U.S. COAST GUARD

MARITIME CYBER BULLETIN

17 December 2024

MCB 05-24: Peoples Republic of China - Cyber Espionage Campaign

THREAT SUMMARY

Malicious actors affiliated with the People's Republic of China have compromised networks of multiple global telecommunications companies in a broad and significant cyber espionage campaign. So far, this has led to the theft of customer call records data, access to portals used for U.S. law enforcement requests, and compromises of private communications of some people involved in government or political activity. Various government agencies including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation continue to investigate the matter.

Recommendations

Companies should consider establishing processes to facilitate the secure transfer of sensitive information, especially Sensitive Security Information. Coast Guard Cyber Command strongly encourages companies to review the CISA Joint Advisory linked below.

- Enhanced Visibility and Hardening Guidance for Communications Infrastructure

This publication provides network defenders practical guidance on strengthening their visibility and hardening their devices to counter the threats posed by this cyber espionage campaign.

Sources

"Enhanced Visibility and Hardening Guidance for Communications Infrastructure" 2024. December 04, 2024.
https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/enhanced-visibility-and-hardening-guidance-communications-infrastructure
"Joint Statement from FBI and CISA on the People's Republic of China (PRC) Targeting of Commercial Telecommunications Infrastructure" 2024. November 13, 2024. https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/joint-statement-fbi-and-cisa-peoples-republic-china-prc-targeting-commercial-telecommunications

Resources

Facilities that observe any unusual or suspicious activity, breaches of security, or interruptions to their network should report those activities to:

Coast Guard's National Response Center
1-800-424-8802

OR

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Central
1-888-282-0870

If you have any questions, please visit our website at:
https://www.uscg.mil/MaritimeCyber
or reach out to MCRB at:
maritimecyber@uscg.mil