

HiveForce Labs

THREAT ADVISORY

 VULNERABILITY REPORT

**Zero-Day in WinRAR Actively Weaponized
by Multiple Threat Groups**

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A1

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Summary

First Seen: July 18, 2025

Affected Product: RARLAB WinRAR

Affected Platform: Windows

Targeted Industries: Financial, Manufacturing, Defense, Logistics, Government, Political, Military, Administrative entities

Targeted Region: Europe, Canada, Russia, Ukraine

Threat Actors: **RomCom** (aka Tropical Scorpis, Void Rabisu, DEV-0978, Storm-0978, UNC2596, CIGAR, UAC-0180), **Paper Werewolf** (aka GOFFEE), **Gamaredon** (aka Winterflounder, Primitive Bear, BlueAlpha, Blue Otso, Iron Tilden, Armageddon, SectorC08, Callisto, Shuckworm, Actinium, Trident Ursa, DEV-0157, UAC-0010, Aqua Blizzard, UNC530, G0047), **APT-C-08** (aka Bitter, T-APT-17, TA397, G1002, Manlinghua)

Malware: SnipBot, RustyClaw, Mythic agent, Pteranodon, GamaWiper

Impact: A newly discovered zero-day flaw in WinRAR, tracked as CVE-2025-8088, has been actively exploited in targeted attacks, with threat groups like RomCom and Paper Werewolf using it to deliver malicious payloads through seemingly harmless RAR archives. The vulnerability, found in the Windows version of WinRAR, allows attackers to exploit path traversal via alternate data streams, enabling them to plant harmful files in sensitive locations. RomCom used spear-phishing campaigns against European and Canadian companies, deploying multi-stage attack chains that delivered malware including Mythic agents, SnipBot variants, and RustyClaw downloaders. The Paper Werewolf threat actor purchased an unspecified CVE exploit priced at \$80,000 and used it to target Russian organizations, in some cases chaining it with another WinRAR vulnerability. WinRAR has since patched the issue in version 7.13, making prompt updates essential to prevent compromise.

🔧 CVEs

CVE	NAME	AFFECTED PRODUCT	ZERO-DAY	CISA KEV	PATCH
CVE-2025-8088	RARLAB WinRAR Path Traversal Vulnerability	RARLAB WinRAR	✅	✅	✅
CVE-2025-6218	RARLAB WinRAR Path Traversal Vulnerability	RARLAB WinRAR	❌	✅	✅

Vulnerability Details

#1

A critical zero-day vulnerability in WinRAR, tracked as CVE-2025-8088, has come under active exploitation in a wave of targeted cyberattacks. The flaw, which affects Windows versions of WinRAR and its associated components like UnRAR.dll, arises from improper handling of alternate data streams (ADSes) in specially crafted archive files. By manipulating file paths within these ADSes, attackers can perform path traversal, tricking WinRAR into extracting malicious files outside the intended directory.

#2

The vulnerability first drew attention on July 18, 2025, when researchers discovered a malicious DLL named msedge.dll inside a RAR archive exploiting the flaw. The campaign was linked to RomCom, a Russia-aligned threat actor known for leveraging zero-days. In this case, the attackers-built archives containing one harmless-looking file alongside numerous malicious ADS entries. These were unpacked and set to execute on login, with the attackers cleverly padding the archive with dummy data and invalid paths to evade detection, only revealing the malicious entries when scrolling deep into the WinRAR interface.

#3

From July 18, RomCom was deploying RAR files against companies in Europe and Canada. The archives contained two malicious files, an LNK shortcut and a DLL, leading to three identified execution chains. In the first, Updater.lnk planted a registry key pointing to msedge.dll, triggering its execution through COM hijacking. The DLL decrypted AES-protected shellcode, checked for a specific domain match, and, if confirmed, connected to a Mythic C2 server. The second chain used Display Settings.lnk to run ApbxHelper.exe, a tampered PuTTY CAC binary which decrypted and executed SnipBot shellcode if certain registry conditions were met, eventually downloading another payload. The third chain featured RustyClaw, a Rust-based downloader signed with an invalid certificate, fetching a payload from melamorri[.]com.

