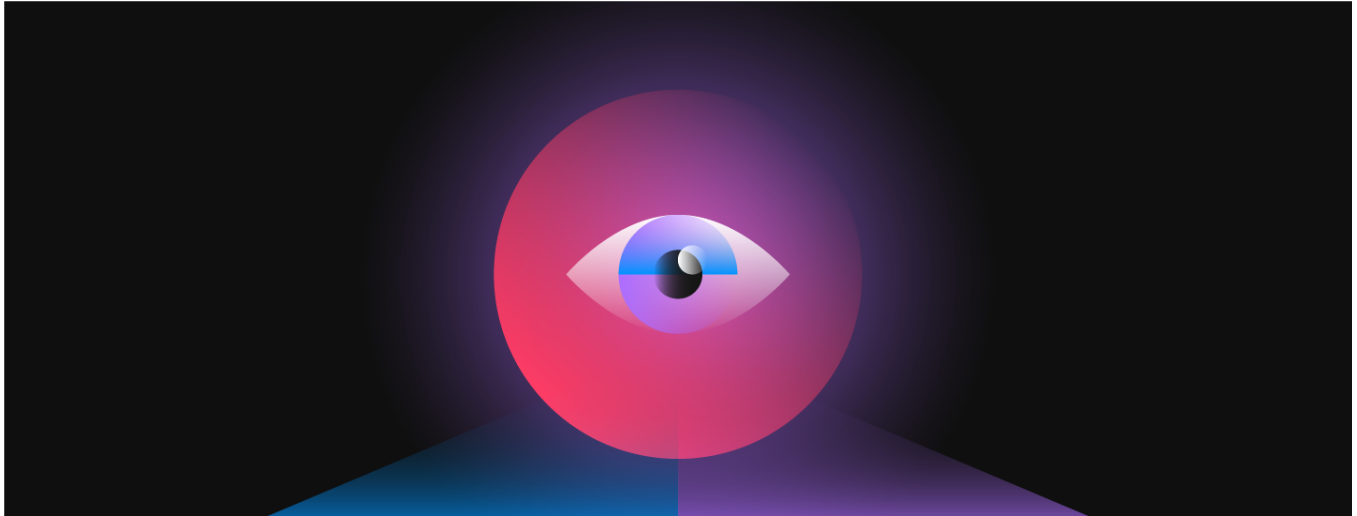


Avaddon Ransomware Analysis

 atos.net/en/lp/securitydive/avaddon-ransomware-analysis



INTRODUCTION

Atos Digital Security regularly performs incident response and gather information on various attacker groups. Among them, Avaddon stands out for its modus operandi and its rise.

This article describes the results of investigations conducted about this group as well as the technical analysis of a sample found in the victims of this ransomware.

UPDATE – 11-06-21

Since this article was written, a new event occurred on June 11, 2021: the Avaddon group stopped its activities.

According to BleepingComputer[1], its journalists received an anonymous message, claiming to be from the FBI that contained the keys to decrypt the files encrypted by Avaddon.

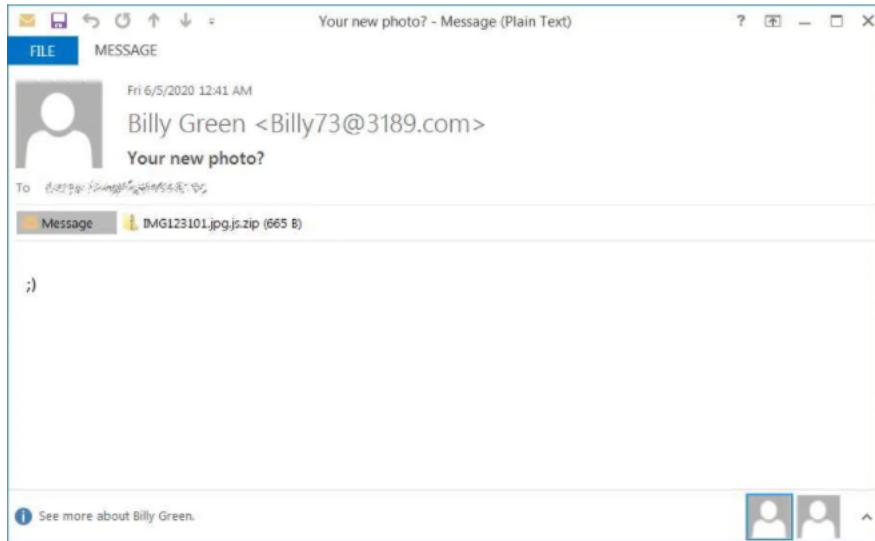
CERT-DS has indeed confirmed that the sample files collected during previous scans have been successfully decrypted.

The Avaddon website, hosted on a hidden service of the Tor network, is unavailable, which would confirm that the group's activity has been shut down.

The reasons behind this development are still unknown, but it could be related to the intensified fight against ransomware, recent events related to Colonial Pipeline[2] as well as political announcements from the United States.

DESCRIPTION OF AVADDON OPERATIONS

The Avaddon group was first observed in February 2020 and fully began to operate as a RaaS (Ransomware-as-a-Service) from June 2020 [1]. The ransomware acquired notoriety following a large-scale phishing campaign in which it was distributed by the Phorpiex/Trik. In this case, the fraudulent e-mails enticed victims to execute a compressed JavaScript file containing the ransomware payload. [2] [3].



At the same time, the Avaddon group started to promote its ransomware on Russian-speaking hacker forums in order to seek new affiliates and increase its distribution. A month later, in August 2020, the group launched its data leak website [4].

Since then, the group has quickly established itself as being able to deliver powerful, customisable and well-supported ransomware. Recent reports indicate a resurgence of its activity, confirmed by the recent publication of numerous repositories of data stolen from organisations in a wide range of sectors and countries [5] [6].

