Massive campaign uses YouTube to push password-stealing malware

bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/massive-campaign-uses-youtube-to-push-password-stealing-malware/

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Widespread malware campaigns are creating YouTube videos to distribute password-stealing trojans to unsuspecting viewers.

Password stealing trojans are malware that quietly runs on a computer while stealing passwords, screenshots of active windows, cookies, credit cards stored in browsers, FTP credentials, and arbitrary files decided by the threat actors.

When installed, the malware will communicate with a Command & Control server, where it waits for commands to execute by the attacker, which could entail the running of additional malware.

Malicious YouTube videos gone wild

Threat actors have long used YouTube videos as a way to distribute malware through embedded links in video descriptions.

However, this week has Cluster25 security researcher Frost told BleepingComputer that there has been a significant uptick in malware campaigns on YouTube pushing various password-stealing Trojans.

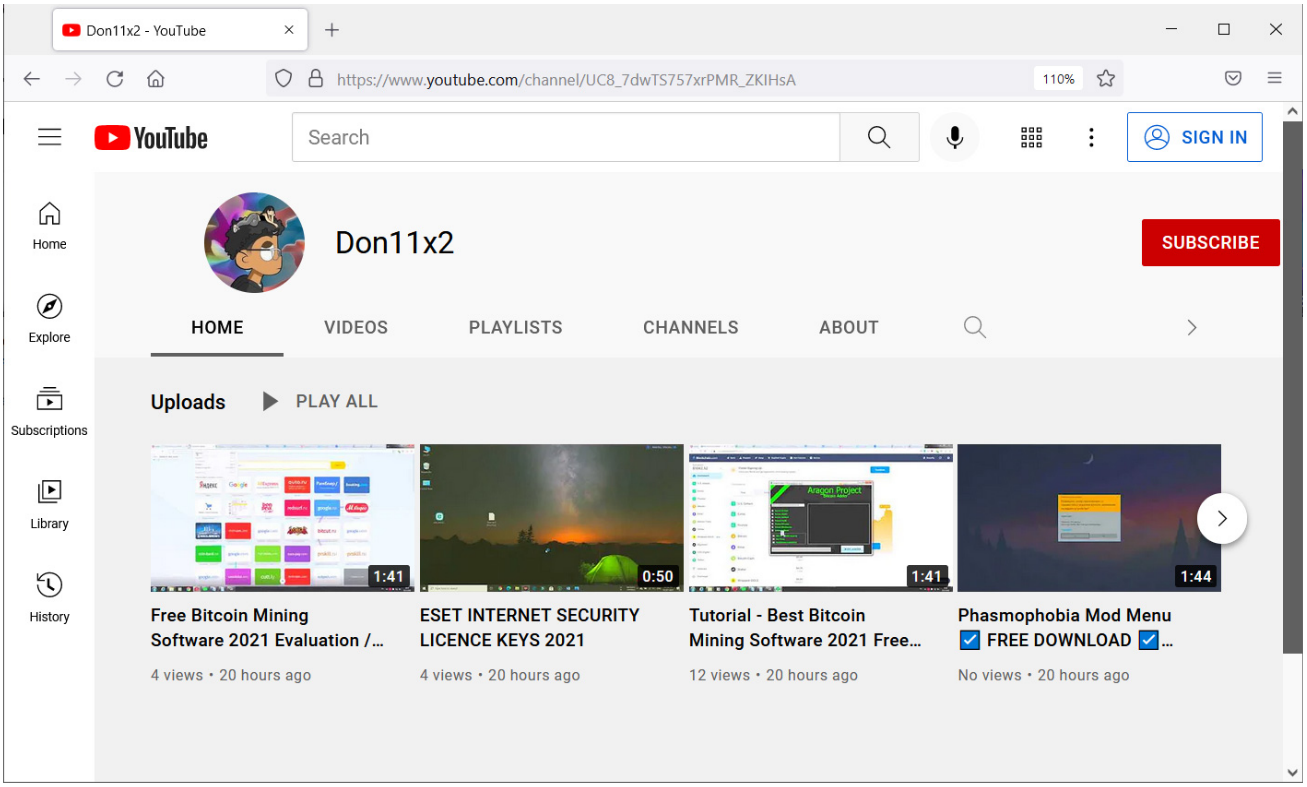
Frost told BleepingComputer that it is likely two clusters of malicious activity being conducted simultaneously - one pushing the RedLine malware and the other pushing Racoon Stealer.