#4

Paper Werewolf, another threat group, also used an unspecified CVE exploit sold for \$80,000; it was possibly purchased from a dark web vendor. Unlike RomCom's campaigns, Paper Werewolf targeted Russian organizations, chaining CVE-2025-8088 with an earlier WinRAR flaw, CVE-2025-6218, in phishing operations. This cross-actor exploitation highlights how valuable and quickly circulated a working zero-day can be within the cybercrime ecosystem.

#5

Gamaredon and APT-C-08 spent 2025 heavily exploiting WinRAR vulnerabilities to breach Ukrainian and other strategic networks through tailored phishing and automated compromise paths. Gamaredon relied on 37 evolving malware samples and a zero-click technique abusing CVE-2025-6218, where simply opening a crafted RAR archive triggered infection. Their campaign used the Pteranodon loader as the core of a multi-stage chain, enabling long-term espionage, internal movement, and data theft through a resilient C2 setup. A separate attack revealed the new GamaWiper, delivered through CVE-2025-8088, marking Gamaredon's move from pure espionage to destructive operations.

#6

APT-C-08 (Bitter) also abused the WinRAR directory traversal flaw (CVE-2025-6218) in spear-phishing campaigns, using crafted RAR files to drop malware into sensitive locations, enabling automatic execution and persistent remote access. Their payload chain delivered downloaders, C# Trojans, and credential-harvesting tools. Collectively, these attacks show how quickly threat actors weaponize everyday software. Given the active exploitation and the breadth of sectors targeted, users are urged to upgrade immediately to WinRAR 7.13 or later, which includes fixes for CVE-2025-8088 and CVE-2025-6218.

Vulnerabilities

CVE ID	AFFECTED PRODUCTS	AFFECTED CPE	CWE ID
CVE-2025-8088	WinRAR Versions up to and including 7.12	cpe:2.3:a:rarlab:winrar:*:*:*:* :*:*:*:	CWE-35
CVE-2025-6218	WinRAR Version Prior to 7.12	cpe:2.3:a:rarlab:winrar:*:*:*:* :*:*:*:	CWE-22

Recommendations



Update WinRAR Immediately: Install WinRAR version 7.13 or later, which fixes CVE-2025-8088 and other security flaws. This is the single most effective step to block these attacks.



Be Cautious with Unexpected Archives: Avoid opening RAR or ZIP files from unknown or untrusted sources, even if they seem harmless or come from someone you know (email accounts can be compromised).



Check for Suspicious Startup Items: Since this exploit can drop malicious files into the Windows Startup folder, review your startup programs regularly and remove anything unfamiliar.



Use Strong Endpoint Protection: Ensure your antivirus or endpoint detection software is up to date and consider enabling real-time scanning to detect suspicious DLL or LNK activity.



Vulnerability Management: This involves regularly assessing and updating software to address known vulnerabilities. Maintain an inventory of software versions and security patches, and evaluate the security practices of third-party vendors, especially for critical applications and services.



Potential MITRE ATT&CK TTPs

<u>TA0042</u> Resource Development	<u>TA0001</u> Initial Access	<u>TA0002</u> Execution	<u>TA0003</u> Persistence
<u>TA0005</u> Defense Evasion	<u>TA0006</u> Credential Access	<u>TA0007</u> Discovery	<u>TA0008</u> Lateral Movement
<u>TA0009</u> Collection	<u>TA0010</u> Exfiltration	<u>TA0011</u> Command and Control	<u>TA0040</u> Impact
<u>T1583</u> Acquire Infrastructure	<u>T1587</u> Develop Capabilities	<u>T1587.001</u> Malware	<u>T1587.004</u> Exploits
<u>T1588</u> Obtain Capabilities	<u>T1588.005</u> Exploits	<u>T1588.006</u> Vulnerabilities	<u>T1608</u> Stage Capabilities
<u>T1566</u> Phishing	<u>T1566.001</u> Spearphishing Attachment	<u>T1204</u> User Execution	<u>T1204.002</u> Malicious File
<u>T1547</u> Boot or Logon Autostart Execution	<u>T1547.001</u> Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder	<u>T1546</u> Event Triggered Execution	<u>T1546.015</u> Component Object Model Hijacking
<u>T1497</u> Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion	<u>T1480</u> Execution Guardrails	<u>T1036</u> Masquerading	<u>T1036.001</u> Invalid Code Signature
<u>T1027</u> Obfuscated Files or Information	<u>T1027.007</u> Dynamic API Resolution	<u>T1027.013</u> Encrypted/Encoded File	<u>T1555</u> Credentials from Password Stores
<u>T1555.003</u> Credentials from Web Browsers	<u>T1552</u> Unsecured Credentials	<u>T1552.001</u> Credentials In Files	<u>T1087</u> Account Discovery