THE AVADDON RAAS

Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) is a business model in which ransomware developers provide attackers with the whole infrastructure necessary to encrypt a victim's data. This infrastructure includes the encryption software, the payment management, the data disclosure and the negotiation channel. Therefore, campaigns conducted by the Avaddon group under the RaaS model typically involve two threat actors. Initially, an attacker with access to an information system contacts the ransomware group. The Avaddon developers then examine the request as well as the credibility of the hacker's entry point. If the request is accepted, the attackers conclude an agreement with the group to allow it to use its infrastructure and the program that encrypts the data.

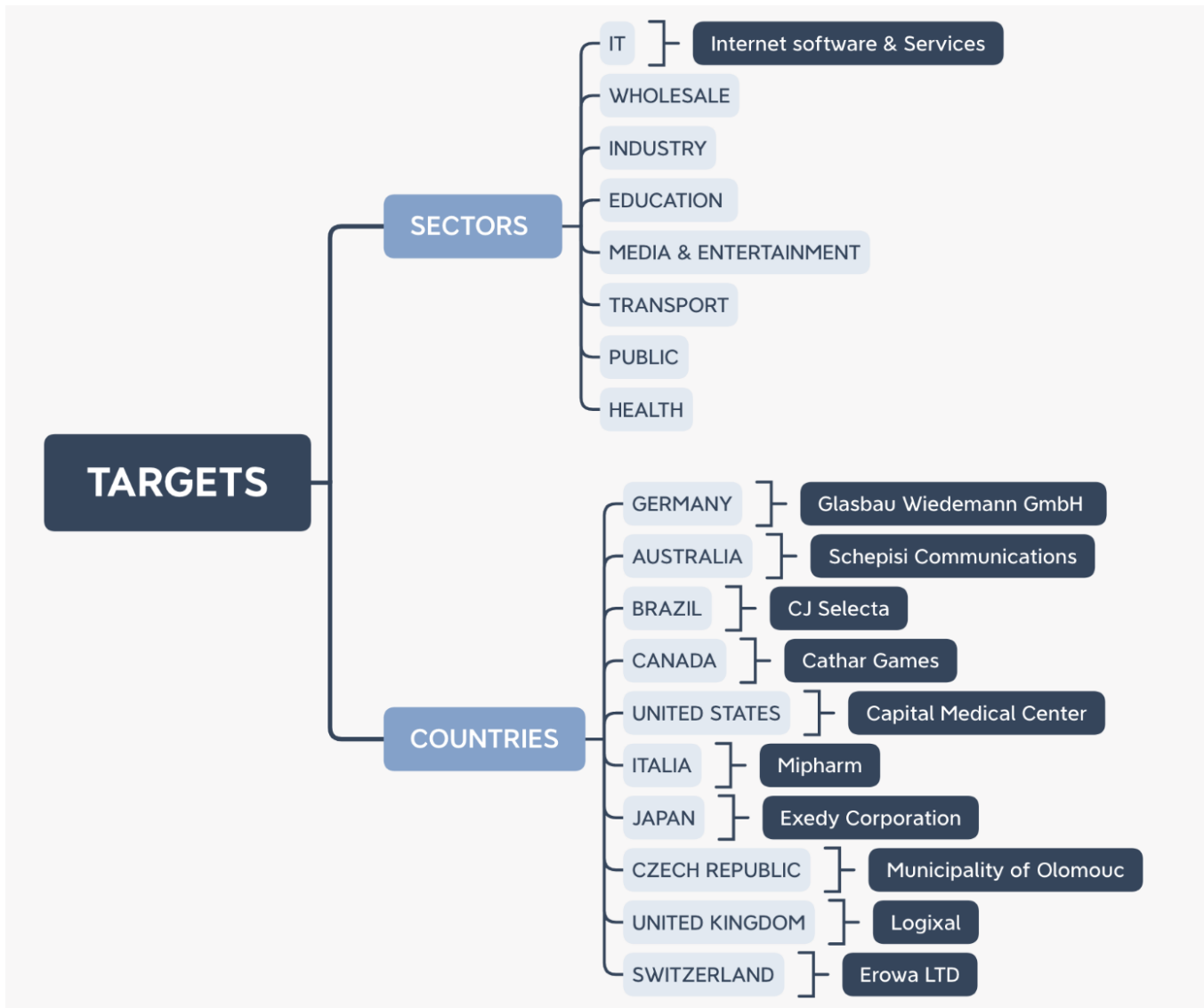
Affiliated attackers can then use the Avaddon ransomware and pay the developers with a share of the profits generated by the ransoms paid by their victims (between 15 and 35% of the profits on average). The Avaddon group's motives thus appear to be primarily lucrative, as is the case with most ransomware attacks, which are usually conducted with the opportunistic intent to obtain financial gain.

[1] Avaddon ransomware shuts down and releases decryption keys, BleepingComputer, <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/avaddon-ransomware-shuts-down-and-releases-decryption-keys/>

[2] Largest U.S. pipeline shuts down operations after ransomware attack, BleepingComputer, URL : <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/largest-us-pipeline-shuts-down-operations-after-ransomware-attack/>

VICTIMOLOGY

The Avaddon ransomware targets international public and private organisations in a wide range of sectors including IT services, wholesale and health. Recent victims include the American company American Bank Systems (ABS) [7], the Belgian consulting company Finalyse [8] and more recently a Maltese political party [9] and the insurer Group AXA [10].



Major Avaddon intrusions

Sources: *Ransomwatch – DataBreaches – DomainTools – HornetSecurity*

As a RaaS, Avaddon’s targets are therefore not chosen by its developers but by their affiliated groups. However, the group prohibits buyers from targeting countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In addition, the ransomware runs a script to identify its targets’ language during an intrusion. If it detects Russian or Ukrainian, it terminates its infection [11].

