# A crowning achievement: Exploring the exploit of Royal ransomware

p logpoint.com/en/blog/exploring-the-exploit-of-royal-ransomware/

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## TL;DR

First observed in January 2022 and unlike any other ransomware we have covered, Royal is a private group with no known affiliations at this time. In another campaign, initial access is gained via "callback" phishing attacks. In this type of attack, the threat actors send an email containing a message to update a subscription of some kind and make the victim call the given number. When victims make a call mentioned in the mail, threat actors social engineered them to download and install their malware. A similar technique was previously used by the Conti group. The gang has been seen employing virtual hard disk (VHD) files that seem like legitimate software to speed up the transfer of first-stage payloads.

\*\* Get research and analysis, insight, plus hints and tips, on how to detect, manage, and respond to Royal ransomware in the main blog.

Head to the contents and click each section for quick navigation.

First observed in January 2022 and unlike any other ransomware we have covered, <u>Royal</u> is a private group with no known affiliations at this time. However, Royal has been found deployed by threat actors <u>DEV-0569</u>. The group has been found using Google ads to redirect users to forums, posts, and blog comments, or sending phishing emails that contain links to download the malware.

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In another <u>campaign</u>, initial access is gained via "callback" phishing attacks. In this type of attack, the threat actors send an email containing a message to update a subscription of some kind and make the victim call the given number. When victims make a call mentioned in the mail, threat actors social engineered them to download and install their malware. A similar technique was previously <u>used</u> by the <u>Conti</u> group.

To bypass defense, DEV-0569 employs phishing links and malicious downloaders that seem like legitimate installers or updates. The gang has been seen employing <u>virtual hard disk (VHD)</u> files that seem like legitimate software to speed up the transfer of first-stage payloads.

## **Fast Facts**

- Since November 2022, the data of more than 60 victims has been leaked
- Written in C++ and is specifically designed for the Windows OS
- Supports various file encryption options
- Uses various social engineering techniques for initial access
- Uses the RestartManager to shut down the process that is using the files to be encrypted

According to the <u>U.S. Department of HHS</u>, after gaining initial access and execution of their payload, the Cobalt Strike beacon is dropped in the victim system to maintain persistence, access credentials, and move laterally. The main ransomware payload uses a few command line arguments like "-id" and "-path." Without using those command line arguments and corresponding values, it only performs system information discovery and inhibits system recovery by deleting all the shadow

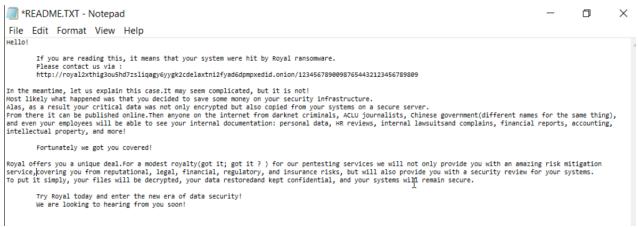
copies as a method of evading sandboxing and analysis. The third argument is "-ep" and is not mandatory. The encrypted files are appended with the ".royal" file extension. While encrypting files it avoids encrypting specific folders and file types to prevent a system crash.

Below are the file types that are not encrypted by Royal.

## .exe, .dll, .bat, .lnk, .royal

Below are those folders whose sub-folders and files are not encrypted by the ransomware.

## Windows, Royal, Perflogs, Tor browser, Boot, \$recycle.bin, Windows.old, \$window.~ws, \$windows.~bt, Mozilla, Google



Ransom note

## **Royal analysis**

We have used multiple ransomware variants for our analysis to provide an all-encompassing detection and understanding. The samples we used were retrieved from <u>MalwareBazaar</u> and for reference, we also used samples from <u>tria.ge</u> sandboxes. We performed a static and dynamic analysis in our sandbox which is running Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise. The outcomes of our analysis are explained below.

