SE LABS ®

EDR DETECTION

Threat Series: 11

Advanced Security Test Report

Acronis

Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack

ONLINE REPORT

JUNE 2025

SE LABS tested **Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack** against a range of hacking attacks designed to compromise systems and penetrate target networks in the same way as criminals and other attackers breach systems and networks.

Full chains of attack were used, meaning that testers behaved as real attackers, probing targets using a variety of tools, techniques and vectors before attempting to gain lower-level and more powerful access. Finally, the testers/attackers attempted to complete their missions, which might include stealing information, damaging systems and connecting to other systems on the network.

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SE Labs is ISO/IEC 27001 : 2022 certified and BS EN ISO 9001 : 2015 certified for The Provision of IT Security Product Testing.

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If you spot a detail in this report that you don't understand, or would like to discuss, please contact us. SE Labs uses current threat intelligence to make our tests as realistic as possible. To learn more about how we test, how we define 'threat intelligence' and how we use it to improve our tests please visit our website and follow us on LinkedIn.

Endpoint Detection and Response is more than anti-virus

Gain insights into cyber security testing through transparent threat intelligence.

An Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) product goes beyond traditional antivirus software, which is why it requires more sophisticated testing. This involves testers mimicking real attackers and following every step of an attack.

While shortcuts might seem tempting, fully executing each phase of an attack is crucial to truly evaluate the effectiveness of EDR products.

Moreover, each step must reflect real-world scenarios; you can't just guess what cyber criminals might do and hope it's accurate. That's why SE Labs tracks the actual behaviour of cyber criminals and designs tests based on how attackers attempt to compromise their targets.

The cyber security industry refers to this sequence of steps as the 'attack chain.' The MITRE organization has documented these stages in its ATT&CK framework.

While this framework doesn't provide an exact blueprint for real-world attacks, it offers a structured guide that testers, security vendors, and customers (like you!) can use to conduct tests and interpret the results.

SE Labs' Advanced Security tests are based on real attacker behaviour, and we present our findings using a MITRE ATT&CK-style format.

You can see how the ATT&CK framework outlines each step of an attack and how we apply it to our testing in section **4. Threat Intelligence**, starting on page 12. This approach offers two key benefits: confidence that our tests are both realistic and relevant, and familiarity with the way cyber attacks are illustrated.

Executive Summary

SE Labs tested **Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack** against targeted attacks based on those perpetrated by the Gamaredon, Ember Bear, Evasive Panda and DPRK attacker groups.

We examined its abilities to:

- **Detect the delivery of targeted attacks**
- **Track different elements of the attack chain ...**
- **... including compromises beyond the endpoint, to the wider network**
- **Handle legitimate applications and other objects.**

Legitimate files were used alongside the threats to measure any false positive detections or other sub-optimal interactions.

Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack scored an impressive 100% Detection Accuracy Rating for detecting every element of each attack. It detected the delivery and initial executing of a wide variety of initial attack techniques. The product also detected all the subsequent malicious activities in the attack chain, tracking all of the hostile activities that occurred as the attacks progressed.

The product scored a 96% Legitimate Accuracy Rating. This bumped up its Total Accuracy Rating to 98%, thus achieving an AAA award for advanced security.

Executive Summary

Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack		
	Accuracy Score	Rating (%)
Detection Accuracy	680/680	100%
Legitimate Accuracy	709/742	96%
Total Accuracy	1,389/1,422	98%

- **Products highlighted in green were the most accurate, scoring 90 per cent or more for Total Accuracy. Those in orange scored less than 90 but 71 or more. Products shown in red scored less than 71 per cent.**

For exact percentages, see **2. Total Accuracy Ratings** on page 9.

Advanced Security Test Award

The following product wins the SE Labs award:

Acronis
Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack

1. How We Tested

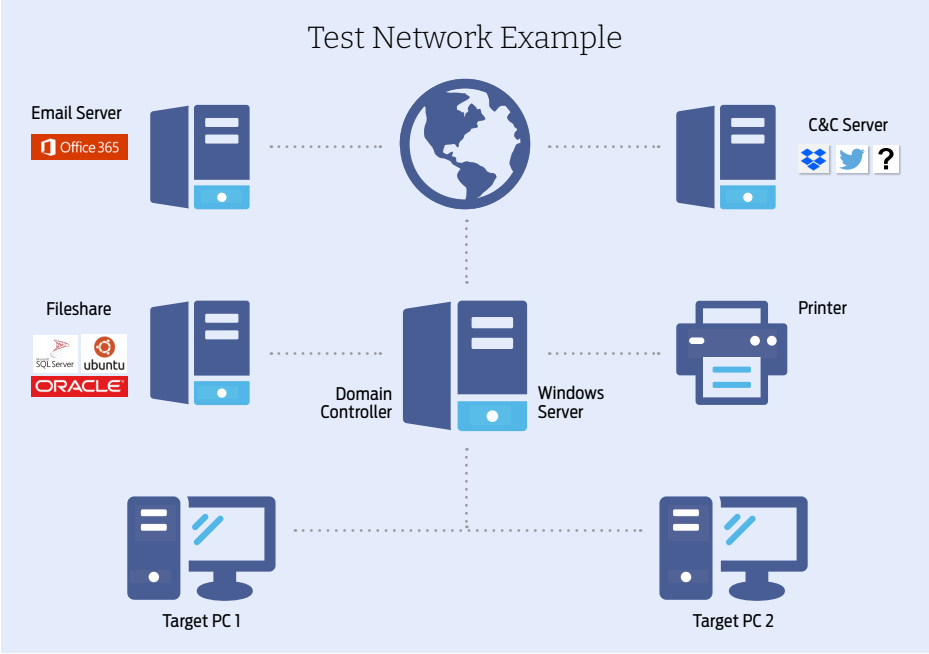
Testers can't assume that products will work a certain way, so running a realistic advanced security test means setting up real networks and hacking them in the same way that real adversaries behave.

In the diagram on the right you will see an example network that contains workstations, some basic infrastructure such as file servers and a domain controller, as well as cloud-based email and a malicious command and control (C&C) server, which may be a conventional computer or a service such as Dropbox, Twitter, Slack or something more imaginative.

As you will see in the **Threat Responses** section on page 7, attackers often jump from one compromised system to another in so-called 'lateral movement'. To allow products to detect this type of behaviour the network needs to be built realistically, with systems available, vulnerable and worth compromising.

It is possible to compromise devices such as enterprise printers and other so-called 'IoT' (internet of things) machines, which is why we've included a representative printer in the diagram.

