

Collaborative Response to Emerging Critical RCE Vulnerabilities in Exposed Assets

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APNIC 60/FIRST Technical Colloquium, Da Nang, Vietnam

SHADOWSERVER.org



whoami



- Piotr Kijewski (NL) US CEO, US Board of Trustees, EU Director, Programme Manager
 - 25+ years experience in the operational security community
 - National CSIRT background Previously Head of CERT Polska (CERT.PL) - NASK
 - Previously a Director at the Honeynet Project (honeypots!), still a member!
 - CyberPeace Institute Hague Chapter Board Member
 - DIVD.NL Advisory Board Member
 - FIRST.org liaison
 - Sysadmin (Unix) background
 - Authored large scale threat detection systems and threat information sharing systems
 - Botnet takedown, disruption, sinkholing ...
 - Still active with research into above!





Introduction

What is the Shadowserver Foundation & what does it do?















US: 501c3 nonprofit organization

NL: "Stichting" w/ public benefit status









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Mission: make the Internet more secure for all





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Share information with network defenders at **no cost** to mitigate vulnerabilities, detect malicious activity and counter emerging threats





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We serve and partner with:

- National Computer Security Incident Response Teams (nCSIRTs)
- Network owners across all sectors of all types and sizes
- Law Enforcement
- Security researchers





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5 Primary Services:

- Attack Surface Monitoring & Victim Notification Services
- Large Scale (Internet-wide)
 Early Warning
- Law Enforcement investigations
 & operations support
- Cybersecurity Capacity Building
- Funded Public Benefit Projects



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201 National CSIRT teams from 135 countries covering 175 countries & territories









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Sectoral CERTs and ISACs









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Regional, State, City, Local Government CERTs









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Law Enforcement **Organizations**

Small Businesses to Fortune 500 companies



What does The Shadowserver Foundation do?





Sinkholes:

We take control of domain names and addresses used by criminals to log the IP address of infected devices for over 400 malware families



For network owners + focus on CSIRT & LE



Scanning:

We call out to nearly every IPv4 (~3.7 billion) and ~3.2 Billion IPv6 addresses many times a day looking for different types of vulnerable, potentially abusable systems, attacker infra



support



Sensors:

We build and deploy systems to the Internet that pretend to be vulnerable computers, and log cyber criminals trying to abuse them



Sandboxes:

We collect malicious software samples at industrial scale (often 1 million+ per day, for nearly 2 billion total) and run them to see what they do

+ a host of other interesting things!





Our Sharing Model: Who Gets The Data?



Who?

National CSIRTs

Network Owners

Law Enforcement

What Data?

Sliced Geographically (no cost)

Sliced by defined IP
Address Space / ASN /
CIDR /Domains
(no cost, regardless of size)

Limited to specific investigation needs, intel only (no cost)

MSSP Model? nCSIRT can delegate all/ part to 3rd parties for processing, we will accommodate (no cost)

Network Owner can delegate all/part to 3rd parties for processing, we will accommodate (no cost)

(MSSP model must be at end user request)





STRATEGIC

High-level Information on changing risk

The board

PACTICAL STATES

Attacker methodologies, tools and tactics

Architects and sysadmins

Details of a specific incoming attack

Defenders

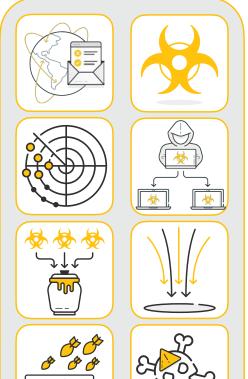
OPERATIONAL

Indications of specific malware, exploitation attempt or attack surface exposure

SOC staff / IR

1ECK

Core Shadowserver offering







Free Daily Remediation Reports - National CSIRTs and Network Owners



Network Reporting

Every day, Shadowserver sends custom remediation reports to more than **9000 vetted subscribers**, including over **201 national CSIRTs in 175 countries** and territories. These reports are detailed, targeted, relevant and free.

DNS Open Resolvers	Accessible Telnet	Command and Control	Netcore/Netis Router Vulnerability	Open LDAP TCP	Open Redis	Scan Report
Accessible XDMCP Service	Accessible VNC	Darknet	NTP Monitor	Open mDNS	Open SNMP	Sinkhole6 HTTP Drone
ASN Summary Report	Accessible Rsync	DDoS	NTP Version	Open Memcached	Open SSDP	Sinkhole6 HTTP Referer
Botnet URL	Amplification DDoS Victim	Drone/Botnet-Drone	Open CWMP	Open MongoDB	Open/Accessible TFTP	Spam URL
Sinkhole HTTP Drone	Botnet Drone Hadoop	Geographical Summary	Open DB2 Discovery Service	Open MS-SQL Server Resolution	Open Ubiquiti	SSL Freak
Accessible ADB	Brute Force Attack	Honeypot URL	Open Chargen	Open NAT-PMP	Proxy	SSL Poodle
Accessible AFP	Blacklist	HTTP Scanners	Open Elasticsearch	Open Netbios	Sandbox URL	Synful Scan
Accessible Hadoop	Click-fraud	ICS Scanners	Accessible HTTP	Open Portmapper	Sandbox Connection	Vulnerable ISAKMP
Accessible SMB	Compromised Host	IRC Port Summary	Open IPMI	Open Proxy	Sandbox IRC	Accessible Cisco Smart Install
Accessible SSH	Compromised Website	Microsoft Sinkhole	Open LDAP	Open QOTD	Sandbox SMTP	Accessible FTP/RDF

Much of the world uses these reports to receive rapid notification when computer networks globally are exposed, misconfigured, vulnerable, abusable, compromised, become a source of attacks, host malicious C2 or other attacker infrastructure ...

Everyone can get <u>free</u> daily reports about who/what is at risk in their <u>own</u> network/country.





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	Accessible XDMCP Service	Accessible VNC	Darknet	NTP Monitor	Open mDNS	Open SNMP	Sinkhole6 HTTP Drone
	ASN Summary Report	Accessible Rsync	DDoS	NTP Version	Open Memcached	Open SSDP	Sinkhole6 HTTF Referer
	Botnet URL	Amplification DDoS Victim	Drone/Botnet-Drone	Open CWMP	Open MongoDB	Open/Accessible TFTP	Spam URL
	Sinkhole HTTP Drone	Botnet Drone Hadoop	Geographical Summary	Open DB2 Discovery Service	Open MS-SQL Server Resolution	Open Ubiquiti	SSL Freak
	Accessible ADB	Brute Force Attack	Honeypot URL	Open Chargen	Open NAT-PMP	Proxy	SSL Poodle
						Sandbox URL	Synful Scan
						Sandbox Connection	Vulnerable ISAKM
10	N events sh	ared EACH	I DAY!			Sandbox IRC	Accessible Cisco Smart Install
						Sandbox SMTP	Accessible FTP/RI

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Shadowserver's 2020+ Data Center



- California
- Caged & secure
- 68 Server Racks (16 Dark)
- 1078 physical servers, 14.2 petabytes storage
- 1751 worker VMs
- 2127 CPUs with 30,812 CPU cores and 142.6 TB RAM
- 4 x 10GB Internet uplinks
- Full backup power, 323kWh capacity
- \$30-40M total infrastructure
 mid sized enterprise









"Global Plumbing" - nCSIRT Coverage





201 nCSIRTs (175 Countries)

9000+ Network Owners (Direct)
+ many more (Indirect)

Every Day Free!



