

Next-Gen DFIR

Mass Exploits & Supplier Compromise

Matt Durrin
IR Lead

Sherri Davidoff
CEO



Who Are We?

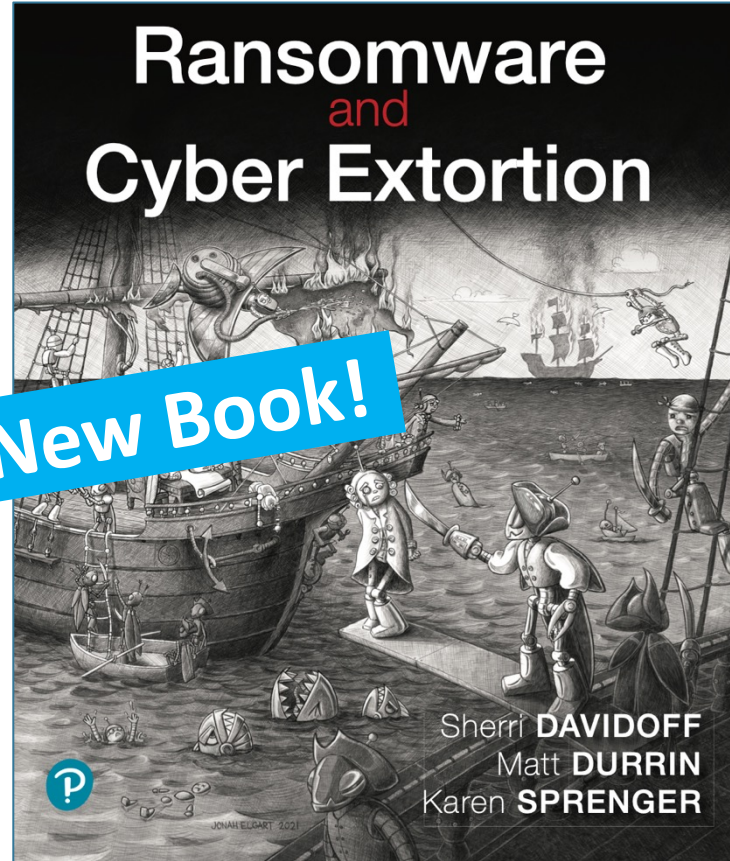


Sherri Davidoff

Founder & CEO, LMG Security

“Alien” from “Breaking & Entering”

MIT EE/CS, GCFA, GPEN



Matt Durrin

IR Lead

Research & Development

Evil, sometimes.



Today's Roadmap

- Why We Need to Adapt DFIR
- SolarWinds Supply-Chain Compromise
- Mass 0-day Exchange Exploit
- Kaseya Under the Microscope
- Checklist - How IR Must Evolve

Kaseya Mass 0-Day Ransomware Attacks

‘Shut down everything’: Global ransomware attack takes a small Maryland town offline

Leonardtown, Md., lost access to its computer systems Friday, falling victim to a massive ransomware

Hackers demand \$70 million to end biggest ransomware attack on record

CVE-2021-30116: Multiple Zero-Day Vulnerabilities in Kaseya VSA Exploited to Distribute REvil Ransomware



Satnam Narang | Cyber Expo
July 6, 2021 | 6 Min Read



- 0-Day exploit discovered in the Kaseya VSA on-premise system
- Remote monitoring & mgmt system
- Revil ransomware gang/affiliate
- ~1,500 Organizations held for ransom
 - (Over 1,000,000 individual devices encrypted, according to REvil)
- Payment options available:
 - \$70 Million for a master decryptor
 - \$5 Million for an individual MSP
 - ~\$44k and up for downstream customers



Supply Chain Attacks vs. Mass 0-Day Exploits

- **Supply Chain Attacks** = vector is through a 3rd party technology supplier
- **Mass 0-day Exploit** = exploitation of technology after deployment in victim environment

Response is surprisingly similar



SolarWinds – A Popular Technology Vendor Is Hacked!

- FireEye Announced a Supply-Chain Malware Infection
 - Dec 13
- SolarWinds “Orion” Network Monitoring Software
- Hacked since <Sept 2019
- Backdoor into customer networks
- **18,000 customers**



How Did Responders Find Out?

- SolarWinds did not detect the malware
 - Neither did 18,000 other customers
- FireEye (customer)
 - Public notification
 - Offensive security tools stolen
 - 15+ months after original hack
 - 9 months after backdoor rolled out