MODUS OPERANDI

Avaddon is usually distributed via phishing campaigns through e-mails containing obfuscated JPEG or ZIP attachments (which are actually JavaScript or Excel with macros). However, the ransomware exploits several other infection vectors, including being downloaded by other malware (Smoke Loader, Phorpiex/Trik, Rigeek, etc.) or distributed directly once an information system has been compromised, notably via Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) and Virtual Private Networks (VPN).

During one of our investigations, Avaddon was distributed primarily due to a lack of VPN updates and insecure passwords. The actor was then able to gain maximum privileges on the Active Directory domain, collect and exfiltrate sensitive data, and deploy his encryption software on numerous machines because of the process.

A portion of the stolen data is published on a data leak website accessible on the Deep Web to give credibility to their claims and to incite the victim to pay the ransom.

Avaddon’s encryption mechanism avoids critical areas of the Windows system to allow the victim to use their computer and witness the damages. If the ransom is not paid within ten days (240 hours), the group publishes all the stolen data on its data leak website.

New companies	The companies represented here do not want to cooperate with us and are trying to hide our successful attack on their resources. Wait for their databases and personal documents here. Follow the news!	Full dumps
TAIWAN SURFACE MOUNTING TECHNOLOGY CORP. Next update: 8 Days 22 : 13 : 11 DDOS	Greatwide Truckload Company: Greatwide Truckload Address: 2150 Cabot Blvd W, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, 19047, United States Website: www.greatwide-tm.com Phone: (215) 428-4800 800-283-9700 877-562-0837 Published data: 272.05 GiB Greatwide Truckload , the company does not want to cooperate with us, and therefore we completely leak all their valuable files and documents. We have a lot of valuable data, such as: classified information, confidential agreements and more, contracts, legal data, driver's documents, customer database as well as their personal data, tax documents for all branches and offices, logistics, finance, orders and accounting of salary payments to employees, banking and insurance and lending. Also remember that data cannot be decrypted without our general decryptor. And your site will be attacked by a DDoS attack.	Greatwide Truckload Published data: 272.05 GiB
Officine Piccini S.p.A Next update: 8 Days 13 : 27 : 42 DDOS		Hames Homes LLC Published data: 1.07 GiB
NSW Labor Next update: 8 Days 17 : 17 : 53 DDOS		MSPharma Published data: 1.07 GiB
Cinov Federation Next update: 8 Days 16 : 59 : 34 DDOS		Active Business & Technology Published data: 15.3 GiB
Glasbau Wiedemann GmbH Next update: 8 Days 16 : 45 : 27 DDOS		Exedy Corporation Published data: 32.45 GiB
Cocal Next update: 8 Days 11 : 52 : 04 DDOS		BIANCHI VENDING Published data: 2.36 GiB
Medland Metropolis Next update: 8 Days 16 : 30 : 10 DDOS		Dicon Fiberoptics Inc Published data: 110.25 GiB

Avaddon Website in .onion

Source: Ransomwatch

Since January 2021, the group stated to be combining its ransomware attacks with Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks on its victims' Website to add additional pressure [12].

MAJOR AVADDON UPDATES

The Avaddon ransomware has been modified and improved multiple times since the first version was released, especially regarding its encryption mechanism and its payload:

- As early as June 2020, the developers have integrated the ability to launch the payload via Powershell to address improved detection of Avaddon by antivirus software;
- In January 2021, Avaddon adds support for Windows XP and 2003;
- In February 2021, the developers fixed a vulnerability in the ransomware encryption mechanism.

This latest update follows the release of the AvaddonDecrypter decryption tool on February 9, 2021, developed by the researcher Javier Yuste. He managed to recover and analyse the ransomware encryption keys because they were stored in memory on the infected machines if they had not been rebooted [13] [14].

However, this tool allowed the Avaddon developers to realise the vulnerability of their ransomware and to implement a patch a few days later [15].

AVADDON MAIN FEATURES (V1)

According to SentinelOne, the first version of Avaddon includes the following features [5]:

- Unique payloads written in C++;
- File encryption via AES256 + RSA2048, supporting full-file encryption & custom parameters;
- Full offline support, initial contact to C2 not required;
- "Impossible" 3rd party decryption ;
- Support for Windows 7 and higher ;
- Multi-threaded file encryption for max performance;
- Encryption of all local and remote (and accessible) drives;
- IOCP Support for parallel file encryption;
- Persistently encrypts newly written files and newly connected media;
- Ability to spread across network shares (SMB, DFS);
- Multiple delivery options (script, PowerShell, .EXE payload .DLL);
- Payload executes as administrator ;
- Encrypts hidden files and volumes ;
- Removes trash, Volume Shadow Copies (VSS), and other restore points;
- Termination of processes which inhibit encryption of files;
- Configurable ransom note behaviour ;

REFERENCES

[1]<https://labs.sentinelone.com/avaddon-raas-breaks-public-decryptor-continues-on-rampage/>

[2]<https://appriver.com/resources/blog/june-2020/phorphiextrik-botnet-delivers-avaddon-ransomware>

[3]<https://www.checkpoint.com/press/2020/june-2020s-most-wanted-malware-notorious-phorpiex-botnet-rises-again-doubling-its-global-impact-on-organizations/>

[4]<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/avaddon-ransomware-launches-data-leak-site-to-extort-victims/>

[5] <https://labs.sentinelone.com/avaddon-raas-breaks-public-decryptor-continues-on-rampage/>

[6]<https://www.ransomwatch.org/>

[7]<https://securityreport.com/american-bank-systems-hit-by-ransomware-attack-full-53-gb-data-dump-leaked/>

[8]<https://www.databreaches.net/belgian-consultancy-finalyse-emerges-unscathed-from-ransomware-attack/>

[9]<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/cyber-attackers-hold-pn-to-ransom-with-major-data-leak-threat.865968>

[10]<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/insurer-axa-hit-by-ransomware-after-dropping-support-for-ransom-payments/>

[11]<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/wdsi/threats/malware-encyclopedia-description?Name=Ransom:Win32/Avaddon&ThreatID=2147768759>

[12]<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/another-ransomware-now-uses-ddos-attacks-to-force-victims-to-pay/>

[13]<https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.04796>

[14]<https://github.com/JavierYuste/AvaddonDecryptor>

[15]<https://www.zdnet.com/article/free-decryptor-released-for-avaddon-ransomware-victims-aaand-its-gone>

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

HOW AVADDON WAS ABLE TO BREACH ITS VICTIM?

