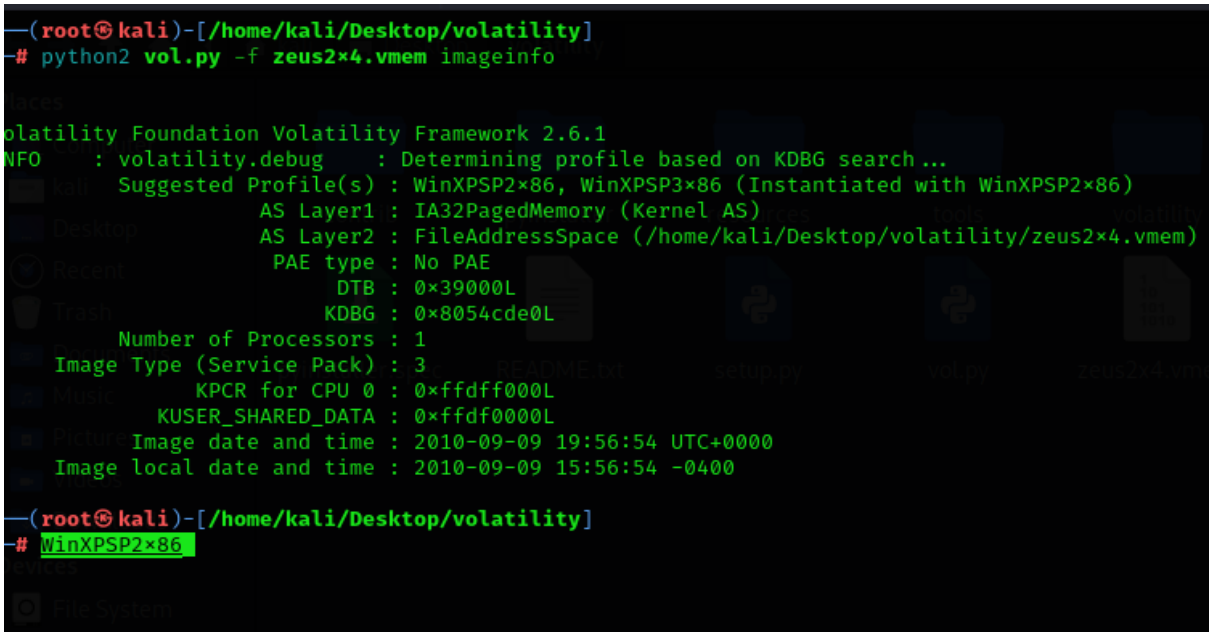
Determining the Profile

To begin, we'll determine the image profile by utilizing the imageinfo plugin.

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem imageinfo



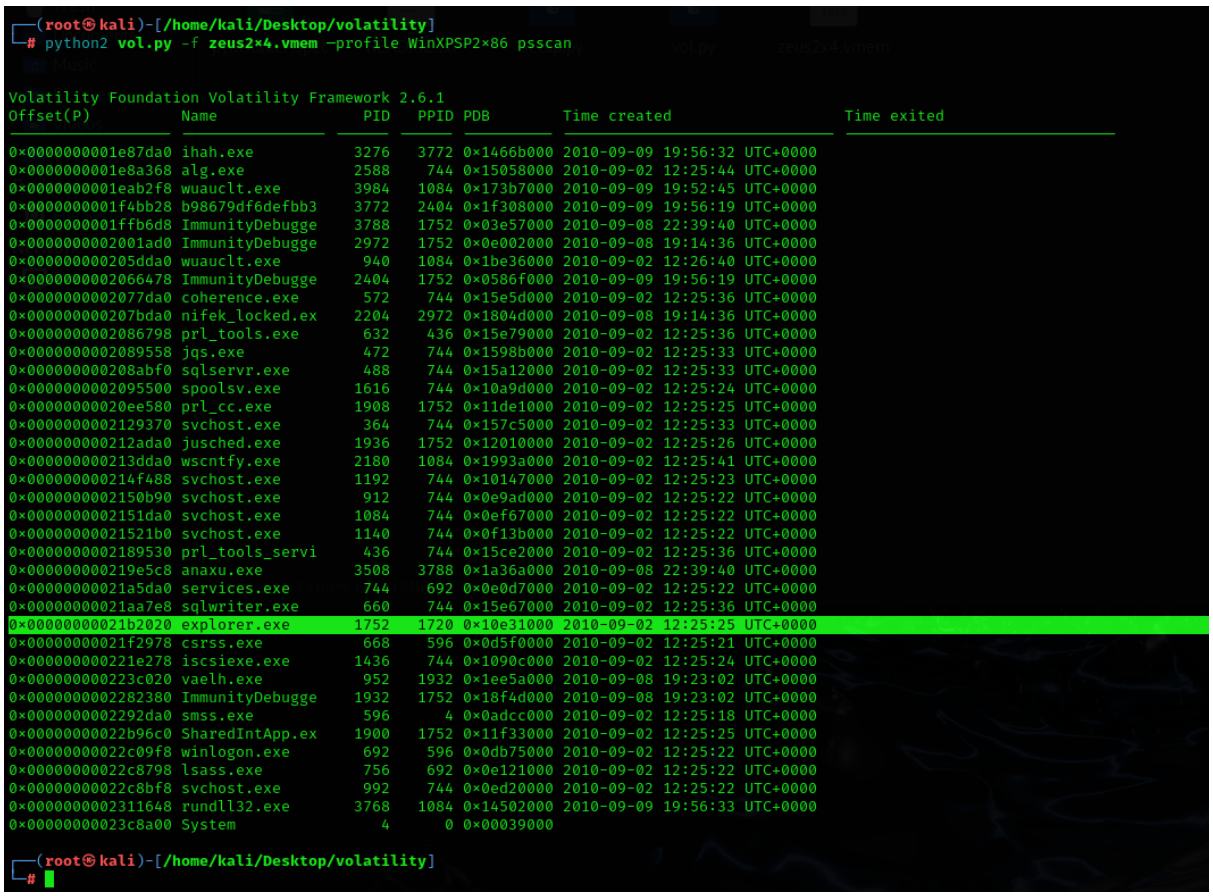
It is use windowsXP

From the recommended profiles, we'll choose "WinXPSP2x86" and proceed.

