



#### **CROWDSTRIKE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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## **CrowdStrike**

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## **REVISION HISTORY**

Version	Date	Revisions	Author
1.0	March 13, 2014	Initial Draft	J. Weissert
1.0.2.0	May 16, 2014	Added Revision History  Added three new modules: Drivers, Handles, and PSStrings (Functionality and Features section)	J. Weissert
1.0.3.0	August 23, 2014	Add two new modules: RegFile and RegDump (Functionality and Features section)	C. Tilbury
1.0.4.0	December 18, 2014	Add three new modules: Prefetch, Superfetch, and Shim (Functionality and Features section)	C. Tilbury
1.0.5.0	April 17, 2015	New module: Mal (Functionality and Features section)	R. Keir
1.0.6.0	May 10, 2016	New modules: Jobs, Tasks	Reed Pochron



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## CrowdResponse

CrowdResponse is a lightweight Windows console application designed to aid in the gathering of system information for incident response and security engagements. The application contains numerous modules, each of them invoked by providing specific command line parameters to the main application. Modules are all built into the main application in C++ language utilizing the Win32 API to achieve their functionality.

#### **Supported Operating Systems**

CrowdResponse supports 32-bit and 64-bit versions of:

- Workstation:
  - Windows XP
  - o Windows Vista
  - o Windows 7
  - Windows 8
  - o Windows 8.1
  - Windows 10
- o Server:
  - Windows Server 2003
  - Windows Server 2008
  - Windows Server 2008 R2
  - Windows Server 2012

### **Additional Requirements**

o For best results, CrowdResponse should be run with administrative privileges



## **FUNCTIONALITY & FEATURES**

#### **General Overview**

CrowdResponse is intended for use by organizations to run on-demand data scanning of their host environment. The tool can be used to scan a system for malware by using embedded YARA (Yet Another Regex Analyzer) signatures and collect contextual information such as process and file listings to assist incident responders.

#### **Functionality & Features**

The key functionality of CrowdResponse is provided through modules. The primary module is the Main Tool, which is supported by additional modules known as sub-tools, including Directory Listing, Process List, and YARA Rule Process. Together, the Main tool and associated sub-tools allow the investigator to collect different types of information from the scan. Each of these modules is discussed in more detail in the following sections. Additional sub-tool modules will be released over time to further enhance the overall capabilities of the tool for the investigator.

Please see the accompanying *readme-CrowdResponse.html* file for comprehensive details on the various modules and their usage.



#### **Deployment**

#### **Embedding YARA Rules**

The main functionality provided by CrowdResponse is the ability to search for specific YARA rules across an environment. Using these rules, the investigator can search for hits against running process binaries and memory.

The YARA scans can be accomplished in two different ways. The first option is for the user to denote the specific directory or directories at the command prompt to indicate where the rules are located, which is accomplished through an HTTP POST function. The second option is for the user to embed YARA rules into the configuration file. This configuration file can also contain specific options and variables associated with the other sub-tools. The configuration file input option is likely the easier option for most users. Additionally, the user may choose to use different configurations for different sets of hosts or for initial/subsequent runs. The image below shows a configuration file with embedded YARA rules.



Figure 1: Example Config File

## **Deployment Methods**

CrowdResponse can be deployed via several methods, including those discussed below:

- SCCM In a managed environment, organizations can utilize System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) to deploy CrowdResponse to multiple workstations and servers at once. The tool will look to the config file for the variables and rules to use in the scan and associated output.
- PSExec Similarly to SCCM, organizations can utilize PSExec to run a script that will
  deploy CrowdResponse to multiple workstations and servers at once. The tool will look
  to the config file for the variables and rules to use in the scan and associated output.



- Falcon Host For organizations that utilize CrowdStrike's Falcon Host product, the
  agent can be used to deploy CrowdResponse as well. The tool will look to the config file
  for the variables and rules to use in the scan and associated output.
- Command Line Windows Command Line can be utilized to manually execute the CrowdResponse scan on individual hosts. In this manner, users can actually specify individual actions at the command prompt rather than relying on the configuration file if desired. This is the method utilized throughout this user guide for ease of use.

**Note:** This user guide focuses on execution of the CrowdResponse tool via the command line. As such, the instructions and screenshots that follow are associated with execution and output from the command line deployment method. The other deployment methods are partially dependent on individual organizational settings and environments, making it difficult to provide a guide for each.



