Latrodectus Malware Masquerades as AhnLab Security Software to Infect Victims

hunt.io/blog/latrodectus-malware-masquerades-as-ahnlab-security-software-to-infect-victims

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In this blog post, we will examine the malicious DLL and then dive into the C2 infrastructure we uncovered, including the certificate pivot and the associated domains identified during our research.

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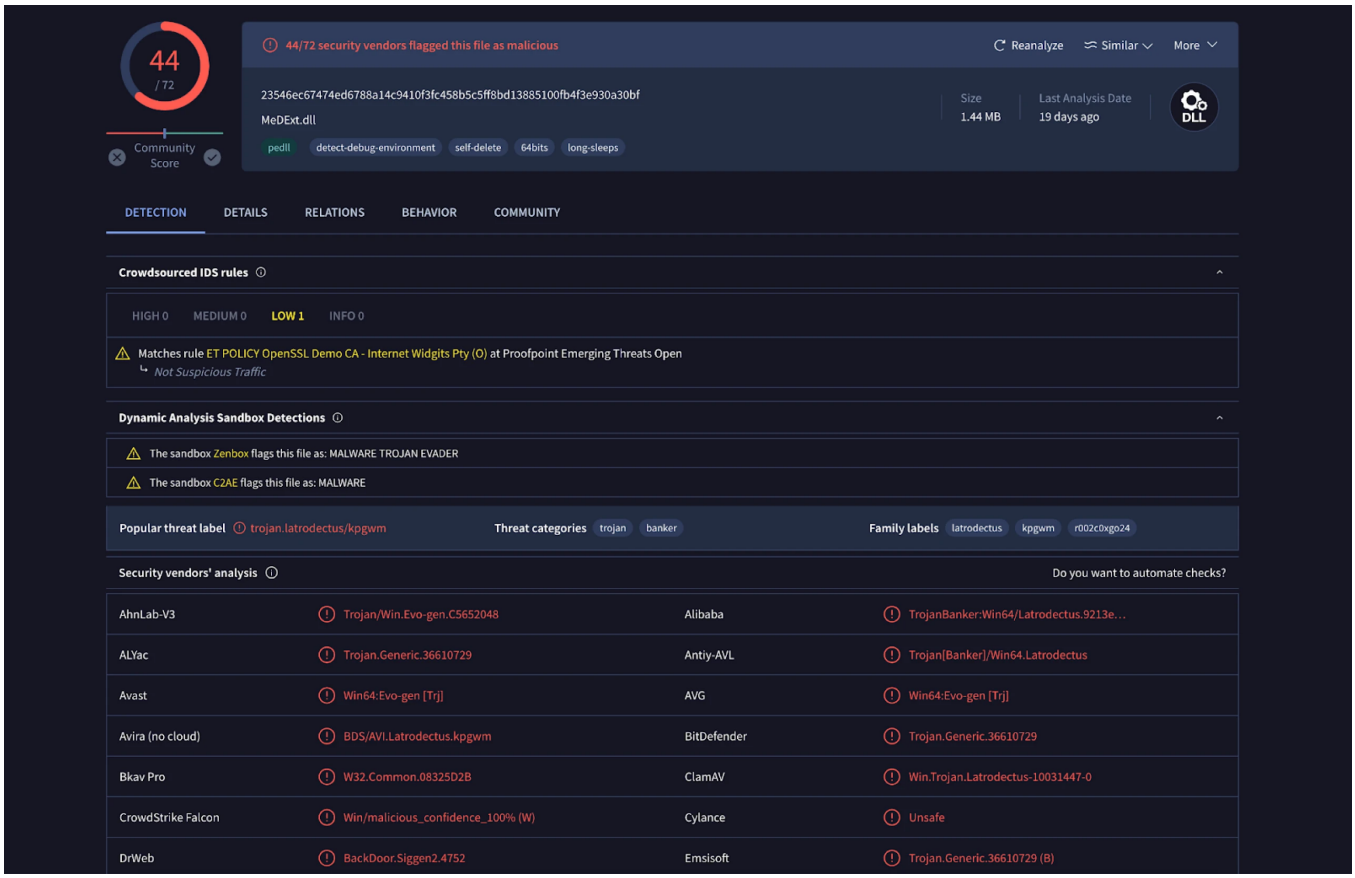
The DLL file that caught our attention, "MeDExt.dll," mimics the legitimate MeD Engine Extension from **AhnLab Smart Defense**. Given that this malicious file is a DLL, it's plausible that the legitimate parent executable was bundled with the Latrodectus malware or that this was a targeted attack aimed at a victim known to use AhnLab's services.



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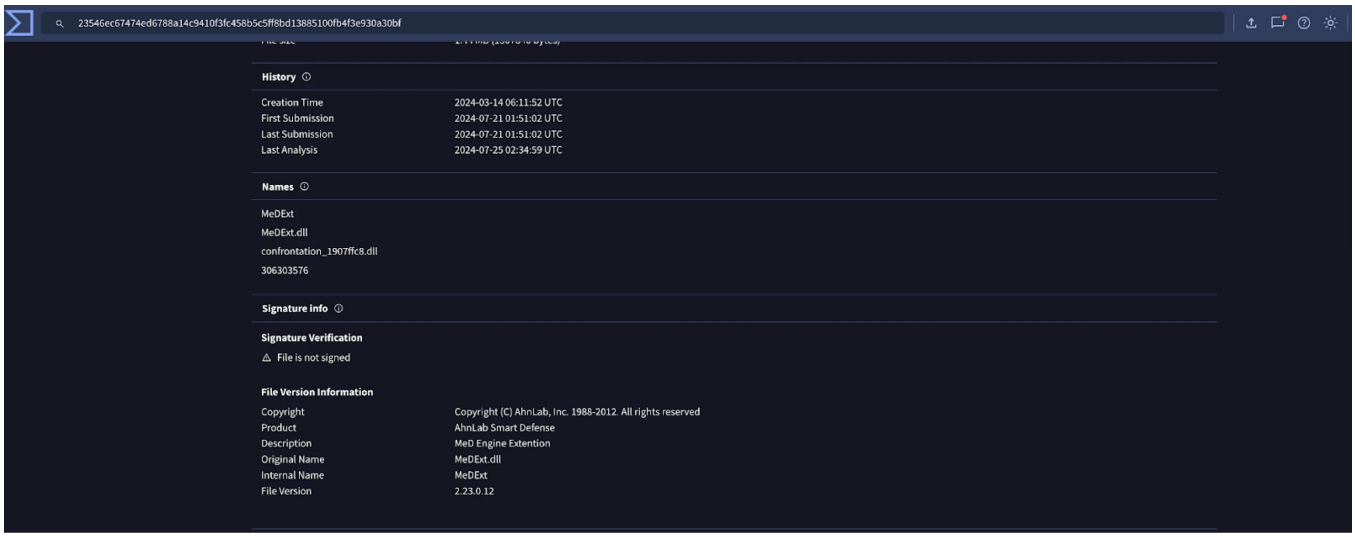

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The DLL has four exports with differing addresses, all following similar naming paths beginning with “MeDExt..”

Name	Address	Ordinal
MeDExtFinalize	0000000180003580	1
MeDExtGet	0000000180003630	2
MeDExtInitialize	0000000180003570	3
MeDExtSet	0000000180003590	4
DllEntryPoint	000000018000105D	[main entry]

Figure 3: Obligatory IDA screenshot showing the DLL’s exports

We could not identify any new TTPs during the analysis of the malicious file. This sample of Latrodectus employed familiar techniques, such as using the Windows Component Object Model (COM) to set a scheduled task for persistence.

Next, we'll examine the communication with the command and control infrastructure.

