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THREAT PROFILE:

Clop Ransomware

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Executive Summary

First Identified:
2019

Operation style:
Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS)

Extortion method:
Originally a double extortion group; however, since 2020, the group has focused on data extortion via large scale supply chain attacks and threatening to leak data via their 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:
- CryptoMix Ransomware
- FIN7
- FIN11
- Silence Group
- TA505

INITIAL ACCESS → **PERSISTENCE** → **LATERAL MOVEMENT**

Valid accounts, exploitation of remote services, vulnerability exploitation, supply chain compromise, social engineering (MITRE ATT&CK: T1078, T1133, T1190, T1195, T1566)

Boot or logon initialization scripts, scheduled tasks, account manipulation, create account, office application startup, server software component, create/modify system processes, event triggered execution, boot or logon autostart execution (MITRE ATT&CK: T1505, T1543, T1546, T1547)

Exploitation of remote services, use alternate authentication method, remote service session hijacking, RDP, lateral tool transfer (MITRE ATT&CK: T1021, T1550, T1563, T1570)

Description

Clop (sometimes referred to as Cl0p) ransomware was first identified in 2019 and operates in the double extortion method, where victims' data is stolen and leaked via a data leak site if the ransom is not paid, to their arsenal. Clop is purportedly derived from the Cryptomix ransomware operation; it is widely believed that the group's name originates from a Russian "klop", which means "bed bug."

Clop operators have gained notoriety over the previous five years for exploiting high-profile vulnerabilities to conduct large-scale supply chain attacks targeting hundreds to thousands of victims. In these cases, the group has reportedly avoided encryption and focused their efforts on stealing sensitive information that can be used to extort the victims, their partners, and clients.

- In December 2020, Clop operators exploited Accellion FTA zero-day vulnerabilities (CVE-2021-27101, CVE-2021-27102, CVE-2021-27103, CVE-2021-27104) to breach up to 100 companies using Accellion's legacy File Transfer Appliance. The group used the DEWMODE web shell to exfiltrate sensitive data and then threatened to leak the data if the ransom was not paid. This attack was attributed to the FIN11 affiliate of the Clop ransomware operation.
- In February 2023, Clop operators exploited CVE-2023-0669 in Fortra's GoAnywhere MFT secure transfer tool to gain RCE on unpatched instances. The Clop operators reportedly stole data from compromised victims, including 130 companies, over a period of 10 days. The group then listed organizations that refused to pay a ransom on their data leak site.

Clop is purportedly derived from the Cryptomix ransomware operation.

- In May 2023, Clop operators exploited CVE-2023-34362 in Progress MOVEit Transfer solution to exfiltrate data from thousands of companies – researchers have estimated 2,000 victims. The attacks began on May 27, 2023, and victims were named on the group's data leak site beginning on June 14, 2023. The group reportedly deleted any data stolen from governments, military organizations, and children's hospitals during the attacks; however, it is not known if that is true. In the previous Accellion and GoAnywhere attacks, the operators emailed their extortion demands to the victims. In the MOVEit attacks, the group required the victims to make contact with the group to begin negotiations of a ransom demand.
- In December 2024, Clop operators claimed responsibility for targeting and exploiting zero-day vulnerabilities in Cleo Harmony, VLTrader, and LexiCom file transfer platforms. In October an unrestricted file uplaods and downloads vulnerability, CVE-2024-50623 was patched in the software; in December 2024 the patch was found to be insufficient. Threat actors were able to exploit another zero-day, CVE-2024-55956, to conduct data theft attacks.
- In October 2025, Clop was attributed with targeting multiple organizations via a critical zero-day vulnerability impacting Oracle's E-Business Suite (EBS), CVE-2025-61882. The group was reported to have been targeting the vulnerability since at least August 2025. The group reportedly began sending emails to executives at victim companies in early October.