To execute the malware, currently, two things are mandatory: "-path" and "-id." The path argument is for encrypting the specified directory and the "-id" argument is required for starting the encryption process and it should be a unique 32-character string. We have also observed the third argument "-ep" which seems to be optional for now and is used to determine the percentage of files that is to be encrypted. After analyzing the sample we have found out that if the command line arguments are missing or the parameter's value is not correct, then it doesn't perform encryption of files.

```
if (0 < local 6e98[0]) {
  do {
    iVar2 = lstrcmpW(*ppWVar5,L"-path");
    iVar6 = (int)pWVar7;
   if (iVar2 == 0) {
     pWVar8 = ppWVar5[1];
     iVar6 = iVar6 + 1;
     ppWVar5 = ppWVar5 + 1;
    }
    else {
      iVar2 = lstrcmpW(*ppWVar5,L"-id");
      if (iVar2 == 0) {
       pWVar7 = ppWVar5[1];
       ppWVar5 = ppWVar5 + 1;
       iVar6 = iVar6 + 1;
       iVar2 = lstrlenW(pWVar7);
       WideCharToMultiByte(0xfde9,0,pWVar7,iVar2,local_268,0x21,(LPCSTR)0x0,(LPB00L)0x0);
      }
      else {
       iVar2 = lstrcmpW(*ppWVar5,L"-ep");
       if (iVar2 == 0) {
          ppWVarl = ppWVar5 + 1;
          ppWVar5 = ppWVar5 + 1;
          iVar6 = iVar6 + 1;
          lVar3 = wtol(*ppWVar1);
          if (99 < lVar3 - 1U) {
            1Var3 = 0x32;
```

Showing command-line arguments

The malware retrieves the command-line string for the process using the **GetCommandLineW** API and **CommandLineToArgvW** is used to obtain an array of pointers to the command-line arguments.

~call	cs:GetCommandLineW
mov	rcx, rax
lea	rdx, [rsp+6EF0h+var_6E88]
call	<pre>cs:CommandLineToArgvW</pre>

Function used to retrieve command line

We have also found a call to **GetNativeSystemInfo** API which contains various system information like architecture, number of processors, and page size. Using the **GetNativeSystemInfo** with **dwNumberOfProcessor** function, the malware is trying to retrieve the number of the processor's cores.

lea	<pre>rcx, [rsp+78h+SystemInfo] ; lpSystemInfo</pre>
call	cs:GetNativeSystemInfo
mov	<pre>eax, [rsp+78h+SystemInfo.dwNumberOfProcessors]</pre>
I	Eurotion used to retrieve systeminfo

Function used to retrieve systeminfo

We have also found the instance where Royal was querying the registry key "HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\ComputerName\ActiveComputerName" to retrieve the system name.

royal.exe	3488 🎬 RegOpenKey 🛛 I	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\CCG
royal.exe	3488 🎬 RegOpenKey 🛛 I	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\ComputerName\ActiveComputerName
royal.exe	3488 🎬 RegOpenKey 🛛	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\ComputerName\ActiveComputerName
royal.exe	3488 RegQueryValue	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\ComputerName\ActiveComputerName\ComputerName
royal.exe	3488 🎬 RegCloseKey 🛛 I	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\ComputerName\ActiveComputerName
		Querying system name

Also Royal has been found querying the registry key shown in below image to check system language settings. This can be done to verify language settings and display output accordingly.

Toyal.exe	2640 🎬 RegQueryValue HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop\MuiCache	ed\MachinePreferredUILanguages	BUFFER
royal.exe	2640 RegQueryValue HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop\MuiCache	ed\MachinePreferredUILanguages	SUCCES
📧 royal.exe	2640 🎬 RegCloseKey 🛛 HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop\MuiCache	ed	SUCCES
	Querying system lan	iguage	

Royal uses the GetlpAddrTable function to retrieve the IP address table from the local computer. It returns a list of IP addresses and their corresponding subnet masks and default gateways.

Íéa	rdx, [rsp+78h	+pdwSize] ; pdwSize
xor	ecx, ecx	; pIpAddrTable
call	cs:GetIpAddrT	able
	Euroption upod to rotriova l	D address information