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After running the file through multiple sandboxes, we observed Lactrodecuts attempting to communicate with the following domains + URLs:

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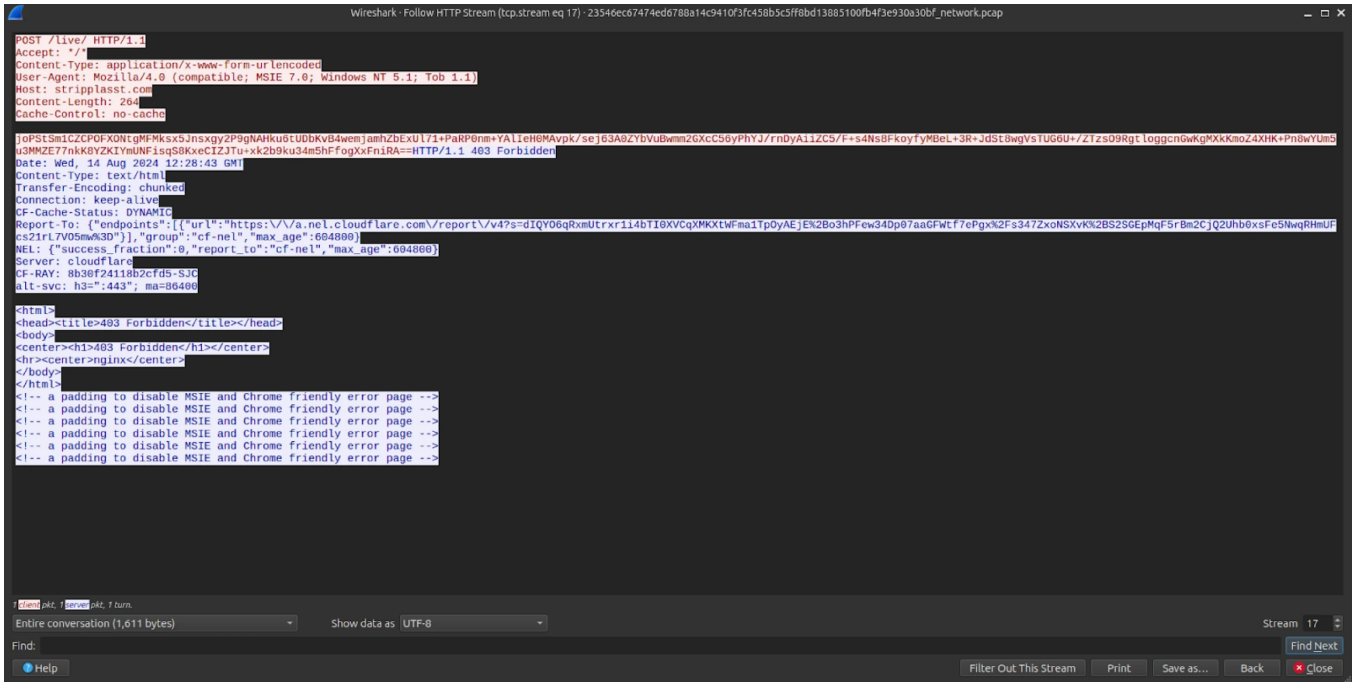

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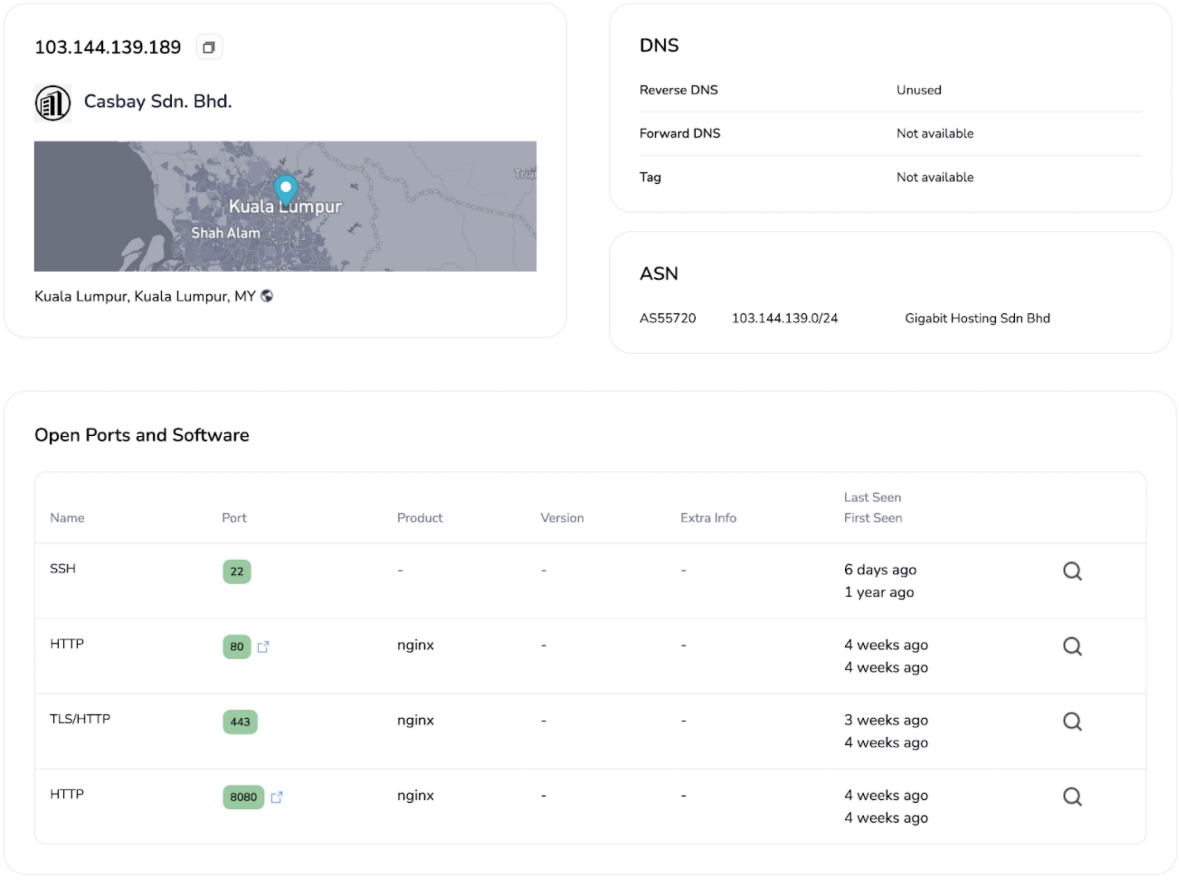

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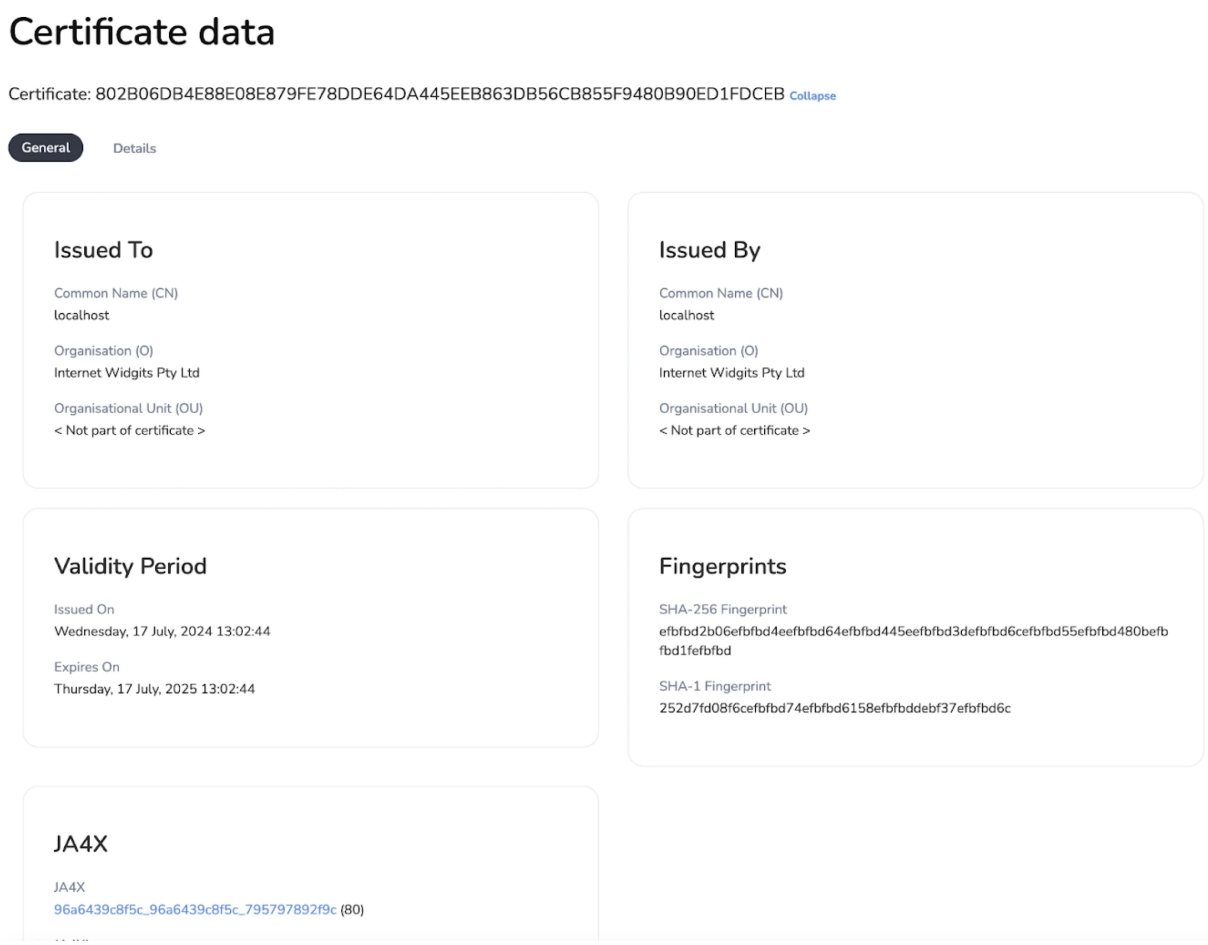

