

Fake Office 365 Used for Phishing Attacks on C-Suite Targets

 trendmicro.com/en_us/research/21/a/fake-office-365-used-for-phishing-attacks-on-c-suite-targets.html

January 25, 2021



We have been following an evolving phishing campaign that targets high-ranking company executives since 2019, reusing compromised credentials and URLs to target more.

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We have been following an evolving phishing campaign that targets high-ranking company executives since May 2020. The attackers reuse compromised hosts for the phishing pages targeting organizations in the manufacturing, real estate, finance, government, and technological industries in several countries such as Japan, the United States, UK, Canada, Australia, and Europe. As of this writing, we found over 300 unique compromised URLs and 70 email addresses from eight compromised sites, including 40 legitimate emails of company CEOs, directors, owners, and founders, among other enterprise employee targets. We are now working with the respective authorities for further investigation.

Luring victims with compromised infrastructure

We observed the attackers targeting potential victims with emails containing fake Office 365 password expiration reports as lures. They prompt the targets to click the embedded link in

the email if they want to continue using the same password; choosing the “Keep Password” option leads the user to the phishing page.

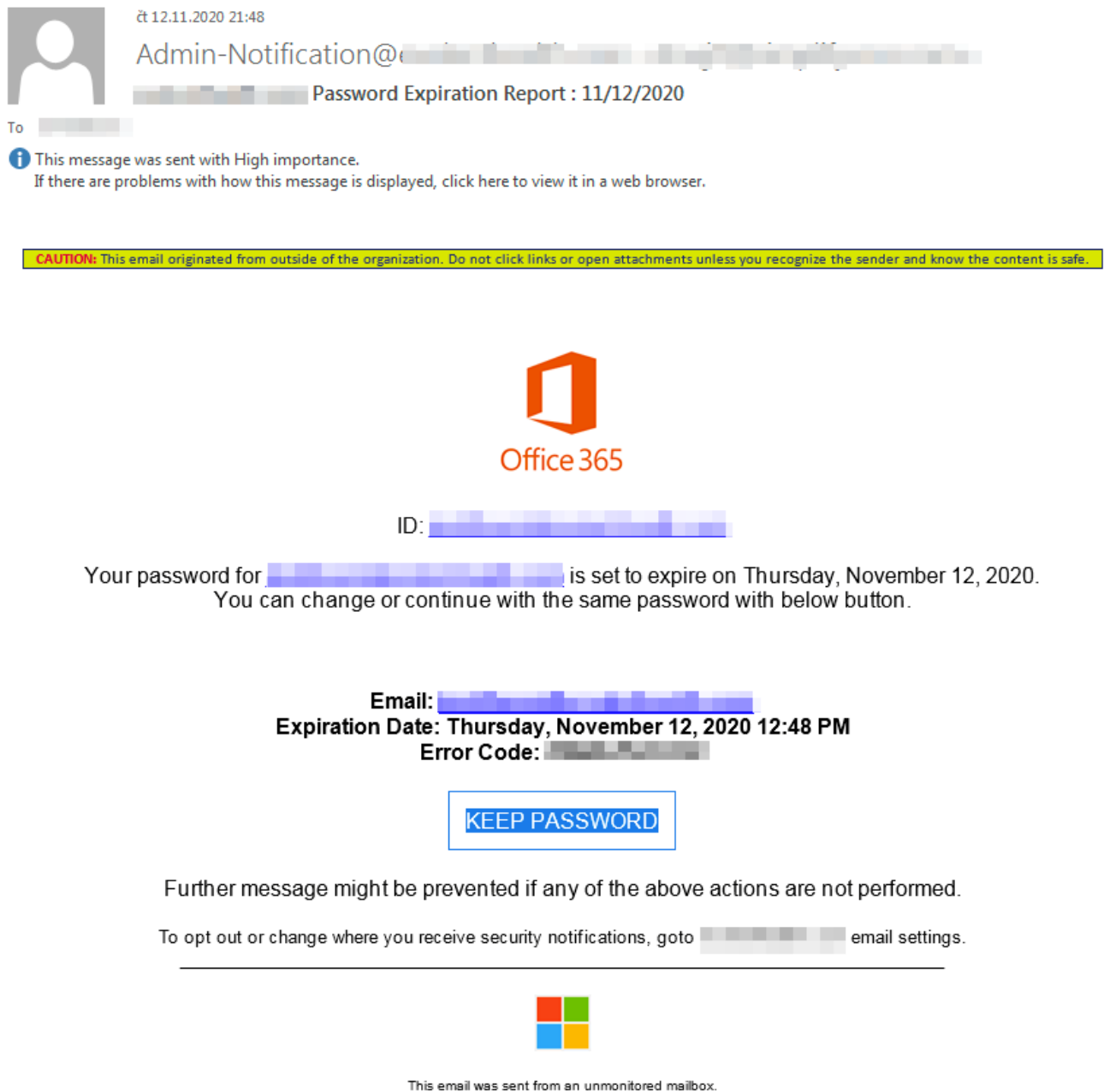


Figure 1. An MS Office365 password reset email and link is used as the phishing campaign lure.

The attackers are reusing compromised infrastructure and victims’ account credentials to host phishing pages and gain more victims, as briefly reported last year. The kit, which is available for sale, can validate the credentials’ details and accuracy once the victim interacts with the embedded link.

Related to this, during examination of underground activities we identified several advertisements by cybercriminals selling account credentials of CEOs, chief financial officers (CFOs), and finance department members, among others. Those posts were seen in multiple


```

+ -----OFF365 V4 2020 by [REDACTED]-----+
|Email : [REDACTED] - Password : [REDACTED] |Page: https://[REDACTED]
|
|IP Address: [REDACTED]
|Country: Canada Country Code: CA
|Region: Nova Scotia City: [REDACTED] Postal Code: [REDACTED]
|Date: Mon Nov 09, 2020 1:38 pm Browser: [REDACTED]
+ -----+

+ -----OFF365 V4 2020 by [REDACTED]-----+
|Email : [REDACTED] - Password : [REDACTED] |Page: https://[REDACTED]
|
|IP Address: [REDACTED]
|Country: United States Country Code: US
|Region: Ohio City: [REDACTED] Postal Code: [REDACTED]
|Date: Mon Nov 09, 2020 2:09 pm Browser: [REDACTED]
+ -----+

+ -----OFF365 V4 2020 by [REDACTED]-----+
|Email : [REDACTED] - Password : [REDACTED] |Page: https://[REDACTED]
|
|IP Address: [REDACTED]
|Country: United States Country Code: US
|Region: Ohio City: [REDACTED] Postal Code: [REDACTED]
|Date: Mon Nov 09, 2020 2:09 pm Browser: [REDACTED]
+ -----+

+ -----OFF365 V4 2020 by [REDACTED]-----+
|Email : [REDACTED] - Password : [REDACTED] |Page: https://[REDACTED]
|
|IP Address: [REDACTED]
|Country: United States Country Code: US
|Region: Wisconsin City: [REDACTED] Postal Code: [REDACTED]
|Date: Mon Nov 09, 2020 2:29 pm Browser: [REDACTED]
+ -----+

```

Figure 4. Improperly configured log files detailing the phishing sites to which the victims were redirected and their personally identifiable information (emails, passwords, city, and system information).

