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TrickBot Malware: Intrusion and Response

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What it is

TrickBot is modular Windows malware that began as a banking Trojan and evolved into a platform for credential theft, system reconnaissance, lateral movement, and delivery of other malware. It became a significant part of infection chains that led to ransomware and other hands-on intrusions.

How it works

Delivery often involved malicious email attachments or links, sometimes through another loader. TrickBot modules collected browser and domain credentials, mapped networks, spread through shared resources, and communicated with command infrastructure. Operators could then introduce additional tools, including ransomware, after identifying valuable systems.

Key points

- A TrickBot alert may represent an early warning of a wider intrusion, not an isolated banking threat.
- Credential theft can allow attackers to return after the detected files are removed.
- Disruptions to parts of the botnet reduced activity but do not make old infected systems trustworthy.

What to do

- Isolate affected hosts and search the environment for the same delivery message and network indicators.
- Reset domain and user credentials from clean systems and revoke active sessions.
- Review lateral movement, remote administration, backup access, and follow-on payloads.
- Reimage systems when the infection scope cannot be confidently bounded.

Treat a detection as a wider intrusion

TrickBot has been used for credential theft, network discovery, lateral movement, and delivery of additional malware. Isolate the host, preserve process and network evidence, and search other devices for the same accounts, scheduled tasks, services, and remote connections. Reset domain, email, VPN, and administrative credentials from clean systems. Protect backup administration before reconnecting endpoints because follow-on ransomware is a material risk. A clean file scan alone does not prove the network is safe; validate identity, persistence, and remote-management activity as part of the malware response.