THREAT CURE
RE-ARCHITECT YOUR THREAT LANDSCAPE

ThreatCure

Cyber Threat Advisory

Pubload Malware Campaign

by Hive0154 Threat Actor

CATEGORY

Malware

SEVERITY

Critical

Platforms

Windows

IMPACT

- Cyber Espionage
- Cultural Destabilization
- Cross-regional Threat

Description

Pubload Malware Campaign by (Hive0154 Threat Actor)

Researchers have reported a sophisticated phishing campaign conducted by China-aligned threat actor **Hive0154** in mid-2025. The campaign delivers the **Pubload** malware via spear-phishing emails using lure documents themed around sensitive Tibetan-related events such as the **9th World Parliamentarians' Convention on Tibet** and publications by the **Dalai Lama**.

This activity aligns with the Chinese geopolitical interest in suppressing Tibetan autonomy and appears timed to influence or disrupt community awareness around the **Dalai Lama's 90th birthday** and related international events.

Technical Summary:

Initial Vector: Phishing emails with links to weaponized archives on Google Drive

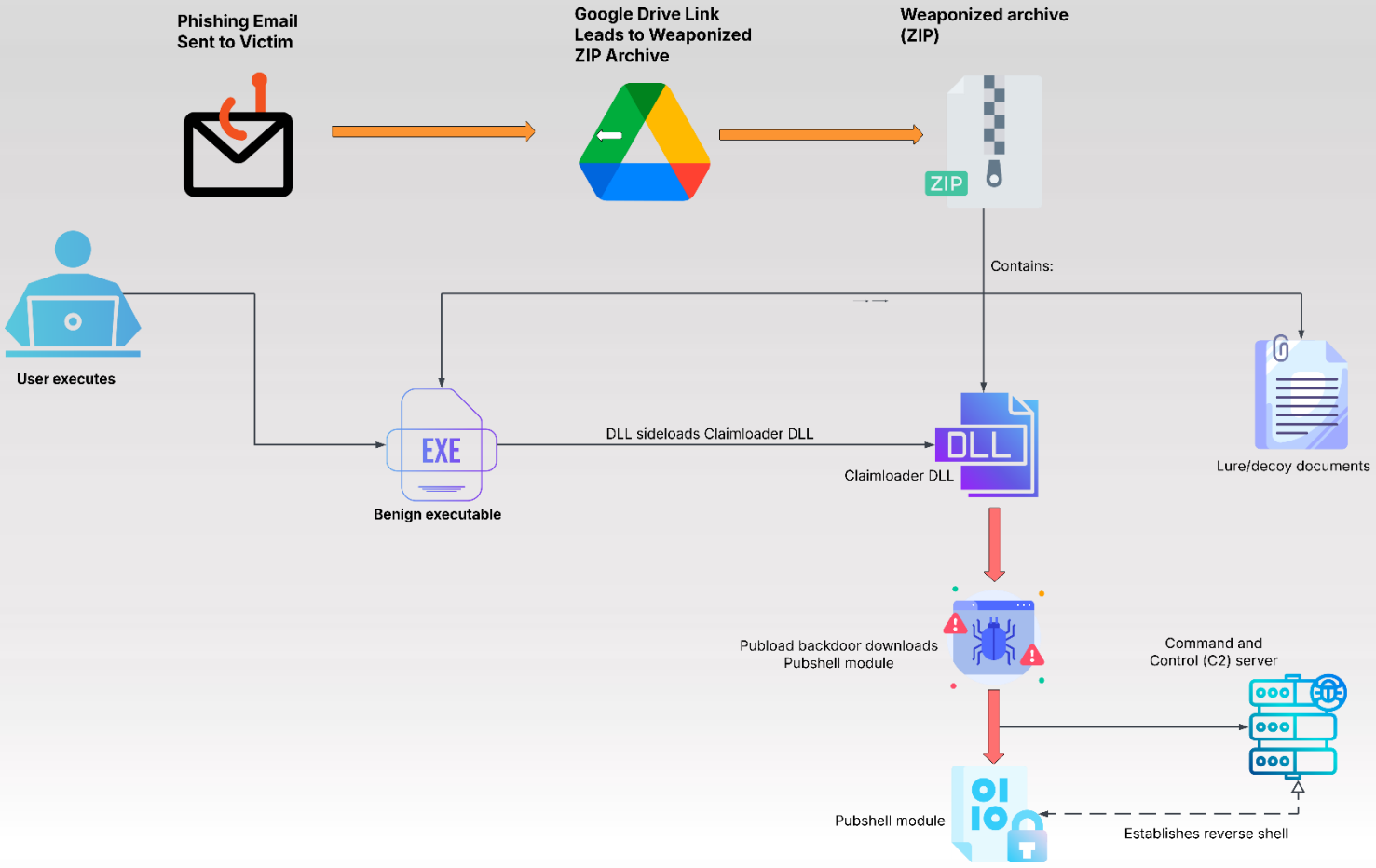
Loader: *Claimloader*

- Persists using HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
- Decrypts shellcode using TripleDES
- Uses LdrLoadDll() and LdrGetProcedureAddress() for import resolution

Payload: *Pubload*

- Loads *Pubshell* reverse shell module
- Capable of in-memory payload execution and remote access

Infection chain and technical analysis



Indicator of Compromise

SHA-256

2bd60685299c62abe500fe80e9f03a627a1567059ce213d7c0cc762fa32552d7
c80dfc678570bde7c19df21877a15cc7914d3ef7a3cef5f99fce26fcf696c444
93f1fd31e197a58b03c6f5f774c1384ffd03516ab1172d9b26ef5a4a32831637
3e7384c5e7c5764258947721c7792f221fb47ef53d447a7af5db5426f1e7c13d
8cd4324e1e764aafba4ea0394a82943cefd7deeee28a6cbd19f2ba69de6a5766
7979686bf73c298ab5d57f9605dcef2231ca87580f6ceecd75b2cbe81669ba0
