INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING
Security Command Center
TLP:CLEAR
2026-06-11 19:26 UTC

AudiA6 Cryptocurrency Mixer Dismantled, $380M in Ransomware Proceeds Laundered Across 15+ Investigations

THREAT CAMPAIGN | **HIGH** | CVSS 7.5

SCC Item ID	SCC-CAM-2026-0444
Type	Threat Campaign
Severity	HIGH
CVSS Base Score	7.5
Affected Products	None, story involves criminal infrastructure (AudiA6 mixer platform, Dark2Web forum); no vendor products affected
Published	2026-06-11T11:55:41
Discovery Source	Rss

Executive Summary

A multinational law enforcement operation dismantled AudiA6, a cryptocurrency mixing service that laundered over $380 million in ransomware proceeds between 2022 and 2025. Two administrators were arrested in Georgia, and authorities seized 25 domains, more than 6,000 identity records tied to money mule networks, and over €778,000 in cryptocurrency. For organizations previously victimized by ransomware groups that used this service, the recovered KYC records may trigger new attribution activity and downstream intelligence disclosures.

Technical Analysis

AudiA6 operated as a centralized cryptocurrency mixing node serving at least 15 international ransomware investigations. The platform obfuscated transaction trails by pooling and redistributing cryptocurrency, effectively severing the chain of custody between ransomware payments and threat actor wallets. MITRE techniques associated with this operation include T1486 (Data Encrypted for Impact), T1583.001 (Acquire Infrastructure: Domains), T1583.006 (Acquire Infrastructure: Web Services), T1531 (Account Access Removal), and T1600 (Weaken Encryption). Seized assets include 25 domains and over 6,000 KYC records linked to money mule recruitment and management. Dark2Web criminal forum is suspected to be associated with the operation at low confidence; the relationship remains unconfirmed. No CVE identifiers apply; this is criminal infrastructure dismantlement, not a software vulnerability. The BleepingComputer source URL is the primary reporting reference for this event.

Action Checklist

1. Step 1: Containment, If your organization paid a ransom between 2022 and 2025 and routed funds through any mixer service, engage legal counsel and document the transaction chain immediately. Do not destroy records.
2. Step 2: Detection, Query your threat intelligence platform and SIEM for any historical IOC matches against AudiA6 domains or Dark2Web infrastructure. Review alert logs and escalation records from prior periods for any indicators that were not escalated.
3. Step 3: Eradication, Block all known AudiA6 domains at the perimeter DNS and proxy layer. Apply AC-2 (Account Management) reviews to any accounts that may have interacted with associated infrastructure. If money mule recruitment targeted your organization, revoke those accounts per CIS Controls v8 6.2 (Establish and Maintain an Access Revocation Process).
4. Step 4: Recovery, Validate that no active financial flows transit through AudiA6-linked wallet addresses. Monitor for law enforcement contact, as the seized KYC records may prompt outreach to organizations identified as victims in the 15+ linked investigations.
5. Step 5: Post-Incident, Review ransomware payment policies and cryptocurrency transaction controls. Map gaps against IR-4 (Incident Handling) and IR-8 (Incident Response Plan) to ensure ransomware financial response procedures address law enforcement notification requirements and evidence preservation obligations.

IR / Forensic Enrichment

Triage Priority	URGENT
Escalation Criteria	Escalate immediately to legal counsel and executive leadership if blockchain transaction tracing confirms ransom payments routed through AudiA6 infrastructure, if law enforcement contacts the organization in connection with the seized KYC records, or if any employee is identified in the 6,000+ money mule identity records recovered by authorities — each condition triggers potential regulatory notification obligations, OFAC sanctions exposure, and criminal referral risk.
Recovery Notes	Post-containment recovery for AudiA6 exposure centers on financial and legal integrity rather than system restoration: verify through blockchain forensics that no active crypto flows touch AudiA6-cluster addresses, confirm all ransom payment records are preserved under legal hold and have not been altered or destroyed since the original incident, and maintain a minimum 180-day monitoring window for law enforcement outreach given that the 15+ linked investigations are ongoing and new attribution activity from the seized KYC records is expected. Organizations in GDPR, HIPAA, or SEC-regulated sectors should assess whether the recovered KYC records create new breach notification obligations tied to the original ransomware incident's data exfiltration component.