Attack Description

The attacker group responsible for the attacks we investigated used the Avaddon ransomware. Knowing that Avaddon is a RaaS, different groups may use the ransomware. In general, attacker groups using this malware exploit the following entry points:

- Weak login credentials exposed on the internet (VPN SSL, RDP, etc...);
- Exploitation of a vulnerability allowing them to get a foothold in the network (Fortinet, Citrix...).

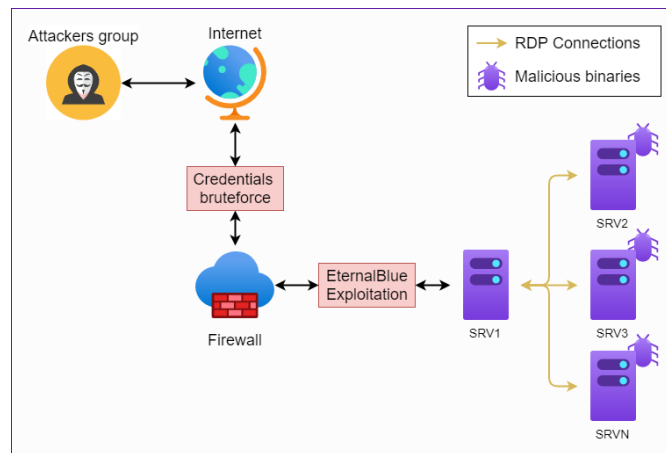


Figure 1 – Attack summary

As part of this attack, the group used weak credentials exposed via a firewall SSL VPN flaw. They then proceeded to guess other accounts based on what they obtained. One of the accounts they found was the domain administrator.

When the attackers were able to recover one or more firewall accesses, it was possible for them to move around the network. Exploiting the “EternalBlue” vulnerability, or MS17-010[3], allowed them to gain access to one of the servers. This security flaw allows an attacker to access the server without authentication, but above all it allows them to get a Super Administrator access (NT/SYSTEM).

Following this exploitation, the attacker’s group started their lateral movement in the network. The first action was to connect to other machines with the domain administrator account using remote desktop protocol (RDP).

Finally, the attacker group performed several actions on the network:

- Deployment of persistence using Cobalt Strike beacons;
- Deployment of a Mimikatz[4] executable used to retrieve credentials in memory;
- Internal network scan;
- Sensitive data exfiltration.

TTPs in use during the different attacks we investigated are referenced in a MITRE ATT&CK matrix at the end of the document.

Cobalt Strike Deployment

Cobalt Strike[5] is a Command and Control (C2) server, which allows attackers or red teamers to control infected machines. Beacons are malicious programs that allow an attacker to perform actions on the compromised machines.

Beacons analysed on the information system are deployed with a Powershell script.

This power shell script uses the “iex” cmdlet to execute scripts, binaries or binary streams. In this case, the different steps of the power shell decode base64 and execute it in memory.

```
IEX (New-Object IO.StreamReader(New-Object IO.Compression.GzipStream($s, [IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)).ReadToEnd());
```

Figure 2 – First execution stage

This script executes a second power shell script. This one also uses the “iex” cmdlet to execute the real Cobalt Strike binary load in memory:

```
If ([IntPtr]::size -eq 8) {  
    start-job { param($a) IEX $a } -RunAs32 -Argument $DoIt | wait-job | Receive-Job  
}  
else {  
    IEX $DoIt  
}
```

Figure 3 – Second execution stage

The final execution step is the Cobalt Strike beacon.

It was possible to extract the beacon configuration, allowing analysts to find the C2 address and other information. Finally, when all sensitive data was exfiltrated, attackers deleted the Firewall event logs and deployed the “Avaddon” ransomware.

[3] <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/security-updates/securitybulletins/2017/ms17-010>

[4] <https://github.com/gentilkiwi/mimikatz/wiki>

[5] <https://www.cobaltstrike.com/>

AVADDON RANSOMWARE IN USE

The analysed sample is a 32-bit PE Windows executable file called “exe_CLIENTNAME.en.exe”. It is compiled with Microsoft Visual C++ with a compilation date/time group of March 09, 2021 18:35:19.

When the executable is launched, the ransomware checks if it has privileged user rights. If not, it does not run.

When files are encrypted, the ransomware drops the note “XXXXXX_readme.txt” in all folders with encrypted files. This note contains instructions for victims to pay the ransom.

At the end of this note, an identifier is indicated. The attacker group to identify the infected machines uses this identifier.

RCID – Machiner identifier

This identifier is represented by a base64 encoded block. Decoding this block shows two elements:

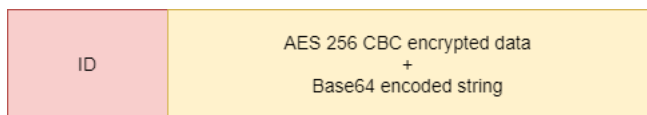


Figure 4 – RCID format

The red “ID” part is a numerical value: “XXXX”. It was possible to find this value in the malware code. It can be a campaign number or a malware version.