The researcher said that thousands of videos and channels had been made as part of this massive malware campaign, with 100 new videos and 81 channels created in just twenty minutes.

Frost explained that the threat actors use the Google accounts they steal to launch new YouTube channels to spread malware, creating a never-ending and ever-growing cycle.

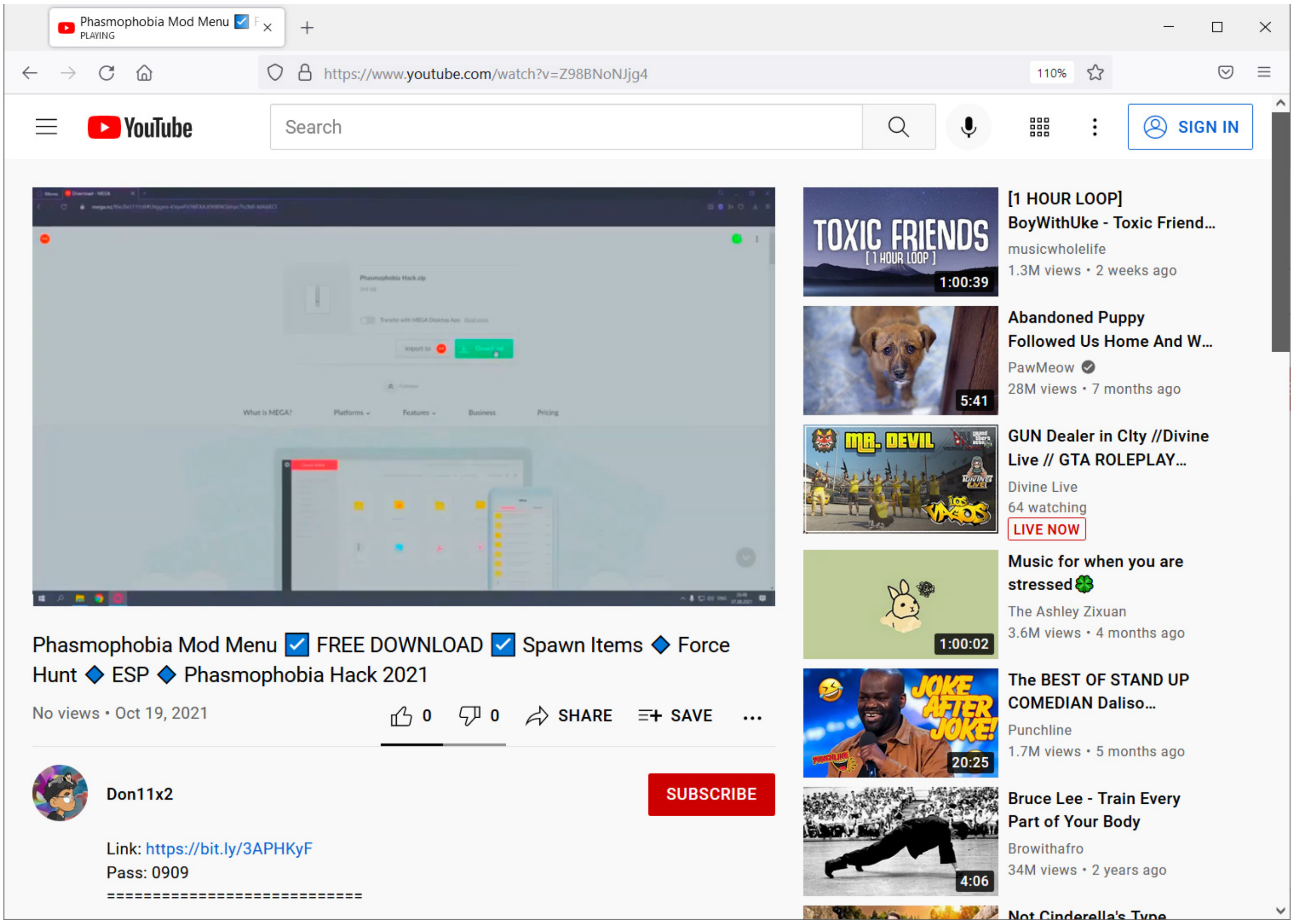
"The threat actors have thousands of new channels available because they infect new clients every day. As part of these attacks, they steal victim's Google credentials, which are then used to create new YouTube Videos to distribute the malware," Frost told BleepingComputer.

