

KPMG Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform

Asylum Ambuscade – Straddling between Cybercrime and Cyber Espionage

Asylum Ambuscade is a crimeware group that has been engaging in both cybercrime and cyber espionage activities since 2020. In March 2022, they gained attention after targeting 4,500 victims worldwide along with some European governmental entities involved in helping Ukrainian refugees. Overlap between campaigns of Asylum Ambuscade & TA445/UAC-0051 have been noted, however the attribution is still unclear. The group targets banking customers, small & medium businesses & specific government agencies across Central Asia, US, Europe & Africa.

Initial access is achieved by spear-phishing emails with maldocs to run malicious VBS code or to exploit Follina vulnerability to download an MSI installer. Another attack path involves redirecting victims via Traffic Distribution Systems & Google Ads to download obfuscated malicious JavaScript payload, to finally download an MSI installer. First stage downloader (written in Lua / Tcl / VBS) is dropped by the MSI installer to deploy heavily obfuscated next stage payload – SunSeed malware. SunSeed creates a LNK shortcut in the startup folder to establish persistence, then proceeds to download AHKBOT & AutoHotKey interpreter from C2 via HTTP GET requests. It further downloads & execute additional Lua code. The group leverages another variant of AHKBOT written in Node.js, dubbed NODEBOT to evade detection. AHKBOT & NODEBOT take advantage of various plugins to perform password stealing from browsers, keylogging, capturing screenshots, exfiltration of sensitive files, deploy hVNC application, Rhadamanthys info-stealer, launch commercial RATs, etc.

The occurrence of a cybercrime group engaged in cyber espionage operations is rather uncommon. With attribution and detection of such groups becoming harder, it is crucial to closely monitor the activities of Asylum Ambuscade to stay informed about their TTPs.

What should you do?

- Monitor Indicators of Compromise (IoCs) in your environment to identify anomalies.
- Ensure your Windows environment is patched to the brim and is protected with multi-factor authentication.
- Conduct a comprehensive, full spectrum, threat assessment exercise to uncover blind spots and improvement areas.

The KPMG Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform is an industry defining, research-based capability for enhanced visibility into cyber threats.

Our machine ingestible feeds and analysis are the result of automated, sensor-based intelligence metrics with dedicated, expert insights of each threat to provide you the appropriate context on a timely basis in industry standard formats such as STIX/TAXII/MISP.

These feeds are additionally co-related with our industry partners and independent research for additional context. The intelligence obtained is then curated from strategic, tactical and operational perspective to give you a wide-ranging view of cyber threats.

We also assist you with our renowned cyber incident response and threat hunting services in case you identify an active threat in your environment.

We offer a wide-range of services, including:

Strategic threat intelligence report

Machine ingestible threat intelligence feeds

Threat intelligence driven pre-emptive threat hunting exercise

Cyber Incident Response Services

Contact us:

KPMG in India Cyber Response Hotline: +91 9176 471 471

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45.132.1[.]238

46.17.98[.]190

5.255.88[.]222 62.84.99[.]195

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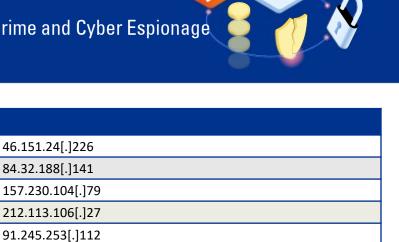
185.123.53[.]49

45.61.137[.]231

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Indicators of Compromise: IP Addresses

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Indicators of Compromise: Domains	
snowzet[.]com	namesilo.my[.]id

104.248.149[.]122

176.124.214[.]229

212.113.116[.]147

Indicators of Compromise: Hashes
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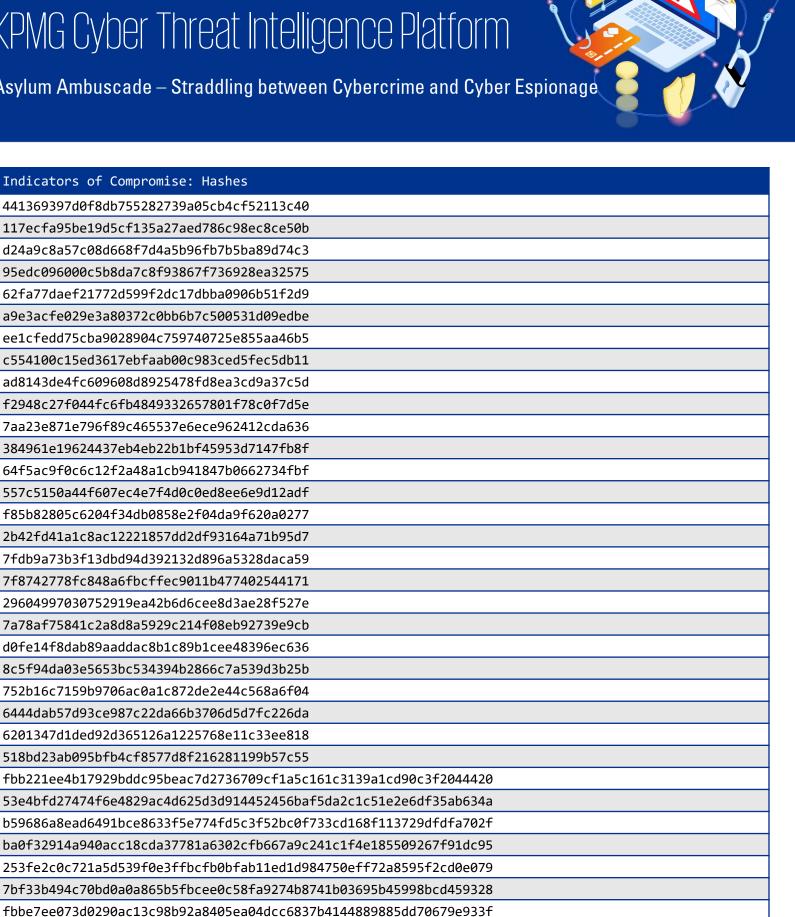
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