



THREAT PROFILE:

Qilin Ransomware



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Executive Summary | 2 |
| Description | 3 |
| Previous Targets | 5 |
| • Previous Industry Targets | |
| • Previous Victim HQ Regions | |
| Data Leak Site | 7 |
| Known Exploited Vulnerabilities | 8 |
| Associations | 9 |
| Known Tools | 11 |
| Observed Behaviors | 18 |
| • Windows | |
| • Linux | |
| MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings | 24 |
| References | 30 |

Executive Summary

First Identified:

2022

Operation style:

Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS); affiliates earn 80% of a payment of ransom demands less than \$3 million and 85% of ransom payments over \$3 million.

Extortion method:

Double extortion - combining the traditional ransomware extortion method (encryption) with exfiltration of victim's sensitive data; the group threatens to leak the data via a data leak site if the ransom demand is not paid.

Most frequently targeted industry:

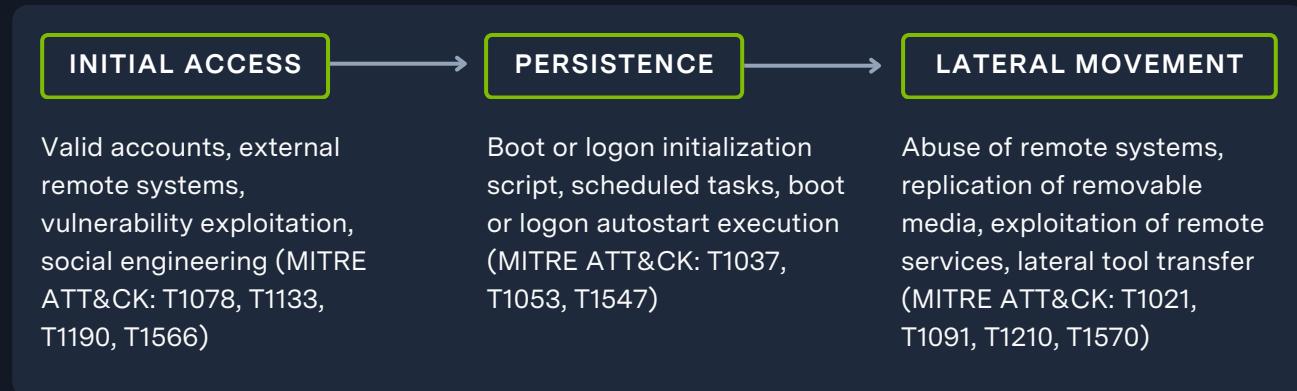
- Industrials (Manufacturing)

Most frequently targeted victim HQ region:

- North America

Known Associations:

- Arkana
- Devman
- DragonForce
- LockBit
- Moonstone Sleet
- Pistachio Tempest
- Scattered Spider
- STAC4365
- WikiLeaksV2



Description

Qilin (AKA Agenda) ransomware was first observed in July 2022 and operates it the double extortion method, where victims' data is stolen and leaked via a data leak site if the ransom demand is not paid. Qilin maintains variants that are written in both Golang and Rust programming languages. The ransomware operation can target both Windows and Linux variants. Qilin operates as a ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) and affiliates earn 80% of a payment of ransom demands of less than \$3 million and 85% of ransom payments over \$3 million.

The Qilin affiliate panel offers extensive customization options, allowing attackers to tailor each ransomware deployment to their specific victim. Affiliates can create and edit blog posts that expose companies refusing to pay, manage team accounts by adding nicknames and credentials, and access dedicated support for the ransomware. Operators can also configure technical parameters such as directories and files to skip, processes to terminate, encryption modes, and virtual machines to exclude from shutdown providing a highly flexible attack framework.

In addition to these technical features, Qilin introduced a “Call Lawyer” button within its panel a unique tactic designed to escalate psychological pressure during negotiations. This feature brings a purported legal advisor into discussions, aiming to intimidate victims by suggesting potential regulatory or legal consequences, to increasing the likelihood of ransom payment.

Modern ransomware variants are increasingly incorporating advanced techniques to strengthen encryption and accelerate performance.

Qilin affiliates earn 80% of ransom payments less than \$3 million and 85% of ransom payments greater than \$3 million.

Recent developments include the use of Chrome Extension Stealers for credential harvesting, paired with significant encryption enhancements that make decryption nearly impossible without the attacker's key. These improvements leverage AES-256-CTR, a highly secure implementation of the Advanced Encryption Standard using a 256-bit key and Counter mode for robust file protection.

To further harden security, Optimal Asymmetric Encryption Padding (OAEP) is applied, reducing susceptibility to certain cryptographic attacks. Systems with AES-NI capabilities on x86 architectures benefit from accelerated encryption and decryption processes, improving efficiency during large-scale operations. For secure and high-speed streamed communications, many threat actors are also adopting ChaCha20, a modern cipher known for its speed and resilience.

In August 2024, security researchers with Sophos reported that the Qilin group targeted a victim via compromised credentials and the dwell time in the environment was 18 days. The operators edited the domain policy to introduce a logon-based Group Policy Object (GPO) containing two items: A PowerShell script, IPSscanner.ps1, and a batch script, logon.bat.

The combination of the two scripts resulted in harvesting of credentials saved in Chrome on machines connected to the network. This activity indicates that Qilin is likely changing tactics to include credential harvesting.

Description

In October 2024, Halcyon security researchers reported a new and updated version of the Qilin ransomware variant, dubbed “Qilin.B”. Qilin.B is written in the Rust programming language. According to the research, Qilin.B supports AES-256-CTR encryption for systems with Advanced Encryption Standard New Instructions (AES-NI) capabilities. Qilin.B uses RSA-4096 with Optimal Asymmetric Encryption Padding (OAEP) to safeguard encryption keys.

In January 2025, Blackpoint’s APG team identified Qilin using a legitimate signed executable named, upd.exe, which sideloaded a malicious DLL, avupdate.dll. The DLL was responsible for decoding and loading a customized version of the EDR killing tool, EDRSandblast.

