



Army Cyber Capabilities and the Changing Threat Landscape

COL BE Rhodes G6/CIO, 63D Readiness Division





COL Rhodes



WHOIS: Brad Rhodes

<u>TLDR</u>:

• Deputy Director for Operations, Energy Threat Analysis Center (ETAC) Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), Department of Energy (DOE)

COL, Cyber (17A), 63rd Readiness Division, G6/CIO

- Military Cyber Professionals Association, HammerCon Co-Lead
- Speaker, Author, Professor, Coach
- #toomany Pro-Certs, highlights: CISSP-ISSEP, CISM, CDPSE, PMP, CEH, GMON, GCIH, Cloud+, CySA+
- Extra Class Amateur Radio (HAM): KG4COS

Feel free to view/listen/grab my previous presentation/articles here: https://github.com/cyberguy514













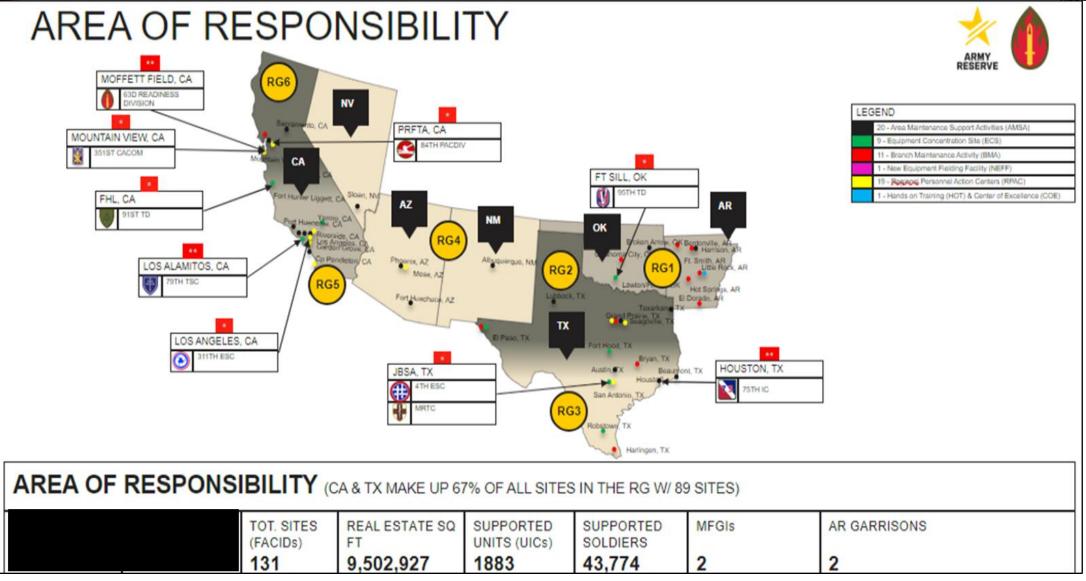






63D Readiness Division









Part 1 – Army Cyber Capabilities

- Army Doctrine
 - FM 3-12 CEMA
 - ADP 3-13 Information
 - FM 3-14 Space Operations
- Joint Cyber Forces
- Army Cyber Forces
- Army Cyber Activities
- Army Authorities in Cyber Response
- Innovative Readiness Training

Part 2 – The Changing Threat Landscape

- CISA Critical Infrastructure Sectors
- Cyber Threat Families
- Kimsuky and the Scientists
- CLOp Extortion
- Midnight Blizzard
- Volt Typhoon
- Salt Typhoon
- Mis/Dis/Mal-Information
- TikTok and Influence
- Key Current Threat TTPs
- What can you do "Left of Boom?"







Part 1

Army Cyber Capabilities







Army Doctrine – FM 3-12: CEMA



FM 3-12

CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS AND

ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE

ARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARM

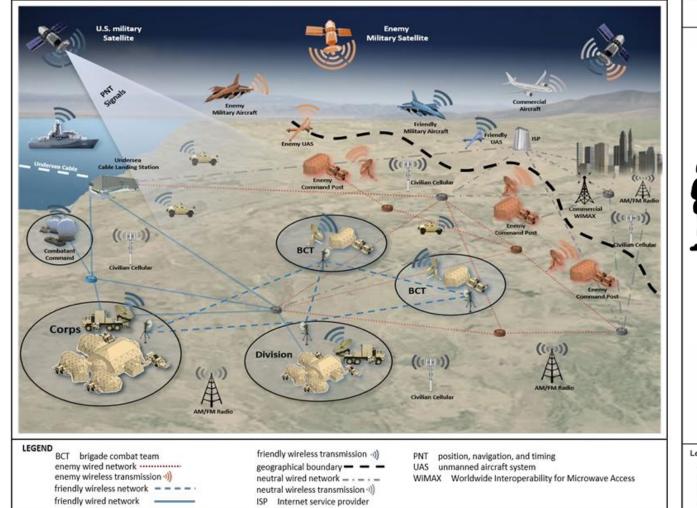


Figure 1-4. Congestion in cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum

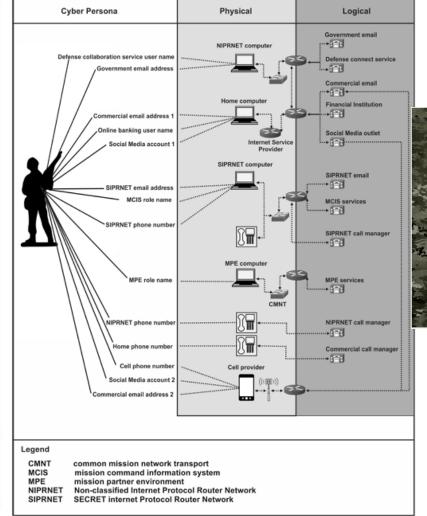


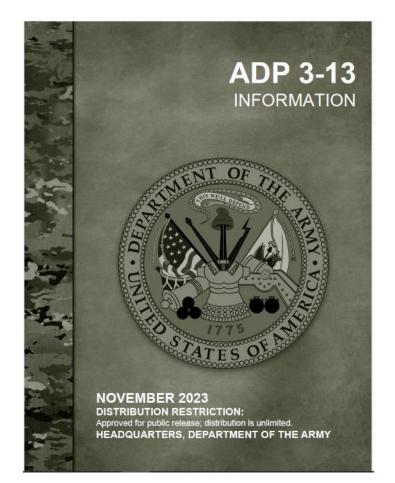
Figure 1-2. Relationship between the cyberspace network layers







THE Information Environment



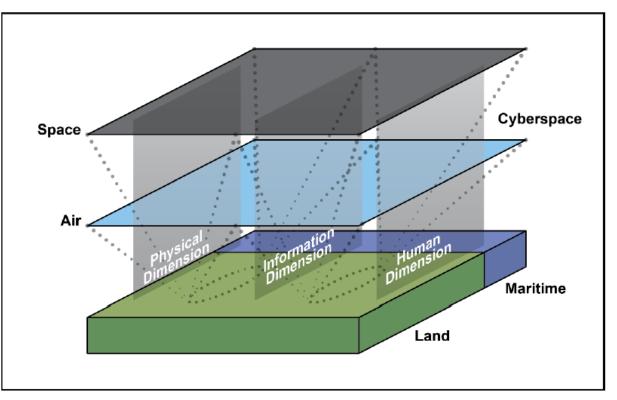


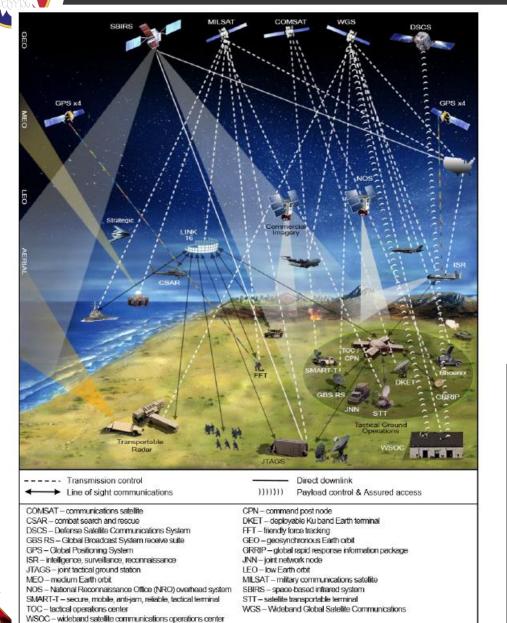
Figure 1-3. Domains and dimensions of an operational environment

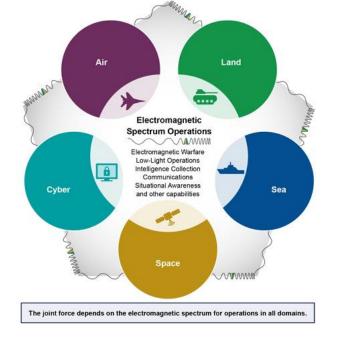


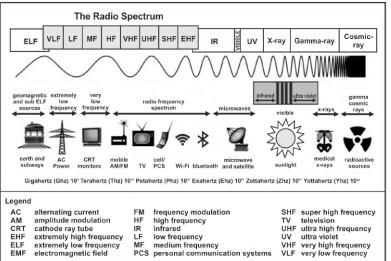


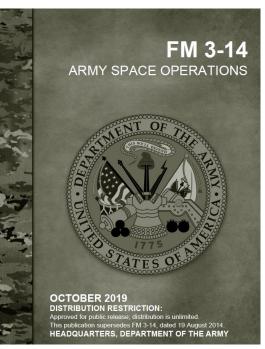
Army Doctrine – FM 3-14: Space Operations















Joint Cyber Forces









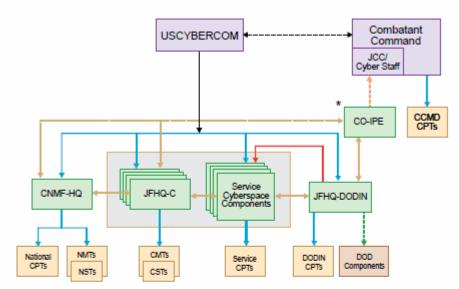
CYBERCO











CO-IPE is provided by USCYBERCOM in direct support of combatant commander. Organizational relationships between CO-IPEs and USCYBERCOM subordinate headquarters will be specified via USCYBERCOM orders.