<u>T1518</u> Software Discovery	<u>T1021</u> Remote Services	<u>T1560</u> Archive Collected Data	<u>T1185</u> Browser Session Hijacking
<u>T1005</u> Data from Local System	<u>T1114</u> Email Collection	<u>T1114.001</u> Local Email Collection	<u>T1113</u> Screen Capture
<u>T1071</u> Application Layer Protocol	<u>T1071.001</u> Web Protocols	<u>T1573</u> Encrypted Channel	<u>T1573.002</u> Asymmetric Cryptography
<u>T1041</u> Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	<u>T1657</u> Financial Theft	<u>T1059</u> Command and Scripting Interpreter	<u>T1059.003</u> Windows Command Shell
<u>T1658</u> Exploitation for Client Execution	<u>T1564</u> Hide Artifacts	<u>T1564.003</u> Hidden Window	<u>T1027.009</u> Embedded Payloads
<u>T1082</u> System Information Discovery	<u>T1033</u> System Owner/User Discovery	<u>T1105</u> Ingress Tool Transfer	<u>T1095</u> Non-Application Layer Protocol
<u>T1574</u> Hijack Execution Flow	<u>T1574.001</u> DLL	<u>T1137</u> Office Application Startup	<u>T1137.001</u> Office Template Macros

❌ Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

TYPE	VALUE
SHA1	371A5B8BA86FBCAB80D4E0087D2AA0D8FFDDC70B, D43F49E6A586658B5422EDC647075FFD405D6741, F77DBA76010A9988C9CEB8E420C96AEBC071B889, 676086860055F6591FED303B4799C725F8466CF4, 1F25E062E8E9A4F1792C3EAC6462694410F0F1CA, C340625C779911165E3983C77FD60855A2575275, C94A6BD6EC88385E4E831B208FED2FA6FAED6666, 01D32FE88ECDEA2B934A00805E138034BF85BF83, AE687BEF963CB30A3788E34CC18046F54C41FFBA, AB79081D0E26EA278D3D45DA247335A545D0512E,

TYPE	VALUE
SHA1	1AEA26A2E2A7711F89D06165E676E11769E2FD68, 40E647D61A00FD7240E54DBA45CE95C5D33CAE43, 7FF3D32E78C5626135A73BBA4A011058F714AE86, D3820A1248BF54CE8A3D05BF688BCD97E1C41D8E, 6C0E52B8ED746B5B8EBEF1EF2226093260659AE8, B610FF2AD9791D17203609D747C5DFE947304591, B7BBA4A216F4910F5072019BB4A2022CCF098C75, 23708D1FD0CD7BA65C2B2FC676CEE707E746A2DD9
Filenames	Adverse_Effect_Medical_Records_2025.rar, cv_submission.rar, Eli_Rosenfeld_CV2-Copy(10).rar, Datos adjuntos sintítulo00170.dat, JobDocs_July2025.rar, cv_submission.rar, Recruitment_Dossier_July_2025.rar, install_module_x64.dll, msedge.dll, Complaint.exe, ApbxHelper.exe, minprom_04072025.rar, xpsrchvw.exe, Запрос_Минпромторг_22.07.rar, DON_AVIA_TRANS_UZ.rar, DON_AVIA_TRANS_RU.rar, WinRunApp.exe
IPv4	162[.]19[.]175[.]44, 194[.]36[.]209[.]127, 85[.]158[.]108[.]62, 185[.]173[.]235[.]134, 81[.]30[.]105[.]148, 213[.]171[.]4[.]200, 89[.]110[.]98[.]26, 94[.]242[.]51[.]73, 62[.]60[.]234[.]123, 87[.]251[.]69[.]182, 5[.]181[.]2[.]158, 5[.]181[.]2[.]161, 95[.]163[.]236[.]162, 185[.]168[.]208[.]228, 194[.]58[.]66[.]5, 194[.]58[.]66[.]132, 194[.]58[.]66[.]192, 194[.]67[.]71[.]75, 194[.]87[.]240[.]141, 194[.]87[.]230[.]166, 194[.]87[.]240[.]215,



