

Morningstar Moves Under the Control of Z-Pentest Alliance

**THREAT:**

Morningstar / Z-Pentest

**ACTIVITY TYPE:**

Morningstar, Z-Pentest, Hacktivism, ThreatIntelligence

**ORIGIN:**

Russia

**CLASSIFICATION:**

TLP:WHITE

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Z-Pentest Alliance published a statement claiming that the Morningstar team is now under its “full control” and has been incorporated into a unified Z-Pentest Alliance structure.

The announcement is relevant because it formalizes a relationship that had already shown signs of proximity, validation, and reputational dependence.

**WHAT HAPPENED**

Z-Pentest Alliance released an official message in Russian announcing that, in order to strengthen and develop its capabilities, the Morningstar team is moving under the full control of Z-Pentest Alliance.

The statement says that Morningstar demonstrated high potential and strong results, and that from this point onward the entire team is integrated into a single structure under Z-Pentest Alliance.

In parallel, Morningstar’s official accounts appear to have been closed. Since those spaces had been used to disseminate alleged activity of its own, including publications associated with public and critical infrastructure systems, their removal is relevant for interpreting the announcement.

**OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

Morningstar does not appear as a completely unrelated actor suddenly joining Z-Pentest. In previous observations, it had already shown a visible relationship with Z-Pentest Alliance, including references, reposts, acknowledgements, and attempts to gain validation within the same environment.

The declaration of “full control” elevates that relationship from reputational proximity toward alleged subordination or absorption. Without additional evidence, it is not appropriate to state that real operational command, shared infrastructure, or effective technical integration exists.

**KEY JUDGMENTS**

- Z-Pentest claims that Morningstar is now under full control of Z-Pentest Alliance.
- The statement formalizes a proximity already observed between Morningstar and Z-Pentest, especially in terms of public validation, reposts, references, and narrative alignment.
- The declared absorption may strengthen Z-Pentest’s image as an aggregation node within pro-Russian hacktivism focused on SCADA/OT, exposed systems, and public pressure operations.

**INTELLIGENCE SIGNIFICANCE**

For tracking Z-Pentest, the announcement reinforces its role as a possible absorption or coordination node within pro-Russian hacktivism. It is not only adding alliances; it is beginning to present smaller actors as members of a unified structure.

For Morningstar, the signal is equally important. The actor moves from a phase of legitimacy by proximity to a phase of declared belonging. The closure of its official accounts may indicate, if confirmed as a deliberate decision rather than an external effect, a renunciation of autonomous public presence in order to operate under a larger identity.

**ANALYTICAL CLOSING**

The alleged integration of Morningstar under Z-Pentest Alliance should not be automatically interpreted as proof of a mature operational structure. Its value lies in the public formalization of a relationship that already showed signs of proximity and coincides with the closure of Morningstar’s official channels, reinforcing the hypothesis of a transition toward centralized communication or an absorbed identity.