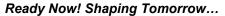
Legend

CCMD CMT	combatant command combat mission team	JFHQ-C JFHQ-DODIN	joint force headquarters-cyberspace Joint Force Headquarters-Department
CNMF-HQ	Cyber National Mission Force		of Defense Information Network
	Headquarters	NMT	national mission team
COCOM	combatant command (command	NST	national support team
	authority)	OPCON	operational control
CO-IPE	cyberspace operations-integrated	TACON	tactical control
	planning element	USCYBERCOM	United States Cyber Command
CPT	cyberspace protection team		
CST	combat support team		
DACO	directive authority for cyberspace		COCOM
	operations	\rightarrow	OPCON
DOD	Department of Defense	\rightarrow	TACON
DODIN	Department of Defense information		DACO
	network		supporting/supported
JCC	Joint Cyber Center		direct support
	-		coordination

Figure IV-1. Routine Cyberspace Command and Control



ARMY RESERVE





Army Cyber Forces









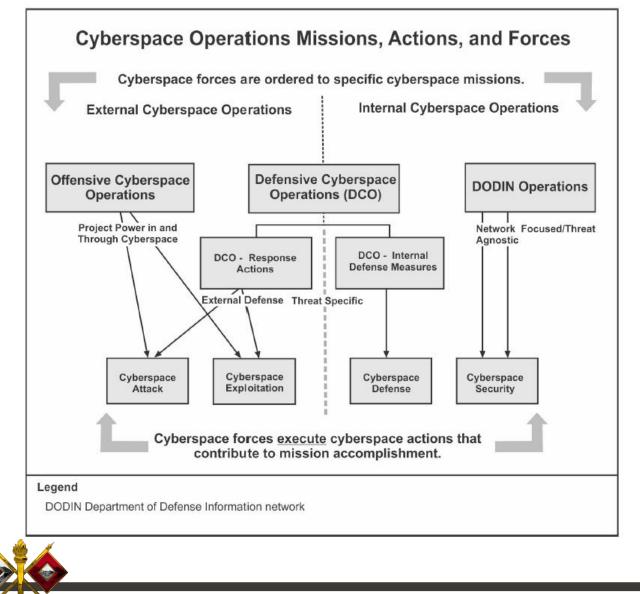
https://www.arcyber.army.mil/Organization/Units/





Army Authorities in Cyber Response





State Active Duty (NG-only)

Title 32 (NG-only)

Title 10 (Reserve)

Title 10 (Active)

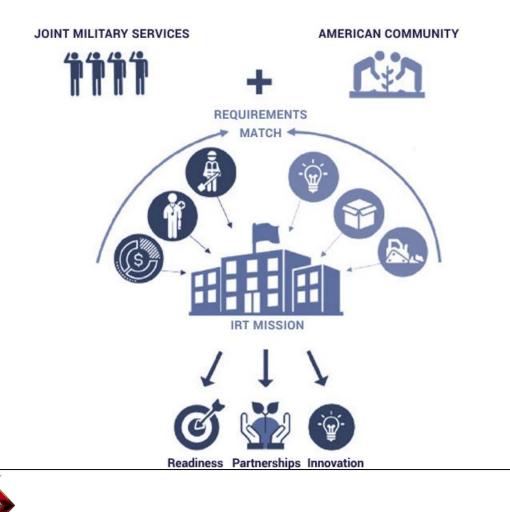
Immediate Response Authority (72 hrs)



Innovative Readiness Training



IRT Concept and Value





Field



From 10 to 21 July 2023, the Air Force Reserve Command led the largest IRT cybersecurity mission to date, partnering with Central New

Mexico Community College, Luna Community College, and Indian Pueblo Cultural Center for the New Mexico Cybershield mission.

and military students. Service members worked to improve the

capabilities and security posture of central New Mexico, state

including "Intro to Cybersecurity," "Attack Vectors," and "Threat

conducted over 200 network penetration tests and compiled

The mission validated and identified gaps in policies, plans, and

service members gained valuable real world cybersecurity training.

Supported by the Marine Corps Reserve and Air National Guard, the mission delivered no-cost cybersecurity training to tribal, community,

government, national labs, utilities, and tribal communities. Over 11

days, IRT delivered 80 cybersecurity training hours and a curriculum

Hunting." Service members, industry experts, and civilian organizers

tailored, in-depth network threat and vulnerability assessment tasks.

procedures and raised cyber threat awareness to the community while

HIGHLIGHTS

Lead Service: Air Force Reserve

Supporting Services: Marine Corps Reserve Air National Guard

Community Partner. Central New Mexico Community College

Over \$400,000 in estimated no-cost cybersecurity support delivered.

56 service members trained.

Senior Master Cassie Sergeant Beauchene



*There is no other military cyber training opportunity that allows the breadth and depth of training potential outside of IRT. Joint total force members meatine readiness

skills and gain real-world experience in unique cyber terrains, providing cybersecurity to U.S. communities while supporting national defense interests."





