

Threat Intelligence Report



Navigating the Cyber Threat Landscape for Paris Olympics 2024

Summary:

The upcoming international sporting event, the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, is set to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024. As one of the world's most prominent events, the Olympics have always been highly attractive targets for cybercriminals with different motivations. This year's events are also expected to face more threats due to their international significance. The event is highly susceptible to cyber attacks, including cyber espionage, disruptive and destructive operations, financially motivated activities, hacktivism, and information operations.

After the analyses of historical and ongoing cyber incidents associated with the Olympic events and French entities, FortiGuard Threat Research has prepared a comprehensive report on the potential threats and challenges to the Paris Olympics 2024. The report identifies a range of risks including cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure, event management systems, and personal data of athletes and attendees.

Historic threats observed include data breaches, espionage activities, and network access sales, posing severe risks to national security, economic stability, and public trust. The dark web and instant messaging platform Telegram offer stolen credentials, combo lists, phishing lures and exploit kits aimed at French entities. Additionally, we also observed that various hacktivist groups, such as Cyber Army Russia Reborn, NoName057(16), Garnesia Team, LulzSec, and Cyber Dragon, have explicitly declared their intent to target the Olympics and French entities. These groups are likely to employ tactics such as Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS) attacks, and website defacements.

The geopolitical landscape, especially France's stance on the Ukraine conflict and its role in international bodies like the EU and NATO, further exacerbates these threats. Political motivations include undermining France's support for Ukraine, leveraging the Olympics' visibility for propaganda, and challenging Western values. The report emphasizes the need for robust cybersecurity measures, including enhanced monitoring, incident response strategies, and public-private sector collaboration to safeguard the event from digital threats.

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Overview of cyber threats to the Paris Olympics 2024

The Olympic Games, a premier international multi-sport event, have a rich history dating back to ancient Greece, with the modern iteration established in 1896. Held every four years, the Olympics bring together athletes from around the globe to compete in various sports. The games are divided into Summer and Winter Olympics, each featuring sports suited to their respective seasons. Over the years, the Olympics have grown in scope and scale, continually adapting to include new sports and technological advancements. The Olympics are a complex and multifaceted event, involving numerous stakeholders, including athletes, organizers, sponsors, and support services.

The upcoming Paris Olympics 2024, officially the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, are set to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024. This event marks the third time Paris will host the Olympics, coinciding with the centenary of the 1924 Games. The Paris Olympics will feature a mix of traditional and new sports, including surfing, skateboarding, sport climbing, and breaking, aimed at engaging younger audiences. According to the data, the Olympics will host athletes from 206 countries, while the Paralympics will feature participants from 184 countries. Additionally, Paris is expected to welcome over 15 million tourists during the Games.

The Paris Olympics 2024 faces a variety of cyber threats, reflecting the growing digitalization and interconnectedness of major international events. The following are some key cyber threats that could impact the Olympic Games, their partners, and France-based entities:

Threat Type Threats	Description	Impact

Espionage	Espionage Attacks	confidential information such as intellectual property, to gain strategic or competitive advantages and the disseminating of disinformation.	attacks could influence political decisions, and diplomatic relations and ultimately threaten the sovereignty and stability of targeted nations.
	Data Breach and PII	Listings for the sale of French citizens' sensitive data and PII, often obtained from data breaches.	Increased risk of identity theft, phishing, financial fraud, proprietary information, and privacy violations.
	Network Access	Posts advertising access to the networks of French organizations, including governments, financial, healthcare, and critical infrastructure.	Unauthorized access to internal networks, potential for data theft, and operational disruptions.
Darkweb	Sale of Stolen Credentials	Multiple forum posts offering stolen credentials could be used to gain unauthorized access to personal and organizational accounts.	Attackers can infiltrate systems, steal sensitive data, manipulate information, and conduct further attacks within compromised networks.
	Phishing Kits and Exploit Tools	Listings for phishing kits and exploit tools specifically targeting French users and organizations.	Increased risk of phishing attacks and exploitation of software vulnerabilities, leading to data breaches and unauthorized access.
	Combo Lists	Several listings on dark web forums and Telegram channels offer combo lists specifically targeting French citizens.	Increased risk of unauthorized access to accounts, leading to potential data breaches, financial fraud, and personal data theft. These lists compile credentials from various breaches and are sold for use in credential-stuffing attacks.
Hacktivist	DDoS attacks	Services offered to carry out DDoS attacks on French websites and online services.	Disruption of online services, including e-commerce, government portals, and media websites, leads to downtime and loss of accessibility.
	Website Defacements	Defacement attacks on French websites.	Damage to reputation and credibility, potential loss of trust from users, and disruption of website services.
Ransomware	Ransomware Attacks	Discussions and advertisements for ransomware campaigns aimed at French businesses and critical infrastructure.	Potential for significant operational disruptions, financial loss, and data encryption demanding ransom payments.

Increased risk of national security threats, and economic loss. These

The espionage attacks often involve the theft of

History of Cyber Attacks to Sports Events

Reports of cyberattacks on sports events have escalated dramatically over the past decade. In 10 years, the <u>number of cyberattacks has increased 20-fold, rising from 212 million at the London 2012 Games to 4.4 billion at the Tokyo 2020 Games.</u> These attacks often target financial gain or the acquisition of valuable data related to athletes, sponsors, or ticketing information. Targets have included individual teams like the San Francisco 49ers, streaming services like FuboTV during the World Cup, Major League Baseball, and soccer clubs such as Real Sociedad.

	Targeted Country	Event	Year	Reference
		San Francisco 49ers (NFL)	Feb 2022	US National Football League (NFL) club the San Francisco 49ers confirmed it was hit by a ransomware attack one day before the Sunday Super Bowl.
ı	USA	FuboTV (World Cup Streaming)	Nov 2022	<u>Disrupted service for viewers during World Cup match</u>
		Major League Baseball	2021 (Specific date unavailable)	<u>Data breach of players and families through a third-party vendor</u>
		National Basketball Association (NBA)	April 2021	NBA's Houston Rockets were targeted by ransomware attackers, who claimed to have stolen 500 gigabytes of Rockets' data.

Cyber espionage attacks on sports events also have a notable history, targeting the vast amount of sensitive data and the event's global IT infrastructure. Notable instances include the "Olympic Destroyer" malware attack during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, which disrupted the opening ceremony's IT systems, and was linked to Russian hackers retaliating for the doping ban. Similarly, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics faced multiple cyber threats, including phishing and malware attacks, likely from state-sponsored actors in Russia.