The techniques that we choose for each test case are largely dictated by the real-world behaviour of online criminals. We observe their tactics and replicate what they do in this test. To see more details about how the specific attackers behaved, and how we copied them, see **Attack Details** on page 8 and, for a really detailed drill down on the details, **4. Threat Intelligence** on pages 12-15 and **Appendix D: Attack Details** on pages 21-25



● **This example of a test network shows one possible topology and ways in which enterprises and criminals deploy resources**

Threat Responses

Full Attack Chain: Testing Every Layer of Detection and Protection

Attackers start from a certain point and don't stop until they have either achieved their goal or have reached the end of their resources (which could be a deadline or the limit of their abilities). This means that, in a test, the tester needs to begin the attack from a realistic first position, such as sending a phishing email or setting up an infected website, and moving through many of the likely steps leading to actually stealing data or causing some other form of damage to the network.

If the test starts too far into the attack chain, such as executing malware on an endpoint, then many products will be denied opportunities to use the full extent of their protection and detection abilities. If the test concludes before any 'useful' damage or theft has been achieved, then similarly the product may be denied a chance to demonstrate its abilities in behavioural detection and so on.

Attack Stages

The illustration (below) shows typical stages of an attack. In a test, each of these should be attempted to determine the security solution's effectiveness. This test's results record detection and protection for each of these stages.

We measure how a product responds to the first stages of the attack with a detection and/or protection rating. Sometimes products allow threats to run yet still detect them. Other times they might allow the threat to run briefly before neutralising it. Ideally, they detect and block the threat before it has a chance to run. Products may delete threats or automatically contain them in a 'quarantine' or other safe holding mechanism for later analysis.

Should the initial attack phase succeed, we then measure post-exploitation stages, which are represented by steps two through to seven below. We broadly categorise these stages as: Access (step 2); Action (step 3); Escalation (step 4); and Post-Escalation (steps 5-6).

In figure 1. you can see a typical attack running from start to end, through various 'hacking' activities. This can be classified as a fully successful breach.

In figure 2. a product or service has interfered with the attack, allowing it to succeed only as far as stage 3, after which it was detected and neutralised. The attacker was unable to progress through stages 4 onwards.

It is possible for an attack to run in a different order with, for example, the attacker attempting to connect to other systems without needing to escalate privileges. However, it is common for password theft (see step 5) to occur before using stolen credentials to move further through the network.

Figure 1. A typical attack starts with an initial contact and progresses through various stages, including reconnaissance, stealing data and causing damage.

Figure 2. This attack was initially successful but only able to progress as far as the reconnaissance phase.

Attack Details

When testing services against targeted attacks it is important to ensure that the attacks used are relevant. Anyone can run an attack randomly against someone else. It is the security vendor's challenge to identify common attack types and to protect against them. As testers, we need to generate threats that in some way relate to the real world.

All of the attacks used in this test are valid ways to compromise an organisation. Without any security in place, all would succeed in attacking the target. Outcomes would include systems infected with ransomware, remote access to networks and data theft.

But we didn't just sit down and brainstorm how we would attack different companies. Instead we used current threat intelligence to look at what the bad guys have been doing over the last few years and copied them quite closely. This way we can test the services' abilities to handle similar threats to those faced by global governments, financial institutions and national infrastructure.

The graphic on this page shows a summary of the attack groups that inspired the targeted attacks used in this test. If a service was able to detect and protect against these then there's a good chance they are on track to blocking similar attacks in the real world. If they fail, then you might take their bold marketing claims about defeating hackers with a pinch of salt.

Attacker/ APT Group	Method	Target	Details
Gamaredon Group	Spear phishing Attachment/ Template Injection		Russian cyber espionage group targeting sensitive Ukranian public services.
Ember Bear	Supply Chain Compromise		Russian cyber espionage group targeting critical global infrastructure.
Evasive Panda	Supply Chain Compromise		Chinese cyber espionage group targeting individuals and governments.
DPRK	External Remote Services		Threat actor originating from the DPRK targeting financial and technology sectors.

KEY					
	Education		Financial Industries		Gambling
	Government Espionage		Manufacturing		Natural Resources
	Private-sector Energy		Research Institutes		Travel Industries

For more details about each APT group please see **4. Threat Intelligence** on pages 12-15.

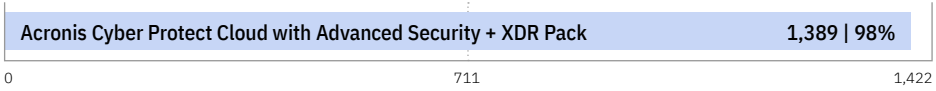
2. Total Accuracy Rating

This test examines the total insight a product has, or can provide, into a specific set of attacking actions. We've divided the attack chain into chunks of one or more related actions. To provide sufficient insight, a product must detect at least one action in each chunk.

If you look at the results tables in **Response Details** on page 11 you'll see that Delivery and Execution are grouped together into one chunk, while Action sits alone. Escalation and Post-Escalation (PE) Action are grouped, while Lateral Movement and Lateral Action are also grouped.

This means that if the product detects either the threat being delivered or executed, it has coverage for that part of the attack. If it detects the action as well as the escalation of privileges and an action involved in lateral movement then it has what we consider to be complete insight, even if it doesn't detect some parts of some chunks (i.e. Lateral Movement, in this example).

Total Accuracy Rating



- **Total Accuracy Ratings combine protection and false positives.**

3. Response Details

In this test security products are exposed to attacks, which comprise multiple stages. The perfect product will detect all relevant elements of an attack. The term 'relevant' is important, because sometimes detecting one part of an attack means it's not necessary to detect another.

For example, in the table below certain stages of the attack chain have been grouped together. As mentioned in **2. Total Accuracy Ratings**, these groups are as follows:

Delivery/Execution (+10)

If the product detects either the delivery or execution of the initial attack stage then a detection for this stage is recorded.

Action (+10)

When the attack performs one or more actions, while remotely controlling the target, the product should detect at least one of those actions.

Privilege Escalation/Action (+10)

As the attack progresses there will likely be an attempt to escalate system privileges and to perform more powerful and insidious actions. If the product can detect either the escalation process itself, or any resulting actions, then a detection is recorded.

Lateral Movement/Action (+10)

The attacker may attempt to use the target as a launching system to other vulnerable systems.

If this attempt is discovered, or any subsequent action, a detection is reported.