Part 2

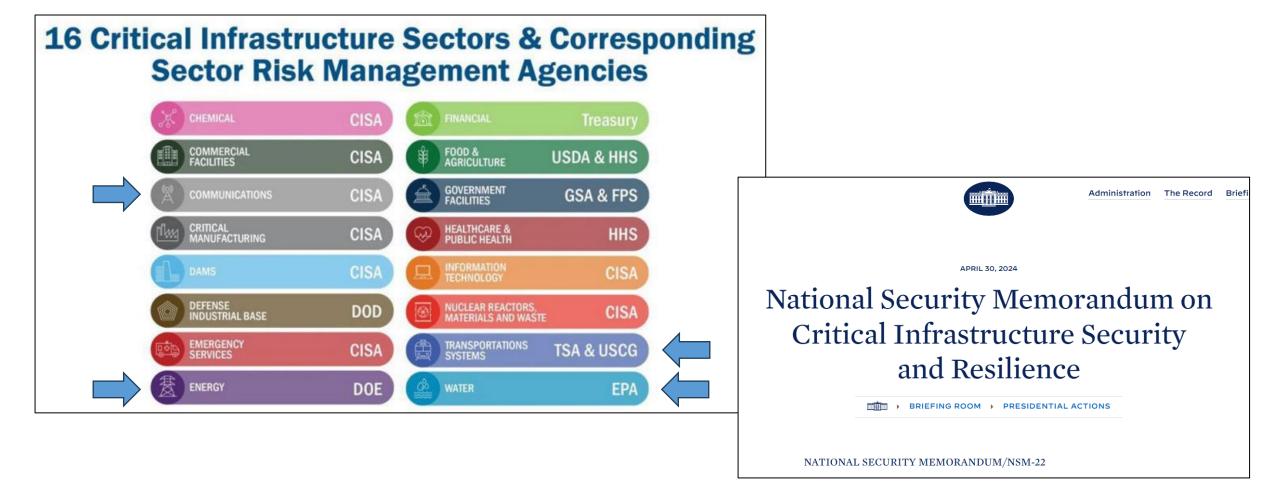
The Changing Threat Landscape





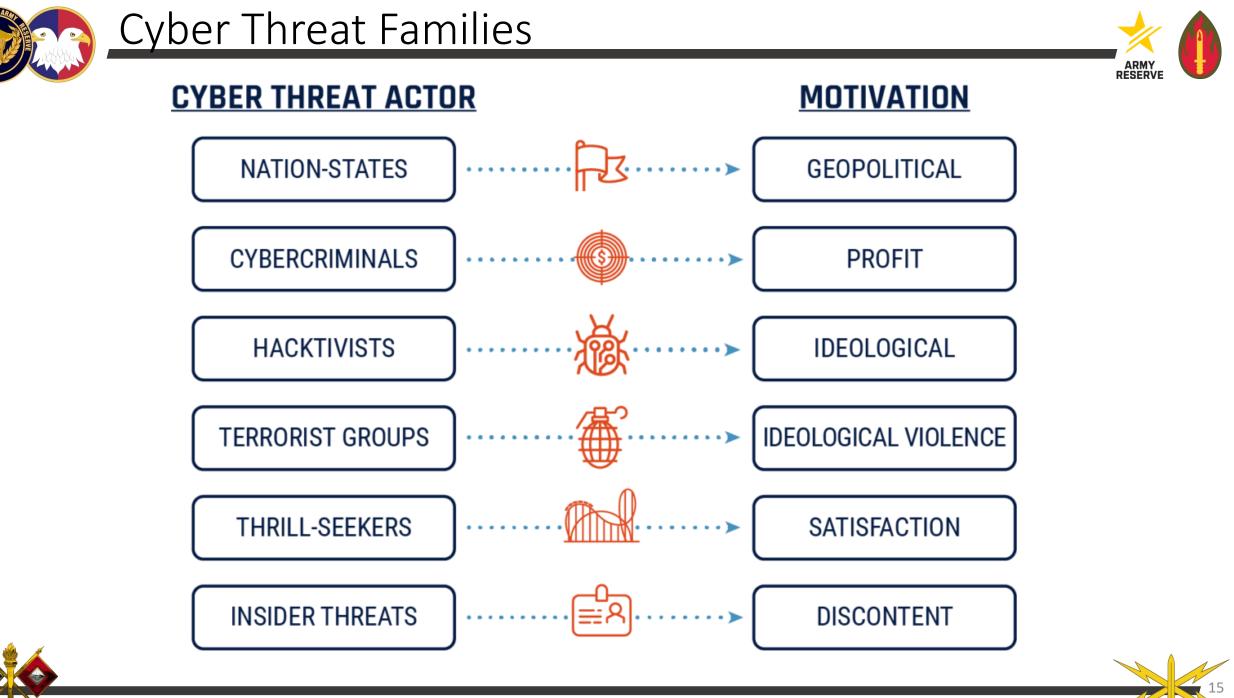






<u>https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/04/30/national-security-</u> memorandum-on-critical-infrastructure-security-and-resilience/







Kimsuky and THE Scientists



DEPARTMENT of STATE

ce of the Spokesperson > Press Releases > U.S. Government Cybersecurity Alert: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Using w Tactic in Social Engineering Operation

U.S. Government Cybersecurity Alert: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Using New Tactic in Social Engineering Operations

MEDIA NOTE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON

MAY 2, 2024

ion] US Policy Toward North Korea Conference



Dear <name of target expert>,

We understand

available to join

Please let me kr

and logistics rigi

<name of legiti

All the best,

I hope you and your family are enjoying a lovely holiday and a restful season.

