History of ransomware group connections and transitions

MBSD RANSOMWARE MAP Rev.2.21

This chart shows the connections between the major ransomware attack groups (*1) confirmed around the world, from multiple perspectives centered on "rebranding" (*2).

This reveals the background of many ransomware attack groups having some connections with each other. The influence of CONTI, BABUK source code leakage, group break up / takedown, etc. leads to the emergence of other new groups. On the other hand, in some cases, such as NIGHT SKY, the image of an attacker who belongs to a specific country emerges from the connection with groups around.

From the similarity of affiliates, it is possible that the absolute number of attackers may be smaller than generally reported.

(*1) Selected double extortion groups, related groups, and hot topic groups.
(*2) This chart is created by MBSD's own research and information published by various security vendors around the world.

References : https://www.mbsd.jp/research/20230201/WhitePaper/

Created by Cyber Intelligence Group

Rebrand — Relationship

Confirmed Exposure Activities* (incl. base prep.)
- Fill Leak site is online in last 2 weeks
- Has leak site
- Utilize hacker forums
- Utilize Telegram
- Not confirmed ransomware activity
- Exposure-only (No encryption) cases exist

No Exposure Activities (or not confirmed)

Others
- ShadowSyndigate (Relationship appears across multiple groups, including possibility of IAB, affiliates, and others)
- Five Families (consists of ThreatSec, GhostSec, Stormous, Blackforums, and SiegedSec)
- Commonly used as a Precursor Malware (QBOT)
- It is pointed out that there are common affiliates across groups (Wazawaka and others)

▼Additional Information

The CONTI source code was leaked around March 2022. The following attack groups were alleged to have repurposed the source code.
★ denotes groups without leak sites.
- AKIRA
- BLUESKY (★)
- LOCKBIT GREEN
- MEOW
- DRAGONFORCE
- MONTI
- NB65 (★)
- PUTIN TEAM
- SCARECROW (★)

▼Additional Information

The LOCKBIT BLACK builder was leaked around September 2022. The following attack groups were alleged to have repurposed the builder.
★ denotes groups without leak sites.
- BLOODY (BLOODY)
- BUHTI (★)
- CRYPTBB
- DRAGONFORCE
- NULLBULGE
- SEXI (★)
- BRAINCIPHER
- SAFEPAY
- MORLOCK (★)
- SCHOOLBOYS (★)
- WEREWOLVES
- HELLDOWN
- CRYPT GHOULS (★)
- APT INC (★)
- NONAME
- DEATHGRIP