Examining Processes

After identifying the profile of the memory image, we can begin investigating for unusual activities by listing the processes using the psscan plugin:

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 psscan

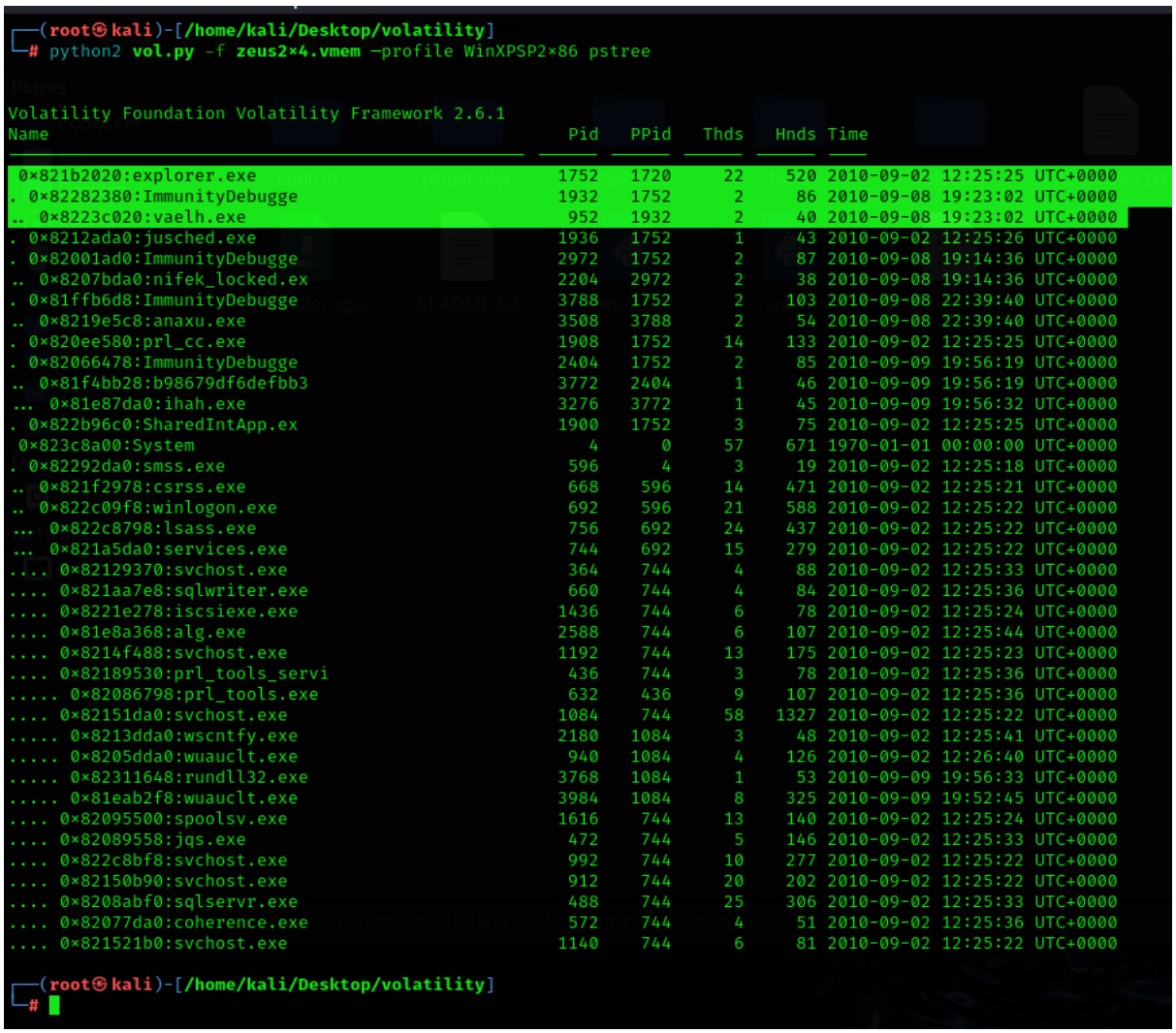


```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─# python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem --profile WinXPSP2x86 psscan

Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
Offset(P)          Name                PID   PPID PDB        Time created                   Time exited
------------------ ---------------- ------ ------ ---------- ------------------------------ ------------------------------
0x0000000001e87da0 ihah.exe           3276   3772 0x1466b000 2010-09-09 19:56:32 UTC+0000
0x0000000001e8a368 alg.exe            2588    744 0x15058000 2010-09-02 12:25:44 UTC+0000
0x0000000001eab2f8 wuauclt.exe        3984   1084 0x173b7000 2010-09-09 19:52:45 UTC+0000
0x0000000001f4bb28 b98679df6defbb3    3772   2404 0x1f308000 2010-09-09 19:56:19 UTC+0000
0x0000000001ffb6d8 ImmunityDebugge    3788   1752 0x03e57000 2010-09-08 22:39:40 UTC+0000
0x0000000002001ad0 ImmunityDebugge    2972   1752 0x0e002000 2010-09-08 19:14:36 UTC+0000
0x000000000205dda0 wuauclt.exe         940   1084 0x1be36000 2010-09-02 12:26:40 UTC+0000
0x0000000002066478 ImmunityDebugge    2404   1752 0x0586f000 2010-09-09 19:56:19 UTC+0000
0x0000000002077da0 coherence.exe       572    744 0x15e5d000 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
0x000000000207bda0 nifek_locked.ex    2204   2972 0x1804d000 2010-09-08 19:14:36 UTC+0000
0x0000000002086798 prl_tools.exe       632    436 0x15e79000 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
0x0000000002089558 jqs.exe             472    744 0x1598b000 2010-09-02 12:25:33 UTC+0000
0x000000000208abf0 sqlservr.exe        488    744 0x15a12000 2010-09-02 12:25:33 UTC+0000
0x0000000002095500 spoolsv.exe        1616    744 0x10a9d000 2010-09-02 12:25:24 UTC+0000
0x00000000020ee580 prl_cc.exe         1908   1752 0x11de1000 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
0x0000000002129370 svchost.exe         364    744 0x157c5000 2010-09-02 12:25:33 UTC+0000
0x000000000212ada0 jusched.exe        1936   1752 0x12010000 2010-09-02 12:25:26 UTC+0000
0x000000000213dda0 wscntfy.exe        2180   1084 0x1993a000 2010-09-02 12:25:41 UTC+0000
0x000000000214f488 svchost.exe        1192    744 0x10147000 2010-09-02 12:25:23 UTC+0000
0x0000000002150b90 svchost.exe         912    744 0x0e9ad000 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
0x0000000002151da0 svchost.exe        1084    744 0x0ef67000 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
0x00000000021521b0 svchost.exe        1140    744 0x0f13b000 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
0x0000000002189530 prl_tools_servi     436    744 0x15ce2000 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
0x000000000219e5c8 anaxu.exe          3508   3788 0x1a36a000 2010-09-08 22:39:40 UTC+0000
0x00000000021a5da0 services.exe        744    692 0x0e0d7000 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
0x00000000021aa7e8 sqlwriter.exe       660    744 0x15e67000 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
0x00000000021b2020 explorer.exe       1752   1720 0x10e31000 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
0x00000000021f2978 csrss.exe           668    596 0x0d5f0000 2010-09-02 12:25:21 UTC+0000
0x000000000221e278 iscsiexe.exe       1436    744 0x1090c000 2010-09-02 12:25:24 UTC+0000
0x000000000223c020 vaelh.exe           952   1932 0x1ee5a000 2010-09-08 19:23:02 UTC+0000
0x0000000002282380 ImmunityDebugge    1932   1752 0x18f4d000 2010-09-08 19:23:02 UTC+0000
0x0000000002292da0 smss.exe            596      4 0x0adcc000 2010-09-02 12:25:18 UTC+0000
0x00000000022b96c0 SharedIntApp.ex    1900   1752 0x11f33000 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
0x00000000022c09f8 winlogon.exe        692    596 0x0db75000 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
0x00000000022c8798 lsass.exe           756    692 0x0e121000 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
0x00000000022c8bf8 svchost.exe         992    744 0x0ed20000 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
0x0000000002311648 rundll32.exe       3768   1084 0x14502000 2010-09-09 19:56:33 UTC+0000
0x00000000023c8a00 System                4      0 0x00039000

┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─#
```

