

Introduction

ybersecurity has been a growing concern for corporations, governments, and individuals over the past decade or more. According to the Verizon 2022 Data Breach Investigations Report*, 83% of Organizations had more than one data breach in 2022 and on average organizations experienced 28+ attacks. The use of cyberweapons by nation-states to undermine their rivals has surged, particularly since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

In Muninn's Threat Report, we will dive into the diverse range of cyberattacks that Muninn's global sensor network has detected in the aftermath of Russia's military actions in Ukraine.

Identifying the perpetrators behind cyberattacks is a complex task, especially when the attacks are orchestrated by state-sponsored cybercriminal groups. Nonetheless, we have seen a noticeable uptick in alerts originating from Russian or Belarusian IP addresses since the onset of the Ukrainian conflict.

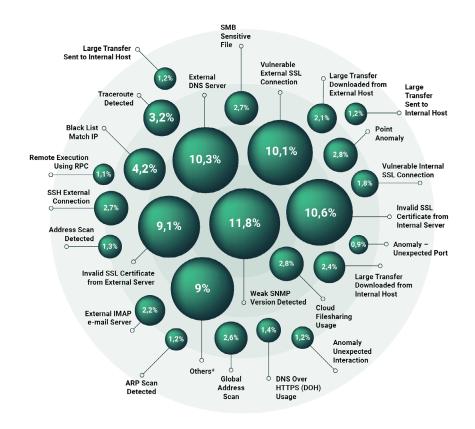
For the first half of 2022, Muninn's network sensors have processed and analyzed vast volumes of global network data, generating threat alerts that have enabled numerous companies to sidestep significant cybersecurity incidents.

The subsequent section offers a comprehensive statistical analysis, detailing the variety and volume of threats that Muninn's sensors have identified across our entire client base.

Top 50 Notifications in H12022

*Under 1%

Lateral movement using SMB admin shares Selective Port Scan Soon to expire SSL certificate from internal server Expired SSL certificate from internal server OT unknown function codes Anomaly - Unexpected Service External SMTP e-mail server Port scan detected SSH Interesting Hostname Login RDP Outgoing Connection Expired SSL certificate from external server Tor middle node communication Exfiltration of many files HTTP SQL injection detected Blacklist match file Anomaly - Data Transfer External POP3 e-mail server SSH Failed Attempts Soon to expire SSL certificate from external server DNS Multiple Domain Not Found Anomaly - Out of hours Tor exit node connection Misconfigured HTTP basic auth client Anomaly - Unexpected Service and Port Blacklist match certificate P2P traffic patterns Kerberos Lonalived Ticket HTTP SQL injection victim detected Secure com password guessing attempts detected DNS over HTTPs (DOH) usage HTTP crawler detected SMR Suspicious File Renaming Event log clearing or forced reboot using RPC DNS Tunneling Impossible travel detected Login from an unprecedented country Anomaly - Unusual Context Global port scan Reverse SSH Large amount of files downloaded FTP brute force loain detected DarkNet or Tor activity detected Local blacklisted executable detected Not yet valid SSL certificate from internal server HTTP Authentication Bruteforce Lateral movement and execution Too many failed login attempts for user Too many failed login attempts from IP Blacklist match SSH BitTorrent port usage Crypto Currencies Mining Pool Activity Large amount of mail attachment sent Login from an unexpected country NTLM User Password Bruteforce Failed login attempt from an unprecedented Blacklist match domain SMB Ransomware filename detected



Notification Trends H12022

n the first half of 2022, Muninn's sensors observed a notable uptick in the detection of "Weak SNMP versions," accounting for 11.8% of all notifications. For a detailed technical breakdown of this category, read our annual report.

On the other hand, "Vulnerable external SSL connections" were slightly less common in the first quarter of 2022, making up 14.6% of all notifications. This is a decrease compared to the same period in 2021, where they constituted 10.9% of all notifications. A comprehensive technical explanation for this category will be provided in a later section of this report.

