





# What Are the Challenges Most States and Local Government Face Today?





Joe Marshall

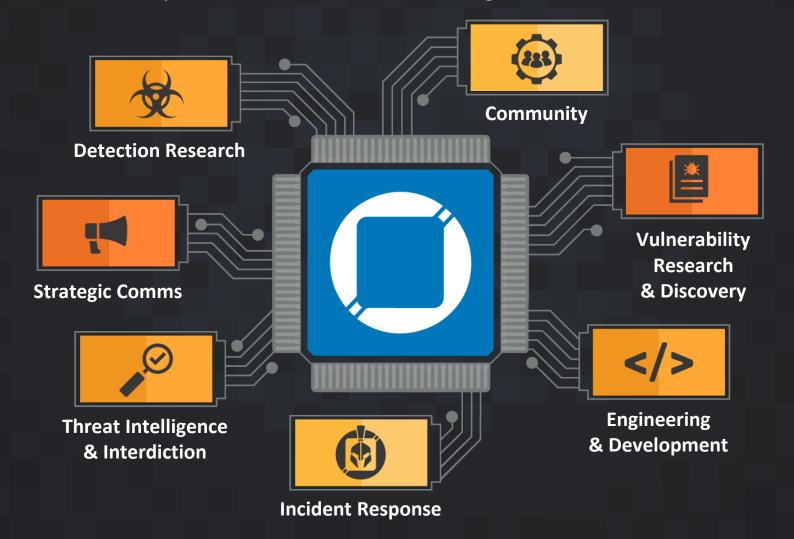
Sr. Strategist ICS/Threat Research, CISCO Talos



Fighting the Good Fight

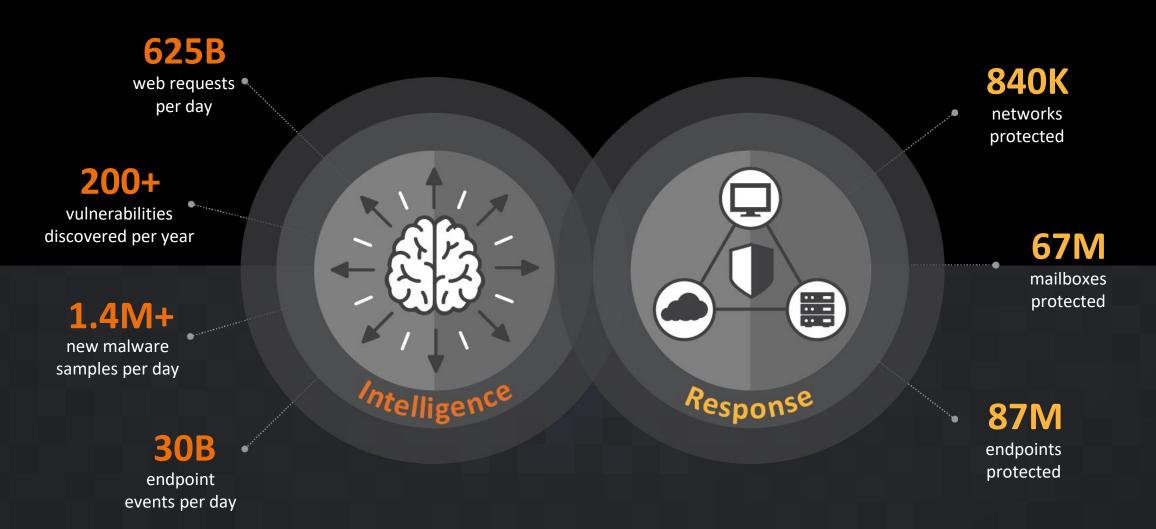
# Our job is protecting your network

Talos is the threat intelligence group at Cisco. We are here to fight the good fight — we work to keep our customers, and users at large, safe from malicious actors.