Description

- In late November 2025, Clop reportedly exploited a vulnerability, CVE-2025-14611, to target dozens of victims in data exfiltration attacks. Researchers reported more than 200 exposed “CentreStack – Login” portal, indicating these were active targets. Technical analysis revealed the exploitation involved unauthenticated local file inclusion to extract machine keys, followed by ViewState deserialization attacks that enable remote code execution, persistent access, and theft of sensitive corporate files. This activity aligns with Clop’s long-standing pattern of abusing vulnerabilities to maximize data exfiltration while avoiding the traditional ransomware deployment.

These attacks target high-profile victims, including institutions like Dartmouth. At Dartmouth alone, attackers stole 226 GB of personal data bank account numbers, Social Security numbers, and birth dates between August 9–12, 2025, which was discovered when Clop posted stolen files to its dark web leak portal. Following their previous techniques, Clop relied on data-theft extortion, leveraging the zero-day to directly access and extract files without triggering typical ransomware indicators.

In January 2026, Clop published 43 global victims to its leak site within a 24-hour period. Targets included Hilton, The Weather Company (Weather.com), multiple law firms, MSPs, construction firms, financial institutions, and educational institutions across the U.S., U.K., Europe, Canada, and New Zealand. This spike highlights Clop’s automation of reconnaissance and victim enumeration, likely using broad Internet wide scanning to identify exploitable systems at scale. The diversity of victims and industries suggests Clop continues its “mass opportunistic extortion” rather than sector specific targeting.

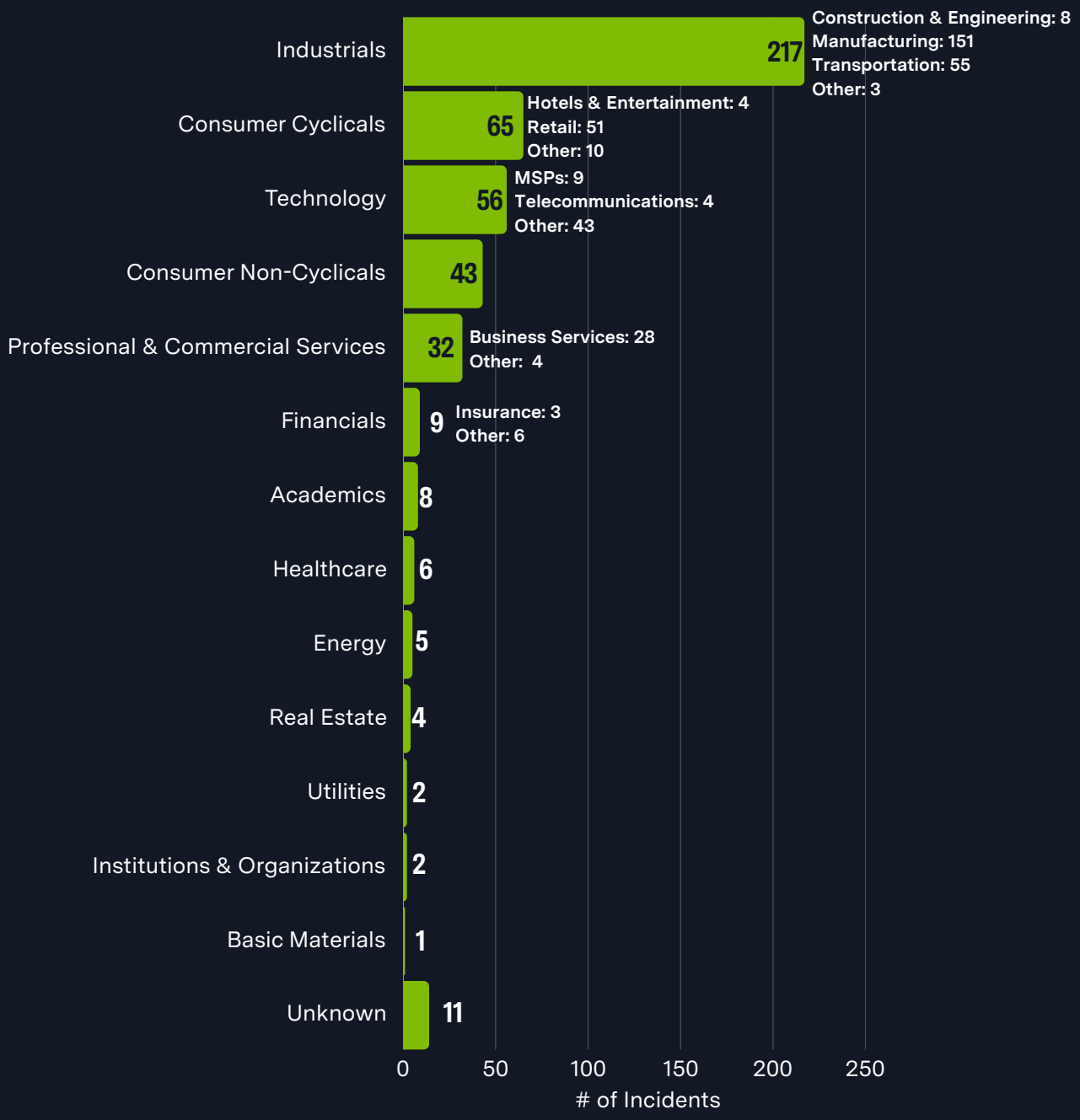
Clop Ransomware has repeatedly targeted vulnerabilities in file transfer software to conduct data theft attacks.