In 2025, Qilin was reported to rely on several bullet-proof-hosting (BPH) infrastructures. Rogue BPH services enable threat actors to host content with minimal oversight. These are designed to be resilient to abuse complaints and law enforcement intervention. These factors highlight why BPH services are an attractive option for a major ransomware operation like Qilin.

Qilin has been attributed with launching the WikiLeaksV2 website, where the group publishes information about their activities. This site contains header ads for BEARHOST Servers, one of the largest BPH providers (AKA Underground and Voodoo Servers). Other Services the group has been linked to include:

- Cat Technologies Co. Limited
- Red Bytes LLC
- IPX-FZCO
- Chang Way Technologies Co. Limited

Throughout 2025, Qilin emerged as the most active and disruptive ransomware operations.

Additionally, in Q3 2025 DragonForce Ransomware operation announced a working partnership with both LockBit and Qilin Ransomware. This alliance could aid in restoring LockBit’s reputation among affiliates and increase Qilin’s activity.

This type of cooperative, cartel-style partnership is similar to a partnership between Maze and LockBit in 2020, a time when double extortion was growing.

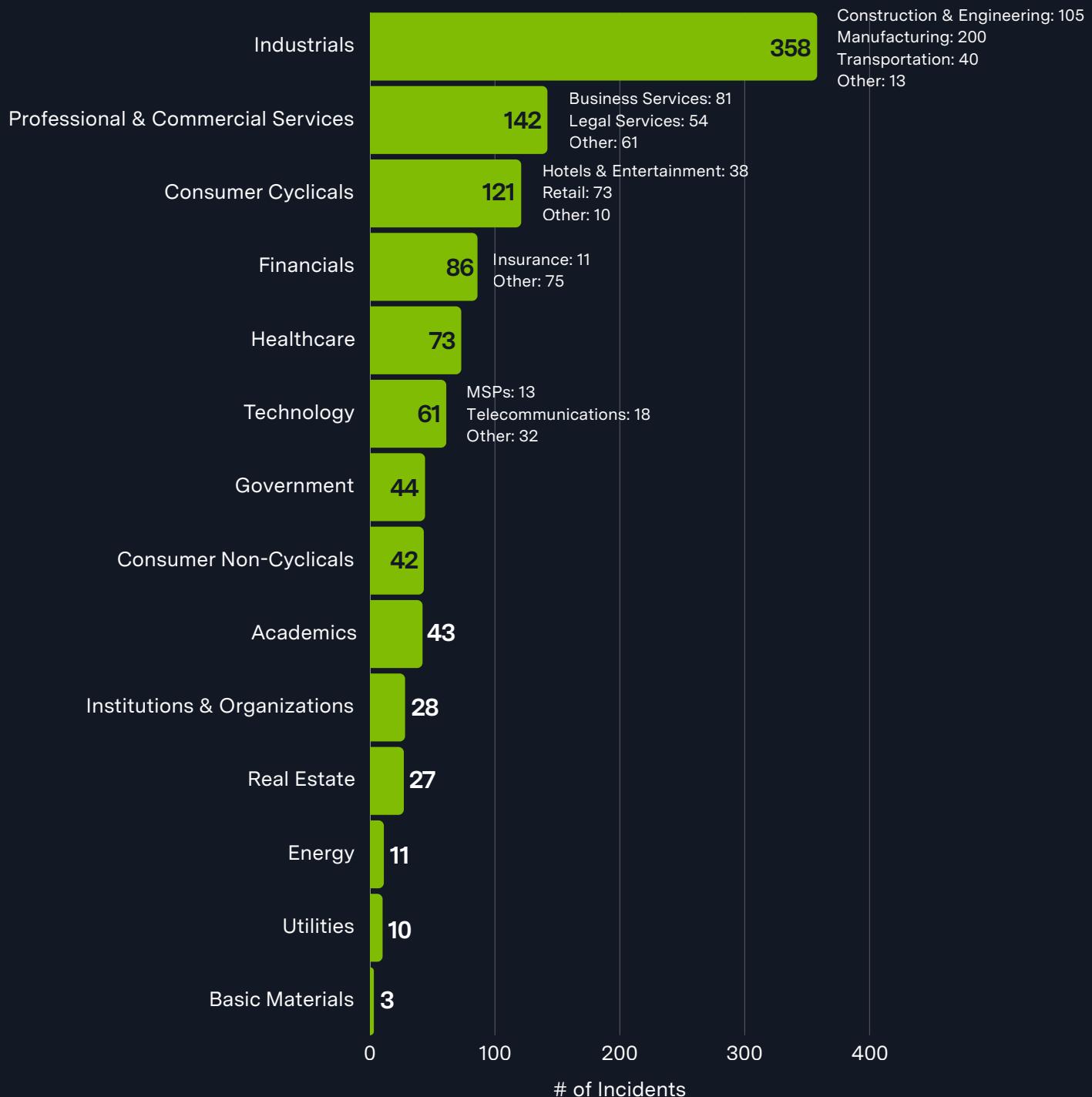
Features the operation maintains - such as spam tools and PR support - and their longer standing operation likely makes Qilin an attractive operation for more sophisticated financially motivated threat groups. It is very likely that Qilin activity will continue to be reported over the next 3-6 months.

In 2025, Qilin ransomware executed several high-profile attacks across different regions, demanding multimillion-dollar ransoms. Key incidents include:

- February 2025 – **Cleveland Municipal Court** (United States) Qilin caused weeks of operational disruption and demanded \$4 million. The court refused to pay.
- March 2025 – **Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad** (Malaysia) Attack disrupted critical airport systems. Qilin demanded \$10 million and claimed to have stolen 2 TB of data. Officials confirmed they did not pay.
- June 2025 – **Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla** (Spain) Qilin demanded approximately \$2.12 million and alleged theft of 4–5 TB of sensitive data. Authorities declined the ransom.