## Talos tracks numerous threats





# Cyber attacks in Ukraine

Seven plus months into the invasion







# NotPetya: The Costliest Cyber Attack in History





**AMP** 



**Ukraine Cyber Police** 



**Snort rules** 



# Actionable Intelligence



Gathering IOCs



Highly destructive supply chain attack



Cyber weapon targeting the general public



One of the costliest cyber attacks in history



#### Collective Response



Field engagement



Shipped protection



**Snort rules** 



Blogs



Consumable IOCs



**Product maturation** 





# A refresher of cyber attacks in Ukraine

#### February 2014

Russia invades
Ukraine, taking the
Crimea Peninsula
and Donbas region

#### December 2016

Industroyer attack disrupts power again

#### February 2022

Russia invades
Ukraine. Talos forms
Task Force SU to
assist defenders in
UA

#### Feb-June 2022

WhisperGate, BGP hijack, Caddy Wiper ,Viasat, etc



#### **December 2015**

Russia launches cyber attack, Black Energy 2, disrupting power

#### **2017** NotPetya

Supply Chain attack

– costliest attack in
history

#### **April 2022**

Industroyer2 attempts to disrupt power

#### June-OCT 2022

Pivot to deeper espionage and supply chain disruption



## What's new?

- Objectives have shifted rebuilding infrastructure for new attacks
- Evidence that additional supply chain-based attacks are being planned
- Strong pivot into espionage –
   Baltic states, and Eastern Europe,
   along with other NATO countries
- Adversary OPTEMPO remains strong



# Supply Chain and GoMet in Ukraine

- Targeted a massive supplier in Ukraine
- Absolute viability in unconnected systems
- Few, if any, look for or know about it
- Sounds a little familiar....

#> ./GoMet



by Mimah

server > info

Local listener: 0.0.0.0:8888 Socks listener: 127.0.0.1:9050 HTTP magic: khRoKbh3AZSHbix

server >
server > help

#### Commands:

clear clear the screen

exit Exit

generate Generate an agent help display help

info Print server information

routes List routes sessions



# Cobalt Strike Beacon Chain?

(GoMet is better I think)

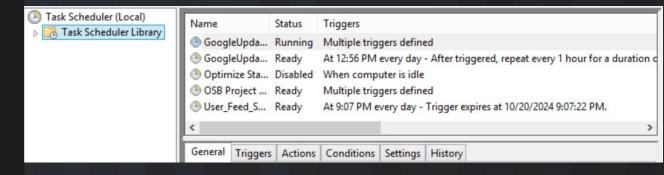
https://blog.talosintelligence.com/2022/07/attackers-target-ukraine-using-gomet.html





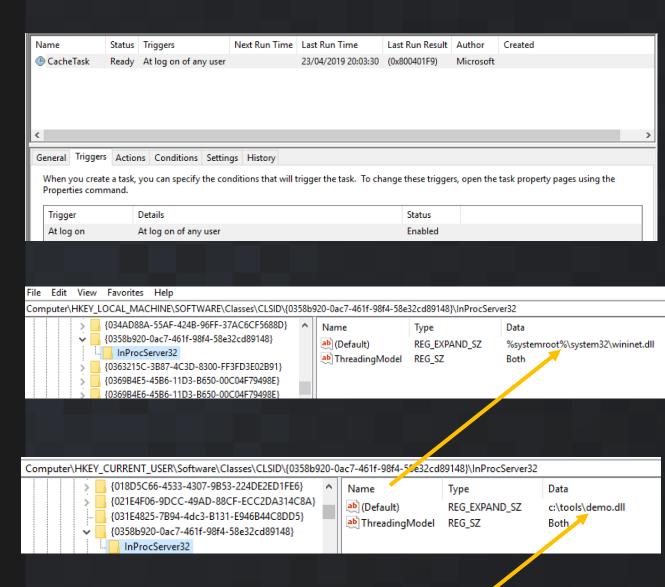
# Super slick persistence

- Old tactic with a twist
- Task PE replacement!
- Good 'ol MITRE ATT&CK T053





# Like COM hijacking (but simpler)





## Talos continues to support Ukraine cyber

#### Additional threat hunters added



- Over 650 threat hunters across Cisco supporting Ukraine
- Active collaboration with threat hunters and incident response teams in Ukrainian private and public industry