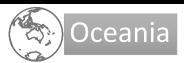


Shadowserver ASN Coverage By Continent (Sep 2025)









Europe	69%
North America	76%
Oceania	73%
Africa	47%
South America	41%
Asia	30%























ASEAN ASN Owners Subscribed to Daily Reports - Sep 2025



4,899 ASNs **Statistics** At geo-level

68,440 CIDRs

91,816,267 IPs

Statistics 7,669 ASNs At ASN-level 14,434 CIDRs

66,862,925 IPs

Has report **229** ASNs

Show details **2,828** CIDRs

46,535,106 IPs (51%)

Has no report **4,670** ASNs 65,612 CIDRs Show details

45,281,161 IPs (49%)

With reports **229 ASNs** 46.5M (70%)

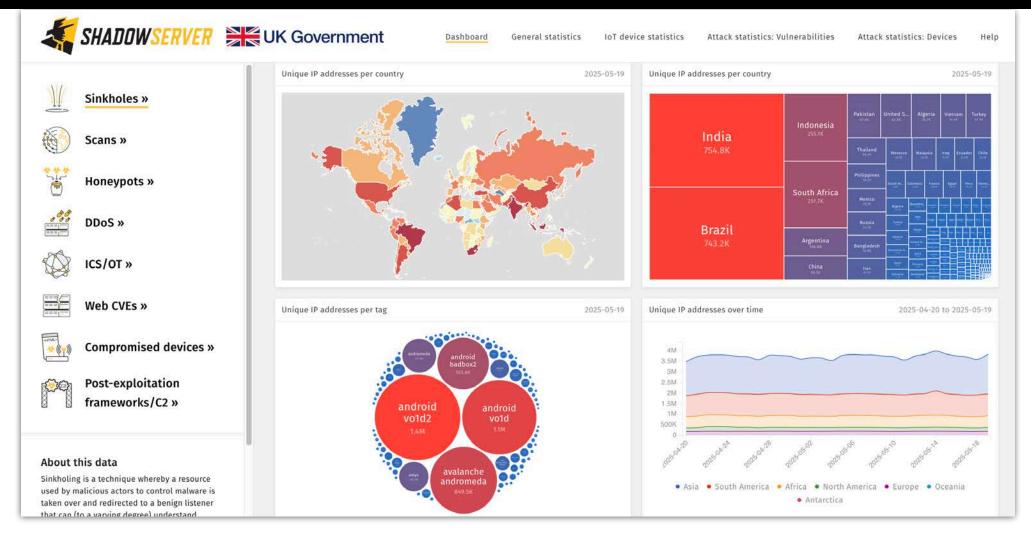
Without reports 7,440 ASNs 20.3M (30%)





Shadowserver Public Dashboard



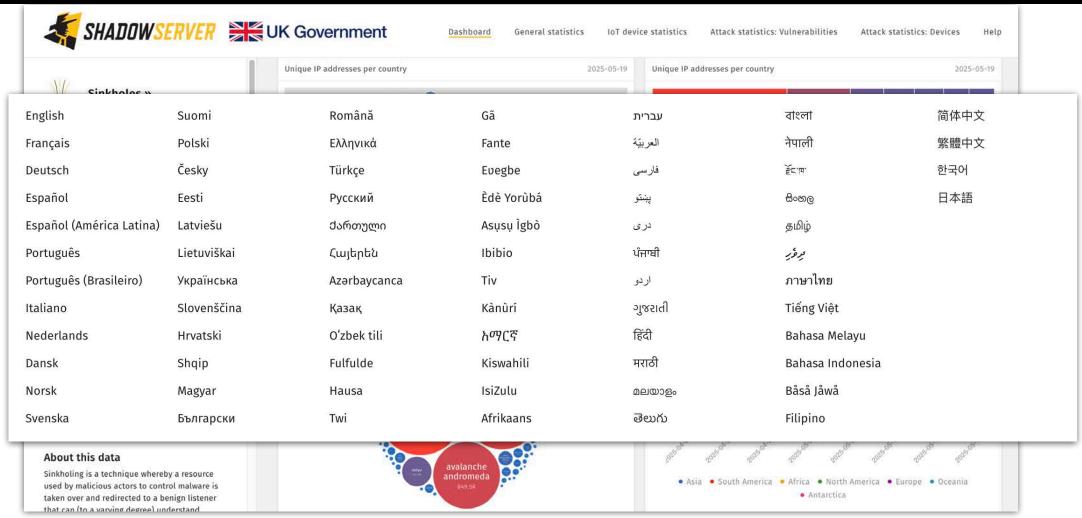






Shadowserver Public Dashboard







Internet-wide scanning

Fingerprinting all things





Shadowserver's Internet-wide Scanning

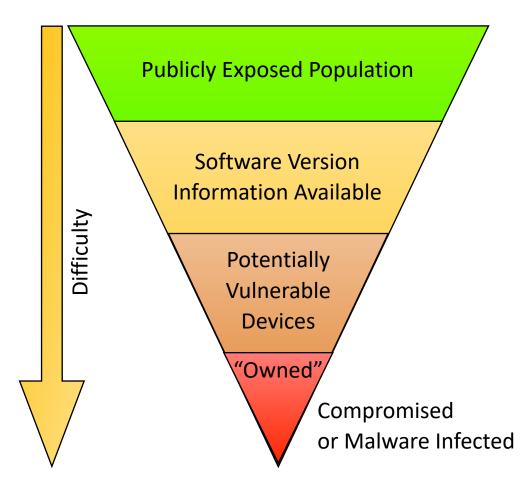


Critical to understand which devices are exposed to public Internet:

Attack Surface Management (ASM)

- Generic scans across hundreds protocols/ports, results used for identifying specific type, vendor & product
- Targeted vulnerability scans for most critical
 Remote Code Execution (RCE) in exposed assets
- Target compromised device scans (if possible)
- Key Points:
 - 24-hour cycle
 - Data only shared with network owner*







New RCE vulnerability scans



- Alert/details typically from the public domain (vendor advisory, industry article, Twitter/X ...)
 - Sometimes from closed sources
- Key ethical/legal consideration: can we identify vulnerable instances without exploitation?
 - What are the red lines? How intrusive can a scan be?
 - Can we obtain version information to understand if they have been patched?
- Remotely identifying versions can be challenging (vendors try to make it difficult ...)
 - Often needs to be inferred indirectly (example: looking at Last-Modified responses for specific resource queries to identify dates vs date of patch)
- Results dependent on initial target selection
- Speed of implementation of vulnerability scans may vary
 - Can be hours or days, depending on protocol complexity
 - Important to have examples of known patched vs known unpatched systems
- Mitigations often difficult to detect remotely which may effectively lead to False Positives or False Negatives





New RCE vulnerability scans



- What are the red lines?
 - Avoid directory traversals
 - Avoid POST data where possible
 - Avoid any actions that can obtain sensitive information that is not needed
 - Avoid WRITE actions on APIs
 - Avoid anything that requires LOGINS at all costs. NO CREDENTIAL USE
- How intrusive can a scan be?
 - Try not to muddy the waters for DFIR teams
 - Try not to generate an absurd amount of logs
 - Kind of like hiking "Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints"





Collaboration



- Are there any scans you would like to see us implement?
- Device fingerprinting suggestions?
 (including remote version identification)
- Any RCE vulnerabilities we should scan for (without actual exploitation)? How?
- Are there any remote webshells/ implant/backdoor scans we should implement? How?
- Happy to collaborate on the above for any emerging RCE vulnerability ...





