

On the Horizon: Ransomed.vc Ransomware Group Spotted in the Wild

socradar.io/on-the-horizon-ransomed-vc-ransomware-group-spotted-in-the-wild/

August 21, 2023

[Update] November 9, 2023: "End of an Era, the Sinking of Ransomed.VC"

[Update] October 5, 2023: See the subheading: "RansomedVC De-anonymized Itself After Moving to WordPress."

[Update] October 2, 2023: See the subheadings: "RansomedVC Partners with STORMOUS Hackers," and "The Outcome of the Sony Leak."

[Update] September 15, 2023: See the subheading: "Ransomed.vc Interview."

[Update] September 4, 2023: The Ransomed team is collaborating with Everest Ransomware, read more under: "Old Ties, New Threats: Everest Echoes."

[Update] August 24, 2023: Added subheadings: "Ransomed.vc Lists Three New Victims and Receives Payment for a Previous Attack," "An Extortion Approach That Utilizes GDPR Fines."

We have been monitoring Telegram for a long time as many of the threat actors and dark web activities are also actively running on Telegram. A Telegram group that we previously monitored as **RansomForums** had recently announced that they would be doing a project called **Ransomed.vc**.

The group's owner has renamed his private chat room to Ransomed.vc Chat:

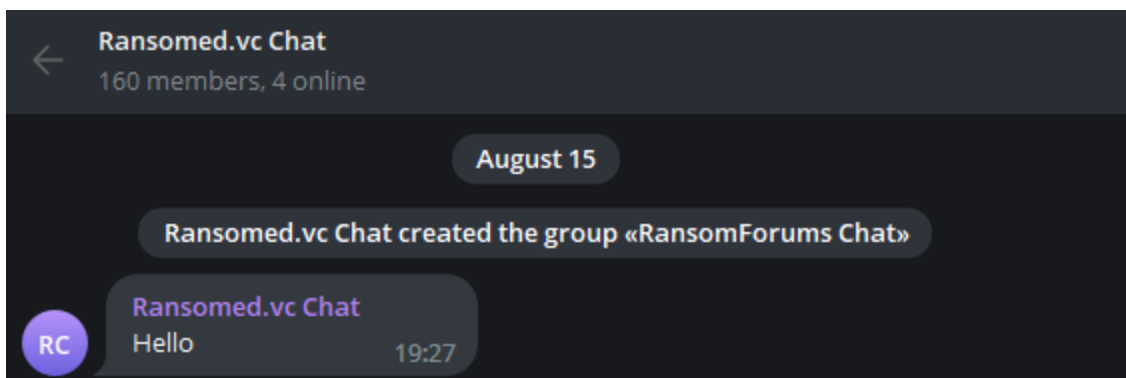


Figure. 1.

First Message of Ransomed.vc Chat room

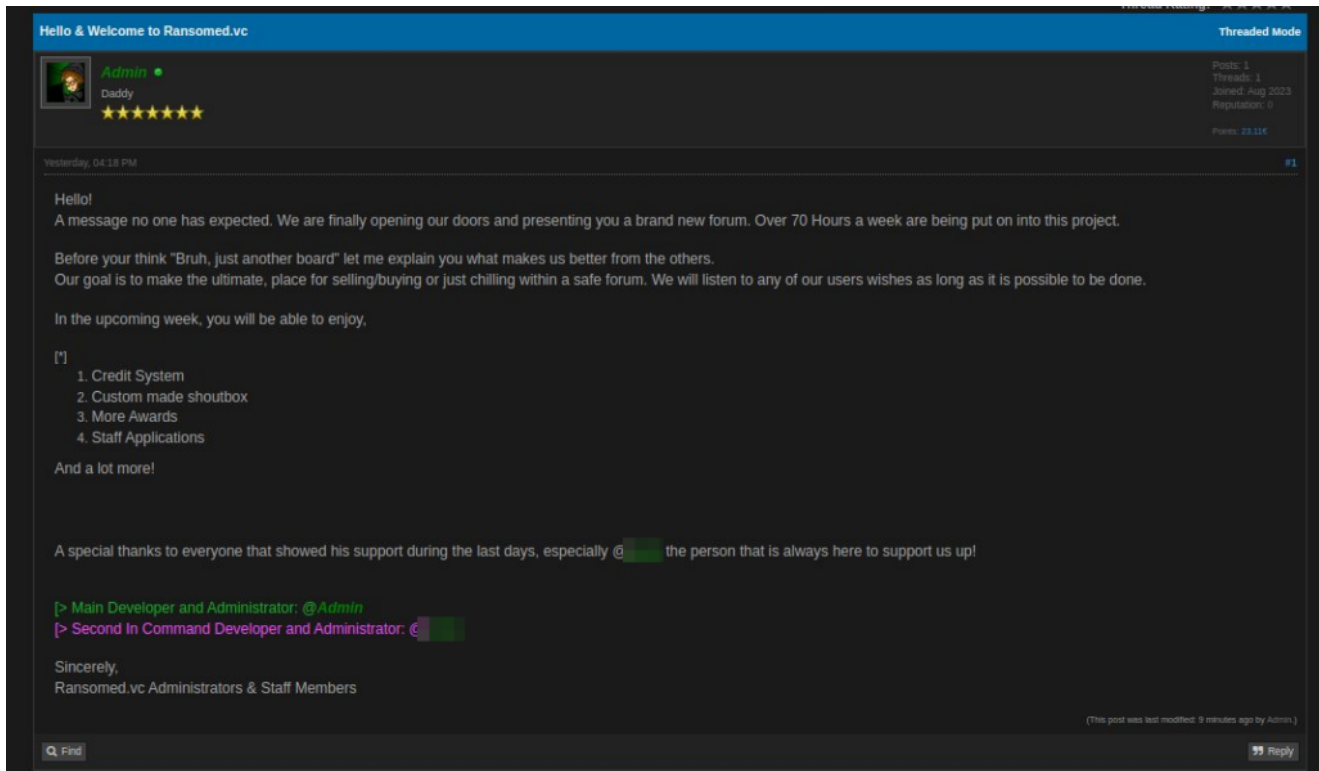


Figure 2. Welcome post of Ransomed.vc (Source: *FalconFeedsio*)

However, the site suffered a DDoS attack shortly after its launch and was dubbed BreachForums2 by the attackers:

Who failed to pay?

(Updated Non-Stop)

BREACHFORUMS2

Comment from the author

Breachforums is now owned by one of the greatest and youngest [redacted] in our community. ShinyHunters is one of the worst people that could have ever been in front of breached.