INDEX (A - L)		INDEX (L - Z)	
0MEGA (OMEGA)	2022 - Y	LILITH	2022 - Y
2023LOCK	2024 - T	LIZARD	2015 - O
54BB47H (SABBATH)	2021 - U	LOCK4	2023 - C
8BASE	2022 - P	LOCKBIT (ABCD)	2019 - P
ABYSS	2023 - X	LOCKBIT2.0 (LOCKBIT RED)	2021 - P
AKIRA	2023 - S	LOCKBIT3.0 (LOCKBIT BLACK / GREEN)	2022 - M
AKO	2020 - A	LOCKBIT4.0 (LOCKBIT BLACK / GREEN)	2024 - M
ALPHA (MYDATA)	2023 - V	LOCKDATA	2022 - Q
ALPHV (BLACKCAT)	2021 - J	LOCKERGOGA	2022 - E
APOS SECURITY	2024 - X	LOCKFILE	2021 - A
APT INC	2024 - D	LOKI LOCKER	2021 - T
APT73 (ERALEIG)	2024 - O	LORENZ	2021 - V
ARCANE	2021 - U	LOSTTRUST	2023 - U
ARCUS MEDIA	2024 - P	LUKALOCKER	2024 - Z
ARGONAUTS	2024 - Y	LV	2020 - T
ARVINCLUB	2019 - Y	LYNX	2024 - W
ASTRO (ASTRA)	2021 - D	MACAW LOCKER	2021 - Q
ATOMSILO	2021 - A	MADCAT	2023 - Y
AVADDON	2020 - W	MAILTO	2019 - V
AVOSLOCKER	2021 - L	MALAS	2023 - X
AXXES	2022 - W	MALEKTEAM	2023 - X
AZZASEC	2024 - S	MALLOX (FARGO)	2021 - T
BABLOCK (RORSCHACH)	2022 - P	MARIO	2021 - G
BABUK	2021 - C	MAZE	2019 - O
BABUK2023 (XVGV)	2022 - C	MBC	2021 - Y
BABYDUCK	2021 - Z	MEDUSA	2022 - A
BABYLOCKERKZ	2023 - A	MEDUSALOCKER	2019 - A
BASHE	2024 - O	MEGACORTEX	2019 - Z
BIANLIAN	2021 - B	MEGAZORD	2023 - S
BIG HEAD	2023 - Z	MEOW	2022 - S
BITPAYMER	2017 - Q	METAENCRYPTOR	2023 - U
BL00DY (BLOODY)	2022 - O	MICHAELKORS	2023 - C
BL4CK0T0R (BLACKTOR)	2021 - Y	MIDAS	2021 - W
BLACKBASTA	2022 - K	MILIHPEN	2016 - E
BLACKBIT	2022 - T	MINDWARE	2022 - Y
BLACKBYTE	2021 - S	MOGILEVICH	2024 - Z
BLACKDOLPHIN	2023 - Y	MOISHA	2022 - Z
BLACKLOCK	2024 - U	MONEY MESSAGE	2023 - X
BLACKMAGIC	2022 - Y	MONTI	2022 - G
BLACKMATTER	2021 - L	MORLOCK	2024 - M
BLACKOUT	2024 - X	MORPHEUS	2024 - W
BLACKSHADOW (SPECTRAL KITTEN)	2020 - Y	MOUNT LOCKER	2020 - D
BLACKSNAKE	2023 - Q	MY DECRYPTER (MAGNIBER)	2017 - T
BLACKSUIT	2023 - J	N3TWORM (NETWORM)	2021 - Y
BLING LIBRA	2020 - Y	N4UGHTYSEC	2015 - Y
BLUEBOX	2024 - Y	NB65	2022 - G
BLUESKY	2022 - S	NEBULA	2020 - Z
BONACI GROUP	2021 - Y	NEFILIM	2020 - E
BRAINCIPHER	2024 - P	NEMTY	2019 - E
BUHTI	2024 - L	NETWALKER	2020 - V
BULLY	2022 - Y	NEVADA	2022 - E
CACTUS	2023 - X	NIGHTSKY	2021 - B
CATB (CATB99 / BAXTOY)	2022 - A	NITROGEN	2024 - K
CERBER	2016 - U	NOESCAPE	2023 - W
CHACHA	2019 - N	NOKOYAWA	2022 - E
CHAOS	2021 - Q	NONAME	2024 - M
CHEERS	2022 - B	NULLBULGE	2023 - O
CHILE LOCKER (ARCRYPTER)	2022 - Z	OFFWHITE	2018 - E
CHILY	2023 - I	ONEPERCENT	2020 - T
CHORT	2024 - Y	ONYX	2022 - Q
CICADA3301	2023 - K	ORCA	2024 - J
CIPHBIT	2023 - X	PANDORA	2022 - A
CIPHERLOCKER	2023 - Y	PAY2KEY	2020 - Y
CL0P (CLOP)	2019 - W	PAYLOAD BIN	2021 - C
CLOAK	2023 - T	PHOBOS	2018 - P
CONTI	2019 - F	PHOENIX LOCKER	2021 - Q
COOMING PROJECT	2021 - Y	PLAY	2022 - E
CROSSLOCK	2023 - Y	PLAYBOY	2024 - Y
CRYKAL / CRYLOCK	2015 - V	POLYVICE	2022 - I
CRYPT GHOULS	2023 - D	PROJECT RELIC	2022 - Y
CRYPTBB	2023 - P	PROLOCK	2020 - N
CRYPTNET	2023 - Y	PROMETHEUS	2021 - W
CRYPTOMIX	2016 - W	PRYX	2024 - Y
CRYPTON	2017 - P	PUTIN TEAM	2022 - S
CRYPTOWALL	2015 - W	PWNDLOCKER	2019 - N
CRYPTXXX	2015 - W	PYSA / MESPINOZA	2019 - Y
CRYSIS	2016 - P	QILIN (AGENDA)	2023 - L
CUBA	2019 - U	QUILONG	2024 - X
CYBERVOLK	2024 - S	QLOCKER	2021 - Z
CYCLOPS	2023 - M	QUANTUM	2021 - D
CYLANCE	2023 - C	RA GROUP	2023 - C
DAGON	2022 - D	RA WORLD	2024 - C
DAIXIN	2022 - C	RABBIT HOLE	2024 - Y
DAN0N (DANON)	2024 - X	RADAR	2022 - O