#### Deep telemetry into Ukraine cyber space



- Over 30 critical industries being actively monitored
- 22,000+ endpoints being actively monitored
- Actively monitoring new behaviors and tactics
   Russian APT's are utilizing real time



# What can you do?



Nothing we have seen in Ukraine changes our recommendations



Everything that you know you're supposed to be doing is what you should do



You know where you have "accepted risk"

- Revisit that decision
- Harden that environment
- Isolate and monitor aggressively



Focus intelligence activities to understand current Russian and unattributed activities and react quickly



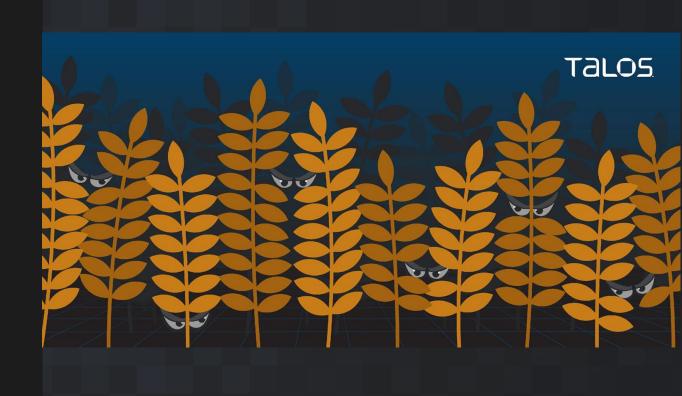
# Understanding ransomware & Russia & you

Financial crimes and geopolitics





A preface on cartels





# Russia and the Cartels





# Example: Conti Cartel (RIP)

#### "WARNING"

The Conti Team is officially announcing a full support of Russian government. If any body will decide to organize a cyberattack or any war activities against Russia, we a re going to use our all possible resources to strike back at the critical infrastructures of an enemy.



**2/25/2022** 



10.00 B



## Admin Access for Sale

Selling access to UAE GOV and Companies Active Directory networks - Full network Access (Domain

Admin + WebShell + NTDS + Creds)

Oil Corporation - Full Network Access(Domain Admin) 2000\$

Police - Full Network Access(Domain Admin) 2000\$

"Turkish Hacker"

#### 4 Replies

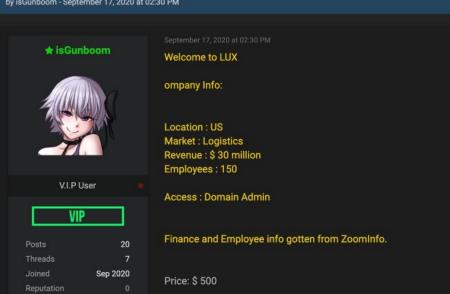
DR

1 drumrlu | 6/30/2020, 8:57:21 PM

Saudi Arabic health insurance - Full Network Access(Domain Ac

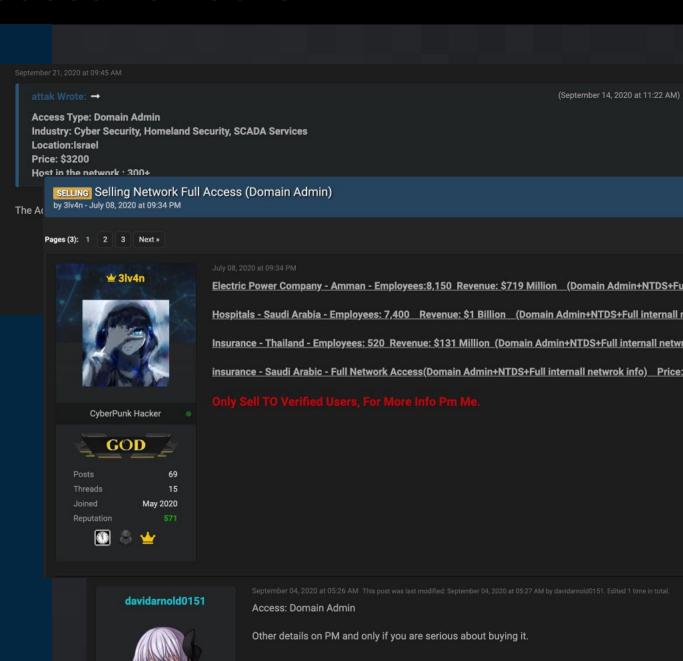
#### "Turkish Hacker"