## SCAN EXECUTION AND OUTPUT

The CrowdResponse sub-tools (modules) and the associated options can be executed at the command line. The format utilized for executing the tool and options is as follows:

CrowdResponse [opts] @tool\_name [params] @tool\_name [params]... etc.

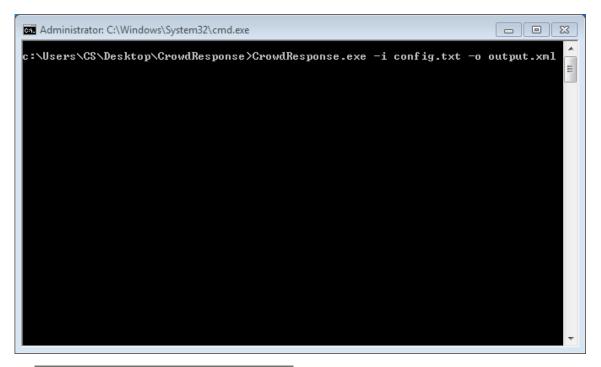


Figure 2: Example Command Line Input

This command will execute the main "CrowdResponse.exe" file which calls the associated processes defined in the configuration file "config.txt". The data associated with the scan is then output to a file called "output.xml".

In addition to the simple syntax utilized above, the following table lists the full variables that may be called from the command line during execution of the scan, which were detailed previously under the Main Tool Options section:



The output file (listed after "-o") also understands the following syntax, outside of these system environment variables:

Each of the sub-tools also has additional variables associated with its functionality, which can be adapted in the configuration file itself. This information is provided in the Sub-Tools section of this document.



#### **Example Output (Command Line)**

For the purpose of providing example screenshots, the simple command noted previously (CrowdResponse.exe -i config.txt -o output.xml) was executed on a virtual image utilizing the following config file information:

Figure 3: Example Config File with YARA Specified Variables

As you can see in the screenshot above, the YARA sub-tool includes several variables including the options to scan active processes in memory (-a), scan active process executable files (-b), enable verbose informational output (-v), scan all loaded module files of active processes (-o), only show positive hits (-h), start target file directory (-t), apply a target file name mask (-f), and apply a target file path inclusion regex filter (-i).

The command line execution of the config file results in the following output:

```
Scanning file
Sc
```



Figure 4: Example Command Line Output Identifying Positive Hits

### **Output Key Observations:**

- (-h): The output identifies a TRUE hit on the "Derusbi\_DeepPanda" YARA rule provided in an earlier screenshot. The scan first identifies the parent process (svchost.exe) and then subsequently identifies the underlying bad file associated with the malware (badthing.dll). The scan utilizes the -o variable to load the module files of the active processes, otherwise only the parent processes would show.
- (-i): The only results that are returned are for files and processes that end in with a .exe or .dll extension. This is the result of the target file path inclusion regex filter in the YARA sub-tool section of the config file.
- (-h): Only the positive hits are reported.
- In addition to the data that is passed back in the command line, the output is also exported to an .xml file that is located in the default folder where the CrowdResponse.exe file is located, unless otherwise specified.



## **OUTPUT CONVERSION**

#### **CR**convert

CrowdResponse results may be viewed in a variety of ways, particularly when leveraging CrowdStrike's CRconvert. By default, output from CrowdResponse is provided in an XML file. CRconvert will flatten this XML to CSV, TSV, HTML or plain Text, if desired. The HTML output may be viewed in any browser. The CSV and TSV output may be processed via a spreadsheet application of your choice, such as Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice Calc, or via a data analysis platform such as Splunk. The various format options were created to support the different needs and analysis preferences of the end user.

Please see the accompanying *readme-CRConvert.html* file for comprehensive details on syntax and options.

