500,000 home and small-office routers hacked — and could be used to attack others

e has infected half-a millionrouters in homes and businesses around d, and that malware is vicious enough to destroy the devices with a ommand.

ng to an announcement from Cisco on Wednesday, the malware can ommunications and launch attacks on others.

le and type of attack are concerning, Cisco said. It is not known how the U.S. have been attacked. The announcements says the Ukraine n the hardest hit region so far.

g with our partners, we estimate the number of infected devices to be 500,000 in at least 54 countries. The known devices affected by er are Linksys, MikroTik, NETGEAR and TP-Link networking ent in the small and home office (SOHO) space, as well at QNAP -attached storage (NAS) devices. No other vendors, including Cisco, en observed as infected by VPNFilter, but our research continues."

lware can steal website credentials and perform destructive cyber the announcement states.

alware can also be leveraged to collect data that flows through the This could be for straightforward data-collection purposes, or to the potential value of the network that the device serves," the cement says."If the network was deemed as having information of l interest to the threat actor, they may choose to continue collecting that passes through the device or to propagate into the connected for data collection."