State Sponsered Country Espionage Group		Targeted Olympic Games	Yea	rReference
	Russian GRU, Lazarus Group	Tokyo Summer	2020	450 million cyberattacks attempted on Japan Olympics infrastructure
	Sandworm (APT 44)	PyeongChang Winter	2018	Olympic Destroyer malware attack targeting the IT infrastructure, disrupting the opening ceremony.
	Fancy Bear (APT 28)	Rio Summer	2016	Multiple cyber attacks, including data breaches and leaks of athletes' sensitive medical information.
★ **	Chinese hacker groups (suspected state involvement)	Beijing Summer	2008	Cyber espionage activities aimed at stealing sensitive data related to the event's infrastructure and participating organizations.

According to the latest report, Russia has recently ramped up its disinformation campaigns targeting the 2024 Paris Olympics, focusing on defaming the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and creating fears of violence at the games using traditional tactics with the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Threat actors like Storm-1679 have released a film titled "Olympics Has Fallen," resembling a Hollywood thriller, to discredit the IOC. They've also spread fake videos suggesting terrorism risks in Paris and fabricated threats related to the Israel-Hamas conflict.



(Russia-affiliated influence actor Storm-1679 using AI to target IOC) (Image source: <u>Microsoft</u>)





(Fake videos warning of terror threats at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, produced by Russia-linked actor Storm-1679)
(Image source: Microsoft)

Another threat actor, Storm-1099 also known as "Doppelganger", spreads anti-Olympics messages through fake news sites. These efforts may intensify as the Olympics approaches, potentially leveraging Al and social media bots to reach a broader audience.



(Anti-Olympics messages being spread through fake news sites)
(Image source: Microsoft)

Cyber Threat Landscape for Paris Olympics 2024

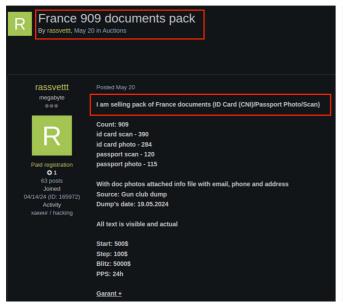
Darknet Threats

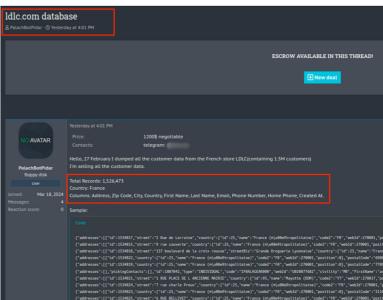
Darknet marketplaces play an important role in selling and advertising databases, personally identifiable information (PII), sensitive information, and network access for various organizations. As the Paris Olympics approaches, there is a high likelihood that threat actors will leverage this opportunity to target France-based entities. These threat actors are particularly interested in targeting partner organizations, support entities, and ticketing platforms involved in the event to leak user PII and other sensitive details such as financial information, aiming to create disruption and capitalize on the heightened activity and attention surrounding the games.

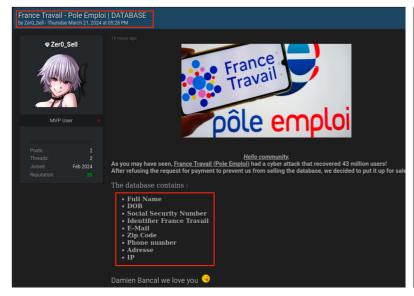
Database Advertisements

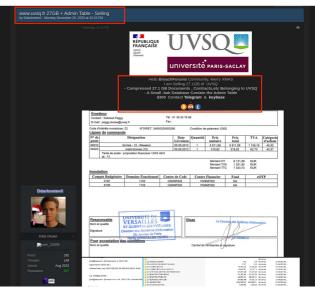
FortiGuard Threat Research has identified numerous data breaches and leaks involving France-based companies posted on the dark web. These posts often contain sensitive information such as full names, dates of birth, social security numbers, email addresses, phone numbers, residential addresses, and other personally identifiable information. The combination of high-profile events like the Olympics and the availability of extensive personal data on the dark web creates a fertile ground for cybercriminal activities. Cybercriminals can leverage this sensitive information in various ways, such as targeted phishing scams, social engineering attacks, malware distribution, and disinformation campaigns.

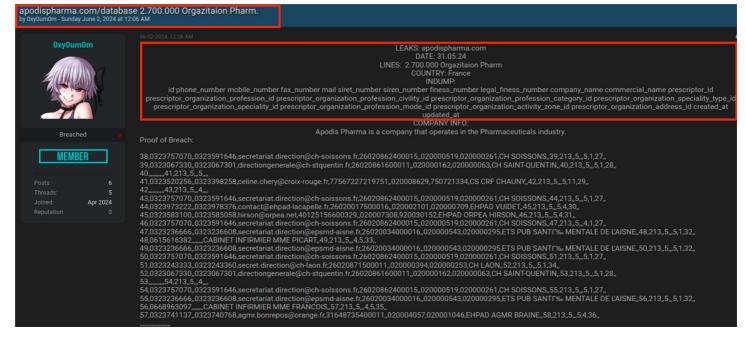
Below, we have listed various forum posts with the potential to target French entities. The following section provides a detailed breakdown of historic threats to France, as observed on these forums:







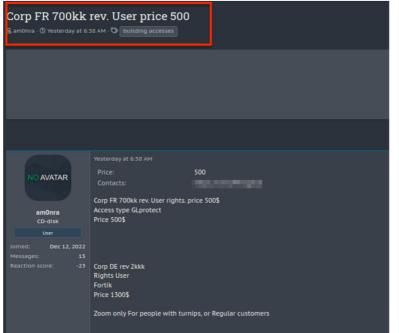


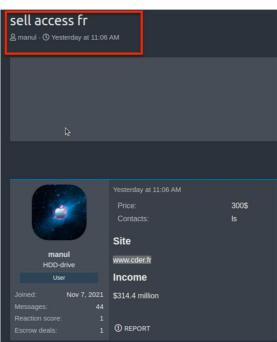


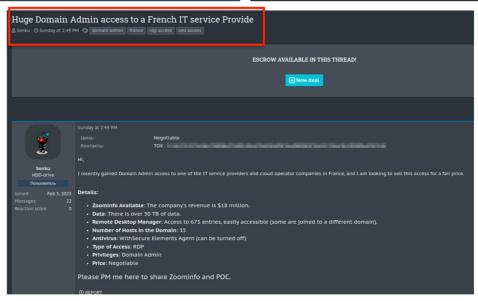
(Forum Posts - Database advertisements)

Network Access Advertisements

During our research, we identified numerous darknet posts advertising access to France-based companies' networks. For instance, if a Virtual Private Network (VPN) or Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) is compromised, it can lead to unauthorized entry into critical networks and data repositories. This poses significant security risks, as attackers could exploit this access to steal confidential information, deploy malware, or launch additional cyberattacks. Such breaches can result in substantial financial losses and reputational damage. Below are some of the screenshots of access advertisements observed on the forums.





