *TerminateProcess()* API.

The languages hardcoded into the Ransomware are Belorussian, Azerbaijani, Ukrainian, and other languages commonly spoken in the former Soviet Union (USSR).

Ragnar Ransomware then looks for other system information using APIs to retrieve the victim's system name, username, GUID, and product name.

```

00322A01 - FF15 44803200 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&GetUsernamew]
00322A07 - 68 90813200 PUSH 123.328190
00322A0C - 8D85 10FFFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10F0]
00322A12 - 50          PUSH EAX
00322A13 - FF15 74803200 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&lstrcpyw]
00322A19 - 68 D0813200 PUSH 123.328100
00322A1E - 68 90813200 PUSH 123.328190
00322A23 - E8 08F8FFFF CALL 123.322230
00322A28 - 68 E8813200 PUSH 123.3281E8
00322A2D - 68 00823200 PUSH 123.328200
00322A32 - 8BF8     MOV EDI,EAX
00322A34 - EB F7F7FFF CALL 123.322230
  
```

Figure 4 Ragnar_locker Ransomware Enumerating System Information

The Ransomware collects the above system information and calculates its size. This information and size are then fed to a custom logic to generate a unique hash to create an event in the system using *CreateEventW()* API, as shown in Figure 5.


```

FF15 CCB0450 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.FindFirstV kernel32.FindFirstVolumeA
BB35 DC80450 MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetVol kernel32.GetVolumePathNamesForVolumeNameA
BBFB      MOV EDI,EAX
66        DB 66      CHAR 'f'
0F        DB 0F
1F        DB 1F
44        DB 44      CHAR 'D'
00        DB 00
00        DB 00
> 8D45 B8    LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-48]
50        PUSH EAX
68 00010000 PUSH 100
8D85 D8FAFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-528]
50        PUSH EAX
8D85 D8FBFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-428]
50        PUSH EAX
FFD6      CALL ESI      kernel32.GetVolumePathNamesForVolumeNameA
8D8D D8FAFFF LEA ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-528]
8D51 01     LEA EDX,DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+1]
8A01     MOV AL,BYTE PTR DS:[ECX]
41        INC ECX      kernel32.768B5CD4
84C0     TEST AL,AL
75 F9     JNZ SHORT 123.00452C42
2BCA     SUB ECX,EDX
75 5C     JNZ SHORT 123.00452CA9
FF15 10B1450 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetLogica [GetLogicalDrives
8BD0     MOV EDX,EAX
83FA 04     CMP EDX,4
73 04     JNB SHORT 123.00452C5F

```

Address=0029F7A8
768B5CD4 (kernel32.768B5CD4)

Hex dump	ASCII	0029E3C0	000
43 3A 5C 00 00 00 08 00 3C F8 29 00 41 5C FF 06	C:\.\A\yv	0029E3C4	000
8A 15 2C 75 A4 F8 29 00 78 5C FF 76 A0 27 FF 6x\yv 'yv	0029E3C8	000
D6 1F 73 76 00 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF 00 F0 FD 7F	Ösv. . . ýýý.8ýý	0029E3CC	000
40 2E 08 00 58 2D 08 00 A8 2B 08 00 28 2A 08 00	@. .X-. .+@. (-@.	0029E3D0	002
18 29 08 00 70 33 08 00 D0 34 08 00 38 31 08 00	!).p3@.8!@.	0029E3D4	752
08 38 08 00 80 36 08 00 30 3C 08 00 A8 3A 08 00	@@.6@.0@. .@.	0029E3D8	CBE

Figure 7 Ragnar_locker Ransomware Enumerating Hard Drive Volumes
After retrieving the volume names, the Ransomware then calls *GetVolumeInformationA()* API to get the details of the volume.

```

00112CA9 > 68 00010000 PUSH 100
00112CAE - 8D85 10EFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-11F0]
00112CB4 - 50          PUSH EAX
00112CB5 - 6A 00     PUSH 0
00112CB7 - 6A 00     PUSH 0
00112CB9 - 8D45 94   LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-6C]
00112CBC - 50          PUSH EAX
00112CBD - 68 00010000 PUSH 100
00112CC2 - 8D85 10EDFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-12F0]
00112CC8 - 50          PUSH EAX
00112CC9 - 8D85 D8FAFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-528]
00112CCF - 50          PUSH EAX
00112CDD - FF15 C080110 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetVolume GetVolumeInformationA
00112CD6 - 68 00010000 PUSH 100
00112CDB - 8D85 D8FBFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-428]