The attacks start with the threat actors creating numerous YouTube channels filled with videos about software cracks, licenses, how-to guides, cryptocurrency, mining, game cheats, VPN software, and pretty much any other popular category.



Example of a malicious YouTube channel

These videos contain content that explains how to perform a task using a specific program or utility. Additionally, the YouTube video's description includes an alleged link to the associated tool used to distribute the malware.



Phasmophobia Mod Menu ☑ F
PLAYING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z98BNoNJjg4

Phasmophobia Mod Menu ☑ FREE DOWNLOAD ☑ Spawn Items 🔷 Force Hunt 🔷 ESP 🔷 Phasmophobia Hack 2021

No views • Oct 19, 2021

Don11x2

Link: https://bit.ly/3APHKyF
Pass: 0909
============================

[1 HOUR LOOP] BoyWithUke - Toxic Friend...
musicwholelife
1.3M views • 2 weeks ago

Abandoned Puppy Followed Us Home And W...
PawMeow
28M views • 7 months ago

GUN Dealer in CIty //Divine Live // GTA ROLEPLAY...
Divine Live
64 watching
LIVE NOW

Music for when you are stressed🍀
The Ashley Zixuan
3.6M views • 4 months ago

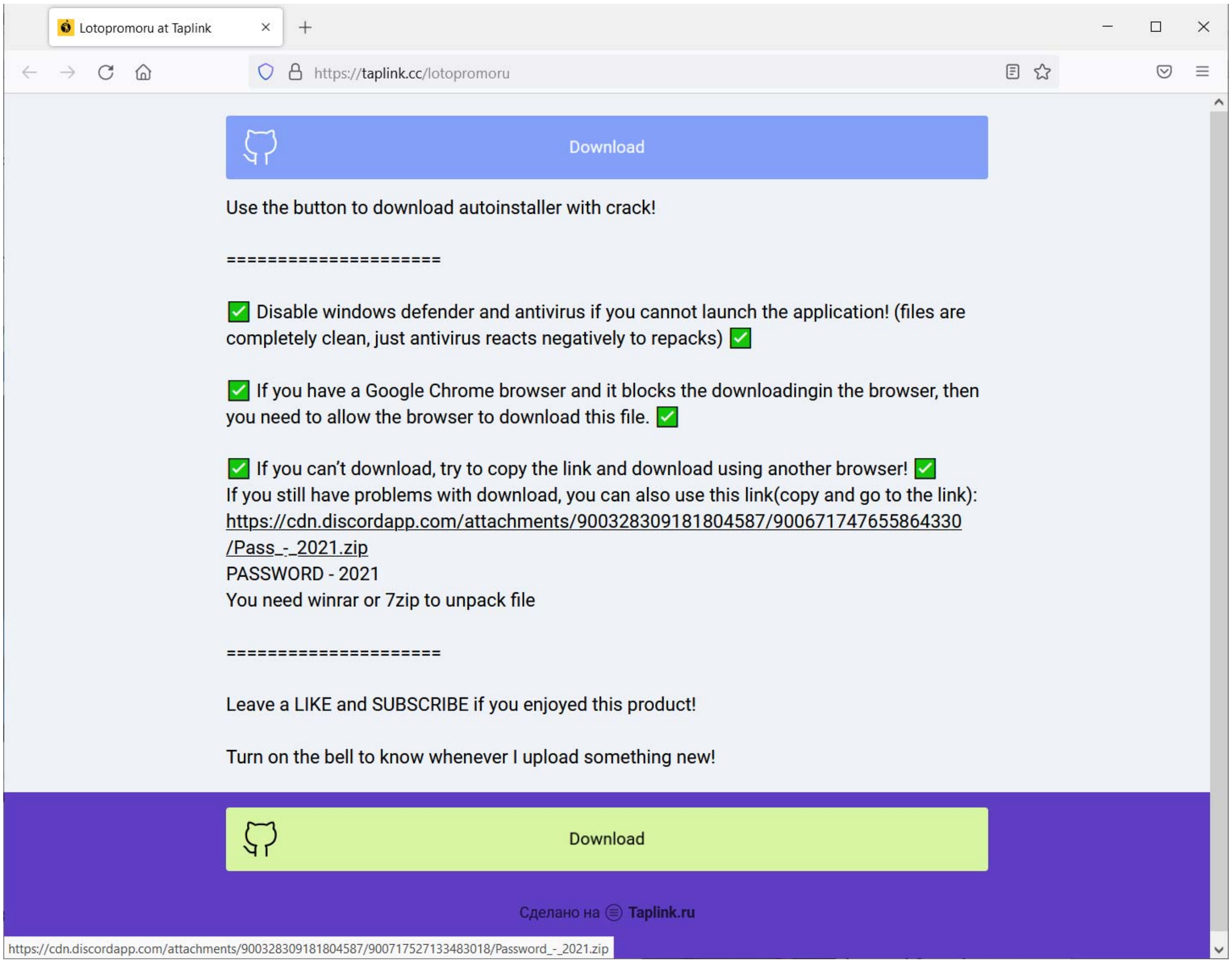
The BEST OF STAND UP COMEDIAN Daliso...
Punchline
1.7M views • 5 months ago