Emailing using third-party RDP

We looked at the email headers of the lure email samples, examined the SMTP headers, and found an interesting detail: most of the phishing emails were sent using a virtual private server (VPS) from FireVPS.

from FireVPS-RDP (XX.X.XXX.XX) by

from FireVPS-RDP (XXX.XXX.XX.XXX) by

from FireVPS-RDP (XX.XXX.XXX.XX) by

OL1P279CA0064.NORP279.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM (2603:10a6:e10:15::15) with Microsoft SMTP

FireVPS is a virtual private server (VPS) offering a range of Windows remote desktop protocol (RDP) plans for their respective customers. The emails sent to the victims are sent from the RDP service. We have alerted FireVPS of this and have yet to hear from them.

While scanning other email samples for emails sent from a FireVPS-RDP machine, we found similar phishing email templates and the URL that was sent to a financial department member also contained the recipient's information and credentials. An online search

revealed that the recipient's profile and email address matched the accurate information listed on his LinkedIn account.

Phishing kit blacklist

We think the phishing kit developer spent considerable time compiling the blacklist included in the kit. It uses an extensive list of domain names and IP address ranges to ensure that access is blocked when accessed by security companies or large cloud providers. We assume the intention is to evade detection by security vendors as the list includes a number of antivirus companies; Google, Microsoft, VirusTotal, and a long list of other cybersecurity and technology companies, as well as public blocklisting sites.

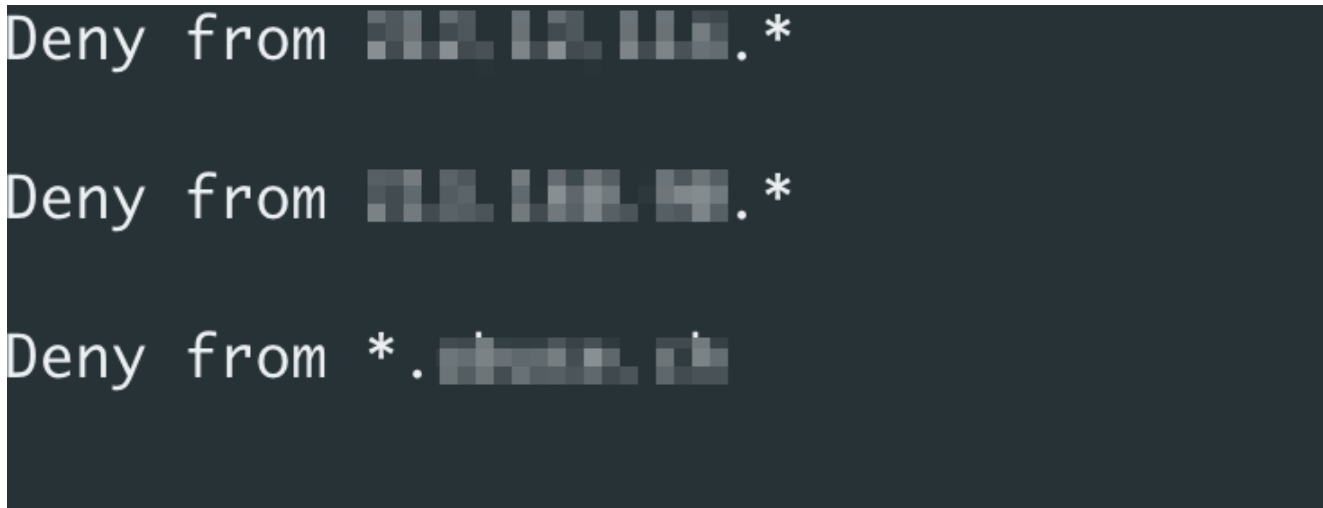


Figure 5. The phishing kit developer made an effort to add specific IP addresses to a blacklist evade detection.

Keeping this in mind, we find it ironic that the kit developer would take this much time to create a blacklist while actively marketing the kit on social network site(s).

Previous versions of the phishing kit

The phishing kit we observed in this campaign is the fourth iteration of the toolkit. Previous versions were noticed and are known to the cybersecurity community, since it was widely advertised in the underground and on social media.

According to the malware developer's "business" Facebook page, the first version of the phishing kit was released on July 4, 2019, shortly followed by the second version (V2) 15 days after. The third version (V3) was not officially announced on the Facebook page but was observed to be in circulation and could be found through a simple online search.

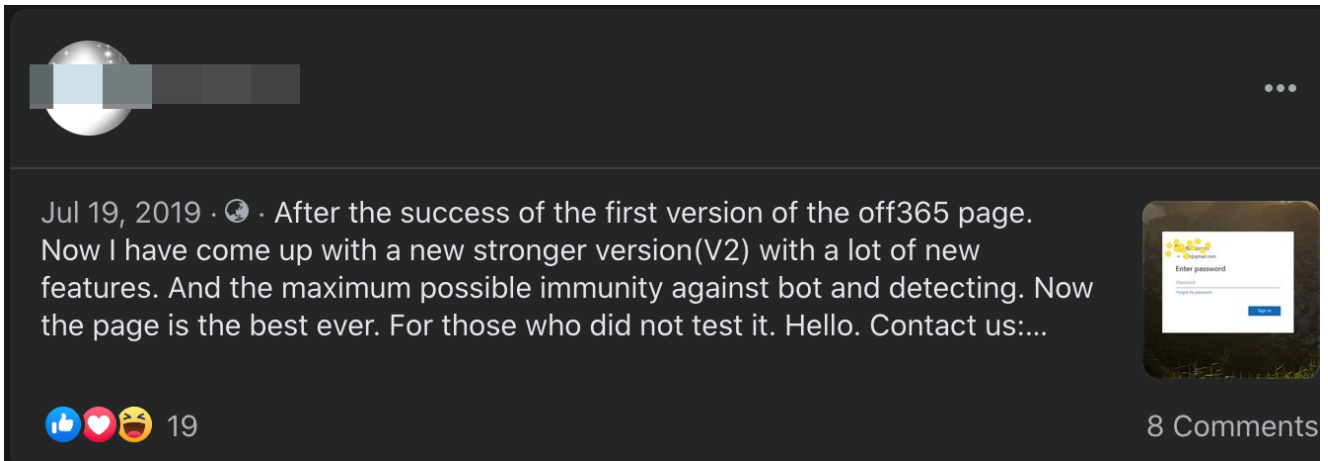


Figure 6. Malware developer advertising the second version of the fake Office365 phishing kit on his social media page.

