RJ2
TECHNOLOGIES

Newsletter

What's Inside

Windows 10 Security can be bypassed by Snatch Malware

If your business is running on a Windows 10 operating system (OS), you should be careful of Snatch, a new strain of ransomware that can easily bypass its security protocols. Discovered by a research team, this malware can slip through Windows 10's security software by rebooting your computer in Safe Mode and disabling security programs from starting.

Who's behind the Snatch ransomware?
According to the report released to the public, the threat actors responsible for the Snatch ransomware call themselves the Snatch Team on dark web message forums. The researchers observed this team posting appeals for affiliate partners on Russian language message forums. The cybercriminal group is looking to purchase network access intelligence so they can launch automated brute force attacks against unsuspecting enterprises.

What does Snatch do?
When this malware infects your computer, it installs a Windows service called SuperBackupMan. The SuperBackupMan is then executed, allowing hackers to use administrator access to run the BCDEDIT tool and force your computer to restart in Safe Mode. After restarting, Snatch then uses the Windows command vssadmin.com to erase all the Volume Shadow Copies on your system. This prevents you from recovering the files locked by this ransomware. Aside from encrypting your data, Snatch is also capable of installing surveillance software, as well as stealing important business and personal information.

How to protect yourself from Snatch
RJ2 offers several tips on how you can protect your business from this dangerous ransomware.

•Monitor your network – Be proactive when it comes to hunting for breaches and potential threats in your network. You can invest in the latest threat-hunting program, or, if you lack the resources to do so, you can employ the services of a reputable managed IT services provider (MSP) to assist you in identifying and stopping any malicious activity in your system.

•Use multifactor authentication (MFA) – In this day and age, having a strong password is not enough to protect you from cybercriminals. Set your network up with MFA to make it harder for hackers to brute force their way into your system.

•Check all your devices – In the report that the initial access points of Snatch attacks were unmonitored and unprotected devices. Your IT staff or MSP should run regular checkups on all your active devices to make sure no vulnerabilities exist.

•Protect remote access protocols – If your organization uses servers with remote access protocols, make sure they're updated with the latest security patches and protected by endpoint protection software solutions. These access points should also be monitored regularly for abnormal activity and login attempts.

•Use a secure internet connection – Do not use your remote desktop interface on an unprotected internet connection. If remote access is needed, you should protect your computers by using a virtual private network (VPN).

Hackers are always looking for new ways to gain access to your system. If you want to learn more about how to step up your network security, contact us today!

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7 Essential Office 365 Add-Ons

Companies — small- and medium-sized businesses, in particular Microsoft Office 365 productivity applications like Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, and Outlook have allowed businesses to meet client demands efficiently, and its numerous productivity add-ons have enabled users to deliver more in less time. Here's a handful of Office 365 extensions that help you improve workflow.

#1. TEAMS

Teams is ideal for organizations that collaborate frequently. It's an instant messaging and document-sharing platform which seamlessly integrates with Office 365 programs and services. Users can create channels to work on projects, discuss topics, hold meetings, and more. And like similar programs such as Slack and Google Hangouts, Teams is customizable and accessible across mobile devices.

#2. OFFICE TABS

Office Tabs allows you to open multiple files in one window, which saves you from having to go through each opened document until you find the right one. It also lets you save or close the list of tabs in a single click, with an additional option to close everything except the active document. You can also directly rename files by clicking Rename, instead of going through the tedious process of clicking Save As and then changing the file name of each file.

#3. GRAMMARLY

The last thing you want to send your clients is a confusing, poorly written email or document. Grammarly solves this by performing rigorous grammar, spelling, and plagiarism checks. It then provides vocabulary suggestions and recommends writing style changes to polish your writing further.

* Please be aware that Grammarly did have a security bug back in 2018. Since the bug was identlified, the product has been fixed and patched.

#4. PEXELS

Professional documents and presentations require high-resolution, blemish-free images, and Pexels helps you get them easily. Its free stock images are under a Creative Commons Zero license, meaning you can search high-quality images and use them in all your documents for any purpose with no legal repercussions.

#5. DOCUSIGN

DocuSign for Outlook and Word lets you or a recipient securely sign a document electronically and send it through email, save it in the app, or store it in your company's server. DocuSign complies with eSignature legal standards and is secured with end-to-end Digital Transaction Management, ensuring your files will never be leaked or breached.
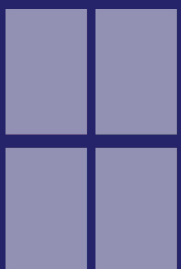
#6. FINDTIME

Setting up a meeting time is tedious and difficult, especially if your employees have different schedules. FindTime scours every attendee's schedule to locate open slots, and creates meeting time options for everyone to vote on. A meeting will then be scheduled according to whichever slot gets the highest vote within a specified amount of time.