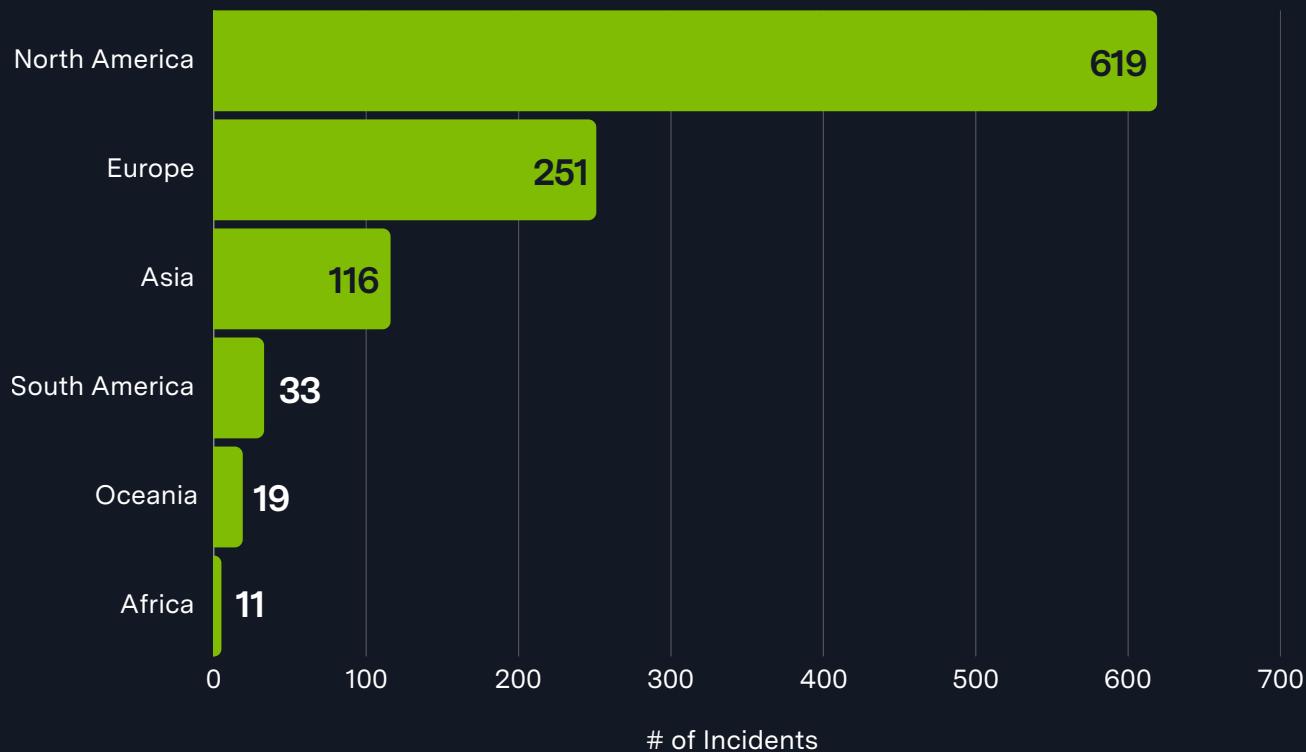
Previous Targets

Previous Industry Targets from 01 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025



Previous Targets

Previous Victim HQ Regions from 01 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025



Data Leak Site



[hxxp://kbsqoivihgdmwczmxkbovk7ss2dcynitwhhf5yw725dboqo5kthfaad\[.\]onion/](http://kbsqoivihgdmwczmxkbovk7ss2dcynitwhhf5yw725dboqo5kthfaad[.]onion/)
[hxxp://ozsxj4hwxub7gio347ac7tyqqozvfioty37skqilzo2oqfs4cw2mgtyd\[.\]onion/](http://ozsxj4hwxub7gio347ac7tyqqozvfioty37skqilzo2oqfs4cw2mgtyd[.]onion/)
[hxxp://ijzn3sicrcy7guixkzjkib4ukbiilwc3xhnmb4mcbccnsd7j2rekvqd\[.\]onion/](http://ijzn3sicrcy7guixkzjkib4ukbiilwc3xhnmb4mcbccnsd7j2rekvqd[.]onion/)

Known Exploited Vulnerabilities

| Vulnerability | Description | Product Affected | CVSS |
|---|--|--|------|
| CitrixBleed (CVE-2023-4966) | Buffer Overflow Vulnerability | Citrix NetScaler ADC and NetScaler Gateway | 7.5 |
| CVE-2023-27532 | Missing Authentication for Critical Function Vulnerability | Veeam Backup & Replication Cloud Connect | 7.5 |
| CVE-2024-21762 | Out-of-Bound Write Vulnerability | Fortinet FortiOS | 9.8 |
| CVE-2024-55591 | Authentication Bypass Vulnerability | Fortinet FortiOS | 9.8 |
| CVE-2025-31324 | Unrestricted File Upload Vulnerability | SAP NetWeaver | 9.8 |
| CVE-2025-49704 | Code Injection Vulnerability | Microsoft SharePoint | 8.8 |
| CVE-2025-49706 | Improper Authentication Vulnerability | Microsoft SharePoint | 6.6 |
| CVE-2025-53770 | Deserialization of Untrusted Data Vulnerability | Microsoft SharePoint | 9.8 |
| CVE-2025-53771 | Path Traversal Vulnerability | Microsoft SharePoint | 6.5 |
| CVE-2025-5777 | Out-of-Bounds Read Vulnerability | Citrix NetScaler ADC and Gateway | 9.3 |

Associations

Agenda Ransomware

Alias for Qilin Ransomware.

Gold Feather

Alias for Qilin Ransomware.

Phantom Mantis

Alias for Qilin Ransomware.

Storm-1934

Microsoft tracks this group as a financially motivated group behind the operation, management, and leadership of the Qilin ransomware operation.

Water Galura

Alias for Qilin Ransomware.