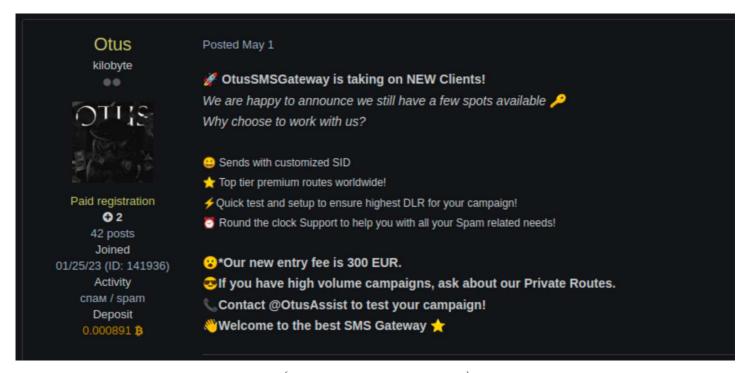


(Forum Posts - Network access advertisements)

Dark Web Services with the Potential to Disrupt the Olympics

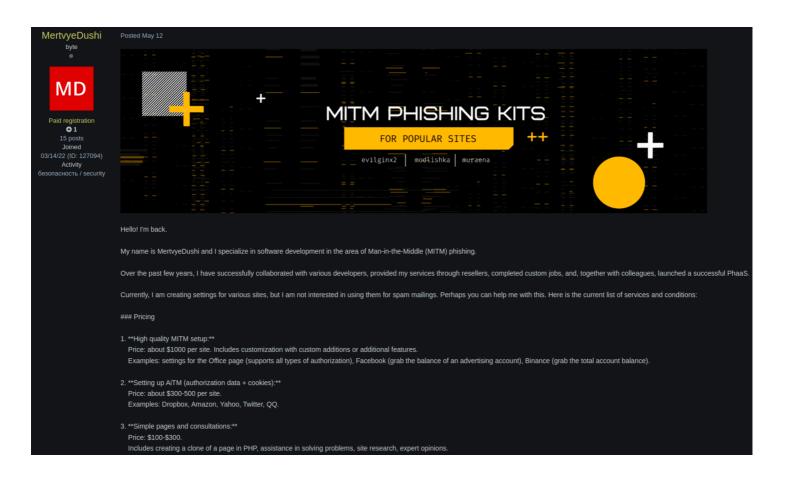
We have identified various services on the dark web that can pose threats to the Olympics. These include coding services for creating phishing websites and associated live panels, bulk SMS services for mass communication, and phone number spoofing services. These offerings can facilitate phishing attacks, spread misinformation, and disrupt communications by impersonating trusted sources, potentially causing significant operational and security challenges during the event.

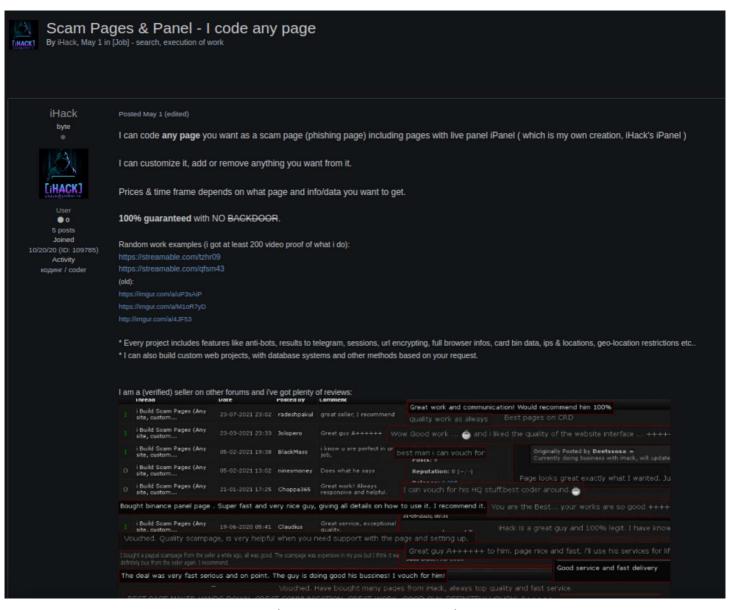
An SMS gateway is a service that enables computers to send and receive SMS (Short Message Service) messages to and from mobile phones. It acts as a bridge between different mobile networks and the internet, allowing messages to be transmitted across these platforms seamlessly. Some SMS gateway providers allow the sender to manipulate address information, which can be exploited by threat actors to send bulk SMS messages with spoofed sender information. Threat actors can use spoofed SMS messages to impersonate official Olympic communications, tricking recipients into clicking malicious links. These links can lead to phishing websites that capture sensitive information such as personal details or payment information.



(SMS gateway service for SMS spamming)

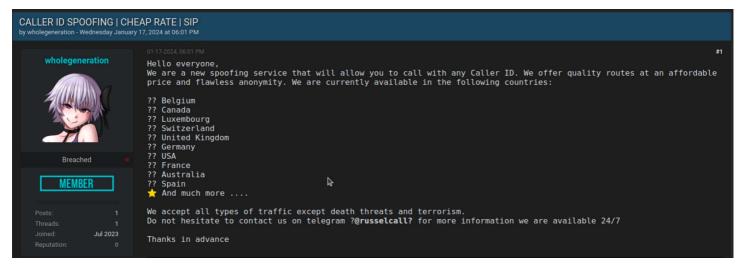
Phishing kits are pre-packaged tools that simplify the process of launching phishing attacks. These kits typically include all the necessary components, such as fake login pages, email templates, and scripts to capture user credentials. They are designed to be user-friendly, allowing even those with limited technical skills to deploy effective phishing campaigns. Below are some of the latest offerings posted on the dark web forums that allow individuals to create fake websites that mimic official Olympic-related portals, such as ticketing sites, volunteer registration pages, or media access points.