Reason: N/a .. $\hat{A}\hat{Z}\backslash(\hat{a}\square\square)/\hat{A}\hat{Z}$

0. OSINT and PUBLIC INFORMATION

Database Leak: <https://i.suffer.rip>
Emails of shinyhunters: [redacted]@gmail.com email hash and salt: <https://pastebin.com/>

1. Attacks

1.1 ddos attacks:

Starting Date: 8/16/2023

Successful Attacks 14/14 (within 8/16/2026)

Proofs:

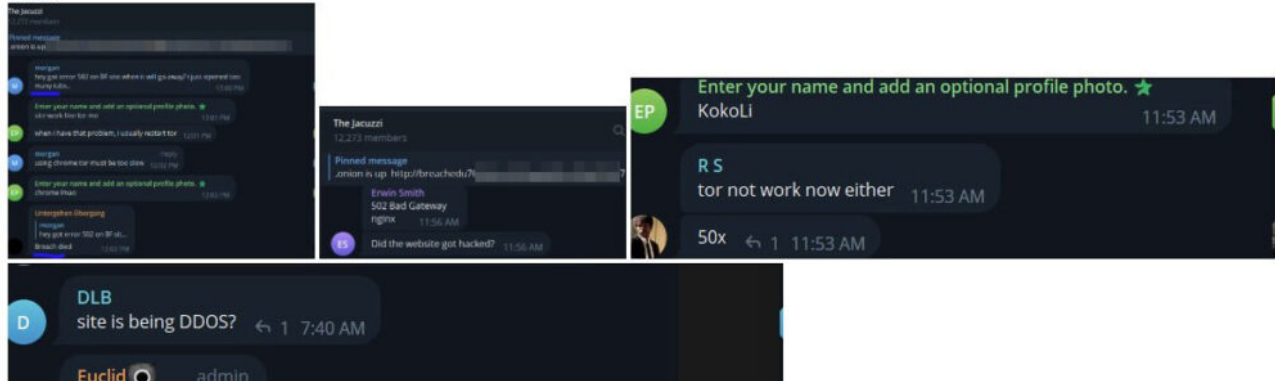


Figure 3. Ransomed.vc's screenshot after being attacked (Source: [Karol Paciorek](#))

Another Twitter user also discovered that RansomForums' favicon icon looks the same as BreachForums' favicon.

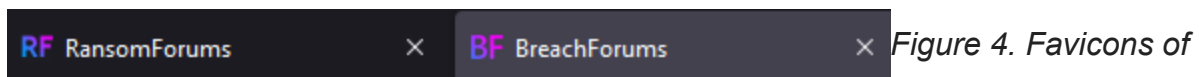


Figure 4. Favicons of RansomForums and BreachForums (Source: [Crocodyli](#))

According to the group owner's chat messages, the admin will not use the forum for a while until Breachforums is closed and he has the source code of [RaidForums](#):

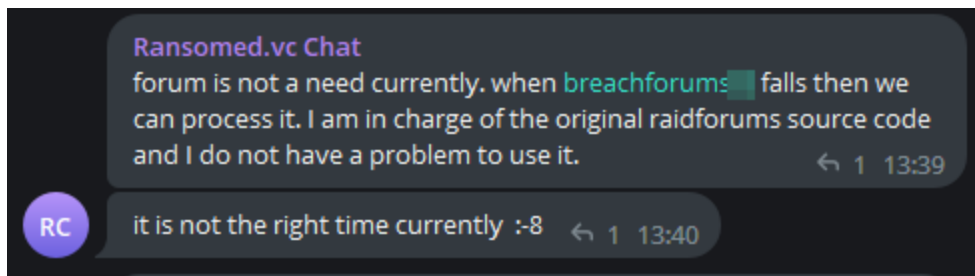


Figure 5. Telegram

group owner's statement

After this process, Ransomed.vc was transformed into a site sharing ransom victims:

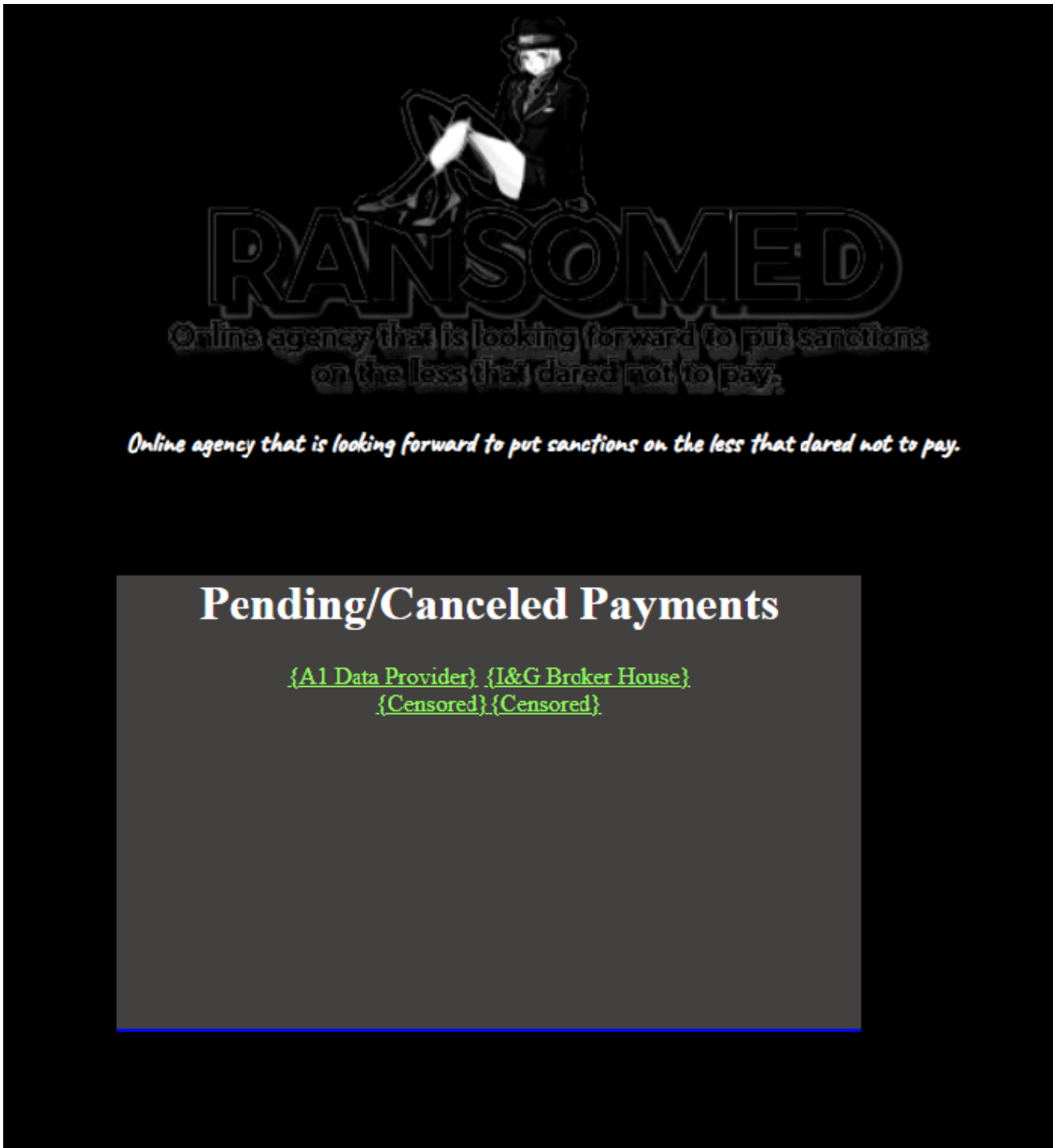


Figure 6. Main page of Ransomed.vc

When we search the directories of the page domain, we see that they do not have any other **subpages** other than the ones they have shared at the moment:

https://ransomed.vc:443/

Scan Information | Results - List View: Dirs: 0 Files: 3 | Results - Tree View | Errors: 0