In 2023, The U.S. State Department’s Rewards for Justice program announced up to a $10 million bounty for information linking the Clop ransomware attacks to a foreign government. The bounty was announced after the Clop ransomware group claimed responsibility for data theft attacks on companies using the MOVEit Transfer platform.

In 2021, an international law enforcement operation, including 19 agencies and 17 countries, led to the apprehension of six purported Clop members. The operation was a 30-month investigation into attacks against South Korean companies and U.S. academic institutions. While law enforcement operations have proven successful in disruptions, the continued operations of the Clop ransomware group highlight the difficulties faced in completely shutting down a prolific ransomware operation.

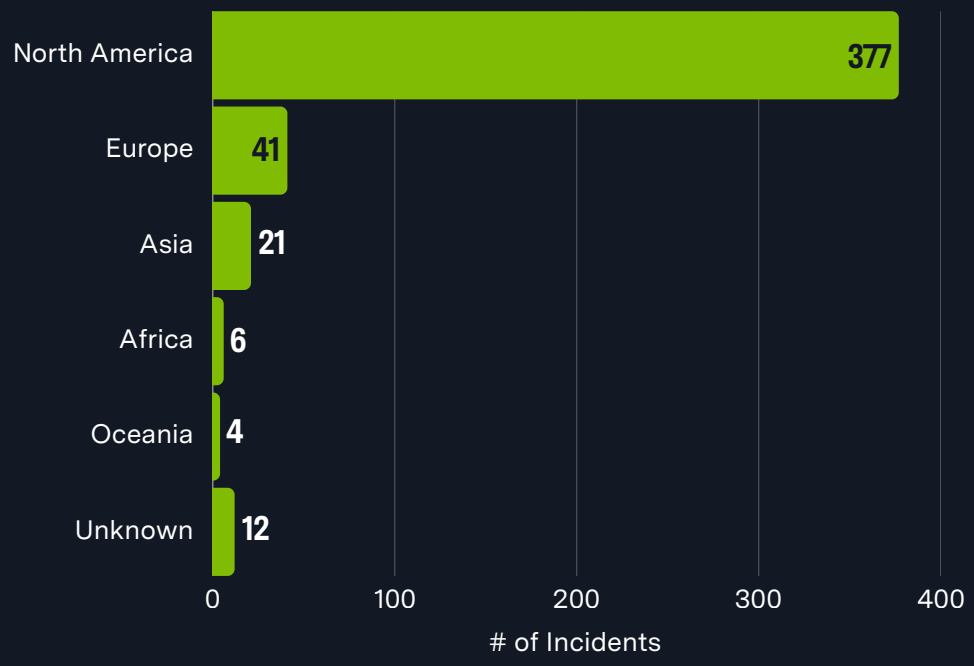
Previous Targets

Previous Industry Targets from 01 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025