(Service for phishing page development)

Additionally, we also identified "Spoofing Services" which allows the caller to manipulate the caller ID information to display a number other than the actual calling number. This can be done using VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) services or special hardware and software. Following services posted on the dark web allows attackers to impersonate Olympic officials or their partners. By doing so, they can trick recipients into providing sensitive information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

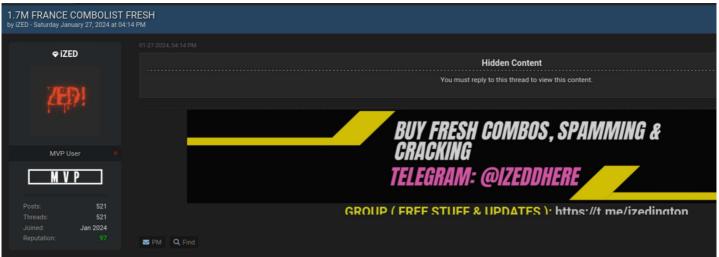


Combolist Posing Threats to Individuals

A combo list is a compilation of usernames and passwords, often obtained from various data breaches and combined into a single file. Cybercriminals use these lists to launch credential-stuffing attacks, using automated tools to try these username-password combinations on multiple websites and services to gain unauthorized access. Below, we have listed several offerings of combo-lists by threat actors on darknet forums and Telegram channels:

Consequences of Combolist Attacks:

- <u>Unauthorized Access:</u> Cybercriminals can gain access to user accounts across different platforms, leading to potential data breaches and identity theft.
- Reputation Damage: Organizations that fall victim to these attacks can suffer significant reputational damage, losing the trust of their customers and partners.
- <u>Service Disruption:</u> Account takeovers can lead to disruptions in services, as compromised accounts might be used for spamming, launching further attacks, or other malicious activities.
- <u>Data Loss</u>: Sensitive data, including personal information, can be stolen and further exploited or sold on the dark web.

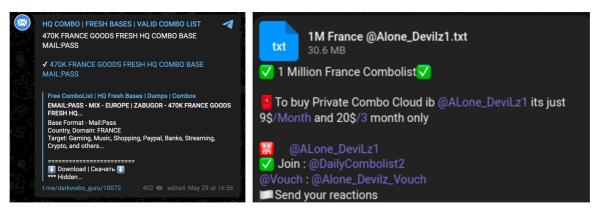






(Forum posts - combo-lists advertisements)

 $Additionally, we have identified several Telegram\ channels\ offering\ combo\ lists\ specifically\ targeting\ France-based\ users.$

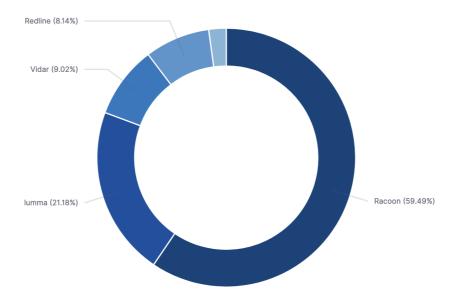


(Telegram messages offering combo-lists)

Infostealers and Credential Leaks

Information stealer malware is designed to stealthily infiltrate a victim's computer or device and harvest sensitive information, such as login credentials, credit card details, and other personal data. We have also observed that threat actors are deploying various types of stealer malware to infect user systems and obtain unauthorized access. These types of accesses can be further leveraged by threat actors and initial access brokers (IABs) to execute ransomware attacks, causing substantial harm and financial loss to individuals and organizations.

The graph illustrates the most prevalent stealer malware in France. Our data indicates that Racoon is the most active info stealer, accounting for 59%, followed by Lumma at 21% and Vidar at 9%. These malware variants are known for their wide distribution and capability to infiltrate user devices to harvest sensitive information.



(Most active info stealer malware targeted France-based entities)

Escalating Hacktivist Activities Driven by Geopolitical Tensions

The Paris Olympics 2024 is not just a major sporting event but also a stage for political statements and actions. France's prominent role on the global stage, its stance on the Ukraine conflict, and its influence within international organizations have made it a target for various political reasons. These types of international events are always popular targets for hacktivist groups.

France has been a vocal supporter of Ukraine in its conflict with Russia, advocating for sanctions against Russia and providing support to Ukraine. The request for a UN ceasefire resolution specifically targeting Russia during the Olympics underscores France's position. This has made France a focal point for pro-Russian sentiments and actions, including potential cyberattacks by hacktivist groups aiming to disrupt the Olympics and protest against France's policies.

On June 16th, French President Emmanuel Macron requested the United Nations to introduce a ceasefire for the Olympic Games in Paris, specifically applying to Russia.

Macron stated: "We will have a resolution that the UN General Assembly will adopt regarding the Olympic truce, but we do not consider this truce as an obligation regarding Ukraine. This is a call to Russia to stop its aggression."

Earlier in March, Macron reiterated his support for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) stance on promoting unity and reconciliation through sports. He stated:

"I believe that sport should enable unity and reconciliation. The choice that has been made is one that we will collectively accept. We support Ukraine, and we have sanctioned Russia. Neutral athletes, under conditions of respectful conduct, must be able to pursue their work and their sport."

However, Russian and Belarusian athletes will compete as neutrals, without their flags and anthems, and will be excluded from the opening parade. This decision followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Amid these diplomatic tensions, cyber threats from pro-Russian hacktivist groups have emerged.

On June 23, 2024, several pro-Russian hacktivist groups, including Cyber Army Russia Reborn, NoName057(16), and Cyber Dragon, officially declared their intent to target the Paris Olympics and French entities. It is anticipated that other pro-Russian groups might join this campaign.



(Updates on the pro-Russian Telegram groups)

In addition to the threats mentioned above, we have identified a message posted by the hacktivist group LulzSec associated with the Paris Olympics. This group has publicly declared its intention to carry out cyberattacks on the Paris Olympic Games, warning organizers and participants to be prepared for these attacks. Such announcements highlight that hacktivist groups might target the Olympics website, media houses, broadcasting channels, or entities supporting the Paris Olympics, aiming to create chaos and disrupt the event.



(Updates on the telegram channel of the LulzSec group)

In the past, we have observed that France and Paris have consistently been on the target list of various hacktivist groups under hashtags such as #OpFrance and #OpParis. These hacktivist groups typically target specific entities based on their political motives. Based on our observations, we have identified the following prominent hacktivist groups that have previously targeted or are likely to target French entities:

Group Name	Telegram Channel	ChannelTelegram Created Subscribers	escription
NoName057(16	s)@noname05716	Aug 2022 58,400+	 The group is exclusively involved in DDoS attacks. This group is known for supporting hacktivist campaigns in support of Russia in the ongoing war
Team Anon Force	@teamanonforce	Nov 2021 2,300+	 The group is exclusively involved in defacement attacks. The group participated in OpIndia campaigns.
Turk Hack Team	@turkhckteam	Jan 2023 2400+	The group is mainly involved in DDoS and website defacement attacks.
Garnesia Tear	n @garnesiateam	Jul 2023 2400+	 The group is mainly involved in DDoS, website defacement, and data breach attacks. The group appears to be Indonesian based on the language used in Telegram messages, and most of the group's activities are in response to anti-Muslim incidents.
Anonymous Sudan	@xAnonymousSudan	Sep 2023 39,500+	 The group is now using a new channel, the previous channel used was removed by Telegram for violations of Telegram policies The group claims to be Sudanese, and fighting for the rights of Muslims, however, researchers have linked the group to the Russian state. Campaigns by the group, have included targeting Europe, the US, the Middle East, and the Gulf States, attacks have been across sectors and involved numerous campaigns
VSec	@lulz chat	Dec 2023 1000+	 This is a public channel of the LulzSec group. The group is mainly involved in DDoS attacks.

