

HiveForce Labs

THREAT ADVISORY

**ATTACK REPORT**

FICORA and CAPSAICIN Botnets Target Unpatched D-Link Devices

Date of Publication

December 31, 2024

Admiralty Code

A1

TA Number

TA2024478

Summary

Attack Began: October 2024

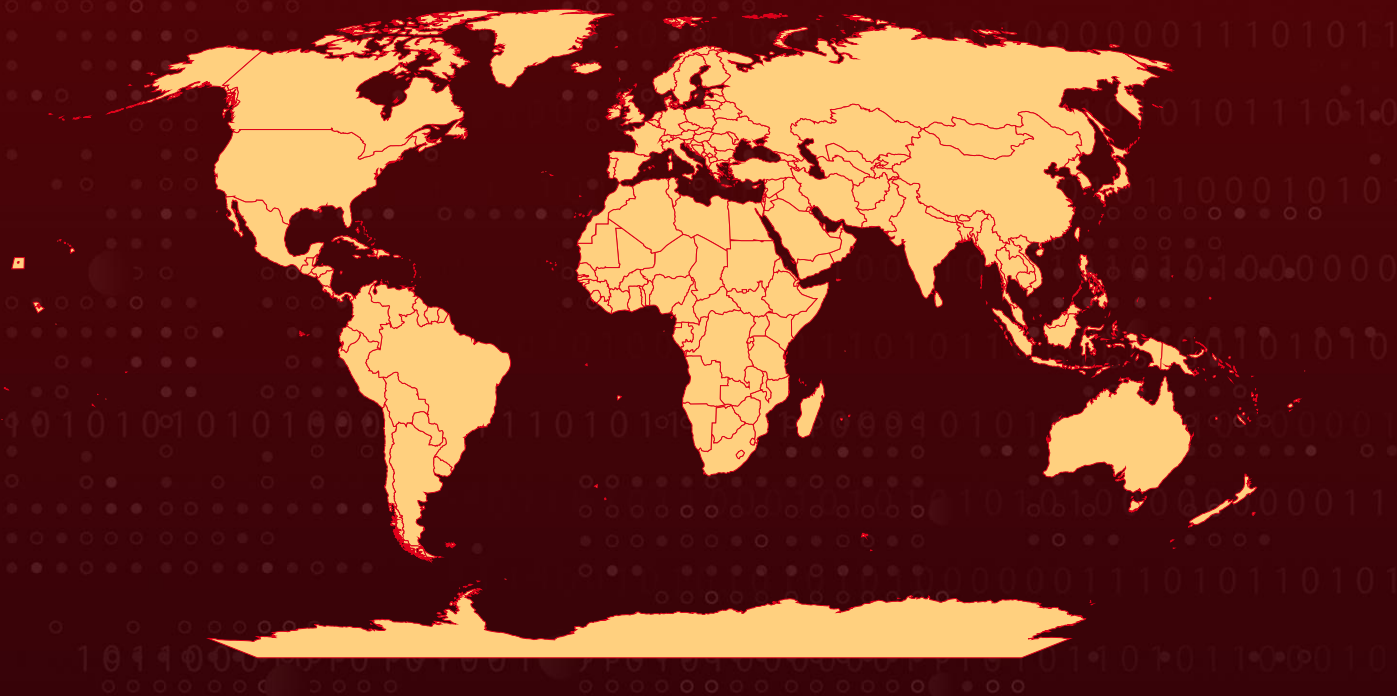
Malware: FICORA and CAPSAICIN

Targeted Countries: Worldwide

Affected Products: Multiple D-Link Routers

Attack: Recent botnet activity, particularly from FICORA (a Mirai variant) and CAPSAICIN (a Kaiten variant), targets vulnerabilities in D-Link routers via the Home Network Administration Protocol (HNAP). These botnets exploit known vulnerabilities to execute remote commands and conduct DDoS attacks. FICORA uses brute-force methods with hard-coded credentials, while CAPSAICIN focuses on East Asian countries and can eliminate competing malware. Regular firmware updates and network monitoring are crucial for mitigating these threats.