Forensic Artifacts	Blockchain transaction ledger exports: full outbound payment chain from organizational crypto wallet through all intermediate hops to terminal addresses, queried against AudiA6 cluster addresses identified in the Europol/FBI/Dutch FIOD seizure documentation — primary artifact for determining whether ransom funds transited AudiA6 infrastructure | Internal ransom payment authorization records: CFO/executive approval emails, crypto custody platform transaction logs, ransom negotiation communications with threat actor (including decryptor receipt and payment confirmation), and any OFAC screening documentation from the original 2022–2025 ransomware incident — establishes organizational knowledge and decision chain | Proxy and DNS resolver logs (2022–2025 retention window): outbound resolution attempts and HTTP/S connections to AudiA6 domains and Dark2Web clearnet infrastructure, filtered for source IPs belonging to finance, IT, and executive staff — surfaces any direct organizational interaction with mixer or forum infrastructure | Active Directory and identity system logs: Windows Security Event IDs 4624, 4648, 4720, and 4726 for accounts flagged as potential money mule recruitment targets, covering the period of AudiA6 operation (2022–2025) — identifies whether Dark2Web money mule recruitment campaigns successfully compromised insider accounts | HR and email system records: inbound recruitment communications offering remote cryptocurrency payment processing roles, referencing Dark2Web forum contacts, or soliciting employees to receive and forward crypto payments — documents money mule targeting attempts and any employee responses that may appear in the seized 6,000+ identity record set

Per-Action IR Details

Step 1: Containment — If your organization paid a ransom between 2022 and 2025 and routed funds through any mixer service, engage legal counsel and document the transaction chain immediately. Do not destroy records.

NIST Phase: Containment

Reference: NIST 800-61r3 §3.3 — Containment Strategy: preserve evidence and prevent further harm while determining scope

Controls: NIST IR-4 (Incident Handling), NIST IR-5 (Incident Monitoring), NIST IR-6 (Incident Reporting)

Compensating: Export and hash (SHA-256) all blockchain transaction records referencing ransom wallet addresses using a free block explorer (Blockchain.com, Etherscan) or open-source Chainalysis Reactor Community tier. Store exports in an immutable write-once location (USB drive held offline or S3 bucket with Object Lock). Document each hop in a simple spreadsheet: date, sending address, receiving address, USD value at time of transaction, mixer service name if known.

Evidence: Before any legal hold or record submission, capture: (1) cryptocurrency wallet transaction histories and blockchain ledger exports showing all outbound ransom payments and their downstream routing through mixer hops; (2) internal finance system records (wire transfer confirmations, crypto custody platform logs, CFO approval emails) timestamped at the time of payment; (3) any prior incident response reports, ransom negotiation communications, and decryptor receipts that establish the original ransomware incident context. This evidence must be preserved before counsel interaction to prevent inadvertent waiver or spoliation claims.

Step 2: Detection — Query your threat intelligence platform and SIEM for any historical IOC matches against AudiA6 domains or Dark2Web infrastructure. Review AU-6 (Audit Record Review, Analysis, and Reporting) logs for any prior alerts involving these indicators that were not escalated.

NIST Phase: Detection Analysis

Reference: NIST 800-61r3 §3.2 — Detection and Analysis: correlate indicators across log sources to establish scope and timeline of prior exposure

Controls: NIST AU-6 (Audit Record Review, Analysis, And Reporting), NIST AU-2 (Event Logging), NIST AU-12 (Audit Record Generation), NIST IR-5 (Incident Monitoring)

Compensating: Without a SIEM, run retrospective IOC sweeps manually: (1) grep or PowerShell Select-String against archived proxy/DNS logs for AudiA6 domain strings and Dark2Web .onion-adjacent clearnet domains; (2) query firewall connection logs for outbound connections to known AudiA6 IP ranges using: Get-Content firewall.log | Select-String -Pattern ''; (3) check Windows DNS debug logs at C:\Windows\System32\dns\dns.log for resolution attempts. Use free Sigma rules from SigmaHQ (specifically rules targeting crypto-mixer C2 patterns) converted to grep-compatible format via sigmac.

Evidence: Before declaring this step complete, capture: (1) raw SIEM/SOAR query output and alert history for any AudiA6 domain or Dark2Web indicator hits, including any that were suppressed, tuned out, or closed as false positives between 2022 and 2025; (2) proxy and DNS resolver logs showing outbound resolution attempts to AudiA6-associated domains; (3) NetFlow or firewall session logs showing any connections to mixer-layer IP infrastructure. Volatile: if any live endpoint shows an active connection to AudiA6 infrastructure at time of investigation, capture running process list (Get-Process), active TCP connections (Get-NetTCPConnection or netstat -ano), and memory image before isolating.