Bruce Lee - Train Every Part of Your Body
Browithafro
34M views • 2 years ago

Not Cinderella's Type

Malicious YouTube video pushing RedLine stealer

If a video contains a bit.ly link, it will lead to another file-sharing site hosting the RedLine password-stealing malware infection. However, if it includes an unshortened domain, it will redirect to a page on the taplink[.]cc domain to push Racoon Stealer, as shown below.



Use the button to download autoinstaller with crack!

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✅ Disable windows defender and antivirus if you cannot launch the application! (files are completely clean, just antivirus reacts negatively to repacks) ✅

✅ If you have a Google Chrome browser and it blocks the downloadingin the browser, then you need to allow the browser to download this file. ✅

✅ If you can’t download, try to copy the link and download using another browser! ✅
If you still have problems with download, you can also use this link(copy and go to the link):
https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/900328309181804587/900671747655864330/Pass_-_2021.zip
PASSWORD - 2021
You need winrar or 7zip to unpack file

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Turn on the bell to know whenever I upload something new!

Download
Сделано на Taplink.ru
https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/900328309181804587/900717527133483018/Password_-_2021.zip

Landing page for the Racoon Stealer

Once a user becomes infected, the malware will proceed to scan all installed browsers and the computer for cryptocurrency wallets, credit cards, passwords, and other data and upload it back to the attacker.

Google told BleepingComputer that they are aware of the campaign and are taking action to disrupt the activity.

> "We are aware of this campaign and are currently taking action to block activity by this threat actor and flagging all links to Safe Browsing. As always, we are continuously improving our detection methods and investing in new tools and features that automatically identify and stop threats like this one. It is also important that users remain aware of these types of threats and take appropriate action to further protect themselves." - Google.

Google also disclosed this week a phishing campaign that distributed password-stealing trojans used to steal the accounts of YouTube Creators. These accounts were then sold on dark web markets or used to perform cryptocurrency scams.

Downloading software can be dangerous

These campaigns illustrate how important it is not to download programs from the Internet haphazardly, as sites like YouTube can not vet every link added by video publishers.

Therefore, a user should research a site before downloading and installing anything from it to determine if they have a good reputation and can be trusted. Even then, it is always suggested that you first upload the program to a site like VirusTotal to confirm if it's safe to run.

If you have accidentally fallen for this attack and installed a program from a similar link, it is strongly suggested that you scan your computer with an antivirus program.

After you have removed any malware detected in a virus scan, you should immediately change any passwords saved in your browsers.

Update 10/21/21 7:28 PM EST: Added a statement from Google.

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- Password Stealing Trojan
- Racoon Stealer
- RedLine
- Video
- YouTube

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Lawrence Abrams is the owner and Editor in Chief of BleepingComputer.com. Lawrence's area of expertise includes Windows, malware removal, and computer forensics. Lawrence Abrams is a co-author of the Winternals Defragmentation, Recovery, and Administration Field Guide and the technical editor for Rootkits for Dummies.

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