Function used to retrieve IP address information

The malware also uses the Windows API function NetShareEnum to enumerate the shared resources on the network. The below function compares the names of the shared resources returned by the API call with the strings "ADMIN\$" and "IPC\$" to prevent the malware from encrypting those shares.

```
WSAAddressToStringW(&local 288,0x10,0,local 278);
do {
  local_298 = 0;
  local_28c = 0;
local_290 = 0;
  local 2a0 = (LPCWSTR *)0x0;
  DVar1 = NetShareEnum(local_278,1,(char *)&local_2a0,0xffff,(ushort *)&local_298,
                        (ushort *)&local_28c);
  if ((DVarl != 0) && (DVarl != 0xea)) break;
  uVar4 = 1;
  ppWVar5 = local 2a0;
  if (local_298 != 0) {
    do {
      iVar2 = lstrcmpiW(L"ADMIN$",*ppWVar5);
      if ((iVar2 != 0) && (iVar2 = lstrcmpiW(L"IPC$",*ppWVar5), iVar2 != 0)) {
        wsprintfW(local_248,L"\\\\%s\\%s");
         local_2c8[0] = 0;
        uVar3 = 0xfffffffffffffffff;
         local_2b8 = 0;
         local_2b0 = 7;
        do {
          uVar3 = uVar3 + 1;
        } while (local_248[uVar3] != L'\0');
        if (uVar3 < 8) {
           local_2b8 = uVar3;
           FUN_1401e3fa0(local_2c8,local_248);
           *(undefined2 *)((longlong)local_2c8 + uVar3 * 2) = 0;
        }
        else {
           FUN_14007cd00(local_2c8);
        FUN_14007c000(*(undefined8 *)(param_1 + 0x6020));
      }
      uVar4 = uVar4 + 1;
      ppWVar5 = ppWVar5 + 3;
    } while (uVar4 <= local_298);</pre>
  3
  NetApiBufferFree(local 2a0);
} while (DVar1 == 0xea);
```

```
Function used to query network share
```

To prevent system recovery, Royal has been using the vssadmin utility to delete all the available shadow copies without displaying any message.

```
)07DE64:
                                   ; CODE XREF: WinMain+971j
vind { // sub 1401E2A60
                  edx, edx
          xor
          lea
                  rcx, [rbp+6DF0h+var 230]
                  r8d, 200h
          mov
          call
                  sty 1401E4650
          lea
                  rdx, aDeleteShadowsA ; " delete shadows /all /quiet"
          lea
                  rcx, [rbp+6DF0h+var 230]
                  cs:wsprintfW
          call
                  xmm0, xmm0
          xorps
          mov
                  [rsp+6EF0h+var 6E80], 68h ; 'h'
          xor
                  eax, eax
          lea
                  rdx, [rbp+6DF0h+var_230]
          mov
                  [rbp+6DF0h+var 6E1C], eax
                  rcx, aCWindowsSystem ; "C:\\Windows\\System32\\vssadmin.exe"
          lea
                  [rsp+6EF0h+var 6E90], rax
          mov
                          Displaying process creation of vssadmin
```

While executing the malware we observed the malware spawning child process for running vssadmin to delete all shadow copies.

C:\Users\Admin\AppData\Local\Temp\f484f919ba6e36ff33e4fb391b8859a94d89c172a465964f99d6113b55ced429.exe

```
C:\Users\Admin\AppData\Local\Temp\f484f919ba6e36ff33e4fb391b8859a94d89c172a465964f99d6113b55ced429.ex
e -path C:\ -id 12344567890987654321234567890987
```

C:\Windows\System32\vssadmin.exe

delete shadows /all /quiet

Shadow copy delete via vssadmin

Before starting up the encryption process, the malware checks if any of the targeted files to be encrypted are being used by other processes. If the files are found to be used by other applications, the malware uses RestartManager to kill those applications and services using the resource.

📧 royal.exe	4880 🎬 RegCreateKey 🛛 HKCU\Softwa	are\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
📧 royal.exe	4880 🎬 RegQueryKey HKCU\SOFT\	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
royal.exe	4880 🔡 RegEnumValue HKCU\SOFT	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
royal.exe		WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001\RegFilesHash	SUCCESS
royal.exe		WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
royal.exe	4880 RegDeleteValue HKCU\SOFT	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001\RegFiles0000	SUCCESS
📧 royal.exe	4880 🔛 RegEnumValue HKCU\SOFT	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
royal.exe	4880 🔡 RegDeleteValue HKCU\SOFT	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001\Sequence	SUCCESS
royal.exe	4880 🔡 RegEnumValue HKCU\SOFT	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
royal.exe	4880 RegDeleteValue HKCU\SOFT	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001\SessionHash	SUCCESS
royal.exe		WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
royal.exe	4880 🔢 RegDeleteValue HKCU\SOFT	WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001\Owner	SUCCESS
royal.exe		WARE\Microsoft\RestartManager\Session0001	SUCCESS
-	Applic	cation session delete	

After freeing up the resources, the malware begins the encryption process. While viewing the events through ProcMon, we observed the following actions while a file was being encrypted.

