

Brief

The Underground Economist: Volume 5, Issue 13

B-2025-07-04a

Classification: TLP:CLEAR

Criticality: LOW

Intelligence Requirements: Deep and Dark Web, Threat Actor,

Ransomware

July 4, 2025

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ZeroFox Intelligence is derived from a variety of sources, including—but not limited to—curated open-source accesses, vetted social media, proprietary data sources, and direct access to threat actors and groups through covert communication channels. Information relied upon to complete any report cannot always be independently verified. As such, ZeroFox applies rigorous analytic standards and tradecraft in accordance with best practices and includes caveat language and source citations to clearly identify the veracity of our Intelligence reporting and substantiate our assessments and recommendations. All sources used in this particular Intelligence product were identified prior to 7:00 AM (EDT) on July 4, 2025; per cyber hygiene best practices, caution is advised when clicking on any third-party links.

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Alleged Bitpanda Breach Advertised in XSS

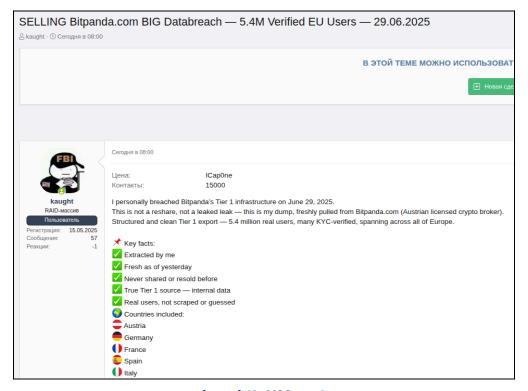
On June 30, 2025, actor "kaught" posted in the Russian-speaking dark web forum XSS, claiming to have breached the networks of cryptocurrency provider BitPanda, allegedly stealing data associated with approximately 5.4 million European Union (EU)-based users.

Kaught stated the breach occurred on June 29, 2025, assuring prospective buyers that the data is new and relevant. The advertised asking price is USD 15,000—approximately consistent with the volume and nature of exposed user data. The actor also shared 200 sample records that confirm the presence of the following exposed data fields:

- Country and country code
- First and last name
- Verified phone number
- Username and password hash
- Two factor authentication (2FA)
- Date of birth
- Address, city, and zipcode
- IP address
- Wallet address
- Know your customer (KYC) status—to confirm if users have verified their identity with a financial institution, which likely involves income verification

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kaught's XSS post

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence



kaught's XSS post continued

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

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Kaught recently registered on XSS on May 15, 2025 and has already received a notable negative reputation from other forum users. While this negative scoring does not solely determine the legitimacy of the actor or the breach, it likely indicates that prospective buyers and forum users will consider the actor's reputation before engaging with this sale. The credibility of kaught's claim remains uncertain as of the writing of this report. Though the provision of data samples increases the likely legitimacy, BitPanda has reportedly stated that "these (kaught's) claims are false."

New RaaS Platform "GLOBAL" Announced on Dark Web Forum

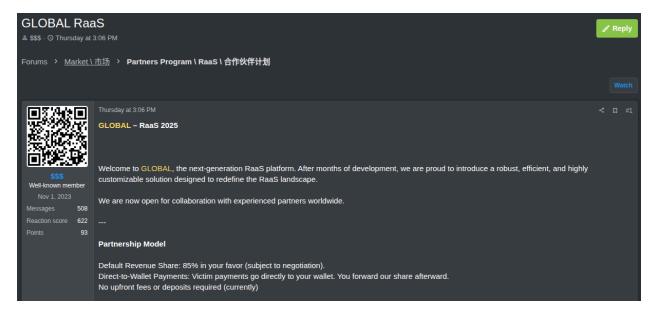
On June 26, 2025, actor "\$\$\$" posted on the predominantly Russian-speaking dark web forum Russian Anonymous Marketplace (RAMP), announcing the launch of a new ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) platform coined "GLOBAL" and inviting prospective affiliates to join the project.

- ZeroFox has observed that actor \$\$\$ advertised two other RaaS projects on RAMP: "Mamona RIP" in March 2025 and "BlackLock" in March 2024. ZeroFox has not observed any victims uploaded to the victim leak site of Mamona RIP since its launch in March 2025.
- There have been at least 52 ransomware and digital extortion (R&DE) BlackLock incidents since September 2024. North America was the most targeted region, accounting for 66% of all incidents; technology was the most targeted industry, accounting for 20% of all incidents.
- The provision of BlackLock has very likely garnered actor \$\$\$ a reputation as a credible RaaS provider, and it is likely that their advertisement of GLOBAL will gain traction among potential ransomware affiliates.