Tracking vulnerability exploitation in the wild

Using honeypots





Honeypot sensor network - World & ASEAN (Sep 2025)

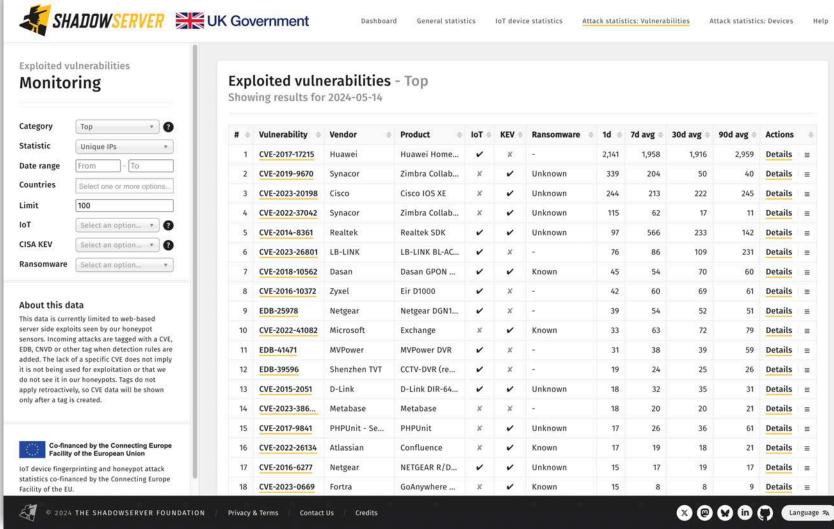






Exploitation tracking (by CVE or similar)









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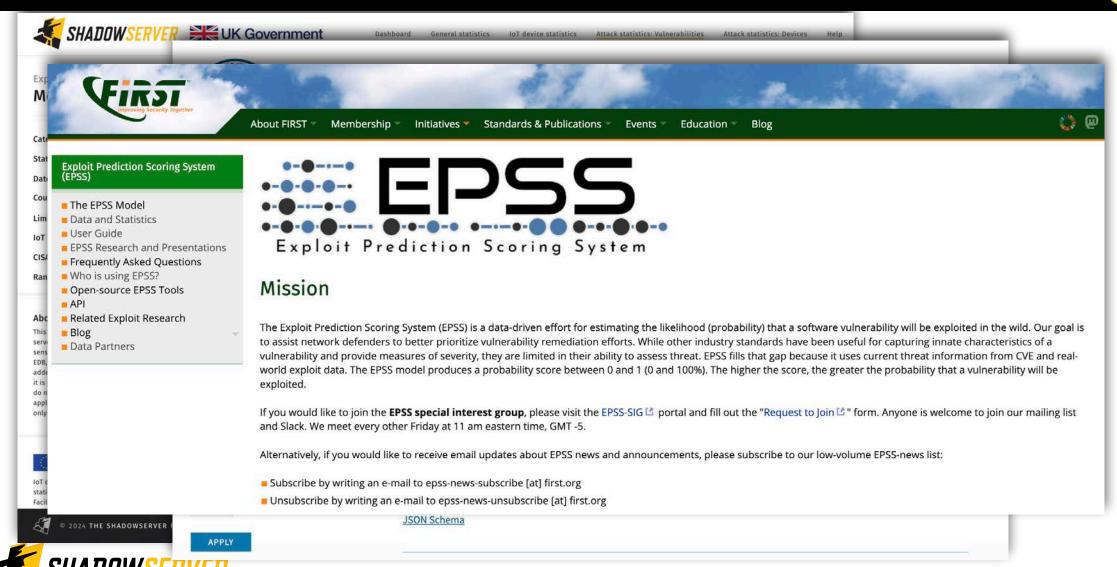






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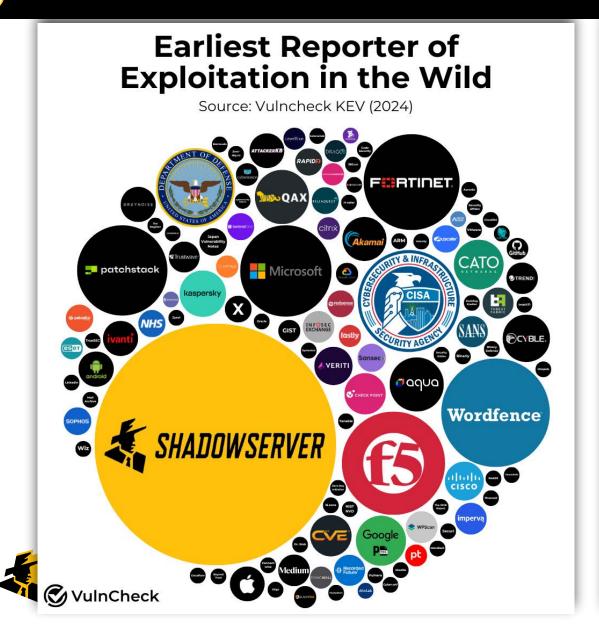






Earliest Reporter of Exploitation in the Wild









Better Insights? Host a Sensor ...



- VM Sensor node spec
 - Ubuntu 22.04 LTS
 - 1 GB RAM
 - 30 GB disk
 - Preferably 4 publicly routable IPv4 (single NIC, no NAT, no network filtering) - but 2 is perfectly good too!
 - 1 Mbit/s uplink





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WE NEED YOU!



Case studies

Collaborative Response to Emerging Critical RCE Vulnerabilities in Exposed Assets





Response to latest incidents involving RCE CVEs



- Early detection and response to multiple prominent RCE CVE exploitation in the wild, examples:
 - Citrix NetScaler (CVE-2023-3519, ...)
 - Cisco IOS XE (CVE-2023-20198, ...)
 - Fortinet Fortigate (CVE-2024-23113, ...)
 - Ivanti Connect Secure (CVE-2025-22467, ...)
 - Palo Alto PAN-OS (CVE-2024-0012, ...)
 - SharePoint (CVE-2025-53770)
- Working with Alliance partners & incident responder communities on the ground to understand vulnerable populations, compromised assets





Cisco IOS XE

BadCandy implants (Autumn 2023 - ongoing)













Oct 16th: Cisco Talos publication on active exploitation of Cisco IOS XE Web Interface vulnerabilities. Scan implemented







Oct 16th: Cisco Talos publication

Active exploitation of Cisco IOS XE Software Web Management User Interface vulnerabilities

plemented

By Cisco Talos

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023 11:05

THREAT ADVISORY

Updates

Nov. 02: Identified a third version of the BadCandy implant. Added expected response from the new version of the implant against one of the HTTP requests used to check for infected device.

