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ATTACK REPORT

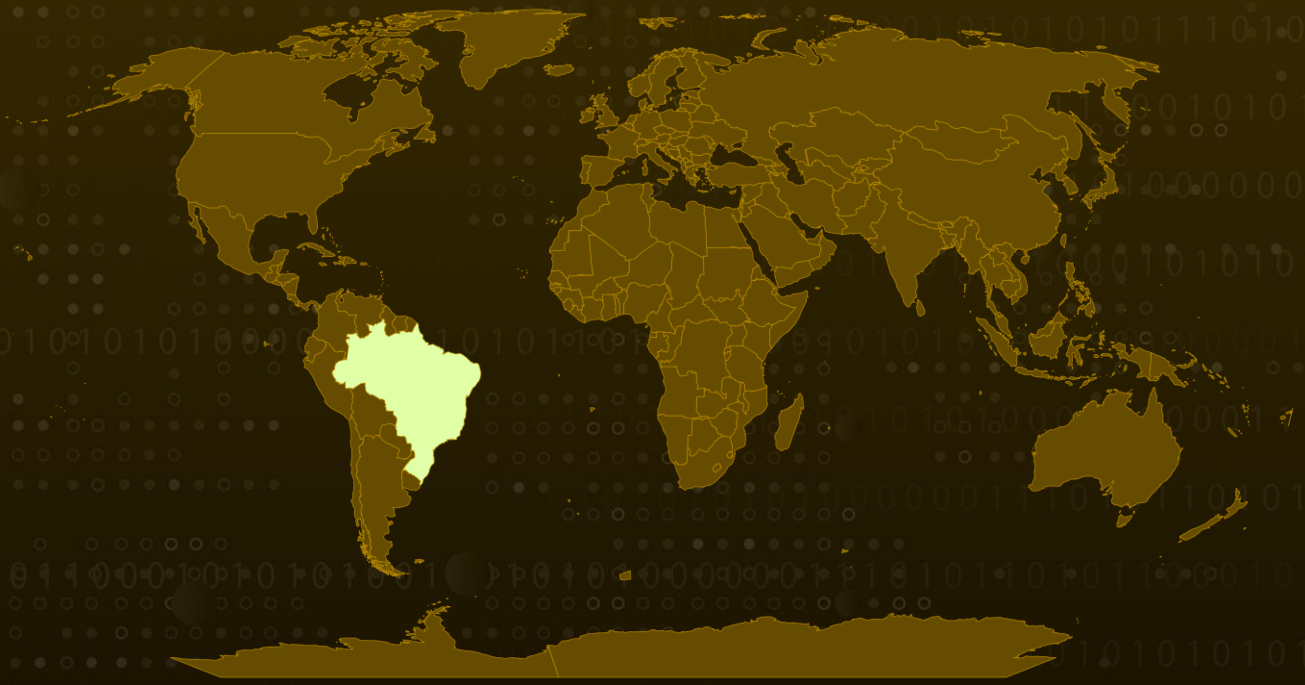
Attackers Exploit Brazil's PIX System with GoPIX Malware Campaign

Date of Publication	Admiralty Code	TA Number
October 26, 2023	A1	TA2023434

Summary

First appeared: December 2022
Attack Region: Brazil
Affected Platform: WhatsApp Web
Malware: GoPIX
Attack: The popularity of Brazil's PIX payment system has attracted cybercriminals using GoPIX malware, targeting users searching for "WhatsApp web" with malicious ads. This poses a threat to users' financial and personal information.

Attack Regions



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Attack Details

#1

The PIX payment system in Brazil, known for its low acceptance cost due to minimal intermediaries, has become highly popular. However, this popularity has attracted cybercriminals using a new malware called GoPIX. These attackers use malicious ads that surface when users search for "WhatsApp web" on search engines, leading them to a malware-infested landing page.

#2

To evade detection, a cloaking service is employed, distinguishing between humans and bots using a fraud prevention solution. Legitimate users are then presented with a fake WhatsApp download page that conceals a malicious installer. The malware's download source varies based on the user's system configuration to bypass security measures.

#3

The installer's main purpose is to launch GoPIX using a technique called process hollowing, injecting the payload into the Windows system process svchost.exe. GoPIX functions as a clipboard stealer, replacing PIX payment requests with the attacker's controlled PIX string retrieved from a command-and-control server. The malware can also manipulate Bitcoin and Ethereum wallet addresses, although these are hardcoded.

#4

Similar attacks have targeted users searching for messaging apps like WhatsApp and Telegram, luring victims to fraudulent pages where they are prompted to scan QR codes. Furthermore, there is a growing trend of Latin American-focused malware expanding its reach to Europe.

