

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
CABINET SECRETARIAT, CABINET DIVISION
NATIONAL TELECOM & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY BOARD
(NTISB)**

No. 1-5/2003 (NTISB-II)

Islamabad 03 Dec, 2020

Subject: **Advisory - Prevention Against Cyber Espionage (Advisory No. 24)**

1. A malware is being spread through **social engineering tactics** targeting military and intelligence organizations including DAs abroad in a well-planned targeted manner. For this purpose, attackers have crafted a malicious MS-Word file that looks like a legitimate document being title "**Here_s what to expect from Biden on top nuclear weapons issues**". Downloading and clicking on the fake MS-Word document executes a malware in the background on the target system / computer, eventually, the victim machine is compromised and becomes prone to data exfiltration. The crafted MS-Word document mimics as a verified Microsoft software thus rendering it undetectable through anti-virus.

2. **Summary of Malicious Email**

- a. **Subject.** Biden attitude on dealing with nuclear weapons
- b. **Downloaded File.** Here_s what to expect from Biden on top nuclear weapons issues.docx
- b. **MD5 Hash.** b56c98106376f4704d5c45ba8c427c1b
- e. **Malware APT Group.** SideWinder
- f. **Vulnerability ID.** CVE-2017-11882
- g. **Antivirus Detection Rate.** Low
- h. **File Size.** 747 Kbs
- i. **File Extension.** .docx
- j. **C&C Servers**

Ser	URL address	IP Address	Country
(1)	recent.wordupdate.com	46.17.175.27	-
(2)	-	23.57.85.167	Italy
(3)	-	104.27.184.80	US
(4)	-	23.82.140.14	US
(5)	wordupdate.com	172.67.142.252	US

3. **Indicators of Compromise**

- a. Files downloaded or rewritten from another process
 - (1) C:\intel\new.exe (self-copies)
 - (2) C:\users\lappdata\temp\ellonak.xml executed through pkgmgr.exe
 - (3) Trojan:Win32/CryptInject named as dismcore.dll
- b. Startup entry as **new.lnk** and C:\intel\new.exe
- c. Creates Startup entry for persistence
 - (1) Key **new-lnk** with description as **JacaRg.dll** and value as **C:\intehnew.exe**
 - (2) Key **programs.bat** with value as **C:\users\p\lappdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\startmenu\program\startup\program.bat**
 - (3) Key **windll** with value as **C:\users\p\lappdata\roaming\windll.exe**

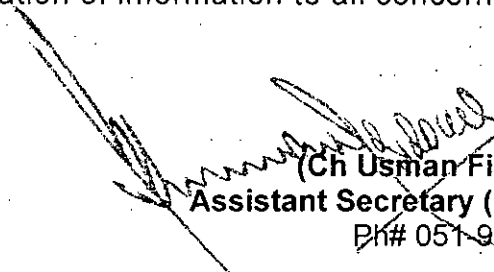
4. **Capabilities of Malware**

- a. The RTF based malware is specially designed for targeted attacks and can steal files and keystrokes (along with stored usernames / passwords) from windows system and browsers.
- b. The adversary resists in system by creating several copies and several execution points of original sample.
- c. The attacker can gain remote access of the system and can execute additional payload from it and run Microsoft certified files to evade antivirus detection.
- d. The attacker ran malware through Equation Editor that read other registry keys for execution and transferred information through temporary files.
- e. The malicious files are customized libraries is categorized as Ave_Maria stealer which executes through dll hijacking.

5. **Recommendations**

- a. **Regularly update well reputed antiviruses** such as Kaspersky, Avira, Avast etc. and scan system regularly.
- b. Update all software including Windows OS, Microsoft Office and all other on regular basis.
- c. Uninstall all not in use applications and software from system and personal phone.
- d. **Do not download attachments from emails unless you are sure about the source.**
- e. Window Defender and Firewall of system to be kept on as recommended settings.

6. Forwarded for perusal and dissemination of information to all concerned and under command, please.


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All Secretaries of Ministries / Divisions of Federal Government and Chief Secretaries of Provincial Governments

Copy to: -

1. Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Secretariat, Islamabad
2. Secretary to the President, Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad
3. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division, Islamabad
4. Additional Secretary-II, Cabinet Division, Islamabad
5. Secretary, NTISB, Cabinet Division, Islamabad
6. Deputy Secretary, NTISB, Cabinet Division, Islamabad
7. Director (IT), Cabinet Division, Islamabad