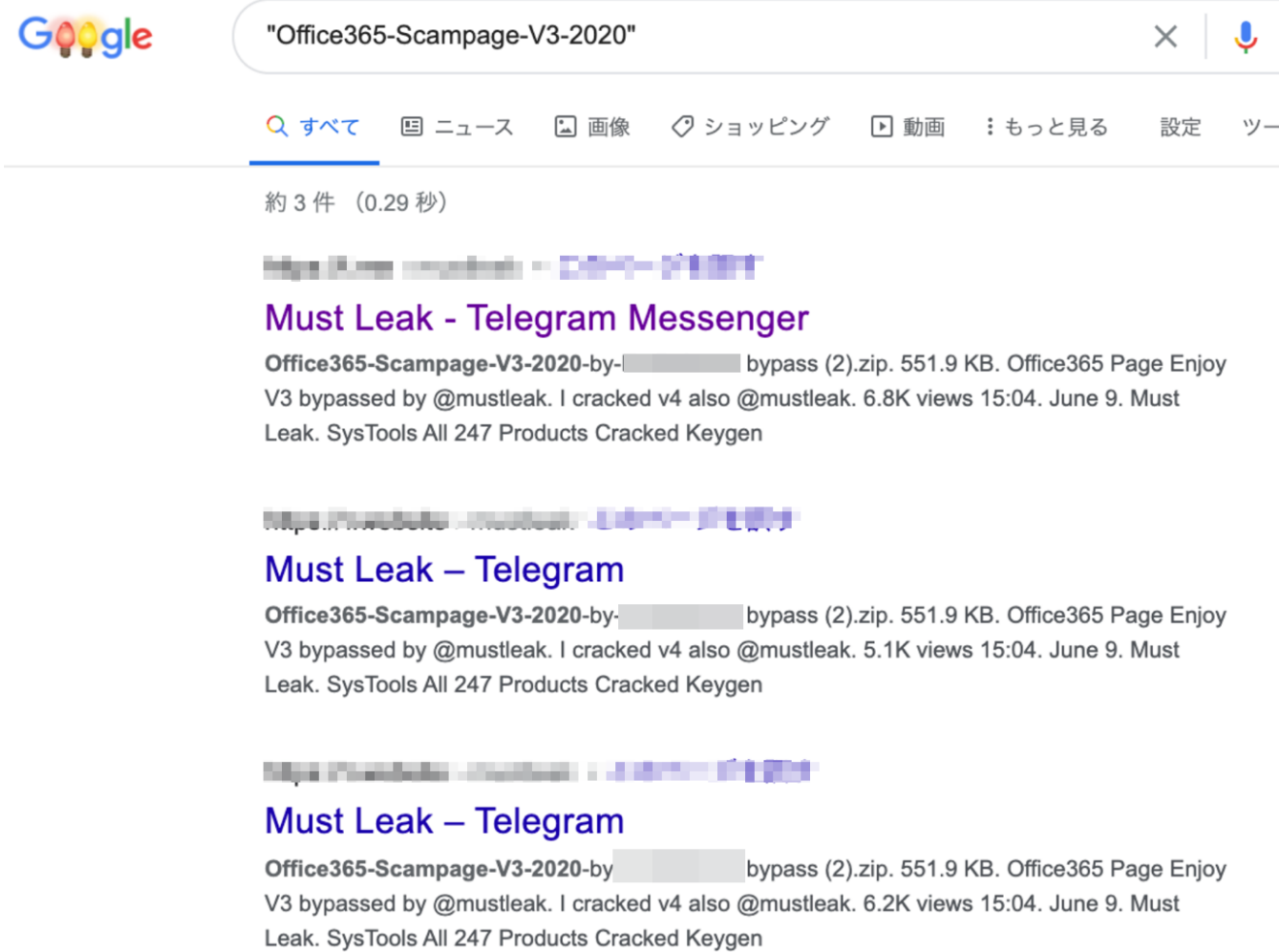


Figure 7. V2 and V3 of the phishing kit were reported in previous months and known among cybersecurity researchers.

Most of the lure's content theme focuses on prompting the victims to keep their current passwords. A look at the campaigns' pattern shows that the first layer of the phishing link includes the recipient's email domain in the compromised URLs' subdomain, followed by the

Base64 encoded string of the recipient's email. (The email does not always have to be base64 encoded, we also have seen landing pages with email being included in plaintext).

As the user chooses the link to keep their password, they are redirected to the phishing pages. We noticed that the current version the compromised URLs' landing pages started including the keyword "OfficeV4" in August.

By September, the victims' domain names were still included, but the prefixes were changed from "sg" to "pl," "00," and/or "ag." In another development in October, the victim's names were being included in the subdomain instead of the respective domain names.