Similarly, "Invalid SSL certificates

from internal servers" saw a minor increase in the first half of 2021, comprising 8.9% of all notifications, compared to the full year of 2021. The frequency of notifications for "External DNS servers" has declined to 10.3%.

In the first half of 2022, "Vulnerable external SSL connections" were less frequent, making up 10.1% of all notifications, a decrease from the previous year. Additionally, the category 'Invalid SSL certificate from external server' dropped to 9.1%. Technical explanations for both "Vulnerable external SSL connections" and "Expired SSL certificate from external server" will be covered in a subsequent section of this report.



Technical Deep Dive

Vulnerable External SSL Connection

Henrik Falkenthros Senior IT Security Engeneer



Threat Identification

Muninn is engineered to pinpoint weak encryption protocols in order to safeguard data as it moves across networks. Specifically, it scans for vulnerable or unencrypted SSL connections within network traffic. This enables security managers to proactively address network vulnerabilities.

Exploitation Methods

SSL and TLS protocols have long been a focal point for various types of cyberattacks. One common method employed by threat actors is the "Man-in-the-Middle" attack, which allows unauthorized access to encrypted communications.

Other prevalent techniques include protocol downgrading, stripping, and memory reading.

Attack Vectors

A multitude of strategies exist for exploiting vulnerable SSL connections. A quick Google search using terms like FREAK, DROWN, SWEET32, HeartBleed, POODLE, BREACH, and CRIME will provide ample information. Instructions for executing

Man-in-the-Middle attacks are readily available online, with GitHub hosting several relevant repositories. Typically, attackers aim for the network's weakest link, provided that the target holds sufficient value or interest.

```
Terminal
    sirhenry@192.168.2.126 :~/Documents/Godfathers/ip-map/iprange
Ssslscan samplelabserver.com
Version: 2.0.7
OpenSSL 1.1.1f 31 Mar 2020
 Testing SSL server samplelabserver.com on port 443 using SNI name samplelabserver
  TLS renegotiation:
Secure session renegotiation supported
                                                                                                     Sher(s):

| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHAZ |
| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHAZ |
| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHAZ |
| bits | DHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHA38 |
| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES128-SHAZ56 |
| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES256-SHA384 |
| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES256-SHA384 |
| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES256-SHA |
| bits | ECDHE-RSA-AES128-SHA |
| bits | DHE-RSA-AES128-SHAZ56 |
| bits | DHE-RSA-AES128-SHAZ56 |
| bits | DHE-RSA-AES128-SHAZ56 |
| bits | DHE-RSA-AES256-SHAZ56 |
| bits | AES128-GCM-SHAZ56 |
| bits | AES128-GCM-SHAZ56 |
| bits | AES128-SHAZ56 |
| bit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Curve P-384 DHE 384
Curve P-384 DHE 384
DHE 2048 bits
DHE 2048 bits
  Server Key Exchange Group(s):
TLSv1.2 192 bits secp384r1 (NIST P-384)
Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption RSA Key Strength: 2048
Not valid before: Feb 10 00:00:00 2018 GMT
Not valid after: Feb 10 23:59:59 2014 FM
       trhenry@192.168.2.126 :~/Documents/Godfathers/tp-map/tpranges
```

In Practice

Case:

For illustrative purposes, let's consider https://samplelabserver. com as a hypothetical target.

Using a Kali Box, you can assess the security of the web server you wish to interact with by running a SSL scan command.

On the next page you will find eight important sections you should have a closer look at.

Checklist What is Important to Secure SLL and TSL Connections

1. SSL/TLS Protocols

Both SSLv2 and v3 are disabled, which is a positive step as it prevents the use of these weaker encryption protocols between the client and the web server. However, it's concerning that TLSv1.0 and v1.1 are still supported, given their known vulnerabilities. Most notably, TLSv3 is disabled, which is surprising since it's widely regarded as the gold standard for secure network encryption.

