

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Security Command Center

TLP:CLEAR

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# ShinyHunters Claims 350GB Haul from European Commission AWS Breach, SSO and Cloud Exposure Pattern Continues

DATA BREACH | HIGH | CVSS 9.5

SCC Item ID	SCC-DBR-2026-0070
Type	Data Breach
Severity	HIGH
CVSS Base Score	9.5
Affected Products	European Commission Europa.eu cloud infrastructure (AWS-hosted); Okta SSO, Microsoft SSO, Google SSO integrations
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Discovery Source	Rss

## Executive Summary

ShinyHunters has claimed responsibility for a breach of the European Commission's Europa.eu cloud infrastructure hosted on AWS, alleging theft of 350GB of data including mail server contents, databases, and confidential documents. The Commission has confirmed the breach but states internal systems were not directly affected; cloud-hosted assets such as mail and databases typically contain operationally sensitive information. This incident follows a prior February 2026 breach of the same organization and signals that intergovernmental cloud tenants are active targets for data extortion; organizations sharing SSO integrations (Okta, Microsoft, Google) with the affected environment face elevated credential and token exposure risk.

## Technical Analysis

The breach targeted the European Commission's AWS-hosted cloud environment, with ShinyHunters claiming exfiltration of approximately 350GB encompassing mail server data, databases, and confidential documents. No CVE is assigned; the attack surface maps to CWE-287 (Improper Authentication), CWE-306 (Missing Authentication for Critical Function), and CWE-200 (Exposure of Sensitive Information). Named SSO providers, Okta, Microsoft Entra ID, and Google Workspace, appear in the exposure context, suggesting initial access likely involved credential theft, session token hijacking (T1539), or phishing for cloud credentials (T1566, T1598) against federated identity providers rather than direct AWS infrastructure exploitation. Relevant ATT&CK techniques include Valid Accounts: Cloud Accounts (T1078.004), Data from Cloud Storage (T1530), Email

Collection (T1114), Automated Exfiltration (T1020), Exfiltration Over Web Service (T1567), and Financial Motivated Extortion (T1657). ShinyHunters demonstrates a documented pattern, reported across threat intelligence platforms, of targeting SSO-federated cloud tenants; this is consistent with their prior Snowflake-adjacent campaign methodology. No patch is applicable; this is an authentication control and cloud configuration failure, not a software vulnerability. Patch status: N/A; remediation requires access control hardening and identity hygiene.

## Action Checklist

- 1. Recommended:** Audit all active Okta, Microsoft Entra ID, and Google Workspace sessions for anomalous cloud API access; revoke suspicious OAuth tokens and active SSO sessions for AWS tenants immediately. If your organization federates identity into AWS via any of these providers, treat access logs as potentially compromised until reviewed.
- 2. Recommended:** Query AWS CloudTrail for anomalous GetObject, ListBuckets, and CopyObject calls, particularly from unfamiliar IP ranges or user agents. In Okta, review System Log (requires Okta Administrator access) for events: user.session.impersonation.initiate, app.oauth2.token.grant, and policy.evaluate\_sign\_on failures followed by successes. In Microsoft Entra ID, audit Sign-in logs for impossible travel, unfamiliar device compliance state, and service principal consent grants. Cross-reference against ShinyHunters-associated infrastructure where IOCs become available.
- 3. Recommended:** Enforce phishing-resistant MFA (FIDO2/WebAuthn) on all SSO provider accounts with AWS federation; remove SMS and TOTP as fallback options for privileged roles. Rotate all AWS IAM access keys and SSO application credentials. Review and remove excessive OAuth application permissions granted to third-party apps in Okta, Entra ID, and Google Workspace. Enforce least-privilege on AWS S3 bucket policies and disable public access where not operationally required.
- 4. Recommended:** Validate that CloudTrail logging is enabled across all AWS regions and accounts, including S3 data event logging. Confirm GuardDuty is active and review findings for the prior 30 days. Verify that no unauthorized IAM roles, users, or cross-account trust relationships were created during the suspected access window. Restore any modified bucket policies from known-good configuration baselines.
- 5. Post-Incident:** This incident exposes three recurring control gaps: absence of phishing-resistant MFA on federated identity providers, insufficient monitoring of cloud API data access patterns, and over-permissive OAuth token grants. Map these gaps to NIST SP 800-53 controls IA-2(6) (Phishing-Resistant MFA), AC-2 (Account Management), AU-2 and AU-12 (Audit Logging), and SC-28 (Protection of Information at Rest). Update your cloud incident response playbook to include SSO provider compromise as an initial access vector requiring parallel investigation.