The key and the initialisation vector are hardcoded in the malware:

- AES key (b64) : **REDACTED**
- IV (b64) : **REDACTED**

This data contains the encrypted file extension, an “RCID”, the list of mounted disks, language of the machine and its host name.

The RCID represents the unique identifier of the compromised machine and is based on an asymmetric algorithm (RSA). Below, a summary diagram of the RCID generation:

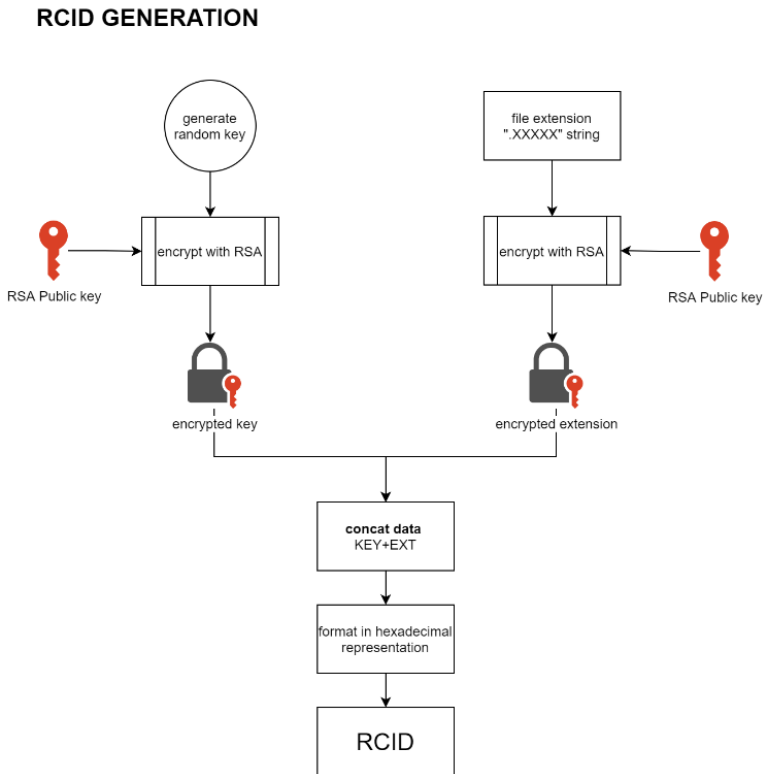


Figure 5 – RCID generation

Malware configuration

The configuration of this ransomware is encrypted using a XOR. This operation can be easily reversed when the key is known. Below are the main elements extracted from the configuration:

Extensions .exe,.bin,.sys,.ini,.dll,.lnk,.dat,.drv,.rdp,.prf,.swp
not to encrypt

RSA1 public key (b64)	REDACTED
Database extension	.mdf,.mds,.sql
Services to kill	DefWatch,ccEvtMgr,ccSetMgr,SavRoam,dbsrv12,sqlservr,sqlagent,Intuit.QuickBooks.FCS,dbeng8,sqladhlp,QBIDPService,Culserve
Processes to kill	sqlservr.exe,sqlmangr.exe,RAGui.exe,QBCFMonitorService.exe,supervise.exe,fdhost.exe,Culture.exe,RTVscan.exe,Defwatch.exe,w
Note ID	REDACTED
AES 256 key (b64)	REDACTED
IV (b64)	REDACTED

Deleting backups

Since Windows XP, Microsoft has developed a technology known as **Volume Snapshot Service** or **Shadow Copy**. Shadow Copy allows automatic file backups to be made transparently to the user. When the ransomware starts, this feature is disabled and then the backups are deleted by executing multiple wmic and wbadadmin commands. Most of the commands are executed with the **CreateProcessW** API. These commands are console applications, so they display a **cmd.exe** window when executed.

```
vss_cmd = (wchar_t *)lpcommandline;
result = CreateProcessW(0, vss_cmd, 0, 0, 1, 0x8000000u, 0, 0, &StartupInfo, &ProcessInformation);
if ( result )
{
    WaitForSingleObject(ProcessInformation.hThread, 0xFFFFFFFF);
    CloseHandle(ProcessInformation.hProcess);
    result = CloseHandle(ProcessInformation.hThread);
}
```

Figure 6 – Commands execution routine

Nevertheless, the first wmic command differs from the others. It is executed 3 times through the Microsoft Component Object Model (COM) technology with the WBEM Locator interface. This interface allows to execute a WMI command with **Win32_Process** class and **Create** method. This method is equivalent to the previous **CreateProcessW** API, but it is less detectable by attack response systems. At the same time, the recycle garbage is emptied of its contents with the **SHEmptyRecycleBinW** API.

Disabling the UAC

To avoid user interaction during the encryption process as much as possible, UAC (User Account Control) is disabled in the registry. Thus, no dialog box will appear when the system requires access to administrator rights. Below the code that edits registry key *EnableLUA*:

```
if ( !RegOpenKeyExW(HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, (LPCWSTR)enable_uac_key, 0, 0xF003Fu, &phkResult) )
{
    if ( v3->cap >= 8u )
        v3 = (wstring_obj_s *)v3->wstr;
    RegSetValueExW(phkResult, (LPCWSTR)v3, 0, 4u, Data, 4u); // remove UAC dialog box
    RegCloseKey(phkResult);
}
```