Type	Found	Response	Size
Dir	/	200	1333
File	/a1.html	200	633
File	/index.html	200	635
File	/ig.html	200	633

Figure 7. Dirbuster output of Ransomed.vc domain

When we check the domain in VirusTotal, it appears clean, but in the relation graph, it is linked to an IP address tagged as malicious:

0 / 88
Community Score

No security vendors flagged this domain as malicious

ransomed.vc

Registrar: Sarek Oy | Creation Date: 5 days ago | Last Analysis Date: 4 days ago

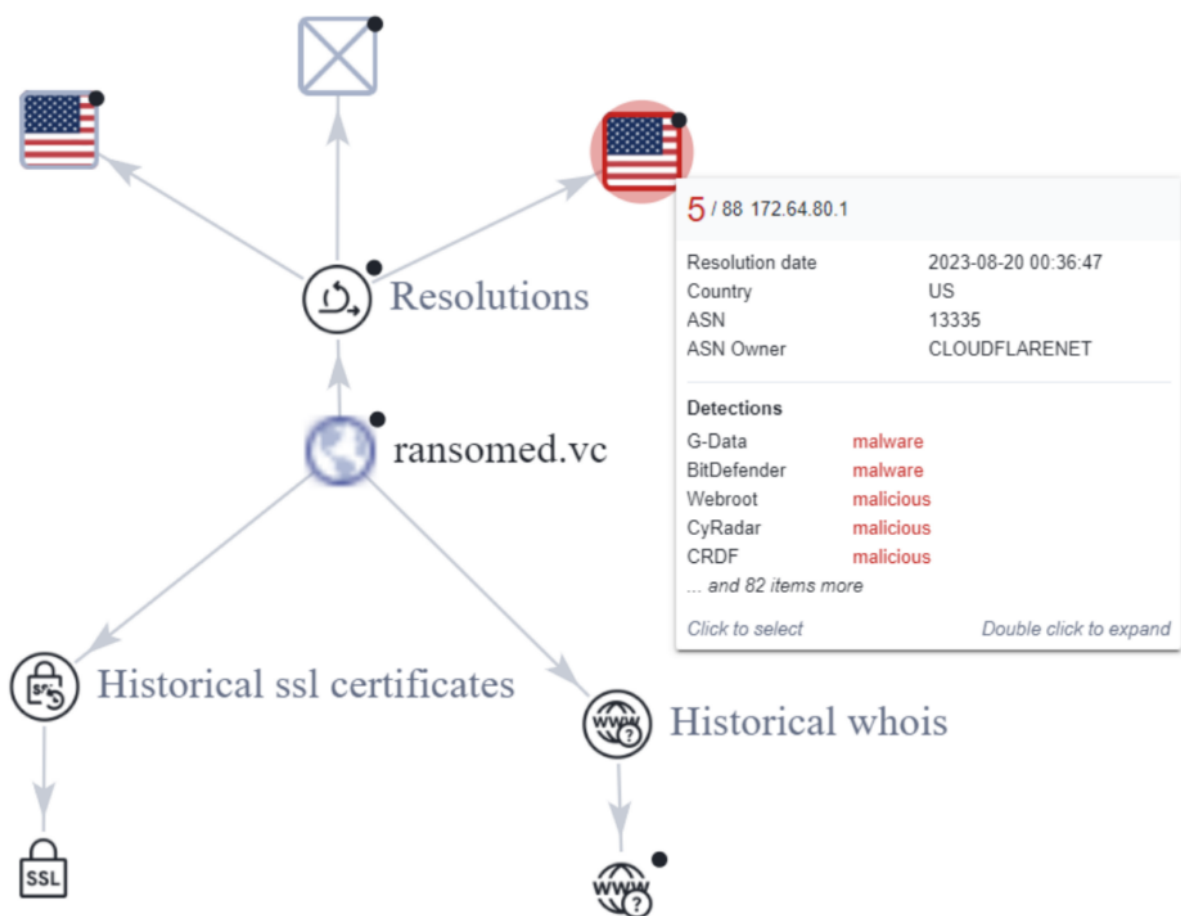


Figure 8. VirusTotal output and Relation graph of Ransomed.vc domain (Source:VirusTotal)

In addition, the group shares victim posts on its Telegram channel, which they actively use:

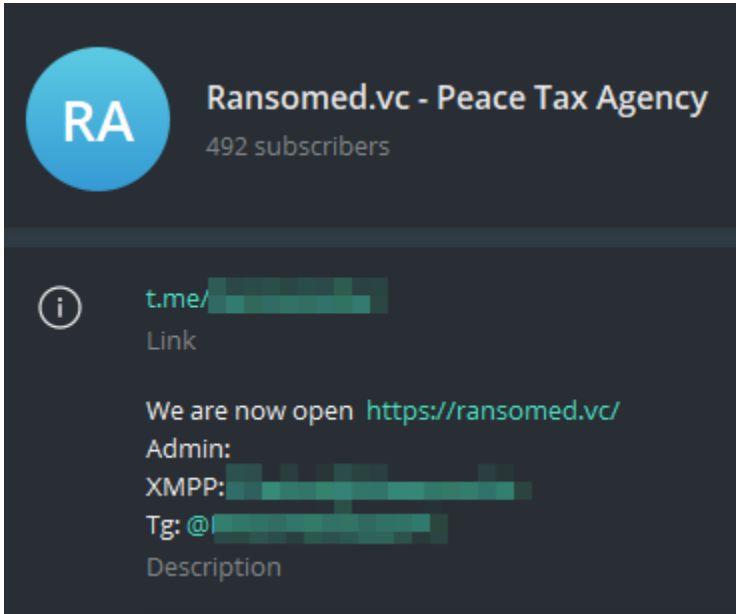


Figure 9. Telegram channel information

First Victims of Ransomed.vc

PENDING PAYMENT

(Updated Non-Stop)

A1 Data Provider

Comment from the author

A1 has been recently compromised. Our group was able to gather access to multiple control panels. In the following countries:

- . Austria (MAIn Country of Operator)
- . Serbia
- . Bulgaria
- . Croatia
- . N. Macedonia

CHILD COMPANIES AFFECTED:

- . BoB
- . Yesss!
- . Red Bull Mobile

EMPLOYEEs AFFECTED:

Average: 18,000

CUSTOMERS AFFECTED:

Around 11M

The payment is due until 9/01/2023

Figure 10. A1 Data Provider has been compromised by Ransomed.vc



Current Progress of payment:

0/4 partial payments have been paid, expecting first payment by 8/28/2023

Figure 11. A1 Data Provider's screenshots of Ransomed.vc

I&G Broker House:

PENDING PAYMENT

(Updated Non-Stop)

I&G Broker House

Comment from the author

One of the biggest Broker house in the balkans and central europe.