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The complete certificate fields are below:

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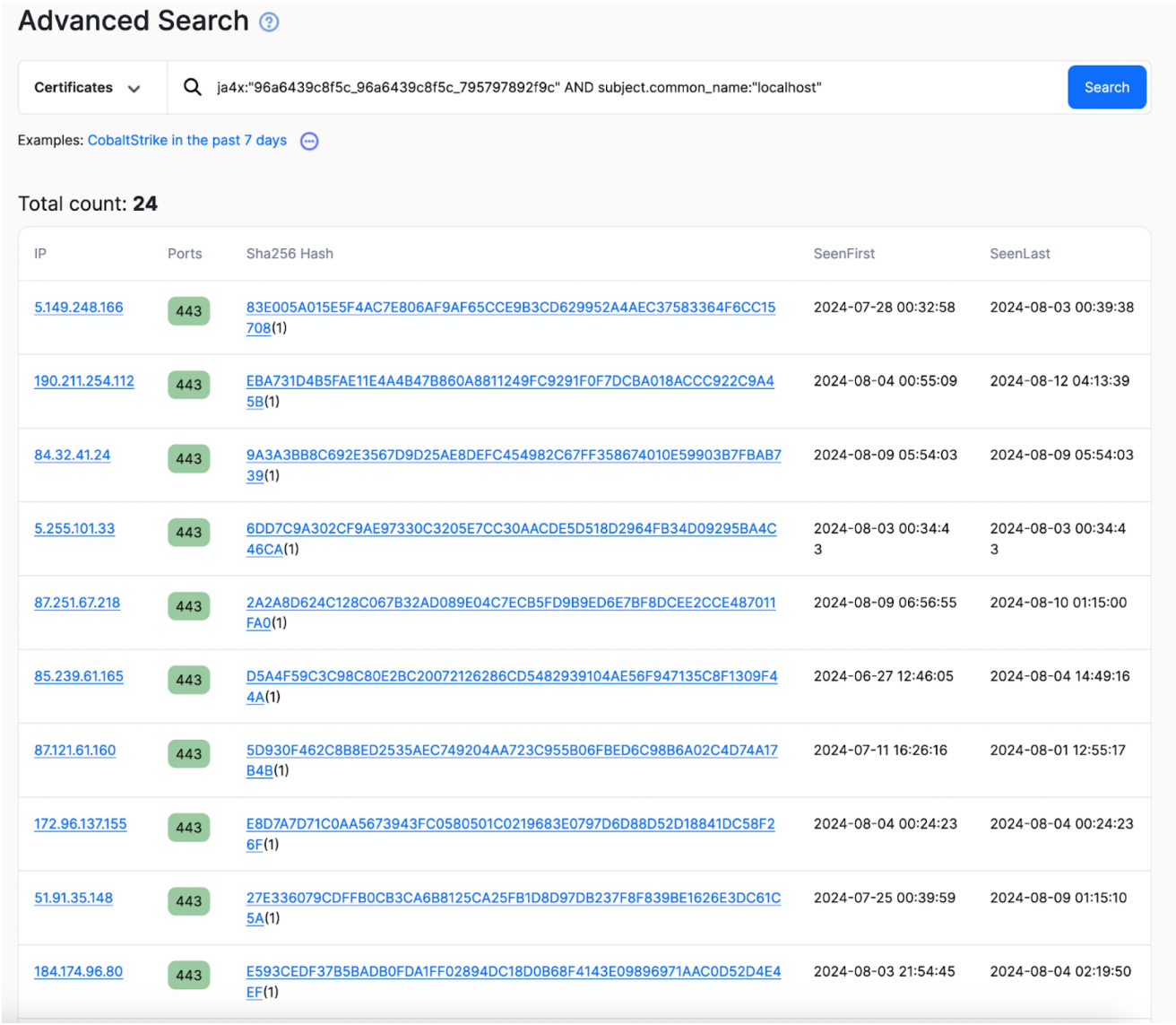

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Poking around for similar server + certificate combinations on the same ASN as our initial IP, we found a malicious file mimicking the Google Authenticator app, also associated with Latrodectus communicating with **103.144.139.]182**.

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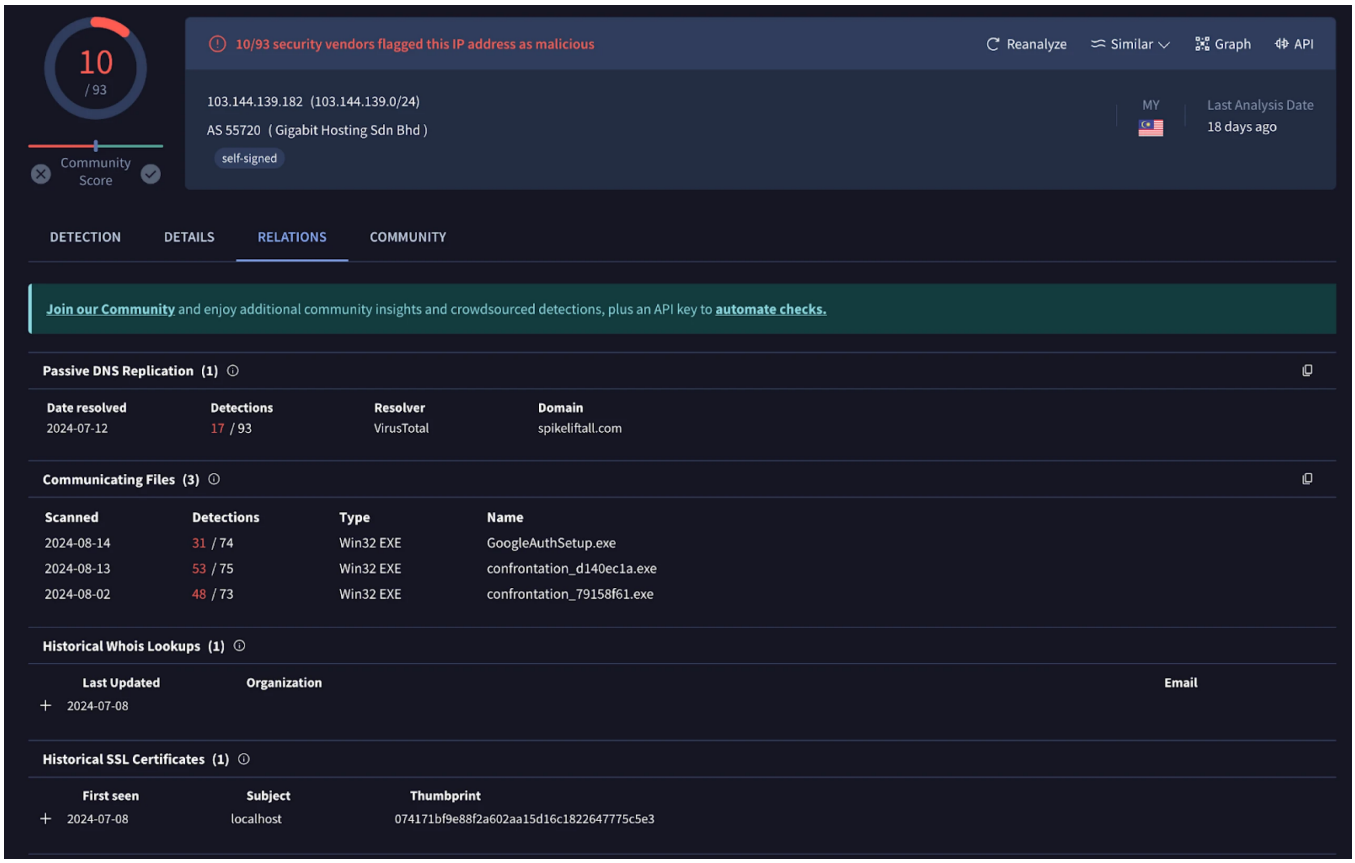