DARK VAULT	2024 - Q	RAGNAR LOCKER	2019 - O
DARKANGELS	2022 - C	RAGNAROK	2019 - Y
DARKBIT	2023 - Y	RAMP	2021 - C
DARKPOWER	2023 - Y	RANCOZ	2023 - Y
DARKRACE	2023 - N	RANION	2017 - Z
DARKRYPT	2021 - Y	RANSOM CARTEL	2021 - T
DARKSIDE	2020 - L	RANSOM CORP	2023 - S
DATAF	2023 - Q	RANSOM EXX	2020 - U
DEATHGRIP	2024 - P	RANSOMCORTEX	2024 - Y
DEATHRANSOM	2020 - H	RANSOMED.VC	2023 - R
DEFRAY777	2018 - U	RANSOMHOUSE	2021 - G
DHARMA	2016 - P	RANSOMHUB	2024 - K
DIAVOL	2021 - N	RANSOMWARE BLOG	2022 - A
DIKE	2015 - G	RANZY	2020 - A
DISPOSSESSOR	2023 - G	RAZNATOVIC	2023 - R
DONEX	2024 - N	REBORN	2024 - P
DONUT	2022 - F	RED RANSOMWARE GROUP (RED CRYPTOAPP)	2024 - O
DOPPELPAYMER	2019 - Q	REDALERT (N13V)	2022 - I
DRAGONFORCE	2023 - F	REVIL (SODINOKIBI)	2019 - T
DUNGHILL	2023 - C	RHYSIDA	2023 - I
ECH0RAIX (ECHORAIX)	2017 - Z	RISEN	2024 - Y
EGREGOR	2020 - O	ROBBINHOOD	2019 - Y
EL DORADO	2024 - U	ROOK	2021 - A
ELBIE	2016 - O	ROYAL	2022 - J
EL COMETA	2021 - V	RTM	2023 - C
EMBARGO	2024 - X	RYUK	2018 - F
EMPEROR DRAGONFLY	2022 - A	SAFEPAY	2024 - N
ENDURANCE	2022 - Z	SAMSAM	2015 - U
ENTROPY	2021 - Q	SARCOMA	2023 - Y
EP918	2021 - Z	SCARECROW	2022 - S
ERUPTION	2020 - U	SCHOOLBOYS	2022 - M
ESTATE	2024 - P	SCRANSOM	2024 - M
ESXIARGS	2022 - Z	SEKHMET	2020 - O
EVEREST	2020 - R	SENSAYQ	2024 - P
EVILCORP	2015 - P	SEXI	2024 - D
EXORCIST	2020 - Z	SHADOW	2023 - Z
FAUST	2016 - O	SHAOLEAKS	2022 - Y
FOG	2024 - Y	SIEGEDSEC	2022 - R
FONIX (XINOF)	2020 - Z	SILENT RANSOM GROUP	2022 - H
FSOCIETY / FLOCKER	2024 - W	SLUG	2024 - Y
FUNKSEC	2024 - W	SNAPMC	2021 - Z
FUSION	2015 - E	SNATCH	2018 - X
Farnetwork	2023 - E	SOLIDBIT	2022 - Q
GANDCRAB	2018 - T	SPACE BEARS	2024 - X
GANGBANG	2016 - E	SPARTA	2022 - Y
GD LOCKERSEC	2025 - K	SPARTACUS	2018 - U
GHOSTSEC	2022 - R	SPOOK	2021 - W
GOING INSANE	2024 - Y	STEEL	2016 - O
GOOD DAY	2023 - T	STORMOUS	2021 - R
GRIEF	2021 - Q	SUGAR	2021 - Z
GROOVE	2021 - C	SUNCRYPT	2019 - O
HADES	2020 - Q	SUNNYDAY	2023 - I
HARDBIT	2022 - Q	SYNACK	2017 - V
HARON	2021 - W	SZ40	2020 - V
HELLBORN	2021 - Y	TELEGRAM	2018 - E
HELLCAT	2024 - W	TERMITE	2024 - B
HELLDOWN	2024 - N	THANOS	2019 - W
HELLO GOOKIE	2024 - I	THREEAM (3AM)	2023 - L
HELLO KITTY (FIVE HANDS)	2020 - I	THUNDER X	2020 - A
HERMES	2017 - F	TOMMYLEAKS	2022 - M
HITLER (AGL0BGVYCG)	2016 - Z	TRIGONA	2022 - V
HIVE	2021 - F	TRINITY	2024 - T
HOLYGHOST	2021 - Y	TRISEC	2024 - Y
HOTARUS	2021 - Z	UNDERGROUND	2023 - U
HUNTERS INTERNATIONAL	2023 - F	UNSAFE	2022 - Y
ICEFIRE	2022 - Z	V IS VENDETTA	2023 - U
INC RANSOM	2023 - W	VALENCIA	2024 - Y
INDUSTRIAL SPY	2022 - U	VANIRGROUP	2024 - Y
INTERLOCK	2024 - Y	VASA LOCKER (BABY)	2020 - C
ISOS	2015 - Q	VEGA	2019 - I
JIGSAW	2016 - W	VENUS	2022 - T
JSWORM	2019 - E	VICE SOCIETY	2021 - I
JUMPY PISCES	2015 - E	VOLCANO DEMON	2024 - Z
KAIROS	2024 - Y	VSOP	2022 - Q
KARAKURT	2021 - M	WASTEDLOCKER	2020 - Q
KARMA	2021 - E	WEREWOLVES	2023 - M
KEY GROUP	2022 - S	WHITERABBIT	2021 - G
KILLSEC	2023 - V	X001XS	2022 - A
KILLSEC2.0	2024 - V	XING TEAM	2021 - D
KILLSEC3.0	2024 - V	YANLUOWANG	2021 - H
KNIGHT	2023 - M	YASHMA	2022 - Q
KRAKEN	2025 - I	ZEON	2022 - J
KRYPTINA	2023 - T	ZEPPELIN	2019 - I
LA PIOVRA	2023 - Y	ZERO TOLERANCE	2024 - X
LAMBDA	2023 - Z		
LAPSUS$	2021 - H		

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Created by Cyber Intelligence Group
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