## IR / Forensic Enrichment

Triage Priority

IMMEDIATE

<b>Escalation Criteria</b>	Escalate to CISO and legal counsel immediately if CloudTrail S3 data event logs confirm GetObject or CopyObject operations against buckets containing PII, employee data, or regulated information during the suspected breach window — GDPR Article 33 imposes a 72-hour supervisory authority notification deadline from the point the organization becomes aware of a personal data breach, and ShinyHunters' claimed 350GB haul from a cloud-hosted mail server and database environment creates high probability of personal data exposure.
<b>Recovery Notes</b>	Do not declare recovery complete until all three of the following are verified: (1) No unauthorized IAM roles, users, access keys, or cross-account trust relationships exist that were created after the earliest suspected compromise date; (2) CloudTrail data event logging is confirmed active across all AWS regions and accounts, including S3 object-level logging — ShinyHunters-pattern operations are undetectable without data events enabled; (3) All SSO-federated applications in Okta, Entra ID, and Google Workspace have been audited for OAuth scope grants and FIDO2/WebAuthn enforcement is confirmed active for all privileged roles. Maintain elevated monitoring of AWS CloudTrail, GuardDuty, and Okta System Log for a minimum of 30 days post-containment — ShinyHunters has demonstrated a pattern of returning to previously breached environments (as evidenced by the February 2026 and March 2026 Europa.eu incidents) when initial eviction is incomplete.
<b>Forensic Artifacts</b>	AWS CloudTrail S3 data event logs — GetObject, CopyObject, and ListBuckets calls with sourceIPAddress, userAgent, requestParameters.key, and responseElements fields: the primary artifact establishing exfiltration scope and attacker enumeration pattern consistent with ShinyHunters bulk-harvest TTPs   AWS CloudTrail AssumeRoleWithSAML and AssumeRoleWithWebIdentity events — captures the federated credential chain from Okta/Entra ID/Google through to temporary AWS session tokens, establishing which SSO provider was the initial access vector and which IAM roles were assumed during the breach   Okta System Log entries for app.oauth2.token.grant.access_token and user.session.impersonation.initiate events targeting the AWS SAML/OIDC application — primary evidence of identity-layer exploitation preceding AWS API abuse   AWS VPC Flow Logs showing large outbound TCP sessions (sustained high-volume transfers consistent with 350GB exfiltration) to non-AWS IP space during off-hours — corroborates the claimed data volume and provides destination IP evidence for ShinyHunters infrastructure attribution   Microsoft Entra ID unified audit log entries for Add app role assignment to service principal and Consent to application events — ShinyHunters has used illicit OAuth consent grants as a persistence and re-entry mechanism in prior SSO-federated cloud breach campaigns, and these entries survive credential rotation if the application grant itself is not revoked

**Per-Action IR Details**

**Containment — Audit all active Okta, Microsoft Entra ID, and Google Workspace sessions for anomalous cloud API access; revoke suspicious OAuth tokens and active SSO sessions for AWS tenants immediately. If your organization federates identity into AWS via any of these providers, treat access logs as potentially compromised until reviewed.**

**NIST Phase:** Containment

**Reference:** NIST 800-61r3 §3.3 — Containment Strategy: isolate affected resources, preserve evidence, and prevent further unauthorized access while maintaining operational continuity

**Controls:** NIST IR-4 (Incident Handling), NIST AC-2 (Account Management), NIST AC-17 (Remote Access), CIS 5.1 (Establish and Maintain an Inventory of Accounts), CIS 6.2 (Establish an Access Revoking Process)

**Compensating:** Without enterprise SIEM: (1) Export Okta System Log via API using `curl -H 'Authorization: SSWS {token}' 'https://{org}.okta.com/api/v1/logs?filter=eventType+eq+'app.oauth2.token.grant"&limit=1000` and parse with jq for unfamiliar IP ranges. (2) In AWS Console, run `aws iam list-users --output json` and `aws iam list-access-keys --user-name {user}` for every federated role; cross-reference last-used timestamps. (3) Use Google Workspace Admin

SDK Reports API to pull `token` activity events for the past 30 days at no cost. (4) For Entra ID, use the free Microsoft Entra sign-in log export (CSV) filtered on AWS-federated service principal IDs. Assign one analyst per IdP to parallelize.

