SUPPLY-CHAIN ATTACKS

A technique used by attackers to breach one computer and then use it to compromise another is known as pivoting in the field of cybersecurity. The similar concept underlies supply chain attacks, which utilize businesses as opposed to solitary computers.

Assume, for instance, that you are attempting to steal confidential documents from a defense contractor: As required by their contract with the government, the defense contractor most likely has strong security. You do, however, know that the contractor makes use of a piece of commercial software created by a different business that has less robust security. You might introduce malware that gives you a backdoor into the computers it is installed on into the software that the software firm develops by compromising them. You now have access to the defense contractor's machines when they release their upcoming software upgrade.

Practical Examples: Target and SolarWinds

Supply chain assaults have been used in numerous significant breaches. A significant data breach involving Target, a store, happened in 2013, potentially affecting 110 million customers. Using credentials taken from an HVAC company that had done business with Target, the attackers initially got access to Target's network. To monitor Target's HVAC and refrigeration systems, the HVAC company needed access to Target's network, and the attackers were able to utilize this access to penetrate Target's network.

The SolarWinds breach in December 2020 is another, more recent example. A cybersecurity firm called Solarwinds offers software to numerous other businesses, including local and national governments. By hacking into SolarWinds' network, attackers were able to introduce malware into their products, which was then distributed to customers via software updates. The attackers were able to access numerous organizations, including Fortune 500 firms and government agencies, by infiltrating one.

Supply chain attacks highlight how a single weak link in security can have far-reaching implications.