Nov. 1: Observed increase in exploitation attempts since the publication of the proofs-of-concept (POCs) of the exploits involved. Named the Lua-based web shell "BadCandy."

Oct. 23: Identified an updated version of the implant. Provided new curl command to check for infected devices. Fixes for CVE-2023-20198 and CVE-2023-20273 started to roll out on Oct. 22.

Oct. 20: Identified an additional vulnerability (CVE-2023-20273) that is exploited to deploy the implant. Fixes for both CVE-2023-20198 and CVE-2023-20273 are estimated to be available on Oct. 22. The CVE-2021-1435 that had previously been mentioned is no longer assessed to be associated with this activity.

Oct. 19: Added additional attacker IP and username, defense evasion observations, and new Snort rules. Also added new information regarding our assessment that the activity is being carried out by the same actor.







Oct 16th: Cisco Talos publication on active exploitation of Cisco IOS XE Web Interface vulnerabilities. Scan implemented







Oct 16th: Cisco Talos publication on active exploitation of Cisco IOS XE Web Interface vulnerabilities. Scan implemented

Oct 17th: Shadowserver conducts first full daily scan for compromised devices



Cisco IOS 2

E.

The Shadowserver Foundation

@Shadowserver

Cisco CVE-2023-20198 exploitation activity: We see over 32.8K Cisco IOS XE IPs compromised with implants based on the check published by Cisco in blog.talosintelligence.com/active-exploit...

Oct 16th: Cisco Talos publication

Oct 17th: Shadowserver condu

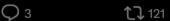
IP data on implants shared out daily in: shadowserver.org/what-we-do/net... tagged 'device-implant'.



5:27 AM · Oct 18, 2023 · **91.1K** Views

ılıı View post engagements







48



Inerabilities. Scan implemented







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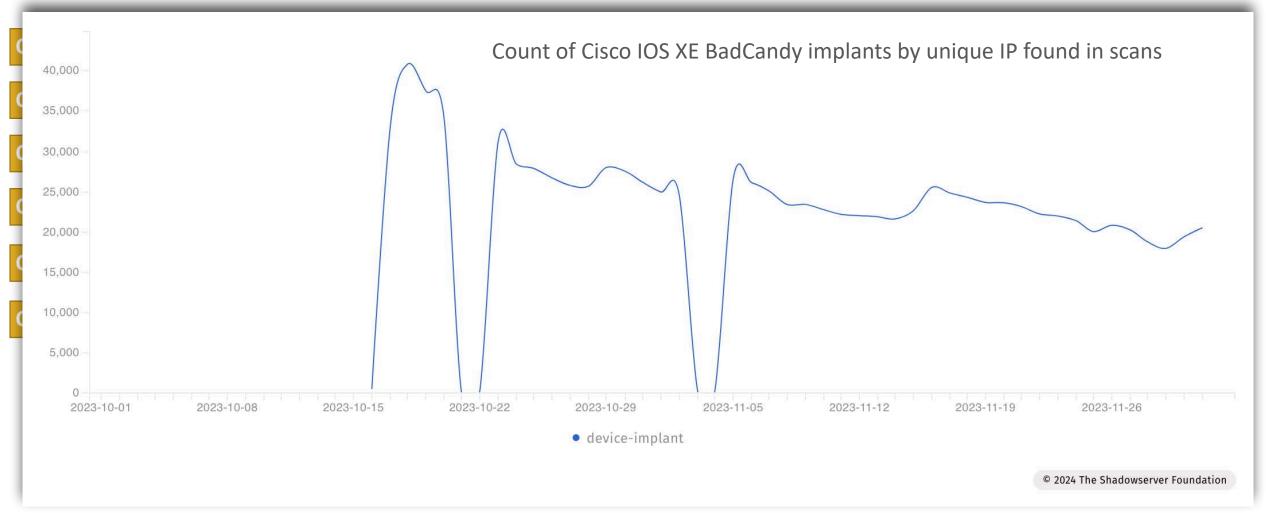
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Oct 23rd: Cisco updates advisory with new implant details. Shadowserver scans updated















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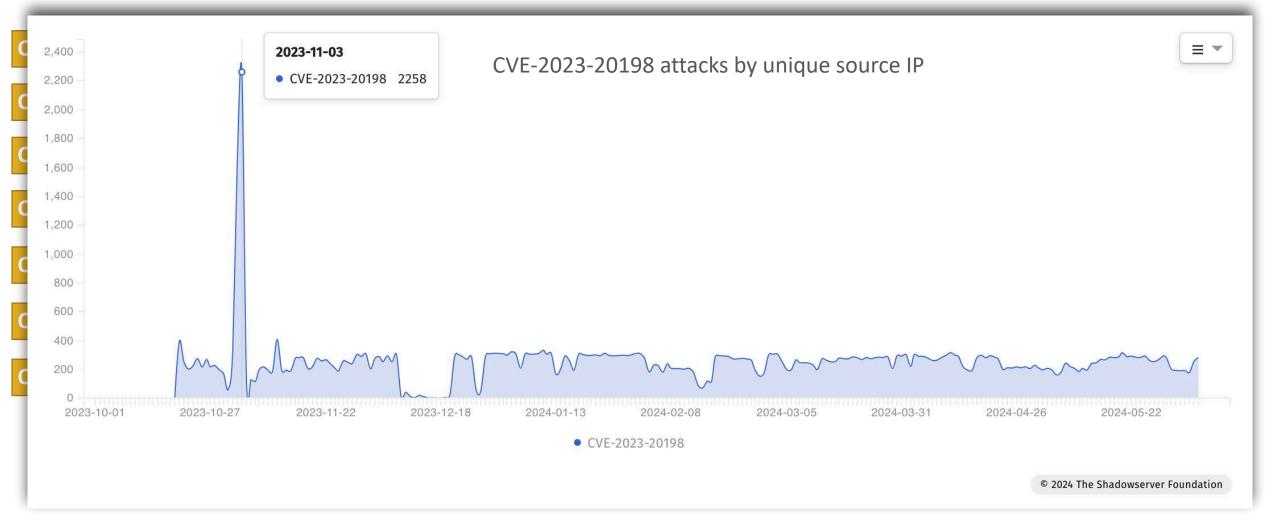
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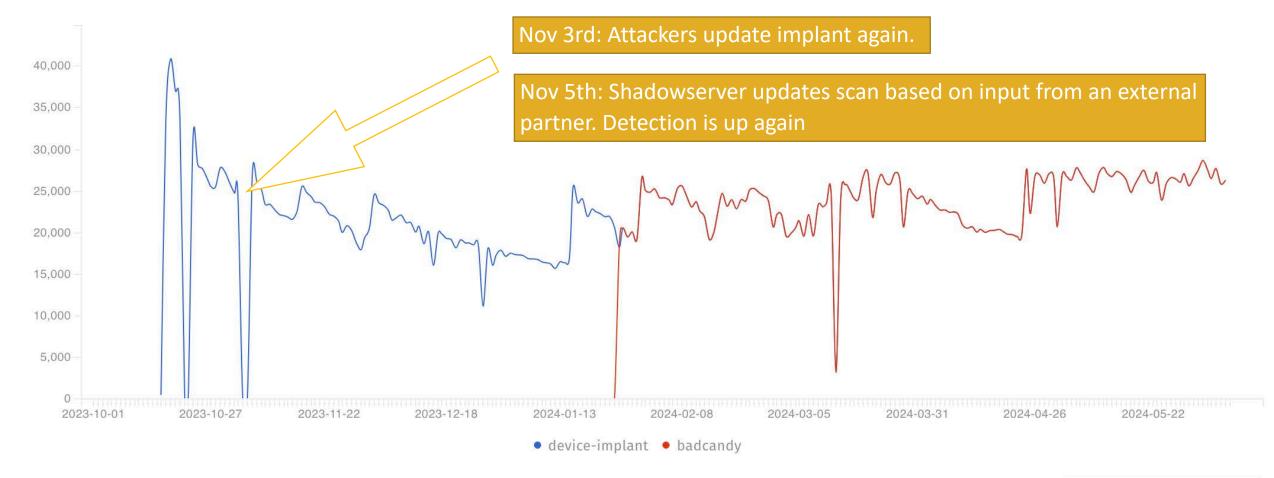
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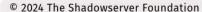
Oct 30th/31st:PoC exploit code published for CVE-2023-20198 and CVE-2023-20273