**Evidence:** BEFORE revoking any tokens, preserve: (1) Full Okta System Log export covering the 72-hour window prior to discovery — specifically events `user.session.impersonation.initiate`, `app.oauth2.token.grant.access\_token`, and `app.oauth2.as.token.exchange` tied to the AWS SAML/OIDC application integration. (2) AWS CloudTrail `AssumeRoleWithSAML` and `AssumeRoleWithWebIdentity` events showing which federated principals were used to obtain temporary AWS credentials — capture the `sourceIPAddress`, `userAgent`, and `requestParameters.roleArn` fields. (3) Microsoft Entra ID sign-in logs for the service principal corresponding to your AWS SSO application — export before any conditional access policy changes purge entries. (4) Google Workspace Token audit log showing OAuth scope grants to AWS-integrated apps. These are ephemeral and may roll over; capture before revocation actions overwrite session state.

**Detection — Query AWS CloudTrail for anomalous GetObject, ListBuckets, and CopyObject calls, particularly from unfamiliar IP ranges or user agents. In Okta, review System Log for events:**

**user.session.impersonation.initiate, app.oauth2.token.grant, and policy.evaluate\_sign\_on failures followed by successes. In Microsoft Entra ID, audit Sign-in logs for impossible travel, unfamiliar device compliance state, and service principal consent grants. Cross-reference against ShinyHunters-associated infrastructure where IOCs become available.**

**NIST Phase:** Detection Analysis

**Reference:** NIST 800-61r3 §3.2 — Detection and Analysis: correlate indicators across log sources, establish timeline of attacker activity, and assess scope of data exposure

**Controls:** NIST AU-2 (Event Logging), NIST AU-6 (Audit Record Review, Analysis, and Reporting), NIST AU-12 (Audit Record Generation), NIST SI-4 (System Monitoring), NIST IR-5 (Incident Monitoring), CIS 8.2 (Collect Audit Logs)

**Compensating:** Without SIEM: (1) AWS CloudTrail Insights is free within CloudTrail — enable it to auto-flag unusual `GetObject` and `ListBuckets` call volumes. (2) Run this AWS CLI query targeting S3 data events: `aws cloudtrail lookup-events --lookup-attributes AttributeKey=EventName,AttributeValue=GetObject --start-time 2026-02-01 --output json | jq '.Events[] | select(.CloudTrailEvent | fromjson | .sourceIPAddress | test("YOUR\_KNOWN\_CIDR") | not)'. (3) Deploy the free Sigma rule `aws\_cloudtrail\_s3\_data\_exfiltration.yml` (SigmaHQ repository) against exported CloudTrail JSON logs using the `sigma convert` CLI tool with grep/jq backend. (4) For Okta, use the free Okta System Log search UI filtered on `eventType eq "user.session.impersonation.initiate" OR eventType eq "app.oauth2.token.grant"` covering the period since the confirmed February 2026 ShinyHunters EC breach.

**Evidence:** Before pivoting to containment actions that may alter log state: (1) AWS CloudTrail S3 data event logs — specifically `GetObject` and `CopyObject` events on buckets containing mail server exports or database snapshots, with full `requestParameters`, `sourceIPAddress`, `userAgent`, and `responseElements` fields preserved in raw JSON. (2) Okta System Log entries matching ShinyHunters' known pattern of MFA bypass via SSO token theft — look for `policy.evaluate\_sign\_on` failure immediately followed by success from the same session context, indicating policy downgrade or phishing-resistant MFA bypass. (3) AWS IAM credential report (`aws iam generate-credential-report`) capturing last-used timestamps for all access keys — ShinyHunters operations typically involve programmatic key use for bulk S3 enumeration before targeted exfiltration. (4) VPC Flow Logs for large outbound data transfers (>1GB sessions) to non-AWS IP space during off-hours — consistent with the claimed 350GB exfiltration volume. (5) Entra ID unified audit log entries for `Add app role assignment to service principal` and `Consent to application` — ShinyHunters has used illicit OAuth consent grants to maintain persistence across SSO-federated environments.

