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Pacho_LV - August 31, 2025, 5:22 pm

Hello everyone!

This is my first contribution to the forum so I wanted to make something useful for beginners and members who are still building their understanding. Today I am going to explain the role of a loader in relation to RATs and why I personally think they are an essential part of a proper setup.

What is a Loader

A loader is a program used to deliver and execute another piece of software on a target machine. In the context of RATs it acts as a first stage that prepares the ground and then places the actual RAT where it belongs. Think of it as a delivery system that ensures the main payload is deployed in the right way.

Why Loaders Are Used

Loaders are not just about dropping files. They provide important benefits that can make the difference between short term access and long term stability. Some of the main reasons are:

- Code • They handle execution with higher reliability
- They allow staged deployment instead of exposing the RAT directly
- They help bypass some protections by blending with normal activity
- They can include persistence and update features

Typical Loader Functions

Although loaders come in many forms there are common functions that most share.

- Code • Downloading and executing files from a remote server
- Running code directly in memory without leaving clear traces
- Establishing persistence so the payload survives a reboot
- Checking environment conditions before execution
- Updating or replacing the RAT with a new version

How Loaders Fit Into RAT Chains

The usual order is that the loader is delivered first through phishing, social engineering, or another vector. Once it runs it pulls the RAT from a remote location or unpacks it from inside itself. This two step process is important because it reduces exposure. If the initial file is examined it may not directly reveal the RAT.

Advantages Over Direct Deployment

Some people might ask why not simply drop the RAT itself. The answer is that direct deployment often causes problems. A loader allows more flexibility and lowers the chance of immediate

detection. It is also easier to maintain large operations because the loader can manage multiple updates without sending a brand new file every time.

Stability and Control

From my experience stability is one of the biggest reasons to use loaders. They can reconnect if something goes wrong, retry downloads, and keep the RAT presence consistent. Control is also improved since you can roll out changes across many machines by only updating the loader side.

Closing

This was a simple introduction to loaders and how they connect to RAT usage. The goal of this post is to explain the concept so that members new to the topic understand why loaders are so widely used. Personally I would never recommend running a RAT without a loader since the extra layer of reliability and flexibility is too valuable to ignore.

Thanks for reading and I hope this helps start a discussion. Feel free to share your thoughts or additional points below. This is only my first post and I am planning to share more guides in the future.