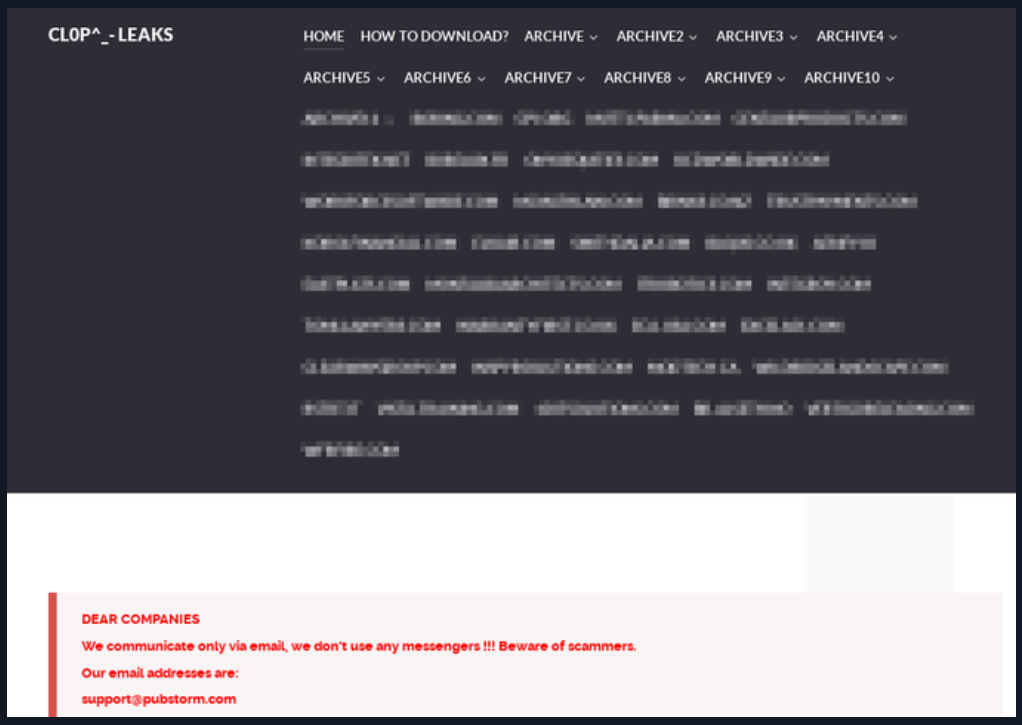


Previous Targets

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



Data Leak Site



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Known Exploited Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability	Description	Product Affected	CVSS
CVE-2019-19781	Directory Traversal Vulnerability	Citrix Application Delivery Controller and Gateway	9.8
CVE-2021-27101	SQL Injection Vulnerability	Accellion FTA	9.8
CVE-2021-27102	OS Command Injection Vulnerability	Accellion FTA	7.8
CVE-2021-27103	SSRF Vulnerability	Accellion FTA	9.8
CVE-2021-27104	OS Command Injection Vulnerability	Accellion FTA	9.8
CVE-2021-35211	Remote Memory Escape Vulnerability	SolarWinds Serv-U	10
CVE-2022-1388	Missing Authentication Vulnerability	F5 BIG-IP	9.8
CVE-2023-0669	RCE Vulnerability	Fortra GoAnywhere MFT	7.2
CVE-2023-27350	Improper Access Control Vulnerability	PaperCut MF/NG	9.8
CVE-2023-27351	Improper Access Control Vulnerability	PaperCut NG 22.0.5	7.5
CVE-2023-34362	SQL Injection Vulnerability	Progress MOVEit Transfer	9.8