Figure 8. Tracking part of the campaigns' domain developments

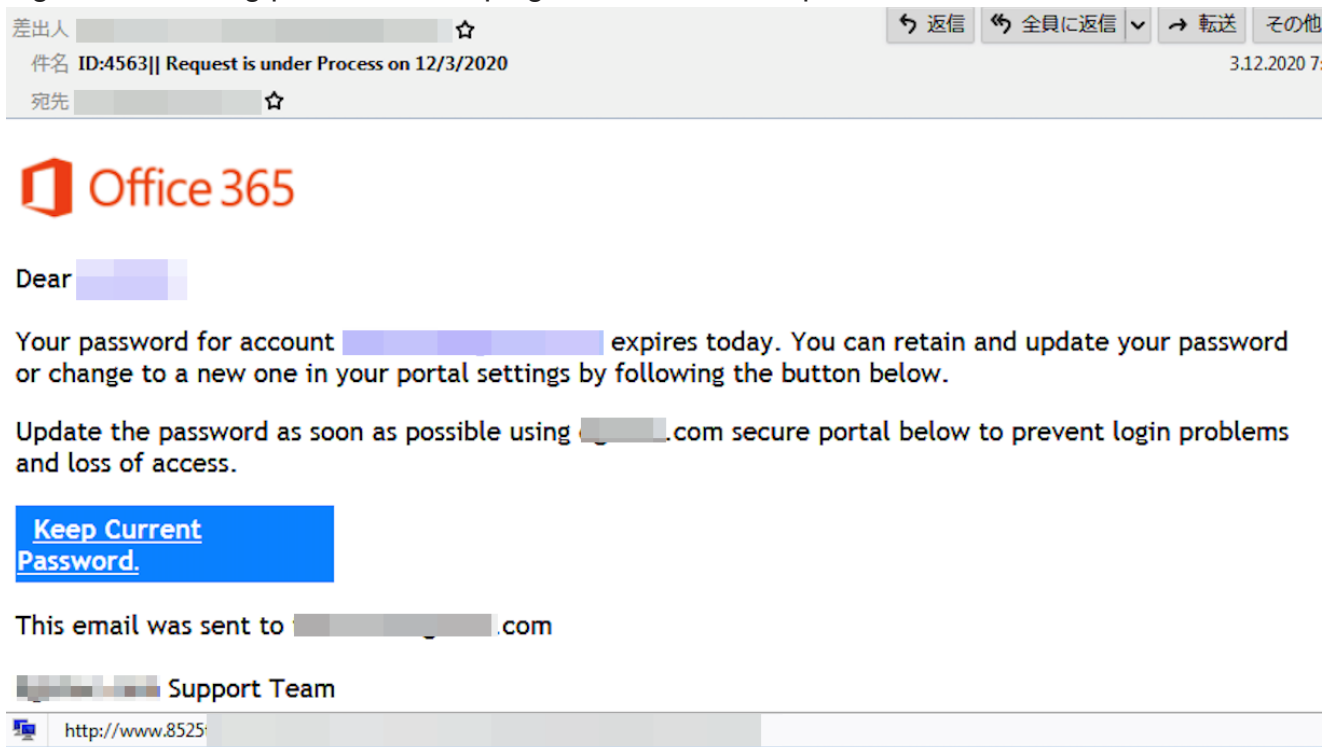


Figure 9. A common theme for all the versions: Messages that prompt the victim to click on the embedded link to keep their current password.

Notable features of the latest phishing kit

Aside from the blacklist, V4's other features supposedly make the detection of this kit harder. Among them the capability to detect bot scanning or crawling attempts, and provide alternative content when bots are detected. Below are some of the features of V4 as listed by the kit developer on his Facebook page.

Some of this version Features:

- +New style and new logo for office page.
 - +Responsive design with all devices and screens.
 - +Use licensing system, every buyer will get the page file and its license key.
 - +Ability to choose between Office365 and Voice mail from config.
 - +Ability to choose between Auto grab and manual email from config.
 - +Ability to Use it as multiple password or one time password.
 - +Ability to choose number of password request (1 to 5 times).
 - +Ability to edit or hide all titles, messages and texts exist in page from config.
 - +Accept base64 email in link and without it.
 - +Come with external redirect(optional)
 - + Undetectable from Bot (private tricks).
 - +The page Use private tricks to bypass antibot, goes to inbox and last long time.
 - +Special stronger antibot system.
 - +All page elements are dynamique (auto generated fresh page every link call)
 - +Link one time self destructing (after using it will giving 404 error).
 - +Link can only be used one time by one user (giving 404 error to not allowed users)..
 - +Can allow accessing to link for limited area and/or list of ips.
 - +Each link can locked to only one target email.
- And many other new private features and tricks. This office365 page is the best ever.

Figure 10. Features of the Office365 V4 phishing kit, as posted on social media.

Furthermore, the phishing kit is sold with a license, and the obfuscated PHP script calls back to the developer's system to verify the license's validity. The phishing page calls back to the license server to check the license key's availability, and a URL/IP to access the license server is seen in config.PHP. Interestingly, config.PHP file is readable on an actual phishing site and contains the license key and the email address in it.

```

8 @session_start();error_reporting(0);↓
9 $licensekey = "Put Your License Key Here"; //License key is limited to single-user purchase it from us(0E )↓
10 $toEmail = " "; //use " " for receive result in multiple emails↓
11 $fromemail = " ";↓
12 $fromname = "0ff365 Logs";↓
13 $subjectTitle = "0ff365 Logs";↓
14 $officeLink = "https:// ";↓
15 $FailRedirect = "https://www.wikipedia.org/ ";↓
16 $AutoGrab = true; //if auto grab set to false you can open direct without put email in link like:domain.com/off365↓
17 $outputpass = "exrobotos"; // password for link of results ( )↓
18 $Resetlogs = true; //clears all logs↓
19 $ResetAllow = false; //reset list of blocked ips and emails and regions (allow all except bot)↓
20 $onlylistemails = false; //allow only a list of emails (put emails in EMAILS.txt. Each email in line)↓
21 $onlyonetimeuse = false; //true will make page become died after the user put all passwords ↓
22 $limitedarea = false; // *.*.*; //for limited ip or country-- put here your allowed ips and ip rang
23 $base64encodeData = true; //true OR false(using base64encoded email value in link or not)↓
24 $randfirstpart = 'authorize_client_id'; //Change this word to edit the first part within link↓
25 $passloopNumber = 3; //1 to 5↓
26 $firstmsg = true; // false/1/2/3/4↓
27 // $firstmsg = false; (disabled)↓
28 // $firstmsg = 1; (Because you're accessing sensitive info, you need to verify your password)↓
29 // $firstmsg = 2; (Enter password to access your office Mail)↓
30 // $firstmsg = 3; (Because you're accessing sensitive info, you need to verify your password to access your Voicemail)↓
31 // $firstmsg = 4; (Verify your password to access your Microsoft OneDrive)↓
32 $error = "Sign in attempt timeout, verify your password";↓
33 $error2 = $error3 = $error4 = $error5 = "Your password is incorrect. If you don't remember your password";↓
34 $successMsgTitle = 'Success';↓
35 $successMsg = 'Successfully confirmed;<br/>Redirecting to home page ...';↓
36 $successMsgTimeout = '1000';↓
37 $visitorfileName = "data.txt"; //Name of file to save all visitors IP logs; may contain also bot IP logs. replace it with "
38 $logfileName = "logs.txt"; //Name of file to save real visitors IP logs; replace it with "false" to stop it↓
39 $pageLink = "Page Name"; //This name will shown in logs info. Put "false" (to disable it), "true" (to use url as name) or p
40 // $apiurl = 'http'.'://ex-'.'robotos'.'.com/'.'api2.php';↓
41 $apiurl = 'http'.':// '.'~xrobotos/'.'api4.php';↓
42 $titlesArray=array("verify your account","Verify your identity","verify your credentials","verify your informations","veri
43 $fixIndex = false; //false or true --- activate it only if you get error related with index.php redirecting↓
44 ###Link Examples:###↓