```

```

pFileSystemNameSize = 00000100
pFileSystemNameBuffer = 002FF7C8
pFileSystemFlags = NULL
pMaxFilenameLength = NULL

pVolumeSerialNumber = 002FF7C8
MaxVolumeNameSize = 100 (256.)
VolumeNameBuffer = 002FF7C8
RootPathName = "C:\\\"

```

Figure 8 Retrieves

Volume Details

The malware now prepares the key required to encrypt the files in the latter part of its execution. The malware uses cryptographic APIs such as *CryptAcquireContextW()* , *CryptGenRandom()* and *CryptReleaseContext()* to generate random keys.

Then, the malware uses a custom decryption logic which decrypts the strings that have information about the name of the services. After identifying the names of the services, the Ransomware checks for their presence and terminates them if the services are actively running on the victim's machine. Some of these services include VSS, SQL, Mementas, etc.

To identify the services running in the machine, the Ransomware first calls *OpenSCManagerA()* API, which establishes a connection to the service control manager that gives the TA access to the service control manager database.

Upon gaining access to this database, the following APIs() will be called:

- *OpenServiceA()* – Opens the specified service.
- *QueryServiceStatusEx()* – Gets the status of the service.
- *EnumDependentServiceA()* – Retrieves the dependent services.
- *ControlService()* – takes control of the service for stopping.

If *OpenSCManagerA()* API fails to get the handle to Service Control Manager (SCM), then the Ransomware skips calling the above service-related APIs.

The Ransomware then proceeds to execute *CreateProcessW()* API to call wmi/vssadmin to delete any shadow copies in the system. After this, the Ransomware decrypts the RSA public key, encrypting the randomly generated key, as shown in Figure 9.

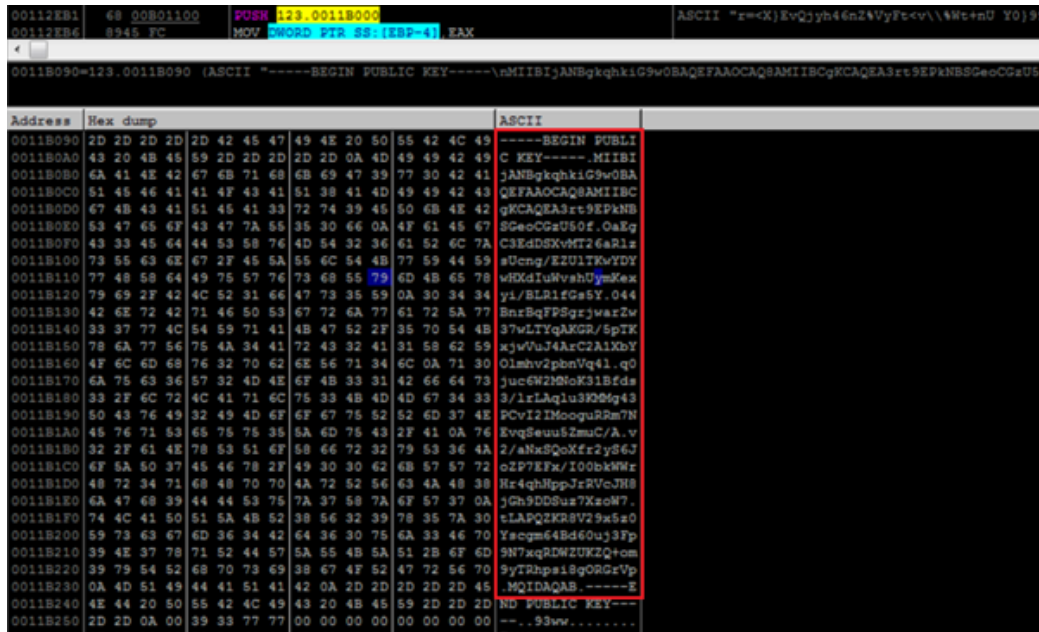


Figure 9 RSA Public

Key

The Ransomware decrypts the ransom notes in the memory, shown to the victims after file encryption on their system. Then, it gets the device name and creates a unique hash used to generate the ransom note name in the below format.