EMPLOYEES AFFECTED:

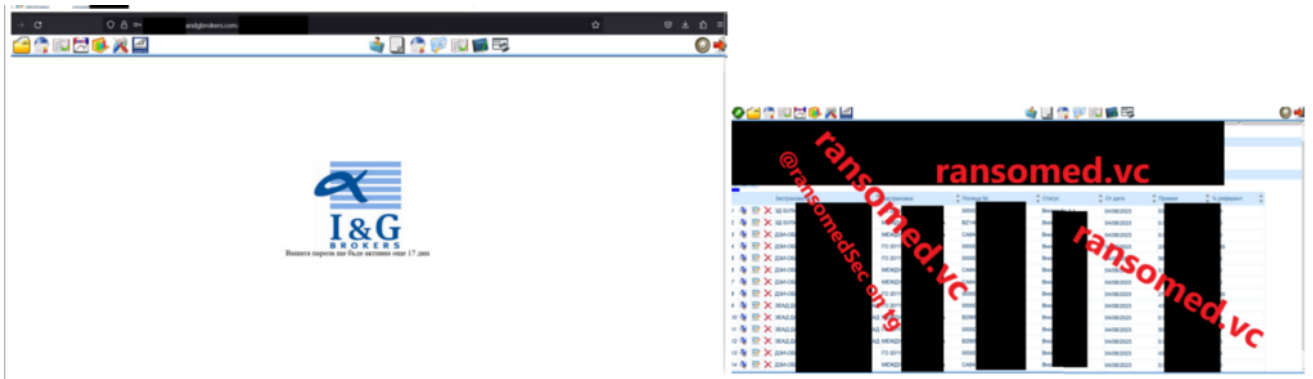
Average: 4k

CUSTOMERS AFFECTED:

Around 11M

The payment is due until 9/05/2023

Figure 12. I&G Broker House



Current Progress of payment:

0/1 payments have been paid.

Figure 13. I&G Broker House’s screenshots of Ransomed.vc

We also see that they are looking for new operators on their Telegram channels, which suggests that there may be **more victim announcements** in the near future.

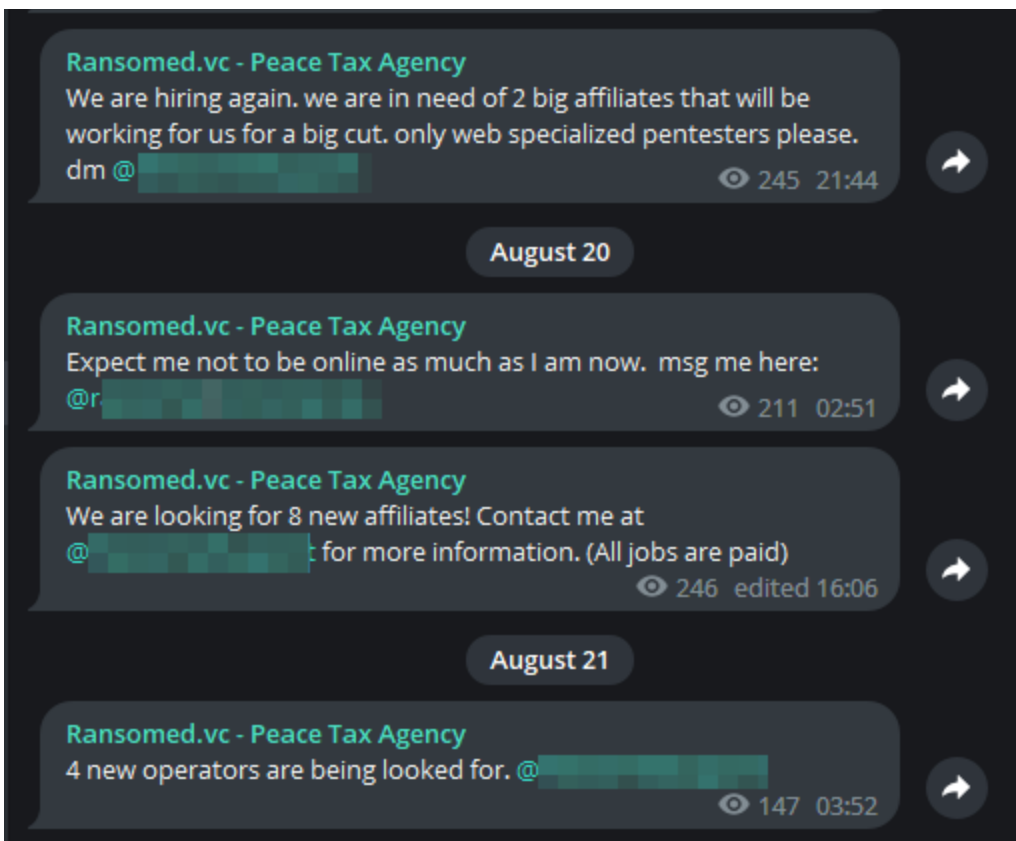


Figure 14.

Ransomed.vc Telegram posts about they are looking for new operators

Ransomed.vc Lists Three New Victims and Receives Payment for a Previous Attack

Based on the latest information, the Ransomed.vc group has targeted three new victims. One of these victims is **Optimity**, a provider of managed IT services. The threat actors assert that they have exported Optimity’s entire **Azure Cloud**, which granted them access to over a thousand companies.

https://optimity.co.uk

Comment from the author

Their whole azure cloud was exported and is now in our hands. Luckily and sadly for them we have taken access to more than 1000 companies. if optimity does not pay we will start ransoming them, one by one.

Size of Data:
5012GB

CUSTOMERS AFFECTED:
Around 11M

Companies Affected:
1001

The payment is due until 9/30/2023

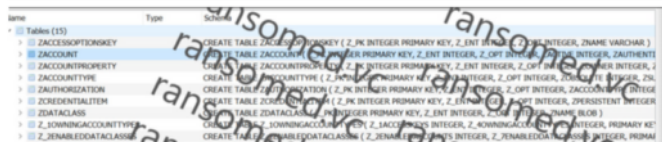


Figure 15. Optimity

Another exported database belongs to **Transunion**. The ransom threat actors claimed that they successfully infiltrated the entire cloud, gaining possession of all materials used and downloaded by Transunion employees. One such dataset has also been obtained for a company named **Jhooker**.