```

Figure 11. Checking the license's validity via PHP

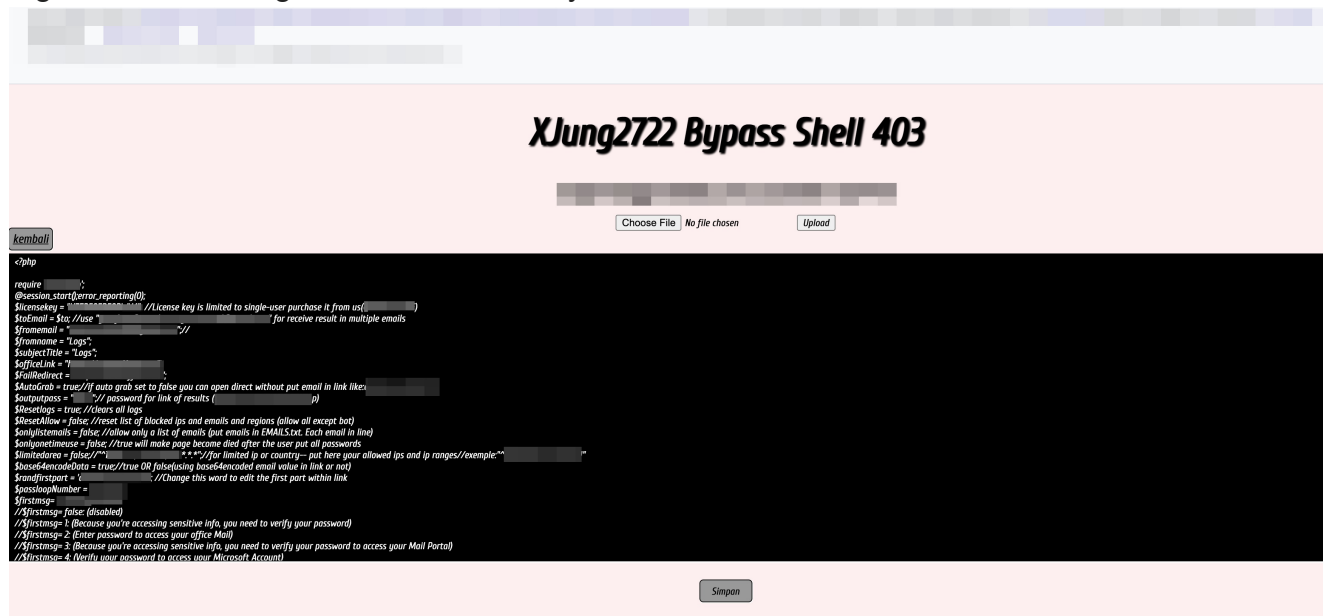
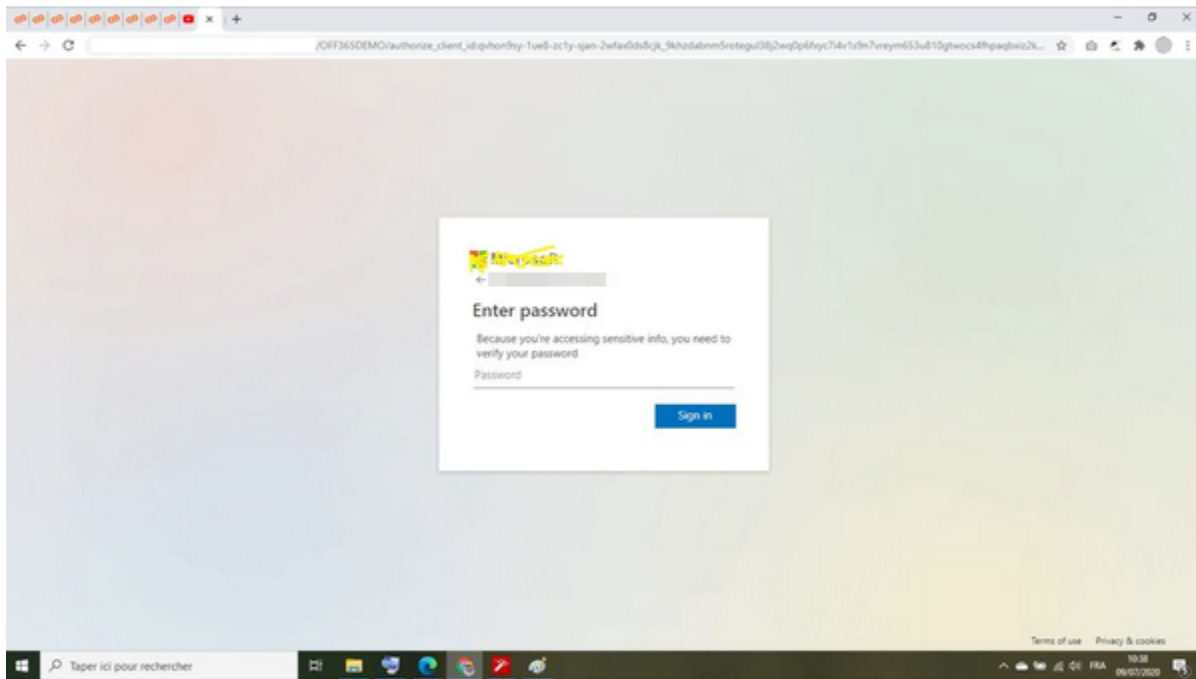
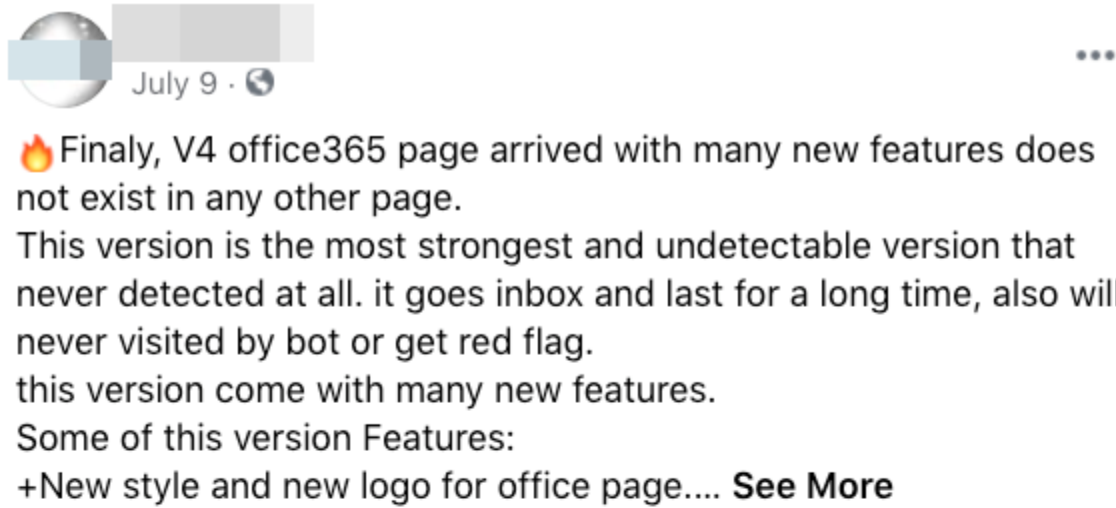