The Detection Rating is calculated by adding points for each group in a threat chain that is detected. When at least one detection occurs in a single group, a 'group detection' is recorded and 10 points are awarded. Each test round contains one threat chain, which itself contains four groups (as shown below), meaning that complete visibility of each attack adds 40 points to the total value.

A product that detects the delivery of a threat, but nothing subsequently to that, wins only 10 points, while a product that detects delivery and action, but not privilege escalation or lateral behaviours, is rated at 20 for that test round.

Understanding Detection Groups

		First Group		Second Group	Third Group		Fourth Group	
Incident No:	Detection	Delivery	Execution	Action	Escalation	PE Action	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
1	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓

Attacker/ Apt Group	Number of Incidents	Attacks Detected	Delivery/ Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation/Action	Lateral Movement Action
Dragonfly & Dragonfly 2	4	4	4	2	4	4

Elements of the attack chain are put into groups. For example, the Delivery and Execution stages of an attack are in the same group. Similarly, we group the Post Escalation stage with the Post Escalation Action (PE Action) stage. When we count detections we look to see at least one detection (tick) in each group. One or two detections in a group is a success.

In this example we have four test cases, which we call 'incidents'. In Incident No. 1 there was a detection recorded for the delivery of the threat and when it was executed. These two results count as one detection. In Incident No. 2 the threat delivery was not detected, but its execution was. This also counts as one detection.

When no detection is registered in any part of a group the result will be a 'miss'. In Incident 1. there was no detection when the attacker performed the 'Action' stage of the attack. This is a miss for the product. In fact, this product only detected two of the four Action stages, which is why the Response Details table shows '2' in the Action column.

Gamaredon

Incident No:	Detection	Delivery	Execution	Action	Escalation	PE Action	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Ember Bear

Incident No:	Detection	Delivery	Execution	Action	Escalation	PE Action	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Response Details

Attacker/ APT Group	Number of Incidents	Attacks Detected	Delivery/ Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation/ Action	Lateral Movement/ Action
Gamaredon	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ember Bear	4	4	4	4	4	4
Evasive Panda	4	4	4	4	3	4
DPRK	5	5	5	5	5	5
TOTAL	**17**	**17**	**17**	**17**	**16**	**17**

Detection Accuracy Rating Details

Attacker/APT Group	Number of Incidents	Attacks Detected	Group Detections	Detection Rating
Gamaredon	4	4	16	160
Ember Bear	4	4	16	160
Evasive Panda	4	4	15	160
DPRK	5	5	20	200
TOTAL	**17**	**17**	**67**	**680**

Evasive Panda

Incident No:	Detection	Delivery	Execution	Action	Escalation	PE Action	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

DPRK

Incident No:	Detection	Delivery	Execution	Action	Escalation	PE Action	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
17	✓	–	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Detection Accuracy Rating

- **Detection Ratings are weighted to show that how products detect threats can be subtler than just 'win' or 'lose'.**

Group Detections

We record detections in groups, as described above in Understanding Detection Groups. To get an overview of how a product handled the entire set of threats we then combine these detections into 'Group Detections'.

In a test with four incidents and four detection groups (Delivery/Execution; Action; Escalation/PE Action; and Lateral Movement/Lateral Action) the maximum score would be 16. This is because for each of the four threats a product that detects everything would score 4.

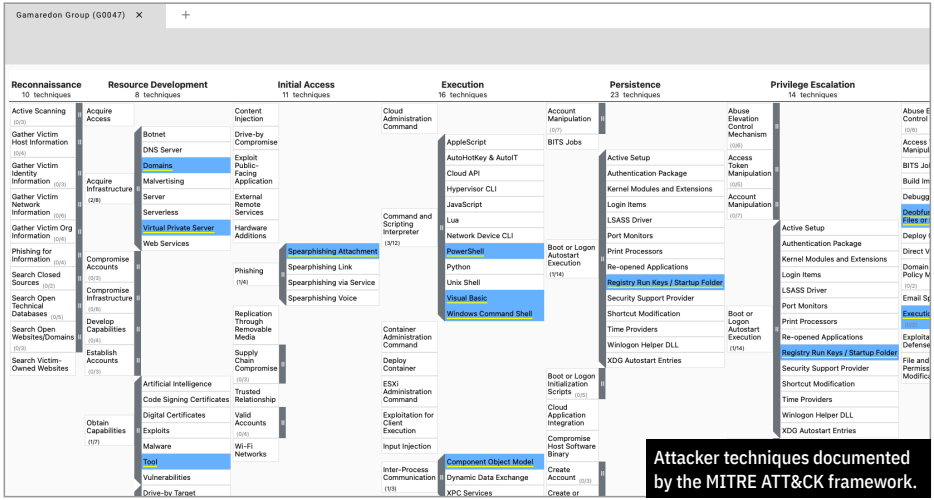
Our overall Detection Rating is based on the number of Detection Groups achieved.

4. Threat Intelligence

Gamaredon Group

Gamaredon Group has been active since at least 2013 and targets military, NGO, public services, and non-profit organisations.

Reference:
https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G0047/



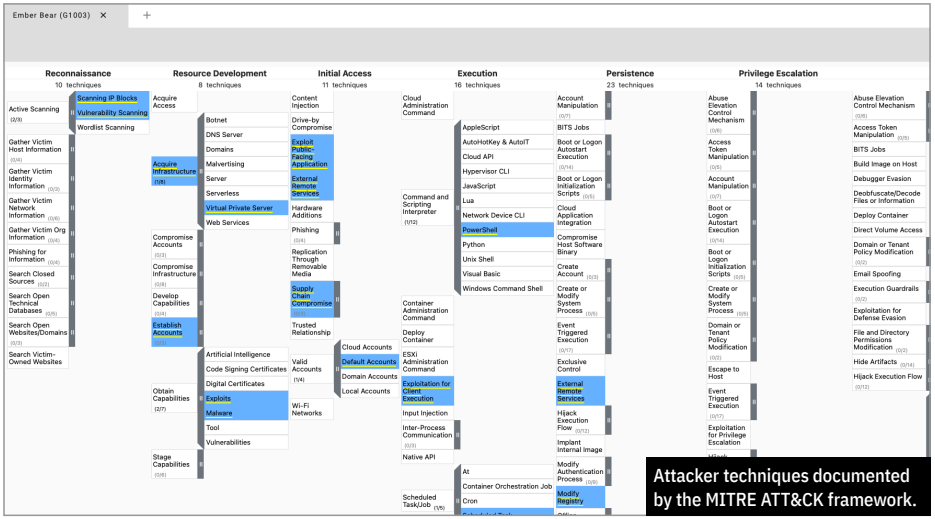
Example Gamaredon Group Attack

Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
T1566.001 Spear phishing Attachment	**T1059.001** PowerShell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1036.005** Match Legitimate Name or Location	**T1105** Ingress Tool Transfer	**T1119** Automated Collection
	T1059.003 Windows Command Shell	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1112** Modify Registry		**T1105** Data from Local System
	T204.001 Malicious Link	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1053.005** Scheduled Task		**T1039** Data from Network Shared Drive
	T1047 Windows Management Instrumentation	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1027.004** Compile After Delivery		**T1041** Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
	T1559.001 Component Object Model	**T1016.001** Internet Connection Discovery		**T1218.005** Mshta		**T1491.001** Internal Defacement
				T1106 Native API		

Ember Bear

Ember Bear has been active since at least 2020 and focused operations against Ukrainian government and telecommunication entities, alongside critical infrastructure in Europe and the Americas.

