Threats and Opportunities

Oregon Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management & Technology

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Current and Emerging Threats

- Ransomware
- Industrial Control System Attacks
- Vulnerability Exploitation
- Supply Chain

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The New York Times Hackers Are Holding Baltimore Hostage: How They Struck and What's Next

May, 19 2019



Colonial Pipeline confirms it paid \$4.4M ransom to hacker gang after attack

May 20, 2021



Acer reportedly targeted with \$50
Net million ransomware attack

March 22, 2021



Bose victim of ransomware attack

May 26, 2021



Cost of City of Atlanta's cyber attack: \$2.7 million — and rising

April 12, 2018



Meat Supplier JBS Is The Latest Company Hit With Ransomware

Jun 2, 2021



Ransomware attack hits Virginia Legislature.

December 13, 2021



Singtel hit by third-party vendor's security breach

Feb 11, 2021

Ransomware: Key Trends in 2021

\$2.1M average ransom demand in 2021

\$461K average ransom paid in 2021

\$11Mhighest ransom paid in 2021

\$70Mhighest ransom demand in 2021

Quadruple Extortion on the Rise



Unit 42: The Rise of Quadruple Extortion

Ransomware operators now commonly use as many as four techniques for pressuring victims into paying.



Encryption

Victims pay to regain access to encrypted data



Data Theft

Hackers threaten to release stolen data if ransom is unpaid



Denial of Service

DoS attacks shut down victim's public websites



Harassment

Customers, business partners, employees and media contacted

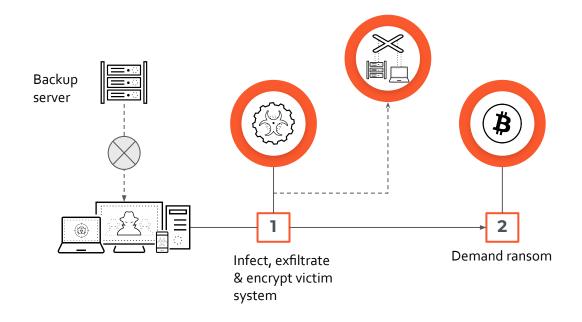
Extortion Payments Hit New Records as Ransomware Crisis Intensifies

Colonial Pipeline

MAY 2021

What Happened:

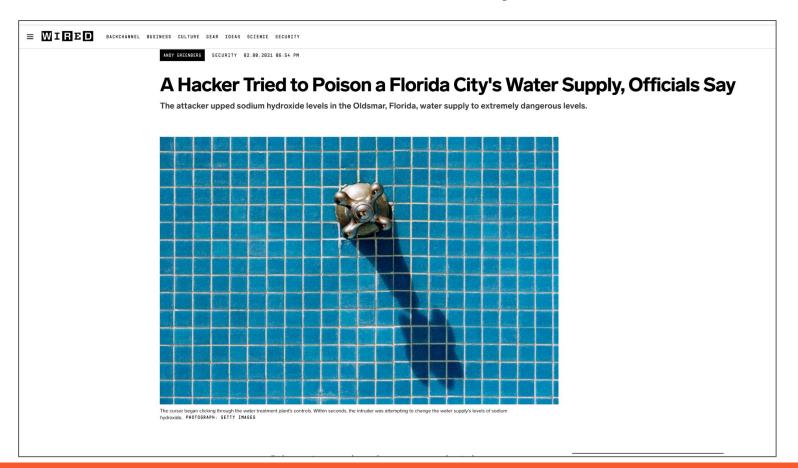
- 1. Gained access through compromised VPN credentials
- 2. Exfiltrated ~100GB of data before encrypting some business systems
- 3. Company shut down 5500 miles of pipeline as a precautionary measure
- 4. Company paid ~\$4.4m ransom
- 5. DOJ Task Force recovered 85% of bitcoin / ~\$2.3m



Industrial Control Systems Attacks

Industrial control systems (ICS) are the physical systems like pumps that underpin the functions of critical infrastructure facilities like water, electricity, even hospitals. Attacks against ICS can have a kinetic impact in the real world.