RGNR_[Unique-hash].txt

It calls *SHGetSpecialFolderPathW()* API, gets the path of the Public folder (c:\user\public\Documents), and creates ransom notes in it. The ransom note content is then written using *WriteFile()* API.

The Ransomware then searches for files in the Windows directory for encryption using the *FindFirstFileW()* and *FindNextFileW()* APIs.

Before initiating encryption, the ransomware checks and excludes specific folders from encryption – such as Windows, Tor Browser, Google, Opera.

The Ransomware also excludes certain files from encryption such as RGNR_[unique_hash].txt, autorun.inf, boot.ini, amongst others.

Specific extensions are also exempted from encryption – such as .db, .sys, .dll.

The Ransomware specifically excludes these files, folders, and extensions to ensure that TAs are not damaging any system-critical files. Victims will thus have access to the affected device to pay the ransom after successful encryption.

Finally, the Ransomware encrypts the file using the salsa20 algorithm and displays a ransom note on the victims' machine. As shown in the figure below, the encrypted files will have appended extension ragnar_[unique_hash] in the victims' device.

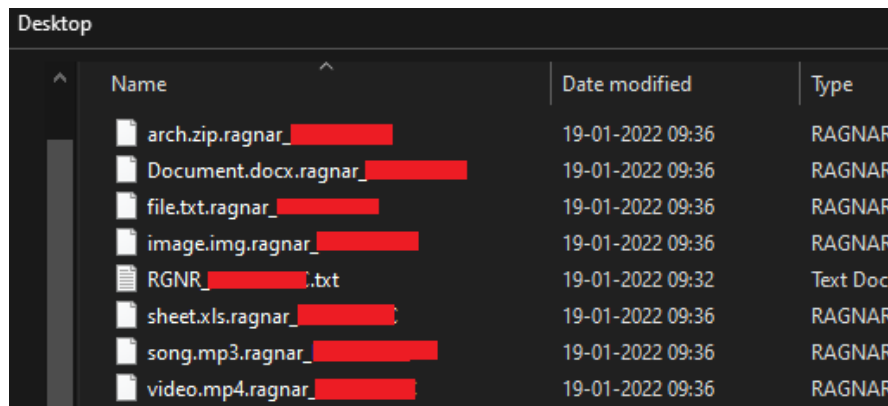


Figure 10 Encrypted Files on the

Machine

In their ransom note below, the TAs have instructed victims to contact them via qTox and have also given an Email ID: *cargowelcome@protonmail[.]com* in case the victim cannot contact them through qTox to pay the ransom of 25 Bitcoin (BTC) for the decryption key.



Figure 11 Ransom note

Other Observations

Cyble Research Labs had found that the TAs leaked their victim's details on their leak website when victims did not pay the ransom. The following figure showcases the Ragnar_locker's leak website with recent victims.

Home Page of Ragnar_Locker Leaks site



WALL OF SHAME

Here will be permanent list of companies who would like to keep in secret the info leakage, exposing themselves and their customers, partners to even greater risk than a bug-hunting reward!

IT-companies Published: 01/08/2022 18:40:23

views: 7546 | Published: 01/08/2022 18:40:23

Figure 12 Victims Mentioned on Leak Site

As per their leak site, the Ragnar_locker ransomware group claims to be a team of cyber security enthusiasts working to make a profit.

The group alleges that their primary motivation to attack organizations is to help them improve their security measures. In addition, they want companies to take responsibility for securely storing the personal data of their clients and partners.