At this point, we don't observe anything unusual, as both the number and names of the processes appear normal.

Next, we can use the pstree plugin to analyze the parent-child relationships of the processes:

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 pstree



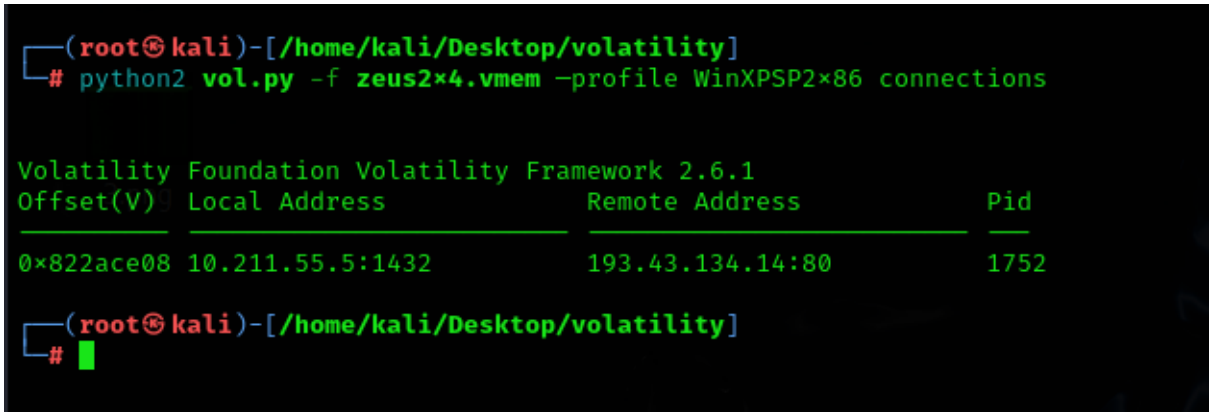
```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─# python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem --profile WinXPSP2x86 pstree

Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
Name                                                  Pid   PPid   Thds   Hnds Time
-------------------------------------------------- ------ ------ ------ ------ ----
 0x821b2020:explorer.exe                             1752   1720     22    520 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
. 0x82282380:ImmunityDebugge                         1932   1752      2     86 2010-09-08 19:23:02 UTC+0000
.. 0x8223c020:vaelh.exe                               952   1932      2     40 2010-09-08 19:23:02 UTC+0000
. 0x8212ada0:jusched.exe                             1936   1752      1     43 2010-09-02 12:25:26 UTC+0000
. 0x82001ad0:ImmunityDebugge                         2972   1752      2     87 2010-09-08 19:14:36 UTC+0000
.. 0x8207bda0:nifek_locked.ex                        2204   2972      2     38 2010-09-08 19:14:36 UTC+0000
. 0x81ffb6d8:ImmunityDebugge                         3788   1752      2    103 2010-09-08 22:39:40 UTC+0000
.. 0x8219e5c8:anaxu.exe                              3508   3788      2     54 2010-09-08 22:39:40 UTC+0000
. 0x820ee580:prl_cc.exe                              1908   1752     14    133 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
. 0x82066478:ImmunityDebugge                         2404   1752      2     85 2010-09-09 19:56:19 UTC+0000
.. 0x81f4bb28:b98679df6defbb3                        3772   2404      1     46 2010-09-09 19:56:19 UTC+0000
... 0x81e87da0:ihah.exe                              3276   3772      1     45 2010-09-09 19:56:32 UTC+0000
. 0x822b96c0:SharedIntApp.ex                         1900   1752      3     75 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
 0x823c8a00:System                                      4      0     57    671 1970-01-01 00:00:00 UTC+0000
. 0x82292da0:smss.exe                                 596      4      3     19 2010-09-02 12:25:18 UTC+0000
.. 0x821f2978:csrss.exe                               668    596     14    471 2010-09-02 12:25:21 UTC+0000
.. 0x822c09f8:winlogon.exe                            692    596     21    588 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
... 0x822c8798:lsass.exe                              756    692     24    437 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
... 0x821a5da0:services.exe                           744    692     15    279 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
.... 0x82129370:svchost.exe                           364    744      4     88 2010-09-02 12:25:33 UTC+0000
.... 0x821aa7e8:sqlwriter.exe                         660    744      4     84 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
.... 0x8221e278:iscsiexe.exe                         1436    744      6     78 2010-09-02 12:25:24 UTC+0000
.... 0x81e8a368:alg.exe                              2588    744      6    107 2010-09-02 12:25:44 UTC+0000
.... 0x8214f488:svchost.exe                          1192    744     13    175 2010-09-02 12:25:23 UTC+0000
.... 0x82189530:prl_tools_servi                       436    744      3     78 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
..... 0x82086798:prl_tools.exe                        632    436      9    107 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
.... 0x82151da0:svchost.exe                          1084    744     58   1327 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
..... 0x8213dda0:wscntfy.exe                         2180   1084      3     48 2010-09-02 12:25:41 UTC+0000
..... 0x8205dda0:wuauclt.exe                          940   1084      4    126 2010-09-02 12:26:40 UTC+0000
..... 0x82311648:rundll32.exe                        3768   1084      1     53 2010-09-09 19:56:33 UTC+0000
..... 0x81eab2f8:wuauclt.exe                         3984   1084      8    325 2010-09-09 19:52:45 UTC+0000
.... 0x82095500:spoolsv.exe                          1616    744     13    140 2010-09-02 12:25:24 UTC+0000
.... 0x82089558:jqs.exe                               472    744      5    146 2010-09-02 12:25:33 UTC+0000
.... 0x822c8bf8:svchost.exe                           992    744     10    277 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
.... 0x82150b90:svchost.exe                           912    744     20    202 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000
.... 0x8208abf0:sqlservr.exe                          488    744     25    306 2010-09-02 12:25:33 UTC+0000
.... 0x82077da0:coherence.exe                         572    744      4     51 2010-09-02 12:25:36 UTC+0000
.... 0x821521b0:svchost.exe                          1140    744      6     81 2010-09-02 12:25:22 UTC+0000

┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─#
```