2. TLS Fallback SCSV

The TLS Signaling Cipher Suite Value (SCSV) serves as a safeguard against downgrade attacks. When enabled, it ensures that the most robust protocol supported by both the client and server is utilized. It will also be an indicator that everything is in order as this feature is activated.

3. TLS Renegotiation

The web server allows for secure fallback, enabling the addition of authentication details to an existing connection when necessary aim for the network's weakest link, provided that the target holds sufficient value or interest.

4. TLS Compression

During the TLS Handshake process, options for data compression methods are negotiated. It's worth noting that sslscan doesn't check for this feature, so you should use nmap for verification:

nmap -sV --script ssl-enum-ciphers -p 443 samplelabserver.com

The shown nmap output indicates that no compression is being used. Additionally, the script checks for known vulnerabilities, such as SWEET32.

5. Heartbleed

The web server is not susceptible to Heartbleed, a well-known memory leak flaw in OpenSSL.

Verify using nmap:

nmap -d --script ssl-heartbleed --script-args vulns. showall -sV samplelabserver.com

The output stating 'ssl-heartbleed: NOT VULNERABLE' confirms the web server is not vulnerable.

6. Supported Server Ciphers

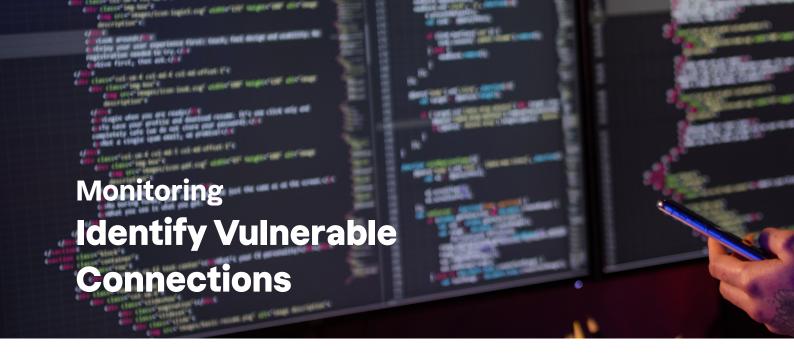
Cipher suites consist of various algorithms designed to secure SSL or TLS network connections. Typically, a cipher suite will include a key exchange algorithm, a bulk encryption algorithm, and a message authentication code (MAC) algorithm. Ciphers highlighted in green are secure and recommended for use, while those in white and orange are weak and should be avoided. For further details on cipher suites, you can visit https://www.iana.org/

7. Server Key Exchange Group

The elliptic curve P-384 offers a 192-bit security level and is employed for digital signatures and keyagreement protocols.

8. SSL Certificate Details

The signature algorithm used is sha256WithRSAEncryption, which signifies the hash algorithm employed to sign the SSL certificate. The RSA Key Strength stands at 2048, which is generally considered sufficient. However, it's important to note that the certificate is no longer valid.



Summary and Security Implications

After reviewing these eight key areas, there are multiple red flags that make connecting to this website a big mistake. The primary concerns include an expired SSL certificate, support for the outdated TLSv1.0, and the absence of support for TLSv3.

Hacker's Perspective

From an attacker's standpoint, the website's support for the weak TLSv1.0 protocol, with a 112-bit length and the inclusion of triple DES and CBC, presents a clear attack vector.

To confirm this, a hacker would execute the following Nmap command:

nmap -Pn --script ssl-enum-ciphers -p 443 samplelabserver.com

For a hands-on, simplified example of executing a SWEET32 attack, you can refer to this repository: https://github.com/azeemba/sour16

According to databases like the National Vulnerability Database (NVD: https://nvd.nist.gov/general/nvd-dashboard), there have been over 10 new CVEs (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures) related to SSL/TLS breaches recorded in 2022 alone. Since the inception of these records in 1999, the total number exceeds 3,500. Severity ratings often range from a CVSSv2 score of around 5.0 (medium) to 10.0 (high). Given that these vulnerabilities pertain to network security protocols, the high severity ratings are hardly surprising.