Arkana

When Arkana launched a data extortion site in March 2025, their about section displayed a “Qilin Network” logo, suggesting their was likely a working relationship between the two groups.

Devman

Devman is reportedly a self-identified affiliate of the Qilin operation. Devman operates their own data leak site. One of their victim posts included the phrase “Pwn3d By Qilin & Devman.”

DragonForce Ransomware

DragonForce operators posted on a dark web forum that they were launching a partnership between themselves, LockBit, and Qilin operations.

LockBit Ransomware

LockBit is purportedly the third arm of an allegiance between DragonForce, LockBit, and Qilin Ransomware operations. The coalition was announced by DragonForce on a dark web forum.

Associations

Moonstone Sleet

Moonstone Sleet is a threat actor that has been attributed to North Korea. In March 2025, Microsoft reported that the group has been observed deploying the Qilin Ransomware variant in a limited number of attacks.

Pistachio Tempest

AKA FIN12, DEV-0237. A ransomware threat group that has been reported to deploy the Qilin Ransomware variant in linked attacks.

Scattered Spider

AKA Octo Tempest, Okatapus. Security researchers with Microsoft reported that Scattered Spider has shifted to the Ransomhub and Qilin ransomware operations.

STAC4365

An affiliate group of the Qilin Ransomware group that has been reported to rely on an adversary-in-the-middle (AitM) phishing kit to steal credentials.

WikiLeaksV2

Security researchers have connected the Qilin Ransomware operation to the WikiLeaksV2 operation based on the overlap of victims listed and the observation that Qilin has embedded QR codes within their listings that direct users to the WikiLeaksV2 leak page indicating a cross-promotion initiative.

Known Tools

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| AdFind | A free command-line query tool that can be used for gathering information from Active Directory. |
| Angry IP Scanner | An open-source and cross-platform network scanner that has been used by threat actors to map victim networks and check the status of IP addresses. |
| AnyDesk | A remote desktop application that provides remote access to computers and other devices. |
| Atera | An all-in-one solution that combines remote monitoring and management with other tools like helpdesk, patching, and automation. This tool has been abused to gain persistence on compromised environments. |
| avupdate.dll | A malicious DLL that Qilin has been observed deploying this DLL to load and execute a file, web.dat (EDRSandblast), and perform various anti-analysis techniques. |
| bcdedit | A command line tool for managing Configuration Data; it can be used to create new stores, modify existing stores, and add boot menu options. |
| BypassCredGuard.exe | A tool used to bypass Windows Credential Guard and facilitate credential dumping. |
| cipher.exe | A native Microsoft utility that manages encryption of directories and files on NTFS (New Technology File System) partitions by using the Encrypting File System (EFS). |
| cmd | A program used to execute commands on a Windows computer. |
| Cobalt Strike | A commercial, full-featured, remote access tool that is described as "adversary simulation software designed to execute targeted attacks and emulate the post-exploitation actions of advanced threat actors. The tool's interactive post-exploit capabilities cover the full range of ATT&CK tactics, all executed within a single, integrated system. |
| conhost.exe | A Windows utility that is used to provide the ability to drag and drop files/folders directly into Command Prompt. |
| Cyberduck | An open-source file transfer tool abused to exfiltrate stolen data to cloud storage. |
| dark-kill | An open-source tool used to disable EDR by loading a malicious driver into the Windows kernel. |

Known Tools

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Distant Desktop | An RMM tool used to provide remote access to compromised systems. |
| EasyUpload.io | A file sharing and transfer service that allows users to upload files, get a shareable link, and share them easily. |
| EDRSandBlast | A tool written in C that weaponizes a vulnerable signed driver to bypass EDR detections. |
| eskle.sys | A driver that likely belongs to a game-related package and is commonly used by cheat developers to evade anti-cheat systems. |
| esxcli | A tool that allows for remote management of ESXi hosts. |
| Evilginx | An attack framework used for phishing login credentials along with session cookies, which allows attackers to bypass MFA protection. |
| FileZilla | A free open-source file transfer protocol software tool that allows users to setup FTP servers or connect to other FTP servers to exchange files. |
| fnarw.sys | A vulnerable driver with little information available; it has been observed in Qilin-attributed activity. |
| fsutil | A Windows utility that performs tasks that are related to file allocation table (FAT) and NTFS file systems, such as managing reparse points, managing sparse files, or dismounting a volume. |
| GoToDesk | An RMM tool used to provide remote access to compromised systems. |
| hlpdrv.sys | A vulnerable driver that has been assessed to be used to gain kernel-level access and potentially terminate traditional endpoint detection and response solutions. |
| iexplore.exe | A tool used to view sensitive information in files during manual data discovery |
| IPScanner.ps1 | A PowerShell script that contained a 19-line script that attempted to harvest credential data stored in the Chrome browser. This script works in tandem with logon.bat. |
| Kali | A Linux distribution designed for digital forensics and penetration testing. It was observed being used for network scanning and other reconnaissance activities.[|
| KILLAV | A tool used to terminate antivirus related services and processes. |

Known Tools

| | |
|--|---|
| Logon.bat | A batch script that contained the commands to execute IPSscanner.ps1. |
| main.exe | A simple executable that leveraged several open-sourced networking libraries with the purpose of exposing a remote tunnel into the compromised network. |
| masscan | An internet-scale port scanner that is similar to nmap. |
| Microsoft Management Console | A component of Microsoft Windows that provides users an interface for configuring and monitoring the system. |
| Microsoft Paint | A Microsoft utility used to view sensitive information in files during manual data discovery.[|
| Microsoft Terminal Service Client | A Windows utility that creates connections to Remote Desktop Session Host servers or other remote computers and edits an existing Remote Desktop Connection configuration file. |
| Mimikatz | An open-source application that allows users to view and save authentication credentials, including Kerberos tickets. |
| ncat | A general-purpose command line tool for reading, writing, redirecting, and encrypting data across a network. |
| net | A Windows utility that is used in command-line operations for control of users, groups, services, and network connections. It can gather system and network information, move laterally through SMB/Windows Admin Shares, and interact with services. |
| net | A Windows utility that is used in command-line operations for control of users, groups, services, and network connections. It can gather system and network information, move laterally through SMB/Windows Admin Shares, and interact with services. |
| NetExec | A network service exploitation tool that helps automate assessing the security of large networks. Threat actors abuse this tool to conduct reconnaissance and lateral movement. |
| NetXLoader | A highly obfuscated malware loader written in .NET; this malware acts as an initial point of entry for threat actors, allowing them to install additional malicious payloads, including ransomware. |
| nltest | A Windows command-line utility used to list domain controllers and enumerate domain trusts. |

