Hive Pro

Threat Level

Red

HiveForce Labs

THREAT ADVISORY

ATTACK REPORT

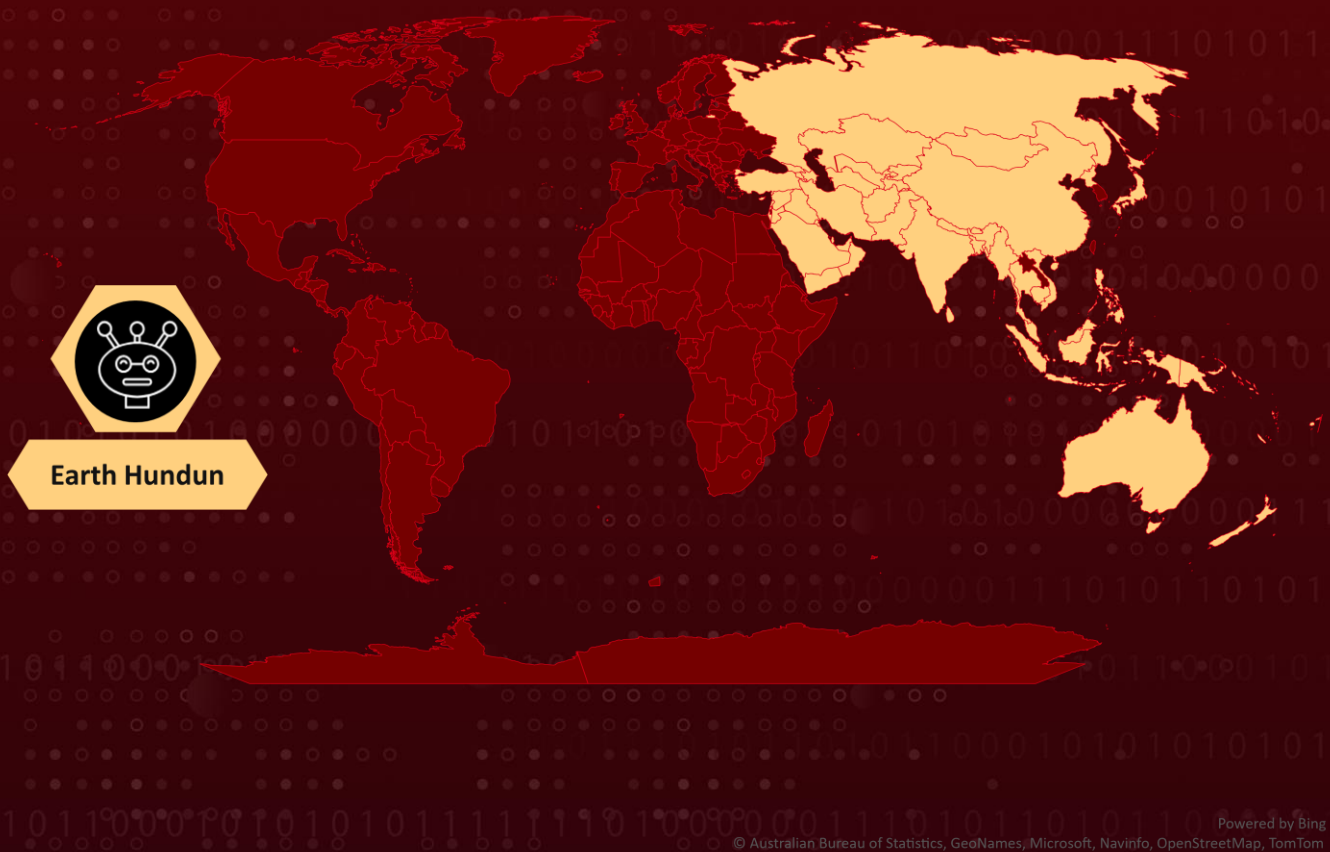
Earth Hundun's Deuterbear Sets Sights on High-Value Sectors

Date of Publication	Last Update Date	Admiralty Code	TA Number
April 22, 2024	May 22, 2024	A1	TA2024157

Summary

First Employed: October 2022
Malware: Waterbear backdoor, Deuterbear
Threat Actor: Earth Hundun (aka BlackTech, Circuit Panda, Radio Panda, Palmerworm, TEMP.Overboard, T-APT-03, Red Djinn, Manga Taurus)
Attack Region: Asia-Pacific region
Targeted Industries: Technology, Research, and Government
Attack: The Earth Hundun group has recently initiated a sequence of cyber intrusions directed at the Asia-Pacific region. These attacks foreshadow the introduction of an enhanced iteration of their modular backdoor, Waterbear, alongside its more sophisticated successor, Deuterbear.