TYPE	VALUE
IPv4	194[.]87[.]240[.]217, 185[.]39[.]204[.]82, 45[.]141[.]234[.]234, 5[.]8[.]18[.]46, 103[.]224[.]182[.]251, 144[.]172[.]84[.]70, 45[.]32[.]220[.]217, 65[.]38[.]120[.]43, 64[.]7[.]199[.]177, 172[.]104[.]206[.]42, 107[.]189[.]18[.]173, 107[.]189[.]23[.]61
IPv4:Port	89[.]110[.]88[.]155[:]:8090
Domains	gohazeldale [.]com, srlaptop[.]com, melamorri[.]com, campanole[.]com, eliteheirs[.]org, indoorvisions[.]org, trailtastic[.]org, open-files[.]sytes[.]net, digitall[.]webhop[.]me, 228w1mx7-80[.]usw3[.]devtunnels[.]ms, 488c65e6d7175f5e696ece9711c0ec37[.]loophole[.]site, books-drunk-typical-indirect[.]trycloudflare[.]com, dears[.]serveirc[.]com, whitesalad[.]zzrak08526[.]workers[.]dev, koliwoodclients[.]com, esanojinjasvc[.]com, tapeqcqoptions[.]com, johnfashionarchive[.]com, wmiapcservice[.]com, acess-pdf[.]webhop[.]me, creates[.]webhop[.]me, digitall[.]webhop[.]me, dears[.]serveirc[.]com, dilopendos[.]serveirc[.]com, downcraft[.]serveirc[.]com, fixer[.]serveirc[.]com, fixfactors[.]serveirc[.]com, kia-court[.]serveirc[.]com, political-news[.]serveirc[.]com, readers[.]serveirc[.]com, serversftp[.]serveirc[.]com, ssu-procuror[.]redirectme[.]net,



TYPE	VALUE
Domains	year[.]serveirc[.]com, pabilonos[.]hopto[.]org, diskpart[.]myddns[.]me, selodovo[.]myddns[.]me, document-downloads[.]ddns[.]net, systems-debug[.]ddns[.]net, document-prok[.]freedynamicdns[.]org, downloads-document[.]freedynamicdns[.]org, write-document[.]freedynamicdns[.]org, procurature[.]freedynamicdns[.]org, print-documents[.]freedynamicdns[.]net, google-pdf[.]redirectme[.]net, hosting-redirect[.]sytes[.]net, tillthesunrise[.]sytes[.]net, open-files[.]systes[.]net, open-pdf[.]serveftp[.]com, pasive-host[.]gotdns[.]ch, app-334825a6-4a2b-48bc-be92-e0582d656006[.]cleverapps[.]io, libraries-thus-yale-collaborative[.]trycloudflare[.]com, vacations-mic-games-scale[.]trycloudflare[.]com, incidence-polished-expires-denver[.]trycloudflare[.]com, streams-metallic-regulatory-armor[.]trycloudflare[.]com, divine-water-36e7[.]5ekz2z6pjk[.]workers[.]dev, long-king-02b7[.]5ekz2z6pjk[.]workers[.]dev, quietunion[.]48clhonm1m[.]workers[.]dev, divine-water-5123[.]svush66274[.]workers[.]dev, blackvoice[.]lydef24298[.]workers[.]dev, vaporblue[.]ddnsking[.]com, rqzbuwewuvnbbaucfhjl[.]supabase[.]co, For[.]estaca[.]ru, exorcise[.]me, andonceagain[.]online, gihs[.]andonceagain[.]ru, andonceagain[.]ru, antresolle[.]ru
MD5	9a69b948e261363463da38bdbf828b14, 942220fc9382f44ae82061d1fc63f41e, 6b4d7a63aa2a8b2a5a3fbad6c8e6533e, eaba94b5237d2625fa38bc924e5347c4, d176b7b5040d7bb32bae4d5c3c3b6aaf, 1670035385c9031f79566c6f73fb9743, 67dadd8fd8a59c8b3d40ea433efd6ff, 0e39dee073166e011bc0f425caf9446e, ae1e647eece735f631addb0731d3580b, f6f2fdc38cd61d8d9e8cd35244585967, 4bedd8e2b66cc7d64b293493ef5b8942, 84128d40db28e8ee16215877d4c4b64a,