Known Tools

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| nmap | An open-source utility for network discovery; it runs on all major computer operating systems and includes multiple tools that can be used to transfer data, compare scan results, and generate packets. |
| NotePad | A Microsoft utility used to view the contents of stolen logs, credentials, and configuration files. |
| nping | An open-source tool for network packet generation, response analysis and response time measurement. |
| OpenSSL | A commercial grade open-source toolkit for the TLS protocol and is based on a full-strength general purpose cryptographic library. |
| PC Hunter | A toolkit for Windows with various powerful features for kernel structure viewing and manipulating. |
| PowerShell | A task automation and configuration management program that includes a command-line shell and the associated scripting language. |
| PowerTool | A security tool that scans and analyzes files at kernel level; can help threat actors remove and disable security services/software. |
| PowerView | A PowerShell tool used to gain network situational awareness of Windows domains. |
| Proxy Chains | A sequence of two or more proxy servers used to route internet traffic. Qilin has been reported to utilize proxy chains to mask their activities and maintain anonymity during attacks. This technique allows the operator to hide their location and make it more challenging for law enforcement and researchers to trace their origins and overall operations. |
| PsExec | A command-line utility that allows users to execute processes on remote systems; it is part of the Sysinternals suite and is frequently used by system admins for remote management tasks. The tool is also repeatedly abused by threat actors for lateral movement and remote execute. |
| PuTTY | A free and open-source terminal emulator, serial console and network file transfer application. |
| RDP | A protocol that provides a user with a graphical interface to connect to another computer over a network connection. |
| rdpclip.exe | A tool used to facilitate clipboard sharing over RDP sessions during lateral movement. |

Known Tools

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| RSAT | Remote Server Administration Tools. A Windows application that remotely manages the roles and features running Windows Server with snap-ins. |
| rwdrv.sys | A vulnerable driver that has been assessed to be used to gain kernel-level access and potentially terminate traditional endpoint detection and response solutions. |
| ScreenConnect | AKA ConnectWise. A remote management software used to gain access to a remote computer. |
| SharpDecryptPwd | A tool used to extract and persist stored authentication data from multiple client applications, consolidating harvested credentials for exfiltration. |
| Sliver | An open-source, cross-platform, red team command and control (C2) framework written in Golang. |
| SmokeLoader | AKA Dofoil. A trojan malware that targets Windows operating systems and is used to deploy additional malware variants, including information stealing variants and ransomware. |
| SoftPerfect | A network scanner that can ping computers, scan ports, discover shared folders and retrieve practically any information about network devices. |
| Splashtop | A remote desktop application that allows users to remotely access their Windows, Mac, and Linux computers from any Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, and Chromebook device. |
| Stealc | A credential and information stealer first discovered by researchers in January 2023. Researchers assess the malware contains code similarities to prominent stealer families including Vidar, Raccoon, Mars, and RedLine. |
| svchost.exe | A shared-service process that Windows uses to load DLL files. |
| SystemBC | AKA Coroxy. A malware written in C that turns infected computers into SOCKS5 proxies. |
| Task Manager | A task manager, system monitor, and startup manager included with Microsoft Windows systems. It allows a user to view the performance of the system. |
| TOR | A software suite and network that provides increased anonymity on the Internet. It creates a multi-hop proxy network and utilizes multilayer encryption to protect both the message and routing information. |

Known Tools

| | |
|--|---|
| SystemBC | AKA Coroxy. A malware written in C that turns infected computers into SOCKS5 proxies. |
| Task Manager | A task manager, system monitor, and startup manager included with Microsoft Windows systems. It allows a user to view the performance of the system. |
| Toshiba Power Management Driver | A software component that manages power consumption to optimize battery life and system performance. |
| Total Network Inventory (TNI) | A desktop-based network inventory management solution that provides users with tools for monitoring and tracking assets. |
| Total Software Deployment (TSD) | A remote management tool that enables remote deployment on compromised environments. |
| TPwSav.sys | A driver, originally developed for power-saving features on Toshiba laptops, that has been used by Qilin to bypass EDR protections through a bring-your-own-vulnerable-driver (BYOVD) attack. |
| upd.exe | The Carbon Black Cloud Sensor AV update tool meant to perform various update functions; however, Qilin has been observed using a sample that contained malicious code. |
| Veeam Agent Configurator | A tool that provides a command line interface for Veeam Agent for Microsoft Windows. |
| Veeam Backup & Replication | A backup applications for virtual environments built on VMware vSphere, Nutanix AHV, and Microsoft Hyper-V hypervisors. |
| vim-cmd | A vSphere CLI tool that is available on every ESXi host and can be used to perform various activities in a VMware environment. |
| VssAdmin | A Windows service that allows taking manual or automatic backup copies of computer files or volumes. |
| wbadmin.exe | A command line utility that is used to back up and restore OS, drive volumes, files, folders, and applications from a command line interface. |
| WinRAR | WinRAR is a data compression, encryption, and archiving tool for Windows. It is frequently abused by threat actors to archive files prior to their exfiltration. |