Again, no suspicious activity is detected. So far, the process names, counts, and parent-child relationships all seem legitimate.

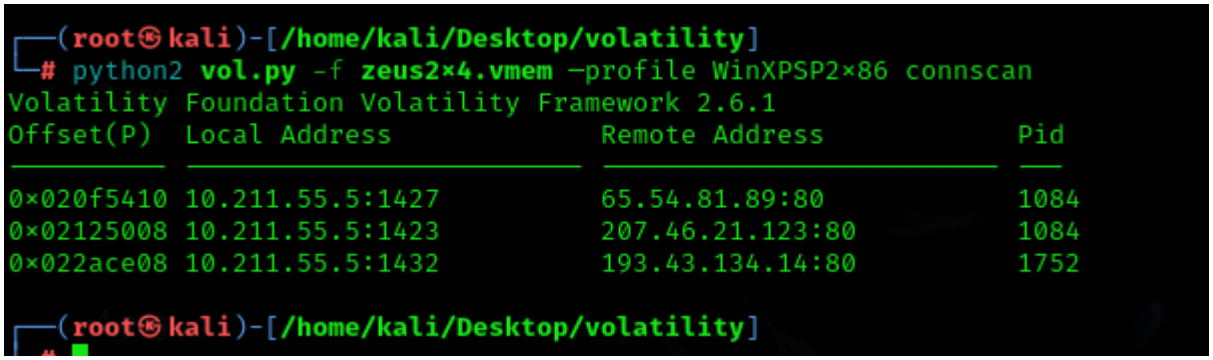
Investigating Network Connections

Another key area to investigate for suspicious activity is the network connections, which might reveal communication between the malicious process and its Command and Control (C2) servers.

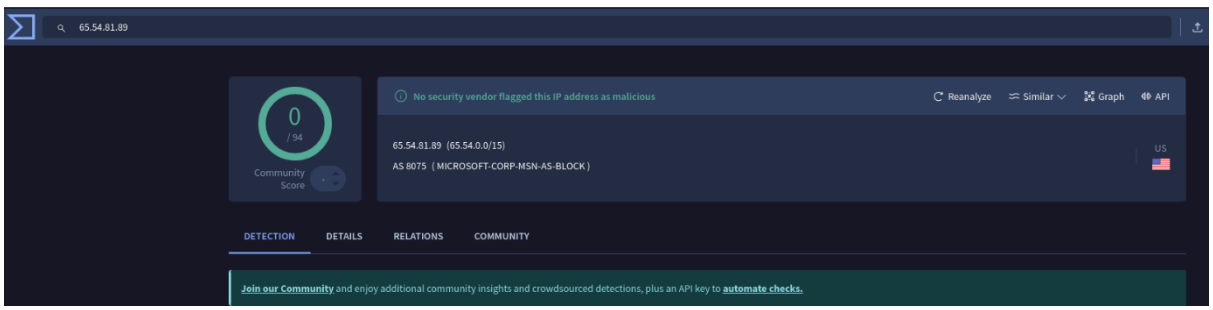
python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 connections