ea991719885b2fe91502218ff3be12c9f990a24c7e007e4ffb5a5c5c52b3a0b5
6e408aada775eaf19c524792344cabca0b406247154e2b03ed03a929e0feee5a
57770ede7015734e2d881430423bcc76c160b90448f5e67334e56b9747ff874c
fb33f222b3d4d5edc9b743e64282de561ef51e42db150dd8086203c53b25ff79

MD5

f8099461ca9098bc6a1e7a9de9f989ec
2123eab51aa468d5140c3bfe2bbe7775
5d88adf862e6944b995ac6dd5151588d
668d0cbedde9edd87823f3ed08569a6c
af5cbc0d6d26064ca8d4ecf64eeca7fa0
4d65961f06157b3dd87bfc494142c055
6007561fb40a25e797f3461b867427cc
5a47c6b4bdb2964285dfb0233ab75924

SHA-1

684c53a07ca0928f5bc4a31e15be7be6ca25b2bd
eee8b975bfb640ffb99a2d3065998b4edab704c8
8329dc43b776bf040aa646154016748b688d8ee9
034ec391503041836fcc1e0d8d52ecfeea41f8f1
eacb62b12852793552412e0cec7fd0fe17e58599
f205d2a3bc6e0551c6a9673c82836b89adc8e3eb
69c4087b7992fbaeb66c3a51a712dc66afbe1de4
5bd9b1698dc885ec18b6ad5e97ff6529815ae337
f70b2e8fe1bdea492bbec231c6ae0982c667ac16
d2609e8a7c65c33b6182936d6322625d8015c010

Recommended Immediate Actions

- Block suspicious Google Drive URLs in email security appliances
- Train employees to detect archive-based phishing with executable payloads

Monitor:

- C:\ProgramData* directories for unauthorized EXE/DLL pairs
- Registry Run keys and unsanctioned persistence mechanisms
- TLS 1.2 AppData packets (without handshake) indicating Pubload beacons
- Implement threat hunting for:
- DLL sideloading behavior
- XOR-encoded API calls and unusual Ldr* function usage
- Unusual scheduled tasks or font-related API executions (EnumFontsW)

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Secure your byte world

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Get Started Today

For more information about the ThreatCure ShieldOps Platform or to schedule a demo, please contact:

- Website: www.threatcure.net
- Email: info@threatcure.net