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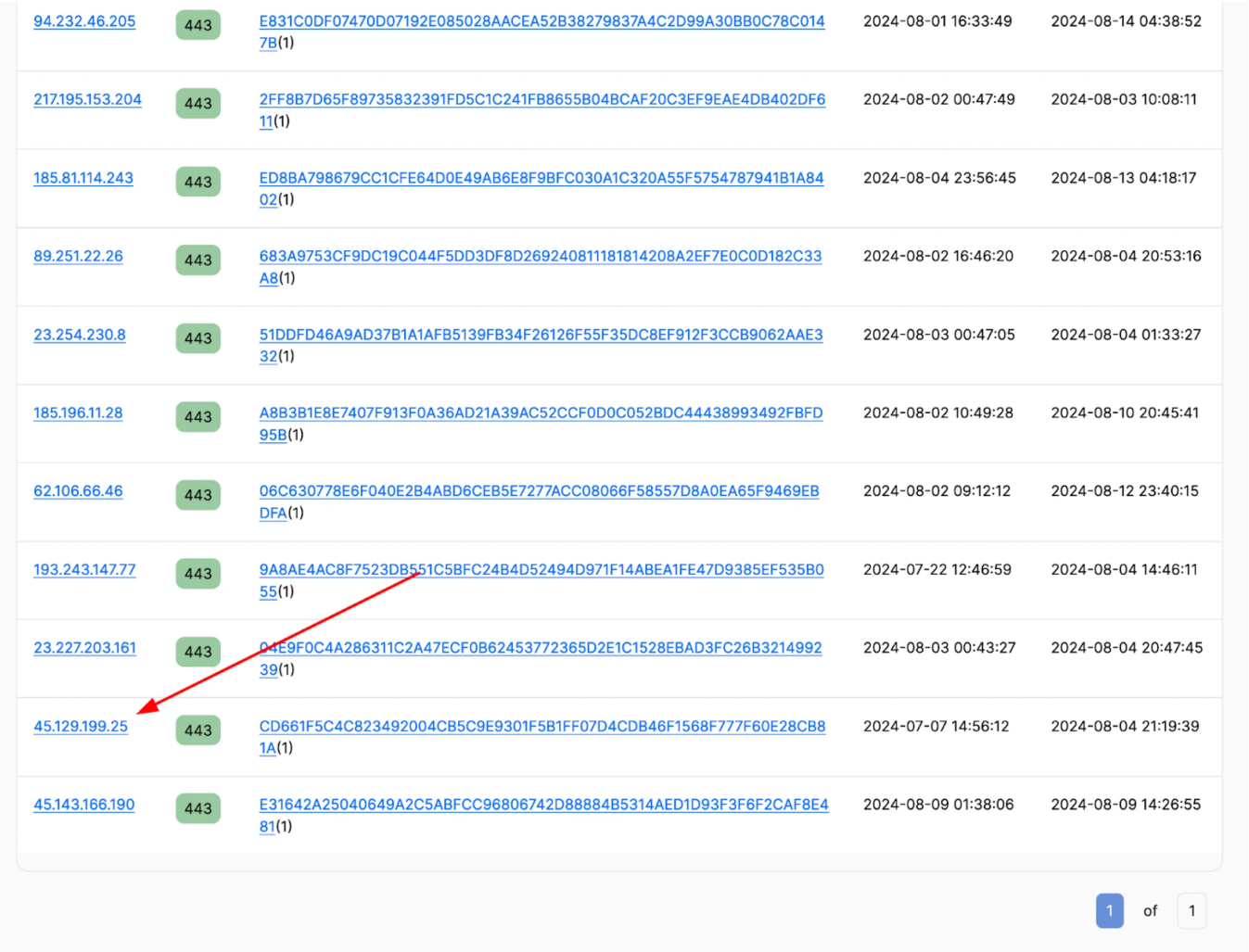

94.232.46.205	443	E831C0DF07470D07192E085028AACEA52B38279837A4C2D99A30BB0C78C0147B(1)	2024-08-01 16:33:49	2024-08-14 04:38:52
217.195.153.204	443	2FF8B7D65F89735832391FD5C1C241FB8655B04BCAF20C3EF9EAE4DB402DF611(1)	2024-08-02 00:47:49	2024-08-03 10:08:11
185.81.114.243	443	ED8BA798679CC1CFE64D0E49AB6E8F9BFC030A1C320A55F5754787941B1A8402(1)	2024-08-04 23:56:45	2024-08-13 04:18:17
89.251.22.26	443	683A9753CF9DC19C044F5DD3DF8D2692408111818142 08A2EF7E0C0D182C33A8(1)	2024-08-02 16:46:20	2024-08-04 20:53:16
23.254.230.8	443	51DDFD46A9AD37B1A1AFB5139FB34F26126F55F35DC8EF912F3CCB9062AAE332(1)	2024-08-03 00:47:05	2024-08-04 01:33:27
185.196.11.28	443	A8B3B1E8E7407F913F0A36AD21A39AC52CCF0D0C052BDC44438993492FBFD95B(1)	2024-08-02 10:49:28	2024-08-10 20:45:41
62.106.66.46	443	06C630778E6F040E2B4ABD6CEB5E7277ACC08066F58557D8A0EA65F9469EBDFA(1)	2024-08-02 09:12:12	2024-08-12 23:40:15
193.243.147.77	443	9A8AE4AC8F7523DB551C5BFC24B4D52494D971F14ABEA1FE47D9385EF535B055(1)	2024-07-22 12:46:59	2024-08-04 14:46:11
23.227.203.161	443	04E9F0C4A286311C2A47ECF0B62453772365D2E1C1528EBAD3FC26B321499239(1)	2024-08-03 00:43:27	2024-08-04 20:47:45
45.129.199.25	443	CD661F5C4C823492004CB5C9E9301F5B1FF07D4CDB46F1568F777F60E28CB81A(1)	2024-07-07 14:56:12	2024-08-04 21:19:39
45.143.166.190	443	E31642A25040649A2C5ABFCC96806742D88884B5314AED1D93F3F6F2CAF8E481(1)	2024-08-09 01:38:06	2024-08-09 14:26:55

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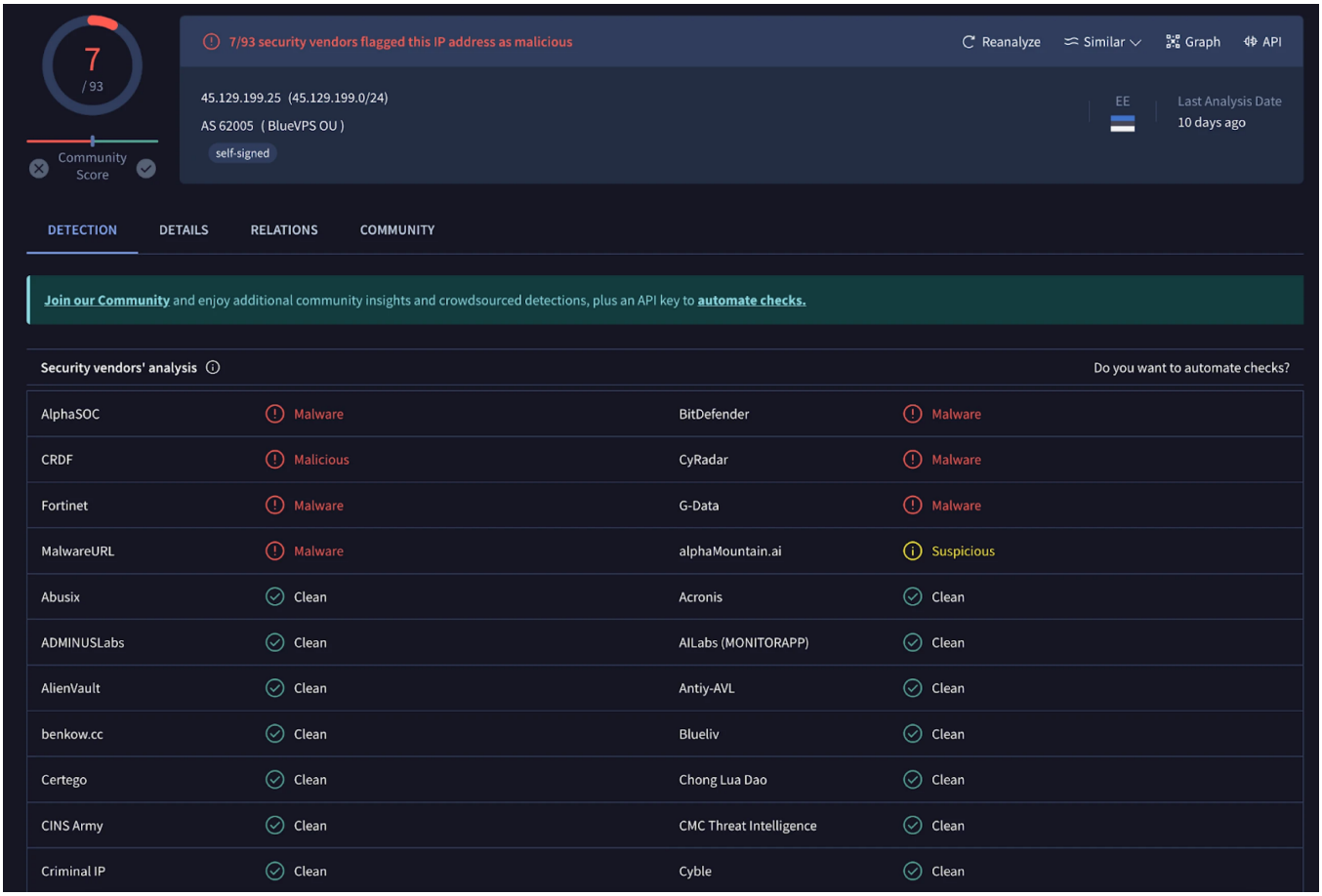
The IP, hosted on BlueVPS OU, resolves to a single domain, **worlpquano.]com** registered through HOSTINGER, and used CloudFlare services in mid-July 2024.



