

THREAT BULLETIN

## AR20241016-33 Maryland Residents Receiving Smishing Messages Impersonating MDOT EZ-Pass



**DESCRIPTION** 

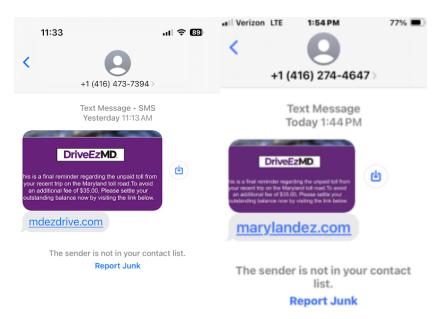
Maryland Residents Receiving Smishing Messages Impersonating MDOT EZ-Pass

**TLP:CLEAR** = Recipients can spread this to the world, there is no limit on disclosure

## **Summary**

Multiple Maryland residents have reported receiving SMS phishing (smishing) messages claiming to be the Maryland Department of Transportation - Maryland Transportation Authority informing them that they must complete payment for an unpaid toll before they are charged an additional fee. The links in the message are typosquats or look-alike domains that aim to harvest information and/or credentials from victims.

This activity follows a trend present in many other states, which all report high levels of toll related smishing messages.



Sample smishing messages recieved by Maryland residents

The MD-ISAC advises all Maryland residents to complete all toll payments through the official payment links found at https://mdta.maryland.gov/ and to report any suspicious messages to the MD-SOC at mdsoc@maryland.gov or (410) 697-9700 - option #5.

## **Incident Response**

If administrators discover signs of attack or system compromise, the MD-ISAC recommends they:

- Consider soliciting support from a third-party incident response organization to provide subject matter expertise, ensure the actor is eradicated from the network, and avoid residual issues that could enable follow-on exploitation.
- Report incidents to MD-ISAC via Maryland's 24/7 Operations Center (mdsoc@maryland.gov or (410) 697-9700 option #5)

## **Reporting and Contact Information**

In the event of a cybersecurity incident related to information found in this threat bulletin, Md. Code, Public Safety Article § 14-104.1 (c)(2) and Md. Code, State Finance & Procurement Article § 3.5-406(b)(2)) mandate that you report this via the Maryland Incident Reporting System. It is also recommended that you submit any shareable cyber threat intelligence to the MD-ISAC via the MD-ISAC Threat Intelligence Platform (TIP).

**TLP:CLEAR** = Recipients can spread this to the world, there is no limit on disclosure. Sources may use TLP:CLEAR when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release. Subject to standard copyright rules, TLP:CLEAR information may be shared without restriction.

For more information about Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) definitions and usage: https://www.cisa.gov/tlp