Known Exploited Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability	Description	Product Affected	CVSS
CVE-2023-35036	Information Disclosure Vulnerability	Microsoft WordPad	6.5
CVE-2023-35708	SQL Injection Vulnerability	Progress MOVEit Transfer	9.8
CVE-2023-47246	Path Traversal Vulnerability	SysAid Server	9.8
CVE-2024-50623	Unrestricted File Upload and Download Vulnerability	Cleo Harmony, VLTrader, and LexiCom	9.8
CVE-2024-55956	Unauthenticated Malicious Hosts Vulnerability	Cleo Harmony, VLTrader, and LexiCom	9.8
CVE-2025-11371	Unauthenticated Local File Inclusion Flaw	Gladinet CentreStack Trio Fox	N/A
CVE-2025-14611	Hard Coded Cryptographic Vulnerability	Gladinet CentreStack Trio Fox	9.8
CVE-2025-61882	Unspecified Vulnerability	Oracle E-Business Suite	9.8
Log4Shell (CVE-2021-44228, CVE-2021-45046, CVE-2021-45105, and CVE-2021-44832)	RCE, DoS, DoS, RCE Vulnerabilities	Apache Log4j Java Library	10, 9, 5.9, 6.6

Known Exploited Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability	Description	Product Affected	CVSS
ZeroLogon (CVE-2020-1472)	Privilege Escalation Vulnerability	Netlogon	10

Associations

CryptoMix Ransomware

Clop is believed to be derived from the Cryptomix ransomware family.

FIN7

AKA Carbon Spider, Gold Waterfall, Sangria Tempest. A financially motivated threat group that has been observed deploying the Clop ransomware variant in cyberattacks.

FIN11

AKA DEV-0950, Lace Tempest. A financially motivated threat group that has been observed deploying the Clop ransomware variant in cyberattacks. Additionally, two groups - UNC2546 and UNC2582 - have been attributed to likely being a part of FIN11 and have deployed the Clop Ransomware.

Silence Group

An IAB group that has been tied to the Truebot malware and has been observed providing access to victim networks for TA505 and, thus, the Clop ransomware group.

TA505

AKA Graceful Spider, Gold Evergreen, Gold Tahoe, Hive0065, Spandex Tempest. A threat group that conducts both financially motivated and APT-style attacks to steal sensitive information. The group has been observed deploying the Clop ransomware in cyberattacks.

Known Tools

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.
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.
DEWMODE	A PHP web shell that allows threat actors to view and download files in the victim machine.
FileUtils.java	A downloader reportedly used by the Clop operators to deploy a backdoor in attacks targeting the Oracle E-Business Suite.
FlawedAmmyy	A RAT that has been active since, at least, 2016 and has been attributed to the TA505 threat group. The malware contains the ability to execute commands, collect sensitive information, detect anti-virus products, and deploy additional malware.
FlawedGrace	AKA GraceWire. A RAT written in C++ that has been active since, at least, 2017 and has the capability to collect system information and provide remote access to threat actors.
Get2	A downloader written in C++ that has been used to deploy additional payloads to a compromised device.
LEMURLOOT	A web shell written in C# that is designed to exfiltrate data and execute on systems running MOVEit Transfer.
Log4jConfigQpgsubFilter.java	The backdoor reportedly used by the Clop operators to set up a web shell in attacks targeting the Oracle E-Business Suite.
LSASS	A Windows process that takes care of security policy for the OS.
Malichus	A JavaScript backdoor that allows attackers to stealer data, execute commands, and gain further access to a compromised network. Clop operators were reported to use the backdoor when targeting Cleo managed file transfer platforms.
MEGASync	A cloud-based synchronization tool that is designed to work with the MEGA file-sharing service.