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Conclusion

Latrodectus' tactic of impersonating legitimate security software highlights the persistent challenge of distinguishing between trusted and malicious files. Effective defense against such threats requires continuous monitoring and detailed analysis of network activity.

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Network Observables

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188.114.97.]7:443	stripplasst.]com	Own Registrar	CloudFlare	C2 for MeDExt.dll
188.114.97.]7:443, 84.32.41.]12:443	coolarition.]com	PDR Ltd.	CloudFlare, Hostgnome Ltd	C2 for MeDExt.dll
103.144.139.]182:443	spikeliftall.]com	PDR Ltd.	Gigabit Hosting Sdn Bhd	Jarm fingerprint + HTML response hash
45.129.199.]25:443	worlpquano.]com	HOSTINGER	BlueVPS OU	Identified as a possible Latrodectus C2 by Symantec

Host Observables

File Name	SHA-256 Hash	Notes
MeDExt.dll	23546ec67474ed6788a14c9410f3fc458b5c5ff8bd13885100fb4f3e930a30bf	Seen communicating with riscoarchez.]com/live/ stripplasst.]com/live/ coolartiion.]com/live/

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GoogleAuthSetup.ex	62536e1486be7e31df6c111ed96777b9e3f2a912a2d7111253ae6a5519e71830	Seen communicating with steamcommunity.]com/profiles/76 godfaetret.]com/live/ spikeliftall.]com/live/
confrontation_d46a184c.exe	a459ce4bfb5d649410231bd4776c194b0891c8c5328bafc22184fe3111c0b3e7	Seen communicating with worlpquano.]com/live/ carflotyup.]com/live/

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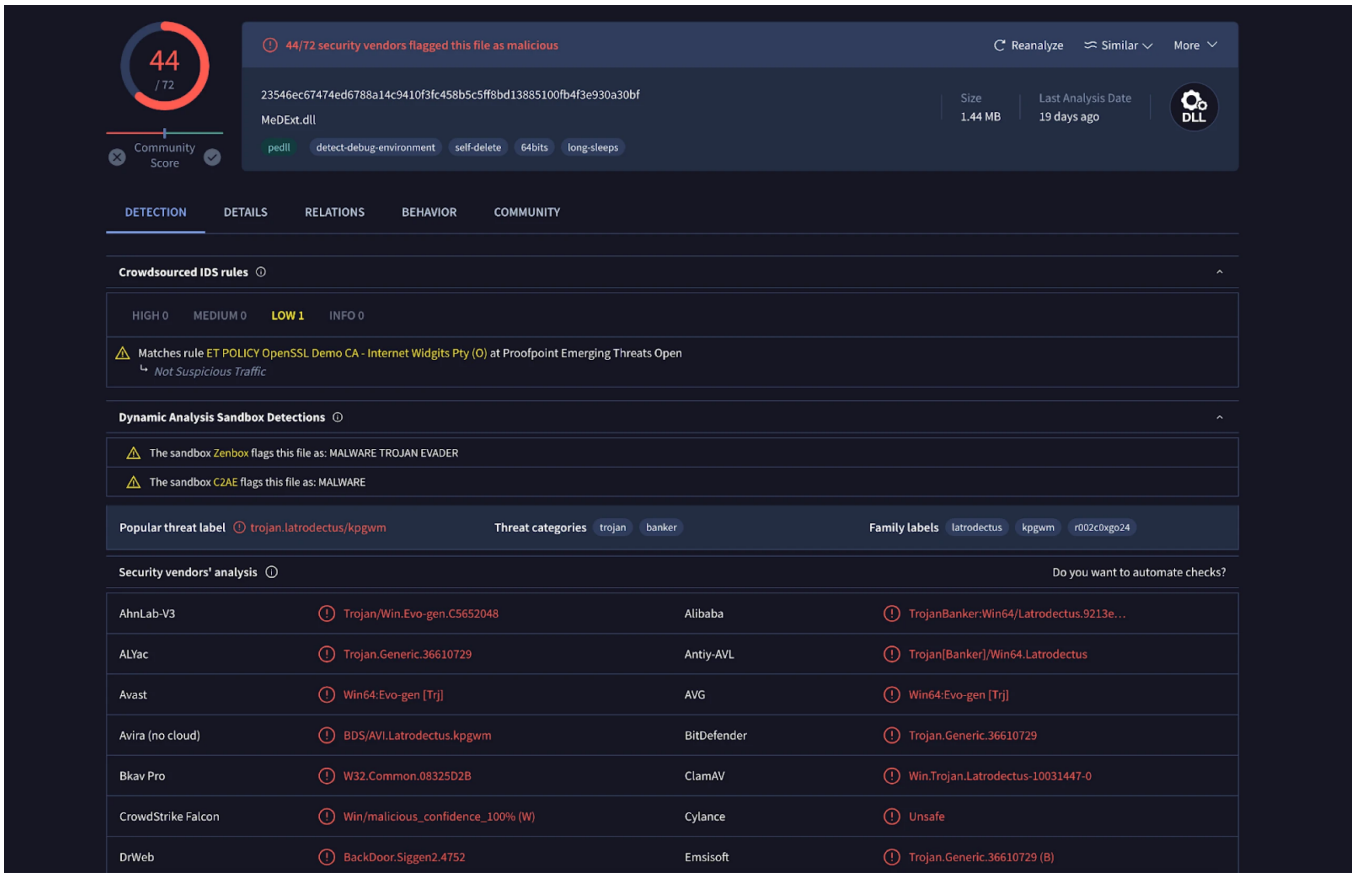

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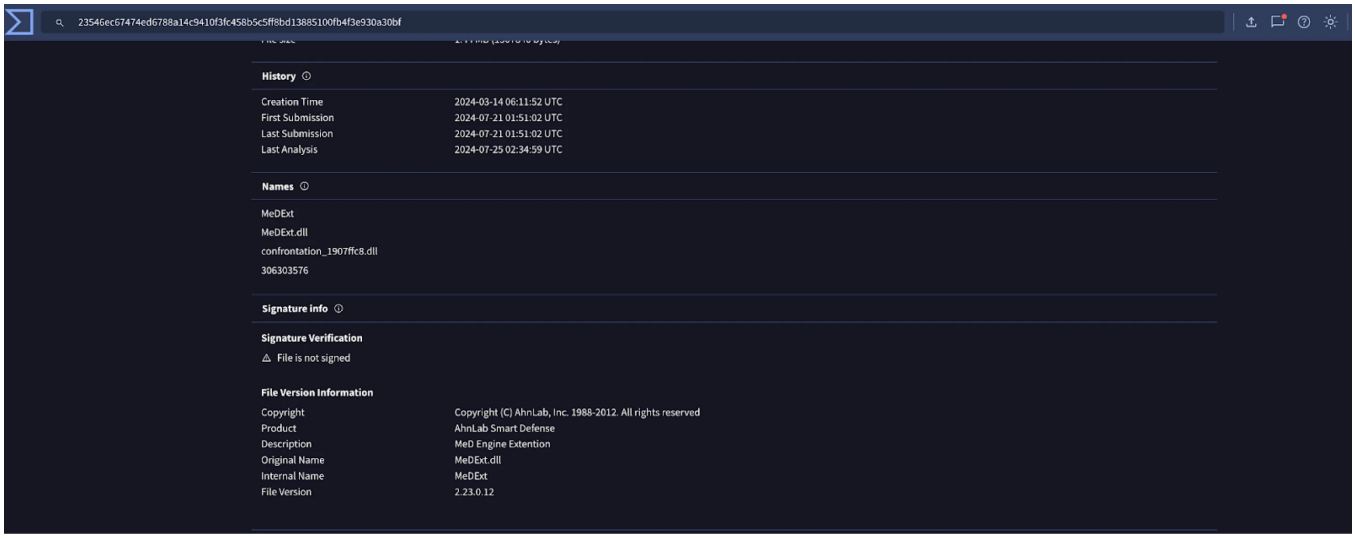