Step 3: Eradication — Block all known AudiA6 domains at the perimeter DNS and proxy layer. Apply D3-UAP (User Account Permissions) reviews to any accounts that may have interacted with associated infrastructure. If money mule recruitment targeted your organization, revoke those accounts per CIS 6.2 (Establish an Access Revoking Process).

NIST Phase: Eradication

Reference: NIST 800-61r3 §3.4 — Eradication: remove threat artifacts, block malicious infrastructure, and eliminate attacker footholds from the environment

Controls: CIS 6.2 (Establish an Access Revoking Process), CIS 4.4 (Implement and Manage a Firewall on Servers), CIS 4.5 (Implement and Manage a Firewall on End-User Devices)

Compensating: Without enterprise DNS filtering, deploy the following on perimeter DNS resolvers or hosts file level: (1) add all AudiA6 and Dark2Web domains to the HOSTS file (C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts on Windows, /etc/hosts on Linux) pointing to 127.0.0.1 across all managed endpoints using a push script; (2) configure pi-hole or pfBlockerNG (both free) with a custom blocklist containing AudiA6 domains; (3) for account review, export Active Directory user login history via: Get-ADUser -Filter * -Properties LastLogonDate | Where-Object {$_.LastLogonDate -gt '2022-01-01'} and cross-reference against any accounts flagged in HR records for money mule recruitment approaches (unsolicited remote work offers, cryptocurrency payment processing roles).

Evidence: BEFORE revoking any accounts or applying DNS blocks, capture: (1) full Active Directory account activity logs (Windows Security Event ID 4624 logon, 4648 explicit credential use, 4720 account creation) for any accounts suspected of money mule recruitment targeting or interaction with AudiA6 infrastructure; (2) browser history and proxy logs for user accounts that browsed Dark2Web forum domains; (3) HR communication records or phishing emails referencing money mule recruitment targeting employees. Volatile: if a session is live for a suspected mule-recruited account, capture the active session token and associated process tree before revocation.

Step 4: Recovery — Validate that no active financial flows transit through AudiA6-linked wallet addresses. Monitor for law enforcement contact, as the seized KYC records may prompt outreach to organizations identified as victims in the 15+ linked investigations.

NIST Phase: Recovery

Reference: NIST 800-61r3 §3.5 — Recovery: restore normal operations, verify integrity of financial controls, and monitor for residual threat activity or external notification triggers

Controls: NIST IR-4 (Incident Handling), NIST IR-6 (Incident Reporting), NIST CP-2 (Contingency Plan)

Compensating: Without a dedicated crypto transaction monitoring platform, perform manual recovery validation: (1) pull all outbound crypto wallet addresses used in any 2022–2025 ransom payments and query each against free blockchain analytics tools (Breadcrumbs.app, OXT.me for Bitcoin) to trace whether downstream hops terminate at known AudiA6 cluster addresses identified in the Europol/FBI seizure press release; (2) establish a dedicated email alias and phone queue for law enforcement inbound contact, documented in the incident record, so outreach from Europol, FBI, or Dutch FIOD is not missed or routed to general helpdesk; (3) set a 90-day calendar review for regulatory breach notification deadlines applicable to any PII exposed in the original ransomware incident that is now subject to new attribution activity.

Evidence: Capture and retain: (1) blockchain transaction path exports showing terminal wallet addresses and any intersection with the 25 seized AudiA6 domains or associated wallet clusters; (2) documentation of all law enforcement contact attempts and organizational responses, timestamped; (3) current financial system state confirming no active recurring or scheduled crypto transfers to AudiA6-linked addresses remain configured. No volatile state alteration occurs in this step, but all documentation must be preserved under legal hold established in Step 1.

Step 5: Post-Incident — Review ransomware payment policies and cryptocurrency transaction controls. Map gaps against IR-4 (Incident Handling) and IR-8 (Incident Response Plan) to ensure ransomware financial response procedures address law enforcement notification requirements and evidence preservation obligations.