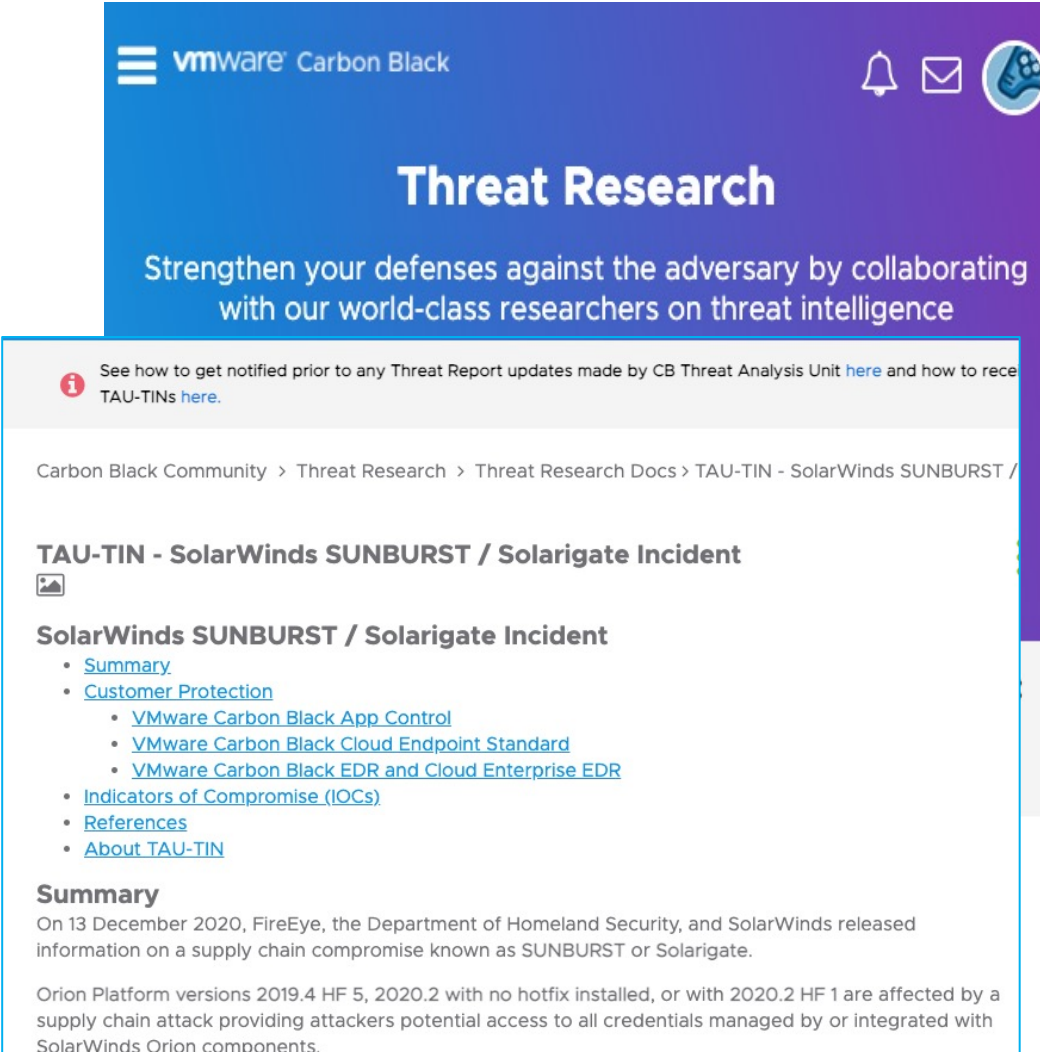
SolarWinds Security Advisory

SolarWinds has just been made aware our systems experienced a highly sophisticated, manual supply chain attack on SolarWinds® Orion® Platform software builds for versions 2019.4 HF 5 through 2020.2.1, released between March 2020 and June 2020. We have been advised this attack was likely conducted by an outside nation state and intended to be a narrow, extremely targeted, and manually executed attack, as opposed to a broad, system-wide attack. We recommend taking the following steps related to your use of the SolarWinds Orion Platform.



Monitor Threat Intelligence

- Identify your key software products & suppliers
- Setup your threat intel sources
 - Vendor alerts & social media
 - Threat intel sources
 - Commercial platforms
 - Security vendors (ie CriticalStack, CrowdStrike)
 - Academia, government, etc.
 - Cybersecurity news
 - Bleeping Computer, ZDNet, WSJ, etc
- Assign responsibility for responding to alerts
- Review & triage
- Feed into response processes
- Practice – tabletops etc.
- Make sure your suppliers are doing the same!



The screenshot shows the VMware Carbon Black Threat Research page. At the top, the VMware Carbon Black logo is on the left, and notification icons (bell, envelope, and a game controller) are on the right. The main heading is "Threat Research" in large white text. Below it, a subtitle reads: "Strengthen your defenses against the adversary by collaborating with our world-class researchers on threat intelligence". A light blue banner below the header contains an information icon and text: "See how to get notified prior to any Threat Report updates made by CB Threat Analysis Unit [here](#) and how to receive TAU-TINs [here](#)." The breadcrumb trail is "Carbon Black Community > Threat Research > Threat Research Docs > TAU-TIN - SolarWinds SUNBURST / Solarigate Incident". The main title is "TAU-TIN - SolarWinds SUNBURST / Solarigate Incident" with a small image icon. Below this is the section "SolarWinds SUNBURST / Solarigate Incident" with a list of links: Summary, Customer Protection (which includes VMware Carbon Black App Control, VMware Carbon Black Cloud Endpoint Standard, and VMware Carbon Black EDR and Cloud Enterprise EDR), Indicators of Compromise (IOCs), References, and About TAU-TIN. The "Summary" section begins with the text: "On 13 December 2020, FireEye, the Department of Homeland Security, and SolarWinds released information on a supply chain compromise known as SUNBURST or Solarigate. Orion Platform versions 2019.4 HF 5, 2020.2 with no hotfix installed, or with 2020.2 HF 1 are affected by a supply chain attack providing attackers potential access to all credentials managed by or integrated with SolarWinds Orion components."



Evaluate Your Risk

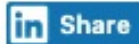
- Affected versions of software
 - May not be immediately known
- Were you running an affected version during the period of compromise?
 - Change management logs
- What should you do if you're not sure?
 - Plan ahead
 - Often, takedown software
 - Can be impactful
- Watch for changes
- Check suppliers, too...

Orion Platform Version	Known Affected by SUNBURST?	Known Vulnerable to SUPERNOVA?	Affected by Digital Certificate Revocation	Recommended Action
2020.2.1 HF 2	NO	NO	YES	Upgrade to 2020.2.5
2020.2.1 HF 1	NO	YES	YES	Upgrade to 2020.2.5
2020.2.1	NO	YES	YES	Upgrade to 2020.2.5
2020.2 HF 1	YES	YES	YES	Upgrade to 2020.2.5
2020.2	YES	YES	YES	Upgrade to 2020.2.5
2019.4.2	NO	NO	NO	No action needed
2019.4 HF 6	NO	NO	YES	Upgrade to 2020.2.5 OR upgrade to 2019.4.2
				Upgrade to