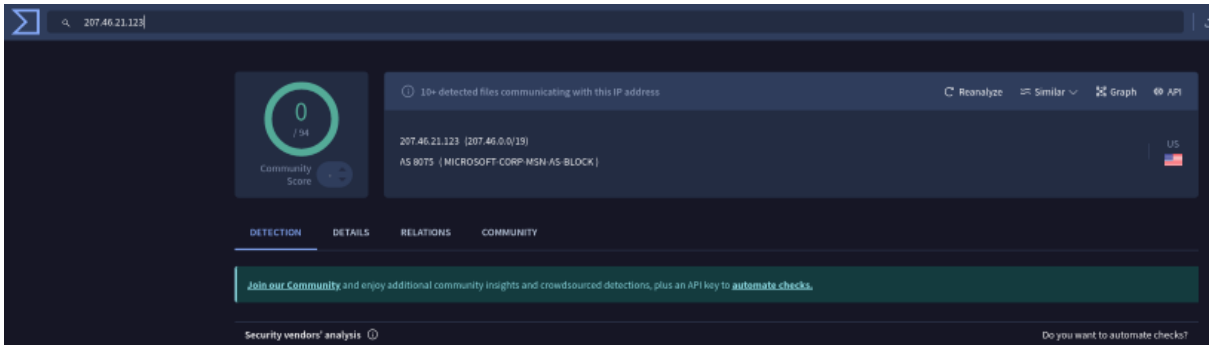


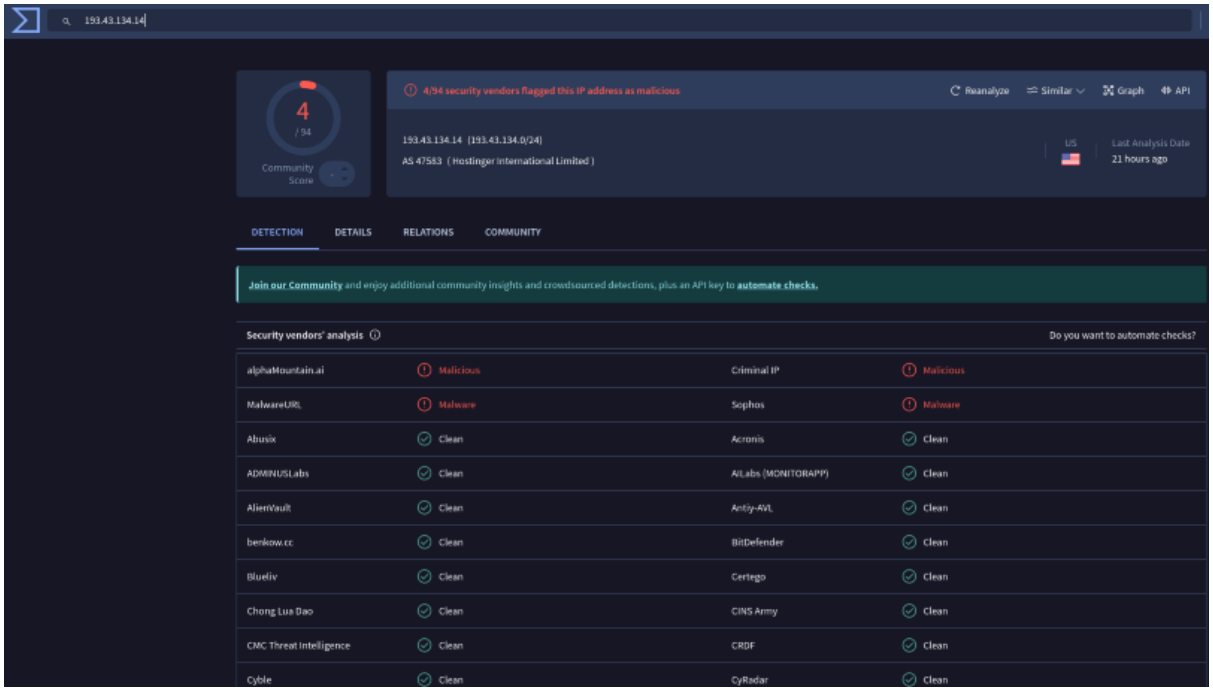
python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 connscan



We can verify the reputation of the listed IP address using VirusTotal.







The results appear suspicious, but we can’t make sure

Analyzing the Malicious Process

To identify the process communicating with the suspicious IP address, we can filter the output of psscan for the relevant PID:

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 psscan | grep 1752

```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─# python2 vol.py -f zeus2×4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2×86 psscan | grep 1752

Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
0×0000000001ffb6d8 ImmunityDebugge     3788   1752 0×03e57000 2010-09-08 22:39:40 UTC+0000
0×0000000002001ad0 ImmunityDebugge     2972   1752 0×0e002000 2010-09-08 19:14:36 UTC+0000
0×0000000002066478 ImmunityDebugge     2404   1752 0×0586f000 2010-09-09 19:56:19 UTC+0000
0×00000000020ee580 prl_cc.exe          1908   1752 0×11de1000 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
0×00000000212ada0 jusched.exe          1936   1752 0×12010000 2010-09-02 12:25:26 UTC+0000
0×00000000021b2020 explorer.exe        1752   1720 0×10e31000 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
0×0000000002282380 ImmunityDebugge     1932   1752 0×18f4d000 2010-09-08 19:23:02 UTC+0000
0×00000000022b96c0 SharedIntApp.ex     1900   1752 0×11f33000 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000

┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─#
```

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 pstree | grep 1752

```
root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
python2 vol.py -f zeus2×4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2×86 pstree | grep 1752

tility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
21b2020:explorer.exe                  1752   1720     22    520 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
82282380:ImmunityDebugge              1932   1752      2     86 2010-09-08 19:23:02 UTC+0000
8212ada0:jusched.exe                  1936   1752      1     43 2010-09-02 12:25:26 UTC+0000
82001ad0:ImmunityDebugge              2972   1752      2     87 2010-09-08 19:14:36 UTC+0000
81ffb6d8:ImmunityDebugge              3788   1752      2    103 2010-09-08 22:39:40 UTC+0000
820ee580:prl_cc.exe                   1908   1752     14    133 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000
82066478:ImmunityDebugge              2404   1752      2     85 2010-09-09 19:56:19 UTC+0000
822b96c0:SharedIntApp.ex              1900   1752      3     75 2010-09-02 12:25:25 UTC+0000

root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
```

Next, we'll check the executable's path using the cmdline plugin:

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 cmdline | grep 1752

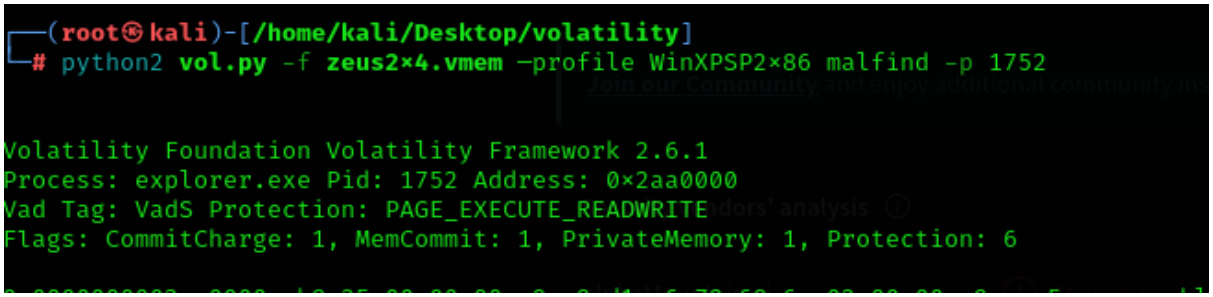
```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─# python2 vol.py -f zeus2×4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2×86 cmdline | grep 1752

Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
explorer.exe pid:   1752

┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─#
```

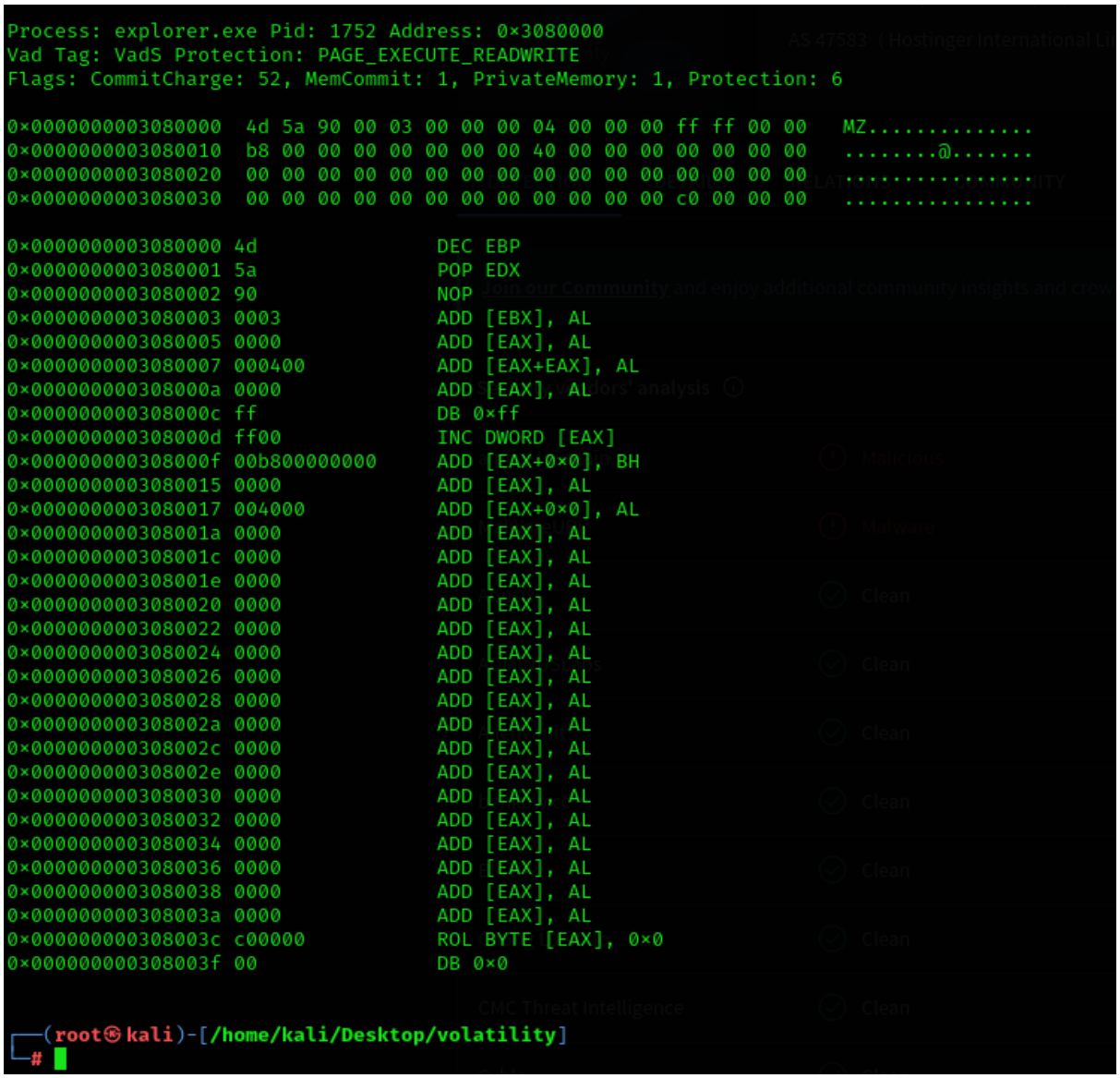
However, this doesn’t provide any useful insights, as the process path appears legitimate.