Cyber Army Russia Reborn

@CyberArmyofRussia_RebornApr 2022 52,000+

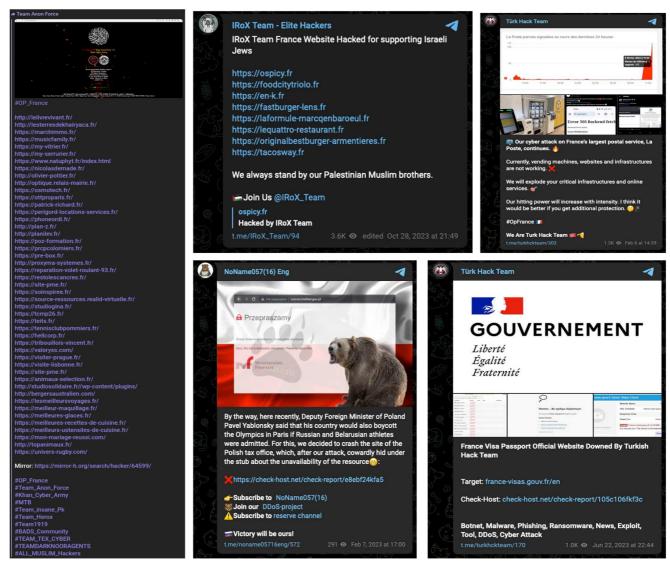
- This is the pro-Russian group and is mainly involved in DDoS, website defacement, and data breach attacks.
- The group is highly active during the Russia-Ukraine war.

Cyber Dragon @Cyber Dragon

Sep 2023 1300+

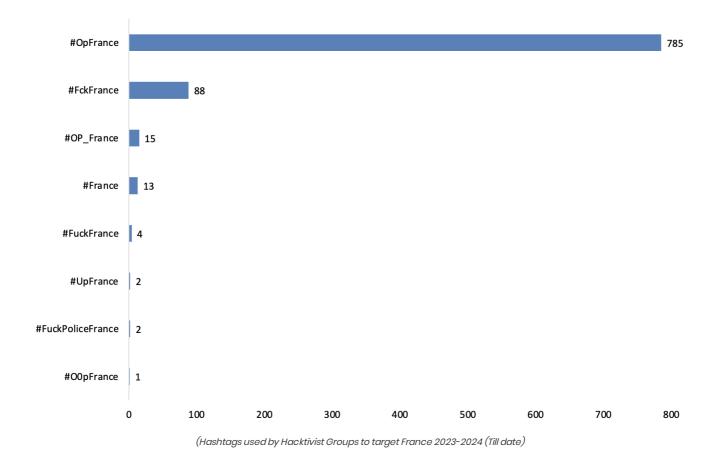
 This is the pro-Russian group and is mainly involved in DDoS, website defacement, and data breach attacks.

The following screenshots highlight notable attacks on France-based organizations by these hacktivist groups over the past year.



(DDoS/Defacements messages on Telegram channels)

 $The graphs \ below \ denote \ various \ hashtags \ used \ by \ hacktivist \ groups \ to \ target \ French \ entities \ over \ a \ year \ span.$



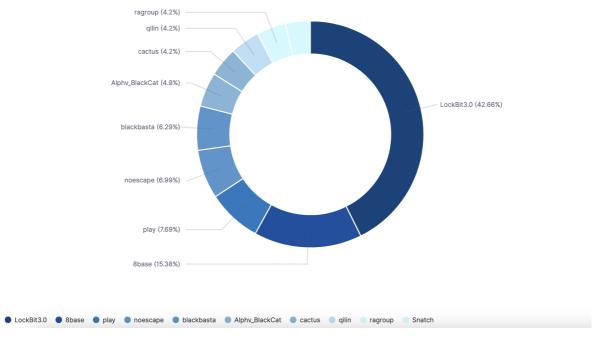
Ransomware Attacks Targeting France

As the Paris 2024 Olympics approaches, the threat of ransomware attacks raises concerns about the preparations and operations of the event.

Ransomware attacks involve cybercriminals infiltrating an organization's network, encrypting valuable data, and demanding a ransom payment in exchange for the decryption key. These attacks can impact an organization's ability to access critical information and systems, leading to operational failure and significant financial losses. Ransomware attacks have become one of the most prevalent and damaging forms of cyber threats in recent years. These attacks involve malicious software that encrypts a victim's data, rendering it inaccessible until a ransom is paid to the attackers. The impact of ransomware attacks on daily operations can be profound, affecting various aspects of an organization's functionality and overall stability.

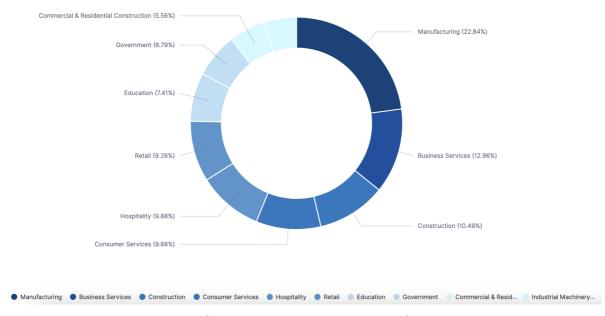
These ransomware groups tend to target and disrupt the organizations that support the Paris Olympics. These ransomware groups might attack and encrypt data, making it inaccessible and creating chaos due to the unavailability of critical information.

Additionally, data from the past year - till date indicates that Lockbit ransomware is the most active in targeting France-based entities, followed by the 8base and Play ransomware groups.



(Top ransomware groups targeting France-based entities)

In terms of industries, the manufacturing sector has been the most targeted, followed by business services and consulting organizations.



(Top targeted sectors by ransomware groups)

Phishing & Fraud Activities Targeting Paris 2024

UK Finance highlighted a surge in online scams, particularly involving fake Olympics and Taylor Swift tickets. Although overall fraud losses decreased slightly, victims lost £1.17 billion in 2023. Purchase scams increased by 28%, resulting in £86 million in losses from non-existent goods. The report emphasized the need for improved platform security by tech companies. In April 2024, <u>Lloyds Bank disclosed that fans of Taylor Swift collectively lost £1 million to fraudulent ticket sales</u> before her UK tour starting in July. More than 600 customers reported financial losses.