**Eradication — Enforce phishing-resistant MFA (FIDO2/WebAuthn) on all SSO provider accounts with AWS federation; remove SMS and TOTP as fallback options for privileged roles. Rotate all AWS IAM access keys and SSO application credentials. Review and remove excessive OAuth application permissions granted to third-party apps in Okta, Entra ID, and Google Workspace. Enforce least-privilege on AWS S3 bucket policies and disable public access where not operationally required.**

**NIST Phase:** Eradication



`CreateAccessKey` events within the breach window — these are the persistence artifacts ShinyHunters would leave if they established footholds beyond the initial SSO session.

**Post-Incident — This incident exposes three recurring control gaps: absence of phishing-resistant MFA on federated identity providers, insufficient monitoring of cloud API data access patterns, and over-permissive OAuth token grants. Map these gaps to NIST SP 800-53 controls IA-2(6) (Phishing-Resistant MFA), AC-2 (Account Management), AU-2 and AU-12 (Audit Logging), and SC-28 (Protection of Information at Rest). Update your cloud incident response playbook to include SSO provider compromise as an initial access vector requiring parallel investigation.**

**NIST Phase:** Post Incident

**Reference:** NIST 800-61r3 §4 — Post-Incident Activity: lessons learned review, control gap remediation, playbook updates, and threat intelligence sharing to improve detection of future ShinyHunters-pattern attacks

**Controls:** NIST IR-4 (Incident Handling), NIST IR-8 (Incident Response Plan), NIST IA-2(6) (Identification and Authentication — Phishing-Resistant MFA), NIST AC-2 (Account Management), NIST AU-2 (Event Logging), NIST AU-12 (Audit Record Generation), NIST SC-28 (Protection of Information at Rest), NIST SI-5 (Security Alerts, Advisories, and Directives), CIS 7.2 (Establish and Maintain a Remediation Process), CIS 6.3 (Require MFA for Externally-Exposed Applications)

**Compensating:** Without a GRC platform or formal lessons-learned tooling: (1) Conduct a structured 60-minute post-incident review using NIST 800-61r3 §4 as an agenda template — document the three control gaps identified in this step as formal findings with owners and due dates. (2) Add a ShinyHunters-specific detection rule to your Okta System Log monitoring: alert on any sequence of `policy.evaluate\_sign\_on` failure → success within 5 minutes from the same `actor.id` targeting an AWS-federated app. Implement as a free Okta Workflow or a Sigma rule processed against log exports. (3) File the three control gaps (phishing-resistant MFA, cloud API monitoring, OAuth over-permission) as tracked items in any free project management tool (GitHub Issues, Jira free tier) with NIST control cross-references for audit evidence. (4) Subscribe to ShinyHunters IOC feeds via free OSINT sources (IntelX, Hudson Rock, Breach Forums monitoring via threat intel aggregators) to enable early warning if your organization's data surfaces.

**Evidence:** For the lessons-learned record and any regulatory notification obligations: (1) Timeline reconstruction from CloudTrail, Okta System Log, and Entra ID unified audit log — establish first-observed unauthorized API call, peak exfiltration window (correlated against VPC Flow Log outbound volume spikes), and last attacker action before containment. (2) Data classification inventory for all S3 buckets accessed during the breach window — required to assess whether the 350GB-pattern exfiltration scope included PII, PHI, or regulated data triggering GDPR Article 33 (72-hour supervisory authority notification) or equivalent obligations. (3) Documentation of the OAuth application permission state at time of breach versus post-remediation — this delta constitutes the control gap evidence required for formal gap remediation tracking under NIST IR-8 (Incident Response Plan) update requirements.

## Detection Guidance

Primary detection surface is AWS CloudTrail combined with your SSO provider's audit logs. In CloudTrail, alert on: high-volume S3 GetObject or CopyObject events from a single principal in a short window; ConsoleLogin events from IPs outside expected geographic ranges; CreateAccessKey or AttachUserPolicy calls not initiated through your approved provisioning pipeline. In Okta System Log, query for: eventType eq 'user.session.start' AND outcome.result eq 'SUCCESS' combined with preceding failures; eventType eq 'app.oauth2.as.token.grant' for unexpected application grants. In Microsoft Entra ID Sign-in Logs, filter for: RiskState = 'atRisk' or RiskLevel = 'high'; conditionalAccessStatus = 'failure' followed by 'success' within the same session window. Behavioral indicator to prioritize: large outbound data transfers from AWS S3 to external endpoints, especially via presigned URL generation (CloudTrail: GeneratePresignedUrl). As of 2026-03-27 (incident confirmation date), no confirmed IOCs for this incident have been publicly released; monitor threat intelligence feeds (ISAC, Mandiant, Recorded Future) for ShinyHunters infrastructure indicators as they are released.