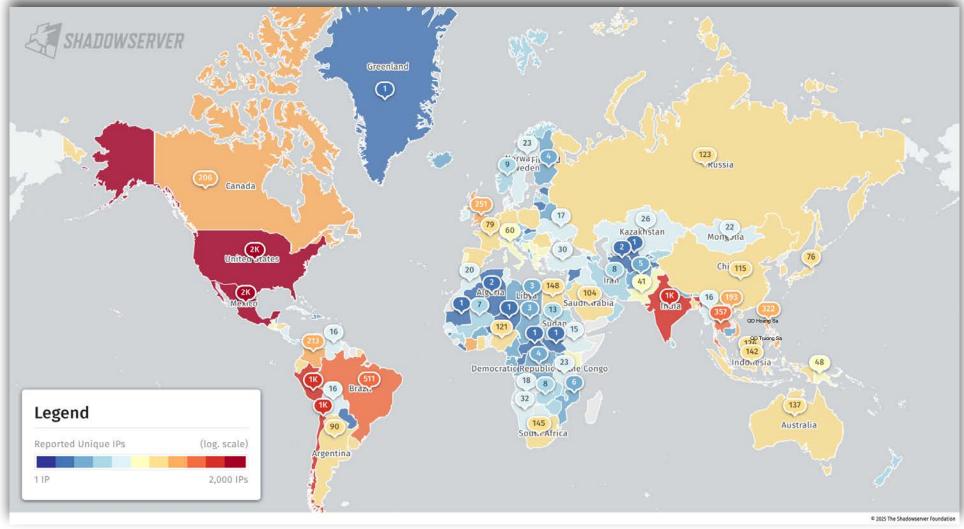






Cisco IOS XE BadCandy - 2025-09-06 - Still ongoing!



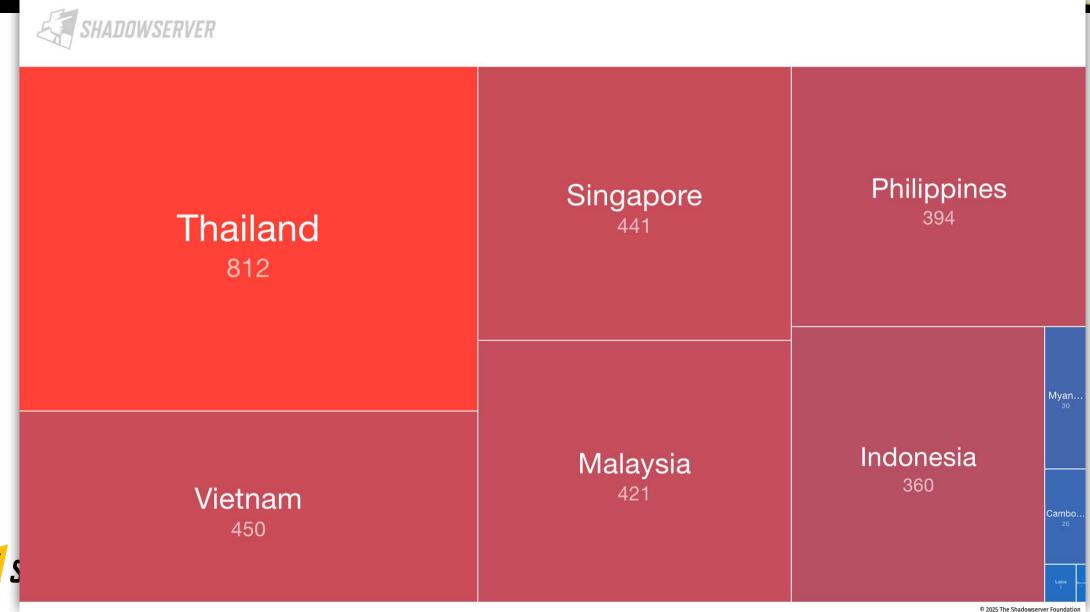






Cisco IOS XE BadCandy - 2025-09-06 - Still ongoing!





Palo Alto PAN-OS

CVE-2024-0012 (Autumn 2024 - Current)





Palo Alto PAN-OS CVE-2024-0012









November 8th: Tipped off that exposed PAN-OS management interfaces may be vulnerable to a 0-day







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November 8th: Detections added and device id rules generated. Palo Alto issues initial advisory about potential Oday