Figure 7 – Registry key modification in order to disabling the UAC

Searching for hidden volumes

Some volumes are mounted by different users on the same machine. Each user therefore has access to his or her own mounted volumes. In order to encrypt these volumes, Avaddon will disable this partitioning by modifying the registry. This modification allows all processes running as an administrator to access volumes mounted by users of the machine. Some volumes are also hidden. To find and encrypt them, the ransomware will browse all volumes on the disks with the **FindFirstVolume** API and then attempt to mount these volumes with **SetVolumeMountPointW** to access them:


```

do
{
if ( !*( _DWORD * )( v4 + 40 ) && v2 != v3 )
{
v3 -= 6;
strcpy( lpszVolumeMountPoint, v3 );
v5 = ( unsigned int ) v3[ 5 ];
if ( v5 >= 8 )
free_string( *v3, 2 * v5 + 2 );
v3[ 4 ] = 0;
v3[ 5 ] = ( void * ) 7;
v6 = ( const WCHAR * ) v4;
*( _WORD * ) v3 = 0;
v7 = *( _DWORD * )( v4 + 20 ) < 8u;
HIDWORD( v13 ) = v3;
if ( !v7 )
v6 = *( const WCHAR ** ) v4;
v8 = ( const WCHAR * ) lpszVolumeMountPoint;
if ( v12 >= 8 )
v8 = lpszVolumeMountPoint[ 0 ];
SetVolumeMountPointW( v8, v6 );
v10 = 1;
if ( v12 >= 8 )
free_string( ( void * ) lpszVolumeMountPoint[ 0 ], 2 * v12 + 2 );
}
v4 += 72;
}
while ( v4 - 24 != vol[ 0 ] );

```

Figure 8 – Browsing all volumes

Services and processes kill list

Avaddon cannot access some files, because they are already open by another program. For example, the files in a Microsoft SQL server database. To overcome this problem, a routine allows stopping a selection of processes/services that are defined in the configuration. Examples of the code allowing deleting a service:

```

v3 = OpenSCManagerW( 0, 0, 0xF003Fu );
v4 = v3;
if ( v3 )
{
if ( *( ( _DWORD * ) lpServiceName + 5 ) >= 8u )
v1 = *( const WCHAR ** ) lpServiceName;
v5 = OpenServiceW( v3, v1, 0x10020u );
v6 = v5;
if ( v5 )
{
v2 = DeleteService( v5 );
CloseServiceHandle( v6 );
}
CloseServiceHandle( v4 );
}

```

Figure 9 – Kill list of services and process according to the malware configuration

Persistence

To persist in the system, Avaddon copies itself into the %APPDATA%\Microsoft\Windows\ folder with the same file name. Then it installs itself in the Windows task scheduler using the ITaskService interface through the Microsoft COM technology. The task is set to run the ransomware copy every 10 minutes indefinitely:

```
v90 = 0;
if ( CoCreateInstance(&stru_488F5C, 0, 1u, &CLSID_ITaskService, (LPVOID *)&v90) < 0 )
    return;
```

Figure 10 – Interaction with task scheduler

To avoid multiple execution of the ransomware and thus encrypting files that have already been encrypted, a mutex is created under the name: **Global{REDACTED}**. The presence of this mutex is checked at each launch, if it is present then the program ends, because an instance of Avaddon is already running.

Asynchronous Multithreading

To encrypt as quickly as possible Avaddon will use a Windows kernel technology called **I/O CompletionPorts**. This technology allows to create a thread pool to handle asynchronous I/O requests efficiently on multi-core systems. Each of the threads has the task of encrypting one file at a time. The number of threads created is proportional to the number of processors/cores the machine has:

```
n_core = get_number_of_proc();
handle_ioc = CreateIoCompletionPort((HANDLE)0xFFFFFFFF, 0, 0, n_core);
if ( handle_ioc != (HANDLE)-1 && n_core )
{
    do
    {
        v9 = create_thread(0, 0, (LPCWSTR)get_queued_completion_status, this, 0, 0);
        if ( v9 )
```

Figure 10 – Asynchronous multithreading

The threads are then put on hold until they are presented with a file path to encrypt.

Encryption through network

As noted earlier the ransomware will encrypt all volumes it encounters, whether local or remote. However, Avaddon goes further by using the machine’s ARP cache to discover new networks. Each new network is then fully scanned for a CIFS/SMB volume that can be mounted and encrypted:

```
if ( wcsncmp(v9, ip_addr) && req_send_arp(ip_addr, (LPCWCH)v9) )// request ARP cache
{
    v39 = 0;
    *(_QWORD *)Src = 0i64;
    net_share_enum((int)Src, ip_addr); // network enumeration
    LOBYTE(v40) = 4;
    v11 = *(_QWORD *)Src;
    if ( Src[0] != Src[1] )
    {
```

Figure 11 – Network enumeration using ARP cache

File encryption

Avaddon scans every file on the machine (or on remote volumes). Some file extensions are not encrypted according to the ransomware configuration, as they could affect the system stability and prevent the recovery of the ransom note and data.

To encrypt a file, Avaddon uses two modes. A first mode that allows you to specify how many bytes it should encrypt using the configuration, and a second mode that by default encrypts a maximum of 1048576 bytes. In our sample it is this second mode that is used. Thus beyond the first 1048576 (1000000h) bytes of a file, the data are no longer encrypted. Example of a text file :

0000FFB0	FA C0 E8 02 88 AA 3E 9D 92 F3 BF 36 27 97 22 AF	úÀ.ˆˆ>.'ó;6'–"
0000FFC0	95 E3 95 B9 FD F8 E0 FD F6 67 D0 BD 35 1D D2 45	•ã•'yóâyögD%5.0E
0000FFD0	9C 8F C6 56 6B B8 32 1F 1F 1F 1F 1F 1F 1F 1F	œ.EVk,2/Tnyÿ-.#"
0000FFE0	1F 68 D7 3A 8C C6 8E 15 B4 00 00 00 00 00 00	.h×:EEZ.'E'rk-ä·
0000FFF0	9B BE 47 B6 0A 19 EE 49 8D D5 E5 56 A3 A4 12 CA	»GQ!..iI.ÔâVr.Ê
00100000	2E 20 73 74 61 72 74 69 6E 67 20 22 73 63 72 69	. starting "scri
00100010	70 74 2E 70 79 22 20 69 6E 73 74 65 61 64 20 6F	pt.py" instead o
00100020	66 20 22 70 79 74 68 6E 6E 6E 6E 6E 6E 6E 6E	f "python scrip
00100030	2E 70 79 22 29 2C 0D 0A 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	.py"),..
00100040	72 65 64 69 72 65 63 74 73 20 6D 61 79 20 6E 6F	redirects may no
00100050	74 20 77 6F 72 6B 20 75 6E 6C 65 73 73 20 79 6F	t work unless yo