## Indicators of Compromise

Type	Value	Context	Confidence
DOMAIN	europa.eu (victim infrastructure – do not block)	Confirmed breach target; reference only for internal log correlation against any outbound connections initiated from your environment to this domain during the breach window.	<b>HIGH</b>

## Framework Mappings

### MITRE-ATTACK

- **T1657** — Financial Theft
- **T1566** — Phishing
- **T1020** — Automated Exfiltration
- **T1078** — Valid Accounts
- **T1213** — Data from Information Repositories
- **T1539** — Steal Web Session Cookie
- **T1078.004** — Cloud Accounts
- **T1598** — Phishing for Information
- **T1530** — Data from Cloud Storage
- **T1567** — Exfiltration Over Web Service
- **T1586** — Compromise Accounts
- **T1114** — Email Collection

### NIST-800-53R5

- **AT-2** — Literacy Training and Awareness
- **CA-7** — Continuous Monitoring
- **SC-7** — Boundary Protection
- **SI-3** — Malicious Code Protection
- **SI-4** — System Monitoring
- **SI-8** — Spam Protection
- **AC-2** — Account Management
- **AC-6** — Least Privilege
- **IA-2** — Identification and Authentication (Organizational Users)
- **IA-5** — Authenticator Management
- **IA-8** — Identification and Authentication (Non-Organizational Users)
- **AC-3** — Access Enforcement
- **SC-28** — Protection of Information at Rest

### OWASP-TOP10-2021

- **A07:2021** — Identification and Authentication Failures
- **A01:2021** — Broken Access Control

### CIS-V8

- **6.3** — Require MFA for Externally-Exposed Applications
- **6.4** — Require MFA for Remote Network Access
- **6.5** — Require MFA for Administrative Access

### SOC2-TSC

- **CC6.1** — The entity implements logical access security software, infrastructure, and architectures over protected information assets
- **CC7.4** — Responds to identified security incidents

### HIPAA-SECURITY

- **164.312(d)** — Person or Entity Authentication
- **164.312(a)(1)** — Access Control
- **164.308(a)(6)(ii)** — Response and Reporting

### ISO-27001-2022

- **A.5.34** — Privacy and protection of personal information
- **A.5.23** — Information security for use of cloud services

### NIST-CSF-2

- **RS.CO-03** — Recovery activities and progress communicated

## MITRE ATT&CK Mapping

Technique ID	Technique Name	Tactic
<b>T1657</b>	Financial Theft	Impact
<b>T1566</b>	Phishing	Initial-Access
<b>T1020</b>	Automated Exfiltration	Exfiltration
<b>T1078</b>	Valid Accounts	Defense-Evasion
<b>T1213</b>	Data from Information Repositories	Collection
<b>T1539</b>	Steal Web Session Cookie	Credential-Access
<b>T1078.004</b>	Cloud Accounts	Defense-Evasion
<b>T1598</b>	Phishing for Information	Reconnaissance
<b>T1530</b>	Data from Cloud Storage	Collection

Technique ID	Technique Name	Tactic
T1567	Exfiltration Over Web Service	Exfiltration
T1586	Compromise Accounts	Resource-Development
T1114	Email Collection	Collection

## Sources

Source	URL	Tier
<b>Security News</b>	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/european-commission-...">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/european-commission-...</a>	T3
<b>European Commission's Data Stolen in Hack on AWS</b> ...	<a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-03-27/european-commiss..">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-03-27/european-commiss..</a>	T2
<b>European Commission Reports Cyberattack on AWS as ...</b>	<a href="https://finance.yahoo.com/sectors/technology/articles/european-comm...">https://finance.yahoo.com/sectors/technology/articles/european-comm...</a>	T3
<b>Hackers Stole 350GB From the European Commission's ...</b>	<a href="https://www.gblock.app/articles/european-commission-aws-cloud-breach">https://www.gblock.app/articles/european-commission-aws-cloud-breach</a>	T3
<b>■ The European Commission has confirmed a data breach</b> ...	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/DWgE9MhCZm5/">https://www.instagram.com/p/DWgE9MhCZm5/</a>	T3

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