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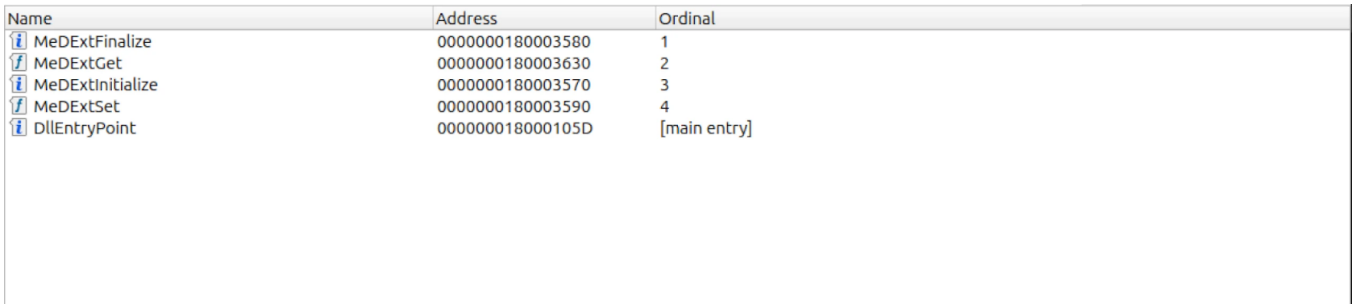

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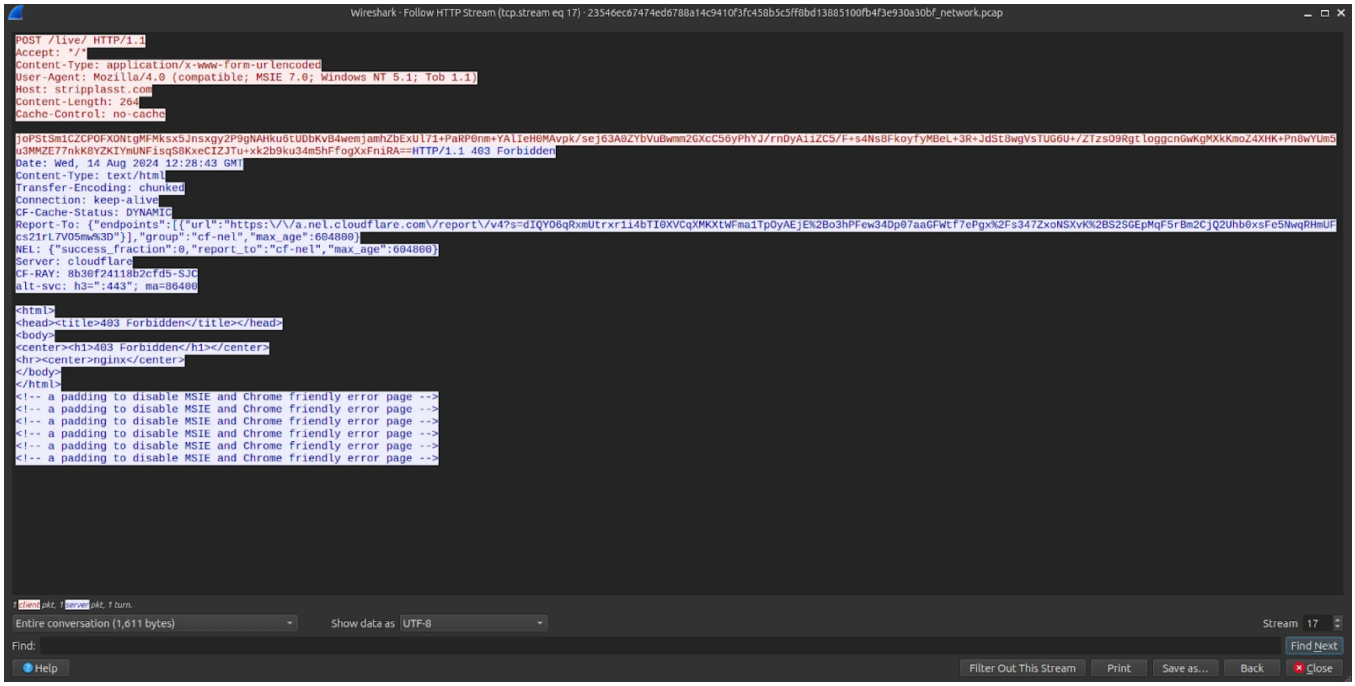

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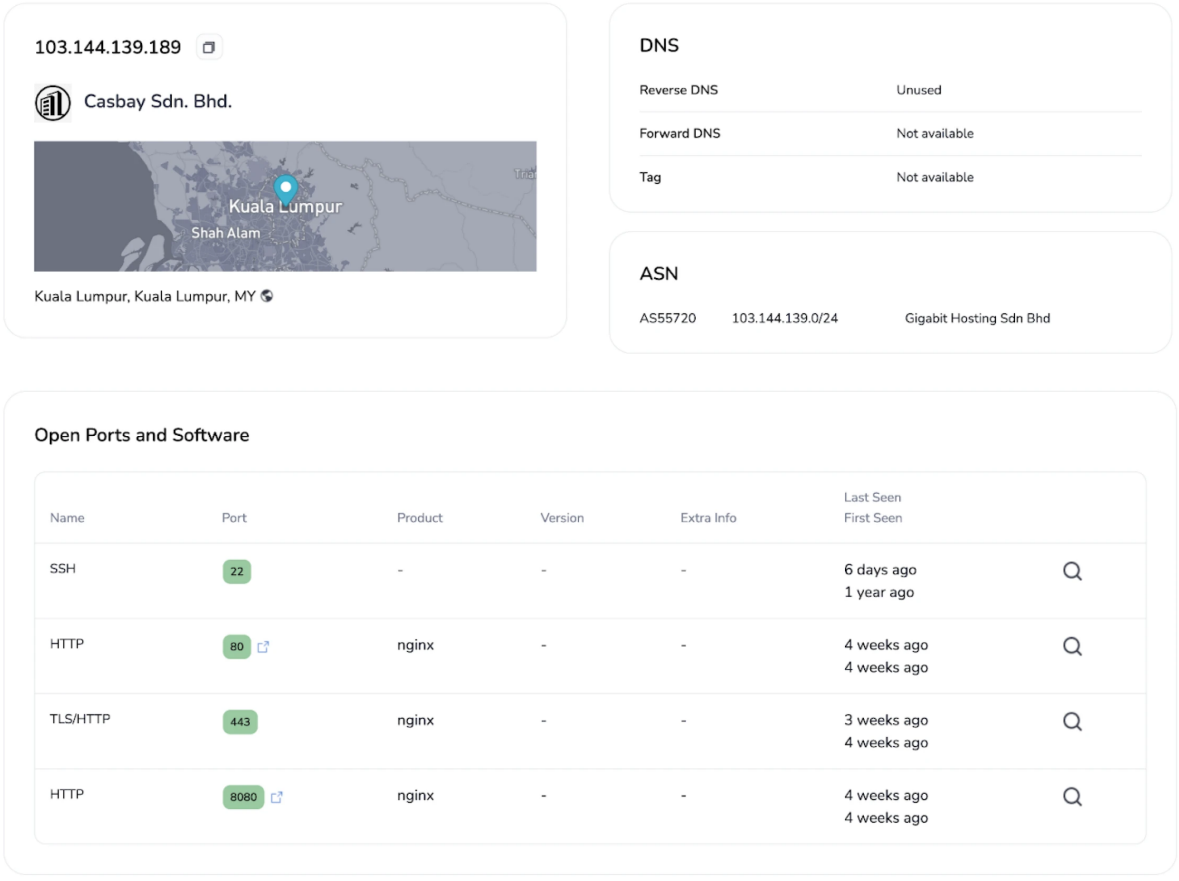