**SELLING** [LUX] Network Access - US Company by isGunboom - September 17, 2020 at 02:30 PM

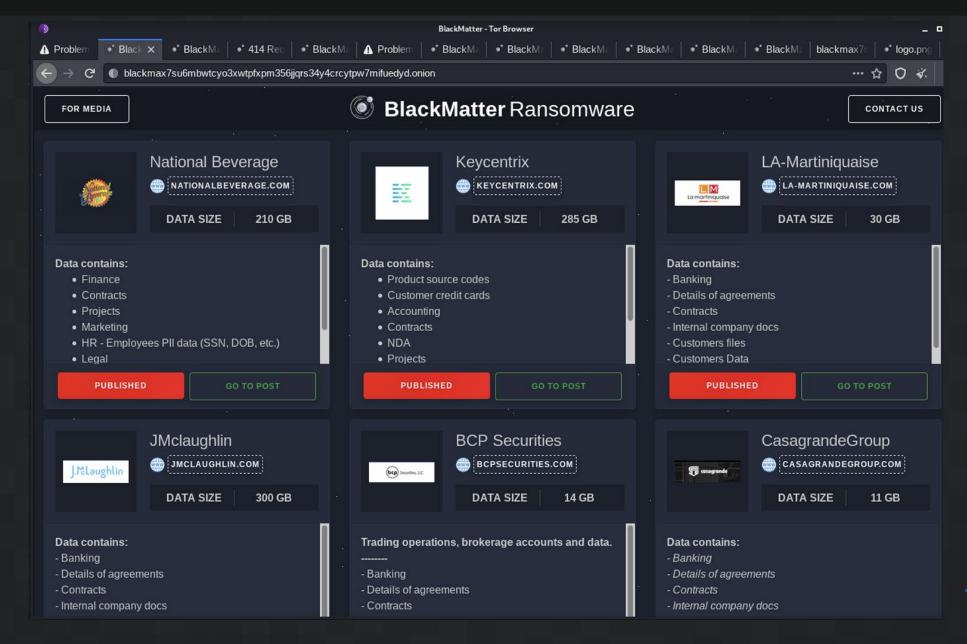




in+NTDS+Full



## 2022: Data Exfiltration





# Blackbyte





# Example



Claptrap Tuesday, 8:02 AM

#### [Vice Society] Marist College Ashgrove

data\_url: http://xu66gzit6zp22qvixpenlxu2ok7vzrpqvgkuupkiu

victim\_website: http://www.marash.qld.edu.au/

victim\_country: Australia

1 Marist College Ashgrove was officially four

#### [Vice Society] Pate's Grammar School

data\_url: http://xu66gzit6zp22qvixpenlxu2ok7vzrpqvgkuupkiu

victim\_website: http://www.patesgs.org/
victim\_country: United Kingdom

Pate's Grammar School is a grammar school v

#### [Vice Society] Test Valley School

data\_url: http://xu66gzit6zp22qvixpenlxu2ok7vzrpqvgkuupkiu

victim\_website: http://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/

victim\_country: United Kingdom

1 Test Valley is a small, rural, high achievi

#### [Vice Society] Mars Area School District

data\_url: http://xu66gzit6zp22qvixpenlxu2ok7vzrpqvgkuupkiu

victim\_website: http://wwww.marsk12.org/

victim\_country: United States

1 Mars Area School District is a public school





## Who is Gamaredon?

## Gamaredon Group

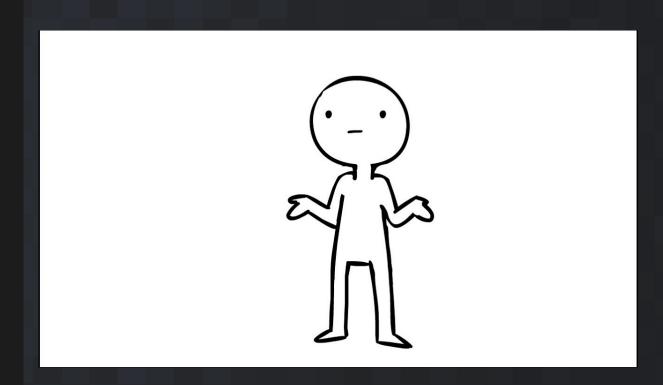


Aliases	Primitive Bear, Armageddon, Shuckworm, Winterflouder, BlueAlpha, BlueOtso, IronTiden, SectorC08, Callisto, Trident Ursa
Affiliations	Russia
Active since	2013
Goals	Espionage, data theft, establishing long-term access
Victimology	Actively targets Ukrainian entities, specifically government organizations, critical infrastructure and entities affiliated with Ukraine's defense, security and law enforcement apparatus. Secondary operations include broad targeting of entities in Europe and globally, including, government, military, humanitarian and non-profit organizations.