Known Tools

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| WinRM | Microsoft's version of the WS-Management protocol, which is a standard Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)-based, firewall-friendly protocol that allows interoperation between hardware and operating systems from different vendors. |
| WinSCP | A free and open-source SFTP, FTP, WebDAV, S3, and SCP client for Windows that can be used to exfiltrate files to a remote server. |
| WMIC | A utility that provides a command-line interface for Windows Management Instrumentation. |
| wscript | A shared-service process that Windows uses to load DLL files. |
| YDArk | A kernel manipulation tool available for download on GitHub. The tool can hide processes at the kernel level - it manipulates the EPROCESS kernel object of the target process by changing its PID to 0 and redirecting forward and backward Active Process Links to the self's EPROCESS address. |
| Zemana Anti-Rootkit Driver | A driver component used by Zemana anti-malware software to detect and remove rootkits. It is abused by threat actors in bring your own vulnerable driver (BYOVD) techniques to evade detection, elevate privileges, and more. |

Observed Behaviors: Windows

| Tactic | Evidence Type | Observed Behavior |
|-------------|----------------------|--|
| Execution | Command Execution | powershell.exe -Command "ServerManagerCmd.exe -i RSAT-AD-PowerShell ..." |
| | | wscript.exe C:\Users\{username}\Documents\ConnectWiseControl\Files\launch.vbs |
| | | dllhost.exe /Processid:{AB8902B4-09CA-4BB6-B78D-A8F59079A8D5} - Embedding |
| | Output/Artifact | C:\Users\{username}\Documents\ConnectWiseControl\Files\launch.vbs |
| | | C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\ |
| | | C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\Total Software Deployment\ |
| Persistence | Command Execution | tsd-setup.tmp /SL5="\$402D4,24132872,174080,C:\Users\{username}\Documents\ConnectWiseControl\Files\tsd-setup.exe" |
| | | tsd-setup.tmp {username} tsd-setup.tmp /SL5="\$A9B0536,24132872,174080,C:\Users\{username}\Documents\ConnectWiseControl\Files\tsd-setup.exe" /SPAWNWND=\$8430630 /NOTIFYWND=\$402D422948 |
| | | setlang.exe {username} setlang.exe "C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\Total Software Deployment\config.ini" TSD language ENGLISH7844 |
| | | vcredist_x86.exe {username} vcredist_x86.exe /q |
| | | findwnd.exe {username} findwnd.exe "TApplication" "Total Software Deployment" |
| | Configuration Change | twinagent.exe {username} twinagent.exe /service /{IPAddress}/login:"current" /driver:2 |
| | | HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\<rand6char> = "<path>\qilin.exe" --password <password> --no-vm --no-admin |
| | | HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System\EnableLinkedConnections = 1 |
| | | net user Supportt ***** /add |
| | | net localgroup Administrators Supportt /add |

Observed Behaviors: Windows

| Tactic | Evidence Type | Observed Behavior |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Persistence | Configuration Change | net user Administrator ***** |
| | Output/Artifact | C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\Total Software Deployment\ |
| Privilege Escalation | Command Execution | powershell.exe -Command "ServerManagerCmd.exe -i RSAT-AD-PowerShell; Install-WindowsFeature RSAT-AD-PowerShell; Add-WindowsCapability -Online -Name RSAT.ActiveDirectory.DS-LDS.Tools~~~0.0.1.0" |
| | | C:\Windows\System32\net1 localgroup administrators |
| | Configuration Change | reg add HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server /v fDenyTSConnections /t REG_DWORD /d 0 /f |
| | Output/Artifact | C:\ProgramData\Veeam\socks64.dll |
| Defense Evasion | Command Execution | mmc.exe C:\Windows\System32\wbadmin.msc |
| | | mmc.exe C:\Windows\System32\diskmgmt.msc |
| | | pbeagent.exe SysLogger.exe 1000 "Monitoring Stopped" |
| | | vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet |
| | | powershell.exe Clear-Windows-Event-Logs (all logs) |
| | | cmd /C net stop vss |
| | | cmd /C net start vss |
| | | cmd /C timeout /T 10 & del <file> |
| | | mshta.exe vbscript:ShellExecute(cmd.exe, runas) |
| | | sc create dark type=kernel binPath=<path>\dark.sys |
| | | sc start dark |
| | | sc delete dark |

Observed Behaviors: Windows

| Tactic | Evidence Type | Observed Behavior |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| Defense Evasion | Configuration Change | wmic service where name='vss' call ChangeStartMode Disabled |
| | | wmic service where name='vss' call ChangeStartMode Manual |
| | | fsutil.exe behavior set SymlinkEvaluation R2L:1 |
| | Output/Artifact | C:\Users\Administrator\<REDACTED>\Downloads*.exe |
| | | C:\Users\<REDACTED>\Desktop*.exe |
| | | C:\Users\Administrator\<REDACTED>\Downloads*\dark.sys |
| Credential Access | Command Execution | mimikatz.exe "privilege::debug" "sekurlsa::logonpasswords" |
| | | mimikatz.exe "sekurlsa::tickets /export" |
| | Configuration Change | reg add HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\WDigest /v UseLogonCredential /d 1 |
| | Output/Artifact | C:\Users\{username}\Documents\ConnectWiseControl\Files\mimikatz.log |
| Discovery | Command Execution | SELECT user_name, password FROM VeeamBackup.dbo.Credentials |
| | | powershell.exe Import-Module ActiveDirectory; Get-ADComputer -Filter * |
| | | `powershell.exe Get-ADComputer |
| | | nltest /domain_trusts |
| | | nltest /dclist:<Domain> |
| | | net group "Domain Admins" /domain |
| | | net user <Username> /domain |
| | | whoami.exe /priv |
| | | tasklist /FI "IMAGENAME eq explorer.exe" |