TYPE	VALUE
MD5	f8b237ca925daa3db8699faa05007f12, f16f2e4317c37085cad630d41001f7c3, 418d73efd622ebec29759c081768db16, 5d677781d6c7d4ddee967c1cc7e869ce
SHA256	fe2587dd8d9755b7b3a106b6e46519a1ce0a8191eb20821d2f957326 dbf912e9, bf74820d40d281c28d5928b01e5b68d6caf85b5b9188bf4efb627765 d708bcff, 28a2b98ae214376ccd549a8b0dccaafad31c8b234d0b81a0e88175795 66615567, d2c3fe8b9a4e0e5b7bcc087d52295ab30dc25b1410f50de354703835 28c9d844, dfab2f25c9d870f30bbc4abb873d155cf4904ece536714fb9cd32b2e0 126dfab, 2446f97c1884f70f97d68c2f22e8fc1b9b00e1559cd3ca540e8254749 a693106, 236aba76d427111e8c140604ead9c4ab86264b1ae197fc26fadb33c4 6be94289, 95262c4094a9a5e589a218e354ef54b3800aa0abc3b6a343bbcfdbc0 21fc04f, 68e21d7599d20444232415a7e74214ce50d7b4643215d83b8320e74 c95a9dfd3, aafa4c206495163a5e408aa5c296139fe9f330a9f819a226c69349214 93de9c6, d4ce4776bdad9b741a1e8345b41737245b80f4cf8d361ebb1ae5415c 7a4fe1eb, 9a39423ec90dc06a3058279cd744c08d83252d1c7096633b9853e43 5cc205755
URLs	hxxps[:]//eliteheirs[.]org/checks/brandished/dyestuffs/abbess/interr elation?4eab27f5266393a1150e7d6453c1920db480c2f88ce96708cf f593e38ae8ac30, hxxps[:]//eliteheirs[.]org/checks/brandished/dyestuffs/abbess/interr elation, hxxps[:]//eliteheirs[.]org/crossness/outpost/autocracies/decapitatio ns/jetsetting?b115ef3ad9cb948213f7efc4876cf67747eac173b613b4 25abd05dba0e306ebd, hxxps[:]//eliteheirs[.]org/crossness/outpost/autocracies/decapitatio ns/jetsetting, hxxps[:]//indoorvisions[.]org/patriarchal/furthering/creating/flared/ censured?hostname=[hostname]&username=[username], hxxps[:]//indoorvisions[.]org/patriarchal/furthering/creating/flared/ censured, hxxps[:]//trailtastic[.]org/glowworms/diverted/calorie/britons/parab olas?hostname=[hostname]&username=[username],