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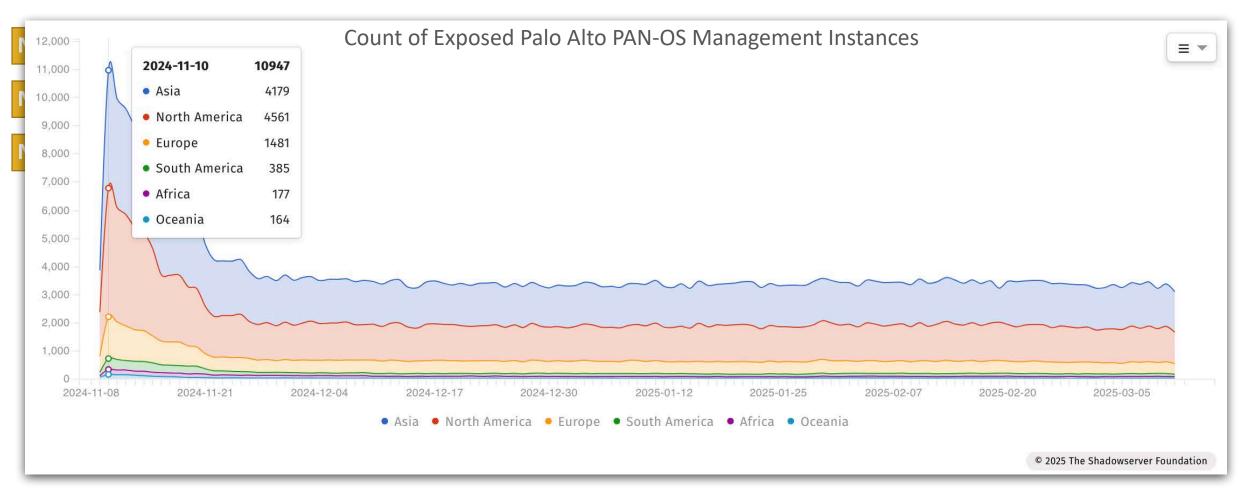
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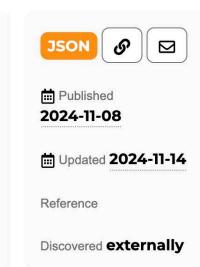


Palo Alto Networks Security Advisories / PAN-SA-2024-0015

PAN-SA-2024-0015 Critical Security Bulletin: Ensure Access to Management Interface is Secured



Exploit Maturity ATTACKED	Response Effort MODERATE	Recovery USER	Value Density CONCENTRATED
Attack Vector NETWORK	Attack Complexity LOW	Attack Requirements NONE	Automatable YES
User Interaction NONE	Product Confidentiality HIGH	Product Integrity HIGH	Product Availability HIGH
Privileges Required NONE	Subsequent Confidentiality LOW	Subsequent Integrity LOW	Subsequent Availability LOW



Description

Palo Alto Networks has observed threat activity exploiting an unauthenticated remote command execution vulnerability against a limited number of firewall management interfaces which are exposed to the Internet. We are actively investigating this activity.







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November 18th: CVE-2024-0012 assigned and added to the CISA KEV







PALO ALTO NETWORKS | PAN-OS



CVE-2024-0012 d

Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS Management Interface Authentication Bypass Vulnerability: Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS contains an authentication bypass vulnerability in the web-based management interface for several PAN-OS products, including firewalls and VPN concentrators.

Related CWE: CWE-306 ☐

Known To Be Used in Ransomware Campaigns? **Unknown**

Action: Apply mitigations per vendor instructions or discontinue use of the product if mitigations are unavailable. Additionally, management interface for affected devices should not be exposed to untrusted networks, including the internet.

Date Added: 2024-11-18

Due Date: 2024-12-09







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November 18th: CVE-2024-0012 assigned and added to the CISA KEV

November 19th: POC code released AND first exploit attempts using CVE-2024-0012 seen in our honeypots







```
palo-alto-panos-cve-2024-0012 / palo-alto-vpn-CVE-2024-0012-check-wt.yaml 📮
    h888t Create palo-alto-vpn-CVE-2024-0012-check-wt.yaml
                                                                                                                                           83341cf
                   38 lines (31 loc) · 1.05 KB
  Code
           Blame
            id: palo-alto-vpn-CVE-2024-0012-check-wt
      1
            info:
              name: Palo Alto PAN-OS Authentication Bypass in the Management Web Interface CVE-2024-0012
              author: watchTowr
              severity: critical
              description: An authentication bypass in Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS software enables an unauthenticated attacker with network access to
              tags: palo-alto
      9
              metadata:
     10
                max-request: 4
     11
     12
            http:
     13
              - method: GET
     14
                path:
                  - "{{BaseURL}}/php/utils/CmsGetDeviceSoftwareVersion.php/.js.map"
     15
```





November 8th: Tipped off that exposed PAN-OS management interfaces may be vulnerable to a 0-day

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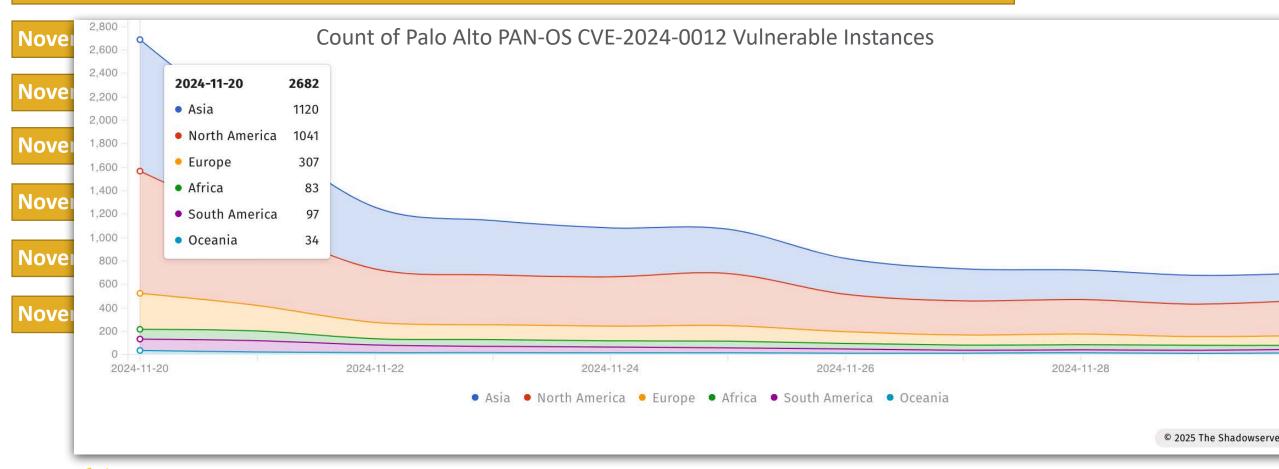
November 19th: Method to determine vulnerability found and first scans performed







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```
GET /unauth/9.txt
<config version="9.1.0">
 <mgt-config>
   <users>
     <entry name="admin">
         <phash>XXXXXXXXXXXXXX/phash>
       <permissions>
         <role-based>
           <superuser>yes</superuser>
         </role-based>
       </permissions>
     </entry>
   </users>
   <password-complexity>
     <enabled>yes</enabled>
     <minimum-length>8</minimum-length>
   </password-complexity>
  </mgt-config>
  <shared>
   <application/>
   <application-group/>
   <service/>
   <service-group/>
   <botnet>
     <configuration>
       <http>
         <dynamic-dns>
           <enabled>yes</enabled>
```







```
GET /unauth/9.txt
<config version="9.1.0">
 <mgt-config>
   <users>
     <entry name="admin">
         <phash>XXXXXXXXXXXXX/phash>
       <permissions>
         <role-based>
           <superuser>yes</superuser>
         </role-based>
       </permissions>
     </entry>
   </users>
   <password-complexity>
     <enabled>yes</enabled>
     <minimum-length>8</minimum-length>
   </password-complexity>
 </mgt-config>
  <shared>
   <application/>
   <application-group/>
   <service/>
   <service-group/>
   <botnet>
     <configuration>
       <http>
         <dynamic-dns>
           <enabled>yes</enabled>
```