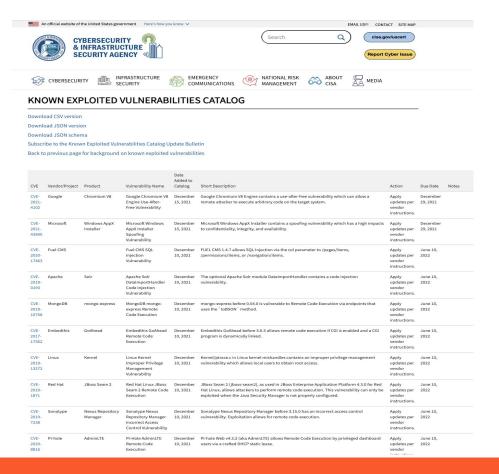
ICS Attacks Can Have Real World Impact



Exploitation of Known or Unknown Vulnerabilities

These are weaknesses in software or hardware that may not be known to anyone but the attacker, or a known vulnerability that an organization has not patched or mitigated. This can leave an organization's network extremely vulnerable.

Known Vulnerabilities





Unknown Vulnerability Exploitation: Apache Log4j





This post is also available in: 日本語 (Japanese)

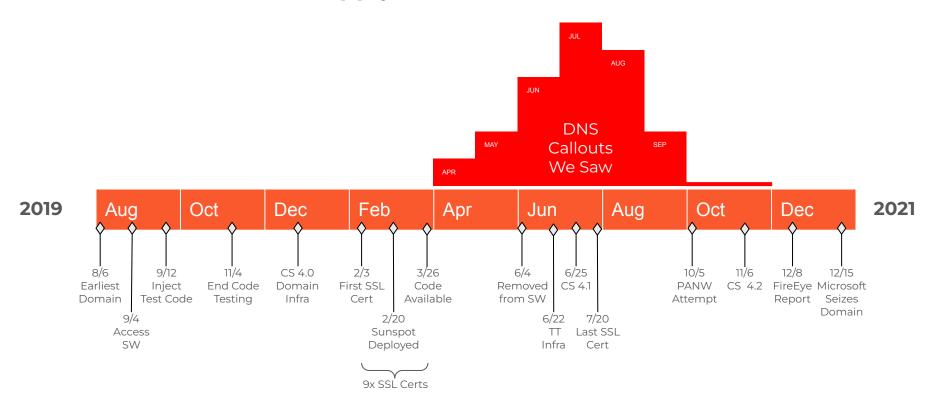
Executive Summary

On Dec. 9, 2021, a remote code execution (RCE) vulnerability in Apache Log4) 2 was identified being exploited in the wild. Public proof of concept (PoC) code was released and subsequent investigation revealed that exploitation was incredibly easy to perform. By submitting a specially crafted request to a vulnerable system, depending on how the system is configured, an attacker is able to instruct that system to download and subsequently execute a malicious pauload. Due to the discourage of this explaint being as recent there are till many explaint.

Supply Chain Attacks

Supply chain attacks seek to damage an organization by targeting less-secure elements in the supply chain. It's a "low and slow" way for attackers to gain access to organizations' networks under the cover of a trusted source.

SolarWinds Software Supply Chain Attack - Timeline



The right tools and solutions can counter threats.

- Need visibility and security enforcement across key areas including cloud, network, and endpoint.
- Capabilities should be automated and integrated across tools and environments (cloud, network, endpoint).

What Can You As Policymakers Do?

- Incentivize The Adoption of Best Practices and Standards.
- Support smaller governments and municipalities.
- Mandate Reporting of Ransomware and Other Incidents.
- Understand the Threats.
- Understand What You're Spending on Cybersecurity.
- Know What Your Attackers See.
- Ensure that Cybersecurity is a Core Function of Government.

Questions and Answers