Attack Regions



Attack Details

#1 The Earth Hundun faction also recognized as BlackTech, has orchestrated a recent surge in cyber intrusions primarily targeting the Asia-Pacific region. These breaches serve as a precursor to the deployment of an upgraded iteration of their modular backdoor, known as Waterbear, alongside its advanced successor, named Deuterbear.

#2 Within the arsenal wielded by the Earth Hundun group, the Waterbear backdoor stands out as a formidable entity, boasting a sophisticated array of countermeasures against debugging, sandboxing, and conventional antivirus systems.

#3 Furthermore, the continual refinements by its developers have fortified its evasion capabilities, incorporating enhancements to its loading mechanisms, download processes, and communication protocols. In the year 2022, Earth Hundun transitioned to employing the latest iteration of Waterbear, dubbed Deuterbear, which brings forth several significant alterations.

#4 Notable among these enhancements are anti-memory scanning functionalities and decryption routines. The Deuterbear downloader utilizes HTTPS encryption to safeguard network traffic and incorporates various updates in malware execution, including adjustments to function decryption, debugger, and sandbox detection mechanisms, as well as alterations to traffic protocols.

Recommendations

Network Segmentation: Implement network segmentation to minimize the lateral movement of attackers within the network, limiting their ability to access critical systems and data.

Zero Trust Architecture: Adopt a Zero Trust security architecture, where trust is never assumed and continuous authentication and authorization mechanisms are implemented, reducing the risk of unauthorized access.

Monitoring and Logging: Implement robust monitoring and logging mechanisms to detect suspicious activity or unauthorized access to your accounts. Regularly review access logs and audit trails for unusual patterns or login locations.

Heighten Employee Awareness: Educate employees on cybersecurity best practices, emphasizing the importance of vigilance against phishing attempts. Encourage reporting of any suspicious emails or activities.

Potential MITRE ATT&CK TTPs

TA0002 Execution	TA0003 Persistence	TA0004 Privilege Escalation	TA0005 Defense Evasion
TA0007 Discovery	TA0008 Lateral Movement	TA0009 Collection	TA0011 Command and Control
TA0010 Exfiltration	T1574.002 DLL Side-Loading	T1547.012 Print Processors	T1027.001 Binary Padding
T1036.005 Match Legitimate Name or Location	T1140 Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	T1480 Execution Guardrails	T1497.003 Time Based Evasion
T1622 Debugger Evasion	T1083 File and Directory Discovery	T1016.001 Internet Connection Discovery	T1049 System Network Connections Discovery
T1057 Process Discovery	T1082 System Information Discovery	T1012 Query Registry	T1005 Data from Local System
T1041 Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	T1071.001 Web Protocols	T1573 Encrypted Channel	T1132.002 Non-Standard Encoding
T1129 Shared Modules	T1106 Native API	T1055 Process Injection	T1021.006 Windows Remote Management
T1021 Remote Services	T1572 Protocol Tunneling		

Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

TYPE	VALUE
SHA256	e669aaf63552430c6b7c6bd158bcd1e7a11091c164eb034319e1188d43b5490c, 0da9661ed1e73a58bd1005187ad9251bcdea317ca59565753d86ccf1e56927b8, ca0423851ee2aa3013fe74666a965c2312e42d040dbfff86595eb530be3e963f, 6dcc3af7c67403eaae3d5af2f057f0bb553d56ec746ff4cb7c03311e34343ebd, ab8d60e121d6f121c250208987beb6b53d4000bc861e60b093cf5c389e8e7162, a569df3c46f3816d006a40046dae0eb1bc3f9f1d4d3799703070390e195f6dd4, e483cae34eb1e246c3dd4552b2e71614d4df53dc0bac06076442ffc7ac2e06b2, c97e8075466cf91623b1caa1747a6c5ee38c2d0341e0a3a2fa8fcf5a2e6ad3a6, 6b9a14d4d9230e038ffd9e1f5fd0d3065ff0a78b52ab338644462864740c2241, d665aea7899ad317baf1b6e662f40a10d42045865f9eea1ab18993b50dd8942d, dc60d8b1eff66bfb91573c8f825695e27b0813a9891bd0541d9ff6a3ae7e8cf2, 4540132def6dfa6d181cabf1e1689bede5ecfef6450b033fecb0aeb1fe1b3fe9, 8f26069b6b49391f245b8551aa42ca4814c52e7f52d0343916f5262557bf5c52, 74efa0ce94f4285404108d3d19bf2ff64c7c3a1c85e9b59cf511b56f9d71dc05, d6ac4f364b25365eb4a5636beffc836243743ecf7ef4ec391252119aed924cab, 88336746f2cf1034871c4ee334fae0d30c3eb101df6f3f1c94c777639293a031, 609120ab45745bcfe8abc244ea1501ef563cb666abd9d730413c3986a76fb23d, 3ecbca7bf2e4557e92595fe23872658bc3337e6f77a3aff02fb7b460272de7f4, d4b5127988fde3704193a30840e991dc745aea051d1551c7cb6f55853c8cb9da, 974c407dd918ccba245da0fb9d5a68f123c78aacfa85cdaba2271d6ad81380ae,

TYPE	VALUE
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https://www.trendmicro.com/en_us/research/24/e/earth-hundun-2.html

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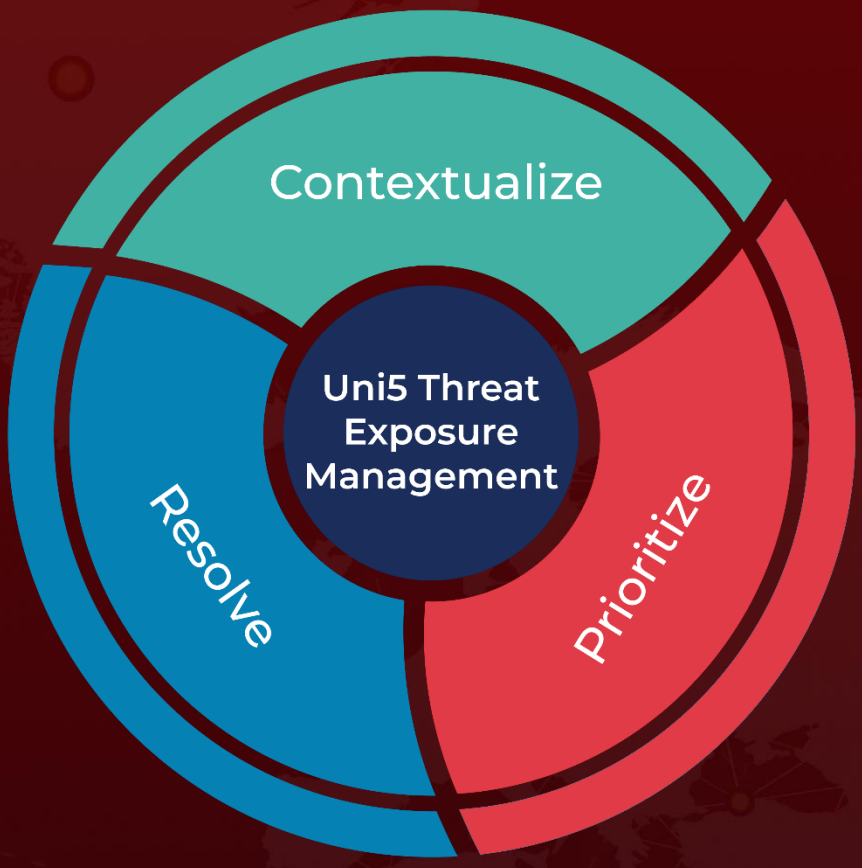

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April 22, 2024 • 6:00 AM

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