The following sections will provide a detailed analysis of phishing and fraudulent activities especially those associated with ticketing scams.

Typosquatting in Action

Typosquatting is a type of cyberattack where attackers register domain names that are similar to legitimate websites, often involving common misspellings or typographical errors. For example, they might register a domain like "olympics2024[.]com," which is similar to the original website "olympics[.]com." These fraudulent sites are designed to trick users into visiting them, believing they are on a legitimate website. These domains are often used for phishing attacks, defrauding website visitors, and malware distribution among others.

FortiGuard Threat Research has identified over 100+ domain names registered in the past six months mimicking the Paris Olympics event. Although there is no current evidence of these domains being used in any campaigns, they remain available for potential misuse. The following is the list of the identified potential typosquat domains registered:

Domain Name	Registrar	Registration Date
2024 parisolympicathletes.com	GoDaddy.com, LLC	19-Jun-24
parisolympicsrosters.com	NameCheap, Inc.	17-Jun-24
olympicsg.com	Domain Science Kutatasi Szolgaltato Korlatolt Felelossegu Tarsasag	04-Jun-24
paris-olympics2024.com	GoDaddy.com, LLC	28-May-24
oympics.com	Dynadot Inc	22-May-24
olympcs.com	Dynadot Inc	22-May-24
olympic-bets-paris-2024.com	OVHsas	21-May-24
olympicgamesparisfr.com	NameCheap, Inc.	18-May-24
olympycs.com	IONOS SE	17-May-24
parisolympicshop.com	Tucows Domains Inc.	09-May-24

Note: The table contains only 10 recently registered domains. Please find the entire list of domains here.

One such fraudulent website is ticket-paris24[.]com, which impersonates the legitimate Paris ticketing website (tickets.paris2024.org). Below is the attached screenshot of the fraudulent website.



(Fraudulent website impersonating the original Paris ticketing site)

Phishing in Action

A few weeks before the launch of the Paris 2024 Games, researchers at <u>Bitdefender</u> observed several Olympic Games-themed lottery scams. Cybercriminals are often using the names of national lotteries, financial institutions, and major tech companies to deceive unsuspecting internet users. Brands commonly impersonated in these scams include Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Google, the Turkish National Lottery, and the World Bank. The primary targets for these lottery scams are users in the US, Japan, Germany, France, Australia, the UK, and Slovakia.

OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024 PROMOTION
Turkish Lottery Promotion Centre
06520 Balgat / Istanbul Turkey.

Dear Winner,

Congratulations: This is to inform you that your email address emerged as a Winner of US\$850,000.00 Dollars, (Eight hundred and fifty United States Dollars) in the upcoming OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024 PROMOTION draw held here in Istanbul Turkey through an open Computer ballot Java System. This Promotional Lottery Draw is sponsored by the World bank, Turkish National Lottery, MICROSOFT and GOOGLE to support the upcoming OLYMPIC games in Paris, France 2024. All participants email address was automatically gotten in the draw as MICROSOFT and GOOGLE Collected all the Valid and active domain users randomly globally for this promotion. Your email address attached to Reference Number: OLY80010011 was luckily drawn to win you the prize in the category "A". Therefore a Pin Number has been issued for you to claim your prize. Pin code: 00

CLAIM & PAYMENT OF PRIZE

We are pleased to inform you that your prize-money has been approved. Please get in touch with your claim representative in the United Kingdom as indicated below. Your payment file will be forwarded to the designated payment bank once he has completed processing it. The bank will then get in touch with you to arrange an immediate transfer of your funds to any designated bank account.

CLAIM OFFICE UNITED KINGDOM;

Contact Agent: Mr. Aaron T

Contact E-mail: as agmail.com Phone number; +44 7460

City/Country: United Kingdom

Kindly send him the below details immediately.

- 1. Your Full Names:
- 2. Country of Origin:
- 3. Age:
- 4. Occupation:
- 5. Mobile Number:
- 6. REFERENCE NUMBER: OLY80010011

Send the above aforementioned details to make your claim. The only person you should get in touch with is (Mr. Aaron Tracey Kenneth), the agent stated above, who will give you instructions on how to claim your prize money. To prevent duplicate claims, kindly keep your winning Reference Numbers private.

(Olympic Games-themed lottery scam phishing lures example - 1)

Your details have won **750,000** Euro on the ongoing **Paris Olympics 2024 Mega Promo** draw by **Coca-Cola Company Worldwide**, which will take place in **France from 26 July to 11 August**. To claim contact our regional agent.

t.ru

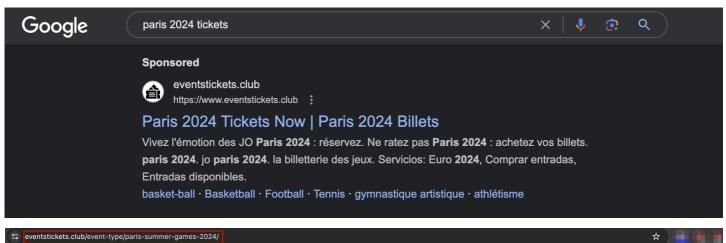
(Olympic Games-themed lottery scam phishing lures example - 2) (Image source: Bitdefender)

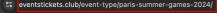
Ticketing Fraud in Action

info.

In collaboration with Olympic partners, the French Gendarmerie Nationale has identified 338 fraudulent websites claiming to sell Olympic tickets. According to their data, 51 of these sites have been shut down, and 140 have received formal notices from law enforcement.

We have discovered one of such fraudulent sites appearing in the sponsored search results on Google. The website claims to be "a secondary marketplace for tickets to live events."









EURO 2024 » PARIS SUMMER GAMES 2024 SPORT MUSIC CONTACT US



(Fraudulent sites impersonating the Paris Olympics 2024 appearing in the sponsored search results on Google)

Whois Details of eventstickets[.]club:

Registered	4th January 2024
Registrar	GoDaddy.com, LLC
Registrant Name	REDACTED FOR PRIVACY
Country	United States
IP Address	93.113.111[.]10
Hosting Provider	NetConnex Broadband Ltd.

We also have identified an identical website with a different domain name which could be operating by the same individual.