#### **CRconvert Overview**

```
CRconvert -f <path/mask>
        [-b ]
        [-d <database>]
        [-e <prefix>]
        [-m < rows>]
        [-n < name >]
        [-o <dir>]
        [-achjpqrstvx]
              Append output files (default is overwrite)
 -a
 -b  Database table name for option -d. Default is "Hashes"
               Output in CSV format
 -c
 -f <path/mask> File name path/mask. Default mask is "*.xml"
 -h
              Output in HTML format
 -j
              Delete all output files on error
 -m <rows> Limit rows per CSV output file creating new ones when reached
 -n <name>
-o <dir>
             Database SHA256 column name for option -d. Default is "SHA256"
              Output directory for files. Default is current
              Use low CPU priority (idle) to lessen load on the system
 -p
 -q
              Quit the application immediately after decryption
 -r
               Recursively search input directory when looking for files
 -s
               Do not use XML file name as first field ("system")
 -t
               Use tabs to separate CSV output fields instead of commas
 -v
               Verbose output
               Output in text format
 -x
               Ignore zero byte sized file when using whitelist (option -d)
  - z
```



## Splunk

Depending on your environment, Splunk may be a very powerful way to leverage CrowdResponse output. The CSV output that CRconvert can create is Splunk-friendly and can be indexed with ease. By default, CSV column headers will be used as field names in Splunk when setting the sourcetype to CSV, allowing for easy labeling of the data.

Once ingested, analysis of the data is as powerful as your queries. Within the context of CrowdResponse, Splunk reports, dashboards and alerts can simplify analysis of output files by utilizing key events. For instance, you can enable a Splunk alert if "result=TRUE" in the YARA output, indicating a match of a YARA. Thus, rather than searching through the output for the positive hits, Splunk will easily pull these records to your attention.

Modules may contain multiple timestamps (e.g. created, modified, and accessed). In order to specify which timestamp you'd like Splunk to use at index time as the primary (for quickly filtering based on timeframe), a new sourcetype may be defined per module in your props.conf including the parameters below:

- INDEXED EXTRACTIONS = csv
- TIME\_FORMAT = %Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%S%Z
- TIME PREFIX = ^([^,]\*,){6}

**Note**: TIME\_PREFIX is used to provide a regular expression to represent where Splunk should begin looking for the appropriate timestamp, based on field.



## **ANALYSIS**

#### **System Information**

Upon conversion of the XML data via CRconvert, you'll have a CSV, TSV or HTML file for each sub-tool module selected, in addition to one for overall main system information collected during execution. The system information provides an inventory of the systems that have been scanned along with associated data point. The output will be similar to what is seen below:

#### **Splunk**

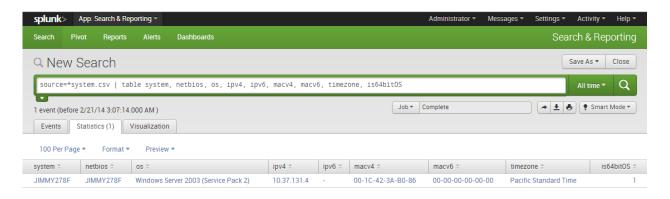


Figure 5: Example System Information - Splunk

#### Sample Query:

source=\*system.csv | table system, netbios, os, ipv4, ipv6, macv4,
macv6, timezone, is64bitOS

#### **Excel**

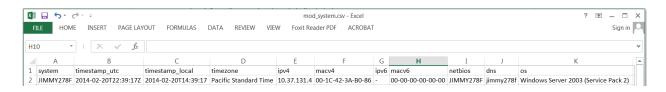


Figure 6: Example System Information - Excel



#### **Web Browser**



#### www.crowdstrike.com

#### Produced by the free CrowdStrike tool CrowdResponse

Module: system

 system
 timestamp\_utc
 timestamp\_local
 timezone
 ipv4
 macv4
 ipv6 macv6
 netbios
 dns
 os

 JIMMY278F
 2014-02-2072239:17Z
 2014-02-2071439:17
 Pacific Standard Time
 10.37.131.4
 00-1C-42-3A-B0-86
 00-00-00-00-00
 JIMMY278F
 jimmy278F
 Windows Server 2003 (Service Pack 2)

Figure 7: Example System Information – Web



#### **YARA Module**

Following the System information that shows inventory information, it is important to review any YARA matches. The steps required to investigate a YARA match will vary based on method of viewing the data, but the methodology will remain the same. Examples of the YARA match information output are shown in the following sections and screenshots.

The first step in analysis of the YARA module is to identify any YARA results that returned "TRUE." The YARA module output will yield the name of the affected system, the YARA rule that matched, the name and path of the matching file, as well as the process ID in use by the operating system (if applicable).