Investigating Code Injection

So far, nothing about the executable.1752.exe process appears suspicious, but it's possible that malicious code has been injected into it. To explore this possibility, we'll use the malfind plugin:

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 malfind -p 1752





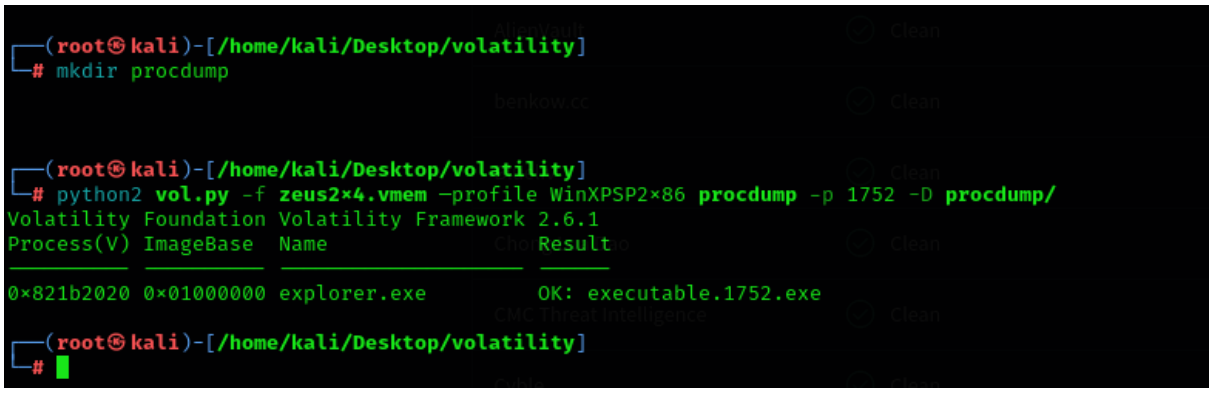
The results show that the process has an MZ header and is marked with the protection PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE. This indicates that the memory region is both executable

and writable, which is unusual and suspicious. It allows an attacker to execute code from this memory region and dynamically modify its content. Legitimate processes generally don't have memory regions that are both executable and writable.

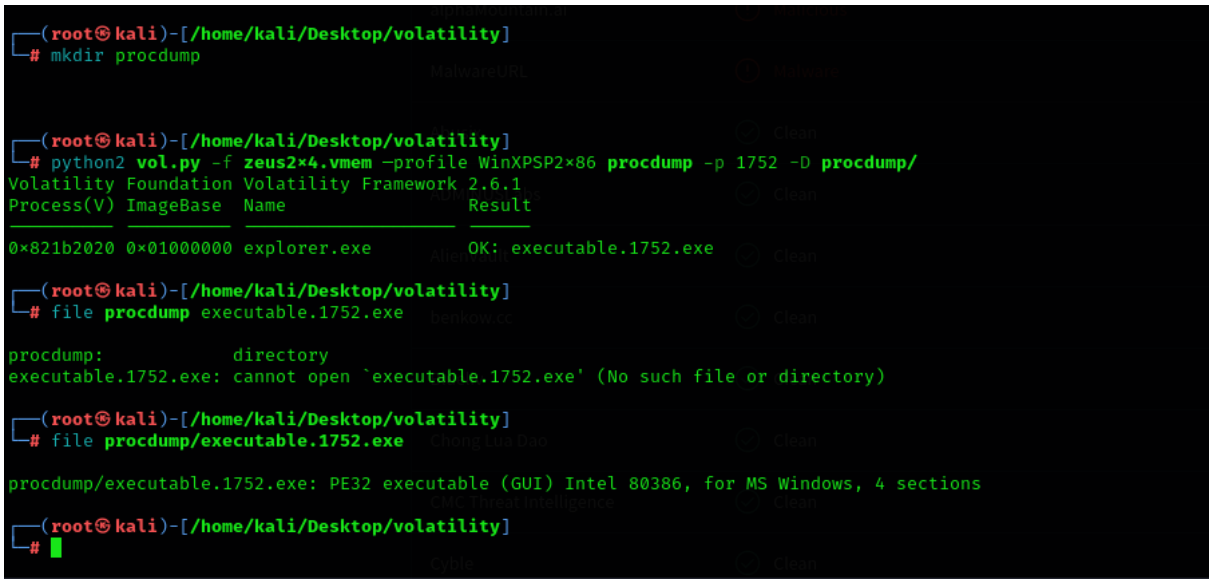
We'll proceed by dumping the process to investigate further using procdump:

mkdir procdump

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 procdump -p 1752 -D procdump/



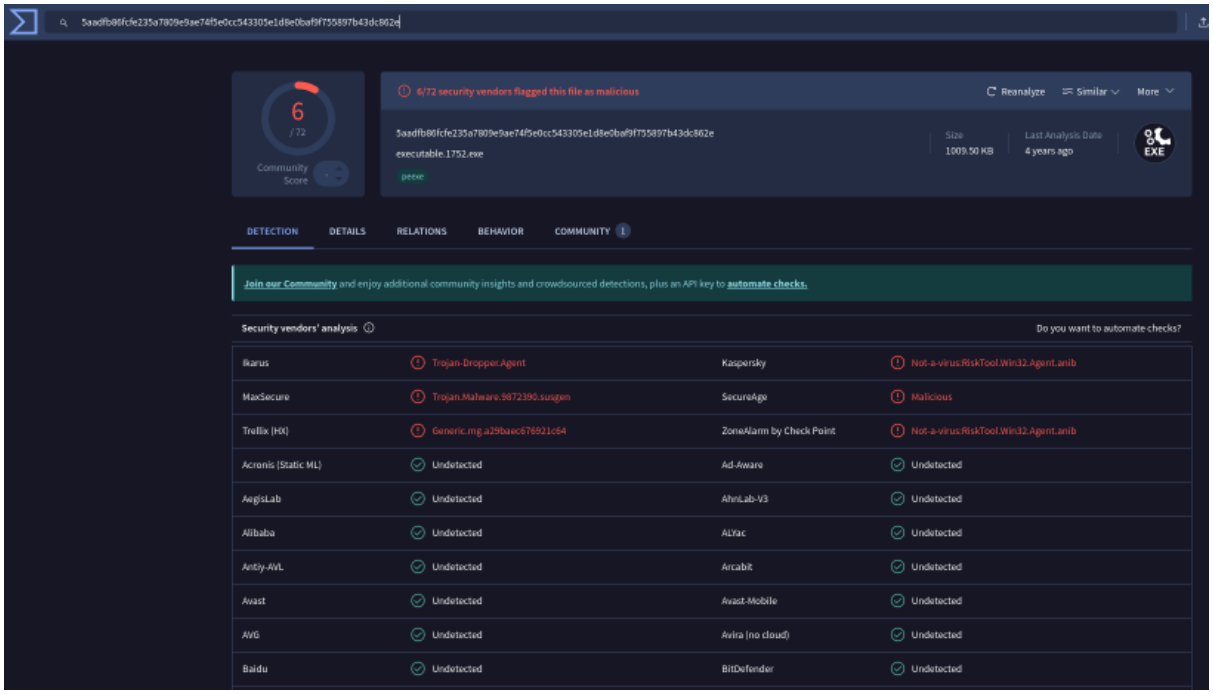
file procdump/executable.1752.exe



Then, we can compute the SHA256 hash of the dumped executable:

sha256sum procdump/executable.1752.exe

```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─# sha256sum procdump/executable.1752.exe
5aadfb86fcfe235a7809e9ae74f5e0cc543305e1d8e0baf9f755897b43dc862e  procdump/executable.1752.exe

┌──(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali/Desktop/volatility]
└─#
```