Figure 12 – Data examples

In order to encrypt a file, Avaddon generates a random 256 CBC crypto-quality AES key with the CryptGenKey API. Each file is encrypted with a unique key per block of 8192 bytes. This key is then encrypted with the RSA public key and concatenated to the encrypted string stands for malware extension (identical to the RCID). This data is then inserted at the end of the file (see next section) and the AES key is deleted. In order to retrieve the AES key and decrypt the file, you must have the private key that Avaddon has. Below is the summarised diagram:

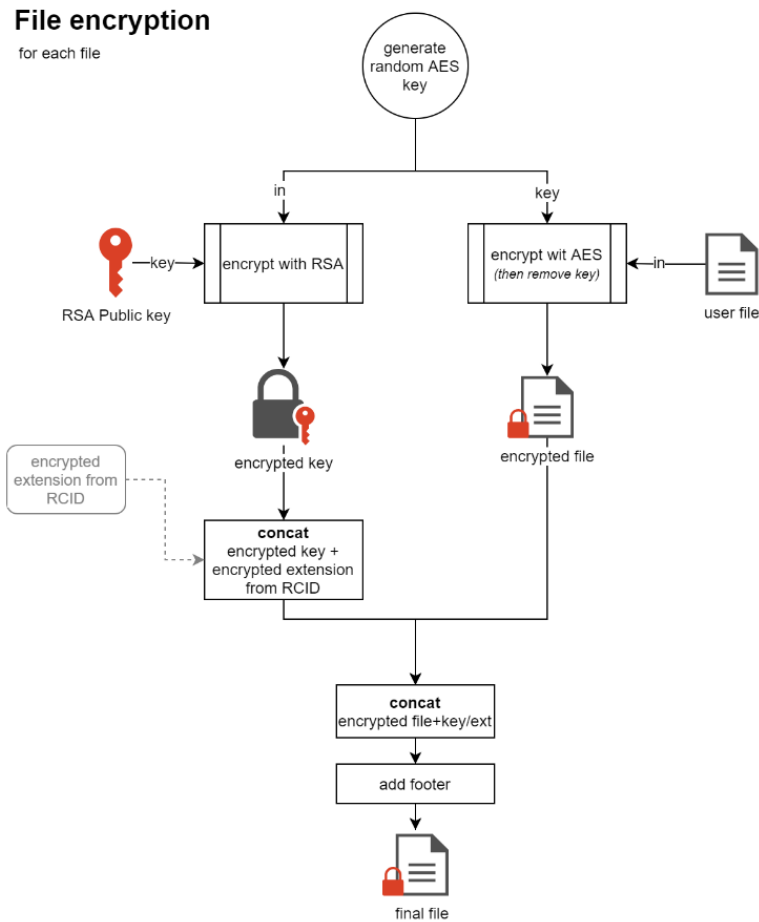


Figure 13 – File encryption process

1.1.1. File identifier

Each encrypted file embeds at its end, some data containing its own AES key to allow decryption. The end structure is composed as follows (data in little endian):

