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CYBER CENTER

Cyber Alert

TLP:WHITE

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NTIC CYBER CENTER ALERT

Cyber Threat Actors Exploit Open Redirect Vulnerabilities on Government Websites

NTIC Cyber Center members,

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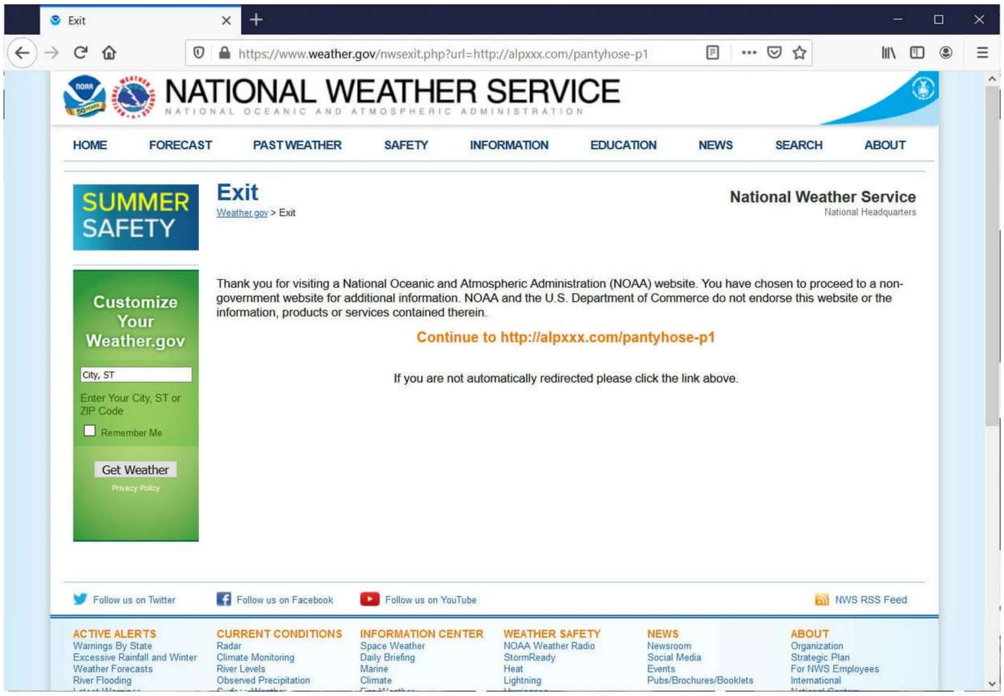
SUMMARY

Unknown threat actors are currently leveraging open redirect vulnerabilities present on various government websites to send unsuspecting victims to websites featuring adult content. Open redirect vulnerabilities are weaknesses or misconfigurations in web applications that allow for unvalidated redirects or forwards. These threat actors use search engine optimization (SEO) tactics to make their malicious open redirects appear on search engine listings, making it appear as though adult content is hosted on government websites. While government system administrators have been removing malicious open redirects, threat actors have continued to generate new ones. Exploited government domains include those associated with the National Weather Service, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Colorado Department of Higher

Education.



Exit

Weather.gov > Exit

National Weather Service
National Headquarters

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If you are not automatically redirected please click the link above.

(screenshot of open redirect exploitation - image source: BleepingComputer)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The NTIC Cyber Center recommends website administrators review the Bleeping Computer article here for more information about this campaign. We also recommend reviewing the NTIC Cyber Center's Cyber Advisory titled Open Redirect Vulnerabilities Facilitate Malicious Cyber Activity for more information about this type of attack and recommended mitigation strategies. As open redirect vulnerabilities can be used to conduct phishing attacks as well as distribute malware to victims, we recommend website administrators identify and mitigate any open redirect vulnerabilities present on their websites as soon as possible.

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