```
bin:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
daemon:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
adm:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
lp:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
sync:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
shutdown:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
halt:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
mail:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
operator:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
games:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
ftp:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
nobody:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
apache: !!:19515:::::
vcsa:!!:19515:::::
nginx:!!:19515:::::
ntp:!!:19515::::::
rpc:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
rpcuser:!!:19515:::::
tcpdump:!!:19515:::::
sshd:!!:19515:::::
dhcpd:!!:19515:::::
named:!!:19515:::::
nslcd:!!:19515:::::
redis:!!:19515:::::
nfast:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
ha-ssh-private-account:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
panorama:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
```







November 21st: Begin mining the honeypots for potential artifacts and then scanning known PAN-OS instances in as close to realtime as possible

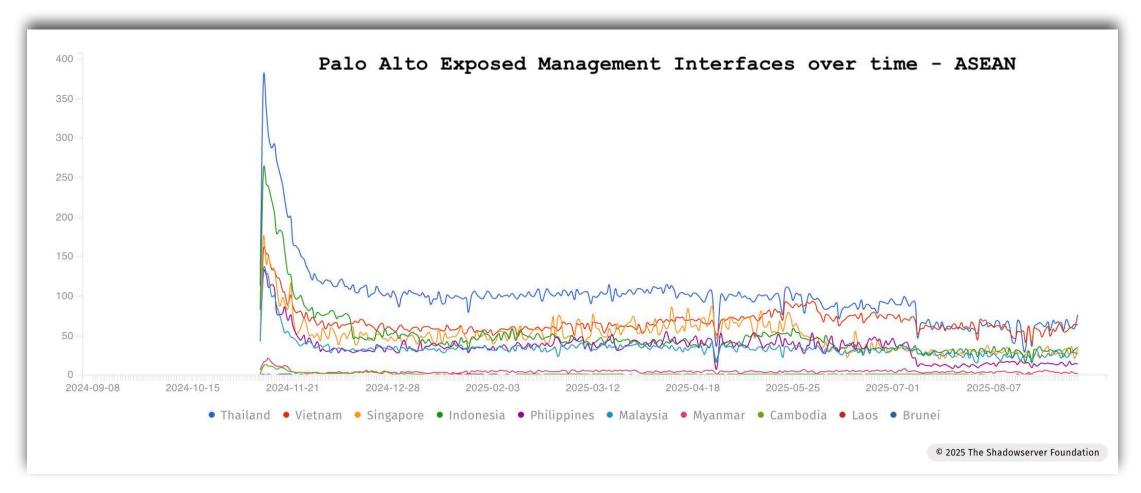
```
<config version="9.1.0">
 <mgt-config>
   <users>
     <entry name="admin">
         <phash>XXXXXXXXXXXXX/phash>
       <permissions>
         <role-based>
           <superuser>yes</superuser>
         </role-based>
       </permissions>
     </entry>
   </users>
   <password-complexity>
     <enabled>yes</enabled>
     <minimum-length>8</minimum-length>
   </password-complexity>
 </mgt-config>
 <shared>
   <application/>
   <application-group/>
   <service/>
   <service-group/>
   <botnet>
     <configuration>
       <http>
         <dynamic-dns>
           <enabled>yes</enabled>
```

