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Press Officer:

Petra Sauer-Wolfgramm

How can companies protect themselves against highly specialized attacks if even security companies or the Pentagon are victims of them?

Phone: +49 (0)4 31/39 93-525

Fax: +49 (0)4 31/39 93-999

E-mail: sauer-wolfgramm@consist.de

Hacking attacks on SolarWinds customers

Kiel – SolarWinds sells network and security products to more than 300,000 customers worldwide, including the US military and the Pentagon. According to the information provided by the manufacturer, software builds of the SolarWinds® Orion® platform for versions 2019.4 HF 5, 2020.2 and 2020.2 HF 1 were infiltrated with a remote access Trojan called "Sunburst". The gate for cyber attacks on the affected systems has thus been opened wide.

How should companies having been compromised react immediately?

In most cases, a forensic analysis as well as a subsequent restart of the affected systems including the accessible network components is inevitable. As a rule, the attackers only get to work after a few days. They use the access via the Trojan often undetected for up to several weeks for a lateral movement (hidden procedure and dissemination) and attack on other systems in the company concerned. Ideally, an incident response team is available to find the weak points and immediately neutralize the attacker. The next step should be a damage analysis by security experts.

Can companies still take preventive action in such cases?

Intrusion detection and prevention solutions (IDS / IPS) can detect and prevent such attacks. A powerful vulnerability management not only includes the software and hardware, but also the people who operate

Consist Software Solutions GmbH
A Consist World Group Company

Christianspries 4, 24159 Kiel, Germany

Press Contact:
Petra Sauer-Wolfgramm

Phone: +49 (0)4 31/39 93-525

Fax: +49 (0)4 31/39 93-999

E-mail: sauer-wolfgramm@consist.de

Internet: www.consist.de/www/en/press

Company location: Kiel
HRB Kiel No. 3983

Management:
Daniel Ries
Martin Lochte-Holtgreven
Jörg Hansen

them via User Behavior Analysis (UBA). Logging with a suitable SIEM system would reveal unusual data streams of the Trojan.

The manufacturer could have prevented the current situation through a structured deployment chain with unit tests and automatic code analysis as well as strict versioning and version checking.

The security experts from Consist therefore not only provide support in an emergency with restoring proper operations, but also in setting up an efficient and preventively effective security system.

This press release contains 1.848 characters (including spaces), with an average of 62 characters per line. You can also find it at www.consist.de/newsroom.

More information:

- Consist-Security: de/it-security
- SolarWinds-Trojaner: de/news/Trojaner-in-SolarWinds-Updates-ermoglicht-Cyberangriffe
- SolarWinds Security Advisory: solarwinds.com/securityadvisory

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Company Portrait

Consist Software Solutions is a specialist in Digital Transformation, IT Security, and Managed Services.

Our comprehensive range of services and solutions includes:

- IT consulting
- Design of IT architectures and IT landscapes
- Conception, development, and integration of custom IT solutions
- Support of applications and systems (from subtasks to complete outsourcing)
- Sale and distribution of software products

The more than 200 employees at Consist are characterized by sound know-how ranging from the most modern to legacy technologies.

Consist has more than 35 years of experience in the market, and has offices in Kiel and Frankfurt.

Portfolio



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Year of founding:	1983 profit center of Krupp MAK 1994 spin-off under the name Mak DATA SYSTEM Kiel GmbH
Managing Directors:	Martin Lochte-Holtgreven, Jörg Hansen, Daniel Ries
Sales, employees:	29.5 Mio. € (2019), 220 employees (12/31/2019)
Locations:	Kiel, Frankfurt (Main)
Subsidiaries:	Consist ITU Environmental Software GmbH, Hamburg