New! Software Bill of Materials

Software Bill of Materials Required by 2021 Cyber Security Executive Order

May 14, 2021



The New Cybersecurity Executive Order: 2021 is the Year of the SBoM

May 13, 2021

Kendra Morton

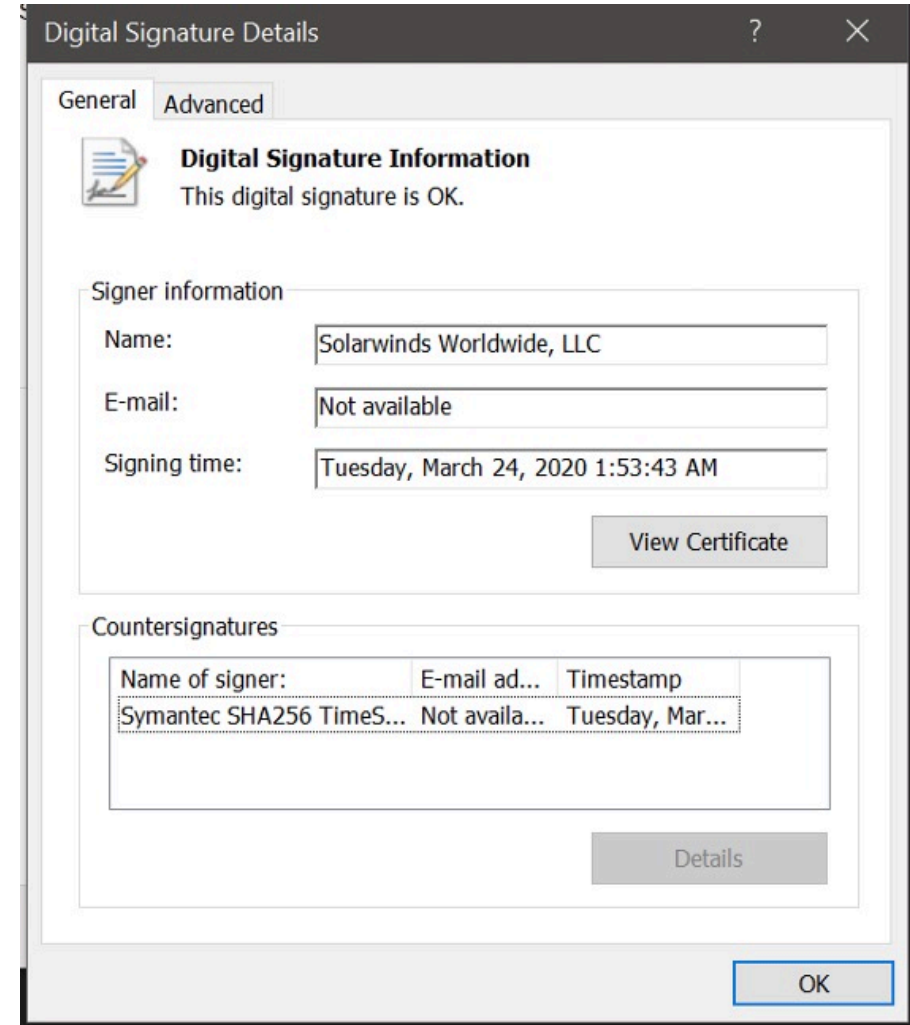
@getrevera



SolarWinds - Hacked Customers

Attackers can:

- Steal files
- Install new software
- Gather network information
- Reboot systems
- Disable security tools
- & more





Preserve Evidence!

- Remember the risks...
- Potentially full takeover
 - May be a breach!
 - Reputational, legal, financial risks
- Bring in cyber insurer, breach coach, forensics team, etc.
- See CISA Emergency Directive 21-01

NASA and the FAA were also breached by the SolarWinds hackers

By [Sergiu Gatlan](#)

February 24, 2021 08:32 AM 0



This emergency directive requires the following actions:

1. Agencies that have the [expertise](#) to take the following actions immediately must do so before proceeding to Action 2. Agencies without this capability shall proceed to Action 2.
 - a. Forensically image system memory and/or host operating systems hosting all instances of SolarWinds Orion versions 2019.4 through 2020.2.1 HF1]. Analyze for new user or service accounts, privileged or otherwise.
 - b. Analyze stored network traffic for [indications of compromise](#), including new external DNS domains to which a small number of agency hosts (e.g., SolarWinds systems) have had connections.



Contain the Damage

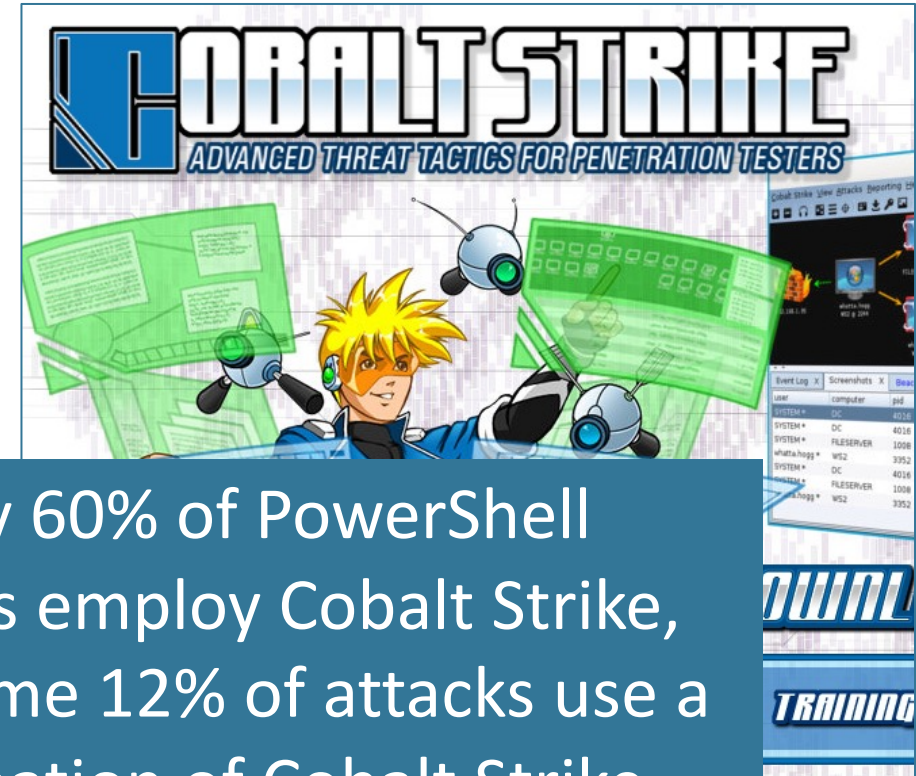
- Act quickly– with little or no information
- Government advisories can help...
- Standard options:
 - Yank the network/power
 - System-wide password reset
- Impacts:
 - Operational impacts
 - Help desk calls
 - Network visibility is limited
 - Evidence might be destroyed

“Affected agencies shall immediately **disconnect or power down SolarWinds Orion products...** Until such time as CISA directs affected entities to rebuild the Windows operating system and reinstall the SolarWinds software package...”
~DHS ED 21-01



Pulling the Plug on SolarWinds Might Not Save You...

- TEARDROP – Memory-only dropper
- RAINDROP – Installed later; used to deliver Cobalt Strike
- Cobalt Strike BEACON
 - Legit pentesting software
 - Customized



“Nearly 60% of PowerShell exploits employ Cobalt Strike, and some 12% of attacks use a combination of Cobalt Strike and Microsoft Windows tools PowerShell and PsExec.”