It is my privilege to invite you to provide a keynote address for an private workshop, hosted by the <name of legitimate think tank> to discuss the US policy toward North Korea. Given developments in North Korea since the collapse of US-DPRK and inter-Korean negotiations in 2019, as well as the changing strategic environment in East Asia, the traditional US approach to

North Korea is u Subject: [<name of legitimate news media outlet>] Questions about N. Korea begin crafting a Dear <name of target expert>,

I hope this email finds you well. This is <name of legitimate journalist> from <name of legitimate that lunch (12:30 news media outlet>. I'm writing to request that you consider granting us a brief interview. accommodation

North Korea is accelerating its sprint towards nuclear armament. After the breakdown of the 2019 Trump-Kim Hanoi Summit, Pyongyang has focused on intensifying North Korean nuclear and missile capabilities while rebuffing calls from the international community to resume denuclearization talks. North Korea has not only attempted to agitate the U.S. by drastically escalating its development of strategic nuclear weapons such as intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), but also wielded threats against the Republic of Korea and Northeast Asia in the form of tactical nuclear weapons development. Furthermore, in September 2022, North Korean leadership announced a new "law on state policy on nuclear weapons," thereby lowering its threshold for nuclear weapons employment. Among countries that possess or aim to possess nuclear weapons, North Korea is alone in openly expressing that the use of such weapons lie in national defense and deterrence, but in belligerent employment against any specific country. On this basis, North Korea has continued to openly pressure the Republic of Korea and the international community, and pose a real and present threat to security in the Korean Peninsula and across Northeast Asia.

In connection with this, I would like to get your opinions about some questions. If interested, please respond to this email at your earliest convenience.

Then, I will send you the questions soon. Thanks for your consideration and time.

Best regards,

<name of legitimate journalist>

P.S. One thing: my <name of legitimate news media outlet> account will be blocked temporarily soon. So, I will receive the emails on my personal account (<spoofed account of compromised journalist>) for a while. Sorry for troubling you and hope you understand. Thanks in advance.

Missing DMARC policies or DMARC policies with "p=none" indicate that the receiving email server should take no security action on emails that fail DMARC checks and allow the emails to be sent through to the recipient's inbox. In order for organizations to make their policy stricter and signal to 6 email servers to consider unauthenticated emails as spam, the authoring agencies recommend





CLOP is a ransomware variant associated with the FIN11 threat actor group and the double extortion tactic, it has previously been used to target several U.S. HPH organizations. Researchers have also identified the CLOP operators combining the "spray and pray" approach to compromising targets with a more targeted approach, suggesting that the operators have some discretion when selecting victims.









CLOp Extortion (2 of 2)

MITRE ATT&CK Tactic	MITRE ATT&CK Technique		Description		Af 3y
Initial Access	Exploit Public Facing Application (T1190)	Exploit	ed a SQL injection vulnerability in the managed file transfer solution		J
Persistence	Server Software Component: Web Shell (T1505.003)	Deploy	red a web shell named LEMURLOOT		
Persistence	Create Account (T1136)	LEMUR	RLOOT can create users in Azure		
Privilege Escalation	Exploitation for Privilege Access (T1068)	Authen	iticated as a high-privilege user		
Defense Evasion	Masquerading: Match Legitimate Name or Location (T1036.005)	Compo LEMI legiti	Dear Companies.		
Discovery	Cloud Storage Object Discovery (T1619)	LEM Stora	CLOP IS ONE OF TOP ORGANIZATION OFFER PENETRATION TEST		
Command and Control	Application Layer Protocol: Web Protocols (T1071.001)	The	THAT WE DOWNLOAD ALOT OF YOUR DATA AS PART OF EXCEPTI PERFORM SUCH ATTACK AND RELAX BECAUSE YOUR DATA IS SA		
Exfiltration	Exfiltration over C2 Channel (T1041)	Exfilt	WE ARE TO PROCEED AS FOLLOW AND YOU SHOULD PAY ATTEN IMPACT YOU COMPANY.	ITION TO AVOID EXTRAORDINARY MEA	1
Impact	Account Access Removal (T1531)	LEM	IMPORTANT! WE DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK TO MEDIA OR RESEAR	CHERS LEAVE	
	<u>.</u>		STEP 1 - IF YOU HAD MOVEIT SOFTWARE CONTINUE TO STEP 2		
			STEP 2 - EMAIL OUR TEAM UNLOCK@RSV-BOX.COM OR UNLOCK		
			STEP 3 - OUR TEAM WILL EMAIL YOU WITH DEDICATED CHAT U	RL OVER TOR	
			WE HAVE INFORMATION ON HUNDREDS OF COMPANIES SO OUR	DISCUSSION WILL WORK VERY SIMPLE	
			STEP 1 - IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU UNTIL JUNE 14 2023 W	E WILL POST YOUR NAME ON THIS PAGE	
			STEP 2 - IF YOU RECEIVE CHAT URL GO THERE AND INTRODUCE		
			STEP 3 - OUR TEAM WILL PROVIDE 10% PROOF OF DATA WE HA		
			STEP 4 - YOU MAY ASK FOR 2-3 FILES RANDOM AS PROOF WE A STEP 5 - YOU HAVE 3 DAY TO DISCUSS PRICE AND IF NO AGREE		
	4		STEP 5 - TOU MAVE 3 DAT TO DISCUSS PRICE AND IF NO AGREED	MENT YOU CUSTOM PAGE WILL DE CREAT	E