#5

The cybercrime landscape is witnessing a surge in information stealers offered as malware-as-a-service (MaaS), enabling less skilled threat actors to conduct attacks. This campaign poses a significant threat to users in Brazil, potentially leading to financial losses and other serious consequences if infected with GoPIX.

Recommendations

Use Trusted Sources: Download applications and software only from official, trusted sources. Avoid downloading from third-party websites or clicking on links in unsolicited emails or ads.

Secure Browsing: Use secure browsing practices, and consider deploying ad-blockers or privacy-focused browsers to minimize exposure to malicious ads.

Software and System Updates: Keep your server's software, including the operating system and all applications, up-to-date with the latest security patches. Vulnerabilities in outdated software can be exploited by malware like GoPIX.

Potential MITRE ATT&CK TTPs

TA0005 Defense Evasion	TA0042 Resource Development	TA0001 Initial Access	TA0002 Execution
TA0004 Privilege Escalation	TA0040 Impact	T1055.001 Dynamic-link Library Injection	T1140 Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information
T1055.012 Process Hollowing	T1055 Process Injection	T1036 Masquerading	T1583 Acquire Infrastructure
T1583.008 Malvertising	T1189 Drive-by Compromise	T1059.001 PowerShell	T1059 Command and Scripting Interpreter
T1204 User Execution	T1204.001 Malicious Link		

Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

TYPE	VALUE
MD5	EB0B4E35A2BA442821E28D617DD2DAA2, 6BA5539762A71E542ECAC7CF59BDDF79, 333A34BD2A7C6AAF298888F3EF02C186

References

https://thehackernews.com/2023/10/malvertising-campaign-targets-brazils.html

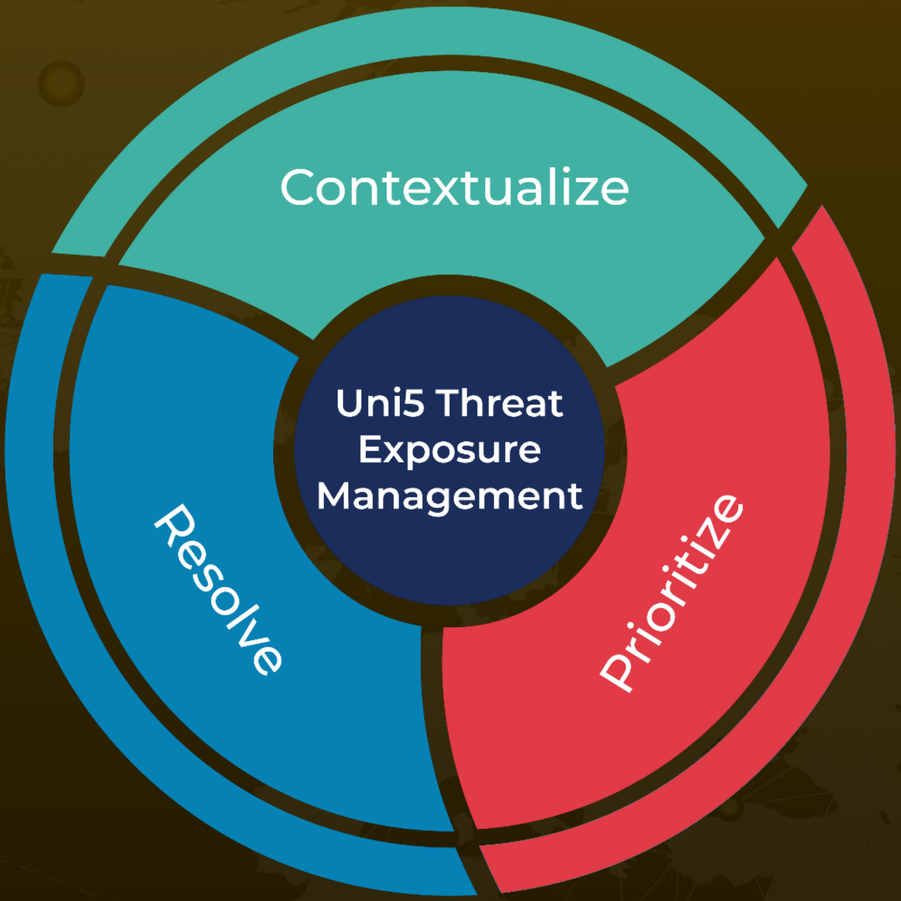
https://securelist.com/crimeware-report-gopix-lumar-rhysida/110871/

https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/financialstability/pix_en

What Next?

At **Hive Pro**, it is our mission to detect the most likely threats to your organization and to help you prevent them from happening.

Book a free demo with **HivePro Uni5**: Threat Exposure Management Platform.



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