Hunt for Threats

- We used Carbon Black!
- Finding Cobalt Strike beacons:

powershell.exe

CMD `powershell -nop -w hidden -encode dcommand JABzAD0ATgBIAHcALQBPAGIAagBIAGMAdAAgAEkATwAuAE0AZQBtAG8AcgB5AFMAdABYAG...`

Run by NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM



Beware of False Positives

- Cobalt Strike Beacon Payload

```
powershell -nop -w hidden -  
encodedcommand JABzAD0ATgBIAHcALQBPAG  
IAagBlAGMAdAAgAEkATwAuAE0AZQBtAG8Acg  
B5AFMAdABYAGUAYQBtACgALABbAEMAbwBu  
AHYAZQByAHQAXQA6ADoARgByAG8AbQBCA  
GEAcwBlADYANABTAHQAcgBpAG4AZwAoACIA  
SAA0AHMASQBBAEEEAQQBBAEEEAQQBBAEEEAQ  
QBLADEAWABhADIAKwBpADYAaABiACsAWABI  
ADgARgBIADUAcQBvAHEAYgBVAG8AMQB1AHI  
AcwBUAEQASQBnAEYAMQBHAGcAQwBuAGo  
AdABiAGgAcQBFAFYANA...
```

- Ansible Command

```
powershell -nop -w hidden -  
EncodedCommand AG4AZwAoACIASAA0AHM  
ASQBBAEEEAQQBBAEEEAQQBBAEEEAQQBLADEA  
WABhADIAKwBpADYAaABiACsAWABIADgARgB  
IADUAcQBvAHEAYgBVAG8AMQB1AHIAcwBUA  
EQASQBnAEYAMQBHAGcAQwBuAGoAdABiAG  
gAcQBFAFYANAJABzAD0ATgBIAHcALQBPAGIAa  
gBlAGMAdAAgAEkATwAuAE0AZQBtAG8AcgB5  
AFMAdABYAGUAYQBtACgALABbAEMAbwBuA  
HYAZQByAHQAXQA6ADoARgByAG8AbQBCAGE  
AcwBlADYANABTAHQAcgBp...
```



Obtaining IoCs

- Hacked customers (ie FireEye, Microsoft)
- Gov agencies (ie CISA)
- The vendor
- Security firms/researchers
- Threat hunting/intel software
 - Ie Carbon Black
- MISP - open-source threat intel
 - <https://www.misp-project.org/>
- Popular formats:
 - Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX)
 - YARA

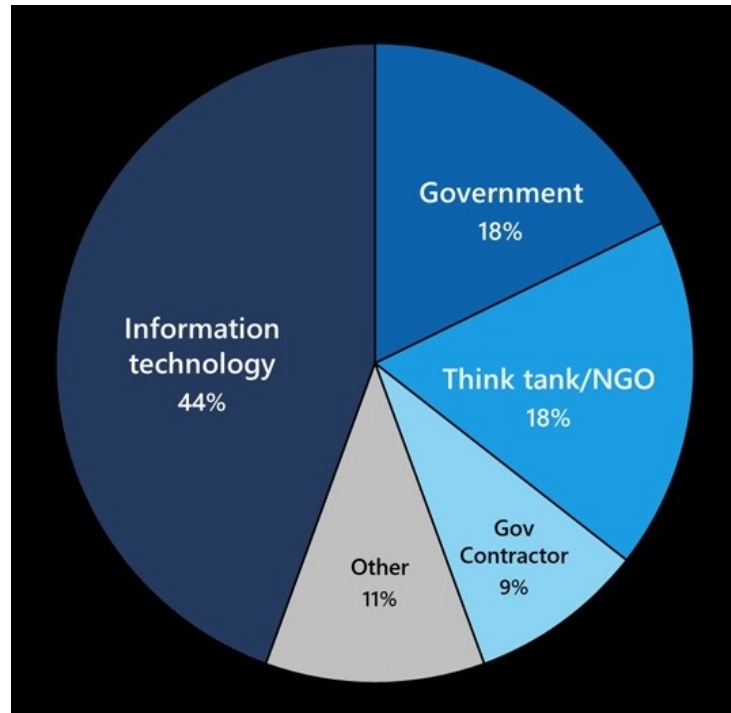
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carbon Black	Carbon Black Community	This is a watchlist containing Carbon Black community produced detection queries. These queries have been publically posted to the Carbon Black User eXchange site in the Detection Exchange group.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carbon Black	US Cybercom Malware Alert	This watchlist highlights when the Cyber National Mission Force publishes malware samples
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carbon Black	AMSI Threat Intelligence	Threat detections leveraging VMware CarbonBlack AMSI integration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carbon Black	ATT&CK Framework	This watchlist is a list of ATT&CK Framework queries designed to aid practitioners with threat hunting. Hits on



Nation-State Attack

- Russia
- Aka NOBELIUM
- Aka Cozy Bear
- Aka APT 29

Microsoft: Over 1,000 developers contributed to SolarWinds hack



SolarWinds attack hit 100 companies and took months of planning, says White House

The White House warns SolarWinds attack was more than espionage because the private sector targets could lead to follow-up attacks.



By [Liam Tung](#) | February 18, 2021 -- 12:34 GMT (04:34 PST) | Topic: [Security](#)

Difficult to Obtain IoCs

- Sunburst malware is designed to evade detection
- 12-14 day sleep timer
- Verifies specific DLL name
- Randomly delays execution of later phases
- Multiple domain checks
- Security/analysis software checks



Decoy Traffic

```
dq offset aHttpsCodeJquer
; DATA XREF: main_false_requesting+A9fo
; "https://code.jquery.com/"

dq 18h
dq offset aHttpsPlayGoogl ; "https://play.google.com/log?"
dq 1Ch
dq offset aHttpsFontsGsta ; "https://fonts.gstatic.com/s/font.woff2"
dq 26h
dq offset aHttpsCdnGoogle ; "https://cdn.google.com/"
dq 17h
dq offset aHttpsWwwGstati ; "https://www.gstatic.com/images/?"
dq 20h
dq offset aHttpsSslGstati ; "https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v3/icons"
dq 23h
dq offset aHttpsOnetechco_6 ; "https://onetechcompany.com/style.css"
dq 24h
dq offset aHttpsOnetechco_7 ; "https://onetechcompany.com/script.js"
dq 24h
dq offset aHttpsOnetechco_0 ; "https://onetechcompany.com/icon.ico"
dq 23h
dq offset aHttpsOnetechco_1 ; "https://onetechcompany.com/icon.png"
dq 23h
dq offset aHttpsOnetechco_2 ; "https://onetechcompany.com/scripts/jque"...
dq 2Ch
dq offset aHttpsOnetechco_3 ; "https://onetechcompany.com/scripts/boot"...
dq 2Fh
```



✓ Apply Emergency Patches/Software Updates

- May not exist
- May not work
- May break things
- Expect multiple updates
- Do you want to be an early adopter?
 - Decide in advance
 - Tabletops/response plan

2019.2 HF 4 (released February 5, 2021)

2019.4.2 (released February 2, 2021)

2020.2.4 (released January 25, 2021)