STEP 7 - YOU CHAT

ARMY RESERVE VEit Cyber Attack ected organizations (as of December 20, 2023) ountry 6 ?? ?? 6 Australia 4 Austria 1 Belgium 2 Bermuda 1 Denmark Finland 1 Srazil 152 Canada 2 China 5 France 40 Germany 1 Guatemala 6 Ireland 2 Japan 1 Italy 1 Luxembourg 3 Malaysia Norway 2 Philippines 12 E Puerto Rico **O**man South Africa spain 2 Sweder 9 Switzerland 2 Contraction Turkey 25 蹝 2290 💻 UAE Clop Gang & MOVEit Breach "Victims" as listed by Clop up to Monday 19th June B B C BRITISH AIRWAYS Aer Lingus 🎋 OFcom HITACHI Source NOVA SCOT TRANSPORT FOR LONDON θ Datasite AON NUANCE EY PRUDENTIAL BSN P&G PRUDENTIAL **FNBB**_{lnc} rubrik Leggett & Platt. ÖKK ıam HEIDELBERG ENGINEERING National Student GreenShield 1 Clearinghouse UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA UnitedHealthcare JOHNS HOPKINS

Progress' MOVEIt

Announcements by Clop

Published 19th June 2023



Ready Now! Shaping Tomorrow...

WILL BE PUBLISH

1



Midnight Blizzard RDP

Foreign Threat Actor Conducting Large-Scale Spear-Phishing Campaign with RDP Attachments

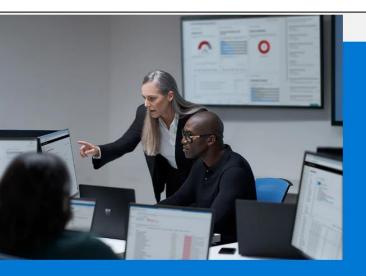


Release Date: October 31, 2024

ALERT

Restrict Outbound RDP Connections:

- Forbid or significantly restrict outbound RDP connections to external or public networks. This measure is
 crucial for minimizing exposure to potential cyber threats.
- Implement a Firewall along with secure policies and access control lists.
- Block RDP Files in Communication Platforms:
 - > Prohibit RDP files from being transmitted through email clients and webmail services. This step helps prevent the accidental execution of malicious RDP configurations.
- Prevent Execution of RDP Files:
 - Implement controls to block the execution of RDP files by users. This precaution is vital in reducing the risk of exploitation.
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):
 - > Enable MFA wherever feasible to provide an essential layer of security for remote access.
- Avoid SMS MFA whenever possible.
- Adopt Phishing-Resistant Authentication Methods:
 - Deploy phishing-resistant authentication solutions, such as FIDO tokens. It is important to avoid SMS-based MFA, as it can be vulnerable to SIM-jacking attacks.
- Implement Conditional Access Policies:
 - Establish Conditional Access Authentication Strength to mandate the use of phishing-resistant authentication methods. This ensures that only authorized users can access sensitive systems.
- Deploy Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR):
 - Implement Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions to continuously monitor for and respond to suspicious activities within the network.
- Consider Additional Security Solutions:
 - Evaluate, in conjunction with EDR, the deployment of anti-phishing and antivirus solutions to bolster their defenses against emerging threats.
- Conduct User Education:
 - Have a user education program that highlights how to identify and report suspicious emails. Robust user education can help mitigate the threat of social engineering and phishing emails.
 - > Recognize and Report Phishing: Avoid phishing with these simple tips.
- Hunt For Activity Using Referenced Indicators and TTPs:
 - Utilize all indicators that are released in relevant articles and reporting to search for possible malicious
 activity within your organization's network.
 - > Search for unexpected and/or unauthorized outbound RDP connections within the last year.



Research Threat intelligence Microsoft Defender Threat actors 10 min read Midnight Blizzard: Guidance for responders on nation-state attack

By Microsoft Threat Intelligence

January 25, 2024

G X in Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps Microsoft Defender XDR Microsoft Entra

more

The Microsoft security team detected a nation-state attack on our corporate systems on January 12, 2024, and immediately activated our response process to investigate, disrupt malicious activity, mitigate the attack, and deny the threat actor further access. The Microsoft Threat Intelligence investigation identified the threat actor as <u>Midnight Blizzard</u>, the Russian state-sponsored actor also known as NOBELIUM. The latest information from the Microsoft Security and Response Center (MSRC) is posted <u>here</u>.