Transunion

Comment from the author

AFFECTED: Everything any of their employees ever downloaded or used on their systems. whole cloud has been accessed. Their database has been also exported.(sql L :)))))

The payment is due until 9/30/2023

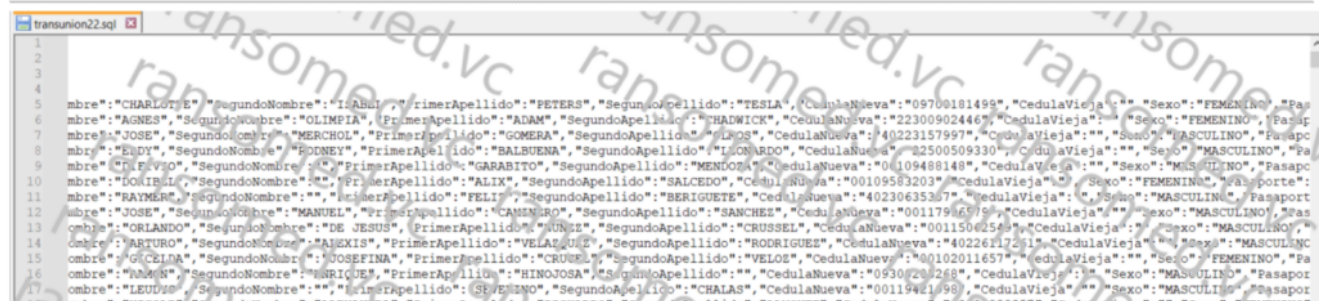


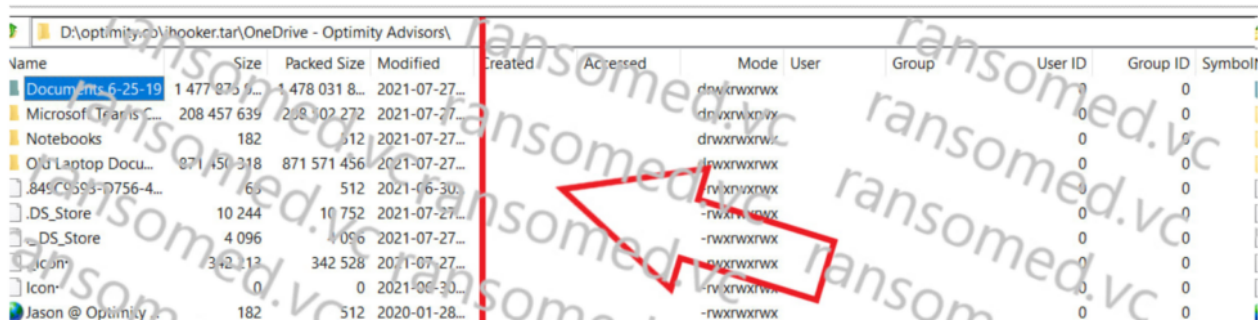
Figure 16. Transunion

Company Jhooker

Comment from the author

AFFECTED: Everything any of their employees ever downloaded or used on their systems. whole cloud has been accessed.

The payment is due until 9/30/2023



Name	Size	Packed Size	Modified	Created	Accessed	Mode	User	Group	User ID	Group ID	Symbolic Link
Documents_6-25-19	1 477 875 9...	1 478 031 8...	2021-07-27...			drwxrwxrwx			0	0	
Microsoft Teams C...	208 457 639	208 02 272	2021-07-27...			drwxrwxrwx			0	0	
Notebooks	182	512	2021-07-27...			drwxrwxrwx			0	0	
Old Laptop Docu...	871 450 318	871 571 456	2021-07-27...			drwxrwxrwx			0	0	
.845C9593-D756-4...	65	512	2021-06-30...			rw-rw-rw-			0	0	
.DS_Store	10 244	10 752	2021-07-27...			-rwxrwxrwx			0	0	
.DS_Store	4 096	4 096	2021-07-27...			-rwxrwxrwx			0	0	
Icon	3 421 113	3 42 528	2021-07-27...			drwxrwxrwx			0	0	
Icon	0	0	2021-06-30...			rw-rw-rw-			0	0	
Jason @ Optimity...	182	512	2020-01-28...			-rwxrwxrwx			0	0	

Figure 17. Jhooker

Furthermore, the ransomware operation has apparently received a payment following their attack on A1 Data Provider. However, only one out of four payments has been fulfilled. It appears that the ransom group accepts **payments in installments**, a departure from the norm among ransomware groups we have encountered so far.

Current Progress of payment:

1/4 partial payments have been paid. expecting second payment by 8/25/2023 (EDITED)

Figure 18. ¼ partial payments have been paid by A1 Data Provider.

An Extortion Approach That Utilizes GDPR Fines

An additional revelation about the group has been shared in a tweet by [vx-underground](#). The Ransomed.vc group seems to use an extortion strategy that leverages **GDPR** (Europe's General Data Protection Laws). Essentially, the group coerces victims into either paying the ransom or facing GDPR fines upon the exposure of their data. This GDPR-based extortion scheme diverges from the typical extortion approaches, as these threat actors **exploit protective laws** to intimidate victims for financial gain.

Old Ties, New Threats: Everest Echoes

In a recent post by the Ransomed team, we noticed that they are collaborating with Everest Ransomware, as evident in the details of **SKF.com**'s victim announcement. Upon reviewing Everest's claim post, we observed Everest also made the same post. Everest is a threat

actor that has been active since 2020. Everest has been involved in ransomware attacks, initial access brokering, and data extortion activities. Additionally, they have been active on platforms such as XSS Forum and Breached.

Everest Ransomware Group

SKF.com

SKF's network was compromised (by collaboration with Ransomed group) a few days ago. The company continues to be silent about the problem.

A representative of the company should contact us immediately and get full picture of what happened, instructions have all been sent in the emails.

Otherwise, we will start communicating with your competitors.

Revenue : \$8.1 Billions

Data stolen : 2.19 Terabytes

Data Info : Internal Documents, Data Bases, Customer Data....

RANSOMED.VC

We offer a secure and reliable solution for addressing data security vulnerabilities within companies. As penetration testers, we seek compensation for our professional services. Our operations are conducted in strict compliance with GDPR and Data Privacy Laws. In cases where payment is not received, we are obligated to report a Data Privacy Law violation to the GDPR agency!

News: Our Telegram Got Banned, Follow us on twitter for latest news. @ [REDACTED]

DISCLAIMER: If you are listed on our site, you failed to answer our messages. You still have time to fix it, contact us asap to get it resolved.

Join Our Affiliate Program

SKF.com

Revenue: \$8.1B

- SKF's network was compromised (by collaboration with Everest Ransomware Group) a few days ago. The company continues to be silent about the problem. A representative of the company should contact us immediately, instructions have all been sent in the emails. Otherwise, we will start communicating with your competitors. Data stolen : 2.19 Terabytes Data Info : Internal Documents, Data Bases, Customer [◆]

We require a ransom of \$100,000

Pay

Fig. 19. Everest and Ransomed's claim posts about SKF.com

Considering that Ransomed was one of the founders of BlackForums after Breached and Everest was active in Breached, we can infer that their fellowship is not for a single operation but a history.