In one case, it was observed that the TAs had stolen the data of a victim's machine and shared the same on their leak site. The stolen data claimed by the TAs include name, PAN Number, mobile numbers, GST numbers, etc.

The victim's data posted on the TAs leak site is shown in the figure below.

TAX INVOICE

Original: For Buyer

XXXXXXXXXXXX PVT.LTD.

1, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX New Delhi Delhi 110001

GSTIN: 07AAAXXXXXXXXXXXX

State Code: 07

Email : customercare@xxxxxxxxxxxx.com

Tel No : XXXXXXXXXX

CIN No : XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

PAN No : AXXXXXXXXXXXX

Contact Person Name : XXXXXXXXXX

RIN No : 29b9206af8a9f7464172c353f465092595ca9982640605f7a80f538c2f
 Acknowledgement No : 17213088259889
 Acknowledgement Date : 30-09-21 09:25 PM

Invoice No : GSTXXXXXXXXXXXX

Invoice Date : XXXXXXXXXX

Customer PO No. : NXXXXXXXXXXXX

Transportation Mode :

Vehicle No

LR No :

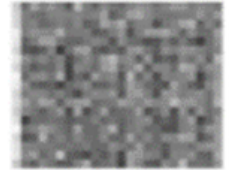
LR Date :

Reverse Charge :

Place of supply : Kolkata West Bengal

Order No : XXXXXXXXXX

Project Name :



Consignee(Ship to):

NATIONAL XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX STREET,

KOLKATA, WXXXXXXXXXXXX

State Code: 19

GST Reg. No : 19AAAXXXXXXXXXXXX

PAN No:

Contact Person : XXXXXXXXXX

Buyer(Bill to):

NATIONAL XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX STREET, , Kolkata

XXXXXXXXXXXX 071

State Code: 19

GST Reg. No : 19AAAXXXXXXXXXXXX

PAN No: AAACXXXXXXXXXXXX

Contact Person : Maria Ward - 83350XXXXXX - Mr XXXXXXX - 83350XXXXXX

Part No./Description	HSN/ SAC	Qty/ UoM	Unit Rate (Rs.)	Total Taxable Value	CGST		SGST		IGST		Total
					Rate	Amt	Rate	Amt	Rate	Amt	
Part No. - Google Workspace Enterprise Star Duration: 24P (Domain: 22 (Domain: NO Warranty	998315	10000 / NOS	3,164.25	31,642,500.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	18%	5,695,650.00	37,338,150.00
Total:				31,642,500.00		0.00		0.00		5,695,650.00	37,338,150.00

Figure 13 Tax Invoice

AIR XPRESS BILL (NON - NEGOTIABLE)

CONSIGNOR COPY



Booking Date		Expected Date of DLV																			
Booking Location	B01	Delivery Location	GG1	Sp: Ph: Fax: CIN:																	
Customs Code/Name : Team Computers Pvt Ltd B01																					
SHIPPER FROM			RECEIVER TO																		
Shipper's Name : Team Computers Pvt Ltd Shipper's Code : TEAD Contact No : 11111			Receiver's Name: KO Receiver's Code: Contact No:																		
Build: COM: PAN: (EAST), MUMBAI - 400004			Building No: HUDA MARKET																		
City/Town : MUMBAI Country : INDIA State : 27 Pin Code :			No Of Packages: 2 Type of Packing: State: 05																		
Email :			Volumetric Weight: L X B X H / 6000 City/Town: Pin Code: 122003																		
COD BOOKING <input type="checkbox"/>			FREIGHT CHARGES																		
COD Amount : Demand Draft: Cheque No:			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Packing No</td> <td>L</td> <td>B</td> <td>H</td> <td>Actual Wt (kgs)</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Charged Wt (kgs)</td> <td>4.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td>Freight Amount</td> <td colspan="3">PAID</td> </tr> </table>			Packing No	L	B	H	Actual Wt (kgs)	4.00	Charged Wt (kgs)	4.00					Freight Amount	PAID		
Packing No	L	B	H	Actual Wt (kgs)	4.00	Charged Wt (kgs)	4.00														
				Freight Amount	PAID																
Other specific information :			Said to contain : Goods Code : Supplier GSTIN : Invoice No : GST																		
Sundry/Holiday Delivery: <input type="checkbox"/> Outside Delivery Area: <input type="checkbox"/>			AXB Charges To-Pay/COD Charges ROV Charges ODA Charges Fuel SurCharges MISC charges ARS,																		
I/We hereby agree to the terms and conditions printed on the reverse of this AXB & other charges. I/We declare that information provided by me/us is true and correct.			Policy No : Receiver's Name, Seal & Signature Date & Time :																		
Date: Shipper/Rep Signature			SubTotal GST Grand Total Amt in Words Billing Branch																		
			Prepared By : Staff Code :																		

