



No.E&A(Agri)6-334/2022
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Ko-1706
15-09-2022

Dated Lahore, the 05th September, 2022

To

1. The Director General Agriculture (Ext. & A.R.), Punjab, Lahore.
2. The Director General Agriculture (Field) Punjab, Lahore.
3. The Chief Scientist Agriculture (Research), Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad.
4. The Director General Agriculture (WM), Punjab, Lahore.
5. The Director General, PW & QC of Pesticides, Punjab, Lahore.
6. The Director General, Soil Survey of Punjab, Multan Road, Lahore.
7. The Director of Agricultural Information, Punjab, Lahore.
8. The Director of Agriculture, Crop Reporting Service, Punjab, Lahore.
9. The Chief, P&E Cell, Agriculture Department, Lahore.
10. The Chief (WTO), Agriculture Department, Davis Road, Lahore.
11. The Director of Agriculture (E&M), Punjab, Lahore.
12. The Chief Coordinator, RAEDC, Vehari.
13. The Director of Floriculture (T&R), Punjab, Lahore.
14. The Director, Punjab Institute of Agriculture Marketing (PIAM), Lahore.
15. The Managing Director, Punjab Seed Corporation, Lahore.
16. The Registrar, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.
17. The Chief Executive, Punjab Agricultural Research Board, Lahore.
18. The Registrar, Arid University of Agriculture, Rawalpindi.
19. The Director, Agriculture Marketing Development Fund, Lahore.
20. The Registrar, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan.
21. The Chief Technical Advisor, Agriculture Delivery Unit (ADU), Lahore.
22. The Secretary Agriculture Commission, Lahore.
23. The Chief, Sugarcane Research & Development Board, Faisalabad

Subject:- **CYBER SECURITY ADVISORY – PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST HERMIT SPYWARE (ADVISORY NO.30)**

I am directed to refer to the subject noted above and enclose herewith a copy of letter No.SO(FG-I)3-72/2021 (Vol-I), dated 04.08.2022 alongwith its enclosure received from Section Officer (FG-I), Government of the Punjab, S&GAD is forwarded for information and further necessary action.


SECTION OFFICER (GENERAL)
Ph. No.99210505

C.C.

1. PA to Additional Secretary (Admn), Agriculture Department.
2. PA to Deputy Secretary (Admn), Agriculture Department.

*Please circulate to
Director IT
AR (Acad)*
10/09/22
Sady
16/09
Dir (HR)

2021(V-1)

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
CABINET SECRETARIAT
CABINET DIVISION
(NTISB)

No. 1-5/2003 (NTISB-II)

Islamabad 27 July, 2022

Subject: - Cyber Security Advisory – Protective Measures against Hermit Spyware (Advisory No. 30)

1797
03-08-22

1. Context. An Android / iOS family spyware "Hermit" has recently been identified. Reportedly, the spyware is developed by RCE Lab, Italy. Hermit spyware has been used by government of Italy, Kazakhstan and Syria to target their opposition, business executives, human rights activists, academics and government officials. Use of Hermit by HIAs against own civil / military leadership, other critical government appointment holders and business executives etc cannot be ruled out. Modus operandi and protection measures against Hermit have been elaborated in ensuing paras.

2. Modus Operandi

a. Installation Process. Hermit spyware is installed in victim's mobile with the help of an insider of an ISP through push message notification. In this type of tactic, victim's mobile network is disappeared and a message from authentic ISP is sent to victim's mobile number to regain network access. As the victim's network disappears, therefore, victim is left with no option other than to open the malicious link to restore his / her network connectivity; and clicking on this malicious link installs Hermit spyware. After installation, Hermit extracts user's personal data and uploads to its C&C servers.

2368

b. Use of App Masquerading Technique. App masquerading technique for popular apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram may also be used to compromise the targeted users.

3. Features – Hermit Spyware

- a. Hermit is as sophisticated as Pegasus spyware developed by NSO and Gamma Group. It can attack target and covertly performs set of actions such as infiltrate in victims' device, monitor & capture data and send stolen data to its C&C server.
- b. Hermit remains undetected by an anti-malware solution as it masks various legitimate certificates from Android and iOS trusted platforms.
- c. Hermit requires user's action to complete its installation. Without user's action, the spyware is unable to extract personal data.

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2 AUG 2022

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IG Section, SS AD
Diary No. 1466
Dated 4/8/22

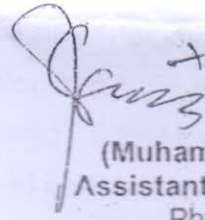
DFA
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4. **Recommendations.** With sophisticated data collection capabilities of Hermit and the fact that mobile devices are carried all the time, therefore, it is obvious that mobile devices are perfect target for surveillance. Following are few recommended measures to safeguard against the spyware: -

- a. **Update your Phone and Applications.** Operating systems and apps often have vulnerabilities that need to be patched. Always update operating system and apps to ensure that exploits are resolved.
- b. **Don't Click on Unknown Links.** One of the most common way for an attacker to deliver malware is by sending a message pretending to be a legitimate source. Don't click on links, especially when the source is unknown.
- c. **Don't Install Unknown Applications.** Exercise caution when installing unknown apps, even if the source of app seems legitimate.
- d. **Periodically Review your Applications.** Sometimes malware can change settings or install additional content to mobile phone. Always check mobile phone periodically to ensure that nothing unknown has been added.

5. For any query or reporting malware, please forward the same on following email addresses: -

- a. eagle1978@mail.com
- b. falcon098@writeme.com
- c. asntisb2@cabinet.gov.pk



(Muhammad Usman Tariq)
Assistant Secretary-II (NTISB)
Ph# 051-9204560

All Secretaries of Ministries / Divisions of Federal Government and Chief Secretaries of Provincial Governments.

Copy to: -

1. Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Secretariat, Islamabad
2. Secretary to the President, Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad
3. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division, Islamabad
4. Additional Secretary-III, Cabinet Division, Islamabad
5. Director General (Tech), Dte Gen, ISI Islamabad
6. Director (IT), Cabinet Division, Islamabad