Observed Behaviors: Windows

| Tactic | Evidence Type | Observed Behavior |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| Discovery | Command Execution | sc.exe query hwinfo |
| | Output/Artifact | netscan.exe (network scanning utility staged/executed) |
| Lateral Movement | Command Execution | %Temp%\<PSEXEC_NAME>.exe -accepteula \\<HOST_IP> -c -f -h -d <LOCKER_PATH> <LOCKER_ARGS> --spread-process |
| | | %Temp%\<PSEXEC_NAME>.exe -accepteula \\<HOST_IP> -u <USER_NAME> -p <PASSWORD> -c -f -h -d <LOCKER_PATH> <LOCKER_ARGS> --spread-process |
| | | cmd /C net use |
| | Configuration Change | net share c=c:\ /grant:everyone,full |
| | | cmd /C fsutil behavior set SymlinkEvaluation R2R:1 |
| | | cmd /C fsutil behavior set SymlinkEvaluation R2L:1 |
| | Output / Artifact | C:\Users\<REDACTED>\Desktop\test.exe |
| | | C:\Users\<REDACTED>\Desktop\1.exe |
| | | C:\Users\<REDACTED>\Desktop\2.exe |
| | | C:\Users\<REDACTED>\Desktop\3.exe |
| Command and Control | Output / Artifact | C:\ProgramData\Veeam\socks64.dll |
| | | C:\ProgramData\USOShared\socks64.dll |
| | | C:\ProgramData\VMware\logs\socks64.dll |
| | | C:\ProgramData\Adobe\socks64.dll |
| | | C:\ProgramData\Veeam\Backup\OracleLogBackup\socks64.dll |
| Exfiltration | Command Execution | "C:\Program Files\WinRAR\WinRAR.exe" a -ep1 -scul -r0 -iext -imon1 <archive> <target files/directories> |

Observed Behaviors: Windows

| Tactic | Evidence Type | Observed Behavior |
|--------|----------------------|--|
| Impact | Command Execution | vssadmin.exe delete shadows /for=<drive> /all |
| | | wbadmin.exe stop |
| | | net.exe stop vss |
| | | net1.exe start vss |
| | | VSSUIRUN.exe <drive> |
| | Configuration Change | Dismount-DiskImage -ImagePath <image> |
| | | SRManager.exe (Splashtop Remote service interaction) |
| | | bcdedit.exe /set safeboot network |
| | | bcdedit.exe /deletevalue {default} safeboot |
| | | REG ADD HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop\Wallpaper = <image path> |
| | Output/Artifact | C:\Users\<REDACTED>\AppData\Local\Programs\WinSCP\WinSCP.exe |

Observed Behaviors: Linux

| Tactic | Evidence Type | Observed Behavior |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
| Execution | Command Execution | esxcfg-advcfg -s 32768 /BufferCache/MaxCapacity |
| | | esxcfg-advcfg -s 20000 /BufferCache/FlushInterval |
| | | etrlimit() |
| Defense Evasion | Command Execution | esxcli vm process list |
| | | vim-cmd vmsvc/getallvms |
| | | esxcli vm process kill -t force -w <VM_ID> |
| | | vim-cmd vmsvc/snapshot.removeall <VM_ID> > /dev/null 2>&1 |
| Discovery | Command Execution | esxcli storage filesystem list |
| | | vim-cmd vmsvc/getallvms |
| | | OpenFileWithPermission("/proc/cpuinfo", "r") |
| | | nftw() |
| Lateral Movement | Command Execution | fdopendir() |
| | | Use of --spread-vcenter option to propagate via vCenter environments |
| Impact | Command Execution | vim-cmd vmsvc/snapshot.removeall <VM_ID> > /dev/null 2>&1 |
| | Configuration Change | Disable HA priority across VMs using acli vm.update <VM_ID> ha_priority=0 |

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

| Reconnaissance | |
|---|--|
| T1589: Gather Victim Identity Information | .001: Credentials |
| Resource Development | |
| T1585: Establish Accounts | .001: Social Media Accounts |
| Initial Access | |
| T1078: Valid Accounts | .001: Default Accounts |
| T1133: External Remote Services | |
| T1190: Exploit Public-Facing Application | |
| T1566: Phishing | .001: Spearphishing Attachment .002: Spearphishing Link |
| Execution | |
| T1047: Windows Management Instrumentation | |
| T1053: Scheduled Task/Job | .005: Scheduled Task |
| T1059: Command and Scripting Interpreter | .001: PowerShell .003: Windows Command Shell |
| T1106: Native API | |
| T1204: User Execution | .001: Malicious Link .002: Malicious File |
| T1569: System Services | .002: Service Execution |
| T1675: ESXi Administration Command | |

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

| Persistence | |
|--|---|
| T1037: Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts | |
| T1053: Scheduled Task/Job | .005: Scheduled Task |
| T1547: Boot or Logon Autostart Execution | .001: Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder .004: Winlogon Helper DLL |
| Privilege Escalation | |
| T1055: Process Injection | |
| T1068: Exploitation for Privilege Escalation | |
| T1078: Valid Accounts | .002: Domain Accounts |
| T1098: Account Manipulation | .007: Additional Local or Domain Groups |
| T1134: Access Token Manipulation | .002: Create Process with Token |
| T1548: Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism | |
| Defense Evasion | |
| T1014: Rootkit | |
| T1027: Obfuscated Files or Information | .007: Dynamic API Resolution .010: Command Obfuscation .013: Encrypted/Encoded File |
| T1055: Process Injection | .001: Dynamic-link Library Injection |
| T1070: Indicator Removal | .001: Clear Windows Event Logs .004: File Deletion |
| T1112: Modify Registry | |

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

| Defense Evasion | |
|--|--|
| T1211: Exploitation for Defense Evasion | |
| T1218: System Binary Proxy Execution | .011: Rundll32 |
| T1222: File and Directory Permissions Modification | .001: Windows File and Directory Permissions Modification |
| T1480: Execution Guardrails | .002: Mutual Exclusion |
| T1484: Domain Policy Modification | .001: Group Policy Modification |
| T1497: Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion | |
| T1562: Impair Defenses | .001: Disable or Modify System Firewall .002: Disable Windows Event Logging .009: Safe Mode Boot |
| T1574: Hijack Execution Flow | .010: Services File Permissions Weakness |
| T1622: Debugger Evasion | |
| Credential Access | |
| T1003: OS Credential Dumping | .001: LSASS Memory |
| T1552: Unsecured Credentials | .001: Credentials in Files .006: Group Policy Preferences |
| T1555: Credentials from Password Stores | |
| Discovery | |
| T1007: System Service Discovery | |
| T1010: Application Window Discovery | |