Muninn's Findings

Muninn Al Detect is engineered to detect vulnerable SSL connections, whether they are within the Local Area Network (LAN) or external. By scrutinizing the initial Ethernet frames, we can discern the type of network encryption negotiated between the client and the web server. This information is crucial for understanding the security level of the ensuing HTTPS session.

Data Extraction and TLS Handshake

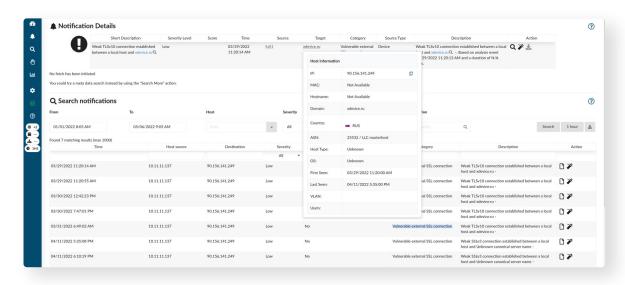
The initial data packets serve as a valuable source for extracting information about an encrypted communication session. They can reveal key details such as HTTP URLs, DNS hostnames/addresses, and more. The TLS handshake process itself consists of multiple messages that contain unencrypted but significant metadata, including cipher suites, TLS versions, and the length of the client's public key.

Example Notification and Security Concerns

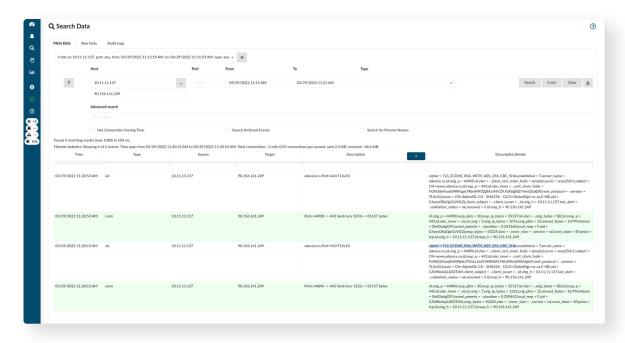
In the following section, you'll find an example notification triggered due to the use of the outdated TLSv1.0 protocol.

SSL and TLS protocols have long been susceptible to various forms of cyberattacks. Threat actors frequently employ "Man-in-the-Middle" attacks to gain unauthorized access to encrypted communications. Other common tactics include protocol bypassing, downgrading, stripping, and memory reading, all of which serve as potential attack vectors.

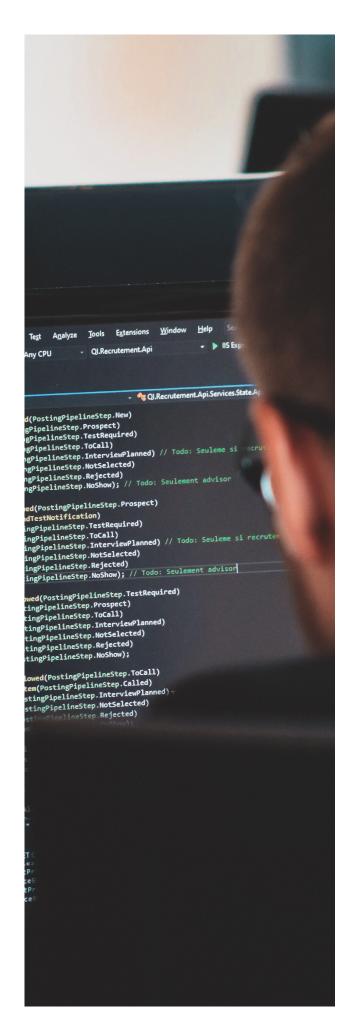
Muninn AI Detect is designed to catch communication with vulnerable SSL connections to webservers inside the LAN or to external. By analyzing the initial ethernet frames, we can see from the handshakes what type of network encryption is negotiated between client and webserver and thus to be used in the HTTPS session.