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hXXps://cybernews[.]com/crypto/bitpanda-data-breach/





\$\$\$'s RAMP post

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

Many of the features and structures outlined in the advertisement are very likely to appeal to potential ransomware affiliates. GLOBAL reportedly features a default profit sharing ratio of 85:15—a ratio that favors the affiliate slightly more than many other RaaS operations, some of which pay as low as 70 percent. Additionally, according to actor \$\$\$, following a successful compromise, GLOBAL pays affiliates first, with core operators being paid afterward. This is contrary to the majority of RaaS operations, wherein core operators receive prior payment—often leading to trust issues and enabling opportunistic exit scam—type activity. Lastly, also likely to garner affiliate interest, GLOBAL reportedly has no entry fees or deposit requirements.

As well as containing many of the usual features offered by modern ransomware strains, such as advanced Command and Control (C2) capabilities, panel customization, and lateral movement, GLOBAL is also said to have an Al-assisted chatbot. While the specific features and intent of this are not outlined, actor \$\$\$ claimed that it can assist in "dynamic and realistic communication" while analyzing victim data.

ZeroFox has not observed this feature being offered by RaaS platforms before.
 Potential affiliates will very likely perceive it as novel, though its effectiveness in conducting negotiation and extortion cannot be determined.

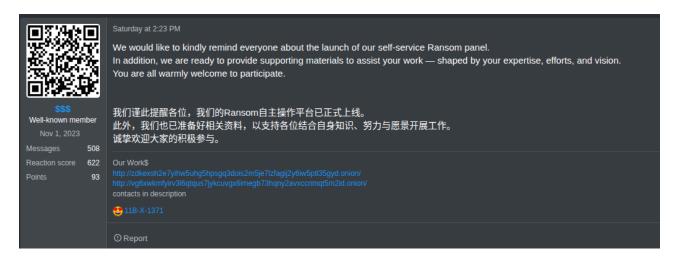


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According to the post, GLOBAL affiliates are not permitted to target entities located within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)—a restriction fairly typical of Russian-speaking digital extortion collectives. A further restriction is placed upon the targeting of critical infrastructure and non-profit organizations, which very likely reflects the collective's intent to reduce exposure to media publicity and law enforcement operations.

On June 28, 2025, actor \$\$\$ updated the thread to remind interested parties about the launch of their "self-service Ransom panel." Notably, the post was duplicated in Chinese rather than Russian—almost certainly reflecting an attempt to garner interest from the growing Chinese-speaking presence within deep and dark web (DDW) marketplaces.



\$\$\$'s updated RAMP post

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

Zero-Day Vulnerability with Access to "Any Website" Advertised

On June 22, 2025, the actor "vnm" posted on XSS, claiming to have discovered a zero-day vulnerability which allows them to retrieve valid login credentials for "any website," including those associated with both public and private entities. The actor detailed that the service does not involve the targeting of any individual account. Instead, all logins found that are associated with a given platform can be provided to the buyer. The service was advertised at a price of USD 100 per set of credentials retrieved, with the use of XSS escrow services also offered.

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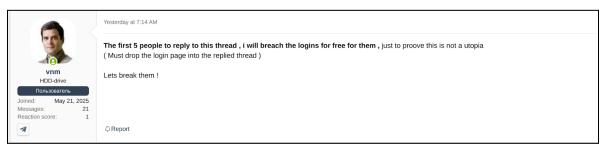


vnm's XSS advertisement

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

In response to some skeptical XSS users, vnm stated that the first five forum members to respond will receive a free trial, whereby they may request valid login credentials from a specific platform, which will reportedly be delivered within 24 hours. ZeroFox observed several users expressing interest in this offering. While the results were not publicly observable, vnm admitted failure in one instance, stating that they could not retrieve credentials for a localhost/auth/login[.]php page. The actor also conceded that multi-factor authentication (MFA) implemented within victim platforms had hindered the service.

 In a separate XSS post observed by ZeroFox, vnm stated that they are seeking collaborators who can assist in bypassing MFA protocols.



vnm offers a free trial of its service

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence



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Though actor vnm claimed to be in possession of an unspecified web zero-day vulnerability, this is very unlikely to be the case. Any such vulnerability is very unlikely to facilitate the compromise of login platforms indiscriminately, considering that they are based on different frameworks and leverage different authentication protocols. Even upon initial compromise, any extracted passwords are unlikely to be cleartext, requiring successful decryption before use. Furthermore, buyers would be met with an array of MFA challenges for which vnm provides no solution, rendering the services significantly less useful for subsequent malicious exploitation.

There is a more likely chance that vnm possesses a large quantity of unknown login pairs parsed from various stealer logs—which are tested against the platforms requested by buyers. The likely exaggerations in vnm's advertisement coincide with its lack of a significant reputation within the XSS forum, which is very likely to deter potential buyers.