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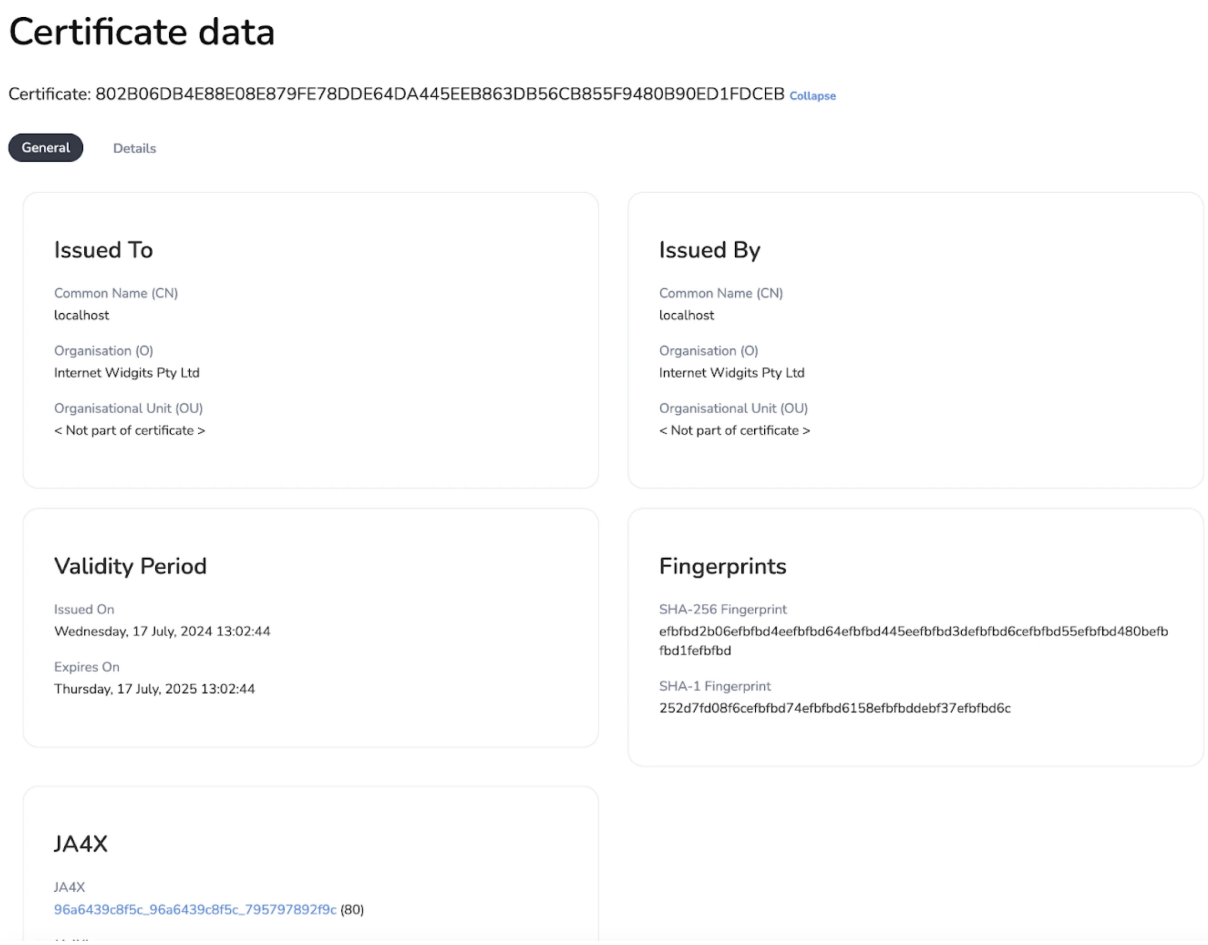

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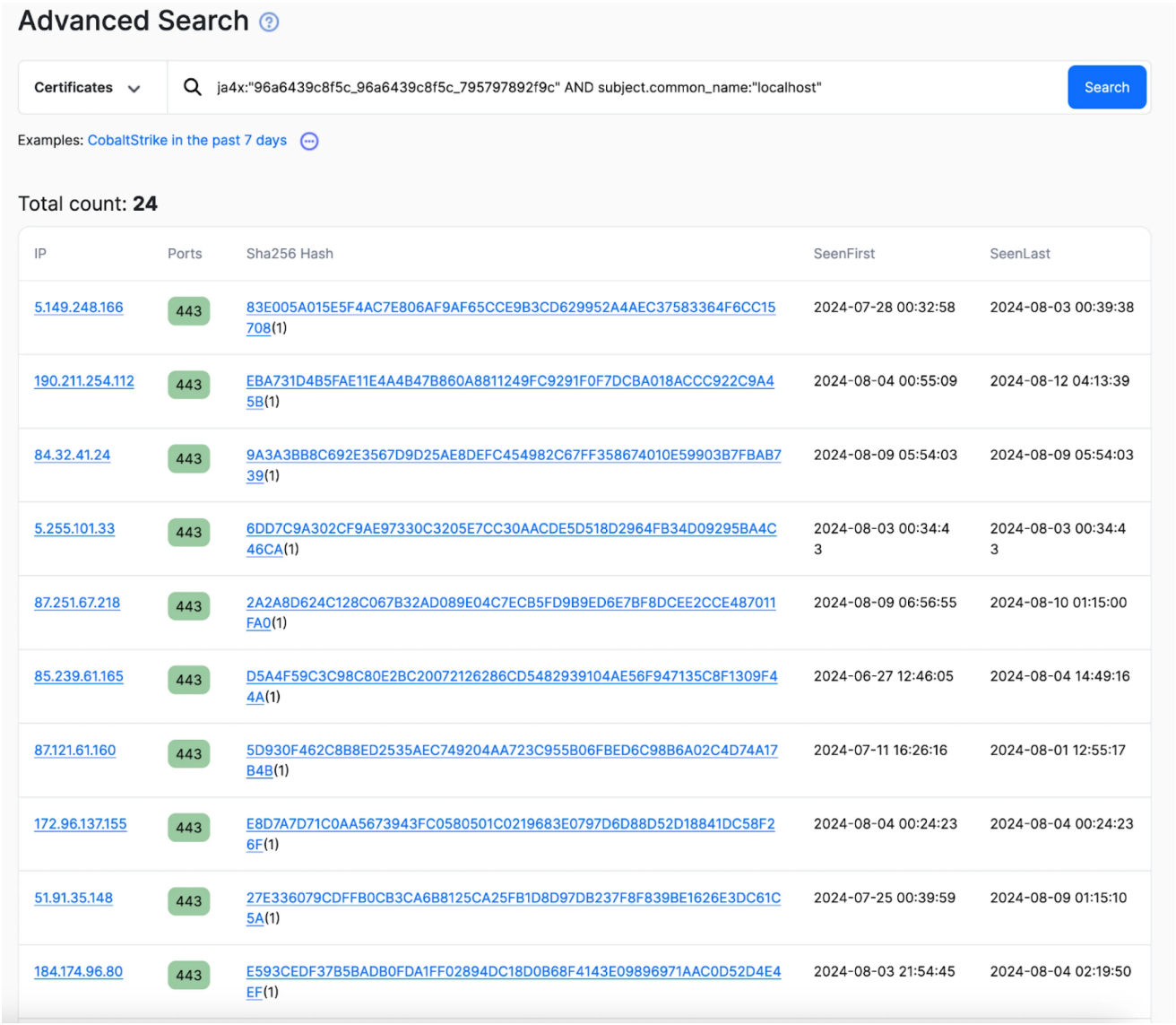