Known Tools

Mimikatz	An open-source application that allows users to view and save authentication credentials, including Kerberos tickets.
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.
PowerShell	A task automation and configuration management program that includes a command-line shell and the associated scripting language.
PowerTrash	An in-memory dropper written in PowerShell that executes an embedded payload.
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.
Raspberry Robin	A worm-like malware dropper that sells initial access to compromised networks to ransomware groups and malware operators.
RDP	A protocol that provides a user with a graphical interface to connect to another computer over a network connection.
Reg	A Windows utility used to interact with the Windows Registry; it can be used at the command-line interface to query, add, modify, and remove information.
SDBot	A backdoor with installer and loader components that has been active since, at least, 2019. The malware has the ability to access files, enumerate a list of processes, collect system information, and establish persistence.
Servhelper	A malware family that facilitates remote access and backdoor capabilities; it can also harvest credentials and establish persistent access to the compromised system.
SMB	A client-server communication protocol used for sharing access to files, printers, serial ports, and other resources on a network.
Taskkill	A legitimate Windows file that is used by malware to terminate processes on the victims' computer.
Teleport	A custom malicious tool used by the Truebot botnet to steal data from compromised systems.

Known Tools

TinyMet	A Meterpreter stager that supports various transports and allows destination port and destination host setting during runtime.
Truebot	A botnet that has been used by threat actors to collect and exfiltrate information from targeted machines.
VssAdmin	A Windows service that allows taking manual or automatic backup copies of computer files or volumes.

Observed Behaviors: Windows

Tactic	Evidence Type	Observed Behavior
Execution	Command Execution	Network resource enumeration via WNetOpenEnumW()
		Network resource enumeration via WNetEnumResourceW()
		Network enumeration handle cleanup via WNetCloseEnum()
		Dynamic API resolution via GetProcAddress()
		Memory allocation via VirtualAlloc()
Defense Evasion	Command Execution	vssadmin delete shadows /all /quiet
		net stop BackupExecAgentBrowser /y
		taskkill /IM powerpnt.exe
	Configuration Change	vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=c: /on=c: /maxsize=401MB
Discovery	Command Execution	systeminfo
		whoami
		net group /domain
		wmic logicaldisk get name,size
		nltest /domain_trusts
Impact	Output / Artifact	Cl0pReadMe.txt
		README_README.txt
		!!!_READ_!!!.RTF

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Reconnaissance	
T1589: Gather Victim Identity Information	
T1590: Gather Victim Network Information	
T1592: Gather Victim Host Information	
T1593: Search Open Websites/Domains	
T1595: Active Scanning	.002: Vulnerability Scanning
T1596: Search Open Technical Databases	
T1597: Search Closed Sources	
T1598: Phishing for Information	.002: Spearphishing Attachment .003: Spearphishing Link
Resource Development	
T1587: Develop Capabilities	.001: Malware .004: Exploits
T1588: Obtain Capabilities	.001: Malware .002: Tool .005: Exploits
T1608: Stage Capabilities	.001: Upload Malware .002: Upload Tool
Initial Access	
T1078: Valid Accounts	.002: Domain Accounts
T1133: External Remote Services	

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Initial Access	
T1190: Exploit Public-Facing Application	
T1195: Supply Chain Compromise	
T1566: Phishing	.001: Spearphishing Attachment .002: Spearphishing Link
Execution	
T1053: Scheduled Task/Job	.005: Scheduled Task
T1059: Command and Scripting Interpreter	.001: PowerShell .003: Windows Command Shell .007: JavaScript
T1106: Native API	
T1129: Shared Modules	
T1204: User Execution	.001: Malicious Link .002: Malicious File
T1559: Inter-Process Communication	
Persistence	
T1037: Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts	
T1053: Scheduled Task/Job	.005: Scheduled Task
T1098: Account Manipulation	
T1136: Create Account	