Figure 12. Config file readable on the phishing site

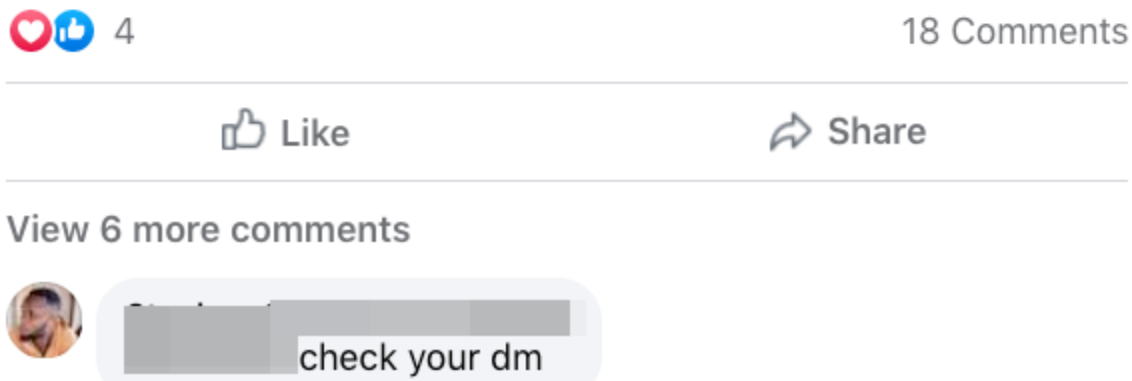
We continue to study the features of this phishing campaign to track the current and potential developments this routine may further include, and to anticipate the changes in its evasion techniques.

Tracking the kit developer

The alleged developer of Office365 announced the V4 phishing kit's availability on their "business" Facebook page in mid-2020.



Figure



13. The potential developer of the phishing kit announcing its availability on their business Facebook page.

We also observed logs of test traffic from the phishing kit one day before the announcement of V4, wherein almost all logs recorded were from different IP addresses from Morocco.

```
+ -----OFF365 V4 2020 by [REDACTED]-----+
| Visitor Information
| IP Address: [REDACTED]
| Browser: [REDACTED]
| Date: Wed Jul 08, 2020 1:12 pm
+-----+

+ -----OFF365 V4 2020 by [REDACTED]-----+
| Visitor Information
| IP Address: [REDACTED]
| Browser: [REDACTED]
| Date: Wed Jul 08, 2020 1:14 pm
+-----+
```

Figure 14. Access logs allowed us to determine the IP addresses used the day before the announcement. The top five IP addresses used were tracked to Morocco. Several days after the announcement of the V4's availability, we found an email lure sample; a look at the details of the header revealed that it matched the phishing samples we saw in November and December.

Subject: ID:4563|| Request is under Process on Friday, July 17, 2020

Received: FireVPS-RDP (XX.X.XXX.XX) by VI1PR08CA0138.eurprd08.prod.outlook.com (2603:10a6:800:d5::16) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id XX.XX.XXXX.XX via Frontend Transport; Fri, 17 Jul 2020 16:46:44 +0000.....

Looking further at the previous posts in the account also revealed announcements that claimed the user responsible for the fake Office 365 versions as the developer of other credential harvesting kits. While no longer available, the latter kit was capable of rapidly verifying the validity of email addresses; it could have been a predecessor project that potentially contributed to the features of the phishing kit versions sold. Based on other posts on the actor's social media page, this user also continues to sell harvested credentials aside from the phishing kit itself.



April 15, 2019 · 🌐



Valid Email Checkers
All Super Fast Valid Email Checkers Online
+[Netflix](email/number/account)
+[paypal](country detect)
+[Ebay](email)

+ [Amazon] (email)
+ [Apple] (email)
+ [Dropbox] (email)
+ [Spotify] (email)
+ [payoneer] (email)
+ [Skrill] (email)
+ [Mailgun] (email)
+ [smtp] (account)
+ [Office365] (email/account)
+ [Microsoft] (email)
+ [Gmail] (email)
+ [Yahoo] (email)

And a lot more...and a lot of tools coming soon...

For propose a new Chekers Contact US.

Free daily 10 credits for guest users.

Free daily 50 credits for registered users.

Paid Credits: BTC or PAYPAL (Minimum:\$5).

5\$ ==> 35200 Credits.

10\$ ==> 80800 Credits

50\$ ==> 460000 Credits

1 Credit ==> 1 Email check.

good luck 😊😊😊

Figure 15. The malware actor's previous project with features that are similar to some of the current phishing kit's features


We were able to match the cybercriminal's business Facebook page to personal pages while scanning for information online. We have informed the appropriate authorities of these details for this investigation.

Possible link to online sellers of C-level accounts

There are numerous users in underground forums selling C-Level accounts. We identified these user handles as sellers of some relevant C-level accounts across different forums, pricing these credentials ranging from \$250 to \$500.

SELLING Office365 logins of CEO, CFO, CTO, COO

by [redacted] - December 07, 2020 at 11:12 AM



New User

MEMBER

Posts	16
Threads	7
Joined	Apr 2018
Reputation	10

2 YEARS OF SERVICE

December 07, 2020 at 11:12 AM

accounts of people in position C-Levels

- CEO - chief executive officer
- COO - chief operating officer
- CFO - chief financial officer or chief financial controller
- CMO - chief marketing officer
- CTO - chief technology officer

all disabled MFA

\$250-\$500 for 1 account

dm

25-11-2020, 15:07

Junior Member



Join Date: Oct 2016

Posts: 15

Reputation: -1 [+/-]

Balance: 0.00\$

accounts of people in position C-Levels

- CEO - chief executive officer
- COO - chief operating officer
- CFO - chief financial officer or chief financial controller
- CMO - chief marketing officer
- CTO - chief technology officer


starting \$250 per account


pm

Figure 16. Some sellers of company executives' compromised credentials in underground forums

We found it interesting that the user mentioned the published article regarding selling C-level credentials and requests to deal only with users or customers he had previous transactions with. New customers are automatically prohibited from viewing the list of affected companies and credentials. The user also sells a phishing routine targeting servers and identifies its features such as cookie capture and multi-factor authentication bypass. Interestingly, the same handle sells both; the tool for credential harvesting and (two) collected accounts are priced approximately the same, similar to the alleged phishing kit developer's offers on social media.

