New CaddyWiper data wiping malware hits Ukrainian networks

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Sergiu Gatlan

By
Sergiu Gatlan

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Newly discovered data-destroying malware was observed earlier today in attacks targeting Ukrainian organizations and deleting data across systems on compromised networks.

"This new malware erases user data and partition information from attached drives," ESET Research Labs explained.

"ESET telemetry shows that it was seen on a few dozen systems in a limited number of organizations."

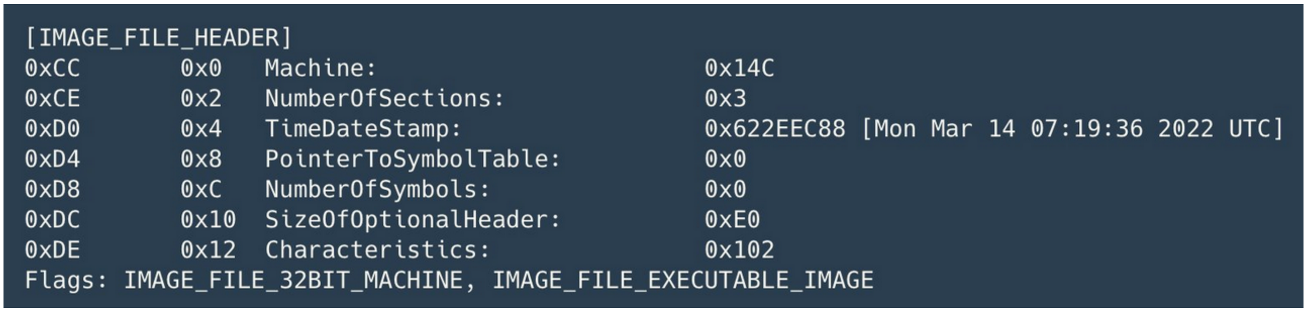
While designed to wipe data across Windows domains it's deployed on, CaddyWiper will use the DsRoleGetPrimaryDomainInformation() function to check if a device is a domain controller. If so, the data on the domain controller will not be deleted.

This is likely a tactic used by the attackers to maintain access inside the compromised networks of organizations they hit while still heavily disturbing operations by wiping other critical devices.

While analyzing the PE header of a malware sample discovered on the network of an undisclosed Ukrainian organization, it was also discovered that the malware was deployed in attacks the same day it was compiled.

"CaddyWiper does not share any significant code similarity with HermeticWiper, IsaacWiper, or any other malware known to us. The sample we analyzed was not digitally signed," ESET added.

"Similarly to HermeticWiper deployments, we observed CaddyWiper being deployed via GPO, indicating the attackers had prior control of the target's network beforehand."



```
[IMAGE_FILE_HEADER]
0xCC       0x0   Machine:                       0x14C
0xCE       0x2   NumberOfSections:              0x3
0xD0       0x4   TimeDateStamp:                 0x622EEC88 [Mon Mar 14 07:19:36 2022 UTC]
0xD4       0x8   PointerToSymbolTable:          0x0
0xD8       0xC   NumberOfSymbols:               0x0
0xDC       0x10  SizeOfOptionalHeader:          0xE0
0xDE       0x12  Characteristics:               0x102
Flags: IMAGE_FILE_32BIT_MACHINE, IMAGE_FILE_EXECUTABLE_IMAGE
```

CadddyWiper compilation date (ESET)

Fourth data wiper deployed in Ukraine this year

CaddyWiper is the fourth data wiper malware deployed in attacks in Ukraine since the start of 2022, with ESET Research Labs analysts previously discovering two others and Microsoft a third.

One day before the Russian invasion of Ukraine started, on February 23rd, ESET researchers spotted a data-wiping malware now known as HermeticWiper, used to target Ukraine together with ransomware decoys.

They also discovered a data wiper they dubbed IsaacWiper and a new worm named HermeticWizard the attackers used to drop HermeticWiper wiper payloads, deployed the day Russia invaded Ukraine.

Microsoft also found a wiper now tracked as WhisperGate, used in data-wiping attacks against Ukraine in mid-January, disguised as ransomware.

As Microsoft President and Vice-Chair Brad Smith said, these ongoing attacks with destructive malware against Ukrainian organizations "have been precisely targeted."

This contrasts with the indiscriminate NotPetya worldwide malware assault that hit Ukraine and other countries in 2017, an attack later linked to Sandworm, a Russian GRU Main Intelligence Directorate hacking group.

Such destructive attacks are part of a "massive wave of hybrid warfare," as the Ukrainian Security Service (SSU) described them right before the war started.

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Sergiu Gatlan

Sergiu Gatlan is a reporter who covered cybersecurity, technology, Apple, Google, and a few other topics at Softpedia for more than a decade. Email or Twitter DMs for tips.

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