oyal.exe	CreateFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Desired Access: All Access, Disposition: Open, Options: Synchronous IO Non-Al
📧 royal.exe	🐂 QueryStandardInformationFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	AllocationSize: 393,216, EndOfFile: 391,460, NumberOfLinks: 1, DeletePending: F
royal.exe	🐂 WriteFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Offset: 391,460, Length: 540, Priority: Normal
royal.exe	🐂 SetEndOfFileInformationFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	EndOfFile: 392,000
royal.exe	🐂 SetAllocationInformationFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	AllocationSize: 392,000
royal.exe	🐂 ReadFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Offset: 0, Length: 391,472
royal.exe	🐂 WriteFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Offset: 0, Length: 391,472, Priority: Normal
royal.exe	🐂 WriteFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Offset: 391,472, Length: 512
royal.exe	🐂 WriteFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Offset: 391,984, Length: 8
royal.exe	🐂 WriteFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Offset: 391,992, Length: 8
royal.exe	🐂 FlushBuffersFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	
royal.exe	🐂 WriteFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Offset: 0, Length: 393,216, I/O Flags: Non-cached, Paging I/O, Synchronous Pagin
royal.exe	🐂 CloseFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	
📧 royal.exe	🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Delete, Synchronize, Disposition: Open, Option.
	🐂 QueryAttributeTagFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	Attributes: A, ReparseTag: 0x0
📧 royal.exe	🐂 QueryBasicInformationFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	CreationTime: 11/29/2022 9:39:06 AM, LastAccessTime: 11/29/2022 9:48:45 AM, L.
royal.exe	🐂 SetRenameInformationFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt	ReplacelfExists: False, FileName: C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt.royal
📧 royal.exe	🐂 CloseFile	C:\Users\tutaans\Desktop\floss opt.txt.ro	
1	Encryr	ntion process view form Pro	cMon without "-ep" argument

Encryption process view form Procivion without -ep argument

## Analysis of an older version of Royal

As mentioned, the Royal operator was previously using malware known as Zeon. We were also able to observe the sample analysis in tria.ge. After executing this malware sample it first tries to stop various services like backup, web engine, POP3, IMAP, SQL, VSS, antivirus, etc., using net and net1 binary. It also attempts to kill various processes relating to Office products, Firefox, Wordpad, calculator, oracle, and steam using taskkill.exe binary.

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net.exe

net stop /y backup

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net1.exe

C:\Windows\system32\net1 stop /y backup

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net.exe

net stop /y wbengine

## C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net1.exe

C:\Windows\system32\net1 stop /y wbengine

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net.exe

net stop /y McShield

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net1.exe C:\Windows\system32\net1 stop /y McShield

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\taskkill.exe

taskkill /im steam.exe /f

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net.exe

net stop /y mfefire

## C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net1.exe

C:\Windows\system32\net1 stop /y mfefire

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net.exe

net stop /y EhttpSrv

## C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net1.exe

C:\Windows\system32\net1 stop /y EhttpSrv

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net.exe

net stop /y KAVF

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net1.exe

C:\Windows\system32\net1 stop /y KAVF

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\taskkill.exe

taskkill /im ocautoupds.exe /f

#### C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net.exe

net stop /y VeeamNFSSvc

## C:\Windows\SysWOW64\net1.exe

C:\Windows\system32\net1 stop /y VeeamNFSSvc

## C:\Windows\SysWOW64\taskkill.exe

taskkill /im backup.exe /f

#### Royal process tree

Then the malware attempts to create a scheduled task using schtask.exe with a random task name. In this case, Royal uses a binary masquerading as an image to evade detection. To overcome any failed attempt to schedule a task, the malware tries to schedule the task multiple times.



After scheduling the task, the malware uses the schtasks.exe binary to execute the task.

```
C:\Windows\SysWOW64\cmd.exe
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c schtasks.exe /Run /TN zE0x06bGus
C:\Windows\SysWOW64\schtasks.exe
schtasks.exe /Run /TN zE0x06bGus
```

Scheduled task execution

Then the below command is used to delete the file "pqBxGx.jpg." The "/F" option forces the deletion of the file, even if it is read-only. The "/Q" option tells the command to delete the file without asking for confirmation. The ">> NUL" portion redirects the output of the command to the null device, which discards it and prevents it from being displayed on the screen.

```
C:\Windows\system32\CMD.EXE
CMD.EXE DEL /F /Q C:\ProgramData\pqBxGx.jpg >> NUL
```

Command to delete pqBxGx.jpg file.