RansomedVC Partners with STORMOUS Hackers

RansomedVC recently announced on Telegram that they have forged an alliance with Stormous ransomware.

The threat group's most recent message on its channel stated that while they had partnered in the past, they are now officially confirming it:

Ransomed_vc

We are now partnering with Stormous ransomware group, we have partnered with them before but now its time to make it public!
Expect a lot of love in the near future from both of us!

Fig. 20. RansomedVC's

announcement about partnering with Stormous.

The fact that Stormous referred to the RansomedVC group as a partner in its own Telegram channel with one of their recent posts fully confirms their partnership.

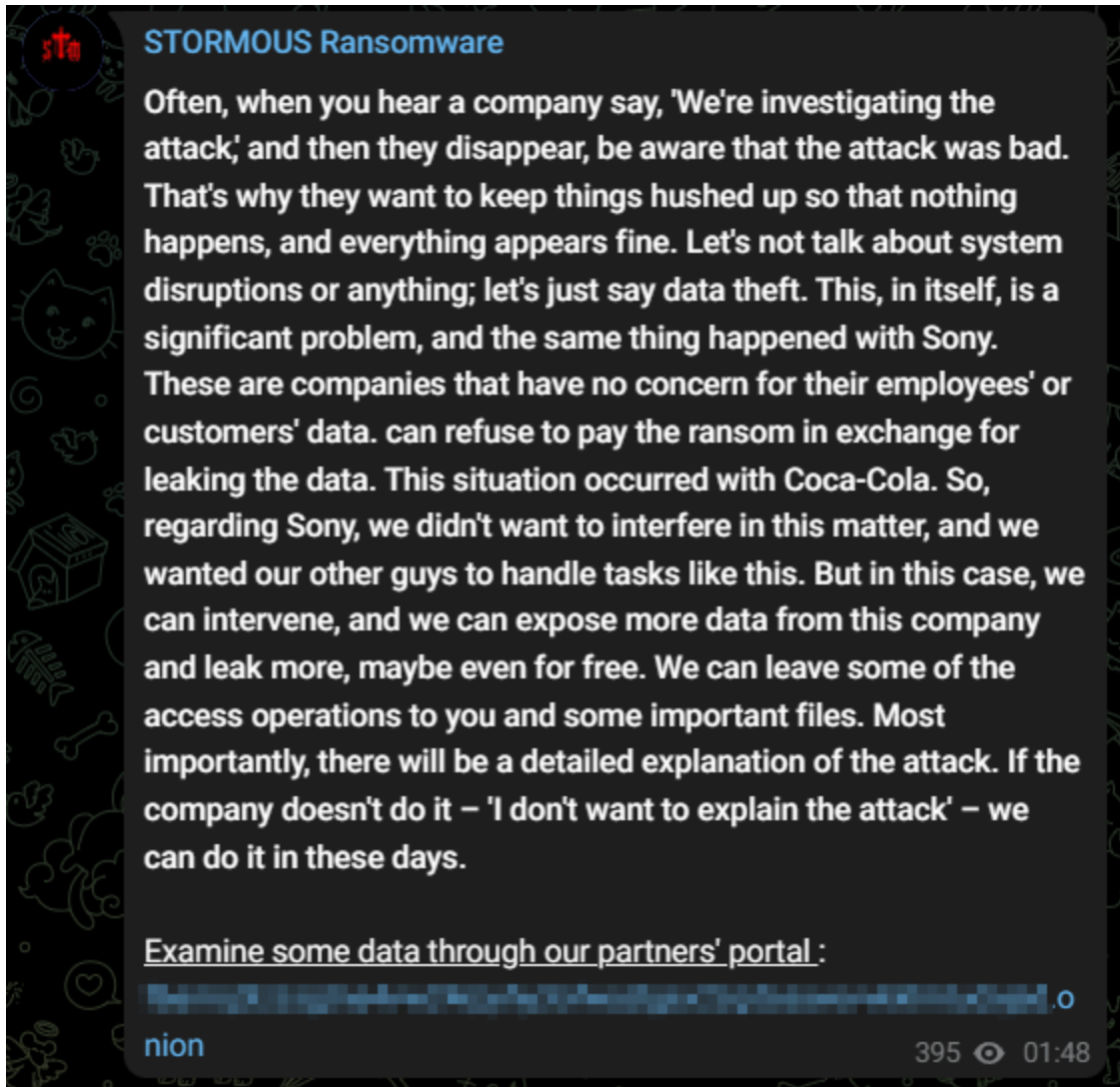


Fig. 21.

Stormous' message on Telegram.

In the message, the ransomware group also commented on the Sony breach, suggesting that they might intervene and **potentially release more data** for free.

The two ransomware groups appear to be trying to exert pressure on Sony, possibly with the aim of **further extorting** their victim or **damaging their brand reputation**. With the official partnership now established, we may expect to receive more updates regarding the Sony situation.

The Outcome of the Sony Leak

In a subsequent update, the RansomedVC threat actors have leaked the data they claimed to possess from the Sony breach on their Telegram channel. They mentioned that they extracted **only the important data** from Sony. See the message below:

We are now leaking Sony data here. The hack includes the following (although we only took a small portion of the data, only the important things):

- * Tools for analyzing software quality and discovering errors and problems in the source code (SONY) allow developers to improve software quality and apply best practices.

- * Linked folders containing files and tools used in processing operations .

- * Logging in and managing access to resources and data "Apache Arhiva,SSHJenkins" .

- * Different documents and files .

Various other data

- ✗ We must also say that leaking sensitive data related to any company would result in a company being punished for not protecting its data or the data of its employees.

Fig. 22.

RansomedVC leaks the data from the Sony breach.

To learn more about the Sony breach, visit our other blog post: [What You Need to Know About the Alleged Sony Breach](#)

RansomedVC De-anonymized Itself After Moving to WordPress

RansomedVC has recently transitioned its website to WordPress, following the setup of a new virtual private server (VPS), hosted by a bulletproof hosting provider known as PONYNET.