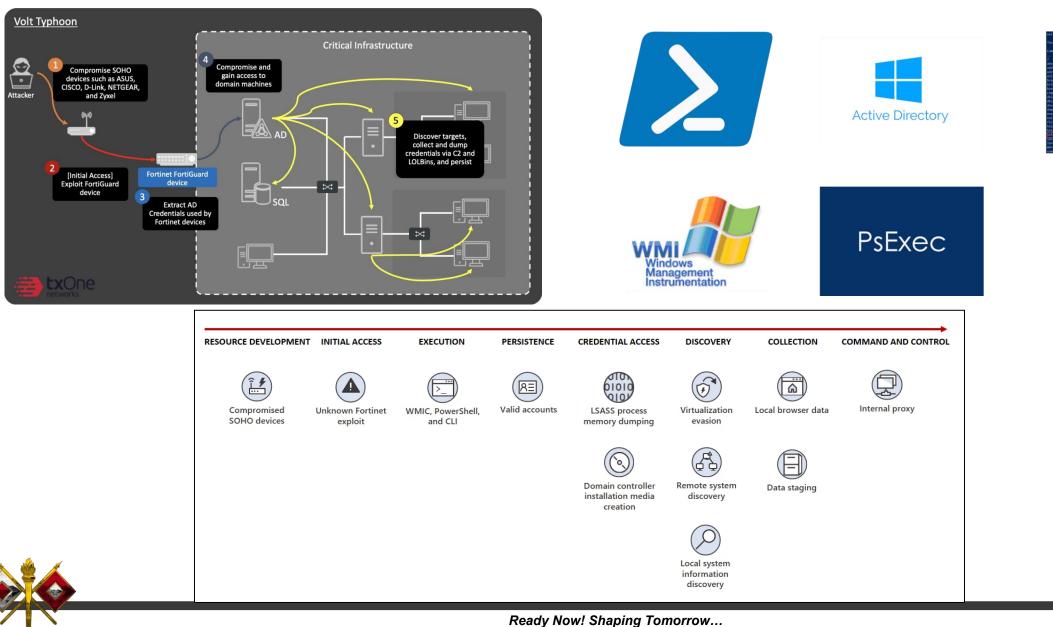
Ready Now! Shaping Tom



Volt Typhoon (1 of 2)



20





Volt Typhoon (2 of 2)



The U.S. authoring agencies have confirmed that Volt Typhoon has compromised the IT environments of multiple critical infrastructure organizations—primarily in <u>Communications, Energy, Transportation Systems</u>, and <u>Water and</u> <u>Wastewater Systems</u> Sectors—in the continental and non-continental United States and its territories, including Guam. Volt Typhoon's choice of targets and pattern of behavior is not consistent with traditional cyber espionage or intelligence gathering operations, and the U.S. authoring agencies assess with high confidence that Volt Typhoon actors are pre-positioning themselves on IT networks to enable lateral movement to OT assets to disrupt functions. The U.S. authoring agencies are concerned about the potential for these actors to use their network access for disruptive effects in the event of potential geopolitical tensions and/or military conflicts. CCCS assesses that the direct threat to Canada's critical infrastructure from PRC state-sponsored actors is likely lower than that to U.S. infrastructure be disrupted, Canada would likely be affected as well, due to cross-

border integration. ASD's ACSC and NCSC-I could be vulnerable to similar activity from

(i) ACTIONS TO TAKE TODAY TO MITIGATE VOLT TYPHOON ACTIVITY:

- 1. Apply patches for internet-facing systems. Prioritize patching critical vulnerabilities in appliances known to be frequently exploited by Volt Typhoon.
- 2. Implement phishing-resistant MFA.
- 3. Ensure logging is turned on for application, access, and security logs and store logs in a central system.
- 4. Plan "end of life" for technology beyond manufacturer's supported lifecycle.

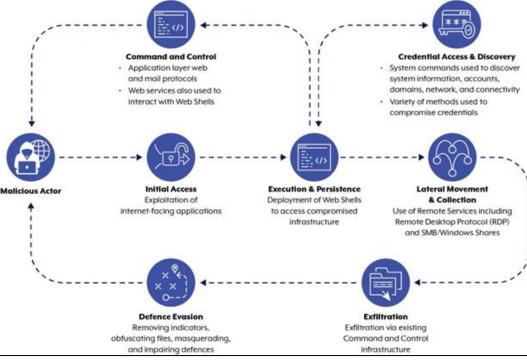






SALT TYPHOON: TARGETING ISPS AND DATA PERSISTENCE

While Salt Typhoon has not garnered as much publicity as other APT groups, it has been linked to significant intrusions within U.S. Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Salt Typhoon's campaign has focused on compromising routers and other network devices to establish persistent access. Their activities have been primarily espionage-oriented, to collect sensitive data, such as authorized wiretaps, from ISP networks while maintaining a low profile. This threat actor mirrors some tactics from other Typhoon groups, especially using LOTL techniques to prolong their foothold in target environments.









Mis/Dis/Mal-Information

INTENT TO HARM

4d · 🕄

FALSENESS

Misinformation

Unintentional mistakes such as inaccurate photo captions, dates, statistics, translations, or when satire is taken seriously.

Disinformation

Fabricated and deliberately manipulated audio/visual content. Intentionally created conspiracy theories or rumours.

Malinformation

Deliberate publication of private information for personal or corporate rather than public interest, such as revenge porn. Deliberate change of Context, date or time of Genuine content.