## **Detecting Royal using Logpoint**

## Log Source Needed

- Windows Event Logs
- Sysmon for Windows

As mentioned earlier, to set up the precondition for the ransomware to detonate, the malware stops many services and kills various processes. To detect such activity of Royal ransomware, analysts can use the below query.

```
(label="process" label=create "process"="*\taskkill.exe"
(command= "*f *" command="*im *") OR command="*IM *") OR
(label="process" label=create ("process" IN ["*\sc.exe", "*\net.exe", "*\net1.exe"]
command="*stop*") OR ("process"="*\sc.exe" command="*delete*") -user IN EXCLUDED_USERS)
| chart count() as occurrence by user, host, domain,"process",parent_process
| search occurrence > 8
```

BACK	(label="proce ("process"="*	ss" label=create ("process"   '\sc.exe" command="*delete	IN ["*\sc.exe" e*") -user IN E	<pre>* (command= "*f ** command= **im **) OR command= **IM **) OR **\net.exe*, **\net.exe*] command= **stop**) OR XCLUDED_USERS) _process, *process*   search occurrence &gt; 8</pre>	Use wizard x /1    LAST 7 DAYS	SEARCH
Found 6	6 logs				🚯 Add Search To 🔻 🔺 More 🔻	Chart
					Paralle	I Coordinate 🔻
	user		host			
	Anish.Bogati —	SIG-VEN	IUS:sigintcorp.tk	C:/Windows/system32/cmd.ese	C:Windows/System3Zkscewe	
				C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v	G:\Windows\System32\taskkill-exe	
	user	host	domain	parent_process	process	occurrence
λ	Anish.Bogati	SIC-VENUS.sigintcorp.tk	SIGINTC	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe	C:\Windows\System32\taskkill.exe	32
2	Anish.Bogati	SIC-VENUS.sigintcorp.tk	SIGINTC	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	C:\Windows\System32\sc.exe	28

Detecting Royal activity in Logpoint

Adversaries have used scheduled task functionality to facilitate for single or repetitive execution of malicious codes. Here, Royal ransomware has been seen to create a scheduled task to launch the ransomware. Thus, analysts need to look for the creation of scheduled tasks using the schtasks binary.

```
(label="Process" label=Create "process"="*\schtasks.exe" command="* /create *")
OR (label="Registry" label="Key" label="Map" event_type=CreateKey
"target_object"="*\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tree\*"
    -target_object IN
["*\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows
NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tree\Microsoft\Windows\UpdateOrchestrator*"])
```

So, not just the creation of scheduled tasks, but events related to running of the scheduled task through schtasks should be monitored too.

label="Process" label=Create "process"="\*\schtasks.exe" command="\* /run \*"

The malware also performs SMB share enumeration to encrypt the share folder, so access to multiple share folders in a short span from the same user and host needs to be monitored.

```
[5 norm_id=winserver event_id=5140 share_name=*
having same user,host,source_address within 1 minute]
```

According to the requirement, the number of events and time duration can be changed in the above query.

To prevent recovery of the drives, Royal has been found deleting the volume shadow copy of the drive using the vssadmin utility.

```
label="Process" label="Create"
("process" IN ["*\powershell.exe", "*\wmic.exe", "*\vssadmin.exe", "*\diskshadow.exe"]
command="* shadow*" command="*delete*") OR
("process"= "*\wbadmin.exe" command="*delete*" (command=*systemstatebackup*)
OR (command="*catalog*" command="*quiet*"))
OR ("process"="*\vssadmin.exe" command="*resize*" command="*shadowstorage*"
command="*unbounded*")
```

OR ("process"= "*\v command="*quiet*"	al="Create" wershell.exe", **\wmic.exe", **\vssadmin.exe", **\di vbadmin.exe" command="*delete"' (command=*syst )) OR (*process"=*\vssadmin.exe" command="*res rr,host,domain," process",command	emstatebackup*) OR (command="*catalog*"	and="*delete*")	izard 2/1 👻 LAST 120 DAYS 👻 SEARCH
		A		
Found 13 logs				🕒 Add Search To 🔻 🛛 🚖 More 🔻 🛛 Chart 📳
		domain		Sankey
user	host	domain	process	command wmic shadowcopy delete
				wmic process call create vssadmin
Administrator	WIN-JHAEA3UVGEI	WIN-JHAEA3UVGEI C://	Windows\System32\wbem\WMI	wmic shadowcopy delete all
	WIN-QPO1FCHOQ8L	WIN-QPO1FCHOQ8L		wmic shadowcopy delete
				vssadmin delete shadowstorage
				vssadmin delete shadow /for=c:
		C/	Windows\System32\vssadmin.exe	vssadmin delete shadows
				vssadmin delete shadows /For=C:

Detecting Royal activity in Logpoint

If files to be encrypted are being used by other applications, Royal uses RestartManager to kill the various processes that are using the files to be encrypted. The below query detects five such events that occurred within a minute.

```
[5 norm_id=Windowssysmon event_id=12 event_type=DeleteValue
target_object="*\software\microsoft\restartmanager\session*" within 1 minute]
```

To detect the relevant logs, registry auditing for the RestartManager registry key needs to be enabled in sysmon.