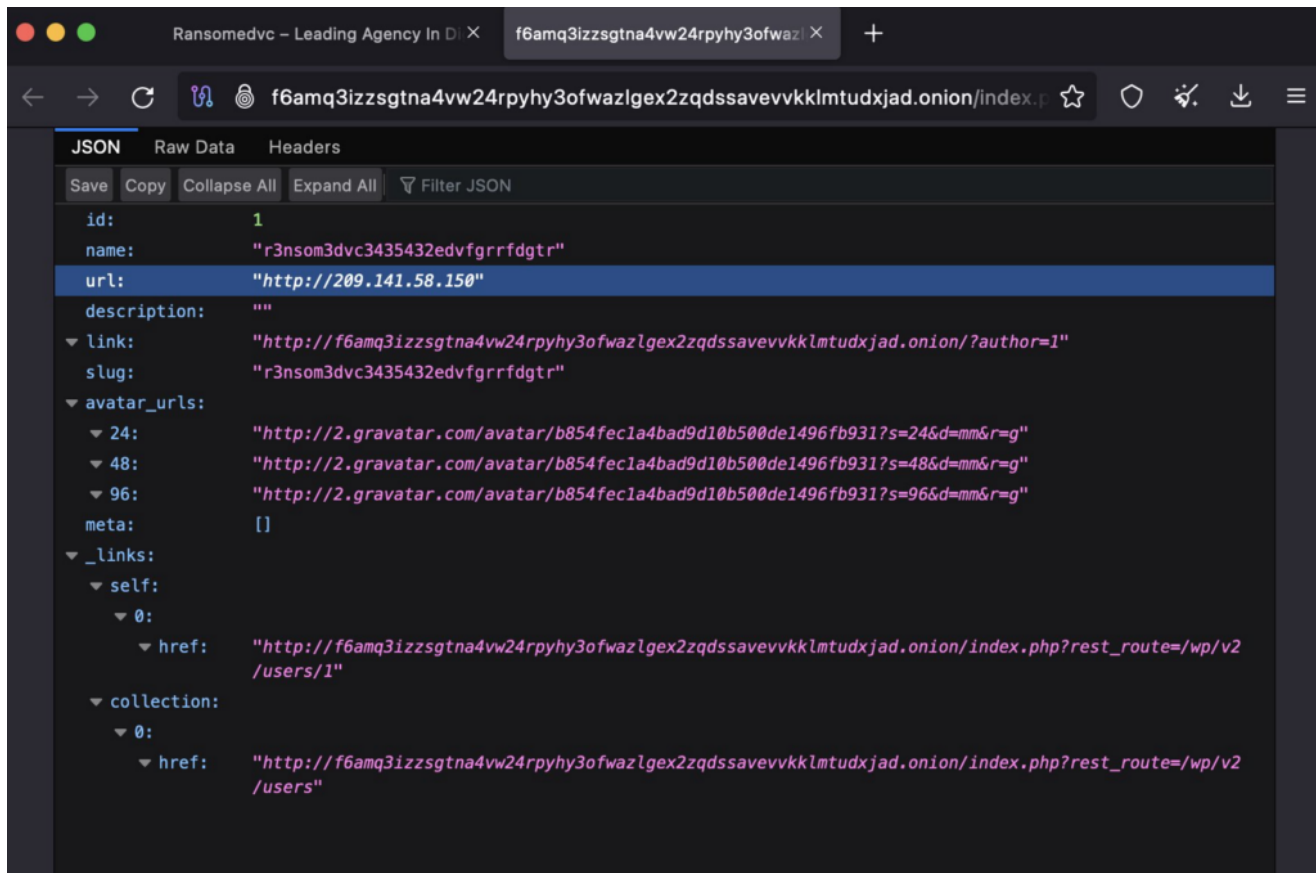
Unfortunately for the RansomedVC threat actors, this migration has inadvertently exposed their **origin IP address** and a variety of associated **DNS entries**.

Host

Attribute	Value	
ip	209.141.58.150	q
location.continent	North America	q
location.country	United States	q
location.country_code	US	q
location.city	Las Vegas	q
location.postal_code	89111	q
location.timezone	America/Los_Angeles	q
location.province	Nevada	q
location.coordinates.latitude	36.17497	q
location.coordinates.longitude	-115.13722	q
location.updated_at	2023-09-28T07:15:45.555574Z	
autonomous_system.asn	53667	q
autonomous_system.description	PONYNET	q
autonomous_system.bgp_prefix	209.141.32.0/19	q
autonomous_system.name	PONYNET	q
autonomous_system.country_code	US	q
autonomous_system.updated_at	2023-09-28T07:15:45.555625Z	
operating_system.uniform_resource_identifier	cpe:2.3:o:canonical:ubuntu_linux:20.04:*:*:*:*	q
operating_system.part	o	q
operating_system.vendor	Ubuntu	q
operating_system.product	Linux	q
operating_system.version	20.04	q
operating_system.other.family	Linux	q
dns.names	wwadmin.omanexpress.xyz	q
dns.names	accounttelekom.xyz	q
dns.names	point-teleko.xyz	q
dns.names	telekobalance.xyz	q
dns.names	omandhl.xyz	q
dns.records.omandhl.xyz.record_type	A	
dns.records.omandhl.xyz.resolved_at	2023-09-28T23:12:48.130077366Z	
dns.records.telekobalance.xyz.record_type	A	
dns.records.telekobalance.xyz.resolved_at	2023-09-28T23:13:15.650272197Z	
dns.records.wwadmin.omanexpress.xyz.record_type	A	
dns.records.wwadmin.omanexpress.xyz.resolved_at	2023-10-04T00:22:45.497456218Z	
dns.records.accounttelekom.xyz.record_type	A	
dns.records.accounttelekom.xyz.resolved_at	2023-10-02T22:10:39.065937094Z	
dns.records.point-teleko.xyz.record_type	A	
dns.records.point-teleko.xyz.resolved_at	2023-09-28T23:12:50.732327507Z	
last_updated_at	2023-10-04T00:22:47.178Z	
labels	remote-access	q

Exposed host information. (Source: X)

Additionally, their actions have led to oversights, as the site seems to be affected by vulnerability known as [CVE-2017-5487](#) (Unauthorized Information Disclosure vulnerability in WordPress 4.7 before 4.7.1). The vulnerability further reveals RansomedVC's origin IP. The sensitive information is available within the profile of the administrator user:



Ransomed.vc's origin IP has been revealed. (Source: [X](#))

The intention behind this disclosure by [@htmlgae](#) is to highlight how the threat actors hastily **de-anonymized** their hidden service before its full restoration was completed.

Ransomed.vc Interview

Daily Dark Web published an interview with Ransomed.vc on September 14th. The interview shows how a ransomware operator thinks and sheds light on many claims and points about Ransomed[.]vc. Some highlights from the interview are as follows:

Can you introduce your group and explain why you engage in ransomware attacks?

– Of course I can, we are a big team I have to say of 77 affiliates and a few more groups in partnership. We are financially motivated so this answers the second part of the question

More on the topic of their working scheme:

What are the primary motivations behind your attacks? Is it for financial gain, ideological reasons, or something else?

– Financial gain and sometimes political reason.

How do you choose your targets? Are you targeting large corporations, small businesses, or individual users?

– I require at least 5M in revenue so it is even worth to work on.

Their answers to some of the claims we included in this article were as follows:

In a recent post by the Ransomed team, they are collaborating with Everest Ransomware. Could you specify the nature of your connection with the Everest Group?

