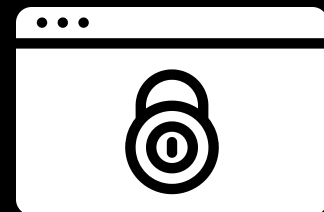


Stages of Malware Lifecycle



Understanding different stages of malware lifecycle can help in developing knowledge to combat these attacks.

Stage 1

Reconnaissance

Identifying potential targets & choosing the attack weapon such as a zero-day exploit, a spear-phishing campaign, bribing an employee, etc.

Stage 2

Initial Compromise

Bypassing perimeter defense & gaining access to the internal network through a compromised system or user account.

Stage 3

Command & Control

The compromised device is then used as a beachhead into an organization by installing a remote-access Trojan for remote access on it.

Stage 4

Lateral Movement

Once the attacker has established a connection to the internal network, he seeks to compromise additional systems and user accounts.

Stage 5

Target Attainment

At this stage, the attacker typically has multiple remote access entry points and may have compromised hundreds of internal systems & user accounts.

Stage 6

Exfiltration, Corruption, & Disruption

The attacker executes the final aspects of the mission; stealing intellectual property or other sensitive data, corrupting mission critical systems, & disrupting the business operations.

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