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Paris Summer Games 2024 Categories





Opening Ceremony (1 event)

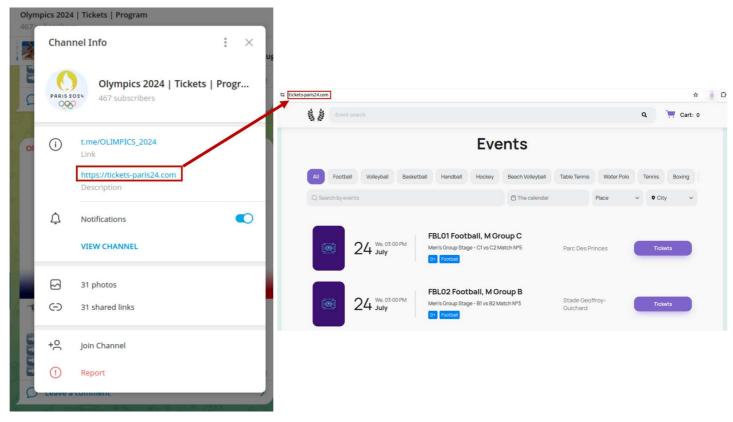
Volleyball (7 events)

(Fraudulent websites impersonating the Paris Olympics 2024)

Whois Details of (tickets[.]website[.]com.se):

Registered	1st July 2020
Registrar	Namecheap
Registrant Name	REDACTED FOR PRIVACY
Country	United States
IP Address	172.66.45[.]12 (Cloudflare) 172.66.46[.]244 (Cloudflare)

While analyzing these malicious activities, we made an interesting discovery of a recently created Telegram channel (https://t[.]me/OLIMPICS_2024) possibly being used to disseminate fraudulent websites. In the bio of this Telegram channel, we identified a fake website (tickets-paris24[.]com) designed to mimic the official Paris ticketing website.



(A fraudulent website impersonating the Paris 2024 appeared on Telegram)

Upon further analysis, we identified that both the domains tickets-paris24[.]com and ticket-paris24[.]com are pointing to the same IP address - 179.43.166[.]54. Below are the WHOIS details and graphical representation.

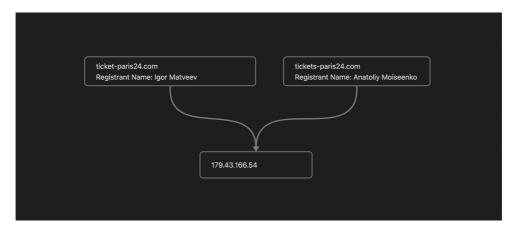
- Domain 1: tickets-paris24[.]com
- Domain 2: ticket-paris24[.]com
- IP Address: 179.43.166[.]54

Whois Details of (tickets-paris24.com):

Registered	9th March 2023
Registrar	Name.com, Inc.
Registrant Name	Anatoliy Moiseenko
Country	Russian Federation
IP Address	179.43.166[.]54
Hosting Provider	Private Layer INC

Whois Details of (ticket-paris24.com):

Registered	22nd February 2024
Registrar	Name.com, Inc.
Registrant Name	lgor Matveev
Country	Russian Federation
IP Address	179.43.166[.]54
Hosting Provider	Private Layer INC

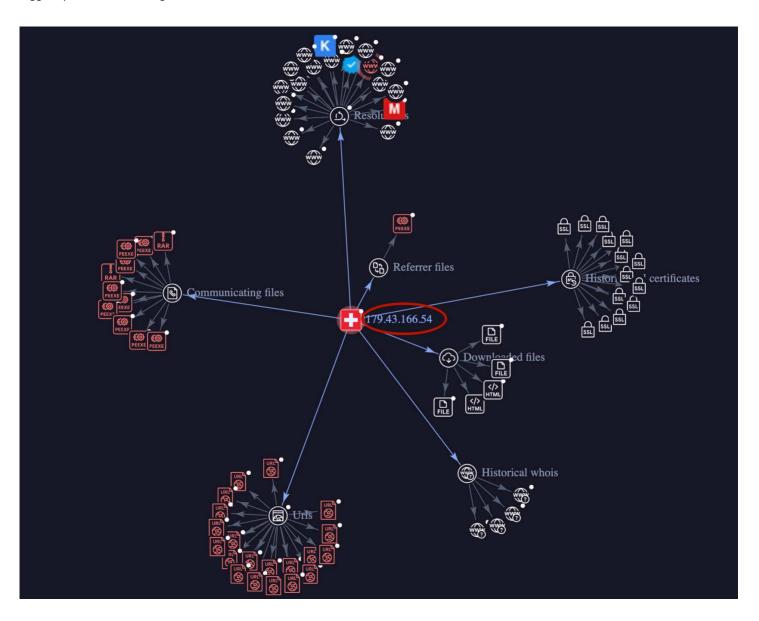


(Graphical representation of linkage between the domains)

We also extend our research on the registrant 'Anatoliy Moiseenko', who registered tickets-paris24[.]com, has also registered over 35 domain names through the registrar, name[.]com, impersonating various sporting events from 2023 to 2024.

The other registrant 'lgor Matveev', who registered ticket-paris24[]com, has also registered 6 other domain names impersonating various sporting events between 2023 and 2024. These domains appear to have been registered with the intent to target upcoming events, as well as domains related to past sporting events. They are actively used to target the ticketing websites associated with these events.

An analysis of the IP address (179.43.166[.]54) using a public file scanning service indicates that this IP is known for malicious activities, which have been flagged by various antivirus engines.



Anticipated Threats to Paris Olympics 2024

The Paris Olympics 2024 represents not only a celebration of global athleticism but also a high-stakes target for a myriad of cyber threats. As one of the world's most prominent events, the Olympics draws attention from cybercriminals, hacktivists, and state-sponsored actors alike, presenting significant challenges in safeguarding its infrastructure, participants, and spectators.

Cyber espionage poses a significant threat as adversaries aim to steal sensitive data related to broadcasting rights, sponsorships, and technological innovations. Intellectual property theft poses risks not only to competitive edge but also to national security and diplomatic relations. Additionally, groups such as Storm-1679 and Storm-1099 have escalated their disinformation campaigns against the Paris Olympics to manipulate public perception, sow discord, and destabilize the international event.

Cybercriminals leverage phishing scams and fraudulent schemes to exploit unsuspecting participants and spectators. Fake ticketing platforms, fraudulent merchandise, and identity theft tactics threaten financial loss and undermine public trust in event-related transactions.

The Paris Olympics 2024, due to France's political stances and international influence, are a prime target for various politically motivated groups. We anticipate that hacktivist groups will likely attack entities associated with the Paris Olympics to disrupt the event. These groups may target infrastructure, media channels, and affiliated organizations to disrupt event proceedings, undermine credibility, and amplify their messages on a global stage.

The pervasive threat of ransomware continues to evolve, with potential consequences ranging from financial extortion to operational paralysis. Attacks on critical infrastructure and supporting organizations could severely impact event logistics, spectator experience, and international perception.