Nova RaaS Partnership Program

On June 21, 2025, an actor using the alias "Nova" posted on RAMP, advertising their recently-emerged RaaS platform named "(Partners program) Nova RaaS," which claims to be a full-service platform with features designed to support prospective digital extortion affiliates. Lifetime access to the program is offered for USD 800. The program reportedly offers features and services such as a customised chat system for secure negotiation communication and payment locker services between affiliates and victims. Other features specified include:

- Lockers for Linux, Windows, and VMware ESXi (available upon request)
- Control panel to organize attacks, view affiliate statistics, and open support tickets
- Ability to post on Nova's blog and an option for assistance with creating blog posts for double extortion to blackmail victims
- Revenue split of 90 percent to the affiliate and 10 percent to Nova
- 24/7 support
- Assistance with and guidance on attacks
- Anti-detection and anti-analysis features for all lockers

Nova ransomware was first observed by ZeroFox in April 2025, and since then, it has uploaded at least 13 different entities to its victim leak site. Victims appear to have been from different industries, though Nova seems to target Europe-based organizations



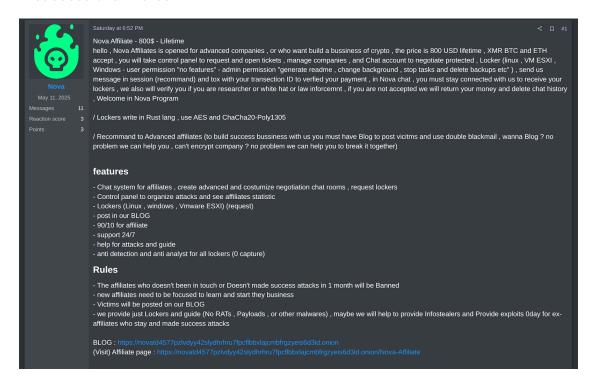
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disproportionately highly. Its recent advertisement likely reflects a renewed effort to advertise the programme and attract new affiliates.

According to Nova, unlike the majority of other RaaS platforms, new affiliates will be subject to a verification process conducted to ensure that the buyer is not a security or white hat researcher or from law enforcement. Nova claims that any rejected buyers will have their payment refunded and activity history deleted. The following further rules are specified for verified affiliates:

- Affiliates who do not maintain contact or fail to conduct successful attacks within one month will be banned.
- New affiliates are expected to focus on learning and building their business.
- Victim details will be posted on the group's blog.
- The group provides only lockers and guidance, rather than Remote Access Trojans (RATs), payloads, or other malware.
- However, the group may offer infostealers or zero-day exploits to long-term and successful affiliates.



Nova's RAMP post

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

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Recommendations

- Develop a comprehensive incident response strategy.
- Deploy a holistic patch management process, and ensure all IT assets are patched with the latest software updates as quickly as possible.
- Adopt a Zero-Trust cybersecurity architecture based upon a principle of least privilege.
- Implement network segmentation to separate resources by sensitivity and/or function.
- Ensure critical, proprietary, or sensitive data is always backed up to secure,
 off-site, or cloud servers at least once per year—and ideally more frequently.
- Implement secure password policies, phishing-resistant MFA, and unique credentials.
- Configure email servers to block emails with malicious indicators, and deploy authentication protocols to prevent spoofed emails.
- Proactively monitor for compromised accounts and credentials being brokered in DDW forums.
- Leverage cyber threat intelligence to inform the detection of relevant cyber threats and associated tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs).



| Appendix A: Traffic Light Protocol for Information Dissemination

Red

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

Sources may use

TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon by additional parties and could lead to impacts on a party's privacy, reputation, or operations if misused.

HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?

Recipients may NOT share

TLP:RED with any parties outside of the specific exchange, meeting, or conversation in which it is originally disclosed.

Amber

Sources may use

TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon but carries risks to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.

Recipients may ONLY share

TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization and its clients, but only on a need-to-know basis to protect their organization and its clients and prevent further harm.

Note that

TLP:AMBER+STRICT

restricts sharing to the organization only.

Green

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

Sources may use

TLP:GREEN when information is useful for the awareness of all participating organizations, as well as with peers within the broader community or sector.

HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?

Recipients may share

TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their sector or community but not via publicly accessible channels.

Clear

Sources may use

TLP:CLEAR when information carries minimal or no risk of misuse in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.

Recipients may share

TLP:CLEAR information without restriction, subject to copyright controls.

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Appendix B: ZeroFox Intelligence Probability Scale

All ZeroFox intelligence products leverage probabilistic assessment language in analytic judgments. Qualitative statements used in these judgments refer to associated probability ranges, which state the likelihood of occurrence of an event or development. Ranges are used to avoid a false impression of accuracy. This scale is a standard that aligns with how readers should interpret such terms.

Almost No Chance	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Roughly Even Chance	Likely	Very Likely	Almost Certain
1-5%	5-20%	20-45%	45-55%	55-80%	80-95%	95-99%