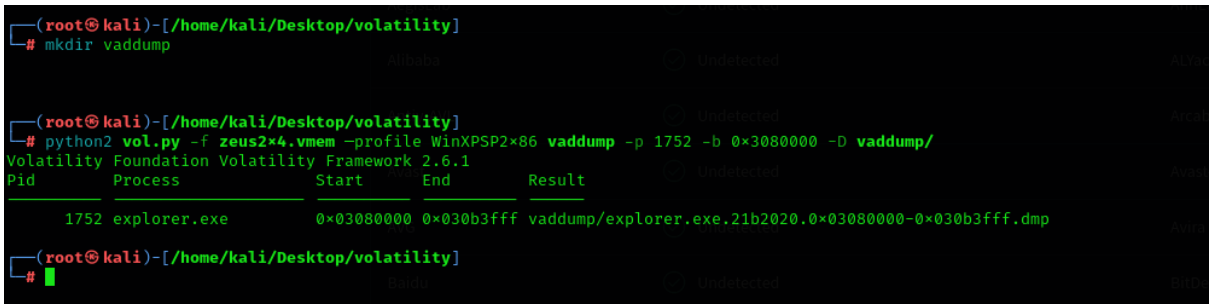


Surprisingly, the file is not flagged as malicious. However, we shouldn't draw conclusions based on this alone, given the suspicious network activity and potential code injection.

Next, we will dump the specific memory region where we suspect the malicious code has been injected, using the vaddump plugin. We'll provide the PID and the base address (which we obtained from the malfind output):

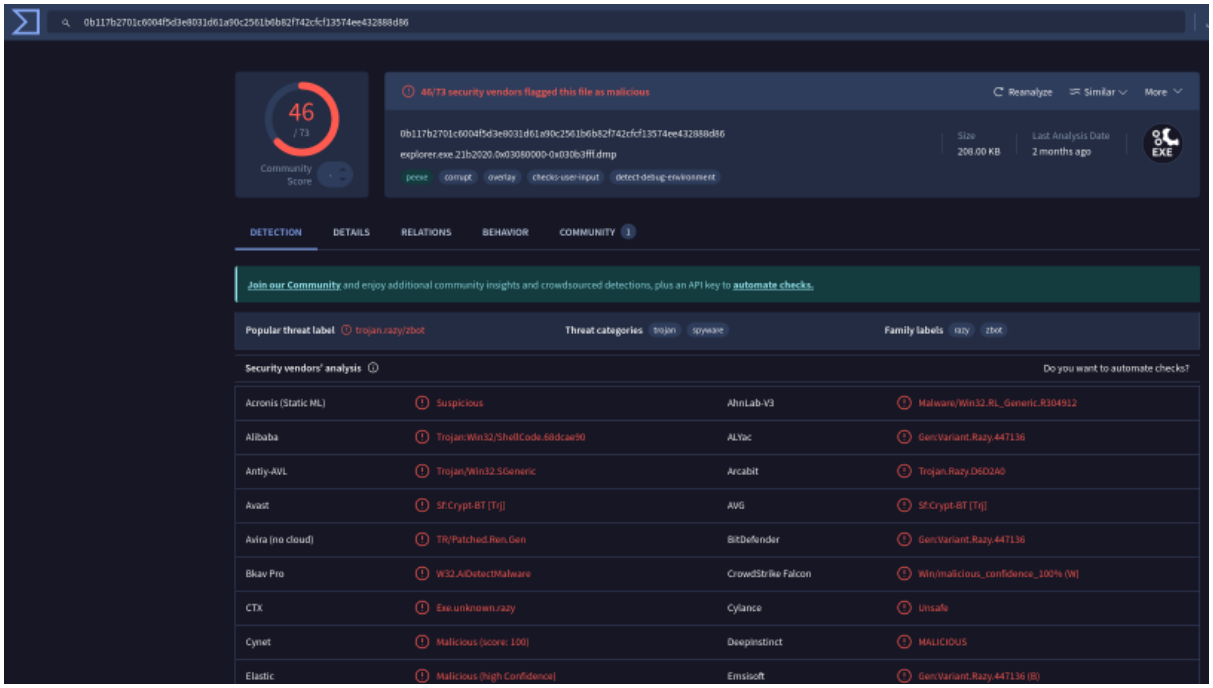
mkdir vaddump

python2 vol.py -f zeus2x4.vmem —profile WinXPSP2x86 vaddump -p 1752 -b 0x3080000 -D vaddump/



Finally, let's check the SHA256 hash of the dumped memory region:

sha256sum vaddump/



As expected, this memory region is indeed malicious, confirming that code injection has occurred.

At this point, we have a process with injected malicious code that is also communicating with a flagged IP address.

Findings

1. Active and Injected Processes The process 1752 was identified as suspicious based on its behavior and parent-child relationships in the process tree. Memory indicators confirmed injection techniques consistent with Zeus.

2. Network Connections Evidence of connections to external IPs associated with command-and-control (C2) servers, characteristic of Zeus activity. Network artifacts included traces of encrypted communication.

3. Malware Artifacts Dumped executable and memory regions contain signatures and characteristics aligning with Zeus variants. Hash analysis can facilitate further correlation with known malware databases.