Reference:
https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G1003/



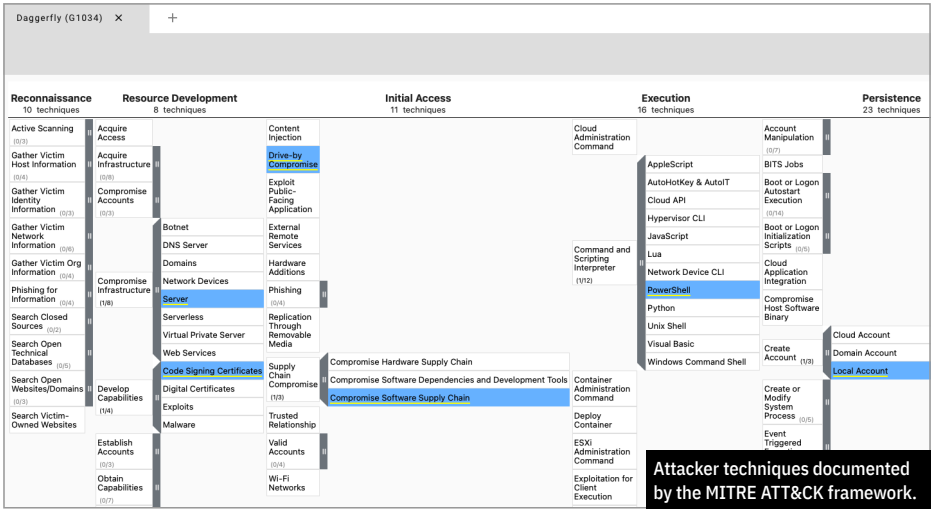
Example Ember Bear Attack

Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
T1190 Exploit Public-Facing Application	**T1203** Exploitation for Client Execution	**T1654** Log Enumeration	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1550.002** Pass the Hash	**T1560** Archive Collected Data
	T1505.003 Web Shell	**T1046** Network Service Discovery		**T1562.001** Disable or Modify Tools	**T1570** Lateral Tool Transfer	**T1119** Automated Collection
	T1078.001 Default Accounts	**T1018** Remote System Discovery		**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1005** Data from Local System
	T1095 Non-Application Layer Protocol	**T1059.001** PowerShell		**T1112** Modify Registry		**T1114** Email Collection
	T1571 Non-Standard Port			**T1003.001** LSASS Memory		**T1125** Video Capture
						T1567.002 Exfiltration to Cloud Storage
						T1561.002 Disk Structure Wipe

Evasive Panda

Evasive Panda has been active since at least 2012, conducting campaigns against individuals and government institutions across Asia.

Reference:
https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G1034/



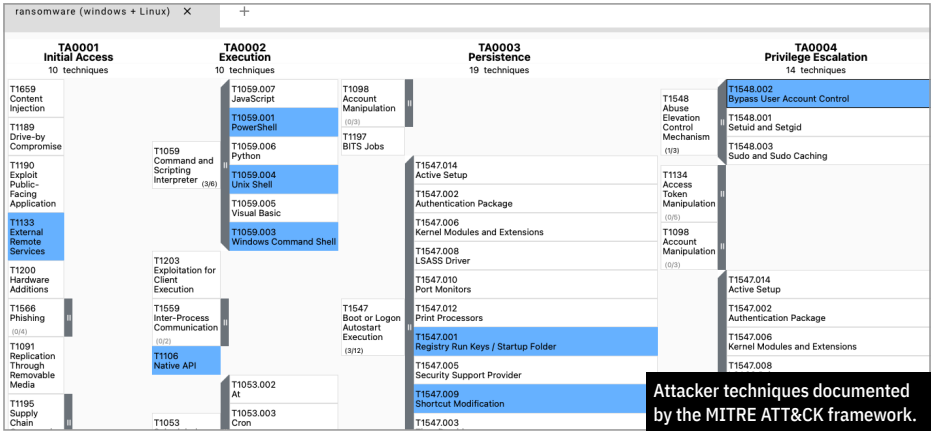
Example Evasive Panda Attack

Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
T1189 Drive-by Compromise	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1016** System Network Configuration Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1112** Modify Registry	**T1021.004** SSH	**T1140** Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information
	T204.001 Malicious Link	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1003.002** Security Account Manager		**T1056.001** Keylogging
	T1071.001 Web Protocols	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery		**T1036.003** Rename System Utilities		**T1560.002** Archive via Library
		T1070.004 File Deletion		**T1053.005** Scheduled Task		**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1057 Process Discovery		**T1012** Query Registry		**T1115** Clipboard Data
		T1518 Software Discovery		**T1555.004** Windows Credential Manager		
				T1106 Native API		
				T1087.001 Local Account		

DPRK

DPRK represent the common tactics and techniques attributed to groups originating from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). The main motive of these groups is financial and their main approach is to use Ransomware as a Service (RaaS), reducing the complexity for the attackers.