```
daemon:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
adm:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
lp:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
sync:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
shutdown:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
halt:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
mail:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
operator:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
games:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
ftp:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
nobody:*:18808:0:99999:7:::
apache: !!:19515:::::
vcsa:!!:19515:::::
nginx:!!:19515:::::
ntp:!!:19515::::::
rpc:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
rpcuser:!!:19515:::::
tcpdump:!!:19515:::::
sshd:!!:19515:::::
dhcpd:!!:19515:::::
named:!!:19515:::::
nslcd:!!:19515:::::
redis:!!:19515:::::
nfast:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
ha-ssh-private-account:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
panorama:!!:19515:0:99999:7:::
```





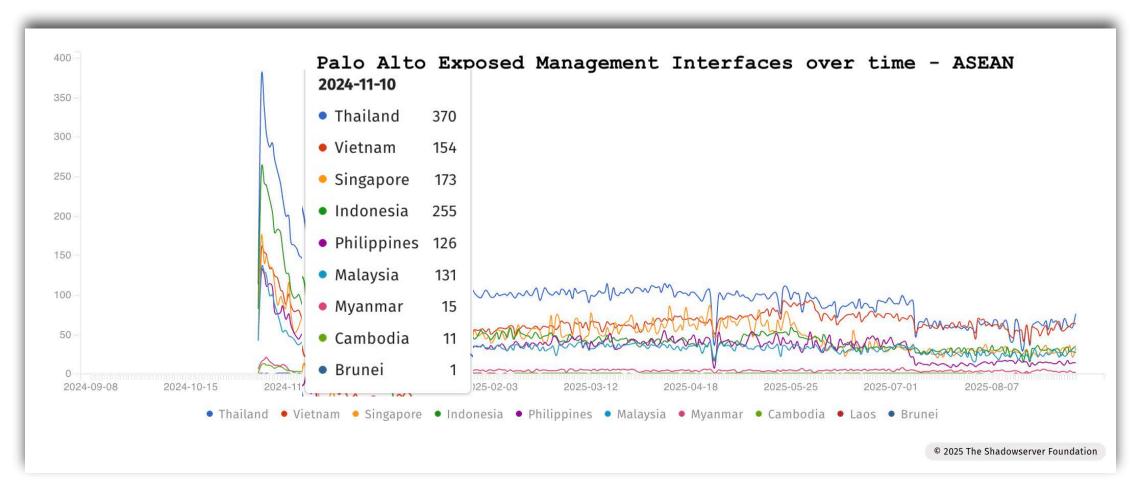








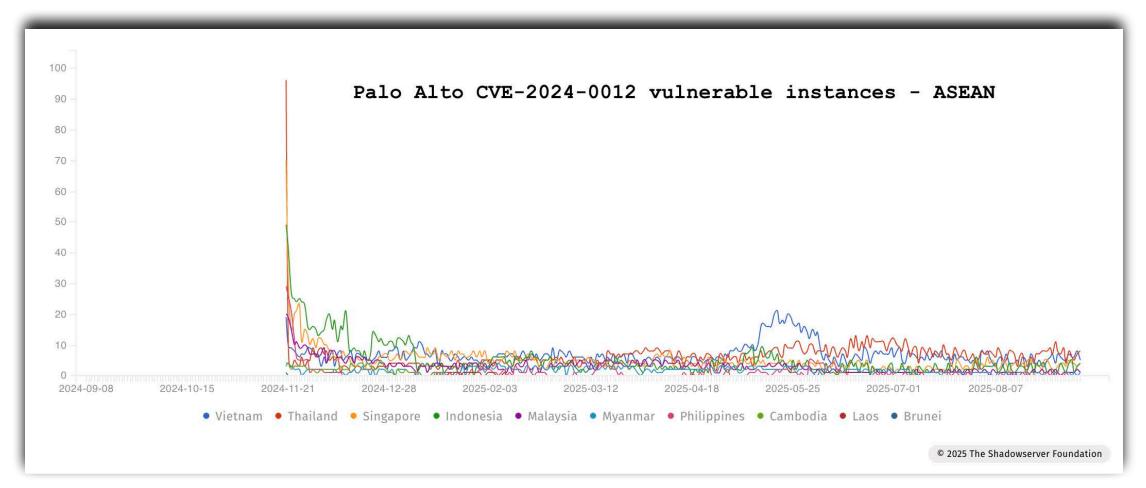








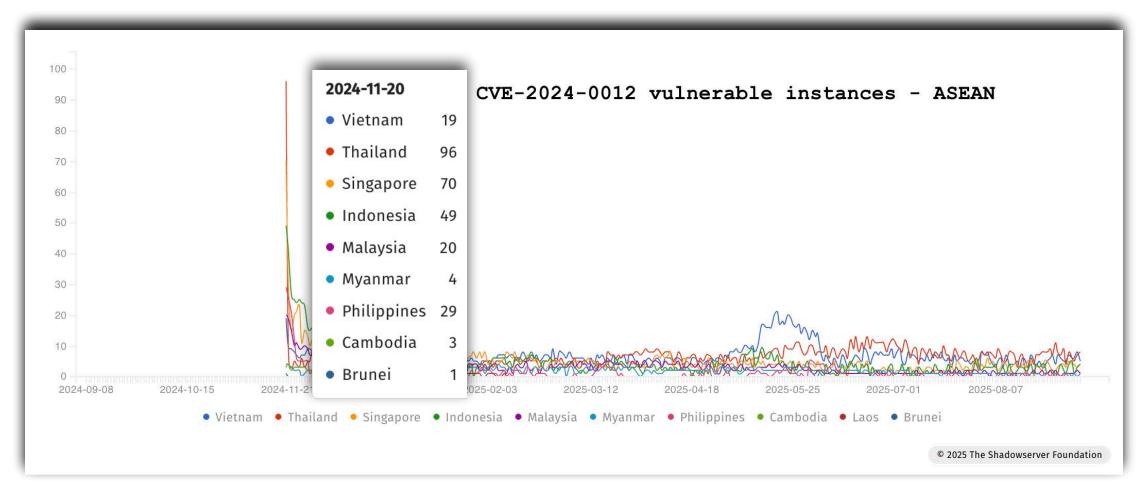








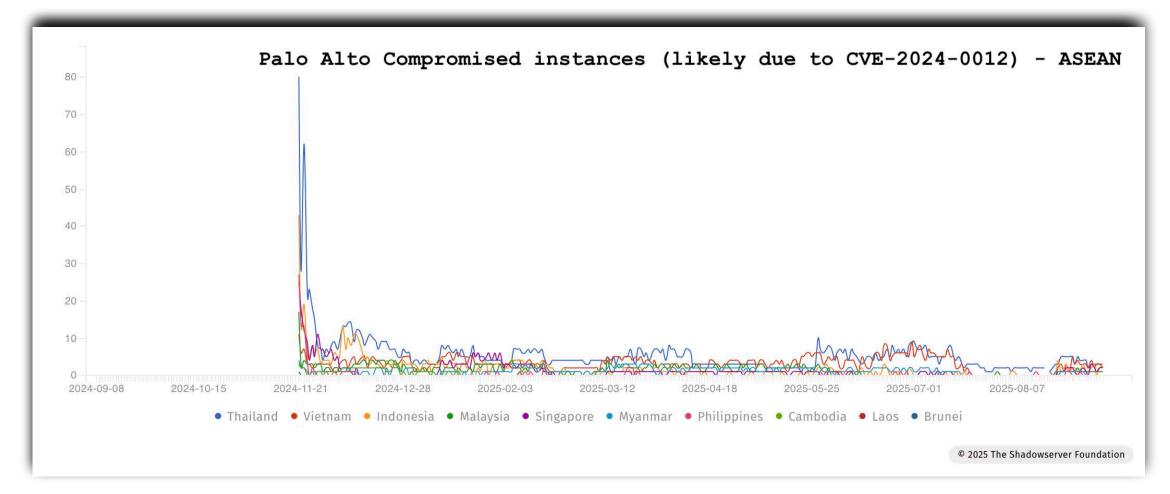








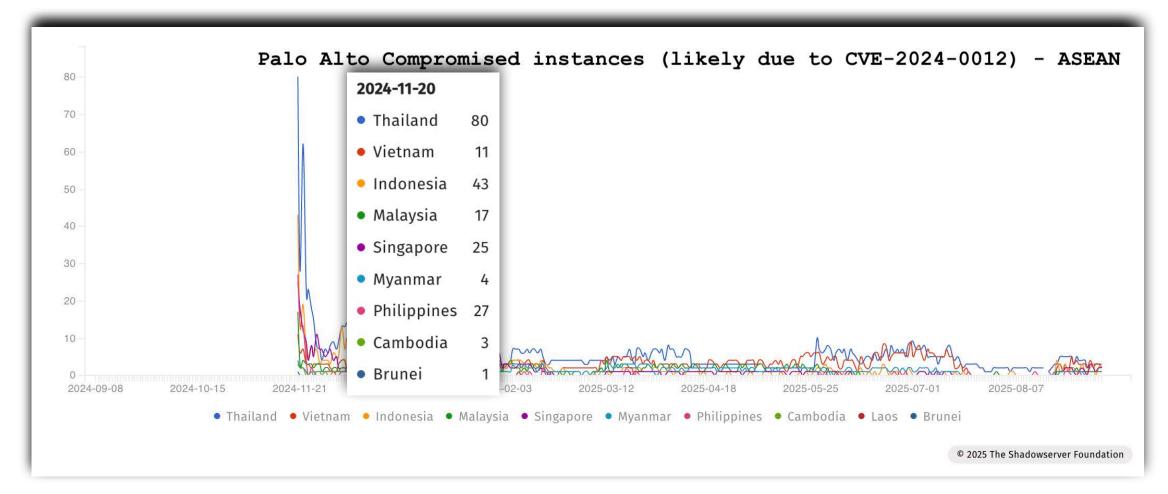














Call to action!

Taking collaboration to the next level





Takeaways







- There are **free services** available that can help the community **understand new attacks/vulnerabilities as they emerge**, serving as **early warning**
- These free services can help you understand your exposed assets (external attack surface) as well as identify potential compromised systems, for effective triage & victim notification
- The combination of Internet-wide scanning plus a global honeypot sensor network that can be quickly updated with **new threat signatures enables** rapid measurement and reporting of emerging threats
- Emerging or established threats can be disrupted by globally coordinated LEA & industry actions, enabling new insights
- Everyone benefits through improved sharing subscribe to our free services, provide feedback & help us defend better against future threats. The more we receive local insights the more effective we can be!
- If your receive a report from Shadowserver please act!





Thank You!



- @shadowserver, @piotrkijewski
- @shadowserver.bsky.social
- @ @shadowserver@infosec.exchange
- in https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-shadowserver-foundation/
- contact@shadowserver.org