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Persistence	
T1137: Office Application Startup	
T1505: Server Software Component	.003: Web Shell
T1543: Create or Modify System Process	.003: Windows Service
T1546: Event Triggered Execution	.004: Unix Shell Configuration Modification .011: Application Shimming
T1547: Boot or Logon Autostart Execution	
Privilege Escalation	
T1068: Exploitation for Privilege Escalation	
T1484: Domain or Tenant Policy Modification	.001: Group Policy Modification
Defense Evasion	
T1027: Obfuscated Files or Information	.002: Binary Padding
T1036: Masquerading	.001: Invalid Code Signature
T1055: Process Injection	.001: Dynamic-link Library Injection
T1070: Indicator Removal	.001: Clear Windows Event Logs .004: File Deletion
T1112: Modify Registry	
T1127: Trusted Developer Utilities Proxy Execution	
T1140: Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Defense Evasion	
T1202: Indirect Command Execution	
T1216: System Script Proxy Execution	
T1218: System Binary Proxy Execution	.007: Msiexec
T1222: File and Directory Permissions Modification	.002: Linux and Mac File Directory Permissions Modification
T1480: Execution Guardrails	
T1497: Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion	.003: Time Based Evasion
T1542: Pre-OS Boot	
T1548: Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism	
T1553: Subvert Trust Controls	.002: Code Signing
T1556: Modify Authentication Process	
T1562: Impair Defenses	.001: Disable or Modify Tools
T1574: Hijack Execution Flow	.001: DLL
T1599: Network Boundary Bridging	
T1600: Weaken Encryption	
T1601: Modify System Image	
Credential Access	
T1003: OS Credential Dumping	

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Credential Access	
T1110: Brute Force	
T1552: Unsecured Credentials	
T1555: Credentials from Password Stores	
T1558: Steal or Forge Kerberos Tickets	
T1606: Forge Web Credentials	
Discovery	
T1012: Query Registry	
T1016: System Network Configurations Discovery	
T1018: Remote System Discovery	
T1057: Process Discovery	
T1069: Permission Groups Discovery	
T1082: System Information Discovery	
T1083: File and Directory Discovery	
T1087: Account Discovery	
T1135: Network Share Discovery	
T1518: Software Discovery	.001: Security Software Discovery

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Discovery	
T1614: System Location Discovery	.001: System Language Discovery
Lateral Movement	
T1021: Remote Services	.001: Remote Desktop Protocol .002: SMB/Windows Admin Shares
T1550: Use Alternate Authentication Material	
T1563: Remote Service Session Hijacking	.002: RDP Hijacking
T1570: Lateral Tool Transfer	
Collection	
T1005: Data from Local System	
T1056: Input Capture	
T1074: Data Staged	
T1113: Screen Capture	
T1114: Email Collection	
T1213: Data from Information Repositories	
T1557: Adversary-in-the-Middle	
T1602: Data from Configuration Repository	
Command and Control	
T1001: Data Obfuscation	

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Command and Control	
T1071: Application Layer Protocol	.001: Web Protocols
T1090: Proxy	
T1102: Web Service	
T1105: Ingress Tool Transfer	
T1205: Traffic Signaling	
T1573: Encrypted Channel	
Exfiltration	
T1011: Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	
T1020: Automated Exfiltration	
T1041: Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	
T1048: Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	
T1052: Exfiltration Over Physical Medium	
T1567: Exfiltration Over Web Service	.002: Exfiltration to Cloud Storage
Impact	
T1486: Data Encrypted for Impact	
T1489: Service Stop	
T1490: Inhibit System Recovery	

MITRE ATT&CK® Mappings

Impact	
T1491: Defacement	.001: Internal Defacement
T1499: Endpoint Denial of Service	.001: OS Exhaustion Flood
T1657: Financial Theft	

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Adversary Pursuit Group

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