Teslacrypt Spam Campaign: “Unpaid Issue…”

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We have all seen the current upsurge in Ransomware attacks. It has been covered on an international scale, with new variants appearing at a very fast pace, some target Windows, some target Macs and some have cross platform capabilities.

Recently a major healthcare organization fell victim to Ransomware, and surely there are more high profile victims to come. Enterprises face an ever growing threat landscape and the majority of businesses do not report or acknowledge having become a victim of Ransomware. This is due to the possible repercussions, such as loss of customer confidence, degraded reputation and embarrassment, which leads to an inevitable loss of profit and business.

Cyber-criminals are aware of these repercussions and have crafted their attacks to include threats such as releasing specific information related to victims, as we saw with Chimera Ransomware, utilizing a type of cyber-extortion to ensure they achieve their objective of being paid the ransom. Cyber criminals select targets that may give in to their demands, and targeting a major health care organization is more than likely going to generate a paid ransom.

Cyber criminals continue to use exploit kits to infect victims with ransomware but they also use MALSPAM emails to lure possible victims – a key vector into an enterprise environment that lacks the proper security controls, and one with insufficient information security training for end users. Some examples are email messages claiming to be in regards to an overdue bill or invoice, utilizing such terminology in the subject line and given file name, such as invoice.zip or payment_doc_298427.zip

The email seen below is an example how the orchestrated attack is carried out (thanks to Conrad Longmore for the email example):

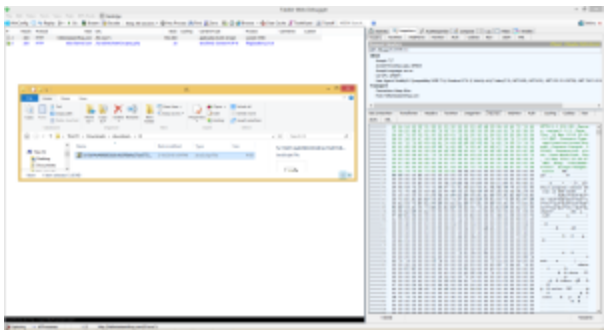
```
From: Jennie bowles Date: 10 March 2016 at 12:27 Subject: GreenLand Consulting –
Unpaid Issue No. 58833

Dear Client! For the third time we are reminding you about your unpaid debt. You used
to ask for our advisory services in July 2015, the receipt issued to you was
recognized in our database with No. 58833. But it has never been paid off. We enclose
the detailed bill for your recollection and sincerely hope that you will act nobly
and responsibly. Otherwise we will have to start a legal action against you.

Respectfully, Jennie bowles Chief Accountant 707 Monroe St FL 58833 928-429-4994
```

The emails usually contain a ZIP file which contains a malicious script/downloader. Upon running this specific malicious script/downloader I was greeted by Teslacrypt ransomware (69.exe) from hellomississmithqq[.]com / IP: 54.212.162.6 (both currently blocked by Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Malicious Website protection).

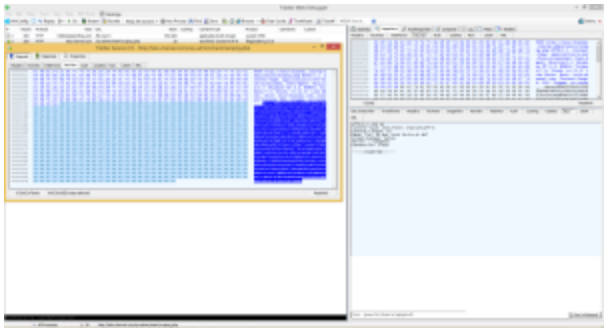
Obfuscated malicious script/downloader above
Malicious script file: 858dc7fac3580c69d6086ac4d5d148a3



Fiddler capture showing download of 69.exe (Teslacrypt Ransomware file)

Teslacrypt file 69.exe: 1E0B12117190A08B89F4200CB79DAE5E

After 69.exe is downloaded by the malicious script downloader, it executes, encrypts targeted files and issues an HTTP POST to its Command and Control.



Data sent to Command and Control about newly infected system

Noted below are some of the associated domains / IPs identified from the above sample. This Teslacrypt ransomware campaign has recently morphed into a hybrid Teslacrypt / Locky ransomware campaign. The aforementioned domain hellomississmithqq[.]com was seen serving up both Teslacrypt and Locky Ransomware on 10 March 2016).

Identified command and control:

multibrandphone[.]com
vtechshop[.]net
sappmtraining[.]com
shirongfeng[.]cn
controlfreaknetworks[.]com
tele-channel[.]com

Associated IP addresses with hellomississmithqq[.]com:

46(dot)108.108.182
54(dot)212.162.6
78(dot)135.108.94
134(dot)19.180.8
202(dot)120.42.190
216(dot)150.77.21
142(dot)25.97.48
202(dot)120.42.190

Other domains that have been identified in this on-going campaign:

Joecockerhereqq[.]com
blizzbauta[.]com
yesitisqqq[.]com
howareyouqq[.]com
thisisitsqq[.]com
blablaworldqq[.]com
fromjamaicaqq[.]com
hellomydearqq[.]com
witchbehereqq[.]com
arendroukysdqq[.]com
itisverygoodqq[.]com
goonwithmazerqq[.]com
helloyoungmanqq[.]com
invoiceholderqq[.]com
mafianeedsyouqq[.]com
mafiawantsyouqq[.]com
soclosebutyetqq[.]com
isthereanybodyqq[.]com
lenovomaybenotqq[.]com
lenovowantsyouqq[.]com
hellomississmithqq[.]com
thisisyourchangeqq[.]com
www.thisisyourchangeqq[.]com
gutentagmeinliebeqq[.]com
hellomisterbiznesqq[.]com

Ransomware is not going away, on the contrary it is becoming more and more prevalent with new variants coming out at a fast pace and targeting multiple platforms.
It is recommended that users are using anti-malware protection, especially one that has a website protection option. Malwarebytes has an Anti-Ransomware Beta product that blocks most Ransomware attacks. Furthermore it is recommended that users are ever vigilant and not click on URL links in suspicious emails, and do not open any files contained in these emails. Ensure to keep proper backups as most Ransomware deletes Windows shadow copies.

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware detects this Teslacrypt sample and its malicious website protection blocks the download domain / Command & Control domains as well.

Andres