Notable TTPs	Social engineering techniques, spear-phishing, compromised domains and dynamic DNS, long-term access, data exfiltration, custom script-based malware.
Malware & tooling	Gamaredon employs a variety of custom, self-developed implants that are used exclusively by the adversary ranging from customized script-based malware to infostealers and backdoors. Notable malware families include GammaLoad, GammaSteel, Giddome, Powerpunch and Pterodo.



# Sophisticated APT? Well. Kinda.

- Very capable
- Also very loud
- Suggestive of tradecraft that is effective but inelegant.
- Yeah, it's kinda weird
- Pre-War: Unfocused.
- War: Ukraine





# What do we take away from this?

Tactics, strategy, resilience





# Knowledge is power



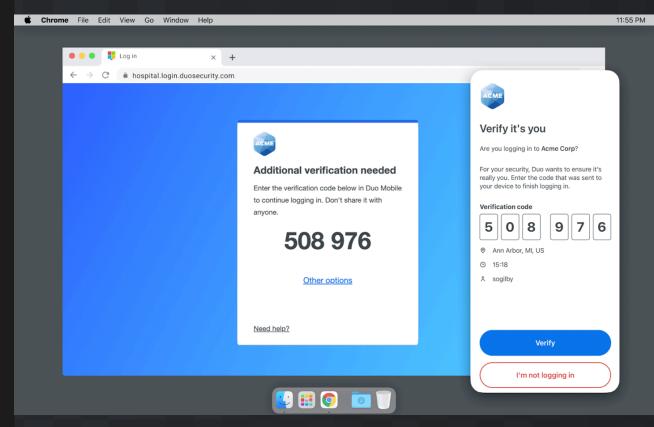


Strategic: MFA Fatigue





## Tactical: Embrace Verified Push





Strategic: War is hell



# Tactical: Visibility has saved pain in Ukraine

#### The fundamentals are CRITICAL

- Asset & Inventory
- Monitoring
- Baselines
- Segmentation





# Prevention is where you start .....

- ...resiliency is where you want to be
- Visibility, monitoring, and your security fundamentals are incredibly important
- Again fundamentals. It's a journey, not a destination.
- Learn to bend but not break





## Train. Learn.

- "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." – Mike Tyson
- Know your risk appetite.
- Understand cyber insurance!
- Be proactive train hard! Use 3<sup>rd</sup> party evals
  - Intelligence on demand!
  - Tabletop Exercise!
  - Threat hunts!
  - Playbooks!







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