Searching the metadata reveals the cipher suite used in the communication, TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_ AES_256_CBC_SHA:



Countermeasures Support only TLSv1.3 and above.



In-Depth Analysis Expired SSL Certificate from External Server

Henrik Falkenthros

Senior IT Security Engeneer

The Threat

ISSL certificates serve dual purposes: they authenticate the server and encrypt the data being transmitted. When a certificate expires, it compromises the server's authenticity, leaving users without the assurance that they are communicating with the intended server. This is because a Certificate Authority (CA) only issues a certificate after verifying the server owner's identity.

A malicious website won't possess the private key associated with the original certificate, which remains exclusive to the authentic server.

If you encounter an expired certificate, your browser will display multiple warning messages, indicating that the server is no longer trustworthy. While this is concerning, it's worth noting that the encryption level remains unchanged post-expiration.

For public-facing websites, these warnings can sow doubt among users and may deter them from engaging in online transactions.

The Exploitation

Cybercriminals often maintain extensive lists of companies, monitoring them for certificate expiration dates. Through Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering, they create counterfeit websites that mimic the target company's branding. They also prepare a list of potential victims and secure a convincing domain name, for example 'verification-company.com,' complete with a valid SSL certificate.

Once the target company's certificate expires, the attackers initiate their phishing campaign. They send emails to the company's customers, urging them to "verify their accounts" on the newly-created fraudulent website. Unfortunately, only a small fraction of users will scrutinize the certificate details before entering their credentials, becoming a victim to the scam.

For instance, attackers might use Google hacking techniques to identify potential targets in various sectors like retail and fashion, compiling lists such as 'top-50-shops.lst' for future attacks.

Understanding these risks and attack vectors associated with expired SSL certificates enables both organizations and individual users to take preemptive steps to safeguard themselves.

For those with technical skills, you can download a script from GitHub or similar repositories that checks for certificate expiration. https://github.com/codebox/https-certificate-expiry-checker/blob/main/check-certificates.py

Clear; while read -r line; do sudo timeout 5 python3 check_certificates.py \$line | awk '{print \$1 "\t" "expires in "\$5" "\$6}'; done < top-50-shops.lst

Running a one-liner command in Kali Linux will show the necessary information.

Alibaba.com	expires in 261 days	hepsiburada.com	expires in 316 days
aliexpress.com	expires in 353 days	Ikea.com	expires in 107 days
allegro.pl	expires in 72 days	Inditex.com	expires in 317 days
amazon.ca	expires in 321 days	jd.com	expires in 137 days
Amazon.co.jp	expires in 82 days	johnlewis.com	expires in 27 days
Amazon.co.uk	expires in 82 days	kakaku.com	expires in 124 days
Amazon.com	expires in 82 days	leboncoin.fr	expires in 267 days
amazon.com.br	expires in 310 days	lego.com	expires in 83 days
amazon.com.mx	expires in 319 days	mercadolibre.com.ar	expires in 247 days
Amazon.de	expires in 82 days	mercadolibre.com.mx	expires in 257 days
amazon.es	expires in 330 days	mercadolivre.com.br	expires in 248 days
amazon.fr	expires in 319 days	mercari.com	expires in 209 days
Amazon.in	expires in 325 days	olx.com.br	expires in 316 days
amazon.it	expires in 328 days	olx.pl	expires in 231 days
americanas.com.br	expires in 239 days	ottogroup.com	expires in 377 days
Apple.com	expires in 331 days	ozon.ru	expires in 279 days
bestbuy.com	expires in 204 days	pinduoduo.com	expires in 275 days
Bol.com	expires in 152 days	rakuten.co.jp	expires in 142 days
Carrefour.com	expires in 171 days	sahibinden.com	expires in 293 days
Ceconomy.de	expires in 83 days	Shop.com	expires in 39 days
costco.com	expires in 310 days	shopee.co.id	expires in 127 days
craigslist.org	expires in 240 days	shopping.yahoo.co.jp	expires in 345 days
e.leclerc	expires in 114 days	taobao.com	expires in 110 days
ebay-kleinanzeigen.de	expires in 111 days	Target.com	expires in 123 days
Ebay.co.uk	expires in 213 days	Tesco.com	expires in 50 days
Ebay.com	expires in 213 days	ticketmaster.com	expires in 353 days
ebay.de	expires in 213 days	tokopedia.com	expires in 82 days
ecco.com	expires in 158 days	trendyol.com	expires in 327 days
etsy.com	expires in 262 days	Veepee.fr	expires in 199 days
Flipkart.com	expires in 23 days	walmart.com	expires in 305 days
groupe-casino.fr	expires in 128 days	wayfair.com	expires in 88 days
Groupon.com	expires in 225 days	Zalando.com	expires in 140 days