Reference:
Attack Evaluations: https://attackevals.mitre-engenuity.org/enterprise/er6/



Example DPRK Attack

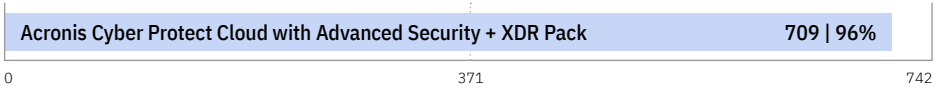
Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
T1133 External Remote Services	**T1059.003** Windows Command Shell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1021.002** SMB/ Windows Admin Shares	**T1074.001** Local Data Staging
	T1036.005 Match Legitimate Name or Location	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1055.001** Dynamic-link Library Injection		**T1119** Automated Collection
	T1218.010 Regsvr32	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1555.003** Credentials from Web Browsers		**T1560** Archive Collected Data
	T1571 Non-Standard Port	**T1614** System Location Discovery		**T1564.001** Hidden Files and Directories		**T1030** Data Transfer Size Limits
	T1564.005 Hidden File System	**T1614.001** System Language Discovery		**T1564.003** Hidden Window		**T1041** Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
	T1564 Hide Artifacts	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1543.003** Windows Service		**T1485** Data Destruction
	T1027.002 Software Packing			**T1003.002** Security Account Manager		**T1486** Data Encrypted for Impact
	T1564.004 NTFS File Attributes			**T1055.012** Process Hollowing		**T1489** Service Stop
						T1490 Inhibit System Recovery
						T1491.001 Internal Defacement

5. Legitimate Accuracy Rating

These ratings indicate how accurately the product classifies legitimate applications and URLs, while also taking into account the interactions that the product has with the user. Ideally a product will either not classify a legitimate object or will classify it as safe. In neither case should it bother the user.

We also take into account the prevalence (popularity) of the applications and websites used in this part of the test, applying stricter penalties for when products misclassify very popular software and sites.

Legitimate Accuracy Rating



- **Legitimate Accuracy Ratings can indicate how well a vendor has tuned its detection engine.**

6. Conclusion

The test exposed **Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack** to a diverse set of exploits, file-less attacks and malware attachments, comprising the widest range of threats in any currently available public test.

All of these attack types have been witnessed in real-world attacks over the previous few years. They are representative of a real and present threat to business networks the world over.

The threats used in this test are similar or identical to those used by the threat groups listed in **Attack Details** on page 8 and **4. Threat Intelligence** on pages 12-15.

It is important to note that while the test used the same type of attacks, new files were used. This exercised the tested product's abilities to detect and protect against certain approaches to attacking systems rather than simply detecting malicious files that have become well-known over the previous few years. The results are an indicator of future performance rather than just a compliance check that the product can detect old attacks.

Some of the attacks, for example, are based on those perpetrated by Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) groups that have been active for more than 10 years. Their choice of targets, however, indicate that these groups are very much invested in developing new attack techniques. This is evident in the sheer variety of initial delivery techniques that the test has had to replicate.

Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack detected all of the threats on a basic level, in that for each attack it detected at least some element of the attack chain. However, it earned its 100% Detection Accuracy Rating for its ability to detect all the threats in depth, capturing details as each threat proceeded down the attack chain from the initial introduction to the system through to executing and subsequent behaviour by the attacker.

For example, it was given full marks for two incidents despite missing the introduction of external remote services. This was because the product quickly issued a warning when these remote services started to perform several malicious actions.

In another incident, it missed the lateral movement of a threat from the initial target to another vulnerable system. Again, however, **Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack** was able to detect the series of lateral actions that the DPRK-based threat attempted to execute.

As impressive as the product's performance was in terms of detecting threats, the most notable result of this test is the product's 96% Legitimate Accuracy Rating. That kind of result can pull down a 100% Threat Detection Rating because the response to warnings against false positives can be as taxing on scarce security resources as the mitigation of actual threats can be.

That's not a problem with the current version of **Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack**. Its excellent Total Accuracy Rating of 98% shows that its detection facility can distinguish between actual threats and benign objects. It deserves its AAA award for advanced security detection.

Appendices

Appendix A: Legitimate Interaction Ratings

It's crucial that security products not only detect threats but also correctly handle legitimate objects, such as files and URLs. Incorrectly labelling legitimate objects as being 'malware' or 'harmful' is a false positive (FP) result.

In reality, genuine FPs are quite rare in good testing, with good products. In our experience it is unusual for a legitimate application to be classified as 'malware'. More often it will be classified as 'unknown', 'suspicious' or 'unwanted' (or other terms that mean much the same thing).

Interaction Ratings

We use a subtle system to rate a product's approach to legitimate objects. This takes into account how it classifies them and how it presents that information.

Sometimes a product will pass the buck and demand that a user or administrator decide if something is safe or not. In such cases, the product may make a recommendation to allow or remove the object. In other cases the product will make no recommendation, which is possibly even less useful.

If a product reports that an application is safe, or doesn't recommend any action (such as to remove it), it has achieved an optimum result. Anything else is a Non-Optimal Classification/Action (NOCA).

A product may be configured with a policy to restrict certain objects according to the business' objectives. A recommendation to remove a legitimate application could be the correct result if it matches a policy. For example, a policy to refuse all Microsoft Office applications would recommend the removal of Microsoft Word. As long as the alert is clear that this is a policy decision and not a mistake then the product will not face a penalty.

For example, an acceptable alert would be: 'Word.exe is not permitted due to policy: NoMicrosoft', whereas an unacceptable alert would be: "Word.exe is a threat that should be removed (Trojan.XYZ)".

We think that measuring NOCAs is more useful than simply counting rarer FPs. The table below shows how we score different combinations of Classifications (the vertical axis) and Actions (the horizontal axis).

	Recommendation: None	Recommendation: Allow	Recommendation: Unclear	Recommendation: Remove	Action: Remove
Safe	2	1.5	1		
Unknown	2	1	0.5	0	-0.5
Not Classified	2	0.5	0	-0.5	-1
Suspicious	0.5	0	-0.5	-1	-1.5
Unwanted	0	-0.5	1	-1.5	-2
Malicious				2	-2

Legitimate Software Prevalence Rating Modifiers

Very High Impact	5
High Impact	4
Medium Impact	3
Low Impact	2
Very Low Impact	1

Prevalence Ratings

There is a significant difference between a product incorrectly alerting against a popular application like Microsoft Word and condemning a rare, obscure or

outdated application such as Internet Explorer 6. One is very popular all over the world and its detection as malware (or something less serious, but still suspicious) is a big deal.

Conversely, the outdated web browser has not been in general use for years and in many cases should not be used in a business environment. Detecting this application as malware may be wrong (an FP) but the mistake is less impactful.

With this mind, we collected objects of varying popularity and sorted them into five separate categories, as follows:

1. **Very High Impact**
2. **High Impact**
3. **Medium Impact**
4. **Low Impact**
5. **Very Low Impact**

Incorrectly labelling any legitimate object invokes penalties, but classifying Microsoft Word as malware, and recommending its removal without providing any context, will bring far greater penalties than doing the same for an ancient, unsupported web browser.

In order to calculate these relative penalties, we assign each impact category with a rating modifier, as shown in the table above.