Figure 14

Airways Bill

Conclusion

There are likely multiple variants of Ragnar_locker ransomware active in the wild. In addition, TAs keep improving their code with new features to evolve their Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) business model with new Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) to target devices. Based on these observations, we can safely assume that there may be further enhancements in upcoming variants of Ragnar_locker.

We continuously monitor Ragnar_locker's extortion campaigns and update our readers with the latest information.

Our Recommendations

We have listed some essential cybersecurity best practices that create the first line of control against attackers. We recommend that our readers follow the best practices given below:

Safety measures needed to prevent ransomware attacks

- Conduct regular backup practices and keep those backups offline or in a separate network.

- Turn on the automatic software update feature on your computer, mobile, and other connected devices wherever possible and pragmatic.
- Use a reputed anti-virus and Internet security software package on your connected devices, including PC, laptop, and mobile.
- Refrain from opening untrusted links and email attachments without verifying their authenticity.

Users should take the following steps after the ransomware attack

- Detach infected devices on the same network.
- Disconnect external storage devices if connected.
- Inspect system logs for suspicious events.

Impacts and cruciality Of Ragnar_locker Ransomware

- Loss of Valuable data.
- Loss of organization's reliability or integrity.
- Loss of organization's businesses information.
- Disruption in organization operation.
- Economic loss.

MITRE ATT&CK® Techniques

Tactic	Technique ID	Technique Name
Initial Access	T1078	– Valid Accounts
Execution	T1059	– Command and Scripting Interpreter
Privilege Escalation	T1548 T1134	– Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism – Access Token Manipulation
Defense Evasion	T1112 T1027 T1562.001	– Modify Registry – Obfuscated Files or Information – Impair Defenses: Disable or Modify Tools
Discovery	T1082 T1083 T1135	– System Information Discovery – File and Directory Discovery – Network Share Discovery
Impact	T1490 T1489 T1486	– Inhibit System Recovery – Service Stop – Data Encrypted for Impact

Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

Indicators	Indicator type	Description
b6663af099538a396775273d79cb6fff99a18e2de2a8a2a106de8212cc44f3e2	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
ac16f3e23516cf6b22830c399b4aba9706d37adceb5eb8ea9960f71f1425df79	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable

68eb2d2d7866775d6bf106a914281491d23769a9eda88fc078328150b8432bb3	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
b670441066ff868d06c682e5167b9dbc85b5323f3acfbbc044cab0e5a594186	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
9bdd7f965d1c67396afb0a84c78b4d12118ff377db7efdca4a1340933120f376	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
dd5d4cf9422b6e4514d49a3ec542cffb682be8a24079010cda689afbb44ac0f4	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
63096f288f49b25d50f4aea52dc1fc00871b3927fa2a81fa0b0d752b261a3059	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
a8ee0fafbd7b84417c0fb31709b2d9c25b2b8a16381b36756ca94609e2a6fcf6	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
5fc6f4cfb0d11e99c439a13b6c247ec3202a9a343df63576ce9f31cffcdbaf76	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
1472f5f559f90988f886d515f6d6c52e5d30283141ee2f13f92f7e1f7e6b8e9e	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
ec35c76ad2c8192f09c02eca1f263b406163470ca8438d054db7adcf5bfc0597	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable
68eb2d2d7866775d6bf106a914281491d23769a9eda88fc078328150b8432bb3	SHA256	Ragnar_locker Executable