Recommendations & Mitigation Strategies

FortiGuard Threat Research recommends the following best security practices to safeguard against cyber-attacks. By prioritizing cybersecurity, the Paris Olympics 2024 can safeguard the integrity of the Games, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all participants and spectators.

- Employee Training and Awareness: Conduct regular training sessions to highlight the risks of Olympics-related social engineering lures in the runup to and during the Games. Focus on recognizing deceptive emails and fake websites, and emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activities promptly.
- <u>Travel-related Cyber Threats</u>: Organizations and individuals attending the Games should be aware of travel-related cyber threats, including the increased likelihood of public Wi-Fi interception, fraudulent activities linked to Olympics-related events, and targeted attacks against VIPs, such as government officials, senior executives, and key decision-makers.
- <u>Public Awareness Campaigns:</u> Launch comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate attendees and participants about cybersecurity threats. Guide identifying phishing attempts, avoiding suspicious links, and reporting potential threats to designated authorities.
- <u>Protect Sensitive Data:</u> Utilize Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR) tools to promptly detect and respond to unusual activities. Maintain encrypted backups of critical data stored securely offline to mitigate the impact of ransomware attacks.
- Monitor External Attack Surface: Continuously monitor and assess the IT infrastructure's external attack surface to identify vulnerabilities and potential risks. Implement measures to secure remote desktop protocol (RDP) access and prevent exploitation of web server misconfigurations.
- <u>Enforce Multi-Factor Authentication and Strong Password Policies:</u> Implement multi-factor authentication (MFA) across all systems and enforce a robust password policy. Monitor darknet channels for compromised credentials to proactively protect organizational portals.
- Endpoint Protection: Deploy antivirus and antimalware software on all devices to detect and mitigate phishing attempts and malware infections. Regularly update patches to safeguard against known vulnerabilities.
- <u>Patch Management:</u> Maintain up-to-date software and operating systems by promptly applying security patches. Prioritize critical vulnerabilities that could lead to remote code execution or denial-of-service attacks.
- <u>DDoS Protection</u>: Safeguard infrastructure with multi-layered DDoS prevention solutions, including firewalls, VPNs, and anti-spam filters. Monitor network traffic for anomalies that may indicate DDoS attacks and take preemptive actions.
- <u>Preventing Ransomware Attacks:</u> Implement proactive measures such as regular software updates, secure offline backups, and user education to prevent ransomware incidents. Utilize threat intelligence to monitor darknet activities for potential threats and data leaks.
- Website Defacement Prevention: Deploy Web Application Firewalls (WAFs) to filter and block malicious traffic, protecting against website defacement and unauthorized access attempts.
- <u>Threat Hunting and Response:</u> Conduct robust threat-hunting activities based on compromised account information. Isolate infected systems promptly and perform system reimaging as necessary to mitigate threats.
- <u>Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI)</u>: Utilize CTI to gather real-time data on emerging cyber threats and potential risks. Monitor darknet chatter for early indicators of cyber-attacks and data leaks to enable proactive incident response



Appendix A: Reliability Rating Criterion

FortiGuard Threat Research's Reliability rating is based upon the Admiralty System which is internationally accepted method for evaluating collected items of intelligence. The system comprises a two-character notation assessing the reliability of the source and the assessed level of confidence on the information.

Reliability of Source

A source is assessed for reliability based on a technical assessment of its capability, or in the case of Human Intelligence sources their history. Notation uses Alpha coding. A-F:

А	Reliable	No doubt about the source's authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. History of complete reliability.
В	Usually reliable	Minor doubts. History of mostly valid information.
С	Fairly reliable	Doubts. Provided valid information in the past.
D	Not usually reliable	Significant doubts. Provided valid information in the past.
Е	Unreliable	Lacks authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency. History of invalid information.
F	Cannot be judged	Insufficient information to evaluate reliability. May or may not be reliable.

Reliability of Information

An item is assessed for credibility based on likelihood and levels of corroboration by other sources. Notation uses a numeric code, 1-6.

1	Reliable	>	Logical, consistent with other relevant information, confirmed by independent sources.
2	Usually reliable	}	Logical, consistent with other relevant information, not confirmed.
3	Fairly reliable	}	Reasonably logical, agrees with some relevant information, not confirmed.
4	Not usually reliable	}	Not logical but possible, no other information on the subject, not confirmed.
5	Unreliable	}	Not logical, contradicted by other relevant information.
6	Cannot be judged	}	The validity of the information cannot be determined.



Appendix B: Relevance Rating Criterion

High

The Intelligence Report could be flagged with "High" Relevance under below criteria,

- > Threat Actor leaked or selling data pertaining to the customer organization in Public/Private Forum.
- > Threat Actor mentioned about customer organization in a Public/Private Forum
- > Public reporting on Organization was targeted.
- > Customer technology/product involved in an attack or being targeted.
- > Potential reputation harm to customer brand.
- > Customer related domains Typo-squat Fraudulent domains registered.
- > Proprietary customer related data found on internet. (Ex: GitHub containing source code)
- > Customer related domain email addresses found to be part of a data breach.
- > Customer specific keywords match identified across FortiGuard Threat Research's produced Intelligence.

Medium

The Intelligence Report could be flagged with "Medium" Relevance under below criteria,

- > Identification of Threat Actor targeting related Industry.
- > Vulnerability disclosed Potentially impacting Organization.
- > Public/Private breaches or incidents relating the organization's sector.
- > Public/Private Incident identified is Unique and Provides insights into new TTPs.

Low

The Intelligence Report could be flagged with "Low" Relevance under below criteria,

- > Public/Private Incident identified targeting non Customer specific industry.
- > Public/Private Incident identified outside of Customer geography vertical.
- > Public/Private Incident gaining significant Media Attention.
- > Data breaches or exposed data potentially impacting customer organization.

Appendix C: TLP Criterion

TLP provides a simple and intuitive schema for indicating when and how sensitive information can be shared.

TLP Level

How may it be shared?



TLP: Red

Not for disclosure, restricted to FortiGuard Threat Research and it's customers who need to know the information. Recipients may not share TLP:RED information with any parties outside of the organization. The information could only be shared within the organization and should be restricted to the ones who needs to know the information.



TLP: Amber

Limited disclosure, restricted to FortiGuard Threat Research's customer organization Recipients may only share TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization, and with clients or customers who need to know the information to protect themselves or prevent further harm.



TLP: Green

Limited disclosure, restricted to the community.

Recipients may share TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their sector or community, but not via publicly accessible channels. Information in this category can be circulated widely within a particular community.



TLP: White

Disclosure is not limited.

TLP:WHITE information may be distributed without restriction