01-12-2020, 18:26


 Junior Member




if we do not deal before - you cant see list of corps.
too many requests from researchers who inform targets.
example -
<https://www.zdnet.com/article/a-hack...el-executives/>

Join Date: Oct 2016
Posts: 15
Reputation: -1 [+/-]
Balance: 0.00\$

16-11-2020, 13:28

 Junior Member



Join Date: Oct 2016
Posts: 15
Reputation: -1 [+/-]
Balance: 0.00\$

I am selling fully setup phishing servers

Features:

- Credential capture
- Cookie capture
- FP logging
- Bypass MFA
- Scanner Protection
- Redirect
- ip Blocking

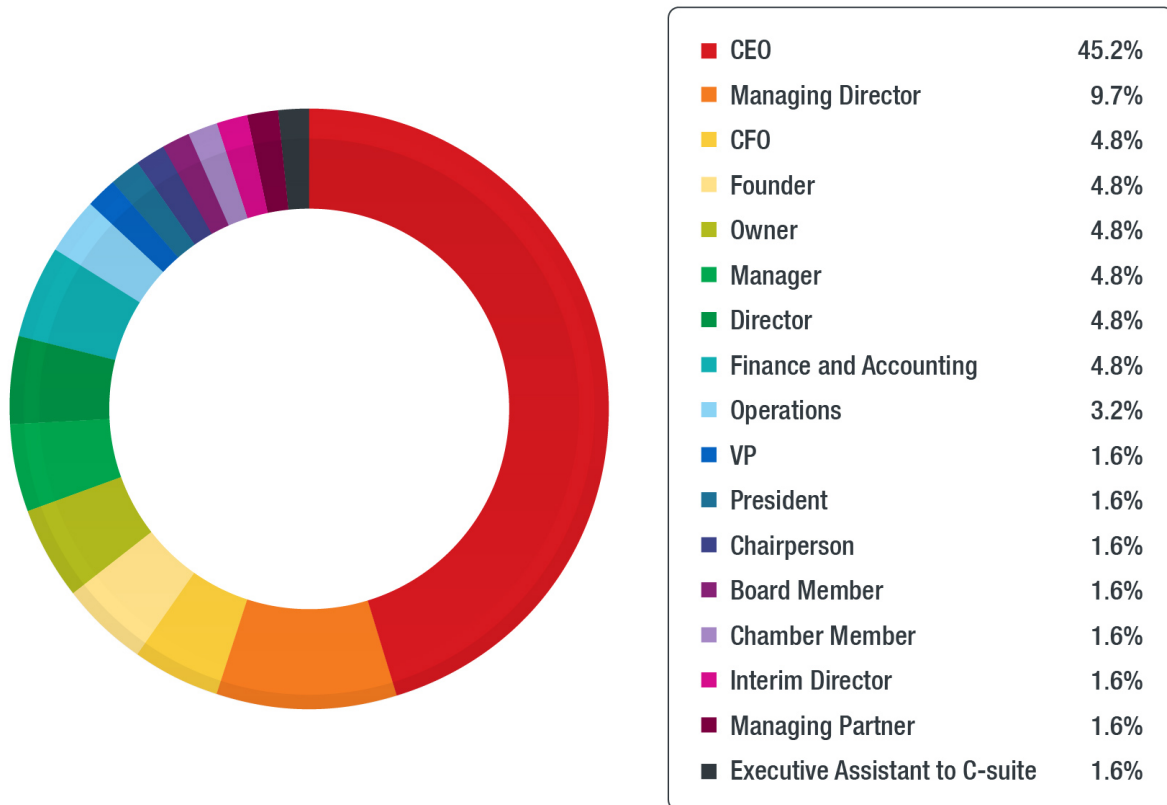
Price \$499

requests via private message

Figure 17. Underground seller issuing a disclaimer on who he will transact with (above), and another post selling a phishing malware (below).

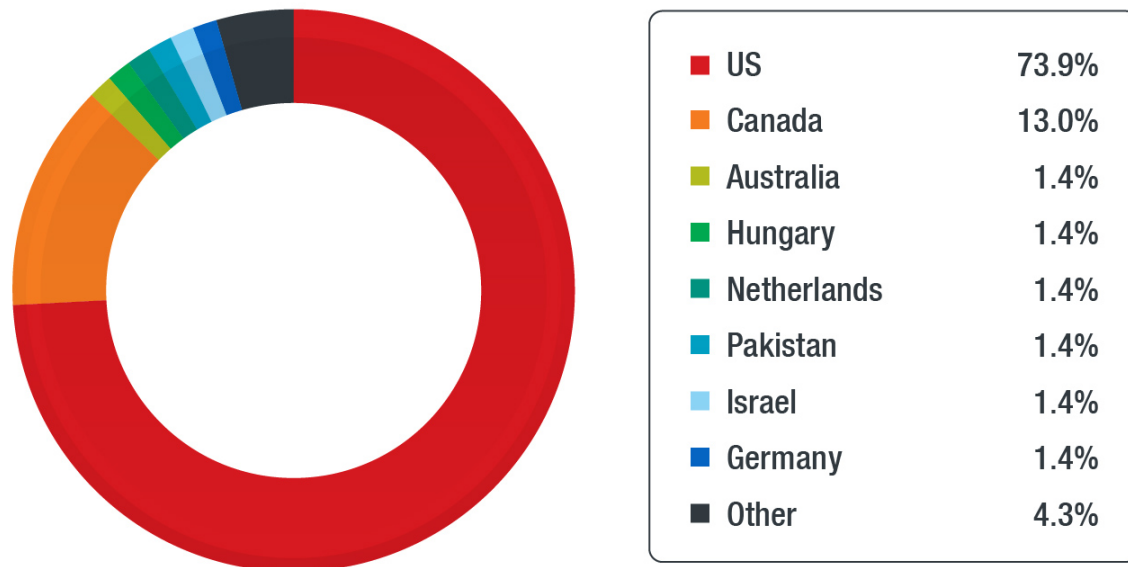
Potential targets and victims' data

Analysis of the data from the misconfigured sites' collected log files revealed that the stolen credentials came from eight compromised phishing sites hosting the malicious Office 365 V4 kit as of this writing. We found each site to be possibly made by different phishers for different phishing campaigns of varying scale and scope. One campaign targeted only company CEOs, presidents, and founders in the US, while another campaign targeted directors and managers from various countries such as the US, UK, Canada, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Israel. In addition, it appeared that the phishers mostly collected targeted email addresses from LinkedIn.