Objects are obtained from original sources in most cases, avoiding third-party download sites. This is due to the risk of third parties modifying the legitimate objects and potentially adding problematic elements that could be a threat to an organisation. We remove adware and other less obviously legitimate objects from the test set.

We base the prevalence for each object on publicly available data sources.

Accuracy Ratings

We calculate legitimate interaction ratings by multiplying together the interaction and prevalence ratings for each object:

Accuracy Rating = Interaction Rating x Prevalence Rating

If a product inspected one legitimate, Medium Impact application and gave no alert or recommendation, its Accuracy Rating would be calculated like this:

Accuracy Rating = 2 x 3 = 6

If it labelled the object as 'suspicious' its rating would be calculated like this:

Accuracy Rating = 0.5 x 3 = 1.5

This same calculation is made for each legitimate object in the test and the results are summed and used to populate the graph and table shown under **5. Legitimate Accuracy Rating** in this report.

Distribution of Impact Categories

In this test there was a range of objects with different levels of prevalence. The table below shows the frequencies:

Legitimate Software Category Frequency

Prevalence Rating	Frequency
Very High Impact	32
High Impact	32
Medium Impact	17
Low Impact	12
Very Low Impact	7

Legitimate Interaction Rating

Product	None (allowed)	None (allowed)
Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack	100	100%

- **Products that do not bother users and classify most applications correctly earn more points than those that ask questions and condemn legitimate applications.**

Appendix B: Terms Used

Compromised The attack succeeded, resulting in malware running unhindered on the target. In the case of a targeted attack, the attacker was able to take remote control of the system and carry out a variety of tasks without hindrance.

Blocked The attack was prevented from making any changes to the target.

False Positive When a security product misclassifies a legitimate application or website as being malicious, it generates a 'false positive'.

Neutralised The exploit or malware payload ran on the target but was subsequently removed.

Complete Remediation If a security product removes all significant traces of an attack, it has achieved complete remediation.

Target The test system that is protected by a security product.

Threat A program or sequence of interactions with the target that is designed to take some level of unauthorised control of that target.

Update Security vendors provide information to their products in an effort to keep abreast of the latest threats. These updates may be downloaded in bulk as one or more files or requested individually and live over the internet.

Appendix C: FAQs

Q What is a partner organisation? Can I become one to gain access to the threat data used in your tests?

A Partner organisations benefit from our consultancy services after a test has been run. Partners may gain access to low-level data that can be useful in product improvement initiatives and have permission to use award logos, where appropriate, for marketing purposes. We do not share data on one partner with other partners. We do not partner with organisations that do not engage in our testing.

Q We are a customer considering buying or changing our endpoint protection and/ or endpoint detection and response (EDR) product. Can you help?

A Yes, we frequently run private testing for organisations that are considering changing their security products. Please contact us at **info@selabs.uk** for more information.

A **full methodology** for this test is available from our website.

- The test was conducted between 17th April and 15th May 2025.
- All products were configured according to each vendor's recommendations, when such recommendations were provided.
- Targeted attacks were selected and verified by SE Labs.
- Malicious emails, URLs, attachments and legitimate messages were independently located and verified by SE Labs.
- Malicious and legitimate data was provided to partner organisations once the test was complete.

Appendix D: Attack Details

Gamaredon Group

Incident No.	Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
1	**T1566.001** Spear phishing Attachment	**T1059.001** PowerShell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1534** Internal Spear phishing	**T1113** Screen Capture
		T1059.005 Visual Basic	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1547.001** Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder		**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1059.003 Windows Command Shell	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1565.003** Hidden Windows		**T1105** Data from Local System
		T1204.002 Malicious File	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1562.001** Disable or Modify Tools		**T1041** Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
		T1568 Dynamic Resolution	**T1047** Windows Management Instrumentation				
		T1027.010 Command Obfuscation					
2	**T1566.001** Spear phishing Attachment	**T1059.001** PowerShell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1036.005 Match Legitimate** Name or Location	**T1105** Ingress Tool Transfer	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1059.003 Windows Command Shell	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1112** Modify Registry		**T1105** Data from Local System
		T204.001 Malicious Link	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1053.005** Scheduled Task		**T1039** Data from Network Shared Drive
		T1047 Windows Management Instrumentation	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1027.004** Compile After Delivery		**T1041** Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
		T1559.001 Component Object Model	**T1016.001** Internet Connection Discovery		**T1218.005** Mshta		**T1491.001** Internal Defacement
					T1106 Native API		
3	**T1566.001** Spear phishing Attachment	**T1027** Obfuscated Files or Information	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1218.011** Rundll32	**T1547.001** Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder	**T1021.005** VNC	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1071.001 Web Protocols	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1140** Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	**T1105** Ingress Tool Transfer	**T1105** Data from Local System
		T1102 Web Services	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1565.003** Hidden Windows		**T1020** Automated Exfiltration
		T1001 Data Obfuscation	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1562.001** Disable or Modify Tools		**T1491.001** Internal Defacement
		T1137 Office Application Startup	**T1016.001** Internet Connection Discovery		**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1561.001** Disk Content Wipe
		T1027.001 Binary Padding	**T1120** Peripheral Device Discovery				
		T1204.002 Malicious File					
4	**T1566.001** Spear phishing Attachment	**T1059.001** PowerShell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1547.001** Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder	**T1534** Internal Spear phishing	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1059.005 Visual Basic	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1140** Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information		**T1105** Data from Local System
		T1059.003 Windows Command Shell	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1565.003** Hidden Windows		**T1039** Data from Network Shared Drive
		T1568 Dynamic Resolution	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1562.001** Disable or Modify Tools		**T1025** Data from Removable Media
		T1568.001 Fast Flux DNS	**T1016.001** Internet Connection Discovery		**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1020** Automated Exfiltration
		T204.001 Malicious Link	**T1120** Peripheral Device Discovery		**T1036.005** Match Legitimate Name or Location		**T1041** Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
					T1112 Modify Registry		**T1561.001** Disk Content Wipe