- Encrypted AES key using RSA;
- RSA encrypted extension ;
- In red on 8 bytes, the size of the original file;
- In blue on 4 bytes, the sum of the size of the blocks: AES key + the size of the extension block;
- In green on 4 bytes, the encryption mode which corresponds here to the maximum (see previous section);
- In yellow on 4 bytes, the Avaddon identifier (magic value);

```

00002000 12 C5 D7 E4 C7 55 FE E2 36 72 97 18 A7 07 D1 E6 .Ã×äÇUpô6r-.s.Nô
00002010 24 5F 7D 9E 42 E3 12 45 08 5E F3 44 7D 2F 2D 8F $ }zBâ.E.^ôD)/-
00002020 4E 46 09 9B 32 C3 76 94 E9 8A A7 C8 F3 7C 5E 96 NF.>2Av"eSSEô|^~
00002030 81 C4 D8 7E E6 CA 25 EC 02 BA 91 A2 6F 2A 95 C1 .Ã0-æE%i.°'ôo*Ã
00002040 10 AB C3 58 9B 95 98 03 6F 2D C7 2A 36 F7 BA 42 «ÃX)*.°-Ç*6±*B
00002050 E5 8B 98 40 CC 24 9B 1A AE DA 96 62 F5 BD 6C 42 à<'@i$,æÜ-bô%lB
00002060 8C 8E 1F 20 0E 76 EA 03 ED A4 4D 83 16 A5 B1 0B æZ. .vè.i±Mf.±.
00002070 3C 05 BA C9 16 A6 EE DB 0F E4 02 AD 25 A2 B8 0B <.°E.;iÜ.a.°%c.
00002080 BF 61 05 34 4E 8A 87 2E 18 74 9B C1 DA FB ç.a.4I'æe..+DxÁÜú
00002090 BD 19 56 A1 5E 16 8E 4C CE 04 8E 15 89 E3 A3 %V;_|...Lí.n.±áf
000020A0 E5 28 4C A3 0B BF E8 E3 DD 99 D6 96 87 0F 8F 9F à(L.E.çæáY"0-+..ÿ
000020B0 F7 18 DD 9F EC B3 07 46 21 1A B1 E9 58 DF E4 49 ÷.ÿYi³.F!±èXBâI
000020C0 F5 79 26 A7 CF FE 7E 87 61 4D 05 20 EF 98 58 68 öy&šİp-+aM. i`Xh
000020D0 17 16 9F B9 BF 3F 36 E9 E6 A0 E2 EE 95 F9 08 60 ..ÿ'ç?6ææ ai`ü.`
000020E0 46 B9 96 62 AE CA DA FA C5 1F ED 2B 19 F0 CF 2C F¹-b@EÜúA.i+.ôí.
000020F0 98 43 8A EF 3B F6 D0 4B D3 3D 68 80 0D 02 F0 86 ~ÇSİ;ôBKó=he.ô†
00002100 22 2F ED F8 BA 1F 31 19 A4 7F AC F4 9A 23 3A 2E "/iø°.l.±.-ôš#:.
00002110 50 7C CC 71 35 EB 67 C8 EC D0 7A 18 1E 6B 97 BE P!İq5egEİDz..k-%
00002120 F5 D9 F5 A3 4F 45 6C 1C 37 2C 03 4E 3A EB 4C DF ôÜôEÖE1.7,.N:èLâ
00002130 98 39 85 47 88 81 6C D7 18 10 D4 65 6B 48 E5 19 "9..G`.l×.°èkHâ.
00002140 E6 F6 9F 3A 35 48 33 23 BC 0D FE BF 08 C7 F3 AE æöÿ:5H3#%4.pç.Çó@
00002150 E6 A8 69 93 E7 FE D7 CE C2 44 8A 8D 51 25 CC D9 æ"i"çp×iADš.Q%İÜ
00002160 DA 21 E2 72 02 39 FC 06 EE 2A 7D A0 6E B0 4D 37 Ú!ar.9u.i*} n°M7
00002170 33 6B AF AC 58 02 99 DA DB 10 88 37 6F 56 32 8D 3k~.,.mÜ0.°7oV2.
00002180 05 7C CD 7D 3E 38 35 6D 73 D6 9F 7E EC 8E .l!jæ+Vİ3.söÿ-iž
00002190 4F 08 ED C5 69 4E 99 27 91 87 AD 74 8B FE CE 72 O.iAİN"'+.t<þİr
000021A0 AD B2 46 86 54 12 A8 77 2C C0 D2 71 1D 69 7C D4 .²FtT."w,Ãöç.i|ö
000021B0 F9 B3 3E 9D 00 90 5E 3D AD 58 D6 5D F7 13 C6 35 ù³>...^=.XÖ}|+.E5
000021C0 34 80 FB 6E C5 35 E3 17 8B 7D 19 8C DF 10 50 DB 4èunÃ5â.<}.Gß.PÜ
000021D0 B3 00 EA 5A 80 3C F0 24 2C 2C CC 1B 0A 1D 59 C2 ³.èZè<ô$,i...YÃ
000021E0 4B 4A F0 C9 6F FF E6 68 07 07 C5 74 0C 71 BF 45 KJÖEoyah..Ãt.qçE
000021F0 B0 0B 5C FC D5 D6 B7 C6 D9 D8 90 99 46 98 0A A6 °.\uö0°EÜ0."F".!
00002200 C4 0D 00 00 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 01 00 00 00 Ä.....
00002210 07 03 03 03 00 00 00 00 .....

```

Figure 14 Encrypted data

1.2. MITRE Att&ck Framework

ID	TTP	Détection
T1021	Remote Services	Usage of RDP and SMB services
T1133	External Remote Services	Usage of external VPN
T1595	Active Scanning	Network scan – Firewall logs – Exposed IP address scans.
T1190	Exploit Public-Facing Application	Attackers have exploited CVE-2018-13379 for FortiGate VPNs to gain access to existing accounts
T1498	Denial of Service	In order to pressure his victims, Avaddon performs denials of service on his victims' external services.
T1035	Exécution	Avaddon creates Windows services such as wmic, wbadmın, vssadmin and bcdedit.
T1003	OS Credential Dumping	The Mimikatz tool was used by the attackers on different servers, thanks to the retrieval of the in-memory value of the lsass.exe process.
T1046	Network Scanning Service	Network scanning tools have been detected on several compromised machines.
T1098	Account Manipulation	Credentials have been maintained by obtaining full access.
T1485	Data Destruction	Destruction of files through the encryption of elements of the majority of servers and workstations.
T1486	Data Encrypted for Impact	File encryption of all affected machines.
T1112	Defence Evasion	Antivirus / EDR deletion.
T1083 T1016	Discovery	Avaddon searches for files by extension, requests machine and network information, detects if it is in a sandbox and requests device information from the affected machine
T1120		
T1060	Persistence Scheduled Task / jobs	To persist in the system, Avaddon copies itself into the %APPDATA%\Microsoft\Windows\ folder. Then it installs itself in the Windows task scheduler using the ITaskService interface through Microsoft COM technology.
T1055.012	Process Injection: Process Hollowing	Process Injection with Cobalt Strike
T1043	Command and Control	Avaddon uses port 443 for communication.

T1059	Command and Scripting Interpreter: PowerShell	Powershell was used to leverage the download and launch of a fileless Cobalt Strike beacon
T1490	Inhibit System Recovery	Avaddon uses vssadmin, bcdedit and wbadm to remove recovery capabilities from the Windows machine.

Posted on: **Jun 7th**



By **Loïc Castel**,
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[#DataProtection] 🗝️ Do you need to protect your sensitive data in #Microsoft365 ? Dual key encryption #DKE technology enables you to keep control of your #encryption keys & ensures that #sensitive data remains inaccessible from any 3d party. ➡️ <https://t.co/WTS3sBqDA>



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