2019.2 Security Patch (released December 22, 2020)

2018.4 Security Patch

2018.2 Security Patch





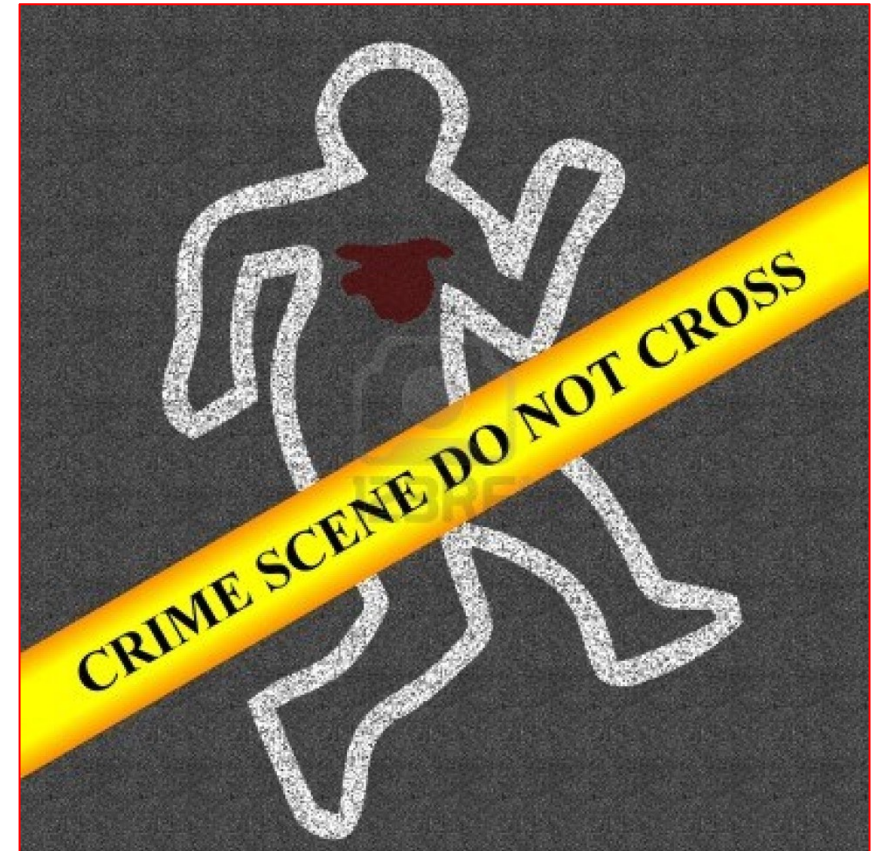
Plan for Elevated Risks

- For you and affected suppliers/technology
- Hackers may have extensive data
 - Employee emails
 - Internal data
 - Passwords, keys & more
- APTs & additional malware
- Software source code & vuln details
- MSP customer lists
- Remember: suppliers may not have detected/announced all hacks



Responding to Supply Chain Attacks

1. Monitor threat intelligence
2. Evaluate the risk
3. Preserve forensic evidence
4. Contain the damage
5. Hunt for threats
6. Apply emergency patches/updates
7. Plan for elevated risks



Exchange Zero-Day Vuln is Publicly Announced!

Multiple Security Updates Released for Exchange Server

MSRC / By MSRC Team / March 2, 2021

Today we announced that Microsoft has released security updates for Exchange Server to address a significant number of vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities were discovered in the past few days and have been focused on stealing sensitive information. The espionage attacks have been targeting Exchange Server email systems worldwide with the goal of compromising the ecosystem.

Microsoft Morph

By William Turton

March 6, 2021, 5:40 PM MST | Updated on March 8, 2021, 1:01 AM MST

Newly Released Mail Software

A significant number of vulnerabilities have been discovered in the past few days and have been focused on stealing sensitive information. The espionage attacks have been targeting Exchange Server email systems worldwide with the goal of compromising the ecosystem.

WorldWide Mega
Email Breach



On March 2, Microsoft released emergency security updates to plug four security holes in Exchange Server versions 2013 through 2019 that hackers were actively using to siphon email communications from Internet-facing systems running Exchange.

What Can the Hackers do?

- Gain full administrator control of the exchange server
- Steal email
- Steal credentials
- Install more malware
- Infect other computers on the network





How Do You Find Out?

- Jan 5, 2021: DEVCORE alerts Microsoft of a newly identified RCE exploit
- Jan 8, 2021: Microsoft confirms the findings
- Jan 27, 2021: Security firm Dubex reports active exploitation of Exchange in the wild
- Feb 23, 2021: Microsoft shares code with MAPP partners
- Feb 26, 2021: Attacks explode into full mass scanning and exploitation

Shared w key partners

Too late!

Most people found out here

- Mar 2, 2021: Microsoft releases patches for 4 discovered vulnerabilities
- Mar 3, 2021: Tens of thousands Exchange servers are compromised prior to being patched
- Mar 5, 2021: Brian Krebs reports on mass exploitation of Exchange servers
- Mar 6, 2021: CISA issues an emergency advisory about the exploit

Really really too late!

How Did the Exchange Server Exploit Leak?

Microsoft Investigating; Devcore Pen Testers Say They're in the Clear

Jeremy Kirk (🐦jeremy_kir)



Orange Tsai 🍊
@orange_8361

The exploit in later Feb looks like the same, the exploited path is similar (/ecp/<single char>.js) and the webshell password is "orange" (I hardcoded in the exploit...)



Three Can Keep a Secret

- But Can Eighty-Two?

“The **Microsoft Active Protections Program (MAPP)** is a program for security software providers that gives them early access to vulnerability information so that they can provide updated protections to customers faster.

“Members of MAPP receive security vulnerability information from the **Microsoft Security Response Center** in advance of Microsoft’s **monthly security update**. They can use this information to quickly provide protection to their customers.



MSRC

[Report an issue](#) ▾

[Customer guidance](#) ▾

Microsoft Active Protections Program



“The MAPP program is used successfully ahead of every Update Tuesday cycle,” Microsoft says. “If it turns out that a MAPP partner was the source of a leak, they would face consequences for breaking the terms of participation in the program.”



Hackers Target Source Code & Bug Info

- Break into bug tracking DBs
- Analyze stolen source code
- Tech firms & researchers
- No notification laws
- Few contractual obligations

Microsoft Kept Secret That Its Bug-Tracking Database Was Hacked In 2013

October 17, 2017 Mohit Kumar



Microsoft Offers Details on Hack of Vulnerability Researchers

North Korean APT Group Appa

Akshaya Asokan ([@asokan_akshaya](#)) • Ja

Source code management a weak spot in Aurora attacks



By Robert McMillan

IDG News Service | MAR 4, 2010 4:56 AM PST

Mozilla: data stolen from hacked bug database was used to attack Firefox

A privileged user's account was compromised at least as early as September 2014.