Ember Bear

Incident No.	Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
5	**T1190** Exploit Public-Facing Application	**T1203** Exploitation for Client Execution	**T1654** Log Enumeration	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1550.002** Pass the Hash	**T1560** Archive Collected Data
		T1505.003 Web Shell	**T1046** Network Service Discovery		**T1562.001** Disable or Modify Tools	**T1570** Lateral Tool Transfer	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1078.001 Default Accounts	**T1018** Remote System Discovery		**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1005** Data from Local System
		T1095 Non-Application Layer Protocol	**T1059.001** PowerShell		**T1112** Modify Registry		**T1114** Email Collection
		T1571 Non-Standard Port			**T1003.001** LSASS Memory		**T1125** Video Capture
							T1567.002 Exfiltration to Cloud Storage
							T1561.002 Disk Structure Wipe
6	**T1133** External Remote Services	**T1505.003** Web Shell	**T1654** Log Enumeration	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1562.001** Disable or Modify Tools	**T1021** Remote Service	**T1560** Archive Collected Data
		T1078.001 Default Accounts	**T1046** Network Service Discovery		**T1070.004** File Deletion	**T1570** Lateral Tool Transfer	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1095 Non-Application Layer Protocol	**T1018** Remote System Discovery		**T1036.005** Match Legitimate Name or Location		**T1005** Data from Local System
		T1571 Non-Standard Port	**T1059.001** PowerShell		**T1003.004** LSA Secrets		**T1114** Email Collection
		T1572 Protocol Tunneling			**T1110.003** Password Spraying		**T1125** Video Capture
							T1567.002 Exfiltration to Cloud Storage
							T1561.002 Disk Structure Wipe
7	**T1195** Supply Chain Compromise	**T1078.001** Default Accounts	**T1654** Log Enumeration	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1036** Masquerading	**T1047** Windows Management Instrumental	**T1560** Archive Collected Data
		T1095 Non-Application Layer Protocol	**T1046** Network Service Discovery		**T1110** Brute Force	**T1570** Lateral Tool Transfer	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1571 Non-Standard Port	**T1018** Remote System Discovery		**T1003** OS Credential Dumping		**T1005** Data from Local System
		T1572 Protocol Tunneling	**T1059.001** PowerShell		**T1003.002** Security Account Manager		**T1114** Email Collection
		T1071.004 DNS					**T1125** Video Capture
							T1567.002 Exfiltration to Cloud Storage
							T1561.002 Disk Structure Wipe
8	**T1190** Exploit Public-Facing Application	**T1095** Non-Application Layer Protocol	**T1654** Log Enumeration	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1550.002** Pass the Hash	**T1560** Archive Collected Data
		T1571 Non-Standard Port	**T1046** Network Service Discovery		**T1562.001** Disable or Modify Tools	**T1570** Lateral Tool Transfer	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1572 Protocol Tunneling	**T1018** Remote System Discovery		**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1005** Data from Local System
		T1071.004 DNS	**T1059.001** PowerShell		**T1036** Masquerading		**T1114** Email Collection
		T1090.003 Multi-hop Proxy			**T1110** Brute Force		**T1125** Video Capture
					T1552.001 Credentials in Files		**T1567.002** Exfiltration to Cloud Storage
					T1003.004 LSA Secrets		**T1561.002** Disk Structure Wipe

Evasive Panda

Incident No.	Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
9	**T1189** Drive-by Compromise	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1016** System Network Configuration Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1112 Modify Registry**	**T1021.004** SSH	**T1140** Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information
		T204.001 Malicious Link	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1003.002** Security Account Manager		**T1056.001** Keylogging
		T1071.001 Web Protocols	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery		**T1036.003** Rename System Utilities		**T1560.002** Archive via Library
			T1070.004 File Deletion		**T1053.005** Scheduled Task		**T1119** Automated Collection
			T1057 Process Discovery		**T1012** Query Registry		**T1115** Clipboard Data
			T1518 Software Discovery		**T1555.004** Windows Credential Manager		
					T1106 Native API		
					T1087.001 Local Account		
10	**T1195.002** Compromise Software Supply Chain	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1016** System Network Configuration Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1555.004** Windows Credential Manager	**T1021.002** SMB/ Windows Admin Shares	**T1056.001** Keylogging
		T204.001 Malicious Link	**T1082** System Information Discovery	**T1218.011** Rundll32	**T1569.002** Service Execution		**T1560.002** Archive via Library
		T1071.001 Web Protocols	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery		**T1555.003** Credentials from Web Browsers		**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information	**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1539** Steal Web Session Cookie		**T1115** Clipboard Data
			T1057 Process Discovery		**T1562.004** Disable or Modify System Firewall		**T1123** Audio Capture
			T1033 System Owner/User Discovery		**T1036.005** Match Legitimate Name or Location		**T1025** Data from Removable Media
					T1087.001 Local Account		**T1074.001** Local Data Staging
					T1105 Ingress Tool Transfer		**T1114.001** Local Email Collection
11	**T1608.004** Drive-by Target	**T1095** Non-Application Layer Protocol	**T1016** System Network Configuration Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1112** Modify Registry	**T1021.004** SSH	**T1115** Clipboard Data
		T1569.002 Service Execution	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1003.002** Security Account Manager		**T1123** Audio Capture
		T1543.003 Windows Service	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery		**T1036.004** Masquerade Task or Service		**T1025** Data from Removable Media
		T1571 Non-Standard Port	**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1055.001** Dynamic-link Library Injection		**T1074.001** Local Data Staging
		T1059.001 PowerShell	**T1057** Process Discover		**T1620** Reflective Code Loading		**T1114.001** Local Email Collection
		T1027.009 Embedded Payloads			**T1053.005** Scheduled Task		**T1113** Screen Capture
					T1087.001 Local Account		**T1041** Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
							T1005 Data from Local System
12	**T1189** Drive-by Compromise	**T204.001** Malicious Link	**T1016** System Network Configuration Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1021.002** SMB/ Windows Admin Shares	**T1140** Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information
	T1588.003 Code Signing Certificates	**T1571** Non-Standard Port	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1036.003** Rename System Utilities		**T1056.001** Keylogging
		T1572 Protocol Tunneling	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery		**T1218.011** Rundll32		**T1560.002** Archive via Library
		T1102 Web Service	**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1012** Query Registry		**T1119** Automated Collection
			T1057 Process Discovery		**T1555.004** Windows Credential Manager		**T1115** Clipboard Data
			T1049 System Network Connections Discovery		**T1562.004** Disable or Modify System Firewall		**T1123** Audio Capture
					T1569.002 Service Execution		**T1025** Data from Removable Media
					T1555.003 Credentials from Web Browsers		**T1074.001** Local Data Staging
					T1539 Steal Web Session Cookie		**T1114.001** Local Email Collection
							T1020 Automated Exfiltration
							T1567.002 Exfiltration to Cloud Storage