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RESERVE

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(D)

Honoring Our Heroes . Follow





TikTok and Influence



2022

TECHNOLOGY

Biden approves banning TikTok from federal government phones

UPDATED DECEMBER 30, 2022 · 12:05 PM ET 0

Bobby Allyn



TikTok will be banned soon from most U.S. government devices under a government spending bill signed by President Biden, he latest push by American lawmakers against the Chinese-owned social media app. Michael Deys/AP





с тікток Stop a TikTok shutdown

x 💎 🖌 🗋

8:28 🗭 🖬 🔹

←

Congress is planning a total ban of TikTok. Speak up now—before your government strips 170 million Americans of their Constitutional right to free expression.

This will damage millions of businesses, destroy the livelihoods of countless creators across the country, and deny artists an audience.

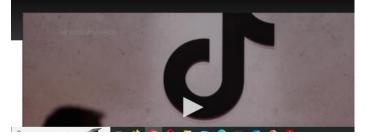
Let Congress know what TikTok means to you and tell them to vote NO.

Enter your 5-digit zip code to find your representative

Call Now

 \bigcirc

TikTok sues US to block law that could ban the social media platform

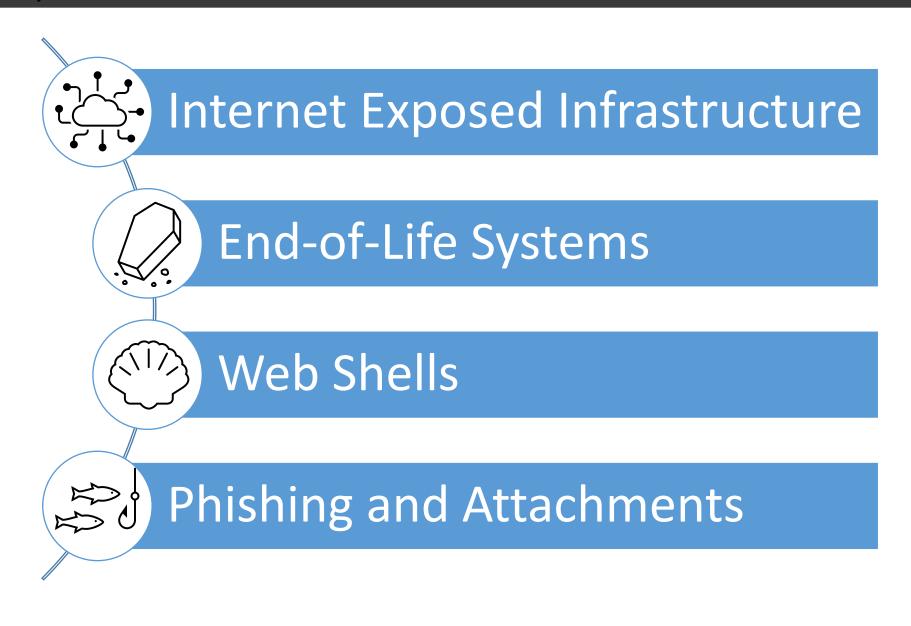






Key Current Threat TTPs





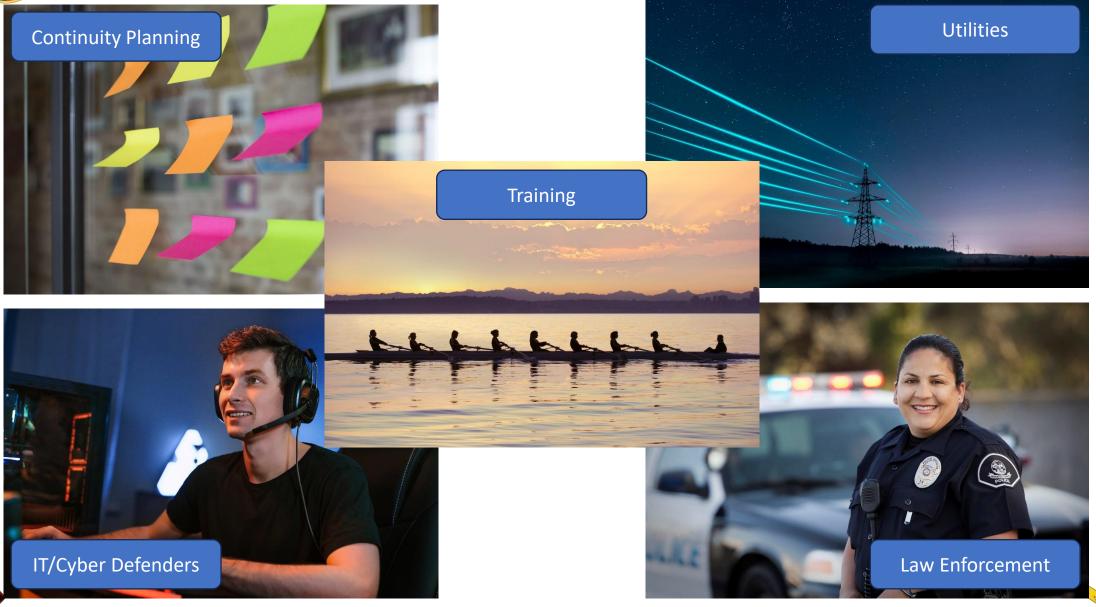




What can you do "Left of Boom?"



26





THANK YOU: AFCEA Silicon Valley Cyber & IT Summit!

Q&A&Discuss!

Happy to connect: <u>https://www.linkedin.com/in/brad-e-rhodes-the-</u> terminal-colonel/