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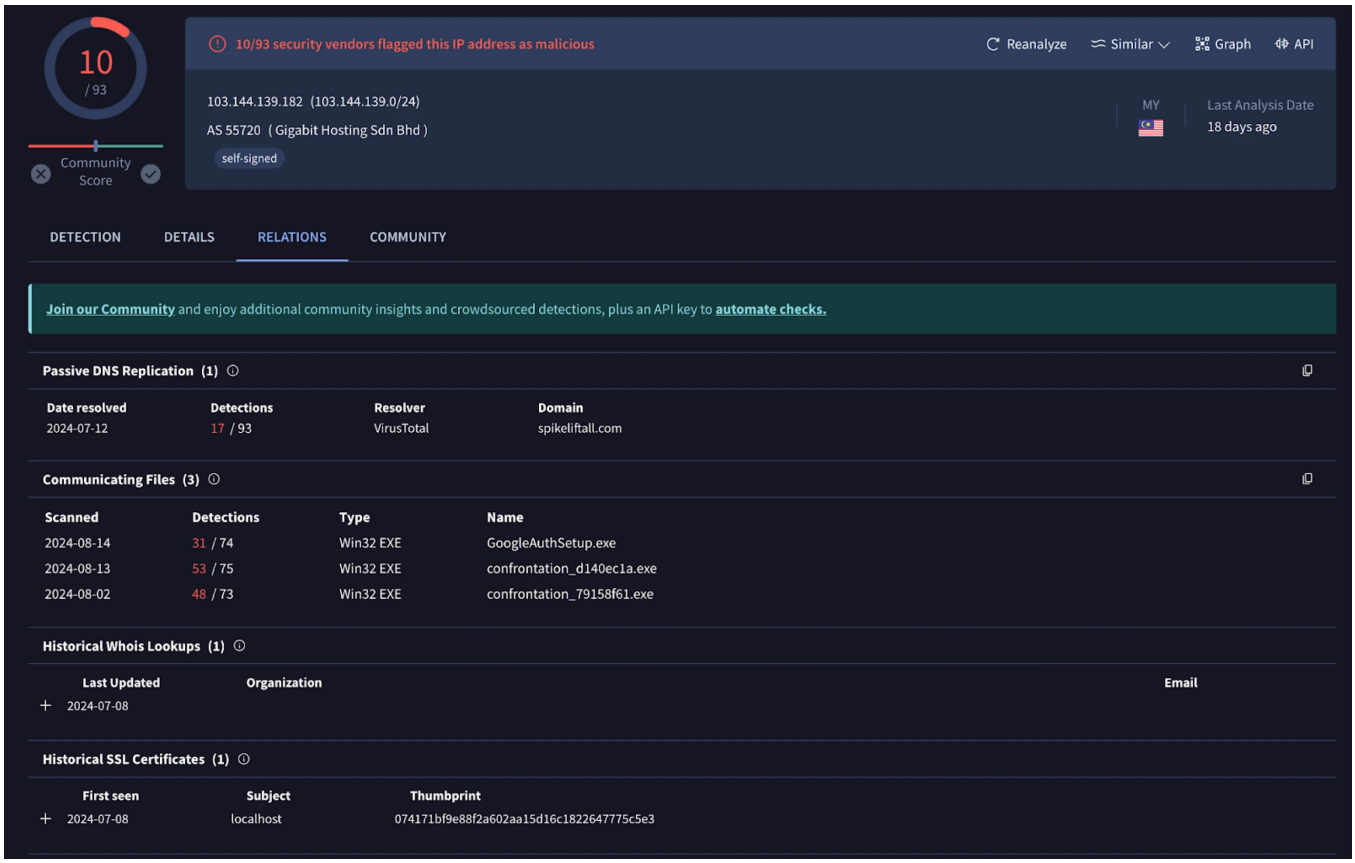

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62.106.66.46	443	06C630778E6F040E2B4ABD6CEB5E7277ACC08066F58557D8A0EA65F9469EBDFA(1)	2024-08-02 09:12:12	2024-08-12 23:40:15
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23.227.203.161	443	04E9F0C4A286311C2A47ECF0B62453772365D2E1C1528EBAD3FC26B321499239(1)	2024-08-03 00:43:27	2024-08-04 20:47:45
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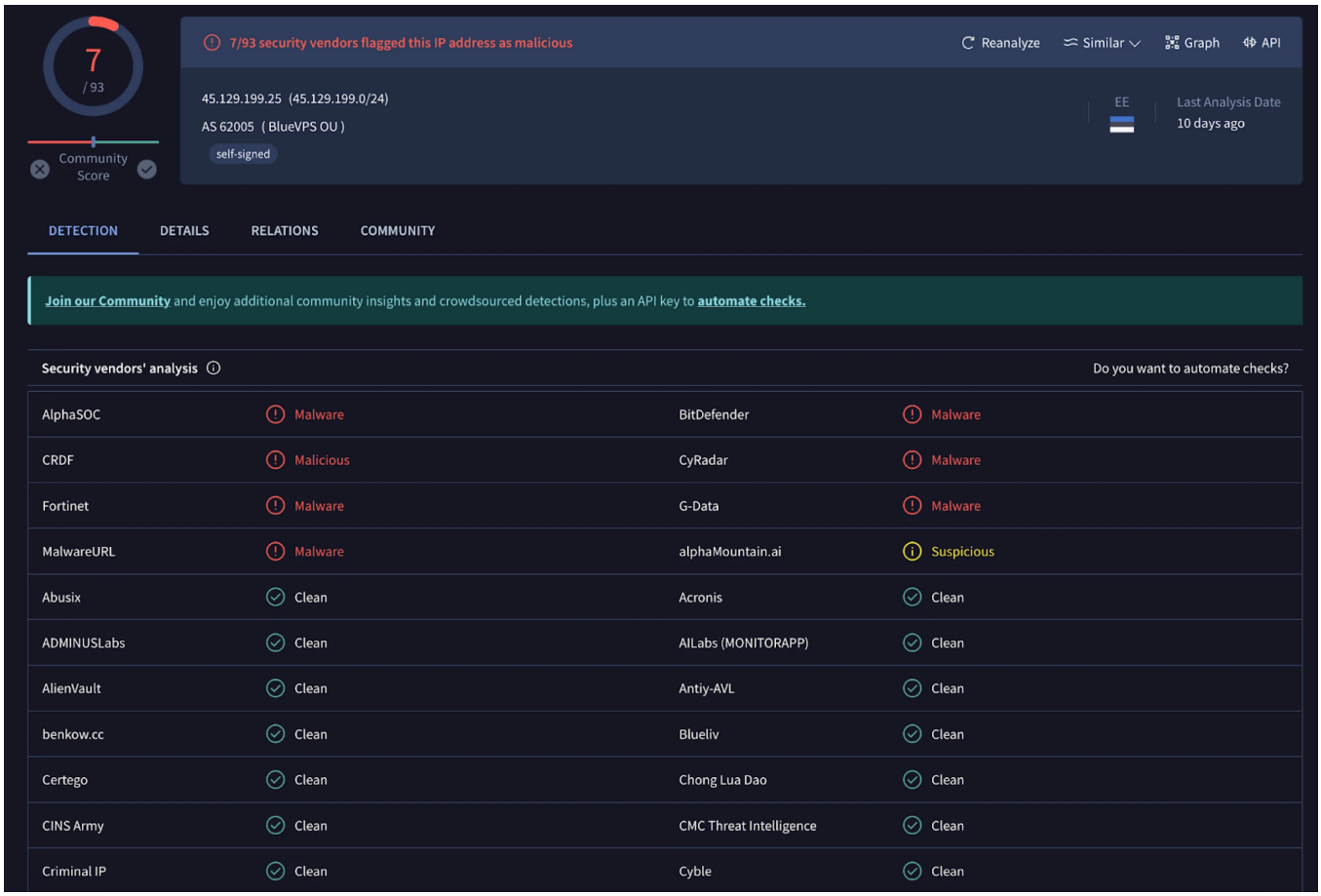

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45.129.199.]25:443	worlpquano.]com	HOSTINGER	BlueVPS OU	Identified as a possible Latrodectus C2 by Symantec

Host Observables

File Name	SHA-256 Hash	Notes
MeDExt.dll	23546ec67474ed6788a14c9410f3fc458b5c5ff8bd13885100fb4f3e930a30bf	Seen communicating with riscoarchez.]com/live/ stripplasst.]com/live/ coolartiion.]com/live/

File Name	SHA-256 Hash	Notes
GoogleAuthSetup.ex	62536e1486be7e31df6c111ed96777b9e3f2a912a2d7111253ae6a5519e71830	Seen communicating with steamcommunity.]com/profiles/76 godfaetret.]com/live/ spikeliftall.]com/live/
confrontation_d46a184c.exe	a459ce4bfb5d649410231bd4776c194b0891c8c5328bafc22184fe3111c0b3e7	Seen communicating with worlpquano.]com/live/ carflotyup.]com/live/