TYPE	VALUE
URLs	hxxps[:]//trailtastic[.]org/glowworms/diverted/calorie/britons/parabolas, /gss_11[.]11[.]2025/kidneyfih/broadlyrQZ[.]pdf, /gpd_07[.]11[.]2025r/disputeqG1/concealedn2N[.]pdf, /moss_10[.]11[.]2025/futureHtG/accountc7z[.]pdf, /SUU_11[.]11[.]2025/dicontentedOhr/scoundrelit1[.]pdf, /SVrr_12[.]11[.]2025/crookoxQ/learningB4J[.]pdf, /mmoUU_13[.]11[.]2025/evolutionKPM/armourV2P[.]pdf, /sss_10[.]11[.]2025/dialGsd/horribleNQx[.]pdf, /ss_07[.]11[.]2025/flashlightsK8Q/pondjsQ[.]pdf, /motherrDJ/ssu/flowerbedD6M/dressmakerpvv[.]pdf, /sprdvth/tailor[.]ps1, /regretxso/GP4/investigationner4/exhibtionLD6[.]pdf, /OD/sensationaSL/AprilcWs[.]jpeg, /SS/atomN2s/arwardU26[.]jpeg, /OD/remisshKY/consentedjtP[.]jpeg, /OD/quitZU2/comparativelyNWU[.]jpeg, /Gost/pitchedcbY/intenseLkt[.]jpeg, /GPuUkr/satALU/eventfulpNq[.]pdf
Mutexes	Sfgjh824nf6sdfgsfwe6467jkgg3vvvv3q7657fj436jh54HGfa56, Global_22576733

🔧 Patch Details

Install the latest version of WinRAR 7.13 or later to address the flaw.

Link: <https://www.win-rar.com/download.html?&L=0>

🔗 References

https://www.win-rar.com/singlenewsview.html?&L=0&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=283&cHash=a64b4a8f662d3639dec8d65f47bc93c5

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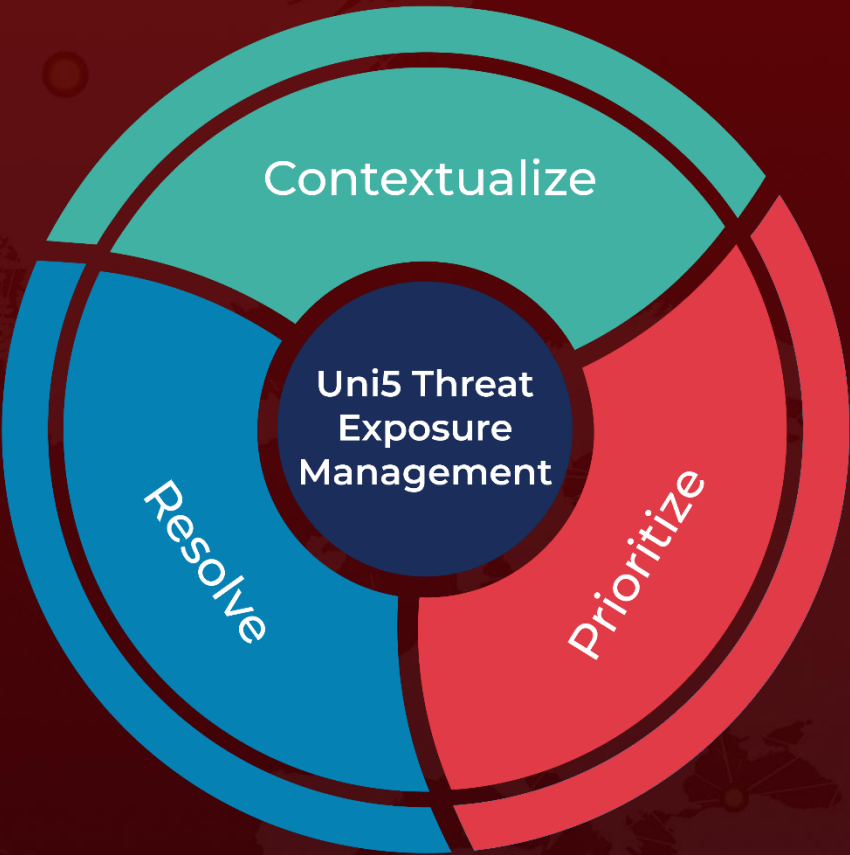
<https://x.com/ClearskySec/status/1995061537183011084>

<https://www.secpod.com/blog/archive-terror-dissecting-the-winrar-cve-2025-6218-exploit-apt-c-08s-stealth-move/>

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.

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