MEGAN GEUSS - 9/4/2015, 5:04 PM



Running On-Prem Exchange? You're Affected

- **ANY** public facing Exchange server is potentially compromised
- All email data and user data is at risk
- The vulnerable code had been in place for over 10 years
 - That's 2011, kids

The versions affected are:

- Microsoft Exchange Server 2013
- Microsoft Exchange Server 2016
- Microsoft Exchange Server 2019

Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 is being updated for Defense in Depth purposes.

Mass-Seeding Event

- Scanning and seeding appear automated
- Any vulnerable organization may already have malicious web shells installed
- Scanning and attacks are ongoing
- Very aggressive adversaries





Forensic Preservation

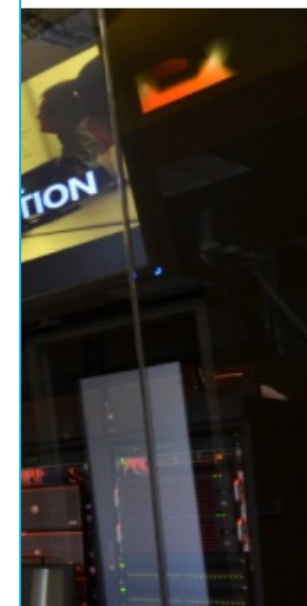
- Forensically image all Solarwinds Exchange servers
- Obtain volatile memory
- Preserve network/IIS logs
- Very important because of BEC/data breach concerns
- Check for unauthorized access
- Determine risk of email access/acquisition

The Microsoft Exchange Hack and the Great Email Robbery

By **Nicholas Weaver** Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 4:17 PM

European Banking Authority hit by Microsoft Exchange hack

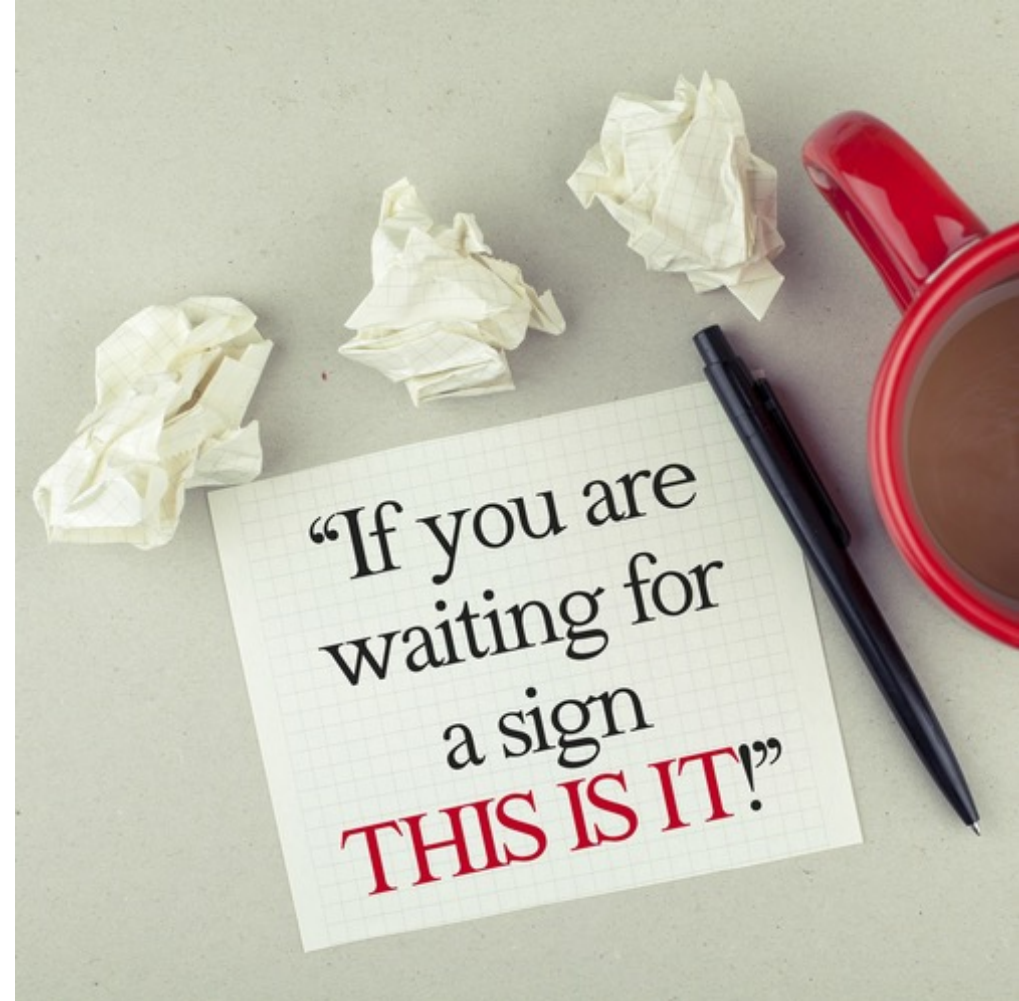
🕒 3 days ago





Contain the Damage

- Act yesterday!
 - Or at least today
- CISA & Microsoft guidance for “ProxyLogon” remediation
- Standard options:
 - Yank the network/power
 - Domain-wide password reset
 - Attacker use of procdump to capture pwds
- Impacts:
 - Operational impacts
 - Help desk calls
 - Email is down
 - Evidence might be destroyed





Hunt for Threats

- Microsoft & CISA published IoCs right away
- Example: Financial services firm
- We used Carbon Black for overall network
- Targeted analysis of IIS logs
 - Exchange-specific activities
- Known Hafnium behavior
 - Identified hundreds of attempts to exploit the vuln on the server
 - Some were successful, others not



Indicators of Compromise

- Eight-character .aspx files in c:\inetpub\wwwroot\aspnet_client\system_web\
- Web shells present on the server
- Encoded PowerShell activity
- Challenges:
 - Lots of false positives
 - Too many IoCs!



The image shows two overlapping screenshots. The background screenshot is a GitHub repository page for 'cyware-labs', showing the 'main' branch with files like 'data' and 'README.md'. The foreground screenshot is a CISA alert page titled 'Alert (AA21-062A) Mitigate Microsoft Exchange Server Vulnerabilities'. The alert page includes the CISA logo, navigation tabs for 'Alerts and Tips', 'Resources', and 'Industrial Control Systems', and a breadcrumb trail: 'National Cyber Awareness System > Alerts > Mitigate Microsoft Exchange'. The alert text specifies an original release date of March 03, 2021, and a last revised date of April 14, 2021.