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Figure 18. Victims' company positions identified from LinkedIn



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Figure 19. Country distribution of victims

Based on the data distribution, CEOs in the US are obviously the main targets of the threat actors that use the Office 365 V4 phishing kit. In the underground markets, CEO email address lists are often sold and bought for the purpose of conducting additional phishing attacks, gaining access to sensitive information or conducting other social engineering attacks, such as business email compromise (BEC) and impersonation.

A look at different underground forums and pages also revealed specific offers for compromised credentials which are categorized according to year, industry, company position, and social media platform credentials. In addition, the forum messages were written in English, even in non-English forums such as those catering to Russian-speaking users and groups. While not uncommon, the accounts were notably created to post those specific messages selling the data and phishing kit to potential customers. This is emphasized in one forum where the actor bought an account for use in one of the forums just to sell data.

To start a target list, there are a number of platforms available that sell lists of CFO/CEO emails, Facebook profiles and more, categorized by region and country. The attackers could have purchased target lists from one of these websites.

Search

🔍 / Search Results for "CEO"

Find your Data Package

Database Categories

- › ZIMBABWE
- › ZAMBIA
- › YEMEN
- › WYOMING
- › WISCONSIN
- › WEST VIRGINIA
- › WASHINGTON
- › VIRGINIA
- › VIRGIN ISLANDS (US)
- › VIRGIN ISLANDS (U.S.)



HONG KONG S.A.R. – Database of CEO or CFO Data with Facebook Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 August 12, 2020 🧑 Anurag

HONG KONG S.A.R. – Database of CEO or CFO data with Facebook Profile. Has total unique 1434 Emails with Facebook profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 1434

Extension Disabled

CEO OR CFO DATA

🔗 page 🕒 March 15, 2017 🧑 Anurag



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – Database of CEO or CFO data with LinkedIn Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 November 30, -0001 🧑 Anurag

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – Database of CEO or CFO data with LinkedIn Profile. Has total unique 89 Emails with LinkedIn profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 89

THAILAND – Database of CEO or CFO Data with Facebook Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 November 30, -0001 🧑 Anurag

THAILAND – Database of CEO or CFO data with Facebook Profile. Has total unique 3335 Emails with Facebook profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 3335

TUNISIA – Database of CEO or CFO data with LinkedIn Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 November 30, -0001 🧑 Anurag

TUNISIA – Database of CEO or CFO data with LinkedIn Profile. Has total unique 106 Emails with LinkedIn profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 106

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – Database of CEO or CFO Data with Facebook Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 November 30, -0001 🧑 Anurag

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – Database of CEO or CFO data with Facebook Profile. Has total unique 183 Emails with Facebook profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 183

TURKEY – Database of CEO or CFO data with LinkedIn Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 November 30, -0001 🧑 Anurag

TURKEY – Database of CEO or CFO data with LinkedIn Profile. Has total unique 4059 Emails with LinkedIn profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 4059

TUNISIA – Database of CEO or CFO Data with Facebook Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 November 30, -0001 🧑 Anurag

TUNISIA – Database of CEO or CFO data with Facebook Profile. Has total unique 187 Emails with Facebook profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 187

Profile.

UGANDA – Database of CEO or CFO data with LinkedIn Profile. Has total unique 136 Emails with LinkedIn profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 136

TURKEY – Database of CEO or CFO Data with Facebook Profile.

🔗 product 🕒 November 30, -0001 🧑 Anurag

TURKEY – Database of CEO or CFO data with Facebook Profile. Has total unique 11073 Emails with Facebook profile, Name, Email, Phone, City , State, Country Data. Total Records: 11073

- › VIETNAM
- › VERMONT
- › VENEZUELA
- › UZBEKISTAN
- › UTAH
- › URUGUAY
- › UNITED STATES
- › UNITED KINGDOM
- › UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- › UKRAINE
- › UK
- › UGANDA
- › Twitter
- › TURKEY
- › TUNISIA
- › TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
- › THAILAND
- › TEXAS
- › TENNESSEE
- › TANZANIA
- › TAIWAN
- › SWITZERLAND
- › SWEDEN
- › Statelist
- › SRI LANKA
- › SPAIN
- › SOUTH KOREA
- › SOUTH DAKOTA
- › SOUTH CAROLINA
- › SOUTH AFRICA
- › Small-Pack
- › SLOVAKIA
- › SERBIA
- › SENEGAL
- › SAUDI ARABIA
- › RWANDA
- › RUSSIAN FEDERATION
- › RUSSIA
- › ROMANIA
- › RHODE ISLAND
- › QATAR
- › PUERTO RICO
- › PORTUGAL
- › POLAND



Figure 20. A marketing website offering CEO/CFO email and Facebook page lists

Conclusion

Phishing attacks and attackers often target employees — usually the weakest link in an organization's security chain. As seen in this particular campaign, the attackers target high profile employees who may not be as technically or cybersecurity savvy, and may be more likely to be deceived into clicking on malicious links. By selectively targeting C-level employees, the attacker significantly increases the value of obtained credentials as they could lead to further access to sensitive personal and organizational information, and used in other attacks.

The scale and accuracy of the emails and credentials show that the attacker possesses an accurate dataset of victims and potential targets. While the attacker could have simply compiled the emails from the targeted organizations' websites, they went a step further to validate these to make sure it complements data collected from the public domain.

While organizations are aware and wary of the information they include in public-facing websites and platforms, their respective employees should be constantly reminded to be mindful of the details they disclose on personal pages. These can be easily used against them for attacks using social engineering techniques. All employees, regardless of company rank, should exercise caution when reviewing and acting on email prompts for specific actions, especially from unknown sources.

Considering this, legitimate service providers and vendors will never ask individual consumers and enterprise users for details such as account access credentials, and especially not to retain dated passwords. These details are susceptible to abuse among unauthorized and malicious individuals and are left for customization by vendors to respective security and IT teams following organizational policies.

Indicators of Compromise (IoCs)

Please click on the [link](#) to find our list of IoCs.