NIST Phase: Post Incident

Reference: NIST 800-61r3 §4 — Post-Incident Activity: lessons learned, policy updates, and capability improvements based on actual incident outcomes

Controls: NIST IR-4 (Incident Handling), NIST IR-8 (Incident Response Plan), NIST IR-1 (Policy And Procedures), CIS 7.1 (Establish and Maintain a Vulnerability Management Process), CIS 7.2 (Establish and Maintain a Remediation Process)

Compensating: Without a GRC platform, conduct the gap mapping as a structured tabletop exercise: (1) pull your current IR plan and highlight every section that references ransomware payment decisions — verify it includes a mandatory legal counsel notification trigger, an OFAC sanctions screening step before any payment, and explicit evidence preservation language referencing blockchain transaction records; (2) compare against CISA's free Ransomware Guide (published jointly with MS-ISAC) for financial response and law enforcement notification checklists; (3) document findings in a gap register spreadsheet with assigned owners and 30/60/90-day remediation milestones. Update the IR plan to add an explicit 'mixer service contact' prohibition and a mandatory FinCEN Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) evaluation step.

Evidence: Collect for lessons-learned record: (1) the full incident timeline from original ransomware attack through AudiA6 dismantlement notification, annotated with decision points where policy gaps caused delayed action or undocumented choices; (2) copies of all ransom payment authorizations, cryptocurrency transaction records, and any OFAC screening documentation (or documented absence thereof) to identify where financial controls failed; (3) the final gap analysis comparing existing IR-8 plan language against the law enforcement notification and evidence preservation obligations surfaced by this investigation. This documentation supports both internal process improvement and potential regulatory or law enforcement cooperation requirements.

Detection Guidance

Query DNS and proxy logs for connections to any of the 25 seized AudiA6 domains (specific domain list not yet publicly released at time of reporting; monitor official law enforcement announcements and BleepingComputer updates for the full IOC set). Hunt for wallet addresses associated with AudiA6 in any historical cryptocurrency transaction records your organization maintains. Review threat intelligence feeds for alerts tied to Dark2Web-affiliated accounts. Per AU-2 (Event Logging) and AU-6 (Audit Record Review, Analysis, and Reporting), ensure your SIEM is ingesting and alerting on outbound cryptocurrency transfers and wallet address connections to newly sanctioned infrastructure. Organizations that previously received ransomware demands should cross-reference payment wallet addresses against law enforcement-published indicators as they become available.

Indicators of Compromise

Type	Value	Context	Confidence
DOMAIN	`AudiA6 platform domains (25 total — specific list pending official law enforcement publication)`	Seized domains associated with AudiA6 cryptocurrency mixing infrastructure; block at DNS and proxy layer pending full IOC release	HIGH
DOMAIN	`Dark2Web forum infrastructure`	Associated criminal forum with unconfirmed operational relationship to AudiA6; monitor for IOC publication	MEDIUM

Framework Mappings

MITRE-ATTACK

- **T1657** — Financial Theft
- **T1531** — Account Access Removal
- **T1583.006** — Web Services
- **T1486** — Data Encrypted for Impact
- **T1583.001** — Domains
- **T1600** — Weaken Encryption

NIST-800-53R5

- **CP-9** — System Backup
- **CP-10** — System Recovery and Reconstitution
- **IR-4** — Incident Handling

NIST-CSF-2

- **RS.MI-01** — Incidents are contained

HIPAA-SECURITY

- **164.308(a)(7)(ii)(A)** — Data Backup Plan

ISO-27001-2022

- **A.5.29** — Information security during disruption

MITRE ATT&CK Mapping

Technique ID	Technique Name	Tactic
T1657	Financial Theft	Impact
T1531	Account Access Removal	Impact
T1583.006	Web Services	Resource-Development
T1486	Data Encrypted for Impact	Impact

Technique ID	Technique Name	Tactic
T1583.001	Domains	Resource-Development
T1600	Weaken Encryption	Defense-Evasion

Sources

Source	URL	Tier
Security News	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/legal/authorities-dismantle-a...	T3
NAS Vendor Says Several of Its Products Likely Contain Linux 'Dirty ...	https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities-threats/nas-vendor-says...	T3
Resurrected 'Crimenetwork' Marketplace Taken Down, Administrator ...	https://www.securityweek.com/resurrected-crimenetwork-marketplace-t...	T3
Security Advisories | Rockwell Automation | UK	https://www.rockwellautomation.com/en-gb/trust-center/security-advi...	T3
Suspected admin of major dark web cybercrime forum arrested in ...	https://therecord.media/suspected-xss-cybercrime-marketplace-admin-...	T3

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