In the output below, "svchost.exe" and "badthing.dll" both match the YARA rule named "Derusbi\_DeepPanda." The Process ID ("pid") reported for svchost.exe (2940) indicates that it is the parent process, while the identified file "badthing.dll" does not have a process ID value, indicating it is not a process. Instead, this result is the offending module loaded by process ID 2940. This malicious file was identified by using the "-o" option for @YARA to scan all modules loaded by an active process, which leads the analyst directly to the issue.

### **Splunk**

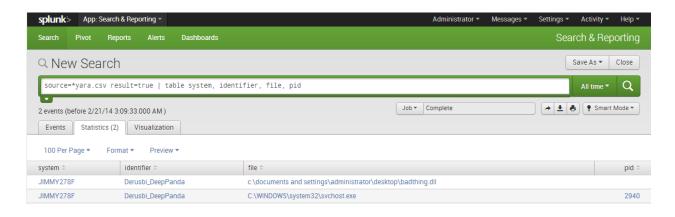


Figure 8: Example YARA Module Output – Splunk

#### Sample Query:

source=\*YARA.csv result=true | table system, identifier, file, pid



#### **Excel**

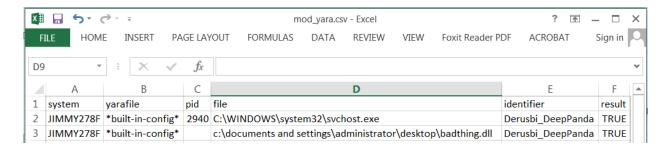


Figure 9: Example YARA Module Output – Excel

#### **Web Browser**



## www.crowdstrike.com

## Produced by the free CrowdStrike tool CrowdResponse

#### Module: yara

system	yarafile	pid	file	identifier	result
JIMMY278F	*built-in-config*	2940	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe	Derusbi_DeepPanda	TRUE
JIMMY278F	*built-in-config*		C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\badthing.dll	Derusbi_DeepPanda	TRUE

Figure 10: Example YARA Module Output – Web Browser



**Note:** Depending on signature quality, it's possible that false positive YARA hits on memory will result with some processes like Anti-Virus.



#### **PSList Module**

Using the process ID (2940) and system name (JIMMY278F) identified previously, the PSList Module output can be used to cross-reference details on that specific process. In this example note that the svchost.exe process itself is not malicious, as it is only being used to load the offending DLL as a service.

PSList provides numerous fields of interest related to a specific process, such as the system name, file path and name, size, process ID, creation date, MD5 or SHA256 hash, command line parameters used to execute the process and detection of thread injection. These fields are a small sampling of what's available with PSList, the rest of which may be explored by the analyst as desired and are included in Appendix A.

Looking at the command line details for the svchost.exe process shows the parameter used to reference and execute the malicious DLL as "Badservice." Also of value is to verify the MD5 or SHA256 hash of "svchost.exe" with repositories of known hashes. In this case, the hash identifies svchost.exe as the standard, non-malicious Microsoft version.

#### **Splunk**

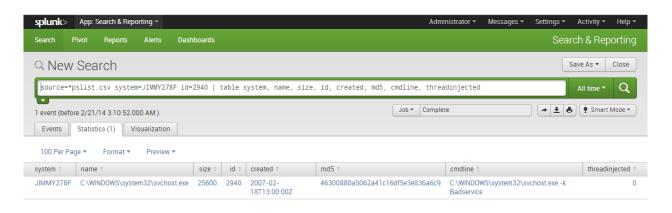


Figure 11: Example PSList Module Output – Splunk

#### Sample Query:

source=\*pslist.csv system=JIMMY278F id=2940 | table system, name, size, id, created, md5, cmdline, threadinjected



