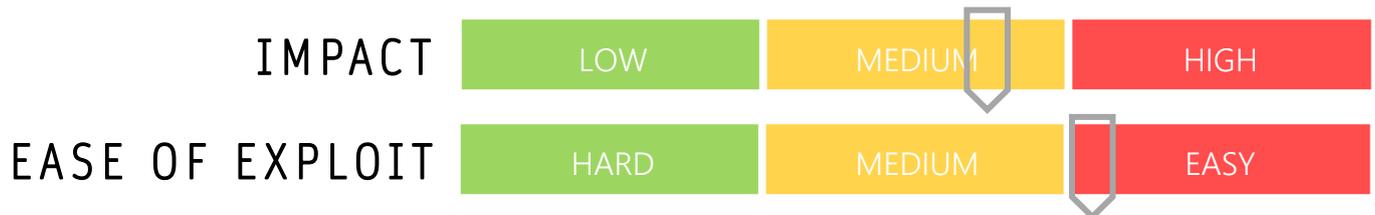


CYBER GUIDANCE ISSUE 00085

MALICIOUS BROWSER EXTENSIONS

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OVERVIEW

Extensions for popular web browser software Google Chrome and Microsoft edge have been discovered to perform malicious activities when installed by users

BREAKDOWN

Of the 28 recently discovered malicious extensions, 15 effect Google Chrome and 13 effect Microsoft Edge web browser software. Activities observed include redirecting users to ads or phishing sites, collection of browsing history and other personal information as well as downloading malware onto user’s devices. Popular add ons include Video Downloader for Facebook, Vimeo Video Downloader, Instagram Story Download, and VK Downloader. A full list can be viewed in the resources provided below. 3 million users are known to have downloaded the malicious extensions and many of them are still available for download.

REMEDIATION STEPS

- Only download extensions with permission from your organisation
- Only trust extension from known, reputable sources, those related to social media should be treated with extreme caution
- Monitor system and network behaviour for suspicious activity and outbound requests

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Threatpost: <https://threatpost.com/3m-users-malicious-facebook-insta-browser-add-ons/162350/>
ZDNet: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/three-million-users-installed-28-malicious-chrome-or-edge-extensions/>