High Volume of File Modification or Deletion in Short Span:

```
[30 label=File label=Object label=Storage access IN ["Delete*","writedata*"]
-"process" IN ["*\tiworker.exe","*\poqexec.exe","*\msiexec.exe"] having same host,
domain, user," process" within 1 minute]
```

••••	
ited count: 4	0 🖉 Add Saveh To * 🔹 👷 More *
	2022/09/21 16:23:21
20	process=C/User\Administrator\AppD v   domain=WIN-QPOIFCHOQ8L v   host=WIN-QPOIFCHOQ8L v   user=Administrator v   log_ts=2022/09/21 16:23:21 v
atches	2022/09/21 16-23-21 Access   Attempt   Delete   File   Object   Removable   Storage
	log_st=2222/09/2116/2221 / user-Administrator / divice_j=h1034/128.66 / device_man=ab_dvi col_type=systeg sig_id=435301   sevitty=2 / facility=1   action=access / domain-WIN-POTICHO28.   event_i=46431   gop_i=i=46431   gop_i=i=4631   gop
	c14.52.21 WhiteGPDTFCHOQEL Metworks/wg PythonPython300g/wthon.exe 211, "Hostanam", "WM- GPDTFCHOQEL, "Keynowd," 52144434303043144, "Eventhyse: "All Charge "WM- GPDTFCHOQEL Water States and "All Charge States and "States", "Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows, "Second Windows," Second Windows, "Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows, "Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows, "Second Windows," Second Windows, "Second Windows," Second Windows," Second Windows, "Second Windows, "Second Windows, "Second Windows," Second Windows, "Second Windows, "S
	2022/09/21 16:23:21 Access   Attempt   Delete   File   Object   Removable   Storage
	log_ts-2022/09/2116/23:21 / user-Administrator / divice_jb=10.94/12.864 / doivice_mame=b_dvi col_typespylog isig_id=430519 / lsvetity=2 facility=1 acion=access i domain-MINE-OPOICHOOBL / event_ji=44633 / logon_id=64637 / logon_
	<pre>&lt;14&gt;56;p 21162321 WhotQPD1FCHOQB, Microsoft-Window-Security-Auditing[4]: ["EventTime": 2022-09-2116/3217", 'htestame": 'Window-Security-Auditing "."ProviderGuid": '[\$4849625-5478-4994-A58A- QPD1FCHOQB23262300]; 'Weisoft', 'Task': 12812, 'QocdoValue': '0, 'Preorsb)': "A "ThreadD1': '5740, 'Channel': 'Security', 'Message': 'An attempt was made to access an object.'Unividue'Guid': '[\$4849625-5478-4994-A58A- 32830282C300]; 'Weisoft', 'Task': 12812, 'QocdoValue': '0, 'Preorsb)': "A "ThreadD1': '5740, 'Channel': 'Security', 'Message': 'An attempt was made to access an object.'Unividue'Guid': '[S484925-5478-4994-A58A- 32830282C300]; 'Weisoft', 'Task': 12812, 'QocdoValue': '0, 'Preorsb)': "A "ThreadD1': '5740, 'Channel': 'Security', 'Message': 'An attempt was made to access an object.'Unividue'Guid': '[S484925-5478-4994-A58A- 32830282C300]; 'Weisoft', 'Task': 12812, 'QocdoValue': '0, 'Preorsb)': "A "ThreadD1': '5740, 'Channel': 'Security', 'Message': 'An attempt was made to access an object.'Unividue'Guid': '[S484925-5478-4994-A58A- 32830282C300]; 'Weisoft', 'Task': 12812, 'QocdoValue': '0, 'Preorsb)': "A "ThreadD1': '5740, 'Channel': 'Security', 'Message': 'An attempt was made to access an object.'Unividue'Guid': '[S484925-5478-4994-A58A- 3000'univide: 'Channel': 'Channel': 'Security', 'Message': 'An attempt was made to access an object.'Unividue'Guid': '[S484925-5478-4994-A58A- 3000'univide: 'Guide'Guide'', 'A "ThreadD1': 'Security', 'Message': 'An attempt was made to access an object.'Unividue'Guide'', 'Security', 'A "Satar'', 'Security', ''A "Satar'', ''A "Satar'', ''A "Satar'', ''A "Satar'', ''A "Satar'', ''A "Satar'', '', '', '', '', '', '', '', '', '',</pre>
	QPOTECHO28LVh/httppon ID:httpdf7A2Vh/httpbert:Vhr/Ubjer
	2022/09/21 16:23:21 Access Attempt   Delete   File   Object   Removable   Storage
	log_1=v222/09/21162221 user-Administrator (dvicu_j=h0104/128.66 (dvicu_mm=ab_dvicol_type=splig) (isig(id=9205)) (sewity=2 failing=1   action=access i domain=WIN-DPOTCHOOR (sewit_j=id=4633) (gop_i]=d-4633 (gop_i]=d-46
	<pre>&lt;14&gt;56;p 21162321WhotPOTFCHOBLMecode/Window-Security-Auditing[4]: [EventTime*12022-09-211623217]. 'htestama*'.WiN- QPOTFCHOB27: Keynords'+254343830304845; 'hternType*1A012: SUCCESS', 'SewtTyPublic': 25ewtTyPublic': 25</pre>