#### **Excel**

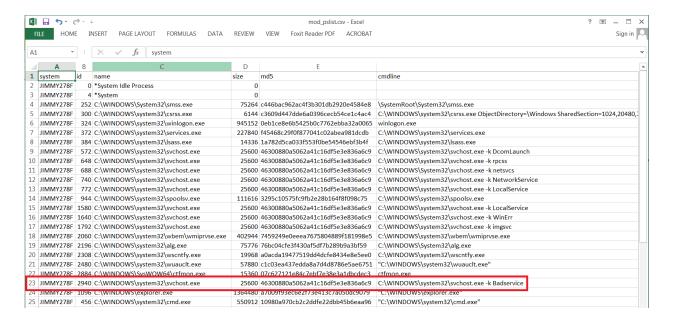


Figure 12: Example PSList Module Output – Excel

#### **Web Browser**





#### www.crowdstrike.com

#### Produced by the free CrowdStrike tool CrowdResponse

ystem	pid	name	size	companyname	filedescription	fileversion
JIMMY278F	0	*System Idle Process	0			
JIMMY278F	4	*System	0			
JIMMY278F	252	C:\WINDOWS\System32\smss.exe	75264	Microsoft Corporation	Windows NT Session Manager	5.2.3790.3959 (srv03_sp2_rtm.070216-1710)
JIMMY278F	300	C:\WINDOWS\system32\csrss.exe	6144	Microsoft Corporation	Client Server Runtime Process	5.2.3790.1830 (srv03_sp1_rtm.050324-1447)
JIMMY278F	324	C:\WINDOWS\system32\winlogon.exe	945152	Microsoft Corporation	Windows NT Logon Application	5.2.3790.4516 (srv03_sp2_qfe.090518-1415)
JIMMY278F	372	C:\WINDOWS\system32\services.exe	227840	Microsoft Corporation	Services and Controller app	5.2.3790.4550 (srv03_sp2_qfe.090713-1210)
JIMMY278F	384	C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe	14336	Microsoft Corporation	LSA Shell	5.2.3790.1830 (srv03_sp1_rtm.050324-1447)
JIMMY278F	572	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe	25600	Microsoft Corporation	Generic Host Process for Win32 Services	5.2.3790.3959 (srv03_sp2_rtm.070216-1710)
JIMMY278F	648	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe	25600	Microsoft Corporation	Generic Host Process for Win32 Services	5.2.3790.3959 (srv03_sp2_rtm.070216-1710)
JIMMY278F	688	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe	25600	Microsoft Corporation	Generic Host Process for Win32 Services	5.2.3790.3959 (srv03_sp2_rtm.070216-1710)
JIMMY278F	944	C:\WINDOWS\system32\spoolsv.exe	111616	Microsoft Corporation	Spooler SubSystem App	5.2.3790.4804 (srv03_sp2_qfe.101210-0234)
JIMMY278F	1792	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe	25600	Microsoft Corporation	Generic Host Process for Win32 Services	5.2.3790.3959 (srv03_sp2_rtm.070216-1710)
JIMMY278F	2060	C:\WINDOWS\system32\wbem\wmiprvse.exe	402944	Microsoft Corporation	WMI	5.2.3790.4455 (srv03_sp2_qfe.090203-1205)
JIMMY278F	2196	C:\WINDOWS\system32\alg.exe	75776	Microsoft Corporation	Application Layer Gateway Service	5.2.3790.4076 (srv03_sp2_qfe.070507-2336)
JIMMY278F	2308	C:\WINDOWS\system32\wscntfy.exe	19968	Microsoft Corporation	Windows Security Center Notification App	5.2.3790.1830 (srv03_sp1_rtm.050324-1447)
JIMMY278F	2480	C:\WINDOWS\system32\wuauclt.exe	57880	Microsoft Corporation	Windows Update	7.6.7600.256 (winmain_wtr_wsus3sp2(oobla).1.
IIMMY278F	2884	C:\WINDOWS\SysWOW64\ctfmon.exe	15360	Microsoft Corporation	CTF Loader	5.2.3790.1830 (srv03_sp1_rtm.050324-1447)
IMMY278F	2940	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe	25600	Microsoft Corporation	Generic Host Process for Win32 Services	5.2.3790.3959 (srv03_sp2_rtm.070216-1710)
JIMMY278F	1096	C:\WINDOWS\explorer.exe	1364480	Microsoft Corporation	Windows Explorer	6.00.3790.4093 (srv03 sp2 gfe.070603-2353)

#### **DirList Module**

The next logical analytical step is to look more closely at "badthing.dll". As the file itself is not a process, PSList does not provide details about it. Instead, the analyst should reference the DirList module output. In the output below, we see a variety of details surrounding the file including the system(s) it's present on, the full path, size, MD5 hash, created date, modified date, file description and internal name. Similar to PSList, the output shown here is a small sampling of the information available to the analyst, but the full list is provided in Appendix B. Armed with these details, the investigator can immediately analyze the malware's metadata and establish indicators of compromise to determine the scope of infection in our environment.