Crafting a Phishing Campaign: A Cautionary Note

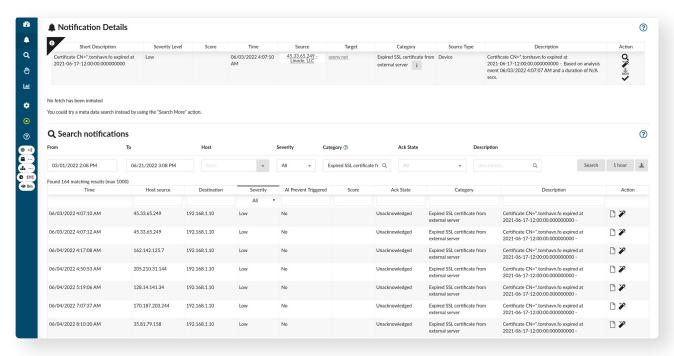
While it's relatively straightforward to find email accounts associated with a specific domain like LEGO. com and craft a convincing phishing email, we strongly discourage engaging in such activities. Various methods exist for obtaining users' email addresses tied to a company, especially those with an online store. It is relatively easy to find full names and email addresses in numerous blogs where people discuss the company's products or services.

Social media platforms like
Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are
also rich sources of information for
understanding product or service
interests. If one is not up for doing
it, darknet services provide this
information for a small fee. Which
means even with a small amount
of resources one can get a large
amount of private information.\$

In Practice

Insights from Muninn

Muninn Al Detect is designed to trigger an alert based on the 'NotValidAfter' value of the SSL certificate.



Countermeasures

Avoid Communication:

Do not interact with servers or services that cannot resent a valid SSL certificate.

Firewall Blocking:

If you determine that a website is malicious, permanently block its domain in your firewall.

Temporary Measures:

For websites that are generally trustworthy but have an expired SSL certificate, consider temporarily blocking the domain in your firewall. Additionally, notify your external partners that they are operating with expired certificates.

During their Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) data collection, hackers construct counterfeit websites that closely mimic the target's visual branding. They also compile a list of users to target for their attacks. To lend credibility to their fraudulent sites, they acquire convincing domain names, such as 'verification-company.com,' along with valid SSL certificates.

About us

Founded in 2016 by engineers and computer scientists from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T), Muninn has been changing the way companies approach cybersecurity. With our advanced AI technology and reliable security solutions, Muninn AI Detect and AI Prevent empower organizations to protect their critical digital assets and infrastructures from cybercriminals.

Located in the heart of Denmark, in Copenhagen, our team is comprised of inspiring colleagues with multiple nationalities and backgrounds. Each employee is committed to professional development and growth, ensuring that Muninn will continue to be a game-changer in the field of cybersecurity.

Named after one of Odin's ravens, Muninn, we are innovative and curious: about our customers, their challenges, trends that shape the future of the digital landscape and groundbreaking solutions that will bring cybersecurity to a new level. You can call us "geeks", if you like, because we are passionate about every single detail that make our technology so great.



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