The above image shows that the Python process has modified or deleted 20 files in a minute. Depending on the situation and the needs, the number of logs and the time range to trigger alerts can be modified. This alert detects a large number of file modifications or deletions in a short period so, it can detect file encryption activity by the ransomware.

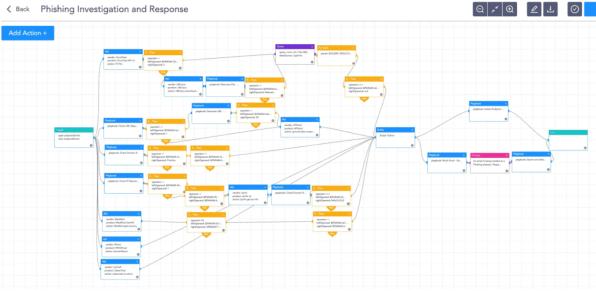
The given alerts are available in <u>Logpoint's latest Alert Rules package</u> and are available free for download for Logpoint customers.

## Investigation and response using Logpoint

There is no actual silver bullet for investigation and response to ransomware. However, <u>Logpoint</u> <u>SOAR</u> is by far the most useful tool for organizations to investigate and respond to ransomware attacks.

## 1. Phishing investigation and response

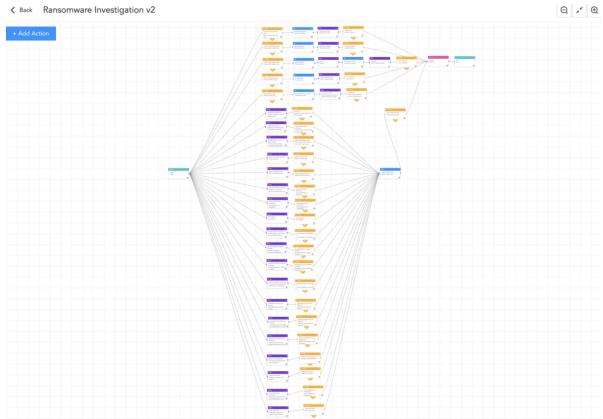
Royal ransomware groups also use phishing techniques to gain initial access and this playbook ensures all suspicious phishing incidents are adequately investigated and responded to, dramatically reducing the response time and human error.



Phishing investigation playbook

## 2. Ransomware investigation

This playbook thoroughly examines the IoCs and uses a sandbox to detonate the suspicious files. It also looks for the common TTPs used by the ransomware, improving the chances of detecting ransomware before it is too late. The playbook will prompt an alert message to the administrators if ransomware is identified, and will start further work to isolate the host and contain the malware.



Ransomware investigation playbook

## 3. Isolate endpoint mitigation

Using the new Logpoint AgentX, this playbook identifies the infected host and isolates it; and contains and quarantines it before it spreads to other machines. AgentX is a built-in response capability on endpoints and to start using it, contact your Logpoint representative.

rigger		fl., Then		Case Item		End	
type: playbookEvent text: playbookEvent	0	operator: !== leftOperand: \$[PARAM.94 rightOperand: null	Api CrowdStrike - Isolate Endp This isolates the affected h using the EDR	Create Case Item Host was isolated on EDR	Apl Open Ticket on ServiceNow Host was isolated due to security risk		

Isolate endpoint mitigation playbook

## 4. Block indicators

This playbook checks if any IP, domain, URL, or host exists in a list of IoCs, blocks them, and adds them to the blocked list.