## **Splunk**

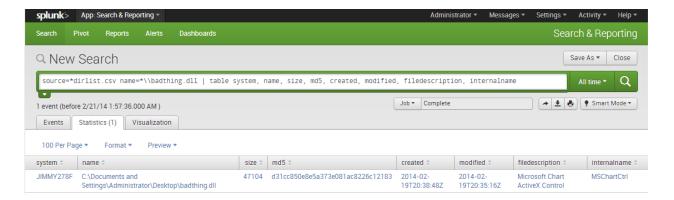


Figure 14: Example DirList Module Output – Splunk

#### Sample Query:

source=\*dirlist.csv name=\*\\badthing.dll | table system, name, size,
md5, created, modified, filedescription, internalname



#### **Excel**

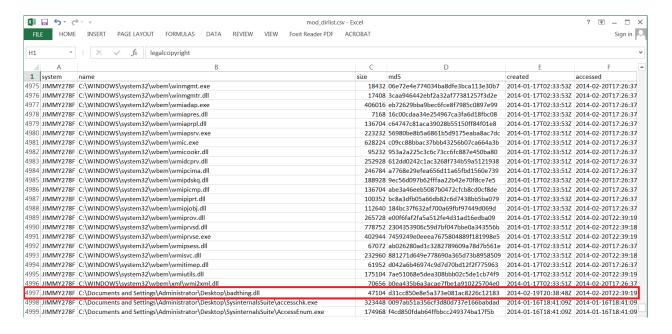


Figure 15: Example DirList Module Output – Excel

#### **Web Browser**



Figure 16: Example DirList Module Output – Web Browser



#### **Analysis - Next Steps**

After completing the analysis discussed previously over the System, YARA, DirList, and PSList output, the analyst will likely want to leverage the newly discovered indicators of compromise to determine the extent of the issue and related malicious activity. Suggested next steps include:

- Lookup the MD5 and SHA256 hashes of the malware obtained from the DirList output against a repository of known hashes in an attempt to quickly identify the malware;
- Use the created and modified timestamps of the malware obtained from the DirList output to identify other suspicious files created or modified on the system (and all systems in the environment) around the same time;
- Use the MD5 and SHA256 hashes of the malware obtained from the DirList output to look for other copies, potentially with different filenames, across the enterprise;
- Using the DirList output and a defined time period of interest based off of other indicators, look for the creation of key files like NTUSER.dat or Desktop.ini that may indicate a user first appeared on a system during this time;
- Explore all available fields that were not covered here for the identified bad process from the PSList module and look for more potential indicators of compromise where values are atypical; and
- Explore all available fields that were not covered here for the identified malware from the DirList module and look for more potential indicators of compromise where values are atypical.



## APPENDIX A

Complete List of PSList Values Captured by CrowdResponse				
accessed	id	peid		
AddressOfEntryPoint	ImageBase	PEname		
anomalies	importcount	productname		
BaseOfCode	internalname	productversion		
BaseOfData	legalcopyright	SectionAlignment		
cert_comment	LoaderFlags	size		
cert_exists	Machine	SizeOfCode		
cert_result	MachineStr	SizeOfHeaders		
cert_signer	MajorlmageVersion	SizeOfHeapCommit		
cert_verified	MajorLinkerVersion	SizeOfHeapReserve		
Characteristics	MajorOperatingSystemVersion	SizeOflmage		
CharacteristicsStr	MajorSubSystemVersion	SizeOfInitializedData		
CheckSum	MemAddressOfEntryPoint	SizeOfOptionalHeader		
cmdline	MinorImageVersion	SizeOfStackCommit		
companyname	MinorLinkerVersion	SizeOfStackReserve		
created	MinorOperatingSystemVersion	SizeOfUninitializedData		
DIICharacteristics	MinorSubSystemVersion	Subsystem		
DIICharacteristicsStr	modified	SubsystemStr		
exportcount	name	system		
FileAlignment	NumberOfSections	threadinjected		
filedescription	NumberOfSymbols	TimeDateStamp		
fileversion	originalfilename	Win32VersionValue		



## APPENDIX B

Complete List of DirList Values Captured by CrowdResponse			
accessed	companyname	name	
attrhex	created	originalfilename	
attrstr	filedescription	productname	
cert_comment	fileversion	productversion	
cert_exists	internalname	sha256	
cert_result	legalcopyright	size	
cert_signer	md5	system	
cert_verified	modified		