Chile's bank regulator shares IOCs after Microsoft Exchange hack

By [Lawrence Abrams](#)

March 17, 2021 11:58 AM

The IoCs Keep Changing!

Microsoft Exchange Server attacks:
'They're being hacked faster than
we can count', says security
company



PIG PILE —

Ransomware operators are piling on already hacked Exchange servers

The fallout from the Microsoft Exchange server crisis isn't abating just yet.

DAN GOODIN - 3/23/2021, 3:45 PM

**"Hack everybody you can":
What to know about the
massive Microsoft Exchange
breach**

BY NICOLE SGANGA
MARCH 14, 2021 / 3:12 PM / CBS NEWS



Network Recon Using Encoded Powershell

- Encoded string example:
- GET /aspnet_client/supporrt.aspx
552623bfb61e74baaaf03ef4506c
7fcf=dmFyIHA9U3lzdGVtLkRpYW
dub3N0aWNzLlByb2Nlc3MuR2V
OUHJvY...
- Translates to:

```
var p=System.Diagnostics.Process.GetProcesses();  
var str="";for(vari=0;i<p.Length;i++)  
{str+=p[i].ProcessName+":"+p[i].Id+"\r\n";} \  
str=Convert.ToBase64String(System.Text.Encoding.UTF8.  
GetBytes(str));  
  
str="oamoisjmdo"+str+"sodknousfnfdklj";  
  
Response.Write(str);
```



Detecting Post-Exploit Behavior – Legit Toolkits

- Collection - 7zip Archiving Outlook Data Files Detected
- Persistence - Potential Web Shell Behavior Detected
- Defense Evasion - Unusual Location of OWAAUTH.dll
- Execution - Psexec Detected
- Defense Evasion - Renamed Psexec Process Detected
- Masquerading WinRAR - Renamed Process
- Credential Access - Credential Dumping via Sysinternals Procdump Detected
- Credential Access - Credential Theft Detected via API Execution



Microsoft Detection & Remediation Scripts

- Microsoft had time to prepare
 - Unlike SolarWinds
- March 6 release
- Test-ProxyLogon
 - Checks for vuln & known IoCs
- Exchange On-Premise Mitigation Tool (EOMT)
- Automates remediation
- But!
- Can destroy evidence

This new Microsoft tool checks Exchange Servers for ProxyLogon hacks

By [Lawrence Abrams](#)

March 6, 2021 02:04 PM

```
# Checks for signs of exploit from CVE-2021-26855, 26858, 26857, and 27065.
#
# Examples
#
# Check the local Exchange server only and save the report:
# .\Test-ProxyLogon.ps1 -OutPath $home\desktop\logs
#
# Check all Exchange servers and save the reports:
# Get-ExchangeServer | .\Test-ProxyLogon.ps1 -OutPath $home\desktop\logs
#
# Check all Exchange servers, but only display the results, don't save them:
# Get-ExchangeServer | .\Test-ProxyLogon.ps1
```

Microsoft

```
[CmdletBinding()]
param (
    [Parameter(ValueFromPipeline = $true, ValueFromPipelineByPropertyName = $true)]
    [string[]]
    $ComputerName = $env:COMPUTERNAME.
```



Apply Emergency Patches/Updates

- Ready on March 2 (day of public announcement)
- Not everybody was ready to patch
- If you didn't, you were likely hacked
 - Quite possibly already hacked, anyway

Released: March 2021 Exchange Server Security Updates



By The_Exchange_Team

Published 03-02-2021 01:08 PM

766K Views

Note: this post is getting frequent updates; please keep checking back. Last update: 3/19/2021

Microsoft has released a set of out of band security updates for vulnerabilities for the following versions of Exchange Server:

- Exchange Server 2013
- Exchange Server 2016
- Exchange Server 2019

Security updates are available for the following specific versions of Exchange:

IMPORTANT: If manually installing security updates, you *must* install .msp from elevated command prompt (see Known Issues in update KB articles)

Because we are aware of active exploits of related vulnerabilities in the wild (limited targeted attacks), our recommendation is to ***install these updates immediately*** to protect against these attacks.

- NEW! [Security Updates for older Cumulative Updates of Exchange Server \(the list is now finalized\)](#)

Because we are aware of active exploits of related vulnerabilities in the wild (limited targeted attacks), our recommendation is to ***install these updates immediately*** to protect against these attacks.



Law Enforcement Intervention

- FBI court-authorized to hack in and remove web shells
- “Attempting to provide notice”
- Pros and Cons
- Reduce risk of hackers/ransomware
- Can destroy evidence
- Confuse investigators
- Potential operational impacts
- Will it happen again?

CSO UNITED STATES ▾INSIDER

NEWS ANALYSIS

FBI cleans web shells from hacked Exchange servers in rare active defense move

The FBI has been deleting backdoors placed by cyberespionage group Hafnium on Microsoft Exchange servers. The court order allowing them

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Justice Department Announces Court-Authorized Effort to Disrupt Exploitation of Microsoft Exchange Server Vulnerabilities

Action Copied and Removed Web Shells that Provided Backdoor Access to Servers, but Additional Steps may be Required to Patch Exchange Server Software and to Expel Hackers from the Victims' Networks.

Note: A full copy of the unsealed court documents can be viewed [here](#).

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department today announced a court-authorized operation to copy and remove malicious web shells from hundreds of vulnerable computers in the United States running on-premises versions of Microsoft Exchange Server software used to provide enterprise-level e-mail service.