		If Then X	Playbook ×	Case item X			
	(	operator: I== leftOperand: \$[PARAM.efe rightOperand: null	Block Indicator Add Destination IP Address to Blacklist	Add IP to blacklist Destination IP has been added to blacklist on firewall			
frigger type: playbookEvent		If Then X	Playbook ×	Case Item × Add Domain to blacklist Status. Remed	X	End	
text: playbookEvent	•	leftOperand: \$(PARAM.efe rightOperand: null	Add Domain Name to Blacklist	Domain name has been added to blacklist on web proxy			٥
		If Then X	Playbook X	Case Item X			
		operator: !== leftOperand: \$(PARAM.efe rightOperand: null	Add File Hash to Blacklist	Add Hash to blacklist File Hash has been added to blacklist on EDR			

Block indicator playbook

## 5. Delete scheduled task

The Logpoint AgentX delete scheduled task response playbook reduces the burden of manually deleting a suspicious scheduled task. This playbook requires the analyst to provide the hostname of the machine where the scheduled task was created, the manager IP address, and the scheduled task name.

	The Scheduled Task With TaskName: DemoTask is Delete Successfully.		Incident e83b9edf-d479-4901-85a3-f2ce02 Id:		
	Delete Scheduled Task Source: Playbook - Logpoint AgentX Delete Scheduled Task		Time Stamp:	:	2022-09-09 11:45:08
			Description:		Case Item from Query
			type:		QUERY_RESULT
	Case Item from Query Source: Playbook - Logpoint AgentX Delete Scheduled	â	source:		PLAYBOOK
	Task		userSelectedFields: [description, task_name, s		
			executedQuery: norm_id="AgentX" "agentx_agent"="win-soar" "response_script"="delete_scheduled_task.exe"		
		"task_name"="DemoTask" "status"="Successful			
			queryDataSo	ource:	LOGPOINT
			data:		Show JSON Data

Successful deletion of scheduled task

## Endpoint detection and remediation with AgentX

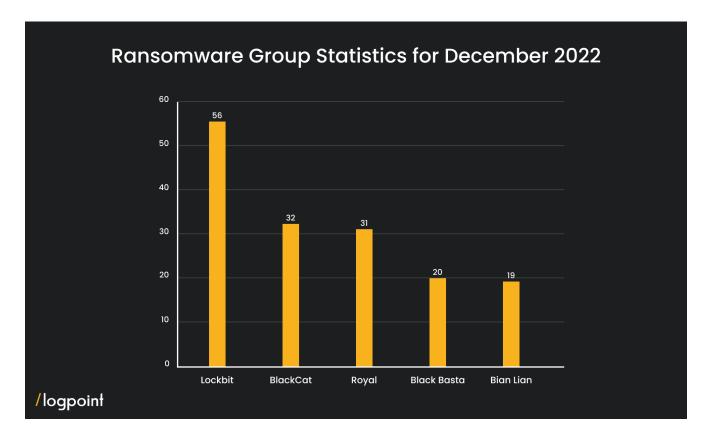
Logpoint AgentX is a lightweight application that transports logs and telemetry from endpoints (all servers, workstations, and applications) to the SIEM, and performs automated real-time investigation and remediation of threats with SOAR. With AgentX, security analysts get precise detection of

malicious malware and the ability to respond to threats in endpoints.

Logpoint AgentX is available now: Contact your representative.

## End-to-end detection, investigation, and response of Royal with Logpoint

Royal is a private group with no affiliates. Despite being a private group, Royal ransomware operators were able to leak the data of more than 60 victims on their leak site within a one-and-half-month period. This ransomware uses various tactics and techniques to achieve its end goals. For a faster encryption process, it uses partial encryption and other encryption options. As ransomware payloads are deployed in later stages, we can still detect them before they can encrypt an organization's sensitive data. Through proper system logging and using the Logpoint Converged SIEM platform combining SIEM, SOAR, and endpoint response, we can detect the traces of the ransomware and investigate and respond to the malware's activities.



Ransomware Group Statistics for December 2022

Source: https://darkfeed.io/2023/01/02/ransomware-groups-statistics-december-2022/



## **Contact Logpoint**

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