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

| Discovery | |
|--|--|
| T1012: Query Registry | |
| T1018: Remote System Discovery | |
| T1046: Network Service Discovery | |
| T1057: Process Discovery | |
| T1069: Permission Groups Discovery | .002: Domain Groups |
| T1082: System Information Discovery | |
| T1083: File and Directory Discovery | |
| T1087: Account Discovery | .002: Domain Account |
| T1120: Peripheral Device Discovery | |
| T1135: Network Share Discovery | |
| T1614: System Location Discovery | .001: System Language Discovery |
| T1654: Log Enumeration | |
| Lateral Movement | |
| T1021: Remote Services | .001: Remote Desktop Protocol .002: SMB/Windows Admin Shares .004: SSH |
| T1091: Replication Through Removable Media | |
| T1210: Exploitation of Remote Services | |
| T1570: Lateral Tool Transfer | |

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

| Collection | |
|---|---|
| T1005: Data from Local System | |
| T1074: Data Staged | .001: Local Data Staging |
| Command and Control | |
| T1001: Data Obfuscation | .001: Junk Data |
| T1071: Application Layer Protocol | .001: Web Protocols |
| T1105: Ingress Tool Transfer | |
| T1219: Remote Access Tools | .002: Remote Desktop Software |
| T1571: Non-Standard Port | |
| T1573: Encrypted Channel | .001: Symmetric Cryptography |
| Exfiltration | |
| T1011: Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium | .001: Exfiltration Over Bluetooth |
| T1041: Exfiltration Over C2 Channel | |
| T1048: Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol | .003: Exfiltration Over Unencrypted Non-C2 Protocol |
| T1567: Exfiltration Over Web Service | .002: Exfiltration to Cloud Storage |
| Impact | |
| T1486: Data Encrypted for Impact | |
| T1489: Service Stop | |

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

| Impact | |
|---|---------------------------|
| T1490: Inhibit System Recovery | |
| T1491: Defacement: Publishing Victim Data | .001: Internal Defacement |
| T1529: System Shutdown/Reboot | |
| T1561: Disk Wipe | .001: Disk Content Wipe |
| T1657: Financial Theft | |

References

- Blackpoint Cyber (2025, January 31) “Qilin Ransomware and the Hidden Dangers of BYOVD.” <https://blackpointcyber.com/blog/qilin-ransomware-and-the-hidden-dangers-of-byovd/>
- Center for Internet Security (2025, September 11) “Qilin Top Ransomware Threat to SLTTs in Q2 2025.” <https://www.cisecurity.org/insights/blog/qilin-top-ransomware-threat-to-sltts-in-q2-2025>
- Group-IB (2024, July 17) “Qilin Revisited: Diving into the techniques and procedures of the recent Qilin Ransomware Attacks.” <https://www.group-ib.com/blog/qilin-revisited/>
- Halcyon Research Team (2024, October 24) “New Qilin.B Ransomware Variant Boasts Enhanced Encryption and Defense Evasion.” <https://www.halcyon.ai/blog/new-qilin-b-ransomware-variant-boasts-enhanced-encryption-and-defense-evasion>
- HC3 (2024, June 18) “Qilin, aka Agenda Ransomware.” <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/qilin-threat-profile-tlpclear.pdf>
- Kirkpatrick, Lee; Jacobs, Paul; et. al. (2024, August 22) Sophos: “Qilin ransomware caught stealing credentials stored in Google Chrome.” <https://news.sophos.com/en-us/2024/08/22/qilin-ransomware-caught-stealing-credentials-stored-in-google-chrome/>
- Microsoft Threat Intelligence (@MsftSecIntel) 2025. “Moonstone Sleet has previously exclusively deployed their own custom ransomware in their attacks...” X, March 06, 2025, 2:00PM. <https://x.com/MsftSecIntel/status/1897738963340681641>
- Resecurity (2025, October 15) “Qilin Ransomware and the Ghost Bulletproof Hosting Conglomerate.” <https://www.resecurity.com/es/blog/article/qilin-ransomware-and-the-ghost-bulletproof-hosting-conglomerate>
- Santos, Jacob; Dela Cruz, Junestherry; et. al. (2025, October 23) Trend Micro: “Agenda Ransomware Deploys Linux Variant on Windows Systems Through Remote Management Tools and BYOVD Techniques.” https://www.trendmicro.com/en_us/research/25/j/agenda-ransomware-deploys-linux-variant-on-windows-systems.html
- SentinelOne (n.d.) “Agenda (Qilin).” <https://www.sentinelone.com/anthology/agenda-qilin/>
- Takeda, Takahiro; Dunk, Jordyn, et. al. (2025, October 26) Cisco: “Uncovering Qilin attack methods exposed through multiple cases.” <https://blog.talosintelligence.com/uncovering-qilin-attack-methods-exposed-through-multiple-cases/>
- Thodex (n.d.) “Agenda (Qilin) Ransomware: Analysis, Detection, and Recovery.” <https://www.thodex.com/ransomware/agenda-qilin/>
- Thomas, Will (2025, October 03) SANS: “The Evolution of Qilin RaaS.” <https://www.sans.org/blog/evolution-qilin-raas>
- Tasdelen, Ismail (2025, May 09) “Qilin Ransomware Steals the Show: 72 Data Leaks in April 2025's Cyber Chaos.” <https://ismailtasdelen.medium.com/qilin-ransomware-steals-the-show-72-data-leaks-in-april-2025s-cyber-chaos-c0ee32d8e68c>
- Tsipershtain, Mark (2025) Cybereason: “Ransomware Gangs Collapse as Qilin Seizes Control.” <https://www.cybereason.com/blog/threat-alert-qilin-seizes-control>



Adversary Pursuit Group

