

Turning online streaming services against users for malicious purposes is the new hack game



Malicious actors are throwing a twist to an old saying that 'Nothing comes for free' by scamming people into giving away their funds and personal data during this COVID-19 outbreak. They have devised many unique tactics to dupe users with items or offers that actually does not exist.

While fake PPE, and vaccines for Coronavirus as lures are giving a boost to malicious actors' phishing intents, online media have now become a new hotbed for cybercrime during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What's happening?

With lockdown still in place in many parts of the world, attackers are paying attention to the increase in the use of online streaming services and torrent downloads in a bid to capitalize themselves.

According to Mimecast, threat actors registered over 700 domains impersonating the Netflix and Disney+ brands. The sole purpose of these websites was to steal users' login credentials.

Malicious actors took advantage of pirate streaming services and movie piracy sites during the COVID-19 pandemic to infect users. In one such campaign observed, threat actors, inserted a malicious VBScript in ZIP files meant for movie downloads.

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Avast reported a scam wherein malicious actors had set up a phony website that hyped about an eBook named 'Pandemic Survival'. The website was tied to several well-known media brands including, CNN, People Magazine and CNBC to dupe as many people as possible.

How to address it?

Users should be vigilant about the phony websites that pretend to be streaming services or other well-known online media brands.

They should check the spellings of the URL before clicking on them.

Users should not be lured away by free subscriptions and offers which ultimately can lead to both personal and financial loss.

References:

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