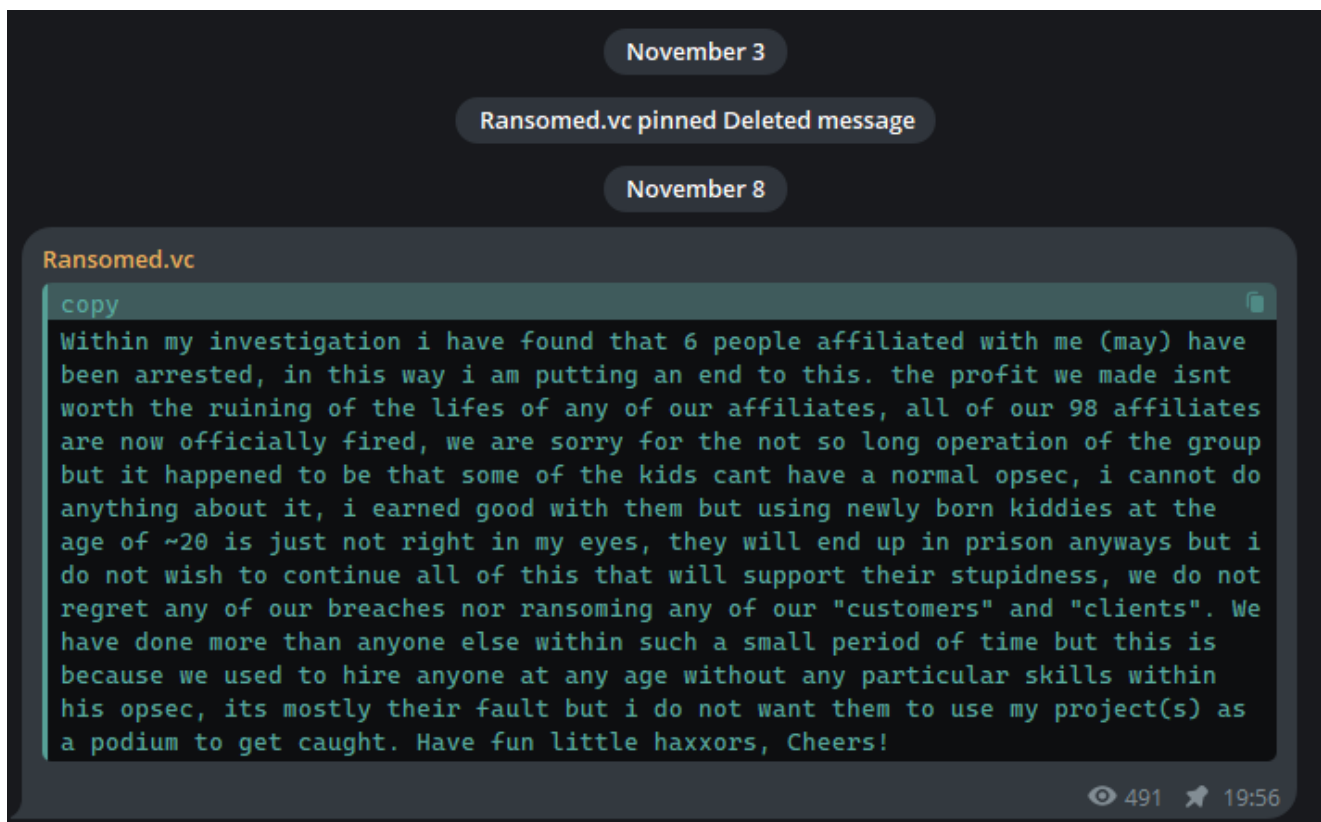
– Old friends dont forget their friends.

Alleged ties between Exposed Forum and Ransomed: Could you specify the nature of your connection with the Exposed Forum?

– I have seen the news yeah, idk what I can say about it, never been in their forum neither will I ever be.

[Don't forget to check out Daily Dark Web's post for the full interview.](#)

End of an Era, the Sinking of Ransomed.VC



Ransomed.vc's last post on Telegram about the end of the operation

Ransomed.vc shared a Telegram post announcing the shutdown of their operations due to the **arrest of six individuals** associated with their group. The announcement acknowledged that the financial gains did not outweigh the harm caused to their affiliates' lives. It highlighted the mistake of hiring young and inexperienced people, which led to security

lapses and likely contributed to their arrests. However, the post contained no apology for the ransomware attacks they were involved in. Concluding the post, Ransomed.vc distanced themselves from the actions of their former associates and the ongoing illegal activities, signing off with a casual farewell.

There are some questions in mind:

- What will happen to the Ransomed forum?
- What will happen to the victims?

We'll see in the future...

Bonus:

Twitter is buzzing with claims that the Ransomed admins are impotent and self-report their affiliates to the feds. We don't know if these rumors are true, but we discuss such rumors in another blog series, not here.

Follow [Dark Peep](#) if you want to know about rumors and interesting incidents happening on the dark web!

Discovering the Dark Web Landscape: SOCRadar XTI Monitoring and Threat Insights

Utilizing advanced monitoring techniques and AI-driven intelligence, SOCRadar XTI consistently surveils the entire web landscape, including the clear, dark, and deep web, alongside other hacker channels on platforms like Telegram. With its robust monitoring capabilities, SOCRadar provides an invaluable service by **alerting** organizations before compromise.

For a deeper understanding of the hidden facets of the internet and insights into threat actors operating from the depths of the dark web, and their malicious toolsets, **explore our platform.**

Black Market Botnet Data PII Exposure IM Content Suspicious Content

Black Market ID	Source	Stealer Log Preview	Related Assets	Price	Status	Obtain Progress	Discovery Date	Incident	Actions
Market-XXXXXX	Russian Market	Open Preview	XXXXXX	10.00 \$	Action Waiting	REQUEST OBTAIN	2023-05-25	View Incident	Share
Market-XXXXXX	Russian Market	Open Preview	XXXXXX	10.00 \$	Action Waiting	REQUEST OBTAIN	2023-05-25	View Incident	Share
Market-XXXXXX	Genesis	Open Preview	XXXXXX	0 \$	False Positive	REQUEST OBTAIN	2023-04-03	View Incident	Share
Market-XXXXXX	Genesis	Open Preview	XXXXXX	0 \$	False Positive	REQUEST OBTAIN	2023-04-03	View Incident	Share
Market-XXXXXX	Russian Market	Open Preview	XXXXXX	10.00 \$	Action Waiting	REQUEST OBTAIN	2023-04-03	View Incident	Share
Market-XXXXXX	Russian Market	Open Preview	XXXXXX	10.00 \$	Action Waiting	REQUEST OBTAIN	2023-04-03	View Incident	Share
Market-XXXXXX	Russian Market	Open Preview	XXXXXX	10.00 \$	Action Waiting	REQUEST OBTAIN	2023-04-03	View Incident	Share

Records per page: 25 | Showing 1 to 25 of 7 entries

0.00 Black Market Credits

Featured Filters: All Findings (0), Action Waiting (0), Requested (0), Obtained (0), Resolved (0), False Positive (0), Declined & Tracked (0)

SOCRadar Dark Web Monitoring

Furthermore, you can request a [free dark web report](#) to learn the scope of your exposure to such threats and bolster your overall security posture.

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Your Eyes Beyond

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DISCOVER YOUR EXTERNAL ATTACK SURFACE