#7. TRANSLATOR

Businesses that deal with foreign companies will find communication much easier with Translator. This add-on recognizes and translates more than 50 different languages, including English, French, Spanish, and Chinese. Not only will you spend less time deciphering foreign-language documents, but you'll also be able to work with clients from various parts of the world.

Start improving work productivity and make the most out of your Office 365 with Microsoft productivity add-ons. To get started or to learn more about Office 365, Microsoft add-ons, or anything Microsoft Office related, contact us today!

FEATURED PARTNER

Microsoft

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. It develops, manufactures, licenses, supports, and sells computer software, consumer electronics, personal computers, and related services.

Leonard Kang
Strategic Solutions Advisor

Leonard Kang has been in the technology field for over 20 years as a systems engineer, integrator, and developer. For the first fifteen years of his career, he worked at companies like TransUnion and Siemens Healthcare where he led engineering teams to deploy and support various technologies. After receiving his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Leonard has been focusing on the SMB vertical for the past ten years helping business owners in the greater Chicagoland area to grow their organizations and to solve challenges through the use of automation and technology.

Leonard recently joined RJ2 as a Strategic Solutions Advisor focused on helping businesses find solutions to help them grow.

Fun fact: Leonard started a ramen noodle service that perfected the delivery of customized ramen noodles.

BUSINESS PRESENCE

Business Continuity in the Cloud

Are you weighing the pros and cons of the cloud for business continuity? Let's take a closer look at why the cloud is best for this strategy.

BETTER UPTIME

Backing up to an internal drive or an external hard drive won't completely secure data. If someone steals your device, you instantly lose the backup it contains. Natural disasters, cybercrime, or man-made errors will also likely destroy your backups. As a result, your company could face expensive downtime.

With cloud-hosted backup, however, things are different. The entire purpose of a cloud backup is to make sure your data is available when you need it. Top cloud service providers will offer redundancy, which means they will make a backup of your backups. This increases uptime and ensures optimum levels of data availability.

FAST RESOURCE PROVISIONING

When backups are being implemented, spikes in user activity or cloud environment accessibility can slow down a website or other running systems. This is where a cloud hosting provider comes in handy. By closely monitoring user activities, providers can see spikes either before or as they are happening. The provider will provision more resources and virtual machines to manage the influx of users. This type of flexibility is particularly useful when data backups are in process.

BACKUP FREQUENCY

Most companies work on files and update information throughout the day, so it's important to have a real-time backup plan ready in case an unexpected disaster occurs. When you back up data in the cloud, you will no longer have to worry about managing the frequency of your backups.

Most cloud-hosted providers offer round-the-clock or other fixed backup frequencies, while others let you set your own backup schedule. Some of the services offered by these providers will back up files as you make changes, so you'll know that the very latest version of files and data are always backed up.

DISTRIBUTED INFRASTRUCTURE

Cloud-hosted backup means the delivery of data backup to users all over the world. Selecting the right type of cloud hosting partner is equally as important as having a cloud backup plan in the first place. If international users are trying to access database or download applications through your business website, latency will become a factor — the closer the user is to the data, the faster they'll be able to access information.

A suitable cloud hosting partner will be able to provide backup servers at a location that best suits your company's business continuity needs. Distributed infrastructure is beneficial if you're looking to support a large number of worldwide users.

Businesses everywhere are utilizing cloud backup solutions, so don't be the one left behind. If you're looking for a managed cloud backup service to protect your business data, give us a call today to see how we can help.

Don't forget to ask how we can ensure your files are being backed up for added piece of mind!

Feature Partner Product: Microsoft

Office 365 Business includes:

- Always up-to-date desktop and mobile versions of Office applications: Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote (plus Access and Publisher for PC only)

- Web versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

- File storage and sharing with 1 TB of OneDrive storage

- One license covers fully-installed Office apps on 5 phones, 5 tablets, and 5 PCs or Macs per user

If you are in need of more than just the Microsoft Office Suite, call RJ2 to see what other perks we can get for you!

January

"It is not that we use technology, we live technology."
-Godfrey Reggio

TECH TIPS OF THE MONTH

1. If you think you are being email spoofed, contact your IT department ASAP!
2. ALWAYS keep your software updated to the latest edition.
3. Lock your computer whenever you step away.
4. Use a secure network connection.
5. Always keep your firewall active.