Plan for Elevated Risks

- Email theft can be very impactful
- Financial fraud
- Targeted follow-on attacks
- Stolen credentials
- Pivoting into network undetected
- Additional malware



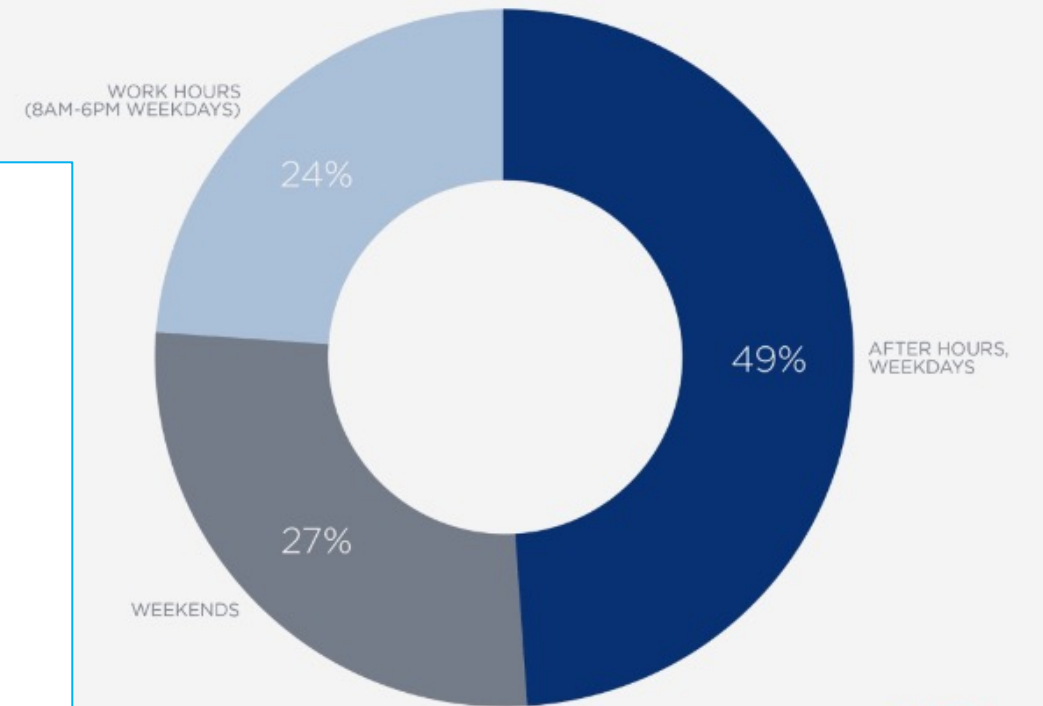
Back to the Recent Kaseya Ransomware Attacks...

- Fourth of July weekend
 - Coincidence? Unlikely
 - “Forensics Friday” @LMG
- Locked up w ransomware
- Who’s on call for your organization?
- Are your MSPs monitoring threat intelligence?
- How quickly do MSPs notify their customers?

In
76%
of cases,
ransomware
was executed
outside
work hours



OBSERVED RANSOMWARE DEPLOYMENT
WORK HOURS VS. AFTER HOURS





FIREEYE



Vulnerability Timeline


- Dutch Institute for Vulnerability Disclosure (DIVD)
- Discovered at least 7 vulns
 - + 2200 vulnerable systems
- April 6 - Disclosed to Kaseya
- 90-day disclosure agreement
- April 10 & May 8 – 4 vulns patched
- Impending release of 3 vulns & patches
- Hackers strike just before release!
 - Suspicious timing
- Hack before the patch – an old problem



Kaseya Was Warned In April Of Vulnerability Exploited By REvil Gang

'Last weekend, we found out about a massive storm created by the ransomware group REvil using a vulnerability with Kaseya,' says Dutch Institute for Vulnerability Disclosure (DIVD).

By **Michael Novinson**

By Ryan Naraine for Zero Day | January 21, 2010 -- 12:34 GMT (04:34 PST)
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Microsoft knew of IE zero-day flaw since last September

Summary: Microsoft today admitted it knew of the Internet Explorer flaw used in the attacks against Google and Adobe since September last year.

Microsoft today admitted it knew of the Internet Explorer flaw used in the attacks against Google and Adobe since September last year.

The flaw was in the Microsoft Security Response Center's (MSRC) queue to be fixed in the the next batch of patches due in February but the **targeted zero-day attacks** against U.S. companies forced the company to release an emergency, out-of-band IE update.




Follow me!

The IE update applies to all versions of the browser on all Windows OS versions and patches at least *eight documented vulnerabilities* that could lead to remote code execution attacks.

The patches are included in the critical **MS10-002** bulletin.

[SEE: Adobe confirms 'sophisticated, coordinated' breach]

The vulnerability used in the attacks (CVE-2010-0249) was private reported to Microsoft last August by Meron Sellen, a white-hat hacker at BugSec, an Israeli security research company. Microsoft program manager Jerry Bryant said the company confirmed the severity of the flaw in September and planned to ship a fix in a cumulative IE update next month.



Supplier Communication Challenges

- What should you expect for communications from your suppliers?
- 2019 – MSP hit by Revil
- Over 100 dental office impacted
- REvil/Sodinokibi ransomware delivered using MSP remote management tools
- \$700k demanded for a master decryptor
- MSP refused payment
- Tight-lipped & did not want to share info
- Refused to provide log data

Colorado MSP Attack Compromises Supported Dental Offices

December 10, 2019 By Emil Hozan



You Can't Trust Just Anybody



July 9, 2021 12:00PM EDT

As previously communicated, spammers are using the news about the Kaseya Incident to send out fake email notifications that appear to be Kaseya updates. These are phishing emails that may contain malicious links and/or attachments.

Spammers may also be making phone calls claiming to be a Kaseya Partner reaching out to help.

Kaseya **IS NOT** having any partners reach out – **DO NOT** respond to any phone calls claiming to be a Kaseya Partner.

DO NOT click on any links or download any attachments in emails claiming to be a Kaseya advisory.



Containment



We are in the process of investigating the root cause of the incident with an abundance of caution but we recommend that you IMMEDIATELY shutdown your VSA server until you receive further notice from us.

It's critical that you do this immediately because one of the first things the attacker does is shutoff administrative access to the VSA.

July 3, 2021

'Turn off your heart': Kaseya VSA ransomware hits MSPs in a vital organ

Joe Uchill



Patch Problems

- Apply emergency patches/updates
- Patches SO not ready in time
- If they were, would you deploy them?
- What is your MSP's policy?
- Risks either way
- What do you do when patches aren't ready, or YOU aren't ready?
- What if there's another vuln?

Kaseya delays patch fixing zero-day attack as issues hit SaaS rollout

Fahmid

We are in the process of resetting the timelines for VSA SaaS and VSA On-Premises deployment. We apologize for the delay and changes to the plans as we work through this fluid situation.



July 7, 2021

Kaseya offers pre-patch instructions for on-prem VSA customers

Joe Uchill



This Will Happen Again

- Hackers want the most ROI
- Target widely-used software
- Leverage technology service providers
- Breaches lead to more breaches



Adapt Your DFIR Processes!

1. Monitor Threat Intelligence
2. Evaluate your risk
3. Conduct forensic preservation
4. Contain the damage
5. Hunt for Threats
6. Apply emergency patches/updates
7. Plan for elevated risks



Questions?

- Sherri Davidoff & Matt Durrin
- info@LMGsecurity.com
-  @LMGSecurity
- Find us on **Linked in**