Attack Regions



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CVEs

CVE	NAME	AFFECTED PRODUCT	ZERO-DAY	CISA KEV	PATCH
CVE-2015-2051	D-Link DIR-645 Router Remote Code Execution Vulnerability	D-Link DIR-645 Router			
CVE-2019-10891	D-Link DIR-806 Router Command Injection Vulnerability	D-Link DIR-806 Router			
CVE-2022-37056	D-Link Go-RT-AC750 Command Injection Vulnerability	D-Link Go-RT-AC750 Router			
CVE-2024-33112	D-Link DIR-845L router Command Injection Vulnerability	D-Link DIR-845L router			

Attack Details

#1

The ongoing threat of botnets exploiting outdated vulnerabilities in D-Link routers persists. These attacks primarily target routers with unpatched firmware, exploiting weaknesses in the Home Network Administration Protocol (HNAP). Two botnets, "FICORA" (a Mirai variant) and "CAPSAICIN" (a Kaiten variant), have been actively using these vulnerabilities to compromise devices globally.

#2

FICORA has demonstrated a widespread geographic impact. This botnet utilizes a shell script named "multi" to download and execute its payload through various methods, including wget, curl, ftpget, and tftp. It also incorporates brute-force capabilities with hard-coded credentials to infiltrate additional Linux-based systems. FICORA is capable of conducting distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks using techniques such as UDP flooding, TCP flooding, and DNS amplification.

#3

On the other hand, CAPSAICIN exhibited a more concentrated attack pattern, primarily targeting East Asian countries during a brief but intense activity period on October 21 and 22, 2024. This botnet employs a downloader script called "bins.sh" to fetch its payload and establish a connection with its command-and-control (C2) server. Once compromised, CAPSAICIN can send system information back to the C2 server and await commands to execute various functions, including DDoS attacks.

#4

Despite these vulnerabilities being known for nearly a decade, and many having received patches, these attacks continue to pose significant risks due to the prevalence of unpatched legacy devices in use. By prioritizing regular updates and robust protection strategies, users can significantly reduce their risk of falling victim to botnet campaigns.

Recommendations



Update Firmware Regularly: Ensure your router's firmware is up-to-date to protect against known vulnerabilities. Regular updates provide critical security patches that can prevent unauthorized access. Refer to D-Link's official support page for guidance on updating your specific router model.



Enable WPA2 or WPA3 Encryption: Configure your router to use WPA2 or WPA3 encryption for wireless connections. These protocols offer robust security compared to older methods like WEP. For detailed instructions, consult D-Link's guidelines on securing wireless signals.



Disable Unused Services and Features: Turn off unnecessary services such as remote management, Universal Plug and Play (UPnP), and WPS to reduce potential attack vectors. Disabling unused features minimizes the risk of exploitation.



Monitor Network Activity: Regularly review connected devices and network traffic for any unusual activity. Early detection of unauthorized access can prevent potential security breaches.



Consider Router Replacement: If your router is an older model no longer receiving firmware updates, consider upgrading to a newer device with ongoing support. D-Link has issued warnings recommending the replacement of outdated routers to maintain network security.

Potential MITRE ATT&CK TTPs

<u>TA0005</u> Defense Evasion	<u>TA0010</u> Exfiltration	<u>TA0001</u> Initial Access	<u>TA0002</u> Execution
<u>TA0007</u> Discovery	<u>TA0003</u> Persistence	<u>TA0004</u> Privilege Escalation	<u>TA0011</u> Command and Control
<u>TA0040</u> Impact	<u>T1071.004</u> DNS	<u>T1041</u> Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	<u>T1027</u> Obfuscated Files or Information
<u>T1059</u> Command and Scripting Interpreter	<u>T1046</u> Network Service Discovery	<u>T1110</u> Brute Force	<u>T1095</u> Non-Application Layer Protocol
<u>T1562.001</u> Disable or Modify Tools	<u>T1562</u> Impair Defenses	<u>T1190</u> Exploit Public-Facing Application	<u>T1078</u> Valid Accounts
<u>T1203</u> Exploitation for Client Execution	<u>T1068</u> Exploitation for Privilege Escalation	<u>T1071.001</u> Web Protocols	<u>T1071</u> Application Layer Protocol
<u>T1498</u> Network Denial of Service			

Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

TYPE	VALUE
URLs	hxxp[:]//[103[.]149[.]87[.]69/multi, hxxp[:]//[103[.]149[.]87[.]69/la[.]bot[.]arc, hxxp[:]//[103[.]149[.]87[.]69/la[.]bot[.]arm, hxxp[:]//[103[.]149[.]87[.]69/la[.]bot[.]arm5, hxxp[:]//[103[.]149[.]87[.]69/la[.]bot[.]arm6, hxxp[:]//[103[.]149[.]87[.]69/la[.]bot[.]arm7, hxxp[:]//[103[.]149[.]87[.]69/la[.]bot[.]m68k,

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Patch Details

The vulnerabilities CVE-2019-10891, CVE-2022-37056, and CVE-2024-33112 affect D-Link devices that have reached End of Life (EOL) or End of Service Life (EOS); as a result, D-Link no longer provides firmware updates or security patches for these products.

Patch Link for CVE-2015-2051:

<http://securityadvisories.dlink.com/security/publication.aspx?name=SAP10051>

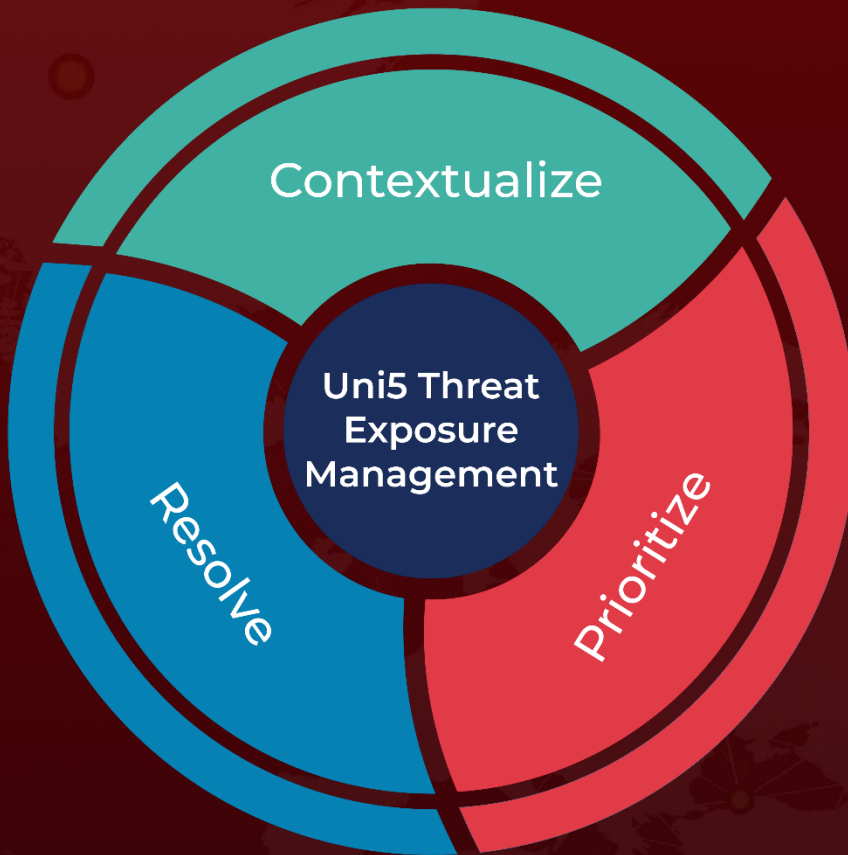
References

<https://www.fortinet.com/blog/threat-research/botnets-continue-to-target-aging-d-link-vulnerabilities>

What Next?

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