DPRK

Incident No.	Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
13	**T1133** External Remote Services	**T1059.003** Windows Command Shell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1053.005** Scheduled Task	**T1021.002** SMB/ Windows Admin Shares	**T1074.001** Local Data Staging
		T1036.005 Match Legitimate Name or Location	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1055.001** Dynamic-link Library Injection		**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1218.010 Regsvr32	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1555.003** Credentials from Web Browsers		**T1560** Archive Collected Data
		T1571 Non-Standard Port	**T1614** System Location Discovery		**T1564.001** Hidden Files and Directories		**T1030** Data Transfer Size Limits
		T1564.005 Hidden File System	T**1614.001** System Language Discovery		**T1564.003** Hidden Window		**T1041** Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
		T1564 Hide Artifacts	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1543.003** Windows Service		**T1485** Data Destruction
		T1027.002 Software Packing			**T1003.002** Security Account Manager		**T1486** Data Encrypted for Impact
		T1564.004 NTFS File Attributes			**T1055.012** Process Hollowing		**T1489** Service Stop
							T1490 Inhibit System Recovery
							T1491.001 Internal Defacement
14	**T1133** External Remote Services	**T1059.003** Windows Command Shell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	**T1548.002** Bypass User Account Control	**T1070.004** File Deletion	**T1080** Taint Shared Content	**T1074** Data Staged
		T1059.001 PowerShell	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1547.004** Winlogon Helper DLL	**T1072** Software Deployment Tools	**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1036.004 Masquerade Task or Service	**T1082** System Information Discovery		**T1055.001** Dynamic-link Library Injection		**T1560.001** Archive via Utility
		T1036.008 Masquerade File Type	**T1016** System Network Configuration Discovery		**T1562.002** Disable Windows Event Logging		**T1048.001** Exfiltration Over Symmetric Encrypted Non-C2 Protocol
		T1027.002 Software Packing	**T1007** System Service Discovery		**T1562.004** Disable or Modify System Firewall		**T1485** Data Destruction
		T1027.008 Stripped Payloads	**T1069** Permission Groups Discovery				**T1486** Data Encrypted for Impact
		T1071.001 Web Protocols					**T1489** Service Stop
		T1569.002 Service Execution					**T1490** Inhibit System Recovery
							T1491.001 Internal Defacement
15	**T1133** External Remote Services	**T1059.004** Unix Shell	**T1083** File and Directory Discovery	N/A	**T1070.001** Clear Windows Event Logs	**T1021.002** SMB/ Windows Admin Shares	**T1048.003** Exfiltration Over Unencrypted Non-C2 Protocol
		T1095 Non-Application Layer Protocol	**T1057** Process Discovery		**T1070.004** File Deletion		**T1074** Data Staged
		T1571 Non-Standard Port	**T1033** System Owner/User Discovery		**T1552.003** Bash History		**T1119** Automated Collection
		T1564.005 Hidden File System	**T1007** System Service Discovery		**T1562.006** Indicator Blocking		**T1020** Automated Exfiltration
		T1564 Hide Artifacts	**T1016.002** Wi-Fi Discovery				**T1048** Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol
		T1219 Remote Access Software	**T1069.002** Domain Groups				**T1485** Data Destruction
			T1069 Permission Groups Discovery				**T1486** Data Encrypted for Impact
			T1016.001 Internet Connection Discovery				**T1489** Service Stop
							T1490 Inhibit System Recovery
							T**1491.001** Internal Defacement
							T1490 Inhibit System Recovery
							T1491.001 Internal Defacement

Incident No.	Delivery	Execution	Action	Privilege Escalation	Post-Escalation	Lateral Movement	Lateral Action
16	T1133 External Remote Services	T1059.003 Windows Command Shell	T1083 File and Directory Discovery	T1546.012 Image File Execution Options Injection	T1562.002 Disable Windows Event Logging	T1570 Lateral Tool Transfer	T1074 Data Staged
		T1622 Debugger Evasion	T1057 Process Discovery	T1112 Modify Registry	T1562.004 Disable or Modify System Firewall	T1072 Software Deployment Tools	T1119 Automated Collection
		T1480 Execution Guardrails	T1497.001 System Checks		T1055.001 Dynamic-link Library Injection		T1560.001 Archive via Utility
		T1218.011 Rundll32	T1497 Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion		T1552.002 Credentials in Registry		T1030 Data Transfer Size Limits
		T1071.002 File Transfer Protocols	T1518.001 Security Software Discovery		T1003.002 Security Account Manager		T1048.002 Exfiltration Over Asymmetric Encrypted Non-C2 Protocol
			T1518 Software Discovery		T1003.001 LSASS Memory		T1485 Data Destruction
			T1016.002 Wi-Fi Discovery		T1003.004 LSA Secrets		T1486 Data Encrypted for Impact
					T1055.012 Process Hollowing		T1489 Service Stop
							T1490 Inhibit System Recovery
							T1491.001 Internal Defacement
17	T1133 External Remote Services	T1059.003 Windows Command Shell	T1083 File and Directory Discovery	T1546.012 Image File Execution Options Injection	T1564.001 Hidden Files and Directories	T1072 Software Deployment Tools	T1074 Data Staged
		T1059.001 PowerShell	T1057 Process Discovery		T1003.002 Security Account Manager		T1039 Data from Network Shared Drive
		T1218.007 Msiexec	T1033 System Owner/User Discovery		T1003.001 LSASS Memory		T1074.002 Remote Data Staging
		T1106 Native API	T1135 Network Share Discovery		T1003.004 LSA Secrets		T1560.003 Archive via Custom Method
		T1620 Reflective Code Loading	T1018 Remote System Discovery		T1003.005 Cached Domain Credentials		T1041 Exfiltration Over C2 Channel
		T1480.001 Environmental Keying	T1497.002 User Activity Based Checks		T1552.001 Credentials In Files		T1485 Data Destruction
			T1497.003 Time Based Evasion		T1555.003 Credentials from Web Browsers		T1486 Data Encrypted for Impact
			T1007 System Service Discovery		T1055.002 Portable Executable Injection		T1489 Service Stop
			T1016.001 Internet Connection Discovery		T1037.001 Logon Script (Windows)		T1490 Inhibit System Recovery
			T1069.002 Domain Groups		T1564.003 Hidden Window		T1491.001 Internal Defacement
			T1482 Domain Trust Discovery				
			T1069.001 Local Group				

Appendix E: Product Version

The table below shows the service's name as it was being marketed at the time of the test.

Vendor	Product	Build Version (start)	Build Version (end)
Acronis	Cyber Protect Cloud with Advanced Security + XDR Pack	25.03	25.03

SE LABS

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