March 2022

Updates released in March of 2022 to Cisco cloud-based machine learning global threat alerts:

Additional Threat Detections

We've added more new threat detections to our portfolio, including:

- Cyclops Blink
- FormBook
- Gamaredon
- MuddyWater

Numerous lower-risk threat detections have also been enriched.

Cyclops Blink

Cyclops Blink is a malicious Linux ELF executable, targeting Small Office / Home Office network devices. It has 4 built-in modules, allowing it to upload and download files, discover system information (T1082) and update malware versions. More modules can be installed using C2 commands. It maintains persistence through a firmware update process (T1542.001) and executes downloaded files through Linux API calls (T1059.004). Each sample contains a list of IP addresses and port numbers (T1571). After execution, it modifies the system firewall (T1562.004) to enable C2 communication through these IP addresses and ports.

To see if Cyclops Blink has been detected in your environment, click Cyclops Blink Threat Detail to view its details in global threat alerts.

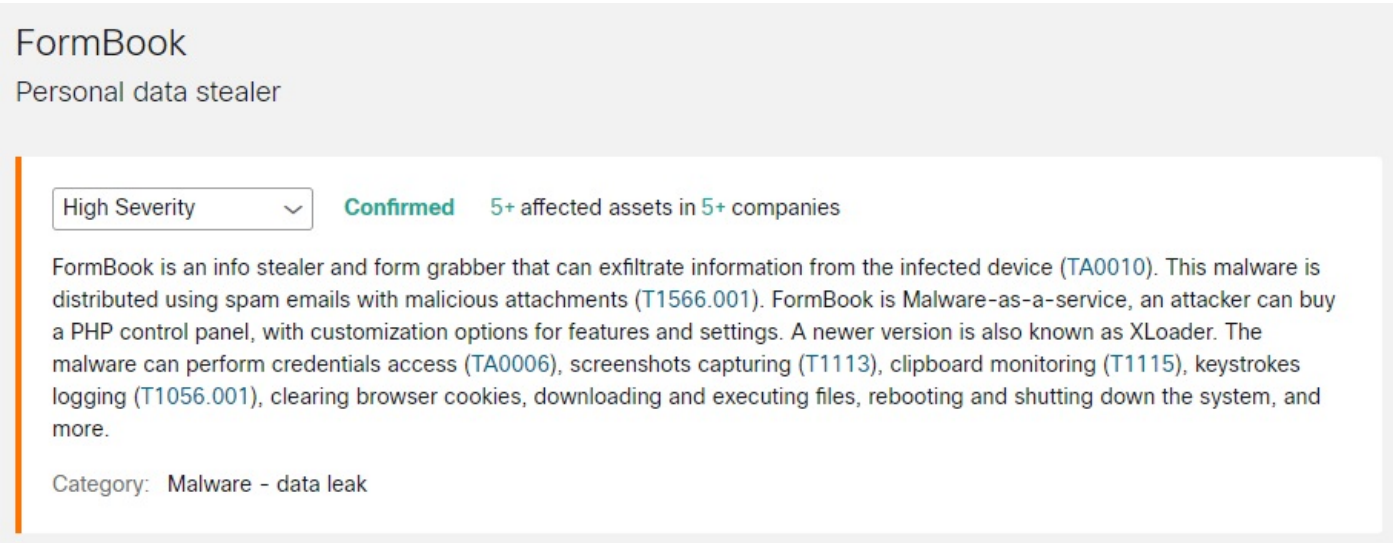
Figure 1:

FormBook

FormBook is an info-stealer and form-grabber that can exfiltrate information from an infected device (TA0010). This malware is distributed using spam emails with malicious attachments (T1566.001). FormBook is malware-as-a-service, an attacker can buy a PHP control panel, with customization options for features and settings. A newer version is also known as XLoader. The malware can access credentials (TA0006), capture screenshots (T1113), monitor clipboard (T1115), log keystrokes (T1056.001), clear browser cookies, download and execute files, reboot and shut down the system, and more.

To see if FormBook has been detected in your environment, click FormBook Threat Detail to view its details in global threat alerts.

Figure 2:



Gamaredon

Gamaredon, also known as Primitive Bear, is a nation state actor often targeting government organizations for cyber espionage. After rising tensions between Russia and the Ukraine, group activities have increased. Gamaredon often leverages malicious office files (T1204.002), distributed through spearphishing (T1566.001), as the first stage of their attacks. They are known to use the Powershell (T1059.001) beacon called PowerPunch to download and execute (T1204.002) malware for the ensuing stages. Pterodo (S0147) and QuietSieve are popular malware families they deploy for stealing information (TA0010) and various other actions.

To see if Gamaredon activity has been detected in your environment, click Gamaredon Activity Threat Detail to view its details in global threat alerts.

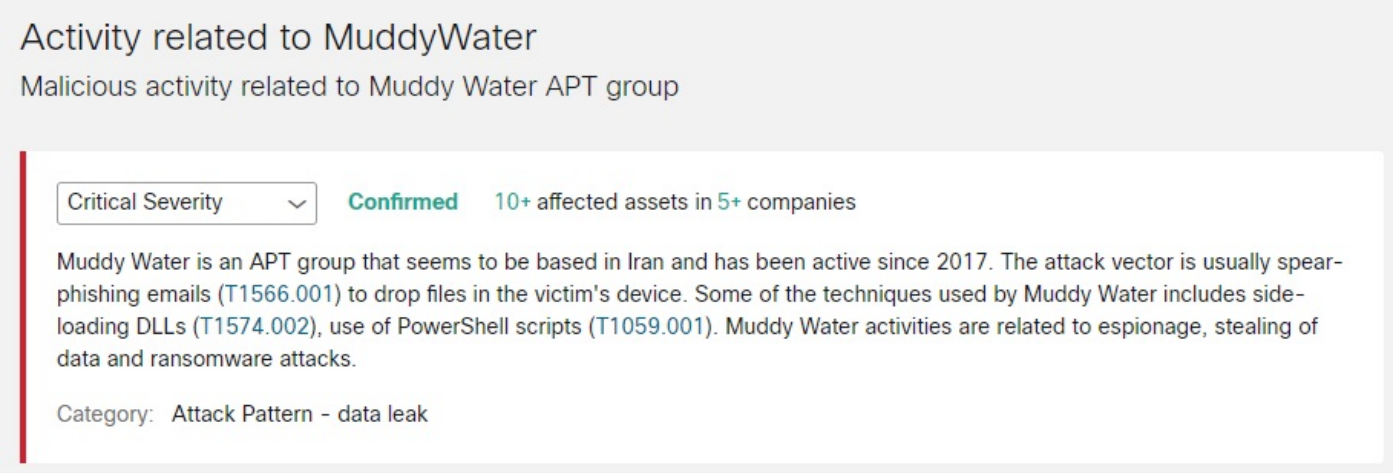
Figure 3:

MuddyWater

MuddyWater is an advanced persistent threat (APT) group that seems to be based in Iran and has been active since 2017. The attack vector is usually spear-phishing emails (T1566.001) to drop files into the victim's device. Some of the techniques used by MuddyWater include side-loading DLLs (T1574.002) and the use of PowerShell scripts (T1059.001). MuddyWater activities are related to espionage, stealing of data, and ransomware attacks.

To see if MuddyWater activity has been detected in your environment, click MuddyWater Activity Threat Detail to view its details in global threat alerts.

Figure 4:


Activity related to MuddyWater
Malicious activity related to Muddy Water APT group
Critical Severity
Confirmed
10+ affected assets in 5+ companies
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Category: Attack Pattern - data leak