Important Cybersecurity Update

Crypto Mining Malware on the Rise

What is Crypto Mining?

Crypto mining involves 'miners' who work against one another to solve the complicated algorithms of the Blockchain by calculating hashes for a designated payout. Although this seems profitable, the process is very intensive and requires a lot of computer power. Due to the excessive power required, miners have developed malware to affect computers and smartphones to be secretly working to calculate these hashes in the background of their regular functions.

Systems Affected

The systems affected by this malware are any and all devices or machines that have the ability to access the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, desktops, laptops, cellular devices, and Internet of things devices.

Risks

This malware has the ability to disrupt the operations of a company and the networks and/or systems they rely on. In addition, the mining malware can infringe upon the CIA triad of a company: Availability, Integrity, and Confidentiality.

Protection

In order to protect these devices from being subject to a malware intrusion, companies should proactively monitor all systems and network traffic. In addition, organizational employees should be educated on how to identify possible malware and the steps to avoid intrusion as a principle of best practice.

Recommended Steps

1. Consistent monitoring of all critical systems.

2. Setting alerts for prolonged high CPU usage since the malware will increase usage and slow speeds.

3. Regularly updating devices to prevent an attacker from capitalizing on any vulnerabilities from later versions.

Conclusion

Overall, there has been a rapid rise of crypto mining malware. This should prompt organizations to pay special attention to their systems/networks and take the proper precautionary measures.

Need help implementing these recommendations? Call us and ask about our VCISO services to help you implement the recommended steps. Already have a VCISO contract with us? Call us to use your hours toward these recommended steps.